

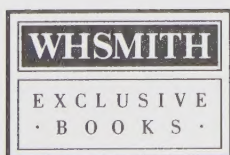
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W H Smith/Collins

ENGLISH
DICTIONARY

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FOREWORD

The **W H Smith/Collins English Dictionary** provides a balanced and up-to-date survey of contemporary English arranged in a format and style which make it easy to use. It follows the practice established in the Collins range of dictionaries of placing today's most common or basic meaning at the beginning of the entry, with historical or less familiar senses following. Its generous extent — over one million words of text and 71,000 references — ensures, however, that in addition to its emphasis on modernity there is excellent coverage of older, rarer, regional, technical, or otherwise specialist senses of words.

The Dictionary is designed to make it easy and quick for the user to find the required information. All vocabulary items, including compound words, abbreviations, and anglicized foreign words, are to be found as main entries in a single alphabetical listing. Thus, *aid*, *A.I.D.*, *aide*, *aide-de-camp*, *AIDS* all appear as main-entry words in alphabetical sequence. The only items that are placed within another entry are idiomatic phrases and derived words that consist of the main word with a standard ending; for instance, at the main entry *help*, the idiomatic phrases *cannot help but* and *so help me*, and the derived word *helper*, are included. But *helpful*, *helping*, *helpless*, *helpmate*, *helpmeet*, and *help out*, are entered separately and defined. The result of this policy is an avoidance of long, complicated paragraph entries.

The definitions are written in clear, direct English, and are in many cases augmented by examples of the word in context. The different meanings of each word are numbered, and this, together with a generous provision of labels (*Maths*, *Computers*, *Bible*, *Linguistics*, and so on) helps to guide the user to the particular meaning sought. Advice on how words are used is shown, in brackets, at many individual definitions, and special Usage Notes are provided on points which have proved difficult or controversial (see, eg, *may*¹). Further help is given by showing the pronunciation of every main-entry word, in the International Phonetic Alphabet (a key to which may be found on pages viii and ix), and by the inclusion of all irregularly spelt noun plurals and verb forms.

The result is a book that meets the requirements of those who want a comprehensive dictionary relevant to today's needs, edited for speed and ease of use, and computer set in large, clear type and spacious layout.

Using the Dictionary

The following Notes are provided to help the reader to use the dictionary more efficiently and to find the required information more quickly.

1. Order of definitions

As a general rule, when a word has more than one meaning, the one commonest in current use is placed first. Subsequent definitions are arranged so as to give a full and coherent account of the meaning. Technical meanings usually follow general meanings; old and obsolete meanings follow technical meanings; idioms and phrases are generally placed last. But note that fixed noun phrases and certain other invariable idioms like *dark horse*, *mail order*, and *mind's eye* are given full headword status.

2. Units

In accordance with the recommendations of the International Standards Organization, all scientific measurements are given in SI units (*Système International d'Unités*). Measurements and quantities in more traditional units are often given as well.

3. Abbreviations, etc.

Abbreviations, acronyms, and symbols are treated as entries in their alphabetical place.

4. Parts of speech

In addition to the traditional parts of speech — adjective, adverb, conjunction, interjection, noun, preposition, pronoun, verb — the following less traditional parts of speech have been adopted to give additional precision.

determiner. This denotes such words as *the*, *a*, *some*, *any*, *that*, *this*, possessives like *my*, *his*, and *your*, and the numerals. Many determiners can have a pronoun function without change of meaning, and this is shown thus:

some (sʌm; unstressed səm) *determiner*

2.a. an unknown or unspecified quantity or amount of: *he owns some horses*. **b.** (as pronoun; functioning as sing. or pl.): *we'll buy some*

sentence connector. This denotes words like *however* and *therefore* which have been traditionally classed as adverbs but which function as conjunctions, linking sentences, without being restricted, as are conjunctions, to the initial position in their clause.

sentence substitute. Sentence substitutes comprise words such as *yes*, *no*, *perhaps*, *definitely*, and *maybe*, which can stand as meaningful utterances by themselves.

5. Additional information

- (i) Some adjectives and determiners are restricted by usage to a particular position relative to the nouns they qualify. This is indicated by the following labels:

postpositive (used predicatively or after the noun, but not before the noun):

ablaze (ə'bleɪz) *adj.* (*postpositive*), *adv.*
1. on fire, burning

immediately postpositive (always used immediately following the noun qualified and never used predicatively):

galore (gə'lɔː) *determiner*. (*immediately postpositive*) *Inf.* in great numbers or quantity: *there were daffodils galore in the park*

prenominal (used before the noun, and never used predicatively):

chief (tʃiːf) . . . ~*adj.* **3.** (*prenominal*) **a.** most important; principal. **b.** highest in rank or authority.

- (ii) Adjectives and adverbs that perform an exclusively intensifying function, with no addition of meaning, are described as (*intensifier*) without further explanation.

blooming ('bluːmɪŋ) *adv.*, *adj.* *Brit. inf.* (*intensifier*): *a blooming genius*; *blooming painful*

- (iii) A noun that is commonly used with adjectival force is labelled *modifier*.

If the sense of the modifier is strictly inferable from the sense of the noun, the modifier is shown without further explanation, with an example to illustrate its use; otherwise an account of its meaning and/or usage is given in a separate numbered definition.

key¹ (ki:) *n.* . . . **18.** (*modifier*) of great importance: *a key issue.* . . .

- (iv) Verbal constructions consisting of a verb and a preposition or adverb are given as main entries in their alphabetical place if the meaning cannot be deduced from the separate meanings of the component parts. Examples are: *play up, take for, take on, take up.*
- (v) *Derog.* (*Derogatory*). This label implies that the connotations of a word are unpleasant with intent on the part of the speaker or writer.
- (vi) *Offens.* (*Offensive*). This label indicates that

a word may be regarded as offensive by the person described or referred to, even if the speaker uses the word without any malicious intention.

6. Listed entries

In English many easily understandable words are formed by adding productive prefixes, such as *non-*, *over-*, *un-*, etc., to existing words. Words of this kind are listed in bold type, without definition, at the foot of the page on which they would occur in alphabetical sequence.

7. Usage notes

A brief note introduced by the label **Usage** and the marginal sign ▷ has been added at the end of a number of entries in order to comment on matters of usage. These comments are based on the observed practice or preference of the majority of educated speakers and writers.

Pronunciation Key

The pronunciations shown for the vocabulary of standard English are those common in educated British English speech. The symbols used are those of the International Phonetic Alphabet. The following consonant symbols have their usual English values: *b, d, f, h, k, l, m, n, p, r, s, t, v, w, z*. The remaining symbols and their interpretations are listed below. Though they may appear strange at first, a little practice soon makes their use perfectly familiar. The gain in precision and lack of ambiguity repay the degree of effort involved.

Stress

Three grades of stress are shown in the transcriptions by the presence or absence of marks placed immediately *before* the affected syllable. Primary or strong stress is shown by ' , while secondary or weak stress is shown by . Unstressed syllables are not marked. In *photographic* (fəʊtə'græfɪk), for example, the first syllable carries secondary stress and the third primary stress, while the second and fourth are unstressed.

Notes

(i) Though words like *castle, path, fast* are shown as pronounced with an /ɑ:/ sound, many speakers use an /æ/. Such variations are acceptable and are to be assumed by the reader.

(ii) The letter "r" in some positions is not sounded in the speech of Southern England and elsewhere. However, many speakers in other areas do sound the "r" in such positions with varying degrees of distinctness. Again, such variations are to be assumed, and in such words as *fern, fear, arm* the reader will sound or not sound the "r" according to his speech habits.

(iii) Though the widely received pronunciation of words like *which, why* is with a simple /w/ sound and is so shown in the dictionary, many speakers, in Scotland and elsewhere, preserve an aspirated sound: /hw/. Once again this variation is to be assumed.

English Sounds

ɑ:	as in <i>father</i> ('fɑ:ðə), <i>alms</i> (ɑ:mz), <i>clerk</i> (klɑ:k)
æ	as in <i>act</i> (ækt), <i>rat</i> (ræt), <i>plait</i> (plæt)
aɪ	as in <i>dive</i> (daɪv), <i>aisle</i> (aɪl), <i>guy</i> (gaɪ)
aɪə	as in <i>fire</i> (faɪə), <i>buyer</i> ('baɪə), <i>liar</i> ('laɪə), <i>tyre</i> (taɪə)
aʊ	as in <i>out</i> (aʊt), <i>bough</i> (baʊ), <i>crowd</i> (kraʊd)
aʊə	as in <i>flour</i> ('flaʊə), <i>cower</i> ('kaʊə), <i>flower</i> ('flaʊə)
ɛ	as in <i>bet</i> (bet), <i>ate</i> (et), <i>bury</i> ('beri), <i>heifer</i> ('hefə)
eɪ	as in <i>paid</i> (peɪd), <i>day</i> (deɪ), <i>gauge</i> (geɪdʒ)
ɛə	as in <i>bear</i> (beə), <i>dare</i> (deə), <i>stairs</i> (steəz)
g	as in <i>get</i> (get), <i>ghoul</i> (gu:l), <i>guard</i> (gɑ:d)
ɪ	as in <i>pretty</i> ('prɪtɪ), <i>build</i> (bɪld), <i>busy</i> ('bɪzɪ), <i>nymph</i> (nɪmf), <i>pocket</i> ('pɒkɪt), <i>seive</i> (sɪv)
i:	as in <i>see</i> (si:), <i>aesthete</i> ('i:sθi:t), <i>evil</i> ('i:vəl), <i>magazine</i> (mægə'zi:n), <i>receive</i> (rɪ'si:v)
ɪə	as in <i>fear</i> (fɪə), <i>beer</i> (biə), <i>mere</i> (miə), <i>tier</i> (tɪə)
j	as in <i>yes</i> (jes), <i>onion</i> ('ʌnjən), <i>vignette</i> (vɪ'njet)
ɒ	as in <i>pot</i> (pɒt), <i>botch</i> (bɒtʃ), <i>sorry</i> ('sɒrɪ)
əʊ	as in <i>note</i> (nəʊt), <i>beau</i> (bəʊ), <i>dough</i> (dəʊ)
ɔ:	as in <i>thaw</i> (θɔ:), <i>broad</i> (brɔ:d), <i>drawer</i> ('drɔ:ə)
ɔɪ	as in <i>void</i> (vɔɪd), <i>boy</i> (bɔɪ), <i>destroy</i> (dɪ'strɔɪ)
ʊ	as in <i>pull</i> (pul), <i>good</i> (gʊd), <i>should</i> (ʃʊd)
u:	as in <i>zoo</i> (zu:), <i>do</i> (du:), <i>queue</i> (kju:), <i>shoe</i> (ʃu:)
ʊə	as in <i>poor</i> (puə), <i>skewer</i> ('skjuə), <i>sure</i> (ʃʊə)
ə	as in <i>potter</i> ('pɒtə), <i>alone</i> (ə'ləʊn), <i>the</i> (ðə)
ɜ:	as in <i>fern</i> (fɜ:n), <i>burn</i> (bɜ:n), <i>fir</i> (fɜ:)
ʌ	as in <i>cut</i> (kʌt), <i>flood</i> (flʌd), <i>rough</i> (rʌf), <i>son</i> (sʌn)
ʃ	as in <i>ship</i> (ʃɪp), <i>election</i> (ɪ'lekʃən), <i>machine</i> (mə'ʃi:n), <i>mission</i> ('mɪʃən), <i>pressure</i> ('preʃə)
ʒ	as in <i>treasure</i> ('treʒə), <i>azure</i> ('æʒə), <i>closure</i> ('klɒʒə), <i>evasion</i> (ɪ'veɪʒən)
tʃ	as in <i>chew</i> (tʃu:), <i>nature</i> ('neɪtʃə)
dʒ	as in <i>jaw</i> (dʒɔ:), <i>adjective</i> ('ædʒɪktɪv), <i>lodge</i> (lɒdʒ), <i>soldier</i> ('səʊldʒə), <i>usage</i> ('ju:sɪdʒ)
θ	as in <i>thin</i> (θɪn), <i>strength</i> (streŋθ), <i>three</i> (θri:)

ð	as in <i>these</i> (ðɪ:z), <i>bathe</i> (beɪð), <i>lather</i> ('lɑ:ðə)
ŋ	as in <i>sing</i> (sɪŋ), <i>finger</i> ('fɪŋgə), <i>sling</i> (slɪŋ)
ɣ	as in Scottish <i>loch</i> (lɒɣ)
ʌ	indicates that the following consonant (l or n) is syllabic, as in <i>bundle</i> ('bʌndʌl), <i>button</i> ('bʌtʌn)

Foreign Sounds

The preceding symbols are also used to represent foreign sounds where these are similar to English sounds. However, certain common foreign sounds require symbols with markedly different values, as follows:

ɑ	a in French <i>ami</i> , German <i>Mann</i> , Italian <i>pasta</i> : a sound between English (æ) and (ɑ:).
ɑ̃	a as in French <i>bas</i> : similar to English (ɑ:), but shorter.
e	é in French <i>été</i> , eh in German <i>sehr</i> , e in Italian <i>che</i> : a sound similar to the Scottish vowel in <i>day</i> .
i	i in French <i>il</i> , German <i>Idee</i> , Spanish <i>filo</i> , Italian <i>signor</i> : similar to English (i:), but shorter.
o	o in Italian <i>no</i> , French <i>bonne</i> , German <i>Sonne</i> : a vowel resembling English (ɒ), but with a higher tongue position and more rounding of the lips.
o	o in French <i>rose</i> , German <i>so</i> , Italian <i>voce</i> : similar to the Scottish vowel in <i>so</i> .

u	ou in French <i>genou</i> , u in German <i>kulant</i> , Spanish <i>puna</i> : similar to English (u:), but shorter.
y	u in French <i>tu</i> , ü in German <i>über</i> : similar to English (i:) but made with closely rounded lips.
ø	eu in French <i>deux</i> , ö in German <i>schön</i> : similar to (e) but made with closely rounded lips.
œ	œu in French <i>œuf</i> , ö in German <i>zwölf</i> : similar to English (e) but made with open rounded lips.
~	above a vowel indicates nasalization, as in French <i>un</i> (ɔ̃), <i>bon</i> (bɔ̃), <i>vin</i> (vɛ̃), <i>blanc</i> (blɑ̃).
x	ch in German <i>Buch</i> , j in Spanish <i>Juan</i> .
ç	ch in German <i>ich</i> : similar to the first sound in <i>huge</i> .
β	b in Spanish <i>Habana</i> : similar to (v), but made by the two lips.
ʎ	ll in Spanish <i>llamar</i> , gl in Italian <i>consiglio</i> : similar to the (lj) sequence in <i>million</i> .
ɥ	u in French <i>lui</i> : a short (y).
ɲ	gn in French <i>vigne</i> , Italian <i>gnocchi</i> , ñ in Spanish <i>España</i> : similar to the (nj) sequence in <i>onion</i> .
ɣ	g in Spanish <i>luego</i> : a weak (g) made with voiced friction.

Length

The symbol : denotes length and is shown together with certain vowel symbols when the vowels are typically long.

Abbreviations and Symbols used in the Dictionary

abbrev. abbreviation
adj. adjective
adv. adverb(ial)
Anat. Anatomy
approx. approximate(ly)
Arch. Archaic
Archaeol. Archaeology
Archit. Architecture
Astrol. Astrology
Astron. Astronomy
Austral. Australian

Biol. Biology
Bot. Botany
Brit. Britain; British

°C degrees Celsius
Canad. Canadian
cap. capital
cf. compare
Chem. Chemistry
comp. comparative
conj. conjunction

Derog. Derogatory
dim. diminutive

E east(ern)
Econ. Economics
e.g. for example
esp. especially

fem. feminine
foll. followed

Geog. Geography
Geol. Geology
Geom. Geometry

i.e. that is
imit. of imitative origin
Inf. Informal
interj. interjection
intr. intransitive

lit. literally

masc. masculine
Maths. Mathematics
Med. Medicine
Mil. Military
Myth. Mythology

N north(ern)
n. noun
Naut. Nautical
NE northeast(ern)
no. number
NW northwest(ern)
N.Z. New Zealand

Obs. Obsolete
Offens. Offensive
orig. originally

Photog. Photography
pl. plural
p.p. past participle
prep. preposition(al)
prob. probably
pron. pronoun
Psychol. Psychology
p.t. past tense

rel. related

S south(ern)
S. African South African
Scot. Scottish; Scots
SE southeast(ern)
sing. singular
Sl. Slang
sup. superlative
SW southwest(ern)

Theol. Theology
tr. transitive

U.S. United States

var. variant
vb. verb

W west(ern)
wt. weight

Zool. Zoology



a or **A** (ei) *n.*, *pl.* **a's**, **A's**, or **As**. 1. the first letter and first vowel of the English alphabet. 2. any of several speech sounds represented by this letter, as in *take*, *bag*, or *calm*. 3. Also called: **alpha**. the first in a series, esp. the highest mark. 4. from **A** to **Z**. from start to finish.

a (ə; emphatic ei) *determiner*. (*indefinite article*; used before an initial consonant. Cf. **an**.) 1. used preceding a singular countable noun, not previously specified: *a dog*; *a terrible disappointment*. 2. used preceding a noun or determiner of quantity: *a dozen eggs*; *a great many*; *to read a lot*. 3. (preceded by *once*, *twice*, *several times*, etc.) each or every; per: *once a day*. 4. a certain; one: *a Mr. Jones called*. 5. (preceded by *not*) any at all: *not a hope*. ~Cf. **the**.

A *symbol for*: 1. **Music**. **a**. the sixth note of the scale of C major. **b**. the major or minor key having this note as its tonic. 2. a human blood type of the ABO group, containing the A antigen. 3. (in Britain) a major arterial road. 4. (in Britain, formerly) a film certified for viewing by anyone, but which contains material that some parents may not wish their children to see. 5. ampere(s). 6. absolute (temperature). 7. area. 8. (in combination) atomic: *An A-bomb*; *An A-plant*.

a. *abbrev. for*: 1. acre(s). 2. Also **A**. alto. 3. answer. 4. are(s) (metric measure of land).

A. *abbrev. for*: 1. acre(s). 2. America(n). 3. answer. **a-** or before a vowel **an-** *prefix*. not; without; opposite to: *atonal*; *asocial*.

a- *prefix*. 1. on; in; towards: *aground*; *aback*. 2. in the state of: *afloat*; *asleep*.

A1, **A-1**, or **A-one** ('ei'wʌn) *adj.* 1. physically fit. 2. *Inf.* first class; excellent. 3. (of a vessel) in first-class condition.

A4 *n.* a standard paper size, 297 × 210 mm.

AA *abbrev. for*: 1. Alcoholics Anonymous. 2. anti-aircraft. 3. (in Britain) Automobile Association.

A.A.A. *abbrev. for*: 1. **Brit.** Amateur Athletic Association. 2. **U.S.** Automobile Association of America.

A & R *abbrev. for* artists and repertoire.

AAP *abbrev. for* Australian Associated Press.

aardvark ('ɑ:d,vɑ:k) *n.* a nocturnal burrowing African mammal, which has long ears and snout, and feeds on termites. Also called: **ant bear**.

Aaron's beard ('eərənz) *n.* another name for **rose of Sharon**.

AB *symbol for* a human blood type of the ABO group, containing both the A antigen and the B antigen.

A.B. *abbrev. for*: 1. Also: **a.b.** able-bodied seaman. 2. (in the U.S.) Bachelor of Arts.

ab- *prefix*. away from; opposite to: *abnormal*.

ab- *prefix*. a cgs unit of measurement in the electromagnetic system: *abampere*, *abvolt*, *abvolt*.

aba ('æbʌ) *n.* 1. a type of cloth from Syria, made of goat or camel hair. 2. a sleeveless outer garment of such cloth.

aback ('əbæk) *adv.* **taken aback**. **a**. startled or disconcerted. **B**. *Naut.* (of a vessel or sail) having the wind against the forward side so as to prevent forward motion.

abacus ('æbəkəs) *n.*, *pl.* **-ci** (-,saɪ) or **-cuses**. 1. a counting device that consists of a frame holding rods on which a number of beads are free to move. 2. **Archit.** the flat upper part of the capital of a column.

abaft ('æbɑ:ft) *Naut.* ~*adv.*, *adj.* (*postpositive*) 1. closer to the stern than to another place on a vessel. ~*prep.* 2. behind; aft of.

abalone ('æbələʊni) *n.* an edible marine mollusc having an ear-shaped shell perforated with a row of respiratory holes and lined with mother-of-pearl. Also called: **ear shell**.

abandon ('əbændən) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to forsake completely; desert; leave behind. 2. to give up completely: *to abandon hope*. 3. to give up (something begun) before completion: *the game was abandoned*. 4. to surrender (oneself) to emotion without restraint. 5. to give (insured property that has suffered partial loss or damage) to the insurers in order that a claim for a total loss may be made. ~*n.* 6. freedom from inhibitions, restraint, or worry: *she danced with abandon*. —**a'bandonment** *n.*

abandoned ('əbændənd) *adj.* 1. deserted: *an abandoned windmill*. 2. forsaken: *an abandoned child*. 3. uninhibited.

abase ('əbeɪs) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to humble or belittle (oneself, etc.). 2. to lower or reduce, as in rank. —**a'basement** *n.*

abash ('əbæʃ) *vb.* (*tr.*; *usually passive*) to cause to feel ill at ease, embarrassed, or confused. —**a'bashed** *adj.*

abate ('əbeɪt) *vb.* 1. to make or become less in amount, intensity, degree, etc. 2. (*tr.*) **Law**. **a**. to suppress, or terminate (a nuisance). **b**. to suspend or extinguish (a claim or action). **c**. to annul (a writ). 3. (*intr.*) **Law**. (of a writ, etc.) to become null and void. —**a'batement** *n.*

abattoir ('æbətwaɪ) *n.* another name for **slaughterhouse**.

abbacy ('æbəsi) *n.*, *pl.* **-cies**. the office, term of office, or jurisdiction of an abbot or abbeess.

abbé ('æbeɪ) *n.* 1. a French abbot. 2. a title used in addressing any other French cleric, such as a priest.

abbeys ('æbis) *n.* the female superior of a convent.

abbey ('æbi) *n.* 1. a building inhabited by a community of monks or nuns. 2. a church built in conjunction with such a building. 3. a community of monks or nuns.

abbot ('æbət) *n.* the superior of an abbey of monks. —**abbot,ship** or **abbotcy** *n.*

abbr. or **abbrev.** *abbrev. for*: 1. abbreviation. 2. abbreviated.

abbreviate ('æbri:vi,eɪt) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to shorten (a word or phrase) by contraction or omission of some letters or words. 2. to cut short; curtail. —**ab,brevi'ation** *n.*

ABC *n.* 1. (*often pl.* in U.S.) the alphabet. 2. (*pl.* in U.S.) the rudiments of a subject. 3. an alphabetical guide.

abdicate ('æbdi,ket) *vb.* to renounce (a throne, responsibility, rights, etc.), esp. formally. —**abdi,cation** *n.* —**abdi,cator** *n.*

abdomen ('æbdəmən) *n.* 1. the region of the body of a vertebrate that contains the viscera other than the heart and lungs. 2. the front or surface of this region; belly. 3. (in arthropods) the posterior part of the body behind the thorax. —**abdominal** ('æb'dɒmɪnəl) *adj.*

abduct ('æb'dʌkt) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to remove (a person) by force or cunning; kidnap. 2. (of certain muscles) to pull away (a leg, arm, etc.) from the median axis of the body. —**ab'duction** *n.* —**ab'ductor** *n.*

abeam ('əbim) *adv.*, *adj.* (*postpositive*) at right angles to the length of a vessel or aircraft.

abed ('æbed) *adv.* **Arch.** in bed.

Aberdeen Angus ('æbədi:n'æŋɡəs) *n.* a black hornless breed of beef cattle originating in Scotland.

aberration ('æbə'reɪʃən) *n.* 1. deviation from what is normal, expected, or usual. 2. departure from truth, morality, etc. 3. a lapse in control of one's mental faculties. 4. **Optics**. a defect in a lens or mirror that causes either a distorted image or one with coloured fringes. 5. **Astron.** the apparent displacement of a celestial body due to the motion of the observer with the earth.

abet ('əbet) *vb.* **abetting**, **abetted**. (*tr.*) to assist or encourage, esp. in wrongdoing. —**a'betment** *n.* —**a'bet** or **a'better** *n.*

abeyance ('əbeɪəns) *n.* 1. (usually preceded by *in* or *into*) a state of being suspended or put aside temporarily. 2. (usually preceded by *in*) **Law**. an indeterminate state of ownership.

abhor ('əb'hɔ:) *vb.* **-horring**, **-horred**. (*tr.*) to detest vehemently; find repugnant. —**ab'horrence** *n.* —**ab'horrer** *n.*

abhorrent ('əb'hɒrənt) *adj.* 1. repugnant; loathsome. 2. (when *postpositive*, foll. by *of*) feeling extreme aversion (for): *abhorrent of vulgarity*. 3. (usually *postpositive* and foll. by *to*) conflicting (with): *abhorrent to common sense*.

abide ('əbaɪd) *vb.* **abiding**, **abode** or **abided**. 1. (*tr.*) to tolerate; put up with. 2. (*tr.*) to accept or submit to. 3. (*intr.*; foll. by *by*) *a*. to comply (with): *to abide by the decision*. *b*. to remain faithful (to): *to abide by your promise*. 4. (*intr.*) to remain or continue. 5. (*intr.*) **Arch.** to dwell. 6. (*tr.*) **Arch.** to await in expectation. —**a'bider** *n.*

abiding (ə'baɪdɪŋ) *adj.* permanent; enduring: *an abiding belief.*

ability (ə'bɪlɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. possession of necessary skill, competence, or power. 2. considerable proficiency; natural capability: *a man of ability.* 3. (pl.) special talents.

abject ('æbdʒekt) *adj.* 1. utterly wretched or hopeless. 2. forlorn; dejected. 3. submissive: *an abject apology.* 4. contemptible; despicable: *an abject liar.* —**ab'jection** *n.* —**abjectly** *adv.* —**abjectness** *n.*

abjure (əb'dʒʊə) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to renounce or retract, esp. formally or under oath. 2. to abstain from. —**abju'ration** *n.* —**ab'jurer** *n.*

ablation (əb'leɪʃən) *n.* 1. the surgical removal of an organ, structure, or part. 2. the melting or wearing away of a part, such as the heat shield of a space re-entry vehicle on passing through the earth's atmosphere. 3. the wearing away of a rock or glacier. —**ablate** (əb-'leɪt) *vb. (tr.)*

ablative ('æblətɪv) *Grammar.* ~*adj.* 1. (in certain inflected languages such as Latin) denoting a case of nouns, pronouns, and adjectives indicating the agent, or the instrument, manner, or place of the action. ~*n.* 2. the ablative case or a speech element in it.

ablaut ('æblaut) *n. Linguistics.* vowel gradation, esp. in Indo-European languages. See **gradation** (sense 5).

ablaze (ə'bleɪz) *adj. (postpositive), adv.* 1. on fire; burning. 2. brightly illuminated. 3. emotionally aroused.

able ('eɪbəl) *adj.* 1. (postpositive) having the necessary power, resources, skill, opportunity, etc., to do something. 2. capable; talented. 3. Law. competent or authorized.

-able *suffix forming adjectives.* 1. capable of or deserving of (being acted upon as indicated): *enjoyable; washable.* 2. inclined to; able to; causing: *comfortable; variable.* —**ably** *suffix forming adverbs.* —**ability** *suffix forming nouns.*

able-bodied *adj.* physically strong and healthy; robust.

able-bodied seaman *n.* a seaman, esp. one in the merchant navy, who has been trained in certain skills. Also: **able seaman.** Abbrev.: **A.B., a.b.**

able rating *n.* (esp. in the Royal Navy) a rating who is qualified to perform certain duties of seamanship.

ablation (ə'bɪljʊʃən) *n.* 1. the ritual washing of a priest's hands or of sacred vessels. 2. (often pl.) the act of washing; *perform one's ablutions.* 3. (pl.) Mil. inf. latrines. —**ab'lutionary** *adj.*

ably ('eɪbəl) *adv.* in a competent or skilful manner.

ABM *abbrev. for* antiballistic missile.

abnegate ('æbni,geɪt) *vb. (tr.)* to deny to oneself; renounce. —**abne'gation** *n.* —**abne,gator** *n.*

abnormal (əb'nɔ:məl) *adj.* 1. not normal; deviating from the usual or typical. 2. concerned with the abnormal: *abnormal psychology.* 3. Inf. odd; strange. —**abnormality** (,æb'nɔ:'mælɪti) *n.* —**ab'normally** *adv.*

Abo (ə'boʊ) *n., pl. Abos.* (sometimes *not cap.*) Aust. inf., often derog. short for **Aborigine**.

aboard (ə'bɔ:d) *adv., adj. (postpositive), prep.* 1. on, in, onto, or into (a ship, train, etc.). 2. Naut. alongside. 3. all aboard! (*interj.*) a warning to passengers to board a vehicle, ship, etc.

abode ('ə'bɔ:d) *n.* a place in which one lives; one's home.

abode ('ə'bɔ:d) *vb.* a past tense and past participle of **abide**.

abolish (ə'bɒlɪʃ) *vb. (tr.)* to do away with (laws, regulations, customs, etc.). —**a'bolishable** *adj.* —**a'bolisher** *n.* —**a'bolishment** *n.*

abolition (,æb'ɒlɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of abolishing or the state of being abolished; annulment. 2. (often cap.) (in British territories) the ending of the slave trade (1807) or of slavery (1833). 3. (often cap.) (in the U.S.) the emancipation of slaves, by the Emancipation Proclamation (1863, ratified 1865). —**abo'litionary** *adj.* —**abo'litionism** *n.* —**abo'litionist** *n., adj.*

A-bomb *n.* short for **atom bomb**.

abominable (ə'bɒmɪnəbəl) *adj.* 1. offensive; loathsome; detestable. 2. Inf. very bad or inferior: *abominable workmanship.* —**a'bominably** *adv.*

abominable snowman *n.* a large manlike or ape-like creature alleged to inhabit the Himalayas. Also called: **yeti**.

abominate (ə'bɒmɪ,neɪt) *vb. (tr.)* to dislike intensely; detest. —**a,bomi'nation** *n.* —**a'bomi,nator** *n.*

aboriginal (,æbə'rɪdʒɪnəl) *adj.* existing in a place from

the earliest known period; indigenous. —**abo'riginally** *adv.*

Aboriginal (,æbə'rɪdʒɪnəl) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or characteristic of the Aborigines of Australia. ~*n.* 2. another word for an Australian **Aborigine**.

aborigine (,æbə'rɪdʒɪni) *n.* an original inhabitant of a country or region.

Aborigine (,æbə'rɪdʒɪni) *n.* 1. Also called: **native Australian.** a member of a dark-skinned hunting and gathering people who were living in Australia when European settlers arrived. Often shortened to **Abo**. 2. any of the languages of this people.

abort (ə'bɔ:t) *vb.* 1. to terminate or cause to terminate pregnancy before the foetus is viable. 2. (*intr.*) to fail to come to completion. 3. (*tr.*) to interrupt the development of. 4. (*intr.*) to give birth to a dead or nonviable foetus. 5. (of a space flight or other undertaking) to fail or terminate prematurely. 6. (*intr.*) (of an organism or part of an organism) to fail to develop into the mature form.

abortion (ə'bɔ:tʃən) *n.* 1. an operation or other procedure to terminate pregnancy before the foetus is viable. 2. the premature termination of pregnancy by spontaneous or induced expulsion of a nonviable foetus from the uterus. 3. an aborted foetus. 4. a failure to develop to completion or maturity. 5. a person or thing that is deformed. —**a'bortionist** *n.*

abortive (ə'bɔ:tɪv) *adj.* 1. failing to achieve a purpose; fruitless. 2. (of organisms) imperfectly developed. 3. causing abortion.

abound (ə'baʊnd) *vb. (intr.)* 1. to exist or occur in abundance. 2. (foll. by *with* or *in*) to be plentifully supplied (with): *the fields abound in corn.*

about (ə'baʊt) *prep.* 1. relating to; concerning. 2. near or close to. 3. carried on: *I haven't any money about me.* 4. on every side of. 5. active in or engaged in. 6. (foll. by an infinitive) ready to or intending to: *he was about to jump.* ~*adv.* 7. near in number, time, degree, etc.: *about 50 years old.* 8. nearby. 9. here and there: *walk about to keep warm.* 10. all around; on every side. 11. in or to the opposite direction. 12. in rotation or revolution: *turn and turn about.* 13. used in informal phrases to indicate understatement: *it's about time you stopped.* 14. Arch. around. ~*adj.* 15. (predicative) active; astir after sleep: *up and about.*

about turn or **U.S. about face** *interj.* 1. a military command to a formation of men to reverse the direction in which they are facing. ~*n.* **about-turn** or **U.S. about-face.** 2. a complete change of opinion, direction, etc. ~*vb.* **about-turn** or **U.S. about-face.** 3. (*intr.*) to perform an about-turn.

above (ə'baʊ) *prep.* 1. on top of or higher than; over. 2. greater than in quantity or degree: *above average.* 3. superior to or prior to: *to place honour above wealth.* 4. too high-minded for: *above petty gossiping.* 5. too respected for; beyond: *above suspicion.* 6. too difficult to be understood by: *the talk was above me.* 7. louder or higher than (other noise). 8. in preference to. 9. north of. 10. upstream from. 11. **above all.** most of all or most important. 12. **above and beyond.** in addition to. ~*adv.* 13. in or to a higher place: *the sky above.* 14. a. in a previous place (in something written). b. (*in combination*): *the above-mentioned clause.* 15. higher in rank or position. 16. in or concerned with heaven. ~*n.* 17. **the above.** something previously mentioned. ~*adj.* 18. appearing in a previous place (in something written).

above board *adj.* (**aboveboard** when *prenominal*), *adv.* in the open; without dishonesty, concealment, or fraud.

abracadabra (,æbrækə'dæbrə) *interj.* 1. a spoken formula, used esp. by conjurers. ~*n.* 2. a word used in incantations, etc., considered to possess magic powers. 3. gibberish.

abrade (ə'b'reɪd) *vb. (tr.)* to scrape away or wear down by friction. —**a'b'rader** *n.*

abrasion (ə'b'reɪʃən) *n.* 1. the process of scraping or wearing down by friction. 2. a scraped area or spot; graze. 3. Geog. the effect of mechanical erosion of rock, esp. a river bed, by rock fragments scratching and scraping it.

abrasive (ə'b'reɪsɪv) *n.* 1. a substance or material such as sandpaper, pumice, or emery, used for cleaning, smoothing, or polishing. ~*adj.* 2. causing abrasion; rough. 3. irritating in manner or personality.

abreast (ə'b'reɪst) *adj. (postpositive)* 1. alongside each other and facing in the same direction. 2. (foll. by *of* or *with*) up to date (with).

abridge (ə'bɪdʒ) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to reduce the length of (a

written work) by condensing. 2. to curtail. —**a'bridg-able** or **a'bridgeable** *adj.* —**a'bridger** *n.* —**a'bridgment** or **a'bridgement** *n.*

abroad (ə'brɔ:d) *adv.* 1. to or in a foreign country or countries. ~*adj.* (postpositive) 2. (of rumours, etc.) in general circulation. 3. out in the open. 4. over a wide area.

abrogate ('æbrəʊ,ɡent) *vb.* (tr.) to cancel or revoke formally or officially. —**abro'gation** *n.* —**abro,ga-tor** *n.*

abrupt (ə'brʌpt) *adj.* 1. sudden; unexpected. 2. brusque or brief in speech, manner, etc. 3. (of a style of writing or speaking) disconnected. 4. precipitous; steep. 5. *Bot.* truncate. 6. *Geol.* (of strata) cropping out suddenly. —**ab'ruptly** *adv.* —**ab'ruptness** *n.*

abscess ('æbses) *n.* 1. a localized collection of pus formed as the product of inflammation. ~*vb.* 2. (intr.) to form such a collection of pus. —**'abscessed** *adj.*

abscissa (æb'sisə) *n.*, *pl.* —**'scissas** or —**'scissae** (-'sisi:), the horizontal or x-coordinate of a point in a two-dimensional system of Cartesian coordinates. It is the distance from the y-axis measured parallel to the x-axis. *Cf.* **ordinate** (sense 1).

abscond (əb'skɒnd) *vb.* (intr.) to run away secretly, esp. to avoid prosecution or arrest. —**ab'sconder** *n.*

abseil ('æbsail) *vb.* (intr.) 1. *Mountaineering.* to descend a steep slope or vertical drop by a rope secured from above and coiled around one's body. ~*n.* 2. an instance or the technique of abseiling.

absence ('æbsəns) *n.* 1. the state of being away. 2. the time during which a person or thing is away. 3. the fact of being without something; lack.

absent *adj.* ('æbsənt). 1. away or not present. 2. lacking. 3. inattentive. ~*vb.* (æb'sent): 4. (tr.) to remove (oneself) or keep away. —**ab'senter** *n.*

absentee (æbsən'ti:) *n.* a. a person who is absent. b. (as modifier): an *absentee landlord*.

absenteeism (æbsən'ti:zəm) *n.* persistent absence from work, school, etc.

absent-minded *adj.* preoccupied; forgetful. —**absent'mindedly** *adv.* —**absent'mindedness** *n.*

absinthe or **absinth** ('æbsɪnθ) *n.* 1. a potent green alcoholic drink, originally having high wormwood content. 2. another name for **wormwood** (the plant).

absolute ('æbsə,lʊ:t) *adj.* 1. complete; perfect. 2. free from limitations, restrictions, or exceptions. 3. despotic: an *absolute ruler*. 4. undoubted; certain: *the absolute truth*. 5. not dependent on, conditioned by, or relative to anything else; independent: *absolute humidity*; *absolute units*. 6. pure; unmixed: *absolute alcohol*. 7. (of a grammatical construction) syntactically independent of the main clause, as for example the construction *Joking apart* in the sentence *Joking apart, we'd better leave now*. 8. *Grammar.* (of a transitive verb) used without a direct object, as the verb *intimidate* in the sentence *His intentions are good, but his rough manner tends to intimidate*. 9. *Grammar.* (of an adjective) used as a noun, as for instance *young* and *aged* in the sentence *The young care little for the aged*. ~*n.* 10. something that is absolute.

Absolute ('æbsə,lʊ:t) *n.* (sometimes not cap.) *Philosophy.* 1. the ultimate basis of reality. 2. that which is totally unconditional, unrestricted, pure, perfect, or complete.

absolutely (æbsə'lʊ:tlɪ) *adv.* 1. in an absolute manner, esp. completely or perfectly. 2. (sentence substitute) yes; certainly.

absolute majority *n.* a majority of over 50 per cent, such as the total number of votes or seats obtained by a party that beats the combined opposition.

absolute pitch *n.* 1. Also called: **perfect pitch**. the ability to identify or to reproduce the pitch of a note. 2. the exact pitch of a note determined by vibration per second.

absolute zero *n.* the lowest temperature theoretically attainable, at which the particles constituting matter would be at rest: equivalent to -273.15°C or -459.67°F.

absolution (æbsə'lʊ:ʃən) *n.* 1. the act of absolving or the state of being absolved; release from guilt, obligation, or punishment. 2. *Christianity.* a. a formal remission of sin pronounced by a priest in the sacrament of penance. b. the form of words granting such a remission.

absolutism ('æbsə'lʊ:ʃɪzəm) *n.* the principle or practice of a political system in which unrestricted power is vested in a monarch, dictator, etc.; despotism. —**'absolutist** *n.*

absolve (əb'zɒlv) *vb.* (tr.) 1. (usually foll. by *from*) to

release from blame, sin, obligation, or responsibility. 2. to pronounce not guilty. —**ab'solver** *n.*

absorb (əb'sɔ:b) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to soak or suck up (liquids). 2. to engage or occupy (the interest or time) of (someone). 3. to receive or take in (the energy of an impact). 4. *Physics.* to take in all or part of incident radiated energy and retain it. 5. to take in or assimilate; incorporate. 6. to pay for as part of a commercial transaction: *the distributor absorbed the cost of transport*. 7. *Chem.* to undergo or cause to undergo a process in which one substance permeates into or is dissolved by a liquid or solid: *porous solids absorb water*. —**ab,sorba'bility** *n.* —**ab'sorbable** *adj.* —**ab'sorbent** *adj.*

absorption (əb'sɔ:pʃən) *n.* 1. the process of absorbing or the state of being absorbed. 2. *Physiol.* a. normal assimilation by the tissues of the products of digestion. b. the process of taking up various fluids, drugs, etc., through the mucous membranes or skin. —**ab'sorp-tive** *adj.*

abstain (əb'steɪn) *vb.* (intr.; usually foll. by *from*) 1. to choose to refrain. 2. to refrain from voting, esp. in a committee, legislature, etc. —**ab'stainer** *n.*

abstemious (əb'sti:mɪəs) *adj.* sparing, esp. in the consumption of alcohol or food. —**ab'stemiously** *adv.* —**ab'stemiousness** *n.*

abstention (əb'stenʃən) *n.* 1. the act of refraining or abstaining. 2. the act of withholding one's vote.

abstinence ('æbstɪnəns) *n.* the act or practice of refraining from some action or from the use of something, esp. alcohol. —**'abstinent** *adj.*

abstract *adj.* ('æbstrækt). 1. having no reference to material objects or specific examples. 2. not applied or practical; theoretical. 3. hard to understand. 4. *Fine arts.* characterized by geometric, formalized, or otherwise nonrepresentational qualities. ~*n.* ('æbstrækt). 5. a condensed version of a piece of writing, speech, etc.; summary. 6. an abstract term or idea. 7. an abstract painting, sculpture, etc. 8. in the abstract, without reference to specific circumstances. ~*vb.* (æb'strækt). (tr.) 9. to regard theoretically. 10. ('æbstrækt). (also intr.) to summarize. 11. to remove or extract.

abstracted (æb'stræktɪd) *adj.* 1. lost in thought; preoccupied. 2. taken out or separated. —**ab'stractedly** *adv.*

abstraction (æb'stræktʃən) *n.* 1. preoccupation. 2. the process of formulating generalized concepts by extracting common qualities from specific examples. 3. a concept formulated in this way: *good and evil are abstractions*. 4. an abstract painting, sculpture, etc. —**ab'stractive** *adj.*

abstruse (əb'stru:s) *adj.* not easy to understand. —**ab'strusely** *adv.* —**ab'struseness** *n.*

absurd (əb'sɜ:d) *adj.* 1. incongruous; ridiculous. 2. ludicrous. —**ab'surdity** or **ab'surdness** *n.* —**ab'surd-ly** *adv.*

abundance (ə'bandəns) *n.* 1. a copious supply; great amount. 2. fullness or benevolence: *from the abundance of my heart*. 3. degree of plentifulness: *the abundance of uranium-235 in natural uranium*. 4. Also: **abondance**, a call in solo whist undertaking to make nine tricks. 5. affluence. —**a'bundant** *adj.*

abuse *vb.* (ə'bju:z). (tr.) 1. to use incorrectly or improperly; misuse. 2. to maltreat. 3. to speak insultingly or cruelly to. ~*n.* (ə'bju:z). 4. improper, incorrect, or excessive use. 5. maltreatment of a person; injury. 6. insulting or coarse speech. 7. an evil, unjust, or corrupt practice. 8. *Arch.* a deception. —**a'buser** *n.* —**abusive** (ə'bju:sɪv) *adj.*

abut (ə'bʌt) *vb.* **abutting**, **abutted**. (usually foll. by *on*, *upon*, or *against*) to adjoin, touch, or border on (something) at one end.

abutment (ə'bʌtmənt) or **abuttal** *n.* 1. the state or process of abutting. 2. a. something that abuts. b. the thing on which something abuts. c. the point of junction between them. 3. a construction that supports the end of a bridge.

abysmal (ə'bɪzməl) *adj.* 1. immeasurable; very great. 2. *Inf.* extremely bad. —**a'bysmally** *adv.*

abyss ('æbɪs) *n.* 1. a very deep gorge or chasm. 2. anything that appears to be endless or immeasurably deep, such as time, despair, or shame. 3. hell. —**a'byssal** *adj.*

Ac *the chemical symbol for actinium.*

AC *abbrev. for alternating current. Cf. DC.*

a/c *Book-keeping. abbrev. for: 1. account. 2. account current.*

acacia (ə'keɪʃə) *n.* 1. a tropical or subtropical shrub or tree, having small yellow or white flowers. In Australia

the term is applied esp. to the wattle. 2. **false acacia**. another name for **locust** (senses 2, 3). 3. **gum acacia**. another name for **gum arabic**.

academic (ˌækəˈdemɪk) *adj.* 1. belonging or relating to a place of learning, esp. a college, university, or academy. 2. of purely theoretical or speculative interest. 3. excessively concerned with intellectual matters. 4. conforming to set rules and traditions: *an academic painter*. 5. *Chiefly U.S.* relating to studies such as languages and pure science rather than technical or professional studies. ~*n.* 6. a member of a college or university. —**academically** *adv.*

academy (əˈkædəmi) *n., pl. -mies*. 1. an institution or society for the advancement of literature, art, or science. 2. a school for training in a particular skill or profession: *a military academy*. 3. a secondary school, esp. in Scotland. —**academical** *adj.* —**academician** (əˈkædəˈmiʃən) *n.*

acanthus (əˈkænbʊθəs) *n., pl. -thuses or -thi (-θai)*. 1. a shrub or herbaceous plant, native to the Mediterranean region but widely cultivated as an ornamental plant, having large spiny leaves and spikes of white or purplish flowers. 2. a carved ornament based on the leaves of the acanthus plant, esp. as used on the capital of a Corinthian column.

ACAS (ˈeɪkəs) *n.* (in Britain) *acronym* for Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service.

acc. *abbrev. for:* 1. accompanied. 2. according. 3. Book-keeping, account. 4. Grammar, accusative.

accede (ækˈsiːd) *vb. (intr.; usually foll. by to)* 1. to assent or give one's consent. 2. to enter upon or attain (to an office, right, etc.): *the prince acceded to the throne*. 3. *International law.* to become a party (to an agreement between nations, etc.). —**ac'cedence** *n.*

accelerando (ækˈsələˈrændəʊ) ~*adj., adv.* *Music.* becoming faster.

accelerate (ækˈsələˈreɪt) *vb.* 1. to go, occur, or cause to go or occur more quickly; speed up. 2. (*tr.*) to cause to happen sooner than expected. 3. (*tr.*) to increase the velocity of (a body, reaction, etc.). —**ac,cele'ration** *n.* —**ac'celerative** *adj.*

accelerator (ækˈsələˈreɪtə) *n.* 1. a device for increasing speed, esp. a pedal for controlling the fuel intake in a motor vehicle; throttle. 2. *Physics.* a machine for increasing the kinetic energy of subatomic particles or atomic nuclei. 3. Also: **accelerant**. *Chem.* a substance that increases the speed of a chemical reaction; catalyst.

accent *n.* (ˈæksənt). 1. the relative prominence of a spoken or sung syllable, esp. with regard to stress or pitch. 2. a mark (such as ˈ, ˌ, ˋ, or ˊ) used in writing to indicate the stress or prominence of a syllable. 3. any of various marks or symbols conventionally used in writing certain languages to indicate the quality of a vowel. See **acute** (sense 8), **grave**˚ (sense 5), **circumflex**. 4. rhythmic stress in verse or prose. 5. *Music.* a stress placed on certain notes in a piece of music, indicated by a symbol printed over the note concerned. b. the rhythmic pulse of a piece or passage, usually represented as the stress on the first beat of each bar. 6. the characteristic mode of pronunciation of a person or group, esp. one that betrays social or geographical origin. 7. a distinctive characteristic of anything, such as taste, pattern, style, etc. 8. particular attention or emphasis: *an accent on learning*. 9. a strongly contrasting detail. ~*vb.* (ækˈsənt). (*tr.*) 10. to mark with an accent in writing, speech, music, etc. 11. to lay particular emphasis or stress on.

accentor (ækˈsəntə) *n.* a small sparrow-like songbird, which inhabits mainly mountainous regions of Europe and Asia. See also **hedge sparrow**.

accentuate (ækˈsəntʃuˌeɪt) *vb. (tr.)* to stress or emphasize. —**ac,centu'ation** *n.*

accept (əkˈsept) *vb. (mainly tr.)* 1. to take or receive (something offered). 2. to give an affirmative reply to. 3. to take on the responsibilities, duties, etc., of: *he accepted office*. 4. to tolerate. 5. to consider as true or believe in (a philosophy, theory, etc.). 6. (*may take a clause as object*) to be willing to believe: *you must accept that he lied*. 7. to receive with approval or admit, as into a community, group, etc. 8. *Commerce.* to agree to pay (a bill, draft, etc.). 9. to receive as adequate or valid. —**ac'ceptor** *n.*

acceptable (əkˈseptəbəl) *adj.* 1. satisfactory; adequate. 2. pleasing; welcome. 3. tolerable. —**ac,cepta'bility** or **ac'ceptableness** *n.* —**ac'ceptably** *adv.*

acceptance (əkˈseptəns) *n.* 1. the act of accepting or the state of being accepted or acceptable. 2. favourable reception. 3. (often foll. by *of*) belief (in) or assent (to).

4. *Commerce.* a formal agreement by a debtor to pay a draft, bill, etc.

accepted (əkˈseptɪd) *adj.* commonly approved or recognized; customary; established.

acceptor (əkˈseptə) *n.* 1. *Commerce.* the person or organization on which a draft or bill of exchange is drawn. 2. *Electronics.* an impurity, such as gallium, added to a semiconductor material to increase its p-type conductivity.

access (ˈækses) *n.* 1. the act of approaching or entering. 2. the state or condition of being approachable. 3. the right or privilege to approach, enter, or make use of something. 4. a way or means of approach or entry. 5. (*modifier*): designating programmes made by the general public: *access television*. 6. a sudden outburst or attack, as of rage or disease. ~*vb.* 7. (*tr.*) *Computers.* a. to obtain or retrieve (information) from a storage device. b. to place (information) in a storage device.

accessory (əkˈsesəri) *n., pl. -ries*. *Law.* a less common spelling of **accessory**.

accessible (əkˈsesəbəl) *adj.* 1. easy to approach, enter, or use. 2. **accessible** to likely to be affected by 3. obtainable; available. —**ac,cessi'bility** *n.*

accession (əkˈseʃən) *n.* 1. the act of attaining to an office, right, condition, etc. 2. an increase due to an addition. 3. an addition, as to a collection. 4. *Property law.* an addition to land or property by natural increase or improvement. 5. *International law.* the formal acceptance of a convention or treaty. 6. agreement. ~*vb.* 7. (*tr.*) to make a record of (additions to a collection). —**ac'cessional** *adj.*

accessory (əkˈsesəri) *n., pl. -ries*. 1. a supplementary part or object, as of a car, appliance, etc. 2. (*often pl.*) a small accompanying item of dress, esp. of women's dress. 3. (formerly) a person involved in a crime although absent during its commission. ~*adj.* 4. supplementary; additional. 5. assisting in or having knowledge of an act, esp. a crime. —**accessorial** (əkˈseːsɔːriəl) *adj.* —**ac'cessorially** *adv.*

access time *n.* *Computers.* the time required to retrieve a piece of stored information.

accident (ˈæksɪdənt) *n.* 1. an unforeseen event or one without an apparent cause. 2. anything that occurs unintentionally or by chance: *I met him by accident*. 3. a misfortune or mishap, esp. one causing injury or death. 4. a material quality that is not an essential part of something. 5. *Geol.* a surface irregularity in a natural formation.

accidental (əkˈsɪdəntl) *adj.* 1. occurring by chance, unexpectedly, or unintentionally. 2. nonessential; incidental. 3. *Music.* denoting sharps, flats, or naturals that are not in the key signature of a piece. ~*n.* 4. an incidental or supplementary circumstance, factor, or attribute. 5. *Music.* a symbol denoting that the following note is a sharp, flat, or natural that is not a part of the key signature. —**acci'dentally** *adv.*

accident-prone *adj.* liable to become involved in accidents.

acclaim (əˈkleɪm) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to acknowledge publicly the excellence of (a person, act, etc.). 2. to applaud. 3. (*tr.*) to acknowledge publicly: *they acclaimed him king*. ~*n.* 4. an enthusiastic expression of approval, etc. —**ac'claimer** *n.*

acclamation (əkˈkleɪməʃən) *n.* 1. an enthusiastic reception or exhibition of welcome, approval, etc. 2. an expression of approval with shouts or applause. 3. *by acclamation.* *Canad.* (of an election or electoral victory) without opposition: *he won by acclamation*. —**acclamatory** (əkˈkleɪmətəri) *adj.*

acclimatize or **-tise** (əkˈklaɪməˌtaɪz) *vb.* to adapt or become accustomed to a new climate or environment. —**ac'clima,tizable** or **-tisable** *adj.* —**ac,clima'tization** or **-ti'sation** *n.*

accolade (əˈkəʊˌleɪd) *n.* 1. strong praise or approval. 2. an award or honour. 3. the ceremonial gesture used to confer knighthood, a touch on the shoulder with a sword. 4. a rare word for **brace** (sense 6).

accommodate (əˈkɒməˌdeɪt) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to supply or provide, esp. with lodging. 2. (*tr.*) to oblige or do a favour for. 3. to adapt. 4. (*tr.*) to bring into harmony. 5. (*tr.*) to allow room for. 6. (*tr.*) to lend money to.

accommodating (əˈkɒməˌdeɪtɪŋ) *adj.* willing to help; kind; obliging.

accommodation (əˈkɒməˌdeɪʃən) *n.* 1. adjustment, as of differences or to new circumstances; settlement or reconciliation. 2. lodging or board and lodging. 3. something fulfilling a need, want, etc. 4. *Physiol.* the automatic or voluntary adjustment of the thickness of

the lens of the eye for far or near vision. 5. willingness to help or oblige. 6. *Commerce*. a loan.

accommodation address *n.* an address on letters, etc., to a person or business that does not wish or is not able to receive post at a permanent or actual address.

accompaniment (ə'kʌmpənɪmənt) *n.* 1. something that accompanies or is served or used with something else. 2. *Music*. a subordinate or supporting part for an instrument, voices, or an orchestra.

accompanist (ə'kʌmpənɪst) *n.* a person who supplies a musical accompaniment.

accompany (ə'kʌmpəni) *vb.* -*nying*, -*nied*. 1. (*tr.*) to go along with, so as to be in company with. 2. (*tr.*; foll. by *with*) to supplement. 3. (*tr.*) to occur or be associated with. 4. to provide a musical accompaniment for (a soloist, etc.).

accomplice (ə'kɒmplɪs, ə'kʌm-) *n.* a person who has helped another in committing a crime.

accomplish (ə'kɒmplɪʃ, ə'kʌm-) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to manage to do; achieve. 2. to complete.

accomplished (ə'kɒmplɪʃt, ə'kʌm-) *adj.* 1. successfully completed; achieved. 2. expert; proficient.

accomplishment (ə'kɒmplɪʃmənt, ə'kʌm-) *n.* 1. the act of achieving. 2. something successfully completed. 3. (*often pl.*) skill or talent. 4. (*often pl.*) social grace and poise.

accord (ə'kɔ:d) *n.* 1. agreement; accordance (esp. in in accord with). 2. concurrence of opinion. 3. with one accord. unanimously. 4. pleasing relationship between sounds, colours, etc. 5. of one's own accord. voluntarily. ~*vb.* 6. to be or cause to be in harmony or agreement. 7. (*tr.*) to grant; bestow. —*ac'cordance n.*

according (ə'kɔ:dn̩) *adj.* 1. (foll. by *to*) in proportion. 2. (foll. by *to*) as stated (by). 3. (foll. by *to*) in conformity (with). 4. (foll. by *as*) depending (on whether).

accordingly (ə'kɔ:dn̩li) *adv.* 1. in an appropriate manner; suitably. ~ 2. (*sentence connector*) consequently.

accordion (ə'kɔ:dn̩) *n.* 1. a portable box-shaped instrument consisting of metallic reeds that are made to vibrate by air from a set of bellows controlled by the player's hands. Notes are produced by means of studlike keys. 2. short for **piano accordion**. —*ac'cordianist n.*

accost (ə'kɔ:st) *vb.* (*tr.*) to approach, stop, and speak to (a person), as to ask a question, solicit sexually, etc. —*ac'costable adj.*

account (ə'kaunt) *n.* 1. a verbal or written report, description, or narration of some occurrence, event, etc. 2. an explanation of conduct, esp. one made to someone in authority. 3. basis; consideration: *on this account*. 4. importance, consequence, or value: *of little account*. 5. assessment; judgment. 6. profit or advantage: *to good account*. 7. part or behalf (only in *on one's or some-one's account*). 8. *Finance*. a. a business relationship between a bank, department store, etc., and a depositor, customer, or client permitting the latter certain banking or credit services. b. the sum of money deposited at a bank. c. the amount of credit available to the holder of an account. d. a record of these. 9. a statement of monetary transactions with the resulting balance. 10. (on the London Stock Exchange) the period, ordinarily of a fortnight's duration, at the end of which settlements are made. 11. *Chiefly U.S.* a. a regular client or customer. b. an area of business assigned to another: *they transferred their publicity account to a new agent*. 12. *call (or bring) to account*. a. to insist on explanation. b. to reprimand. c. to hold responsible. 13. *give a good (bad, etc.) account of oneself*. to perform well (badly, etc.). 14. *on account*. a. on credit. b. Also: *to account*. as partial payment. 15. *on account of*. (*prep.*) because of. 16. *take account of or take into account*. to take into consideration; allow for. 17. *settle or square accounts with*. a. to pay or receive a balance due. b. to get revenge on (someone). 18. *See bank account*. ~*vb.* 19. (*tr.*) to consider or reckon: *he accounts himself poor*.

accountable (ə'kauntəbəl) *adj.* 1. responsible to someone or for some action. 2. able to be explained. —*ac'counta'bility n.* —*ac'countably adv.*

accountant (ə'kauntənt) *n.* a person concerned with the maintenance and audit of business accounts. —*ac'countancy n.*

account for *vb.* (*intr.*, *prep.*) 1. to give reasons for (an event, act, etc.). 2. to make or provide a reckoning of (expenditure, etc.). 3. to be responsible for destroying or putting (people, aircraft, etc.) out of action.

accounting (ə'kauntɪŋ) *n.* the skill or practice of main-

taining and auditing accounts and preparing reports on the assets, liabilities, etc., of a business.

accounterment or **U.S. accouterment** (ə'ku:tərmənt, ə'ku:tər-) *n.* 1. equipment worn by soldiers in addition to their clothing and weapons. 2. (*usually pl.*) clothing, equipment, etc.; trappings: *the accouterments of war*.

accredit (ə'kredɪt) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to ascribe or attribute. 2. to give official recognition to. 3. to certify as meeting required standards. 4. (*often foll. by at or to*) a. to send (an envoy, etc.) with official credentials. b. to appoint (someone) as an envoy, etc. 5. to believe. 6. *N.Z.* to pass a candidate for university entrance on school recommendation, without external examination. —*ac'creditation n.*

accredited (ə'kredɪtɪd) *adj.* 1. officially authorized; recognized. 2. (of milk, cattle, etc.) certified as free from disease; meeting certain standards. 3. *N.Z.* accepted for university entrance on school recommendation, without external examination.

accretion (ə'kri:ʃən) *n.* 1. any gradual increase in size, as through growth or external addition. 2. something added, esp. extraneously, to cause growth or an increase in size. 3. the growing together of normally separate plant or animal parts. —*ac'cretive adj.*

accrue (ə'kru:) *vb.* -*ruing*, -*rued*. (*intr.*) 1. to increase by growth or addition, esp. (of capital) to increase by periodic addition of interest. 2. (*often foll. by to*) to fall naturally (to). —*ac'cruual n.*

acct. *Book-keeping. abbrev. for account.*

accumulate (ə'kju:mju:leɪt) *vb.* to gather or become gathered together in an increasing quantity; collect. —*ac'cumulable adj.* —*ac'cumulative adj.*

accumulation (ə'kju:mju:leɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act or process of collecting together or becoming collected. 2. something that has been collected, gathered, heaped, etc. 3. *Finance*. the continuous growth of capital by retention of interest or earnings.

accumulator (ə'kju:mju:leɪtə) *n.* 1. Also called: **battery, storage battery**. a rechargeable device for storing electrical energy in the form of chemical energy. 2. *Horse racing, Brit.* a collective bet on successive races, with both stake and winnings being carried forward to accumulate progressively. 3. a register in a calculator or a location in a computer in which figures are stored and arithmetical operations performed on them.

accuracy (ə'ækjʊərəsi) *n., pl. -cies*. faithful measurement or representation of the truth; correctness; precision.

accurate (ə'ækjʊət) *adj.* 1. faithfully representing or describing the truth. 2. showing a negligible or permissible deviation from a standard: *an accurate ruler*. 3. without error; precise. —*accurately adv.*

accursed (ə'kɜ:sɪd, ə'kɜ:st) or **accurst** (ə'kɜ:st) *adj.* 1. under or subject to a curse. 2. (*prenominal*) hateful; detestable. —*accursedly* (ə'kɜ:sɪdli) *adv.* —*ac'cursedness n.*

accusation (ə'ækju:zeɪʃən) *n.* 1. an allegation that a person is guilty of some fault or crime. 2. a formal charge brought against a person.

accusative (ə'ækju:zətɪv) *adj.* 1. *Grammar*. denoting a case of nouns, pronouns, and adjectives in inflected languages that is used to identify the direct object of a finite verb, of certain prepositions, and for certain other purposes. ~*n.* 2. *Grammar*. the accusative case, or a speech element in it. —*accusativial* (ə'ækju:zə'taɪvəl) *adj.* —*ac'cusatively adv.*

accuse (ə'kju:z) *vb.* to charge (a person or persons) with some fault, offence, crime, etc. —*ac'cused n.* —*ac'cuser n.* —*ac'cusingly adv.*

accustom (ə'kʌstəm) *vb.* (*tr.*; usually foll. by *to*) to make (oneself) familiar (with) or used (to), as by habit or experience.

accustomed (ə'kʌstəmd) *adj.* 1. usual; customary. 2. (*postpositive*; foll. by *to*) used (to). 3. (*postpositive*; foll. by *to*) in the habit (of).

ace (eis) *n.* 1. any die, domino, or any of four playing cards with one spot. 2. a single spot or pip on a playing card, die, etc. 3. *Tennis*. a. a winning serve that the opponent fails to reach. b. any winning serve. 4. a fighter pilot accredited with destroying many enemy aircraft. 5. *Inf.* an expert: *an ace at driving*. 6. *an ace up one's sleeve*. a hidden and powerful advantage. ~*adj.* 7. *Inf.* superb; excellent.

-aceous *suffix forming adjectives.* relating to, having the nature of, or resembling: *herbaceous*.

acerbate (ə'æsə,bet) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to embitter or exasperate. 2. to make sour or bitter.

acerbity (ə'sɜ:bɪti) *n., pl. -ties*. 1. vitriolic or embittered

tered speech, temper, etc. 2. sourness or bitterness of taste.

acetaldehyde (ˌæstɪ'tældi,haɪd) *n.* a colourless volatile pungent liquid, used in the manufacture of organic compounds and as a solvent. Formula: CH_3CHO .

acetate (ˌæsi'teɪt) *n.* 1. any salt or ester of acetic acid. 2. short for **acetate rayon** or **cellulose acetate**.

acetate rayon *n.* a synthetic textile fibre made from cellulose acetate.

acetic (ə'sɪtɪk) *adj.* of, containing, producing, or derived from acetic acid or vinegar.

acetic acid *n.* a colourless pungent liquid widely used in the manufacture of plastics, pharmaceuticals, dyes, etc. Formula: CH_3COOH . See also **vinegar**.

aceto- or before a vowel **acet-** *combining form.* containing an acetyl group or derived from acetic acid: **acetone**.

acetone (ˌæsi'tʊn) *n.* a colourless volatile pungent liquid used in the manufacture of chemicals and as a solvent for paints, varnishes, and lacquers. Formula: CH_3COCH_3 .

acetylene (ə'setɪ,lɪn) *n.* a colourless soluble flammable gas used in the manufacture of organic chemicals and in cutting and welding metals. Formula: C_2H_2 .

ache (eɪk) *vb. (intr.)* 1. to feel, suffer, or be the source of a continuous dull pain. 2. to suffer mental anguish. ~*n.* 3. a continuous dull pain. —**aching** *adj.*

achieve (ə'tʃi:v) *vb.* 1. to bring to a successful conclusion. 2. (tr.) to gain as by hard work or effort: *to achieve success*. —**achievable** *adj.* —**achiever** *n.*

achievement (ə'tʃi:vmənt) *n.* 1. something that has been accomplished, esp. by hard work, ability, or heroism. 2. successful completion; accomplishment.

Achilles heel (ə'kilɪz) *n.* a small but fatal weakness.

Achilles tendon *n.* the fibrous cord that connects the muscles of the calf to the heelbone.

achromatic (ˌækrə'mætɪk) *adj.* 1. without colour. 2. capable of reflecting or refracting light without chromatic aberration. 3. *Music.* involving no sharps or flats. —**achromatically** *adv.* —**achromatism** (ə'krəʊmə'tɪzəm) or **achromaticity** (ə'krəʊmə'tɪstɪ) *n.*

acid (ˈæsɪd) *n.* 1. any substance that dissociates in water to yield a sour corrosive solution containing hydrogen ions, and turning litmus red. 2. a sour-tasting substance. 3. a slang name for **LSD**. 4. **put the acid on (someone)**. *Austral. inf.* to apply pressure to someone, usually when seeking a favour. ~*adj.* 5. *Chem.* a. of, derived from, or containing acid. b. being or having the properties of an acid. 6. sharp or sour in taste. 7. cutting, sharp, or hurtful in speech, manner, etc. —**acidly** *adv.* —**acidity** *n.*

acidic (ə'sɪdɪk) *adj.* another word for **acid**.

acidify (ə'sɪdɪ,fai) *vb.* -fying, -fied. to convert into or become acid. —**acidifiable** *adj.* —**acidification** *n.*

acidity (ə'sɪdɪtɪ) *n., pl. -ties*. 1. the quality or state of being acid. 2. the amount of acid present in a solution.

acidosis (ˌæsi'dəʊsɪs) *n.* a condition characterized by an abnormal increase in the acidity of the blood. —**acidotic** (ˌæsi'dɒtɪk) *adj.*

acid test *n.* a rigorous and conclusive test to establish worth or value.

acidulous (ə'sɪdjʊləs) or **acidulent** *adj.* 1. rather sour. 2. sharp or sour in speech, manner, etc.; acid.

ack-ack (ˈæk,æk) *n. Mil.* 1. anti-aircraft fire. 2. (as modifier): **ack-ack guns**.

acknowledge (ə'knɒlɪdʒ) *vb. (tr.)* 1. (may take a clause as object) to recognize or admit the existence, truth, or reality of. 2. to indicate recognition or awareness of, as by a greeting, glance, etc. 3. to express appreciation or thanks for. 4. to make the receipt of known: *to acknowledge a letter*. 5. to recognize, esp. in legal form, the authority, rights, or claims of. —**acknowledgeable** *adj.*

acknowledgment or **acknowledgement** (ə'knɒlɪdʒmənt) *n.* 1. the act of acknowledging or state of being acknowledged. 2. something done or given as an expression of thanks. 3. (pl.) an author's statement acknowledging his use of the works of other authors.

acme (ˈækmi) *n.* the culminating point, as of achievement or excellence.

acne (ˈækni) *n.* a chronic skin disease common in adolescence, characterized by pustules on the face.

acolyte (ˈækə,lait) *n.* 1. a follower or attendant. 2. *Christianity.* an officer who assists a priest.

aconite (ˈækə,nait) *n.* 1. any of a genus of N temperate plants, such as monkshood and wolfsbane, many of which are poisonous. 2. the dried poisonous root of

many of these plants, sometimes used as a narcotic. —**aconitic** (ˌækə'ntɪk) *adj.*

acorn (ˈeɪkɔ:n) *n.* the fruit of the oak tree, consisting of a smooth thick-walled nut in a woody scaly cuplike base.

acoustic (ə'kʊstɪk) or **acoustical** *adj.* 1. of or related to sound, the sense of hearing, or acoustics. 2. designed to respond to or absorb sound: *an acoustic tile*. 3. (of a musical instrument or recording) without electronic amplification: *an acoustic guitar*. —**acoustically** *adv.*

acoustics (ə'kʊstɪks) *n.* 1. (functioning as sing.) the scientific study of sound and sound waves. 2. (functioning as pl.) the characteristics of a room, auditorium, etc., that determine the fidelity with which sound can be heard within it.

acquaint (ə'kwent) *vb. (tr.)* (foll. by *with* or *of*) to make (a person) familiar (with).

acquaintance (ə'kwentəns) *n.* 1. a person whom one knows but who is not a close friend. 2. knowledge of a person or thing, esp. when slight. 3. **make the acquaintance of**, to come into social contact with. 4. those persons collectively whom one knows. —**acquaintance-ship** *n.*

acquainted (ə'kwentɪd) *adj. (postpositive)* 1. (sometimes foll. by *with*) on terms of familiarity but not intimacy. 2. (foll. by *with*) familiar (with).

acquiesce (ˌækwi'es) *vb. (intr.)*; often foll. by *in* or *to* to comply (with); assent (to) without protest. —**acquiescence** *n.* —**acquiescent** *adj.*

acquire (ə'kwɔɪə) *vb. (tr.)* to get or gain (something, such as an object, trait, or ability). —**acquirable** *adj.* —**acquirement** *n.* —**acquisition** (ˌækwi'zɪʃən) *n.*

acquired taste *n.* 1. a liking for something at first considered unpleasant. 2. the thing liked.

acquisitive (ə'kwɪzɪtv) *adj.* inclined or eager to acquire things, esp. material possessions or ideas. —**acquisitively** *adv.* —**acquisitiveness** *n.*

acquit (ə'kwɪt) *vb.* -quitting, -quitted. (tr.) 1. (foll. by *of* a. to free or release (from a charge of crime). b. to pronounce not guilty. 2. (foll. by *of*) to free or relieve (from an obligation, duty, etc.). 3. to repay or settle (a debt or obligation). 4. to conduct (oneself). —**acquittal** *n.* —**acquitter** *n.*

acre (ˈeɪkə) *n.* 1. a unit of area used in certain English-speaking countries, equal to 4840 square yards or 4046.86 square metres. 2. (pl.) a. land, esp. a large area. b. *Inf.* a large amount. 3. **farm the long acre**. *N.Z.* to graze stock on the grass along a highway.

acreage (ˈeɪkərɪdʒ) *n.* land area in acres.

acid (ˈækrɪd) *adj.* 1. unpleasantly pungent or sharp to the smell or taste. 2. sharp or caustic, esp. in speech or nature. —**acridity** (ə'krɪdɪtɪ) *n.* —**acridly** *adv.*

acrimony (ˈækrɪmɒni) *n., pl. -nies*. bitterness or sharpness of manner, speech, temper, etc. —**acrimonious** (ˌækrɪ'mɒniəs) *adj.*

acro- *combining form.* 1. denoting something at a height, top, beginning, or end: **acropolis**. 2. denoting an extremity of the human body: **acromegaly**.

acrobat (ˈækrə,bæt) *n.* 1. an entertainer who performs acts that require skill, agility, and coordination, such as swinging from a trapeze or walking a tightrope. 2. *Inf.* a person noted for his frequent and rapid changes of position or allegiance. —**acro'batic** *adj.* —**acro'batically** *adv.*

acrobatics (ˌækrə'bætɪks) *n.* 1. (functioning as pl.) the skills or feats of an acrobat. 2. (functioning as pl.) any activity requiring agility and skill: **mental acrobatics**.

acromegaly (ˌækrə'megəli) *n.* a chronic disease characterized by enlargement of the bones of the head, hands, and feet. It is caused by excessive secretion of growth hormone by the pituitary gland. —**acromegalic** (ˌækrə'mɛgə'li:k) *adj., n.*

acronym (ˈækrənɪm) *n.* a word formed from the initial letters of a group of words; for example, **UNESCO** for the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization.

acrophobia (ˌækrə'fəʊbiə) *n.* abnormal fear or dread of being at a great height. —**acro'phobic** *adj.*

acropolis (ə'krɒpəlɪs) *n.* the citadel of an ancient Greek city.

Acropolis *n.* the citadel of Athens on which the Parthenon stands.

across (ə'krɒs) *prep.* 1. from one side to the other side of. 2. on or at the other side of. —*adv.* 3. from one side to the other. 4. on or to the other side.

across-the-board *adj.* (of salary increases, taxation cuts, etc.) affecting all levels or classes equally.

acrostic (ə'krɒstɪk) *n.* a number of lines of writing, such as a poem, certain letters of which form a word, proverb, etc. A **single acrostic** is formed by the initial letters of the lines, a **double acrostic** by the initial and final letters, and a **triple acrostic** by the initial, middle, and final letters. — **a'crostically** *adv.*

acrylic (ə'krɪlɪk) *adj.* 1. of, derived from, or concerned with acrylic acid. ~n. 2. short for **acrylic resin**.

acrylic fibre *n.* a textile fibre, such as Orlon or Acrilan.

acrylic resin *n.* any of a group of polymers of acrylic acid, its esters, or amides, used as synthetic rubbers, paints, and as plastics such as Perspex.

act (ækt) *n.* 1. something done or performed. 2. the performance of some physical or mental process; action. 3. (*cap. when part of a name*) the formally codified result of deliberation by a legislative body. 4. (*often pl.*) a formal written record of transactions, proceedings, etc., as of a society, committee, or legislative body. 5. a major division of a dramatic work. 6. a. a short performance of skill, a comic sketch, dance, etc. b. those giving such a performance. 7. an assumed attitude or pose, esp. one intended to impress ~vb. 8. (*intr.*) to do something. 9. (*intr.*) to operate; react: *his mind acted quickly*. 10. to perform (a part or role) in a play, etc. 11. (*tr.*) to present (a play, etc.) on stage. 12. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *for* or *as*) to be a substitute (for). 13. (*intr.*; foll. by *as*) to serve the function or purpose (of). 14. (*intr.*) to conduct oneself or behave (as if one were): *she usually acts like a lady*. 15. (*intr.*) to behave in an unnatural or affected way. 16. (*copula*) to play the part of: *to act the fool*. 17. (*copula*) to behave in a manner appropriate to: *to act one's age*. ~See also **act up**. — **'actable** *adj.* — **'acta'bility** *n.*

A.C.T. abbrev. for Australian Capital Territory.

acting ('æktɪŋ) *adj.* (*prepositional*) 1. taking on duties temporarily, esp. as a substitute for another. 2. performing the duties of though not yet holding the rank of: *acting lieutenant*. 3. operating or functioning. 4. intended for stage performance; provided with directions for actors: *an acting version of "Hedda Gabler"*. ~n. 5. the art or profession of an actor.

actinide series ('æktɪnaɪd) *n.* a series of 15 radioactive elements with increasing atomic numbers from actinium to lawrencium.

actinium ('æktɪniəm) *n.* a radioactive element of the actinide series, occurring as a decay product of uranium. It is used in neutron production. Symbol: Ac; atomic no.: 89; half-life of most stable isotope, ²²⁷Ac: 22 years.

action ('æksjən) *n.* 1. the state or process of doing something or being active. 2. something done, such as an act or deed. 3. movement or posture during some physical activity. 4. activity, force, or energy: *a man of action*. 5. (*usually pl.*) conduct or behaviour. 6. Law, a legal proceeding brought by one party against another; lawsuit. 7. the operating mechanism, esp. in a piano, gun, watch, etc. 8. the force applied to a body. 9. the way in which something operates or works. 10. **out of action**, not functioning. 11. the events that form the plot of a story, play, or other composition. 12. *Mil.* a. a minor engagement. b. fighting at sea or on land: *he saw action in the war*. 13. *Inf.* the profits of an enterprise or transaction (esp. in a **piece of the action**). 14. *Sl.* the main activity, esp. social activity. ~*interj.* 15. a command given by a film director to indicate that filming is to begin. ~vb. 16. to put (a proposal or plan) into operation.

actionable ('æksjənəbəl) *adj.* Law, affording grounds for legal action. — **'actionably** *adv.*

action painting *n.* a development of abstract expressionism characterized by accidental effects of thrown, smeared, dripped, or spattered paint. Also called: **tachisme**.

action stations *pl. n. Mil.* 1. the positions taken up by individuals in preparation for or during a battle. ~*interj.* 2. a command to take up such positions. 3. *Inf.* a warning to get ready for something.

activate ('æktɪveɪt) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to make active or capable of action. 2. *Physics*, to make radioactive. 3. *Chem.* to increase the rate of (a reaction). 4. to purify (sewage) by aeration. 5. *U.S. Mil.* to mobilize or organize (a unit). — **'acti'vation** *n.* — **'acti,vator** *n.*

activated carbon *n.* a highly adsorptive form of carbon used to remove colour or impurities from liquids and gases.

activated sludge *n.* a mass of aerated precipitated sewage added to untreated sewage to bring about purification by hastening bacterial decomposition.

active ('æktɪv) *adj.* 1. moving, working, or doing something. 2. busy or involved: *an active life*. 3. physically energetic. 4. effective: *an active ingredient*. 5. *Grammar*, denoting a voice of verbs used to indicate that the subject of a sentence is performing the action or causing the event or process described by the verb, as *kicked* in *The boy kicked the football*. 6. being fully engaged in military service. 7. (of a volcano) erupting periodically; not extinct. 8. *Astron.* (of the sun) exhibiting a large number of sunspots, solar flares, etc., and a marked variation in intensity and frequency of radio emission. ~n. 9. *Grammar*, a. the active voice. b. an active verb. — **'actively** *adv.* — **'activeness** *n.*

active list *n. Mil.* a list of officers available for full duty.

activism ('æktɪvɪzəm) *n.* a policy of taking direct and often militant action to achieve an end, esp. a political or social one. — **'activist** *n.*

activity ('æktɪvɪti) *n., pl. -ties*. 1. the state or quality of being active. 2. lively action or movement. 3. any specific action, pursuit, etc.: *recreational activities*. 4. the number of disintegrations of a radioactive substance in a given unit of time.

act of God *n. Law*, a sudden and inevitable occurrence caused by natural forces, such as a flood or earthquake.

actor ('æktə) or (*fem.*) **actress** ('æktɪs) *n.* a person who acts in a play, film, broadcast, etc.

ACTU abbrev. for Australian Council of Trade Unions.

actual ('æktʃʊəl) *adj.* 1. existing in reality or as a matter of fact. 2. real or genuine. 3. existing at the present time; current.

▷ **Usage**. The excessive use of *actual* and *actually* should be avoided. They are unnecessary in sentences such as *in actual fact, he is forty-two, and he did actually go to the play but did not enjoy it*.

actuality ('æktʃʊəli) *n., pl. -ties*. 1. true existence; reality. 2. (*sometimes pl.*) a fact or condition that is real.

actually ('æktʃʊəli) *adv.* 1. a. as an actual fact; really. b. (*as sentence modifier*): *actually, I haven't seen him*. 2. at present.

actuarial ('æktʃʊəriəl) *n. S. African history*, an official of the synod of a Dutch Reformed Church.

actuary ('æktʃʊəri) *n., pl. -aries*, a statistician, esp. one employed by insurance companies to calculate risks, policy premiums, and dividends. — **'actuarial** ('æktʃʊəriəl) *adj.*

actuate ('æktʃʊeɪt) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to put into action or mechanical motion. 2. to motivate: *actuated by unworthy desires*. — **'actu'ation** *n.* — **'actu,ator** *n.*

act up *vb.* (*intr., adv.*) *Inf.* to behave in a troublesome way: *the engine began to act up*.

acuity (ə'kju:ti) *n.* keenness or acuteness, esp. in vision or thought.

aculeus (ə'kju:lɪəs) *n.* 1. a prickle, such as the thorn of a rose. 2. a sting. — **'aculeate** *adj.*

acumen ('ækjʊ,mən, ə'kju:mən) *n.* the ability to judge well; insight. — **'a'cuminous** *adj.*

acupuncture ('ækjʊ,pʌŋktʃə) *n.* the insertion of the tips of needles into the skin at specific points for the purpose of treating various disorders by stimulating nerve impulses.

acute (ə'kju:t) *adj.* 1. penetrating in perception or insight. 2. sensitive to details; keen. 3. of extreme importance; crucial. 4. sharp or severe; intense. 5. having a sharp end or point. 6. *Maths.* (of an angle) less than 90°. 7. (of a disease) a. arising suddenly and manifesting intense severity. b. of relatively short duration. 8. *Phonetics*, of or relating to an accent (') placed over vowels, denoting that the vowel is pronounced with higher musical pitch (as in ancient Greek) or with certain special quality (as in French). ~n. 9. an acute accent. — **'a'cutely** *adv.* — **'a'cuteness** *n.*

acute accent *n.* the diacritical mark ('), used in some languages to indicate that the vowel over which it is placed has a special quality (as in French *été*) or that it receives the strongest stress in the word (as in Spanish *hablé*).

ad (æd) *n. Inf.* short for advertisement.

A.D. (indicating years numbered from the supposed year of the birth of Christ) *abbrev. for anno Domini*: 70 A.D.

▷ **Usage**. In strict usage, A.D. is only employed with specific years: *he died in 1621 A.D.*, but *he died in the 17th century*. Formerly the practice was to write A.D. preceding the date (A.D. 1621), and it is also strictly

correct to omit *in* when A.D. is used, since this is already contained in the meaning of the Latin *anno Domini* (in the year of Our Lord), but this is no longer general practice. B.C. is used with both specific dates and indications of the period: *Heracitus was born about 540 B.C.; the battle took place in the 4th century B.C.*

ad- prefix. 1. to; towards: *adverb*. 2. near; next to: *adrenal*.

adage ('ædɪdʒ) *n.* a traditional saying that is accepted by many as true; proverb.

adagio (ə'dɑːdʒi,əʊ) *Musical*. ~*adj.*, *adv.* 1. slow. ~*n.*, *pl.* -*gios*. 2. a movement or piece to be performed slowly.

Adam ('ædəm) *n.* 1. *Bible*. the first man, created by God (Genesis 2-3). 2. **not know (someone) from Adam**. to fail to be acquainted with someone. 3. *Adam's ale* or *wine*, water.

adamant ('ædəmənt) *adj.* 1. unyielding; inflexible. 2. unbreakable; impenetrable. ~*n.* 3. any extremely hard substance. 4. a legendary stone said to be impenetrable. —*ad·a·mantine adj.*

Adam's apple *n.* the visible projection of the thyroid cartilage of the larynx at the front of the neck.

adapt (ə'dæpt) *vb.* 1. (often foll. by *to*) to adjust (someone or something) to different conditions. 2. (*tr.*) to fit, change, or modify to suit a new or different purpose. —*a·daptable adj.* —*a·daptability n.* —*a·daptive adj.*

adaptation (ˌædəp'teɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act or process of adapting or the state of being adapted. 2. something that is produced by adapting something else. 3. something that is changed or modified to suit new conditions. 4. *Biol.* a modification in organisms that makes them better suited to survive and reproduce in a particular environment.

adapter or adaptor (ə'dæptə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that adapts. 2. any device for connecting two parts, esp. ones that are of different sizes. 3. *a.* a plug used to connect an electrical device to a mains supply when they have different types of terminals. *b.* a device used to connect several electrical appliances to a single socket.

A.D.C. *abbrev. for:* 1. *aide-de-camp*. 2. *analog-digital converter*.

add (æd) *vb.* 1. to combine (two or more numbers or quantities) by addition. 2. (*tr.*; foll. by *to*) to increase (a number or quantity) by another number or quantity using addition. 3. (*tr.*; often foll. by *to*) to join (something) to something else in order to increase the size, effect, or scope: *to add insult to injury*. 4. (*intr.*; foll. by *to*) to have an extra and increased effect (on). 5. (*tr.*) to say or write further. 6. (*tr.*; foll. by *in*) to include.

addend ('ædənd) *n.* any of a set of numbers that form a sum.

addendum (ə'dendəm) *n.*, *pl.* -*da* (-də). 1. something added; an addition. 2. a supplement or appendix to a book, magazine, etc.

adder ('ædə) *n.* 1. Also called: *viper*. a common viper that is widely distributed in Europe, including Britain, and Asia and is dark grey with a black zigzag pattern along the back. 2. any of various similar venomous or nonvenomous snakes. ~*See also puff adder*.

addict *vb.* (ə'dɪkt). 1. (*tr.*; usually *passive*; often foll. by *to*) to cause (someone or oneself) to become dependent (on something, esp. a narcotic drug). ~*n.* ('ædɪkt). 2. a person who is addicted, esp. to narcotic drugs. 3. *Inf.* a person devoted to something: *a jazz addict*. —*ad·diction n.* —*ad·dictive adj.*

Addison's disease ('ædɪs'nɪz) *n.* a disease characterized by bronzing of the skin, anaemia, and extreme weakness, caused by underactivity of the adrenal glands.

addition (ə'dɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act, process, or result of adding. 2. a person or thing that is added or acquired. 3. a mathematical operation in which the sum of two numbers or quantities is calculated. Usually indicated by the symbol +. 4. *Obs.* a title. 5. **in addition**. (*adv.*) also; as well. 6. **in addition to**. (*prep.*) besides; as well as. —*ad·diti·o·nal adj.*

additive ('ædɪtɪv) *adj.* 1. characterized or produced by addition. ~*n.* 2. any substance added to something to improve it, prevent deterioration, etc.

addle ('ædl) *vb.* 1. to make or become confused or muddled. 2. to make or become rotten. ~*adj.* 3. (*in combination*) indicating a confused or muddled state: *addle-brained*.

address (ə'dres) *n.* 1. the conventional form by which the location of a building is described. 2. the written form of this, as on a letter or parcel. 3. the place at

which someone lives. 4. a speech or written communication, esp. one of a formal nature. 5. skillfulness or tact. 6. *Arch.* manner of speaking. 7. *Computers*. a number giving the location of a piece of stored information. 8. (*usually pl.*) expressions of affection made by a man in courting a woman. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 9. to mark (a letter, parcel, etc.) with an address. 10. to speak to, refer to in speaking, or deliver a speech to. 11. (used reflexively; foll. by *to*) *a.* to speak or write to. *b.* apply oneself to: *he addressed himself to the task*. 12. to direct (a message, warning, etc.) to the attention of. 13. to adopt a position facing (the ball in golf, etc.). —*ad·dresser* or *ad·dressor n.*

addressee (ˌædres'iː) *n.* a person or organization to whom a letter, etc., is addressed.

adduce (ə'djuːs) *vb.* (*tr.*) to cite (reasons, examples, etc.) as evidence or proof. —*ad·ducible adj.* —*ad·ducent adj.* —*adduction* (ə'dʌkʃən) *n.*

-ade *suffix forming nouns.* a sweetened drink made of various fruits: *lemonade*.

adeno- or before a vowel **aden-** *combining form.* gland or glandular: *adenoid*; *adenology*.

adenoidal (ˌædɪ'nɔɪdɪl) *adj.* 1. having the nasal tones or impaired breathing of one with enlarged adenoids. 2. of adenoids.

adenoids ('ædɪ'nɔɪdz) *pl. n.* a mass of lymphoid tissue at the back of the throat behind the uvula: when enlarged it often restricts nasal breathing, esp. in young children.

adept *adj.* (ə'dɛpt). 1. proficient in something requiring skill or manual dexterity. 2. expert. ~*n.* ('ædɛpt). 3. a person who is skilled or proficient in something. —*a·deptness n.*

adequate ('ædɪkwɪt) *adj.* able to fulfil a need without being abundant, outstanding, etc. —*adequacy* ('ædɪkwəsi) *n.* —*adequately adv.*

à deux *French.* (a 'dø) *adj.*, *adv.* of or for two persons.

adhere (əd'hɪə) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. (usually foll. by *to*) to stick or hold fast. 2. (foll. by *to*) to be devoted (to a political party, religion, etc.). 3. (foll. by *to*) to follow exactly. —*ad·herence n.*

adherent (əd'hɪərənt) *n.* 1. (usually foll. by *of*) a supporter or follower. ~*adj.* 2. sticking, holding fast, or attached.

adhesion (əd'hɪʒən) *n.* 1. the quality or condition of sticking together or holding fast. 2. ability to make firm contact without slipping. 3. attachment, as to a political party, cause, etc. 4. an attraction or repulsion between the molecules of unlike substances in contact. 5. *Pathol.* abnormal union of structures or parts.

adhesive (əd'hɪsɪv) *adj.* 1. able or designed to adhere: *adhesive tape*. 2. tenacious or clinging. ~*n.* 3. a substance used for sticking, such as glue or paste. —*ad·hesively adv.* —*ad·hesiveness n.*

ad hoc (əd 'hɒk) *adj.*, *adv.* for a particular purpose only: *an ad hoc committee*.

adieu (ə'djuː) *interj.*, *n.*, *pl.* *adieux* or *adieux* (ə'djuːz). goodbye.

ad infinitum (əd ɪnfɪ'nɪtəm) *adv.* without end; endlessly; to infinity. Abbrev.: *ad inf.*

adipose ('ædɪpʊs) *adj.* 1. of, resembling, or containing fat; fatty. ~*n.* 2. animal fat.

adj. *abbrev. for:* 1. *Maths*. adjacent. 2. adjective. 3. adjunct. 4. Also: *adjt.* adjutant.

adjacent (ə'dʒeɪsnt) *adj.* being near or close, esp. having a common boundary; contiguous. —*ad·jacency n.* —*ad·jacently adv.*

adjective ('ædʒɪktɪv) *n.* 1. *a.* a word imputing a characteristic to a noun or pronoun. *b.* (as *modifier*): *an adjective phrase*. Abbrev.: *adj.* ~*adj.* 2. additional or dependent. —*ad·jectival* ('ædʒɪktɪvəl) *adj.*

adjoin (ə'dʒɔɪn) *vb.* 1. to be next to (an area of land, etc.). 2. (*tr.*; foll. by *to*) to join; attach. —*ad·joining adj.*

adjourn (ə'dʒɔːn) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) (of a court, etc.) to close at the end of a session. 2. to postpone or be postponed, esp. temporarily. 3. (*tr.*) to put off (a problem, discussion, etc.) for later consideration. 4. (*intr.*) *Inf.* to move elsewhere: *let's adjourn to the kitchen*. —*ad·journment n.*

adjudge (ə'dʒʌdʒ) *vb.* (*tr.*; usually *passive*) 1. to pronounce formally; declare. 2. *a.* to judge. *b.* to decree: *he was adjudged bankrupt*. *c.* to award (costs, damages, etc.). 3. *Arch.* to condemn.

adjudicate (ə'dʒʌdɪˌkeɪt) *vb.* 1. (when *intr.*, usually foll. by *upon*) to decide (an issue) judicially. 2. (*intr.*) to serve as a judge or arbiter, as in a competition. —*ad·judication n.*

adjunct ('ædʒʌŋkt) *n.* 1. something incidental or not

essential that is added to something else. 2. a person who is subordinate to another. 3. *Grammar*. a. part of a sentence other than the subject or the predicate. b. a modifier. ~adj. 4. added or connected in a secondary position. —**adjunctive** (ə'dʒʌŋktɪv) *adj.* —**adjunctly** *adv.*
adjure (ə'dʒʊə) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to command, often by exacting an oath. 2. to appeal earnestly to. —**adjuration** (,ædʒʊə'reɪʃən) *n.* —**adjuratory** *adj.* —**adjurer** or **adjuror** *n.*

adjust (ə'dʒʌst) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to alter slightly, esp. to achieve accuracy. 2. to adapt, as to a new environment, etc. 3. (tr.) to put into order. 4. (tr.) *Insurance*. to determine the amount payable in settlement of (a claim). —**adjustable** *adj.* —**adjuster** *n.*

adjustment (ə'dʒʌstmənt) *n.* 1. the act of adjusting or state of being adjusted. 2. a control for regulating.

adjutant (,ædʒʊtənt) *n.* an officer who acts as administrative assistant to a superior officer. —**adjutancy** *n.*

adjutant general *n.* *pl.* **adjutants general**. 1. *Brit. Army*. the head of a department of the general staff. 2. *U.S. Army*. the adjutant of a military unit with general staff.

ad-lib (æd'lib) *vb.* —**libbing**, —**libbed**. 1. to improvise and deliver spontaneously (a speech, etc.). ~adj. (**ad lib** when predicative) 2. improvised. ~adv. **ad lib**. 3. spontaneously; freely. ~n. 4. an improvised performance, often humorous.

ad libitum (,æd'libitəm) *adv.*, *adj.* *Music*. at the performer's discretion.

Adm. *abbrev. for*: 1. Admiral. 2. Admiralty.

adman (,æd,mæn) *n.*, *pl.* —**men**. *Inf.* a person who works in advertising.

admass (,ædmæs) *n.* the section of the public that is susceptible to advertising etc., and the processes involved in influencing them.

admin (,ædmin) *n.* *Inf.* short for **administration**.

administer (əd'mɪnɪstə) *vb.* (*mainly tr.*) 1. (also *intr.*) to direct or control (the affairs of a business, etc.). 2. to dispense: *administer justice*. 3. (when *intr.*, foll. by *to*) to give or apply (medicine, etc.). 4. to supervise the taking of (an oath, etc.). 5. to manage (an estate, property, etc.).

administrate (əd'mɪnɪstreɪt) *vb.* to manage or direct (the affairs of a business, institution, etc.).

administration (əd,mɪnɪ'streɪʃən) *n.* 1. management of the affairs of an organization, such as a business or institution. 2. the duties of an administrator. 3. the body of people who administer an organization. 4. the conduct of the affairs of government. 5. term of office: used of governments, etc. 6. the government as a whole. 7. (*often cap.*) *Chiefly U.S.* the political executive, esp. of the U.S. 8. *Property law*. a. the conduct or disposal of the estate of a deceased person. b. the management by a trustee of an estate. 9. something administered, such as a sacrament or medical treatment. —**ad'ministrative** *adj.* —**ad'ministratively** *adv.*

administrator (əd'mɪnɪstreɪtə) *n.* 1. a person who administers the affairs of an organization, official body, etc. 2. *Property law*. a person authorized to manage an estate.

admirable (,ædmərəb'l) *adj.* deserving or inspiring admiration; excellent. —**admirably** *adv.*

admiral (,ædmərəl) *n.* 1. the supreme commander of a fleet or navy. 2. Also called: **admiral of the fleet**, **fleet admiral**. a naval officer of the highest rank. 3. a senior naval officer entitled to fly his own flag. See also **rear admiral**, **vice admiral**. 4. *Chiefly Brit.* the master of a fishing fleet. 5. any of various butterflies, esp. the red admiral or white admiral. —**admiral,ship** *n.*

admiralty (,ædmərəlɪtɪ) *n.*, *pl.* —**ties**. 1. the office or jurisdiction of an admiral. 2. jurisdiction over naval affairs.

admire (əd'maɪə) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to regard with esteem, approval, or pleased surprise. 2. *Arch.* to wonder at. —**admiration** (,ædmə'reɪʃən) *n.* —**ad'miringly** *adv.*

admissible (əd'mɪsəb'l) *adj.* 1. able or deserving to be considered or allowed. 2. deserving to be allowed to enter. 3. *Law*. (esp. of evidence) capable of being admitted in a court of law. —**ad,missi'bility** *n.*

admission (əd'mɪʃən) *n.* 1. permission to enter or the right to enter. 2. the price charged for entrance. 3. acceptance for a position, etc. 4. a confession, as of a crime, etc. 5. an acknowledgment of the truth of something. —**ad'missive** *adj.*

admit (əd'mɪt) *vb.* —**mitting**, —**mitted**. (*mainly tr.*) 1. (may take a clause as object) to confess or acknowledge (a crime, mistake, etc.). 2. (may take a clause as object)

to concede (the truth of something). 3. to allow to enter. 4. (foll. by *to*) to allow participation (in) or the right to be part (of). 5. (when *intr.*, foll. by *of*) to allow (of).

admittance (əd'mɪt'sns) *n.* 1. the right or authority to enter. 2. the act of giving entrance. 3. *Electricity*. the reciprocal of impedance.

admittedly (əd'mɪtɪdli) *adv.* (*sentence modifier*) willingly conceded: *admittedly I am afraid*.

admixture (əd'mɪkstʃə) *n.* 1. a less common word for **mixture**. 2. an ingredient.

admonish (əd'mɒnɪʃ) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to reprove firmly but not harshly. 2. to warn; caution. —**admonition** (,ædmə'nɪʃən) *n.* —**ad'monitory** *adj.*

ad nauseam (æd'nɔ:zɪ,əm) *adv.* to a disgusting extent.

ado (ə'du:) *n.* bustling activity; fuss; bother; delay (esp. in without more ado, with much ado).

adobe (ə'dəʊbi) *n.* 1. a sun-dried brick used for building. 2. a building constructed of such bricks. 3. the clayey material from which such bricks are made.

adolescence (,ædə'lesəns) *n.* the period in human development that occurs between the beginning of puberty and adulthood.

adolescent (,ædə'lesənt) *adj.* 1. of or relating to adolescence. 2. *Inf.* behaving in an immature way. ~n. 3. an adolescent person.

Adonis (ə'dəʊnɪs) *n.* 1. *Greek myth*. a handsome youth loved by Aphrodite. 2. a handsome young man.

adopt (ə'dɒpt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. *Law*. to take (another's child) as one's own child. 2. to choose and follow (a plan, technique, etc.). 3. to take over (an idea, etc.) as if it were one's own. 4. to assume: *to adopt a title*. 5. to accept (a report, etc.). —**adoption** *n.*

adoptive (ə'dɒptɪv) *adj.* due to adoption; foster: *an adoptive parent*.

adorable (ə'dɔ:rəb'l) *adj.* 1. very attractive; lovable. 2. *Becoming rare*. deserving adoration. —**adorably** *adv.*

adore (ə'dɔ:) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to love intensely or deeply. 2. to worship (a god) with religious rites. 3. (tr.) *Inf.* to like very much. —**ad'o'ration** *n.* —**ad'o'rer** *n.*

adorn (ə'dɔ:n) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to decorate. 2. to increase the beauty, distinction, etc., of. —**ad'ornment** *n.*

ADP *n.* *Biochem.* adenosine diphosphate; a substance derived from ATP with the liberation of energy that is then used in the performance of muscular work.

A.D.P. *abbrev. for* automatic data processing.

adrenal (ə'dri:nl) *adj.* 1. on or near the kidneys. 2. of or relating to the adrenal glands or their secretions. ~n. 3. an adrenal gland.

adrenal gland *n.* an endocrine gland at the anterior end of each kidney. It secretes adrenaline. Also called: **suprarenal gland**.

adrenaline or **adrenalin** (ə'drenəlɪn) *n.* a hormone that is secreted by the adrenal medulla in response to stress and increases heart rate, pulse rate, and blood pressure. It is extracted from animals or synthesized for medical use. U.S. name: **epinephrine**.

adrift (ə'drɪft) *adj.* (*postpositive*), *adv.* 1. floating without steering or mooring; drifting. 2. without purpose; aimless. 3. *Inf.* off course.

adroit (ə'drɔɪt) *adj.* 1. skilful or dexterous. 2. quick in thought or reaction. —**ad'roitly** *adv.* —**ad'roitness** *n.*

adsorb (əd'sɔ:b) *vb.* to undergo or cause to undergo a process in which a substance, usually a gas, accumulates on the surface of a solid forming a thin film. —**ad'sorbable** *adj.* —**ad'sorbent** *adj.* —**ad'sorption** *n.*

A.D.T. (in the U.S. and Canada) *abbrev. for* Atlantic Daylight Time.

adulate (,ædʒu,leɪt) *vb.* (tr.) to flatter or praise obsequiously. —**adu'lation** *n.* —**adu,lator** *n.* —**adula'tory** (,ædʒu'letəri) *adj.*

adult (,ædʌlt, ə'dʌlt) *adj.* 1. having reached maturity; fully developed. 2. of or intended for mature people: *adult education*. ~n. 3. a person who has attained maturity. 4. a mature fully grown animal or plant. 5. *Law*. a person who has attained the age of legal majority. —**ad'ulthood** *n.*

adulterant (ə'dʌltərənt) *n.* 1. a substance that adulterates. ~adj. 2. adulterating.

adulterate *vb.* (ə'dʌltə'reɪt). 1. (tr.) to debase by adding inferior material: *to adulterate milk with water*. ~adj. (ə'dʌltərɪt). 2. debased or impure. —**adul'ter'a-tion** *n.* —**adul'ter,ator** *n.*

adulterer (ə'dʌltərə) or (*fem.*) **adulteress** *n.* a person who has committed adultery.

adultery (ə'dʌltəri) *n.*, *pl.* —**teries**. voluntary sexual intercourse between a married man or woman and partner other than the legal spouse. —**ad'ulterous** *adj.*

adumbrate ('ædʌm,breɪt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to outline; give a faint indication of. 2. to foreshadow. 3. to obscure. —**adumbration** *n.* —**adumbrative** ('ædʌmb'reɪtɪv) *adj.*
adv. *abbrev. for:* 1. adverb. 2. adverbial. 3. adverbs. 4. advertisement. 5. advocate.

ad valorem ('æd və'lɔ:rəm) *adj.*, *adv.* (of taxes) in proportion to the estimated value of the goods taxed. *Abbrev.: ad val.*

advance ('ædvɑ:ns) *vb.* 1. to go or bring forward in position. 2. (foll. by *on*) to move (towards) in a threatening manner. 3. (tr.) to present for consideration. 4. to improve; further. 5. (tr.) to cause (an event) to occur earlier. 6. (tr.) to supply (money, goods, etc.) beforehand, either for a loan or as an initial payment. 7. to increase (a price, etc.) or (of a price, etc.) to be increased. 8. (intr.) to be promoted. ~*n.* 9. forward movement; progress in time or space. 10. improvement; progress in development. 11. **Commerce.** a. the supplying of commodities or funds before receipt of an agreed consideration. b. the commodities or funds supplied in this manner. 12. Also called: **advance payment**, a money payment made before it is legally due. 13. increase in price, etc. 14. **in advance**, a. beforehand; payment in advance. b. (foll. by *of*) ahead in time or development: *ideas in advance of the time*. 15. (*modifier*) forward in position or time: *advance booking*. —**ad'vancement** *n.* —**ad'vancer** *n.*

advanced ('ædvɑ:nst) *adj.* 1. being ahead in development, knowledge, progress, etc. 2. having reached a comparatively late stage: *a man of advanced age*. 3. ahead of the times.

Advanced level *n.* a formal name for **A level**.

advances ('ædvɑ:nsɪz) *pl. n.* (*sometimes sing.*; often foll. by *to* or *towards*) overtures made in an attempt to become friendly, etc.

advantage ('ædvɑ:ntɪdʒ) *n.* 1. (often foll. by *over* or *of*) a more favourable position; superiority. 2. benefit or profit (esp. in *to one's advantage*). 3. **Tennis.** the point scored after deuce. 4. **take advantage of**, a. to make good use of. b. to impose upon the weakness, good nature, etc., of. c. to seduce. 5. **to advantage**, to good effect. ~*vb.* 6. (tr.) to put in a better position; favour.

advantageous ('ædvɑ:n'teɪdʒəs) *adj.* producing advantage. —**advan'tageously** *adv.*

advection ('ædvɛkʃən) *n.* the transference of heat energy in a horizontal stream of gas, esp. of air.

advent ('ædvɛnt, -vənt) *n.* an arrival or coming, esp. one which is awaited.

Advent ('ædvɛnt) *n.* the season including the four Sundays preceding Christmas.

Adventist ('ædvɛntɪst) *n.* a member of a Christian group that holds that the Second Coming of Christ is imminent.

adventitious ('ædvɛn'tɪʃəs) *adj.* 1. added or appearing accidentally. 2. (of a plant or animal part) developing in an abnormal position. —**adven'titiously** *adv.*

adventure ('ædvɛntʃə) *n.* 1. a risky undertaking of unknown outcome. 2. an exciting or unexpected event or course of events. 3. a hazardous financial operation. ~*vb.* 4. to take a risk or put at risk. 5. (intr.; foll. by *into*, *on*, *upon*) to dare to enter (into a place, dangerous activity, etc.). 6. to dare to say (something): *he adventured his opinion*. —**ad'venturous** *adj.*

adventure playground *n.* *Brit.* a playground for children that contains building materials, etc., used to build with, climb on, etc.

adventurer ('ædvɛntʃərə) or (*fem.*) **adventuress** *n.* 1. a person who seeks adventure, esp. one who seeks success or money through daring exploits. 2. a person who seeks money or power by unscrupulous means. 3. a speculator.

adventurism ('ædvɛntʃə,rɪzəm) *n.* recklessness, esp. in politics and finance. —**ad'venturist** *n.*

adverb ('ædv, vɜ:b) *n.* a. a word or group of words that serves to modify a whole sentence, a verb, another adverb, or an adjective; for example, *easily*, *very*, and *happily* respectively in the sentence *They could easily envy the very happily married couple*. b. (*as modifier*): *an adverb marker*. *Abbrev.: adv.* —**ad'verbial** *adj.*

adversarial ('ædvɜ:ʒəəriəl) *adj.* (of political parties) hostile to and opposing each other on party lines; antagonistic.

adversary ('ædvəsəri) *n.*, *pl.* -saries. 1. a person or group that is hostile to someone. 2. an opposing contestant in a sport.

adverse ('ædvɜ:ʒs) *adj.* 1. antagonistic; hostile: *adverse criticism*. 2. unfavourable to one's interests: *adverse*

circumstances. 3. contrary or opposite: *adverse winds*. —**ad'versely** *adv.* —**ad'verse** *n.*

adversity ('ædvɜ:sɪti) *n.*, *pl.* -ties. 1. distress; affliction; hardship. 2. an unfortunate event.

advert ('ædvɜ:t) *vb.* (intr.; foll. by *to*) to draw attention (to).

advert ('ædvɜ:t) *n.* *Brit. inf.* short for **advertisement**.

advertise or *U.S. (sometimes) -tize* ('ædvə,təɪz) *vb.* 1. to present or praise (goods, a service, etc.) to the public, esp. in order to encourage sales. 2. to make (a vacancy, article for sale, etc.) publicly known: *to advertise a job*. 3. (intr.; foll. by *for*) to make a public request (for): *she advertised for a cook*. —**adver,tiser** or *U.S. (sometimes) -tizer* *n.* —**adver,tising** or *U.S. (sometimes) -tizing* *n.*

advertisement or *U.S. (sometimes) -tizement* ('ædvɜ:tɪsmənt) *n.* any public notice, as a printed display in a newspaper, short film on television, etc., designed to sell goods, publicize an event, etc.

advice ('ædvəɪs) *n.* 1. recommendation as to appropriate choice of action. 2. (*sometimes pl.*) formal notification of facts.

advisable ('ædvəɪzəbəl) *adj.* worthy of recommendation; prudent. —**ad'veisably** *adv.*

advise ('ædvəɪz) *vb.* (when tr., may take a clause as object or an infinitive) 1. to offer advice (to a person or persons); *he advised caution*. 2. (tr.; sometimes foll. by *of*) to inform or notify. 3. (intr.; foll. by *with*) *Chiefly U.S., obs. in Brit.* to consult. —**ad'veiser** or *a'dvisor* *n.*

▷ **Usage.** *Advise* is often used in the same sense as *inform*: *as we advised you in our last communication, the order is being dealt with*. This use is common in business correspondence. Careful users of English prefer *inform*, *notify*, or *tell* in general English: *the police informed him that his car had been stolen*.

advised ('ædvəɪzd) *adj.* resulting from deliberation. See also **ill-advised**. —**advisedly** ('ædvəɪzdlɪ) *adv.*

advisory ('ædvəɪzəri) *adj.* empowered to make recommendations: *an advisory body*.

advocaat ('ædvəʊ,kɑ:t) *n.* a liqueur having a raw egg base.

advocacy ('ædvəkəsi) *n.*, *pl.* -cies. active support, esp. of a cause.

advocate *vb.* ('ædvə,kert). 1. (tr.; may take a clause as object) to support or recommend publicly. ~*n.* ('ædvəkɪt). 2. a person who upholds or defends a cause. 3. a person who intercedes on behalf of another. 4. a person who pleads his client's cause in a court of law. 5. *Scots Law.* the usual word for **counsel**.

advowson ('ædvəʊzən) *n.* *English ecclesiastical law.* the right of presentation to a vacant benefice.

advt. *abbrev. for advertisement.*

adze or *U.S. adz* ('ædz) *n.* a hand tool with a steel blade attached at right angles to a wooden handle, used for dressing timber.

A.E.A. (in Britain) *abbrev. for Atomic Energy Authority.*

A.E.C. (in the U.S.) *abbrev. for Atomic Energy Commission.*

aegis or *U.S. (sometimes) egis* ('i:dzɪs) *n.* 1. sponsorship or protection (esp. in *under the aegis of*). 2. *Greek myth.* the shield of Zeus.

aegrotat ('aɪgrəʊ,tæt, 'i:-) *n.* 1. (in British and certain other universities) a certificate allowing a candidate to pass an examination although he has missed all or part of it through illness. 2. a degree obtained in such circumstances.

-**aemia**, -**haemia**, or *U.S. -emia, -hemia* *n.* combining form. denoting blood, esp. a specified condition of the blood in diseases: *leukaemia*.

aeolian harp ('i:əʊliən) *n.* a stringed instrument that produces a musical sound when wind passes over the strings. Also called: **wind harp**.

aeon or *U.S. eon* ('i:ən, 'i:ɒn) *n.* 1. an immeasurably long period of time. 2. *Geol.* the longest division of geological time, comprising two or more eras.

aerate ('i:əreɪt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to charge (a liquid) with a gas, as in the manufacture of effervescent drink. 2. to expose to the action or circulation of the air. —**aer'ation** *n.* —**aerator** *n.*

aeri- combining form. a variant of **aero-**.

aerial ('i:əriəl) *adj.* 1. of or resembling air. 2. existing, moving, or operating in the air: *aerial cable car*. 3. ethereal; light and delicate. 4. imaginary. 5. extending high into the air. 6. of or relating to aircraft: *aerial combat*. ~*n.* 7. Also called: **antenna**, the part of a radio

or television system by means of which radio waves are transmitted or received.

aerialist (ˈeəriə,lɪst) *n.* Chiefly U.S. a trapeze artist or tightrope walker.

aerie (ˈeəri) *n.* a variant spelling (esp. U.S.) of **eyrie**.

aero (ˈeərəʊ) *n.* (*modifier*) of or relating to aircraft or aeronautics: **an aero engine**.

aero-, aeri-, or before a vowel **aer-** combining form. 1. denoting air, atmosphere, or gas: **aerodynamics**. 2. denoting aircraft: **aeronautics**.

aerobatics (ˈeərəʊˈbætkɪs) *pl. n.* spectacular or dangerous manoeuvres, such as loops or rolls, performed in an aircraft or glider.

aerodrome (ˈeərəˌdrəʊm) *n.* *Brit.* a landing area that is smaller than an airport.

aerodynamics (ˈeərəʊˌdaɪˈnæmɪks) *n.* (*functioning as sing.*) the study of the dynamics of gases, esp. of the forces acting on a body passing through air. —**aerody-** **namic** *adj.* —**aerody** **namically** *adv.*

aero engine *n.* an engine for powering an aircraft.

aerofoil (ˈeərəʊˌfɔɪl) *n.* *Brit.* a surface, such as an aileron or tailplane, that is designed to produce lift or to control an aircraft in flight.

aerogram or **aerogramme** (ˈeərəˌgræm) *n.* Also called: **air letter**, an air-mail letter written on a single sheet of lightweight paper that folds and is sealed to form an envelope.

aerolite (ˈeərəˌlaɪt) *n.* a stony meteorite consisting of silicate minerals.

aeronautics (ˈeərəˌnɔːtkɪks) *n.* (*functioning as sing.*) the study or practice of all aspects of flight through the air —**aero** **nautical** *adj.*

aeroplane (ˈeərəˌpleɪn) or U.S. **airplane** (ˈeəˌpleɪn) *n.* a heavier-than-air powered flying vehicle with fixed wings.

aerosol (ˈeərəˌsɒl) *n.* 1. a colloidal dispersion of solid or liquid particles in a gas. 2. a substance, such as a paint or insecticide, dispensed from a small metal container by a propellant under pressure. 3. Also called: **air spray**, such a substance together with its container.

aerospace (ˈeərəˌspeɪs) *n.* 1. the atmosphere and space beyond. 2. (*modifier*) of rockets, missiles, space vehicles, etc: **the aerospace industry**.

aerostatics (ˈeərəˌstætkɪks) *n.* (*functioning as sing.*) 1. the study of gases in equilibrium and bodies held in equilibrium in gases. Cf. **aerodynamics**. 2. the study of lighter-than-air craft, such as balloons.

aery (ˈeəri) *n., pl. aeries*, a variant spelling of **eyrie**.

aesthesia or U.S. **esthesia** (iːˈθeɪzɪə) *n.* the normal ability to experience sensation.

aesthete or U.S. **esthete** (iːˈstetɪt) *n.* a person who has or who affects a highly developed appreciation of beauty.

aesthetic (iːˈθetɪk, -ɪs), **aesthetical** or U.S. (*sometimes*) **esthetic**, **esthetical** *adj.* 1. connected with aesthetics. 2. **a.** relating to pure beauty rather than to other considerations. **b.** artistic: **an aesthetic consideration**. —**aes** **thetically** or U.S. (*sometimes*) **es** **thetically** *adv.* —**aes** **thetism** or U.S. (*sometimes*) **es** **thetism** *n.*

aesthetics or U.S. (*sometimes*) **esthetics** (iːˈθetɪks) *n.* (*functioning as sing.*) 1. the branch of philosophy concerned with the study of such concepts as beauty, taste, etc. 2. the study of the rules and principles of art.

aestival or U.S. **estival** (iːˈstaiˈvəl) *adj.* Rare. of or occurring in summer.

aestivate or U.S. **estivate** (iːˈstiˌveɪt) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. to pass the summer. 2. (of animals) to pass the summer or dry season in a dormant condition. —**aesti** **vation** or U.S. **esti** **vation** *n.*

aether (ˈiːðə) *n.* a variant spelling of **ether** (senses 3, 4).

aetiology or U.S. **etiology** (iːˈtiˌɒlədʒi) *n., pl. -gies*. 1. the philosophy or study of causation. 2. the study of the causes of diseases. 3. the cause of a disease. —**aetiologi-** **cal** or U.S. **etiological** (iːˈtiˌɒlədʒɪkəl) *adj.* —**aeti** **ologist** or U.S. **eti** **ologist** *n.*

A.E.U. (in Britain) *abbrev. for* Amalgamated Engineering Union.

a.f. *abbrev. for* audio frequency.

afar (əˈfɑː) *adv.* 1. at, from, or to a great distance. ~*n.* 2. a great distance (esp. in **from afar**).

A.F.C. *abbrev. for:* 1. Air Force Cross. 2. Association Football Club.

affable (ˈæfəbəl) *adj.* 1. showing warmth and friendliness. 2. easy to converse with; approachable. —**affa** **bility** *n.*

affair (əˈfeə) *n.* 1. a thing to be done or attended to;

matter. 2. an event or happening: *a strange affair*. 3. (*qualified by an adjective or descriptive phrase*) something previously specified: *our house is a tumbledown affair*. 4. a sexual relationship between two people who are not married to each other.

affairs (əˈfeəz) *pl. n.* 1. personal or business interests. 2. matters of public interest: **current affairs**.

affect (əˈfekt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to act upon or influence, esp. in an adverse way. 2. to move or disturb emotionally or mentally. 3. (of pain, disease, etc.) to attack. ~*n.* (ˈæfekt). 4. **Psychol.** the emotion associated with an idea or set of ideas.

affect (əˈfekt) *vb.* (*mainly tr.*) 1. to put on an appearance or show off: *to affect ignorance*. 2. to imitate or assume, esp. pretentiously. 3. to have or use by preference. 4. to adopt the character, manner, etc., of. 5. to incline habitually towards.

affection (əˈfekˌtʃən) *n.* 1. an assumed manner of speech, dress, or behaviour, esp. one that is intended to impress others. 2. (often foll. by *of*) deliberate pretence.

affected (əˈfektɪd) *adj.* (*usually postpositive*) 1. deeply moved, esp. by sorrow or grief. 2. changed, esp. detrimentally.

affected (əˈfektɪd) *adj.* 1. behaving, speaking, etc., in an assumed way, esp. in order to impress others. 2. feigned: **affected indifference**. —**af** **fectedly** *adv.*

affecting (əˈfektɪŋ) *adj.* evoking feelings of pity; moving. —**af** **fectingly** *adv.*

affection (əˈfekʃən) *n.* 1. a feeling of fondness or tenderness for a person or thing. 2. (*often pl.*) emotion, feeling, or sentiment: *to play on a person's affections*. 3. **Pathol.** any disease or pathological condition. 4. the act of affecting or the state of being affected. —**af** **fectional** *adj.* —**af** **fectationally** *adv.*

affectionate (əˈfekʃənət) *adj.* having or displaying tender feelings, affection, or warmth. —**af** **fectionately** *adv.*

afferent (ˈæfərənt) *adj.* bringing or directing inwards to a part or an organ of the body, esp. towards the brain or spinal cord.

affiance (əˈfaɪəns) *vb.* (tr.) to bind (a person or oneself) in a promise of marriage; betroth.

affidavit (ˈæfɪˈdeɪvɪt) *n.* **Law.** a declaration in writing made upon oath before a person authorized to administer oaths.

affiliate (əˈfɪliˌeɪt). 1. (tr.; foll. by *to* or *with*) to receive into close connection or association (with a larger body, group, organization, etc.). 2. (foll. by *with*) to associate (oneself) or be associated, esp. as a subordinate or subsidiary. ~*n.* (əˈfɪliət). 3. **a.** a person or organization that is affiliated with another. **b.** (*as modifier*): **an affiliate member**. —**af** **fil** **'ation** *n.*

affiliation order *n.* **Law.** an order that a man adjudged to be the father of an illegitimate child shall contribute towards the child's maintenance.

affinity (əˈfɪnɪti) *n., pl. -ties*. 1. a natural liking, taste, or inclination for a person or thing. 2. the person or thing so liked. 3. a close similarity in appearance or quality. 4. relationship by marriage. 5. similarity in structure, form, etc., between different animals, plants, or languages. 6. **Chem.** chemical attraction. —**af** **fini** **tive** *adj.*

affirm (əˈfɜːm) *vb.* (*mainly tr.*) 1. (*may take a clause as object*) to declare to be true. 2. to uphold, confirm, or ratify. 3. (*intr.*) **Law.** to make an affirmation. —**affir** **'mation** *n.* —**af** **firm** **er** or **af** **firm** **ant** *n.*

affirmative (əˈfɜːmətɪv) *adj.* 1. confirming or asserting something as true or valid. 2. indicating agreement or assent. 3. **Logic.** (of a proposition) affirming the truth of the predicate, as in the proposition *some men are married*. ~*n.* 4. a positive assertion. 5. a word or phrase stating agreement or assent, such as *yes*: *to answer in the affirmative*. ~ 6. **sentence substitute**. **Mil., etc.** a signal codeword used to express assent or confirmation. —**af** **firmatively** *adv.*

affix (əˈfɪks). (tr.; usually foll. by *to* or *on*) 1. to attach, fasten, join, or stick. 2. to add or append: *to affix a signature to a document*. 3. to attach or attribute (guilt, blame, etc.). ~*n.* (ˈæfɪks). 4. a linguistic element added to a word or root to produce a derived or inflected form, as **-ment** in **establishment**. See also **prefix**, **suffix**, **infix**. 5. something fastened or attached. —**affix** **ure** (əˈfɪksʃə) *n.*

afflatus (əˈfleɪtəs) *n.* an impulse of creative power or inspiration considered to be of divine origin.

afflict (əˈflɪkt) *vb.* (tr.) to cause suffering or unhappiness to; distress greatly. —**af** **flictive** *adj.*

affliction (əˈflɪkʃən) *n.* 1. a condition of great distress

or suffering. **2.** something responsible for physical or mental suffering.

affluence ('æfluəns) *n.* **1.** an abundant supply of money, goods, or property; wealth. **2.** Rare. abundance or profusion.

affluent ('æfluənt) *adj.* **1.** rich; wealthy. **2.** abundant; copious. **3.** flowing freely. *~n.* **4.** a tributary stream.

affluent society *n.* a society in which the material benefits of prosperity are widely available.

afford (ə'fɔ:d) *vb.* **1.** (preceded by *can, could, etc.*) to be able to do or spare something, esp. without incurring financial difficulties or without risk of undesirable consequences. **2.** to give, yield, or supply.

afforest (ə'fɔ:rist) *vb. (tr.)* to plant trees on. *~af, forest'ation n.*

affray (ə'freɪ) *n.* a fight, noisy quarrel, or disturbance between two or more persons in a public place.

affront (ə'frʌnt) *n.* **1.** a deliberate insult. *~vb. (tr.)* **2.** to insult, esp. openly. **3.** to offend the pride or dignity of.

afghan ('æfgən, -gən) *n.* **1.** a knitted or crocheted wool blanket or shawl, esp. one with a geometric pattern. **2.** a sheepskin coat, often embroidered.

Afghan ('æfgən) or **Afghani** ('æf'gæni) *n.* **1.** a native, citizen, or inhabitant of Afghanistan. **2.** an official language of Afghanistan. *~adj.* **3.** denoting Afghanistan, its people, or their language.

aficionado (ə,fɪjə'na:ðəu) *n., pl. -dos.* **1.** an ardent supporter or devotee: a jazz aficionado. **2.** a devotee of bullfighting.

afield (ə'fi:ld) *adv., adj. (postpositive)* **1.** away from one's usual surroundings or home (esp. in **far afield**). **2.** off the subject (esp. in **far afield**). **3.** in or by the field.

afire (ə'fiə) *adv., adj. (postpositive)* **1.** in flames. **2.** deeply aroused, as with passion: he was afire with desire.

afloat (ə'fləʊt) *adj. (postpositive), adv.* **1.** floating. **2.** aboard ship; at sea. **3.** covered with water. **4.** aimlessly drifting. **5.** in circulation: nasty rumours were afloat. **6.** free of debt.

A.F.M. *abbrev. for* Air Force Medal.

afout (ə'fʊt) *adj. (postpositive), adv.* **1.** in operation; *astr:* mischief was afout. **2.** on or by foot.

afore (ə'fɔ:) *adv., prep., conj.* an archaic or dialect word for **before**.

aforementioned (ə'fɔ:,menʃənd) *adj. (usually prenominal)* (chiefly in legal documents) stated or mentioned before.

aforsaid (ə'fɔ:,sed) *adj. (usually prenominal)* (chiefly in legal documents) spoken of or referred to previously.

aforethought (ə'fɔ:,θɔ:t) *adj. (immediately postpositive)* premeditated (esp. in **malice aforethought**).

a fortiori (eɪ,fɔ:tɪ'ɔ:raɪ) *adv.* for a stronger, or more convincing reason.

Afr. *abbrev. for* Africa(n).

afraid (ə'freɪd) *adj. (postpositive)* **1.** (often foll. by *of*) feeling fear or apprehension. **2.** reluctant (to do something), as through fear or timidity. **3.** (often foll. by *that*; used to lessen the effect of an unpleasant statement) regretful: I'm afraid that I shall have to tell you to go.

afresh (ə'freʃ) *adv.* once more; again; anew.

African ('æfrɪkən) *adj.* **1.** denoting or relating to Africa or any of its peoples, languages, nations, etc. *~n.* **2.** a native or inhabitant of any of the countries of Africa. **3.** a member or descendant of any of the peoples of Africa, esp. a Negro.

Africana (ə'frɪ:kənə, -ɛf-) *pl. n.* objects of cultural or historical interest of southern African origin.

Africander (ə'frɪ:kəndə, -ɛf-) *n.* a breed of humped-back beef cattle originally raised in southern Africa.

African lily *n.* a plant of southern Africa, having rounded clusters of blue or white funnel-shaped flowers.

African violet *n.* a tropical African plant cultivated as a house plant, with violet, white, or pink flowers and hairy leaves.

Afrikaans (ə'frɪ:kə:ns, -'kɑ:nz, -ɛf-) *n.* an official language of all the Republic of South Africa, closely related to Dutch and Flemish.

Afrikaner (ə'frɪ:kə:nə, -ɛf-) *n.* a White native of the Republic of South Africa whose mother tongue is Afrikaans. See also **Boer**.

Afro ('æfrəʊ) *n., pl. -ros.* a hair style in which the hair is shaped into a wide frizzy bush, popular esp. among Negroes.

Afro- ('æfrəʊ-) *combining form.* indicating Africa or African: **Afro-Asiatic**.

Afro-American *n.* **1.** an American Negro. *~adj.* **2.**

denoting or relating to American Negroes, their history, or their culture.

afromosia (ə'frɔ:'məʊziə) *n.* a hard teaklike wood obtained from a genus of tropical African trees.

aft (ɑ:t) *adv., adj.* Chiefly *naut.* towards or at the stern or rear: the aft deck.

after ('ɑ:tə) *prep.* **1.** following in time; in succession to: *after dinner*. **2.** following in space; behind. **3.** in pursuit or search of: *he's only after money*. **4.** concerning: *to inquire after his health*. **5.** considering: *after what you have done, you shouldn't complain*. **6.** next in excellence or importance to. **7.** in imitation of; in the manner of. **8.** in accordance with or in conformity to: *a man after her own heart*. **9.** with a name derived from. **10.** U.S. past (the hour of): *twenty after three*. **11.** **after all**. **a.** when everything is considered. **b.** in spite of expectations, efforts, etc. **12.** **after you.** please go, enter, etc., before me. *~adv.* **13.** at a later time; afterwards. **14.** coming afterwards. **15.** *Naut.* further aft. *~conj.* **16.** (*subordinating*) at a time later than that at which. *~adj.* **17.** *Naut.* further aft: the after cabin.

afterbirth ('ɑ:tə,bɜ:θ) *n.* the placenta and foetal membranes expelled from the uterus after the birth of offspring.

afterburner ('ɑ:tə,bɜ:nə) *n.* **1.** a device in the exhaust system of an internal-combustion engine for removing dangerous exhaust gases. **2.** a device in an aircraft jet engine to ignite additional fuel.

aftercare ('ɑ:tə,kɛə) *n.* *Med.* the care of a patient after a serious illness or operation.

afterdamp ('ɑ:tə,dæmp) *n.* a poisonous gas, consisting mainly of carbon monoxide, formed after the explosion of firedamp in coal mines.

aftereffect ('ɑ:tə,ɪfekt) *n.* any result occurring some time after its cause.

afterglow ('ɑ:tə,gləʊ) *n.* **1.** the glow left after a light has disappeared, such as that sometimes seen after sunset. **2.** the glow of an incandescent metal after the source of heat has been removed.

afterlife ('ɑ:tə,lɪf) *n.* life after death or at a later time in a person's lifetime.

aftermath ('ɑ:tə,mæθ) *n.* **1.** signs or results of an event or occurrence considered collectively: *the aftermath of war*. **2.** *Agriculture.* a second crop of grass from land that has already yielded one crop earlier in the same year.

aftermost ('ɑ:tə,məʊst) *adj.* closer or closest to the rear or (in a vessel) the stern; last.

afternoon (ə'ftə'nu:n) *n.* **1.** **a.** the period between noon and evening. **b.** (as modifier): *afternoon tea*. **2.** a later part: *the afternoon of life*. *~after'noons adv.*

afterpains ('ɑ:tə,peɪnz) *pl. n.* cramplike pains caused by contraction of the uterus after childbirth.

afters ('ɑ:təz) *n. (functioning as sing. or pl.)* *Brit. inf.* dessert; sweet.

aftertaste ('ɑ:tə,tɛst) *n.* **1.** a taste that lingers on after eating or drinking. **2.** a lingering impression or sensation.

afterthought ('ɑ:tə,θɔ:t) *n.* **1.** a comment, reply, etc., that occurs to one after the opportunity to deliver it has passed. **2.** an addition to something already completed.

afterwards ('ɑ:təwɔ:dz) or **afterward** *adv.* after an earlier event or time.

Ag *the chemical symbol for* silver.

again (ə'geɪn, ə'geɪn) *adv.* **1.** another or a second time: *he had to start again*. **2.** once more in a previously experienced state or condition: *he is ill again*. **3.** in addition to the original amount, quantity, etc. (esp. in as **much again**; **half as much again**). **4.** (*sentence modifier*) on the other hand. **5.** besides; also. **6.** *Arch.* in reply; back: *he answered again*. **7.** **again and again.** continuously; repeatedly. *~* **8.** *sentence connector.* moreover; furthermore.

against (ə'geɪnst, ə'geɪnst) *prep.* **1.** opposed to; in conflict or disagreement with. **2.** standing or leaning beside: *a ladder against the wall*. **3.** coming in contact with. **4.** in contrast to: *silhouettes are outlines against a light background*. **5.** having an unfavourable effect on: *the system works against small companies*. **6.** as a protection from: *a safeguard against contaminated water*. **7.** in exchange for or in return for. **8.** *Now rare.* in preparation for: *he gave them warm clothing against their journey*. **9.** **as against.** as opposed to or as compared with.

agape (ə'geɪp) *adj. (postpositive)* **1.** (esp. of the mouth) wide open. **2.** very surprised, expectant, or eager.

Agape ('ægəpi) *n.* **1.** Christian love, esp. as contrasted

with erotic love; charity. 2. a communal meal in the early Church in commemoration of the Last Supper.

agarie ('ægorik) *n.* a fungus having gills on the underside of the cap. The group includes the edible mushrooms and poisonous forms such as the fly agaric.

agate ('ægit) *n.* 1. an impure form of quartz consisting of a variegated, usually banded chalcedony, used as a gemstone and in making pestles and mortars. 2. a playing marble of this quartz or resembling it.

agave ('ægeiv) *n.* a plant native to tropical America with tall flower stalks rising from thick fleshy leaves. Some species are the source of fibres such as sisal.

age (eidʒ) *n.* 1. the period of time that a person, animal, or plant has lived or is expected to live. 2. the period of existence of an object, material, group, etc.: *the age of this table is 200 years.* 3. a. a period or state of human life: *he should know better at his age.* b. (as modifier): *age group.* 4. the latter part of life. 5. a. a period of history marked by some feature or characteristic. b. (cap. when part of a name): *the Middle Ages.* 6. generation: *the Edwardian age.* 7. Geol., palaeontol. a. a period of the earth's history distinguished by special characteristics: *the age of reptiles.* b. a subdivision of an epoch. 8. (often pl.) *Inf.* a relatively long time: *I've been waiting ages.* 9. Psychol. the level in years that a person has reached in any area of development, compared with the normal level for his chronological age. 10. of age. adult and legally responsible for one's actions (usually at 18 years). — *vb.* ageing or aging, aged. 11. to become or cause to become old or aged. 12. to begin to seem older: *to have aged a lot in the past year.* 13. Brewing. to mature or cause to mature.

-age suffix forming nouns. 1. indicating a collection, set, or group: *baggage.* 2. indicating a process or action or the result of an action: *breakage.* 3. indicating a state or relationship: *bondage.* 4. indicating a house or place: *orphanage.* 5. indicating a charge or fee: *postage.* 6. indicating a rate: *dosage.*

aged ('eidʒd) *adj.* 1. a. advanced in years; old. b. (as collective *n.* preceded by *the*): *the aged.* 2. of, connected with, or characteristic of old age. 3. (eidʒd). (post-positive) having the age of: *a woman aged twenty.*

ageless ('eidʒlis) *adj.* 1. apparently never growing old. 2. timeless; eternal: *an ageless quality.*

agency ('eidʒənsi) *n.* pl. -cies. 1. a business or other organization providing a specific service: *an employment agency.* 2. the place where an agent conducts business. 3. the business, duties, or functions of an agent. 4. action, power, or operation: *the agency of fate.*

agenda ('ædʒəndə) *n.* 1. (functioning as sing.) a schedule or list of items to be attended to. Also: **agendum**. 2. (functioning as pl.) matters to be attended to, as at a meeting. Also: **agendas**, **agendums**.

agent ('eidʒənt) *n.* 1. a person who acts on behalf of another person, group, business, government, etc. 2. a person or thing that acts or has the power to act. 3. a substance or organism that exerts some force or effect: *a chemical agent.* 4. the means by which something occurs or is achieved. 5. a person representing a business concern, esp. a travelling salesman. — **agential** (ei'dʒənʃəl) *adj.*

agent provocateur French. (a'ʒɑ̃ provoka'tœ:r) *n.*, pl. **agents provocateurs** (a'ʒɑ̃ provoka'tœ:r). a secret agent employed to provoke suspected persons to commit illegal acts and so be discredited or liable to punishment.

age-old or **age-long** *adj.* very old or of long duration; ancient.

agglomerate *vb.* (ə'glɒmə'reit). 1. to form or be formed into a mass or cluster. — *n.* (ə'glɒmərit, -reit). 2. a confused mass. 3. a volcanic rock consisting of angular fragments within a groundmass of lava. — *adj.* (ə'glɒmərit, -reit). 4. formed into a mass. — **agglomeration** *n.* — **agglomerative** *adj.*

agglutinate (ə'glu:tɪneɪt). *vb.* 1. to cause to adhere, as with glue. 2. Linguistics. to combine or be combined by agglutination. 3. (tr.) to cause (bacteria, red blood cells, etc.) to clump together. — **agglutinable** *adj.* — **agglutinant** *adj.*

agglutination (ə'glu:tɪneɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act or process of agglutinating. 2. a united mass of parts. 3. Linguistics. the building up of words from component morphemes in such a way that these undergo little or no change of form or meaning.

aggrandize or **-dise** (ə'grændaɪz) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to increase the power, wealth, prestige, scope, etc., of. 2. to cause (something) to seem greater. — **aggrandizement** or **-disement** (ə'grændizmənt) *n.* — **aggran, dizer** or **-diser** *n.*

aggravate ('ægrə'veɪt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to make (a disease, situation, problem, etc.) worse. 2. *Inf.* to annoy. — **aggravation** *n.*

▷ **Usage.** The use of *aggravate* and *aggravation* for *annoy* and *annoyance* is usually avoided in formal English.

aggregate *adj.* ('ægrɪt). 1. formed of separate units collected into a whole. 2. (of fruits and flowers) composed of a dense cluster of florets. — *n.* ('ægrɪt, -geɪt). 3. a sum or assemblage of many separate units. 4. Geol. a rock, such as granite, consisting of a mixture of minerals. 5. the sand, etc., mixed with cement and water to make concrete. 6. in the aggregate. taken as a whole. — *vb.* ('ægrɪ,geɪt). 7. to combine or be combined into a body, etc. 8. (tr.) to amount to (a number). — **aggregation** *n.* — **aggregative** ('ægrɪ,geɪtv) *adj.*

aggression (ə'grɛʃən) *n.* 1. an attack or harmful action, esp. an unprovoked attack by one country against another. 2. any offensive activity, practice, etc. 3. Psychol. a hostile or destructive mental attitude. — **aggressor** (ə'grɛsə) *n.*

aggressive (ə'grɛsɪv) *adj.* 1. quarrelsome or belligerent. 2. assertive; vigorous. — **aggressively** *adv.*

aggrieve (ə'grɪv) *vb.* (tr.) 1. (often impersonal or passive) to grieve; distress; afflict. 2. to injure unjustly, esp. by infringing a person's legal rights. — **aggrievedly** (ə'grɪvɪdli) *adv.*

aggro ('ægrəʊ) *n.* Brit. sl. aggressive behaviour.

aghost (ə'gəʊst) *adj.* (postpositive) overcome with amazement or horror.

agile ('ædʒail) *adj.* 1. quick in movement; nimble. 2. mentally quick or acute. — **agilely** *adv.* — **agility** (ə'dʒɪlɪti) *n.*

agin (ə'gɪn) *prep.* *Inf.* or *dialect.* against.

agitate ('ædʒɪteɪt) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to excite, disturb, or trouble (a person, the mind or feelings). 2. (tr.) to shake, stir, or disturb. 3. (intr.; often foll. by *for* or *against*) to attempt to stir up public opinion for or against something. — **agitation** *n.* — **agitator** *n.*

agitprop ('ædʒɪt,prɒp) *n.* any promotion of political agitation and propaganda, esp. of a Communist nature.

agley (ə'gleɪ, ə'glɪt, ə'glai) *adj.* Scot. awry.

aglitte (ə'glɪta) *adj.* (postpositive) sparkling; glittering.

aglow (ə'gləʊ) *adj.* (postpositive) glowing.

A.G.M. *abbrev.* for annual general meeting.

agnail ('æɡ,neɪl) *n.* another name for **hangnail**.

agnate ('æɡneɪt) *adj.* 1. related by descent from a common male ancestor. 2. related in any way. — *n.* 3. a male or female descendant by male links from a common male ancestor.

agnostic ('æɡnɒstɪk) *n.* 1. a person who holds that knowledge of a Supreme Being, ultimate cause, etc., is impossible. — *adj.* 2. of or relating to agnostics. — **agnosticism** *n.*

Agnus Dei ('æɡnʊs 'deɪ) *n.* 1. the figure of a lamb bearing a cross or banner, emblematic of Christ. 2. a chant beginning with these words or a translation of them (Lamb of God), forming part of the Roman Catholic Mass.

ago (ə'ɡəʊ) *adv.* in the past: *five years ago; long ago.*

▷ **Usage.** The use of *ago* with *since* (*it's ten years ago since he wrote the novel*) is redundant and is therefore avoided in careful English. *Ago* should be followed by *that*: *it was ten years ago that he wrote the novel.*

agog ('æɡɒɡ) *adj.* (postpositive) eager or curious.

agonize or **-nise** ('æɡə,naɪz) *vb.* 1. to suffer or cause to suffer agony. 2. (intr.) to struggle; strive. — **agonizingly** or **-nisingly** *adv.*

agony ('æɡni) *n.*, pl. -nies. 1. acute physical or mental pain; anguish. 2. the suffering or struggle preceding death.

agony column *n.* 1. a newspaper or magazine feature offering sympathetic advice to readers on their personal problems. 2. *Inf.* a newspaper or magazine column devoted to advertisements relating esp. to personal problems.

agoraphobia (æɡərə'fəʊbiə) *n.* an abnormal dread of open spaces. — **agoraphobic** *adj.*, *n.*

agouti (ə'ɡu:ti) *n.*, pl. -tis or -ties. a rodent of Central and South America and the West Indies. Agoutis are agile and long-legged, with hooflike claws, and are valued for their meat.

agrarian (ə'ɡreɪrɪən) *adj.* 1. of or relating to land or its cultivation. 2. of or relating to rural or agricultural matters. — *n.* 3. a person who favours the redistribution of landed property. — **agrarianism** *n.*

agree (ə'ɡri:) *vb.* agreeing, agreed. (mainly intr.) 1. (often foll. by *with*) to be of the same opinion. 2. (also

tr.; when *intr.*, often foll. by *to*; when *tr.*, takes a clause as object or an infinitive) to give assent; consent. 3. (also *tr.*; when *intr.*, foll. by *on* or *about*; when *tr.*, may take a clause as object) to come to terms (about). 4. (foll. by *with*) to be similar or consistent; harmonize. 5. (foll. by *with*) to be agreeable or suitable (to one's health, etc.). 6. *Grammar.* to undergo agreement. 7. (*tr.*; takes a clause as object) to concede: they agreed that the price was too high. — **a-greed** *adj.*

agreeable (ə'grɪəbəl) *adj.* 1. pleasing; pleasant. 2. prepared to consent. 3. (foll. by *to* or *with*) in keeping. 4. (foll. by *to*) to one's liking. — **a-greeableness** *n.* — **a-greeably** *adv.*

agreement (ə'grɪmənt) *n.* 1. the act of agreeing. 2. a settlement, esp. one that is legally enforceable. 3. a contract or document containing such a settlement. 4. the state of being of the same opinion. 5. the state of being similar or consistent. 6. *Grammar.* the determination of the inflectional form of one word by some grammatical feature, such as number or gender, of another word.

agriculture (ˈægrɪ,kʌltʃə) *n.* the science or occupation of cultivating land and rearing crops and livestock; farming. — **agri-cultural** *adj.* — **agri-culturist** or **agri-culturalist** *n.*

agrimony (ˈægrɪməni) *n.* 1. any of various plants of the rose family, which have compound leaves, long spikes of small yellow flowers, and bristly burlike fruits. 2. any of several other plants, such as hemp agrimony.

agrobology (ˈægrəʊbɒlədʒi) *n.* the science of plant growth and nutrition in relation to agriculture.

agronomy (ə'grɒnəmi) *n.* the science of cultivation of land, soil management, and crop production. — **a-gronomist** *n.*

aground (ə'graʊnd) *adv.*, *adj.* (*postpositive*) on or onto the ground or bottom, as in shallow water.

agterskot (ˈaxtə,skɒt) *n.* (in South Africa) the final instalment of payment to a farmers' cooperative for a crop or wool clip.

ague (ˈeɪɡjuː) *n.* 1. malarial fever with successive stages of fever and chills. 2. a fit of shivering. — **aguish** *adj.*

ah (ɑː) *interj.* an exclamation expressing pleasure, pain, sympathy, etc., according to the intonation of the speaker.

A.H. (indicating years in the Muslim system of dating, numbered from the Hegira (622 A.D.)) *abbrev. for* anno Hegirae.

aha (ɑː'hɑː) *interj.* an exclamation expressing triumph, surprise, etc., according to the intonation of the speaker.

ahead (ə'hed) *adj.* 1. (*postpositive*) in front; in advance. — *adv.* 2. at or in the front; before. 3. forwards: go straight ahead. 4. **ahead of** *a.* in front of; at a further advanced position than. *b.* *Stock Exchange.* in anticipation of: the share price rose ahead of the annual figures. 5. *Inf.* be ahead. to have an advantage; be winning. 6. get ahead. to attain success.

ahem (ə'hɛm) *interj.* a clearing of the throat, used to attract attention, express doubt, etc.

ahimsa (ɑː'hɪmsɑː) *n.* (in Hindu, Buddhist, and Jainist philosophy) the law of reverence for, and nonviolence to, every form of life.

ahoy (ə'hɔɪ) *interj.* *Naut.* a hail used to call a ship or to attract attention.

A.I. *abbrev. for:* 1. artificial insemination. 2. artificial intelligence.

aid (eɪd) *vb.* 1. to give support to (someone to do something); help or assist. 2. (*tr.*) to assist financially. — *n.* 3. assistance; help; support. 4. a person, device, etc., that helps or assists. 5. (in medieval Europe) a feudal payment made to the king or any lord by his vassals on certain occasions such as the knight of his eldest son. — **aider** *n.*

A.I.D. *abbrev. for:* 1. artificial insemination (by) donor. 2. U.S. Agency for International Development.

aide (eɪd) *n.* 1. short for **aide-de-camp**. 2. an assistant. **aide-de-camp** or **aide-de-camp** (eɪd də 'kɑŋ) *n.*, *pl.* **aides-de-camp** or **aids-de-camp**. a military officer serving as personal assistant to a senior. *Abbrev.: A.D.C., ADC, a.d.c.*

AIDS (eɪdz) *n.* acronym for acquired immune (or immuno-) deficiency syndrome: a condition in which the body loses its ability to resist infection.

ailrette or **aliget** (ˈeɪɡret) *n.* 1. a long plume worn on hats or as a headdress, esp. one of long egret feathers. 2. an ornament in imitation of a plume of feathers.

A.I.H. *abbrev. for* artificial insemination (by) husband.

ail (eɪl) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to trouble; afflict. 2. (*intr.*) to feel unwell.

aileron (ˈeɪlə,ron) *n.* a flap hinged to the trailing edge of an aircraft wing to provide lateral control.

ailing (ˈeɪlɪŋ) *adj.* unwell, esp. over a long period.

ailment (ˈeɪlmənt) *n.* a slight but often persistent illness.

aim (eɪm) *vb.* 1. to point (a weapon, missile, etc.) or direct (a blow) at a particular person or object. 2. (*tr.*) to direct (satire, criticism, etc.) at a person, object, etc. 3. (*intr.*; foll. by *at* or an infinitive) to propose or intend. 4. (*intr.*; often foll. by *at* or *for*) to direct one's efforts or strive (towards). — *n.* 5. the action of directing something at an object. 6. the direction in which something is pointed: to take aim. 7. the object at which something is aimed. 8. intention; purpose.

aimless (ˈeɪmlɪs) *adj.* having no purpose or direction. — **aimlessly** *adv.* — **aimlessness** *n.*

ain't (eɪnt) *Not standard.* contraction of *am not*, is not, are not, have not, or has not: I ain't seen it.

▷ **Usage.** Although the interrogative form *ain't I?* would be a natural contraction of *am not I?*, it is generally avoided in spoken English and never used in formal English.

air (eə) *n.* 1. the mixture of gases that forms the earth's atmosphere. It consists chiefly of nitrogen, oxygen, argon, and carbon dioxide. 2. the space above and around the earth; sky. Related *adj.*: **aerial**. 3. breeze; slight wind. 4. public expression; utterance. 5. a distinctive quality: an air of mystery. 6. a person's distinctive appearance, manner, or bearing. 7. *Music.* a simple tune for either vocal or instrumental performance. 8. transportation in aircraft (esp. in *by air*). 9. an archaic word for **breath** (senses 1-3). 10. clear the air. to rid a situation of tension by settling misunderstandings, etc. 11. in the air. *a.* in circulation; current. *b.* unsettled. 12. into thin air. leaving no trace behind. 13. on (or off) the air. (not) in the act of broadcasting or (not) being broadcast on radio or television. 14. take the air. to go out of doors, as for a short walk. 15. up in the air. *a.* uncertain. *b.* *Inf.* agitated or excited. 16. walk (or tread) on air. to feel elated. 17. (modifier) *Astrol.* of or relating to a group of three signs of the zodiac, Gemini, Libra, and Aquarius. — *vb.* 18. to expose or be exposed to the air so as to cool or freshen. 19. to expose or be exposed to warm or heated air so as to dry: to air linen. 20. (*tr.*) to make known publicly: to air one's opinions.

air bag *n.* a safety device in a car, consisting of a bag that inflates automatically in an accident and prevents the passengers from being thrown forwards.

air base *n.* a centre from which military aircraft operate.

air bladder *n.* 1. an air-filled sac, lying above the alimentary canal in bony fishes, that regulates buoyancy at different depths by a variation in the pressure of the air. 2. any air-filled sac, such as one in seaweeds.

airborne (ˈeə,bɔːn) *adj.* 1. conveyed by or through the air. 2. (of aircraft) flying; in the air.

air brake *n.* 1. a brake operated by compressed air, esp. in heavy vehicles and trains. 2. an articulated flap or small parachute for reducing the speed of an aircraft.

airbrick (ˈeə bɪk) *n.* Chiefly *Brit.* a brick with holes in it, put into the wall of a building for ventilation.

airbus (ˈeə,bʌs) *n.* an airliner operated over short distances.

air chief marshal *n.* a senior officer of the Royal Air Force and certain other air forces, of equivalent rank to admiral in the Royal Navy.

air commodore *n.* a senior officer of the Royal Air Force and certain other air forces, of equivalent rank to brigadier in the Army.

air conditioning *n.* a system or process for controlling the temperature and sometimes the humidity of the air in a house, etc. — **air-con,dition** *vb.* (*tr.*) — **air conditioner** *n.*

aircraft (ˈeə,kɹɑːft) *n.*, *pl.* **-craft**. any machine capable of flying by means of buoyancy or aerodynamic forces, such as a glider, helicopter, or aeroplane.

aircraft carrier *n.* a warship with an extensive flat deck for the launch of aircraft.

aircraftman (ˈeə,kɹɑːftmən) *n.*, *pl.* **-men**. a serviceman of the most junior rank in the Royal Air Force. — **aircraft,woman** *fem. n.*

air curtain *n.* an air stream across a doorway to exclude draughts, etc.

air cushion *n.* 1. an inflatable cushion. 2. the pocket of air that supports a hovercraft.

Airedale (ˈeə,deɪl) *n.* a large rough-haired tan-coloured

breed of terrier with a black saddle-shaped patch on the back. Also called: **Airedale terrier**.

airfield ('eə,fi:ld) *n.* a landing and taking-off area for aircraft.

air force *n.* a. the branch of a nation's armed services primarily responsible for military aircraft. *b.* (as modifier): *an air-force base*.

air gun *n.* a gun discharged by means of compressed air.

air hole *n.* 1. a hole that allows the passage of air, esp. for ventilation. 2. a section of open water in a frozen surface.

air hostess *n.* a stewardess on an airliner.

airily ('eə,rɪli) *adv.* 1. in a jaunty or high-spirited manner. 2. in a light or delicate manner.

airiness ('eə,rɪnɪs) *n.* 1. the quality or condition of being fresh, light, or breezy. 2. gaiety.

airing ('eə,rɪŋ) *n.* 1. a. exposure to air or warmth, as for drying or ventilation. *b.* (as modifier): *airing cupboard*. 2. an excursion in the open air. 3. exposure to public debate.

airless ('eə,lɪs) *adj.* 1. lacking fresh air; stuffy or sultry. 2. devoid of air. — **airlessness** *n.*

air letter *n.* another name for **aerogram**.

airlift ('eə,lɪft) *n.* 1. the transportation by air of passengers, troops, cargo, etc., esp. when other routes are blocked. — *vb.* 2. (tr.) to transport by an airlift.

airline ('eə,ləɪn) *n.* 1. a. a system or organization that provides scheduled flights for passengers or cargo. *b.* (as modifier): *an airline pilot*. 2. a hose or tube carrying air under pressure.

airliner ('eə,ləɪnə) *n.* a large passenger aircraft.

airlock ('eə,lɒk) *n.* 1. a bubble in a pipe causing an obstruction. 2. an airtight chamber with regulated air pressure used to gain access to a space that has air under pressure.

air mail *n.* 1. the system of conveying mail by aircraft. 2. mail conveyed by aircraft. — *adj.* **air-mail**. 3. of or for air mail.

airman ('eə,mən) *n., pl. -men.* an aviator, esp. one serving in the armed forces.

air marshal *n.* 1. a senior Royal Air Force officer of equivalent rank to a vice admiral in the Royal Navy. 2. a Royal Australian Air Force officer of the highest rank.

airplane ('eə,pleɪn) *n.* the U.S. name for **aeroplane**.

air pocket *n.* a localized region of low air density or a descending air current, causing an aircraft to suffer an abrupt decrease in height.

airport ('eə,pɔ:t) *n.* a landing and taking-off area for civil aircraft, usually with runways and aircraft maintenance and passenger facilities.

air pump *n.* a device for pumping air into or out of something.

air raid *n. a.* an attack by hostile aircraft or missiles. *b.* (as modifier): *an air-raid shelter*.

air rifle *n.* a rifle discharged by compressed air.

airs ('eəz) *pl. n.* affected manners intended to impress others: *to give oneself airs, put on airs*.

air sac *n.* any of the membranous air-filled extensions of the lungs of birds, which increase the efficiency of respiration.

air-sea rescue *n.* an air rescue at sea.

airship ('eə,ʃɪp) *n.* a lighter-than-air self-propelled craft. Also called: **dirigible**.

airsick ('eə,sɪk) *adj.* nauseated from travelling in an aircraft.

airspace ('eə,speɪs) *n.* the atmosphere above the earth or part of the earth, esp. the atmosphere above a particular country.

airspeed ('eə,spi:d) *n.* the speed of an aircraft relative to the air in which it moves.

airstrip ('eə,stri:p) *n.* a cleared area for the landing and taking-off of aircraft; runway. Also called: **landing strip**.

air terminal *n. Brit.* a building in a city from which air passengers are taken to an airport.

airtight ('eə,tʌɪt) *adj.* 1. not permitting the passage of air. 2. having no weak points; invulnerable.

air-to-air *adj.* operating between aircraft in flight.

air vice-marshal *n.* 1. a senior Royal Air Force officer of equivalent rank to a rear admiral in the Royal Navy. 2. a Royal Australian Air Force officer of the second highest rank.

airwaves ('eə,weɪvz) *pl. n. Inf.* radio waves used in radio and television broadcasting.

airy ('eəɪ) *adj.* **airier, airiest.** 1. abounding in fresh air. 2. spacious or uncluttered. 3. of or relating to air. 4.

weightless and insubstantial. 5. light and graceful in movement. 6. buoyant and gay; lively. 7. visionary; fanciful: *airy promises*. 8. high up in the air. 9. *Inf.* nonchalant.

aisle (aɪl) *n.* 1. a passageway separating seating areas in a theatre, church, etc. 2. a lateral division in a church flanking the nave or chancel. — **aisled** *adj.*

aitch (eɪtʃ) *n.* the letter h or the sound represented by it. **aitchbone** ('eɪtʃ,bəʊn) *n.* 1. the rump bone in cattle. 2. a cut of beef from or including the rump bone.

ajar ('ə:dʒə) *adj. (postpositive), adv.* (esp. of a door) slightly open.

ajar² ('ə:dʒə) *adj. (postpositive)* not in harmony.

akimbo ('ə:kɪmbəʊ) *adj. (postpositive), adv.* with hands on hips and elbows out.

akin ('ə:kɪn) *adj. (postpositive)* 1. related by blood. 2. (often foll. by *to*) having similar characteristics, properties, etc.

Al *the chemical symbol for aluminium.*

-al¹ *suffix forming adjectives.* of; related to: *functional; sectional; tonal*.

-al¹ *suffix forming nouns.* the act or process of doing what is indicated by the verb stem: *renewal*.

-al¹ *suffix forming nouns.* 1. (not used systematically) indicating any aldehyde: *salicylal*. 2. indicating a pharmaceutical product: *phenobarbital*.

à la (ɑ: lɑ: 'lə) *prep. 1.* in the manner or style of. 2. as prepared in (a particular place) or by or for (a particular person).

alabaster ('ælə,bə:stə) *n.* 1. a fine-grained usually white, opaque, or translucent variety of gypsum. 2. a variety of hard semitranslucent calcite. — *adj.* 3. of or resembling alabaster. — **alabastine** *adj.*

à la carte (ɑ: lɑ: 'kɑ:t) *adj., adv.* (of a menu) having dishes listed separately and individually priced. *Cf.* *table d'hôte*.

alack ('ælək) or **alackaday** ('æləkə,deɪ) *interj.* an archaic or poetic word for *alas*.

alacrity ('ælæk,rɪtɪ) *n.* liveliness or briskness.

Aladdin's cave ('ælədɪnz) *n.* a source of boundless riches.

à la mode (ɑ: lɑ: 'məʊd) *adj.* 1. fashionable in style, design, etc. 2. (of meats) braised with vegetables in wine.

alarm ('ælɑ:m) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to fill with apprehension, anxiety, or fear. 2. to warn about danger; alert. — *n.* 3. fear or terror aroused by awareness of danger. 4. apprehension or uneasiness. 5. a noise, signal, etc., warning of danger. 6. any device that transmits such a warning: *a burglar alarm*. 7. a. the device in an alarm clock that triggers off the bell or buzzer. *b.* short for **alarm clock**. 8. *Arch.* a call to arms. — **a-larming** *adj.*

alarm clock *n.* a clock with a mechanism that sounds at a set time: used esp. for waking a person up.

alarmist ('ælɑ:mɪst) *n.* 1. a person who alarms or attempts to alarm others needlessly. 2. a person who is easily alarmed. — *adj.* 3. characteristic of an alarmist.

alarum ('ælərəm, -lɑ:-) *n.* 1. *Arch.* an alarm, esp. a call to arms. 2. (used as a stage direction, esp. in Elizabethan drama) a loud disturbance or conflict (esp. in **alarums and excursions**).

alas ('æləs) *interj.* an exclamation of grief or alarm.

alate ('eɪleɪt) *adj.* having wings or winglike extensions.

alb (ælb) *n.* *Christianity.* a long white linen vestment with sleeves worn by priests and others.

albacore ('ælbə,kɔ:) *n.* a tunny occurring mainly in warm regions of the Atlantic and Pacific. It has very long pectoral fins and is a valued food fish.

albatross ('ælbə,tros) *n.* 1. a large bird of cool southern oceans, with long narrow wings and a powerful gliding flight. 2. *Golf.* a score of three strokes under par for a hole.

albeit (ə'lbi:t) *conj.* even though.

albert ('ælbəɪt) *n.* a kind of watch chain usually attached to a waistcoat.

Albertan ('æl'bɜ:tən) *adj.* 1. of or denoting Alberta, a province of W Canada. — *n.* 2. a native or inhabitant of Alberta.

albino ('ælbi:nəʊ) *n., pl. -nos.* 1. a person with congenital absence of pigmentation in the skin, eyes, and hair. 2. any animal or plant that is deficient in pigment. — **albinism** ('ælbi,nɪzəm) *n.* — **albinotic** ('ælbi-'nɒtɪk) *adj.*

Albion ('ælbiən) *n. Arch. or poetic.* Britain or England.

album ('ælbəm) *n.* 1. a book or binder consisting of blank pages, for keeping photographs, stamps, autographs, etc. 2. a booklike holder containing sleeves for

gramophone records. 3. one or more long-playing records released as a single item. 4. *Chiefly Brit.* an anthology.

albumen ('ælbjumin) *n.* 1. the white of an egg; the nutritive substance that surrounds the yolk. 2. a variant spelling of **albumin**.

albumin or **albumen** ('ælbjumin) *n.* any of a group of simple water-soluble proteins that are found in blood plasma, egg white, etc.

albuminous (æl'bjʊ:mi:nəs) *adj.* of or containing albumin.

ALCAN acronym for Aluminium Company of Canada.

alchemy ('ælkəmi) *n.*, *pl.* **-mies**. 1. the pseudoscientific predecessor of chemistry that sought a method of transmuting base metals into gold, and an elixir to prolong life indefinitely. 2. a power like that of alchemy: *her beauty had a potent alchemy*. —**alchemic** (æl'kemik) or **al'chemical** *adj.* —**alchemist** *n.*

alcohol ('ælkə,həl) *n.* 1. a colourless flammable liquid, the active principle of intoxicating drinks, produced by the fermentation of sugars. Formula: C_2H_5OH . Also called: **ethanol**, **ethyl alcohol**. 2. a drink or drinks containing this substance. 3. *Chem.* any one of a class of organic compounds that contain one or more hydroxyl groups bound to carbon atoms that are not part of an aromatic ring. Cf. **phenol** (sense 2).

alcoholic ('ælkə'hɒlik) *n.* 1. a person affected by alcoholism. —*adj.* 2. of, relating to, containing, or resulting from alcohol.

alcoholism ('ælkə'hɒ,lizəm) *n.* 1. continual heavy consumption of alcoholic drink. 2. a physiological disorder resulting from this.

alcove ('ælkəʊv) *n.* 1. a recess or niche in the wall of a room, as for a bed, books, etc. 2. any recessed usually vaulted area, as in a garden wall. 3. any covered or secluded spot.

aldehyde ('ældɪ,haid) *n.* 1. any organic compound containing the group $-CHO$. Aldehydes are oxidized to carboxylic acids. 2. (*modifier*) consisting of, containing, or concerned with the group $-CHO$. —**aldehydic** ('ældə'hɪdɪk) *adj.*

alder ('ɔ:ldə) *n.* 1. a shrub or tree of the birch family, having toothed leaves and conelike fruits. The wood is used for bridges, etc. because it resists underwater rot. 2. any of several similar trees or shrubs. —Cf. **elder**.

alderman ('ɔ:ldəmə) *n.*, *pl.* **-men**. 1. (in England and Wales until 1974) one of the senior members of a local council, elected by other councillors. 2. (in the U.S., Canada, etc.) a member of the governing body of a municipality. —**aldermanic** ('ɔ:ldə'mænik) *adj.*

ale (eɪl) *n.* 1. an alcoholic drink made by fermenting a cereal, esp. barley, originally differing from beer by being unflavoured by hops. 2. *Chiefly Brit.* another word for beer.

aleatory ('eɪlətəri) or **aleatoric** ('eɪlə'tɔ:rik) *adj.* 1. dependent on chance. 2. (esp. of a musical composition) involving elements chosen at random by the performer.

alehouse ('eɪl,haus) *n.* an archaic or dialect name for pub.

alembic ('æləmbɪk) *n.* 1. an obsolete type of retort used for distillation. 2. anything that distils or purifies.

aleph ('ɑ:lɪf; Hebrew 'alef) *n.* the first letter in the Hebrew alphabet.

alert ('ɔ:lɜ:t) *adj.* (*usually postpositive*) 1. vigilantly attentive: *alert to the problems*. 2. brisk, nimble, or lively. ~*n.* 3. an alarm or warning. 4. the period during which such a warning remains in effect. 5. on the alert. a. on guard against danger, attack, etc. b. watchful; ready. ~*vb.* (tr.) 6. to warn or signal (troops, police, etc.) to prepare for action. 7. to warn of danger, an attack, etc. —**a'ler'tly** *adv.* —**a'ler'tness** *n.*

A level *n.* *Brit.* the advanced level of a subject taken for General Certificate of Education (G.C.E.).

Alexandrine ('ælgɪ'zændrɪn) *n.* 1. a line of verse having six iambic feet, usually with a caesura after the third foot. —*adj.* 2. of or written in Alexandrines.

alexandrite ('ælgɪ'zændrɪt) *n.* a green variety of chrysoberyl used as a gemstone.

alexia ('ɔ:lɛksɪə) *n.* a disorder of the central nervous system characterized by impaired ability to read.

alfalfa ('ælfælfə) *n.* a leguminous plant of Europe and Asia, widely cultivated for forage. Also called: **lucerne**.

alfresco ('ælf'reskəʊ) *adj.*, *adv.* in the open air.

alg. *abbrev.* for algebra or algebraic.

algae ('ældʒi: pl. *n.*, *sing.* **alga** ('ælgə). unicellular or multicellular plants, occurring in water or moist ground,

that have chlorophyll but lack true stems, roots, and leaves. —**algal** ('ælgəl) or **algoid** ('ælgɔɪd) *adj.*

algebra ('ældʒɪbrə) *n.* 1. a branch of mathematics in which arithmetical operations and relationships are generalized by using symbols to represent numbers. 2. a system of logical notation in which variables represent propositions and symbols represent the relations between them. —**algebraic** ('ældʒɪ'brenɪk) or **alge'braical** *adj.* —**algebraist** ('ældʒɪ'brenɪst) *n.*

-algia *n.* combining form. denoting pain in the part specified: *neuralgia*; *odontalgia*. —**algic** *adj.* combining form.

algid ('ældʒɪd) *adj.* *Med.* chilly or cold. —**al'gidity** *n.*

ALGOL ('ælgəl) *n.* a computer programming language designed for mathematical and scientific purposes, in which algorithms can be expressed unambiguously. Cf. **FORTRAN**, **COBOL**.

algorism ('ælgə,rɪzəm) *n.* 1. the Arabic or decimal system of counting. 2. the skill of computation. 3. an algorithm.

algorithm ('ælgə,rɪðəm) *n.* any method or procedure of computation, usually involving a series of steps as in long division. Also called: **algorism**. —**alge'arithmic** *adj.*

alias ('eɪliəs) *adv.* 1. at another time or place known as or named: *Dylan, alias Zimmerman*. ~*n.*, *pl.* **-ases**. 2. an assumed name.

alibi ('æli,bai) *n.*, *pl.* **-bis**. 1. *Law.* a. a defence by an accused person that he was elsewhere at the time the crime was committed. b. the evidence given to prove this. 2. *Inf.* an excuse. ~*vb.* 3. (tr.) to provide with an alibi.

▷ **Usage.** The noun *alibi* is often used informally to mean an excuse: *he was late but, as always, had a good alibi*. In formal English, however, only the legal sense is acceptable.

alien ('eɪlɪən) *n.* 1. a person owing allegiance to a country other than that in which he lives. 2. any being or thing foreign to its environment: *an alien from another planet*. ~*adj.* 3. unnaturalized; foreign. 4. having foreign allegiance: *alien territory*. 5. unfamiliar: *an alien quality*. 6. (*postpositive* and foll. by to) repugnant or opposed to (to): *war is alien to his philosophy*.

alienable ('eɪlɪənəbəl) *adj.* *Law.* (of property) transferable to another owner. —**aliena'bility** *n.*

alienate ('eɪliə,neɪt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to cause (a friend, etc.) to become unfriendly or hostile. 2. to turn away: *to alienate the affections of a person*. 3. *Law.* to transfer the ownership of (property, etc.) to another person. —**aliena'tion** *n.* —**alien,ator** *n.*

alienist ('eɪlɪənɪst) *n.* U.S. a psychiatrist who specializes in the legal aspects of mental illness.

alight ('ə:lɪt) *vb.* **alighting**, **alighted** or **alit**. (*intr.*) 1. (usually foll. by from) to step out (of): *to alight from a taxi*. 2. to come to rest; land: *a thrush alighted on the wall*.

alight ('ə:lɪt) *adj.* (*postpositive*), *adv.* 1. burning; on fire. 2. illuminated.

align ('ə:lɪn) *vb.* 1. to place or become placed in a line. 2. to bring (components or parts) into proper coordination or relation. 3. (tr.; usually foll. by with) to bring (a person, country, etc.) into agreement with the policy, etc. of another. —**a'lig'nment** *n.*

alike ('ə:lɪk) *adj.* (*postpositive*) 1. possessing the same or similar characteristics: *they all look alike*. ~*adv.* 2. in the same or a similar manner or degree: *they walk alike*.

aliment ('ælmənt) *n.* something that nourishes or sustains the body or mind. —**ali'mental** *adj.*

alimentary ('ælməntəri) *adj.* 1. of or relating to nutrition. 2. providing sustenance or nourishment.

alimentary canal *n.* the tubular passage extending from the mouth to the anus, through which food is passed and digested.

alimony ('ælməni) *n.* *Law.* an allowance paid under a court order by one spouse to another when they are separated, either before or after divorce.

aline ('ə:lɪn) *vb.* a rare spelling of **align**. —**a'line'ment** *n.*

A-line ('eɪ,lɪn) *adj.* (of garments) flaring out slightly from the waist or shoulders.

aliphatic ('æli'fæɪtɪk) *adj.* (of an organic compound) not aromatic, esp. having an open chain structure.

aliquant ('ælikwənt) *adj.* *Maths.* of or signifying a quantity or number that is not an exact divisor of a given quantity or number: *5 is an aliquant part of 12*.

aliquot ('æli,kwɒt) *adj.* *Maths.* of or signifying an exact divisor of a quantity or number: *3 is an aliquot part of 12*.

alive (ə'laɪv) *adj.* (postpositive) 1. living; having life. 2. in existence; active: they kept hope alive. 3. (immediately postpositive) now living: the happiest woman alive. 4. full of life; lively. 5. (usually foll. by with) animated: a face alive with emotion. 6. (foll. by to) aware (of); sensitive (to). 7. (foll. by with) teeming (with): the mattress was alive with fleas. 8. *Electronics*. another word for live (sense 10). 9. look alive! a. hurry up! b. pay attention!

alkali (ˈælkəˌlaɪ) *n.*, *pl.* -lies or -lies. 1. *Chem.* a soluble base or a solution of a base. 2. a soluble mineral salt that occurs in arid soils.

alkaline (ˈælkəˌlaɪn) *adj.* having the properties of or containing an alkali. —**alkalinity** (ˈælkəˌlɪnɪti) *n.*

alkaloid (ˈælkəˌlɔɪd) *n.* any of a group of nitrogenous compounds found in plants. Many are poisonous and some are used as drugs.

Alkoraan or Alcoran (ˈælkəˌrɑːn) *n.* a less common name for the *Koran*.

all (ɔːl) *determiner*. 1. a. the whole quantity or amount of: all the rice. b. (as pronoun; functioning as sing. or pl.): all of it is nice; all are welcome. 2. every one of a class: all men are mortal. 3. the greatest possible: in all earnestness. 4. any whatever: beyond all doubt. 5. above all. most important. 6. after all. in spite of everything: it's only a game, after all. 7. all but. nearly: all but dead. 8. all of. no less or smaller than: she's all of thirteen years. 9. all over. a. finished. b. everywhere (in, on, etc.): all over England. c. *Inf.* typically (in that's me (him, etc.) all over). d. unduly effusive towards. 10. all in all. a. everything considered: all in all, it was a great success. b. the object of one's attention: you are my all in all. 11. all the. (foll. by a comp. adj. or adv.) so much (more or less) than otherwise: we must work all the faster now. 12. at all. a. (used with a negative or in a question) in any way or to any degree: I didn't know that at all. b. anyway: I'm surprised you came at all. 13. be all for. *Inf.* to be strongly in favour of. 14. for all. a. in so far as: for all anyone knows, he was a baron. b. notwithstanding: for all my pushing, I still couldn't move it. 15. for all that. in spite of that: he was a nice man for all that. 16. in all. altogether: there were five in all. ~adv. 17. (in scores of games) apiece; each: the score was three all. ~n. 18. (preceded by my, his, etc.) (one's) complete effort or interest: to give your all. 19. totality or whole.

all- *combining form.* variant of *allo-* before a vowel, indicating variation, or opposition.

alla breve (ˈæləˈbreɪvɪ) *Music. adj., adv.* 1. with two beats to the bar instead of four, i.e. twice as fast as written. ~n. 2. (formerly) a time of two or four minims to the bar. Symbol: ϵ

Allah (ˈælə) *n.* *Islam*. the principal Muslim name for God.

allay (ə'leɪ) *vb.* 1. to relieve (pain, grief, etc.) or be relieved. 2. (tr.) to reduce (fear, anger, etc.).

all clear *n.* 1. a signal indicating that some danger, such as an air raid, is over. 2. permission to proceed.

allegation (ˌæliˈɡeɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of alleging. 2. an unproved assertion, esp. an accusation.

allege (ə'ledʒ) *vb.* (tr.; may take a clause as object) 1. to state without or before proof: he alleged malpractice. 2. to put forward (an argument or plea) for or against an accusation, claim, etc.

alleged (ə'ledʒd) *adj.* (prenominal) 1. stated to be such: the alleged murderer. 2. dubious: an alleged miracle. —**allegedly** (ə'ledʒdli) *adv.*

allegiance (ə'liːdʒəns) *n.* 1. loyalty, as of a subject to his sovereign. 2. (in feudal society) the obligations of a vassal to his liege lord.

allegorize or -ise (ˈælgəˌraɪz) *vb.* 1. to transform (a story, fable, etc.) into or compose in the form of allegory. 2. (tr.) to interpret allegorically. —**allegorization or -isation** *n.*

allegory (ˈælgəri) *n.*, *pl.* -ries. 1. a poem, play, picture, etc., in which the apparent meaning of the characters and events is used to symbolize a moral or spiritual meaning. 2. use of such symbolism. 3. anything used as a symbol. —**allegorical** (ˌæliˈɡɒrɪkəl) *adj.* —**allegorist** *n.*

allegretto (ˌæliˈɡretəʊ) *Music.* ~adj., *adv.* 1. quickly or briskly. ~n., *pl.* -tos. 2. a piece or passage to be performed in this manner.

allegro (ˈælgreɪʊ, -'leg-) *Music.* ~adj., *adv.* 1. in a brisk lively manner. ~n., *pl.* -gros. 2. a piece or passage to be performed in this manner.

alleluia (ˌæliˈluːjə) *interj.* praise the Lord! Used in liturgical contexts in place of *hallelujah*.

allergen (ˈæləˌdʒən) *n.* any substance capable of inducing an allergy. —**aller'genic** *adj.*

allergic (ˈælɜːdʒɪk) *adj.* 1. of, having, or caused by an allergy. 2. (postpositive; foll. by to) *Inf.* having an aversion (to): allergic to work.

allergy (ˈælədʒi) *n.*, *pl.* -gies. 1. a hypersensitivity to a substance that causes the body to react to any contact with it. Hay fever is an allergic reaction to pollen. 2. *Inf.* an aversion.

alleviate (ə'liːviˌeɪt) *vb.* (tr.) to make (pain, sorrow, etc.) easier to bear; lessen. —**alleviation** *n.* —**alleviator** *n.*

alley (ˈæli) *n.* 1. a narrow passage, esp. one between or behind buildings. 2. a. a long narrow wooden lane down which the ball is rolled in tenpin bowling. b. a similar lane or alley for playing skittles. 3. a building having lanes for tenpin bowling. 4. *Tennis*, chiefly U.S. the space between the singles and doubles sidelines. 5. a walk in a garden, esp. one lined with trees. 6. up (or down) one's alley. *Sl.* suited to one's abilities or interests.

alley (ˈæli) *n.* a large playing marble.

alleyway (ˈæliˌweɪ) *n.* a narrow passage; alley.

all found *adj.* (of charges for accommodation) inclusive of meals, heating, etc.

Allhallows (ˌɔːl'hæləʊz) *n.* a less common term for *All Saints' Day*.

alliaceous (ˌæliˈeɪʃəs) *adj.* 1. of or relating to a genus of plants that have a strong smell and often have bulbs. The genus occurs in the N hemisphere and includes onion and garlic. 2. tasting or smelling like garlic or onions.

alliance (ə'leɪʃəns) *n.* 1. the act of allying or state of being allied; union. 2. a formal agreement, esp. a military one, between two or more countries. 3. the countries involved. 4. a union between families through marriage. 5. affinity or correspondence in characteristics. 6. *Bot.* a taxonomic category consisting of a group of related families.

allied (ə'leɪd, 'æləɪd) *adj.* 1. joined, as by treaty or marriage; united. 2. of the same type or class.

Allied (ˈæləɪd) *adj.* of or relating to the Allies.

Allies (ˈæləɪz) *pl. n.* 1. (in World War I) the powers of the Triple Entente (France, Russia, and Britain) together with the nations allied with them. 2. (in World War II) the countries that fought against the Axis and Japan, esp. Britain and the Commonwealth countries, the U.S., the Soviet Union, and France.

alligator (ˈæliˌɡeɪtə) *n.* 1. a large crocodilian of the southern U.S., having powerful jaws but differing from the crocodiles in having a shorter and broader snout. 2. a similar but smaller species occurring in China. 3. any of various tools or machines having adjustable toothed jaws.

alligator pear *n.* another name for *avocado*.

all in *adj.* 1. (postpositive) *Sl.* completely exhausted. ~adv., *adj.* (all-in when prenominal). 2. with all expenses included: twenty pounds a week all in. 3. (of wrestling) in freestyle.

alliterate (ə'liːtəˌreɪt) *vb.* 1. to contain or cause to contain alliteration. 2. (intr.) to speak or write using alliteration.

alliteration (ə'liːtəˌreɪʃən) *n.* the use of the same consonant (consonantal alliteration) or of a vowel (vocalic alliteration), at the beginning of each word or stressed syllable in a line of verse, as in around the rock the ragged rascal ran. —**alliterative** *adj.*

allocate (ˈæləˌkeɪt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to assign for a particular purpose. 2. a less common word for *locate* (sense 2). —**allocatable** *adj.* —**allocation** *n.*

allopathy (ə'loʊpəθi) *n.* the usual method of treating disease, by inducing a condition different from the cause of the disease. Cf. *homeopathy*. —**allopathic** (ˌæləˈpəθɪk) *adj.*

allot (ə'loʊt) *vb.* -lotting, -lotted. (tr.) 1. to assign or distribute (shares, etc.). 2. to designate for a particular purpose; apportion: we allotted two hours to the case.

allotment (ə'loʊtmənt) *n.* 1. the act of allotting. 2. a portion or amount allotted. 3. *Brit.* a small piece of land rented by an individual for cultivation.

allotrope (ˈæləˌtroʊp) *n.* any of two or more physical forms in which an element can exist: diamond and graphite are allotropes of carbon.

allotropy (ə'loʊtroʊpi) or **allotropism** *n.* the existence of an element in two or more physical forms. —**allotropic** (ˌæləˈtroʊpɪk) *adj.*

all-out *Inf.* ~adj. 1. using one's maximum powers: an

all-out effort. ~adv. **all out.** 2. to one's maximum capacity: *he went all out.*

allow (ə'laʊ) vb. 1. (tr.) to permit (to do something). 2. (tr.) to set aside: *five hours were allowed to do the job.* 3. (tr.) to let enter or stay: *they don't allow dogs.* 4. (tr.) to acknowledge (a point, claim, etc.). 5. (tr.) to let have: *he was allowed few visitors.* 6. (intr.; foll. by for) to take into account. 7. (intr.; often foll. by of) to permit: *a question that allows of only one reply.* 8. (tr.; may take a clause as object) **U.S. dialect.** to assert; maintain. —**allowable** adj. —**allowably** adv.

allowance (ə'laʊəns) n. 1. an amount of something, esp. money or food, given at regular intervals. 2. a discount, as in consideration for something given in part exchange; rebate. 3. a portion set aside to cover special expenses. 4. admission; concession. 5. the act of allowing; toleration. 6. **make allowances (or allowance).** (usually foll. by for) a. to take mitigating circumstances into account. b. to allow (for). ~vb. (tr.) 7. to supply (something) in limited amounts.

allowedly (ə'laʊdli) adv. (*sentence modifier*) by general admission or agreement; admittedly.

alloy n. (ə'loɪ, ə'loɪ). 1. a metallic material, such as steel, consisting of a mixture of two or more metals or of metallic with nonmetallic elements. 2. something that impairs the quality of the thing to which it is added. ~vb. (ə'loɪ). (tr.) 3. to add (one metal or element to another) to obtain a substance with a desired property. 4. to debase (a pure substance) by mixing with an inferior element. 5. to diminish or impair.

all-purpose adj. useful for many things.

all right adj. (*postpositive except in slang use*), adv. 1. adequate; satisfactory. 2. unharmed; safe. 3. **all-right.** **U.S. sl.** acceptable; reliable. ~adv. 4. very well; used to express assent. 5. satisfactorily: *the car goes all right. 6. without doubt. ~Also (not standard): **alright.***

all-round adj. 1. efficient in all respects, esp. in sport: *an all-round player.* 2. comprehensive; many-sided: *an all-round education.*

all-rounder n. a versatile person, esp. in a sport.

All Saints' Day n. a Christian festival celebrated on Nov. 1 to honour all the saints.

All Souls' Day n. **R.C. Church.** a day of prayer (Nov. 2) for the dead in purgatory.

allspice (ə'l,spaɪs) n. 1. a tropical American tree, having small white flowers and aromatic berries. 2. the seeds of this berry used as a spice, having a flavour said to resemble a mixture of cinnamon, cloves, and nutmeg. ~Also called: **pimento.**

all-time adj. (*prenominal*) **Inf.** unsurpassed.

▷ **Usage.** *All-time* is an imprecise superlative and is avoided by careful writers as being superfluous: *his high jump was a record (not an all-time record).*

allude (ə'lud) vb. (intr.; foll. by to) to refer indirectly.

allure (ə'lʊə) vb. 1. (tr.) to entice or tempt (someone); attract. ~n. 2. attractiveness; appeal. —**allurement** n. —**alluring** adj.

allusion (ə'lʊ:ʒən) n. 1. the act of alluding. 2. a passing reference. —**allusive** adj.

alluvial (ə'lʊ:vɪəl) adj. 1. of or relating to alluvium. ~n. 2. another name for **alluvium.**

alluvium (ə'lʊ:vɪəm) n., pl. **-viums** or **-via** (-vɪə). a fine-grained fertile soil consisting of mud, silt, and sand deposited by flowing water.

ally vb. (ə'laɪ). **-lying, -lied.** (usually foll. by to or with) 1. to unite or be united, esp. formally, as by treaty. 2. (tr.; usually passive) to be related, as through being similar. ~n. (ə'laɪ), pl. **-lies.** 3. a country, person, or group allied with another. 4. a plant, animal, etc., closely related to another in characteristics or form.

alma mater (ə'lma 'mɑ:tə, 'meɪtə) n. (*often caps.*) one's school, college, or university.

almanac (ə:l'mɑ:næk) n. a yearly calendar giving statistical information, such as the phases of the moon, tides, anniversaries, etc. Also (archaic): **almanack.**

almighty (ə:l'maɪtɪ) adj. 1. all-powerful. 2. **Inf.** (intensifier): *an almighty row.* ~adv. 3. **Inf.** (intensifier): *an almighty loud bang.*

Almighty (ə:l'maɪtɪ) n. the. another name for **God.**

almond (ə'mɒnd) n. 1. a small widely cultivated roseaceous tree that is native to W Asia and has pink flowers and an edible nutlike seed. 2. the seed, which has a yellowish-brown shell. 3. (*modifier*) made of or containing almonds: *almond cake.*

almoner (ə'mɒnə) n. 1. **Brit.** a former name for a trained hospital social worker. 2. (formerly) a person

who distributes charity on behalf of a household or institution.

almost (ə:l'mɒst) adv. very nearly.

alms (ɑ:mz) pl. n. charitable donations of money or goods to the poor or needy.

almshouse (ə:mz,haus) n. **Brit.** a privately supported house offering accommodation to the aged or needy.

aloe (ə'ləʊ) n., pl. **-oes.** 1. any plant of the genus *Aloe*, chiefly native to southern Africa, with fleshy spiny-toothed leaves. 2. **American aloe.** a tropical American agave which blooms only once in 10 to 30 years. Also called: **century plant.**

aloft (ə'lɒft) adv., adj. (*postpositive*) 1. in or into a high or higher place. 2. **Naut.** in or into the rigging of a vessel.

alone (ə'ləʊn) adj. (*postpositive*), adv. 1. apart from another or others. 2. without anyone or anything else: *one man alone could lift it.* 3. without equal: *he stands alone in the field of microbiology.* 4. to the exclusion of others: *she alone believed him.* 5. **leave or let alone.** to refrain from annoying or interfering with. 6. **leave well alone.** to be content with the state of things. 7. **let alone.** even less: *he can't afford beer, let alone whisky.*

along (ə'lɒŋ) prep. 1. over or for the length of: *along the road.* ~adv. 2. continuing over the length of some specified thing. 3. together with some specified person or people: *he'd like to come along.* 4. forward: *the horse trotted along.* 5. to a more advanced state: *he got the work moving along.* 6. **along with.** together with: *consider the advantages along with the disadvantages.*

▷ **Usage.** See at **plus.**

alongshore (ə'lɒŋʃɔ:) adv., adj. (*postpositive*) close to, by, or along a shore.

alongside (ə'lɒŋsaɪd) prep. 1. (often foll. by of) close beside: *alongside the quay.* ~adv. 2. near the side of something: *come alongside.*

aloof (ə'lʊ:f) adj. distant, unsympathetic, or supercilious in manner. —**aloofly** adv. —**a loofness** n.

alopecia (ə'lɒpɪ'ʃi:ə) n. baldness.

aloud (ə'ləʊd) adv., adj. (*postpositive*) 1. in a normal voice. 2. in a spoken voice; not silently.

alp (ælp) n. 1. a high mountain. 2. **the Alps.** a high mountain range in S central Europe.

alpaca (ælpækə) n. 1. a domesticated South American mammal related to the llama, with dark shaggy hair. 2. the wool or cloth obtained from this hair. 3. a glossy fabric simulating this.

alpenstock (ælpən,stɒk) n. a stout stick with an iron tip used by hikers, mountain climbers, etc.

alpha (ə'lfə) n. 1. the first letter in the Greek alphabet (Α, α). 2. **Brit.** the highest grade or mark, as in an examination. 3. (*modifier*) a. involving helium nuclei. b. denoting an isomeric or allotropic form of a substance.

alpha and omega n. the first and last, a phrase used in Revelation 1:8 to signify God's eternity.

alphabet (ə'lfə,bet) n. 1. a set of letters or other signs used in a writing system, each letter or sign being used to represent one or sometimes more than one phoneme in the language being transcribed. 2. any set of characters, esp. one representing sounds of speech. 3. basic principles or rudiments.

alphabetical (ə'lfə'betɪkəl) or **alphabetic** adj. 1. in the conventional order of the letters of an alphabet. 2. of or expressed by an alphabet. —**alphabetically** adv.

alphabetize or **-ise** (ə'lfəbə,təɪz) vb. (tr.) 1. to arrange in conventional alphabetical order. 2. to express by an alphabet. —**alphabeti'zation** or **-i'sation** n.

alphanumeric (ə'lfənju:'merɪk) or **alphanumeric** adj. (of a character set or file of data) consisting of alphabetical and numerical symbols.

alpha particle n. a helium nucleus, containing two neutrons and two protons, emitted during some radioactive transformations.

alpha ray n. ionizing radiation consisting of a stream of alpha particles.

alpine (ə'lpaɪn) adj. 1. of or relating to high mountains. 2. (of plants) growing on mountains above the limit for tree growth. 3. connected with mountaineering. 4. **Skiing.** of events such as the slalom and downhill. ~n. 5. a plant grown in or native to high altitudes.

already (ə'lredi) adv. 1. by or before a stated or implied time: *he is already here.* 2. at a time earlier than expected: *is it ten o'clock already?*

alright (ə'lraɪt) adv. **Not standard.** a variant spelling of **all right.**

Alsation (æl'seɪʃən) *n.* 1. a large wolflike breed of dog often used as a guard dog and by the police. Also called: **German shepherd dog**. 2. a native or inhabitant of Alsace, a region of NE France. ~*adj.* 3. of or relating to Alsace or its inhabitants.

also (ə'lsoʊ) *adv.* (*sentence modifier*) 1. in addition; as well; too. ~ 2. *sentence connector*. besides; moreover.
▷ **Usage.** Since *also* is not a conjunction, careful writers and speakers consider it poor style to use it alone as a connector in sentences like *he bought pens, paper, ink, also notebooks*. In such sentences, *and* or *and also* would be the appropriate words: *he bought pens, paper, ink, and notebooks*.

also-ran *n.* 1. a contestant, horse, etc., failing to finish among the first three. 2. *Inf.* a loser.

alt. *abbrev. for:* 1. alternate. 2. altitude. 3. alto.

Alta. *abbrev. for* Alberta.

altar ('ɔ:lta) *n.* 1. a raised place or structure where sacrifices are offered and religious rites performed. 2. (in Christian churches) the communion table. 3. a step in the wall of a dry dock.

altarpiece ('ɔ:lta,pis) *n.* a work of art set above and behind an altar; a reredos.

alter ('ɔ:lta) *vb.* 1. to make or become different in some respect; change. 2. (*tr.*) *Inf.*, chiefly *U.S.* a euphemistic word for **castrate** or **spay**. — **'alterable** *adj.*

alteration (ɔ:lta'reɪʃən) *n.* 1. a change or modification. 2. the act of altering.

altercate ('ɔ:lta,ket) *vb.* (*intr.*) to argue, esp. heatedly; dispute. — **'alter'cation** *n.*

alter ego ('æltə 'i:gəʊ, 'egəʊ) *n.* 1. a second self. 2. a very close friend.

alternate *vb.* ('ɔ:lta,neɪt). 1. (often foll. by *with*) to occur or cause to occur by turns: *day and night alternate*. 2. (*intr.*; often foll. by *between*) to swing repeatedly from one condition, action, etc., to another. 3. (*tr.*) to interchange regularly or in succession. 4. (*intr.*) (of an electric current, voltage, etc.) to reverse direction or sign at regular intervals. ~*adj.* (ɔ:l'tɜ:nɪt). 5. occurring by turns: *alternate feelings of love and hate*. 6. every other or second one of a series: *he came on alternate days*. 7. being a second choice; alternative. 8. *Bot.* (of leaves, flowers, etc.) arranged singly at different heights on either side of the stem. ~*n.* (ɔ:l'tɜ:nɪt, ɔ:l'tɜ:nɪt). 9. *U.S.* a person who substitutes for another; stand-in. — **'al'ternately** *adv.* — **'alter'nation** *n.*

alternate angles *pl. n.* two angles at opposite ends and on opposite sides of a transversal cutting two lines.

alternating current *n.* an electric current that reverses direction with a frequency independent of the characteristics of the circuit through which it flows. *Abbrev.*: *a.c.*

alternative (ɔ:l'tɜ:nətɪv) *n.* 1. a possibility of choice, esp. between two things. 2. either of such choices: *we took the alternative of walking*. ~*adj.* 3. presenting a choice, esp. between two possibilities only. 4. (of two things) mutually exclusive. 5. denoting a lifestyle, culture, art form, etc. that is regarded as preferable to that of contemporary society because it is less conventional, materialistic, or institutionalized. — **'al'ternatively** *adv.*

alternator ('ɔ:lta,neɪtə) *n.* an electrical machine that generates an alternating current.

althaea or *U.S.* **althea** (æl'θi:ə) *n.* any Eurasian plant of the genus *Althaea*, such as the hollyhock, having tall spikes of showy flowers.

althorn ('ælt,hɔ:n) *n.* a valved brass musical instrument belonging to the saxhorn family.

although (ɔ:l'ðəʊ) *conj.* (*subordinating*) even though: *although she was ill, she worked hard*.

altimeter (æl'tɪmɪtə, 'æltɪ,mɪtə) *n.* an instrument that indicates height above sea level, esp. one based on an aneroid barometer and fitted to an aircraft.

altitude ('æltɪ,tju:d) *n.* 1. the vertical height of an object, esp. above sea level. 2. *Maths.* the perpendicular distance from the base of a figure to the opposite vertex. 3. Also called: **elevation**. *Astron.*, *navigation*. the angular distance of a celestial body from the horizon. 4. *Surveying*. the angle of elevation of a point above the horizontal plane of the observer. 5. (*often pl.*) a high place or region.

alto ('æltəʊ) *n.* *pl.* -tos. 1. the lowest female voice. 2. the highest adult male voice; countertenor. 3. a singer with such a voice. *Cf.* **contralto**. 4. a flute, saxophone, etc., that is the third or fourth highest instrument in its group. ~*adj.* 5. denoting such an instrument.

alto clef *n.* the clef that establishes middle C as being on the third line of the staff.

altogether (ɔ:lta'geðə, 'ɔ:lta,geðə) *adv.* 1. with everything included: *altogether he owed me sixty pounds*. 2. completely; utterly: *altogether mad*. 3. on the whole: *altogether it was very good*. ~*n.* 4. in the altogether. *Inf.* naked.

altruism ('æltru:ɪzəm) *n.* unselfish concern for the welfare of others. — **'altruist** *n.* — **'altru'istic** *adj.* — **'altru'istically** *adv.*

alum ('æləm) *n.* 1. a colourless soluble hydrated double sulphate of aluminium and potassium used in manufacturing and in medicine. 2. any of a group of compounds of a monovalent metal or group and a trivalent metal.

aluminium (æljʊ'mɪnəm) or *U.S.* **aluminum** (ə'lʊ:mɪnəm) *n.* a light malleable silvery-white metallic element that resists corrosion; the third most abundant element in the earth's crust, occurring as a compound, principally in bauxite. *Symbol:* Al; *atomic no.:* 13; *atomic wt.:* 26.981.

aluminize or **-ise** (ə'lʊ:mɪnaɪz) *vb.* (*tr.*) to cover with aluminium or aluminium paint.

alumnus (ə'lʌmnəs) or (*fem.*) **alumna** (ə'lʌmnə) *n.*, *pl.* -ni (-nə) or -nae (-ni:). Chiefly *U.S.* a graduate of a school, college, etc.

always ('ɔ:lweɪz) *adv.* 1. without exception; every time: *he always arrives on time*. 2. continually; repeatedly. 3. in any case: *you could always take a day off work*. ~Also (archaic): **alway**.

alyssum ('ælsəm) *n.* a widely cultivated herbaceous garden plant, having clusters of small yellow or white flowers.

am (æm; *unstressed* əm) *vb.* (used with *I*) a form of the present tense of **be**.

Am the chemical symbol for americium.

AM or **am** *abbrev. for* amplitude modulation.

Am. *abbrev. for* America(n).

a.m. or **A.M.** (indicating the time period from midnight to midday) *abbrev. for* ante meridiem.

Amadhozi or **Amadlozi** (æmə'hɒʒi:z) *pl.n.* *S. African.* the ancestral spirits.

amadoda (æmə'dɒdə) *pl.n.* *S. African.* men, esp. Black men.

amah ('ɑ:mə) *n.* (in the East, esp. formerly) a nurse or maidservant.

amain (ə'meɪn) *adv.* *Arch. or poetic.* with great strength or haste.

amalgam (ə'mælgəm) *n.* 1. an alloy of mercury with another metal, esp. silver: *dental amalgam*. 2. a blend or combination.

amalgamate (ə'mælgə,ment) *vb.* 1. to combine or cause to combine; unite. 2. to alloy (a metal) with mercury. — **'a,malga'mation** *n.*

amanuensis (ə,mænjʊ'ensɪs) *n.*, *pl.* -ses (-si:z). a person employed to take dictation or to copy manuscripts.

amaranth ('æmə,rændθ) *n.* 1. *Poetic.* an imaginary flower that never fades. 2. any of numerous plants having tassel-like heads of small green, red, or purple flowers.

amaryllis (æmə'rɪlɪs) *n.* 1. a plant native to southern Africa having large lily-like reddish or white flowers. 2. any of several related plants.

amass (ə'mæs) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to accumulate or collect (esp. riches, etc.). 2. to gather in a heap. — **'a,masser** *n.*

amateur ('æmətə) *n.* 1. a person who engages in an activity, esp. a sport, as a pastime rather than for gain. 2. a person unskilled in a subject or activity. 3. a person who is fond of or admires something. 4. (*modifier*) of or for amateurs: *an amateur event*. ~*adj.* 5. not professional or expert: *an amateur approach*. — **'amateurish** *adj.* — **'amateurism** *n.*

amatory ('æmətəri) or **amatorial** *adj.* of, relating to, or inciting sexual love or desire.

amaze ('æmeɪz) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to fill with incredulity or surprise; astonish. ~*n.* 2. *Arch.* amazement. — **'a,maze'ment** *n.* — **'a,mazing** *adj.*

Amazon ('æməzn) *n.* 1. *Greek myth.* one of a race of women warriors of Scythia near the Black Sea. 2. (*often not cap.*) any tall, strong, or aggressive woman. — **'Amazonian** (æmə'zəʊniən) *adj.*

ambassador (æm'bæsədə) *n.* 1. a diplomat of the highest rank, accredited as permanent representative to another country. 2. **ambassador extraordinary**, a diplomat of the highest rank sent on a special mission. 3. **ambassador plenipotentiary**, a diplomat of the first rank with treaty-signing powers. 4. **ambassador-at-large**. *U.S.* an ambassador with special duties who may be sent to more than one government. 5. an authorized representative or messenger. — **'am'bassadress** *fem. n.*

—**ambassadorial** (æm,bæsə'dɔ:riəl) *adj.* —**ambassador-ship** *n.*

amber ('æmbə) *n.* 1. a yellow translucent fossil resin derived from extinct coniferous trees and often containing trapped insects. 2. a brownish-yellow colour. 3. an amber traffic light used as a warning between red and green.

ambergris ('æmbə,grɪs, -grɪs) *n.* a waxy substance secreted by the intestinal tract of the sperm whale and often found floating in the sea: used in the manufacture of some perfumes.

ambi- combining form. indicating both: *ambidextrous*; *ambivalence*.

ambidextrous (,æmbɪ'dekstrəs) *adj.* 1. equally expert with each hand. 2. *Inf.* skilled or adept. 3. underhanded. —**ambidexterity** (,æmbɪ'dek'sterɪti) or **'ambidextrousness** *n.*

ambience or ambiance ('æmbɪəns) *n.* the atmosphere of a place.

ambient ('æmbɪənt) *adj.* surrounding.

ambiguity (,æmbɪ'ɡju:ɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. vagueness or uncertainty of meaning. 2. an instance or example of this, as in the sentence *they are cooking apples*.

ambiguous (æm'bigjuəs) *adj.* 1. having more than one possible interpretation. 2. difficult to understand; obscure. —**ambiguously** *adv.* —**ambiguouslyness** *n.*

ambit ('æmbɪt) *n.* 1. scope or extent. 2. limits or boundary.

ambition (æm'bjʊən) *n.* 1. strong desire for success or distinction. 2. something so desired; goal.

ambitious (æm'bjʊəs) *adj.* 1. having a strong desire for success or achievement. 2. necessitating extraordinary effort or ability: *an ambitious project*. 3. (often foll. by *of*) having a great desire (for something or to do something). —**ambitiousness** *n.*

ambivalence (æm'brɪvələns) or **ambivalency** *n.* the co-existence of two opposed and conflicting emotions, etc. —**ambivalent** *adj.*

amble ('æmbəl) *vb. (intr.)* 1. to walk at a leisurely relaxed pace. 2. (of a horse) to move, lifting both legs on one side together. 3. to ride a horse at an amble. ~*n.* 4. a leisurely motion in walking. 5. a leisurely walk. 6. the ambling gait of a horse.

ambrosia (æm'brəʊziə) *n.* 1. *Classical myth.* the food of the gods, said to bestow immortality. Cf. **nectar** (sense 2). 2. anything particularly delightful to taste or smell. 3. another name for **beebread**. —**ambrosial** or **ambrosian** *adj.*

ambry ('æmbri) or **aumbry** ('ɔ:mbri) *n., pl. -bries.* 1. a recessed cupboard in the wall of a church near the altar, used to store sacred vessels, etc. 2. *Obs.* a small cupboard.

ambulance ('æmbjuləns) *n.* a motor vehicle designed to carry sick or injured people.

ambulate ('æmbju:leɪt) *vb. (intr.)* to wander about or move from place to place. —**'ambulant** *adj.* —**'ambu'lation** *n.*

ambulatory ('æmbjulətəri) *adj.* 1. of or designed for walking. 2. changing position; not fixed. 3. Also: **ambulant**. able to walk. ~*n., pl. -ries.* 4. a place for walking, such as an aisle or a cloister.

ambuscade (,æmbə'skeɪd) *n.* 1. an ambush. ~*vb.* 2. to ambush or lie in ambush.

ambush ('æmbʊʃ) *n.* 1. the act of waiting in a concealed position in order to launch a surprise attack. 2. a surprise attack from such a position. 3. the concealed position from which such an attack is launched. 4. the person or persons waiting to launch such an attack. ~*vb.* 5. to lie in wait (for). 6. (tr.) to attack suddenly from a concealed position.

ameer ('ə'mɪə) *n.* a variant spelling of **emir**.

ameliorate (ə'mɪljə'reɪt) *vb.* to make or become better. —**a,melio'ration** *n.* —**'ameliorative** *adj.* —**a'mello,rator** *n.*

amen (,eɪ'men, ˌɑ:'men) *interj.* 1. So be it! A term used at the end of a prayer. ~*n.* 2. the use of the word *amen*.

amenable (ə'mɪnəbəl) *adj.* 1. likely to listen, cooperate, etc. 2. accountable to some authority; answerable. 3. capable of being tested, judged, etc. —**a,mena'bility** or **'amenableness** *n.* —**a'menably** *adv.*

amend (ə'mend) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to improve; change for the better. 2. to correct. 3. to alter or revise (legislation, etc.) by formal procedure. —**'amendable** *adj.* —**a'mender** *n.*

amendment (ə'mendmənt) *n.* 1. correction. 2. an addition or alteration to a document, etc.

amends (ə'mendz) *n.* recompense or compensation for some injury, insult, etc.: *to make amends*.

amenity (ə'mɪnɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. (often pl.) a useful or pleasant facility: *a swimming pool was one of the amenities*. 2. the fact or condition of being agreeable. 3. (usually pl.) a social courtesy.

amenorrhoea or esp. U.S. amenorrhea (æ,mənə'riə,eɪ) *n.* abnormal absence of menstruation.

amerce (ə'mɜ:ɜ:s) *vb. (tr.)* *Obs.* 1. Law. to punish by a fine. 2. to punish with any arbitrary penalty. —**'a'merce-ment** *n.*

American (ə'merɪkən) *adj.* 1. of or relating to the United States of America, its inhabitants, or their form of English. 2. of or relating to the American continent. ~*n.* 3. a native or citizen of the U.S. 4. a native or inhabitant of any country of North, Central, or South America. 5. the English language as spoken or written in the United States. —**'A'merica,nize or -ise** *vb.*

American Indian *n.* 1. Also called: **Indian, Red Indian, Amerindian**. a member of any of the indigenous peoples of America, having straight black hair and a yellow to brown skin. ~*adj.* 2. of or relating to any of these peoples, their languages, or their cultures.

Americanism (ə'merɪkənɪzəm) *n.* 1. a custom, linguistic usage, or other feature peculiar to or characteristic of the United States. 2. loyalty to the United States.

americium (,æmə'rɪʃɪəm) *n.* a white metallic transuranic element artificially produced from plutonium. It is used as an alpha-particle source. Symbol: Am; atomic no.: 95; half-life of most stable isotope, ²⁴³Am: 7.4 × 10³ years.

amethyst ('æməθɪst) *n.* 1. a purple or violet variety of quartz used as a gemstone. 2. a purple variety of sapphire. 3. the purple colour of amethyst. —**'amethystine** (,æmə'θɪstəm) *adj.*

Amharic (æm'hærɪk) *n.* 1. the official language of Ethiopia. ~*adj.* 2. denoting this language.

amiable ('eɪmiəbəl) *adj.* having or displaying a pleasant or agreeable nature; friendly. —**'amia'bility** or **'amiableness** *n.* —**'amiably** *adv.*

amicable ('æmɪkəbəl) *adj.* characterized by friendliness: *an amicable agreement*. —**'amica'bility** or **'amicableness** *n.* —**'amicably** *adv.*

amice ('æmɪs) *n.* *Christianity.* a rectangular piece of white linen worn by priests around the neck and shoulders under the alb or, formerly, on the head.

amicus curiae (æ'mɪkʊs 'kjuəri,i:) *n., pl. amici curiae* (æ'mɪ:kai) Law. a person, not directly engaged in a case, who advises the court.

amid (ə'mɪd) or **amidst** *prep.* in the middle of; among.

amide ('æmaɪd) *n.* 1. any organic compound containing the group -CONH₂. 2. (*modifier*) containing the group -CONH₂: *amide group* or *radical*. 3. an inorganic compound having the general formula M(NH₂)_x, where M is a metal atom.

amidships (ə'mɪdʃɪps) *adv., adj. (postpositive)* Naut. at, near, or towards the centre of a vessel.

amine (ə'mɪ:n, 'æmɪn) *n.* an organic base formed by replacing one or more of the hydrogen atoms of ammonia by organic groups.

amino acid *n.* 1. any of a group of organic compounds containing one or more amino groups, -NH₂, and one or more carboxyl groups, -COOH. 2. any of a group of organic nitrogenous compounds that form the component molecules of proteins.

amir (ə'mɪə) *n.* a variant spelling of **emir**. —**a'mirate** *n.*

amiss (ə'mɪs) *adv.* 1. in an incorrect or defective manner. 2. *take amiss*, to feel offended by. ~*adj.* 3. (*postpositive*) wrong or faulty.

amity ('æmtɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* friendship; cordiality.

ammeter ('æm,mɪ:tə) *n.* an instrument for measuring an electric current in amperes.

ammo ('æməʊ) *n. Inf.* short for **ammunition**.

ammonia (ə'məʊniə) *n.* a colourless pungent gas used in the manufacture of fertilizers and as a refrigerant and solvent. Formula: NH₃.

ammonite ('æmə,natɪ) *n.* 1. any extinct marine cephalopod mollusc of the order *Ammonoidea*, which were common in Mesozoic times and had a coiled partitioned shell. 2. the shell of any of these animals, commonly occurring as a fossil.

ammonium (ə'məʊniəm) *n. (modifier)* of or containing the monovalent group NH₄⁺ or the ion NH₄⁺: **ammonium compounds**.

ammunition (,æmjʊ'nɪʃən) *n.* 1. any projectiles, such as bullets, rockets, etc., that can be discharged from a

weapon. 2. bombs, missiles, chemicals, etc., capable of use as weapons. 3. any means of defence or attack, as in an argument.

amnesia (æm'ni:ziə) *n.* partial or total loss of memory. —**amnesiac** (æm'ni:zi:ək) or **amnesic** (æm'ni:sik, -zik) *adj. n.*

amnesty (ˈæmnɪsti) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. a general pardon, esp. for offences against a government. 2. a period during which a law is suspended to allow offenders to admit their crime without fear of prosecution. ~*vb.* -**tying**, -**tied. 3. (*tr.*) to overlook or forget (an offence).**

amniocentesis (ˌæmniəʊsɛn'ti:sis) *n., pl. -ses (-si:z). removal of amniotic fluid for diagnostic purposes.*

amniön (ˈæmniən) *n., pl. -nions* or **-nia** (-ni:ə). the innermost of two membranes enclosing an embryonic reptile, bird, or mammal. —**amniotic** (ˌæmni'ɒtɪk) *adj.*

amoeba or **U.S. ameba** (ə'mi:bə) *n., pl. -bae* (-bi:) or **-bas.** any of an order of protozoans able to change shape because of the movements of cell processes. They live in fresh water or soil or as parasites in man and animals. —**a'moebic** or **U.S. a'mebic** *adj.*

amok (ə'mak, ə'mɒk) *n., adv.* a variant spelling of **amuck**.

among (ə'mʌŋ) or **amongst** *prep.* 1. in the midst of: *he lived among the Indians.* 2. to each of: *divide the reward among yourselves.* 3. in the group, class, or number of: *among the greatest writers.* 4. taken out of (a group): *he is one among many.* 5. with one another within a group: *decide it among yourselves.* 6. in the general opinion or practice of: *accepted among experts.*

▷ **Usage.** See at **between**.

amontillado (ə,mɒntɪ'llo:dəu) *n.* a medium dry sherry.

amoral (ə'mɒrəl) *adj.* 1. having no moral quality; non-moral. 2. without moral standards or principles. —**amorality** (ˌemo'rælɪti) *n.*

▷ **Usage.** **Amoral** is frequently and incorrectly used where **immoral** is meant. In careful usage, **immoral** is used of that which infringes moral rules and **amoral** only of that to which considerations of morality are irrelevant or of persons who lack any moral code.

amorous (ˈæməərəs) *adj.* 1. inclined towards or displaying love or desire. 2. in love. 3. of or relating to love. —**amorously** *adv.* —**amorouslyness** *n.*

amorphous (ə'mɔ:fəs) *adj.* 1. lacking a definite shape. 2. of no recognizable character or type. 3. (of rocks, etc.) not having a crystalline structure. —**a'morphism** *n.* —**a'morphousness** *n.*

amortize or **-tise** (ə'mɔ:taɪz) *vb. (tr.)* 1. **Finance.** to liquidate (a debt, mortgage, etc.) by payments or by periodic transfers to a sinking fund. 2. to write off (a wasting asset) by transfers to a sinking fund. 3. **Property law.** (formerly) to transfer (lands, etc.) in mortmain. —**a,mortl'ization** or **-tl'sation** *n.*

amount (ə'maʊnt) *n.* 1. extent; quantity. 2. the total of two or more quantities. 3. the full value or significance of something. 4. a principal sum plus the interest on it, as in a loan. ~*vb.* 5. (*intr.*, usually foll. by *to*) to be equal or add up.

amour (ə'mʊə) *n.* a love affair, esp. a secret or illicit one.

amp. *abbrev. for:* 1. **amperage.** 2. **ampere.**

ampelopsis (ˌæmp'lɒpsɪ) *n.* any of a genus of woody climbing plants of tropical and subtropical Asia and America.

amperage (ˈæmpərədʒ) *n.* the strength of an electric current measured in amperes.

ampere (ˈæmpɛə) *n.* 1. the basic SI unit of electric current; the constant current that, when maintained in two parallel conductors of infinite length and negligible cross section placed 1 metre apart in a vacuum, produces a force of 2×10^{-7} newton per metre between them. 2. a former unit of electric current (**international ampere**); the current that, when passed through a solution of silver nitrate, deposits silver at the rate of 0.001118 gram per second. ~*Abbrev.*: **amp.** *Symbol:* A

ampersand (ˈæmpə,sænd) *n.* the character (&), meaning *and*: *John Brown & Co.*

amphetamine (æm'fetə,mɪ:n) *n.* a synthetic colourless liquid used medicinally, mainly for its stimulant action on the central nervous system.

amphi- *prefix of nouns and adjectives.* 1. on both sides; at both ends; of both kinds: **amphipod**; **amphibious**. 2. around: **amphibole**.

amphibian (æm'fɪbiən) *n.* 1. any cold-blooded vertebrate of the class **Amphibia**, typically living on land but breeding in water. The class includes newts, frogs, and toads. 2. an aircraft able to land and take off from both

water and land. 3. any vehicle able to travel on both water and land. ~*adj.* 4. another word for **amphibious**. 5. of or belonging to the class **Amphibia**.

amphibious (æm'fɪbiəs) *adj.* 1. able to live both on land and in the water, as frogs, etc. 2. designed for operation on or from both water and land. 3. relating to military forces and operations launched from the sea against an enemy shore. 4. having a dual or mixed nature. —**am'phibiousness** *n.*

amphibole (æm'fɪbəl) *n.* any of a large group of minerals consisting of the silicates of calcium, iron, magnesium, sodium, and aluminium, which are common constituents of igneous rocks.

amphibology (ˌæm'fɪbələdʒi) or **amphiboly** (æm'fɪbəlɪ) *n., pl. -gies* or **-lies.** ambiguity of expression, esp. when due to a grammatical construction, as in *save rags and waste paper*.

amphictyony (æm'fɪktɪɒni) *n., pl. -nies.* (in ancient Greece) a religious association of states for the maintenance of temples and the cults connected with them. —**amphictyonic** (æm'fɪktɪ'ɒnɪk) *adj.*

amphipod (ˈæmfi,pɒd) *n.* 1. any marine or freshwater crustacean of the order **Amphipoda**, such as the sand hoppers, in which the body is laterally compressed. ~*adj.* 2. of or belonging to the **Amphipoda**.

amphiprostyle (æm'fɪprə,stail) *adj.* (esp. of a classical temple) having a set of columns at both ends but not at the sides.

amphitheatre or **U.S. amphitheater** (æm'fɪ,θiətrə) *n.* 1. a building, usually circular or oval, in which tiers of seats rise from a central open arena. 2. a place where contests are held. 3. any level circular area of ground surrounded by higher ground. 4. a gallery in a theatre. 5. a lecture room in which seats are tiered away from a central area.

amphora (ˈæmfərə) *n., pl. -phorae* (-fə,rɪ:) or **-phoras.** a Greek or Roman two-handled narrow-necked jar for oil, etc.

ample (ˈæmpəl) *adj.* 1. more than sufficient: *an ample helping.* 2. large: *of ample proportions.* —**ampleness** *n.*

amplifier (ˈæmplɪ,faiə) *n.* 1. an electronic device used to increase the strength of the current fed into it, esp. one for the amplification of sound in a radio, record player, etc. 2. **Photog.** an additional lens for altering focal length. 3. a person or thing that amplifies.

amplify (ˈæmplɪ,fai) *vb. -fying, -fied.* 1. (*tr.*) to increase in size, extent, effect, etc., as by the addition of extra material. 2. **Electronics.** to produce amplification of (electrical signals, sound, etc.). 3. (*intr.*) to expand a speech, narrative, etc.

amplitude (ˈæmplɪ,tju:d) *n.* 1. greatness of extent; magnitude. 2. abundance. 3. breadth or scope, as of the mind. 4. the maximum displacement from the zero or mean position of a periodic motion. 5. **Astron.** the angular distance along the horizon measured from true east or west to the point of intersection of the vertical circle passing through a celestial body.

amplitude modulation *n.* one of the principal methods of transmitting information using radio waves, the relevant signal being superimposed onto a radio-frequency carrier wave. The frequency of the carrier wave remains unchanged but its amplitude is varied in accordance with the amplitude of the input signal. Cf. **frequency modulation.**

amply (ˈæmplɪ) *adv.* fully; generously.

ampoule (ˈæmpu:l, -pju:l) or (esp. U.S.) **ampule** *n.* **Med.** a small glass vessel in which liquids for injection are hermetically sealed.

ampulla (æm'pʊlə) *n., pl. -pullae* (-'pʊli:). 1. **Anat.** the dilated end part of certain ducts or canals. 2. **Christianity.** a. a vessel for the wine and water used at the Eucharist. b. a small flask for consecrated oil. 3. a Roman two-handled bottle for oil, wine, or perfume.

amputate (ˈæmpju:tɪt) *vb. Surgery.* to remove (all or part of a limb). —**ampu'tation** *n.*

amuck (ə'mak) or **amok** *n.* 1. a state of murderous frenzy. ~*adv.* 2. **run amuck.** to run about as with a frenzied desire to kill.

amulet (ˈæmjʊlɪt) *n.* a trinket or piece of jewellery worn as a protection against evil; charm.

amuse (ə'mju:z) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to entertain; divert. 2. to cause to laugh or smile. —**a'musing** *adj.*

amusement (ə'mju:zmənt) *n.* 1. something that amuses, such as a game or pastime. 2. a mechanical device used for entertainment, as at a fair. 3. the act of amusing or the state or quality of being amused.

amylase (ˈæmi,lɛɪz) *n.* any of several enzymes that

hydrolyse starch and glycogen to simple sugars, such as glucose.

amylum ('æmiləm) *n.* another name for **starch** (senses 1, 2).

an' (æn; unstressed ən) *determiner.* (*article*) a form of **a**, used before an initial vowel and sometimes before an initial *h*: *an old car; an elf; an historic moment.*

an' or **an'** (æn; unstressed ən) *conj.* (*subordinating*) an obsolete word for **if**. See **and** (sense 8).

an. abbrev. for **anno**.

an- or before a consonant **a-** *prefix.* not; without: *anaphrodisiac.*

-an, -ean, or -ian *suffix.* 1. (*forming adjectives and nouns*) belonging to; coming from; typical of; adhering to: *European; Elizabethan; Christian.* 2. (*forming nouns*) a person who specializes or is expert in: *dietician.*

Anabaptist (,ænbəptɪst) *n.* 1. a member of any of various Protestant movements, esp. of the 16th century, that rejected infant baptism, insisted that adults be rebaptized, and sought to establish Christian communism. ~*adj.* 2. of these sects or their doctrines. — **Ana-**'baptism *n.*

anabolism (ə'næbə,lɪzəm) *n.* a metabolic process in which complex molecules are synthesized from simpler ones with the storage of energy; constructive metabolism. — **anabolic** (,ænbə'bolɪk) *adj.*

anachronism (ə'nækrə,nɪzəm) *n.* 1. the representation of an event, person, or thing in a historical context in which it could not have occurred or existed. 2. a person or thing that belongs or seems to belong to another time. — **a,nachro'nistic** *adj.* — **a,nachro'nisti-**cally *adv.*

anaconda (,ænbə'kɒndə) *n.* a very large nonvenomous arboreal and semiaquatic snake of tropical South America, which kills its prey by constriction.

anadromous (ə'nædrəməs) *adj.* (of fishes such as the salmon) migrating up rivers from the sea in order to breed.

anaemia or **U.S. anemia** (ə'ni:mɪə) *n.* a deficiency in the number of red blood cells or in their haemoglobin content, resulting in pallor and lack of energy.

anaemic or **U.S. anemic** (ə'ni:mɪk) *adj.* 1. relating to or suffering from anaemia. 2. pale and sickly looking; lacking vitality.

anaerobe (æn'eəəʊb) or **anaerobium** (,ænbə'raʊbɪəm) *n.*, *pl.* -obes or -obia (-'əʊbiə). an organism that does not require or require the absence of free oxygen or air. — **anaer'obic** *adj.*

anaesthesia or **U.S. anesthesia** (,æns'θi:ziə) *n.* 1. loss of bodily sensation, esp. of touch, as the result of nerve damage or other abnormality. 2. loss of sensation, esp. of pain, induced by drugs: called **general anaesthesia** when consciousness is lost and **local anaesthesia** when only a specific area of the body is involved.

anaesthetic or **U.S. anesthetic** (,æns'θetɪk) *n.* 1. a substance that causes anaesthesia. ~*adj.* 2. causing or characterized by anaesthesia.

anaesthetist (ə'ni:θəstɪst) *n.* *Brit.* a doctor specializing in the administration of anaesthetics. *U.S. name:* **anesthesiologist**.

anaesthetize, anaesthetise, or U.S. anesthetize (ə'ni:θə,təɪz) *vb.* (*tr.*) to render insensible to pain by administering an anaesthetic. — **a,naestheti'zation, a,naestheti'sation, or U.S. a,nestheti'zation** *n.*

anaglypta (,ænbə'glɪptə) *n.* a type of thick embossed wallpaper designed to be painted.

anagram ('ænbə,græm) *n.* a word or phrase the letters of which can be rearranged into another word or phrase. — **anagrammatic** (,ænbə'græmætɪk) or **anagram'matical** *adj.*

anal ('eɪnəl) *adj.* 1. of or near the anus. 2. *Psychoanal.* relating to a stage of psychosexual development during which the child's interest is concentrated on the anal region and excremental functions. — **anally** *adv.*

analects ('ænbə,lektɪs) or **analecta** (,ænbə'lektə) *pl. n.* selected literary passages from one or more works.

analgesia (,ænbə'dʒi:ziə) or **algia** (ænbə'dʒɪə) *n.* inability to feel pain. — **anal'gesic** *adj.*, *n.*

analogize or -gise (ə'nælə,dʒaɪz) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to make use of analogy, as in argument. 2. (*tr.*) to make analogous or reveal analogy in.

analogous (ə'næləgəs) *adj.* 1. similar or corresponding in some respect. 2. *Biol.* (of organs and parts) having the same function but different evolutionary origin. 3. *Linguistics.* formed by analogy: *an analogous plural.*

analogue or **U.S. (sometimes) analog** ('ænbə,lɒg) *n.* 1.

something analogous to something else. 2. *Biol.* an analogous part or organ.

analogy (ə'nælədʒɪ) *n.*, *pl.* -gies. 1. agreement or similarity, esp. in a limited number of features. 2. a comparison made to show such a similarity: *an analogy between an atom and the solar system.* 3. *Biol.* the relationship between analogous organs or parts. 4. *Logic, Maths., Philosophy.* a form of reasoning in which a similarity between two or more things is inferred from a known similarity between them in other respects. 5. *Linguistics.* imitation of existing models or regular patterns in the formation of words, etc.: *a child may use "sheeps" as the plural of "sheep" by analogy with "cat," "cats," etc.*

analyse or U.S. -lyze ('ænzə,ləɪz) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to examine in detail in order to discover meaning, essential features, etc. 2. (*tr.*) to break down into components or essential features. 3. (*tr.*) to make a mathematical, chemical, grammatical, etc., analysis of. 4. another word for **psychoanalyse**. — **analys** or **U.S. -lyzer** *n.*

analysis (ə'nælɪsɪs) *n.*, *pl.* -ses (-,sɪz) 1. the division of a physical or abstract whole into its constituent parts to examine or determine their relationship. 2. a statement of the results of this. 3. short for **psychoanalysis**. 4. *Chem.* a. the decomposition of a substance in order to determine the kinds of constituents present (**qualitative analysis**) or the amount of each constituent (**quantitative analysis**). b. the result obtained by such a determination. 5. *Linguistics.* the use of word order together with word function to express syntactic relations in a language, as opposed to the use of inflections. 6. *Maths.* the branch of mathematics principally concerned with algebra and calculus. 7. **in the last, final, or ultimate analysis.** after everything has been given due consideration.

analyst ('ænəlɪst) *n.* 1. a person who analyses or is skilled in analysis. 2. a psychoanalyst.

analytic (,ænlɪ'tɪk) or **analytical** *adj.* 1. relating to analysis. 2. capable of or given to analysing: *an analytic mind.* 3. *Linguistics.* denoting languages characterized by analysis. 4. *Logic.* (of a proposition) necessarily true by reference to meaning alone, as in *all spinsters are unmarried*. — **analytically** *adv.* — **analyticity** (,ænlɪ'tɪsɪtɪ) *n.*

anapaest or anapest ('ænbəpest, -,pɪst) *n.* *Prosody.* a metrical foot of three syllables, the first two short, the last long (˘˘—). — **ana'paestic** or **ana'pestic** *adj.*

anaphora (ə'næfərə) *n.* 1. *Rhetoric.* the repetition of a word or phrase at the beginning of successive clauses. 2. *Grammar.* the use of a word such as a pronoun to avoid repetition, as for example of *one* in *He offered me a drink but I didn't want one*.

anarchism ('ænbə,kɪzəm) *n.* 1. *Political theory.* a doctrine advocating the abolition of government. 2. the principles or practice of anarchists.

anarchist ('ænbəkɪst) *n.* 1. a person who advocates the abolition of government and a social system based on voluntary cooperation. 2. a person who causes disorder or upheaval.

anarchy ('ænbəkɪ) *n.* 1. general lawlessness and disorder, esp. when thought to result from an absence or failure of government. 2. the absence of government. 3. the absence of any guiding or uniting principle; chaos. 4. political anarchism. — **anarchic** (ænbə'kɪk) or **an'archical** *adj.*

anastigmatic (,ænbəstɪg'mætɪk) *adj.* (of a lens or optical device) not astigmatic.

anathema (ə'næθəmə) *n.*, *pl.* -mas. 1. a detested person or thing: *he is anathema to me.* 2. a formal ecclesiastical excommunication, or denunciation of a doctrine. 3. the person or thing so cursed. 4. a strong curse.

anathematize or -tise (ə'næθəmə,təɪz) *vb.* to pronounce an anathema (upon a person, etc.); curse.

anatomize or -mise (ə'nædə,məɪz) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to dissect (an animal or plant). 2. to examine in minute detail.

anatomy (ə'nætəmə) *n.*, *pl.* -mies. 1. the science concerned with the physical structure of animals and plants. 2. the physical structure of an animal or plant or any of its parts. 3. a book or treatise on this subject. 4. dissection of an animal or plant. 5. any detailed analysis: *the anatomy of a crime.* 6. *Inf.* the human body. — **anatomical** (,ænbə'tɒmɪkəl) *adj.* — **a-natomist** *n.*

-ance or **-ancy** *suffix forming nouns.* indicating an action, state or condition, or quality: *utterance; resemblance.*

ancestor ('ænsəstə) *n.* 1. a person from whom another

is directly descended; forefather. 2. an early type of animal or plant from which a later type has evolved. 3. a person or thing regarded as a forerunner: *the ancestor of the modern camera*. —'ancestress *fem. n.*

ancestral (æ'n'seɪstrəl) *adj.* of or inherited from ancestors.

ancestry ('ænsɪstri) *n., pl. -tries*. 1. lineage or descent, esp. when noble or distinguished. 2. ancestors collectively.

anchor ('æŋkə) *n.* 1. a device attached to a vessel by a cable and dropped overboard so as to grip the bottom and restrict movement. 2. an object used to hold something else firmly in place: *the rock provided an anchor for the rope*. 3. a source of stability or security. 4. *Sport*. short for **anchor man**. 5. *cast, come to, or drop anchor*. to anchor a vessel. 6. *weigh anchor*. to haul in an anchor. 7. *ride at anchor*. to be anchored. ~*vb.* 8. to use an anchor to hold (a vessel) in one place. 9. to fasten or be fastened securely; fix or become fixed firmly.

anchorage ('æŋkərɪdʒ) *n.* 1. the act of anchoring. 2. any place where a vessel is anchored. 3. a place designated for vessels to anchor. 4. a fee imposed for anchoring. 5. anything used as an anchor. 6. a source of security or strength.

anchorite ('æŋkə,raɪt) *n.* a person who lives in seclusion, esp. a religious recluse; hermit. —'anchoress *fem. n.*

anchor man *n.* 1. *Sport*. the last person in a team to compete, esp. in a relay race. 2. (in broadcasting) a person in a central studio who links up and maintains contact with various outside camera units, reporters, etc.

anchovy ('æntʃəvi) *n., pl. -vies or -vy*. any of various small marine food fishes which have a salty taste and are often tinned or made into a paste or essence.

anchusa (æŋ'kjʊ:sə) *n.* any of several Eurasian plants having rough hairy stems and leaves and blue flowers.

ancient ('eɪnfənt) *adj.* 1. dating from very long ago: *ancient ruins*. 2. very old. 3. of the far past, esp. before the collapse of the Western Roman Empire (476 A.D.). 4. **ancient light**. a right to the access of light through a window, recognized at law when it has been enjoyed for 20 years or more. ~*n.* 5. (*often pl.*) a member of a civilized nation in the ancient world, esp. a Greek or Roman. 6. (*often pl.*) one of the classical authors of Greek or Roman antiquity. 7. *Arch.* an old man. —'ancientness *n.*

anciently ('eɪnfənθli) *adv.* in ancient times.

ancillary (æ'n'sɪləri) *adj.* 1. subsidiary. 2. auxiliary; supplementary: *ancillary services*. ~*n., pl. -laries*. 3. a subsidiary or auxiliary thing or person.

-ancy *suffix forming nouns*. variant of **-ance**, indicating condition or quality: *poignancy*.

and (ænd; unstressed ənd, ən) *conj.* (*coordinating*) 1. in addition to: *boys and girls*. 2. as a consequence: *he fell down and cut his knee*. 3. afterwards: *we pay and go through that door*. 4. plus: *two and two equals four*. 5. used to give emphasis or indicate repetition or continuity: *it rained and rained*. 6. used to express a contrast between instances of what is named: *there are jobs and jobs*. 7. *Inf.* used in place of *to* in infinitives after verbs such as *try, go, and come*: *try and see it my way*. 8. an obsolete word for *if*: *and it please you*.

▷ **Usage**. See at *to*.

-and or -end *suffix forming nouns*. indicating a person or thing that is to be dealt with in a specified way: *dividend; multiplicand*.

andante (æ'n'dænti) *Musical. ~adj., adv.* 1. at a moderately slow tempo. ~*n.* 2. a passage or piece to be performed in this manner.

andantino (,ændæn'tɪnəu) *Musical. ~adj., adv.* 1. slightly faster or slower than andante. ~*n., pl. -nos*. 2. a passage or piece to be performed in this manner.

andiron ('ænd,aɪən) *n.* either of a pair of metal stands for supporting logs in a hearth.

and/or *conj.* (*coordinating*). used to join terms when either one or the other or both is indicated: *passports and/or other means of identification*.

▷ **Usage**. *And/or* is not universally accepted as being good usage outside legal and commercial contexts. It is never used by careful writers and speakers where *or* is meant: *he must bring his car or his bicycle (not his car and/or his bicycle)*.

andro- or before a vowel **andr-** *combining form*. 1. male; masculine: *androsterone*. 2. (in botany) stamen or anther: *androecium*.

androgen ('ændrədʒən) *n.* any of several steroids that

promote development of male sexual characteristics. —**androgenic** (,ændrədʒɪnɪk) *adj.*

androgynous (æ'n'drɒdʒɪnəs) *adj.* 1. *Bot.* having male and female flowers in the same inflorescence. 2. hermaphrodite.

android ('ændrɔɪd) *n.* 1. (in science fiction) a robot resembling a human being. ~*adj.* 2. resembling a human being.

anecdote ('ænik,dəʊt) *n.* a short usually amusing account of an incident. —,**anec'dotal** or ,**anec'dotic** *adj.* —,**anec'dotalist** or ,**anec'dotist** *n.*

anechoic (,æni'kəʊɪk) *adj.* having a low degree of reverberation: *an anechoic recording studio*.

anemia (ə'ni:mɪə) *n.* the usual U.S. spelling of **anaemia**. **anemometer** (,æni'momɪtə) *n.* Also called: **wind gauge**. an instrument for recording the speed and often the direction of winds. —,**anemometry** *n.* —**anemometric** (,æni'mə'trɪk) *adj.*

anemone (ə'neməni) *n.* any woodland plant of the genus *Anemone* of N temperate regions, such as the white-flowered **wood anemone** or **windflower**. Some cultivated anemones have coloured flowers.

anent (ə'nent) *prep.* *Arch. or Scot.* concerning; about.

aneroid barometer ('ænə,rɔɪd) *n.* a device for measuring atmospheric pressure without the use of fluids. It consists of a partially evacuated chamber, the lid of which is displaced by variations in air pressure. This displacement is magnified by levers and made to operate a pointer.

anesthesia (,ænis'ti:ziə) *n.* the usual U.S. spelling of **anaesthesia**.

aneurysm or **aneurism** ('ænjə,rɪzəm) *n.* a sac formed by abnormal dilation of the weakened wall of a blood vessel.

anew (ə'nju:) *adv.* 1. once more. 2. in a different way; afresh.

angel ('eɪndʒəl) *n.* 1. *Theol.* one of a class of spiritual beings attendant upon God. In medieval angelology they are divided by rank into nine orders. 2. a divine messenger from God. 3. a guardian spirit. 4. a conventional representation of any of these beings, depicted in human form with wings. 5. *Inf.* a person who is kind, pure, or beautiful. 6. *Inf.* an investor esp. in a theatrical production. 7. Also called: **angel-noble**. a former English gold coin with a representation of the archangel Michael on it. 8. *Inf.* an unexplained signal on a radar screen.

angel cake or *esp. U.S.* **angel food cake** *n.* a very light sponge cake made without egg yolks.

angelfish ('eɪndʒəl,fɪʃ) *n., pl. -fish or -fishes*. 1. any of various small tropical marine fishes which have a deep flattened brightly coloured body. 2. a South American freshwater fish having a compressed body and large dorsal and anal fins: a popular aquarium fish. 3. a shark with flattened pectoral fins.

angelic (æ'n'dʒɛlɪk) *adj.* 1. of or relating to angels. 2. *Inf.* resembling an angel in beauty, etc. —**an'gelical** *adj.* —**an'gelically** *adv.*

angelica (æ'n'dʒɛlɪkə) *n.* 1. an umbelliferous plant, the aromatic seeds, leaves, and stems of which are used in medicine and cookery. 2. the candied stems of this plant, used for decorating and flavouring sweet dishes.

Angelus ('ændʒɪləs) *n. R.C. Church*. 1. a series of prayers recited in the morning, at midday, and in the evening. 2. the bell (*Angelus bell*) signalling the times of these prayers.

anger ('æŋgə) *n.* 1. a feeling of great annoyance or antagonism as the result of some real or supposed grievance; rage; wrath. ~*vb. (tr.)* 2. to make angry; enrage.

Angevin ('ændʒɪvɪn) *n.* 1. a native or inhabitant of Anjou, in France. 2. *History*. a member of the Plantagenet royal line, esp. one of the kings of England from Henry II to Richard II (1154-1216). ~*adj.* 3. of Anjou or its inhabitants. 4. of the Plantagenet kings of England.

angina (æ'n'dʒaɪnə) *n.* 1. any disease marked by painful attacks of spasmodic choking. 2. short for **angina pectoris**.

angina pectoris ('pektərɪs) *n.* a sudden intense pain in the chest, caused by momentary lack of adequate blood supply to the heart muscle. Sometimes shortened to **angina**.

angiosperm ('ændʒɪə,spɜ:m) *n.* any seed-bearing plant in which the ovules are enclosed in an ovary which develops into the fruit after fertilization; any flowering plant. Cf. **gymnosperm**.

angle ('æŋɡl) *n.* 1. the space between two straight lines or two planes that extend from a common point. 2. the shape formed by two such lines or planes. 3. the extent to which one such line or plane diverges from the other, measured in degrees or radians. 4. a recess; corner. 5. point of view: *look at the question from another angle*. 6. See **angle iron**. ~*vb.* 7. to move in or bend into angles or an angle. 8. (*tr.*) to produce (an article, statement, etc.) with a particular point of view. 9. (*tr.*) to present, or place at an angle. 10. (*intr.*) to turn in a different direction.

angle ('æŋɡl) *vb. (intr.)* 1. to fish with a hook and line. 2. (often foll. by *for*) to attempt to get: *he angled for a compliment*. ~*n.* 3. Obs. a fishhook.

angle iron *n.* Also called: **angle**, **angle bar**. an iron or a steel structural bar that has an L-shaped cross section.

angle of incidence *n.* 1. the angle that a line or beam of radiation makes with a line perpendicular to the surface at the point of incidence. 2. the angle between the chord line of an aircraft wing or tailplane and the aircraft's longitudinal axis.

angler ('æŋɡlə) *n.* 1. a person who fishes with a rod and line. 2. Also called: **angler fish**. any of various spiny-finned fishes which live at the bottom of the sea and typically have a long movable dorsal fin with which they lure their prey.

Anglican ('æŋɡlɪkən) *adj.* 1. denoting or relating to the Church of England or one of the churches in communion with it. ~*n.* 2. a member of the Anglican Church.

Anglicism ('æŋɡlɪsɪzəm) *n.* 1. a word, or idiom peculiar to the English language, esp. as spoken in England. 2. an English mannerism, custom, etc. 3. the fact of being English.

anglicize or **-cise** ('æŋɡlɪsaɪz) *vb. -cizing, -cized* or **-cising, -cised.** (*sometimes cap.*) to make or become English in outlook, form, etc.

angling ('æŋɡlɪŋ) *n.* the art or sport of catching fish with a baited hook or other lure, such as a fly; fishing.

Anglo ('æŋɡlə) *n., pl. -glos.* **Canad.** an English-speaking Canadian, esp. one of Anglo-Celtic origin; an Anglo-Canadian.

Anglo- ('æŋɡləʊ-) *combining form.* denoting English or England: **Anglo-Saxon**.

Anglo-French *adj.* 1. of England and France. 2. of Anglo-French. ~*n.* 3. the Norman-French language of medieval England.

Anglo-Indian *adj.* 1. of England and India. 2. denoting or relating to Anglo-Indians. 3. (of a word) introduced into English from an Indian language. ~*n.* 4. a person of mixed British and Indian descent. 5. an Englishman who lives or has lived for a long time in India.

Anglo-Norman *adj.* 1. relating to the Norman conquerors of England, their society, or their language. ~*n.* 2. a Norman inhabitant of England after 1066. 3. the Anglo-French language.

Anglophile ('æŋɡləʊfɪl, -fɪl) or **Anglophil** *n.* a person having admiration for England or the English.

Anglo-Saxon *n.* 1. a member of any of the West Germanic tribes that settled in Britain from the 5th century A.D. 2. the language of these tribes. See **Old English**. 3. any White person whose native language is English. 4. *Inf.* plain blunt English. ~*adj.* 5. forming part of the Germanic element in Modern English: "*forget*" is an Anglo-Saxon word. 6. of the Anglo-Saxons or the Old English language. 7. of the White Protestant culture of Britain and the U.S.

angora ('æŋ'ɡɔ:rə) *n. (sometimes cap.)* 1. the long soft hair of the Angora goat or the fur of the Angora rabbit. 2. yarn, cloth, or clothing made from this hair. 3. (*as modifier*) an *angora* sweater. ~See also **mohair**.

angostura bitters ('æŋɡə'stʃʊərə) *pl. n. (often cap.)* **Trademark.** a bitter aromatic tonic, used as a flavouring in alcoholic drinks.

angry ('æŋɡrɪ) *adj. -grier, -griest.* 1. feeling or expressing annoyance, animosity, or resentment. 2. suggestive of anger: *angry clouds*. 3. severely inflamed: *an angry sore*. —'angrily *adv.*

angst (æŋst) *n.* an acute but nonspecific sense of anxiety or remorse.

angstrom ('æŋstrəm) *n.* a unit of length equal to 10⁻¹⁰ metre, used principally to express the wavelengths of electromagnetic radiations. Symbol: Å or Å. Also called: **angstrom unit**.

anguish ('æŋɡwɪʃ) *n.* 1. extreme pain or misery; mental or physical torture; agony. ~*vb.* 2. to afflict or be afflicted with anguish.

angular ('æŋɡjʊlə) *adj.* 1. lean or bony. 2. awkward or stiff. 3. having an angle or angles. 4. placed at an angle. 5. measured by an angle or by the rate at which an angle changes; *angular momentum*; *angular velocity*.

angularity ('æŋɡjʊ'lærɪtɪ) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. the condition of being angular. 2. an angular shape.

anhydrous (æn'haidrəs) *adj.* containing no water, esp. no water of crystallization.

anil ('ænl) *n.* a leguminous West Indian shrub which is a source of indigo. Also called: **indigo**.

aniline ('ænlɪn, -lɪn) *n.* a colourless oily poisonous liquid used in the manufacture of dyes, plastics, and explosives. Formula: C₆H₅NH₂.

aniline dye *n.* any synthetic dye originally made from aniline, found in coal tar.

anima ('ænmə) *n.* (in Jungian psychology) **a.** the inner personality. **b.** the feminine principle as present in the male unconscious.

animadversion ('ænməd'vɜ:ʃən) *n.* criticism or censure.

animadvert ('ænməd'vɜ:t) *vb. (intr.)* 1. (usually foll. by *on* or *upon*) to comment with strong criticism (upon); make censorious remarks (about). 2. to make an observation or comment.

animal ('ænməl) *n.* 1. **Zool.** any living organism characterized by voluntary movement, the possession of specialized sense organs enabling rapid response to stimuli, and the ingestion of complex organic substances. 2. any mammal, esp. except man. 3. a brutish person. 4. **Facetious.** a person or thing (esp. in **no such animal**). ~*adj.* 5. of or relating to animals. 6. of or relating to physical needs or desires; carnal; sensual.

animalcule ('ænm'ælkju:l) *n., pl. -cules.* a microscopic animal such as an amoeba or rotifer. —'ani'malcular *adj.*

animal husbandry *n.* the science of breeding, rearing, and caring for farm animals.

animalism ('ænmə'lɪzəm) *n.* 1. preoccupation with physical matters; sensuality. 2. the doctrine that man lacks a spiritual nature. 3. a mode of behaviour typical of animals.

animality ('ænm'æltɪtɪ) *n.* 1. the animal side of man, as opposed to the intellectual or spiritual. 2. the characteristics of an animal.

animalize or **-ise** ('ænmə'laɪz) *vb. (tr.)* to rouse to brutality or sensuality or make brutal or sensual. —'animālɪ'zation or -i'sation *n.*

animal magnetism *n.* 1. the quality of being attractive, esp. to members of the opposite sex. 2. Obs. hypnotism.

animal spirits *pl. n.* boisterous exuberance.

animate *vb. ('æni'meɪt).* (*tr.*) 1. to give life to or cause to come alive. 2. to make gay or lively. 3. to encourage or inspire. 4. to impart motion to. 5. to record on film so as to give movement to. ~*adj.* ('ænimɪt). 6. having life. 7. gay, spirited, or lively. —'ani'matedly *adv.*

animated cartoon *n.* a film produced by photographing a series of gradually changing drawings, etc., which give the illusion of movement when the series is projected rapidly.

animation ('ænmɪ'meɪʃən) *n.* 1. vivacity. 2. the condition of being alive. 3. the techniques used in the production of animated cartoons.

animato ('ænm'æɪtəʊ) *adj., adv. Music.* lively; animated.

animism ('ænmɪ'mɪzəm) *n.* 1. the belief that natural objects possess souls. 2. (in the philosophies of Plato and Pythagoras) the hypothesis that there is an immaterial force that animates the universe. —'animistic ('ænmɪ'mɪstɪk) *adj.*

animosity ('ænmɪ'mɒsɪtɪ) *n., pl. -ties.* a powerful and active dislike or hostility.

animus ('ænməs) *n.* 1. intense dislike; hatred; animosity. 2. motive or purpose. 3. (in Jungian psychology) the masculine principle present in the female unconscious.

anion ('æn,aɪən) *n.* a negatively charged ion; an ion that is attracted to the anode during electrolysis. —'anionic ('ænaɪ'bnɪk) *adj.*

anise ('ænis) *n.* a Mediterranean umbelliferous plant having clusters of small yellowish-white flowers and liquorice-flavoured seeds.

aniseed ('ænisɪd) *n.* the liquorice-flavoured aromatic seeds of the anise plant, used medicinally for expelling intestinal gas and in cookery.

ankh (æŋk) *n.* a tall cross with a loop on the top,

symbolizing eternal life; often appearing in Egyptian personal names, such as Tutankhamen.

ankle ('æŋkl̩) *n.* 1. the joint connecting the leg and the foot. 2. the part of the leg just above the foot.

anklet ('æŋkl̩t) *n.* an ornamental chain worn around the ankle.

ankylosis or **anchylosis** (ˌæŋkɪ'ləʊsɪs) *n.* abnormal adhesion or immobility of the bones in a joint, as by a fibrous growth of tissues within the joint. —**ankylosic** or **anchylosic** (ˌæŋkɪ'ləʊsɪk) *adj.*

anna ('ænə) *n.* a former Indian coin, worth one sixteenth of a rupee.

annals ('ænzl̩) *pl. n.* 1. yearly records of events. 2. history in general. 3. regular reports of the work of a society, learned body, etc. —**annalist** *n.* —**annalistic** *adj.*

annates ('æneɪts, -ɒts) *pl. n.* R.C. Church. the first year's revenue of a see, etc., paid to the pope.

anneal ('æni:l̩) *vb.* 1. to temper or toughen (something) by heat treatment to remove internal stress, crystal defects, and dislocations. 2. (tr.) to toughen or strengthen (the will, determination, etc.). ~*n.* 3. an act of annealing. —**annealer** *n.*

annelid ('ænzɪd) *n.* 1. a worm in which the body is divided into segments both externally and internally, as the earthworms. ~*adj.* 2. of such worms. —**annelidan** ('ænzɪdɪn) *n., adj.*

annex *vb.* ('æneks). (tr.) 1. to join or add, esp. to something larger. 2. to add territory by conquest or occupation. 3. to add or append as a condition, etc. 4. to appropriate without permission. ~*n.* ('æneks). 5. a variant spelling (esp. U.S.) of **annexe**. —**annexable** *adj.* —**annexation** *n.*

annexe or *sp. U.S.* **annex** ('æneks) *n.* 1. a. an extension to a main building. b. a nearby building used as an addition to a main one. 2. something added, esp. a supplement to a document.

annihilate ('æniəleɪt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to destroy completely; extinguish. 2. *Inf.* to defeat totally, as in argument. —**annihilation** *n.* —**annihilator** *n.*

anniversary (ˌæniːvɜːsəri) *n., pl. -ries.* 1. the date on which an event occurred in some previous year: a wedding anniversary. 2. the celebration of this. ~*adj.* 3. of or relating to an anniversary.

annotate ('ænəʊteɪt, 'ænə-) *vb.* to supply (a written work) with critical or explanatory notes. —**annotation** *n.* —**annotative** *adj.* —**annotator** *n.*

announce ('ənaʊns) *vb.* 1. (tr.; may take a clause as object) to make known publicly. 2. (tr.) to declare the arrival of: to announce a guest. 3. (tr.; may take a clause as object) to presage: the dark clouds announced rain. 4. (intr.) to work as an announcer, as on radio or television. —**announcement** *n.*

announcer ('ənaʊnsə) *n.* a person who announces, esp. one who reads the news, etc., on radio or television.

annoy ('ənoɪ) *vb.* 1. to irritate or displease. 2. to harass with repeated attacks. —**annoyance** *n.* —**annoyer** *n.*

annual ('ænjʊəl) *adj.* 1. occurring, done, etc., once a year or every year; yearly: an annual income. 2. lasting for a year: an annual subscription. ~*n.* 3. a plant that completes its life cycle in one year. 4. a book, magazine, etc., published once every year. —**annually** *adv.*

annuity ('ænjʊɪtɪ) *n., pl. -ties.* a fixed sum payable at specified intervals over a period, such as the recipient's life, or in perpetuity, in return for a premium paid either in instalments or in a single payment.

annul ('ənəl) *vb.* -nulling, -nullled. (tr.) to make (something, esp. a law or marriage) void; abolish. —**annullable** *adj.*

annular ('ænjʊlə) *adj.* ring-shaped.

annular eclipse *n.* an eclipse of the sun in which the moon does not cover the entire disc of the sun, so that a ring of sunlight surrounds the darkened moon.

annulate ('ænjʊlɪt, -leɪt) *adj.* having, composed of, or marked with rings. —**annulation** *n.*

annulment ('ənʌlmənt) *n.* 1. a formal invalidation, as of a marriage, judicial proceeding, etc. 2. the act of annulling.

annunciate ('ənʌnsiːeɪt, -fi-) *vb.* (tr.) a less common word for **announce**.

Annunciation (ˌænʌnsiː'eɪʃən) *n.* 1. the, the announcement of the Incarnation by the angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary (Luke 1:26-38). 2. Also called: **Annunciation Day**, the festival commemorating this, on March 25 (Lady Day).

annunciator ('ənʌnsiːeɪtə) *n.* 1. a device that gives a

visual indication as to which of a number of electric circuits has operated, such as an indicator showing in which room a bell has been rung. 2. a device giving an audible signal indicating the position of a train. 3. an announcer.

anode ('ænəd) *n.* 1. the positive electrode in an electrolytic cell or in an electronic valve or tube. 2. the negative terminal of a primary cell. Cf. **cathode**. —**anodal** (er'nədəl) or **anodic** ('ænədɪk) *adj.*

anodize or **-dise** ('ænədaɪz) *vb.* to coat (a metal, such as aluminium) with a protective oxide film by electrolysis.

anodyne ('ænə,dam) *n.* 1. a drug that relieves pain. 2. anything that alleviates mental distress. ~*adj.* 3. capable of relieving pain or distress.

anoint ('ənoɪnt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to smear or rub over with oil. 2. to apply oil to as a sign of consecration or sanctification. —**anointer** *n.* —**anointment** *n.*

anomalous ('ænəmələs) *adj.* deviating from the normal or usual order, type, etc. —**anomalousness** *n.*

anomaly ('ænəməli) *n., pl. -lies.* 1. something anomalous. 2. deviation from the normal; irregularity. 3. *Astron.* the angle between a planet, the sun, and the previous perihelion of the planet.

anomie or **anomy** ('ænəʊmi) *n.* *Sociol.* lack of social or moral standards in an individual or society. —**anomic** ('ænənmɪk) *adj.*

anon ('ənən) *adv.* *Arch. or literary.* 1. soon. 2. ever and anon. now and then.

anon. *abbrev.* for **anonymous**.

anonym ('ænonɪm) *n.* 1. a less common word for **pseudonym**. 2. an anonymous person or publication.

anonymous ('ænəniməs) *adj.* 1. from or by a person, author, etc., whose name is unknown or withheld. 2. having no known name. 3. lacking individual characteristics. —**anonymity** (ˌænə'nɪmɪtɪ) *n.*

anorak ('ænə,ræk) *n.* a warm waterproof hip-length jacket usually with a hood.

anorexia (ˌænə'reksɪə) *n.* loss of appetite.

anorexia nervosa (nɜː'vʊsə) *n.* a psychological disorder characterized by fear of becoming fat and refusal of food, leading to debility and even death.

another ('ənədə) *determiner.* 1. a. one more: another chance. b. (as pronoun): help yourself to another. 2. a. a different: another era from ours. b. (as pronoun): to try one, then another. 3. a. a different example of the same sort. b. (as pronoun): we got rid of one, but I think this is another.

A.N. Other *n.* *Brit.* an unnamed person: used in team lists, etc., to indicate a place that remains to be filled.

anserine ('ænsə,rɪn) *adj.* of or resembling a goose.

answer ('ɑːnsə) *n.* 1. a reply, either spoken or written, as to a question, request, letter, or article. 2. a reaction or response: drunkenness was his answer to disappointment. 3. a solution, esp. of a mathematical problem. ~*vb.* 4. (when tr., may take a clause as object) to reply or respond (to) by word or act: to answer a question; to answer the door. 5. (tr.) to reply correctly to; solve: I could answer only three questions. 6. (intr.; usually foll. by to) to respond or react: the steering answers to the slightest touch. 7. a. (when intr., often foll. by for) to meet the requirements (of); be satisfactory (for): this will answer his needs. b. to be responsible (to a person or for a thing). 8. (when intr., foll. by to) to match or correspond (esp. in answer (or answer) to the description). 9. (tr.) to give a defence or refutation.

answerable ('ɑːnsərəbəl) *adj.* 1. (postpositive; foll. by for or to) responsible or accountable: answerable to one's boss. 2. able to be answered.

answer back *vb.* (adv.) to reply rudely to (a person, esp. someone in authority) when one is expected to remain silent.

ant (ænt) *n.* 1. a small social insect of a widely distributed hymenopterous family, typically living in highly organized colonies of winged males, wingless sterile females (workers), and fertile females (queens). Related *adj.*: **formic**. 2. **white ant.** another name for a **termite**.

-ant *suffix forming adjectives and nouns.* causing or performing an action or existing in a certain condition: pleasant; deodorant; servant.

antacid (ænt'æsɪd) *n.* 1. a substance used to treat acidity, esp. in the stomach. ~*adj.* 2. having the properties of this substance.

antagonism (ænt'ægə,nɪzəm) *n.* 1. openly expressed and usually mutual opposition. 2. the inhibiting or nullifying action of one substance or organism on another.

antagonist (ænt'ægənɪst) *n.* 1. an opponent or adver-

sary. **2.** any muscle that opposes the action of another. **3.** a drug that counteracts the effects of another drug. —*an,təgo'nistik* *adj.* —*an,təgo'nistically* *adv.*

antagonize (ˌæn'təgəˌnaɪz) *vb.* (tr.) **1.** to make hostile; annoy or irritate. **2.** to act in opposition to or counteract. —*an,təgoni'zation* or *-ni'sation* *n.*

antalkali (ænt'ælkəˌlaɪ) *n., pl. -lis* or *-lies.* a substance that neutralizes alkalis.

Antarctic (ænt'ɑːktɪk) *adj.* of or relating to the south polar regions.

Antarctic Circle *n.* the imaginary circle around the earth, parallel to the equator, at latitude 66° 32' S.

ant bear *n.* another name for **aardvark** or **giant anteater**.

ante (ˈænti) *n.* **1.** the gaming stake put up before the deal in poker by the players. **2. Inf.** a sum of money representing a person's share, as in a syndicate. —*vb.* **-ting, -ted** or **-teed.** **3.** to place (one's stake) in poker. **4.** (usually foll. by *up*) *Inf.* to pay.

ante- *prefix.* before in time or position: *antedate*; *antechamber*.

anteater (ˈæntiˌiːtə) *n.* any of several toothless mammals having a long tubular snout used for eating termites.

antecede (ˌæntiˈsiːd) *vb.* (tr.) to go before; precede. —*ante'cedence* *n.*

antecedent (ˌæntiˈsiːdɪnt) *n.* **1.** an event, etc., that happens before another. **2. Grammar.** a word or phrase to which a pronoun refers. In "People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones," *people* is the antecedent of *who*. **3. Logic.** the first proposition in a conditional. —*adj.* **4.** preceding in time or order; prior.

antecedents (ˌæntiˈsiːdɪnts) *pl. n.* **1.** ancestry. **2.** a person's past history.

antechamber (ˈæntiˌtʃeɪmbə) *n.* an anteroom.

antedate (ˈæntiˌdeɪt) *vb.* (tr.) **1.** to be or occur at an earlier date than. **2.** to affix or assign a date to (a document, event, etc.) that is earlier than the actual date. **3.** to cause to occur sooner. —*n.* **4.** an earlier date.

antediluvian (ˌæntɪdɪˈluːviən) *adj.* **1.** belonging to the ages before the biblical Flood. **2.** old-fashioned. —*n.* **3.** an antediluvian person or thing.

antelope (ˈæntiˌləʊp) *n., pl. -lopes* or *-lope.* any of a group of mammals of Africa and Asia. They are typically graceful, having long legs and horns, and include the gazelles, springbok, impala, and dik-diks.

ante meridiem (ˈænti məˈrɪdiəm) the full form of **a.m.**

antenatal (ˌæntiˈneɪtəl) *adj.* occurring or present before birth; during pregnancy.

antenna (æn'tenə) *n.* **1. (pl. -nae (-ni)).** one of a pair of mobile appendages on the heads of insects, crustaceans, etc., that often respond to touch and taste but may be specialized for swimming. **2. (pl. -nas)** an aerial. —*an'tennal* or *an'tennary* *adj.*

antenuptial contract (ˌæntiˈnʌpʃəl) *n.* (in South Africa) a marriage contract effected prior to the wedding giving each partner control over his or her property.

antepenult (ˌæntɪpɪˈnʌlt) *n.* the third last syllable in a word.

antepenultimate (ˌæntɪpɪˈnʌltɪmɪt) *adj.* **1.** third from last. —*n.* **2.** anything that is third from last.

anterior (æn'tɪərɪə) *adj.* **1.** at or towards the front. **2.** earlier. **3. Zool.** of or near the head end. **4. Bot.** (of part of a flower or leaf) farthest away from the main stem.

anteroom (ˈæntiˌruːm, -rʊm) *n.* a room giving entrance to a larger room, often used as a waiting room.

anthem (ˈænbəm) *n.* **1.** a song of loyalty or devotion: a *national anthem*. **2.** a musical composition for a choir, usually set to words from the Bible. **3.** a religious chant sung antiphonally.

anther (ˈænbə) *n.* the terminal part of a stamen consisting of two lobes each containing two sacs in which the pollen matures.

ant hill *n.* a mound of soil, leaves, etc., near the entrance of an ants' nest, deposited there by the ants while constructing the nest.

anthology (æn'tholədʒi) *n., pl. -gies.* **1.** a collection of literary passages, esp. poems, by various authors. **2.** any printed collection of literary pieces, songs, etc. —*an'thologist* *n.* —*an'tholo,gize* or *-gise* *vb.*

anthracene (ˈænbərəˌsiːn) *n.* a colourless crystalline solid, used in the manufacture of chemicals and as crystals in scintillation counters.

anthracite (ˈænbərəˌsaɪt) *n.* a hard coal that burns slowly with a nonluminous flame giving out intense heat. Also called: **hard coal**. —*anthracitic* (ˌænbərəˌsɪtɪk) *adj.*

anthrax (ˈænbɹæks) *n., pl. -thraces* (-θrəˌsɪz). **1.** a

highly infectious bacterial disease of animals, esp. cattle and sheep, which can be transmitted to man. **2.** a pustule caused by this disease.

anthropo- *combining form.* indicating man or human: *anthropology*.

anthropocentric (ˌænbərəpəˈsentrɪk) *adj.* regarding man as the central factor in the universe.

anthropoid (ˈænbərəˌpɔɪd) *adj.* **1.** resembling man. **2.** resembling an ape; apelike. —*n.* **3.** any primate of the suborder *Anthropoidea*, including monkeys, apes, and man.

anthropology (ˌænbərəˈpɒlədʒi) *n.* the study of man, his origins, institutions, religious beliefs, social relationships, etc. —*anthropological* (ˌænbərəpəˈlɒdʒɪkəl) *adj.* —*an-thro'pologist* *n.*

anthropomorphism (ˌænbərəpəˈmɔːfɪzəm) *n.* the attribution of human form or behaviour to a deity, animal, etc.

anthropomorphous (ˌænbərəpəˈmɔːfəs) *adj.* shaped like a human being.

anti (ˈænti) *Inf.* —*adj.* **1.** opposed to a party, policy, attitude, etc.: *he won't join because he is rather anti.* —*n.* **2.** an opponent.

anti- *prefix.* **1.** against; opposing: *anticlerical*. **2.** opposite to: *ant climax*. **3.** rival; false: *antipope*. **4.** counteracting or neutralizing: *antifreeze*; *antihistamine*. **5.** designating the antiparticle of the particle specified: *antineutron*.

anti-aircraft (ˌæntiˈeɪkrɑːft) *n. (modifier)* of or relating to defence against aircraft attack: *anti-aircraft batteries*.

antiballistic missile (ˌæntɪbəˈlɪstɪk) *n.* a ballistic missile designed to destroy another ballistic missile in flight.

antibiosis (ˌæntɪbaɪˈoʊsɪs) *n.* an association between two organisms, esp. microorganisms, that is harmful to one of them.

antibiotic (ˌæntɪbaɪˈɒtɪk) *n.* **1.** any of various chemical substances, such as penicillin, produced by microorganisms, esp. fungi, or made synthetically, and capable of destroying microorganisms, esp. bacteria. —*adj.* **2.** of or relating to antibiotics.

antibody (ˈæntɪˌbɒdi) *n., pl. -bodies.* any of various proteins produced in the blood in response to an antigen. It combines with the antigen, rendering it harmless.

antic (ˈæntɪk) *Arch.* —*n.* **1.** an actor in a ludicrous or grotesque part; clown. —*adj.* **2.** fantastic; grotesque.

Antichrist (ˈæntɪˌkraɪst) *n.* **1.** Bible. the antagonist of Christ, expected by early Christians to appear and reign over the world until overthrown at Christ's Second Coming. **2. (sometimes not cap.)** an enemy of Christ or Christianity.

anticipate (æn'tɪsɪˌpeɪt) *vb. (mainly tr.)* **1.** (may take a clause as object) to regard as likely; expect. **2.** (may take a clause as object) to foresee and act in advance of; forestall: *I anticipated his punch.* **3. (also intr.)** to mention (something) before its proper time: *don't anticipate the climax of the story.* **4.** to make use of in advance of possession: *he anticipated his salary in buying a house.* —*an'tici,pator* *n.* —*an'tici,patory* or *an'ticipative* *adj.*

anticipation (æn'tɪsɪˌpeɪʃən) *n.* **1.** the act of anticipating; expectation, premonition, or foresight. **2. Music.** an unstressed, usually short note introduced before a downbeat.

anticlerical (ˌæntɪˈklerɪkəl) *adj.* **1.** opposed to the power and influence of the clergy, esp. in politics. —*n.* **2.** a supporter of an anticlerical party. —*anti'clericalism* *n.*

anticlimax (ˌæntɪˈklaɪmæks) *n.* **1.** a disappointing or ineffective conclusion to a series of events, etc. **2.** a sudden change from a serious subject to one that is disappointing or ludicrous. —*anticlimactic* (ˌæntɪklaɪˈmæktɪk) *adj.*

anticline (ˈæntɪˌklaɪn) *n.* a formation of stratified rock raised up, by folding, into a broad arch so that the strata slope down on both sides from a common crest. —*anti-clinal* *adj.*

anticlockwise (ˌæntɪˈklɒkˌwaɪz) *adv., adj.* in the opposite direction to the rotation of the hands of a clock. U.S. equivalent: **counterclockwise**.

anticoagulant (ˌæntɪkəˈɹeɪjələnt) *adj.* **1.** acting to prevent or retard coagulation, esp. of blood. —*n.* **2.** an agent that prevents or retards coagulation.

antics (ˈæntɪks) *pl. n.* absurd acts or postures.

anticyclone (ˌæntɪˈsaɪklɒn) *n.* *Meteorol.* a body of moving air of higher pressure than the surrounding air,

in which the pressure decreases away from the centre. Also called: **high**. —**anticyclonic** (ˌæntsaiˈklɒnik) *adj.*

antidepressant (ˌæntɪdɪˈpresnt) *n.* 1. any of a class of drugs used to alleviate depression. ~*adj.* 2. of this class of drugs.

antidote (ˈæntɪˌdəʊt) *n.* 1. *Med.* a drug or agent that counteracts or neutralizes the effects of a poison. 2. anything that counteracts or relieves a harmful condition. —**antiˌdotal** *adj.*

antifreeze (ˈæntɪˌfriːz) *n.* a liquid, usually ethylene glycol (ethanediol), added to water to lower its freezing point, esp. for use in an internal-combustion engine.

antigen (ˈæntɪdʒən, -dʒən) *n.* a substance, usually a toxin produced by a bacterium, that stimulates antibodies.

antihero (ˈæntɪˌhɪərəʊ) *n.*, *pl.* **-roes**. a central character in a novel, play, etc., who lacks the traditional heroic virtues.

antihistamine (ˌæntɪˈhɪstəˌmɪn, -mɪn) *n.* any drug that neutralizes the effects of histamine, used esp. in the treatment of allergies.

antiknock (ˌæntɪˈnɒk) *n.* a compound, such as lead tetraethyl, added to petrol to reduce knocking in the engine.

antilogarithm (ˌæntɪˈlɒɡəˌrɪðəm) *n.* a number whose logarithm is the given number: 100 is the antilogarithm of 2. Often shortened to **antilog**. —**antiˌlogaˈrithmic** *adj.*

antimacassar (ˌæntɪməˈkæsə) *n.* a cloth covering the back and arms of chairs, etc., to prevent soiling.

antimagnetic (ˌæntɪmægˈnetɪk) *adj.* of a material that does not acquire permanent magnetism when exposed to a magnetic field.

antimatter (ˈæntɪˌmætə) *n.* a hypothetical form of matter composed of antiparticles.

antimissile (ˌæntɪˈmɪsəl) *adj.* 1. relating to defensive measures against missile attack: *an antimissile system*. ~*n.* 2. a defensive missile used to intercept and destroy attacking missiles.

antimony (ˈæntɪməni) *n.* a toxic metallic element that exists in two allotropic forms and is added to alloys to increase their strength and hardness. Symbol: Sb; atomic no.: 51; atomic wt.: 121.75. —**antimonial** (ˌæntɪˈmɒniəl) *adj.*

antinomian (ˌæntɪˈnɒmɪən) *adj.* 1. relating to the doctrine that by faith a Christian is released from the obligation of adhering to any moral law. ~*n.* 2. a member of a Christian sect holding such a doctrine. —**antiˌnomianism** *n.*

antinomy (ˌæntɪˈnɒmi) *n.*, *pl.* **-mies**. 1. opposition of one law, principle, or rule to another. 2. *Philosophy*. contradiction existing between two apparently indubitable propositions. —**antinomic** (ˌæntɪˈnɒmɪk) *adj.*

antinovel (ˈæntɪˌnɒvəl) *n.* a type of prose fiction in which conventional or traditional novelistic elements are rejected.

antiparticle (ˈæntɪˌpɑːtɪkl̩) *n.* any of a group of elementary particles that have the same mass as their corresponding particle but have a charge of equal magnitude but opposite sign. When a particle collides with its antiparticle mutual annihilation occurs.

antipasto (ˌæntɪˈpɑːstəʊ, -pæst-) *n.*, *pl.* **-tos**. a course of hors d'oeuvres in an Italian meal.

antipathy (ˌæntɪˈpɑːθi) *n.*, *pl.* **-thies**. 1. a feeling of dislike, or hostility. 2. the object of such a feeling. —**antipathetic** (ˌæntɪˈpɑːθetɪk, ˌæntɪpə-) *adj.*

antipersonnel (ˌæntɪˌpɜːsɒˈnel) *adj.* (of weapons, etc.) designed to cause casualties to personnel rather than to destroy equipment.

antiperspirant (ˌæntɪˈpɜːspɒrənt) *n.* 1. a substance applied to the skin to reduce or prevent perspiration. ~*adj.* 2. reducing perspiration.

antiphon (ˈæntɪfən) *n.* 1. a short passage, usually from the Bible, recited or sung as a response after certain parts of a liturgical service. 2. a psalm, hymn, etc., chanted or sung in alternate parts. 3. any response. —**antiphonal** (ˌæntɪˈfəʊnəl) *adj.* —**anˌtiphony** *n.*

antipodes (ˌæntɪˈpɒːdɪz) *pl. n.* 1. either or both of two places that are situated diametrically opposite one another on the earth's surface. 2. the people who live there. 3. (*often cap.*) **the**. Australia and New Zealand. —**antipodean** (ˌæntɪˈpɒːdiən) *adj.*

antipope (ˈæntɪˌpəʊp) *n.* a rival pope elected in opposition to one who has been canonically chosen.

antipyretic (ˌæntɪˈpaɪrɪtɪk) *adj.* 1. preventing or alleviating fever. ~*n.* 2. an antipyretic remedy or drug.

antiquarian (ˌæntɪˈkwɛəriən) *adj.* 1. concerned with

the study of antiquities or antiques. ~*n.* 2. a less common name for **antiquary**. —**antiˌquarianism** *n.*

antiquary (ˈæntɪkwəri) *n.*, *pl.* **-quaries**. a person who collects, deals in, or studies antiques or ancient works of art. Also called: **antiquarian**.

antiquate (ˈæntɪˌkwet) *vb.* (*tr.*) to make obsolete or old-fashioned. —**antiˌquated** *adj.*

antique (ænˈtiːk) *n.* 1. **a.** a decorative object, piece of furniture, or other work of art created in an earlier period, that is valued for its beauty, workmanship, and age. **b.** (*as modifier*): *an antique shop*. 2. any object made in an earlier period. 3. **the**. the style of ancient art, esp. Greek or Roman. ~*adj.* 4. made in or in the style of an earlier period. 5. of or belonging to the distant past, esp. of ancient Greece or Rome. 6. *Inf.* old-fashioned. 7. *Arch.* aged or venerable. ~*vb.* 8. (*tr.*) to give an antique appearance to.

antiquities (ænˈtɪkwɪtiz) *pl. n.* remains or relics, such as statues, buildings, or coins, that date from ancient times.

antiquity (ænˈtɪkwɪti) *n.*, *pl.* **-ties**. 1. the quality of being ancient: *a vase of great antiquity*. 2. the far distant past, esp. preceding the Middle Ages. 3. the people of ancient times collectively.

antirrhinum (ˌæntɪˈraɪnəm) *n.* any plant of the genus *Antirrhinum*, esp. the snapdragon, which has two-lipped flowers of various colours.

antiscorbatic (ˌæntɪskɔːˈbjʊːtɪk) *adj.* 1. preventing or curing scurvy. ~*n.* 2. an antiscorbatic agent.

anti-Semite *n.* a person who persecutes or discriminates against Jews. —**antiˌSeˈmitic** *adj.* —**antiˌSemitism** *n.*

antiseptis (ˌæntɪˈsepsɪs) *n.* 1. destruction of undesirable microorganisms, such as those that cause disease or putrefaction. 2. the state of being free from such microorganisms.

antiseptic (ˌæntɪˈseptɪk) *adj.* 1. of or producing antiseptis. 2. entirely free from contamination. 3. *Inf.* lacking spirit or excitement. ~*n.* 4. an antiseptic agent. —**antiˌseptically** *adv.*

antiserum (ˌæntɪˈsɪərəm) *n.*, *pl.* **-rums** or **-ra** (-rə). blood serum containing antibodies against a specific antigen, used to treat or provide immunity to a disease.

antisocial (ˌæntɪˈsəʊʃəl) *adj.* 1. avoiding the company of other people; unsociable. 2. contrary or injurious to the interests of society in general.

antispasmodic (ˌæntɪspæzˈmɒdɪk) *adj.* 1. preventing or arresting spasms. ~*n.* 2. an antispasmodic drug.

antistatic (ˌæntɪˈstætɪk) *adj.* (of a substance, textile, etc.) retaining sufficient moisture to provide a conducting path, thus avoiding the effects of static electricity.

antitank (ˌæntɪˈtæŋk) *adj.* designed to immobilize or destroy armoured vehicles.

antithesis (ænˈtɪθɪsɪs) *n.*, *pl.* **-ses** (-sɪːz). 1. the exact opposite. 2. contrast or opposition. 3. *Rhetoric*. the juxtaposition of contrasting ideas or words so as to produce an effect of balance, such as *my words fly up, my thoughts remain below*. —**antithetical** (ˌæntɪˈθetɪkəl) *adj.*

antitoxin (ˌæntɪˈtɒksɪn) *n.* 1. an antibody that neutralizes a toxin. 2. blood serum that contains a specific antibody. —**antiˌtoxic** *adj.*

antitrades (ˌæntɪˌtreɪdz) *pl. n.* winds in the upper atmosphere blowing in the opposite direction from and above the trade winds.

antitrust (ˌæntɪˈtrʌst) *n.* (*modifier*) *Chiefly U.S.* regulating or opposing trusts, monopolies, cartels, or similar organizations.

antitype (ˈæntɪˌtaɪp) *n.* 1. a person or thing that is foreshadowed or represented by a type or symbol. 2. an opposite type. —**antiˌtypical** *adj.*

antler (ˈæntlə) *n.* one of a pair of bony outgrowths on the heads of male deer and some related species of either sex. —**antlered** *adj.*

antonym (ˈæntənɪm) *n.* a word that means the opposite of another. —**antonymous** (ænˈtɒnɪməs) *adj.*

antrum (ˈæntɪrəm) *n.*, *pl.* **-tra** (-trə). *Anat.* a natural cavity, hollow, or sinus, esp. in a bone. —**antral** *adj.*

anuresis (ˌænjʊˈrɪsɪs) *n.* inability to urinate.

anus (ˈeɪnəs) *n.* the excretory opening at the end of the alimentary canal.

anvil (ˈænvɪl) *n.* 1. a heavy iron or steel block on which metals are hammered during forging. 2. any part having a similar shape or function, such as the lower part of a telegraph key.

anxiety (æŋˈzɪəntɪ) *n.*, *pl.* **-ties**. 1. a state of uneasiness or tension caused by apprehension of possible misfor-

tune, danger, etc. **2.** intense desire; eagerness. **3.** *Psychol.* an intense state of apprehension occurring in a variety of nervous disorders.

anxious ('æŋkʃəs, 'æŋʃəs) *adj.* **1.** worried and tense because of possible misfortune, danger, etc. **2.** causing anxiety; worrying; distressing; *an anxious time*. **3.** intensely desirous: *anxious for promotion*. —'anxiously *adv.* —'anxiousness *n.*

any ('eni) *determiner.* **1. a.** one, some, or several, as specified, no matter how much, what kind, etc.: *you may take any clothes you like*. **b.** (as pronoun; functioning as sing. or pl.): *take any you like*. **2.** (usually used with a negative) **a.** even the smallest amount or even one: *I can't stand any noise*. **b.** (as pronoun; functioning as sing. or pl.): *don't give her any*. **3.** whatever or whichever: *any dictionary will do*. **4.** an indefinite or unlimited: *any number of friends*. ~adv. **5.** (usually used with a negative) (foll. by a comparative adj.) to even the smallest extent: *it isn't any worse*.

▷ **Usage.** Educated speakers and writers avoid using *any* for *at all* in formal English: *a translation would not help at all* (not *would not help any*).

anybody ('eni,bɒdi) *pron.* **1.** any person; anyone. **2.** (usually used with a negative or a question) a person of any importance: *he isn't anybody*. ~n., pl. -bodies. **3.** (often preceded by *just*) any person at random.

anyhow ('eni,haʊ) *adv.* **1.** in any case. **2.** by any means whatever. **3.** carelessly.

any more or *esp. U.S. anymore* *adv.* any longer; still; nowadays.

anyone ('eni,wʌn) *pron.* **1.** any person; anybody. **2.** (used with a negative or a question) a person of any importance: *is he anyone?* **3.** (often preceded by *just*) any person at random.

anything ('eni,θɪŋ) *pron.* **1.** any object, event, action, etc., whatever: *anything might happen*. ~n. **2.** a thing of any kind: *have you anything to declare?* ~adv. **3.** in any way: *he wasn't anything like his father*. **4.** anything but, not in the least: *she was anything but happy*. **5.** like anything. (intensifier): *he ran like anything*.

anyway ('eni,wei) *adv.* **1.** in any case; at any rate; nevertheless. **2.** in a careless manner. **3.** Usually *any way*, in any manner.

anywhere ('eni,weə) *adv.* **1.** in, at, or to any place. **2.** get anywhere, to be successful.

anywise ('eni,wəɪz) *adv.* Chiefly U.S. in any way.

Anzac ('ænzæk) *n.* **1.** Austral. & N.Z. (in World War I) a soldier serving with the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. **2.** Brit. any Australian or New Zealand soldier. **3.** the Anzac landing at Gallipoli in 1915.

a.o.b. or **A.O.B.** *abbrev. for* any other business.

aorist ('eɪərɪst, 'kɔrɪst) *n.* *Grammar.* a tense of the verb esp. in classical Greek, indicating past action without reference to whether the action involved was momentary or continuous.

aorta ('eɪɔ:tə) *n.*, pl. -tas or -tae (-ti-), the main vessel in the arterial network, which conveys oxygen-rich blood from the heart. —'aortic or 'aortal *adj.*

apace ('əpeɪs) *adv.* quickly; rapidly.

apache ('əpæʃ) *n.* a Parisian gangster or ruffian.

Apache ('əpætʃi) *n.* **1.** (pl. *Apaches* or *Apache*) a member of a North American Indian people inhabiting the southwestern U.S. and N Mexico. **2.** the language of this people.

apart ('əpɑ:t) *adj.* (postpositive), *adv.* **1.** to or in pieces: *he had the television apart*. **2.** placed or kept separately or for a particular purpose, etc.; aside (esp. in *set* or *put apart*). **3.** separate in time, place, or position: *he stood apart from the group*. **4.** not being taken into account: *these difficulties apart, the project ran smoothly*. **5.** individual; distinct: *a race apart*. **6.** separately or independently: *considered apart, his reasoning was faulty*. **7.** *apart from*. (prep.) besides. ~See also *take apart*, *tell apart*.

apartheid ('əpɑ:thaɪt, -heit) *n.* (in South Africa) the official government policy of racial segregation.

apartment ('əpɑ:tmənt) *n.* **1.** (often pl.) any room in a building, usually one of several forming a suite, used as living accommodation, offices, etc. **2. a.** another name (esp. U.S.) for *flat* (sense 1). **b.** (as modifier): *apartment house*.

apathy ('æpəθi) *n.* **1.** absence of interest in or enthusiasm for things generally considered interesting or moving. **2.** absence of emotion. —'apathetic ('æpəθetɪk) *adj.*

apatite ('æpə,tait) *n.* a common naturally occurring

mineral consisting basically of calcium fluorophosphate. It is a source of phosphorus and is used in fertilizers.

ape (eɪp) *n.* **1.** any of various primates in which the tail is very short or absent. **2.** (not in technical use) any monkey. **3.** an imitator; mimic. ~vb. **4.** (tr.) to imitate. —'ape,like *adj.*

A.P.E.C. *Canad. abbrev. for* Atlantic Provinces Economic Council.

apeman *n.*, pl. -men. any of various extinct apelike primates thought to have been the forerunners of modern man.

aperient (ə'pɛərɪənt) *Med.* ~adj. **1.** laxative. ~n. **2.** a mild laxative.

aperiodic (ə'pɛərɪə'dɪk) *adj.* **1.** not periodic; not occurring at regular intervals. **2. Physics. a.** (of a system or instrument) being damped sufficiently to reach equilibrium without oscillation. **b.** (of an oscillation or vibration) not having a regular period. —'aperiodicity ('eɪpɛərɪə'dɪstɪ) *n.*

apéritif (ə'pɛrɪ'tɪf) *n.* an alcoholic drink before a meal to whet the appetite.

aperture ('æpəʃə) *n.* **1.** a hole; opening. **2. Physics. a.** usually circular and often variable opening in an optical instrument or device that controls the quantity of radiation entering or leaving it.

apex ('eɪpeks) *n.*, pl. *apexes* or *apices* ('æpɪsɪz, 'eɪ-). **1.** the highest point; vertex. **2.** the pointed end or tip of something. **3.** a high point, as of a career.

APEX *acronym for:* **1.** Advance Purchase Excursion, a reduced airline fare, paid for at least 30 days before departure. **2.** Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical, and Computer Staff.

aphasia (ə'feɪziə) *n.* a disorder of the central nervous system characterized by loss of the ability to communicate, esp. in speech.

aphelion ('æp'hɪliən, ə'fi:-) *n.*, pl. -lia (-liə), the point in its orbit when a planet or comet is at its greatest distance from the sun.

aphid ('eɪfɪd) *n.* any of the small homopterous insects of the family *Aphididae*, which feed by sucking the juices from plants.

aphis ('eɪfɪs) *n.*, pl. *aphides* ('eɪfɪ,dɪz), any of a genus of aphids, such as the blackfly.

aphorism ('æfə'rɪzəm) *n.* a short pithy saying expressing a general truth; maxim. —'aphorist *n.* —'aphoristic *adj.*

aphrodisiac (ə'frɔ:dɪziæk) *n.* **1.** a drug, food, etc., that excites sexual desire. ~adj. **2.** exciting sexual desire.

apiary ('eɪpɪəri) *n.*, pl. -aries, a place where bees are kept.

apical ('æpɪkəl, 'eɪ-) *adj.* of, at, or being the apex. —'apically *adv.*

apices ('æpɪsɪz, 'eɪ-) *n.* a plural of *apex*.

apiculture ('eɪpɪ,kʌltʃə) *n.* the breeding and care of bees. —'apiculture *adj.* —'apiculturist *n.*

apiece ('əpɪs) *adv.* for, to, or from each one: *they were given two apples apiece*.

apish ('eɪpɪʃ) *adj.* **1.** stupid; foolish. **2.** resembling an ape. **3.** slavishly imitative. —'apishly *adv.* —'apishness *n.*

aplomb ('æplɒm) *n.* equanimity, self-confidence, or self-possession.

apo- or ap- *prefix.* **1.** away from; off: *apogee*. **2.** separation of: *apocarpous*.

Apoc. *abbrev. for:* **1.** *Apocalypse*. **2.** *Apocrypha* or *Apocryphal*.

apocalypse (ə'pɒkəlɪps) *n.* **1.** a prophetic disclosure or revelation. **2.** an event of great importance, violence, etc., like the events described in the *Apocalypse*. —a,poca'lyptic *adj.*

Apocalypse (ə'pɒkəlɪps) *n.* *Bible.* another name for the Book of Revelation.

Apocrypha (ə'pɒkrɪfə) *n.* the. (functioning as sing. or pl.) the 14 books included as an appendix to the Old Testament in the Septuagint and the Vulgate but not in the Hebrew canon.

apocryphal (ə'pɒkrɪfəl) *adj.* **1.** of questionable authenticity. **2.** (sometimes cap.) of or like the *Apocrypha*. **3.** untrue; counterfeit.

apogee ('æpə,dʒi) *n.* **1.** the point in its orbit around the earth when the moon or an artificial satellite is at its greatest distance from the earth. **2.** the highest point. —'apo'gean *adj.*

apolitical (ə'pɒlɪtɪkəl) *adj.* politically neutral; without political attitudes, content, or bias.

apologetic (ə'pɒlə'dʒetɪk) *adj.* **1.** expressing or anx-

ious to make apology; contrite. 2. defending in speech or writing. —**a.polo'getically** adv.

apologetics (ˌæpəˈlɒdʒɪkɪks) *n.* (*functioning as sing.*) 1. the branch of theology concerned with the rational justification of Christianity. 2. a defensive method of argument.

apologia (ˌæpəˈlɒdʒɪə) *n.* a formal written defence of a cause or one's beliefs or conduct.

apologist (ˌæpəˈlɒdʒɪst) *n.* a person who offers a defence by argument.

apologize or -gise (ˌæpəˈlɒdʒaɪz) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. to express or make an apology; acknowledge faults. 2. to defend formally.

apologue (ˌæpəˈlɒɡ) *n.* an allegory or moral fable.

apology (ˌæpəˈlɒdʒɪ) *n.*, *pl.* **-gies**. 1. a verbal or written expression of regret or contrition for a fault or failing. 2. a poor substitute. 3. another word for **apologia**.

apophthegm or apothegm (ˌæpəˈθeɪm) *n.* a short remark containing some general or generally accepted truth; maxim.

apoplectic (ˌæpəˈplektɪk) *adj.* 1. of apoplexy. 2. *Inf.* furious. —**ap'oplectically** adv.

apoplexy (ˌæpəˈpleksɪ) *n.* sudden loss of consciousness, often followed by paralysis, caused by rupture or occlusion of a blood vessel in the brain.

apostasy (əˈpɒstəsi) *n.*, *pl.* **-sies**. abandonment of one's religious faith, party, a cause, etc.

apostate (əˈpɒstetɪ, -tɪt) *n.* 1. a person who abandons his religion, party, etc. ~*adj.* 2. guilty of apostasy. —**apostatically** (*ˌæpəˈstætɪkəl*) *adj.*

a posteriori (eɪ ˈpɒs,tɪrɪˈɔːrɪ, -rɪ, ɑː) *adj.* *Logic.* 1. relating to inductive reasoning from particular facts to a general principle. 2. derived from or requiring evidence for its validation; empirical.

apostle (əˈpɒstl) *n.* 1. (*often cap.*) one of the 12 disciples chosen by Christ to preach his gospel. 2. any prominent Christian missionary, esp. one who first converts a people. 3. an ardent early supporter of a cause, movement, etc.

Apostles' Creed *n.* a concise statement of Christian beliefs dating from about 500 A.D., traditionally ascribed to the Apostles.

apostolate (əˈpɒstəleɪt, -leɪt) *n.* the office, authority, or mission of an apostle.

apostolic (ˌæpəˈstɒlɪk) *adj.* 1. of or relating to the Apostles or their teachings or practice. 2. of or relating to the pope as successor of the Apostles. —**apos'tolical** *adj.*

Apostolic See (ˌæpəˈstɒlɪk) *n.* the see of the pope.

apostrophe¹ (əˈpɒstrəfi) *n.* the punctuation mark ' used to indicate the omission of a letter or number, such as *he's* for *he has* or *he is*, also used in English to form the possessive, as in *John's father*.

apostrophe² (əˈpɒstrəfi) *n.* *Rhetoric.* a digression from a discourse, esp. an address to an imaginary or absent person or a personification.

apostrophize or -phise (əˈpɒstrəˈfaɪz) *vb.* to address an apostrophe to.

apothecaries' measure *n.* a system of liquid volume measure used in pharmacy in which 20 fluid ounces equal 1 pint.

apothecaries' weight *n.* a system of weights formerly used in pharmacy based on the Troy ounce.

apothecary (əˈpɒθɪkəri) *n.*, *pl.* **-caries**. 1. an archaic word for **chemist**. 2. *Law.* a chemist licensed by the Society of Apothecaries of London to prescribe, prepare, and sell drugs.

apothegm (ˌæpəˈθeɪm) *n.* a variant spelling of **apophthegm**.

apothem (ˌæpəˈθeɪm) *n.* the perpendicular from the centre of a regular polygon to any of its sides.

apotheosis (əˈpɒθiˈəʊsɪs) *n.*, *pl.* **-ses** (-sɪz). 1. elevation to the rank of a god; deification. 2. glorification of a person or thing. 3. a glorified ideal.

apotheosize or -ise (əˈpɒθiˈəʊsaɪz) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to deify. 2. to glorify or idealize.

appal or U.S. appall (əˈpɒl) *vb.* **-palling, -palled.** (*tr.*) to fill with horror; shock or dismay.

appalling (əˈpɒlɪŋ) *adj.* causing dismay, horror, or revulsion. —**ap'pallingly** *adv.*

appanage or anapanage (ˌæpənɪdʒ) *n.* 1. land or other provision granted by a king for the support of esp. a younger son. 2. a customary accompaniment or perquisite, as to a job or position.

apparatus (ˌæpəˈreɪtəs, -rɑːtəs) *n.*, *pl.* **-ratus or -ratuses**. 1. a collection of equipment used for a particular purpose. 2. a machine having a specific function:

breathing apparatus. 3. the means by which something operates; organization. 4. *Anat.* any group of organs having a specific function.

apparel (əˈpærəl) *n.* 1. garments or clothing. 2. *Naut.* a vessel's gear and equipment. ~*vb.* **-elling, -elled or U.S. -eling, -eled.** 3. *Arch. (tr.)* to clothe, adorn, etc.

apparent (əˈpærənt) *adj.* 1. readily seen or understood; obvious. 2. (*usually prenominal*) seeming, as opposed to real: *his apparent innocence*. 3. *Physics.* as observed but discounting such factors as the motion of the observer, etc. —**ap'parently** *adv.*

apparition (ˌæpəˈrɪʃən) *n.* 1. an appearance, esp. of a ghost or ghostlike figure. 2. the figure so appearing; spectre. 3. the act of appearing.

appeal (əˈpiːl) *n.* 1. a request for relief, aid, etc. 2. the power to attract, please, stimulate, or interest. 3. an application or resort to another authority, esp. a higher one, as for a decision. 4. *Law. a.* the judicial review by a superior court of the decision of a lower tribunal. *b.* a request for such review. 5. *Cricket.* a request to the umpire to declare a batsman out. ~*vb.* 6. (*intr.*) to make an earnest request. 7. (*intr.*) to attract, please, stimulate, or interest. 8. *Law.* to apply to a superior court to review (a case or issue decided by a lower tribunal). 9. (*intr.*) to resort to, as for a decision. 10. (*intr.*) *Cricket.* to ask the umpire to declare a batsman out. 11. (*intr.*) to challenge the umpire's or referee's decision. —**ap'pealable** *adj.* —**ap'pealer** *n.* —**ap'pealingly** *adv.*

appear (əˈpiə) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. to come into sight. 2. (*copula; may take an infinitive*) to seem: *the evidence appears to support you*. 3. to be plain or clear, as after further evidence, etc.: *it appears you were correct after all*. 4. to develop; occur: *faults appeared during testing*. 5. to be published: *his biography appeared last month*. 6. to perform: *he has appeared in many London productions*. 7. to be present in court before a magistrate or judge: *he appeared on two charges of theft*.

appearance (əˈpiərəns) *n.* 1. the act or an instance of appearing. 2. the outward aspect of a person or thing. 3. an outward show; pretence: *he gave an appearance of working hard*. 4. **keep up appearances.** to maintain the public impression of well-being or normality. 5. **put in or make an appearance.** to attend briefly, as out of politeness. 6. **to all appearances.** apparently.

appease (əˈpiːz) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to calm or pacify, esp. by acceding to the demands of. 2. to satisfy or quell (a thirst, etc.). —**ap'peaser** *n.*

appeasement (əˈpiːzəmənt) *n.* 1. the policy of acceding to the demands of a potentially hostile nation in the hope of maintaining peace. 2. the act of appeasing.

appellant (əˈpelənt) *n.* 1. a person who appeals. 2. *Law.* the party who appeals to a higher court from the decision of a lower tribunal. ~*adj.* 3. *Law.* another word for **appellate**.

appellate (əˈpelɪt) *adj.* *Law.* 1. of appeals. 2. (of a tribunal) having jurisdiction to review cases on appeal.

appellation (ˌæpɪˈleɪʃən) *n.* 1. a name or title. 2. the act of naming.

appellative (əˈpelətɪv) *n.* 1. a name or title. 2. *Grammar.* another word for **common noun**. ~*adj.* 3. of or relating to a name. 4. (of a proper noun) used as a common noun.

append (əˈpend) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to add as a supplement: *to append a footnote*. 2. to attach; hang on. —**ap'pendage** *n.*

appendectomy (əˈpendɪˈsektəmi) or **appendectomy** (ˌæpənˈdektəmi) *n.*, *pl.* **-mies**. surgical removal of any appendage, esp. the vermiform appendix.

appendicitis (əˈpendɪˈsaɪtɪs) *n.* inflammation of the vermiform appendix.

appendix (əˈpendɪks) *n.*, *pl.* **-dixes or -dices** (-dɪˈsɪz). 1. a body of separate additional material at the end of a book, etc. 2. any part that is dependent or supplementary. 3. *Anat.* See **vermiform appendix**.

apperception (ˌæpəˈsepʃən) *Psychol.* ~*n.* 1. conscious awareness of the act and significance of perception. 2. the act of apperceiving. —**apper'ceptive** *adj.*

appertain (ˌæpəˈteɪn) *vb.* (*intr.*; usually foll. by *to*) to belong (to) as a part, function, right, etc.; relate (to) or be connected (with).

appetence (ˌæpɪtəns) or **appetency** *n.*, *pl.* **-tences or -tencies**. 1. a craving or desire. 2. an attraction or affinity.

appetite (ˌæpɪˈtaɪt) *n.* 1. a desire for food or drink. 2. a desire to satisfy a bodily craving, as for sexual pleasure. 3. (usually foll. by *for*) a liking or willingness: *a great appetite for work*. —**appetitive** (əˈpektɪv) *adj.*

appetizer or **-iser** (ˈæpɪˌtaɪzə) *n.* 1. a small amount of food or drink taken to stimulate the appetite. 2. any stimulating foretaste.

appetizing or **-ising** (ˈæpɪˌtaɪzɪŋ) *adj.* pleasing or stimulating to the appetite; delicious; tasty.

applaud (əˈplɔːd) *vb.* 1. to indicate approval of (a person, performance, etc.) by clapping the hands. 2. (usually *tr.*) to express approval or praise of: *I applaud your decision.*

applause (əˈplɔːz) *n.* appreciation or praise, esp. as shown by clapping the hands.

apple (ˈæpl) *n.* 1. a rosaceous tree, widely cultivated in temperate regions in many varieties. 2. the fruit of this tree, having red, yellow, or green skin and crisp whitish flesh. 3. the wood of this tree. 4. any of several unrelated trees that have fruit similar to the apple. 5. **apple of one's eye**, a person or thing that is very much loved.

apple-pie bed *n.* *Brit.* a way of making a bed so as to prevent the person from entering it.

apple-pie order *n.* *Inf.* perfect order or condition.

appliance (ˈæplaiəns) *n.* 1. a machine or device, esp. an electrical one used domestically. 2. any piece of equipment having a specific function. 3. another name for a **fire engine**.

applicable (ˈæplɪkəbəl, ˈæplɪkə) *adj.* being appropriate or relevant; able to be applied; fitting. — **applica'bility** *n.* — **applicably** *adv.*

applicant (ˈæplɪkənt) *n.* a person who applies, as for a job, grant, support, etc.; candidate.

application (ˌæplɪˈkeɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of applying to a particular use. 2. relevance or value: *the practical applications of space technology.* 3. the act of asking for something. 4. a written request, as for a job, etc. 5. diligent effort: *a job requiring application.* 6. something, such as a lotion, that is applied, esp. to the skin.

applicator (ˈæplɪˌkeɪtə) *n.* a device, such as a spatula or rod, for applying a medicine, glue, etc.

applied (əˈplaɪd) *adj.* put to practical use: *applied mathematics.* *Cf.* **pure** (sense 5).

appliqué (æˈpliːkeɪ) *n.* 1. a decoration of one material sewn or fixed onto another. 2. the practice of decorating in this way. ~ *vb.* **quëing**, **quëd**. 3. (*tr.*) to sew or fix (a decoration) on as an appliqué.

apply (əˈplai) *vb.* **-plying**, **-plied**. 1. (*tr.*) to put to practical use; employ. 2. (*intr.*) to be relevant or appropriate. 3. (*tr.*) to cause to come into contact with. 4. (*intr.*; often foll. by *for*) to put in an application or request. 5. (*tr.*; often foll. by *to*) to devote (oneself, one's efforts) with diligence. 6. (*tr.*) to bring into use: *the police only applied the law to aliens.* — **ap'plier** *n.*

appoint (əˈpɔɪnt) *vb.* (mainly *tr.*) 1. (also *intr.*) to assign officially, as for a position, responsibility, etc. 2. to establish by agreement or decree. 3. to prescribe: *laws appointed by tribunal.* 4. **Property law**, to nominate (a person) to take an interest in property. 5. to equip with usual features; furnish: *a well-appointed hotel.* — **appoint'ee** *n.* — **ap'pointer** *n.*

appointment (əˈpɔɪntmənt) *n.* 1. an arrangement to meet a person or be at a place at a certain time. 2. the act of placing in a job or position. 3. the person who receives such a job. 4. the job or position to which such a person is appointed. 5. (usually *pl.*) a fixture or fitting.

apportion (əˈpɔːʃən) *vb.* (*tr.*) to divide, distribute, or assign shares of; allot proportionally. — **ap'portionable** *adj.* — **ap'portionment** *n.*

appose (əˈpəʊz) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to place side by side. 2. (usually foll. by *to*) to place (something) near or against another thing. — **ap'posable** *adj.*

apposite (əˈpɔːzɪt) *adj.* appropriate; apt. — **appositely** *adv.* — **appositeness** *n.*

apposition (ˌæpəˈzɪʃən) *n.* 1. a putting into juxtaposition. 2. a grammatical construction in which a word, esp. a noun, is placed after another to modify its meaning. — **appo'sitional** *adj.*

appraisal (əˈpreɪzəl) or **appraisement** *n.* 1. an assessment of the worth or quality of a person or thing. 2. a valuation.

appraise (əˈpreɪz) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to assess the worth, value, or quality of. 2. to make a valuation of, as for taxation. — **ap'praisable** *adj.* — **ap'praiser** *n.*

appreciable (ˈæpriːəbəl) *adj.* sufficient to be easily measured or noticed. — **ap'preciably** *adv.*

appreciate (əˈpriːʃiˌeɪt, -sɪ-) *vb.* (mainly *tr.*) 1. to feel thankful or grateful for. 2. (may take a clause as object) to take sufficient account of: *to appreciate a problem.* 3.

to value highly. 4. (usually *intr.*) to increase in value. — **ap'preciator** *n.*

appreciation (əˈpriːʃiˌeɪʃən, -sɪ-) *n.* 1. thanks or gratitude. 2. assessment of the true worth of persons or things. 3. perceptive recognition of qualities, as in art. 4. an increase in value. 5. a review of a book, etc., esp. when favourable.

appreciative (əˈpriːʃiˌeɪtɪv, -fə-) or **appreciatory** *adj.* feeling or expressing appreciation. — **ap'preciativeness** *n.* — **ap'preciatively** *adv.*

apprehend (ˌæpriˈhend) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to arrest and escort into custody. 2. to grasp mentally; understand. 3. to await with fear or anxiety.

apprehension (ˌæpriˈhenʃən) *n.* 1. anxiety over what may happen. 2. the act of arresting. 3. understanding. 4. a notion or conception.

apprehensive (ˌæpriˈhensɪv) *adj.* 1. fearful or anxious. 2. able to learn quickly. 3. (usually *postpositive* and foll. by *of*) perceptive. — **ap'pre'hensively** *adv.* — **ap'pre'hensiveness** *n.*

apprentice (əˈprentɪs) *n.* 1. someone who works for a skilled or qualified person in order to learn a trade, esp. for a recognized period. 2. any beginner or novice. ~ *vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to take, place, or bind as an apprentice. — **ap'prentice,ship** *n.*

apprise or **-ize** (əˈpraɪz) *vb.* (*tr.*; often foll. by *of*) to make aware; inform.

apro (ˈæprəʊ) *n.* an informal shortening of **approval**: *on apro.*

approach (əˈprəʊtʃ) *vb.* 1. to come nearer in position, time, quality, character, etc., to (someone or something). 2. (*tr.*) to make a proposal or suggestion. 3. (*tr.*) to begin to deal with. ~ *n.* 4. the act of drawing close or closer. 5. a close approximation. 6. the way or means of entering or leaving. 7. (often *pl.*) an overture to a person. 8. a means adopted in tackling a problem, job of work, etc. 9. Also called: **approach path**, the course followed by an aircraft preparing for landing. 10. Also called: **approach shot**. *Golf.* a shot made to or towards the green after a tee shot. — **ap'proachable** *adj.* — **ap'proachability** *n.*

approbation (ˌæprəˈbeɪʃən) *n.* 1. commendation; praise. 2. official recognition. — **ap'pro,bative** or **ap'pro,batory** *adj.*

appropriate *adj.* (əˈprəʊprɪt). 1. right or suitable; fitting. ~ *vb.* (əˈprəʊprɪ,eɪt). (*tr.*) 2. to take for one's own use, esp. illegally. 3. to put aside (funds, etc.) for a particular purpose or person. — **ap'propriately** *adv.* — **ap'propriateness** *n.* — **ap'propriator** *n.*

appropriation (əˈprəʊprɪˈeɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of setting apart or taking for one's own use. 2. a sum of money set apart for a specific purpose.

approval (əˈpruːvəl) *n.* 1. the act of approving. 2. formal agreement. 3. a favourable opinion. 4. **on approval**, (of articles for sale) for examination with an option to buy or return.

approve (əˈpruːv) *vb.* 1. to consider fair, good, or right. 2. (*tr.*) to authorize or sanction.

approx. *abbrev. for:* approximate(ly).

approximate *adj.* (əˈprɒksɪmɪt). 1. almost accurate or exact. 2. inexact; rough; loose. 3. much alike; almost the same. 4. near; close together. ~ *vb.* (əˈprɒksɪˌmeɪt). 5. (usually foll. by *to*) to come or bring near or close; be almost the same (as). — **ap'proximately** *adv.* — **ap'proximation** *n.*

appurtenance (əˈpɜːtɪnəns) *n.* 1. a less significant thing or part. 2. (*pl.*) accessories. 3. **Property law**, a minor right, interest, or privilege.

Apr. *abbrev. for:* April.

apricot (ˈeɪprɪˌkɒt) *n.* 1. a tree native to Africa and W Asia, but widely cultivated for its edible fruit. 2. the yellow juicy fruit of this tree, which resembles a small peach.

April (ˈeɪprəl) *n.* the fourth month of the year, consisting of 30 days.

April fool *n.* a victim of a practical joke performed on the first of April (**April Fools' Day** or **All Fools' Day**).

a priori (eɪ ˈpraɪˌɔːri, ɑː ˈprɪˌɔːri) *Logic.* ~ *adj.* 1. relating to or involving deductive reasoning from a general principle to the expected facts or effects. 2. known to be true independently of experience of the subject matter. — **ap'riority** (eɪˈpraɪˌɪrɪti) *n.*

apron (ˈeɪprən) *n.* 1. a protective or sometimes decorative garment worn over the front of the body and tied around the waist. 2. the part of a stage extending in front of the curtain. 3. a hard-surfaced area in front of an aircraft hangar, terminal building, etc. 4. a continu-

ous conveyor belt composed of metal slats. **5.** a protective plate screening the operator of a machine, artillery piece, etc. **6.** *Geol.* a sheet of sand, gravel, etc., deposited at the front of a moraine. **7.** another name for *skirt* (sense 3). **8.** tied to someone's *apron strings*, dominated by someone, esp. a mother or wife. ~*vb.* **9.** (*tr.*) to protect or provide with an apron.

apropos (ˌæprəˈpəʊ) *adj.* **1.** appropriate. ~*adv.* **2.** appropriately. **3.** by the way; incidentally. **4.** *apropos of* (*prep.*) in respect of.

apse (æps) *n.* a domed or vaulted semicircular or polygonal recess, esp. at the east end of a church. Also called: **apsis**. —**apsidal** (ˈæpsɪdəl) *adj.*

apsis (ˈæpsɪs) *n.*, *pl.* **apsides** (æpˈsaɪdɪz) either of two points lying at the extremities of an eccentric orbit of a planet, satellite, etc. Also called: **apse**. —**apsidal** (ˈæpsɪdəl) *adj.*

apt (æpt) *adj.* **1.** suitable; appropriate. **2.** (*postpositive*; foll. by an infinitive) having a tendency (to behave as specified). **3.** having the ability to learn and understand easily. —**aptly** *adv.* —**aptness** *n.*

APT *abbrev. for* Advanced Passenger Train.

apteryx (ˈæptərɪks) *n.* another name for *kiwi* (the bird).

aptitude (ˈæptɪtjuːd) *n.* **1.** inherent or acquired ability. **2.** ease in learning or understanding. **3.** the quality of being apt.

aqua (ˈækwə) *n.*, *pl.* **aquae** (ˈækwɪː) or **aquas**. **1.** water: used in compound names of certain liquid substances or solutions of substances in water. **2.** short for *aquamarine* (the colour).

aqua fortis (ˈfɔːtɪs) *n.* an obsolete name for *nitric acid*.

aqualung (ˈækwəlʌŋ) *n.* breathing apparatus used by divers, etc., consisting of an oxygen mask attached to a cylinder strapped to the back.

aquamarine (ˌækwəməˈrɪn) *n.* **1.** a pale greenish-blue transparent variety of beryl used as a gemstone. **2.** a pale blue to greenish-blue colour.

aquanaut (ˈækwənɔːt) *n.* a person who works, swims, or dives underwater.

aquaplane (ˈækwəpleɪn) *n.* **1.** a board on which a person stands and is towed by a motorboat. ~*vb.* (*intr.*) **2.** to ride on an aquaplane. **3.** (of a motor vehicle travelling at high speeds on wet roads) to rise up onto a thin film of water so that contact with the road is lost.

aqua regia (ˈrɪdʒɪə) *n.* a mixture of nitric acid and hydrochloric acid.

aquarium (əˈkwæərɪəm) *n.*, *pl.* **aquariums** or **aquaria** (əˈkwæərɪə). **1.** a tank, bowl, or pool in which aquatic animals and plants are kept for pleasure, study, or exhibition. **2.** a building housing a collection of aquatic life, as for exhibition.

Aquarius (əˈkwæərɪəs) *n.*, *Latin genitive* **Aquarii** (əˈkwæərɪi). **1.** *Astron.* a constellation. **2.** *Astrol.* the eleventh sign of the zodiac. The sun is in this sign between about Jan. 20 and Feb. 18.

aquatic (əˈkwætɪk) *adj.* **1.** growing, living, or found in water. **2.** *Sport.* performed in or on water. ~*n.* **3.** a marine animal or plant.

aquatics (əˈkwætɪks) *pl. n.* sports or pastimes performed in or on the water.

aquatint (ˈækwəˌtɪnt) *n.* **1.** a technique of etching copper with acid to produce an effect resembling water-colour. **2.** an etching made in this way. ~*vb.* **3.** (*tr.*) to etch a block, etc.) in aquatint.

aqua vitae (ˈvɪtɪˌaːˈvɪtɪː) *n.* an archaic name for *brandy*.

aqueduct (ˈækwɪˌdʌkt) *n.* **1.** a conduit used to convey water over a long distance. **2.** a structure, often a bridge, that carries such a conduit or a canal across a valley or river. **3.** a channel or conduit in the body.

aqueous (ˈeɪkwɪəs) *adj.* **1.** of, like, or containing water. **2.** (of rocks, etc.) formed from material laid down in water.

aqueous humour *n.* *Physiol.* the watery fluid within the eyeball between the cornea and the lens.

aquiline (ˈækwɪˌlaɪn) *adj.* **1.** (of a nose) having the curved shape of an eagle's beak. **2.** of or like an eagle.

Ar *the chemical symbol for* argon.

ar. *abbrev. for:* **1.** arrival. **2.** arrive(s).

Ar. *abbrev. for:* **1.** Arabia(n). **2.** Also: **Ar** Arabic. **3.** Aramaic.

-ar *suffix forming adjectives.* of; belonging to; like: *linear*; *polar*.

Arab (ˈærəb) *n.* **1.** a member of a Semitic people originally inhabiting Arabia. **2.** a small breed of horse, used for riding. **3.** See *street Arab*. **4.** (*modifier*) of or relating to the Arabs.

arabesque (ˌærəˈbesk) *n.* **1.** *Ballet.* a classical position in which the dancer has one leg raised behind. **2. *Music.* a piece or movement with a highly ornamented melody. **3.** *Arts.* a type of curvilinear decoration in painting, metalwork, etc., with intricate intertwining designs.**

Arabian (əˈreɪbiən) *adj.* **1.** of or relating to Arabia or the Arabs. ~*n.* **2.** another word for an **Arab**.

Arabic (ˈærəbɪk) *n.* **1.** the Semitic language of the Arabs, spoken in Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, etc. ~*adj.* **2.** denoting or relating to this language, any of the peoples that speak it, or the countries in which it is spoken.

Arabic numeral *n.* one of the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 0 (opposed to *Roman numerals*).

arable (ˈærəbəl) *adj.* **1.** (of land) being or capable of being tilled for the production of crops. **2.** of, relating to, or using such land.

arachnid (əˈræknɪd) *n.* any of a class of arthropods characterized by simple eyes and four pairs of legs, including the spiders, scorpions, and ticks. —**a'rachnidan** *adj.*, *n.*

arak (ˈærək) *n.* a variant spelling of *arrack*.

Araldite (ˈærəldɪt) *n.* *Trademark.* an epoxy resin used as a glue for mending glass, plastic, and china.

Aram. *abbrev. for* Aramaic.

Aramaic (ˌærəˈmeɪk) *n.* **1.** an ancient Semitic language of the Middle East, still spoken in parts of Syria and the Lebanon. ~*adj.* **2.** of, relating to, or using this language.

arbiter (ˈɑːbɪtə) *n.* **1.** a person empowered to judge in a dispute; referee. **2.** a person having control of something. —**arbitress** *fem. n.*

arbitrary (ˌærɪˈtrɪəri) *adj.* **1.** founded on or subject to personal whims, prejudices, etc. **2.** not absolute. **3.** (of a government, ruler, etc.) despotic or dictatorial. **4.** *Law.* (esp. of a penalty) within the court's discretion. —**arbitrarily** *adv.* —**arbitrariness** *n.*

arbitrate (ˈɑːbɪˌtreɪt) *vb.* **1.** to achieve a settlement between parties. **2.** to submit to or settle by arbitration. —**arbi, trator** *n.*

arbitration (ˌɑːbɪˌtreɪʃən) *n.* the hearing and determination of a dispute by an impartial referee selected or agreed upon by the parties concerned.

arbour (ˈɑːbə) *n.* the U.S. spelling of *arbour*.

arbor (ˈɑːbə) *n.* **1.** a rotating shaft in a machine on which a milling cutter or grinding wheel is fitted. **2.** a rotating shaft.

arboraceous (ˌɑːbəˈreɪʃəs) *adj.* *Literary.* **1.** resembling a tree. **2.** wooded.

arborescent (ˌɑːbəˈresnt) *adj.* **1.** of or resembling a tree. **2.** living in or among trees.

arborescent (ˌɑːbəˈresnt) *adj.* having the shape or characteristics of a tree. —**arbo, rescence** *n.*

arborescent (ˌɑːbəˈresnt) *adj.* having the shape or characteristics of a tree. —**arbo, rescence** *n.*

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arborescent (ˌɑːbəˈresnt) *adj.* having the shape or characteristics of a tree. —**arbo, rescence** *n.*

span (an opening) with an arch. 6. to form or cause to form an arch or a curve resembling that of an arch. 7. (tr.) to span or extend over.

arch¹ (ɑ:tʃ) *adj.* 1. (*prenominal*) chief; principal; leading. 2. (*prenominal*) expert; an *arch criminal*. 3. knowing or superior; coyly playful; an *arch look*. —**archly** *adv.* —**archness** *n.*

arch- or archi- *combining form.* 1. chief; principal; *archangel*; *archbishop*. 2. eminent above all others of the same kind; *archenemy*.

-arch *n. combining form.* leader; ruler; chief: *patrician*; *monarch*.

Archaean or *esp. U.S. Archean* (ɑ:'ki:ən) *adj.* of the metamorphosed rocks formed in the early Precambrian era.

archaeology or archeology (ɑ:'kri:blədʒi) *n.* the study of man's past by scientific analysis of the material remains of his cultures. —**archaeological or archeological** (ɑ:'kri:blədʒɪkəl) *adj.* —**archaeologist or archeologist** *n.*

archaeopteryx (ɑ:'kri:ptərɪks) *n.* any of several extinct primitive birds which occurred in Jurassic times and had teeth, a long tail, and well-developed wings.

archaic (ɑ:'keɪk) *adj.* 1. belonging to or characteristic of a much earlier period. 2. out of date; antiquated. 3. (of vocabulary, etc.) characteristic of an earlier period of a language. —**archaically** *adv.*

archaism (ɑ:'keɪ,ɪzəm) *n.* 1. the adoption or imitation of archaic words or style. 2. an archaic word, style, etc. —**archaist** *n.* —**archaistic** *adj.*

archangel (ɑ:'kæ,ɛndʒəl) *n.* a principal angel. —**archangelic** (ɑ:'kæ,ɛndʒɪkəl) *adj.*

archbishop (ɑ:'tʃɪbɪʃp) *n.* a bishop of the highest rank. Abbrev.: **abp.**, **Abp.**, **Arch.**, **Archbp.**

archbishopric (ɑ:'tʃɪbɪʃprɪk) *n.* the rank, office, or jurisdiction of an archbishop.

archdeacon (ɑ:'tʃɪ'di:kən) *n.* 1. an Anglican clergyman ranking just below a bishop 2. a clergyman of similar rank in other Churches. —**archdeaconry** *n.*

archdiocese (ɑ:'tʃɪ'daɪ,ɔ:sɪs) *n.* the diocese of an archbishop. —**archdiocesan** (ɑ:'tʃɪ'daɪ'ɒsɪs'n) *adj.*

archduchess (ɑ:'tʃɪ'dʌtʃɪs) *n.* 1. the wife or widow of an archduke. 2. (since 1453) a princess of the Austrian imperial family.

archduchy (ɑ:'tʃɪ'dʌtʃɪ) *n.* *pl.* **-duchies.** the territory ruled by an archduke or archduchess.

archduke (ɑ:'tʃɪ'dju:k) *n.* a chief duke, esp. (since 1453) a prince of the Austrian imperial dynasty.

archenemy (ɑ:'tʃɪ'eni:mɪ) *n.* *pl.* **-mies.** 1. a chief enemy. 2. (*often cap.*; preceded by *the*) the devil.

archeology (ɑ:'kri:blədʒi) *n.* a variant spelling of *archaeology*.

archer (ɑ:'tʃə) *n.* a person skilled in the use of a bow and arrow.

Archer (ɑ:'tʃə) *n.* the constellation Sagittarius.

archery (ɑ:'tʃəri) *n.* 1. the art or sport of shooting with bows and arrows. 2. archers or their weapons collectively.

archetype (ɑ:'kɪ,təp) *n.* 1. a perfect or typical specimen. 2. an original model; prototype. 3. *Psychoanal.* one of the inherited mental images postulated by Jung. 4. a recurring symbol or motif in literature, etc. —**arche, typal** *adj.*

archfiend (ɑ:'tʃɪ'fɪnd) *n.* (*often cap.*) the devil; Satan.

archidiaconal (ɑ:'kɪdai'ækənəl) *adj.* of or relating to an archdeacon or his office. —**archidiaconate** *n.*

archiepiscope (ɑ:'kɪ'pɪskəpəl) *adj.* of or associated with an archbishop. —**archiepiscope** *n.*

archipelago (ɑ:'kɪ'peləgəʊ) *n.* *pl.* **-gos or -goes.** 1. a group of islands. 2. a sea studded with islands. —**archipelagic** (ɑ:'kɪpə'lədʒɪkəl) *adj.*

architect (ɑ:'kɪ,tɛkt) *n.* 1. a person qualified to design buildings and to supervise their erection. 2. a person similarly qualified in another form of construction: a *naval architect*. 3. any planner or creator.

architecture (ɑ:'kɪ,tɛktʃə) *n.* 1. the art and science of designing and supervising the construction of buildings, etc. 2. a style of building or structure. 3. buildings or structures collectively. 4. the structure or design of anything. —**architectural** *adj.*

architrave (ɑ:'kɪ,trev) *n.* *Archit.* 1. the lowest part of an entablature that bears on the columns. 2. a moulding around a doorway, window opening, etc.

archives (ɑ:'kaɪvz) *pl. n.* 1. a collection of records of an institution, family, etc. 2. a place where such records are kept. —**archival** *adj.*

archivist (ɑ:'kɪvɪst) *n.* a person in charge of archives.

archpriest (ɑ:'tʃɪ'pri:st) *n.* 1. (formerly) a chief assistant to a bishop. 2. a senior priest.

archway (ɑ:'tʃ,weɪ) *n.* a passageway or entrance under an arch or arches.

-archy *n. combining form.* government; rule: *anarchy*; *monarchy*.

arctic (ɑ:'ktɪk) *adj.* 1. of or relating to the Arctic. 2. *Inf.* cold; freezing. ~n. 3. (*modifier*) suitable for conditions of extreme cold: *arctic clothing*.

Arctic (ɑ:'ktɪk) *adj.* of or relating to the regions north of the Arctic Circle.

Arctic Circle *n.* the imaginary circle round the earth, parallel to the equator, at latitude 66° 32' N.

Arcturus (ɑ:'kɪ'tʃuərəs) *n.* the brightest star in the constellation Boötes: a red giant.

arc welding *n.* a technique in which metal is welded by heat generated by an electric arc. —**arc welder** *n.*

-ard or -art *suffix forming nouns.* indicating a person who does something, esp. to excess: *braggart*; *drunkard*.

ardent (ɑ:'dɒnt) *adj.* 1. expressive of or characterized by intense desire or emotion. 2. intensely enthusiastic; eager. 3. glowing or shining: *ardent eyes*. 4. *ardent spirits* alcoholic drink. —**ardency** *n.* —**ardently** *adv.*

ardour or U.S. ardor (ɑ:'dɔ:ə) *n.* 1. feelings of great intensity and warmth. 2. eagerness; zeal.

arduous (ɑ:'dju:əs) *adj.* 1. difficult to accomplish; strenuous. 2. hard to endure; harsh. 3. steep or difficult: *an arduous track*. —**arduously** *adv.* —**arduousness** *n.*

are¹ (ɑ; unstressed ə) *vb.* the plural form of the present tense of *be* and the singular form used with *you*.

are² (ɑ; n) *n.* a unit of area equal to 100 sq. metres.

area (ə'reɪə) *n.* 1. any flat, curved, or irregular expanse of a surface. 2. a. the extent of a two-dimensional surface: *the area of a triangle*. b. the two-dimensional extent of a plane or surface: *the area of a sphere*. 3. a section or part. 4. region; district. 5. a part or section, as of a building, town, etc., having some specified function: *reception area*; *commercial area*. 6. the range or scope of anything. 7. a subject field or field of study. 8. Also called: **areaway**, a sunken area, usually enclosed, giving light, air, and sometimes access to a cellar basement. —**areal** *adj.*

arena (ə'rɪnə) *n.* 1. an enclosure or platform, usually surrounded by seats, in which sports events, entertainments, etc., take place: *a boxing arena*. 2. the central area of an ancient Roman amphitheatre, in which gladiatorial contests were held. 3. a sphere of intense activity: *the political arena*.

arenaceous (ə'rɪ'neɪʃəs) *adj.* 1. (of sedimentary rocks) composed of sand. 2. (of plants) growing in a sandy soil.

aren't (ɑ:nt) 1. contraction of *are not*. 2. *Inf.*, chiefly *Brit.* (used in interrogative sentences) contraction of *am not*.

areola (ə'reɪlə) *n.* *pl.* **-lae** (-li:) or **-las**. 1. *Biol.* a space outlined on a surface, such as an area between veins on a leaf. 2. *Anat.* any small circular area, such as the pigmented ring around the human nipple. —**areolar** or **areolate** (ə'reɪlət, -let) *adj.*

arête (ə'reɪt) *n.* a sharp ridge that separates glacial valleys.

argent (ɑ:'dʒənt) *n.* a. an archaic or poetic word for *silver*. b. (*as adj.*; *often postpositive*, esp. in *heraldry*): a *bend argent*.

argon (ɑ:'gɒn) *n.* an unreactive colourless odourless element of the rare gas series that forms almost 1 per cent of the atmosphere. It is used in electric lights. Symbol: Ar; atomic no.: 18; atomic wt.: 39.95.

argosy (ɑ:'gɒsi) *n.* *pl.* **-sies.** *Arch. or poetic.* a large abundantly laden merchant ship, or a fleet of such ships.

argot (ɑ:'gɒʊ) *n.* slang or jargon peculiar to a particular group, esp. (formerly) a group of thieves.

argue (ɑ:'gju:) *vb.* **-guing, -gued.** 1. (*intr.*) to quarrel; wrangle. 2. (*intr.*; *often foll. by for or against*) to present supporting or opposing reasons or cases in a dispute. 3. (*tr.*; *may take a clause as object*) to try to prove by presenting reasons. 4. (*tr.*; *often passive*) to debate or discuss. 5. (*tr.*) to persuade. 6. (*tr.*) to suggest: *her looks argue despair*. —**arguable** *adj.* —**arguer** *n.*

argument (ɑ:'gju:mənt) *n.* 1. a quarrel; altercation. 2. a discussion in which reasons are put forward; debate. 3. (*sometimes pl.*) a point or series of reasons presented to support or oppose a proposition. 4. a summary of the plot or subject of a book, etc. 5. *Logic.* a. a process of reasoning in which the conclusion can be shown to be true or false. b. the middle term of a syllogism.

argumentation (ˌɑːɡjʊmənt'eɪʃən) *n.* 1. the process of reasoning methodically. 2. argument; debate.

argumentative (ˌɑːɡjʊ'mentətɪv) *adj.* 1. given to arguing. 2. characterized by argument; controversial.

Argus (ˈɑːɡəs) *n.* 1. *Greek myth.* a giant with a hundred eyes who was made guardian of the heifer Io. 2. a vigilant person.

argy-bargy (ˈɑːdʒɪ'bɑːdʒɪ) *n., pl. -bargies.* *Brit. inf.* a wrangling argument or verbal dispute.

aria (ˈɑːrɪə) *n.* an elaborate accompanied song for solo voice from a cantata, opera, or oratorio.

Arian (ˈɛəriən) *adj.* 1. of, or relating to Arius, 3rd-century A.D. Greek Christian theologian, or to Arianism. ~*n.* 2. an adherent of Arianism.

-arian *suffix forming nouns.* indicating a person or thing that advocates, believes, or is associated with something: *vegetarian; librarian.*

Arianism (ˈɛəriə'nɪzəm) *n.* *Christian Theol.* the doctrine of Arius, which asserted that Christ was not of one substance with the Father.

arid (ˈærɪd) *adj.* 1. having little or no rain; dry. 2. devoid of interest. —*aridity* (ˈærɪdɪti) or *'aridness* *n.*

Aries (ˈɛəriːz) *n., Latin genitive Arietis* (ˈærɪntɪs). 1. *Astron.* a N constellation. 2. *Astrol.* the first sign of the zodiac. The sun is in this sign between about March 21 and April 19.

aright (ə'reɪt) *adv.* correctly; rightly; properly.

arise (ə'reɪz) *vb.* **arising, arose, arisen.** (*intr.*) 1. to come into being; originate. 2. (foll. by *from*) to proceed as a consequence. 3. to get or stand up, as from a sitting or lying position. 4. to come into notice. 5. to ascend.

aristocracy (ˌærɪ'stɒkrəsi) *n., pl. -cies.* 1. government by the best citizens. 2. a privileged class of people; the nobility. 3. government by such a class. 4. a state governed by such a class. 5. a class of people considered to be outstanding in a sphere of activity.

aristocrat (ˌærɪstə'kræt) *n.* 1. a member of the aristocracy. 2. a person who has the manners or qualities of a member of a privileged class. 3. a supporter of aristocracy as a form of government.

Aristotelian (ˌærɪstə'tɪliən) *adj.* 1. of or relating to Aristotle, 4th-century B.C. Greek philosopher, or to his philosophy. ~*n.* 2. a follower of Aristotle.

Aristotelian logic *n.* 1. traditional logic, esp. relying on the theory of syllogism. 2. the logical method of Aristotle, esp. as developed in the Middle Ages.

arithmetic *n.* (ə'rɪθmə'tɪk). 1. the branch of mathematics concerned with numerical calculations, such as addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. 2. calculations involving numerical operations. 3. knowledge of or skill in using arithmetic. —*adj.* (ə'rɪθ'metɪk), also *arithmetical*. 4. of, related to, or using arithmetic. —*a, rithme'tician* *n.*

arithmetic mean *n.* the average value of a set of terms or quantities, expressed as their sum divided by their number: *the arithmetic mean of 3, 4, and 8 is 5.* Also called: *average.*

arithmetic progression *n.* a sequence, each term of which differs from the succeeding term by a constant amount, such as 3, 6, 9, 12.

-arium *suffix forming nouns.* indicating a place for or associated with something: *aquarium; solarium.*

ark (ɑːk) *n.* 1. the vessel that Noah built which survived the Flood (Genesis 6–9). 2. a place or thing offering shelter or protection. 3. *Dialect.* a box.

Ark (ɑːk) *n.* *Judaism.* 1. Also called: *Ark of the Covenant.* the most sacred symbol of God's presence among the Hebrew people, carried in their journey from Sinai to the Promised Land (Canaan). 2. Also called: *Holy Ark.* a receptacle for the scrolls of the Law.

arm (ɑːm) *n.* 1. (in *man*) either of the upper limbs from the shoulder to the wrist. 2. the part of either of the upper limbs from the elbow to the wrist; forearm. 3. a. the corresponding limb of any other vertebrate. b. an armlike appendage of some invertebrates. 4. an object that covers or supports the human arm, esp. the sleeve of a garment or the side of a chair, etc. 5. anything considered to resemble an arm in appearance, position, or function: *an arm of the sea; the arm of a record player.* 6. an administrative subdivision of an organization: *an arm of the government.* 7. power; authority: *the arm of the law.* 8. *arm in arm.* with arms linked. 9. *at arm's length.* at a distance. 10. *in the arms of Morpheus.* sleeping. 11. *with open arms.* with great warmth and hospitality. —*'armless* *adj.*

arm (ɑːm) *vb.* 1. to equip with weapons as a preparation for war. 2. (*tr.*) to provide (a person or thing) with

something that strengthens, protects, or increases efficiency. 3. (*tr.*) to activate a fuse so that it will explode at the required time. ~*n.* 4. (*usually pl.*) a weapon, esp. a firearm.

armada (ɑː'mɑːdə) *n.* a large number of ships or aircraft.

Armada (ɑː'mɑːdə) *n.* (usually preceded by *the*) See the **Spanish Armada**.

armadillo (ɑː'mɑːdɪləʊ) *n., pl. -illos.* a burrowing mammal of Central and South America with a covering of strong horny plates over most of the body.

Armageddon (ɑː'mə'ged'n) *n.* 1. *New Testament.* the place designated in Revelation 16:16 as the scene of the final battle at the end of the world. 2. a catastrophic and extremely destructive conflict.

armament (ɑː'məmənt) *n.* 1. the weapon equipment of a military vehicle, ship, or aircraft. 2. a military force raised and armed ready for war. 3. preparation for war.

armature (ɑː'mætʃʊə) *n.* 1. a revolving structure in an electric motor or generator, wound with the coils that carry the current. 2. any part of an electric machine or device that vibrates under the influence of a magnetic field or within which an electromotive force is induced. 3. Also called: *keeper.* a soft iron or steel bar placed across the poles of a magnet to close the magnetic circuit. 4. *Sculpture.* a framework to support the clay or other material used in modelling. 5. the protective outer covering of an animal or plant.

armchair (ɑː'm,tʃeə) *n.* 1. a chair, esp. an upholstered one, that has side supports for the arms or elbows. 2. (*modifier*) taking or involving no active part: *an armchair strategist.*

armed (ɑːmd) *adj.* 1. equipped with or supported by arms, armour, etc. 2. prepared for conflict or any difficulty.

armed (ɑːmd) *adj.* a. having an arm or arms. b. (*in combination*): *long-armed; one-armed.*

armed forces *pl. n.* the military forces of a nation or nations, including the army, navy, air force, marines, etc.

armhole (ɑː'm,həʊl) *n.* the opening in an article of clothing through which the arm passes.

armillary sphere (ɑː'mɪləri) *n.* a model of the celestial sphere formerly used in fixing the positions of heavenly bodies.

armistice (ɑː'mɪstɪs) *n.* an agreement between opposing armies to suspend hostilities; truce.

Armistice Day (ɑː'mɪstɪs) *n.* the anniversary of the signing of the armistice that ended World War I, on Nov. 11, 1918.

armlet (ɑː'mlɪt) *n.* 1. a small arm, as of a lake. 2. a band or bracelet worn round the arm.

armoie (ɑːm'waː) *n.* a large cabinet, originally used for storing weapons.

armor (ɑːmə) *n.* the U.S. spelling of **armour**.

armorial (ɑː'mɔːriəl) *adj.* of or relating to heraldry or heraldic arms.

armour or *U.S. armor* (ɑːmə) *n.* 1. any defensive covering, esp. that of metal, chain mail, etc., worn by medieval warriors. 2. the protective metal plates on a tank, warship, etc. 3. *Mil.* armoured fighting vehicles in general. 4. any protective covering, such as the shell of certain animals. 5. heraldic insignia; arms. ~*vb.* 6. (*tr.*) to equip or cover with armour.

armoured or *U.S. armored* (ɑːməd) *adj.* 1. having a protective covering. 2. comprising units making use of armoured vehicles: *an armoured brigade.*

armourer or *U.S. armorer* (ɑː'mɔːə) *n.* 1. a person who makes or mends arms and armour. 2. a person employed in the maintenance of small arms and weapons in a military unit.

armour plate *n.* a tough heavy steel often hardened on the surface, used for protecting warships, tanks, etc.

armoury or *U.S. armory* (ɑː'mɔːri) *n., pl. -mories* or *-ories.* 1. a secure place for the storage of weapons. 2. armour generally; military supplies.

armpit (ɑː'm,pɪt) *n.* the small depression beneath the arm where it joins the shoulder.

armrest (ɑː'm,rest) *n.* the part of a chair, sofa, etc., that supports the arm. Sometimes shortened to **arm**.

arms (ɑːmz) *pl. n.* 1. weapons collectively. 2. military exploits: *proves in arms.* 3. the official heraldic symbols of a family, state, etc. 4. **bear arms.** a. to carry weapons. b. to serve in the armed forces. c. to have a coat of arms. 5. **in or under arms.** armed and prepared for war. 6. **lay down one's arms.** to stop fighting;

surrender. 7. **take (up) arms**, to prepare to fight. 8. **up in arms**, indignant; prepared to protest strongly.

army ('ɑ:mɪ) *n.*, *pl.* **-mies**. 1. the military land forces of a nation. 2. a military unit usually consisting of two or more corps with supporting arms and services. 3. (*modifier*) of or characteristic of an army. 4. any large body of people united for some specific purpose. 5. a large number of people, animals, etc.

arnica ('ɑ:nɪkə) *n.* 1. any of a genus of *N* temperate or arctic plants having yellow flowers. 2. the tincture of the dried flower heads of any of these plants, used in treating bruises.

aroma ('ɑ:rəʊmə) *n.* 1. a distinctive usually pleasant smell, esp. of spices, wines, and plants. 2. a subtle pervasive quality or atmosphere.

aromatic (,æ'rə'mætɪk) *adj.* 1. having a distinctive, usually fragrant smell. 2. (of an organic compound) having an unsaturated ring, esp. containing a benzene ring. Cf. **aliphatic**. ~*n.* 3. something, such as a plant or drug, giving off a fragrant smell. —**aro'matically** *adv.* —**a,roma'ticity** *n.*

arose ('ɑ:rəʊz) *vb.* the past tense of **arise**.

around ('ɑ:raʊnd) *prep.* 1. surrounding, encircling, or enclosing: *a band around her head*. 2. on all or most sides of: *to look around one*. 3. on or outside the circumference or perimeter of. 4. situated at various points in: *a lot of shelves around the house*. 5. from place to place in: *driving around Ireland*. 6. somewhere in or near. 7. reached by making a partial circuit about something: *the shop around the corner*. 8. revolving round a centre or axis: *the earth's motion around its axis*. 9. approximately in: *it happened around 1957*. ~*adv.* 10. on all or most sides. 11. on or outside the circumference or perimeter: *the racing track is two miles around*. 12. in all directions from a point of reference: *he owns the land for ten miles around*. 13. to all members of a group: *pass the food around*. 14. in the vicinity, esp. restlessly but idly: *to stand around*. 15. in no particular place or direction: *to sleep around*. 16. in rotation or revolution: *the wheels turn around*. 17. by a circuitous route: *the road to the farm goes around by the pond*. 18. to a specific place: *she came around to see me*. 19. *Inf.* (of people) active and prominent in a particular area or profession. 20. *Inf.* present in some place (the exact location being inexact). 21. *Inf.* in circulation; available: *that type of phone has been around for some years now*. 22. *Inf.* to many places, so as to have gained considerable experience, often of a worldly or social nature: *I've been around*.

▷ **Usage**. In adverbial and prepositional senses **round** is now regarded by most speakers and writers of British English as a less formal variant of **around**, although historically it is the better established form. In American English, **around** has almost completely replaced **round** in these senses, except in a few fixed phrases such as *all year round*.

arouse ('ɑ:raʊz) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to evoke or elicit (a reaction, emotion, or response). 2. to awaken from sleep. —**a'rousal** *n.* —**a'rouser** *n.*

arpeggio (ɑ:'pɛdʒɪəʊ) *n.*, *pl.* **-gios**, a chord whose notes are played or sung in rapid succession rather than simultaneously.

arquebus ('ɑ:kwbʊs) or **harquebus** *n.* a portable long-barrelled gun dating from the 15th century.

arr. *abbrev. for* 1. arranged (by). 2. arrival. 3. arrive(d).

arrack or **arak** ('ærək) *n.* a coarse spirit distilled in various Eastern countries from grain, rice, sugar cane, etc.

arraign ('ɑ:reɪn) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to bring (a prisoner) before a court to answer an indictment. 2. (*tr.*) to call to account; accuse. —**ar'raigner** *n.* —**ar'raignment** *n.*

arrange ('ɑ:reɪndʒ) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to put into a proper or systematic order. 2. (*tr.*) *may take a clause as object* or *an infinitive* to arrive at an agreement about. 3. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *for*; when *tr.*, *may take a clause as object* or *an infinitive*) to make plans or preparations in advance (for something): *we arranged for her to be met*. 4. (*tr.*) to adapt (a musical composition) for performance in a different way, esp. on different instruments. 5. (*intr.*; often foll. by *with*) to come to an agreement. —**ar'rangeable** *adj.* —**ar'ranger** *n.*

arrangement ('ɑ:reɪndʒmənt) *n.* 1. the act of arranging or being arranged. 2. the form in which things are arranged. 3. a thing composed of various ordered parts: *a flower arrangement*. 4. (*often pl.*) a preparation. 5. an understanding. 6. an adaptation of a piece of music

for performance in a different way, esp. on different instruments.

arrant ('ærənt) *adj.* utter; out-and-out: *an arrant fool*. —**ar'rantly** *adv.*

arras ('ærəs) *n.* a wall hanging, esp. of tapestry.

array ('ɑ:reɪ) *n.* 1. an impressive display or collection. 2. an orderly arrangement, esp. of troops in battle order. 3. *Poetic*, rich clothing. 4. *Maths*, a set of numbers or symbols arranged in rows and columns, as in a determinant or matrix. 5. *Law*, a panel of jurors. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 6. to dress in rich attire. 7. to arrange in order, esp. troops for battle. 8. *Law*, to draw up (a panel of jurors). —**ar'rayal** *n.*

arrears ('ærɪəz) *n.* 1. (*sometimes sing.*) Also called: **arrears**, something outstanding or owed. 2. **in arrears** or **arrears**, late in paying a debt or meeting an obligation.

arrest ('ærest) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to deprive (a person) of liberty by taking him into custody, esp. under lawful authority. 2. to seize (a ship) under lawful authority. 3. to slow or stop the development of (a disease, growth, etc.). 4. to catch and hold (one's attention, etc.). ~*n.* 5. the act of taking a person into custody, esp. under lawful authority. 6. the act of seizing and holding a ship under lawful authority. 7. the state of being held: *under arrest*. 8. the slowing or stopping of something: *a cardiac arrest*.

arresting ('ærestɪŋ) *adj.* attracting attention; striking. —**ar'restingly** *adv.*

arrival ('æraɪvl) *n.* 1. the act or time of arriving. 2. a person or thing that arrives or has arrived.

arrive ('æraɪv) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. to come to a certain place during or after a journey. 2. to reach: *to arrive at a decision*. 3. to occur eventually: *the moment arrived when pretence was useless*. 4. *Inf.* (of a baby) to be born. 5. *Inf.* to attain success.

arrogant ('ærəɡənt) *adj.* having or showing an exaggerated opinion of one's own importance, merit, ability, etc.: *an arrogant assumption*. —**ar'rogance** *n.* —**ar'rogantly** *adv.*

arrogate ('ærə,ɡet) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to claim or appropriate for oneself without justification. 2. (*tr.*) to attribute or assign to another without justification. —**ar'ro'gation** *n.* —**ar'rogative** ('ærəɡətɪv) *adj.*

arrow ('ærəʊ) *n.* 1. a long slender pointed weapon, usually having feathers fastened at the end as a balance, that is shot from a bow. 2. any of various things that resemble an arrow in shape, function, or speed.

arrowhead ('ærəʊ,hed) *n.* 1. the pointed tip of an arrow, often removable from the shaft. 2. something that resembles the head of an arrow in shape. 3. an aquatic herbaceous plant having arrow-shaped leaves.

arrowroot ('ærəʊ,rʊt) *n.* 1. a white-flowered West Indian plant, whose rhizomes yield an easily digestible starch. 2. the starch obtained from this plant.

arse (ɑ:s) or **U.S. ass** *n.* **Taboo**. 1. the buttocks. 2. the anus. 3. a stupid person; fool. ~Also called (for senses 2, 3): **arsehole** ('ɑ:s,həʊl).

arsenal ('ɑ:sənəl) *n.* 1. a store for arms, ammunition, and other military items. 2. a workshop that produces munitions. 3. a store of anything regarded as weapons.

arsenic ('ɑ:snɪk). 1. a toxic metalloid element used in transistors, lead-based alloys, and high-temperature brasses. Symbol: As; atomic no.: 33; atomic wt.: 74.92. 2. a nontechnical name for **arsenic trioxide**, used as rat poison and an insecticide. ~*adj.* (ɑ:'senɪk). 3. of or containing arsenic, esp. in the pentavalent state.

arsenical (ɑ:'senɪkəl) *adj.* 1. of or containing arsenic. ~*n.* 2. a drug or insecticide containing arsenic.

arson ('ɑ:sn) *n.* **Criminal law**, the act of intentionally or recklessly setting fire to property for some improper reason. —**ar'sonist** *n.*

art¹ (ɑ:t) *n.* 1. **a.** the creation of works of beauty or other special significance. **b.** (*as modifier*): *an art movement*. 2. the exercise of human skill (as distinguished from *nature*). 3. imaginative skill as applied to representations of the natural world or figments of the imagination. 4. **a.** works of art collectively, esp. of the visual arts. **b.** (*as modifier*): *an art gallery*. See also **arts**, **fine art**. 5. any branch of the visual arts, esp. painting. 6. any field using the techniques of art. 7. method, facility, or knack: *the art of threading a needle*. 8. skill governing a particular human activity: *the art of government*. 9. cunning. 10. **get something down to a fine art**, to become highly proficient at something through practice.

art² (ɑ:t) *vb.* **Arch.** (used with the pronoun *thou*) a singular form of the present tense of **be**.

art. *abbrev. for:* 1. article. 2. artificial. 3. Also: **arty.** artillery.

-art *suffix forming nouns.* variant of **-ard**.

Art Deco ('dekəʊ) *n.* a style of interior decoration, architecture, etc., at its height in the 1930s and characterized by geometrical shapes.

artefact or **artifact** ('ɑ:tɪ,fækt) *n.* 1. something made or given shape by man, such as a tool or a work of art, esp. an object of archaeological interest. 2. *Cytology.* a structure seen in dead tissue that is not normally present in the living tissue.

arterial ('ɑ:tɪrəl) *adj.* 1. of or affecting an artery or arteries. 2. denoting or relating to the bright red reoxygenated blood that circulates in the arteries. 3. being a major route, esp. one with many minor branches. —**arterially** *adv.*

arteriosclerosis (ɑ:tɪrɪəʊsklə'rəʊsɪs) *n.*, *pl.* **-ses** (-sɪz). a thickening and loss of elasticity of the walls of the arteries. Nontechnical name: **hardening of the arteries**. —**arteriosclerotic** (ɑ:tɪrɪəʊsklə'rɒtɪk) *adj.*

artery ('ɑ:təri) *n.*, *pl.* **-teries**. 1. any of the tubular thick-walled muscular vessels that convey oxygenated blood from the heart to various parts of the body. Cf. **vein**. 2. a major road or means of communication.

artesian well (ɑ:'ti:ziən) *n.* a well sunk through impermeable strata into strata receiving water from an area at a higher altitude than that of the well, so the water is forced to flow upwards.

art form *n.* 1. an accepted mode of artistic composition, such as the sonnet, symphony, etc. 2. a recognized medium of artistic expression.

artful ('ɑ:tful) *adj.* 1. cunning or tricky. 2. skilful in achieving a desired end. —**artfully** *adv.* —**artfulness** *n.*

arthritis (ɑ:'θraɪtɪs) *n.* inflammation of a joint or joints characterized by pain and stiffness of the affected parts. —**arthritic** (ɑ:'θrɪtɪk) *adj.*, *n.*

arthropod ('ɑ:θrə,pɒd) *n.* an invertebrate having jointed limbs, a segmented body, and an exoskeleton made of chitin, as the crustaceans, insects, arachnids, and centipedes.

artic (ɑ:'tɪk) *n.* *Inf.* short for **articulated lorry**.

artichoke ('ɑ:tɪ,tʃəʊk) *n.* 1. Also called: **globe artichoke**. a thistle-like Eurasian plant, cultivated for its large edible flower head. 2. the unopened flower head of this plant, which can be cooked and eaten. 3. See **Jerusalem artichoke**.

article ('ɑ:tɪkl̩) *n.* 1. one of a class of objects; item. 2. an unspecified or previously named thing, esp. a small object. 3. a written composition on a subject, often being one of several found in a magazine, newspaper, etc. 4. *Grammar.* a kind of determiner, occurring in many languages including English, that lacks independent meaning. See also **definite article**, **indefinite article**. 5. a clause or section in a written document. 6. (*often cap.*) *Christianity.* See **Thirty-nine Articles**. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 7. to bind by a written contract, esp. one that governs a period of training: *an articulated clerk*.

articular (ɑ:'tɪkjʊlə) *adj.* of or relating to joints or to the structural components in a joint.

articulate *adj.* (ɑ:'tɪkjʊlət) 1. able to express oneself fluently and coherently. 2. having the power of speech. 3. distinct, clear, or definite: *an articulate document*. 4. *Zool.* (of arthropods and higher vertebrates) possessing joints or jointed segments. ~*vb.* (ɑ:'tɪkjʊ,leɪt). 5. to speak or enunciate (words, syllables, etc.) clearly and distinctly. 6. (*tr.*) to express coherently in words. 7. (*intr.*) *Zool.* to be jointed or form a joint. —**articulately** *adv.* —**articulateness** *n.* —**articulator** *n.*

articulated lorry *n.* a large lorry made in two separate sections, a tractor and a trailer, connected by a pivoted bar. U.S. name: **trailer truck**.

articulation (ɑ:'tɪkjʊ,leɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act or process of speaking or expressing in words. 2. a. the process of articulating a speech sound. b. the sound so produced, esp. a consonant. 3. the act or the state of being jointed together. 4. *Zool.* a. a joint such as that between bones or arthropod segments. b. the way in which jointed parts are connected. 5. *Bot.* the part of a plant at which natural separation occurs.

artificial ('ɑ:tɪ,fækt) *n.* a variant spelling of **artefact**.

artifice ('ɑ:tɪfɪs) *n.* 1. a clever expedient. 2. crafty or subtle deception. 3. skill; cleverness. 4. a skilfully contrived device.

artificer (ɑ:'tɪfɪsə) *n.* 1. a skilled craftsman. 2. a clever or inventive designer. 3. a serviceman trained in mechanics.

artificial (ɑ:'tɪfɪʃəl) *adj.* 1. produced by man; not occurring naturally. 2. made in imitation of a natural product: *artificial cream*. 3. pretended; assumed; insincere. 4. lacking in spontaneity; affected: *an artificial laugh*. —**artificiality** (ɑ:'tɪ,fɪʃə'lɪtɪ) *n.* —**artificially** *adv.*

artificial insemination *n.* introduction of spermatozoa into the vagina or uterus by means other than sexual union.

artificial respiration *n.* 1. any of various methods of restarting breathing after it has stopped. 2. any method of maintaining respiration, as by use of an iron lung.

artillery (ɑ:'tɪləri) *n.* 1. cannon or any mounted guns of higher calibre than machine guns. 2. troops or military units specializing in using such guns. 3. the science dealing with the use of guns.

artisan (ɑ:'tɪ,zæn, ɑ:'tɪ,zæn) *n.* a skilled workman; craftsman.

artist ('ɑ:tɪst) *n.* 1. a person who practises or is skilled in an art, esp. painting, drawing, or sculpture. 2. a person who displays in his work qualities required in art, such as sensibility and imagination. 3. a person whose profession requires artistic expertise. 4. a person skilled in some task or occupation. 5. *Sl.* a person devoted to or proficient in something: *a con artist, a booze artist*. —**artistically** *adv.*

artiste (ɑ:'tɪst) *n.* 1. an entertainer, such as a singer or dancer. 2. a person who is highly skilled in some occupation: *a hair artiste*.

artistry ('ɑ:tɪstri) *n.* 1. artistic workmanship, ability, or quality. 2. artistic pursuits. 3. great skill.

artless ('ɑ:tɪls) *adj.* 1. free from deceit: *an artless manner*. 2. natural or simple. 3. without art or skill. 4. naive: *an artless remark*. 5. ignorant or uncultured. —**artlessly** *adv.*

Art Nouveau ('ɑ: nu:'vəʊ; *French* ar nu'vo) *n.* a style of art and architecture of the 1890s, characterized by sinuous outlines and stylized natural forms.

arts (ɑ:ts) *pl. n.* 1. a. **the**. imaginative, creative, and nonscientific branches of knowledge considered collectively, esp. as studied academically. b. (*as modifier*): *an arts degree*. 2. See **fine art**. 3. cunning actions or schemes.

arty ('ɑ:tɪ) *adj.* **artier**, **artiest**. *Inf.* having an affected interest in artists or art. —**artiness** *n.*

arum ('ɛərəm) *n.* 1. a plant of Europe and the Mediterranean region, having arrow-shaped leaves and a typically white spathe, such as the cuckoopint. 2. **arum lily**, a southern African plant which has a white funnel-shaped spathe enclosing a yellow spadix.

-ary *suffix.* 1. (*forming adjectives*) of; related to; belonging to: *cautionary*. 2. (*forming nouns*) a person or thing connected with: *missionary; aviary*.

Aryan ('ɛəriən) *n.* 1. (in Nazi ideology) a Caucasian of non-Jewish descent. 2. a member of any of the peoples supposedly descended from the Indo-Europeans. ~*adj.* 3. of or characteristic of an Aryan or Aryans. ~*adj.*, *n.* 4. *Arch.* Indo-European.

as (æ; *unstressed* əz) *conj.* (*subordinating*) 1. (often preceded by *just*) while; when: *he caught me as I was leaving*. 2. in the way that: *dancing as only she can*. 3. that which; what: *I did as I was told*. 4. (of) which fact, event, etc. (referring to the previous statement): *to become wise, as we all know, is not easy*. 5. **as it were**, in a way; as if it were really so. 6. since; seeing that. 7. in the same way that: *he died of cancer, as his father had done*. 8. for instance: *capital cities, as London*. ~*prep.*, *conj.* 9. a. used to indicate identity of extent, amount, etc.: *she is as heavy as her sister*. b. used with this sense after a noun phrase introduced by the same: *the same height as her sister*. ~*prep.* 10. in the role of; being: *as his friend, my opinions are probably biased*. 11. **as for** or **to**, with reference to: *as for my past, I'm not telling you anything*. 12. **as if** or **though**, as it would be if: *he talked as if he knew all about it*. 13. **as (it) is**, in the existing state of affairs. 14. **as per**. See **per**. 15. **as regards**. See **regard**. 16. **as such**. See **such**. 17. **such as**. See **such**. 18. **as was**, in a previous state. 19. **as well**. See **well**. 20. **as yet**, so far.

As *symbol for:* 1. Chem. arsenic. 2. altostratus.

A.S.A. *abbrev. for:* 1. (in Britain) Amateur Swimming Association. 2. (in the U.S.) American Standards Association.

asafoetida or **asafetida** (,æso:'fetɪdə) *n.* a bitter resin with an unpleasant onion-like smell, obtained from the roots of some umbelliferous plants: formerly used to treat flatulence, etc.

asbestos (æs'bestos) *n.* **a.** any of the fibrous amphibole minerals that are incombustible and resistant to chemicals. It is widely used in the form of fabric or board as a heat-resistant structural material. **b.** (as modifier): *asbestos matting*.

asbestosis (,æsbəs'təʊsɪs) *n.* inflammation of the lungs resulting from chronic inhalation of asbestos particles.

ascend (ə'send) *vb.* **1.** to go or move up (a ladder, hill, slope, etc.). **2.** (intr.) to slope or incline upwards. **3.** (intr.) to rise to a higher point, level, etc. **4.** to trace (a genealogy, etc.) back in time. **5.** to sing or play (a scale, etc.) from the lower to higher notes. **6.** ascend the throne, to become king or queen.

ascendancy, ascendancy (ə'sendənsi) or **ascendancy, ascendancy** *n.* the condition of being dominant.

ascendant or ascendent (ə'sendənt) *adj.* **1.** proceeding upwards; rising. **2.** dominant or influential. **~n.** **3.** a position or condition of dominance. **4.** *Astrol.* (sometimes cap.) **a.** a point on the ecliptic that rises on the eastern horizon at a particular moment. **b.** the sign of the zodiac containing this point. **5.** in the ascendant, increasing in influence, etc.

ascension (ə'senʃən) *n.* the act of ascending. —as'cen-sional *adj.*

Ascension (ə'senʃən) *n.* *Bible.* the passing of Jesus Christ from earth into heaven (Acts 1:9).

Ascension Day *n.* the 40th day after Easter, when the Ascension of Christ into heaven is celebrated.

ascent (ə'sent) *n.* **1.** the act of ascending; upward movement. **2.** an upward slope. **3.** movement back through time (esp. in line of ascent).

ascertain (,æso'tein) *vb.* (tr.) **1.** to determine definitely. **2.** *Arch.* to make certain. —ascer'tainable *adj.* —ascer'tainment *n.*

ascetic (ə'setɪk) *n.* **1.** a person who practises great self-denial and abstains from worldly comforts and pleasures, esp. for religious reasons. **~adj.** also as'cetic'al. **2.** rigidly abstinent or abstemious. **3.** of or relating to ascetics or asceticism. —as'cetically *adv.*

ascorbic acid (ə'skɔ:bɪk) *n.* a white crystalline vitamin present in plants, esp. citrus fruits, tomatoes, and green vegetables. A deficiency in the diet of man leads to scurvy. Also called: **vitamin C**.

ascribe (ə'skraɪb) *vb.* (tr.) **1.** to credit or assign, as to a particular origin or period. **2.** to consider as belonging to: *to ascribe beauty to youth*. —as'cribable *adj.* —as-crip-tion (ə'skrɪpʃən) *n.*

-ase *suffix forming nouns.* indicating an enzyme: *oxidase*.

asepsis (ə'sepsɪs, eɪ-) *n.* **1.** the state of being free from living pathogenic organisms. **2.** the methods of achieving a germ-free condition. —a'septic *adj.*

asexual (eɪ'seksjuəl) *adj.* **1.** having no apparent sex or sex organs. **2.** (of reproduction) not involving the fusion of male and female gametes. —a,sexu'al-ity *n.* —a'sexually *adv.*

ash (æʃ) *n.* **1.** the residue formed when matter is burnt. **2.** fine particles of lava thrown out by an erupting volcano. **3.** a light silvery grey colour.

ash¹ (æʃ) *n.* **1.** a tree having compound leaves, clusters of small greenish flowers, and winged seeds. **2.** the wood of this tree, used for tool handles, etc. **3.** any of several trees resembling the ash, such as the mountain ash. **4.** *Austral.* any of various eucalypts.

ashamed (ə'ʃeɪmd) *adj.* (usually postpositive) **1.** overcome with shame or remorse. **2.** (foll. by *of*) suffering from feelings of shame in relation to (a person or deed). **3.** (foll. by *to*) unwilling through fear of humiliation, shame, etc. —ashamedly (ə'ʃeɪmɪdli) *adv.*

ash can *n.* a U.S. word for **dustbin**. Also called: **garbage can, ash bin, trash can**.

ashen ('æʃən) *adj.* **1.** drained of colour. **2.** consisting of or resembling ashes. **3.** of a pale greyish colour.

ashes ('æʃɪz) *pl. n.* **1.** ruins or remains, as after burning. **2.** the remains of a human body after cremation.

Ashes ('æʃɪz) *pl. n.* **the.** a cremated cricket stump constituting a trophy competed for by England and Australia in test cricket since 1882.

Ashkenazi (,æʃkə'nɑ:zi) *n., pl. -zim* (-zim). **1.** (modifier) of or relating to the Jews of Germany and E Europe. **2.** a Jew of German or E European descent. Cf. **Sephardi**.

ashlar or ashler ('æʃlə) *n.* **1.** a square block of hewn stone for use in building. **2.** a thin dressed stone with straight edges, used to face a wall. **3.** masonry made of ashlar.

ashore (ə'ʃɔ:) *adv.* **1.** towards or onto land from the

water. **~adj.** (postpositive), *adv.* **2.** on land: *a day ashore before sailing*.

ashram ('æʃrəm) *n.* a religious retreat or community where a Hindu holy man lives.

ashtray ('æʃ,treɪ) *n.* a receptacle for tobacco ash, cigarette butts, etc.

Ash Wednesday *n.* the first day of Lent, named from the former Christian custom of sprinkling ashes on penitents' heads.

ashy ('æʃɪ) *adj.* **ashier, ashiest.** **1.** of a pale greyish colour; ashen. **2.** consisting of, covered with, or resembling ash.

Asian ('eɪʃən, 'eɪzən) *adj.* **1.** of or relating to Asia, the largest of the continents, or to any of its people or languages. **~n.** **2.** a native or inhabitant of Asia or a descendant of one.

▷ **Usage.** Asian is used in formal writing as a noun indicating a person from Asia. The use of the word *Asiatic* in this sense is regarded by some people as offensive.

Asian flu *n.* a type of influenza caused by a virus which apparently originated in China in 1957.

aside (ə'saɪd) *adv.* **1.** on or to one side. **2.** out of hearing; in or into seclusion. **3.** away from oneself: *he threw the book aside*. **4.** out of mind or consideration: *he put aside all fears*. **5.** in or into reserve: *to put aside money for old age*. **~n.** **6.** something spoken by an actor, intended to be heard by the audience, but not by the others on stage. **7.** any confidential statement spoken in undertones. **8.** an incidental remark, note, etc.

asinine ('æsi,nəɪn) *adj.* **1.** obstinate or stupid. **2.** resembling an ass. —asi,ninely *adv.* —asininity (,æsi-'nɪnɪtɪ) *n.*

ask (ɑ:sk) *vb.* **1.** (often foll. by *about*) to put a question (to); request an answer (from). **2.** (tr.) to inquire about: *she asked the way*. **3.** (tr.) to direct or put (a question). **4.** (may take a clause as object or an infinitive; often foll. by *for*) to make a request or demand: *they asked for a deposit*. **5.** (tr.) to demand or expect (esp. in *ask a lot of, ask too much of*). **6.** (tr.) Also: *ask out, ask over*, to request (a person) politely to come or go to a place: *he asked her to the party*. **~See** also *ask after, ask for*. —asker *n.*

ask after *vb.* (prep.) to make enquiries about the health of (someone): *he asked after her mother*.

askance (ə'skæns) or **askant** (ə'skænt) *adv., adj.* **1.** with an oblique glance. **2.** with doubt or mistrust.

askew (ə'skju:) *adv., adj.* at an oblique angle; towards one side; awry.

ask for *vb.* (prep.) **1.** to try to obtain by requesting. **2.** (intr.) *Inf.* to behave in a provocative manner that is regarded as inviting (trouble, etc.): *you're asking for it*.

asking price *n.* the price suggested by a seller but usually considered to be subject to bargaining.

aslant (ə'slɑ:nt) *adv.* **1.** at a slant. **~prep.** **2.** at a slant across or athwart.

asleep (ə'sli:p) *adj.* (postpositive) **1.** in or into a state of sleep. **2.** in or into a dormant or inactive state. **3.** (of limbs) numb; lacking sensation. **4.** *Euphemistic.* dead.

ASLEF ('æzlef) *n.* (in Britain) acronym for Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen.

asocial (eɪ'səʊʃəl) *adj.* **1.** avoiding contact. **2.** unconcerned about the welfare of others. **3.** hostile to society.

asp (æsp) *n.* **1.** the venomous snake that caused the death of Cleopatra. **2.** Also called: **asp viper**, a viper that occurs in S Europe and is very similar to but smaller than the adder.

asparagus (ə'spærəɡəs) *n.* **1.** a plant of the lily family, having small scaly or needle-like leaves. **2.** the succulent young shoots, which may be cooked and eaten. **3.** **asparagus fern**, a fernlike species of asparagus, native to southern Africa.

aspect ('æspekt) *n.* **1.** appearance to the eye; visual effect. **2.** a distinct feature or element in a problem, situation, etc.; facet. **3.** the way in which a problem, idea, etc., may be considered. **4.** a facial expression: *a severe aspect*. **5.** a position facing a particular direction: *the southern aspect of a house*. **6.** a view in a certain direction. **7.** *Astrol.* any of several specific angular distances between two planets. **8.** *Grammar.* a category of verbal inflections that expresses such features as the continuity, repetition, or completeness of the action described.

aspen ('æspən) *n.* a kind of poplar tree in which the leaves are attached to the stem by long flattened stalks so that they quiver in the wind.

asperity (æ'sperɪtɪ) *n., pl. -ties.* **1.** roughness or sharp-

ness of temper. **2.** roughness or harshness of a surface, sound, etc.

aspersion (ə'spɜːʒən) *vb.* (tr.) to spread false rumours about; defame. — **as'perser** *n.* — **as'persive** *adj.*

aspersion (ə'spɜːʒən) *n.* 1. a disparaging or malicious remark (esp. in cast aspersions (on)). **2.** the act of defaming.

asphalt ('æsfælt) *n.* 1. any of several black semisolid substances composed of bitumen and inert mineral matter. They occur naturally and as a residue from petroleum distillation. **2.** a mixture of this substance with gravel, used in road-surfacing and roofing materials. **3.** (modifier) containing or surfaced with asphalt. ~*vb.* **4.** (tr.) to cover with asphalt. — **as'phalitic** *adj.*

asphodel ('æsfəˌdel) *n.* 1. any of various S European plants of the lily family having clusters of white or yellow flowers. **2.** an unidentified flower of Greek legend said to cover the Elysian fields.

asphyxia (æ'sfiksɪə) *n.* lack of oxygen in the blood due to restricted respiration; suffocation. — **as'phyxial** *adj.* — **as'phyxiant** *adj.*

asphyxiate (æ'sfiksɪˌeɪt) *vb.* to cause asphyxia in or undergo asphyxia; smother; suffocate. — **as'phyxi'ation** *n.* — **as'phyxiator** *n.*

aspic ('æspɪk) *n.* a savoury jelly based on meat or fish stock, used as a relish or as a mould for meat, vegetables, etc.

aspidistra (ˌæspɪ'dɪstrə) *n.* a popular house plant of the lily family with long tough evergreen leaves.

aspirant ('æspɪrənt) *n.* 1. a person who aspires, as to a high position. ~*adj.* **2.** aspiring.

aspirate *vb.* ('æspɪˌreɪt). (tr.) **1.** *Phonetics.* a. to articulate (a stop) with some force, so that breath escapes audibly. b. to pronounce (a word or syllable) with an initial h. **2.** to remove by inhalation or suction, esp. to suck (air or fluid) from a body cavity. ~*n.* ('æspɪrɪt). **3.** *Phonetics.* a. a stop pronounced with an audible release of breath. b. the glottal fricative represented in English and several other languages as h. ~*adj.* ('æspɪrɪt). **4.** *Phonetics.* (of a stop) pronounced with a forceful expulsion of breath.

aspiration (ˌæspɪ'reɪʃən) *n.* 1. strong desire to achieve something, such as success. **2.** the aim of such desire. **3.** the act of breathing. **4.** *Phonetics.* a. the pronunciation of an aspirated consonant. b. an aspirated consonant. **5.** *Med.* the sucking of fluid or foreign matter into the air passages of the body. — **aspiratory** (ə'spaɪrətəri) *adj.*

aspirator ('æspɪˌreɪtə) *n.* a device employing suction, such as a jet pump or one for removing fluids from a body cavity.

aspire (ə'spaɪə) *vb.* (intr.) **1.** (usually foll. by to or after) to yearn (for), desire, or hope (to do or be something): to aspire to be a great leader. **2.** to rise to a great height. — **as'piring** *adj.*

aspirin ('æspɪrɪn) *n.*, pl. **rin** or **-rins**. 1. a white crystalline compound widely used in the form of tablets to relieve pain, fever, and colds. Chemical name: acetyl-salicylic acid. **2.** a tablet of aspirin.

Aspirin *n.* in Canada, a trademark for aspirin.

ass' (æs) *n.* 1. a mammal related to the horse. It is hardy and sure-footed, having longer ears than the horse. **2.** (not in technical use) the donkey. **3.** a foolish or ridiculously pompous person.

ass' (æs) *n.* the usual U.S. word for arse.

assail (ə'seɪl) *vb.* (tr.) **1.** to attack violently; assault. **2.** to criticize or ridicule vehemently. **3.** to beset or disturb: his mind was assailed by doubts. **4.** to encounter with the intention of mastering. — **as'sailable** *adj.* — **as'sailant** or **as'saller** *n.*

assassin (ə'sæsmɪn) *n.* a murderer, esp. one who kills a prominent political figure.

assassinate (ə'sæsiˌneɪt) *vb.* (tr.) **1.** to murder (a political figure). **2.** to ruin or harm (a person's reputation, etc.) by slander. — **as,sassi'nation** *n.*

assault (ə'sɔːlt) *n.* 1. a violent attack, either physical or verbal. **2.** *Law.* an act that causes violence to another. **3.** a. the culmination of a military attack. b. (as modifier): assault troops. **4.** rape. ~*vb.* (tr.) **5.** to make an assault upon. **6.** to rape or attempt to rape. — **as'saultive** *adj.*

assault and battery *n.* *Criminal law.* a threat of attack to another person followed by actual attack.

assay *vb.* (ə'seɪ). **1.** to subject (a substance, such as silver or gold) to chemical analysis, as in the determination of the amount of impurity. ~*n.* (ə'seɪ, 'æseɪ). **2.** (tr.) to attempt (something or to do something). **3.** a. an

analysis, esp. a determination of the amount of metal in an ore or the amounts of impurities in a precious metal. b. (as modifier): an assay office. **4.** a substance undergoing an analysis. **5.** a written report on the results of an analysis. **6.** a test. — **as'sayer** *n.*

assegai or **assagai** ('æsoˌɡaɪ) *n.*, pl. **-gais**. 1. a southern African tree, the wood of which is used for making spears. **2.** a sharp light spear.

assemblage (ə'sembldʒ) *n.* 1. a number of things or persons assembled together. **2.** the act of assembling or the state of being assembled. **3.** (ˌæsm'blɑːʒ). a three-dimensional work of art that combines various objects.

assemble (ə'sembʌl) *vb.* **1.** to come or bring together; collect or congregate. **2.** to fit or join together (the parts) of (something, such as a machine). — **as'sem'bler** *n.*

assembler (ə'semblə) *n.* 1. a computer program that converts a set of low-level symbolic data into machine language. Cf. **compiler**. **2.** in full: **assembler language.** a symbolic language that uses an assembler program to convert to machine language.

assembly (ə'sembli) *n.*, pl. **-blies**. 1. a number of people gathered together, esp. for a formal meeting held at regular intervals. **2.** the act of assembling or the state of being assembled. **3.** the process of putting together a number of parts to make a machine. **4.** *Mil.* a signal for personnel to assemble.

assembly line *n.* a sequence of machines, tools, operations, workers, etc., in a factory, arranged so that at each stage a further process is carried out.

assent (ə'sent) *n.* 1. agreement, as to a statement, proposal, etc. **2.** compliance. ~*vb.* (intr.; usually foll. by to) **3.** to agree or express agreement.

assert (ə'sɜːt) *vb.* (tr.) **1.** to insist upon (rights, etc.). **2.** (may take a clause as object) to declare. **3.** to put (oneself) forward in an insistent manner. — **as'serter** or **as'sertor** *n.*

assertion (ə'sɜːʃən) *n.* 1. a positive statement, usually made without evidence. **2.** the act of asserting.

assertive (ə'sɜːtɪv) *adj.* given to making assertions; dogmatic or aggressive. — **as'sertively** *adv.* — **as'sertiveness** *n.*

assess (ə'ses) *vb.* (tr.) **1.** (foll. by at) to estimate the value of (income, property, etc.) for taxation purposes. **2.** to determine the amount of (a fine, tax, etc.). **3.** to impose a tax, fine, etc., on (a person or property). **4.** to evaluate. — **as'sessable** *adj.* — **as'sessment** *n.*

assessor (ə'sesə) *n.* 1. a person who values property for taxation. **2.** a person who estimates the value of damage to property for insurance purposes. **3.** a person with technical expertise called in to advise a court. — **assessorial** (ə'sesə'ɔːriəl) *adj.*

asset ('æset) *n.* anything valuable or useful.

asset-stripping *n.* *Commerce.* the practice of taking over a failing company at a low price and then selling the assets piecemeal. — **asset-,stripper** *n.*

asseverate (ə'sevəˌreɪt) *vb.* (tr.) to declare solemnly. — **as,sever'ation** *n.*

assiduity (æsi'djuːɪti) *n.*, pl. **-ties**. 1. constant and close application. **2.** (often pl.) devoted attention.

assiduous (ə'sɪdʒʊəs) *adj.* 1. hard-working; persevering. **2.** undertaken with perseverance and care. — **as'sidu'ousness** *n.*

assign (ə'saɪn) *vb.* (mainly tr.) **1.** to select for and appoint to a post, etc. **2.** to give out or allot (a task, problem, etc.). **3.** to set apart (a place, person, time, etc.) for a particular function or event: to assign a day for the meeting. **4.** to attribute to a specified cause, origin, or source. **5.** to transfer (one's right, interest, or title to property) to someone else. ~*n.* **6.** *Law.* a person to whom property is assigned; assignee. — **as'signable** *adj.* — **as'signer** or **assign'or** *n.*

assignment (ə'saɪnmənt) *n.* 1. a secret or forbidden arrangement to meet, esp. one between lovers. **2.** the act of assigning; assignment.

assignee (ə'saɪˌniː) *n.* *Law.* a person to whom some right, interest, or property is transferred.

assignment (ə'saɪnmənt) *n.* 1. something that has been assigned, such as a mission or task. **2.** a position or post to which a person is assigned. **3.** the act of assigning or state of being assigned. **4.** *Law.* a. the transfer to another of a right, interest, or title to property. b. the document effecting such a transfer.

assimilate (ə'sɪmɪˌleɪt) *vb.* **1.** (tr.) to learn (information, etc.) and understand it thoroughly. **2.** (tr.) to absorb (food). **3.** (intr.) to become absorbed, incorporated, or learned and understood. **4.** (usually foll. by into or

with) to adjust or become adjusted: *the new immigrants assimilated easily*. 5. (usually foll. by *to* or *with*) to become or cause to become similar. 6. (usually foll. by *to*) *Phonetics*, to change (a consonant) or (of a consonant) to be changed into another under the influence of one adjacent to it. —*as'similable* *adj.* —*as,simi'lation* *n.* —*as'similative* or *as'similatory* *adj.* —*as'simi'lator* *n.*

assist (ə'sist) *vb.* 1. to give help or support to (a person, cause, etc.). 2. to work or act as an assistant or subordinate to (another). ~*n.* 3. U.S. the act of helping. —*as'sister* *n.*

assistance (ə'sistəns) *n.* 1. help; support. 2. the act of assisting. 3. *Brit. inf.* See **national assistance**.

assistant (ə'sistənt) *n.* 1. *a.* a person who assists, esp. in a subordinate position. *b.* (as modifier): *assistant manager*. 2. See **shop assistant**.

assize (ə'saiz) *n.* *Scot. law.* *a.* trial by a jury. *b.* a jury.

assizes (ə'saiziz) *pl. n.* (formerly in England and Wales) the sessions of the principal court in each county, exercising civil and criminal jurisdiction: replaced in 1971 by crown courts.

assn. *abbrev.* for association.

assoc. *abbrev. for:* 1. associate(d). 2. association.

associate *vb.* (ə'səʊʃi,et,-sɪ-). (usually foll. by *with*) 1. (tr.) to link or connect in the mind or imagination. 2. (intr.) to mix socially: *to associate with writers*. 3. (intr.) to form or join an association, group, etc. 4. (tr.; usually passive) to consider in conjunction: *rainfall is associated with humidity*. 5. (tr.) to bring (a person, esp. oneself) into friendship, partnership, etc. 6. (tr.; often passive) to express agreement (with): *Bertrand Russell was associated with the C.N.D. movement*. ~*n.* (ə'səʊʃɪt). 7. a person joined with another or others in an enterprise, business, etc. 8. a companion or friend. 9. something that usually accompanies another thing. 10. a person having a subordinate position in or admitted to only partial membership of an institution, association, etc. ~*adj.* (ə'səʊʃɪt). (prenominal) 11. joined with another or others in an enterprise, business, etc.: *an associate director*. 12. having partial rights or subordinate status: *an associate member*. 13. accompanying; concomitant. —*as'sociable* *adj.* —*as'soci'ator* *n.* —*as'soci'ate,ship* *n.*

association (ə'səʊʃi'eɪʃən,-ʃɪ-) *n.* 1. a group of people having a common purpose or interest; a society or club. 2. the act of associating or the state of being associated. 3. friendship or companionship: *their association will not last*. 4. a mental connection of ideas, feelings, or sensations. 5. *Chem.* the formation of groups of molecules and ions held together by weak chemical bonds. 6. *Ecology*, a group of similar plants that grow in a uniform environment.

association football *n.* 1. a more formal name for **soccer**. 2. *Austral.* Australian Rules played in a football association rather than a league.

associative (ə'səʊʃi'eɪv) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or causing association or union. 2. *Maths, logic.* *a.* of an operation, such as multiplication or division, in which the answer is the same regardless of the way in which the elements are grouped: (2×3) $\times 4 = 2 \times (3 \times 4)$. *b.* referring to this property: *the associative laws of arithmetic*.

assonance (ə'sɒnəns) *n.* 1. the use of the same vowel sound with different consonants or the same consonant with different vowels, as in a line of verse. Examples are *time* and *light* or *mystery* and *mastery*. 2. partial correspondence. —*'assonant* *adj. n.*

assort (ə'sɔ:t) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to arrange or distribute into groups of the same type; classify. 2. (intr.; usually foll. by *with*) to fit or fall into a class or group. 3. (tr.) to supply with an assortment of merchandise. 4. (tr.) to put in the same category as others. —*as'sortative* *adj.*

assorted (ə'sɔ:tɪd) *adj.* 1. consisting of various kinds mixed together. 2. classified: *assorted categories*. 3. matched (esp. in well-assorted, ill-assorted).

assortment (ə'sɔ:tmənt) *n.* 1. a collection or group of various things or sorts. 2. the act of assorting.

ASSR *abbrev.* for Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic.

asst. *abbrev.* for assistant.

assuage (ə'sweɪdʒ) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to soothe, moderate, or relieve (grief, pain, etc.). 2. to give relief to (thirst, etc.). 3. to pacify; calm. —*as'suagement* *n.* —*as'suager* *n.*

assume (ə'sju:m) *vb.* (tr.) 1. (may take a clause as object) to take for granted; suppose. 2. to undertake or take on or over (a position, responsibility, etc.): *to assume office*. 3. to pretend to; feign: *he assumed indifference*. 4. to take or put on; adopt: *the problem*

assumed gigantic proportions. 5. to appropriate or usurp (power, control, etc.). —*as'sumable* *adj.* —*as'sumer* *n.*

assuming (ə'sju:mɪŋ) *adj.* expecting too much; presumptuous.

assumption (ə'sʌmpʃən) *n.* 1. the act of taking something for granted or something that is taken for granted. 2. an assuming of power or possession. 3. presumption. 4. *Logic*, a proposition used as a premiss in a logical argument. —*as'sumptive* *adj.*

Assumption (ə'sʌmpʃən) *n.* *Christianity*. 1. the taking up of the Virgin Mary (body and soul) into heaven when her earthly life was ended. 2. the feast commemorating this.

assurance (ə'ʃʊərəns) *n.* 1. a statement, assertion, etc., intended to inspire confidence. 2. a promise or pledge of support. 3. freedom from doubt; certainty. 4. forwardness; impudence. 5. *Chiefly Brit.* insurance providing for certainties such as death as contrasted with fire.

assure (ə'ʃʊə) *vb.* (tr.; may take a clause as object) 1. to convince: *to assure a person of one's love*. 2. to promise; guarantee. 3. to state positively. 4. to make (an event) certain. 5. *Chiefly Brit.* to insure against loss, esp. of life. —*as'surable* *adj.* —*as'surer* *n.*

assured (ə'ʃʊəd) *adj.* 1. sure; guaranteed. 2. self-assured. 3. *Chiefly Brit.* insured. ~*n.* *Chiefly Brit.* 4. *a.* the beneficiary under a life assurance policy. *b.* the person whose life is insured. —*assuredly* (ə'ʃʊədɪli) *adv.*

Assyrian (ə'sɪrɪən) *n.* 1. an inhabitant of ancient Assyria, a kingdom of Mesopotamia. 2. the extinct Semitic language of the Assyrians. ~*adj.* 3. of or characteristic of the ancient Assyrians, their language, or culture.

A.S.T. *abbrev.* for Atlantic Standard Time.

astatine (ə'stə,tɪn) *n.* a radioactive element that occurs naturally in minute amounts and is artificially produced by bombarding bismuth with alpha particles. Symbol: At; atomic no.: 85; half-life of most stable isotope, ^{210}At : 8.3 hours.

aster (ə'stə) *n.* 1. a plant having white, blue, purple, or pink daisy-like flowers. 2. **China aster**, a related Chinese plant widely cultivated for its showy brightly coloured flowers.

asterisk (ə'stərɪsk) *n.* 1. a star-shaped character (*) used in printing or writing to indicate a cross-reference to a footnote, an omission, etc. ~*vb.* 2. (tr.) to mark with an asterisk.

astern (ə'stɜ:n) *Naut.* ~*adv.*, *adj.* (postpositive) 1. at or towards the stern. 2. with the stern first: *full speed astern!* 3. aft of the stern of a vessel.

asteroid (ə'stə,rɔɪd) *n.* 1. Also called: **minor planet**, **planetoid**. any of numerous small celestial bodies that move around the sun mainly between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter. 2. a starfish. ~*adj.* also **asteroidal** (ə'stə,rɔɪdɪ). 3. of a starfish. 4. shaped like a star.

asthma (æzma) *n.* a respiratory disorder, often of allergic origin, characterized by difficulty in breathing. —*asth'matic* *adj.*, *n.*

astigmatic (æstɪg'mætɪk) *adj.* of, having, correcting, or corrected for astigmatism. —*astig'matically* *adv.*

astigmatism (ə'stɪgmə,tɪzəm) or **astigmia** (ə'stɪgmɪə) *n.* 1. a defect of a lens resulting in the formation of distorted images, caused by light rays not meeting at a single focal point. 2. faulty vision resulting from astigmatism of the lens of the eye.

astir (ə'stɜ:) *adj.* (postpositive) 1. awake and out of bed. 2. in motion; on the move.

A.S.T.M.S. (in Britain) *abbrev.* for Association of Scientific, Technical, and Managerial Staffs.

astonish (ə'stɒnɪʃ) *vb.* (tr.) to fill with amazement; surprise greatly. —*a'stonishing* *adj.* —*a'stonishment* *n.*

astound (ə'staʊnd) *vb.* (tr.) to overwhelm with amazement; bewilder.

astraddle (ə'strædɪl) *adj.* 1. (postpositive) with a leg on either side of something. ~*prep.* 2. astride.

astrakhan (æstrə'kæn) *n.* 1. a fur, usually black or grey, made of the closely curled wool of lambs from Astrakhan, in the S Soviet Union. 2. a cloth with curled pile resembling this. 3. (modifier) made of such fur or cloth.

astral (ə'strɔ:l) *adj.* 1. relating to or resembling the stars. 2. *Theosophy*, relating to a supposed supersensible substance taking the form of an aura discernible to certain gifted individuals.

astray (ə'streɪ) *adj.* (postpositive), *adv.* 1. out of the

correct path or direction. **2.** out of the right or expected way.

astride (ə'straɪd) *adj.* (*postpositive*) **1.** with a leg on either side. **2.** with the legs far apart. *~prep.* **3.** with a leg on either side of. **4.** with a part on both sides of; spanning.

astrigent (ə'strɪndʒənt) *adj.* **1.** severe; harsh. **2.** sharp or invigorating. **3.** causing contraction of body tissues, checking blood flow; styptic. *~n.* **4.** an astringent drug or lotion. —**as'tringly** *n.* —**as'tringly** *adv.*

astro- *combining form.* indicating a star or star-shaped structure.

astrol. *abbrev. for:* **1.** astrologer. **2.** astrological. **3.** astrology.

astrolabe (ˈæstrəˌleɪb) *n.* an instrument used by early astronomers to measure the altitude of stars and planets and also as a navigational aid.

astrology (ə'strɒlədʒi) *n.* **1.** the study of the motions and relative positions of the planets, sun, and moon, interpreted in terms of human characteristics and activities. **2.** primitive astronomy. —**as'trologer** or **as'trologist** *n.* —**astrological** (ˈæstrəˌlɒdʒɪkəl) *adj.*

astron. *abbrev. for:* **1.** astronomer. **2.** astronomical. **3.** astronomy.

astronaut (ˈæstrəˌnɔ:t) *n.* a person trained for traveling in space.

astronautics (ˈæstrəˌnɔ:tɪks) *n.* (*functioning as sing.*) the science and technology of space flight. —**astro'nautical** *adj.*

astronomical (ˈæstrəˌnɒmɪkəl) or **astronomic** *adj.* **1.** enormously large. **2.** of or relating to astronomy. —**astro'nomically** *adv.*

astronomy (ə'strɒnəmi) *n.* the scientific study of the individual celestial bodies (excluding the earth) and of the universe as a whole. —**as'tronomer** *n.*

astrophysics (ˈæstrəʊˌfɪzɪks) *n.* (*functioning as sing.*) the branch of physics concerned with the physical and chemical properties of the celestial bodies. —**astro-physicist** *n.*

astute (ə'stju:t) *adj.* having insight or acumen; perceptive; shrewd. —**as'tutely** *adv.* —**as'tuteness** *n.*

asunder (ə'sʌndə) *adv., adj.* (*postpositive*) in or into parts or pieces; apart: to tear asunder.

asylum (ə'saɪləm) *n.* **1.** shelter; refuge; sanctuary. **2.** a safe or inviolable place of refuge, esp. as formerly offered by the Christian Church. **3.** International law. refuge afforded to a person whose extradition is sought by a foreign government: *political asylum*. **4.** an institution for the care or confinement of individuals, esp. (formerly) a mental hospital.

asymmetry (æ'sɪmɪtri, ɪ-) *n.* lack or absence of symmetry. —**asymmetric** (æ'sɪˌmetrɪk, ɪ-) or **asymmetrical** *adj.*

asymptote (ˈæsmɪˌtəʊt) *n.* a straight line that is closely approached by a curve so that the distance between them decreases to zero as the distance from the origin increases to infinity. —**asymptotic** (æsmɪˌtɒtɪk) or **asymptotical** *adj.*

at (æt) *prep.* **1.** used to indicate location or position: *are they at the table?* **2.** towards; in the direction of: *looking at television*. **3.** used to indicate position in time: *come at three o'clock*. **4.** engaged in; in a state of (being): *children at play*. **5.** (in expressions concerned with habitual activity) during the passing of: *he used to work at night*. **6.** for; in exchange for: *it's selling at four pounds*. **7.** used to indicate the object of an emotion: *shocked at his behaviour*. **8.** where it's at. *Sl.* the real place of action.

At the chemical symbol for astatine.

at. *abbrev. for:* **1.** (unit of pressure) atmosphere. **2.** atomic.

atavism (ˈætəˌvɪzəm) *n.* **1.** the recurrence in a plant or animal of certain primitive characteristics that were present in an ancestor but have not occurred in intermediate generations. **2.** reversion to a former type. —**ata'vistic** *adj.*

ataxia (ə'tæksɪə) or **ataxy** (ə'tæksɪ) *n.* *Pathol.* lack of muscular coordination. —**a'taxic** *adj.*

A.T.C. *abbrev. for:* **1.** air traffic control. **2.** (in Britain) Air Training Corps.

ate (et, eit) *vb.* the past tense of eat.

-ate¹ *suffix.* **1.** (*forming adjectives*) having the appearance or characteristics of: *fortunate*. **2.** (*forming nouns*) a chemical compound, esp. a salt or ester of an acid: *carbonate*. **3.** (*forming nouns*) the product of a process:

condensate. **4.** forming verbs from nouns and adjectives: *hyphenate*.

-ate² *suffix forming nouns.* denoting office, rank, or a group having a certain function: *episcopate*.

atelier (ˈætəlˌjeɪ) *n.* an artist's studio or workshop.

atheism (ˈæθɪˌɪzəm) *n.* **1.** the doctrine or belief that there is no God. **2.** rejection of belief in God or gods. —**'atheist** *n., adj.* —**'athe'istic** *adj.*

atheneum or **U.S. atheneum** (ˈæθɪˌni:əm) *n.* **1.** an institution for the promotion of learning. **2.** a building containing a reading room or library.

atherosclerosis (ˌæθəʊˌskliəˈrəʊsɪs) *n., pl. -ses* (-sɪz). a degenerative disease of the arteries characterized by thickening of the arterial walls, caused by deposits of fatty material. —**atherosclerotic** (ˌæθəʊˌskliəˈrɒtɪk) *adj.*

athirst (ə'θɜ:st) *adj.* (*postpositive*) **1.** (often foll. by *for*) having an eager desire; longing. **2.** *Arch.* thirsty.

athlete (ˈæθlɪt) *n.* **1.** a person trained to compete in sports or exercises. **2.** a person who has a natural aptitude for physical activities. **3.** *Chiefly Brit.* a competitor in track and field events.

athlete's foot *n.* a fungal infection of the skin of the foot, esp. between the toes and on the soles.

athletic (əθˈletɪk) *adj.* **1.** physically fit or strong. **2.** of, relating to, or suitable for an athlete or for athletics. —**ath'letically** *adv.* —**ath'leticism** *n.*

athletics (əθˈletɪks) *n.* (*functioning as sing.*) **1.** a track and field event. **b.** (*as modifier*): *an athletics meeting*. **2.** sports or exercises engaged in by athletes.

at-home *n.* a social gathering in a person's home.

athwart (ə'θwɔ:t) *adv.* **1.** transversely; from one side to another. *~prep.* **2.** across the path or line of (esp. a ship). **3.** in opposition to; against.

-atic *suffix forming adjectives.* of the nature of the thing specified: *problematic*.

-ation *suffix forming nouns.* indicating an action, process, state, condition, or result: *arbitration; hibernation*.

-ative *suffix forming adjectives.* of, relating to, or tending to: *authoritative; informative*.

Atlantic (ə'tlæntɪk) *n.* **1.** the. short for the Atlantic Ocean, the world's second largest ocean. *~adj.* **2.** of, relating to, or bordering the Atlantic Ocean. **3.** of or relating to Atlas or the Atlas Mountains.

Atlantic Provinces *pl. n.* another name for the Maritime Provinces of Canada.

Atlantis (ə'tlæntɪs) *n.* (in ancient legend) a continent said to have sunk beneath the Atlantic west of Gibraltar.

atlas (ˈætləs) *n.* **1.** a collection of maps, usually in book form. **2.** a book of charts, graphs, etc.: *an anatomical atlas*. **3.** *Anat.* the first cervical vertebra, supporting the skull in man.

atm. *abbrev. for:* **1.** atmosphere (unit of pressure). **2.** atmospheric.

atmosphere (ˈætməsˌfɪə) *n.* **1.** the gaseous envelope surrounding the earth or any other celestial body. **2.** the air or climate in a particular place. **3.** a general pervasive feeling or mood. **4.** the prevailing tone or mood of a novel, symphony, painting, etc. **5.** any local gaseous environment or medium: *an inert atmosphere*. **6.** *Abbrev. at. or atm.* a unit of pressure; the pressure that will support a column of mercury 760 mm high at 0°C at sea level. —**atmos'pheric** (ˈætməsˌfɛrɪk) *adj.* —**atmos'pherically** *adv.*

atmospherics (ˈætməsˌfɛrɪks) *pl. n.* radio interference, heard as crackling or hissing in receivers, caused by electrical disturbance.

at. no. *abbrev. for* atomic number.

atoll (ˈætɒl) *n.* a circular coral reef or string of coral islands surrounding a lagoon.

atom (ˈætəm) *n.* **1.** a. the smallest quantity of an element that can take part in a chemical reaction. **b.** this entity as a source of nuclear energy: *the power of the atom*. **2.** the hypothetical indivisible particle of matter postulated by certain ancient philosophers. **3.** a very small amount or quantity: *to smash something to atoms*.

atom bomb or **atomic bomb** *n.* a type of bomb in which the energy is provided by nuclear fission. Also called: **A-bomb, fission bomb**.

atomic (ə'tɒmɪk) *adj.* **1.** of, using or characterized by atomic bombs or atomic energy: *atomic warfare*. **2.** of or comprising atoms: *atomic hydrogen*. —**a'tomically** *adv.*

atomic energy *n.* another name for **nuclear energy**.

atomic mass unit *n.* a unit of mass used to express

atomic and molecular weights that is equal to one twelfth of the mass of an atom of carbon-12. Abbrev.: AMU.

atomic number *n.* the number of protons in the nucleus of an atom of an element. Abbrev.: **at. no.**

atomic theory *n.* 1. any theory in which matter is regarded as consisting of atoms. 2. the current concept of the atom as an entity with a definite structure.

atomic weight *n.* the ratio of the average mass per atom of an element to one-twelfth the mass of an atom of carbon-12. Abbrev.: **at. wt.** Also called: **relative atomic mass**.

Usage. Until 1961 *atomic weights* were based on the mass of an atom of oxygen-16. The carbon-12 atom is now the usual basis of calculations and *relative atomic mass* is the preferred term for the new atomic weights.

atomize or -ise ('ætə,maɪz) *vb.* 1. to separate or be separated into free atoms. 2. to reduce (a liquid or solid) to fine particles or spray or (of a liquid or solid) to be reduced in this way. 3. to destroy by weapons, esp. nuclear weapons.

atomizer or -iser ('ætə,maɪzə) *n.* a device for reducing a liquid to a fine spray, such as a bottle with a fine outlet used to spray perfumes.

atom smasher *n.* *Physics.* the nontechnical name for **accelerator** (sense 2).

atonality ('eɪtəʊ'nælɪti) *n.* 1. absence of or disregard for an established musical key in a composition. 2. the principles of composition embodying this.

atone ('ætʊn) *vb.* (*intr.*; foll. by *for*) to make amends or reparation (for a crime, sin, etc.). —**at'oner** *n.*

atonement ('ætʊnmənt) *n.* 1. satisfaction, reparation, or expiation given for an injury or wrong. 2. (*often cap.*) *Christian theology.* a. the reconciliation of man with God through the sacrificial death of Christ. b. the sufferings and death of Christ.

atop ('ætɒp) *adv.* 1. on top; at the top. ~*prep.* 2. on top of; at the top of.

-ator *suffix forming nouns.* a person or thing that performs a certain action: *agitator*; *radiator*.

-atory *suffix forming adjectives.* of, relating to, characterized by, or serving to: *circulatory*; *explanatory*.

atrium ('eɪtrɪəm, 'ɑː-) *n., pl. atria* ('eɪtrɪə, 'ɑː-) 1. the open main court of a Roman house. 2. a court in front of an early Christian or medieval church. 3. *Anat.* a cavity or chamber in the body, esp. the upper chamber of each half of the heart. —**atrial** *adj.*

atrocious ('ætrəʊʃəs) *adj.* 1. extremely cruel or wicked: *atrocious deeds*. 2. horrifying or shocking. 3. *Inf.* very bad: *atrocious writing*. —**at'rociousness** *n.*

atrociousness ('ætrəʊʃəs) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. behaviour or an action that is wicked or ruthless. 2. the fact or quality of being atrocious. 3. (*usually pl.*) acts of extreme cruelty.

atrophy ('ætrəfi) *n., pl. -phies.* 1. a wasting away of an organ or part, or a failure to grow to normal size. 2. any degeneration or diminution. ~*vb.* **-phying, -phied.** 3. to waste away or cause to waste away. —**atrophic** ('ætrəfɪk) *adj.*

atropine ('ætrə,pɪn) *n.* a poisonous alkaloid obtained from the deadly nightshade, used to treat peptic ulcers, biliary and renal colic, etc.

att. *abbrev. for:* 1. attached. 2. attorney.

attach ('ætʃt) *vb.* (*mainly tr.*) 1. to join, fasten, or connect. 2. (*reflexive or passive*) to become associated with or join. 3. (*intr.*; foll. by *to*) to be connected (with): *responsibility attaches to the job*. 4. to attribute or ascribe. 5. to include or append: *a proviso attaches to the contract*. 6. (*usually passive*) *Mil.* to place on temporary duty with another unit. 7. to appoint officially. 8. *Law.* to arrest or take (a person, property, etc.) with lawful authority. —**at'tachable** *adj.* —**at'tacher** *n.*

attaché ('ætʃeɪ) *n.* a specialist attached to a diplomatic mission; *military attaché*.

attaché case *n.* a small flat rectangular briefcase used for carrying documents, papers, etc.

attached ('ætʃtɪd) *adj.* 1. (foll. by *to*) fond (of). 2. married, engaged, or associated in an exclusive sexual relationship.

attachment ('ætʃtmənt) *n.* 1. a fastening. 2. (often foll. by *to*) affection or regard (for). 3. an object to be attached: *an attachment for an electric drill*. 4. the act of attaching or the state of being attached. 5. a. the lawful seizure of property and placing of it under control of a court. b. a writ authorizing such seizure.

attack ('ætæk) *vb.* 1. to launch a physical assault (against) with or without weapons. 2. (*intr.*) to take the initiative in a game, sport, etc. 3. (*tr.*) to criticize or

abuse vehemently. 4. (*tr.*) to turn one's mind or energies to (a job, problem, etc.). 5. (*tr.*) to begin to injure or affect adversely: *rust attacked the metal*. ~*n.* 6. the act or an instance of attacking. 7. strong criticism or abuse. 8. an offensive move in a game, sport, etc. 9. commencement of a task, etc. 10. any sudden and usually severe manifestation of a disease or disorder: *a heart attack*. 11. *the attack.* *Ball games.* the players in a team whose main role is to attack the opponents. 12. *Music.* decisiveness in beginning a passage, movement, or piece. —**at'tacker** *n.*

attain ('ætɛn) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to achieve or accomplish (a task, aim, etc.). 2. (*tr.*) to reach in space or time. 3. (*intr.*; often foll. by *to*) to arrive (at) with effort or exertion. —**at'tainable** *adj.* —**at'tainability** or **at'tainableness** *n.*

attainder ('ætɛndə) *n.* (formerly) the extinction of a person's civil rights resulting from a sentence of death or outlawry on conviction for treason or felony.

attainment ('ætɛnmənt) *n.* an achievement or the act of achieving; accomplishment.

attain ('ætɛnt) *vb.* (*tr.*) *Arch.* 1. to pass judgment of death or outlawry upon (a person). 2. (of sickness) to affect or strike (somebody). ~*n.* 3. a less common word for **attainder**.

attar ('ætə, 'ɒtə, 'ɒtə), or **ottar** ('ɒtə) *n.* an essential oil from flowers, esp. the damask rose: *attar of roses*.

attempt ('ætɛmpt) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to make an effort (to do something) or to achieve (something); try. 2. to try to surmount (an obstacle). 3. to try to climb. ~*n.* 4. an endeavour to achieve something; effort. 5. a result of an attempt or endeavour. 6. an attack, esp. with the intention to kill. —**at'temptable** *adj.*

attend ('ætɛnd) *vb.* 1. to be present at (an event, etc.). 2. (when *intr.*, foll. by *to*) to give care; minister. 3. (when *intr.*, foll. by *to*) to pay attention. 4. (*tr.*; *often passive*) to accompany or follow: *a high temperature attended by a severe cough*. 5. (*intr.*; foll. by *on or upon*) to follow as a consequence (of). 6. (*intr.*; foll. by *to*) to apply oneself: *attend to the garden*. 7. (*tr.*) to escort or accompany. 8. (*intr.*; foll. by *on or upon*) to provide for the needs (of): *to attend on a guest*.

attendance ('ætɛndəns) *n.* 1. the act or state of attending. 2. the number of persons present.

attendant ('ætɛndənt) *n.* 1. a person who accompanies or waits upon another. 2. a person employed to assist, guide, or provide a service for others. 3. a person who is present. ~*adj.* 4. being in attendance. 5. associated: *attendant problems*.

attention ('ætɛnʃən) *n.* 1. concentrated direction of the mind, esp. to a problem or task. 2. consideration, notice, or observation. 3. detailed care or special treatment: *to pay attention to one's appearance*. 4. (*usually pl.*) an act of courtesy or gallantry indicating affection or love. 5. the motionless position of formal military alertness, an upright position with legs and heels together. ~*interj.* 6. the order to be alert or to adopt a position of formal military alertness.

attentive ('ætɛntɪv) *adj.* 1. paying attention; listening carefully. 2. (*postpositive*; often foll. by *to*) careful to fulfil the needs or wants (of). —**at'tentively** *adv.* —**at'tentiveness** *n.*

attenuate ('ætɛnju,et) *vb.* 1. to weaken or become weak. 2. to make or become thin or fine; extend. ~*adj.* ('ætɛnjuɪt, -et). 3. weakened or reduced. 4. *Bot.* tapering. —**at'tenuation** *n.*

attest ('ætɛst) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to affirm the correctness or truth of. 2. (when *intr.*, usually foll. by *to*) to witness (an act, event, etc.) or bear witness (to an act, event, etc.). 3. (*tr.*) to make evident; demonstrate. 4. (*tr.*) to provide evidence for. —**at'testable** *adj.* —**at'testant, at'tester** or *esp. in legal usage at'testor* *n.* —**attestation** ('ætɛstə'teɪʃən) *n.*

attested ('ætɛstɪd) *adj.* *Brit.* (of cattle, etc.) certified to be free from a disease, esp. from tuberculosis.

attic ('ætɪk) *n.* 1. a space or room within the roof of a house. 2. *Archit.* a storey or low wall above the cornice of a classical façade.

Attic ('ætɪk) *adj.* 1. of or relating to Attica, the area around Athens, its inhabitants, or the dialect of Greek spoken there. 2. (*often not cap.*) classically elegant, simple, or pure. ~*n.* 3. the dialect of Ancient Greek spoken and written in Athens.

attire ('ætəɪə) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to dress, esp. in fine elegant clothes; array. ~*n.* 2. clothes or garments, esp. if fine or decorative.

attitude ('ætɪ,tjuːd) *n.* 1. a mental view or disposition, esp. as it indicates opinion or allegiance. 2. a theatrical

pose created for effect (esp. in **strike an attitude**). 3. a position of the body indicating mood or emotion. 4. the orientation of an aircraft's axes or a spacecraft in relation to some plane or the direction of motion. —**attitudinal** *adj.*

attitudinize or **-nise** (ˌætrɪˈtjuːdɪnaɪz) *vb.* (intr.) to adopt a pose or opinion for effect; strike an attitude.

attorney (əˈtɔːnɪ) *n.* a person, esp. a lawyer, appointed or empowered to act for another. —**atˈtorney,ship** *n.*

attorney general *n.*, *pl.* **attorneys general** or **attorney generals**, a chief law officer and senior legal adviser of some national and state governments.

attract (əˈtrækt) *vb.* (mainly tr.) 1. to draw (notice, a crowd of observers, etc.) to oneself (esp. in **attract attention**). 2. (also intr.) to exert a force on (a body) that tends to oppose a separation: the gravitational pull of the earth attracts objects to it. 3. to possess some property that pulls or draws (something) towards itself. 4. (also intr.) to exert a pleasing or fascinating influence (upon). —**atˈtractable** *adj.* —**atˈtractor** *n.*

attraction (əˈtrækʃən) *n.* 1. the act or quality of attracting. 2. a person or thing that attracts or is intended to attract. 3. a force by which one object attracts another: magnetic attraction.

attractive (əˈtræktɪv) *adj.* 1. appealing to the senses or mind through beauty, form, character, etc. 2. arousing interest: an attractive opportunity. 3. possessing the ability to draw or pull: an attractive force. —**atˈtractively** *adv.*

attribute *vb.* (əˈtrɪbjut). 1. (tr.; usually foll. by *to*) to regard as belonging (to), produced (by), or resulting (from): to attribute a painting to Picasso. ~*n.* (ˈætrɪˌbjut). 2. a property, quality, or feature belonging to or representative of a person or thing. 3. an object accepted as belonging to a particular office or position. 4. *Grammar*. a. an adjective or adjectival phrase. b. an attributive adjective. 5. *Logic*. the property or feature that is affirmed or denied concerning the subject of a proposition. —**atˈtributable** *adj.* —**attribution** (ˌætrɪˈbjʊːʃən) *n.*

attributive (əˈtrɪbjʊtɪv) *adj.* 1. relating to an attribute. 2. *Grammar*. of an adjective or adjectival phrase) preceding the noun modified.

attrition (əˈtrɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of wearing away or the state of being worn away, as by friction. 2. constant wearing down to weaken or destroy (often in **war of attrition**). 3. *Geog.* the grinding down of rock particles by friction. 4. *Theol.* sorrow for sin arising from fear of damnation, esp. as contrasted with contrition.

attune (əˈtjuːn) *vb.* (tr.) to adjust or accustom (a person or thing); acclimatize.

A.T.V. (in Britain) *abbrev. for* Associated Television.

at wt. *abbrev. for* atomic weight.

atypical (eɪˈtɪpɪkəl) *adj.* not typical; deviating from or not conforming to type. —**atypically** *adv.*

Au the chemical symbol for gold.

aubergine (ˈɔːbəʒɪn) *n.* 1. a tropical Old World plant widely cultivated for its egg-shaped typically dark purple fruit. U.S. name: **eggplant**. 2. the fruit of this plant, which is cooked and eaten as a vegetable. 3. a dark purple colour.

aubrietia or **aubretia** (ɔːˈbrɪʃə) *n.* a trailing purple-flowered plant native to European mountains but widely planted in rock gardens.

auburn (ˈɔːbɪn) *n.* a. a moderate reddish-brown colour. b. (as *adj.*): **auburn hair**.

auction (ˈɔːkʃən) *n.* 1. a public sale of goods or property in which prospective purchasers bid until the highest price is reached. 2. the competitive calls made in bridge before play begins. ~*vb.* 3. (tr.; often foll. by *off*) to sell by auction.

auction bridge *n.* a variety of bridge in which all the tricks made score towards game.

auctioneer (ˈɔːkʃənɪə) *n.* 1. a person who conducts an auction. ~*vb.* 2. (tr.) to sell by auction.

audacious (ɔːˈdeɪʃəs) *adj.* 1. recklessly bold or daring. 2. impudent or presumptuous. —**auˈdaciousness** or **audacity** (ɔːˈdæsɪti) *n.*

audible (ˈɔːdɪbəl) *adj.* perceptible to the hearing; loud enough to be heard. —**audiˈbility** or **ˈaudibleness** *n.* —**audibly** *adv.*

audience (ˈɔːdiəns) *n.* 1. a group of spectators or listeners, esp. at a concert or play. 2. the people reached by a book, film, or radio or television programme. 3. the devotees or followers of a public entertainer, etc. 4. a formal interview with a monarch or head of state.

audio (ˈɔːdiəʊ) *n.* 1. (*modifier*) of or relating to sound or hearing: **audio frequency**. 2. (*modifier*) relating to or employed in the transmission or reproduction of sound.

audio frequency *n.* a frequency in the range 50 hertz to 20 000 hertz. A sound wave of this frequency would be audible to the human ear.

audiometer (ˌɔːdɪˈɒmɪtə) *n.* an instrument for testing hearing. —**audiˈometrist** *n.* —**audiˈometry** *n.*

audiotypist (ˈɔːdiəʊˌtaɪpɪst) *n.* a typist trained to type from a dictating machine. —**ˈaudio,typing** *n.*

audiovisual (ˌɔːdiəʊˌvɪʒʊəl) *adj.* (esp. of teaching aids) involving or directed at both hearing and sight. —**audioˈvisually** *adv.*

audit (ˈɔːdɪt) *n.* 1. a. an inspection, correction, and verification of business accounts by a qualified accountant. b. (as *modifier*): **audit report**. 2. U.S. an audited account. ~*vb.* 3. to inspect, correct, and certify (accounts, etc.).

audition (ˈɔːdɪʃən) *n.* 1. a test at which a performer or musician is asked to demonstrate his ability for a particular role, etc. 2. the act or power of hearing. ~*vb.* 3. to judge by means of or be tested in an audition.

auditor (ˈɔːdɪtə) *n.* 1. a person qualified to audit accounts. 2. a person who hears or listens. —**audiˈtorial** *adj.*

Auditor General *n.* in Canada, an officer appointed by the Governor General to audit the accounts of the Federal Government and report to Parliament.

auditorium (ˌɔːdɪˈtɔːrɪəm) *n.*, *pl.* **-toriums** or **-toria** (ˈtɔːrɪə). 1. the area of a concert hall, theatre, etc., in which the audience sits. 2. U.S. a building for public meetings.

auditory (ˈɔːdɪtəri) *adj.* of or relating to hearing or the sense of hearing.

A.U.E.W. (in Britain) *abbrev. for* Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers.

au fait *French.* (o ˈfe) *adj.* fully informed; in touch or expert.

Aug. *abbrev. for* August.

Augean (ˈɔːdʒiːən) *adj.* extremely dirty or corrupt.

auger (ˈɔːgə) *n.* 1. a hand tool with a bit shaped like a corkscrew, for boring holes in wood. 2. a larger tool of the same kind for boring holes in the ground.

ought or **ought** (ɔt) (*used with a negative or in conditional or interrogative sentences or clauses*) *Arch. or literary.* ~*pron.* 1. anything whatever (esp. in **for ought I know**). ~*adv.* 2. *Brit. dialect.* to any degree.

augment (ɔːɡment) *vb.* to make or become greater in number, strength, etc. —**augˈmentable** *adj.* —**augmenˈtation** *n.* —**augˈmenter** *n.*

augmentative (ɔːɡmentətɪv) *adj.* 1. tending or able to augment. 2. *Grammar.* denoting an affix that may be added to a word to convey the meaning *large* or *great*.

au gratin (*French* o graˈtɛ̃) *adj.* covered and cooked with browned breadcrumbs and sometimes cheese.

augur (ˈɔːgə) *n.* 1. (in ancient Rome) a religious official who observed and interpreted omens and signs. 2. any prophet or soothsayer. ~*vb.* 3. to predict (some future event), as from signs or omens. 4. (tr.; may take a clause as object) to be an omen (of). 5. (intr.) to foreshadow future events: this augurs well for us. —**augural** (ˈɔːɡjʊərəl) *adj.*

augury (ˈɔːɡjʊəri) *n.*, *pl.* **-ries**. 1. the art of or a rite conducted by an augur. 2. a sign or portent; omen.

august (ɔːˈɡast) *adj.* 1. dignified or imposing. 2. of noble birth or high rank: an august lineage. —**auˈgustness** *n.*

August (ˈɔːɡəst) *n.* the eighth month of the year, consisting of 31 days.

Augustan (ɔːˈɡastən) *adj.* 1. characteristic of or relating to the Roman emperor Augustus Caesar (63 B.C. - 14 A.D.), his period, or the poets writing during his reign. 2. of or characteristic of any literary period noted for refinement and classicism, esp. the 18th century in England. ~*n.* 3. an author in an Augustan Age.

auk (ɔːk) *n.* 1. a diving bird of northern oceans having a heavy body, short tail, narrow wings, and a black-and-white plumage. See also **great auk**, **razorbill**. 2. **little auk**, a small short-billed auk, abundant in Arctic regions.

auld (ɔːld) *adj.* a Scottish word for **old**.

auld lang syne (ˈɔːld læŋ ˈsain) *n.* times past, esp. those remembered with nostalgia.

aunt (aʊnt) *n.* (*often cap.*, esp. as a term of address) 1. a sister of one's father or mother. 2. the wife of one's uncle. 3. a term of address used by children for a female friend of the parents. 4. **my (sainted) aunt!** an exclamation of surprise.

auntie or **aunty** ('a:nti) *n.*, *pl.* -ies. a familiar or diminutive word for **aunt**.

Aunt Sally ('sæli) *n.*, *pl.* -lies. *Brit.* 1. a figure of an old woman used in fairgrounds and fêtes as a target. 2. any person who is a target for insults or criticism.

au pair (ə'peɪ) *n.* a. a young foreigner, usually a girl, who undertakes housework in exchange for board and lodging, esp. in order to learn the language. b. (as modifier): *an au pair girl*.

aura ('ɔ:rə) *n.*, *pl.* auras or auras ('ɔ:ri). 1. a distinctive air or quality considered to be characteristic of a person or thing. 2. any invisible emanation, esp. surrounding a person or object. 3. *Pathol.* a phenomenon, such as noises in the ears or flashes of light, that immediately precedes an attack, esp. of epilepsy.

aural ('ɔ:rəl) *adj.* of or relating to the sense or organs of hearing; *auricular*. — **aurally** *adv.*

aureate ('ɔ:ri:t) *adj.* 1. covered with gold; gilded. 2. (of a style of writing or speaking) excessively elaborate.

aureole ('ɔ:ri:ə) or **aureola** ('ɔ:ri:ə) *n.* 1. a border of light or radiance enveloping the head of a figure represented as holy. 2. a less common word for **halo**. 3. another name for **corona** (sense 2).

au revoir *French.* (ə'vɔ:r) *interj.* goodbye.

auric ('ɔ:rik) *adj.* of or containing gold, esp. in the trivalent state.

auricle ('ɔ:rik'l) *n.* 1. the upper chamber of the heart; atrium. 2. Also called: **pinna**. *Anat.* the external part of the ear. 3. *Biol.* an ear-shaped part or appendage. — **auricled** *adj.*

auricula ('ɔ:rikjələ) *n.*, *pl.* -lae (-li:) or -las. 1. Also called: **bear's-ear**. a widely cultivated alpine primrose with leaves shaped like a bear's ear. 2. another word for **auricle** (sense 3).

auricular ('ɔ:rikjələ) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or received by the sense or organs of hearing; *aural*. 2. shaped like an ear. 3. of or relating to an auricle of the heart.

auriferous ('ɔ:ri:fərəs) *adj.* (of rock) containing gold; gold-bearing.

aurochs ('ɔ:roks) *n.*, *pl.* -rochs. a recently extinct member of the cattle tribe that inhabited forests in N Africa, Europe, and SW Asia. Also called: **urus**.

aurora ('ɔ:ɒrə) *n.*, *pl.* -ras or -rae (-ri:). 1. an atmospheric phenomenon consisting of bands, curtains, or streamers of light, that move across the sky, esp. in polar regions. 2. *Poetic.* the dawn. — **auroral** *adj.*

aurora australis ('ɔ:streɪlɪs) *n.* (sometimes *cap.*) the aurora seen around the South Pole. Also called: **southern lights**.

aurora borealis ('ɔ:ɒrɪ'eɪlɪs) *n.* (sometimes *cap.*) the aurora seen around the North Pole. Also called: **northern lights**.

auscultation ('ɔ:skʌl'teɪʃən) *n.* 1. the diagnostic technique in medicine of listening to the various internal sounds made by the body, usually with the aid of a stethoscope. 2. the act of listening. — **auscultate** *vb.* — **auscultatory** ('ɔ:skʌltətəri) *adj.*

auspice ('ɔ:spɪs) *n.*, *pl.* -pices (-pɪz). 1. (usually *pl.*) patronage (esp. in **under the auspices of**). 2. (often *pl.*) an omen, esp. one that is favourable.

auspicious ('ɔ:spɪʃəs) *adj.* 1. favourable or propitious. 2. *Arch.* fortunate. — **auspiciously** *adv.* — **auspiciousness** *n.*

Aussie ('ɔ:zi) *n.*, *adj.* *Inf.* Australian.

austere ('ɔ:stɪə) *adj.* 1. stern or severe in attitude or manner. 2. grave, sober, or serious. 3. self-disciplined, abstemious, or ascetic: *an austere life*. 4. severely simple or plain: *an austere design*. — **austerely** *adv.*

austerity ('ɔ:stɪərɪ) *n.*, *pl.* -ties. 1. the state or quality of being austere. 2. (often *pl.*) an austere habit, practice, or act. 3. a. reduced availability of luxuries and consumer goods. b. (as modifier): *an austerity budget*.

austral ('ɔ:stɪrəl) *adj.* of or coming from the south: *austral winds*.

Austral *abbrev. for:* 1. Australasia. 2. Australia(n).

Australasian ('ɔ:stɪrə'leɪʒən) *adj.* 1. of or relating to Australia, New Zealand, and neighbouring islands. 2. (of organizations) having members in Australia and New Zealand.

Australian ('ɔ:streɪliən) *n.* 1. a native or inhabitant of Australia, the smallest continent. 2. the form of English spoken in Australia. ~*adj.* 3. of, relating to, or characteristic of Australia, the Australians, or their form of English.

autarchy ('ɔ:tɑ:kɪ) *n.*, *pl.* -chies. unlimited rule; autocracy. — **autarchic** or **autarchial** *adj.*

autarky ('ɔ:tɑ:kɪ) *n.*, *pl.* -kies. (esp. of a political unit) a

system or policy of economic self-sufficiency. — **autarkic** *adj.* — **autarkist** *n.*

authentic ('ɔ:θentɪk) *adj.* 1. of undisputed origin or authorship; genuine. 2. trustworthy; reliable: *an authentic account*. 3. (of a deed, etc.) duly executed. 4. *Music.* commencing on the final and ending an octave higher. — **authentically** *adv.* — **authenticity** ('ɔ:θentɪ'sɪti) *n.*

authenticate ('ɔ:θentɪ'kert) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to establish as genuine or valid. 2. to give authority or legal validity to. — **authentication** *n.* — **authenticator** *n.*

author ('ɔ:θə) or (fem.) **authoress** *n.* 1. a person who composes a book, article, or other written work. 2. a person who writes books as a profession; writer. 3. an originator or creator: *the author of this plan*. ~*vb.* *Not standard.* 4. to write or originate. — **authorial** ('ɔ:θɔ:riəl) *adj.*

authoritarian ('ɔ:θɔ:ri'teəriən) *adj.* 1. favouring or characterized by strict obedience to authority. 2. favouring or relating to government by a small elite. 3. dictatorial; domineering. ~*n.* 4. a person who favours or practises authoritarian policies.

authoritative ('ɔ:θɔ:riətɪv) *adj.* 1. recognized or accepted as being true or reliable. 2. commanding: *an authoritative manner*. 3. possessing or supported by authority; official. — **authoritatively** *adv.* — **authoritativeness** *n.*

authority ('ɔ:θɔ:ti) *n.*, *pl.* -ties. 1. the power or right to control, judge, or prohibit the actions of others. 2. (often *pl.*) a person or group of people having this power, such as a government, police force, etc. 3. a position that commands such a power or right (often in **in authority**). 4. such a power or right delegated: *she has his authority*. 5. the ability to influence or control others. 6. an expert or an authoritative written work in a particular field. 7. evidence or testimony. 8. confidence resulting from great expertise. 9. (*cap.* when part of a name) a public board or corporation exercising governmental authority: *Independent Broadcasting Authority*.

authorize or **-rise** ('ɔ:θə'raɪz) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to confer authority upon (someone to do something). 2. to permit (someone to do or be something) with official sanction. — **authorization** or **-ri'sation** *n.*

Authorized Version *n.* the. an English translation of the Bible published in 1611 under James I. Also called: **King James Version**.

authorship ('ɔ:θəʃɪp) *n.* 1. the origin or originator of a written work, plan, etc. 2. the profession of writing books.

autism ('ɔ:tɪzəm) *n.* *Psychiatry.* abnormal self-absorption, usually affecting children, characterized by lack of response to people and limited ability to communicate. — **autistic** *adj.*

auto ('ɔ:tə) *n.*, *pl.* -tos. *U.S. inf.* a. short for **automobile**. b. (as modifier): *auto parts*.

auto- or *sometimes before a vowel* **auto-** combining form. 1. self; same; of or by the same one: *autobiography*. 2. self-caused: *autohypnosis*. 3. self-propelling: *automobile*.

autobahn ('ɔ:tə'bɑ:n) *n.* a German motorway.

autobiography ('ɔ:tə'baɪ'ɒgrəfi) *n.*, *pl.* -phies. an account of a person's life written or otherwise recorded by that person. — **autobiographer** *n.* — **autobiographical** ('ɔ:tə'baɪ'ɒgrəfɪkəl) *adj.*

autoclave ('ɔ:tə'kleɪv) *n.* 1. a strong sealed vessel used for chemical reactions at high pressure. 2. an apparatus for sterilizing objects (esp. surgical instruments) by means of steam under pressure.

autocracy ('ɔ:tə'krəsi) *n.*, *pl.* -cies. 1. government by an individual with unrestricted authority. 2. a country, society, etc., ruled by an autocrat.

autocrat ('ɔ:tə'kræt) *n.* 1. a ruler who possesses absolute and unrestricted authority. 2. a domineering or dictatorial person. — **autocratic** *adj.* — **autocratically** *adv.*

autocross ('ɔ:tə'krɒs) *n.* a motor sport in which cars race over a half-mile circuit of rough grass.

autocue ('ɔ:tə'kju:) *n.* an electronic television prompting device whereby a script, unseen by the audience, is displayed for the speaker.

auto-da-fé ('ɔ:tə'də'feɪ) *n.*, *pl.* autos-da-fé. 1. *History.* a ceremony of the Spanish Inquisition including the pronouncement and execution of sentences passed on sinners or heretics. 2. the burning to death of people condemned as heretics by the Inquisition.

autogiro or **autogyro** ('ɔ:tə'dʒaɪrəʊ) *n.*, *pl.* -ros. a

self-propelled aircraft supported in flight mainly by unpowered rotating horizontal blades.

autograph (ˈɔ:tə,grɑ:f) *n.* 1. a. a handwritten signature, esp. that of a famous person. b. (as modifier): *an autograph album*. 2. a person's handwriting. 3. a. a book, document, etc., handwritten by its author. b. (as modifier): *an autograph letter*. ~vb. 4. (tr.) to write one's signature on or in; sign. 5. to write with one's own hand. —**autographic** (ˈɔ:tə'græfɪk) *adj.* —**auto-graphically** *adv.*

automat (ˈɔ:tə,mæt) *n.* Also called: **vending machine**. a machine that automatically dispenses goods such as cigarettes, when money is inserted.

automate (ˈɔ:tə,meɪt) *vb.* to make (a manufacturing process, factory, etc.) automatic, or (of a manufacturing process, etc.) to be made automatic.

automatic (ˈɔ:tə'mætɪk) *adj.* 1. performed from force of habit or without conscious thought: *an automatic smile*. 2. a. (of a device, mechanism, etc.) able to activate, move, or regulate itself. b. (of an act or process) performed by such automatic equipment. 3. (of the action of a muscle, etc.) involuntary or reflex. 4. occurring as a necessary consequence: *promotion is automatic after a year*. 5. (of a firearm) utilizing some of the force of each explosion to eject the empty shell, replace it with a new one, and fire continuously until release of the trigger. ~*n.* 6. an automatic firearm. 7. a motor vehicle having automatic transmission. 8. a machine that operates automatically. —**auto-matically** *adv.*

automatic data processing *n.* data processing performed by automatic electromechanical devices. Abbrevs.: **A.D.P.**, **ADP**, **a.d.p.**

automatic pilot *n.* a device that automatically maintains an aircraft on a preset course. Also called: **autopilot**.

automatic transmission *n.* a transmission system in a motor vehicle in which the gears change automatically.

automation (ˈɔ:tə'meɪʃən) *n.* 1. the use of methods for controlling industrial processes automatically, esp. by electronically controlled systems. 2. the extent to which a process is so controlled.

automatism (ˈɔ:tə'mə,tɪzəm) *n.* 1. the state or quality of being automatic; mechanical or involuntary action. 2. *Psychol.* the performance of actions, such as sleepwalking, without conscious knowledge or control. —**au'toma-tist** *n.*

automaton (ˈɔ:tə'mətɪn) *n.*, *pl.* -tons or -ta (-tə). 1. a mechanical device operating under its own hidden power. 2. a person who acts mechanically.

automobile (ˈɔ:təmə'bɪl) *n.* *Formal* or *U.S.* a car (sense 1). —**automobilist** (ˈɔ:təmə'bɪlɪst) *n.*

automotive (ˈɔ:tə'məʊtɪv) *adj.* 1. relating to motor vehicles. 2. self-propelling.

autonomous (ˈɔ:tənə'məs) *adj.* 1. (of a community, country, etc.) possessing a large degree of self-government. 2. of or relating to an autonomous community. 3. independent of others. 4. *Biol.* existing as an organism independent of other organisms or parts. —**au'tonomously** *adv.*

autonomy (ˈɔ:tənə'mi) *n.*, *pl.* -mies. 1. the right or state of self-government, esp. when limited. 2. a state or individual possessing autonomy. 3. freedom to determine one's own actions, behaviour, etc. 4. *Philosophy.* the doctrine that the individual human will is governed only by its own principles and laws.

autopilot (ˈɔ:tə'pɪlət) *n.* short for **automatic pilot**.

autopsy (ˈɔ:təpsɪ, 'ɔ:təp-) *n.*, *pl.* -sies. 1. Also called: **postmortem examination**. dissection and examination of a dead body to determine the cause of death. 2. an eyewitness observation. 3. any critical analysis.

autoroute (ˈɔ:təʊ,ru:t) *n.* a French motorway.

autostrada (ˈɔ:təʊ,stra:də) *n.* an Italian motorway.

autosuggestion (ˈɔ:təʊ'sdʒestʃən) *n.* a process of suggestion in which the person unconsciously supplies the means of influencing his own behaviour or beliefs.

auto-teller (ˈɔ:təʊ,telə) *n.* *Banking.* a computerized dispenser that can provide cash or account information at any time.

autumn (ˈɔ:təm) *n.* 1. (sometimes *cap.*) a. Also called (esp. U.S.): **fall**. the season of the year between summer and winter, astronomically from the September equinox to the December solstice in the N hemisphere and from the March equinox to the June solstice in the S hemisphere. b. (as modifier): *autumn leaves*. 2. a period of

late maturity, esp. one followed by a decline. —**autum-nal** (ɔ:təm'nəl) *adj.*

autumn crocus *n.* a plant of the lily family having pink or purplish autumn flowers and found in Europe and N Africa.

aux. *abbrev.* for auxiliary.

auxiliaries (ɔ:g'zɪljərɪz, 'zɪlə-) *pl. n.* foreign troops serving another nation; mercenaries.

auxiliary (ɔ:g'zɪljəri, 'zɪlə-) *adj.* 1. secondary or supplementary. 2. supporting. ~*n.*, *pl.* -ries. 3. a person or thing that supports or supplements. 4. *Naut.* a. a sailing vessel with an engine. b. the engine of such a vessel.

auxiliary verb *n.* a verb used to indicate the tense, voice, or mood of another verb where this is not indicated by inflection, such as English *will* in *he will go*.

av. *abbrev. for:* 1. average. 2. avoidpouis.

Av. or av. *abbrev. for* avenue.

A.V. *abbrev. for* Authorized Version (of the Bible).

avail (ə'veɪl) *vb.* 1. to be of use, advantage, profit, or assistance (to). 2. **avail oneself of**. to make use of to one's advantage. ~*n.* 3. use or advantage (esp. in **of no avail**, to little avail).

available (ə'veɪləbəl) *adj.* 1. obtainable or accessible; capable of being made use of. 2. *Arch.* advantageous. —**a'vaila'bility** or **a'vailableness** *n.* —**a'vailably** *adv.*

avalanche (ə'veɪləntʃ) *n.* 1. a. a fall of large masses of snow and ice down a mountain. b. a fall of rocks, sand, etc. 2. a sudden or overwhelming appearance of a large quantity of things. ~vb. 3. to come down overwhelmingly (upon).

avant-garde (əvɒn'gɑ:d) *n.* 1. those artists, writers, musicians, etc., whose techniques and ideas are in advance of those generally accepted. ~adj. 2. of such artists, etc., their ideas, or techniques.

avarice (ə'veərɪs) *n.* extreme greed for riches. —**ava'ricious** *adj.*

avast (ə'vɑ:st) *interj.* *Naut.* stop! cease!

avatar (ə'vɑ:tə) *n.* 1. *Hinduism.* the manifestation of a deity in human or animal form. 2. a visible manifestation of an abstract concept.

avaunt (ə'vɔ:nt) *interj.* *Arch.* go away! depart!

avdp. *abbrev. for* avoidpouis.

ave (ə'veɪ, 'æveɪ) *interj.* welcome or farewell.

Ave (ə'veɪ) *n.* R.C. Church. short for **Ave Maria**.

Ave. or ave. *abbrev. for* avenue.

Ave Maria (mə'ri:ə) *n.* R.C. Church. a prayer to the Virgin Mary, based on the salutations of the angel Gabriel (Luke 1:28) and Elisabeth (Luke 1:42) to her.

avenge (ə'vendʒ) *vb.* (usually *tr.*) to inflict a punishment in retaliation for (harm, injury, etc.) done to (a person or persons): *to avenge a murdered friend*. —**a'venger** *n.*

avenue (ə'veɪnju:) *n.* 1. a. a broad street, often lined with trees. b. (*cap. as part of a street name*) a road, esp. in a built-up area. 2. a main approach road, as to a country house. 3. a way bordered by two rows of trees. 4. a line of approach: *explore every avenue*.

aver (ə'veɪ) *vb.* **averring**, **averred**. (tr.) 1. to state positively. 2. *Law.* to allege as a fact or prove to be true. —**a'verment** *n.*

average (ə'verɪdʒ, 'ævrɪdʒ) *n.* 1. the typical or normal amount, quality, degree, etc.: *above average in intelligence*. 2. Also called: **arithmetic mean**. the result obtained by adding the numbers or quantities in a set and dividing the total by the number of members in the set: *the average of 3, 4, and 8 is 5*. 3. a similar mean for continuously variable ratios, such as speed. 4. *Maritime law.* a. a loss incurred or damage suffered by a ship or its cargo at sea. b. the equitable apportionment of such loss among the interested parties. 5. **on (the or an) average**. usually; typically. ~adj. 6. usual or typical. 7. mediocre or inferior: *his performance was only average*. 8. constituting a numerical average: *an average speed*. 9. approximately typical of a range of values: *the average contents of a matchbox*. ~vb. 10. (tr.) to obtain or estimate a numerical average of. 11. (tr.) to assess the general quality of. 12. (tr.) to perform or receive a typical number of: *to average eight hours' work a day*. 13. (tr.) to divide up proportionately. 14. (intr.) to amount to or be on average: *the children averaged 15 years of age*. —**averagely** *adv.*

averse (ə'veɪs) *adj.* (postpositive; usually foll. by *to*) opposed, disinclined, or loath. —**a'versely** *adv.* —**a'verseness** *n.*

▷ **Usage.** To is the preposition now normally used with *averse* (he was averse to giving any assistance), al-

though *from* is often used with *averse* and *aversion* and was at one time considered to be grammatically correct.

aversion (ə'vɜːʃən) *n.* 1. (usually foll. by *to* or *for*) extreme dislike or disinclination. 2. a person or thing that arouses this: *he is my pet aversion*.

avert (ə'vɜːt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to turn away or aside: *to avert one's gaze*. 2. to ward off: *to avert danger*. —**a'vertible** or **a'vertable** *adj.*

Avesta (ə'vestə) *n.* a collection of sacred writings of Zoroastrianism, including the Songs of Zoroaster.

aviary ('eɪvəri) *n., pl. aviaries.* a large enclosure in which birds are kept.

aviation (i'eɪ'veɪʃən) *n.* 1. the art or science of flying aircraft. 2. the design, production, and maintenance of aircraft.

aviator ('eɪvɪ,eɪtə) *n.* Old-fashioned, the pilot of an aeroplane or airship; flier. —**'avi,atrix** or **'avi,atress** *fem. n.*

avid (ə'veɪd) *adj.* 1. very keen; enthusiastic: *an avid reader*. 2. (postpositive; often foll. by *for* or *of*) eager (for): *avid for revenge*. —**'avidly** *adv.* —**avidity** (ə'veɪdɪtɪ) *n.*

avocado (,ævə'kəʊdəʊ) *n., pl. -dos.* 1. a tropical American tree cultivated for its fruit. 2. the pear-shaped fruit of this tree, having a leathery green or blackish skin, a large stony seed, and a greenish-yellow edible pulp. ~Also called: **avocado pear**, **alligator pear**.

avocation (,ævə'keɪʃən) *n.* Arch. 1. a minor occupation undertaken as a diversion. 2. a person's regular job.

avocet or **avoset** ('ævə,seɪ) *n.* a long-legged shore bird having black-and-white plumage and a long slender upward-curving bill.

avoid (ə'vɔɪd) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to keep out of the way of. 2. to refrain from doing. 3. not to allow to happen: *to avoid damage to machinery*. 4. Law, to invalidate; quash. —**a'voidable** *adj.* —**a'voidably** *adv.* —**a'voidance** *n.* —**a'voider** *n.*

avoirduois or **avoirduois weight** (,ævə'dʊɔɪz) *n.* a system of weights used in many English-speaking countries. It is based on the pound, which contains 16 ounces or 7000 grains.

avouch (ə'vaʊtʃ) *vb.* (tr.) Arch. 1. to vouch for; guarantee. 2. to acknowledge. 3. to assert. —**a'vouchment** *n.*

avow (ə'vaʊ) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to state or affirm. 2. to admit openly. —**a'vowal** *n.* —**avowed** (ə'vaʊd) *adj.* —**avowedly** (ə'vaʊdɪlɪ) *adv.* —**a'vower** *n.*

avuncular (ə'vʌŋkjʊlə) *adj.* 1. of or concerned with an uncle. 2. resembling an uncle; friendly.

await (ə'weɪt) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to wait for. 2. (tr.) to be in store for. 3. (intr.) to wait, esp. with expectation.

awake (ə'weɪk) *vb.* **awaking; awoke** or **awaked; awoken** or **awaked.** 1. to emerge or rouse from sleep. 2. to become or cause to become alert. 3. (usually foll. by *to*) to become or make aware (of). 4. Also: **awaken.** (tr.) to arouse (feelings, etc.) or cause to remember (memories, etc.). ~*adj.* (postpositive) 5. not sleeping. 6. (sometimes foll. by *to*) lively or alert.

▷ **Usage.** See at **wake**.

award (ə'wɔːd) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to give (something due), esp. as a reward for merit: *to award prizes*. 2. Law, to declare to be entitled, as by decision of a court or an arbitrator. ~*n.* 3. something awarded, such as a prize or medal. 4. Law, a. the decision of an arbitrator. b. a grant made by a court of law. —**a'warder** *n.*

aware (ə'weə) *adj.* 1. (postpositive; foll. by *of*) having knowledge: *aware of his error*. 2. informed of current developments: *politically aware*. —**a'wareness** *n.*

awash (ə'wɒʃ) *adv., adj.* (postpositive) Naut. 1. at a level even with the surface of the sea. 2. washed over by the waves.

away (ə'weɪ) *adv.* 1. from a particular place: *to swim away*. 2. in or to another, a usual, or a proper place: *to put toys away*. 3. apart; at a distance: *to keep away from strangers*. 4. out of existence: *the music faded away*. 5. indicating motion, displacement, transfer, etc., from a normal or proper place: *to turn one's head away*. 6. indicating activity that is wasteful or designed to get rid of something: *to sleep away the hours*. 7. continuously: *laughing away*. 8. **away with**, a command for a person to go or be removed: *away with him to prison!* ~*adj.* (usually postpositive) 9. not present: *away from school*. 10. distant: *he is a good way away*. 11. having started; released: *he was away before sunrise*. 12. (also prenominal) Sport, played on an opponent's ground. ~*n.* 13. Sport, a game played or won at an opponent's ground. ~*interj.* 14. an expression of dismissal.

awe (ɔː) *n.* 1. overwhelming wonder, respect, or dread.

2. Arch. power to inspire fear or reverence. ~*vb.* 3. (tr.) to inspire with reverence or dread.

aweigh (ə'wei) *adj.* (postpositive) Naut. (of an anchor) no longer hooked into the bottom; hanging by its rope or chain.

awesome ('ɔːsm) *adj.* inspiring or displaying awe. —**'awesome** *adv.* —**'awesomeness** *n.*

awful ('ɔːfʊl) *adj.* 1. very bad; unpleasant. 2. Arch. inspiring reverence or dread. 3. Arch. overcome with awe. ~*adv.* 4. Not standard. (intensifier): *an awful cold day*. —**'awfulness** *n.*

awfully ('ɔːfʊli) *adv.* 1. in an unpleasant, bad, or reprehensible manner. 2. Inf. (intensifier): *I'm awfully keen to come*. 3. Arch. so as to express or inspire awe.

awhile (ə'waɪl) *adv.* for a brief period.

awkward ('ɔːkwɔːd) *adj.* 1. lacking dexterity, proficiency, or skill; clumsy. 2. ungainly or inelegant in movements or posture. 3. unwieldy; difficult to use. 4. embarrassing: *an awkward moment*. 5. embarrassed: *he felt awkward about leaving*. 6. difficult to deal with; requiring tact: *an awkward customer*. 7. dangerous or difficult. —**'awkwardly** *adv.* —**'awkwardness** *n.*

awl (ɔːl) *n.* a pointed hand tool with a fluted blade used for piercing wood, leather, etc.

awn (ɔːn) *n.* any of the bristles growing from the flowering parts of certain grasses and cereals. —**awned** *adj.*

awning ('ɔːnɪŋ) *n.* a roof of canvas or other material supported by a frame to provide protection from the weather, esp. one placed over a doorway or part of a deck of a ship.

awoke (ə'wɔːk) *vb.* a past tense or (now rare or dialectal) past participle of **awake**.

A.W.O.L. or **AWOL** (when acronym 'eɪwɒl) *adj.* Mil. absent without leave but without intending to desert.

awry (ə'raɪ) *adv., adj.* (postpositive) 1. with a slant or twist to one side; askew. 2. away from the appropriate or right course; amiss.

axe or **U.S. ax** (æks) *n., pl. axes.* 1. a hand tool with one side of its head forged and sharpened to a cutting edge, used for felling trees, splitting timber, etc. 2. **an axe to grind**, a. an ulterior motive. b. a grievance. c. a pet subject. 3. **the axe.** Inf. a. dismissal, esp. from employment (esp. in **get the axe**). b. Brit. severe cutting down of expenditure, esp. in a public service. ~*vb.* (tr.) 4. to chop or trim with an axe. 5. Inf. to dismiss (employees), restrict (expenditure or services), or terminate (a project, etc.).

axes ('æksɪz) *n.* the plural of **axis**.

axes ('æksɪz) *n.* the plural of **axe**.

axial ('æksɪəl) *adj.* 1. forming or characteristic of an axis. 2. situated in, on, or along an axis. —**'axiality** *n.* —**'axially** *adv.*

axil ('æksɪl) *n.* the upper angle between a branch or leaf stalk and the stem from which it grows.

axiom ('æksɪəm) *n.* 1. a generally accepted proposition or principle, sanctioned by experience. 2. a universally established principle or law that is not a necessary truth. 3. Logic, maths, a self-consistent self-evident statement that is a universally accepted truth.

axiomatic (,æksɪə'mætɪk) *adj.* 1. self-evident. 2. containing maxims; aphoristic. —**'axio'matically** *adv.*

axis ('æksɪs) *n., pl. axes ('æksɪz). 1. a real or imaginary line about which a body, such as an aircraft, can rotate or about which an object, form, composition, or geometrical construction is symmetrical. 2. one of two or three reference lines used in coordinate geometry to locate a point in a plane or in space. 3. Anat. the second cervical vertebra. 4. Bot. the main central part of a plant, typically consisting of the stem and root. 5. an alliance between a number of states to coordinate their foreign policy. 6. Also called: **principal axis**. Optics, the line of symmetry of an optical system, such as the line passing through the centre of a lens.*

Axis ('æksɪs) *n. a. the.* the alliance (1936) of Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy, later joined by Japan and other countries, and lasting until their defeat in World War II. b. (as modifier): *the Axis powers*.

axle ('æksəl) *n.* a bar or shaft on which a wheel, pair of wheels, or other rotating member revolves.

axletree ('æksəl,triː) *n.* a bar fixed across the underpart of a wagon or carriage that has rounded ends on which the wheels revolve.

Axminster carpet ('æks,mɪnstə) *n.* a type of patterned carpet with a cut pile. Often shortened to **Axminster**.

axolotl ('æksəl,tɒl) *n.* an aquatic salamander of N

America, such as the **Mexican axolotl**, in which the larval form (including external gills) is retained throughout life under natural conditions.

ayah ('aɪə) *n.* (in parts of the former British Empire) a native maidservant or nursemaid.

ayatollah (,aɪə'tɒlə) *n.* one of class of Shiite religious leaders in Iran.

aye or **ay** (aɪ) *sentence substitute.* 1. yes: archaic or dialectal except in voting by voice. ~*n.* 2. **a.** a person who votes in the affirmative. **b.** an affirmative vote. ~*Cf.* **nay**.

aye-aye ('aɪ,aɪ) *n.* a rare nocturnal arboreal primate of Madagascar related to the lemurs. It has long bony fingers and rodent-like incisor teeth.

Ayrshire ('eɪʃə) *n.* any one of a hardy breed of brown and white dairy cattle.

azalea (ə'zeɪljə) *n.* an ericaceous plant cultivated for its showy pink or purple flowers.

azimuth ('æzɪməθ) *n.* 1. *Astron., navigation.* the angular distance usually measured clockwise from the south point of the horizon in astronomy or from the north point in navigation to the intersection with the horizon of the vertical circle passing through a celestial body. 2. *Surveying.* the horizontal angle of a bearing clockwise from north. —**azimuthal** (,æzɪ'mʌθəl) *adj.*

Aztec ('æztɛk) *n.* 1. a member of a Mexican Indian people who established a great empire, centred on the valley of Mexico, that was overthrown by Cortés in the early 16th century. 2. the language of the Aztecs. ~*adj.* also **Aztecan**. 3. of, relating to, or characteristic of the Aztecs, their civilization, or their language.

azure ('æzə, 'eɪ-) *n.* 1. a deep blue similar to the colour of a clear blue sky. 2. *Poetic.* a clear blue sky. ~*adj.* 3. of the colour azure. 4. (*usually postpositive*) *Heraldry.* of the colour blue.

B

b or **B** (bi) *n.*, *pl.* **b's**, **B's**, or **Bs**. 1. the second letter of the English alphabet. 2. a speech sound represented by this letter, as in *bell*. 3. Also: **beta**. the second in a series, class, or rank.

B *symbol for:* 1. *Music*. a. the seventh note of the scale of C major. b. the major or minor key having this note as its tonic. 2. the less important of two things. 3. a human blood type of the ABO group, containing the B antigen. 4. (in Britain) a secondary road. 5. *Chem.* boron. 6. magnetic flux density. 7. *Chess*. bishop. 8. (on Brit. pencils, signifying degree of softness of lead) black. 9. Also: **b** *Physics*. bel. 10. *Physics*. baryon number.

b. or **B.** *abbrev. for:* 1. *Music*. bass or basso. 2. (on maps, etc.) bay. 3. (*cap.*) Bible. 4. book. 5. born. 6. (*not cap.*) Cricket. a. bowled. b. bye. 7. breadth.

Ba *the chemical symbol for barium.*

B.A. *abbrev. for:* 1. Bachelor of Arts. 2. British Academy. 3. British Association (for the Advancement of Science).

B.A.A. *abbrev. for British Airports Authority.*

baa (ba:) *vb.* **baaing**, **baaed**. 1. (*intr.*) to make the cry of a sheep; bleat. ~*n.* 2. the cry made by sheep.

baas (ba:s) *n.* a South African word for **boss**; used by Africans and Coloureds in addressing European managers or overseers.

baaskap or **baasskap** ('ba:s,kap) *n.* (*sometimes cap.*) (in South Africa) control by Whites of non-Whites.

baba ('ba:ba:) *n.* a small cake, usually soaked in rum (*rum baba*).

babalas ('bæbə,læs) *n.* *S. African*. a hangover.

Babbitt metal *n.* any of a number of alloys originally based on tin, antimony, and copper but now often including lead: used esp. in bearings.

babble ('bæbl) *vb.* 1. to utter (words, sounds, etc.) in an incoherent jumble. 2. (*intr.*) to talk foolishly, incessantly, or irrelevantly. 3. (*tr.*) to disclose (secrets, etc.) carelessly. 4. (*intr.*) (of streams, birds, etc.) to make a low murmuring sound. ~*n.* 5. incoherent or foolish speech. 6. a murmuring sound. —'babbl*er* *n.*

babe (beib) *n.* 1. a baby. 2. *Inf.* a naive or gullible person. 3. *Sl.* chiefly U.S. a girl.

Babel ('beibl) *n.* 1. *Old Testament*. Also called: **Tower of Babel**. a tower presumptuously intended to reach from earth to heaven, the building of which was frustrated when Jehovah confused the language of the builders (Genesis 11:1-10). 2. (*often not cap.*) a. a confusion of noises or voices. b. a scene of noise and confusion.

baboon (bə'bu:n) *n.* any of several medium-sized Old World monkeys. They have an elongated muzzle, large teeth, and a fairly long tail.

baby ('beibi) *n.*, *pl.* **-bies**. 1. a. a newborn child; infant. b. (*as modifier*) *baby food*. 2. the youngest or smallest of a family or group. 3. a newborn or recently born animal. 4. *Usually derog.* an immature person. 5. *Sl.* a young woman or sweetheart. 6. *Sl.* a project of personal concern. 7. *be left holding the baby*. to be left with the responsibility. ~*adj.* 8. (*prenominal*) comparatively small of its type: a *baby grand* (piano). ~*vb.* **-bying**, **-bied**. 9. (*tr.*) to treat with love and attention. 10. to treat (someone) like a baby; pamper or overprotect. —'babyhood *n.* —'babyish *adj.*

baby bonus *n.* *Canad. inf.* Family Allowance.

baby-sit *vb.* **-sitting**, **-sat**. (*intr.*) to act or work as a baby-sitter.

baby-sitter *n.* a person who takes care of a child or children while the parents are out.

B.A.C. *abbrev. for British Aircraft Corporation.*

baccalaureate (bə'kælə'reit) *n.* the university degree of Bachelor of Arts.

baccarat ('bækə,rɑ:, 'bækə'rɑ:) *n.* a card game in which two or more punters gamble against the banker.

bacchanal ('bækənəl) *n.* 1. a follower of Bacchus, Greek god of wine. 2. a drunken and riotous celebration. 3. a participant in such a celebration. ~*adj.* 4. of or relating to Bacchus.

bacchanalia (bə'kænə'neiə) *pl. n.* 1. (*often cap.*) orgiastic rites associated with Bacchus. 2. any drunken revelry. —'baccha'nalian *adj.*, *n.*

bacchant ('bækənt) or (*fem.*) **bacchante** (bə'kænti) *n.*, *pl.* **bacchants**, **bacchantes** (bə'kæntiz) 1. a priest, priestess, or votary of Bacchus. 2. a drunken reveller.

Bacchic ('bækik) *adj.* 1. of or relating to Bacchus. 2. (*often not cap.*) riotously drunk.

baccy ('bæki) *n.* a Brit. informal name for **tobacco**.

bachelor ('bætʃələ, 'bætʃlə) *n.* 1. a. an unmarried man. b. (*as modifier*): a *bachelor flat*. 2. a person who holds the degree of Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, etc. 3. (in the Middle Ages) a young knight serving a great noble. 4. **bachelor seal**. a young male seal that has not yet mated. —'bachelorhood *n.*

bachelor girl *n.* a young unmarried woman, esp. one who is self-supporting.

Bachelor of Arts *n.* 1. a degree conferred on a person who has successfully completed undergraduate studies in the liberal arts or humanities. 2. a person who holds this degree.

bacillary (bə'siləri) or **bacillar** (bə'silə) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or caused by bacilli. 2. Also: **bacilliform** (bə'silɪ,fɔ:m) shaped like a short rod.

bacillus (bə'silos) *n.*, *pl.* **-cilli** (-'silai). 1. any rod-shaped bacterium. 2. any of various rodlike spore-producing bacteria constituting the family *Bacillaceae*.

back (bæk) *n.* 1. the posterior part of the human body, from the neck to the pelvis. 2. the corresponding or upper part of an animal. 3. the spinal column. 4. the part or side of an object opposite the front. 5. the part or side of anything less often seen or used. 6. the part or side of anything that is furthest from the front or from a spectator: *the back of the stage*. 7. something that supports, covers, or strengthens the rear of an object. 8. *Ball games*. a. a mainly defensive player behind a forward. b. the position of such a player. 9. the part of a book to which the pages are glued or that joins the covers. 10. *at the back of one's mind*. not in one's conscious thoughts. 11. *behind one's back*. secretly or deceitfully. 12. *break one's back*. to overwork or work very hard. 13. *break the back of*. to complete the greatest or hardest part of (a task). 14. *get off someone's back*. *Inf.* to stop criticizing or pestering someone. 15. **back o'Bourke**. *Austral.* in a remote or backward place. 16. *put one's back into*. to devote all one's strength to (a task). 17. *put (or get) someone's back up*. to annoy someone. 18. *the back of beyond*. a very remote place. 19. *turn one's back on*. a. to turn away from in anger or contempt. b. to refuse to help; abandon. 20. *with one's back to the wall*. in a desperate situation. ~*vb.* (*mainly tr.*) 21. (*also intr.*) to move or cause to move backwards. 22. to provide support, money, or encouragement for (a person, enterprise, etc.). 23. to bet on the success of: *to back a horse*. 24. to provide with a back, backing, or lining. 25. to provide with a musical accompaniment. 26. to countersign or endorse. 27. (*intr.*; *foli. by on or onto*) to have the back facing (towards): *the house backs onto a river*. 28. (*intr.*) (of the wind) to change direction anticlockwise. *Cf.* **veer** (sense 3). ~*adj.* (*prenominal*) 29. situated behind: *a back lane*. 30. of the past: *back issues of a magazine*. 31. owing from an earlier date: *back rent*. 32. remote: *a back road*. 33. *Phonetics*. of or denoting a vowel articulated with the tongue retracted towards the soft palate, as for the vowels in English *hard, fall, hot, full, fool*. ~*adv.* 34. at, to, or towards the rear; behind. 35. in, to, or towards the original starting point, place, or condition: *to go back home; put the book back*. 36. in or into the past: *to look back on one's childhood*. 37. in reply, repayment, or retaliation: *to hit someone back*. 38. in check: *the dam holds back the water*. 39. in concealment; in reserve: *to keep something back*. 40. **back and forth**. to and fro. 41. **back to front**. a. in reverse. b. in disorder.

backbencher ('bæk'bentʃə) *n.* *Brit., Austral., etc.* a member of Parliament who does not hold office in the government or opposition.

backbite ('bæk,bait) *vb.* **-biting**, **-bit**; **-bitten** or **-bit**. to talk spitefully about (an absent person). —'back,biter *n.*

backboard ('bæk,bɔ:d) *n.* 1. a board that is placed behind something to form or support its back. 2. a board worn to straighten or support the back, as after surgery.

3. (in basketball) a flat upright surface supported on a high frame, under which the basket is attached.

back boiler *n.* a tank or series of pipes at the back of a fireplace for heating water.

backbone ('bæk,bəʊn) *n.* 1. a nontechnical name for spinal column. 2. something that resembles the spinal column in function, position, or appearance. 3. strength of character; courage.

backbreaking ('bæk,breɪkɪŋ) *adj.* exhausting.

backchat ('bæk,tʃæt) *n. Inf.* the act of answering back, esp. impudently.

backcloth ('bæk,kloʊð) or **backdrop** *n.* a painted curtain at the back of a stage set.

backcomb ('bæk,kəʊm) *vb.* to comb the under layers of (the hair) towards the roots to give more bulk to a hair style. Also: **tease**.

back country *n. Austral. & N.Z.* sparsely populated areas.

backdate ('bæk'dent) *vb. (tr.)* to make effective from an earlier date.

back door *n.* 1. a door at the rear or side of a building. 2. a means of entry to a job, etc., that is secret or obtained through influence.

back down *vb. 1. (intr., adv.)* to withdraw an earlier claim. ~*n.* **backdown**. 2. abandonment of an earlier claim.

backer ('bækə) *n.* 1. a person who gives financial or other support. 2. a person who bets on a competitor or contestant.

backfire ('bæk'faɪə) *vb. (intr.)* 1. (of an internal-combustion engine) to emit a loud noise as a result of an explosion in the exhaust system. 2. to fail to have the desired effect, and, instead, recoil upon the originator. 3. to start a controlled fire in order to halt an advancing forest or prairie fire by creating a barren area. ~*n.* 4. (in an internal-combustion engine) an explosion of unburnt gases in the exhaust system. 5. a controlled fire started to create a barren area that will halt an advancing forest or prairie fire.

back formation *n.* 1. the unwitting invention of a new word on the assumption that a familiar word is derived from it. The verbs *edit* and *burgle* in English were so created from *editor* and *burglar*. 2. a word formed by this process.

backgammon ('bæk,gæmən) *n.* 1. a game for two people played on a board with pieces moved according to throws of the dice. 2. the most complete form of win in this game.

background ('bæk,graʊnd) *n.* 1. the part of a scene furthest from the viewer. 2. a. an inconspicuous or unobtrusive position (esp. in **the background**). b. (as modifier): a background influence. 3. the plane or ground in a picture upon which all other planes or forms appear superimposed. 4. a person's social class, education, or experience. 5. a. the circumstances that lead up to or help to explain something. b. (as modifier): background information. 6. a. a low level of sound, lighting, etc., whose purpose is to be an unobtrusive accompaniment to something else. b. (as modifier): background music. 7. Also called: **background radiation**. *Physics.* low-intensity radiation from small amounts of radio isotopes in soil, air, etc. 8. *Electronics.* unwanted effects, such as noise, occurring in a measuring instrument, electronic device, etc.

backhand ('bæk,hænd) *n.* 1. *Tennis, etc.* a stroke made across the body with the back of the hand facing the direction of the stroke. 2. the side on which backhand strokes are made. 3. handwriting slanting to the left. ~*adv.* 4. with a backhand stroke.

backhanded ('bæk'hændɪd) *adj.* 1. (of a blow, shot, etc.) performed with the arm moving across the body. 2. double-edged; equivocal: a backhanded compliment. 3. (of handwriting) slanting to the left. ~*adv.* 4. in a backhanded manner.

backhander ('bæk,hændə) *n.* 1. a backhanded stroke or blow. 2. *Inf.* an indirect attack. 3. *Sl.* a bribe.

backing ('bækɪŋ) *n.* 1. support. 2. a body of supporters. 3. something that forms, protects, or strengthens the back of something. 4. musical accompaniment, esp. for a pop singer.

backlash ('bæk,læʃ) *n.* 1. a sudden and adverse reaction. 2. a reaction or recoil between interacting worn or badly fitting parts in a mechanism. 3. the excessive play between such parts.

backlog ('bæk,lɒg) *n.* an accumulation of uncompleted work, unsold stock, etc., to be dealt with.

back marker *n.* a competitor who is at the back of a field in a race.

back number *n.* 1. an issue of a newspaper, magazine, etc., that appeared on a previous date. 2. *Inf.* a person or thing considered to be old-fashioned.

back out *vb. (intr., adv.; often foll. by of)* to withdraw (from an agreement, etc.).

back pack *n.* 1. a rucksack. 2. a pack carried on the back of an astronaut, containing oxygen cylinders, etc. ~*vb. (intr.)* **back-pack**. 3. to travel about or go hiking with a back pack.

back passage *n.* the rectum.

back-pedal *vb.* -pedalling, -pedalled or *U.S.* -pedaling, -pedaled. (intr.) 1. to turn the pedals of a bicycle backwards. 2. to retract or modify a previous opinion, principle, etc.

back room *n.* a. a place where important and usually secret research is done. b. (as modifier): back-room boys.

back seat *n.* 1. a seat at the back, esp. of a vehicle. 2. *Inf.* a subordinate or inconspicuous position (esp. in take a back seat).

back-seat driver *n. Inf.* 1. a passenger in a car who offers unwanted advice to the driver. 2. a person who offers advice on or tries to direct matters that are not his concern.

backside ('bæk'saɪd) *n. Inf.* the buttocks.

backslide ('bæk,slaɪd) *vb.* -sliding, -slid. (intr.) to relapse into former bad habits or vices. — **backslider** *n.*

backspace ('bæk,spes) *vb.* to move a (typewriter carriage, etc.) backwards.

backspin ('bæk,spɪn) *n. Sport.* a backward spin imparted to a ball to minimize its bounce.

backstage ('bæk'steɪdʒ) *adv.* 1. behind the part of the theatre in view of the audience. 2. towards the rear of the stage. ~*adj.* 3. situated backstage. 4. *Inf.* away from public view.

backstairs ('bæk'steɪz) *pl. n.* 1. a secondary staircase in a house, esp. one originally for the use of servants. ~*adj.* also **backstair**. 2. underhand: backstairs gossip.

backstreet ('bæk,stri:t) *n.* 1. a street in a town remote from the main roads. 2. (modifier) denoting illicit activities regarded as likely to take place in such a street: a backstreet abortion.

backstroke ('bæk,strəʊk) *n. Swimming.* a stroke performed on the back, using backward circular strokes of each arm and flipper movements of the feet. Also called: **back crawl**.

back-to-back *adj. (usually postpositive)* 1. facing in opposite directions, often with the backs touching. 2. *Chiefly Brit.* (of urban houses) built so that their backs are adjacent or separated only by a narrow alley.

backtrack ('bæk,træk) *vb. (intr.)* 1. to return by the same route by which one has come. 2. to retract or reverse one's opinion, policy, etc.

back up *vb. (adv.) 1. (tr.)* to support. 2. (intr.) *Cricket.* (of a nonstriking batsman) to move down the wicket in readiness for a run as a ball is bowled. 3. (of water) to accumulate. 4. *Computers.* to make a copy of (a data file), esp. as a security copy. 5. (intr., usually foll. by on) *Austral.* to repeat an action immediately. ~*n.* **backup**. *Chiefly U.S.* 6. a support or reinforcement. 7. a reserve or substitute. 8. the overflow from a blocked drain or pipe.

backward ('bækwəd) *adj.* 1. (usually prenominal) directed towards the rear: a backward glance. 2. retarded in physical, material, or intellectual development. 3. a. conservative or reactionary. b. (in combination): backward-looking. 4. reluctant or bashful: a backward lover. ~*adv.* 5. a variant of **backwards**. — **'backwardness** *n.*

backwards ('bækwədz) or **backward** *adv.* 1. towards the rear. 2. with the back foremost. 3. in the reverse of usual order or direction. 4. to or towards the past. 5. into a worse state. 6. towards the point of origin. 7. bend, lean or fall over backwards. *Inf.* to make a special effort, esp. in order to please.

backwash ('bæk,wɒʃ) *n.* 1. water washed backwards by the motion of oars or other propelling devices. 2. the backward flow of air set up by aircraft engines. 3. a repercussion.

backwater ('bæk,wɔ:tə) *n.* 1. a body of stagnant water connected to a river. 2. an isolated or backward place or condition. ~*vb.* **back water**. 3. (intr.) to reverse the direction of a boat, esp. to push the oars of a rowing boat.

backwoods ('bækwudz) *pl. n.* 1. partially cleared, sparsely populated forests. 2. any remote sparsely popu-

lated place. **3.** (*modifier*) of or like the backwoods. **4.** (*modifier*) uncouth; rustic. — **'back, woodsman** *n.*

back yard *n.* **1.** a yard at the back of a house, etc. **2.** in **one's own back yard**, close at hand.

baclava ('bæklə, vɑː) *n.* a variant spelling of **baklava**.

bacon ('beɪkən) *n.* **1.** meat from the back and sides of a pig, dried, salted, and usually smoked. **2.** **bring home the bacon**. *Inf. a.* to achieve success. *b.* to provide material support. **3.** **save one's bacon**. *Brit. inf.* to escape from danger.

Baconian (beɪ'kəʊniən) *adj.* **1.** of or relating to Francis Bacon (1561-1626), English philosopher, or his inductive method of reasoning. *~n.* **2.** a follower of Bacon's philosophy. **3.** one who believes that plays attributed to Shakespeare were written by Bacon.

bacteria (bæk'tɪərɪə) *pl. n., sing. -rium* (-rɪəm). a large group of typically unicellular microorganisms, many of which cause disease. — **bac'terial** *adj.* — **bac'terial-ly** *adv.*

bacterio-, bacteri-, or sometimes before a vowel **bacter-** *combining form.* indicating bacteria or an action or condition relating to bacteria: *bacteriology; bactericide.*

bacteriology (bæk'tɪərɪ'blɒdʒɪ) *n.* the study of bacteria. — **bacteriological** (bæk'tɪərɪ'blɒdʒɪkəl) *adj.* — **bac'teri-ologist** *n.*

bacterium (bæk'tɪəriəm) *n.* singular of **bacteria**.

Bactrian camel ('bæktəriən) *n.* a two-humped camel, used in the cold deserts of central Asia.

bad (bæd) *adj.* **worse, worst.** **1.** not good; of poor quality; inadequate. **2.** (often foll. by *at*) lacking skill or talent; incompetent. **3.** (often foll. by *for*) harmful. **4.** immoral; evil. **5.** naughty; mischievous. **6.** rotten; decayed: *a bad egg*. **7.** severe; intense: *a bad headache*. **8.** incorrect; faulty: *bad pronunciation*. **9.** ill or in pain (esp. in **feel bad**). **10.** sorry or upset (esp. in **feel bad about**). **11.** unfavourable; distressing: *bad news*. **12.** offensive; unpleasant: *bad language; bad temper*. **13.** not valid or sound: *a bad cheque*. **14.** not recoverable: *a bad debt*. **15.** **go from bad to worse**, to deteriorate even more. **16.** **go bad**, to putrefy; spoil. **17.** in *a bad way*. *Inf. a.* seriously ill. *b.* in trouble. **18.** **make the best of a bad job**, to manage as well as possible in unfavourable circumstances. **19.** **not bad or not so bad**. *Inf.* passable; fairly good. **20.** **too bad**. *Inf.* (often used dismissively) regrettable. *~n.* **21.** unfortunate or unpleasant events (often in **take the bad with the good**). **22.** an immoral or degenerate state (often in **go to the bad**). **23.** the debit side of an account: *£200 to the bad*. *~adv.* **24.** **Not standard.** badly: *to want something bad*. — **'baddish** *adj.* — **'badness** *n.*

▷ **Usage.** See at **good**.

bad (bæd) *vb.* a variant spelling of **bade**.

bad blood *n.* a feeling of intense hatred or hostility; enmity.

bade (bæd, beɪd) or **bad** *vb.* the past tense of **bid**.

badge (bædʒ) *n.* **1.** a distinguishing emblem or mark worn to signify membership, employment, achievement, etc. **2.** any revealing feature or mark.

badger ('bædʒə) *n.* **1.** any of various stocky omnivorous mammals occurring in Europe, Asia, and N America. They are large burrowing animals, with strong claws and a thick coat striped black and white on the head. *~vb.* **2.** (tr.) to pester or harass.

badinage ('bædɪnɪʒ) *n.* playful or frivolous repartee or banter.

badly ('bædli) *adv.* **worse, worst.** **1.** poorly; defectively; inadequately. **2.** unfavourably; unsuccessfully: *our scheme worked out badly*. **3.** severely; gravely: *badly hurt*. **4.** incorrectly or inaccurately: *to speak German badly*. **5.** improperly; wickedly: *to behave badly*. **6.** cruelly: *to treat badly*. **7.** very much (esp. in **need badly, want badly**). **8.** regretfully: *he felt badly about it*. **9.** **badly off**, poor; impoverished.

badminton ('bædmɪntən) *n.* **1.** a game played with rackets and a shuttlecock, which is hit back and forth across a high net. **2.** Also called: **badminton cup**, a long drink of claret with soda water and sugar.

baffle ('bæfl) *vb.* (tr.) **1.** to perplex; bewilder; puzzle. **2.** to frustrate (plans, efforts, etc.). **3.** to check, restrain, or regulate (the flow of a fluid or the emission of sound or light). *~n.* **4.** Also called: **baffle board**, **baffle plate**, a plate or mechanical device to restrain or regulate the flow of fluid, light, or sound, esp. in a loudspeaker or microphone. — **'bafflement** *n.* — **'baffler** *n.* — **'bafflingly** *adv.*

bag (bæg) *n.* **1.** a flexible container with an opening at one end. **2.** Also: **bagful**, the contents of or amount

contained in such a container. **3.** a piece of portable luggage. **4.** short for **handbag**. **5.** anything that sags, or is shaped like a bag, such as a loose fold of skin under the eyes. **6.** any pouch or sac forming part of the body of an animal. **7.** the quantity of quarry taken in a single hunting trip or by a single hunter. **8.** *Derog. sl.* an ugly or bad-tempered woman or girl (often in **old bag**). **9.** **bag and baggage**. *Inf. a.* with all one's belongings. *b.* entirely. **10.** **a bag of bones**, a lean creature. **11.** in **the bag**, *sl.* almost assured of succeeding or being obtained. **12.** **rough as bags**. *Austral. sl.* *a.* uncouth. *b.* shoddy. *~vb.* **bagging, bagged.** **13.** (tr.) to put into a bag. **14.** to bulge or cause to bulge. **15.** (tr.) to capture or kill, as in hunting. **16.** (tr.) to catch, seize, or steal. **17.** (intr.) to hang loosely; sag. **18.** (tr.) *Brit. inf.* to secure the right to do or to have something: *he bagged the best chair*.

bagatelle (bə'gætəl) *n.* **1.** something of little value; trifle. **2.** a board game in which balls are struck into holes, with pins as obstacles. **3.** a short light piece of music.

bagel or **beigel** ('beɪgl) *n.* a hard ring-shaped bread roll.

baggage ('bæɡɪdʒ) *n.* **1.** suitcases, bags, etc., packed for a journey; luggage. **2.** an army's portable equipment. **3.** *Inf., old-fashioned.* *a.* a pert young woman. *b.* an immoral woman.

baggy ('bæɡɪ) *adj.* **-gier, -giest.** (of clothes) hanging loosely; puffed out. — **'baggily** *adv.* — **'bagginess** *n.*

bagno ('bɑːnjəʊ) *n., pl. -ios.* **1.** a brothel. **2.** *Obs.* an oriental prison for slaves. **3.** *Obs.* an Italian or Turkish bathhouse.

bagpipes ('bæɡ,paɪps) *pl. n.* any of a family of musical wind instruments in which sounds are produced in reed pipes by air from a bag inflated either by the player's mouth or by arm-operated bellows.

bags (bægz) *pl. n.* **1.** *Inf.* a lot. **2.** *Brit. inf.* trousers. *~interj.* **3.** Also: **bags I**. *Children's sl.* *Brit.* an indication of the desire to do, be, or have something.

bah (bɑː, bæ) *interj.* an expression of contempt or disgust.

Bahaism (bə'hæɪzəm) *n.* a religious system founded in 1863, based on Babism and emphasizing the value of all religions and the spiritual unity of mankind. — **Ba'haist** or **Ba'haite** *adj., n.*

bail (beɪl) *Law.* *~n.* **1.** a sum of money by which a person is bound to take responsibility for the appearance in court of another person or himself, forfeited if the person fails to appear. **2.** the person or persons so binding themselves; surety. **3.** the system permitting release of a person from custody where such security has been taken: *he was released on bail*. **4.** **jump bail** or (formal) **forfeit bail**, to fail to appear in court to answer to a charge. **5.** **stand or go bail**, to act as surety (for someone). *~vb.* (tr.) **6.** (often foll. by *out*) to release or obtain the release of (a person) from custody, security having been made.

bail or **bale** (beɪl) *vb.* (often foll. by *out*) to remove (water) from (a boat). See also **bale out**. — **'bailer** or **'baler** *n.*

bail (beɪl) *n.* **1.** *Cricket.* either of two small wooden bars across the tops of the stumps. **2.** a partition between stalls in a stable or barn. **3.** *Austral. & N.Z.* a framework in a cowshed used to secure the head of a cow during milking.

bail or **bale** (beɪl) *n.* **1.** the semicircular handle of a kettle, bucket, etc. **2.** a movable bar on a typewriter that holds the paper against the platen.

bailey ('beɪli) *n.* the outermost wall or court of a castle.

Bailey bridge ('beɪli) *n.* a temporary bridge made of prefabricated steel parts that can be rapidly assembled.

baillie ('beɪli) *n.* (in Scotland) a municipal magistrate.

bailliff ('beɪlɪf) *n.* **1.** *Brit.* the agent of a landlord or landowner. **2.** a sheriff's officer who serves writs and summonses, makes arrests, and ensures that the sentences of the court are carried out. **3.** *Chiefly Brit.* (formerly) a high official having judicial powers. **4.** *Chiefly U.S.* an official having custody of prisoners appearing in court.

bailiwick ('beɪlɪwɪk) *n.* **1.** *Law.* the area over which a bailiff has jurisdiction. **2. a person's special field of interest.**

bain-marie French. (bɛma'ri) *n., pl. bains-marie* (bɛma'ri), a vessel for holding hot water, in which sauces and other dishes are gently cooked or kept warm.

bairn (beən) *n.* *Scot. & N English.* a child.

bait (beɪt) *n.* **1.** something edible fixed to a hook or in a trap to attract fish or animals. **2.** an enticement; temp-

tation. **3.** *Dialect.* food, esp. a packed lunch. **4.** *Arch.* a short stop for refreshment during a journey. ~vb. **5.** (tr.) to put a piece of food on or in (a hook or trap). **6.** (tr.) to persecute or tease. **7.** (tr.) to entice; tempt. **8.** (tr.) to set dogs upon (a bear, etc.). **9.** (intr.) *Arch.* to stop for rest and refreshment during a journey.

baize (beiz) *n.* a woollen fabric resembling felt, usually green, used mainly for the tops of billiard tables.

bake (beik) vb. **1.** (tr.) to cook by dry heat as in an oven. **2.** (intr.) to cook bread, pastry, etc. **3.** to make or become hardened by heat. **4.** (intr.) *Inf.* to be extremely hot. ~n. **5.** a batch of things baked at one time. **6.** *Caribbean.* a small flat fried cake.

baked Alaska (ə'laɪskə) *n.* a cake covered with ice cream, baked with a meringue topping.

baked beans *pl. n.* haricot beans, baked and tinned in tomato sauce.

Bakelite ('beikəlaɪt) *n.* *Trademark.* any one of a class of thermosetting resins used as electric insulators and for making plastic ware, etc.

baker ('beɪkə) *n.* a person whose business or employment is to make or sell bread, cakes, etc.

baker's dozen *n.* thirteen.

bakery ('beɪkəri) *n., pl. -eries.* **1.** a room or building equipped for baking. **2.** a shop in which bread, cakes, etc., are sold.

baking powder *n.* a powdered mixture that contains sodium bicarbonate and one or more acidic compounds, such as cream of tartar: used in baking as a substitute for yeast.

baklava or **baclava** ('bɑːkləvɑː) *n.* a rich cake consisting of thin layers of pastry filled with nuts and honey.

baksheesh or **backsheesh** ('bæksʃiːʃ) *n.* (in some Eastern countries, esp. formerly) money given as a tip, a present, or alms.

bal. *Book-keeping. abbrev. for balance.*

balalaika (bə'lɑːlɑɪkə) *n.* a Russian plucked musical instrument, usually having a triangular body and three strings.

balance ('bæləns) *n.* **1.** a weighing device, generally consisting of a horizontal beam pivoted at its centre, from the ends of which two pans are suspended. The substance to be weighed is placed in one pan and weights are placed in the other until the beam returns to the horizontal. **2.** a state of equilibrium. **3.** something that brings about such a state. **4.** equilibrium of the body; steadiness: *to lose one's balance.* **5.** emotional stability. **6.** harmony in the parts of a whole. **7.** the act of weighing factors, quantities, etc., against each other. **8.** the power to influence or control: *the balance of power.* **9.** something that remains: *the balance of what you owe.* **10.** *Accounting.* a. equality of debit and credit totals in an account. b. a difference between such totals. **11.** *in the balance.* in an uncertain or undecided condition. **12.** *on balance.* after weighing up all the factors. **13.** *strike a balance.* to make a compromise. ~vb. **14.** (tr.) to weigh in or as if in a balance. **15.** (intr.) to be or come into equilibrium. **16.** (tr.) to bring into or hold in equilibrium. **17.** (tr.) to compare the relative weight, importance, etc., of. **18.** (tr.) to be equal to. **19.** (tr.) to arrange so as to create a state of harmony. **20.** (tr.) *Accounting.* a. to compare the credit and debit totals of (an account). b. to equalize the credit and debit totals of (an account) by making certain entries. c. to settle or adjust (an account) by paying any money due. **21.** (intr.) (of a balance sheet, etc.) to have the debit and credit totals equal. — **balanceable** *adj.* — **balancer** *n.*

balance of power *n.* the distribution of power among countries so that no one nation can seriously threaten another.

balance of trade *n.* the difference in value between total exports and total imports of goods.

balance sheet *n.* a statement that shows the financial position of a business by listing the asset balances and the claims on such assets.

balance wheel *n.* a wheel oscillating against the hairspring of a timepiece, regulating its beat.

balata ('bælətə) *n.* **1.** a tropical American tree, yielding a latex-like sap. **2.** a rubber-like gum obtained from this sap: a substitute for gutta-percha.

balcony ('bælkəni) *n., pl. -nies.* **1.** a platform projecting from a building with a balustrade along its outer edge, often with access from a door or window. **2.** a gallery in a theatre, above the dress circle. **3.** *U.S.* the dress circle in a theatre. — **balconied** *adj.*

bald (bɔːld) *adj.* **1.** having no hair or fur, esp. (of a man) having no hair on the scalp. **2.** lacking natural growth

or covering. **3.** plain or blunt: *a bald statement.* **4.** bare or unadorned. **5.** Also: **bald-faced.** (of birds and animals) having white markings on the head and face. **6.** (of a tyre) having a worn tread. — **baldish** *adj.* — **baldly** *adv.* — **baldness** *n.*

balderdash ('bɔːldə, dæʃ) *n.* stupid or illogical talk; senseless rubbish.

balding ('bɔːldɪŋ) *adj.* somewhat bald or becoming bald.

baldric ('bɔːldrɪk) *n.* a sash or belt worn over the right shoulder to the left hip for carrying a sword, etc.

bale¹ (beɪl) *n.* **1.** a large bundle, package, or carton of goods bound by ropes, wires, etc., for storage or transportation. **2.** *U.S.* 500 pounds of cotton. ~vb. **3.** to make (hay, etc.) or put (goods) into a bale or bales.

bale² (beɪl) *n.* *Arch.* **1.** evil; injury. **2.** woe; suffering; pain.

bale³ (beɪl) *vb.* a variant spelling of **ball**¹.

bale⁴ (beɪl) *n.* a variant spelling of **ball**¹.

baleen (bə'liːn) *n.* whalebone.

baleen whale *n.* another name for **whalebone whale**.

baileful ('beɪlfʊl) *adj.* harmful, menacing, or vindictive. — **bailefully** *adv.* — **bailefulness** *n.*

bale out or **ball out** *vb. (adv.)* **1.** (intr.) to make an emergency parachute jump from an aircraft. **2.** (tr.) *Inf.* to help (a person, organization, etc.) out of a predicament.

baik or **baulk** (bɔːk, bɔːlk) *vb.* **1.** (intr.; usually foll. by *at*) to stop short; jib: *the horse balked at the jump.* **2.** (intr.; foll. by *at*) to recoil: *he balked at the idea of murder.* **3.** (tr.) to thwart, check, or foil: *he balked in his plans.* ~n. **4.** a roughly squared heavy timber beam. **5.** a timber tie beam of a roof. **6.** an unploughed ridge between furrows. **7.** an obstacle; hindrance; disappointment. **8.** *Baseball.* an illegal motion by a pitcher. ~See also **baulk**. — **balker** or **baulker** *n.*

Balkan ('bɔːlkən) *adj.* of or denoting a large peninsula in SE Europe, between the Adriatic and Aegean Seas, or its inhabitants, countries, etc.

ball¹ (bɔːl) *n.* **1.** a spherical or nearly spherical body or mass. **2.** a round or roundish body, of a size and composition suitable for any of various games. **3.** a ball propelled in a particular way: *a high ball.* **4.** any rudimentary game with a ball: *to play ball.* **5.** a single delivery of the ball in cricket and other games. **6.** a. a solid nonexplosive projectile for a firearm, cannon, etc. b. such projectiles collectively. **7.** any more or less rounded part: *the ball of the foot.* **8.** *ball of muscle.* *Austral.* a very strong, fit person. **9.** *have the ball at one's feet.* to have the chance of doing something. **10.** *keep the ball rolling.* to maintain the progress of a project, plan, etc. **11.** *on the ball.* *Inf.* alert; informed. **12. *play ball.* *Inf.* to cooperate. **13. *start or set the ball rolling.* to set a project, plan, etc., in motion; start. ~vb. (tr.) **14.** to make, form, wind, etc., into a ball or balls.****

ball² (bɔːl) *n.* **1.** a social function for dancing, esp. one that is lavish or formal. **2.** *Inf., chiefly U.S.* a very enjoyable time (esp. in *have a ball*).

ballad ('bæləd) *n.* **1.** a narrative song with a recurrent refrain. **2.** a narrative poem in short stanzas of popular origin. **3.** a slow sentimental song, esp. a pop song.

ballade (bə'leɪd) *n.* **1.** *Prosody.* a verse form consisting of three stanzas and an envoy, all ending with the same line. **2.** *Music.* an instrumental composition based on or intended to evoke a narrative.

ball-and-socket joint *n.* *Anat.* a joint in which a rounded head fits into a rounded cavity, allowing a wide range of movement.

ballast ('bæləst) *n.* **1.** any heavy material used to stabilize a vessel, esp. one that is not carrying cargo. **2.** crushed rock, broken stone, etc., used for the foundation of a road or railway track or in making concrete. **3.** anything that provides stability or weight. **4.** *Electronics.* a device for maintaining the current in a circuit. ~vb. (tr.) **5.** to give stability or weight to.

ball bearing *n.* **1.** a bearing consisting of steel balls rolling between a metal sleeve fitted over the rotating shaft and an outer sleeve held in the bearing housing, so reducing friction. **2.** a metal ball, esp. one used in such a bearing.

ball boy *n.* (esp. in tennis) a person who retrieves balls that go out of play.

ball cock *n.* a device for regulating the flow of a liquid into a tank, cistern, etc., consisting of a floating ball mounted at one end of an arm and a valve on the other end that opens and closes as the ball falls and rises.

ballerina (bə'lɛːrɪnə) *n.* a female ballet dancer.

ballet ('bæleɪ, bæ'leɪ) *n.* **1.** a classical style of expres-

sive dancing based on precise conventional steps. 2. a theatrical representation of a story or theme performed by ballet dancers. 3. a troupe of ballet dancers. 4. music written for a ballet. —**ballétic** (bə'letik) *adj.*

ball game *n.* 1. any game played with a ball. 2. *U.S.* a game of baseball. 3. *U.S. inf.* any activity: *aeronautics is a whole new ball game.*

ballista (bə'listə) *n.*, *pl.* -tae (-ti). an ancient catapult for hurling stones, etc.

ballistic missile *n.* a missile that has no wings or fins and that follows a ballistic trajectory when its propulsive power is discontinued.

ballistics (bə'listiks) *n.* (*functioning as sing.*) 1. the study of the flight dynamics of projectiles. 2. the study of the effects of firing on firearms and their projectiles.

ballocks ('bɒləks) *pl. n.*, *interj.*, *vb.* a variant spelling of **bollocks**.

balloon (bə'lu:n) *n.* 1. an inflatable rubber bag used as a plaything or party decoration. 2. a large bag inflated with a lighter-than-air gas, designed to rise and float in the atmosphere. It may have a basket or gondola for carrying passengers, etc. 3. an outline containing the words or thoughts of a character in a cartoon. 4. a large rounded brandy glass. 5. *when the balloon goes up. Inf.* when the action starts. ~*vb.* 6. (*intr.*) to go up or fly in a balloon. 7. to inflate or be inflated: *the wind ballooned the sails.* 8. (*tr.*) *Brit.* to propel (a ball) high into the air. —**balloonist** *n.* —**balloon-like** *adj.*

ballot ('bælət) *n.* 1. the practice of selecting a representative, course of action, etc. by submitting the options to a vote of all qualified persons. 2. an instance of voting, usually in secret. 3. a list of candidates standing for office. 4. the number of votes cast in an election. ~*vb.* -lotting, -loted. 5. to vote or elicit a vote from: *we balloted the members on this issue.* 6. (*tr.*; usually foll. by *for*) to vote for or decide on by lot or ballot.

ballot box *n.* a box into which ballot papers are dropped after voting.

ballot paper *n.* a paper used for voting in a ballot.

ballpoint or ballpoint pen ('bɒl,pɔɪnt) *n.* a pen having a small ball bearing as a writing point.

ballroom ('bɔ:l,rʊ:m, -rʊm) *n.* a large hall for dancing.

ballroom dancing *n.* social dancing, popular since the beginning of the 20th century, to dances in conventional rhythms (**ballroom dances**).

balls (bɔ:lz) *Taboo sl.* ~*pl. n.* 1. the testicles. 2. nonsense; rubbish. —*interj.* 3. an exclamation of disagreement, contempt, etc.

balls-up *Taboo sl.* ~*n.* 1. something botched or muddled. ~*vb.* **balls up.** 2. (*tr.*, *adv.*) to muddle or botch.

bally ('bæli) *adj.*, *adv.* (*intensifier*) *Brit. sl.* a euphemistic word for **bloody** (sense 5).

ballyhoo ('bæli,hu:) *n.* *Inf.* 1. a noisy, confused, or nonsensical situation. 2. sensational or blatant advertising or publicity. ~*vb.* -hooing, -hooed. 3. (*tr.*) *Chiefly U.S.* to advertise by sensational or blatant methods.

balm (bɔ:m) *n.* 1. any of various oily aromatic substances obtained from certain tropical trees and used for healing and soothing. See also **balsam** (sense 1). 2. any plant yielding such a substance, esp. the balm of Gilead. 3. something comforting or soothing. 4. Also called: **lemon balm**, an aromatic Eurasian plant, having clusters of small fragrant white flowers. 5. a pleasant odour.

balmy ('bɔ:m) *adj.* **balmier**, **balmiest**. 1. (of weather) mild and pleasant. 2. having the qualities of balm; fragrant or soothing. 3. a variant spelling (esp. *U.S.*) of **barmy**. —**balmily** *adv.* —**balminess** *n.*

baloney or boloney (bə'lʊni) *n.* *Inf.* foolish talk; nonsense.

BALPA ('bælpə) *n.* acronym for **British Airline Pilots' Association**.

balsa ('bɔ:lsə) *n.* 1. a tree of tropical America. 2. Also called: **balsawood**, the very light wood of this tree, used for making rafts, etc. 3. a light raft.

balsam ('bɔ:lsəm) *n.* 1. any of various fragrant oleoresins, such as balm, obtained from any of several trees and shrubs and used as a base for medicines and perfumes. 2. any of various similar substances used as ointments. 3. any of certain aromatic resinous turpentine. 4. any plant yielding balsam. 5. Also called: **busy Lizzie**, any of several plants of the genus *Impatiens*. 6. anything healing or soothing. —**balsamic** (bɔ:l'sæmik) *adj.*

Baltic ('bɔ:ltik) *adj.* 1. denoting or relating to the Baltic Sea in N Europe, or the states bordering it. 2. of or characteristic of Baltic as a group of languages. ~*n.* 3. a branch of the Indo-European family of languages consisting of Lithuanian, Latvian, and Old Prussian. 4.

Also called: **Baltic Exchange**, a commodities exchange in the City of London.

baluster ('bæləstə) *n.* any of a set of posts supporting a rail or coping.

balustrade ('bælə,streɪd) *n.* an ornamental rail or coping with its supporting set of balusters.

bamboo (bæm'bu:) *n.* 1. a tall treelike tropical or semitropical grass having hollow stems with ringed joints. 2. the stem, used for building, poles, and furniture.

bamboozle (bæm'bu:zəl) *vb.* (*tr.*) *Inf.* 1. to cheat; mislead. 2. to confuse. —**bam'boozler** *n.* —**bam'boozlement** *n.*

ban (bæn) *vb.* **banning**, **banned**. 1. (*tr.*) to prohibit, esp. officially, from action, display, entrance, sale, etc.; forbid. ~*n.* 2. an official prohibition or interdiction. 3. a public proclamation, esp. of outlawry. 4. *Arch.* a curse; imprecation.

banal (bə'næl) *adj.* lacking force or originality; trite; commonplace. —**banality** (bə'nælɪti) *n.* —**ba'nally** *adv.*

banana (bə'nænə) *n.* 1. any of several tropical and subtropical treelike plants, esp. a widely cultivated species having hanging clusters of edible fruit. 2. the crescent-shaped fruit of any of these plants.

banana republic *n.* *Inf.* a small country, esp. in Central America, that is politically unstable and has an economy dominated by foreign interest, usually dependent on one export.

band¹ (bænd) *n.* 1. a company of people having a common purpose; group: *a band of outlaws.* 2. a group of musicians playing either brass and percussion instruments only (**brass band**) or brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments (**concert band** or **military band**). 3. a group of musicians who play popular music, jazz, etc., often for dancing. ~*vb.* 4. (usually foll. by *together*) to unite; assemble.

band² (bænd) *n.* 1. a thin flat strip of some material, used esp. to encircle objects and hold them together: *a rubber band.* 2. a. a strip of fabric or other material used as an ornament or to reinforce clothing. b. (*in combination*): **waistband**; **hatband**. 3. a stripe of contrasting colour or texture. 4. a driving belt in machinery. 5. a range of values that are close or related in number, degree, or quality. 6. *Physics*. a range of frequencies or wavelengths between two limits. 7. short for **energy band**. 8. *Computers*. one or more tracks on a magnetic disk or drum. 9. *Anat.* any structure resembling a ribbon or cord that connects, encircles, or binds different parts. 10. *Archit.* a strip of flat panelling, such as a fascia, usually attached to a wall. 11. either of a pair of hanging extensions of the collar, forming part of academic, legal, or (formerly) clerical dress. 12. (of a gramophone record) another word for **track** (sense 10). ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 13. to fasten or mark with a band.

bandage ('bændɪdʒ) *n.* 1. a piece of material used to dress a wound, bind a broken limb, etc. ~*vb.* 2. to cover or bind with a bandage.

bandanna or bandana (bænd'dænə) *n.* a large silk or cotton handkerchief or neckerchief.

b. and b. *abbrev.* for **bed and breakfast**.

bandbox ('bænd,bɒks) *n.* a lightweight usually cylindrical box for small articles, esp. hats.

bandeau ('bændəʊ) *n.*, *pl.* -deaux (-dɔ:z). a narrow band of ribbon, velvet, etc., worn round the head.

bandicoot ('bændɪ,kʊ:t) *n.* 1. an agile terrestrial marsupial of Australia and New Guinea with a long pointed muzzle and a long tail. 2. **bandicoot rat**. Also called: **mole rat**, any of three burrowing rats of S and SE Asia.

bandit ('bændɪt) *n.*, *pl.* -dits or -ditti (-'dɪti). a robber, esp. a member of an armed gang. —**banditry** *n.*

bandmaster ('bænd,mɑ:stə) *n.* the conductor of a band.

bandoleer or bandolier (,bændə'liə) *n.* a soldier's broad shoulder belt having small pockets or loops for cartridges.

band saw *n.* a power-operated saw consisting of an endless toothed metal band running over and driven by two wheels.

bandsman ('bændzmən) *n.*, *pl.* -men. a player in a musical band, esp. a brass or military band.

bandstand ('bænd,stænd) *n.* a platform for a band, usually out of doors and roofed.

bandwagon ('bænd,wægən) *n.* 1. *U.S.* a wagon for the band in a parade. 2. **climb, jump, or get on the bandwagon.** *Inf.* to join or support a party or movement that seems assured of success.

bandy ('bændɪ) *adj.* -dier, -diest. 1. Also: **bandy-legged**.

having legs curved outwards at the knees. **2.** (of legs) curved thus. ~vb. **-dying, -died.** (tr.) **3.** to exchange (words) in a heated or hostile manner. **4.** to give and receive (blows). **5.** *Inf.* (often foll. by *about*) to circulate (a name, rumour, etc.).

bane (beɪn) *n.* **1.** a person or thing that causes misery or distress (esp. in **bane of one's life**). **2.** something that causes death or destruction. **3. a.** a fatal poison. **b.** (in combination): *ratsbane*. **4.** *Arch.* ruin or distress. —**'baneful** adj.

bang¹ (bæŋ) *n.* **1.** a short loud explosive noise, as of the report of a gun. **2.** a hard blow or knock, esp. a noisy one. **3.** *Sl.* an injection of heroin or other narcotic. **4.** *Taboo* *sl.* an act of sexual intercourse. **5.** with a **bang**, successfully: *the party went with a bang*. ~vb. **6.** to hit or knock, esp. with a loud noise. **7.** to move noisily or clumsily: *to bang about the house*. **8.** to close (a door, window, etc.) or (of a door, etc.) be closed noisily; slam. **9.** (tr.) to cause to move by hitting vigorously: *he banged the ball over the fence*. **10.** to make or cause to make a loud noise, as of an explosion. **11.** *Taboo* *sl.* to have sexual intercourse with. **12.** (intr.) *Sl.* to inject heroin, etc. **13.** **bang one's head against a brick wall.** *Inf.* to make no progress. ~adv. **14.** with a sudden impact or effect: *the car drove bang into a lamp-post*. **15.** precisely: *bang in the middle*. **16.** **go bang.** to burst, shut, etc., with a loud noise.

bang² (bæŋ) *n.* **1.** a fringe of hair cut straight across the forehead. ~vb. (tr.) **2.** to cut (the hair) in such a style. **3.** to dock (the tail of a horse, etc.).

banger ('bæŋə) *n.* *Brit.* **1.** *Sl.* a sausage. **2.** an old decrepit car. **3.** a firework that explodes loudly.

bangle ('bæŋɡl) *n.* a bracelet, usually without a clasp, often worn round the arm or sometimes round the ankle.

banian ('bænjən) *n.* a variant spelling of **banyan**.

banish ('bæniʃ) *vb.* (tr.) **1.** to expel from a place, esp. by an official decree as a punishment. **2.** to drive away: *to banish gloom*. —**'banishment** *n.*

banisters ('bænistəz) *pl. n.* the railing and supporting balusters on a staircase; balustrade.

banjo ('bændʒəʊ) *n., pl. -jos or -joes.* a stringed musical instrument with a long neck and a circular drumlike body overlaid with parchment, plucked with the fingers or a plectrum. —**'banjoist** *n.*

bank¹ (bæŋk) *n.* **1.** an institution offering certain financial services, such as the safekeeping of money and lending of money at interest. **2.** the building used by such an institution. **3.** a small container used at home for keeping money. **4.** the funds held by a banker or dealer in some gambling games. **5.** (in various games) **a.** the stock, as of money, etc., on which players may draw. **b.** the player holding this stock. **6.** any supply, store, or reserve: *a data bank*. ~vb. **7.** (tr.) to deposit (cash, cheques, etc.) in a bank. **8.** (intr.) to transact business with a bank. **9.** (intr.) to engage in banking. ~See also: **bank on**.

bank² (bæŋk) *n.* **1.** a long raised mass, esp. of earth; ridge. **2.** a slope, as of a hill. **3.** the sloping side of any hollow in the ground, esp. when bordering a river. **4.** the ground beside a river or canal. **5. a.** an elevated section of the bed of a sea, lake, or river. **b.** (in combination): *sandbank*. **6.** the face of a body of ore in a mine. **7.** the lateral inclination of an aircraft about its longitudinal axis during a turn. **8.** a bend on a road, athletics track, etc. having the outside built higher than the inside to reduce the effects of centrifugal force on vehicles, runners, etc., rounding it at speed. ~vb. **9.** (when tr., often foll. by *up*) to form into a bank or mound. **10.** (tr.) to border or enclose (a road, etc.) with a bank. **11.** (tr.; sometimes foll. by *up*) to cover (a fire) with ashes, fresh fuel, etc., so that it will burn slowly. **12.** to cause (an aircraft) to tip laterally about its longitudinal axis or (of an aircraft) to tip in this way, esp. while turning.

bank³ (bæŋk) *n.* **1.** an arrangement of similar objects in a row or in tiers: *a bank of dials*. **2.** a tier of oars in a galley. ~vb. **3.** (tr.) to arrange in a bank.

bank account *n.* **1.** an account created by the deposit of money at a bank by a customer. **2.** the amount credited to a depositor at a bank.

bankbook ('bæŋk,bʊk) *n.* a book held by depositors at certain banks, in which the bank enters a record of deposits, withdrawals, and earned interest. Also called: **passbook**.

bank card *n.* another name for **banker's card**.

banker¹ ('bæŋkə) *n.* **1.** a person who owns or is an executive in a bank. **2.** an official or player in charge of the bank in various games. **3.** a result that has been

forecast identically in a series of entries on a football pool coupon.

banker² ('bæŋkə) *n.* *Austral. inf.* a stream almost overflowing its banks (esp. in **run a banker**).

banker's card *n.* a card issued by a bank, guaranteeing payment of the cheques of a customer up to a stated value.

banker's order *n.* another name for **standing order** (sense 1).

bank holiday *n.* (in Britain) any of several weekdays on which banks are closed by law and which are observed as national holidays.

banking ('bæŋkɪŋ) *n.* the business engaged in by a bank.

bank manager *n.* a person who directs the business of a local branch of a bank.

bank note *n.* a promissory note, esp. one issued by a central bank, serving as money.

Bank of England *n.* the central bank of England and Wales, concerned with various aspects of government monetary policy.

bank rate *n.* (sometimes caps.) the minimum rate by which a central bank, such as the Bank of England, is obliged to rediscount bills of exchange and to lend money.

bankrupt ('bæŋkrʌpt, -rəpt) *n.* **1.** a person adjudged insolvent by a court, his property being administered for the benefit of his creditors. **2.** any person unable to discharge all his debts. **3.** a person whose resources in a certain field are exhausted: *a spiritual bankrupt*. ~adj. **4.** adjudged insolvent. **5.** financially ruined. **6.** depleted in resources: *spiritually bankrupt*. **7.** (foll. by *of*) *Brit.* lacking: *bankrupt of intelligence*. ~vb. **8.** (tr.) to make bankrupt. —**'bankruptcy** *n.*

bank statement *n.* a statement of transactions in a bank account, esp. one of a series sent at regular intervals to the depositor.

banner ('bænə) *n.* **1.** a long strip of material displaying a slogan, advertisement, etc. **2.** a placard carried in a procession or demonstration. **3.** something that represents a belief or principle. **4.** the flag of a nation, army, etc. **5.** Also called: **banner headline**, a large headline in a newspaper, etc., extending across the page. —**'banned** adj.

bannock ('bæŋək) *n.* a round flat cake originating in Scotland, made from wheat or barley.

banns or bans (bænz) *pl. n.* **1.** the public declaration of an intended marriage, usually on three successive Sundays in the parish churches of the betrothed. **2.** **forbid the banns.** to raise an objection to a marriage announced in this way.

banquet ('bæŋkwɪt) *n.* **1.** a sumptuous meal; feast. **2.** a ceremonial meal for many people. ~vb. **-getting, -qu岸ted.** **3.** (intr.) to hold or take part in a banquet. **4.** (tr.) to entertain (a person) with a banquet. —**'banqu岸ter** *n.*

bansthee ('bæŋʃi, bæŋ'ʃi) *n.* (in Irish folklore) a female spirit whose wailing warns of impending death.

bantam ('bæntəm) *n.* **1.** any of various very small breeds of domestic fowl. **2.** a small but aggressive person. **3.** *Boxing.* short for **bantamweight**.

bantamweight ('bæntəm,weɪt) *n.* **1. a.** a professional boxer weighing 112–118 pounds (51–53.5 kg). **b.** an amateur boxer weighing 112–119 pounds (51–54 kg). **2.** a wrestler weighing usually 115–126 pounds (52–57 kg).

banter ('bæntə) *vb.* **1.** to speak or tease lightly or jokingly. ~n. **2.** teasing or joking language or repartee. —**'banterer** *n.*

Bantu ('bæntu) *n.* **1.** a group of languages of Africa, including most of the principal languages spoken from the equator to the Cape of Good Hope. **2.** (pl. **-tu** or **-tus**) *Derog.* a Black speaker of a Bantu language. ~adj. **3.** of or relating to this group of peoples or their languages.

Bantustan ('bæntu,stæn) *n.* *Derog.* (in South Africa) an area reserved for occupation by a Black African people, with limited self-government. Official name: **homeland**.

banyan or banian ('bænjən) *n.* **1.** an Indian tree with aerial roots that grow down into the soil forming additional trunks. **2.** a member of the Hindu merchant caste of India. **3.** a loose-fitting shirt, jacket, or robe, worn originally in India.

baobab ('beɔw,bæb) *n.* a tropical African tree that has a very thick trunk, angular branches, and a gourdlike fruit with an edible pulp.

bap (bæp) *n.* *Brit.* a soft bread roll.

baptism ('bæptɪzəm) *n.* a Christian religious rite consisting of immersion in or sprinkling with water as a sign

that the subject is cleansed from sin and constituted as a member of the Church. —**bap'tismal** *adj.* —**bap'tismal-ly** *adv.*

baptism of fire *n.* 1. a soldier's first experience of battle. 2. any initiating ordeal.

Baptist ('bæptɪst) *n.* 1. a member of any of various Christian sects that affirm the necessity of baptism (usually of adults and by immersion). 2. **the Baptist.** John the Baptist, the cousin and forerunner of Jesus, whom he baptized. ~*adj.* 3. denoting or characteristic of any Christian sect of Baptists.

baptize or -ise ('bæpt'aɪz) *vb.* 1. *Christianity.* to immerse (a person) in water or sprinkle water on (a person) as part of the rite of baptism. 2. (*tr.*) to give a name to; christen.

bar (bɑː) *n.* 1. a rigid usually straight length of metal, wood, etc., used esp. as a barrier or as a structural part: a *bar of a gate*. 2. a solid usually rectangular block of any material: a *bar of soap*. 3. anything that obstructs or prevents. 4. an offshore ridge of sand, mud, or shingle across the mouth of a river, bay, or harbour. 5. a counter or room where alcoholic drinks are served. 6. a counter, room, or establishment where a particular range of goods, food, services, etc., are sold: a *coffee bar*; a *heel bar*. 7. a narrow band or stripe, as of colour or light. 8. a heating element in an electric fire. 9. See **Bar**. 10. the place in a court of law where the accused stands during his trial. 11. a particular court of law. 12. *Brit.* (in Parliament) the boundary where nonmembers wishing to address either House appear and where persons are arraigned. 13. a plea showing that a plaintiff has no cause of action. 14. anything referred to as an authority or tribunal: *the bar of decency*. 15. *Music.* a group of beats that is repeated with a consistent rhythm throughout a piece of music. The number of beats in the bar is indicated by the time signature. 16. *a. Brit.* insignia added to a decoration indicating a second award. *b. U.S.* a strip of metal worn with uniform, esp. to signify rank or as an award for service. 17. *Football, etc.* See **crossbar**. 18. *Heraldry.* a narrow horizontal line across a shield. 19. **behind bars**, in prison. 20. **won't have a bar of.** *Austral. & N.Z. inf.* cannot tolerate; dislike. ~*vb.* **barring, barred.** (*tr.*) 21. to secure with a bar: *to bar the door*. 22. to shut in or out with or as if with barriers: *to bar the entrances*. 23. to obstruct: *the fallen tree barred the road*. 24. (usually foll. by *from*) to prohibit; forbid: *to bar a couple from meeting*. 25. (usually foll. by *from*) to keep out; exclude: *to bar a person from membership*. 26. to mark with a bar or bars. 27. *Law.* to prevent or halt (an action) by showing that the plaintiff has no cause. ~*prep.* 28. except for. 29. **bar none.** without exception.

Bar (bɑː) *n.* 1. barristers collectively. 2. the legal profession.

barathea ('bærə'thiə) *n.* a fabric made of silk and wool or cotton and rayon.

barb (bɑːb) *n.* 1. a point facing in the opposite direction to the main point of a fish-hook, harpoon, etc., intended to make extraction difficult. 2. any of various pointed parts. 3. a cutting remark. 4. any of the hairlike filaments that form the vane of a feather. 5. a beardlike growth, hair, or projection. ~*vb.* 6. (*tr.*) to provide with a barb or barbs. —**barbed** *adj.*

barbarian ('bɑːbəriən) *n.* 1. a member of a primitive or uncivilized people. 2. a coarse or uncultured person. 3. a vicious person. ~*adj.* 4. of an uncivilized culture. 5. uncultured or brutal.

barbaric ('bɑːbærɪk) *adj.* 1. of or characteristic of barbarians. 2. primitive; unrestrained. 3. brutal. —**bar-barically** *adv.*

barbarism ('bɑːbərɪzəm) *n.* 1. a brutal, coarse, or ignorant act. 2. the condition of being backward, coarse, or ignorant. 3. a substandard word or expression; solecism. 4. any act or object that offends against accepted taste.

barbarity ('bɑːbærɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. the state of being barbaric or barbarous. 2. a vicious act.

barbarous ('bɑːbərəs) *adj.* 1. uncivilized; primitive. 2. brutal or cruel. 3. lacking refinement. —**barbarously** *adv.* —**barbarousness** *n.*

Barbary ape ('bɑːbəri) *n.* a tailless macaque that inhabits NW Africa and Gibraltar.

barbecue ('bɑːbi:kjuː) *n.* 1. a meal cooked out of doors over an open fire. 2. a grill or fireplace used in barbecuing. 3. the food so cooked. 4. a party or picnic at which barbecued food is served. ~*vb.* ~**cuing, -cued.** (*tr.*) 5. to cook (meat, fish, etc.) on a grill, usually over charcoal and often with a highly seasoned sauce.

barbed wire *n.* strong wire with sharply pointed barbs at close intervals.

barbel ('bɑːbəl) *n.* 1. any of several slender tactile spines or bristles that hang from the jaws of certain fishes, such as the carp. 2. any of several European cyprinid fishes that resemble the carp.

barbell ('bɑːbəl) *n.* a metal rod to which heavy discs are attached at each end for weightlifting.

barber ('bɑːbə) *n.* 1. a person whose business is cutting men's hair and shaving beards. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 2. to cut the hair of.

barberry ('bɑːbəri) *n., pl. -ries.* 1. any spiny Asian shrub of the genus *Berberis*, having clusters of yellow flowers and orange or red berries. 2. the fruit of these plants.

barbershop ('bɑːbəʃɒp) *n.* 1. *Now chiefly U.S.* the premises of a barber. 2. (*modifier*) chiefly U.S. denoting a type of close four-part harmony for male voices: a *barbershop quartet*.

barber's pole *n.* a barber's sign consisting of a pole painted with red and white spiral stripes.

barbican ('bɑːbɪkən) *n.* 1. the outwork of a fortified place, esp. to defend a drawbridge. 2. a watchtower projecting from a fortification.

barbiturate ('bɑːbɪtjʊrɪt, -reɪt) *n.* a derivative of barbituric acid, such as barbitone, used in medicine as a sedative or hypnotic.

barbituric acid ('bɑːbɪ'tjʊərɪk) *n.* a white crystalline solid used in the preparation of barbiturate drugs.

barcarole or barcarolle ('bɑːkərəʊl, -rɒl; 'bɑːkə-'rəʊl) *n.* 1. a Venetian boat song. 2. an instrumental composition resembling this.

bard¹ ('bɑːd) *n.* 1. *a. (formerly)* one of an ancient Celtic order of poets. *b.* a poet who wins a verse competition at a Welsh Eisteddfod. 2. *Arch. or literary.* any poet. —**bardic** *adj.*

bard² ('bɑːd) *n.* 1. a piece of bacon or pork fat placed on meat during roasting to prevent drying out. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 2. to place a bard on.

bare¹ ('beə) *adj.* 1. unclothed: used esp. of a part of the body. 2. without the natural, conventional, or usual covering. 3. lacking appropriate furnishings, etc. 4. unembellished; simple: *the bare facts*. 5. (*prenominal*) just sufficient: *the bare minimum*. 6. **with one's bare hands.** without a weapon or tool. ~*vb.* 7. (*tr.*) to make bare; uncover. —**'bareness** *n.*

bare² ('beə) *vb.* *Arch.* a past tense of **bear**¹.

bareback ('beə,bæk) or **barebacked** *adj., adv.* (of horse-riding) without a saddle.

barefaced ('beə,feɪst) *adj.* unconcealed or shameless: a *barefaced lie*. —**barefacedly** ('beə,feɪsdlɪ) *adv.* —**'bare, facedness** *n.*

barefoot ('beə,fʊt) or **barefooted** *adj., adv.* with the feet uncovered.

bareheaded ('beə'hedɪd) *adj., adv.* with the head uncovered.

barely ('beəli) *adv.* 1. only just: *barely enough*. 2. *Inf.* not quite: *barely old enough*. 3. scantily: *barely furnished*. 4. *Arch.* openly.

bargain ('bɑːɡɪn) *n.* 1. an agreement establishing what each party will give, receive, or perform in a transaction. 2. something acquired or received in such an agreement. 3. *a.* something bought or offered at a low price. *b. (as modifier):* a *bargain basement*. 4. **into the bargain.** in excess; besides. 5. **make or strike a bargain.** to agree on terms. ~*vb.* 6. (*intr.*) to negotiate the terms of an agreement, transaction, etc. 7. (*tr.*) to exchange, as in a bargain. 8. to arrive at (an agreement or settlement). —**'bargainer** *n.*

barge ('bɑːdʒ) *n.* 1. a vessel, usually flat-bottomed and with or without its own power, used for transporting freight, esp. on canals. 2. a vessel, often decorated, used in pageants, etc. 3. *Navy.* a boat allocated to a flag officer, used esp. for ceremonial occasions. ~*vb.* 4. (*intr.*; foll. by *into*) *Inf.* to bump (into). 5. *Inf.* to push (someone or one's way) violently. 6. (*intr.*; foll. by *into* or *in*) *Inf.* to interrupt rudely or clumsily: *to barge into a conversation*.

bargee ('bɑːdʒi) *n., pl. bargees.* a person employed on or in charge of a barge.

bargepole ('bɑːdʒ,pəʊl) *n.* 1. a long pole used to propel a barge. 2. **not touch with a bargepole.** *Inf.* to refuse to have anything to do with.

bar graph *n.* a graph consisting of vertical or horizontal bars whose lengths are proportional to amounts or quantities.

baritone ('bærɪ,təʊn) *n.* 1. the second lowest adult

male voice. 2. a singer with such a voice. 3. the second lowest instrument in the families of the saxophone, horn, oboe, etc. ~adj. 4. relating to or denoting a baritone. 5. denoting the second lowest instrument in a family.

barium ('bæriəm) *n.* a soft silvery-white metallic element of the alkaline earth group. Symbol: Ba; atomic no.: 56; atomic wt.: 137.34.

barium meal *n.* a preparation of barium sulphate, which is opaque to x-rays, swallowed by a patient before x-ray examination of the upper part of his alimentary canal.

bark ('bɑ:k) *n.* 1. the loud abrupt usually harsh cry of a dog or certain other animals. 2. a similar sound, such as one made by a person, gun, etc. 3. **his bark is worse than his bite**, he is bad-tempered but harmless. ~vb. 4. (intr.) (of a dog, etc.) to make its typical cry. 5. (intr.) (of a person, gun, etc.) to make a similar loud harsh sound. 6. to say or shout in a brusque or angry tone: *he barked an order*. 7. **bark up the wrong tree**. *Inf.* to misdirect one's attention, efforts, etc.; be mistaken.

bark ('bɑ:k) *n.* 1. a protective layer of dead corky cells on the outside of the stems of woody plants. 2. any of several varieties of this, used in tanning, dyeing, or in medicine. ~vb. (tr.) 3. to scrape or rub off skin, as in an injury. 4. to remove the bark or a circle of bark from (a tree). 5. to tan (leather), principally by the tannins in barks.

bark ('bɑ:k) *n.* a variant spelling of **barque**.

barker ('bɑ:kə) *n.* 1. an animal or person that barks. 2. *Inf.* a person at a fair booth, etc., who loudly addresses passers-by to attract customers.

barley ('bɑ:li) *n.* 1. any of various annual temperate grasses that have dense bristly flower spikes and are widely cultivated for grain and forage. 2. the grain of any of these grasses, used in making beer and whisky and for soups, puddings, etc.

barleycorn ('bɑ:li,kɔ:n) *n.* 1. a grain of barley, or barley itself. 2. an obsolete unit of length equal to one third of an inch.

barley sugar *n.* a brittle clear amber-coloured sweet.

barley water *n.* a drink made from an infusion of barley.

barm (bɑ:m) *n.* 1. the yeasty froth on fermenting malt liquors. 2. an archaic or dialect word for **yeast**.

barmaid ('bɑ:meɪd) *n.* a woman who serves in a pub.

barman ('bɑ:mən) *n.* pl. **-men**. a man who serves in a pub.

bar mitzvah (bɑ: 'mitsvə) *n.* (sometimes caps.) *Judaism*. 1. the ceremony and celebration marking the 13th birthday of a boy, who then assumes his full religious obligations. 2. the boy himself.

barmy ('bɑ:mi) *adj.* **-mier, -miest**. *Sl.* insane.

barn ('bɑ:n) *n.* 1. a large farm outbuilding, chiefly for storing grain, etc., but also for livestock. 2. *U.S.* a large shed for railroad cars, trucks, etc. 3. any large building, esp. an unattractive one.

barn ('bɑ:n) *n.* a unit of nuclear cross section equal to 10⁻²⁸ square metre. Symbol: b

barnacle ('bɑ:nəkl̩) *n.* 1. any of various marine crustaceans that, as adults, live attached to rocks, ship bottoms, etc. 2. a person or thing that is difficult to get rid of. —'barnacled *adj.*

barnacle goose *n.* a N European goose that has a black-and-white head and body.

barn dance *n.* 1. *Brit.* a progressive round country dance. 2. *U.S.* a party with hoedown music and square dancing.

barney ('bɑ:ni) *Inf.*, chiefly *Austral.* & *N.Z.* ~n. 1. a noisy fight or argument. ~vb. (intr.) 2. to argue or quarrel.

barn owl *n.* an owl with a pale brown and white plumage, and a heart-shaped face.

barnstorm ('bɑ:n,stɔ:m) *vb.* (intr.) Chiefly *U.S.* 1. to tour rural districts putting on shows. 2. to tour rural districts making speeches in a political campaign. —'barn,stormer *n.*

barnyard ('bɑ:n,jɑ:d) *n.* 1. a yard adjoining a barn. 2. (modifier) characteristic of a barnyard. 3. (modifier) crude or earthy.

baro- combining form. indicating weight or pressure: *barometer*.

barograph ('bæ:rə,grɑ:f, -græf) *n.* *Meteorol.* a self-recording aneroid barometer. —'barographic ('bæ:rə-'græfɪk) *adj.*

barometer ('bɑ:rəmitə) *n.* 1. an instrument for measuring atmospheric pressure, usually to determine altitude or weather changes. 2. anything that shows

change. —'barometric ('bæ:rə'metrik) or 'baro'metric-*cal adj.* —'ba'rometry *n.*

baron ('bærən) *n.* 1. a member of a specific rank of nobility, esp. the lowest rank in the British Isles. 2. (in Europe from the Middle Ages) originally any tenant-in-chief of a king or other overlord. 3. a powerful businessman or financier: *a press baron*. —'baroness *fem. n.* —'baronial ('bɑ:rəniəl) *adj.*

baronet ('bærənɪt, -nɛt) *n.* (in Britain) a commoner who holds the lowest hereditary title of honour, ranking below a baron. Abbrev.: **Bart.** or **Bt.** —'baronetage *n.* —'baronetcy *n.*

baron of beef *n.* a cut of beef consisting of a double sirloin joined at the backbone.

barony ('bærəni) *n.* pl. **-nies**. 1. a. the domain of a baron. b. (in Ireland) a division of a county. c. (in Scotland) a large estate or manor. 2. the rank or dignity of a baron.

baroque ('bɑ:rəʊk, bə'rəʊk) *n.* (often cap.) 1. a style of architecture and decorative art in Europe from the late 16th to the early 18th century, characterized by extensive ornamentation. 2. a 17th-century style of music characterized by extensive use of ornamentation. 3. any ornate or heavily ornamented style. ~adj. 4. denoting, in, or relating to the baroque. 5. (of pearls) irregularly shaped.

baroscope ('bæ:rə'skəʊp) *n.* any instrument for measuring atmospheric pressure. —'baroscopic ('bæ:rə-'skɒpɪk) *adj.*

barouche ('bɑ:ru:ʃ) *n.* a four-wheeled horse-drawn carriage, popular in the 19th century, having a retractable hood over the rear half.

barque ('bɑ:k) *n.* 1. a sailing ship of three or more masts having the foremasts rigged square and the aftermast rigged fore-and-aft. 2. *Poetic.* any boat.

barrack ('bærək) *vb.* to house (soldiers, etc.) in barracks.

barrack ('bærək) *vb.* *Brit. & Austral. inf.* 1. to criticize loudly or shout against (a team, speaker, etc.); jeer. 2. (intr.; foll. by *for*) to shout support (for).

barracks ('bærəks) *pl. n.* (sometimes sing.; when pl., sometimes functions as sing.) 1. a building or group of buildings used to accommodate military personnel. 2. any large building used for housing people, esp. temporarily. 3. a large and bleak building.

barracuda ('bæ:rə'kjʊ:də) *n.* pl. **-da** or **-das**. a predatory marine mostly tropical fish, which attacks man.

barrage ('bæ:rə:ʒ) *n.* 1. *Mil.* the firing of artillery to saturate an area rather than hit a specific target. 2. an overwhelming and continuous delivery of something, as questions. 3. a construction across a watercourse, esp. one to increase the depth.

barrage balloon *n.* one of a number of tethered balloons with cables or net suspended from them, used to deter low-flying air attack.

barratry or barrettry ('bærətri) *n.* 1. *Criminal law*, the vexatious stirring up of quarrels or bringing of lawsuits. 2. *Maritime law*, a fraudulent practice committed by the master or crew of a ship to the prejudice of the owner. 3. the purchase or sale of public or Church offices. —'barratrous or 'barretrous *adj.*

barre *French.* (bɑ:r) *n.* a rail at hip height used for ballet practice.

barrel ('bærəl) *n.* 1. a cylindrical container usually bulging outwards in the middle and held together by metal hoops. 2. Also called: **barrelful**, the amount that a barrel can hold. 3. a unit of capacity of varying amount in different industries. 4. a thing shaped like a barrel, esp. a tubular part of a machine. 5. the tube through which the projectile of a firearm is discharged. 6. the trunk of a four-legged animal: *the barrel of a horse*. 7. **over a barrel**. *Inf.* powerless. 8. **scrape the barrel**. *Inf.* to be forced to use one's last and weakest resource. ~vb. **-relling, -relled** or *U.S.* **-reling, -reled**. 9. (tr.) to put into a barrel or barrels.

barrel organ *n.* an instrument consisting of a cylinder turned by a handle and having pins on it that interrupt the air flow to certain pipes or pluck strings, thereby playing tunes.

barrel roll *n.* a flight manoeuvre in which an aircraft rolls about its longitudinal axis while following a spiral course in line with the direction of flight.

barrel vault *n.* *Archit.* a vault in the form of a half cylinder.

barren ('bærən) *adj.* 1. incapable of producing offspring, seed, or fruit; sterile. 2. unable to support the growth of crops, etc.: *barren land*. 3. lacking in stimula-

tion; dull. 4. not producing worthwhile results; unprofitable: a barren period. 5. (foll. by *of*) devoid (of): barren of wit. — **barrenness** *n.*

Barren Grounds *pl. n.* The, a sparsely inhabited region of tundras in N Canada, extending westwards from Hudson Bay. Also called: **Barren Lands**.

barricade (ˈbærɪˈkeɪd, ˈbærɪˌkeɪd) *n.* 1. a barrier for defence, esp. one erected hastily, as during street fighting. ~*vb.* (tr.) 2. to erect a barricade across (an entrance, etc.) or at points of access to (a room, district, etc.).

barrier (ˈbærɪə) *n.* 1. anything serving to obstruct passage or to maintain separation, such as a fence or gate. 2. anything that prevents progress. 3. anything that separates or hinders union: a language barrier.

barrier cream *n.* a cream used to protect the skin, esp. the hands.

barrier reef *n.* a long narrow coral reef near the shore, separated from it by deep water.

barring (ˈbærɪŋ) *prep.* unless (something) occurs; except for.

barrister (ˈbærɪstə) *n.* 1. Also called: **barrister-at-law**. (in England) a lawyer who has been called to the bar and is qualified to plead in the higher courts. Cf. **solicitor**. 2. U.S. a less common word for lawyer.

barrow¹ (ˈbærəʊ) *n.* 1. See **wheelbarrow**. 2. Also called: **barrowful**, the amount contained in or on a barrow. 3. **Chiefly Brit.** a handcart with a canvas roof, used esp. by street vendors.

barrow² (ˈbærəʊ) *n.* a heap of earth placed over one or more prehistoric tombs, often surrounded by ditches.

barrow boy *n. Brit.* a man who sells his wares from a barrow; street vendor.

bar sinister *n.* 1. (not in heraldic usage) another name for **bend sinister**. 2. the condition or stigma of being of illegitimate birth.

Bar. abbrev. for Baronet.

barter (ˈbɑːtə) *vb.* 1. to trade (goods, services, etc.) in exchange for other goods, services, etc., rather than for money. 2. (intr.) to haggle over such an exchange; bargain. ~*n.* 3. trade by the exchange of goods. — **barterer** *n.*

baryon (ˈbærɪ,ɒn) *n.* any of a class of elementary particles that have a mass greater than or equal to that of the proton. Baryons are either nucleons or hyperons. The **baryon number** is the number of baryons in a system minus the number of antibaryons. — **baryonic** *adj.*

baryta (bəˈraɪtə) *n.* another name for barium oxide or barium hydroxide.

barytes (bəˈraɪtɪz) *n.* a colourless or white mineral occurring in sedimentary rocks and with sulphide ores: a source of barium.

basal (ˈbeɪsəl) *adj.* 1. at, of, or constituting a base. 2. of or constituting a basis; fundamental.

basalt (ˈbæːsɔːlt) *n.* 1. a dark basic igneous rock: the most common volcanic rock. 2. a form of black unglazed pottery resembling basalt. — **ba'saltic** *adj.*

base¹ (beɪs) *n.* 1. the bottom or supporting part of anything. 2. the fundamental principle or part. 3. a. a centre of operations, organization, or supply. b. (as modifier): base camp. 4. starting point: the new discovery became the base for further research. 5. the main ingredient of a mixture: to use rice as a base in cookery. 6. a chemical compound that combines with an acid to form a salt and water. A solution of a base in water turns litmus paper blue and produces hydroxyl ions. 7. a medium such as oil or water in which the pigment is dispersed in paints, inks, etc. 8. **Biol.** the point of attachment of an organ or part. 9. the bottommost layer or part of anything. 10. **Archit.** the part of a column between the pedestal and the shaft. 11. the lower side or face of a geometric construction. 12. **Maths.** the number of units in a counting system that is equivalent to one in the next higher counting place: 10 is the base of the decimal system. 13. **Maths.** the number that when raised to a certain power has a logarithm (based on that number) equal to that power: the logarithm to the base 10 of 1000 is 3. 14. **Linguistics.** a root or stem. 15. **Electronics.** the region in a transistor between the emitter and collector. 16. a starting or finishing point in any of various games. ~*vb.* 17. (tr.; foll. by *on* or *upon*) to use as a basis (for); found (on). 18. (often foll. by *at* or *in*) to station, post, or place (a person or oneself).

base² (beɪs) *adj.* 1. devoid of honour or morality; contemptible. 2. of inferior quality or value. 3. debased; alloyed; counterfeit: base currency. 4. **English history.** (of land tenure) held by vassal or other ignoble service.

5. **Arch.** born of humble parents. 6. **Arch.** illegitimate. — **baseness** *n.*

baseball (ˈbeɪs,bɔːl) *n.* 1. a team game with nine players on each side, played on a field with four bases connected to form a diamond. The object is to score runs by batting the ball and running round the bases. 2. the hard rawhide-covered ball used in this game.

baseborn (ˈbeɪs,bɔːn) *adj.* **Arch.** 1. born of humble parents. 2. illegitimate.

baseless (ˈbeɪslɪs) *adj.* not based on fact; unfounded. — **baselessness** *n.*

baseline (ˈbeɪs,laɪn) *n.* 1. **Surveying.** a measured line through a survey area from which triangulations are made. 2. a line at each end of a tennis court that marks the limit of play.

basement (ˈbeɪsmənt) *n.* 1. a. a partly or wholly underground storey of a building, esp. one used for habitation rather than storage. b. (as modifier): a basement flat. 2. the foundation of a wall or building.

base metal *n.* any of certain common metals, such as copper and lead, as distinct from precious metals.

basenji (bəˈsenʒɪ) *n.* a small African breed of dog having an inability to bark.

bases¹ (ˈbeɪsɪz) *n.* the plural of **basis**.

bases² (ˈbeɪsɪz) *n.* the plural of **base**.

bash (bæʃ) *Inf.* ~*vb.* 1. (tr.) to strike violently or crushingly. 2. (tr.; often foll. by *in*, *down*, etc.) to smash, break, etc., with a crashing blow. 3. (intr.; foll. by *into*) to crash (into); collide (with). ~*n.* 4. a heavy blow. 5. a party. 6. have a bash. *Inf.* to make an attempt.

bashful (ˈbæʃfʊl) *adj.* 1. shy or modest; diffident. 2. indicating or characterized by shyness or modesty. — **bashfulness** *n.*

-bashing *n.* and *adj.* combining form. *Inf. sl.* a. indicating a malicious attack on members of a group: **union-bashing**. b. indicating various other activities: **Bible-bashing**. — **-basher** *n.* combining form.

basic (ˈbeɪsɪk; Austral. also ˈbæɪsɪk) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or forming a base or basis; fundamental. 2. elementary or simple: a few basic facts. 3. without additions or extras: basic pay. 4. **Chem.** of, denoting, or containing a base; alkaline. 5. **Metallurgy.** of or made by a process in which the furnace or converter is made of a basic material, such as magnesium oxide. 6. (of such igneous rocks as basalt) containing less than 50 per cent silica. ~*n.* 7. (usually pl.) a fundamental principle, fact, etc. — **basically** *adv.*

BASIC (ˈbeɪsɪk) *n.* a computer programming language that uses common English terms.

basic English *n.* a simplified form of English with a vocabulary of approximately 850 common words, intended as an international language.

basic industry *n.* an industry which is highly important in a nation's economy.

basic slag *n.* a slag produced in steel-making, containing calcium phosphate.

basil (ˈbæzəl) *n.* a Eurasian plant, having spikes of small white flowers and aromatic leaves used as herbs for seasoning. Also called: **sweet basil**.

basilica (bəˈzɪlɪkə) *n.* 1. a Roman building, used for public administration, having a large rectangular central nave with an aisle on each side and an apse at the end. 2. a Christian church of similar design. 3. a Roman Catholic church having special ceremonial rights. — **ba'silican** or **ba'silic** *adj.*

basilisk (ˈbæzɪlɪsk) *n.* 1. (in classical legend) a serpent that could kill by its breath or glance. 2. a small semiaquatic lizard of tropical America. The males have an inflatable head crest, used in display.

basin (ˈbeɪsɪn) *n.* 1. a round container open and wide at the top with sides sloping inwards towards the bottom. 2. Also called: **basinful**, the amount a basin will hold. 3. a washbasin or sink. 4. any partially enclosed or sheltered area where vessels may be moored. 5. the catchment area of a particular river and its tributaries. 6. a depression in the earth's surface. 7. **Geol.** a part of the earth's surface consisting of rock strata that slope down to a common centre.

basis¹ (ˈbeɪsɪs) *n.*, *pl.* ~*ses* (-sɪz). 1. something that underlies, supports, or is essential to something else, esp. an idea. 2. a principle on which something depends or from which something has issued.

▷ **Usage.** The phrase on the basis of is inappropriate in contexts where because of can be used: he agreed to come because of your promise to protect him, not he agreed to come on the basis of your promise to protect him. On the basis of is correctly used of a criterion of

choice: *the players were chosen on the basis of their weight.*

bask (bɑːsk) *vb.* (*intr.*; usually foll. by *in*) 1. to lie in or be exposed to pleasant warmth, esp. that of the sun. 2. to flourish or feel secure under some benevolent influence or favourable condition.

basket ('bɑːskɪt) *n.* 1. a container made of interwoven strips of pliable materials, such as cane, and often carried by a handle. 2. Also called: **basketful**. the amount a basket will hold. 3. something resembling such a container, such as the structure suspended from a balloon. 4. **Basketball**. a. the hoop fixed to the backboard, through which a player must throw the ball to score points. b. a point or points scored in this way. 5. *Inf.* a euphemism for **bastard** (senses 2, 3). —'basketry' *n.*

basketball ('bɑːskɪt,bɔːl) *n.* 1. a game played by two teams of five men (or six women), usually on an indoor court. Points are scored by throwing the ball through an elevated horizontal hoop. 2. the ball used in this game.

basket chair *n.* a chair made of wickerwork.

basket weave *n.* a weave of yarns, resembling that of a basket.

basketwork ('bɑːskɪt,wɜːk) *n.* another word for **wickerwork**.

basking shark *n.* a very large plankton-eating shark, often floating at the sea surface.

basque (bæsk) *n.* a type of tightfitting bodice for women.

Basque (bæsk, bɑːsk) *n.* 1. a member of a people living around the W Pyrenees in France and Spain. 2. the language of this people, of no known relationship with any other language. ~adj. 3. of or relating to this people or their language.

bas-relief (ˌbɑːrɪˈliːf, ˌbæsɪrɪˈliːf) *n.* sculpture in low relief, in which the forms project slightly from the background.

bass (beɪs) *n.* 1. the lowest adult male voice. 2. a singer with such a voice. 3. **the bass**, the lowest part in a piece of harmony. 4. *Inf.* a bass guitar or double bass. 5. a. the low-frequency gain of an audio amplifier, esp. in a record player or tape recorder. b. the knob controlling this. ~adj. 6. relating to or denoting the bass. 7. denoting the lowest and largest instrument in a family: a **bass clarinet**.

bass (bæs) *n.* 1. any of various sea perches. 2. a European spiny-finned freshwater fish. 3. any of various predatory North American freshwater fishes.

bass (bæs) *n.* another name for **bass**.

bass clef (beɪs) *n.* the clef that establishes F a fifth below middle C on the fourth line of the staff.

bass drum (beɪs) *n.* a large drum of low pitch.

basset ('bæsɪt) *n.* a smooth-haired breed of hound with short legs and long ears. Also: **basset hound**.

basset horn *n.* an obsolete woodwind instrument.

bassinet (ˌbæsɪˈnet) *n.* a wickerwork or wooden cradle or pram, usually hooded.

basso ('bæsɔː) *n.*, *pl.* -sos or -si (-sɪ). (esp. in operatic or solo singing) a singer with a bass voice.

bassoon (bəˈsuːn) *n.* 1. a woodwind instrument, the tenor of the oboe family. 2. an orchestral musician who plays a bassoon. —bas'oonist *n.*

bass viol (beɪs) *n.* 1. another name for **viola da gamba**. 2. U.S. a less common name for **double bass** (sense 1).

bast (bæst) *n.* 1. *Bot.* another name for **phloem**. 2. fibrous material obtained from the phloem of jute, flax, etc., used for making rope, matting, etc.

bastard ('bɑːstəd, 'bæs-) *n.* 1. a person born of parents not married to each other. 2. *Inf.*, *offens.* an obnoxious or despicable person. 3. *Inf.* a person, esp. a man: *lucky bastard*. 4. *Inf.* something extremely difficult or unpleasant. 5. something irregular, abnormal, or inferior. 6. a hybrid, esp. an accidental or inferior one. ~adj. (*prenominal*) 7. illegitimate by birth. 8. irregular, abnormal, or inferior. 9. resembling a specified thing, but not actually being such: a **bastard cedar**. 10. counterfeit; spurious. 11. hybrid. —'bastardy' *n.*

bastardize or **-ise** ('bɑːstəˌdaɪz, 'bæs-) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to debase. 2. to declare illegitimate.

baste¹ (beɪst) *vb.* (*tr.*) to sew with loose temporary stitches.

baste² (beɪst) *vb.* to moisten (meat) during cooking with hot fat and the juices produced.

baste³ (beɪst) *vb.* (*tr.*) to beat thoroughly; thrash.

Bastille (bəˈstiːl) *n.* a fortress in Paris: a prison until its

destruction in 1789, at the beginning of the French Revolution.

bastinado (ˌbæstɪˈneɪdɔː) *n.*, *pl.* -does. 1. punishment or torture in which the soles of the feet are beaten with a stick. ~vb. -doing, -doed. 2. (*tr.*) to beat (a person) thus.

basting ('beɪstɪŋ) *n.* 1. loose temporary stitches; tacking. 2. sewing with such stitches.

bastion ('bæstɪən) *n.* 1. a projecting part of a fortification, esp. one at the angle of a wall. 2. any fortified place. 3. a thing or person regarded as defending a principle, etc.

bat¹ (bæt) *n.* 1. any of various types of club with a handle, used to hit the ball in certain sports, such as cricket. 2. a flat round club with a short handle used by a man on the ground to guide the pilot of an aircraft when taxiing. 3. *Cricket*. short for **batsman**. 4. *Inf.* a blow from a stick. 5. *Sl.* speed; pace: *they went at a fair bat*. 6. **carry one's bat**. *Cricket*. (of a batsman) to reach the end of an innings without being dismissed. 7. **off one's own bat**. of one's own accord; without being prompted. ~vb. **batting**, **batted**. 8. (*tr.*) to strike with or as if with a bat. 9. (*intr.*) *Cricket*, etc. (of a player or a team) to take a turn at batting.

bat² (bæt) *n.* 1. a nocturnal mouse-like animal flying with a pair of membranous wings. 2. **blind as a bat**. having extremely poor eyesight. 3. **have bats in the (or one's) belfry**. *Inf.* to be mad or eccentric. —'batlike' *adj.*

bat³ (bæt) *vb.* **batting**, **batted**. 1. (*tr.*) to wink or flutter (one's eyelids). 2. **not bat an eye (or eyelid)**. *Inf.* to show no surprise or concern.

batch (bætʃ) *n.* 1. a group or set of usually similar objects or people, esp. if sent off, handled, or arriving at the same time. 2. the bread, cakes, etc., produced at one baking. 3. the amount of a material needed for an operation. ~vb. 4. to group (items) for efficient processing. 5. to handle by batch processing.

batch processing *n.* a system by which the computer programs of a number of individual users are submitted as a single batch.

bate (beɪt) *vb.* 1. another word for **abate**. 2. **with bated breath**. in suspense or fear.

bath (bɑːθ) *n.*, *pl.* **baths** (bɑːðz). 1. a large container used for washing the body. Related *adj.*: **balneal**. 2. the act or an instance of washing in such a container. 3. the amount of liquid contained in a bath. 4. (*usually pl.*) a place having baths or a swimming pool for public use. 5. a. a vessel in which something is immersed to maintain it at a constant temperature, to process it photographically, etc., or to lubricate it. b. the liquid used in such a vessel. ~vb. 6. *Brit.* to wash in a bath.

Bath bun (bɑːθ) *n.* *Brit.* a sweet bun containing spices and dried fruit.

Bath chair *n.* a wheelchair for invalids.

bath cube *n.* a cube of soluble scented material for use in a bath.

bathe (beɪð) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to swim in a body of open water, esp. for pleasure. 2. (*tr.*) to apply liquid to (skin, a wound, etc.) in order to cleanse or soothe. 3. to immerse or be immersed in a liquid. 4. *Chiefly U.S.* to wash in a bath. 5. (*tr.*; often *passive*) to suffuse. ~n. 6. *Brit.* a swim in a body of open water. —'bather' *n.*

bathing cap ('beɪðɪŋ) *n.* a tight rubber cap worn by a swimmer to keep the hair dry.

bathing suit ('beɪðɪŋ) *n.* a garment worn for bathing, esp. an old-fashioned one that covers much of the body.

Bath Oliver *n.* *Brit.* a kind of unsweetened biscuit.

bathometer (bəˈθɒmɪtə) *n.* an instrument for measuring the depth of water. —**bathometric** (ˌbæθəˈmetrɪk) *adj.* —**bathometry** (bəˈθɒmɪtri) *n.*

bathos ('beɪθɒs) *n.* 1. a sudden ludicrous descent from exalted to ordinary matters or style in speech or writing. 2. insincere or excessive pathos. —ba'thetic *adj.*

bathrobe ('bæθrəʊb) *n.* 1. a loose-fitting garment of towelling, for wear before or after a bath or swimming. 2. U.S. a dressing gown.

bathroom ('bæθrʊm, -rʊm) *n.* 1. a room containing a bath or shower and usually a washbasin and lavatory. 2. U.S. another name for **lavatory**.

bath salts *pl.* *n.* soluble scented salts for use in a bath.

bathy- or **batho-** *combining form.* indicating depth: **bathysphere**.

bathyscaph ('bæθɪˌskæf), **bathyscaphe** ('bæθɪˌskeɪf, -skæf), or **bathyscape** *n.* a submersible vessel with an observation capsule underneath, capable of reaching ocean depths of over 10 000 metres.

bathysphere ('bæθɪsfɪə) *n.* a strong steel deep-sea diving sphere, lowered by cable.

batik or **battik** ('bætk) *n.* a. a process of printing fabric in which parts not to be dyed are covered by wax. b. fabric printed in this way.

batiste (bæ'tɪst) *n.* a fine plain-weave cotton.

batman ('bætman) *n., pl. -men.* an officer's servant in the armed forces.

baton ('bætn) *n.* 1. a thin stick used by the conductor of an orchestra, choir, etc. 2. *Athletics.* a short bar carried by a competitor in a relay race and transferred to the next runner at the end of each stage. 3. a long stick with a knob on one end, carried, twirled, and thrown up and down by a drum major or majorette, esp. at the head of a parade. 4. a police truncheon, esp. in **baton charge**. 5. a staff or club carried as a symbol of authority.

batrachian (bə'trekiən) *n.* 1. any amphibian, esp. a frog or toad. ~*adj.* 2. of or relating to the frogs and toads.

bats (bæts) *adj. Inf.* mad or eccentric.

batsman ('bætsman) *n., pl. -men.* 1. *Cricket, etc.* a. a person who bats or whose turn it is to bat. b. a player who specializes in batting. 2. a person on the ground who uses bats to guide the pilot of an aircraft when taxiing. — **batsman, ship** *n.*

battalion (bə'tæljən) *n.* 1. a military unit comprised of three or more companies or formations of similar size. 2. (usually *pl.*) any large array.

batten¹ ('bæt'n) *n.* 1. a sawn strip of wood used in building to cover joints, support lathing, etc. 2. a long narrow board used for flooring. 3. a lath used for holding a tarpaulin along the side of a hatch on a ship. ~*vb.* 4. (tr.) to furnish or strengthen with battens. 5. **batten down the hatches.** a. to use battens in securing a tarpaulin over a hatch on a ship. b. to prepare for action, a crisis, etc.

batten² ('bæt'n) *vb. (intr.)* (usually foll. by *on*) to thrive, esp. at the expense of someone else.

batter¹ ('bætə) *vb.* 1. to hit (someone or something) repeatedly using heavy blows, as with a club. 2. (tr.; often *passive*) to damage or injure, as by blows, heavy wear, etc. — **batterer** *n.*

batter² ('bætə) *n.* a mixture of flour, eggs, and milk, used to make cakes, pancakes, etc., and to coat certain foods before frying.

battered baby *n.* a young child who has sustained serious injuries through violence at the hands of a parent or other adult.

battering ram *n.* (esp. formerly) a large beam used to break down fortifications.

battery ('bætəri) *n., pl. -tries.* 1. two or more primary cells connected, usually in series, to provide a source of electric current. 2. another name for **accumulator** (sense 1). 3. a number of similar things occurring together: a **battery of questions**. 4. *Criminal law.* unlawful beating or wounding of a person or mere touching in a hostile or offensive manner. 5. a fortified structure on which artillery is mounted. 6. a group of guns, missile launchers, etc. operated as a single entity. 7. a small unit of artillery. 8. *Chiefly Brit.* a. a large group of cages for intensive rearing of poultry and other farm animals. b. (as *modifier*): **battery hens**. 9. *Baseball.* the pitcher and the catcher considered together.

battle ('bætl) *n.* 1. a fight between large armed forces; military or naval engagement. 2. conflict; struggle. 3. **do, give, or join battle.** to start fighting. ~*vb.* 4. (intr.; often foll. by *against, for, or with*) to fight in or as if in military combat. 5. to struggle: *he battled through the crowd*. 6. (intr.) *Austral.* to scrape a living.

battle-axe *n.* 1. (formerly) a large broad-headed axe. 2. *Inf.* an argumentative domineering woman.

battle cruiser *n.* a high-speed heavily armed warship of battleship size but with light armour.

battle cry *n.* 1. a shout uttered by soldiers going into battle. 2. a slogan used to rally the supporters of a campaign, movement, etc.

battledore ('bætl'dɔː) *n.* 1. Also called: **battledore and shuttlecock.** an ancient racket game. 2. a light racket used in this game. 3. (formerly) a wooden utensil used for beating clothes, in baking, etc.

battle dress *n.* the ordinary uniform of a soldier.

battlefield ('bætl'fi:ld) or **battleground** *n.* the place where a battle is fought.

battlement ('bætl'mənt) *n.* a parapet or wall with indentations or embrasures, originally for shooting through. — **battle, mented** *adj.*

battle royal *n.* 1. a fight, esp. with fists or cudgels, involving more than two combatants; melee. 2. a long violent argument.

battleship ('bætl'ʃɪp) *n.* a heavily armoured warship of the largest type.

batty ('bæti) *adj. -tier, -tiest.* *Sl.* 1. insane; crazy. 2. odd; eccentric.

bauble ('bɔ:bl) *n.* 1. a trinket of little value. 2. (formerly) a mock staff of office carried by a jester.

baulk (bɔ:k) *n.* 1. Also: **balk.** *Billiards.* the space between the baulk line and the bottom cushion. 2. *Archaeol.* a strip of earth left between excavation trenches for the study of the complete stratigraphy of a site. ~*vb., n.* 3. a variant spelling of **balk**.

bauxite ('bɔ:ksaɪt) *n.* an amorphous claylike substance consisting of hydrated alumina with iron and other impurities: the chief source of alumina and aluminium and also used as an abrasive and catalyst.

bawd (bɔ:d) *n. Arch.* 1. a person who runs a brothel, esp. a woman. 2. a prostitute.

bawdry ('bɔ:drɪ) *n. Arch.* obscene talk or language.

bawdy ('bɔ:di) *adj. bawdier, bawdiest.* 1. (of language, plays, etc.) containing references to sex, esp. to be humorous. ~*n.* 2. obscenity or eroticism, esp. in writing or drama. — **bawdily** *adv.* — **bawdiness** *n.*

bawdyhouse ('bɔ:di,haus) *n.* an archaic word for **brothel**.

bawl (bɔ:l) *vb.* 1. (intr.) to utter long loud cries, as from pain or frustration; wail. 2. to shout loudly, as in anger. ~*n.* 3. a loud shout or cry. — **bawler** *n.*

bay¹ (beɪ) *n.* 1. a wide semicircular indentation of a shoreline, esp. between two headlands. 2. an extension of lowland into hills that partly surround it.

bay² (beɪ) *n.* 1. an alcove or recess in a wall. 2. any partly enclosed compartment. 3. See **bay window**. 4. an area off a road in which vehicles may park or unload. 5. a compartment in an aircraft: *the bomb bay*. 6. *Naut.* a compartment in a ship, often used as the ship's hospital. 7. *Brit.* a tracked recess in the platform of a railway station, esp. one forming the terminus of a branch line.

bay³ (beɪ) *n.* 1. a deep howl, esp. of a hound on the scent. 2. at **bay.** a. forced to turn and face attackers: *the dogs held the deer at bay*. b. at a distance. 3. **bring to bay.** to force into a position from which retreat is impossible. ~*vb.* 4. (intr.) to howl (at) in deep prolonged tones. 5. (tr.) to utter in a loud prolonged tone. 6. (tr.) to hold at bay.

bay⁴ (beɪ) *n.* 1. a Mediterranean laurel. See **laurel** (sense 1). 2. any of certain other trees or shrubs, esp. bayberry. 3. (pl.) a wreath of bay leaves.

bay⁵ (beɪ) *n., adj.* 1. (of) a reddish-brown colour. ~*n.* 2. an animal of this colour.

bayberry ('beɪbəri) or **bay** *n., pl. -ries.* 1. any of several North American aromatic shrubs or small trees that bear grey waxy berries. 2. a tropical American tree, that yields an oil used in making bay rum. 3. the fruit of any of these plants.

bay leaf *n.* the leaf of the laurel dried and used in cooking.

bayonet ('beɪnɪt) *n.* 1. a blade for stabbing that can be attached to the muzzle of a firearm. 2. a type of fastening in which a cylindrical member is inserted into a socket against spring pressure and turned so that pins on its side engage in slots in the socket. ~*vb. -netting, -neted, or -netting, -netted.* 3. (tr.) to stab or kill with a bayonet.

bay rum *n.* an aromatic liquid, used in medicines and cosmetics, originally obtained by distilling the leaves of the bayberry tree with rum: now also synthesized.

bay window *n.* a window projecting from a wall and forming an alcove of a room.

bazaar or **bazar** (bə'zɑː) *n.* 1. (esp. in the Orient) a market area, esp. a street of small stalls. 2. a sale in aid of charity, esp. of secondhand or handmade articles. 3. a shop where a variety of goods is sold.

bazooka (bə'zu:kə) *n.* a portable tubular rocket-launcher, used by infantrymen as a short-range antitank weapon.

B.B.C. *abbrev. for* British Broadcasting Corporation.

bbi. *abbrev. for* barrel (container or measure).

B.C. *abbrev. for:* 1. (indicating years numbered back from the supposed year of the birth of Christ) before Christ. 2. British Columbia.

▷ **Usage.** See at **A.D.**

BCG *abbrev. for* Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (anti-tuberculosis vaccine).

B.D. abbrev. for Bachelor of Divinity.

bdellium ('dɛləm) *n.* 1. any of several African or W Asian trees that yield a gum resin. 2. the aromatic gum resin produced by these trees.

B.D.S. abbrev. for Bachelor of Dental Surgery.

be (bi; unstressed bi) *vb.* *pres. sing. 1st pers. am; 2nd pers. are; 3rd pers. is. pres. pl. are. past sing. 1st pers. was; 2nd pers. were; 3rd pers. was. past pl. were. pres. part. being. past part. been. (intr.)* 1. to have presence in perceived reality; exist; live: *I think, therefore I am.* 2. (used in the perfect tenses only) to pay a visit; go: *have you been to Spain?* 3. to take place: *my birthday was last Thursday.* 4. (copula) used as a linking verb between the subject of a sentence and its noun or adjective complement. *be* has no intrinsic meaning of its own but rather expresses relationship of equivalence or identity (*John is a man; John is a musician*) or specifies an attribute (*honey is sweet; Susan is angry*). It is also used with an adverbial complement to indicate a relationship in space or time (*Bill is at the office; the dance is on Saturday*). 5. (takes a present participle) forms the progressive present tense: *the man is running.* 6. (takes a past participle) forms the passive voice of all transitive verbs: *a good film is being shown on television tonight.* 7. (takes an infinitive) expresses intention, expectation, or obligation: *the president is to arrive at 9.30.* 8. **be that as it may.** the facts concerning (something) are of no importance.

Be chemical symbol for beryllium.

be- prefix forming transitive verbs. 1. (from nouns) to surround or cover: *befog.* 2. (from nouns) to affect completely: *bedazzle.* 3. (from nouns) to consider as or cause to be: *befriend.* 4. (from verbs) at, for, against, on, or over: *bewail; berate.*

B.E. abbrev. for: 1. bill of exchange. 2. Bachelor of Education. 3. Bachelor of Engineering.

beach (bi:tʃ) *n.* 1. an area of sand or shingle sloping down to a sea or lake, esp. the area between the high and low water marks on a seacoast. ~*vb.* 2. to run or haul (a boat) onto a beach.

beachcomber ('bi:tʃ,kəʊmə) *n.* 1. a person who searches shore debris for anything of worth. 2. a long high wave rolling onto a beach.

beachhead ('bi:tʃ,hed) *n.* Mil. an area on a beach that has been captured from the enemy and on which troops and equipment are landed.

beacon ('bi:kən) *n.* 1. a signal fire or light on a hill, tower, etc., esp. formerly as a warning of invasion. 2. a hill on which such fires were lit. 3. a lighthouse, signalling buoy, etc. 4. a radio or other signal marking a flight course in air navigation. 5. short for *Belisha beacon*. 6. a person or thing that serves as a guide, inspiration, or warning.

bead (bi:d) *n.* 1. a small pierced usually spherical piece of glass, wood, plastic, etc., which may be strung with others to form a necklace, etc. 2. a small drop of moisture. 3. a small bubble in or on a liquid. 4. a small metallic knob acting as the sight of a firearm. 5. to draw or hold a bead on. to aim a rifle or pistol at. 6. *Archit., furniture.* a small convex moulding having a semicircular cross section. 7. tell one's beads. to pray with a rosary. ~*vb.* 8. (tr.) to decorate with beads. 9. to form into beads or drops. —'beaded *adj.*

beading ('bi:diŋ) *n.* 1. another name for *bead* (sense 6). 2. a narrow strip of some material used for edging or ornamentation. Also called: *beadwork* ('bi:d,wɜ:k).

beadle ('bi:d'l) *n.* 1. *Brit.* (formerly) a minor parish official who acted as an usher and kept order. 2. *Judaism.* a synagogue attendant. 3. *Scot.* a church official who attends the minister. 4. an official in certain British institutions. —'beadleship *n.*

beadsman or **bedesman** ('bi:dzmən) *n.* *pl. -men.* *Arch.* 1. a person who prays for another's soul, esp. one paid or fed for doing so. 2. a person kept in an almshouse.

beady ('bi:di) *adj. -ier, -iest.* 1. small, round, and glittering (esp. in *beady eyes*). 2. resembling or covered with beads. —'beadiness *n.*

beagle ('bi:g'l) *n.* 1. a small breed of hound, often used for hunting hares. 2. *Arch.* a spy. ~*vb.* 3. (intr.) to hunt with beagles.

beak¹ (bi:k) *n.* 1. the projecting jaws of a bird, covered with a horny sheath. 2. any beaklike mouthpart in other animals. 3. *Sl.* a person's nose. 4. any projecting part, such as the pouring lip of a bucket. 5. *Naut.* another word for *ram* (sense 5). —'beaked (bi:kt) *adj.* —'beaky *adj.*

beak² (bi:k) *n.* a *Brit.* slang word for judge, magistrate, or headmaster.

beaker ('bi:kə) *n.* 1. a cup usually having a wide mouth. 2. a cylindrical flat-bottomed container used in laboratories, usually made of glass and having a pouring lip.

Beaker folk ('bi:kə) *n.* a prehistoric people inhabiting Europe and Britain during the second millennium B.C.

beam (bi:m) *n.* 1. a long thick piece of wood, metal, etc., esp. one used as a horizontal structural member. 2. the breadth of a ship or boat taken at its widest part. 3. a ray or column of light, as from a beacon. 4. a broad smile. 5. one of two cylindrical rollers on a loom, which hold the warp threads and the finished work. 6. the main stem of a deer's antler. 7. the central shaft of a plough to which all the main parts are attached. 8. a narrow unidirectional flow of electromagnetic radiation or particles: *an electron beam.* 9. the horizontal centrally pivoted bar in a balance. 10. **broad in the beam.** *Inf.* having wide hips. 11. **a beam in one's eye.** a fault or grave error greater in oneself than in another person. 12. **off (the) beam.** a. not following a radio beam to maintain a course. b. *Inf.* mistaken or irrelevant. 13. **on the beam.** a. following a radio beam to maintain a course. b. *Inf.* correct, relevant, or appropriate. ~*vb.* 14. to send out or radiate. 15. (tr.) to divert or aim (a radio signal, light, etc.) in a certain direction: *to beam a programme to Tokyo.* 16. (intr.) to smile broadly. —'beamy *adj.* —'beaming *adj.*

beam-ends *pl. n.* 1. on her beam-ends. (of a vessel) heeled over through an angle of 90°. 2. on one's beam-ends. out of resources; destitute.

bean (bi:n) *n.* 1. any of various leguminous plants producing edible seeds in pods. 2. any of various other plants whose seeds are produced in pods or podlike fruits. 3. the seed or pod of any of these plants. 4. any of various beanlike seeds, as coffee. 5. *U.S. sl.* another word for *head*. 6. **not have a bean.** *Sl.* to be without money. 7. **full of beans.** *Inf.* full of energy and vitality. 8. **spill the beans.** *Inf.* to disclose something confidential.

beanbag ('bi:n,bæg) *n.* 1. a small cloth bag filled with dried beans and thrown in games. 2. a very large cushion filled with foam rubber or polystyrene granules and used as a seat.

beanfeast ('bi:n,fist) *n.* *Brit. inf.* 1. an annual dinner given by employers to employees. 2. any festive or merry occasion.

beano ('bi:nə) *n., pl. beans.* *Brit. sl.* a celebration, party, or other enjoyable time.

beanpole ('bi:n,pəʊl) *n.* 1. a tall stick used to support bean plants. 2. *Sl.* a tall thin person.

bean sprout *n.* the sprout of newly germinated mung bean, eaten esp. in Chinese dishes.

bear¹ (beə) *vb.* **bearing, bore, borne.** (mainly tr.) 1. to support or hold up. 2. to bring: *to bear gifts.* 3. to accept or assume the responsibility of: *to bear an expense.* 4. (born in passive use except when followed by *by*) to give birth to: *to bear children.* 5. (also intr.) to produce as by natural growth: *to bear fruit.* 6. to tolerate or endure. 7. to admit of; sustain: *his story does not bear scrutiny.* 8. to hold in the mind: *to bear a grudge.* 9. to show or be marked with: *he still bears the scars.* 10. to render or supply (esp. in *bear witness*). 11. to conduct (oneself, the body, etc.). 12. to have, be, or stand in (relation or comparison): *his account bears no relation to the facts.* 13. (intr.) to move or lie in a specified direction. 14. **bear a hand.** to give assistance. 15. **bring to bear.** to bring into operation or effect. ~*See also bear down, bear on, etc.*

bear² (beə) *n., pl. bears* or *bear.* 1. a plantigrade mammal typically having a large head, a long shaggy coat, and strong claws. 2. any of various bearlike animals, such as the koala. 3. a clumsy, churlish, or ill-mannered person. 4. a teddy bear. 5. *Stock Exchange.* a. a speculator who sells in anticipation of falling prices to make a profit on repurchase. b. (as modifier): *a bear market.* Cf. *bull* (sense 4). ~*vb.* **bearing, beared.** 6. (tr.) to lower or attempt to lower the price or prices of (a stock market or a security) by speculative selling.

Bear (beə) *n.* the. 1. the English name for either *Ursa Major* (Great Bear) or *Ursa Minor* (Little Bear). 2. an informal name for Russia.

bearable ('beərəb'l) *adj.* enduring; tolerable.

beard (bi:əd) *n.* 1. the hair growing on the lower parts of a man's face. 2. any similar growth in animals. 3. a tuft of long hairs in plants such as barley; awn. 4. a barb, as on a fish-hook. ~*vb.* (tr.) 5. to oppose boldly or impertinently. —'bearded *adj.*

bear down *vb.* (*intr., adv.*; often foll. by *on* or *upon*) 1. to press or weigh down. 2. to approach in a determined or threatening manner.

bearer ('bɛərə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that bears, presents, or upholds. 2. a person who presents a note or bill for payment. 3. (in Africa, India, etc., formerly) a native porter or servant. 4. (*modifier*) *Finance*. payable to the person in possession: *bearer bonds*.

bear garden *n.* 1. (formerly) a place where bear-baiting took place. 2. a scene of tumult.

bear hug *n.* 1. a wrestling hold in which the arms are locked tightly round an opponent's chest and arms. 2. any similar tight embrace.

bearing ('bɛərɪŋ) *n.* 1. a support for a rotating or reciprocating mechanical part. 2. (foll. by *on* or *upon*) relevance (to): *it has no bearing on this problem*. 3. a person's general social conduct. 4. the act, period, or capability of producing fruit or young. 5. anything that carries weight or acts as a support. 6. the angular direction of a point or course measured from a known position. 7. (*usually pl.*) the position, as of a ship, fixed with reference to two or more known points. 8. (*usually pl.*) a sense of one's relative position; orientation (esp. in *lose, get, or take one's bearings*). 9. *Heraldry*. a. a device on a heraldic shield. b. another name for *coat of arms*.

bear on *vb.* (*intr., prep.*) 1. to be relevant to; relate to. 2. to be burdensome to or afflict.

bear out *vb.* (*tr., adv.*) to show to be true or truthful; confirm: *the witness will bear me out*.

bearskin ('bɛəskɪn) *n.* 1. the pelt of a bear, esp. when used as a rug. 2. a tall helmet of black fur worn by certain British Army regiments.

bear up *vb.* (*intr., adv.*) to endure cheerfully.

bear with *vb.* (*intr., prep.*) to be patient with.

beast ('bi:st) *n.* 1. any animal other than man, esp. a large wild quadruped. 2. savage nature or characteristics: *the beast in man*. 3. a brutal, uncivilized, or filthy person.

beastly ('bi:stli) *adj.* -lier, -liest. 1. *Inf.* unpleasant; disagreeable. 2. Obs. of or like a beast; bestial. ~*adv.* 3. *Inf.* (intensifier): *the weather is so beastly hot*. —'beastliness *n.*

beat (bi:t) *vb.* *beating, beat; beaten or beat*. 1. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *against, on*, etc.) to strike with or as if with a series of violent blows. 2. (*tr.*) to punish by striking; flog. 3. to move up and down; flap: *the bird beat its wings heavily*. 4. (*intr.*) to throb rhythmically; pulsate. 5. (*tr.*; sometimes foll. by *up*) *Cookery*. to stir or whisk vigorously. 6. (*tr.*; sometimes foll. by *out*) to shape, thin, or flatten (metal) by repeated blows. 7. (*tr.*) *Music*. to indicate (time) by one's hand, baton, etc., or by a metronome. 8. (when *tr.*, sometimes foll. by *out*) to produce (a sound or signal) by or as if by striking a drum. 9. to overcome; defeat. 10. (*tr.*) to form (a path, track, etc.) by repeatedly walking or riding over it. 11. (*tr.*) to arrive, achieve, or finish before (someone or something). 12. (*tr.*; often foll. by *back, down, off*, etc.) to drive, push, or thrust. 13. to scour (woodlands or undergrowth) so as to rouse game for shooting. 14. (*tr.*) *Sl.* to puzzle or baffle: *it beats me*. 15. (*intr.*) *Naut.* to steer a sailing vessel as close as possible to the direction from which the wind is blowing. 16. *beat about the bush*. *Inf.* to avoid the issue. 17. *beat a retreat*. to withdraw in haste. 18. *beat it*. *Sl.* (often imperative) to go away. 19. *beat the bounds*. *Brit.* (formerly) to define the boundaries of a parish by making a procession around them and hitting the ground with rods. 20. *can you beat it or that?* *Sl.* an expression of surprise. ~*n.* 21. a stroke or blow. 22. the sound made by a stroke or blow. 23. a regular throb. 24. an assigned or habitual round or route, as of a policeman. 25. the basic rhythmic unit in a piece of music. 26. a pop or rock music characterized by a heavy rhythmic beat. b. (*as modifier*): a *beat group*. 27. *Physics*. one of the regular pulses produced by combining two sounds or electrical signals that have similar frequencies. 28. *Prosody*. the accent or stress in a metrical foot. 29. (*modifier*) (often *cap.*) of, characterized by, or relating to the Beat Generation. ~*adj.* 30. (*postpositive*) *Sl.* totally exhausted. ~See also *beat down, beat up*. —'beatable *adj.*

beat down *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to force or persuade (a seller) to accept a lower price. 2. (*intr.*) (of the sun) to shine intensely.

beaten ('bi:t'n) *adj.* 1. defeated or baffled. 2. shaped or made thin by hammering: *beaten gold*. 3. much travelled; well trodden. 4. off the beaten track. a. in unfamiliar territory. b. out of the ordinary; unusual. 5.

(of food) mixed by beating; whipped. 6. tired out; exhausted.

beater ('bi:tə) *n.* 1. a person who beats or hammers: *a panel beater*. 2. a device used for beating: *a carpet beater*. 3. a person who rouses wild game.

beatific ('bi:tɪfɪk) *adj.* 1. displaying great happiness, calmness, etc. 2. of or conferring a state of celestial happiness. —'beatifically *adv.*

beatify ('bi:tɪfai) *vb.* -fying, -fied. 1. (*tr.*) *R.C. Church*. (of the pope) to declare formally that (a deceased person) showed a heroic degree of holiness in life and is worthy of veneration: the first step towards canonization. 2. (*tr.*) to make extremely happy. —'beatification ('bi:tɪfɪk'eɪʃən) *n.*

beatitude ('bi:tɪtɪdʒ) *n.* 1. supreme blessedness or happiness. 2. an honorific title of the Eastern Christian Church, applied to those of patriarchal rank.

Beatitude ('bi:tɪtɪdʒ) *n.* *Christianity*. any of eight sayings of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1-8) in which he declares that the poor, the meek, etc. will, in various ways, receive the blessings of heaven.

beatnik ('bi:tɪnɪk) *n.* 1. a member of the Beat Generation. 2. *Inf.* any person with long hair and shabby clothes.

beat up *Inf.* ~*vb.* 1. (*tr., adv.*) to strike or kick repeatedly, so as to inflict severe physical damage. ~*adj.* *beat-up*. 2. worn-out; dilapidated.

beau (bəʊ) *n., pl.* *beaus* (bəʊz) or *beaux* (bəʊ, bəʊz). 1. a man who is greatly concerned with his clothes and appearance; dandy. 2. Chiefly *U.S.* a boyfriend; sweetheart.

Beaufort scale ('bɒfət) *n.* *Meteorol.* an international scale of wind velocities from 0 (calm) to 12 (hurricane) (0 to 17 in the U.S.).

beaujolais ('bəʊʒə,leɪ) *n.* (*sometimes cap.*) a popular fresh-tasting red or white wine from southern Burgundy in France.

beaut (bjʊ:t) *Sl., chiefly Austral. & N.Z.* ~*n.* 1. an outstanding person or thing. ~*adj., interj.* 2. good or excellent.

beauteous ('bjʊ:tɪəs) *adj.* a poetic word for *beautiful*. —'beauteousness *n.*

beautician (bjʊ:tɪʃən) *n.* a person who works in or manages a beauty salon.

beautiful ('bjʊ:tɪfʊl) *adj.* 1. possessing beauty; aesthetically pleasing. 2. highly enjoyable; very pleasant. —'beautifully *adv.*

beautify ('bjʊ:tɪfai) *vb.* -fying, -fied. to make or become beautiful. —'beautification ('bjʊ:tɪfɪk'eɪʃən) *n.* —'beautifier *n.*

beauty ('bjʊ:tɪ) *n., pl.* -ties. 1. the combination of all the qualities of a person or thing that delight the senses and mind. 2. a very attractive woman. 3. *Inf.* an outstanding example of its kind. 4. *Inf.* an advantageous feature: *one beauty of the job is the short hours*. ~*interj.* 5. *Austral. & N.Z. sl.* an expression of approval or agreement. Also: *you beauty*.

beauty queen *n.* an attractive young woman, esp. one who has won a beauty contest.

beauty sleep *n.* *Inf.* sleep, esp. sleep before midnight.

beauty spot *n.* 1. a small dark-coloured patch or spot worn on a lady's face as an adornment. 2. a mole or other similar natural mark on the skin. 3. a place of outstanding beauty.

beaver¹ ('bi:və) *n.* 1. a large amphibious rodent of Europe, Asia, and North America. It has soft brown fur, a broad flat hairless tail, and webbed hind feet, and constructs complex dams and houses (lodges) in rivers. 2. its fur. 3. a tall hat of beaver fur worn during the 19th century. 4. a woollen napped cloth resembling beaver fur. 5. Obs. a full beard. 6. a bearded man. 7. (*modifier*) made of beaver fur or similar material. ~*vb.* 8. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *away*) *Brit. inf.* to work industriously or steadily.

beaver² ('bi:və) *n.* a movable piece on a medieval helmet used to protect the lower face.

bebop ('bi:bɒp) *n.* the full name for *bop* (sense 1). —'bebopper *n.*

becalmed ('bi:kə:md) *adj.* (of a sailing boat or ship) motionless through lack of wind.

became ('bi:kem) *vb.* the past tense of *become*.

because ('bi:kəz, -'kəz) *conj.* 1. (*subordinating*) on account of the fact that; since: *because it's so cold we'll go home*. ~ 2. *because of*. (*prep.*) on account of: *I lost my job because of her*.

▷ *Usage*. See at *reason*.

béchamel sauce (ˌbeɪʃəˈmeɪ) *n.* a thick white sauce flavoured with onion and seasonings.

beck (ˈbeɪk) *n.* 1. a nod, wave, or other gesture. 2. at (someone's) **beck and call**, subject to (someone's) slightest whim.

beck² (ˈbeɪk) *n.* (in N England) a stream.

beckon (ˈbeɪkən) *vb.* 1. to summon with a gesture of the hand or head. 2. to entice or lure. ~*n.* 3. a summoning gesture. — **'beckoner** *n.*

become (bɪˈkʌm) *vb.* **-coming, -came, -come.** (mainly *intr.*) 1. (*copula*) to come to be; develop or grow into: *he became a monster*. 2. (foll. by *of*; usually used in a question) to happen (to): *what became of him?* 3. (*tr.*) to suit: *that dress becomes you*. 4. (*tr.*) to be appropriate; to befit: *it ill becomes you to complain*.

becoming (bɪˈkʌmɪŋ) *adj.* suitable; appropriate. — **'becomingly** *adv.* — **'becomingness** *n.*

becquerel (ˌbeɪkəˈreɪl) *n.* the SI unit of activity of a radioactive source.

bed (bed) *n.* 1. a piece of furniture on which to sleep. 2. the mattress and bedclothes: *an unmade bed*. 3. sleep or rest: *time for bed*. 4. any place in which a person or animal sleeps or rests. 5. *Inf.* sexual intercourse. 6. a plot of ground in which plants are grown. 7. the bottom of a river, lake, or sea. 8. a part of this used for cultivation of a plant or animal: *oyster beds*. 9. any underlying structure or part. 10. a layer of rock, esp. sedimentary rock. 11. *a bed of roses*, a situation of comfort or ease. 12. **go to bed**, *a.* (often foll. by *with*) to have sexual intercourse (with). *b.* **Journalism, printing.** (of a newspaper, etc.) to go to press; start printing. 13. **put to bed.** **Journalism.** to finalize work on (a newspaper, etc.) so that it is ready to go to press. 14. **take to one's bed**, to remain in bed, esp. because of illness. ~*vb.* **bedding, bedded.** 15. (usually foll. by *down*) to go to or put into a place to sleep or rest. 16. (*tr.*) to have sexual intercourse with. 17. (*tr.*) to place firmly into position; embed. 18. *Geol.* to form or be arranged in a distinct layer; stratify. 19. (*tr.*; often foll. by *out*) to plant in a bed of soil.

B.Ed. *abbrev.* for Bachelor of Education.

bed and breakfast *n.* **Chiefly Brit.** (in a hotel, boarding house, etc.) overnight accommodation and breakfast.

bedaub (bɪˈdaʊb) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to smear all over with something thick, sticky, or dirty. 2. to ornament in a gaudy or vulgar fashion.

bedbug (ˈbed,bʌg) *n.* any of several bloodsucking wingless insects of temperate regions, infesting dirty houses.

bedclothes (ˈbed,kləʊðz) *pl. n.* sheets, blankets, and other coverings of a bed.

bedding (ˈbedɪŋ) *n.* 1. bedclothes, sometimes considered with a mattress. 2. litter, such as straw, for animals. 3. a foundation, such as mortar under a brick. 4. the stratification of rocks.

bedding plant *n.* an immature plant that may be planted out in a garden bed.

bedeck (bɪˈdek) *vb.* (*tr.*) to cover with decorations; adorn.

bedevil (bɪˈdevl) *vb.* **-illing, -illed or U.S. -iling, -illed.** (*tr.*) 1. to harass or torment. 2. to throw into confusion. 3. to possess, as with a devil. — **'be-devilment** *n.*

bedew (bɪˈdjuː) *vb.* (*tr.*) to wet as with dew.

bedfellow (ˈbed,feləʊ) *n.* 1. a person with whom one shares a bed. 2. a temporary ally or associate.

bedizen (bɪˈdaɪzn, -ˈdɪzn) *vb.* (*tr.*) *Arch.* to dress or decorate gaudily or tastelessly. — **'be-dizennment** *n.*

bedjacket *n.* a woman's short upper garment worn over a nightgown when sitting up in bed.

bedlam (ˈbedləm) *n.* 1. a noisy confused situation. 2. *Arch.* a madhouse.

bed linen *n.* sheets, pillowcases, etc. for a bed.

Bedouin or Beduin (ˈbeduɪn) *n.* 1. (*pl. -ins or -ins*) a nomadic Arab tribesman of the deserts of Arabia, Jordan, and Syria. 2. a wanderer. ~*adj.* 3. of or relating to the Bedouins. 4. wandering.

bedpan (ˈbed,pæn) *n.* a vessel used by a bedridden patient to collect his faeces and urine.

bedraggle (bɪˈdræɡl) *vb.* (*tr.*) to make (hair, clothing, etc.) limp, untidy, or dirty, as with rain or mud. — **'be-dragled** *adj.*

bedridden (ˈbed,rɪd'n) *adj.* confined to bed because of illness, esp. for a long or indefinite period.

bedrock (ˈbed,rɒk) *n.* 1. the solid rock beneath the surface soil, etc. 2. basic principles or facts. 3. the lowest point, level, or layer.

bedroom (ˈbed,rʊm, -rʌm) *n.* 1. a room used for

sleeping. 2. (*modifier*) containing references to sex: *a bedroom comedy*.

Beds. *abbrev.* for Bedfordshire.

bedside (ˈbed,sayd) *n. a.* the space beside a bed, esp. a sickbed. *b.* (*as modifier*): *a bedside lamp*.

bedsitter (ˈbed,sɪtə) *n.* a furnished sitting room containing sleeping accommodation. Also called: **bedsitting room, bedsit.**

bedsore (ˈbed,sɔː) *n.* a chronic ulcer on the skin of a bedridden person, caused by prolonged pressure.

bedspread (ˈbed,spreɪd) *n.* a top cover on a bed.

bedstead (ˈbed,sted, -stud) *n.* the framework of a bed.

bedstraw (ˈbed,stroː) *n.* any of numerous plants which have small white or yellow flowers and prickly or hairy fruits: formerly used as straw for beds.

bedwetting (ˈbed,wetɪŋ) *n.* the act of urinating in bed.

bee¹ (biː) *n.* 1. any of various four-winged insects that collect nectar and pollen and make honey and wax. 2. **busy bee**, a person who is industrious or has many things to do. 3. **have a bee in one's bonnet**, to be obsessed with an idea.

bee² (biː) *n.* **Chiefly U.S.** a social gathering for a specific purpose, as to carry out a communal task: *quilting bee*.

Beeb (biːb) *n. the.* an informal name for the **B.B.C.**

beebread (ˈbiː,bred) *n.* a mixture of pollen and nectar prepared by worker bees and fed to the larvae. Also called: **ambrosia**.

beech (biːtʃ) *n.* 1. a European tree, having smooth greyish bark. 2. a similar tree of temperate Australasia and South America. 3. the hard wood of any of these trees. 4. **copper beech**, a cultivated variety of European beech that has reddish leaves. — **'beechen** or **'beechy** *adj.*

beechnut (ˈbiːtʃ,nʌt) *n.* the small brown triangular edible nut of the beech tree, collectively, often termed **beech mast**.

beef (biːf) *n.* 1. the flesh of various bovine animals, esp. the cow, when killed for eating. 2. (*pl. beeves* (biːvz)) an adult ox, etc., reared for its meat. 3. *Inf.* human flesh, esp. when muscular. 4. (*pl. beefs*) *Sl.* a complaint. ~*vb.* 5. (*intr.*) *Sl.* to complain, esp. repeatedly. 6. (*tr.*; often foll. by *up*) *Sl.* to strengthen; reinforce.

beefburger (ˈbiːf,bɜːgə) *n.* a flat fried cake of minced beef; hamburger.

beefcake (ˈbiːf,keɪk) *n.* *Sl.* men displayed for their muscular bodies, esp. in photographs.

beefeater (ˈbiːf,iːtə) *n.* a yeoman warder of the Tower of London.

beef tea *n.* a drink made by boiling pieces of lean beef.

beefy (ˈbiːfi) *adj.* **beefier, beefiest.** 1. like beef. 2. *Inf.* muscular; brawny. — **'beefiness** *n.*

beehive (ˈbiː,haɪv) *n.* 1. a man-made receptacle used to house a swarm of bees. 2. a dome-shaped structure. 3. a place where busy people are assembled. 4. **The Beehive**, the dome-shaped building which houses Parliament in Wellington, New Zealand.

beekeeper (ˈbiː,kɪpə) *n.* a person who keeps bees for their honey. — **'bee-keeping** *n.*

beeline (ˈbiː,laɪn) *n.* the most direct route between two places (esp. in **make a beeline** for).

Beelzebub (biːˈelzɪ,bʌb) *n.* Satan or any devil.

bee moth *n.* any of various moths whose larvae live in the nests of bees or wasps, feeding on nest materials and host larvae.

been (biːn, bɪn) *vb.* the past participle of **be**.

beep (biːp) *n.* 1. a short high-pitched sound, as made by a car horn, or by electronic apparatus. ~*vb.* 2. to make or cause to make such a noise. — **'beeper** *n.*

beer (biə) *n.* 1. an alcoholic drink brewed from malt, sugar, hops, and water. 2. a slightly fermented drink made from the roots or leaves of certain plants: *ginger beer*. 3. (*modifier*) relating to beer: *beer glass*. 4. (*modifier*) in which beer is drunk, esp. (of licensed premises) having a licence to sell beer but not spirits: *beer house; beer garden*.

beer and skittles *n.* *Inf.* enjoyment or pleasure.

beer parlour *n.* *Canad.* a licensed place in which beer is sold to the public.

beery (ˈbiəri) *adj.* **beerier, beeriest.** 1. smelling or tasting of beer. 2. given to drinking beer. — **'beerily** *adv.* — **'beeriness** *n.*

beestings, biestings or U.S. beastings (ˈbiːstɪŋz) *n.* (*functioning as sing.*) the first milk secreted by a cow or similar animal after giving birth; colostrum.

beeswax (ˈbiːz,wæks) *n.* 1. a wax secreted by honeybees for constructing honeycombs. 2. this wax after refining, used in polishes, etc.

beeswing ('biz,wɪŋ) *n.* a light filmy crust of tartar that forms in some wines after long keeping in the bottle.

beet (bit) *n.* 1. a plant of a genus widely cultivated in such varieties as the sugar beet, mangel-wurzel, and beetroot. 2. the leaves of any of several varieties of this plant, cooked and eaten as a vegetable. 3. **red beet**. the U.S. name for **beetroot**.

beetle¹ ('bit:l) *n.* 1. an insect having biting mouthparts and forewings modified to form shell-like protective casings. 2. a game in which the players draw or assemble a beetle-shaped form. ~*vb.* (*intr.*; foll. by *along*, *off*, etc.) 3. *Inf.* to scuttle or scurry; hurry.

beetle² ('bit:l) *n.* 1. a heavy hand tool for pounding or beating. 2. a machine used to finish cloth by stamping it with wooden hammers.

beetle³ ('bit:l) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to overhang; jut. ~*adj.* 2. overhanging; prominent.

beetle-browed *adj.* having bushy or overhanging eyebrows.

beetroot ('bit,rut) *n.* a variety of the beet plant that has a bulbous dark red root that may be eaten as a vegetable, in salads, or pickled.

beet sugar *n.* the sucrose obtained from sugar beet, identical in composition to cane sugar.

befall (br'fɔ:l) *vb.* -**falling**, -**fell**, -**fallen**. *Arch. or literary.* 1. (*intr.*) to take place. 2. (*tr.*) to happen to. 3. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *to*) to be due, as by right.

befit (br'fit) *vb.* -**fitting**, -**fitted**. (*tr.*) to be appropriate to or suitable for. —**be'fitting** *adj.* —**be'fittingly** *adv.*

before (br'fɔ:) *conj.* (*subordinating*) 1. earlier than the time when. 2. rather than: *he'll resign before he agrees to it.* ~*prep.* 3. preceding in space or time; in front of; ahead of: *standing before the altar.* 4. in the presence of: *to be brought before a judge.* 5. in preference to: *to put friendship before money.* ~*adv.* 6. at an earlier time; previously; beforehand; in front.

beforehand (br'fɔ:,hænd) *adj.* (*postpositive*), *adv.* early; in advance; in anticipation.

befoul (br'faul) *vb.* (*tr.*) to make dirty or foul.

befriend (br'frɛnd) *vb.* (*tr.*) to be a friend to; assist; favour.

befuddle (br'fʌdʒl) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to confuse. 2. to make stupid with drink. —**be'fuddlement** *n.*

beg (beg) *vb.* **begging**, **begged**. 1. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *for*) to solicit (for money, food, etc.), esp. in the street. 2. to ask formally, humbly, or earnestly: *I beg forgiveness; I beg to differ.* 3. (*intr.*) (of a dog) to sit up with forepaws raised expectantly. 4. **beg the question**. a. to evade the issue. b. to assume the thing under examination as proved. 5. **go begging**. to be unwanted or unused.

began (br'gæn) *vb.* the past tense of **begin**.

beget ('begə) *vb.* -**getting**, -**got** or -**gat**; -**gotten** or -**got**. (*tr.*) 1. to father. 2. to cause or create. —**be'getter** *n.*

beggar ('begə) *n.* 1. a person who begs, esp. one who lives by begging. 2. a person who has no money or resources; pauper. 3. *Chiefly Brit.* a fellow: *lucky beggar!* ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 4. to be beyond the resources of (esp. in *to beggar* description). 5. to impoverish. —**'beggar-dom** *n.*

begin (br'ɪn) *vb.* -**ginning**, -**gan**, -**gun**. 1. to start or cause to start (something or to do something). 2. to bring or come into being; arise or originate. 3. to start to say or speak. 4. (*with a negative*) to have the least capacity (to do something): *he couldn't begin to compete.* 5. **to begin with**. in the first place. —**be'ginner** *n.*

beginner's luck *n.* the exceptionally good luck that a novice is supposed to enjoy.

beginning (br'ɪnɪŋ) *n.* 1. a start; commencement. 2. (*often pl.*) a first or early part or stage. 3. the place where or time when something starts. 4. an origin; source.

begone (br'gɒn) *interj.* go away!

begonia (br'gɒnjə) *n.* a plant of warm and tropical regions, having ornamental leaves and waxy flowers.

begorra (br'gɔ:rə) *interj.* an emphatic exclamation, regarded as characteristic of Irishmen.

begot (br'gɒt) *vb.* a past tense or past participle of **beget**.

begotten (br'gɒt'n) *vb.* a past participle of **beget**.

begudge (br'grʌdʒ) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to give, admit, or allow unwillingly or with a bad grace. 2. to envy (someone) the possession of (something). —**be'grudgingly** *adv.*

beguile (br'gail) *vb.* -**guiling**, -**guiled**. (*tr.*) 1. to charm; fascinate. 2. to delude; influence by slyness. 3. (*often foll. by of or out of*) to cheat (someone) of. 4. to pass pleasantly; while away. —**be'guiling** *adj.* —**be'guilingly** *adv.*

beguine (br'gi:n) *n.* 1. a dance of South American origin in bolero rhythm. 2. a piece of music in the rhythm of this dance.

begum ('beɪgəm) *n.* (*esp. in India*) a Muslim woman of high rank.

begun (br'gʌn) *vb.* the past participle of **begin**.

behalf (br'hɑ:f) *n.* interest, part, benefit, or respect (only in *on (someone's) behalf*, *on or U.S. in behalf of*, *in this (or that) behalf*).

behave (br'heɪv) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to act or function in a specified or usual way. 2. to conduct (oneself) in a specified way: *he behaved badly.* 3. to conduct (oneself) properly or as desired.

behaviour or **U.S. behavior** (br'heɪvjə) *n.* 1. manner of behaving. 2. **on one's best behaviour**. behaving with careful good manners. 3. *Psychol.* the response of an organism to a stimulus. 4. the reaction or functioning of a machine, etc., under normal or specified circumstances. —**be'havioural** or **U.S. be'havioral** *adj.*

behavioural science *n.* the scientific study of the behaviour of organisms.

behaviourism or **U.S. behaviorism** (br'heɪvjə-rɪzəm) *n.* a school of psychology that regards objective observable aspects of the behaviour of organisms as the only valid subject for study. —**be'haviourist** or **U.S. be'haviorist** *adj.*, *n.* —**be'haviour'istic** or **U.S. be'havior'istic** *adj.*

behaviour therapy *n.* any of various means of treating psychological disorders, such as aversion therapy, that depend on the patient systematically learning new behaviour.

behead (br'hed) *vb.* (*tr.*) to remove the head from.

beheld (br'held) *vb.* the past tense or past participle of **behold**.

behemoth (br'hɪməθ) *n.* 1. *Bible*. a gigantic beast described in Job 40:15. 2. a huge or monstrous person or thing.

behest (br'hest) *n.* an order or earnest request.

behind (br'hænd) *prep.* 1. in or to a position further back than. 2. in the past in relation to: *I've got the exams behind me now.* 3. late according to: *running behind schedule.* 4. concerning the circumstances surrounding: *the reasons behind his departure.* 5. supporting: *I'm right behind you in your application.* ~*adv.* 6. in or to a position further back; following. 7. remaining after someone's departure: *he left his books behind.* 8. in debt; in arrears: *to fall behind with payments.* ~*adj.* 9. (*postpositive*) in a position further back. ~*n.* 10. *Inf.* the buttocks. 11. *Australian Rules football.* a score of one point made by kicking the ball over the **behind** line between a goalpost and one of the smaller outer posts (**behind posts**).

behindhand (br'hænd,hænd) *adj.* (*postpositive*), *adv.* 1. remiss in fulfilling an obligation. 2. in arrears. 3. backward. 4. late.

behold (br'həʊld) *vb.* -**holding**, -**held**. (*often imperative*) *Arch. or literary.* to look (at); observe. —**be'holder** *n.*

beholden (br'həʊld'n) *adj.* indebted; obliged.

behoove (br'həʊv) *vb.* (*tr.*; *impersonal*) *Arch.* to be necessary or fitting for: *it behoves me to arrest you.*

beige (beɪʒ) *n.* 1. a. a very light brown, sometimes with a yellowish tinge. b. (*as adj.*): *beige gloves.* 2. a fabric made of undyed or unbleached wool.

being ('bi:ŋ) *n.* 1. the state or fact of existing; existence. 2. essential nature; self. 3. something that exists or is thought to exist: *a being from outer space.* 4. a person; human being.

bejewel (br'dʒu:əl) *vb.* -**elling**, -**elled** or **U.S. -eling**, -**eled**. (*tr.*) to decorate as with jewels.

bel (bel) *n.* a unit for comparing two power levels, equal to the logarithm to the base ten of the ratio of the two powers.

belabour or **U.S. belabor** (br'leɪbə) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to beat severely; thrash. 2. to attack verbally.

belated (br'leɪtɪd) *adj.* late or too late: *belated greetings.* —**be'latedly** *adv.* —**be'latedness** *n.*

belay ('bleɪ) *vb.* -**laying**, -**laid**. 1. *Naut.* to secure (a line) to a pin, cleat, or bitt. 2. (*usually imperative*) *Naut.* to stop. 3. *Mountaineering.* to turn (a rope) round an object, etc., to secure (a climber). ~*n.* ('bleɪ). 4. *Mountaineering.* a turn of a rope round an object to secure it.

belch (belft) *vb.* 1. (*usually intr.*) to expel wind from the stomach noisily through the mouth. 2. to expel or be expelled forcefully from inside: *smoke belching from factory chimneys.* ~*n.* 3. an act of belching.

beldam or **beldame** ('beldəm) *n.* *Arch.* an old woman.
beleaguer (bi'li:gə) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to lay siege to. 2. to harass.

belfry ('belfri) *n., pl. -fries.* 1. the part of a tower or steeple in which bells are hung. 2. a tower or steeple.

Belial ('bi:lɪəl) *n.* the devil or Satan.

belle (bi'lai) *vb. -lying, -lied.* (*tr.*) 1. to show to be untrue; contradict. 2. to misrepresent; disguise the nature of. 3. to fail to justify; disappoint.

belief (bi'li:f) *n.* 1. a principle, etc., accepted as true or real, esp. without proof. 2. opinion; conviction. 3. religious faith. 4. trust or confidence, as in a person's abilities, etc.

believe (bi'liv) *vb.* 1. (*tr.; may take a clause as object*) to accept (a statement or opinion) as true or real: *I believe God exists.* 2. (*tr.*) to accept the statement or opinion of (a person) as true. 3. (*intr.; foll. by in*) to be convinced of the truth or existence (of): *to believe in fairies.* 4. (*intr.*) to have religious faith. 5. (*when tr., takes a clause as object*) to think, assume, or suppose. 6. (*tr.*) to think that someone is able to do (a particular action): *I wouldn't have believed it of him.* —**be'lievable** *adj.* —**be'liever** *n.*

Belisha beacon (bə'liʃə) *n.* *Brit.* a flashing orange globe mounted on a post, indicating a pedestrian crossing on a road.

belittle (bi'litl) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to consider or speak of (something) as less valuable or important than it really is; disparage. 2. to make small; dwarf. —**be'littlement** *n.* —**be'little** *n.*

bell (bel) *n.* 1. a hollow, usually metal, cup-shaped instrument that emits a ringing sound when struck. 2. the sound made by such an instrument, as for marking the beginning or end of a period of time. 3. an electrical device that rings or buzzes as a signal. 4. something shaped like a bell, as the tube of certain musical wind instruments, or the corolla of certain flowers. 5. *Naut.* a signal rung on a ship's bell to count the number of half-hour intervals during each of six four-hour watches reckoned from midnight. 6. **ring a bell**, to sound familiar; recall something previously experienced. 7. **sound as a bell**, in perfect condition. 8. **bell, book, and candle**, instruments used formerly in excommunications. ~*vb.* 9. to be or cause to be shaped like a bell. 10. (*tr.*) to attach a bell or bells to.

bell¹ (bel) *n.* 1. a bellowing or baying cry, esp. that of a stag in rut. ~*vb.* 2. to utter (such a cry).

belladonna (bə'lə'dɒnə) *n.* 1. either of two alkaloid drugs obtained from the leaves and roots of the deadly nightshade. 2. another name for **deadly nightshade**.

bell-bottoms *pl. n.* trousers that flare from the knee. —**bell-,bottomed** *adj.*

belle (bel) *n.* 1. a beautiful woman. 2. the most attractive woman at a function, etc. (esp. in **belle of the ball**).

belles-lettres (French bel'letr) *n.* (*functioning as sing.*) literary works, esp. essays and poetry, valued for their aesthetic content. —**bel'letrist** *n.*

bellicose ('beli:kəs, -kəʊz) *adj.* warlike; aggressive; ready to fight. —**bellicosity** ('beli:kəsɪti) *n.*

belligerence ('belɪdʒərəns) *n.* the act or quality of being belligerent or warlike; aggressiveness.

belligerent ('belɪdʒərənt) *adj.* 1. marked by readiness to fight or argue; aggressive. 2. relating to or engaged in a war. ~*n.* 3. a person or country engaged in war.

bell jar *n.* a bell-shaped glass cover to protect flower arrangements, etc., or to cover apparatus in experiments. Also: **bell glass**.

bell metal *n.* an alloy of copper and tin, with some zinc and lead, used in casting bells.

bellow ('beləʊ) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to make a loud deep cry like that of a bull; roar. 2. to shout (something) unrestrainedly, as in anger or pain. ~*n.* 3. the characteristic noise of a bull. 4. a loud deep sound, as of pain or anger.

bellows ('beləʊz) *n.* (*functioning as sing. or pl.*) 1. Also: **pair of bellows**, an instrument consisting of an air chamber with flexible sides that is used to create a stream of air, as for producing a draught for a fire or for sounding organ pipes. 2. a flexible corrugated part, as that connecting the lens system of some cameras to the body.

bell pull *n.* a handle, rope, or cord pulled to operate a doorbell or servant's bell.

bell push *n.* a button pressed to operate an electric bell.

bell-ringer *n.* a person who rings church bells or musical handbells. —**'bell-ringing** *n.*

bell tent *n.* a cone-shaped tent having a single central supporting pole.

bellwether ('bel,wədə) *n.* 1. a sheep that leads the herd, often bearing a bell. 2. a leader, esp. one followed blindly.

belly ('beli) *n., pl. -lies.* 1. the lower or front part of the body of a vertebrate, containing the intestines and other organs; abdomen. 2. the stomach, esp. when regarded as the seat of gluttony. 3. a part that bulges deeply: *the belly of a sail.* 4. the inside or interior cavity of something. 5. the front, lower, or inner part of something. 6. the surface of a stringed musical instrument over which the strings are stretched. 7. *Austral. & N.Z.* a. the wool from a sheep's belly. b. (*as modifier*): *belly wool.* 8. an archaic word for **womb** (sense 4). ~*vb.* -*lying, -lied.* 9. to swell out or cause to swell out; bulge.

belly ache *n.* 1. an informal term for **stomachache**. ~*vb.* **bellyache.** 2. (*intr.*) *Sl.* to complain repeatedly. —**'belly,acher** *n.*

bellybutton ('beli,bat'n) *n.* an informal name for the navel. Also called: **tummy button**.

belly dance *n.* 1. a sensuous dance of Middle Eastern origin, performed by women, with undulating movements of the abdomen. ~*vb.* **belly-dance.** 2. (*intr.*) to dance thus. —**belly dancer** *n.*

belly flop *n.* 1. a dive into water in which the body lands horizontally. ~*vb.* **belly-flop, -flopping, -flopped.** 2. (*intr.*) to perform a belly flop.

bellyful ('beli,fʊl) *n.* 1. as much as one wants or can eat. 2. *Sl.* more than one can tolerate.

belly landing *n. Inf.* the landing of an aircraft on its fuselage without use of its landing gear.

belly laugh *n. Inf.* a loud deep hearty laugh.

belong (bi'lɒŋ) *vb. (intr.)* 1. (*foll. by to*) to be the property or possession (of). 2. (*foll. by to*) to be a member (of a club, etc.). 3. (*foll. by to, under, with, etc.*) to be classified (with): *this plant belongs to the daisy family.* 4. (*foll. by to*) to be a part or adjunct (of). 5. to have a proper or usual place. 6. *Inf.* to be acceptable, esp. socially.

belonging (bi'lɒŋɪŋ) *n.* secure relationship; affinity (*used in a sense of belonging*).

belongings (bi'lɒŋɪŋz) *pl. n.* (*sometimes sing.*) the things that a person owns or has with him.

beloved (bi'lʌvɪd, -lʌvd) *adj.* 1. dearly loved. ~*n.* 2. a person who is dearly loved.

below (bi'ləʊ) *prep.* 1. at or to a position lower than; under. 2. less than. 3. south of. 4. downstream of. 5. unworthy of; beneath. ~*adv.* 6. at or to a lower position. 7. at a later place (in something written). 8. *Arch.* on earth or in hell.

belt (belt) *n.* 1. a band of cloth, leather, etc., worn, usually around the waist, to support clothing, carry weapons, etc. or as decoration. 2. a narrow band, circle, or stripe, as of colour. 3. an area where a specific thing is found; zone: *a belt of high pressure.* 4. See **seat belt**. 5. a band of flexible material between rotating shafts or pulleys to transfer motion or transmit goods: *a fan belt; a conveyer belt.* 6. *Inf.* a sharp blow. 7. **below the belt. a.** *Boxing.* below the waist. *b. Inf.* in an unscrupulous or cowardly way. 8. **tighten one's belt.** to take measures to reduce expenditure. 9. **under one's belt. a.** in one's stomach. *b.* as part of one's experience: *he had a degree under his belt.* ~*vb.* 10. (*tr.*) to fasten or attach with or as if with a belt. 11. (*tr.*) to hit with a belt. 12. (*tr.*) *Sl.* to give a sharp blow; punch. 13. (*intr.; often foll. by along*) *Sl.* to move very fast, esp. in a car. 14. (*tr.*) *Rare.* to encircle. —**'belted** *adj.*

Beltane ('beltein, -tən) *n.* an ancient Celtic festival with a sacrificial bonfire on May Day.

belt out *vb. (tr., adv.) Inf.* to sing or emit sound loudly.

belt up *vb. (adv.)* 1. *Sl.* to stop talking; often imperative. 2. to fasten with a belt.

beluga (bi'lʊgə) *n.* 1. a large white sturgeon of the Black and Caspian Seas: a source of caviar and isinglass. 2. another name for **white whale**.

belvedere ('belvi:dɪə, -belvi'diə) *n.* a building, such as a summerhouse, sited to command a fine view.

B.E.M. *abbrev.* for British Empire Medal.

be moan (bi'məʊn) *vb.* to mourn; lament (esp. in **be-moan one's fate**).

bemuse (bi'mju:z) *vb. (tr.)* to confuse; bewilder.

bemused (bi'mju:zd) *adj.* preoccupied; lost in thought.

ben' (ben) *Scot. ~n.* 1. an inner room in a cottage. ~*prep., adv.* 2. in; within; inside. Cf. **but'**.

ben' (ben) *n. Scot., Irish.* a mountain peak: *Ben Lomond*.

bench (bentʃ) *n.* 1. a long seat for more than one person, usually lacking a back. 2. a plain stout work table. 3. the **bench**. (sometimes *cap.*) a. a judge or magistrate sitting in court. b. judges or magistrates collectively. 4. a ledge in a mine or quarry from which work is carried out. 5. a platform on which dogs, etc. are exhibited at shows. 6. *N.Z.* a hollow formed by sheep on a hillside. ~*vb.* (tr.) 7. to provide with benches. 8. to exhibit (a dog, etc.) at a show.

bencher ('bentʃə) *n. (often pl.) Brit.* 1. a member of the governing body of one of the Inns of Court. 2. See **backbencher**.

bench mark *n.* 1. a mark on a stone post or other permanent feature, used as a reference point in surveying. 2. a criterion by which to measure something; reference point.

bend' (bend) *vb.* **bending, bent.** 1. to form or cause to form a curve. 2. to turn or cause to turn from a particular direction: *the road bends left.* 3. (*intr.*; often *fol.* by *down*, etc.) to incline the body; stoop; bow. 4. to submit or cause to submit: *to bend before superior force.* 5. (tr.) to turn or direct (one's eyes, steps, attention, etc.). 6. (tr.) *Naut.* to attach or fasten, as a sail to a boom. 7. **bend the rules.** *Inf.* to ignore rules or change them to suit one's own convenience. ~*n.* 8. a curved part. 9. *Naut.* a knot in a line for joining it to another or to an object. 10. the act of bending. 11. **round the bend.** *Brit. sl. mad.* —'bendable *adj.* —'bendy *adj.*

bend? (bend) *n. Heraldry.* a diagonal line traversing a shield.

bender ('bendə) *n. Inf.* a drinking bout.

bends (bendz) *pl. n. the.* a nontechnical name for decompression sickness.

bend sinister *n. Heraldry.* a diagonal line bisecting a shield from the top right to the bottom left, typically indicating a bastard line.

beneath (bi'ni:θ) *prep.* 1. below, esp. if covered, protected, or obscured by. 2. not as great or good as would be demanded by: *beneath his dignity.* ~*adv.* 3. below; underneath.

Benedictine *n.* 1. (beni'diktɪn, -tɪn) a monk or nun who is a member of the order of Saint Benedict, founded about 540 A.D. 2. (beni'diktɪn) a greenish-yellow liqueur first made at the Benedictine monastery at Fécamp in France in about 1510.

benediction (beni'dɪkʃən) *n.* 1. an invocation of divine blessing. 2. a Roman Catholic service in which the congregation is blessed with the sacrament. 3. the state of being blessed.

Benedictus (beni'dɪktəs) *n. (sometimes not cap.) Christianity.* 1. a canticle beginning *Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini* in Latin and *Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord* in English. 2. a canticle beginning *Benedictus Dominus Deus Israel* in Latin and *Blessed be the Lord God of Israel* in English.

benefaction (beni'fækʃən) *n.* 1. the act of doing good, esp. by giving a donation to charity. 2. the donation or help given.

benefactor (beni'fæktə, beni'fæk-) *n.* a person who supports or helps a person, institution, etc., esp. by giving money. —'bene, factress *fem. n.*

benefice ('benɪfɪs) *n.* 1. *Christianity.* an endowed Church office yielding an income to its holder; a Church living. 2. the property or revenue attached to such an office. —'beneficed *adj.*

beneficent (bi'nefɪsənt) *adj.* charitable; generous. —'neficence *n.*

beneficial (beni'fɪʃəl) *adj.* 1. (sometimes *fol.* by *to*) advantageous. 2. *Law.* entitling a person to receive the profits or proceeds of property.

beneficiary (beni'fɪʃəri) *n. pl. -ciaries.* 1. a person who gains or benefits. 2. *Law.* a person entitled to receive funds or other property under a trust, will, etc. 3. the holder of a benefice. 4. *N.Z.* a person who receives government assistance: *social security beneficiary.* ~*adj.* 5. of or relating to a benefice.

benefit ('benɪfɪt) *n.* 1. something that improves or promotes. 2. advantage or sake. 3. (sometimes *pl.*) a payment or series of payments made by an institution or government to a person who is ill, unemployed, etc. 4. a theatrical performance, sports event, etc., to raise money for a charity. ~*vb.* -fitting, -fited or *U.S.* -fitting, -fitted. 5. to do or receive good; profit.

benefit of clergy *n. Christianity.* 1. sanction by the church: *marriage without benefit of clergy.* 2. (in the

Middle Ages) a privilege that placed the clergy outside the jurisdiction of secular courts.

benefit society *n.* a U.S. term for **friendly society**.

benevolence (bi'nevələns) *n.* 1. inclination to do good; charity. 2. an act of kindness. —'be'nevolent *adj.*

Bengali (ben'gɔ:li, ben-) *n.* 1. a member of a people living chiefly in Bangladesh (a republic in S Asia) and in West Bengal (in NE India). 2. their language. ~*adj.* 3. of or relating to Bengal, the Bengalis, or their language.

Bengal light (ben'gɔ:li, ben-) *n.* a firework or flare that burns with a bright blue light, formerly used as a signal.

benighted (bi'naɪtɪd) *adj.* 1. lacking cultural, moral, or intellectual enlightenment. 2. *Arch.* overtaken by night. —'be'nightedness *n.*

benign (bi'naɪm) *adj.* 1. showing kindness; genial. 2. (of soil, climate, etc.) mild; gentle. 3. favourable; propitious. 4. *Pathol.* (of a tumour, etc.) not malignant. —'be'nignity *adv.*

benignant (bi'nɪgnənt) *adj.* 1. kind; gracious. 2. a less common word for **benign** (senses 3, 4). —'be'nignancy *n.*

benignity (bi'nɪgnɪti) *n. pl. -ties.* 1. the quality of being benign. 2. a kind or gracious act.

benison ('benɪzən, -sən) *n. Arch.* a blessing.

bent' (bent) *adj.* 1. not straight; curved. 2. (*fol.* by *on*) resolved (to); determined (to). 3. *Sl.* a dishonest; corrupt. b. (of goods) stolen. c. crazy. d. sexually deviant. ~*n.* 4. personal inclination or aptitude. 5. capacity of endurance (esp. in to the top of one's bent).

bent? (bent) *n.* any of various wiry low-growing grasses. Also called: **bentgrass**.

Benthamism ('benthəmɪzəm) *n.* the utilitarian philosophy of Jeremy Bentham (1748-1832), English philosopher and jurist, which holds that the ultimate goal of society should be to promote the greatest happiness of the greatest number. —'Benthamite *n., adj.*

bentwood ('bent,wud) *n.* a wood bent in moulds after being heated by steaming, used mainly for furniture. b. (as modifier) a bentwood chair.

benumb (bi'nʌm) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to make numb or powerless; deaden, as by cold. 2. (usually *passive*) to stupefy (the mind, senses, will, etc.).

benzene ('benzɪn, ben'zɪn) *n.* a colourless flammable poisonous liquid used in the manufacture of styrene, phenol, etc., as a solvent for fats, resins, etc., and as an insecticide.

benzine ('benzɪn, ben'zɪn) or **benzin** ('benzɪn) *n.* 1. a volatile mixture of the lighter hydrocarbon constituents of petroleum. 2. *Austral. & N.Z.* a rare name for **petrol**.

benzo- or **benz-** *combining form.* 1. indicating a fused benzene ring. 2. indicating derivation from benzene or benzoic acid or the presence of phenyl groups.

bequeath (bi'kwɪ:ð, -'kwɪ:θ) *vb. (tr.)* 1. *Law.* to dispose of (property) by will. 2. to hand down; pass on. —'queathal *n.* —'be'queather *n.*

bequest (bi'kwɛst) *n.* 1. the act of bequeathing. 2. something that is bequeathed.

berate (bi'reɪt) *vb. (tr.)* to scold harshly.

Berber ('bɜ:bə) *n.* 1. a member of a Caucasoid Muslim people of N Africa. 2. the language of this people. ~*adj.* 3. of or relating to this people or their language.

berberis ('bɜ:bəris) *n.* any of a genus of mainly N temperate shrubs.

berceuse (French ber'sœ:z) *n.* 1. a lullaby. 2. an instrumental piece suggestive of this.

bereave (bi'rɪv) *vb. (tr.)* (usually *fol.* by *of*) to deprive (of) something or someone valued, esp. through death. —'be'reavement *n.*

bereft (bi'reft) *adj.* (usually *fol.* by *of*) deprived; parted (from): *bereft of hope.*

beret ('bereɪ) *n.* a round close-fitting brimless cap.

berg (bɜ:g) *n.* short for **iceberg**.

bergamot ('bɜ:gə,mot) *n.* 1. a small Asian tree having sour pear-shaped fruit. 2. *essence of bergamot.* a fragrant essential oil from the fruit rind of this plant, used in perfumery. 3. a Mediterranean mint that yields a similar oil.

Bergie ('bɜ:gi:) *n. S. African inf.* a vagabond, esp. one living on the slopes of Table Mountain in SW South Africa.

bergwind ('bɜ:kvɪnt) *n.* a hot dry wind in South Africa blowing from the plateau down to the coast.

beriberi (beri'beri) *n.* a disease, endemic in E and S Asia, caused by dietary deficiency of thiamine (vitamin B₁).

berk (bɜ:k) *n. Brit. sl.* a variant spelling of **burk**.

berkelium (bɜ:'ki:lɪəm, 'bɜ:klɪəm) *n.* a radioactive

transuranic element produced by bombardment of americium. Symbol: Bk; atomic no.: 97; half-life of most stable isotope, ²⁴³Bk: 1400 years.

Berks. (bɜːks) *abbrev.* for Berkshire.

Bermuda shorts (bə'mjuːdə) *pl. n.* close-fitting shorts that come down to the knees.

berry ('berɪ) *n., pl. -ries.* 1. any of various small edible fruits such as the blackberry and strawberry. 2. *Bot.* a fruit with two or more seeds and a fleshy pericarp, such as the grape or gooseberry. 3. any of various seeds or dried kernels, such as a coffee bean. 4. the egg of a lobster, crayfish, or similar animal. ~*vb.* -rying, -ried. (*intr.*) 5. to bear or produce berries. 6. to gather or look for berries.

berserk (bə'zɜːk, -'sɜːk) *adj.* 1. frenziedly violent or destructive (esp. in *go berserk*). ~*n.* 2. Also called: **berserker.** one of a class of ancient Norse warriors who fought frenziedly.

berth (bɜːθ) *n.* 1. a bed or bunk in a vessel or train. 2. *Naut.* a place assigned to a ship at a mooring. 3. *Naut.* sufficient room for a ship to manoeuvre. 4. *give a wide berth to*, to keep clear of. 5. *Inf.* a job, esp. as a member of a ship's crew. ~*vb.* 6. (*tr.*) *Naut.* to assign a berth to (a vessel). 7. *Naut.* to dock (a vessel). 8. (*tr.*) to provide with a sleeping place. 9. (*intr.*) *Naut.* to pick up a mooring in an anchorage.

beryl ('berɪl) *n.* a green, blue, yellow, or white hard mineral consisting of beryllium aluminium silicate in hexagonal crystalline form. Emerald and aquamarine are transparent varieties. — **berylite** *adj.*

beryllium (be'rihəm) *n.* a corrosion-resistant toxic silvery-white metallic element used mainly in x-ray windows and alloys. Symbol: Be; atomic no.: 4; atomic wt.: 9.012.

beseech (bi'siːtʃ) *vb.* -seaching, -sought or -seached. (*tr.*) to ask (someone) earnestly (to do something or for something); beg.

beset (bi'set) *vb.* -setting, -set. (*tr.*) 1. (esp. of dangers or temptations) to trouble or harass constantly. 2. to surround or attack from all sides. 3. *Arch.* to cover with, esp. with jewels.

besetting (bi'setɪŋ) *adj.* tempting, harassing, or assailing (esp. in *besetting sin*).

beside (bi'saɪd) *prep.* 1. next to; at, by, or to the side of. 2. as compared with. 3. away from; wide of. 4. *Arch.* besides. 5. **beside oneself.** (*postpositive*; often foll. by *with*) overwhelmed; overwrought: *beside oneself with grief.* ~*adv.* 6. at, by, to, or along the side of something or someone.

besides (bi'saɪdz) *prep.* 1. apart from; even considering. ~ 2. (*sentence connector*) anyway; moreover. ~*adv.* 3. as well.

besiege (bi'siːdʒ) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to surround (a fortified area) with military forces to bring about its surrender. 2. to crowd round; hem in. 3. to overwhelm, as with requests. — **besieger** *n.*

besmirch (bi'smɜːʃ) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to make dirty; soil. 2. to reduce the brightness of. 3. to sully (often in *besmirch a person's name*).

besom ('biːzəm) *n.* 1. a broom, esp. one made of a bundle of twigs tied to a handle. 2. *Arch.* a derogatory term (chiefly N Brit. dialect) for a woman.

besotted (bi'sɒtɪd) *adj.* 1. stupefied with drink. 2. infatuated; doting. 3. foolish; muddled.

besought (bi'sɔːt) *vb.* the past tense or past participle of *beseech*.

bespangle (bi'spæŋɡl) *vb.* (*tr.*) to cover or adorn with or as if with spangles.

bespatter (bi'spɛtə) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to splash, as with dirty water. 2. to defile; besmirch.

bespeak (bi'spiːk) *vb.* -speaking, -spoke; -spoken or -spoke. (*tr.*) 1. to engage or ask for in advance. 2. to indicate or suggest: *this act bespeaks kindness.* 3. *Poetic.* to address.

bespectacled (bi'spektə'kld) *adj.* wearing spectacles.

bespoke (bi'spəʊk) *adj.* *Chiefly Brit.* 1. (of a suit, jacket, etc.) made to the customer's specifications. 2. making or selling such suits, jackets, etc.: *a bespoke tailor.*

Bessemer process ('besɪmə) *n.* a process for producing steel by blowing air through molten pig iron in a **Bessemer converter** (a refractory-lined furnace): impurities are removed and the carbon content is controlled.

best (best) *adj.* 1. the superlative of *good*. 2. most excellent of a particular group, category, etc. 3. most suitable, desirable, etc. 4. **the best part of.** most of. ~*adv.* 5. the superlative of *well*. 6. in a manner

surpassing all others; most excellently, attractively, etc. ~*n.* 7. **the best.** the most outstanding or excellent person, thing, or group in a category. 8. the utmost effort. 9. a winning majority. 10. Also: **all the best.** best wishes. 11. a person's smartest outfit of clothing. 12. **at best.** a. in the most favourable interpretation. b. under the most favourable conditions. 13. **for the best.** a. for an ultimately good outcome. b. with good intentions. 14. **get or have the best of.** to defeat or outwit. 15. **give (someone) the best.** to concede (someone's) superiority. 16. **make the best of.** to cope as well as possible. ~*vb.* 17. (*tr.*) to gain the advantage over or defeat.

bestial ('bestɪəl) *adj.* 1. brutal or savage. 2. sexually depraved. 3. lacking in refinement; brutish. 4. of or relating to a beast. — **bestiality** (,best'iælɪti) *n.* — **bestialize** or **-ise** *vb.*

bestiary ('bestɪəri) *n., pl. -aries.* a moralizing medieval collection of descriptions of real and/or mythical animals.

bestir (bi'stɜː) *vb.* -stirring, -stirred. (*tr.*) to cause (oneself) to become active; rouse.

best man *n.* the (male) attendant of the bridegroom at a wedding.

bestow (bi'stəʊ) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to present (a gift) or confer (an honour). 2. *Arch.* to apply (energy, resources, etc.). 3. *Arch.* to house (a person) or store (goods). — **be'stowel** *n.*

bestrew (bi'struː) *vb.* -strewing, -strewed; -strewn or -strewed. (*tr.*) to scatter or be scattered over (a surface).

bestride (bi'straɪd) *vb.* -striding, -strode or -strid; -stridden or -strid. (*tr.*) 1. to have or put a leg on either side of. 2. to extend across; span. 3. to stride over or across.

best seller *n.* 1. a book or other product that has sold in great numbers. 2. the author of one or more such books, etc.

bet (bet) *n.* 1. an agreement between two parties that a sum of money or other stake will be paid by the loser to the party who correctly predicts the outcome of an event. 2. the stake risked. 3. the predicted result in such an agreement. 4. a person, event, etc., considered as likely to succeed or occur. 5. a course of action (esp. in *one's best bet*). 6. *Inf.* an opinion: *my bet is that you've been up to no good.* ~*vb.* betting, bet or betted. 7. (when *intr.* foll. by *on* or *against*) to make or place a bet with (a person or persons). 8. (*tr.*) to stake (money, etc.) in a bet. 9. (*tr.*; may take a clause as object) *Inf.* to predict (a certain outcome). 10. **you bet.** *Inf.* of course; naturally.

beta ('bi:tə) *n.* 1. the second letter in the Greek alphabet (Β or β). 2. the second in a group or series.

betake (bi'teɪk) *vb.* -taking, -took, -taken. (*tr.*) 1. **betake oneself.** to go; move. 2. *Arch.* to apply (oneself) to.

beta particle *n.* a high-speed electron or positron emitted by a nucleus during radioactive decay or nuclear fission.

betatron ('bi:tə,tron) *n.* a type of particle accelerator for producing high-energy beams of electrons by magnetic induction.

betel ('bi:tɪl) *n.* an Asian climbing plant, the leaves of which are chewed by the peoples of SE Asia.

betel nut *n.* the seed of the betel palm, chewed with betel leaves and lime by people in S and SE Asia as a digestive stimulant and narcotic.

betel palm *n.* a tropical Asian feather palm.

bête noire *French.* (bet 'nwaːr) *n., pl. bêtes noires* (bet 'nwaːr) a person or thing that one particularly dislikes or dreads.

bethink (bi'θɪŋk) *vb.* *Arch. or dialect.* -thinking, -thought. 1. to cause (oneself) to consider or meditate. 2. (*tr.*; often foll. by *on*) to remind (oneself).

betide (bi'taɪd) *vb.* to happen or happen to (often in *woe betide (someone)*).

betimes (bi'taɪmz) *adv.* *Arch.* 1. in good time; early. 2. soon.

betoken (bi'təʊkən) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to indicate; signify. 2. to portend; augur.

betony ('betəni) *n., pl. -nies.* 1. a Eurasian plant with a spike of reddish-purple flowers, formerly used in medicine and dyeing. 2. any of several related plants.

betray (bi'trei) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to hand over or expose (one's nation, friend, etc.) treacherously to an enemy. 2. to disclose (a secret, confidence, etc.) treacherously. 3. to break (a promise) or be disloyal to (a person's trust).

4. to show signs of; indicate. 5. to reveal unintentionally: *his grin betrayed his satisfaction.* —**be'trayal** *n.* —**be'trayer** *n.*

betroth (bi'trəʊð) *vb.* (tr.) *Arch.* to promise to marry or to give in marriage. —**be'trothal** *n.*

betrothed (bi'trəʊðd) *adj.* 1. engaged to be married: *he was betrothed to her.* ~*n.* 2. the person to whom one is engaged; fiancé or fiancée.

better ('betə) *adj.* 1. the comparative of **good**. 2. more excellent than others. 3. more suitable, advantageous, attractive, etc. 4. improved or fully recovered in health. 5. **better off**. in more favourable circumstances, esp. financially. 6. **the better part of**, a large part of. ~*adv.* 7. the comparative of **well**. 8. in a more excellent manner; more advantageously, attractively, etc. 9. in or to a greater degree or extent; more. 10. **had better**. would be wise, sensible, etc. to: *I had better be off.* 11. **think better of**. a. to change one's course of action after reconsideration. b. to rate more highly. ~*n.* 12. **the better**. something that is the more excellent, useful, etc., of two such things. 13. (usually *pl.*) a person who is superior, esp. in social standing or ability. 14. **for the better**. by way of improvement. 15. **get the better of**. to defeat, outwit, or surpass. ~*vb.* 16. to make or become better. 17. (tr.) to improve upon; surpass.

better half *n.* Humorous. one's spouse.

betterment ('betəmənt) *n.* 1. a change for the better; improvement. 2. **Property law**. an improvement effected on real property that enhances the value of the property.

betting shop *n.* (in Britain) a licensed bookmaker's premises not on a racecourse.

between (bi'twi:n) *prep.* 1. at a point or in a region intermediate to two other points in space, times, degrees, etc. 2. in combination; together: *between them, they saved enough money to buy a car.* 3. confined or restricted to: *between you and me.* 4. indicating a reciprocal relation or comparison. 5. indicating two or more alternatives. ~*adv.* also **in between**. 6. between one specified thing and another.

▷ **Usage**. In careful usage, *between* is restricted to cases where only two people, objects, possibilities, etc., are concerned. Grammatically, *between you and I* is incorrect. The proper construction is *between you and me*.

betweentimes (bi'twi:n,tamz) or **betweenwhiles** *adv.* between other activities; during intervals.

betwixt (br'twɪkst) *prep., adv.* 1. *Arch.* another word for **between**. 2. **betwixt and between**. in an intermediate or indecisive position.

bevel ('bev'l) *n.* 1. Also called: **cant**. a surface that meets another at an angle other than a right angle. ~*vb.* -elling, -elled or *U.S.* -eling, -eled. 2. (intr.) to be inclined; slope. 3. (tr.) to cut a bevel on (a piece of timber, etc.).

bevel gear *n.* a gear having teeth cut into a conical surface. Two such gears mesh together to transmit power between two shafts at an angle.

beverage ('bevərɪdʒ, 'bevɪdʒ) *n.* any drink, usually other than water.

beverage room *n.* *Canad.* another name for **beer parlour**.

bevvy ('bevɪ) *n., pl.* -vies. *Dial.* 1. a drink, esp. an alcoholic one. 2. a night of drinking.

bevy ('bevɪ) *n., pl.* **beviess**. 1. a flock of quails. 2. a group, esp. of girls.

bewail (bi'weɪl) *vb.* to express great sorrow over (a person or thing); lament. —**be'wailer** *n.*

beware (bi'weə) *vb.* (usually used in the imperative or infinitive, often foll. by *of*) to be cautious or wary (of); be on one's guard (against).

bewilder (bi'wɪldə) *vb.* (tr.) to confuse utterly; puzzle. —**be'wilderingly** *adv.* —**be'wildernment** *n.*

bewitch (bi'wɪtʃ) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to attract and fascinate. 2. to cast a spell over. —**be'witching** *adj.*

bey (beɪ) *n.* 1. (in the Ottoman Empire) a title given to provincial governors. 2. (in modern Turkey) a title of address, corresponding to *Mr.* ~Also called: **beg**.

beyond (bi'jɒnd) *prep.* 1. at or to a point on the other side of; at or to the further side of: *beyond those hills.* 2. outside the limits or scope of. ~*adv.* 3. at or to the other or far side of something. 4. outside the limits of something. ~*n.* 5. **the beyond**. the unknown, esp. life after death in certain religious beliefs.

bezel ('beɪz'l) *n.* 1. the sloping face adjacent to the working edge of a cutting tool. 2. the upper oblique faces of a cut gem. 3. a grooved ring or part holding a gem, watch crystal, etc.

bezique (bi'zɪk) *n.* 1. a card game for two or more players using two packs with nothing below a seven. 2. (in this game) the queen of spades and jack of diamonds declared together.

b.f. *abbrev. for:* 1. *Brit. inf.* bloody fool. 2. *Printing.* bold face.

B/F or b/f *Book-keeping. abbrev. for* brought forward.

BFPO *abbrev. for* British Forces Post Office.

bhang or **bang** (bæŋ) *n.* a preparation of the leaves and flower tops of Indian hemp: a narcotic much used in India.

bhindi ('bɪndɪ) *n.* the okra as used in Indian cooking.

b.h.p. *abbrev. for* brake horsepower.

Bi *the chemical symbol for* bismuth.

bi- or sometimes before a vowel **bin-** combining form.

1. two; having two: **bifocal**. 2. occurring every two; lasting for two: **biennial**. 3. on both sides, directions, etc.: **bilateral**. 4. occurring twice during: **biweekly**. 5. a. denoting a compound containing two identical cyclic hydrocarbon systems: **biphenyl**. b. (rare in technical usage) indicating an acid salt of a dibasic acid: **sodium bicarbonate**. c. (not in technical usage) equivalent of **di-** (sense 2).

▷ **Usage**. In order to avoid ambiguity, care should be taken in observing the distinction between **bi-** and **semi-** in **biweekly**, **bimonthly**, **biyearly** (once in two weeks, months, years) and **semiweekly**, **semimonthly**, **semiyearly** (twice during one week, month, year). In strict usage, **biennial** (lasting or occurring once in two years) is distinguished from **biannual** (occurring twice in one year).

biannual (baɪ'ænjʊəl) *adj.* occurring twice a year. Cf. **biennial**. —**bi'annually** *adv.*

bias ('baɪəs) *n.* 1. mental tendency or inclination, esp. irrational preference or prejudice. 2. a diagonal line or cut across the weave of a fabric. 3. **Electronics**. the voltage applied to an electrode of a transistor or valve to establish suitable working conditions. 4. **Bowls**. a. a bulge or weight inside one side of a bowl. b. the curved course of such a bowl. 5. **Statistics**. a latent influence that disturbs an analysis. ~*adv.* 6. obliquely; diagonally. ~*vb.* -asing, -ased or -assing, -assed. 7. (tr.: usually passive) to cause to have a bias; prejudice; influence.

bias binding *n.* a strip of material cut on the bias, used for binding hems or for decoration.

biaxial (baɪ'æksɪəl) *adj.* (esp. of a crystal) having two axes.

bib (bɪb) *n.* 1. a piece of cloth or plastic worn, esp. by babies, to protect their clothes while eating. 2. the upper front part of some aprons, dungarees, etc. 3. Also called: **pout**, **whiting pout**. a light-brown European marine gadoid food fish with a barbel on its lower jaw. 4. **stick one's bib in**. *Austral. inf.* to interfere. ~*vb.* **bibbing**, **bibbed**. 5. *Arch.* to drink (something).

Bib. *abbrev. for:* 1. Bible. 2. Biblical.

bibcock ('bɪb,kɒk) or **bibb** *n.* a tap with a nozzle bent downwards.

bibelot ('bɪbləʊ) *n.* an attractive or curious trinket.

bibl. *abbrev. for:* 1. bibliographical. 2. bibliography.

Bibl. *abbrev. for* Biblical.

Bible ('baɪb'l) *n.* 1. a. the sacred writings of the Christian religion, comprising the Old and New Testaments. b. (as modifier): a **Bible reading**. 2. (often not cap.) the sacred writings of a religion. 3. (usually not cap.) a book regarded as authoritative. —**biblical** ('bɪblɪk'l) *adj.*

biblio- combining form. indicating book or books: **bibliography**.

bibliography ('bɪblɪ'ɒgrəfi) *n., pl.* -phies. 1. a list of books on a subject or by a particular author. 2. a list of sources used in a book, thesis, etc. 3. a. the study of the history, classification, etc., of literary material. b. a work on this subject. —**bibli'ographer** *n.* —**bibliograph-ic** ('bɪblɪ'ɒgrəfɪk) or **biblio'graphical** *adj.*

bibliomania ('bɪblɪ'ɒmənɪə) *n.* extreme fondness for books. —**biblio'maniac** *n., adj.*

biophilophile ('bɪblɪ'ɒfɪl) or **bibliophil** ('bɪblɪ'ɒfɪl) *n.* a person who collects or is fond of books. —**bibliophilism** ('bɪblɪ'ɒfɪlɪzəm) *n.* —**bibli,ophi'listic** *adj.*

bibulous ('bɪbjʊləs) *adj.* addicted to alcohol. —**bibu-lously** *adv.* —**bibulousness** *n.*

bicameral (baɪ'kæməərəl) *adj.* (of a legislature) consisting of two chambers. —**bi'cameralism** *n.*

bicarb ('baɪkɑ:b) *n.* short for **bicarbonate of soda**.

bicarbonate (baɪ'kɑ:bənt, -nɛt) *n.* a salt of carbonic acid.

bicarbonate of soda *n.* sodium bicarbonate, esp. as medicine or a raising agent in baking.

bicentenary (ˌbaɪsənˈtɛnəri) or **U.S. bicentennial** (ˌbaɪsənˈtɛniəl) *adj.* 1. marking a 200th anniversary. 2. occurring every 200 years. 3. lasting 200 years. ~*n.*, *pl.* -*naries*. 4. a 200th anniversary.

biceps (ˈbaɪsɛps) *n.*, *pl.* -*ceps* or -*cespes*. *Anat.* any muscle having two heads or origins, esp. the muscle that flexes the forearm.

bicker (ˈbɪkə) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to argue over petty matters; squabble. 2. (*intr.*) *Poetic.* a. (esp. of a stream) to run quickly. *b.* to flicker; glitter. ~*n.* 3. a squabble. —'bickering *n.*

bicolour (ˈbaɪˌkʌlə), **bicoloured** or **U.S. bicolor**, **bicolored** *adj.* two-coloured.

bicuspid (baɪˈkʌspɪd) or **bicuspidate** (baɪˈkʌspɪˌdeɪt) *adj.* 1. having two cusps or points. ~*n.* 2. a bicuspid tooth; premolar.

bicycle (ˈbaɪsɪkl̩) *n.* 1. a vehicle with a tubular metal frame mounted on two spoked wheels, one behind the other. The rider sits on a saddle, propels the vehicle by means of pedals and steers with handlebars on the front wheel. Often shortened to **bike** (informal), **cycle**. ~*vb.* 2. (*intr.*) to ride a bicycle; cycle. —'bicyclist or 'bicycler *n.*

bid (bɪd) *vb.* **bidding**; **bad**, **bade**, or **bid**; **bidden** or **bid**. 1. (often foll. by *for* or *against*) to offer (an amount) in attempting to buy something. 2. (*tr.*) to say (a greeting, etc.): to bid farewell. 3. to order; command: *do as you are bid!* 4. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *for*) to attempt to attain power, etc. 5. (*tr.*) to utter; express in words: to bid defiance. 6. *Bridge*, etc. to declare before play how many tricks one expects to make. 7. *bid fair*, to seem probable. ~*n.* 8. a. an offer of a specified amount. *b.* the price offered. 9. a. the quoting by a seller of a price. *b.* the price quoted. 10. an attempt, esp. to attain power. 11. *Bridge*, etc. a. the number of tricks a player undertakes to make. *b.* a player's turn to make a bid. —'bidder *n.*

▷ **Usage.** *Bid* in journalistic usage has become a noun used to refer to any kind of attempt to achieve something: *bid to climb Everest*; *doctor makes bid to save life*. This use of *bid* is avoided by careful writers, however, and the word is restricted to the sense of an offer of a price: *the auctioneer accepted a bid of 3000 pounds*.

biddable (ˈbɪdəbəl) *adj.* 1. having sufficient value to be bid on, as a hand at bridge. 2. docile; obedient. —'biddableness *n.*

bidding (ˈbɪdɪŋ) *n.* 1. an order; command. 2. an invitation; summons. 3. bids or the act of making bids.

biddy¹ (ˈbɪdi) *n.*, *pl.* -*dies*. a dialect word for **chicken** or **hen**.

biddy² (ˈbɪdi) *n.*, *pl.* -*dies*. *Inf.* a woman, esp. an old gossiping one.

bide (baɪd) *vb.* **biding**, **bided** or **bode**, **bided**. 1. (*intr.*) *Arch.* or *dialect* to continue in a certain place or state; stay. 2. (*tr.*) *Arch.* or *dialect* to tolerate; endure. 3. **bide one's time**, to wait patiently for an opportunity.

bidet (ˈbɪdeɪ) *n.* a small low basin for washing the genital area.

biennial (baɪˈɛniəl) *adj.* 1. occurring every two years. 2. lasting two years. Cf. **biannual**. ~*n.* 3. a plant that completes its life cycle in two years. 4. an event that takes place every two years. —bi'ennially *adv.*

bier (bɪə) *n.* a platform or stand on which a corpse or a coffin containing a corpse rests before burial.

biff (bɪf) *Sl.* ~*n.* 1. a blow with the fist. ~*vb.* 2. (*tr.*) to give (someone) such a blow.

bifid (ˈbaɪfɪd) *adj.* divided into two lobes by a median cleft. —bi'fidity *n.* —'bifidly *adv.*

bifocal (baɪˈfəʊkəl) *adj.* 1. *Optics.* having two different focuses. 2. relating to a compound lens permitting near and distant vision.

bifocals (baɪˈfəʊkəlz) *pl. n.* a pair of spectacles with bifocal lenses.

bifurcate *vb.* (ˈbaɪfəˌkeɪt). 1. to fork or divide into two branches. ~*adj.* (ˈbaɪfəˌkeɪt, -kɪt). 2. forked or divided into two branches. —bifur'cation *n.*

big (bɪɡ) *adj.* **bigger**, **biggest**. 1. of great or considerable size, height, weight, number, power, or capacity. 2. having great significance; important. 3. important through having power, influence, wealth, authority, etc. 4. *Inf.* considerable in extent or intensity (esp. in *in a big way*). 5. a. elder: *my big brother*. *b.* grown-up. 6. a. generous; magnanimous: *that's very big of you*. *b.* (in combination): *big-hearted*. 7. extravagant; boastful: *big talk*. 8. *too big for one's boots or breeches*, conceited;

unduly self-confident. 9. in an advanced stage of pregnancy (esp. in **big with child**). ~*adv. Inf.* 10. boastfully; pretentiously (esp. in **talk big**). 11. in an exceptional way; well: *his talk went over big*. 12. on a grand scale (esp. in **think big**). —'bigness *n.*

bigamy (ˈbɪɡəmi) *n.*, *pl.* -*mies*. the crime of marrying a person while still legally married to someone else. —'bigamist *n.* —'bigamous *adj.*

big-bang theory *n.* a cosmological theory postulating that all the matter of the universe was hurled in all directions by a cataclysmic explosion and that the universe is still expanding.

Big Brother *n.* a person, organization, etc., that exercises total dictatorial control.

big business *n.* large commercial organizations collectively, esp. when considered as exploitative or socially harmful.

big deal *interj. Sl.* an exclamation of scorn, derision, etc., used esp. to belittle a claim or offer.

big end *n. Brit.* the larger end of a connecting rod in an internal-combustion engine.

big game *n.* large animals that are hunted or fished for sport.

bight (baɪt) *n.* 1. a wide indentation of a shoreline, or the body of water bounded by such a curve. 2. the slack middle part or loop in a rope.

Bight (baɪt) *n. the.* the major indentation of the S coast of Australia. In full: the **Great Australian Bight**.

bignonia (bɪɡˈnəʊniə) *n.* a tropical American climbing shrub cultivated for its trumpet-shaped yellow or reddish flowers.

bigot (ˈbɪɡət) *n.* a person who is intolerant, esp. regarding religion, politics, or race. —'bigoted *adj.* —'bigotry *n.*

big shot *n. Sl.* an important person.

big stick *n. Inf.* force or the threat of force.

big time *n. Sl. a. the.* the highest level of a profession, esp. entertainment. *b.* (as modifier): a *big-time comedian*. —'big-timer *n.*

big top *n. Inf.* 1. the main tent of a circus. 2. the circus itself.

bigwig (ˈbɪɡ,wɪɡ) *n. Sl.* an important person.

bijou (ˈbiːʒuː) *n.*, *pl.* -*joux* (-ʒuːz). 1. something small and delicately worked. 2. (modifier) Often ironic. small but tasteful: a *bijou residence*.

bike (baɪk) *n.* 1. *Inf.* short for **bicycle** or **motorcycle**. 2. *Austral. sl.* a promiscuous woman. 3. *get off one's bike*, *Austral.* to lose one's self-control. ~*vb.* 4. to ride a bike.

bikini (baɪˈkɪni) *n.* a woman's very brief two-piece swimming costume.

bilateral (baɪˈlætərəl) *adj.* 1. having or involving two sides. 2. affecting or undertaken by two parties; mutual. 3. having identical sides or parts on each side of an axis; symmetrical.

bilberry (ˈbɪlbəri) *n.*, *pl.* -*ries*. 1. any of several shrubs, such as the whortleberry, having edible blue or blackish berries. 2. the fruit of any of these plants.

bile (baɪl) *n.* 1. a bitter greenish to golden brown alkaline fluid secreted by the liver and stored in the gall bladder. It aids digestion of fats. 2. a health disorder due to faulty secretion of bile. 3. irritability or peevishness.

bilge (bɪldʒ) *n.* 1. *Naut.* the parts of a vessel's hull where the sides curve inwards to form the bottom. 2. (*often pl.*) the parts of a vessel between the lowermost floorboards and the bottom. 3. Also called: **bilge water**, the dirty water that collects in a vessel's bilge. 4. *Inf.* silly rubbish; nonsense. 5. the widest part of a cask. ~*vb.* 6. (*intr.*) *Naut.* (of a vessel) to take in water at the bilge. 7. (*tr.*) *Naut.* to damage (a vessel) in the bilge.

bilialy (ˈbɪliəri) *adj.* of or relating to bile, to the ducts that convey bile, or to the gall bladder.

bilingual (baɪˈlɪŋɡwəl) *adj.* 1. able to speak two languages, esp. with fluency. 2. expressed in two languages. ~*n.* 3. a bilingual person.

bilingualism (baɪˈlɪŋɡwɪzəm) *n.* 1. the ability to use two languages. 2. the use of two languages. 3. *Canad.* the government's official policy of using both French and English in official documents, etc.

bilious (ˈbɪliəs) *adj.* 1. of or relating to bile. 2. affected with or denoting any disorder related to secretion of bile. 3. *Inf.* bad-tempered; irritable. —'biliousness *n.*

bilk (bɪlk) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to balk; thwart. 2. (often foll. by *of*) to cheat or deceive, esp. to avoid making payment to. 3. to escape from; elude. ~*n.* 4. a swindle or cheat. 5. a person who swindles or cheats. —'bilker *n.*

bill (bɪl) *n.* 1. money owed for goods or services supplied. 2. a statement of money owed. 3. *Chiefly Brit.*

such an account for food and drink in a restaurant, hotel, etc. 4. any list of items, events, etc., such as a theatre programme. 5. **fill the bill.** *Inf.* to be entirely satisfactory. 6. a statute in draft, before it becomes law. 7. a printed notice or advertisement. 8. *U.S.* a piece of paper money; note. 9. an obsolete name for **promissory note**. 10. See **bill of exchange, bill of fare**. ~*vb.* (tr.) 11. to send or present an account for payment to (a person). 12. to enter (items, goods, etc.) on an account or statement. 13. to advertise by posters. 14. to schedule as a future programme.

bill' (bil) *n.* 1. the projecting jaws of a bird, covered with a horny sheath; beak. 2. any beaklike mouthpart in other animals. 3. a narrow promontory. ~*vb.* (intr.) (esp. in **bill and coo**). 4. (of birds, esp. doves) to touch bills together. 5. (of lovers) to kiss and whisper amorously.

bill' (bil) *n.* 1. a hooked weapon with a long handle, such as a halberd. 2. short for **billhook**.

billabong ('biləbɒŋ) *n.* *Austral.* 1. a stagnant pool in the bed of an intermittent stream. 2. a branch of a river running to a dead end.

billboard ('bilbɔ:d) *n.* *Chiefly U.S.* another name for **hoarding**.

billet' ('bilit) *n.* 1. accommodation, esp. for a soldier, in civilian lodgings. 2. the official requisition for such lodgings. 3. a space or berth in a ship. 4. *Inf.* a job. ~*vb.* 5. (tr.) to assign a lodging to (a soldier). 6. to lodge or be lodged.

billet' ('bilit) *n.* 1. a chunk of wood, esp. for fuel. 2. a small bar of iron or steel.

billet-doux ('bili'du:z) *n., pl. billets-doux* ('bili'du:z). *Old-fashioned or jocular.* a love letter.

billhook ('bil,hʊk) *n.* a tool with a curved blade terminating in a hook, used for pruning, chopping, etc. Also called: **bill**.

billiard ('biljəd) *n.* (*modifier*) of or relating to billiards: a **billiard table**; a **billiard cue**.

billiards ('biljədz) *n.* any of various games in which long cues are used to drive balls on a rectangular table covered with a smooth cloth and having raised cushioned edges.

billion ('biljən) *n., pl. -lions or -lion.* 1. (in Britain) one million million: written as 1 000 000 000 000 or 10^{12} . *U.S.* word: **trillion**. 2. (in the U.S. and increasingly in Britain and elsewhere) one thousand million: written as 1 000 000 000 or 10^9 . 3. (*often pl.*) any exceptionally large number. ~*determiner*. 4. (preceded by a or a cardinal number) amounting to a billion. —'billionth *adj., n.*

billionaire ('biljə'neə) *n.* a person whose wealth exceeds a billion monetary units of his country.

bill of attainder *n.* (formerly) a legislative act finding a person guilty without trial of treason or felony and declaring him attainted.

bill of exchange *n.* (now chiefly in foreign transactions) a document, usually negotiable, instructing a third party to pay a stated sum at a designated future date or on demand.

bill of fare *n.* another name for **menu**.

bill of health *n.* 1. a certificate that attests to the health of a ship's company. 2. **clean bill of health.** *Inf.* a. a good report of one's physical condition. b. a favourable account of a person's or a company's financial position.

bill of lading *n.* (in foreign trade) a document containing full particulars of goods shipped.

bill of sale *n.* *Law.* a deed transferring personal property.

billow ('biləu) *n.* 1. a large sea wave. 2. a swelling or surging mass, as of smoke or sound. ~*vb.* 3. to rise up, swell out, or cause to rise up or swell out. —'billowy *adj.* —'billowness *n.*

billy ('bili) or **billycan** ('bili,kæn) *n., pl. -lies or -lycans.* 1. a metal can or pot for boiling water, etc., over a camp fire. 2. *Austral. & N.Z.* (*as modifier*): **billy-tea**. 3. **boil the billy.** *Austral. inf.* to make tea.

billy goat *n.* a male goat.

biltong ('bil,tɒŋ) *n.* *S. African.* strips of meat dried and cured in the sun.

B.I.M. *abbrev.* for British Institute of Management.

bimetallic ('baimi'tælik) *adj.* 1. consisting of two metals. 2. of or based on bimetalism.

bimetalism ('baimetə,lizəm) *n.* the use of two metals, esp. gold and silver, in fixed relative values as the standard of value and currency. —'bi'metallist *n.*

bimonthly ('baimənθli) *adj., adv.* 1. every two months.

2. twice a month; semimonthly. ~*n., pl. -lies.* 3. a periodical published every two months.

bin (bin) *n.* 1. a large container for storing something in bulk, such as coal, grain, or bottled wine. 2. Also called: **bread bin**, a small container for bread. 3. Also called: **dustbin, rubbish bin**, a container for rubbish, etc. ~*vb.* **binning, binned.** 4. (tr.) to store in a bin.

binary ('baɪnəri) *adj.* 1. composed of or involving two; dual. 2. *Maths., computers.* of or expressed in binary notation or binary code. 3. (of a compound or molecule) containing atoms of two different elements. ~*n., pl. -ries.* 4. something composed of two parts. 5. Also called: **binary number.** *Maths.* a number expressed in binary notation. 6. *Astron.* See **binary star**.

binary star *n.* a double star system containing two associated stars revolving around a common centre of gravity in different orbits.

bind (baɪnd) *vb.* **binding, bound.** 1. to make or become fast or secure with or as if with a tie or band. 2. (tr.; often foll. by *up*) to encircle or enclose with a band: *to bind the hair*. 3. (tr.) to place (someone) under obligation; oblige. 4. (tr.) to impose legal obligations or duties upon (a person). 5. (tr.) to make (a bargain, agreement, etc.) irrevocable; seal. 6. (tr.) to restrain or confine with or as if with ties, as of responsibility or loyalty. 7. (tr.) to place under certain constraints; govern. 8. (tr.; often foll. by *up*) to bandage. 9. to cohere or cause to cohere: *egg binds fat and flour*. 10. to make or become compact, stiff, or hard: *frost binds the earth*. 11. (tr.) to enclose and fasten (the pages of a book) between covers. 12. (tr.) to provide (a garment, hem, etc.) with a border or edging. 13. (tr.; sometimes foll. by *out* or *over*) to employ as an apprentice; indenture. 14. (intr.) *Sl.* to complain. ~*n.* 15. something that binds. 16. *Inf.* a difficult or annoying situation. ~See also **bind over**.

binder ('baɪnda) *n.* 1. a firm cover or folder for holding loose sheets of paper together. 2. a material used to bind separate particles together. 3. a person who binds books; bookbinder. 4. something used to fasten or tie, such as rope or twine. 5. Also called: **reaper binder**. *Obs.* a machine for cutting grain and binding it into sheaves. 6. an informal agreement giving insurance coverage pending formal issue of a policy.

bindery ('baɪndəri) *n., pl. -eries.* a place in which books are bound.

binding ('baɪndɪŋ) *n.* 1. anything that binds or fastens. 2. the covering within which the pages of a book are bound. 3. the tape used for binding hems, etc. ~*adj.* 4. imposing an obligation or duty. 5. causing hindrance; restrictive.

bind over *vb.* (tr., adv.) to place (a person) under a legal obligation, such as one to keep the peace.

bindweed ('baɪnd,wɪd) *n.* any of various plants that twine around a support. See also **convolvulus**.

bine (baɪn) *n.* the climbing or twining stem of any of various plants, such as the woodbine or bindweed.

binge (bɪndʒ) *n. Inf.* 1. a bout of excessive drinking. 2. excessive indulgence in anything.

bingo ('bɪŋɡəʊ) *n.* a gambling game, usually played with several people, in which random numbers are called out and the players cover the numbers on their individual cards. The first to cover a given arrangement of numbers is the winner.

binacle ('bɪnəkl̩) *n.* a housing for a ship's compass.

binocular ('bɪnɒkjʊlə, baɪ-) *adj.* involving, relating to, seeing with or intended for both eyes: **binocular vision**.

binoculars ('bɪnɒkjʊləz, baɪ-) *pl. n.* an optical instrument for use with both eyes, consisting of two small telescopes joined together.

binomial ('baɪ'nɒmɪəl) *n.* 1. a mathematical expression consisting of two terms, such as $3x + 2y$. 2. a two-part taxonomic name for an animal or plant indicating genus and species. ~*adj.* 3. referring to two names or terms. —'bi'nomially *adv.*

binomial theorem *n.* a general mathematical formula that expresses any power of a binomial without multiplying out, as in $(a+b)^2 = a^2 + 2ab + b^2$.

bint (bɪnt) *n. Sl.* a derogatory term for **girl** or **woman**.

bio- or before a vowel **bi-** *combining form.* indicating life or living organisms: **biography**; **biogenesis**.

bioastronautics ('baɪəʊ,æstrə'nɔ:tiks) *n.* (*functioning as sing.*) the study of the effects of space flight on living organisms.

biochemistry ('baɪəʊ'kemɪstri) *n.* the study of the chemical compounds, reactions, etc., occurring in living organisms. —'biochemical ('baɪəʊ'kemɪkəl) *adj.* —'bio-chemist *n.*

biocoenosis (ˌbaɪəʊsɪˈnəʊsɪs) *n.* the relationships between animals and plants subsisting together.

biodegradable (ˌbaɪəʊdɪˈɡreɪdəbəl) *adj.* (of sewage, packaging, etc.) capable of being decomposed by bacteria or other biological means.

bioengineering (ˌbaɪəʊˌendʒɪˈnɪərɪŋ) *n.* 1. the design and manufacture of aids, such as artificial limbs, to rectify defective body functions. 2. the design, manufacture, and maintenance of engineering equipment used in biosynthetic processes. — **bio,engi'neer** *n.*

biofeedback (ˌbaɪəʊˈfiːd,bæk) *n.* *Physiol., psychol.* a technique for controlling autonomic functions, such as the rate of heartbeat or breathing, by concentrating on the desired effect.

biogenesis (ˌbaɪəʊˈdʒenɪsɪs) *n.* the principle that a living organism must originate from a parent organism similar to itself. — **bioge'netic** or **bioge'netical** *adj.*

biography (baɪˈɒɡrəfi) *n., pl. -phies.* 1. an account of a person's life by another. 2. such accounts collectively. — **bi'ographer** *n.* — **biographical** (ˌbaɪəˈɡræfɪkəl) *adj.*

biol. abbrev. for: 1. biological. 2. biology.

biological (ˌbaɪəʊˈlɒdʒɪkəl) *adj.* 1. of or relating to biology. ~ *n.* 2. (usually *pl.*) a drug derived from a living organism.

biological clock *n.* 1. an inherent periodicity in the physiological processes of living organisms that is independent of external periodicity. 2. the hypothetical mechanism responsible for this. ~ See also **circadian**.

biological control *n.* the control of destructive organisms by nonchemical means, such as introducing the natural enemy of a pest.

biological warfare *n.* the use of living organisms or their toxic products to induce death or incapacity in humans.

biology (baɪˈɒlədʒi) *n.* 1. the study of living organisms. 2. the animal and plant life of a particular region. — **bi'ologist** *n.*

biomedicine (ˌbaɪəʊˈmedɪsɪn) *n.* the medical and biological study of the effects of unusual environmental stress, esp. in connection with space travel.

bionic (baɪˈɒnɪk) *adj.* 1. of or relating to bionics. 2. (in science fiction) having physiological functions augmented by electronic equipment.

bionics (baɪˈɒnɪks) *n.* (*functioning as sing.*) the study of certain biological functions that are applicable to the development of electronic equipment designed to operate similarly.

biophysics (ˌbaɪəʊˈfɪzɪks) *n.* (*functioning as sing.*) the physics of biological processes and the application of methods used in physics to biology. — **bio'physical** *adj.* — **bio'physically** *adv.* — **biophysicist** (ˌbaɪəʊˈfɪzɪsɪst) *n.*

biopsy (ˈbaɪəʊpsɪ) *n., pl. -sies.* examination, esp. under a microscope, of tissue from a living body to determine the cause or extent of a disease.

biorhythm (ˌbaɪəʊˈrɪðm) *n.* a complex repeated pattern of physiological states, believed to affect a person's physical, emotional, or mental states and behaviour.

bioscope (ˈbaɪəʊˌskəʊp) *n.* 1. a kind of early film projector. 2. a South African word for **cinema**.

bioscopy (baɪˈɒskəpi) *n., pl. -pies.* examination of a body to determine whether it is alive.

biosphere (ˈbaɪəʊˌsfɪə) *n.* the part of the earth's surface and atmosphere inhabited by living things.

biosynthesis (ˌbaɪəʊˈsɪnθɪsɪs) *n.* the formation of complex compounds from simple substances by living organisms. — **biosynthetic** (ˌbaɪəʊsɪnˈθetɪk) *adj.*

biotin (ˈbaɪəʊtɪn) *n.* a vitamin of the B complex, abundant in egg yolk and liver.

bipartisan (ˌbaɪpɑːtɪˈzæn, baɪˈpɑːtɪˌzæn) *adj.* consisting of or supported by two or more political parties. — **bi-parti'sanship** *n.*

bipartite (baɪˈpɑːtɪt) *adj.* 1. consisting of or having two parts. 2. affecting or made by two parties. 3. *Bot.* (esp. of some leaves) divided into two parts almost to the base. — **bi'partitely** *adv.* — **bipartition** (ˌbaɪpɑːtɪˈʃən) *n.*

biped (ˈbaɪpɛd) *n.* 1. any animal with two feet. ~ *adj.* also **bipedal** (baɪˈpɪdəl, ˈpɛdəl). 2. having two feet.

biplane (ˈbaɪˌpleɪn) *n.* a type of aeroplane having two sets of wings, one above the other.

bipolar (baɪˈpɒlə) *adj.* 1. having two poles: a *bipolar* dynamo. 2. of or relating to the North and South Poles. 3. having or characterized by two opposed opinions, etc. 4. (of a transistor) utilizing both majority and minority charge carriers. — **bipo'larly** *n.*

birch (bɜːtʃ) *n.* 1. any catkin-bearing tree or shrub having thin peeling bark. See also **silver birch**. 2. the

hard close-grained wood of any of these trees. 3. *the* **birch**, a bundle of birch twigs or a birch rod used, esp. formerly, for flogging offenders. ~ *adj.* 4. consisting or made of birch. ~ *vb.* 5. (*tr.*) to flog with a birch. — **birchen** *adj.*

bird (bɜːd) *n.* 1. any warm-blooded egg-laying vertebrate, characterized by a body covering of feathers and forelimbs modified as wings. 2. *Inf.* a person, as in **rare bird**, **odd bird**, **clever bird**. 3. *Sl., chiefly Brit.* a girl or young woman. 4. *Sl.* prison or a term in prison (esp. in **do bird**). 5. a **bird in the hand**, something definite or certain. 6. **birds of a feather**. *Often derog.* people with characteristics, ideas, interests, etc., in common. 7. **get the bird**. *Inf.* a. to be fired or dismissed. b. (esp. of a public performer) to be hissed at. 8. **kill two birds with one stone**, to accomplish two things at the same time. 9. (*strictly*) **for the birds**. *Inf.* deserving of disdain or contempt; not important.

birdbath (ˈbɜːd,bæθ) *n.* a small basin or trough for birds to bathe in, usually in a garden.

bird call *n.* 1. the characteristic call or song of a bird. 2. an imitation of this.

birdie (ˈbɜːdi) *n.* 1. *Golf.* a score of one stroke under par for a hole. 2. *Inf.* a bird, esp. a small bird.

birdlime (ˈbɜːd,laim) *n.* 1. a sticky substance smeared on twigs to catch small birds. ~ *vb.* 2. (*tr.*) to smear (twigs) with birdlime to catch (small birds).

bird of paradise *n.* 1. any of various songbirds of New Guinea and neighbouring regions, the males having brilliantly coloured plumage. 2. **bird-of-paradise flower**, any of various plants native to tropical southern Africa and South America that have purple bracts and large orange or yellow flowers resembling birds' heads.

bird of passage *n.* 1. a bird that migrates seasonally. 2. a transient person.

bird of prey *n.* a bird, such as a hawk or owl, that hunts other animals for food.

birdseed (ˈbɜːd,sɪd) *n.* a mixture of various kinds of seeds for feeding cage birds.

bird's-eye *adj.* 1. a. seen or photographed from high above. b. summarizing (esp. in **bird's-eye view**). 2. having markings resembling birds' eyes. ~ *n.* 3. a pattern in linen and cotton fabrics, made up of small diamond shapes with a dot in the centre of each.

biretta or **berretta** (bɪˈretə) *n.* R.C. Church. a stiff square clerical cap.

biriani (bɪˈriːəni) *n.* an Indian dish made with rice, highly flavoured and coloured, mixed with meat or fish.

Biro (ˈbaɪəʊ) *n., pl. -ros.* Trademark, *Brit.* a kind of ballpoint.

birth (bɜːθ) *n.* 1. the process of bearing young; childbirth. 2. the act or fact of being born; nativity. 3. the coming into existence of something; origin. 4. ancestry; lineage: of *high birth*. 5. natural or inherited talent: *an artist by birth*. 6. **give birth (to)**. a. to bear or bring forth (offspring). b. to produce or create (an idea, plan, etc.). ~ *vb.* (*tr.*) *Rare.* 7. to bear or bring forth (a child).

birth certificate *n.* an official form giving details of the time and place of a person's birth.

birth control *n.* limitation of childbearing by means of contraception.

birthday (ˈbɜːθ,deɪ) *n.* 1. a. an anniversary of the day of one's birth. b. (*as modifier*): *birthday present*. 2. the day on which a person was born.

birthmark (ˈbɜːθ,mɑːk) *n.* a blemish on the skin formed before birth; naevus.

birthplace (ˈbɜːθ,pleɪs) *n.* the place where someone was born or where something originated.

birth rate *n.* the ratio of live births in a specified area, group, etc., to population, usually expressed per 1000 population per year.

birthright (ˈbɜːθ,raɪt) *n.* 1. privileges or possessions that a person has or is believed to be entitled to as soon as he is born. 2. the privileges or possessions of a first-born son. 3. inheritance.

birthstone (ˈbɜːθ,stəʊn) *n.* a precious or semiprecious stone associated with a month or sign of the zodiac and thought to bring luck if worn by a person born in that month.

biscuit (ˈbɪskɪt) *n.* 1. *Brit.* a small flat dry sweet or plain cake of many varieties. U.S. word: **cookie**. 2. a pale brown or yellowish-grey colour. 3. Also called: **bisque**, earthenware or porcelain that has been fired but not glazed. 4. **take the biscuit**. *Brit.* to be regarded (by the speaker) as most surprising.

bisect (baɪˈsekt) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) *Maths.* to divide into two

equal parts. **2.** to cut or split into two. —**bisection** (baɪˈseksjən) *n.*

bisexual (baɪˈseksjuəl) *adj.* **1.** sexually attracted by both men and women. **2.** showing characteristics of both sexes. **3.** of or relating to both sexes. ~*n.* **4.** a bisexual organism; a hermaphrodite. **5.** a bisexual person. —**bisexuality** (baɪˈseksjuːəli) *n.*

bishop (ˈbɪʃəp) *n.* **1.** a clergyman having spiritual and administrative powers over a diocese. See also **suffragan**. Related *adj.*: **episcopal**. **2.** a chess piece, capable of moving diagonally. **3.** mulled wine, usually port, spiced with oranges, cloves, etc.

bishopric (ˈbɪʃəprɪk) *n.* the see, diocese, or office of a bishop.

bismuth (ˈbɪzmʊθ) *n.* a brittle pinkish-white crystalline metallic element. It is widely used in alloys; its compounds are used in medicines. Symbol: Bi; atomic no.: 83; atomic wt.: 208.98.

bison (ˈbaɪsən) *n.*, *pl.* **-sone**. **1.** Also called: **American bison**, **buffalo**, a member of the cattle tribe, formerly widely distributed over the prairies of W North America, with a massive head, shaggy forequarters, and a humped back. **2.** Also called: **wisent**, **European bison**, a closely related and similar animal formerly widespread in Europe.

bisque¹ (bɪsk) *n.* a thick rich soup made from shellfish.

bisque² (bɪsk) *n.* a pink to yellowish tan colour. **2.** *Ceramics*. another name for **biscuit** (sense 3).

bisque³ (bɪsk) *n.* *Tennis, golf, croquet*. an extra point, stroke, or turn allowed to an inferior player, usually taken when desired.

bistre or *U.S. bister* (ˈbɪstə) *n.* **1.** a transparent water-soluble brownish-yellow pigment made by boiling the soot of wood. **2.** a yellowish-brown to dark brown colour.

bistro (ˈbɪstrəʊ) *n.*, *pl.* **-tros**. a small restaurant.

bit¹ (bɪt) *n.* **1.** a small piece, portion, or quantity. **2.** a short time or distance. **3.** *U.S. inf.* the value of an eighth of a dollar: spoken of only in units of two: **two bits**. **4.** any small coin. **5.** short for **bit part**. **6.** a bit, rather; somewhat: **a bit dreary**. **7.** **a bit of**, *a. rather: a bit of a dope*. **b.** a considerable amount: **that must take quite a bit of courage**. **8.** **bit by bit**, gradually. **9.** **do one's bit**, to make one's expected contribution. **10.** **every bit**, (foll. by *as*) to the same degree: **she was every bit as clever as her brother**.

bit² (bɪt) *n.* **1.** a metal mouthpiece on a bridle for controlling a horse. **2.** anything that restrains or curbs. **3.** a cutting or drilling tool, part, or head in a brace, drill, etc. **4.** the part of a key that engages the levers of a lock. ~*vb.* **bitting**, **bitted**. (tr.) **5.** to put a bit in the mouth of (a horse). **6.** to restrain; curb.

bit³ (bɪt) *vb.* the past tense of **bite**.

bit⁴ (bɪt) *n.* **1.** either of the two digits 0 or 1, used in binary notation. **2.** a unit of information representing the physical state of a system having one of two values, such as on or off.

bitch (bɪtʃ) *n.* **1.** a female dog or other female canine animal, such as a wolf. **2.** *Sl.*, *derog.* a malicious, spiteful, or coarse woman. **3.** *Sl.* a difficult situation or problem. ~*vb.* *Sl.* **4.** (intr.) to complain; grumble. **5.** to behave (towards) in a spiteful manner. **6.** (tr., often foll. by *up*) to botch; bungie. —**bitchy** *adj.*

bite (baɪt) *vb.* **biting**, **bit**, **bitten**. **1.** to grip, cut off, or tear as with the teeth or jaws. **2.** (of animals, insects, etc.) to injure by puncturing or tearing (the skin or flesh) with the teeth, fangs, etc. **3.** (tr.) to cut or penetrate, as with a knife. **4.** (of corrosive material such as acid) to eat away or into. **5.** to smart or cause to smart; sting. **6.** (intr.) *Angling*. (of a fish) to take or attempt to take the bait or lure. **7.** to take firm hold of or act effectively upon. **8.** (tr.) *Sl.* to annoy or worry: **what's biting her?** **9.** **put the bite on**, *Austral.* to cadge or borrow from. **10.** (tr.; often foll. by *for*) *Austral.* & *N.Z. sl.* to ask (for); scrounge from. **11.** **bite someone's head off**, *Inf.* to respond harshly and rudely (to). **12.** **bite the dust**, *Sl.* *a.* to fall down dead. *b.* to be rejected: **another good idea bites the dust**. ~*n.* **13.** the act of biting. **14.** a thing or amount bitten off. **15.** a wound, bruise, or sting inflicted by biting. **16.** *Angling*, an attempt by a fish to take the bait or lure. **17.** *Inf.* a light meal; snack. **18.** a cutting, stinging, or smarting sensation. **19.** *Dentistry*. the angle or manner of contact between the upper and lower teeth. —**biter** *n.*

biting (ˈbaɪtɪŋ) *adj.* **1.** piercing; keen: **a biting wind**. **2.** sarcastic; incisive. —**bitingly** *adv.*

bit part *n.* a very small acting role with few lines to speak.

bitten (ˈbɪtən) *vb.* the past participle of **bite**.

bitter (ˈbɪtə) *adj.* **1.** having or denoting an unpalatable harsh taste, as the peel of an orange. **2.** showing or caused by strong unrelenting hostility or resentment. **3.** difficult or unpleasant to accept or admit: **a bitter blow**. **4.** cutting; sarcastic: **bitter words**. **5.** bitterly cold: **a bitter night**. ~*adv.* **6.** very; extremely (esp. in **bitter cold**). ~*n.* **7.** a thing that is bitter. **8.** *Brit.* draught beer with a slightly bitter taste. —**bitterness** *n.*

bittern (ˈbɪtən) *n.* a wading bird related and similar to the herons but with shorter legs and neck and a booming call.

bitters (ˈbɪtəz) *pl. n.* **1.** bitter-tasting spirits of varying alcoholic content flavoured with plant extracts. **2.** a similar liquid containing a bitter-tasting substance, used as a tonic.

bittersweet (ˈbɪtə,swɪt) *n.* **1.** any of several North American woody climbing plants having orange capsules that open to expose scarlet-coated seeds. **2.** another name for **woody nightshade**. ~*adj.* **3.** tasting of or being a mixture of bitterness and sweetness. **4.** pleasant but tinged with sadness.

bitty (ˈbɪtɪ) *adj.* **-tier**, **-tiest**. **1.** lacking unity; disjointed. **2.** containing bits, sediment, etc.

bitumen (ˈbɪtjʊmɪn) *n.* **1.** any of various viscous or solid impure mixtures of hydrocarbons that occur naturally in asphalt, tar, mineral waxes, etc.; used as a road surfacing and roofing material. **2.** **the bitumen**, *Austral. inf.* any road with a bitumen surface. —**bituminous** (ˈbɪtjʊmɪnəs) *adj.*

bituminous coal *n.* a soft black coal that burns with a smoky yellow flame.

bivalent (baɪˈveɪlənt, ˈbɪvə) *adj.* **1.** *Chem.* another word for **divalent**. **2.** (of homologous chromosomes) associated together in pairs. —**bi-valency** *n.*

bivalve (ˈbaɪ,vælv) *n.* **1.** Also called: **lamellibranch**, a marine or freshwater mollusc, having a laterally compressed body, a shell consisting of two hinged valves, and gills for respiration. The group includes clams, cockles, oysters, and mussels. ~*adj.* **2.** Also: **lamellibranch**, of or relating to these molluscs.

bivouac (ˈbɪvuːæk, ˈbɪvwæk) *n.* **1.** a temporary encampment, as used by soldiers, mountaineers, etc. ~*vb.* **-acking**, **-acked**. **2.** (intr.) to make such an encampment.

biweekly (baɪˈwi:kli) *adj.*, *adv.* **1.** every two weeks. **2.** twice a week; semiweekly. See **bi-**. ~*n.*, *pl.* **-lies**. **3.** a periodical published every two weeks.

biz (bɪz) *n.* *Inf.* short for **business**.

bizarre (bɪˈzɑː) *adj.* odd or unusual, esp. in an interesting or amusing way. —**bi-zarreness** *n.*

Bk the chemical symbol for berkelium.

bk. abbrev. for: **1.** bank. **2.** book.

B.L. abbrev. for: **1.** Bachelor of Law. **2.** Bachelor of Letters. **3.** Barrister-at-Law. **4.** British Library.

B/L, **b/l**, or **b.l.** *pl.* **Bs/L**, **bs/l**, or **bs.l.** abbrev. for bill of lading.

blab (blæb) *vb.* **blabbing**, **blabbed**. **1.** to divulge (secrets, etc.) indiscreetly. **2.** (intr.) to chatter thoughtlessly; prattle. ~*n.* **3.** a less common word for **blabber**.

blabber (ˈblæbə) *n.* **1.** a person who blabs. **2.** idle chatter. ~*vb.* **3.** (intr.) to talk without thinking; chatter.

black (blæk) *adj.* **1.** of the colour of jet or carbon black, having no hue due to the absorption of all or nearly all incident light. **2.** without light; completely dark. **3.** without hope of alleviation; gloomy: **the future looked black**. **4.** very dirty or soiled. **5.** angry or resentful: **black looks**. **6.** (of a play or other work) dealing with the unpleasant realities of life, esp. in a cynical or macabre manner: **black comedy**. **7.** (of coffee or tea) without milk or cream. **8.** a wicked or harmful: **a black lie**. **b.** (in combination): **black-hearted**. **9.** *Brit.* (of goods, jobs, works, etc.) being subject to boycott by trade unionists. ~*n.* **10.** a black colour. **11.** a dye or pigment of or producing this colour. **12.** black clothing, worn esp. as a sign of mourning. **13.** *Chess*, *draughts*. a black or dark-coloured piece or square. **14.** complete darkness: **the black of the night**. **15.** in the **black**, in credit or without debt. ~*vb.* **16.** another word for **blacken**. **17.** (tr.) to polish (shoes, etc.) with blacking. **18.** (tr.) *Brit.* & *N.Z.* (of trade unionists) to organize a boycott of (specified goods, jobs, work, etc.). ~See also **blackout**. —**blackness** *n.*

Black (blæk) *n.* **1.** a member of a dark-skinned race, esp. a Negro or an Australian Aborigine. ~*adj.* **2.** of or relating to a Black or Blacks.

blackamoor ('blækə,muə, -mɔː) *n.* *Arch.* a Negro or other person with dark skin.

black-and-blue *adj.* 1. (of the skin) discoloured, as from a bruise. 2. feeling pain or soreness, as from a beating.

black-and-white *n.* 1. *a.* a photograph, picture, sketch, etc., in black, white, and shades of grey rather than in colour. *b.* (as modifier): *black-and-white film*. 2. in black and white. *a.* in print or writing. *b.* in extremes: *he always saw things in black and white*.

black art *n.* the. another name for **black magic**.

black-backed gull *n.* either of two common black-and-white European coastal gulls, lesser **black-backed gull** and great **black-backed gull**.

blackball ('blæk,bɔ:l) *n.* 1. a negative vote or veto. 2. a black wooden ball used to indicate disapproval or to veto in a vote. ~*vb.* (tr.) 3. to vote against. 4. to exclude (someone) from a group, profession, etc.; ostracize.

black bear *n.* 1. **American black bear**, a bear inhabiting forests of North America. It is smaller and less ferocious than the brown bear. 2. **Asiatic black bear**, a bear of central and E Asia, black with a pale V-shaped mark on the chest.

black belt *n.* *Judo & Karate.* *a.* a black belt worn by an instructor or expert. *b.* a person entitled to wear this.

blackberry ('blækbəri) *n.*, *pl.* -ries. 1. Also called: **bramble**, any of several woody rosaceous plants that have thorny stems and black or purple edible berry-like fruits. 2. the fruit of any of these plants. ~*vb.* -rying, -ried. 3. (intr.) to gather blackberries.

blackbird ('blæk,bɜ:d) *n.* 1. a common European thrush in which the male has black plumage and a yellow bill. 2. any of various American orioles having dark plumage. 3. (formerly) a person, esp. a South Sea islander, who was kidnapped and sold as a slave, esp. in Australia. ~*vb.* 4. (tr.) (formerly) to kidnap and sell into slavery.

blackboard ('blæk,bɔ:d) *n.* a sheet of slate, wood, or any of various other materials, used for writing or drawing on with chalk, esp. in teaching.

black book *n.* 1. a book containing the names of people to be punished, blacklisted, etc. 2. in someone's **black books**, *Inf.* out of favour with someone.

black box *n.* 1. a self-contained unit in an electronic or computer system whose circuitry need not be known to understand its function. 2. an informal name for **flight recorder**.

blackcap ('blæk,kæp) *n.* a brownish-grey Old World warbler, the male of which has a black crown.

blackcock ('blæk,kɒk) *n.* the male of the black grouse.

Black Country *n.* the. the heavily industrialized West Midlands of England.

blackcurrant ('blæk,'kʌrənt) *n.* 1. a N temperate shrub having red or white flowers and small edible black berries. 2. its fruit.

blackdamp ('blæk,dæmp) *n.* air that is low in oxygen content and high in carbon dioxide as a result of an explosion in a mine. Also called: **chokedamp**.

Black Death *n.* the. a form of bubonic plague pandemic in Europe and Asia during the 14th century. See **bubonic plague**.

black economy *n.* that portion of the income of a nation that remains illegally undeclared.

blacken ('blækən) *vb.* 1. to make or become black or dirty. 2. (tr.) to defame; slander (esp. in **blacken someone's name**).

black eye *n.* *Inf.* bruising round the eye.

black flag *n.* another name for the **Jolly Roger**.

Black Friar *n.* a Dominican friar.

blackguard ('blægərd, -gəd) *n.* 1. an unprincipled contemptible person; scoundrel. ~*vb.* 2. (tr.) to ridicule or denounce with abusive language. 3. (intr.) to behave like a blackguard. —**'blackguardism** *n.* —**'blackguardly** *adj.*

blackhead ('blæk,hed) *n.* 1. a black-tipped plug of fatty matter clogging a pore of the skin. 2. any of various birds with black plumage on the head.

black hole *n.* *Astron.* a hypothetical region of space resulting from the gravitational collapse of a star and surrounded by a gravitational field so high that neither matter nor radiation could escape from it.

black ice *n.* a thin transparent layer of new ice on a road or similar surface.

blacking ('blækiŋ) *n.* any preparation for giving a black finish to shoes, metals, etc.

blackjack ('blæk,dʒæk) *Chiefly U.S.* ~*n.* 1. a truncheon of leather-covered lead with a flexible shaft. ~*vb.* 2. (tr.) to hit as with a blackjack. 3. (tr.) to compel (a person) by threats.

blackjack² ('blæk,dʒæk) *n.* pontoon or any similar card game.

black lead (led) *n.* another name for **graphite**.

blackleg ('blækleɡ) *n.* 1. Also called (esp. U.S.): **scab**. *Brit.* a person who acts against the interests of a trade union, as by continuing to work during a strike or taking over a striker's job. ~*vb.* -legging, -legged. 2. *Brit.* to act against the interests of a trade union, esp. by refusing to join a strike.

blacklist ('blæk,lɪst) *n.* 1. a list of persons or organizations under suspicion, or considered untrustworthy, disloyal, etc. ~*vb.* 2. (tr.) to put on a blacklist.

black magic *n.* magic used for evil purposes.

blackmail ('blæk,meɪl) *n.* 1. the act of attempting to obtain money by intimidation, as by threats to disclose discreditable information. 2. the exertion of pressure, esp. unfairly, in an attempt to influence someone. ~*vb.* (tr.) 3. to exact or attempt to exact (money or anything of value) from (a person) by threats or intimidation; extort. 4. to attempt to influence (a person), esp. by unfair pressure. —**'blackmailer** *n.*

Black Maria (mɔː'raɪə) *n.* a police van for transporting prisoners.

black mark *n.* an indication of disapproval, failure, etc.

black market *n.* 1. any system in which goods or currencies are sold and bought illegally, esp. in violation of controls or rationing. 2. the place where such a system operates. ~*vb.* **black-market**. 3. to sell (goods) on the black market. —**black marketeer** *n.*

black mass *n.* (sometimes *cap.*) a blasphemous travesty of the Christian Mass, performed by practitioners of black magic.

Black Muslim *n.* (esp. in the U.S.) a member of an Islamic political movement of Black people who seek to establish a new Black nation.

blackout ('blækaut) *n.* 1. the extinguishing or hiding of all artificial light, esp. in a city visible to an air attack. 2. a momentary loss of consciousness, vision, or memory. 3. a temporary electrical power failure or cut. 4. the suspension of broadcasting, as by a strike or for political reasons. ~*vb.* **black out** (*adv.*) 5. (tr.) to obliterate or extinguish (lights). 6. (tr.) to create a blackout in (a city, etc.). 7. (intr.) *Inf.* to lose vision, consciousness, or memory temporarily. 8. (tr., *adv.*) to stop (news, a television programme) from being broadcast.

black pepper *n.* a pungent condiment made by grinding the dried unripe berries and husks of the pepper plant.

Black Power *n.* a social, economic, and political movement of Black people, esp. in the U.S. and Australia, to obtain equality with Whites.

black pudding *n.* a kind of black sausage made from minced pork fat, pig's blood, and other ingredients. Also called: **blood pudding**.

Black Rod *n.* (in Britain) an officer of the House of Lords and of the Order of the Garter, whose main duty is summoning the Commons at the opening and proroguing of Parliament.

black sheep *n.* a person who is regarded as a disgrace or failure by his family or peer group.

Blackshirt ('blæk,ʃɜ:t) *n.* (in Europe) a member of a fascist organization, esp. the Italian Fascist party before and during World War II.

blacksmith ('blæk,smɪθ) *n.* an artisan who works iron with a furnace, anvil, hammer, etc.

black spot *n.* 1. a place on a road where accidents frequently occur. 2. any dangerous or difficult place.

black tea *n.* tea made from fermented tea leaves.

blackthorn ('blæk,θɔ:n) *n.* a thorny Eurasian shrub with black twigs, white flowers, and small sour plumlike fruits. Also called: **sloe**.

black tie *n.* 1. a black bow tie worn with a dinner jacket. 2. (modifier) denoting an occasion when a dinner jacket should be worn.

black velvet *n.* a mixture of stout and champagne in equal proportions.

Black Watch *n.* the. the Royal Highland Regiment in the British army.

black widow *n.* an American spider, the female of which is highly venomous, and commonly eats its mate.

bladder ('blædə) *n.* 1. *Anat.* a distensible membranous sac, usually containing liquid or gas, esp. the urinary

bladder 2. an inflatable part of something. 3. a hollow saclike part in certain plants, such as the bladderwrack. — **'bladdery** *adj.*

bladderwort ('blædə,wɔ:t) *n.* an aquatic plant some of whose leaves are modified as small bladders to trap minute aquatic animals.

bladderwrack ('blædə,ræk) *n.* any of several seaweeds that grow in the intertidal regions of rocky shores and have branched brown fronds with air bladders.

blade (bleid) *n.* 1. the part of a sharp weapon, tool, etc., that forms the cutting edge. 2. the thin flattish part of various tools, implements, etc., as of a propeller. 3. the flattened expanded part of a leaf, sepal, or petal. 4. the long narrow leaf of a grass or related plant. 5. the striking surface of a bat, club, stick, or oar. 6. the metal runner on an ice skate. 7. the upper part of the tongue lying directly behind the tip. 8. *Arch.* a dashing or swaggering young man. 9. short for **shoulder blade**. 10. a poetic word for a **sword** or **swordsman**. — **'bladed** *adj.*

blabberry ('blæbəri) *n., pl. -ries.* *Brit.* another name for **wortleberry** (senses 1, 2).

blah or **blah blah** (bla:) *n.* *Sl.* worthless or silly talk.

blame (blem) *n.* a blister, blotch, or sore on the skin.

blame (blem) *n.* 1. responsibility for something that is wrong; culpability. 2. an expression of condemnation. 3. **be to blame**, to be at fault. ~*vb. (tr.)* 4. (usually foll. by *for*) to attribute responsibility to: *I blame him for the failure.* 5. (usually foll. by *on*) to ascribe responsibility for (something) to: *I blame the failure on him.* 6. to find fault with. — **'blamable** or **'blameable** *adj.* — **'blamably** or **'blameably** *adv.* — **'blameless** *adj.*

blameworthy ('bleim,wɜ:ði) *adj.* deserving censure. — **'blame,worthiness** *n.*

blanch (blæntʃ) *vb. (mainly tr.)* 1. to remove colour from; whiten. 2. (usually *intr.*) to become or cause to become pale, as with sickness or fear. 3. to prepare (meat, green vegetables, nuts, etc.) by plunging them in boiling water. 4. to cause (celery, chicory, etc.) to grow free of chlorophyll by the exclusion of sunlight.

blancmange (blɔ'mɒŋ) *n.* a jelly-like dessert of milk, stiffened usually with cornflour.

bland (blænd) *adj.* 1. devoid of distinctive or stimulating characteristics; uninteresting. 2. gentle and agreeable; suave. 3. mild and soothing. — **'blandness** *n.*

blandish ('blændʃ) *vb. (tr.)* to seek to persuade or influence by mild flattery; coax.

blandishments ('blændʃmənts) *pl. n. (rarely sing.)* flattery intended to coax or cajole.

blank (blæŋk) *adj.* 1. (of a writing surface) bearing no marks; not written on. 2. (of a form, etc.) with spaces left for details to be filled in. 3. without ornament or break. 4. not filled in; empty. 5. exhibiting no interest or expression: *a blank look.* 6. lacking understanding; confused: *he looked blank.* 7. absolute; complete: *blank rejection.* 8. devoid of ideas or inspiration: *his mind went blank.* ~*n.* 9. an emptiness; void; blank space. 10. an empty space for writing in. 11. a printed form containing such empty spaces. 12. something characterized by incomprehension or confusion: *my mind went a complete blank.* 13. a mark, often a dash, in place of a word, esp. a taboo word. 14. short for **blank cartridge**. 15. a piece of material prepared for stamping, punching, forging, or some other operation. 16. **draw a blank**, a. to choose a lottery ticket that fails to win. b. *Inf.* to get no results from something. ~*vb. (tr.)* 17. (usually foll. by *out*) to cross out, blot, or obscure. — **'blankness** *n.*

blank cartridge *n.* a gun cartridge containing powder but no bullet.

blank cheque *n.* 1. a cheque that has been signed but on which the amount payable has not been specified. 2. complete freedom of action.

blanket ('blæŋkɪt) *n.* 1. a large piece of thick cloth for use as a bed covering, animal covering, etc. 2. a concealing cover, as of smoke, leaves, or snow. 3. (*modifier*) applying to or covering a wide group or variety of people, conditions, situations, etc.: *blanket insurance against loss, injury, and theft.* ~*vb. (tr.)* 4. to cover as with a blanket; overlie. 5. (usually foll. by *out*) to obscure or suppress.

blanket stitch *n.* a strong reinforcing stitch for the edges of blankets and other thick material.

blank verse *n.* *Prosody.* unrhymed verse, esp. in iambic pentameters.

blare (bleə) *vb.* 1. to sound loudly and harshly. 2. to proclaim loudly and sensationally. ~*n.* 3. a loud harsh noise.

blarney ('blɑ:nɪ) *n.* 1. flattering talk. ~*vb.* 2. to cajole with flattery; wheedle.

blasé ('blæzeɪ) *adj.* 1. indifferent to something because of familiarity. 2. lacking enthusiasm; bored.

blaspheme (blæz'fɪm) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to show contempt or disrespect for (God, or sacred things), esp. in speech. 2. (*intr.*) to utter profanities or curses. — **'blas'phemer** *n.* — **'blasphemous** *adj.*

blasphemy ('blæzfmɪ) *n., pl. -mies.* blasphemous behaviour or language. — **'blasphemous** *adj.*

blast (blæst) *n.* 1. an explosion, as of dynamite. 2. the rapid movement of air resulting from an explosion; shock wave. 3. the charge used in a single explosion. 4. a sudden strong gust of wind or air. 5. a sudden loud sound, as of a trumpet. 6. a violent verbal outburst, as of criticism. 7. a forcible jet of air, esp. one used to intensify the heating effect of a furnace. 8. any of several diseases of plants and animals. 9. (*at*) **full blast**, at maximum speed, volume, etc. ~*interj.* 10. *Sl.* an exclamation of annoyance. ~*vb.* 11. (*tr.*) to destroy or blow up with explosives, shells, etc. 12. to make or cause to make a loud harsh noise. 13. to wither or cause to wither; blight or be blighted. 14. (*tr.*) to criticize severely. — **'blaster** *n.*

-blast *n. combining form.* (in biology) indicating an embryonic cell or formative layer: *mesoblast*.

blasted ('blæstɪd) *adj.* 1. blighted or withered. ~*adj. (prenominal), adv.* 2. *Sl. (intensifier):* *a blasted idiot.*

blast furnace *n.* a vertical cylindrical furnace for smelting into which a blast of preheated air is forced.

blasto- *combining form.* indicating an embryo or bud.

blastoff ('blæst,ɒf) *n.* 1. the launching of a rocket under its own power. 2. the time at which this occurs. ~*vb. blast off.* 3. (*adv.; when tr., usually passive*) to be launched.

blatant ('bleɪtənt) *adj.* 1. glaringly conspicuous or obvious: *a blatant lie.* 2. offensively noticeable; obtrusive. 3. offensively noisy. — **'blatancy** *n.*

blather ('blæðə) *vb. 1. (intr.)* to speak foolishly. ~*n.* 2. foolish talk; nonsense.

blaze¹ ('bleiz) *n.* 1. a strong fire or flame. 2. a very bright light or glare. 3. an outburst (of passion, acclaim, patriotism, etc.). 4. brilliance; brightness. ~*vb. (intr.)* 5. to burn fiercely. 6. to shine brightly. 7. (often foll. by *up*) to become stirred, as with anger or excitement. 8. (usually foll. by *away*) to shoot continuously.

blaze² ('bleiz) *n.* 1. a mark, usually indicating a path, made on a tree. 2. a light-coloured marking on the face of a domestic animal. ~*vb. (tr.)* 3. to indicate or mark (a tree, path, etc.) with a blaze. 4. **blaze a trail**, to explore new territories, areas of knowledge, etc., so that others can follow.

blaze³ ('bleiz) *vb. (tr.; often foll. by abroad)* to make widely known; proclaim.

blazer ('bleizeə) *n.* a fairly lightweight jacket, often in the colours of a sports club, school, etc.

blazes ('bleizez) *pl. n.* 1. *Sl.* a euphemistic word for **hell**. 2. *Inf. (intensifier), to run like blazes.*

blazon ('bleizn) *vb. (tr.)* 1. (often foll. by *abroad*) to proclaim publicly. 2. *Heraldry.* to describe (heraldic arms) in proper terms. 3. to draw and colour (heraldic arms) conventionally. ~*n.* 4. *Heraldry.* a conventional description or depiction of heraldic arms. — **'blazoner** *n.* — **'blazonry** *n.*

bldg. *abbrev. for building.*

bleach (bli:tʃ) *vb.* 1. to make or become white or colourless, as by exposure to sunlight, by the action of chemical agents, etc. ~*n.* 2. a bleaching agent. 3. the act of bleaching. — **'bleacher** *n.*

bleaching powder *n.* a white powder consisting of chlorinated calcium hydroxide. Also called: **chloride of lime**, **chlorinated lime**.

bleak¹ (blik) *adj.* 1. exposed and barren. 2. cold and raw. 3. offering little hope; dismal: *a bleak future.* — **'bleakness** *n.*

bleak² (blik) *n.* any of various European cyprinid fishes occurring in slow-flowing rivers.

blear (blə) ~*vb. (tr.)* *Arch.* to make (eyes or sight) dim as with tears; blur. — **'bleary** *adj.*

bleary-eyed or **blear-eyed** *adj.* with eyes blurred, as with old age or after waking.

bleat (bli:t) *vb. 1. (intr.)* (of a sheep, goat, or calf) to utter its characteristic plaintive cry. 2. (*intr.*) to speak with any similar sound. 3. to whine; whimper. ~*n.* 4. the characteristic cry of sheep, goats, and calves. 5. any sound similar to this. 6. a weak complaint or whine. — **'bleater** *n.* — **'bleatingly** *adv.*

bleed (bli:d) *vb.* **bleeding**, **bled** (bled). 1. (*intr.*) to lose or emit blood. 2. (*tr.*) to remove or draw blood from (a person or animal). 3. (*intr.*) to be injured or die, as for a cause. 4. (of plants) to exude (sap or resin), esp. from a cut. 5. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to obtain money, etc., esp. by extortion. 6. (*tr.*) to draw liquid or gas from (a container or enclosed system): *to bleed the hydraulic brakes*. 7. (*intr.*) (of dye or paint) to run or become mixed, as when wet. 8. to print or be printed so that text, illustrations, etc., run off the trimmed page. 9. *one's heart bleeds*, used to express sympathetic grief, often ironically. —'bleeder *n.*

bleeding ('bli:diŋ) *adj.*, *adv.* *Brit. sl.* (intensifier): *a bleeding fool*.

bleep (bli:p) *n.* 1. a single short high-pitched signal made by an electronic apparatus; beep. 2. Also called: **bleeper**. *Inf.* a small portable radio receiver that makes a beeping signal. ~*vb.* 3. (*intr.*) to make such a noise.

blemish ('blemɪʃ) *n.* 1. a defect; flaw; stain. ~*vb.* 2. (*tr.*) to flaw the perfection of; spoil; tarnish.

blench (blentʃ) *vb.* (*intr.*) to shy away, as in fear; quail. —'blencher *n.*

blend (blend) *vb.* 1. to mix or mingle (components) together thoroughly. 2. (*tr.*) to mix (different grades or varieties of tea, whisky, etc.). 3. (*intr.*) to look good together; harmonize. 4. (*intr.*) (esp. of colours) to shade imperceptibly into each other. ~*n.* 5. a mixture or type produced by blending. 6. the act of blending. 7. Also called: **portmanteau word**, a word formed by joining together the beginning and the end of two other words: "brunch" is a blend of "breakfast" and "lunch." —'blender *n.*

blende (blend) *n.* any of several sulphide ores.

blenny ('bleni) *n.*, *pl.* -nies. any of various small fishes of coastal waters having a tapering scaleless body, a long dorsal fin, and long raylike pelvic fins.

blesbok or **blesbuck** ('bles,bʌk) *n.*, *pl.* -boks, -bok or -bucks, -buck. an antelope of southern Africa. The coat is reddish-brown with a white blaze between the eyes; the horns are lyre-shaped.

bles (bles) *vb.* **blessing**, **bles** or **blest**. (*tr.*) 1. to consecrate or render holy by means of a religious rite. 2. to give honour or glory to (a person or thing) as holy. 3. to call upon God to protect; give a benediction to. 4. to worship or adore (God). 5. (*often passive*) to grant happiness, health, or prosperity to. 6. (*usually passive*) to endow with a talent, beauty, etc. 7. *Rare.* to protect against evil or harm. 8. **bles** *you!* (*interj.*) a. a traditional phrase said to a person who has just sneezed. b. an exclamation of well-wishing or surprise. 9. **bles** *me!* or (God) **bles** *my soul!* (*interj.*) an exclamation of surprise.

bles ('blesd, blest) *adj.* 1. made holy; consecrated. 2. worthy of deep reverence or respect. 3. *R.C. Church.* (of a person) beatified by the pope. 4. characterized by happiness or good fortune. 5. bringing great happiness or good fortune. 6. a euphemistic word for **darned**, used in mild oaths: *I'm bles* if I know. —'bles *adv.* —'bles *adv.* —'bles *adv.*

ble ('blesm) *n.* 1. the act of invoking divine protection or aid. 2. the words or ceremony used for this. 3. a short prayer before or after a meal; grace. 4. approval; good wishes. 5. the bestowal of a divine gift or favour. 6. a happy event.

ble ('blesm) *vb.* a past participle of **bles**.

blether ('bledə) *vb.* a variant spelling of **blather**.

blew (blu:) *vb.* the past tense of **blow**.

blight (blaɪt) *n.* 1. any plant disease characterized by withering and shrivelling without rotting. 2. any factor that causes the symptoms of blight in plants. 3. a person or thing that mars or prevents growth. 4. an ugly urban district. ~*vb.* 5. to cause or suffer a blight. 6. (*tr.*) to frustrate or disappoint. 7. (*tr.*) to spoil; destroy.

blighter ('blaɪtə) *n.* *Brit. inf.* 1. a fellow. 2. a despicable or irritating person or thing.

blighty ('blaɪtɪ) *n.* (*sometimes not cap.*) *Brit. sl.* (used esp. by troops serving abroad) 1. England; home. 2. (esp. in World War I) Also called: **a blighty one**. a wound that causes the recipient to be sent home to England.

blimey ('blaɪmi) *interj.* *Brit. sl.* an exclamation of surprise or annoyance.

blimp (blɪmp) *n.* 1. a small nonrigid airship. 2. *Films.* a soundproof cover fixed over a camera during shooting.

blind (blaɪnd) *adj.* 1. a. unable to see; sightless. b. (as collective *n.* preceded by *the*): *the blind*. 2. (usually foll. by *to*) unable or unwilling to understand or discern. 3. not determined by reason: *blind hatred*. 4. acting or

performed without control or preparation. 5. done without being able to see, relying on instruments for information. 6. hidden from sight: *a blind corner*. 7. closed at one end: *a blind alley*. 8. completely lacking awareness or consciousness: *a blind stupor*. 9. *Inf.* very drunk. 10. having no openings or outlets: *a blind wall*. 11. (intensifier): *not a blind bit of notice*. 12. **turn a blind eye (to)**. to disregard or pretend not to notice. ~*adv.* 13. without being able to see ahead or using only instruments: *to drive blind*; *flying blind*. 14. without adequate knowledge or information; carelessly: *to buy a house blind*. 15. **bake blind**. to bake (an empty pastry case) by half filling with dried peas, crusts, etc., to keep it in shape. ~*vb.* (*mainly tr.*) 16. to deprive of sight permanently or temporarily. 17. to deprive of good sense, reason, or judgment. 18. to darken; conceal. 19. (foll. by *with*) to overwhelm by showing detailed knowledge: *to blind somebody with science*. ~*n.* 20. (*modifier*) for or intended to help the blind: *a blind school*. 21. a shade for a window, usually on a roller. 22. any obstruction or hindrance to sight, light, or air. 23. a person, action, or thing that serves to deceive or conceal the truth. —'blindly *adv.* —'blindness *n.*

blind alley *n.* 1. an alley open at one end only; cul-de-sac. 2. *Inf.* a situation in which no further progress can be made.

blind date *n.* *Inf.* a social meeting between a man and a woman who have not met before.

blindfold ('blaɪnd,fəʊld) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to prevent (a person or animal) from seeing by covering (the eyes). ~*n.* 2. a piece of cloth, bandage, etc., used to cover the eyes. ~*adj.*, *adv.* 3. having the eyes covered with a cloth or bandage. 4. rash; inconsiderate.

blind man's buff *n.* a game in which a blindfolded person tries to catch and identify the other players.

blind spot *n.* 1. a small oval-shaped area of the retina, where the optic nerve enters, in which vision is not experienced. 2. a place or area where vision is obscured. 3. a subject about which a person is ignorant or prejudiced.

blindworm ('blaɪnd,wɜ:m) *n.* another name for **slow-worm**.

blink (blɪŋk) *vb.* 1. to close and immediately reopen (the eyes or an eye), usually involuntarily. 2. (*intr.*) to look with the eyes partially closed. 3. to shine intermittently or unsteadily. 4. (*tr.*; foll. by *away*, *from*, etc.) to clear the eyes of (dust, tears, etc.). 5. (when *tr.*, usually foll. by *at*) to be surprised or amazed. 6. (when *intr.*, foll. by *at*) to pretend not to know or see (a fault, injustice, etc.). ~*n.* 7. the act or an instance of blinking. 8. a glance; glimpse. 9. *on the blink*. *Sl.* not working properly.

blinker¹ ('blɪŋkə) *n.* 1. a flashing light for sending messages, as a warning device, etc., such as a direction indicator on a road vehicle. 2. (*often pl.*) a slang word for eye.

blinker² ('blɪŋkə) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to provide (a horse) with blinkers. 2. to obscure or be obscured with or as with blinkers. —'blinkered *adj.*

blinkers ('blɪŋkəz) *pl. n.* (*sometimes sing.*) Chiefly *Brit.* leather sidepieces attached to a horse's bridle to prevent sideways vision.

blinking ('blɪŋkɪŋ) *adj.*, *adv.* *Inf.* (intensifier): *a blinking fool*; *a blinking good film*.

blip (bli:p) *n.* 1. a repetitive sound, such as that produced by an electronic device. 2. Also called: **pip**. the spot of light on a radar screen indicating the position of an object. ~*vb.* **blipping**, **blipped**. 3. (*intr.*) to produce such a noise.

bliss (blɪs) *n.* 1. perfect happiness; serene joy. 2. the ecstatic joy of heaven. —'blissful *adj.*

blister ('blɪstə) *n.* 1. a small bubble-like elevation of the skin filled with serum, produced as a reaction to a burn, mechanical irritation, etc. 2. a swelling containing air or liquid, as on a painted surface. 3. a *N.Z. sl.* a rebuke. b. *N.Z. & Austral. sl.* a summons to court. ~*vb.* 4. to have or cause to have blisters. 5. (*tr.*) to attack verbally with great scorn or sarcasm. —'blisterly *adj.*

blithe (blaɪð) *adj.* 1. very happy or cheerful; gay. 2. heedless; casual and indifferent. —'blithely *adv.* —'blitheness *n.*

blithering ('blɪðərɪŋ) *adj.* 1. talking foolishly; jabbering. 2. *Inf.* stupid; foolish: *you blithering idiot*.

blithesome ('blaɪðsəm) *adj.* *Literary.* cheery; merry.

B.Litt. or **B.Lit.** *abbrev. for:* 1. Bachelor of Letters.

2. Bachelor of Literature.

blitz (blɪts) *n.* 1. a violent and sustained attack, esp. with intensive aerial bombardment. 2. any sudden in-

tensive attack or concerted effort. ~vb. 3. (tr.) to attack suddenly and intensively.

Blitz (blits) *n.* the systematic bombing of Britain in 1940–41 by the German Luftwaffe.

blitzkrieg ('blits,krig) *n.* an intensive military attack designed to defeat the opposition quickly.

blizzard ('blizəd) *n.* a strong cold wind accompanied by widespread heavy snowfall.

bloat (blaut) *vb.* 1. to swell or cause to swell, as with a liquid or air. 2. to become or cause to be puffed up, as with conceit. 3. (tr.) to cure (fish, esp. herring) by half-drying in smoke.

bloater ('bləutə) *n.* a herring that has been salted in brine, smoked, and cured.

blob (blob) *n.* 1. a soft mass or drop. 2. a spot, dab, or blotch of colour, ink, etc. 3. an indistinct or shapeless form or object.

bloc (blok) *n.* a group of people or countries combined by a common interest.

block (blok) *n.* 1. a large solid piece of wood, stone, or other material usually having at least one face fairly flat. 2. such a piece on which particular tasks may be done, as chopping, cutting, or beheading. 3. Also called: **building block**. one of a set of wooden or plastic cubes as a child's toy. 4. a form on which things are shaped: a *wig block*. 5. *Inf.* a person's head. 6. **do one's block**. *Austral. sl.* to become angry. 7. a dull, unemotional, or hard-hearted person. 8. a large building of offices, flats, etc. 9. a. a group of buildings in a city bounded by intersecting streets on each side. b. the area or distance between such intersecting streets. 10. *Austral. & N.Z.* an area of land, usually extensive, taken up for farming, settlement, etc. 11. *N.Z.* an area of bush reserved by licence for a trapper or hunter. 12. a piece of wood, metal, or other material having a design in relief, used for printing. 13. *Austral. & N.Z.* a log, usually of willow, fastened to a timber base and used in a wood-chopping competition. 14. a casing housing one or more freely rotating pulleys. See also **block and tackle**. 15. an obstruction or hindrance. 16. *Pathol.* interference in the normal physiological functioning of an organ or part. 17. *Psychol.* a short interruption of perceptual or thought processes. 18. obstruction of an opponent in a sport. 19. a. a quantity handled or considered as a single unit. b. (as modifier): a *block booking*; *block voting*. 20. *Athletics.* short for **starting block**. ~vb. (mainly tr.) 21. (often foll. by *up*) to obstruct (a passage, channel, etc.) or prevent or impede the motion or flow of (something or someone) by introducing an obstacle: *to block the traffic*; *to block up a pipe*. 22. to impede, retard, or prevent (an action, procedure, etc.). 23. to stamp (a title, design, etc.) on (a book cover, etc.) esp. using gold leaf. 24. to shape by use of a block: *to block a hat*. 25. (also intr.) *Sports.* to obstruct or impede movement by (an opponent). 26. to interrupt a physiological function, as by use of an anaesthetic. 27. (also intr.) *Cricket.* to play (a ball) defensively. ~See also **block out**. —'blockage *n.* —'blocker *n.*

blockade (blɒ'keɪd) *n.* 1. *Mil.* the interdiction of a nation's sea lines of communications, esp. of an individual port by the use of sea power. 2. something that prevents access or progress. ~vb. (tr.) 3. to impose a blockade on. 4. to obstruct the way to. —'block'ader *n.*

block and tackle *n.* a hoisting device in which a rope or chain is passed around a pair of blocks containing one or more pulleys.

blockboard ('blɒk,bɔ:d) *n.* a bonded board in which strips of soft wood are sandwiched between two layers of veneer.

blockbuster ('blɒk,bɛstə) *n. Inf.* 1. a large bomb used to demolish extensive areas. 2. a very forceful person, thing, etc.

blockhead ('blɒk,hed) *n. Derog.* a stupid person. —'block,headed *adj.*

blockhouse ('blɒk,haʊs) *n.* 1. (formerly) a wooden fortification with ports for defensive fire, observation, etc. 2. a concrete structure strengthened to give protection against enemy fire, with apertures to allow defensive gunfire. 3. a building constructed of logs or squared timber.

blockish ('blɒkɪʃ) *adj.* lacking vivacity or imagination; stupid. —'blockishly *adv.*

block letter *n.* 1. *Printing.* a less common name for **sans serif**. 2. Also called: **block capital**. a plain capital letter.

block out *vb. (tr., adv.)* 1. to plan or describe (something) in a general fashion. 2. to prevent the entry or consideration of (something).

block release *n. Brit.* the release of industrial trainees from work for study at a college for several weeks.

bloke (blɒk) *n. Brit.* an informal word for **man**.

blond (blɒnd) *adj.* 1. (of hair) of a light colour; fair. 2. (of people or a race) having fair hair, a light complexion, and, typically, blue or grey eyes. ~*n.* 3. a man or boy having light-coloured hair and skin. —'blondness *n.*

blonde (blɒnd) *n.* 1. a woman or girl having light-coloured hair. ~*adj.* 2. (of a woman's or girl's hair) of a light colour; fair. 3. (of a woman or girl) having light-coloured hair and skin.

blood (blad) *n.* 1. a reddish fluid in vertebrates that is pumped by the heart through the arteries and veins. 2. a similar fluid in invertebrates. 3. bloodshed, esp. when resulting in murder. 4. life itself; lifeblood. 5. relationship through being of the same family, race, or kind; kinship. 6. **flesh and blood**. a. near kindred or kinship, esp. that between a parent and child. b. human nature (esp. in *it's more than flesh and blood can stand*). 7. **in one's blood**. as a natural or inherited characteristic or talent. 8. **the blood**. royal or noble descent: *a prince of the blood*. 9. temperament; disposition; temper. 10. a. good or pure breeding; pedigree. b. (as modifier): *blood horses*. 11. people viewed as members of a group, esp. as an invigorating force (**new blood, young blood**). 12. *Chiefly Brit., rare.* a dashing young man. 13. **bad blood**. hatred; ill feeling. 14. **in cold blood**. a. cruelly and ruthlessly. b. deliberately and calmly. 15. **make one's blood boil**. to cause to be angry or indignant. 16. **make one's blood run cold**. to fill with horror. ~vb. (tr.) 17. *Hunting.* to cause (young hounds) to taste the blood of a freshly killed quarry. 18. to initiate (a person) to war or hunting.

blood-and-thunder *adj.* denoting or relating to a melodramatic adventure story.

blood bath *n.* indiscriminate slaughter; a massacre.

blood brother *n.* 1. a brother by birth. 2. a man or boy who has sworn to treat another as his brother, often in a ceremony in which their blood is mingled.

blood count *n.* determination of the number of red and white blood corpuscles in a specific sample of blood.

bloodcurdling ('blʌd,kɜ:dlɪŋ) *adj.* terrifying; horrifying. —'blood,curdly *adv.*

blood donor *n.* a person who gives his blood to be used for transfusion.

blood group *n.* any one of the various groups into which human blood is classified on the basis of its agglutinogens. Also called: **blood type**.

blood heat *n.* the normal temperature of the human body, 98.4°F. or 37°C.

bloodhound ('blʌd,haʊnd) *n.* a large breed of hound, much used in tracking and police work.

bloodless ('blʌdlɪs) *adj.* 1. without blood. 2. conducted without violence (esp. in **bloodless revolution**). 3. anaemic-looking; pale. 4. lacking vitality; lifeless. 5. lacking in emotion; unfeeling. —'bloodlessly *adv.* —'bloodlessness *n.*

blood-letting ('blʌd,letɪŋ) *n.* 1. the therapeutic removal of blood. 2. bloodshed, esp. in a feud.

blood money *n.* 1. compensation paid to the relatives of a murdered person. 2. money paid to a hired murderer. 3. a reward for information about a criminal, esp. a murderer.

blood orange *n.* a variety of orange all or part of the pulp of which is dark red when ripe.

blood poisoning *n.* a nontechnical term for **septicaemia**.

blood pressure *n.* the pressure exerted by the blood on the inner walls of the arteries, being relative to the elasticity and diameter of the vessels and the force of the heart beat.

blood relation or relative *n.* a person related to another by birth, as distinct from one related by marriage.

bloodshed ('blʌd,ʃed) *n.* slaughter; killing.

bloodshot ('blʌd,ʃɒt) *adj.* (of an eye) inflamed.

blood sport *n.* any sport involving the killing of an animal, esp. hunting.

bloodstain ('blʌd,steɪn) *n.* a dark discoloration caused by blood, esp. dried blood. —'blood,stained *adj.*

bloodstock ('blʌd,stɒk) *n.* thoroughbred horses.

bloodstone ('blʌd,stəʊn) *n.* a dark-green variety of chalcedony with red spots: used as a gemstone. Also called: **heliotrope**.

blood stream *n.* the flow of blood through the vessels of a living body.

bloodsucker ('blad,sakə) *n.* 1. an animal that sucks blood, esp. a leech or mosquito. 2. *Inf.* a person or thing that preys upon another person, esp. by extorting money.

bloodthirsty ('blad,θɜːsti) *adj.* -thirstier, -thirstiest. 1. murderous; cruel. 2. taking pleasure in bloodshed or violence. 3. describing or depicting killing and violence; gruesome. —**blood, thirstily** *adv.* —**blood, thirstiness** *n.*

blood vessel *n.* an artery, capillary, or vein.

bloody ('blədi) *adj.* **bloodier, bloodiest.** 1. covered or stained with blood. 2. resembling or composed of blood. 3. marked by much killing and bloodshed: a **bloody war**. 4. cruel or murderous: a **bloody tyrant**. ~*adv.*, *adj.* 5. *Sl.* (intensifier): a **bloody fool**. ~*vb.* **bloodying, bloodied.** 6. (*tr.*) to stain with blood. —**bloodily** *adv.* —**bloodiness** *n.*

Bloody Mary *n.* a drink consisting of tomato juice and vodka.

bloody-minded *adj.* *Brit. inf.* deliberately obstructive and unhelpful.

bloom¹ ('blu:m) *n.* 1. a blossom on a flowering plant; a flower. 2. the state, time, or period when flowers open. 3. open flowers collectively. 4. a healthy, vigorous, or flourishing condition; prime. 5. youthful or healthy rosininess in the cheeks or face; glow. 6. a fine whitish coating on the surface of fruits, leaves, etc. 7. Also called: **chill**. a dull area on the surface of old gloss paint, lacquer, or varnish. ~*vb.* (*intr.*) 8. (of flowers) to open; come into flower. 9. to bear flowers; blossom. 10. to flourish or grow. 11. to be in a healthy, glowing, or flourishing condition.

bloom² ('blu:m) *n.* a rectangular mass of metal obtained by rolling or forging a cast ingot.

bloomer¹ ('blu:mə) *n.* a plant that flowers, esp. in a specified way: a **night bloom**.

bloomer² ('blu:mə) *n.* *Brit. inf.* a stupid mistake; blunder.

bloomers ('blu:məz) *pl. n.* 1. (formerly) women's loose baggy knickers, usually gathered just above the knee. 2. close-fitting knickers reaching to just above the knee.

blooming ('blu:miŋ) *adv.*, *adj.* *Brit. inf.* (intensifier): a **blooming genius**; **blooming painful**.

blossom ('blɒsəm) *n.* 1. the flower or flowers of a plant, esp. producing edible fruit. 2. the time or period of flowering. ~*vb.* (*intr.*) 3. (of plants) to come into flower. 4. to develop or come to a promising stage. —**blissomy** *adj.*

blot (blɒt) *n.* 1. a stain or spot of ink, paint, dirt, etc. 2. something that spoils. 3. a blemish or stain on one's character or reputation. 4. *Austral. vulgar sl.* the backside. ~*vb.* **blotting, blotted.** 5. (of ink, dye, etc.) to form spots or blobs on (a material) or (of a person) to cause such spots or blobs to form on (a material). 6. **blot one's copybook.** *Inf.* to spoil one's reputation by a mistake or indiscretion. 7. (*intr.*) to stain or become stained or spotted. 8. (*tr.*) to cause a blemish in or on; disgrace. 9. to soak up (excess ink, etc.) by using blotting paper. 10. (of blotting paper) to absorb (excess ink, etc.). 11. (*tr.*; often foll. by *out*) a. to darken or hide completely; obscure; obliterate. b. to destroy; annihilate.

blotch (blɒtʃ) *n.* 1. an irregular spot or discoloration, esp. a dark and relatively large one. ~*vb.* 2. to become or cause to become marked by such discoloration. —**blotchy** *adj.*

blotter ('blɒtə) *n.* something used to absorb excess ink, esp. a sheet of blotting paper.

blotting paper *n.* a soft absorbent unsized paper, used esp. for soaking up surplus ink.

blotto ('blɒtəʊ) *adj.* *Sl.* unconscious, esp. through drunkenness.

blouse (bləʊz) *n.* 1. a woman's shirtlike garment. 2. a waist-length jacket worn by soldiers. ~*vb.* 3. to hang or make so as to hang in full loose folds.

blouson ('blu:zən) *n.* a tight-waisted jacket or top that blouses out softly.

blow¹ ('bləʊ) *vb.* **blowing, blew, blown.** 1. (of a current of air, the wind, etc.) to be or cause to be in motion. 2. (*intr.*) to move or be carried by or as if by wind. 3. to expel (air, cigarette smoke, etc.) through the mouth or nose. 4. to force or cause (air, dust, etc.) to move (into, in, over, etc.) by using an instrument or by expelling breath. 5. (*intr.*) to breathe hard; pant. 6. (sometimes foll. by *up*) to inflate with air or the breath. 7. (*intr.*) (of wind, a storm, etc.) to make a roaring sound. 8. to cause (a whistle, siren, etc.) to sound by forcing air into it, or

(of a whistle, etc.) to sound thus. 9. (*tr.*) to force air from the lungs through (the nose) to clear out mucus. 10. (often foll. by *up*, *down*, *in*, etc.) to explode, break, or disintegrate completely. 11. **Electronics.** to burn out (a fuse, valve, etc.) because of excessive current or (of a fuse, valve, etc.) to burn out. 12. (*tr.*) to wind (a horse) by making it run excessively. 13. to cause (a wind instrument) to sound by forcing one's breath into the mouthpiece, or (of such an instrument) to sound in this way. 14. (*intr.*) (of flies) to lay eggs (in). 15. to shape (glass, ornaments, etc.) by forcing air or gas through the material when molten. 16. (*tr.*) *Sl.* to spend (money) freely. 17. (*tr.*) *Sl.* to use (an opportunity) ineffectively. 18. *Sl.* to go suddenly away (from). 19. (p.p.: **blowed**). *Inf.* another word for **damn**. 20. **blow hot and cold.** *Inf.* to vacillate. 21. **blow one's own trumpet.** to boast of one's own skills or good qualities. 22. **blow someone's mind.** *Sl.* a. (of a drug, esp. LSD) to cause hallucinatory experiences in a person. b. to produce a pleasant or shocking feeling in someone. 23. **blow one's top.** *Sl.* to lose one's temper. ~*n.* 24. the act or an instance of blowing. 25. the sound produced by blowing. 26. a blast of air or wind. 27. *Austral. sl.* a brief rest; a breather. ~See also **blow in**, **blow out**, **blow over**, **blow up**.

blow² ('bləʊ) *n.* 1. a powerful or heavy stroke with the fist, a weapon, etc. 2. at one or a **blow**. by or with only one action. 3. a sudden setback. 4. **come to blows.** a. to fight. b. to result in a fight. 5. an attacking action: a **blow for freedom**. 6. *Austral. & N.Z.* a stroke of the shears in sheep-shearing.

blow-by-blow *adj.* (*prenominal*) explained in great detail: a **blow-by-blow account**.

blow-dry *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to style (the hair) smoothly while drying it with a hair dryer. ~*n.* 2. this method of styling hair.

blower ('bləʊə) *n.* 1. a mechanical device, such as a fan, that blows. 2. a low-pressure compressor, esp. in a furnace or internal-combustion engine. 3. an informal name for **telephone**.

blowfly ('bləʊ,flaɪ) *n.*, *pl.* -flies. any of various flies that lay their eggs in rotting meat, dung, carrion, and open wounds. Also called: **bluebottle**.

blowhole ('bləʊ,həʊl) *n.* 1. the nostril of whales, situated far back on the skull. 2. a hole in ice through which whales, seals, etc., breathe. 3. a. a vent for air or gas. b. *N.Z.* a hole emitting gas or steam in a volcanic region.

blow in *vb.* (*intr.*, *adv.*) *Inf.* to arrive or enter suddenly.

blowlamp ('bləʊ,læmp) *n.* a small burner that produces a very hot flame, used to remove old paint, melt soft metal, etc. *U.S. name:* **blowtorch**.

blown (bləʊn) *vb.* the past participle of **blow**¹ and **blow**¹.

blow out *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. to extinguish (a flame, candle, etc.) or (of a flame, etc.) to become extinguished. 2. (*intr.*) (of a tyre) to puncture suddenly, esp. at high speed. 3. (*intr.*) (of a fuse) to melt suddenly. 4. (*tr.*; often reflexive) to diminish or use up the energy of. *the storm blew itself out*. 5. (*intr.*) (of an oil or gas well) to lose oil or gas in an uncontrolled manner. ~*n.* **blowout**. 6. the sudden melting of an electrical fuse. 7. a sudden burst in a tyre. 8. the uncontrolled escape of oil and gas from an oil or gas well. 9. *Sl.* a large filling meal or lavish entertainment.

blow over *vb.* (*intr.*, *adv.*) 1. to cease or be finished: *the storm blew over*. 2. to be forgotten.

blowpipe ('bləʊ,paɪp) *n.* 1. a long tube from which pellets, poisoned darts, etc., are shot by blowing. 2. Also called: **blow tube**. a tube for blowing air or oxygen into a flame to intensify its heat. 3. a long narrow iron pipe used to gather molten glass and blow it into shape.

blow up *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. to explode or cause to explode. 2. (*tr.*) to increase the importance of (something): *they blew the whole affair up*. 3. (*intr.*) to come into existence with sudden force: *a storm had blown up*. 4. *Inf.* to lose one's temper (with a person). 5. *Inf.* (*tr.*) to enlarge the size of (a photograph). ~*n.* **blow-up**. 6. an explosion. 7. *Inf.* an enlarged photograph or part of a photograph. 8. *Inf.* a fit of temper.

blowy ('bləʊɪ) *adj.* **blowier, blowiest.** another word for **windy** (sense 1).

blowzy or **blowisy** ('bləʊzi) *adj.* **blowzier, blowziest** or **blowsier, blowsiest.** 1. (esp. of a woman) untidy in appearance; slovenly or sluttish. 2. (of a woman) ruddy in complexion.

blubber ('blʌbə) *vb.* 1. to sob without restraint. 2. to utter while sobbing. 3. (*tr.*) to make (the face) wet and swollen by crying. ~*n.* 4. the fatty tissue of aquatic mammals such as the whale. 5. *Inf.* flabby body fat. 6. the act or an instance of weeping without restraint.

~adj. 7. (often in combination) swollen or fleshy: blubber-faced. —'blubberer *n.* —'blubbery *adj.*

bludgeon ('bʌdʒən) *n.* 1. a stout heavy club, typically thicker at one end. 2. a person, line of argument, etc., that is effective but unsubtle. ~vb. (tr.) 3. to hit as with a bludgeon. 4. (often foll. by *into*) to force; bully; coerce.

blue (blu:) *n.* 1. any of a group of colours, such as that of a clear unclouded sky or the deep sea. 2. a dye or pigment of any of these colours. 3. blue cloth or clothing: dressed in blue. 4. a sportsman who represents or has represented Oxford or Cambridge University and has the right to wear the university colour. 5. Brit. an informal name for **Tory**. 6. any of numerous small blue-winged butterflies. 7. a blue substance used in laundering. 8. Austral. sl. an argument or fight: he had a blue with a taxi driver. 9. Also: **bluey**. Austral. & N.Z. inf. a summons. 10. Austral. & N.Z. inf. a mistake; error. 11. out of the blue, apparently from nowhere; unexpectedly. ~adj. **bluer**, **bluest**. 12. of the colour blue. 13. (of the flesh) having a purple tinge, as from cold or contusion. 14. depressed, moody, or unhappy. 15. indecent, titillating, or pornographic: blue films. ~vb. **blueing** or **bluing**, **blued**. 16. to make, dye, or become blue. 17. (tr.) to treat (laundry) with blue. 18. (tr.) Sl. to spend extravagantly or wastefully; squander. —'blueness *n.*

blue baby *n.* a baby born with a bluish tinge to the skin because of lack of oxygen in the blood.

bluebell ('blu:bel) *n.* 1. Also called: **wild** or **wood hyacinth**. a European woodland plant having a one-sided cluster of blue bell-shaped flowers. 2. a Scottish name for **harebell**. 3. any of various other plants with blue bell-shaped flowers.

blueberry ('blu:bəri, -bri) *n.* pl. **-ries**. 1. Also called: **huckleberry**. any of several North American ericaceous shrubs that have blue-black edible berries with tiny seeds. See also **bilberry**. 2. the fruit of any of these plants.

bluebird ('blu:bɜ:d) *n.* 1. a North American songbird of the thrush family having a blue or partly blue plumage. 2. any of various other birds having a blue plumage.

blue blood *n.* royal or aristocratic descent. —'blue-'blooded *adj.*

bluebook ('blu:bʊk) *n.* (in Britain) a government publication bound in a stiff blue paper cover: usually the report of a royal commission or a committee.

bluebottle ('blu:botl) *n.* 1. another name for the **blowfly**. 2. any of various blue-flowered plants, esp. the cornflower. 3. Brit. an informal word for a **policeman**. 4. an Australian name for **Portuguese man-of-war**.

blue cheese *n.* cheese containing a blue mould, esp. Stilton, Roquefort, or Danish Blue.

blue chip *n.* 1. a gambling chip with the highest value. 2. Finance, a stock considered reliable with respect to both dividend income and capital value.

blue-collar *adj.* of or designating manual industrial workers. Cf. **white-collar**.

blue-eyed boy *n.* Inf., chiefly Brit. the favourite or darling of a person or group.

blue funk *n.* Inf., chiefly Brit. a state of great terror.

blue pencil *n.* 1. deletion, alteration, or censorship of the contents of a book or other work. ~vb. **blue-pencil**, **-ciling**, **-cilled** or U.S. **-ciling**, **-ciled**. 2. (tr.) to alter or delete parts of (a book, film, etc.), esp. to censor.

blue peter *n.* a signal flag of blue with a white square at the centre, displayed by a vessel about to leave port.

blueprint ('blu:prɪnt) *n.* 1. Also called: **cyanotype**. a photographic print of plans, technical drawings, etc., consisting of white lines on a blue background. 2. an original plan or prototype. ~vb. 3. (tr.) to make a blueprint of (a plan, etc.).

blue ribbon *n.* 1. (in Britain) a badge of blue silk worn by members of the Order of the Garter. 2. a badge awarded as the first prize in a competition.

blues (blu:z) *pl. n.* (sometimes functioning as *sing.*) the. 1. a feeling of depression or deep unhappiness. 2. a type of folk song originating among Black Americans, usually employing a basic 12-bar chorus, and frequent minor intervals.

bluestocking ('blu:stɒkɪŋ) *n.* Usually disparaging. a scholarly or intellectual woman.

bluetit ('blu:ttɪ) *n.* a common European tit having a blue crown, wings, and tail, yellow underparts, and a black and grey head.

blue whale *n.* the largest mammal: a widely distributed bluish-grey whalebone whale, closely related and similar to the **rorquals**.

bluff¹ (blaf) *vb.* 1. to pretend to be confident about an uncertain issue in order to influence (someone). ~*n.* 2. deliberate deception intended to create the impression of a stronger position than one actually has. 3. call someone's bluff. to challenge someone to give proof of his claims. —'bluffer *n.*

bluff² (blaf) *n.* 1. a steep promontory, bank, or cliff. 2. Canad. a clump of trees on the prairie; copse. ~adj. 3. good-naturedly frank and hearty. 4. (of a bank, cliff, etc.) presenting a steep broad face. —'bluffly *adv.* —'bluffness *n.*

bluish or **blueish** ('blu:ʃ) *adj.* somewhat blue.

blunder ('blʌndə) *n.* 1. a stupid or clumsy mistake. 2. a foolish tactless remark. ~vb. (mainly intr.) 3. to make stupid or clumsy mistakes. 4. to make foolish tactless remarks. 5. (often foll. by *about*, *into*, etc.) to act clumsily; stumble. 6. (tr.) to mismanage; botch. —'blunderer *n.* —'blunderingly *adv.*

blunderbuss ('blʌndə,bʌs) *n.* an obsolete short musket with large bore and flared muzzle.

blunt (blʌnt) *adj.* 1. (esp. of a knife or blade) lacking sharpness or keenness; dull. 2. not having a sharp edge or point: a blunt instrument. 3. (of people, manner of speaking, etc.) straightforward and uncomplicated. ~vb. (tr.) 4. to make less sharp. 5. to diminish the sensitivity or perception of; make dull. —'bluntly *adv.* —'bluntness *n.*

blur (blɜ:) *vb.* **blurring**, **blurred**. 1. to make or become vague or less distinct. 2. to smear or smudge. 3. (tr.) to make (the judgment, memory, or perception) less clear; dim. ~*n.* 4. something vague, hazy, or indistinct. 5. a smear or smudge. —'blurredness *n.* —'blurry *adj.*

blurb (blɜ:b) *n.* a promotional description, as on the jackets of books.

blurt (blɜ:t) *vb.* (tr.; often foll. by *out*) to utter suddenly and involuntarily.

blush (blʌʃ) *vb.* 1. (intr.) to become suddenly red in the face from embarrassment, shame, modesty, or guilt; redden. 2. to make or become reddish or rosy. ~*n.* 3. a sudden reddening of the face from embarrassment, shame, modesty, or guilt. 4. a rosy glow. 5. at first blush. when first seen; as a first impression.

blusher ('blʌʃə) *n.* a cosmetic applied to the cheeks to give a rosy colour.

bluster ('blʌstə) *vb.* 1. to speak or say loudly or boastfully. 2. to act in a bullying way. 3. (tr., foll. by *into*) to force or attempt to force (a person) into doing something by behaving thus. 4. (intr.) (of the wind) to be noisy or gusty. ~*n.* 5. boisterous talk or action; swagger. 6. empty threats or protests. 7. a strong wind; gale. —'blusterer *n.* —'blustery *adj.*

Blvd. abbrev. for **Boulevard**.

B.M. abbrev. for: 1. Bachelor of Medicine. 2. Surveying bench mark. 3. British Museum.

B.M.A. abbrev. for **British Medical Association**.

B.Mus. abbrev. for **Bachelor of Music**.

B.N.O.C. abbrev. for **British National Oil Corporation**.

B.O. abbrev. for: 1. Inf. body odour. 2. box office.

boa ('boʊə) *n.* 1. any of various large nonvenomous snakes of Central and South America and the West Indies. They kill their prey by constriction. 2. a woman's long thin scarf, usually of feathers or fur.

boa constrictor *n.* a very large snake of tropical America and the West Indies, that kills its prey by constriction.

boar (bɔ:) *n.* an uncastrated male pig.

board (bɔ:d) *n.* 1. a long wide flat piece of sawn timber. 2. a smaller flat piece of rigid material for a specific purpose: ironing board. b. (in combination): bread-board. 3. a person's meals, provided regularly for money. 4. Arch. a table, esp. when laden with food. 5. a. (sometimes functioning as *pl.*) a group of people who officially administer a company, trust, etc. b. (as modifier): a board meeting. 6. any other committee or council: a board of interviewers. 7. the boards. (pl.) the stage. 8. stiff cardboard or similar material, used for the outside covers of a book. 9. a flat thin rectangular sheet of composite material, such as plasterboard or chip-board. 10. Chiefly U.S. a. a list of stock-exchange prices. b. Inf. the stock exchange itself. 11. Naut. the side of a ship. 12. Austral. & N.Z. the part of the floor of a sheep-shearing shed where the shearers work. 13. any of various portable surfaces specially designed for indoor games such as chess, backgammon, etc. 14. across the board. including all groups or classes. 15. go by the board. Inf. to be in disuse, neglected, or lost: in these days courtesy goes by the board. 16. on board. on or in a

ship, boat, aeroplane, or other vehicle. ~*vb.* 17. to go aboard (a vessel, train, aircraft, or other vehicle). 18. to attack (a ship) by forcing one's way aboard. 19. (*tr.*; often foll. by *up, in, etc.*) to cover or shut with boards. 20. (*intr.*) to receive meals or meals and lodging in return for money. 21. (sometimes foll. by *out*) to arrange for (someone, esp. a child) to receive food and lodging away from home. 22. (in ice hockey and box lacrosse) to bodycheck an opponent against the boards.

boarder ('bɔ:də) *n.* 1. a pupil who lives at school during term time. 2. another word for **lodger**. 3. a person who boards a ship, esp. in an attack.

boarding ('bɔ:diŋ) *n.* 1. a structure of boards. 2. timber boards collectively. 3. a. the act of embarking on an aircraft, train, ship, etc. b. (as modifier): a *boarding pass*. 4. (in ice hockey and box lacrosse) an act of bodychecking an opponent against the boards.

boarding house *n.* a private house in which accommodation and meals are provided for paying guests.

boarding school *n.* a school providing living accommodation for some or all of its pupils.

Board of Trade *n.* (in the United Kingdom) a ministry responsible for the supervision of commerce and the promotion of export trade.

boardroom ('bɔ:d,rʊ:m,-rʊm) *n.* a room where the board of directors of a company meets.

boast (bəʊst) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*; sometimes foll. by *of* or *about*) to speak in excessively proud terms of one's possessions, skills, or superior qualities; brag. 2. (*tr.*) to possess (something to be proud of): *the city boasts a fine cathedral*. ~*n.* 3. a bragging statement. 4. a possession, attribute, etc., that is or may be bragged about. —'boaster *n.* —'boastingly *adv.*

boastful ('bəʊstfʊl) *adj.* tending to boast; characterized by boasting. —'boastfully *adv.* —'boastfulness *n.*

boat (bəʊt) *n.* 1. a small vessel propelled by oars, paddle, sails, or motor. 2. (*not in technical use*) another word for **ship**. 3. a container for gravy, sauce, etc. 4. *in the same boat*, sharing the same problems. 5. *miss the boat*. *Inf.* to fail to do something at the right time. 6. *rock the boat*. *Inf.* to cause a disturbance in the existing situation. ~*vb.* 7. (*intr.*) to travel or go in a boat, esp. as a form of recreation. -8. (*tr.*) to transport or carry in a boat.

boater ('bɔ:tə) *n.* a stiff straw hat with a straight brim and flat crown.

boathook ('bɔ:t,hʊk) *n.* a pole with a hook at one end, used aboard a vessel for fending off other vessels or for catching a mooring buoy.

boathouse ('bɔ:t,haʊs) *n.* a shelter by the edge of a river, lake, etc., for housing boats.

boating ('bɔ:tiŋ) *n.* rowing, sailing, or cruising in boats as a form of recreation.

boatman ('bɔ:tmən) *n.* *pl.* -men. a man who works on, hires out, or repairs a boat or boats.

boatswain, bo's'n, or bosun ('bəʊs'n) *n.* a petty officer or a warrant officer who is responsible for the maintenance of a ship and its equipment.

boat train *n.* a train scheduled to take passengers to or from a particular ship.

bob¹ (bɒb) *vb.* **bobbing, bobbed.** 1. to move or cause to move up and down repeatedly, as while floating in water. 2. to move or cause to move with a short abrupt movement, as of the head. 3. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *up*) to appear or emerge suddenly. 4. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *for*) to attempt to get hold (of a floating or hanging object, esp. an apple) in the teeth as a game. ~*n.* 5. a short abrupt movement, as of the head.

bob² (bɒb) *n.* 1. a hair style for women and children in which the hair is cut short evenly all round the head. 2. a dangling or hanging object, such as the weight on a pendulum or on a plumb line. 3. short for **bobsleigh**. 4. a docked tail, esp. of a horse. ~*vb.* **bobbing, bobbed.** 5. (*tr.*) to cut (the hair) in a bob. 6. (*tr.*) to cut short (something, esp. the tail of an animal); dock or crop. 7. (*intr.*) to ride on a bobsleigh.

bob³ (bɒb) *n.* *pl.* **bob.** *Brit.* (formerly) an informal word for a shilling.

bobbejaan ('bɒbə,jɑ:n) *n.* *S. African.* a baboon.

bobbejaan spanner *n.* *S. African.* a monkey wrench.

bobbin ('bɒbin) *n.* a spool or reel on which thread or yarn is wound.

bobble ('bɒbl) *n.* a tufted ball, usually for ornament, as on a knitted hat.

bobby ('bɒbi) *n.* *pl.* -bies. *Inf.* a British policeman.

bobby-dazzler *n.* anything outstanding, striking, or showy.

bobcat ('bɒb,kæt) *n.* a North American feline mammal, closely related to but smaller than the lynx, having reddish-brown fur with dark spots or stripes, tufted ears, and a short tail. Also called: **bay lynx**.

bobotie (bəʊ'buti) *n.* a South African dish consisting of curried mincemeat with a topping of beaten egg baked to a crust.

bobsleigh ('bɒb,slei) *n.* 1. a racing sledge for two or more people, with a steering mechanism enabling the driver to direct it down a steeply banked ice-covered run. ~*vb.* 2. (*intr.*) to ride on a bobsleigh. ~Also called (*esp. U.S.*): **bobsled** ('bɒb,sled).

bobtail ('bɒb,teɪl) *n.* 1. a docked or diminutive tail. 2. an animal with such a tail. ~*adj.* also **bobtailed**. 3. having the tail cut short. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 4. to dock the tail of. 5. to cut short; curtail.

Boche (bɒʃ) *n.* *Derg.* *sl.* (*esp. in World Wars I and II*) 1. a German, esp. a German soldier. 2. *the.* (usually functioning as *pl.*) Germans collectively, esp. German soldiers regarded as the enemy.

bod (bɒd) *n.* *Inf.* a fellow; chap: *he's a queer bod*.

bode¹ (bəʊd) *vb.* 1. to be an omen of (good or ill, esp. of ill); portend; presage. 2. (*tr.*) *Arch.* to predict; foretell. —'bodem *n.*

bode² (bəʊd) *vb.* the past tense of **bide** (senses 1, 2).

bodega (bəʊ'di:ɡə) *n.* a shop selling wine and sometimes groceries, esp. in a Spanish-speaking country.

bodge (bɒdʒ) *vb.* *Inf.* to make a mess of; botch.

bodice ('bɒdis) *n.* 1. the upper part of a woman's dress, from the shoulder to the waist. 2. a tight-fitting corset worn laced over a blouse, or (formerly) as a woman's undergarment.

bodily ('bɒdli) *adj.* 1. relating to or being a part of the human body. ~*adv.* 2. by taking hold of the body: *he threw him bodily from the platform*. 3. in person; in the flesh.

bodkin ('bɒdkɪn) *n.* 1. a blunt large-eyed needle. 2. *Arch.* a dagger. 3. *Arch.* a long ornamental hairpin.

body ('bɒdi) *n.* *pl.* **bodies.** 1. a. the entire physical structure of an animal or human being. Related *adj.*: **corporeal**. b. (as modifier): *body odour*. 2. the trunk or torso. 3. a dead human or animal; corpse. 4. the flesh as opposed to the spirit. 5. the largest or main part of anything: *the body of a vehicle; the body of a plant*. 6. a separate or distinct mass of water or land. 7. a number of individuals regarded as a single entity; group. 8. the characteristic full quality of certain wines. 9. firmness, esp. of cloth. 10. a. the pigment contained in or added to paint, dye, etc. b. the opacity of a paint. c. (as modifier): *body colour*. 11. an informal or dialect word for a person. 12. **keep body and soul together**. to manage to keep alive; survive. ~*vb.* **bodying, bodied.** (*tr.*) 13. (usually foll. by *forth*) to give a body or shape to.

bodycheck ('bɒdi,tʃek) *n.* *Ice hockey, etc.* 1. obstruction of another player. ~*vb.* 2. (*tr.*) to deliver a bodycheck (to an opponent).

bodyguard ('bɒdi,gɑ:d) *n.* a man or group of men who escort and protect someone.

body-line *adj.* *Cricket.* denoting or relating to fast bowling aimed at the batsman's body.

body politic *n.* *the.* the people of a nation or the nation itself considered as a political entity.

body shop *n.* a repair yard for vehicle bodywork.

body snatcher *n.* (formerly) a person who robbed graves and sold the corpses for dissection.

body stocking *n.* a one-piece undergarment for women, usually of nylon, covering the torso.

bodywork ('bɒdi,wɜ:k) *n.* the external shell of a motor vehicle.

Boer (bəʊ) *n.* a. a descendant of any of the Dutch or Huguenot colonists who settled in South Africa. b. (as modifier): a *Boer farmer*.

boerbul ('bəʊbʊl) *n.* *S. African.* a crossbred mastiff used esp. as a watchdog.

boeremusiek ('bəʊə,mæ:ɪk) *n.* *S. African.* light music associated with the culture of the Afrikaners.

boerperd ('bəʊ,pɜ:t) *n.* a *S. African* breed of rugged horse, often palomino.

boet (bʊt) or **boetie** *n.* *S. African inf.* a friend.

boffin ('bɒfɪn) *n.* *Brit. inf.* a scientist, esp. one carrying out military research.

Bofors gun ('bəʊfɔ:z) *n.* an automatic double-barrelled anti-aircraft gun.

bog (bɒɡ) *n.* 1. wet spongy ground consisting of decomposing vegetation. 2. an area of such ground. 3. a slang word for **lavatory**. ~See also **bog down**. —'bogginess *n.*

bogan ('bɒɡən) *n.* *Canad.* (esp. in the Maritime Provinces) a sluggish side stream. Also called: **logan**, **pokelogan**.

bog down *vb.* **bogging**, **bogged**. (*adv.*; when *tr.*, often *passive*) to impede or be impeded physically or mentally.

bogey or **bogy** ('bɒɡi) *n.* 1. an evil or mischievous spirit. 2. something that worries or annoys. 3. *Golf.* a. a standard score for a hole or course, regarded as one that a good player should make. b. a score of one stroke over par on a hole. Cf. **par** (sense 5). 4. *Sl.* a piece of dried mucus discharged from the nose.

bogeyman ('bɒɡi,mən) *n.*, *pl.* **-men**. a person, real or imaginary, used as a threat, esp. to children.

boggle ('bɒɡl) *vb.* (*intr.*; often foll. by *at*) 1. to be surprised, confused, or alarmed (esp. in the **mind boggles**). 2. to hesitate or be evasive when confronted with a problem.

bogie or **bogy** ('bɒɡi) *n.* 1. an assembly of four or six wheels forming a pivoted support at either end of a railway coach. 2. *Chiefly Brit.* a small railway truck of short wheelbase, used for conveying coal, ores, etc.

bog oak *n.* oak preserved in peat bogs.

bogtrotter ('bɒɡ,trotə) *n.* a derogatory term for an Irishman, esp. an Irish peasant.

bogus ('bɒɡəs) *adj.* spurious or counterfeit; not genuine. — **bogusly** *adv.* — **bogusness** *n.*

bogy ('bɒɡi) *n.*, *pl.* **-gies**. a variant spelling of **bogey** or **bogie**.

Bohemian (bəʊ'hi:mən) *n.* 1. a native or inhabitant of Bohemia, a former kingdom; a Czech. 2. (*often not cap.*) a person, esp. an artist or writer, who lives an unconventional life. 3. the Czech language. — *adj.* 4. of, relating to, or characteristic of Bohemia, its people, or their language. 5. unconventional in appearance, behaviour, etc. — **Bo'hemia,nism** *n.*

boil¹ ('bɔɪl) *vb.* 1. to change or cause to change from a liquid to a gas, esp. by the application of heat. 2. to reach or cause to reach boiling point. 3. to cook or be cooked by the process of boiling. 4. (*intr.*) to bubble and be agitated like something boiling; seethe: *the ocean was boiling*. 5. (*intr.*) to be extremely angry or indignant. — *n.* 6. the state or action of boiling. — See also **boil away**, **boil down**, etc.

boil² ('bɔɪl) *n.* a red painful swelling with a hard pus-filled core caused by bacterial infection of the skin. Technical name: **furuncle**.

boil away *vb.* (*adv.*) to cause (liquid) to evaporate completely by boiling or (of liquid) to evaporate completely.

boil down *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. to reduce or be reduced in quantity by boiling. 2. **boil down to** *a.* (*intr.*) to be the essential element in something. *b.* (*tr.*) to summarize; reduce to essentials.

boiled shirt *n.* a dress shirt with stiff front.

boiler ('bɔɪlə) *n.* 1. a closed vessel in which water is heated to supply steam or provide heat. 2. a domestic device to provide hot water, esp. for central heating. 3. a large tub for boiling laundry.

boilermaker ('bɔɪlə,məɪkə) *n.* a person who works with metal in heavy industry; plater or welder.

boiler suit *n.* *Brit.* a one-piece overall work garment.

boiling point *n.* 1. the temperature at which a liquid boils at sea level. 2. *Inf.* the condition of being angered or highly excited.

boil over *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. to overflow or cause to overflow while boiling. 2. (*intr.*) to burst out in anger or excitement.

boisterous ('bɔɪstəəs, -strəs) *adj.* 1. noisy and lively; unruly. 2. (of the wind, sea, etc.) turbulent or stormy. — **boisterously** *adv.* — **boisterousness** *n.*

bokmakierie (,bɒkmə'kiəri) *n.* *S. African.* a large yellow shrub of southern Africa, known for its melodious song.

bold (bəʊld) *adj.* 1. courageous, confident, and fearless; ready to take risks. 2. showing or requiring courage: *a bold plan*. 3. immodest or impudent: *she gave him a bold look*. 4. standing out distinctly; conspicuous: *a figure carved in bold relief*. 5. very steep: *the bold face of the cliff*. 6. imaginative in thought or expression. — **boldly** *adv.* — **boldness** *n.*

bold face *n.* 1. *Printing.* a weight of type characterized by thick heavy lines, as the entry words in this dictionary. — *adj.* **boldface**. 2. (of type) having this weight.

bole (bəʊl) *n.* the trunk of a tree.

bolero (bə'leɪərəʊ) *n.*, *pl.* **-ros**. 1. a Spanish dance,

usually in triple time. 2. a piece of music for or in the rhythm of this dance. 3. (*also* 'bɒləərəʊ) a kind of short jacket not reaching the waist, worn by women.

boll (bəʊl) *n.* the fruit of such plants as flax and cotton, consisting of a rounded capsule containing the seeds.

bollard ('bɒlə:d, 'bɒləd) *n.* 1. a strong wooden or metal post on a wharf, quay, etc., used for securing mooring lines. 2. *Brit.* a small post placed on a kerb or traffic island to make it conspicuous to motorists.

bollocks ('bɒləks) or **ballocks** *Taboo sl.* — *pl. n.* 1. another word for **testicle**. — *interj.* 2. an exclamation of annoyance, disbelief, etc.

Bolshevik ('bɒlʃi,vɪk) *n.*, *pl.* **-viks** or **-viki** ('-vɪki). 1. (formerly) a Russian Communist. 2. any Communist. 3. (*often not cap.*) *Inf.* & *derog.* any political radical, esp. a revolutionary. — **'Bolshe,vism** *n.* — **'Bolshevist** *adj.* *n.*

bolshie or **bolshy** ('bɒlʃi) (*sometimes cap.*) *Brit. inf.* — *adj.* 1. difficult to manage; rebellious. 2. politically radical or left-wing. — *n.*, *pl.* **-shies**. 3. *Derog.* any political radical.

bolster ('bəʊləstə) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. (often foll. by *up*) to support or reinforce; strengthen: *to bolster morale*. 2. to prop up with a pillow or cushion. — *n.* 3. a long narrow pillow or cushion. 4. any pad or padded support. 5. a cold chisel used for cutting stone slabs, etc. — **'bolsterer** *n.*

bolt¹ ('bɔʊlt) *n.* 1. a bar that can be slid into a socket to lock a door, gate, etc. 2. a bar or rod that forms part of a locking mechanism and is moved by a key or a knob. 3. a metal rod or pin that has a head and a screw thread to take a nut. 4. a sliding bar in a breech-loading firearm that ejects the empty cartridge, replaces it with a new one, and closes the breech. 5. a flash of lightning. 6. *a bolt from the blue*, a sudden, unexpected, and usually unwelcome event. 7. a sudden start or movement, esp. in order to escape. 8. a roll of something, such as cloth, wallpaper, etc. 9. an arrow, esp. for a crossbow. 10. *shoot one's bolt*, to exhaust one's efforts. — *vb.* 11. (*tr.*) to secure or lock with or as with a bolt. 12. (*tr.*) to eat hurriedly. 13. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *from* or *out*) to move or jump suddenly: *he bolted from the chair*. 14. (*intr.*) (esp. of a horse) to start hurriedly and run away without warning. 15. (*tr.*) to roll (cloth, wallpaper, etc.) into bolts. 16. (*intr.*) (of cultivated plants) to produce flowers and seeds prematurely. — *adv.* 17. stiffly, firmly, or rigidly (archaic except in **bolt upright**). — **'bolter** *n.*

bolt² or **boult** (bəʊlt) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to pass (flour, a powder, etc.) through a sieve. 2. to examine and separate. — **'bolter** *n.*

bolt hole *n.* a way of escape from danger.

bomb (bɒm) *n.* 1. *a.* a hollow projectile containing explosive, incendiary, or other destructive substance. *b.* (*as modifier*): *bomb disposal*; *a bomb bay*. *c.* (*in combination*): *bombproof*. 2. an object in which an explosive device has been planted: *a car bomb*; *a letter bomb*. 3. *the bomb*, a hydrogen or an atom bomb considered as the ultimate destructive weapon. 4. a round mass of volcanic rock, solidified from molten lava that has been thrown into the air. 5. *Med.* a container for radioactive material, applied therapeutically to any part of the body: *a cobalt bomb*. 6. *Brit. sl.* a large sum of money. 7. *U.S. sl.* a disastrous failure: *the new play was a total bomb*. 8. *Austral.* & *N.Z. sl.* an old or dilapidated motor car. 9. *like a bomb*, *Brit.* & *N.Z. inf.* with great speed or success; very well. — *vb.* 10. to attack with or as if with a bomb or bombs; drop bombs (on). 11. (*intr.*; often foll. by *off*, *along*, etc.) to move or go very quickly. 12. (*intr.*) *U.S. sl.* to fail disastrously.

bombard (bɒm'bɑ:d) (*tr.*) 1. to attack with concentrated artillery fire or bombs. 2. to attack with vigour and persistence. 3. to attack verbally, esp. with questions. 4. *Physics.* to direct high-energy particles or photons against (atoms, nuclei, etc.). — *n.* ('bɒmbɑ:d) 5. an ancient type of cannon that threw stone balls. — **'bom'bardment** *n.*

bombardier (,bɒmbə'dɪə) *n.* 1. the member of a bomber aircrew responsible for aiming and releasing the bombs. 2. *Brit.* a noncommissioned rank, below the rank of sergeant, in the Royal Artillery. 3. *Canad. trademark.* a snow tractor, usually having caterpillar tracks at the rear and skis at the front.

bombast ('bɒmbəst) *n.* pompous and grandiloquent language. — **'bom'bastic** *adj.* — **'bom'bastically** *adv.*

Bombay duck (bɒm'bei) *n.* a fish that is eaten dried with curry dishes as a savoury. Also called: **bummalo**.

bombazine or **bombasine** (,bɒmbə'zi:n, 'bɒmbə'zi:n)

n. a twilled fabric, esp. one of silk and worsted, formerly worn dyed black for mourning.

bomber ('bɒmə) *n.* 1. a military aircraft designed to carry out bombing missions. 2. a person who plants bombs.

bombshell ('bɒm,ʃel) *n.* 1. (esp. formerly) a bomb or artillery shell. 2. a shocking or unwelcome surprise.

bona fide ('bɒnə 'faɪdi) *adj.* 1. real or genuine: *a bona fide manuscript*. 2. undertaken in good faith: *a bona fide agreement*.

bonanza (bə'nænzə) *n.* 1. a source, usually sudden and unexpected, of luck or wealth. 2. *U.S.* a mine or vein rich in ore.

bonbon ('bɒnbɒn) *n.* a sweet.

bond (bɒnd) *n.* 1. something that binds, fastens, or holds together, such as a chain or rope. 2. (often *pl.*) something that brings or holds people together; tie: *a bond of friendship*. 3. (*pl.*) something that restrains or imprisons; captivity or imprisonment. 4. a written or spoken agreement, esp. a promise. 5. *Finance*. a certificate of debt issued in order to raise funds. It is repayable with or without security at a specified future date. 6. *Law*. a written acknowledgment of an obligation to pay a sum or to perform a contract. 7. any of various arrangements of bricks or stones in a wall in which they overlap so as to provide strength. 8. **chemical bond**. a mutual attraction between two atoms resulting from a redistribution of their outer electrons, determining chemical properties; shown in some formulae by a dot (.) or score (—). 9. See **bond paper**. 10. **in bond**. *Commerce*. deposited in a bonded warehouse. ~*vb.* (mainly *tr.*) 11. (also *intr.*) to hold or be held together, as by a rope or an adhesive; bind; connect. 12. to put or hold (goods) in bond. 13. *Law*. to place under bond. 14. *Finance*. to issue bonds on; mortgage.

bondage ('bɒndɪdʒ) *n.* 1. slavery or serfdom; servitude. 2. subjection to some influence or duty.

bonded ('bɒndɪd) *adj.* 1. *Finance*. consisting of, secured by, or operating under a bond or bonds. 2. *Commerce*. deposited in a bonded warehouse.

bond paper *n.* a superior quality of strong white paper, used esp. for writing and typing.

bondservant ('bɒnd,sɜ:vənt) *n.* a serf or slave.

bone (bəʊn) *n.* 1. any of the various structures that make up the skeleton in most vertebrates. 2. the porous rigid tissue of which these parts are made. 3. something consisting of bone or a bone-like substance. 4. (*pl.*) *Inf.* the human skeleton or body. 5. a thin strip of whalebone, plastic, etc., used to stiffen corsets and brassieres. 6. (*pl.*) the essentials (esp. in the bare bones). 7. (*pl.*) *Inf.* dice. 8. **feel in one's bones**. to have an intuition of. 9. **have a bone to pick**. to have grounds for a quarrel. 10. **make no bones about**. a. to be direct and candid about. b. to have no objections to. 11. **near or close to the bone**. a. *risqué* or indecent. b. in poverty; destitute. 12. **point the bone**. (often foll. by *at*) *Austral.* a. to wish bad luck (on). b. to cast a spell (on) in order to kill. ~*vb.* (mainly *tr.*) 13. to remove the bones from (meat for cooking, etc.). 14. to stiffen (a corset, etc.) by inserting bones. 15. *Brit.* a slang word for steal. ~See also **bone up**. —'boneless *adj.*

bone china *n.* porcelain containing bone ash.

bone-dry *adj.* *Inf.* a. completely dry: *a bone-dry well*. b. (postpositive): *the well was bone dry*.

bone idle *adj.* very idle; extremely lazy.

bone meal *n.* dried and ground animal bones, used as a fertilizer or in stock feeds.

boneshaker ('bəʊn,ʃeɪkə) *n.* 1. an early type of bicycle having solid tyres and no springs. 2. *Sl.* any decrepit or rickety vehicle.

bone up *vb.* (*adv.*; when *intr.*, usually foll. by *on*) *Inf.* to study intensively.

bonfire ('bɒn,faɪə) *n.* a large outdoor fire.

bongo¹ ('bɒŋɡəʊ) *n., pl.* -go or -gos. a rare spiral-horned antelope inhabiting forests of central Africa. The coat is bright red-brown with narrow vertical stripes.

bongo² ('bɒŋɡəʊ) *n., pl.* -gos or -goes. a small bucket-shaped drum, usually one of a pair, played by beating with the fingers.

bonhomie ('bɒnəmi) *n.* exuberant friendliness.

bonkers ('bɒŋkəz) *adj.* *Sl., chiefly Brit.* mad; crazy.

bon mot (*French* bɔ̃ 'mo) *n., pl.* bons mots (bɔ̃ 'mo). a clever and fitting remark.

bonnet ('bɒnɪt) *n.* 1. any of various hats worn, esp. formerly, by women and girls, and tied with ribbons under the chin. 2. (in Scotland) a flat brimless cap worn by men. 3. the hinged metal part of a motor vehicle

body that provides access to the engine. 4. a cowl on a chimney. 5. *Naut.* a piece of sail laced to the foot of a foresail to give it greater area in light winds. 6. *U.S.* a headdress of feathers worn by some tribes of American Indians.

bonny ('bɒni) *adj.* -nier, -niest. 1. *N Brit. dialect.* beautiful or handsome: *a bonny lass*. 2. good or fine. 3. (esp. of babies) plump.

bonsai ('bɒnsai) *n., pl.* -sai. 1. the art of growing dwarfed ornamental varieties of trees or shrubs in small shallow pots by selective pruning, etc. 2. a tree or shrub grown by this method.

bonus ('bɒnəs) *n.* 1. something given, paid, or received above what is due or expected. 2. *Chiefly Brit.* an extra dividend allotted to shareholders out of profits. 3. *Insurance, Brit.* a dividend, esp. a percentage of net profits, distributed to policyholders.

bon voyage (*French* bɔ̃ vwa'ʒa:ʒ) *interj.* a phrase used to wish a traveller a pleasant journey.

bonny ('bɒni) *adj.* **bonier, boniest**. 1. resembling or consisting of bone. 2. having many bones. 3. having prominent bones. 4. thin or emaciated. 5. (of fishes) having a skeleton of bone rather than cartilage. —'boniness *n.*

bonze (bɒnz) *n.* a Chinese or Japanese Buddhist priest or monk.

boo (bu:) *interj.* 1. an exclamation uttered to startle or surprise someone, esp. a child. 2. a shout uttered to express disgust, dissatisfaction, or contempt. ~*vb.* **booing, bood**. 3. to shout 'boo' at (someone or something), esp. as an expression of disapproval.

boob (bu:b) *Sl.* ~*n.* 1. an ignorant or foolish person. 2. *Brit.* an embarrassing mistake; blunder. 3. a female breast. ~*vb.* 4. (*intr.*) *Brit.* to make a blunder.

booby ('bu:bi) *n., pl.* -bies. 1. an ignorant or foolish person. 2. *Brit.* the losing player in a game. 3. any of several tropical marine birds related to the gannet. They have a straight stout bill and the plumage is white with darker markings.

booby prize *n.* a mock prize given to the person having the lowest score.

booby trap *n.* 1. a hidden explosive device primed in such a way as to be set off by an unsuspecting victim. 2. a trap for an unsuspecting person, esp. one intended as a practical joke. ~*vb.* **booby-trap, -trapping, -trapped**. 3. (*tr.*) to set a booby trap in or on (a building or object) or for (a person).

boodle ('bu:dl) *n. Sl., chiefly U.S.* money or valuables, esp. when stolen, counterfeit, or used as a bribe.

boogie-woogie ('bu:gi'wʊ:gi, 'bu:gi'wʊ:gi) *n.* a style of piano jazz using a dotted bass pattern, usually with eight notes in a bar and the harmonies of the 12-bar blues.

boohoo ('bu:'hu:) *vb.* -hooring, -hooded. 1. to sob or pretend to sob noisily. ~*n., pl.* -hoos. 2. (sometimes *pl.*) distressed or pretended sobbing.

book (bʊk) *n.* 1. a number of printed or written pages bound together along one edge and usually protected by covers. 2. a. a written work or composition, such as a novel, technical manual, or dictionary. b. (as modifier): *book reviews*. c. (in combination): *bookseller; bookshop; bookshelf*. 3. a number of blank or ruled sheets of paper bound together, used to record lessons, keep accounts, etc. 4. the libretto of an opera, musical, etc. 5. a major division of a written composition, as of a long novel or of the Bible. 6. a number of tickets, stamps, etc., fastened together along one edge. 7. a record of betting transactions. 8. (in card games) the number of tricks that must be taken by a side or player before any trick has a scoring value. 9. strict or rigid rules or standards (esp. in *by the book*). 10. a source of knowledge or authority: *the book of life*. 11. **an open book**. a person or subject that is thoroughly understood. 12. **a closed book**. a person or subject that is unknown or beyond comprehension: *chemistry is a closed book to him*. 13. **bring to book**. to reprimand or require (someone) to give an explanation of his conduct. 14. **close the books**. *Book-keeping*. to balance accounts in order to prepare a statement or report. 15. **in someone's good (or bad) books**. *Inf.* regarded by someone with favour (or disfavour). 16. **keep the books**. to keep written records of the finances of a business. 17. **on the books**. a. enrolled as a member. b. recorded. 18. **throw the book at**. a. to charge with every relevant offence. b. to inflict the most severe punishment on. ~*vb.* 19. to reserve (a place, passage, etc.) or engage the services of (a performer, driver, etc.) in advance. 20. (*tr.*) to take the name and address of (a person guilty of a minor offence) with a view to bringing a prosecution. 21. (*tr.*) (of a

football referee) to take the name of (a player) who grossly infringes the rules. **22.** (*tr.*) *Arch.* to record in a book. —See also **book in**.

bookcase ('buk,keɪs) *n.* a piece of furniture containing shelves for books.

book club *n.* a club that sells books at low prices to members.

book end *n.* one of a pair of usually ornamental supports for holding a row of books upright.

bookie ('bʊki) *n. Inf.* short for **bookmaker**.

book in *vb. (adv.)* **1.** to reserve a room at a hotel. **2.** *Chiefly Brit.* to register, esp. one's arrival at a hotel.

booking ('bʊkɪŋ) *n.* **1.** *Chiefly Brit.* a reservation, as of a table, room, or seat. **2.** *Theatre.* an engagement of an actor or company.

bookish ('bʊkɪʃ) *adj.* **1.** fond of reading; studious. **2.** consisting of or forming opinions through reading rather than experience; academic. **3.** of or relating to books. —'bookishness *n.*

book-keeping *n.* the skill or occupation of systematically recording business transactions. —'book-keeper *n.*

booklet ('bʊklɪt) *n.* a thin book, esp. one having paper covers; pamphlet.

bookmaker ('bʊk,meɪkə) *n.* a person who as an occupation accepts bets, esp. on horse races, and pays out to winning betters. —'book,making *n.*

bookmark ('bʊk,mɑ:k) or **bookmark** *n.* a strip of some material put between the pages of a book to mark a place.

bookplate ('bʊk,pleɪt) *n.* a label bearing the owner's name and a design, pasted into a book.

bookstall ('bʊk,stɔ:l) *n.* a stall or stand where periodicals, newspapers, or books are sold.

book token *n. Brit.* a gift token to be exchanged for books.

book value *n.* **1.** the value of an asset of a business according to its books. **2.** the net capital value of an enterprise as shown by the excess of book assets over book liabilities.

bookworm ('bʊk,wɜ:m) *n.* **1.** any of various small insects that feed on the binding paste of books. **2.** a person devoted to reading.

Boolean algebra ('bʊ:liən) *n.* a system of symbolic logic devised to codify nonmathematical logical operations. It is used in computers.

boom ('bu:m) *vb.* **1.** to make a deep prolonged resonant sound. **2.** to prosper or cause to prosper vigorously and rapidly: *business boomed*. ~*n.* **3.** a deep prolonged resonant sound. **4.** a period of high economic growth.

boom ('bu:m) *n.* **1.** *Naut.* a spar to which a sail is fastened to control its position relative to the wind. **2.** a pole carrying an overhead microphone and projected over a film or television set. **3.** a barrier across a waterway, usually consisting of a chain of logs, to confine free-floating logs, protect a harbour from attack, etc.

boomerang ('bʊ:mə,ræŋ) *n.* **1.** a curved flat wooden missile of Australian Aborigines, which can be made to return to the thrower. **2.** an action or statement that recoils on its originator. ~*vb.* **3.** (*intr.*) to recoil or return unexpectedly, causing harm to its originator.

boomslang ('bʊ:m,slæŋ) *n.* a large greenish venomous arboreal snake of southern Africa.

boon ('bu:n) *n.* **1.** something extremely useful, helpful, or beneficial; a blessing or benefit. **2.** *Arch.* a favour; request.

boor ('bu:) *n.* an ill-mannered, clumsy, or insensitive person. —'boorish *adj.* —'boorishly *adv.* —'boorishness *n.*

boost ('bu:st) *n.* **1.** encouragement, improvement, or help: *a boost to morale*. **2.** an upward thrust or push. **3.** an increase or rise. **4.** the amount by which the induction pressure of a supercharged internal-combustion engine is increased. ~*vb. (tr.)* **5.** to encourage, assist, or improve: *to boost morale*. **6.** to lift by giving a push from below or behind. **7.** to increase or raise: *to boost the voltage in an electrical circuit*. **8.** to cause to rise; increase: *to boost sales*. **9.** to advertise on a big scale. **10.** to increase the induction pressure of (an internal-combustion engine); supercharge.

▷ **Usage.** Except in the terminology of rocketry, the word **boost** is regarded as slightly informal, esp. in a figurative sense: *a boost to the economy*.

booster ('bu:stə) *n.* **1.** a person or thing that supports, assists, or increases power. **2.** Also called: **launching vehicle**. the first stage of a multistage rocket. **3.** a radio-

frequency amplifier to strengthen signals. **4.** another name for **supercharger**. **5.** short for **booster shot**.

booster shot *n. Inf.* a supplementary injection of a vaccine given to maintain the immunization provided by an earlier dose.

boot¹ ('bu:t) *n.* **1.** a strong outer covering for the foot; shoe that extends above the ankle, often to the knee. **2.** *Brit.* an enclosed compartment of a car for holding luggage, etc., usually at the rear. U.S. name: **trunk**. **3.** an instrument of torture used to crush the foot and lower leg. **4.** *Inf.* a kick: *he gave the door a boot*. **5.** the **boot**. *Sl.* dismissal from employment; the sack. **6.** *lick the boots of* to be servile towards. **7.** *die with one's boots on*, to die while still active. **8.** *put the boot in* *Sl.* a. to kick a person, esp. when he is already down. b. to harass someone. **9.** *the boot is on the other foot or leg*, the situation is or has now reversed. **10.** *boots and all*, *Austral. inf.* making every effort. ~*vb. (tr.)* **11.** to kick. **12.** to equip with boots. **13.** *Inf. a.* (often foll. by *out*) to eject forcibly. b. to dismiss from employment.

boot² ('bu:t) *vb. (usually impersonal)* **1.** *Arch.* to be of advantage or use to (a person): *what boots it to complain?* ~*n.* **2.** Obs. an advantage. **3.** to **boot**, as well; in addition.

bootee ('bu:ti; bu:'ti:) *n.* **1.** a soft shoe for a baby, esp. a knitted one. **2.** a boot for women and children, esp. an ankle-length one.

Boötes ('bʊ:əti:z) *n., Latin genitive Boötis* ('bʊ:əutis). a constellation in the N hemisphere containing the star Arcturus.

booth ('bu:ð, bu:θ) *n., pl. booths* ('bu:ðz). **1.** a stall, esp. a temporary one at a fair or market. **2.** a small partially enclosed cubicle, such as one for telephoning (**telephone booth**) or for voting (**polling booth**). **3.** *Chiefly U.S.* two high-backed benches with a table between, used esp. in bars and restaurants. **4.** (formerly) a temporary structure for shelter, dwelling, storage, etc.

bootleg ('bu:t,leg) *vb. -legging, -legged.* **1.** to make, carry, or sell (illicit goods, esp. alcohol). ~*n.* **2.** something made or sold illicitly, such as alcohol. ~*adj.* **3.** produced, distributed, or sold illicitly. —'boot,legger *n.*

bootless ('bu:tlɪs) *adj.* of little or no use; vain; fruitless.

bootlicker ('bu:t,lɪkə) *n. Inf.* one who seeks favour by servile or ingratiating behaviour towards (someone, esp. in authority); toady.

booty ('bu:ti) *n., pl. -ties.* any valuable article or articles, esp. when obtained as plunder.

booze ('bu:z) *Inf.* ~*n.* **1.** alcoholic drink. **2.** a drinking bout. ~*vb.* **3.** (*usually intr.*) to drink (alcohol), esp. in excess. —'boozy *adj.*

boozer ('bu:zə) *n. Inf.* **1.** a person who is fond of drinking. **2.** a bar or pub.

booze-up *n. Sl.* a drinking spree.

bop ('bɒp) *n.* **1.** a form of jazz originating in the 1940s, characterized by rhythmic and harmonic complexity and instrumental virtuosity. Originally called: **bebop**. ~*vb.* **bopping, bopped.** **2.** (*intr.*) *Inf.* to dance to pop music. —'bopper *n.*

boracic ('bɔ:ræsɪk) *adj.* another word for **boric**.

borage ('bɒrɪdʒ, 'bærɪdʒ) *n.* a Mediterranean plant with star-shaped blue flowers. The young leaves are sometimes used in salads.

borax ('bɒ:ræks) *n., pl. -raxes or -races* ('rɔ:sɪz). a soluble readily fusible white mineral in monoclinic crystalline form, occurring in alkaline soils and salt deposits. Formula: Na₂B₄O₇·10H₂O.

Bordeaux ('bɔ:'dɔʊ) *n.* any of several red, white, or rosé wines produced around Bordeaux in SW France.

Bordeaux mixture *n. Horticulture.* a fungicide consisting of a solution of equal quantities of copper sulphate and quicklime.

border ('bɔ:də) *n.* **1.** a band or margin around or along the edge of something. **2.** the dividing line or frontier between political or geographic regions. **3.** a region straddling such a boundary. **4.** a design around the edge of something. **5.** a long narrow strip of ground planted with flowers, shrubs, etc.: *a herbaceous border*. ~*vb.* **6.** (*tr.*) to provide with a border. **7.** (when *intr.*, foll. by *on* or *upon*) a. to be adjacent (to); lie along the boundary (of). b. to be nearly the same (as); verge (on): *his stupidity borders on madness*.

Border ('bɔ:də) *n. the. (sometimes pl.)* the area straddling the border between England and Scotland.

borderland ('bɔ:də,lænd) *n.* **1.** land located on or near a frontier or boundary. **2.** an indeterminate state or condition.

borderline ('bɔ:də,lain) *n.* **1.** a border; dividing line.

2. an indeterminate position between two conditions: *the borderline between friendship and love*. ~adj. 3. on the edge of one category and verging on another: *a borderline failure in the exam*.

bore¹ (bɔː) *vb.* 1. to produce (a hole) in (a material) by use of a drill, auger, or rotary cutting tool. 2. to increase the diameter of (a hole), as by turning. 3. (tr.) to produce (a hole) in the ground, tunnel, mine shaft, etc.) by digging, drilling, etc. 4. (intr.) *Inf.* (of a horse or athlete in a race) to push other competitors out of the way. ~n. 5. a hole or tunnel in the ground, esp. one drilled in search of minerals, oil, etc. 6. *Austral.* a hole drilled to give access to an underground water supply. 7. a. the hollow part of a tube or cylinder, esp. of a gun barrel. b. the diameter of such a hollow part; calibre. —'borer *n.*

bore² (bɔː) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to tire or make weary by being dull, repetitious, or uninteresting. ~n. 2. a dull or repetitious person, activity, or state. —'boring *adj.*

bore³ (bɔː) *n.* a high steep-fronted wave moving up a narrow estuary, caused by the tide.

bore⁴ (bɔː) *vb.* the past tense of **bear**¹.

boredom ('bɔːdəm) *n.* the state of being bored.

boric ('bɔːrɪk) *adj.* of or containing boron. Also: **boracic**.

boric acid *n.* a white soluble weakly acid crystalline solid used in the manufacture of heat-resistant glass and porcelain enamels, as a fireproofing material, and as a mild antiseptic. Formula: H₃BO₃. Also called: **orthoboric acid**.

born (bɔːn) *vb.* 1. the past participle (in passive usage) of **bear**¹ (sense 4). 2. **not born yesterday**, not gullible or foolish. ~adj. 3. possessing certain qualities from birth: *a born musician*. 4. a. being at birth in a particular social status or other condition as specified: *ignobly born*. b. (in combination): *lowborn*. 5. in all one's born days. *Inf.* so far in one's life.

borne (bɔːn) *vb.* 1. the past participle of **bear**¹ (for all active uses of the verb; also for all passive uses except sense 4). 2. **be borne in on or upon**, (of a fact, etc.) to be realized by (someone).

boron ('bɔːrɒn) *n.* a very hard almost colourless crystalline metalloid element that in impure form exists as a brown amorphous powder. It occurs principally in borax and is used in hardening steel. Symbol: B; atomic no.: 5; atomic wt.: 10.81.

borough ('bʌrə) *n.* 1. a town, esp. (in Britain) one that forms the constituency of an M.P. and that was originally incorporated by royal charter. See also **burgh**. 2. any of the 32 constituent divisions of Greater London. 3. any of the five constituent divisions of New York City. 4. (in the U.S.) a self-governing incorporated municipality.

borrow ('bɒrəʊ) *vb.* 1. to obtain or receive (something, such as money) on loan for temporary use, intending to give it, or something equivalent, back to the lender. 2. to adopt (ideas, words, etc.) from another source; appropriate. 3. *Not standard*. to lend. 4. *Golf*. to putt the ball uphill of the direct path to the hole: *make sure you borrow enough*. —'borrower *n.*

▷ **Usage**. See at **lend**.

borsch, borsh (bɔːʃ), **borscht** (bɔːʃt), or **borshch** (bɔːʃt) *n.* a Russian and Polish soup based on beetroot.

borstal ('bɔːstəl) *n.* (in England) an establishment in which offenders aged 15 to 21 may be detained for corrective training.

borzoi ('bɔːzɔɪ) *n.*, pl. -zois. a tall fast-moving breed of dog with a long coat. Also called: **Russian wolfhound**.

bosh (bɔʃ) *n.* *Inf.* empty or meaningless talk or opinions; nonsense.

bo's'n ('bɔʊs'n) *n.* *Naut.* a variant spelling of **boatswain**.

bosom ('bɒzəm) *n.* 1. the chest or breast of a person, esp. (pl.) the female breasts. 2. the part of a woman's dress, coat, etc., that covers the chest. 3. a protective centre or part: *the bosom of the family*. 4. the breast considered as the seat of emotions. 5. (modifier) very dear; intimate: *a bosom friend*. ~vb. (tr.) 6. to embrace. 7. to conceal or carry in the bosom.

boss¹ (bɒs) *Inf.* ~n. 1. a person in charge of or employing others. 2. *Chiefly U.S.* a professional politician who controls a political organization, often using devious or illegal methods. ~vb. 3. to employ, supervise, or be in charge of. 4. (usually foll. by *around* or *about*) to be domineering or overbearing towards (others). ~adj. 5. *Sl.* excellent; fine: *a boss hand at carpentry; that's boss!*

boss² (bɒs) *n.* 1. a knob, stud, or other circular rounded protuberance, esp. an ornamental one on a vault, a ceiling, or a shield. 2. an area of increased thickness,

usually cylindrical, that strengthens or provides room for a locating device on a shaft, hub of a wheel, etc. 3. a rounded mass of igneous rock. ~vb. (tr.) 4. to ornament with bosses; emboss.

bossa nova ('bɒsə 'nɔʊvə) *n.* 1. a dance similar to the samba, originating in Brazil. 2. a piece of music composed for or in the rhythm of this dance.

bossy ('bɒsi) *adj.* **bossier**, **bossiest**. *Inf.* domineering, overbearing, or authoritarian. —'bossily *adv.* —'bossiness *n.*

bosun ('bɒʊs'n) *n.* *Naut.* a variant spelling of **boatswain**.

bot or **bott** (bɒt) *n.* 1. the larva of a botfly, which typically develops inside the body of a horse, sheep, or man. 2. any similar larva.

bot. abbrev. for: 1. botanical. 2. botany. 3. bottle.

botany ('bɒtəni) *n.*, pl. -nies. 1. the study of plants, including their classification, structure, physiology, ecology, and economic importance. 2. the plant life of a particular region or time. 3. the biological characteristics of a particular group of plants. —'botanical (bə'tænikəl) *adj.* —'botanist *n.* —'bota,nize or -ise *vb.*

Botany wool *n.* fine wool from merino sheep.

botch (bɒtʃ) *vb.* (tr.; often foll. by *up*) 1. to spoil through clumsiness or ineptitude. 2. to repair badly or clumsily. ~n. 3. a badly done piece of work or repair (esp. in make a botch of). —'botcher *n.* —'botchy *adj.*

botfly ('bɒt,flaɪ) *n.*, pl. -flies. any of various stout-bodied hairy dipterous flies, the larvae of which are parasites of man, sheep, and horses.

both (bəʊθ) *determiner*. 1. a. the two; two considered together: *both dogs were dirty*. b. (as pronoun): *both are to blame*. ~conj. 2. (coordinating) used preceding words, phrases, or clauses joined by *and*: *both Ellen and Keith enjoyed the play; both new and exciting*.

▷ **Usage**. Both is redundant when employed together with *as well as*, *equal*, *equally*, *alike*, or *together*. Sentences like *they are both alike*, *they are both equal*, however, do occur frequently in informal English.

bother ('bɒðə) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to give annoyance, pain, or trouble to. 2. (tr.) to trouble (a person) by repeatedly disturbing; pester. 3. (intr.) to take the time or trouble; concern oneself: *don't bother to come with me*. 4. (tr.) to make (a person) alarmed or confused. ~n. 5. a state of worry, trouble, or confusion. 6. a person or thing that causes fuss, trouble, or annoyance. 7. *Inf.* a disturbance or fight; trouble (esp. in a spot of bother). ~interj. 8. *Chiefly Brit.* an exclamation of slight annoyance.

botheration ('bɒðə'reɪʃən) *n.*, interj. *Inf.* another word for **bother** (senses 5, 8).

bothersome ('bɒðəsəm) *adj.* causing bother; troublesome.

bothy ('bɒθi) *n.*, pl. **bothies**. *Chiefly Scot.* a small roughly built shelter or outhouse, esp. to house labourers.

bottle ('bɒtl) *n.* 1. a. a vessel, often of glass and typically cylindrical with a narrow neck, for containing liquids. b. (as modifier): *a bottle rack*. 2. Also called: **bottleful**, the amount such a vessel will hold. 3. *Brit. sl.* courage; nerve; initiative. 4. **the bottle**. *Inf.* drinking of alcohol, esp. to excess. ~vb. (tr.) 5. to put or place in a bottle or bottles. 6. to store (gas) in a portable container under pressure. ~See also **bottle up**.

bottle-feed *vb.* -feeding, -fed. to feed (a baby) with milk from a bottle.

bottle green *n.*, *adj.* a dark green colour.

bottleneck ('bɒtl,nek) *n.* 1. a. a narrow stretch of road or a junction at which traffic is or may be held up. b. the hold-up. 2. something that holds up progress.

bottlenose dolphin ('bɒtl,nəʊz) *n.* a type of dolphin with a bottle-shaped snout.

bottle party *n.* a party to which guests bring drink.

bottle store *n.* *S. African & N.Z.* an off-licence.

bottle up *vb.* (tr., adv.) 1. to restrain (powerful emotion). 2. *Inf.* to keep (an army or other force) contained or trapped.

bottom ('bɒtəm) *n.* 1. the lowest, deepest, or farthest removed part of a thing: *the bottom of a hill*. 2. the least important or successful position: *the bottom of a class*. 3. the ground underneath a sea, lake, or river. 4. the inner depths of a person's true feelings (esp. in *from the bottom of one's heart*). 5. the underneath part of a thing. 6. *Naut.* the parts of a vessel's hull that are under water. 7. (in literary or commercial contexts) a boat or ship. 8. (esp. of horses) staying power; stamina. 9. *Inf.* the buttocks. 10. **at bottom**, in reality; basically. 11. **be at the bottom of**, to be the ultimate cause of. 12. **get to the bottom of**, to discover the real truth about. ~adj. (prenominal) 13. lowest or last. 14. **bet (or put) one's**

bottom dollar *on*. to be absolutely sure of. 15. of, relating to, or situated at the bottom. 16. fundamental; basic. ~*vb*. 17. (tr.) to provide (a chair, etc.) with a bottom or seat. 18. (tr.) to discover the full facts or truth of; fathom. 19. (usually foll. by *on* or *upon*) to base or be founded (on an idea, etc.).

bottom drawer *n*. Brit. a young woman's collection of linen, cutlery, etc., made in anticipation of marriage. U.S. equivalent: **hope chest**.

bottomless ('bɒtmɪləs) *adj*. 1. having no bottom. 2. unlimited; inexhaustible. 3. very deep.

bottom line *n*. 1. the last line of a financial statement that shows the net profit or loss of a company or organization. 2. the conclusion or main point of a process, discussion, etc.

bottom out *vb* (intr., adv.) to reach the lowest point.

botulism ('bɒtjuːlɪzəm) *n*. severe, often fatal, poisoning resulting from the potent bacterial toxin, **botulin**, produced in imperfectly preserved food, etc.

bouclé ('bʊːkleɪ) *n*. 1. a curled or looped yarn or fabric giving a thick knobby effect. ~*adj*. 2. of or designating such a yarn or fabric.

boudoir ('buːdwɑː, -dwɔː) *n*. a woman's bedroom or private sitting room.

bouffant ('buːfɒŋ) *adj*. 1. (of a hair style) having extra height and width through back-combing; puffed out. 2. (of sleeves, skirts, etc.) puffed out.

bougainvillea (,bʊːgən'vɪliə) *n*. a woody American plant having inconspicuous flowers surrounded by showy red or purple bracts.

bough (bau) *n*. any of the main branches of a tree.

bought (bɔ:t) *vb*. the past tense and past participle of **buy**.

bouillabaisse (,bʊːjə'beɪs) *n*. a rich stew or soup of fish and vegetables.

bouillon ('bʊːjɒn) *n*. a plain unclarified broth or stock.

boulder ('bəʊldə) *n*. a smooth rounded mass of rock that has been shaped by erosion.

boulder clay *n*. an unstratified glacial deposit consisting of fine clay, boulders, and pebbles.

boule¹ ('bʊːliː) *n*. 1. the senate of an ancient Greek city state. 2. the parliament in modern Greece.

boule² ('bʊːli) *n*. an imitation ruby, sapphire, etc., made from synthetic corundum.

boulevard ('buːlvəː, -vɑːd) *n*. a wide usually tree-lined road in a city.

boult (bəʊlt) *vb*. a variant spelling of **bolt**¹.

bounce (baʊns) *vb*. 1. (intr.) (of a ball, etc.) to rebound from an impact. 2. (tr.) to cause (a ball, etc.) to hit a solid surface and spring back. 3. to move or cause to move suddenly, excitedly, or violently; spring: *she bounced up from her chair*. 4. *Sl*. (of a bank) to send (a cheque) back or (of a cheque) to be sent back by a bank to a payee unredeemed because of lack of funds in the drawer's account. 5. (tr.) *Sl*. to force (a person) to leave (a place or job); throw out; eject. ~*n*. 6. the action of rebounding from an impact. 7. a leap; jump; bound. 8. the quality of being able to rebound; springiness. 9. *Inf*. vitality; vigour; resilience. 10. *Brit*. swagger or impudence. —'bouncy *adj*.

bounce back *vb* (intr., adv.) to recover one's health, good spirits, confidence, etc., easily.

bouncer ('baʊnsə) *n*. *Sl*. a man employed at a club, restaurant, etc., to throw out drunks or troublemakers and stop fights.

bouncing ('baʊnsɪŋ) *adj*. (when *postpositive*, foll. by *with*) vigorous and robust (esp. in a **bouncing baby**).

bound¹ ('baʊnd) *vb*. 1. the past tense and past participle of **bind**. ~*adj*. 2. in bonds or chains; tied as with a rope. 3. (*postpositive*, foll. by an infinitive) destined; sure; certain: *it's bound to happen*. 4. (*postpositive*, often foll. by *by*) compelled or obliged. 5. *Rare*. constipated. 6. (of a book) secured within a cover or binding. 7. *Logic*. denoting an occurrence of a variable within the scope of a quantifier. Cf. **free** (sense 18). 8. **bound up with**. closely or inextricably linked with.

bound² ('baʊnd) *vb*. 1. to move forwards by leaps or jumps. 2. to bounce; spring away from an impact. ~*n*. 3. a jump upwards or forwards. 4. a bounce, as of a ball.

bound³ ('baʊnd) *vb*. 1. (tr.) to place restrictions on; limit. 2. (when *intr.*, foll. by *on*) to form a boundary of. ~*n*. 3. See **bounds**. —'boundless *adj*.

bound⁴ ('baʊnd) *adj*. *a*. (*postpositive*, often foll. by *for*) going or intending to go towards: **bound for Jamaica**; **homeward bound**. *b*. (in combination): **northbound traffic**.

boundary ('baʊndəri, -dri) *n*, *pl.* -ries. 1. something

that indicates the farthest limit, as of an area; border. 2. *Cricket*. *a*. the marked limit of the playing area. *b*. a stroke that hits the ball beyond this limit. *c*. the four or six runs scored with such a stroke.

bounden ('baʊndən) *adj*. morally obligatory (arch. except in **bounden duty**).

bounder ('baʊndə) *n*. *Old-fashioned Brit. sl.* a morally reprehensible person; cad.

bounds ('baʊndz) *pl. n.* 1. (*sometimes sing.*) a limit; boundary (esp. in **know no bounds**). 2. something that restrains or confines, esp. the standards of a society: *within the bounds of modesty*.

bountiful ('baʊntɪfʊl) *adj*. 1. plentiful; ample (esp. in a **bountiful supply**). 2. giving freely; generous. —'bountifully *adv*.

bounty ('baʊnti) *n*, *pl.* -ties. 1. generosity; liberality. 2. a generous gift. 3. a payment made by a government, as, formerly, to a sailor on enlisting or to a soldier after a campaign. 4. any reward or premium. —'bounteous *adj*.

bouquet (bu:'keɪ) *n*. 1. a bunch of flowers, esp. a large carefully arranged one. 2. the characteristic aroma or fragrance of a wine or liqueur. 3. a compliment or expression of praise.

bouquet garni ('bʊːkeɪ gɑː'niː) *n*, *pl.* **bouquets garnis** ('bʊːkeɪz gɑː'niː). a bunch of herbs tied together and used for flavouring soups, stews, etc.

bourbon ('bɔːbɒn) *n*. a whiskey distilled chiefly in the U.S. from maize, esp. one containing at least 51 per cent maize.

bourgeois ('bʊːʒwɑː) *Often disparaging. ~n, pl.* -geois. 1. a member of the middle class, esp. one regarded as being conservative and materialistic or capitalistic. 2. a mediocre, unimaginative, or materialistic person. ~*adj*. 3. characteristic of, relating to, or comprising the middle class. 4. conservative or materialistic in outlook. 5. (in Marxist thought) dominated by capitalists or capitalist interests. —'bourgeoisie ('bʊːʒwɑːz, bʊːʒ'wɑːz) *fern. n*.

bourgeoisie (,bʊːʒwɑː'ziː) *n. the.* 1. the middle classes. 2. (in Marxist thought) the capitalist ruling class. The bourgeoisie owns the means of production, through which it exploits the working class.

bound¹ or **bourne** (bɔːn) *n. Arch.* 1. a destination; goal. 2. a boundary.

bound² (bɔːn) *n. Chiefly southern Brit.* a stream.

bourrée ('bʊːreɪ) *n*. 1. a traditional French dance in fast duple time. 2. a piece of music in the rhythm of this dance.

Bourse (buːs) *n*. a stock exchange of continental Europe, esp. Paris.

bout (baʊt) *n*. 1. *a*. a period of time spent doing something, such as drinking. *b*. a period of illness. 2. a contest or fight, esp. a boxing or wrestling match.

boutique (bu:'tiːk) *n*. a shop, esp. a small one selling fashionable clothes and other items.

bouzouki (buː'zʊːki) *n*. a Greek long-necked stringed musical instrument related to the mandolin.

bovine ('bʊːvaɪn) *adj*. 1. of or relating to cattle. 2. (of people) dull; sluggish; stolid. —'bovinely *adv*.

bow¹ ('baʊ) *vb*. 1. to lower (one's head) or bend (one's knee or body) as a sign of respect, greeting, assent, or shame. 2. to bend or cause to bend. 3. (intr.; usually foll. by *to* or *before*) to comply or accept: *bow to the inevitable*. 4. (tr.; foll. by *in*, *out*, *to*, etc.) to usher (someone) in or out with bows and deference. 5. (tr.; usually foll. by *down*) to bring (a person, nation, etc.) to a state of submission. 6. **bow and scrape**. to behave in an excessively deferential or obsequious way. ~*n*. 7. a lowering or inclination of the head or body as a mark of respect, greeting, or assent. 8. **take a bow**. to acknowledge or receive applause or praise. ~See also **bow out**.

bow² (bəʊ) *n*. 1. a weapon for shooting arrows, consisting of an arch of elastic wood bent by a string fastened at each end. 2. *a*. a long stick across which are stretched strands of horsehair, used for playing the strings of a violin, viola, cello, etc. *b*. a stroke with such a stick. 3. *a*. a decorative interlacing of ribbon or other fabrics, usually having two loops and two loose ends. *b*. the knot forming such an interlacing. 4. something that is curved, bent, or arched. ~*vb*. 5. to form or cause to form a curve or curves. 6. to make strokes of a bow across (violin strings).

bow³ ('baʊ) *n*. 1. *Chiefly Naut. a. (often pl.)* the forward end or part of a vessel. *b. (as modifier):* the **bow mooring line**. 2. *Rowing.* the oarsman at the bow.

bowdlerize or **-ise** ('baʊdlə,raɪz) *vb*. (tr.) to remove

passages or words regarded as indecent from (a play, novel, etc.); expurgate. —, **bowdlerization** or **-isation** *n.* — **bowdlerism** *n.*

bowel ('baʊl) *n.* 1. an intestine, esp. the large intestine in man. 2. (*pl.*) innards; entrails. 3. (*pl.*) the deep or innermost part (esp. in the **bowels of the earth**).

bower¹ ('baʊə) *n.* 1. a shady leafy shelter or recess, as in a wood or garden; arbour. 2. *Literary.* a lady's bedroom or apartments; boudoir.

bower² ('baʊə) *n.* *Naut.* a vessel's bow anchor.

bowerbird ('baʊ,bɜ:d) *n.* 1. any of various songbirds of Australia and New Guinea. The males build bower-like display grounds to attract the females. 2. *Inf., chiefly Austral.* a collector of unconsidered trifles.

bowhead ('bɔʊ,hed) *n.* a large-mouthed arctic whale.

bowie knife ('bɔʊ) *n.* a stout hunting knife with a short hilt and a guard for the hand.

bowl¹ ('baʊl) *n.* 1. a round container open at the top, used for holding liquid, serving food, etc. 2. Also: **bowful**, the amount a bowl will hold. 3. the rounded or hollow part of an object, esp. of a spoon or tobacco pipe. 4. any container shaped like a bowl, such as a sink or lavatory. 5. a bowl-shaped building or other structure, such as an amphitheatre. 6. a bowl-shaped depression of the land surface. 7. *Literary.* a drinking cup.

bowl² ('baʊl) *n.* 1. a wooden ball used in the game of bowls, having one flattened side in order to make it run on a curved course. 2. a large heavy ball with holes for gripping, used in tenpin bowling. —*vb.* 3. to roll smoothly or cause to roll smoothly along the ground. 4. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *along*) to move easily and rapidly, as in a car. 5. *Cricket.* a. to send (a ball) from one's hand towards the batsman. b. Also: **bowl out**, to dismiss (a batsman) by delivering a ball that breaks his wicket. 6. (*intr.*) to play bowls or tenpin bowling. ~See also **bowl over**.

bow legs (bɔʊ) *pl. n.* a condition in which the legs curve outwards like a bow between the ankle and the thigh. Also called: **bandy legs**. —**bow-legged** (bɔʊ'legid, bɔʊ'legd) *adj.*

bowler¹ ('bəʊlə) *n.* 1. one who bowls in cricket. 2. a player at the game of bowls.

bowler² ('bəʊlə) *n.* a stiff felt hat with a rounded crown and narrow curved brim. U.S. name: **derby**.

bowline ('bəʊlɪn) *n.* *Naut.* 1. a line for controlling the weather leech of a square sail when a vessel is close-hauled. 2. a knot used for securing a loop that will not slip at the end of a piece of rope.

bowling ('bəʊlɪŋ) *n.* 1. any of various games in which a heavy ball is rolled down a special alley at a group of wooden pins. 2. the game of bowls. 3. *Cricket.* the act of delivering the ball to the batsman.

bowl over *vb.* (*tr., adv.*) 1. *Inf.* to surprise (a person) greatly, esp. in a pleasant way; astound; amaze. 2. to knock down.

bowls ('bəʊlɪz) *pl. n.* (*functioning as sing.*) 1. a game played on a bowling green in which a small bowl (the jack) is pitched from a mark and two opponents take turns to roll biased wooden bowls as near the jack as possible. 2. skittles or tenpin bowling.

bow out (bɔʊ) *vb.* (*adv.; usually tr.*; often foll. by *of*) to retire or withdraw gracefully.

bowsprit ('bəʊsprɪt) *n.* *Naut.* a spar projecting from the bow of a vessel, esp. a sailing vessel.

bowstring ('bəʊ,striŋ) *n.* the string of an archer's bow.

bow tie (bɔʊ) *n.* a man's tie tied in a bow, now chiefly in plain black for formal evening wear.

bow window (bɔʊ) *n.* a bay window in the shape of a curve.

bow-wow ('baʊ,wəʊ, -'wəʊ) *n.* 1. a child's word for dog. 2. an imitation of the bark of a dog. —*vb.* 3. (*intr.*) to bark or imitate a dog's bark.

box¹ ('bɒks) *n.* 1. a receptacle or container made of wood, cardboard, etc., usually rectangular and having a removable or hinged lid. 2. Also called: **boxful**, the contents of such a receptacle. 3. (*often in combination*) any of various small cubicles, kiosks, or shelters: a telephone box; a signal box. 4. a separate compartment in a public place for a small group of people, as in a theatre. 5. an enclosure within a courtroom: witness box. 6. a compartment for a horse in a stable or a vehicle. 7. *Brit.* a small country house occupied by sportsmen when following a field sport, esp. shooting. 8. a protective housing for machinery or mechanical parts. b. (*in combination*): a gearbox. 9. a shaped device of light tough material worn by sportsmen to protect the genitals, esp. in cricket. 10. a section of

printed matter on a page, enclosed by lines, a border, etc. 11. a central agency to which mail is addressed and from which it is collected or redistributed: a post-office box; a box number in a newspaper advertisement. 12. the penalty area of a soccer pitch. 13. the raised seat on which the driver sits in a horse-drawn coach. 14. *Austral. & N.Z.* an accidental mixing of herds or flocks. 15. *Brit.* (esp. formerly) a present, esp. of money, given at Christmas to tradesmen, etc. 16. *Austral. taboo sl.* the female genitals. 17. **the box.** *Brit. inf.* television. 18. **out of the box.** *Austral. inf.* outstanding or excellent. —*vb.* 19. (*tr.*) to put into a box. 20. (*tr.*; usually foll. by *in* or *up*) to prevent from moving freely; confine. 21. *Austral. & N.Z.* to mix (flocks or herds) or (of flocks) to become mixed accidentally. 22. **box the compass.** *Naut.* to name the compass points in order. —**box, like** *adj.*

box² ('bɒks) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to fight (an opponent) in a boxing match. 2. (*intr.*) to engage in boxing. 3. (*tr.*) to hit (a person) with the fist. —*n.* 4. a punch with the fist, esp. on the ear.

box³ ('bɒks) *n.* 1. a slow-growing evergreen tree or shrub with small shiny leaves: used for hedges. 2. the wood of this tree. 3. any of several trees the timber or foliage of which resembles this tree, esp. species of *Eucalyptus*.

boxer ('bɒksə) *n.* 1. a man who boxes; pugilist. 2. a large smooth-haired breed of dog with a short nose and a docked tail.

Boxer ('bɒksə) *n.* a member of a nationalistic Chinese secret society that led an unsuccessful rebellion in 1900 against foreign interests in China.

box girder *n.* a girder that is hollow and square or rectangular in shape.

boxing ('bɒksɪŋ) *n.* a. the act, art, or profession of fighting with the fists. b. (*as modifier*): a boxing enthusiast.

Boxing Day *n.* *Brit.* the first weekday after Christmas, observed as a holiday.

box junction *n.* (in Britain) a road junction having yellow cross-hatching painted on the road surface. Vehicles may only enter the hatched area when their exit is clear.

box lacrosse *n.* *Canad.* lacrosse played indoors. Also called: **boxla**.

box office *n.* 1. an office at a theatre, cinema, etc., where tickets are sold. 2. a. the public appeal of an actor or production. b. (*as modifier*): a box-office success.

box pleat *n.* a flat double pleat made by folding under the fabric on either side of it.

boxroom ('bɒks,rʊm, -'rʊm) *n.* a small room or large cupboard in which boxes, cases, etc., may be stored.

box spanner *n.* a spanner consisting of a steel cylinder with a hexagonal end that fits over a nut.

box spring *n.* a coiled spring contained in a boxlike frame, used for mattresses, chairs, etc.

boxwood ('bɒks,wʊd) *n.* 1. the hard close-grained yellow wood of the box tree, used to make tool handles, etc. 2. the box tree.

boy (bɔɪ) *n.* 1. a male child; lad; youth. 2. a man regarded as immature or inexperienced. 3. **the boys.** *Inf.* a group of men, esp. a group of friends. 4. *S. African derog.* a Black male servant. 5. **jobs for the boys.** *Inf.* appointment of one's supporters to posts, without reference to their qualifications or ability. —*interj.* 6. an exclamation of surprise, pleasure, contempt, etc. —**'boyhood** *n.* —**'boyish** *adj.*

boycott ('bɔɪkɒt) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to refuse to have dealings with (a person, organization, etc.) or refuse to buy (a product) as a protest or means of coercion. —*n.* 2. an instance or the use of boycotting.

boyfriend ('bɔɪ,frend) *n.* a male friend with whom a person is romantically or sexually involved; sweetheart or lover.

Boyle's law (bɔɪlz) *n.* the principle that the pressure of a gas varies inversely with its volume at constant temperature.

boy scout *n.* See **Scout**.

boysenberry ('bɔɪz'nberi) *n., pl. -ries.* 1. a type of bramble: a hybrid of the loganberry and various blackberries and raspberries. 2. the large red edible fruit of this plant.

bp. *abbrev. for:* 1. baptized. 2. birthplace. 3. bishop.

B.P. *abbrev. for:* 1. British Pharmacopoeia. 2. British Petroleum.

b.p.i. *abbrev. for* bits per inch (used of a computer tape).

Bq *Physics symbol for becquerel.*

Br *the chemical symbol for bromine.*

B.R. *abbrev. for British Rail (British Railways).*

Br. *abbrev. for:* 1. Breton. 2. Britain. 3. British. 4. (in a religious order) Brother.

bra (brɑː) *n.* short for **brassiere**.

braai (brai) *n.* short for **braaivleis**.

braaivleis ('brai,vleis) *n.* *S. African.* a barbecue.

brace (breis) *n.* 1. a hand tool for drilling holes, with a socket to hold the drill at one end and a cranked handle by which the tool can be turned. See also **brace and bit**. 2. something that steadies, binds, or holds up another thing. 3. a structural member, such as a beam or prop, used to stiffen a framework. 4. a pair, esp. of game birds. 5. either of a pair of characters, { }, used for connecting lines of printing or writing. 6. Also called: **acolade**, a line or bracket connecting two or more staves of music. 7. (*often pl.*) an appliance of metal bands and wires for correcting uneven alignment of teeth. 8. *Med.* any of various appliances for supporting the trunk or a limb. 9. See **braces**. ~*vb.* (*mainly tr.*) 10. to provide, strengthen, or fit with a brace. 11. to steady or prepare (oneself or something) as before an impact. 12. (*also intr.*) to stimulate; freshen; invigorate: *sea air is bracing*.

brace and bit *n.* a hand tool for boring holes, consisting of a cranked handle into which a drilling bit is inserted.

bracelet ('breisli:t) *n.* an ornamental chain worn around the arm or wrist.

bracelets ('breisli:ts) *pl. n.* a slang name for **handcuffs**.

braces ('breisiz) *pl. n.* *Brit.* a pair of straps worn over the shoulders by men for holding up the trousers. U.S. word: **suspenders**.

brachio- or *before a vowel* **brachi-** *combining form.* indicating a brachium: **brachiopod**.

brachiopod ('breikio,pɒd, 'bræk-) *n.* any marine invertebrate animal having a ciliated feeding organ and a shell consisting of dorsal and ventral valves.

brachium ('breikjəm, 'bræk-) *n., pl. -chia* (-kiə). 1. *Anat.* the arm, esp. the upper part. 2. a corresponding part in an animal. 3. *Biol.* a branching or armlike part.

brachy- *combining form.* indicating something short: **brachycephalic**.

bracing ('breisɪŋ) *adj.* 1. refreshing; stimulating; invigorating. ~*n.* 2. a system of braces used to strengthen or support.

bracken ('brækən) *n.* 1. Also called: **brake**. any of various large coarse ferns having large fronds with spore cases along the undersides. 2. a clump of any of these ferns.

bracket ('brækt) *n.* 1. an L-shaped or other support fixed to a wall to hold a shelf, etc. 2. one or more wall shelves carried on brackets. 3. *Archit.* a support projecting from the side of a wall or other structure. 4. Also called: **square bracket**, either of a pair of characters, [], used to enclose a section of writing or printing. 5. a general name for **parenthesis**, **square bracket**, and **bracket** (sense 5). 6. a group or category falling within certain defined limits: *the lower income bracket*. 7. the distance between two preliminary shots of artillery fire in range-finding. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 8. to fix or support by means of brackets. 9. to put (written or printed matter) in brackets. 10. to couple or join (two lines of text, etc.) with a brace. 11. (*often foll. by with*) to group or class together. 12. to adjust (artillery fire) until the target is hit.

brackish ('brækiʃ) *adj.* (of water) slightly briny or salty. —'brackishness *n.*

bract (brækt) *n.* a specialized leaf with a single flower or inflorescence growing in its axil. —'bracteal *adj.* —bracteate ('bræktɪt) *adj.*

brad (bræd) *n.* a small tapered nail with a small head.

bradawl ('bræd,ɔ:l) *n.* an awl used to pierce wood, leather, etc.

brae (brei) *n.* *Scot.* a hill or hillside; slope.

brag (bræg) *vb.* **bragging**, **bragged**. 1. to speak arrogantly and boastfully. ~*n.* 2. boastful talk or behaviour. 3. something boasted of. 4. a braggart; boaster. 5. a card game: an old form of poker. —'bragger *n.*

braggadocio ('bræɡə'dəʊʃi,əʊ) *n., pl. -os*. 1. vain empty boasting. 2. a person who boasts; braggart.

braggart ('bræɡət) *n.* 1. a person who boasts loudly or exaggeratedly; bragger. ~*adj.* 2. boastful.

Brahma ('bræ:mə) *n.* 1. a Hindu god, the Creator. 2. another name for **Brahman** (sense 2).

Brahman ('bræ:mən) *n., pl. -mans*. 1. (*sometimes not cap.*) Also (esp. formerly): **Brahmin**. 1. a member of the

highest or priestly caste in the Hindu caste system. 2. **Hinduism**. the ultimate and impersonal divine reality of the universe. 3. another name for **Brahma**. —**Brahmanic** (brɑː'manik) or **Brah'manical** *adj.*

braid (breid) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to interweave (hair, thread, etc.); plait. 2. to decorate with an ornamental trim or border. ~*n.* 3. a length of hair, fabric, etc., that has been braided; plait. 4. narrow ornamental tape of woven silk, wool, etc. —'braider *n.* —'braiding *n.*

Braille (breil) *n.* 1. a system of writing for the blind consisting of raised dots interpreted by touch. 2. any writing produced by this method. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to print or write using this method.

brain (brein) *n.* 1. the soft convoluted mass of nervous tissue within the skull of vertebrates that is the controlling and coordinating centre of the nervous system and the seat of thought, memory, and emotion. Related *adj.*: **cerebral**. 2. (*often pl.*) *Inf.* intellectual ability: *he's got brains*. 3. *Inf.* shrewdness or cunning. 4. *Inf.* an intellectual or intelligent person. 5. (*usually pl.*) *Inf.* a person who plans and organizes. 6. *on the brain*. *Inf.* constantly in mind: *I had that song on the brain*. 7. **pick someone's brains**. *Inf.* to obtain information or ideas from someone. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 8. to smash the skull of. 9. *Sl.* to hit hard on the head.

brainchild ('brein,tʃaɪld) *n., pl. -children*. *Inf.* an idea or plan produced by creative thought.

brain death *n.* irreversible cessation of respiration due to irreparable brain damage: widely considered as the criterion of death. —**brain dead** *adj.*

brain drain *n.* *Inf.* the emigration of scientists, technologists, academics, etc.

brainless ('breinlis) *adj.* stupid or foolish.

brainstorm ('brein,stɔ:m) *n.* 1. a severe outburst of excitement, often as the result of a transitory disturbance of cerebral activity. 2. *Brit. inf.* a sudden mental aberration. 3. *U.S. inf.* another word for **brain wave** (sense 2).

brains trust *n.* a group of knowledgeable people who discuss topics in public or on radio or television.

brain-teaser or **brain-twister** *n.* *Inf.* a difficult problem.

brainwash ('brein,wɒʃ) *vb.* (*tr.*) to effect a radical change in the ideas and beliefs of (a person), esp. by methods based on conditioning. —'brain, washing *n.*

brain wave *n.* 1. any of the fluctuations of electrical potential in the brain. 2. *Inf.* a sudden idea or inspiration.

brainy ('breini) *adj.* **brainier**, **brainiest**. *Inf.* clever; intelligent. —'braininess *n.*

braise (breiz) *vb.* to cook (meat, vegetables, etc.) by lightly browning in fat and then cooking slowly in a closed pan with a small amount of liquid.

brak (bræk) *n.* *S. African.* a crossbred dog; mongrel.

brake (breik) *n.* 1. (*often pl.*) a device for slowing or stopping a vehicle, wheel, shaft, etc., or for keeping it stationary, esp. by means of friction. 2. a machine or tool for crushing or breaking flax or hemp to separate the fibres. 3. Also called: **brake harrow**, a heavy harrow for breaking up clods. 4. short for **shooting brake**. ~*vb.* 5. to slow down or cause to slow down, by or as if by using a brake. 6. (*tr.*) to crush or break up using a brake. —'brakeless *adj.*

brake (breik) *n.* an area of dense undergrowth, shrubs, brushwood, etc.; thicket.

brake (breik) *n.* another name for **bracken**.

brake (breik) *vb.* *Arch.*, chiefly *biblical*. a past tense of **break**.

brake horsepower *n.* the rate at which an engine does work, expressed in horsepower. It is measured by the resistance of an applied brake. *Abbrev.*: **b.h.p.**

brake light *n.* a red light at the rear of a motor vehicle that lights up when the brakes are applied.

brake lining *n.* a renewable strip of asbestos riveted to a brake shoe.

brake shoe *n.* the curved metal casting to which the brake lining is riveted in a drum brake.

brake van *n.* *Railways, Brit.* the coach or vehicle from which the guard applies the brakes; guard's van. U.S. equivalent: **caboose**.

bramble ('bræmbəl) *n.* 1. any of various prickly roseaceous plants or shrubs, esp. the blackberry. 2. any of several similar and related shrubs, such as the dog rose. 3. *N. Brit.* a blackberry. —'brambly *adj.*

brambling ('bræmbliŋ) *n.* a Eurasian finch with a speckled head and back and, in the male, a reddish brown-breast.

bran (bræn) *n.* 1. husks of cereal grain separated from the flour. 2. food prepared from these husks.

branch (brɑ:ntʃ) *n.* 1. a secondary woody stem arising from the trunk or bough of a tree or the main stem of a shrub. 2. an offshoot or secondary part: a branch of a deer's antlers. 3. a. a subdivision or subsidiary section of something larger or more complex: branches of learning; branch of the family. b. (as modifier): a branch office. 4. U.S. any small stream. ~vb. 5. (intr.) (of a tree or other plant) to produce or possess branches. 6. (intr.; usually foll. by *from*) (of stems, roots, etc.) to grow and diverge (from another part). 7. to divide or be divided into subsidiaries or offshoots. 8. (intr.; often foll. by *off*) to diverge from the main way, road, topic, etc. ~See also **branch out**. —'branch, like *adj.*

branch out vb. (intr., adv.; often foll. by *into*) *Inf.* to expand or extend one's interests.

brand (brænd) *n.* 1. a trade name identifying a manufacturer or a product; trademark. 2. a particular kind or variety. 3. an identifying mark made, usually by burning, on the skin of animals or (formerly) slaves or criminals, esp. as a proof of ownership. 4. an iron heated and used for branding animals, etc. 5. a mark of disgrace or infamy; stigma. 6. a burning or burnt piece of wood, as in a fire. 7. *Arch. or poetic.* a. a flaming torch. b. a sword. 8. a fungal disease of garden plants characterized by brown spots on the leaves. ~vb. (tr.) 9. to label, burn, or mark with or as with a brand. 10. to place indelibly in the memory: the scene was branded in their minds. 11. to denounce; stigmatize: they branded him a traitor. —'brander *n.*

brandish ('brændʃ) vb. 1. (tr.) to wave or flourish (a weapon, etc.) in a triumphant, threatening, or ostentatious way. ~n. 2. a threatening or defiant flourish. —'brandisher *n.*

brand-new *adj.* absolutely new.

brandy ('brændi) *n., pl. -dies.* 1. an alcoholic spirit distilled from grape wine. 2. a distillation of wines made from other fruits: plum brandy.

brandy snap *n.* a crisp sweet biscuit, rolled into a cylinder and filled with whipped cream.

bran tub *n. Brit.* a tub containing bran in which small wrapped gifts are hidden.

brash (bræʃ) *adj.* 1. tastelessly or offensively loud, showy, or bold. 2. hasty; rash. 3. impudent. —'brashly *adv.* —'brashness *n.*

brash (bræʃ) *n.* loose rubbish, such as broken rock, hedge clippings, etc. —'brashy ('bræʃi) *adj.*

brass (brɑ:s) *n.* 1. an alloy of copper and zinc containing more than 50 per cent of copper. Cf. **bronze** (sense 1). 2. an object, ornament, or utensil made of brass. 3. a. the large family of wind instruments including the trumpet, trombone, French horn, etc., made of brass. b. (sometimes functioning as *pl.*) instruments of this family forming a section in an orchestra. 4. (functioning as *pl.*) *Inf.* important or high-ranking officials, esp. military officers: the top brass. See also **brass hat**. 5. *N English dialect.* money. 6. *Brit.* an engraved brass memorial tablet or plaque in a church. 7. *Inf.* bold self-confidence; cheek; nerve. 8. (modifier) of, consisting of, or relating to brass or brass instruments: a brass ornament; a brass band.

brass band *n.* See **band**¹ (sense 2).

brass hat *n. Brit. inf.* a top-ranking official, esp. a military officer.

brassica ('bræsi:kə) *n.* any plant of the genus *Brassica*, such as cabbage, rape, swede, turnip, and mustard.

brassie or **brassy** ('bræsi, 'brɑ:-) *n., pl. brassies.* *Golf.* a club, a No. 2 wood, originally having a brass-plated sole.

brassiere ('bræsiə, 'bræz-) *n.* a woman's undergarment for covering and supporting the breasts. Often shortened to **bra**.

brass rubbing *n.* 1. the taking of an impression of an engraved brass tablet or plaque by rubbing a paper placed over it with heel ball, chalk, etc. 2. an impression made in this way.

brass tacks *pl. n. Inf.* basic realities; hard facts (esp. in *get down to brass tacks*).

brassy ('bræsi) *adj.* **brassier, brassiest.** 1. *Inf.* insolent; brazen. 2. flashy; showy. 3. (of sound) harsh and strident. 4. like brass, esp. in colour. 5. decorated with or made of brass. —'brassily *adv.* —'brassiness *n.*

brat (bræt) *n.* a child, esp. one who is dirty or unruly.

bravado (brə'væ:dəu) *n., pl. -does or -dos.* vaunted display of courage or self-confidence; swagger.

brave (breiv) *adj.* 1. a. having or displaying courage,

resolution, or daring; not cowardly or timid. b. (as *collective n.* preceded by *the*): the brave. 2. fine; splendid: a brave sight. ~n. 3. a warrior of a North American Indian tribe. ~vb. (tr.) 4. to dare or defy: to brave the odds. 5. to confront with resolution or courage: to brave the storm. —'bravely *adv.* —'braveness *n.* —'bravery *n.*

bravo *interj.* 1. (brɑ:'vəu). well done! ~n. 2. (brɑ:'vəu), *pl. -vos.* a cry of "bravo." 3. ('brɑ:vəu), *pl. -voes or -vos.* a hired killer or assassin.

bravura (brə'vjʊərə, 'vuərə) *n.* 1. a display of boldness or daring. 2. *Music.* a passage or piece requiring great spirit and technical skill by the performer.

brawl (brɔ:l) *n.* 1. a loud disagreement or fight. 2. U.S. *sl.* an uproarious party. ~vb. (intr.) 3. to quarrel or fight noisily; squabble. 4. (esp. of water) to flow noisily. —'brawler *n.*

brawn (brɔ:n) *n.* 1. strong well-developed muscles. 2. physical strength, esp. as opposed to intelligence. 3. *Brit.* a seasoned jellied loaf made from the head of a pig or calf. —'brawny *adj.*

bray (brei) vb. 1. (intr.) (of a donkey) to utter its characteristic loud harsh sound; heehaw. 2. (intr.) to make a similar sound, as in laughing. 3. (tr.) to utter with a loud harsh sound. ~n. 4. the loud harsh sound uttered by a donkey. 5. a similar loud cry or uproar.

braze¹ (breiz) vb. (tr.) 1. to decorate with or make of brass. 2. to make like brass, as in hardness.

braze² (breiz) vb. (tr.) to make a joint between (two metal surfaces) by fusing a layer of brass or high-melting solder between them. —'brazer *n.*

brazen ('breizn) *adj.* 1. shameless and bold. 2. made of or resembling brass. 3. having a ringing metallic sound. ~vb. (tr.) 4. (usually foll. by *out* or *through*) to face and overcome boldly or shamelessly. —'brazenly *adv.* —'brazenness *n.*

brazier¹ or **brasier** ('breizɪə) *n.* a person engaged in brass-working or brass-founding. —'brazier *n.*

brazier² or **brasier** ('breizɪə) *n.* a portable metal receptacle for burning charcoal or coal.

brazil (brə'zil) *n.* 1. Also called: **brazil wood**. the red wood obtained from various tropical trees of America: used for cabinetwork. 2. the red or purple dye extracted from these woods. 3. short for **brazil nut**.

brazil nut *n.* 1. a tropical South American tree producing large globular capsules, each containing several closely packed triangular nuts. 2. the nut, having an edible oily kernel and a woody shell. ~Often shortened to **brazil**.

B.R.C.S. *abbrev. for* British Red Cross Society.

breach (bri:tʃ) *n.* 1. a crack, break, or rupture. 2. a breaking, infringement, or violation of a promise, obligation, etc. 3. any severance or separation. ~vb. 4. (tr.) to break through or make an opening, hole, or incursion in. 5. (tr.) to break a promise, law, etc.

breach of promise *n. Law.* (formerly) failure to carry out one's promise to marry.

breach of the peace *n. Law.* an offence against public order causing an unnecessary disturbance of the peace.

bread (bred) *n.* 1. a food made from a dough of flour or meal mixed with water or milk, usually raised with yeast or baking powder and then baked. 2. necessary food; nourishment. 3. *Sl.* money. 4. **break bread.** See **break**. 5. **cast one's bread upon the waters.** to do good without expectation of advantage or return. 6. **know which side one's bread is buttered.** *Inf.* to know what to do in order to keep one's advantages or privileges. 7. **take the bread out of (someone's) mouth.** to deprive of a livelihood. ~vb. 8. (tr.) to cover with bread crumbs before cooking.

bread and butter *Inf.* ~n. 1. a means of support or subsistence; livelihood. ~modifier. 2. (**bread-and-butter**) a. providing a basic means of subsistence. b. expressing gratitude, as for hospitality (esp. in **bread-and-butter letter**).

breadboard ('bred,bɔ:d) *n.* 1. a wooden board on which bread is sliced. 2. an experimental arrangement of electronic circuits.

breadfruit ('bred,fru:t) *n., pl. -fruits or -fruit.* 1. a tree of the Pacific Islands, having edible round, usually seedless, fruit. 2. the fruit, which is eaten baked or roasted and has a texture like bread.

breadline ('bred,li:n) *n.* 1. a queue of people waiting for free food. 2. on the **breadline.** *Inf.* impoverished; living at subsistence level.

breadth (bredθ, bretθ) *n.* 1. the linear extent or meas-

urement of something from side to side; width. **2.** a piece of fabric, etc., having a standard or definite width. **3.** distance, extent, size, or dimension. **4.** openness and lack of restriction, esp. of viewpoint or interest; liberality.

breadwinner ('bred,wɪnə) *n.* a person supporting a family with his or her earnings.

break (breɪk) *vb.* **breaking, broke, broken.** **1.** to separate or become separated into two or more pieces. **2.** to damage or become damaged so as to be inoperative: *my radio is broken.* **3.** to crack or become cracked without separating. **4.** to burst or cut the surface of (skin, etc.). **5.** to discontinue or become discontinued: *to break a journey.* **6.** to disperse or become dispersed: *the clouds broke.* **7.** (tr.) to fail to observe (an agreement, promise, law, etc.): *to break one's word.* **8.** (foll. by *with*) to discontinue an association (with). **9.** to disclose or be disclosed: *he broke the news gently.* **10.** (tr.) to fracture (a bone) in (a limb, etc.). **11.** (tr.) to divide (something complete or perfect): *to break a set of books.* **12.** to bring or come to an end: *the summer weather broke at last.* **13.** (tr.) to bring to an end as by force: *to break a strike.* **14.** (when intr., often foll. by *out*) to escape (from): *he broke out of jail.* **15.** to weaken or overwhelm or be weakened or overwhelmed, as in spirit. **16.** (tr.) to cut through or penetrate: *a cry broke the silence.* **17.** (tr.) to improve on or surpass: *to break a record.* **18.** (tr.; often foll. by *in*) to accustom (a horse) to the bridle and saddle, to being ridden, etc. **19.** (tr.; often foll. by *of*) to cause (a person) to give up (a habit): *this cure will break you of smoking.* **20.** (tr.) to weaken the impact or force of: *this net will break his fall.* **21.** (tr.) to decipher: *to break a code.* **22.** (tr.) to lose the order of: *to break ranks.* **23.** (tr.) to reduce to poverty or the state of bankruptcy. **24.** (when intr., foll. by *into*) to obtain, give, or receive smaller units in exchange for; change: *to break a pound note.* **25.** (tr.) *Chiefly mil.* to demote to a lower rank. **26.** (intr.; often foll. by *from* or *out of*) to proceed suddenly. **27.** (intr.) to come into being: *light broke over the mountains.* **28.** (intr.; foll. by *into* or *out into*) **a.** to burst into song, laughter, etc. **b.** to change to a faster pace. **29.** (tr.) to open with explosives: *to break a safe.* **30.** (intr.) (of waves) **a.** (often foll. by *against*) to strike violently. **b.** to collapse into foam or surf. **31.** (intr.) (of prices, esp. stock exchange quotations) to fall sharply. **32.** (intr.) to make a sudden effort, as in running, horse racing, etc. **33.** (intr.) *Cricket.* (of a ball) to change direction on bouncing. **34.** (intr.) *Billiards.* to scatter the balls at the start of a game. **35.** (intr.) *Boxing, wrestling.* (of two fighters) to separate from a clinch. **36.** (intr.) (of the male voice) to undergo a change in register, quality, and range at puberty. **37.** (tr.) to open the breech (of certain firearms) by snapping the barrel away from the butt on its hinge. **38.** (tr.) to interrupt the flow of current in (an electrical circuit). **39.** **break bread.** **a.** to eat a meal, esp. with others. **b.** *Christianity.* to administer or participate in Holy Communion. **40.** **break camp.** to pack up and leave a camp. **41.** **break the back of.** to complete the greatest or hardest part of (a task). **42.** **break the bank.** to ruin financially or deplete the resources of a bank (as in gambling). **43.** **break the ice.** **a.** to relieve shyness, esp. between strangers. **b.** to be the first to do something. **44.** **break service.** *Tennis.* to win a game in which an opponent is serving. **~n.** **45.** the act or result of breaking; fracture. **46.** a crack formed as the result of breaking. **47.** a brief respite. **48.** a sudden rush, esp. to escape: *to make a break for freedom.* **49.** a breach in a relationship. **50.** any sudden interruption in a continuous action. **51.** *Brit.* a short period between classes at school. **52.** *Inf.* a fortunate opportunity, esp. to prove oneself. **53.** (esp. in a stock exchange) a sudden and substantial decline in prices. **54.** *Billiards.* a series of successful shots during one turn. **55.** *Billiards.* the opening shot that scatters the placed balls. **56.** Also called: **service break, break of serve.** *Tennis.* the act or instance of breaking an opponent's service. **57.** *Jazz.* a short passage during which a soloist plays unaccompanied: it is usually improvised. **58.** a discontinuity in an electrical circuit. **59.** access to a radio channel by a citizens' band radio operator. **60.** **break of day.** the dawn. **~interj.** **61.** *Boxing, wrestling.* a command by a referee for two opponents to separate. **~See also breakaway, break down, etc.** —'breakable *adj.*

breakage ('breɪkɪdʒ) *n.* **1.** the act or result of breaking. **2.** the quantity or amount broken. **3.** compensation or allowance for goods damaged while in use, transit, etc.

breakaway ('breɪkə,wei) *n.* **1.** **a.** loss or withdrawal of a group of members from an association, club, etc. **b.**

(as modifier) **a.** *breakaway faction.* **2.** *Austral.* a stampede of animals, esp. at the smell of water. **~vb.** **break away.** (intr., adv.) **3.** (often foll. by *from*) to leave hastily or escape. **4.** to withdraw or secede.

break down *vb.* (adv.) **1.** (intr.) to cease to function; become ineffective. **2.** to yield or cause to yield, esp. to strong emotion or tears. **3.** (tr.) to crush or destroy. **4.** (intr.) to have a nervous breakdown. **5.** to analyse or be subjected to analysis. **6.** **break it down.** *Austral. inf. a.* stop it. **b.** don't expect me to believe that; come off it. **~n.** **breakdown.** **7.** an act or instance of breaking down; collapse. **8.** short for **nervous breakdown.** **9.** an analysis or classification of something into its component parts: *he prepared a breakdown of the report.*

breaker ('breɪkə) *n.* **1.** a person or thing that breaks something, such as a person or firm that breaks up old cars, etc. **2.** a large wave with a white crest on the open sea or one that breaks into foam on the shore. **3.** a citizens' band radio operator requesting the use of a channel.

break even *vb.* **1.** (intr., adv.) to attain a level of activity, as in commerce, or a point of operation, as in gambling, at which there is neither profit nor loss. **~n.** **breakeven.** **2.** *Accounting.* the level of commercial activity at which the total cost and total revenue of a business enterprise are equal.

breakfast ('breɪkfəst) *n.* **1.** the first meal of the day. **2.** the food at this meal. **~vb.** **3.** to eat or supply with breakfast. —'breakfaster *n.*

break in *vb.* (adv.) **1.** (sometimes foll. by *on*) to interrupt. **2.** (intr.) to enter a house, etc., illegally, esp. by force. **3.** (tr.) to accustom (a person or animal) to normal duties or practice. **4.** (tr.) to use or wear (shoes, new equipment, etc.) until comfortable or running smoothly. **5.** *Austral.* to bring new land under cultivation. **~n.** **break-in.** **6.** the illegal entering of a building, esp. by thieves.

breaking and entering *n.* (formerly) the gaining of unauthorized access to a building with intent to commit a crime.

breaking point *n.* the point at which something or someone gives way under strain.

breakneck ('breɪk,nek) *adj.* (*prenominal*) (of speed, pace, etc.) excessive and dangerous.

break out *vb.* (intr., adv.) **1.** to begin or arise suddenly. **2.** to make an escape, esp. from prison or confinement. **3.** (foll. by *in*) (of the skin) to erupt (in a rash, pimples, etc.). **~n.** **break-out.** **4.** an escape, esp. from prison or confinement.

break through *vb.* **1.** (intr.) to penetrate. **2.** (intr., adv.) to achieve success, make a discovery, etc., esp. after lengthy efforts. **~n.** **breakthrough.** **3.** a significant development or discovery, esp. in science. **4.** the penetration of an enemy's defensive position.

break up *vb.* (adv.) **1.** to separate or cause to separate. **2.** to put an end to (a relationship) or (of a relationship) to come to an end. **3.** to dissolve or cause to dissolve; disrupt or be disrupted: *the meeting broke up at noon.* **4.** *Sl.* to lose or cause to lose control of the emotions. **5.** *Sl.* to be or cause to be overcome with laughter. **~n.** **break-up.** **6.** a separation or disintegration. **7.** **a.** in the Canadian north, the breaking up of the ice on a body of water that marks the beginning of spring. **b.** this season.

breakwater ('breɪk,wɔ:tə) *n.* **1.** Also called: **mole.** a massive wall built out into the sea to protect a shore or harbour from the force of waves. **2.** another name for **groyne.**

bream (brɪm; *Austral.* brɪm) or *Austral.* **brim** (brɪm) *n., pl.* **bream** or **brim.** **1.** any of several Eurasian freshwater cyprinid fishes having a deep compressed body covered with silvery scales. **2.** *Austral.* any of various marine fishes.

breast (breɪst) *n.* **1.** the front part of the body from the neck to the abdomen; chest. **2.** either of the two soft fleshy milk-secreting glands on the chest in sexually mature human females. **3.** a similar organ in certain other mammals. **4.** anything that resembles a breast in shape or position: *the breast of the hill.* **5.** a source of nourishment. **6.** the source of human emotions. **7.** the part of a garment that covers the breast. **8.** a projection from the side of a wall, esp. that formed by a chimney. **9.** **beat one's breast.** **a.** to display guilt and remorse publicly or ostentatiously. **b.** to make a show of victory or success. **10.** **make a clean breast of.** to make a confession of. **~vb.** (tr.) **11.** to confront boldly; face: *breast the storm.* **12.** to oppose with the breast or meet

at breast level: *breasting the waves*. **13.** to reach the summit of: *breasting the mountain top*.

breastbone ('brest,bəʊn) *n.* the nontechnical name for sternum.

breast-feed *vb.* **-feeding, -fed.** to feed (a baby) with milk from the breast; suckle.

breastplate ('brest,pleɪt) *n.* a piece of armour covering the chest.

breaststroke ('brest,strəʊk) *n.* a swimming stroke in which the arms are extended in front of the head and swept back on either side while the legs are drawn up beneath the body and thrust back together.

breastwork ('brest,wɜ:k) *n.* **Fortifications.** a temporary defensive work, usually breast-high.

breath (breθ) *n.* **1.** the intake and expulsion of air during respiration. **2.** the air inhaled or exhaled during respiration. **3.** a single respiration or inhalation of air, etc. **4.** the vapour, heat, or odour of exhaled air. **5.** a slight gust of air. **6.** a short pause or rest. **7.** a brief time. **8.** a suggestion or slight evidence; suspicion: *a breath of scandal*. **9.** a whisper or soft sound. **10.** life, energy, or vitality: *the breath of new industry*. **11. Phonetics.** the exhalation of air without vibration of the vocal cords, as in pronouncing fricatives such as (f) or (h) or stops such as (p) or (k). **12. catch one's breath.** **a.** to rest until breathing is normal, esp. after exertion. **b.** to stop breathing momentarily from excitement, fear, etc. **13. in the same breath.** done or said at the same time. **14. out of breath.** gasping for air after exertion. **15. save one's breath.** to refrain from useless talk. **16. take one's breath away.** to overwhelm with surprise, etc. **17. under or below one's breath.** in a quiet voice or whisper.

Breathalyser or **-lyzer** ('breθə,ləɪzə) *n.* *Brit., trademark.* a device for estimating the amount of alcohol in the breath: used in testing people suspected of driving under the influence of alcohol. —**'breatha,lyse** or **-lyze** *vb.* (tr.)

breath(e) ('brɪð) *vb.* **1.** to take in oxygen and give out carbon dioxide; respire. **2. (intr.)** to exist; be alive. **3. (intr.)** to rest to regain breath, composure, etc. **4. (intr.)** (esp. of air) to blow lightly. **5. (intr.)** **Machinery.** to take in air, esp. for combustion. **6. (tr.)** **Phonetics.** to articulate (a speech sound) without vibration of the vocal cords. **7.** to exhale or emit: *the dragon breathed fire*. **8. (tr.)** to impart; instil: *to breathe confidence into the actors*. **9. (tr.)** to speak softly; whisper. **10. (tr.)** to permit to rest: *to breathe a horse*. **11. breathe again, freely, or easily.** to feel relief. **12. breathe one's last.** to die or be finished or defeated.

breather ('brɪðə) *n.* **1. Inf.** a short pause for rest. **2.** a person who breathes in a specified way: *a deep breather*. **3.** a vent in a container to equalize internal and external pressure.

breathing ('brɪðɪŋ) *n.* **1.** the passage of air into and out of the lungs to supply the body with oxygen. **2.** a single breath: *a breathing between words*. **3. Phonetics.** **a.** expulsion of breath (*rough breathing*) or absence of such expulsion (*smooth breathing*) preceding the pronunciation of an initial vowel or rho in ancient Greek. **b.** either of two symbols indicating this.

breathless ('breθlɪs) *adj.* **1.** out of breath; gasping, etc. **2.** holding one's breath or having it taken away by excitement, etc. **3. (esp. of the atmosphere)** motionless and stifling. **4. Rare.** lifeless; dead. —**'breathlessly** *adv.* —**'breathlessness** *n.*

breathtaking ('breθ,teɪkɪŋ) *adj.* causing awe or excitement. —**'breath,takɪŋly** *adv.*

breath test *n.* *Brit.* a chemical test of a driver's breath to determine the amount of alcohol he has consumed.

breathy ('breθi) *adj.* **breathier, breathiest.** **1.** (of the speaking voice) accompanied by an audible emission of breath. **2.** (of the singing voice) lacking resonance. —**'breathily** *adv.* —**'breathiness** *n.*

bred (bred) *vb.* the past tense or past participle of **breed**. **brech** (*n.* (bri:tʃ). **1.** the buttocks; rump. **2.** the lower part or bottom of something. **3.** the part of a firearm behind the barrel or bore. ~*vb.* (bri:tʃ, brɪtʃ). (tr.) **4.** to fit (a gun) with a breech. **5. Arch.** to clothe in breeches or any other clothing.

breech delivery *n.* birth of a baby with the feet or buttocks appearing first.

breeches ('bri:tʃ, 'bri:-) *pl. n.* **1.** trousers extending to the knee or just below, worn for riding. **2. Inf. or dialect.** any trousers or pants, esp. extending to the knee.

breeches buoy *n.* a ring-shaped life buoy with a

support in the form of a pair of short breeches, in which a person is suspended for safe transfer from a ship.

breechloader ('bri:tʃ,ləʊdə) *n.* a firearm that is loaded at the breech. —**'breech-loading** *adj.*

breed (bri:d) *vb.* **breeding, bred.** **1.** to bear (offspring). **2. (tr.)** to bring up; raise. **3.** to produce or cause to produce by mating; propagate. **4.** to produce new or improved strains of (domestic animals and plants). **5.** to produce or be produced; generate: *to breed trouble*. ~*n.* **6.** a group of organisms within a species, esp. domestic animals, having clearly defined characteristics. **7.** a lineage or race. **8.** a kind, sort, or group. —**'breeder** *n.*

breeder reactor *n.* a type of nuclear reactor that produces more fissionable material than it consumes.

breeding ('bri:diŋ) *n.* **1.** the process of bearing offspring; reproduction. **2.** the process of producing plants or animals by hybridization, inbreeding, or other methods of reproduction. **3.** the result of good training, esp. the knowledge of correct social behaviour; refinement.

breeze ('bri:z) *n.* **1.** a gentle or light wind. **2. Meteorol.** a wind of force two to six (4–31 m.p.h.) inclusive on the Beaufort scale. **3. Inf.** an easy task or state of ease. **4. Inf., chiefly Brit.** a disturbance, esp. a lively quarrel. ~*vb.* (intr.) **5.** to move quickly or casually: *he breezed into the room*.

breeze ('bri:z) *n.* ashes of coal, coke, or charcoal used to make breeze blocks.

breeze block *n.* a light building brick made from the ashes of coal, coke, etc., bonded together by cement.

breezy ('bri:zi) *adj.* **breezier, breeziest.** **1.** fresh; windy. **2.** casual or carefree; lively; light-hearted. —**'breezily** *adv.* —**'breeziness** *n.*

Bren gun (bren) *n.* an air-cooled gas-operated submachine gun: used by the British in World War II.

brent (brent) or *esp. U.S. brant* *n., pl. brents, brants* or *brent, brant.* a small goose that has a dark grey plumage and short neck and occurs in most northern coastal regions. Also called: **brent goose**.

brethren ('breθrɪn) *pl. n.* *Arch. except in religious contexts.* a plural of **brother**.

Breton ('breɪn) *adj.* **1.** of, relating to, or characteristic of Brittany, its people, or their language. ~*n.* **2.** a native or inhabitant of Brittany.

breve (brɪv) *n.* **1.** an accent, ~, placed over a vowel to indicate that it is short or is pronounced in a specified way. **2. Music.** a note, now rarely used, equivalent to two semibreves. **3. R.C. Church.** a less common word for **brief** (papal letter).

brevet ('brevɪt) *n.* **1.** a document entitling a commissioned officer to hold temporarily a higher military rank without the appropriate pay and allowances. ~*vb.* **-vetting, -vetted** or **-veting, -veted.** **2. (tr.)** to promote by brevet. —**'brevetcy** *n.*

breviary ('brevjəri, 'bri:-) *n., pl. -ries.* *R.C. Church.* a book of psalms, hymns, prayers, etc., to be recited daily by clerics and certain members of religious orders as part of the divine office.

brevity ('brevɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* **1.** conciseness of expression; lack of verbosity. **2.** a short duration; brief time.

brew (bru:) *vb.* **1.** to make (beer, ale, etc.) from malt and other ingredients by steeping, boiling, and fermentation. **2.** to prepare (a drink, such as tea) by boiling or infusing. **3. (tr.)** to devise or plan: *to brew a plot*. **4. (intr.)** to be in the process of being brewed. **5. (intr.)** to be impending or forming: *there's a storm brewing*. ~*n.* **6.** a beverage produced by brewing, esp. tea or beer. **7.** an instance or time of brewing: *last year's brew*. —**'brewer** *n.*

brewery ('bruəri) *n., pl. -eries.* a place where beer, ale, etc., is brewed.

briar¹ or **brier** ('braɪə) *n.* **1.** Also called: **tree heath.** a shrub of S Europe, having a hard woody root (briarroot). **2.** a tobacco pipe made from the root of this plant. —**'briary** or **'briery** *adj.*

briar² ('braɪə) *n.* a variant spelling of **brier**¹.

bribe (braɪb) *vb.* **1.** to promise, offer, or give something, often illegally, to (a person) to procure services or gain influence. ~*n.* **2.** a reward, such as money or favour, given or offered for this purpose. **3.** any persuasion or lure. —**'bribable** or **'bribeable** *adj.* —**'briber** *n.* —**'bribery** *n.*

bric-a-brac ('brɪkə,bræk) *n.* miscellaneous small objects, esp. furniture and curios, kept because they are ornamental or rare.

brick (brɪk) *n.* **1. a.** a rectangular block of clay mixed with sand and fired in a kiln or baked by the sun, used in building construction. **b. (as modifier):** *a brick house*.

2. the material used to make such blocks. 3. any rectangular block: a *brick of ice*. 4. bricks collectively. 5. *Inf.* a reliable, trustworthy, or helpful person. 6. *Brit.* a child's building block. 7. *drop a brick. Brit. inf.* to make a tactless or indiscreet remark. 8. *like a ton of bricks. Inf.* with great force; heavily. ~vb. 9. (tr.; usually foll. by *in, up, or over*) to construct, line, pave, fill, or wall up with bricks: *to brick up a window*. —'bricky *adj.*

brickbat ('brik,bæt) *n.* 1. a piece of brick or similar material, esp. one used as a weapon. 2. *Inf.* blunt criticism.

brick red *n., adj.* (of) a reddish-brown colour.

bridal ('braɪd'l) *adj.* of or relating to a bride or a wedding; nuptial.

bride (braɪd) *n.* a woman who has just been or is about to be married.

bridegroom ('braɪd,gru:m, -grum) *n.* a man who has just been or is about to be married.

bridesmaid ('braɪd,z,meɪd) *n.* a girl or young unmarried woman who attends a bride at her wedding.

bridge¹ (brɪdʒ) *n.* 1. a structure that spans and provides a passage over a road, railway, river, or some other obstacle. 2. something that resembles this in shape or function. 3. the hard ridge at the upper part of the nose, formed by the underlying nasal bones. 4. the part of a pair of glasses that rests on the nose. 5. Also called: **bridgework**. a dental plate containing one or more artificial teeth that is secured to the surrounding natural teeth. 6. a platform from which a ship is piloted and navigated. 7. a piece of wood, usually fixed, supporting the strings of a violin, guitar, etc., and transmitting their vibrations to the sounding board. 8. Also called: **bridge passage**. a passage in a musical, literary, or dramatic work linking two or more important sections. 9. Also called: **bridge circuit. Electronics.** any of several networks across which a device is connected for measuring resistance, capacitance, etc. 10. *Billiards.* a support for a cue. 11. *burn one's bridges.* See *burn*¹. 12. *cross a bridge when (one) comes to it.* to deal with a problem only when it arises. ~vb. (tr.) 13. to build or provide a bridge over something; span: *to bridge a river*. 14. to connect or reduce the distance between: *let us bridge our differences*. —'bridgeable *adj.*

bridge² (brɪdʒ) *n.* a card game for four players, based on whist, in which one hand (the dummy) is exposed and the trump suit decided by bidding between the players. See also *contract bridge, auction bridge*.

bridgehead ('brɪdʒ,hed) *n. Mil.* 1. an area of ground secured or to be taken on the enemy's side of an obstacle. 2. a fortified or defensive position at the end of a bridge nearest to the enemy.

bridgework ('brɪdʒ,wɜ:k) *n.* a partial denture attached to the surrounding teeth.

bridging loan *n.* a loan made to cover the period between two transactions, such as the buying of another house before the sale of the first is completed.

bridle ('braɪd'l) *n.* 1. a headgear for a horse, etc., consisting of a series of buckled straps and a metal mouthpiece (bit) by which the animal is controlled through the reins. 2. something that curbs or restrains; check. 3. a Y-shaped cable, rope, or chain, used for holding, towing, etc. ~vb. 4. (tr.) to put a bridle on (a horse, mule, etc.). 5. (tr.) to restrain; curb: *he bridled his rage*. 6. (intr.; often foll. by *at*) to show anger, scorn, or indignation.

bridle path *n.* a path suitable for riding or leading horses.

Brie (bri:) *n.* a soft creamy white cheese.

brief (bri:f) *adj.* 1. short in duration. 2. short in length or extent; scanty: a *brief bikini*. 3. abrupt in manner; brusque: *the professor was brief with me*. 4. terse or concise. ~n. 5. a condensed statement or written synopsis; abstract. 6. *Law.* a document containing all the facts and points of law of a case by which a solicitor instructs a barrister to represent a client. 7. *R.C. Church.* a letter issuing from the Roman court written in modern characters, as contrasted with a papal bull; papal brief. 8. Also called: **briefing.** instructions. 9. *hold a brief for.* to argue for; champion. 10. *in brief.* in short; to sum up. ~vb. (tr.) 11. to prepare or instruct by giving a summary of relevant facts. 12. to make a summary or synopsis of. 13. *English law.* a. to instruct (a barrister) by brief. b. to retain (a barrister) as counsel. —'briefly *adv.* —'briefness *n.*

briefcase ('bri:f,keɪs) *n.* a flat portable case, often of leather, for carrying papers, books, etc.

briefs (bri:fs) *pl. n.* men's underpants or women's pants without legs.

brier¹ or **briar** ('braɪə) *n.* any of various thorny shrubs or other plants, such as the sweetbrier. —'briery or 'briary *adj.*

brier² ('braɪə) *n.* a variant spelling of **briar**¹.

brig¹ (brɪg) *n.* 1. *Naut.* a two-masted square-rigger. 2. *Chiefly U.S.* a prison, esp. in a navy ship.

brig² (brɪg) *n.* a northern *Brit.* word for a **bridge**¹.

Brig. *abbrev. for:* 1. Brigade. 2. Brigadier.

brigade (bri:'geɪd) *n.* 1. a military formation smaller than a division and usually commanded by a brigadier. 2. a group of people organized for a certain task: a *rescue brigade*. ~vb. (tr.) 3. to organize into a brigade.

brigadier (ˌbrɪɡə'dɪə) *n.* 1. an officer of the British Army or Royal Marines junior to a major general but senior to a colonel, usually commanding a brigade. 2. an equivalent rank in other armed forces.

brigand ('brɪɡənd) *n.* a bandit, esp. a member of a gang operating in mountainous areas. —'brigandage or 'brigandry *n.*

briggantine ('brɪɡən,tɪn, -tɪm) *n.* a two-masted sailing ship, rigged square on the foremast and fore-and-aft on the mainmast.

bright (braɪt) *adj.* 1. emitting or reflecting much light; shining. 2. (of colours) intense or vivid. 3. full of promise: a *bright future*. 4. full of animation; cheerful: a *bright face*. 5. *Inf.* quick-witted or clever: a *bright child*. 6. magnificent; glorious. 7. polished; glistening. 8. (of a liquid) translucent and clear. 9. **bright and early.** very early in the morning. ~adv. 10. brightly: *the fire was burning bright*. —'brightly *adv.* —'brightness *n.*

brighten ('braɪt'n) *vb.* 1. to make or become bright or brighter. 2. to make or become cheerful.

Bright's disease (braɪts) *n.* chronic inflammation of the kidneys; chronic nephritis.

brill (brɪl) *n., pl. brill or brills.* a European flatfish similar to the turbot.

brilliance ('brɪljəns) or **brilliance** *n.* 1. great brightness; radiance. 2. excellence or distinction in physical or mental ability; exceptional talent. 3. splendour; magnificence.

brilliant ('brɪljənt) *adj.* 1. shining with light; sparkling. 2. (of a colour) reflecting a considerable amount of light; vivid. 3. outstanding; exceptional: a *brilliant success*. 4. splendid; magnificent: a *brilliant show*. 5. of outstanding intelligence or intellect: a *brilliant mind*. ~n. 6. Also called: **brilliant cut.** a. a cut for diamonds and other gemstones in the form of two many-faceted pyramids joined at their bases. b. a diamond of this cut. —'brilliantly *adv.*

brilliantine ('brɪljən,tɪn) *n.* a perfumed oil used to make the hair smooth and shiny.

brim (brɪm) *n.* 1. the upper rim of a vessel: *the brim of a cup*. 2. a projecting rim or edge: *the brim of a hat*. 3. the brink or edge of something. ~vb. **brimming, brimmed.** 4. to fill or be full to the brim: *eyes brimming with tears*. —'brim'ful *adj.* —'brimless *adj.*

brimstone ('brɪm,stəʊn) *n.* 1. an obsolete name for sulphur. 2. a common yellow butterfly of N temperate regions of the Old World.

brindled ('brɪndlɪd) *adj.* brown or grey streaked or patched with a darker colour: a *brindled dog*.

brine (breɪn) *n.* 1. a strong solution of salt and water, used for salting and pickling meats, etc. 2. the sea or its water. ~vb. 3. (tr.) to soak in or treat with brine. —'brinish *adj.*

bring (brɪŋ) *vb.* **bringing, brought.** (tr.) 1. to carry, convey, or take (something or someone) to a designated place or person: *bring that book to me*. 2. to cause to happen or occur to (oneself or another): *to bring disrespect on oneself*. 3. to cause to happen as a consequence: *responsibility brings maturity*. 4. to cause to come to mind: *it brought back memories*. 5. to cause to be in a certain state, position, etc.: *the punch brought him to his knees*. 6. to force, persuade, or make (oneself): *I couldn't bring myself to do it*. 7. to sell for; fetch: *the painting brought 20 pounds*. 8. *Law.* a. to institute (proceedings, charges, etc.). b. to put (evidence, etc.) before a tribunal. 9. **bring forth.** to give birth to. 10. **bring home to.** to convince of. 11. **bring to bear.** See *bear*¹. ~See also *bring about, bring down, etc.* —'bringer *n.*

bring about *vb. (tr., adv.)* 1. to cause to happen. 2. to turn (a ship) around.

bring-and-buy sale *n. Brit.* an informal sale, often

for charity, to which people bring items for sale and buy those that others have brought.

bring down *vb. (tr., adv.)* to cause to fall.

bring forward *vb. (tr., adv.)* 1. to present or introduce (a subject) for discussion. 2. *Book-keeping.* to transfer (a sum) to the top of the next page or column.

bring in *vb. (tr., adv.)* 1. to yield (income, profit, or cash). 2. to produce or return (a verdict). 3. to introduce (a legislative bill, etc.).

bring off *vb. (tr., adv.)* to succeed in achieving (something), esp. with difficulty.

bring out *vb. (tr., adv.)* 1. to produce or publish or have published. 2. to expose, reveal, or cause to be seen: *she brought out the best in me*. 3. (foll. by *in*) to cause (a person) to become covered (with spots, a rash, etc.). 4. *Brit.* to introduce (a girl) formally into society as a debutante.

bring over *vb. (tr., adv.)* to cause (a person) to change allegiances.

bring round or around *vb. (tr., adv.)* 1. to restore (a person) to consciousness, esp. after a faint. 2. *Inf.* to convince (another person, usually an opponent) of an opinion or point of view.

bring to *vb. (tr., adv.)* 1. to restore (a person) to consciousness. 2. to cause (a ship) to turn into the wind and reduce her headway.

bring up *vb. (tr., adv.)* 1. to care for and train (a child); rear. 2. to raise (a subject) for discussion; mention. 3. to vomit (food).

brinjal ('brɪndʒəl) *n.* (in India and Africa) another name for the **aubergine**.

brink (brɪŋk) *n.* 1. the edge, border, or verge of a steep place. 2. the land at the edge of a body of water. 3. the verge of an event or state: *the brink of disaster*.

brinkmanship ('brɪŋkmən,ʃɪp) *n.* the art or practice of pressing a dangerous situation, esp. in international affairs, to the limit of safety and peace in order to win an advantage.

briny ('braɪn) *adj.* **brinier**, **briniest**. 1. of or resembling brine; salty. ~*n.* 2. (preceded by *the*) *Inf.* the sea. —'brinness *n.*

brquette or briquet ('brɪ'kɛt) *n.* a small brick made of compressed coal dust, sawdust, charcoal, etc., used for fuel.

brisk (brɪsk) *adj.* 1. lively and quick; vigorous: *a brisk walk*. 2. invigorating or sharp: *brisk weather*. ~*vb.* 3. (often foll. by *up*) to enliven; make or become brisk. —'briskly *adv.* —'briskness *n.*

brisket ('brɪskɪt) *n.* 1. the breast of a four-legged animal. 2. the meat from this part, esp. of beef.

brislign ('brɪslɪŋ) *n.* another name for a **sprat**.

bristle ('brɪsl) *n.* 1. any short stiff hair of an animal or plant, such as on a pig's back. 2. something resembling these hairs: *toothbrush bristle*. ~*vb.* 3. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *up*) to stand up or cause to stand up like bristles. 4. (*intr.*; sometimes foll. by *up*) to show anger, indignation, etc.: *she bristled at the suggestion*. 5. (*intr.*) to be thickly covered or set: *the target bristled with arrows*. —'bristly *adj.*

Brit (brɪt) *n. Inf.* a British person.

Brit. *abbrev. for:* 1. Britain. 2. British.

Britannia (brɪ'tænɪə) *n.* 1. a female warrior carrying a trident and wearing a helmet, personifying Great Britain or the British Empire. 2. (in the ancient Roman Empire) the S part of Great Britain.

Britannia metal *n.* an alloy of tin with antimony and copper: used for decorative purposes and for bearings.

Britannic (brɪ'tænɪk) *adj.* of Britain; British (esp. in *His or Her Britannic Majesty*).

britches ('brɪtʃɪz) *pl. n.* 1. a variant spelling of **breeches**. 2. too big for one's britches. *Inf.* overconfident; arrogant.

British ('brɪtɪʃ) *adj.* 1. of or denoting Britain, a country of W Europe, consisting of the island of Great Britain (comprising England, Scotland, and Wales) and part of the island of Ireland (Northern Ireland). 2. relating to, denoting, or characteristic of the inhabitants of Britain. 3. relating to or denoting the English language as spoken and written in Britain. 4. of or relating to the Commonwealth: *British subjects*. ~*n.* 5. (preceded by *the*; functioning as *pl.*) the natives or inhabitants of Britain. —'Britishness *n.*

Briton ('brɪtɪn) *n.* 1. a native or inhabitant of Britain. 2. *History.* any of the early Celtic inhabitants of S Britain.

brittle ('brɪtl) *adj.* 1. easily cracked, snapped, or broken; fragile. 2. curt or irritable. 3. hard or sharp in

quality. ~*n.* 4. a crunchy sweet made with treacle and nuts: *peanut brittle*. —'brittleness *n.*

bro. (brəʊ) *abbrev. for brother*.

broach (braʊtʃ) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to initiate (a topic) for discussion. 2. (*tr.*) to tap or pierce (a container) to draw off (a liquid): *to broach a cask*. 3. (*tr.*) to open in order to begin to use. ~*n.* 4. a long tapered toothed cutting tool for enlarging holes. 5. a spit for roasting meat, etc. —'broacher *n.*

B-road *n.* a secondary road in Britain.

broad (brɔ:d) *adj.* 1. having relatively great breadth or width. 2. of vast extent; spacious: *a broad plain*. 3. (*postpositive*) from one side to the other: *four miles broad*. 4. of great scope or potential: *that invention had broad applications*. 5. not detailed; general: *broad plans*. 6. clear and open; full (esp. in **broad daylight**). 7. obvious or plain: *broad hints*. 8. liberal; tolerant: *a broad political stance*. 9. widely spread; extensive: *broad support*. 10. vulgar; coarse; indecent: *a broad joke*. 11. (of a dialect or pronunciation) consisting of a large number of speech sounds characteristic of a particular geographical area: *a broad Yorkshire accent*. 12. *Phonetics.* the long vowel in English words such as *father*, *half*, as represented in Received Pronunciation. ~*n.* 13. the broad part of something. 14. *Sl.*, chiefly *U.S.* a girl or woman. —'broadly *adv.*

broad arrow *n.* 1. a mark shaped like a broad arrowhead designating British government property and formerly used on prison clothing. 2. an arrow with a broad head.

broad bean *n.* 1. an erect annual Eurasian bean plant cultivated for its large edible flattened seeds. 2. the seed of this plant.

broadcast ('brɔ:d,kɒst) *vb.* -casting, -cast or -casted. 1. to transmit (announcements or programmes) on radio or television. 2. (*intr.*) to take part in a radio or television programme. 3. (*tr.*) to make widely known throughout an area: *to broadcast news*. 4. (*tr.*) to scatter (seed, etc.) over an area, esp. by hand. ~*n.* 5. a transmission or programme on radio or television. **b.** (*as modifier*): *a broadcast signal*. 6. the act of scattering seeds. ~*adj.* 7. dispersed over a wide area. ~*adv.* 8. far and wide. —'broad, **caster** *n.*

broadcloth ('brɔ:d,klɒθ) *n.* 1. fabric woven on a wide loom. 2. a closely woven fabric of wool, worsted, cotton, or rayon with lustrous finish, used for clothing.

broaden ('brɔ:d'n) *vb.* to make or become broad or broader; widen.

broad gauge *n.* 1. a railway track with a greater distance between the lines than the standard gauge of 56½ inches. ~*adj.* **broad-gauge**. 2. of or denoting a railway having this track.

broad-leaved *adj.* denoting trees other than conifers; having broad rather than needleshaped leaves.

broadloom ('brɔ:d,lʊ:m) *n.* (*modifier*) of or designating carpets woven on a wide loom.

broad-minded *adj.* 1. tolerant of opposing viewpoints; not prejudiced; liberal. 2. not easily shocked by permissive sexual habits, pornography, etc. —'broad-'mindedly *adv.* —'broad-'mindedness *n.*

broadsheet ('brɔ:dʃi:t) *n.* 1. a newspaper having a large format, approximately 15 by 24 inches (38 by 61 centimetres). 2. another word for **broadside** (sense 4).

broadside ('brɔ:d,sɑɪd) *n.* 1. *Naut.* the entire side of a vessel. 2. *Naval.* a. all the armament fired from one side of a warship. **b.** the simultaneous discharge of such armament. 3. a strong or abusive verbal or written attack. 4. Also called: **broadside ballad**, a ballad or popular song printed on one side of a sheet of paper, esp. in 16th-century England. ~*adv.* 5. with a broader side facing an object; sideways.

broadsword ('brɔ:d,sɔ:d) *n.* a broad-bladed sword used for cutting rather than stabbing.

brocade (brəʊ'keɪd) *n.* 1. a rich fabric woven with a raised design, often using gold or silver threads. ~*vb.* 2. (*tr.*) to weave with such a design.

broccoli ('brɒkəli) *n.* 1. a cultivated variety of cabbage having branched greenish flower heads. 2. the flower head, eaten as a vegetable before the buds have opened.

broch (brɒk, brɒx) *n.* (in Scotland) a prehistoric circular dry-stone tower large enough to serve as a fortified home.

brochette (brɒʃ'et) *n.* a skewer or small spit, used for holding pieces of meat, etc., while roasting or grilling.

brochure ('brɔʃjʊə, -ʃə) *n.* a pamphlet or stitched booklet, esp. one containing summarized or introductory information or advertising.

broderie anglaise ('brʊdəri: ɑ:ŋ'ɡleɪz) *n.* open embroidery on white cotton, fine linen, etc.

Broederbond ('brʊdə,bɒnt, 'brʊ:də,bɒnt) *n.* (in South Africa) a secret society of Afrikaner Nationalists.

brogue ('brɔ:ɡ) *n.* a broad gentle-sounding dialectal accent, esp. that used by the Irish in speaking English.

brogue ('brɔ:ɡ) *n.* 1. a sturdy walking shoe, often with ornamental perforations. 2. an untanned shoe worn formerly in Ireland and Scotland.

broil¹ ('brɔɪl) *vb.* 1. the usual U.S. word for **grill** (sense 1). 2. to become or cause to become extremely hot. 3. (*intr.*) to be furious.

broil² ('brɔɪl) *n.* 1. a loud quarrel or disturbance; brawl. ~*vb.* 2. (*intr.*) to brawl; quarrel.

broiler ('brɔɪlə) *n.* 1. a young tender chicken suitable for roasting. 2. a pan, grate, etc. for broiling food. 3. a very hot day.

broke ('brɔ:ʊk) *vb.* 1. the past tense of **break**. ~*adj. Inf.* 2. having no money; bankrupt. 3. **go for broke**, to risk everything in a gambling or other venture.

broken ('brʊkən) *vb.* 1. the past participle of **break**. ~*adj.* 2. fractured, smashed, or splintered: a *broken vase*. 3. interrupted; disturbed; disconnected: *broken sleep*. 4. intermittent or discontinuous: *broken sunshine*. 5. not functioning. 6. spoilt or ruined by divorce (esp. in **broken home, broken marriage**). 7. (of a trust, promise, contract, etc.) violated; infringed. 8. (of the speech of a foreigner) imperfect in grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation: *broken English*. 9. Also: **broken-in**, made tame or disciplined by training. 10. exhausted or weakened, as through ill-health or misfortune. 11. irregular or rough; uneven: *broken ground*. 12. bankrupt. —'brokenly *adv.*

broken chord *n.* another term for **arpeggio**.

broken-down *adj.* 1. worn out, as by age or long use; dilapidated. 2. not in working order.

brokenhearted ('brʊkən'hɑ:tɪd) *adj.* overwhelmed by grief or disappointment. —'brokenheartedly *adv.*

broker ('brʊkə) *n.* 1. an agent who, acting on behalf of a principal, buys or sells goods, securities, etc.: *insurance broker*. 2. short for **stockbroker**. 3. a person who deals in second-hand goods.

brokerage ('brʊkərɪdʒ) *n.* 1. commission charged by a broker. 2. a broker's business or office.

broolly ('brʊli) *n., pl. -lies*, an informal Brit. name for **umbrella** (sense 1).

bromide ('brɔ:maɪd) *n.* 1. any salt of hydrobromic acid. 2. any compound containing a bromine atom. 3. a dose of sodium or potassium bromide given as a sedative. 4. *Inf.* a. a platitude. b. a boring person.

bromide paper *n.* a type of photographic paper coated with an emulsion of silver bromide.

bromine ('brɔ:mi:n, -mɪn) *n.* a pungent dark red volatile liquid element that occurs in brine and is used in the production of chemicals. Symbol: Br; atomic no.: 35; atomic wt.: 79.91.

bronchi ('brɒŋkai) *n.* the plural of **bronchus**.

bronchial ('brɒŋkiəl) *adj.* of or relating to the bronchi or the bronchial tubes. —'bronchially *adv.*

bronchitis ('brɒŋ'kaiɪs) *n.* inflammation of the bronchial tubes, characterized by coughing, difficulty in breathing, etc. —'bronchitic ('brɒŋ'kɪk) *adj.*, *n.*

bronchus ('brɒŋkəs) *n., pl. -chi* (-kai), either of the two main branches of the trachea.

bronco or broncho ('brɒŋkəʊ) *n., pl. -cos or -chos*. U.S. a wild or partially tamed pony or mustang of the western plains.

brontosaurus ('brɒntə'sɔ:ɪrəs) or **brontosaur** ('brɒntə,sɔ:) *n.* a very large herbivorous quadrupedal dinosaur, common in the U.S. in late Jurassic times, having a long neck and long tail.

bronze ('brɒnz) *n.* 1. any hard water-resistant alloy consisting of copper and smaller proportions of tin and sometimes zinc and lead. 2. a yellowish-brown colour or pigment. 3. a statue, medal, or other object made of bronze. ~*adj.* 4. made of or resembling bronze. 5. of a yellowish-brown colour. ~*vb.* 6. (esp. of the skin) to make or become brown; tan. 7. (*tr.*) to give the appearance of bronze to. —'bronzily *adv.*

Bronze Age *n.* a technological stage between the Stone and Iron Ages, beginning in the Middle East about 4500 B.C. and lasting in Britain from about 2000 to 500 B.C., during which weapons and tools were made of bronze. *b.* (as modifier): a *Bronze-Age* tool.

bronze medal *n.* a medal awarded to a competitor who comes third in a contest or race.

brooch ('brʊtʃ) *n.* an ornament with a hinged pin and catch, worn fastened to clothing.

brood ('brʊd) *n.* 1. a number of young animals, esp. birds, produced at one hatching. 2. all the offspring in one family: often used jokingly or contemptuously. 3. a group of a particular kind; breed. 4. (as modifier) kept for breeding: a *brood mare*. ~*vb.* 5. (of a bird) a. to sit on or hatch (eggs). b. (*tr.*) to cover (young birds) protectively with the wings. 6. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *on, over, or upon*) to ponder morbidly or persistently.

brooder ('brʊ:də) *n.* 1. a structure, usually heated, used for rearing young chickens or other fowl. 2. a person or thing that broods.

broody ('brʊ:di) *adj. -ier, -iest*. 1. moody; introspective. 2. (of poultry) wishing to sit on or hatch eggs. 3. *Inf.* (of a woman) wishing to have a baby. —'broodiness *n.*

brook¹ ('brʊk) *n.* a natural freshwater stream smaller than a river.

brook² ('brʊk) *vb.* (*tr.*) (usually used with a negative) to bear; tolerate.

broom ('brʊ:m, brʊm) *n.* 1. an implement for sweeping consisting of a brush of straw, bristles, or twigs, attached to a long handle. 2. any of various yellow-flowered Eurasian leguminous shrubs. 3. **new broom**, a newly appointed official, etc., eager to make radical changes. ~*vb.* 4. (*tr.*) to sweep with a broom.

broomstick ('brʊ:m,stɪk, 'brʊm-) *n.* the long handle of a broom.

bro. or **Bros.** *abbrev.* for **brothers**.

brose ('brʊz) *n.* Scot. a porridge made by adding a boiling liquid to meal, esp. oatmeal.

broth ('brɒθ) *n.* 1. a soup made by boiling meat, fish, vegetables, etc., in water. 2. another name for **stock** (sense 19).

brothel ('brɒθəl) *n.* 1. a house where men pay to have sexual intercourse with prostitutes. 2. *Austral. inf.* any untidy or messy place.

brother ('brʌðə) *n.* 1. a male person having the same parents as another person. 2. a. a male person belonging to the same group, profession, nationality, trade union, etc., as another or others; fellow member. b. (as modifier): *brother workers*. 3. *Inf.* comrade; friend: used as a form of address. 4. *Christianity*, a member of a male religious order. ~Related *adj.*: **fraternal**.

brotherhood ('brʌðə,hʊd) *n.* 1. the state of being related as a brother or brothers. 2. an association or fellowship, such as a trade union. 3. all persons engaged in a particular profession, trade, etc. 4. the belief, feeling, or hope that all men should treat one another as brothers.

brother-in-law *n., pl. brothers-in-law*. 1. the brother of one's wife or husband. 2. the husband of one's sister. 3. the husband of the sister of one's husband or wife.

brotherly ('brʌðəli) *adj.* of, resembling, or suitable to a brother, esp. in showing loyalty and affection; fraternal. —'brotherliness *n.*

brougham ('brʊ:əm, brʊ:m) *n.* 1. a four-wheeled horse-drawn closed carriage having a raised open driver's seat in front. 2. *Obs.* a large car with an open compartment at the front for the driver. 3. *Obs.* an early electric car.

brought ('brɔ:t) *vb.* the past tense or past participle of **bring**.

brouhaha ('brʊ:'hɑ:hɑ:) *n.* a loud confused noise; commotion; uproar.

brow ('braʊ) *n.* 1. the part of the face from the eyes to the hairline; forehead. 2. short for **eyebrow**. 3. the expression of the face; countenance: a *troubled brow*. 4. the jutting top of a hill, etc.

browbeat ('braʊ,bɪt) *vb. -beating, -beat, -beaten.* (*tr.*) to discourage or frighten with threats or a domineering manner; intimidate. —'browbeater *n.*

brown ('braʊn) *n.* 1. any of various colours, such as those of wood or earth. 2. a dye or pigment producing these colours. ~*adj.* 3. of the colour brown. 4. (of bread) made from a dark flour, such as wheatmeal or wholemeal flour. 5. deeply tanned or sunburnt. ~*vb.* 6. to make (esp. food as a result of cooking) brown or (esp. of food) to become brown. —'brownish or 'brownly *adj.* —'brownness *n.*

brown bear *n.* a large ferocious brownish bear inhabiting temperate forests of North America, Europe, and Asia.

brown coal *n.* another name for **lignite**.

browned-off *adj. Inf., chiefly Brit.* thoroughly discouraged or disheartened; fed-up.

brownie ('braʊni) *n.* 1. (in folklore) an elf said to do helpful work at night, esp. household chores. 2. *Chiefly U.S.* a flat nutty chocolate cake.

Brownie Guide or **Brownie** ('braʊni) *n.* a member of the junior branch of the Guides.

browning ('braʊniŋ) *n.* *Brit.* a substance used to darken soups, gravies, etc.

brown paper *n.* a kind of coarse unbleached paper used for wrapping.

brown rice *n.* unpolished rice, in which the grains retain the outer yellowish-brown layer (bran).

Brown Shirt *n.* 1. (in Nazi Germany) a storm trooper. 2. a member of any fascist party or group.

brown study *n.* a mood of deep absorption or thoughtfulness; reverie.

brown sugar *n.* sugar that is unrefined or only partially refined.

brown trout *n.* a common brownish variety of the trout that occurs in the rivers of N Europe.

browse (braʊz) *vb.* 1. to look through (a book, articles for sale in a shop, etc.) in a casual leisurely manner. 2. (of deer, goats, etc.) to feed upon (vegetation) by continual nibbling. ~*n.* 3. the act or an instance of browsing. 4. the young twigs, shoots, leaves, etc., on which certain animals feed. — **browser** *n.*

BRS *abbrev.* for British Road Services.

brucellosis (ˌbruːsiˈləʊsɪs) *n.* an infectious disease of cattle, goats, and pigs, caused by bacteria and transmissible to man. Also called: **undulant fever**.

bruin ('bruːɪn) *n.* a name for a bear, used in children's tales, etc.

bruise (bruːz) *vb.* (*mainly tr.*) 1. (*also intr.*) to injure (tissues) without breaking the skin, usually with discoloration, or (of tissues) to be injured in this way. 2. to offend or injure (someone's feelings). 3. to damage the surface of (something). 4. to crush (food, etc.) by pounding. ~*n.* 5. a bodily injury without a break in the skin, usually with discoloration; contusion.

bruiser ('bruːzə) *n.* *Inf.* a strong tough person, esp. a boxer or a bully.

bruit (bruːt) *vb.* 1. *Arch.* or *U.S. (tr.; often passive);* usually foll. by *about* to report; rumour. ~*n.* 2. *Arch.* a. a rumour. b. a loud outcry; clamour.

brumby ('brʌmbi) *n.* *pl. -bies. Austral.* 1. a wild horse, esp. one descended from runaway stock. 2. a disorderly person.

brunch (brʌntʃ) *n.* *Chiefly U.S.* a meal eaten late in the morning, combining breakfast with lunch.

brunette (bruːˈnet) *n.* 1. a girl or woman with dark brown hair. ~*adj.* 2. dark brown: *brunette hair*.

brunt (brʌnt) *n.* the main force or shock of a blow, attack, etc. (esp. in **bear the brunt of**).

brush¹ (brʌʃ) *n.* 1. a device made of bristles, hairs, wires, etc., set into a firm back or handle: used to apply paint, clean or polish surfaces, groom the hair, etc. 2. the act or an instance of brushing. 3. a light stroke made in passing; graze. 4. a brief encounter or contact, esp. an unfriendly one; skirmish. 5. the bushy tail of a fox. 6. an electric conductor, esp. one made of carbon, that conveys current between stationary and rotating parts of a generator, motor, etc. ~*vb.* 7. (*tr.*) to clean, polish, scrub, paint, etc., with a brush. 8. (*tr.*) to apply or remove with a brush or brushing movement. 9. (*tr.*) to touch lightly and briefly. 10. (*intr.*) to move so as to graze or touch something lightly. ~*See also* **brush aside**, **brush off**, etc. — **brusher** *n.* — **brush, like** or **brushy** *adj.*

brush² (brʌʃ) *n.* 1. a thick growth of shrubs and small trees; scrub. 2. land covered with scrub. 3. broken or cut branches or twigs; brushwood. 4. wooded sparsely populated country; backwoods. — **brushy** *adj.*

brush aside or **away** *vb. (tr., adv.)* to dismiss without consideration; disregard.

brushed (brʌʃt) *adj.* *Textiles.* treated with a brushing process to raise the nap and give a softer and warmer finish: *brushed nylon*.

brush off *Sl.* ~*vb. (tr., adv.)* 1. to dismiss and ignore (a person), esp. curtly. ~*n.* **brushoff**¹ ('brʌʃɒf). 2. an abrupt dismissal or rejection.

brush up *vb. (adv.) Inf.* 1. (*tr.; often foll. by on*) to refresh one's knowledge, skill, or memory of (a subject). 2. to make (a person or oneself) clean or neat as after a journey. ~*n.* **brush-up**. 3. *Brit.* the act or an instance of tidying one's appearance (esp. in **wash and brush-up**).

brushwood ('brʌʃˌwʊd) *n.* 1. cut or broken-off tree branches, twigs, etc. 2. another word for **brush**¹ (sense 1).

brushwork ('brʌʃˌwɜːk) *n.* 1. a characteristic manner of applying paint with a brush: *Rembrandt's brushwork*. 2. work done with a brush.

brusque (brʌsk, brʊsk) *adj.* blunt or curt in manner or speech. — **brusquely** *adv.* — **brusqueness** *n.*

Brussels carpet ('brʌsˈlɜːz) *n.* a worsted carpet with a heavy pile formed by uncut loops of wool on a linen warp.

Brussels lace *n.* a fine lace with a raised or appliqué design.

Brussels sprout *n.* 1. a variety of cabbage, having a stout stem studded with budlike heads resembling tiny cabbages. 2. the head of this plant, eaten as a vegetable.

brutal ('bruːtəl) *adj.* 1. cruel; vicious; savage. 2. extremely honest or coarse in speech or manner. 3. harsh; severe; extreme: *brutal cold*. — **brutality** *n.* — **brutally** *adv.*

brutalize or **-ise** ('bruːtəˌlaɪz) *vb.* 1. to make or become brutal. 2. (*tr.*) to treat brutally. — **brutalization** or **-isation** *n.*

brute (bruːt) *n.* 1. a. any animal except man; beast; lower animal. b. (*as modifier*): *brute nature*. 2. a brutal person. ~*adj. (prenominal)* 3. wholly instinctive or physical (esp. in **brute strength**, **brute force**). 4. without reason or intelligence. 5. coarse and grossly sensual.

brutish ('bruːtɪʃ) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or resembling a brute; animal. 2. coarse; cruel; stupid. — **brutishly** *adv.* — **brutishness** *n.*

bryony or **briony** ('braɪəni) *n.* *pl. -nies.* any of several herbaceous climbing plants of Europe and N Africa.

bryophyte ('braɪəˌfaɪt) *n.* any plant of the division *Bryophyta*, esp. mosses and liverworts. — **bryophytic** ('braɪəˌfɪtɪk) *adj.*

Brythonic (brɪˈθɒnɪk) *n.* 1. the S group of Celtic languages, consisting of Welsh, Cornish, and Breton. ~*adj.* 2. of or relating to this group of languages.

B.Sc. *abbrev.* for Bachelor of Science.

BSI *abbrev.* for British Standards Institution.

B.S.T. *abbrev. for:* 1. British Standard Time. 2. British Summer Time.

Bt. *abbrev. for* Baronet.

btu or **B.Th.U.** *abbrev. for* British thermal unit. *U.S. abbrev.: BTU*

bubble ('bʌbəl) *n.* 1. a thin film of liquid forming a hollow globule around air or a gas: a *soap bubble*. 2. a small globule of air or a gas in a liquid or a solid. 3. the sound made by a bubbling liquid. 4. something lacking substance, stability, or seriousness. 5. a dome, esp. a transparent glass or plastic one. ~*vb.* 6. to form or cause to form bubbles. 7. (*intr.*) to move or flow with a gurgling sound. 8. (*intr.; often foll. by over*) to overflow (with excitement, anger, etc.).

bubble and squeak *n. Brit.* a dish of leftover boiled cabbage and potatoes fried together.

bubble bath *n.* 1. a powder, liquid, or crystals used to scent, soften, and foam in bath water. 2. a bath to which such a substance has been added.

bubble car *n. Brit.* a small car with a transparent bubble-shaped top.

bubble gum *n.* a type of chewing gum that can be blown into large bubbles.

bubbly ('bʌbli) *adj. -blier, -bliest.* 1. full of or resembling bubbles. 2. lively; animated; excited. ~*n.* 3. *Inf.* champagne.

bubo ('bjʊːbəʊ) *n. pl. -boes.* *Pathol.* inflammation and swelling of a lymph node, esp. in the armpit or groin. — **bubonic** (bjʊːˈbɒnɪk) *adj.*

bubonic plague *n.* an acute infectious febrile disease characterized by chills, prostration, delirium, and formation of buboes: caused by the bite of an infected rat flea.

buccaneer ('bʌkəˈniə) *n.* 1. a pirate, esp. one who preyed on Spanish shipping in the Caribbean in the 17th and 18th centuries. ~*vb. (intr.)* 2. to be or act like a buccaneer.

buck¹ (bʌk) *n.* 1. a. the male of various animals including the goat, hare, kangaroo, rabbit, and reindeer. b. (*as modifier*): a *buck antelope*. 2. *Inf.* a robust spirited young man. 3. *S. African.* an antelope or deer of either sex. 4. the act of bucking. ~*vb.* 5. (*intr.*) (of a horse or other animal) to jump vertically, with legs stiff and back arched. 6. (*tr.*) (of a horse, etc.) to throw (its rider) by bucking. 7. (*when intr., often foll. by against* or *at*) *U.S. & Austral. inf.* to resist or oppose obstinately. 8. (*tr.; usually passive*) *Inf.* to cheer or encourage: *I was very*

bucked at passing the exam. ~See also **buck up**. —'bucker *n.*

buck¹ ('bʌk) *n.* *U.S. & Austral. sl.* a dollar.

buck² ('bʌk) *n.* 1. *Poker.* a marker in the jackpot to remind the winner of some obligation when his turn comes to deal. 2. **pass the buck.** *Inf.* to shift blame or responsibility onto another.

buckboard ('bʌk,bɔ:d) *n.* *U.S.* an open four-wheeled horse-drawn carriage with the seat attached to a flexible board between the front and rear axles.

bucket ('bʌkɪt) *n.* 1. an open-topped roughly cylindrical container; pail. 2. Also called: **bucketful**, the amount a bucket will hold. 3. any of various bucket-like parts of a machine, such as the scoop on a mechanical shovel. 4. *Austral.* a small container for ice cream. 5. **kick the bucket.** *Inf.* to die. ~vb. 6. (*tr.*) to carry in or put into a bucket. 7. (*intr.*; often foll. by *along*) *Inf.*, chiefly *Brit.* to travel or drive fast. 8. (*tr.*) *Austral. sl.* to criticize or denigrate.

bucket down *vb.* (*intr.*) (of rain) to fall very heavily.

bucket seat *n.* a seat in a car, aircraft, etc., having curved sides.

bucket shop *n.* *Sl.* 1. an unregistered firm of stockbrokers that engages in fraudulent speculation. 2. *Chiefly Brit.* a firm specializing in cheap airline tickets.

buckle ('bʌkəl) *n.* 1. a clasp for fastening together two loose ends, esp. of a belt or strap, usually consisting of a frame with an attached movable prong. 2. an ornamental representation of a buckle, as on a shoe. 3. a kink, bulge, or other distortion. ~vb. 4. to fasten or be fastened with a buckle. 5. to bend or cause to bend out of shape, esp. as a result of pressure or heat.

buckle down *vb.* (*intr.*, *adv.*) *Inf.* to apply oneself with determination.

buckler ('bʌklə) *n.* 1. a small round shield worn on the forearm. 2. a means of protection; defence.

buckram ('bʌkrəm) *n.* a. cotton or linen cloth stiffened with size, etc., used in lining or stiffening clothes, bookbinding, etc. b. (*as modifier*): a buckram cover.

Bucks. ('bʌks) *abbrev.* for Buckinghamshire.

buckshee ('bʌkʃi:) *adj.* *Brit. sl.* without charge; free.

bullet shot ('bʌk,ʃɒt) *n.* lead shot of large size used in shotgun shells, esp. for hunting game.

buckskin ('bʌk,skɪn) *n.* 1. the skin of a male deer. 2. a. a strong greyish-yellow suede leather, originally made from deerskin but now usually made from sheepskin. b. (*as modifier*): buckskin boots. 3. a stiffly starched cotton cloth. 4. a strong and heavy satin-woven woollen fabric.

buckthorn ('bʌk,θɔ:n) *n.* any of several thorny small-flowered shrubs whose berries were formerly used as a purgative.

bucktooth ('bʌk,tu:θ) *n.*, *pl.* -teeth. *Derog.* a projecting upper front tooth.

buck up *vb.* (*adv.*) *Inf.* 1. to make or cause to make haste. 2. to make or become more cheerful, confident, etc.

buckwheat ('bʌk,wɪt) *n.* 1. a cereal plant with fragrant white flowers, cultivated, esp. in the U.S., for its seeds. 2. the edible seeds of this plant, ground into flour or used as animal fodder. 3. the flour obtained from these seeds.

bucolic (bju:'kɒlɪk) *adj.* also **bucolical**. 1. of the countryside or country life; rustic. 2. of or relating to shepherds; pastoral. ~n. 3. (*sometimes pl.*) a pastoral poem. —'bu'colically *adv.*

bud (bʌd) *n.* 1. a swelling on a plant stem consisting of overlapping immature leaves or petals. 2. a. a partially opened flower. b. (*in combination*): rosebud. 3. any small budlike outgrowth: taste buds. 4. something small or immature. 5. an asexually produced outgrowth in simple organisms such as yeasts that develops into a new individual. 6. **nip in the bud**, to put an end to (an idea, movement, etc.) in its initial stages. ~vb. **budding**, **budded**. 7. (*intr.*) (of plants and some animals) to produce buds. 8. (*intr.*) to begin to develop or grow. 9. (*tr.*) *Horticulture.* to graft (a bud) from one plant onto another.

Buddhism ('bʊdɪzəm) *n.* a religious teaching propagated by the Buddha and his followers, which declares that by destroying greed, hatred, and delusion, which are the causes of all suffering, man can attain perfect enlightenment. —'Buddhist *n.*, *adj.*

buddleia ('bʊdlɪə) *n.* an ornamental shrub which has long spikes of mauve flowers. Also called: **butterfly bush**.

buddy ('bʌdi) *n.*, *pl.* -dies. *Chiefly U.S.* an informal word for friend. Also (as a term of address): bud.

budge (bʌdʒ) *vb.* (*usually used with a negative*) 1. to move, however slightly. 2. to change or cause to change opinions, etc.

budgerigar ('bʌdʒərɪgɑ:) *n.* a small green Australian parrot: a popular cage bird bred in many different coloured varieties.

budget ('bʌdʒɪt) *n.* 1. a summary of probable financial outlays and incomes over a specified period. 2. the total amount of money allocated for a specific purpose during a specified period. 3. a stock, quantity, or supply. ~vb. 4. (*tr.*) to enter or provide for in a budget. 5. to plan the expenditure of (money, time, etc.). 6. (*intr.*) to make a budget.

Budget ('bʌdʒɪt) *n.* the. an estimate of British government expenditures and revenues for the ensuing fiscal year presented annually to the House of Commons by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

budget account *n.* an account with a department store, etc., enabling a customer to make monthly payments to cover his past and future purchases.

budgie ('bʌdʒɪ) *n.* *Inf.* short for budgerigar.

buff (bʌf) *n.* 1. a. a soft thick flexible undyed leather made chiefly from the skins of buffalo, oxen, and elk. b. (*as modifier*): a buff coat. 2. a. a dull yellow or yellowish-brown colour. b. (*as adj.*): buff paint. 3. Also called: **buffer**. a. a cloth or pad of material used for polishing an object. b. a disc or wheel impregnated with a fine abrasive for polishing metals, etc. 4. *Inf.* one's bare skin (esp. in the buff). ~vb. 5. to clean or polish (a metal, floor, shoes, etc.) with a buff. 6. to remove the grain surface of (a leather).

buff (bʌf) *n.* *Arch.* a blow or buffet (now only in **blind man's buff**).

buff (bʌf) *n.* *Inf.* an expert on or devotee of a given subject.

buffalo ('bʌfə,ləʊ) *n.*, *pl.* -loes, -los, or -lo. 1. a type of cattle, mostly found in game reserves in southern and eastern Africa and having upward-curving horns. 2. short for **water buffalo**. 3. a U.S. name for **bison** (sense 1).

buffer¹ ('bʌfə) *n.* 1. one of a pair of spring-loaded steel pads attached at both ends of railway vehicles and at the end of a railway track to reduce shock due to contact. 2. a person or thing that lessens shock or protects from damaging impact, circumstances, etc. 3. *Chem.* a. an ionic compound added to a solution to resist changes in its acidity or alkalinity and thus stabilize its pH. b. Also called: **buffer solution**, a solution containing such a compound. 4. *Computers.* a memory device for temporarily storing data.

buffer² ('bʌfə) *n.* *Brit. inf.* a stupid or bumbling man (esp. in **old buffer**).

buffer state *n.* a small and usually neutral state between two rival powers.

buffet¹ *n.* 1. ('bʊfeɪ) a counter where light refreshments are served. 2. ('bʊfeɪ) a. a meal at which guests help themselves from a number of dishes. b. (*as modifier*): a buffet lunch. 3. ('bʌfɪt, 'bʊfeɪ) a sideboard, esp. of the 16th or 17th century.

buffet² ('bʌfɪt) *vb.* -feting, -feted. 1. (*tr.*) to knock against or about; batter. 2. (*tr.*) to hit, esp. with the fist; cuff. 3. to force (one's way), as through a crowd. 4. (*intr.*) to struggle; battle. ~n. 5. a blow, esp. with a fist or hand. —'buffeter *n.*

buffet car ('bʊfeɪ) *n.* *Brit.* a railway coach where light refreshments are served.

buffoon (bʊ'fʊn) *n.* 1. a person who amuses others by ridiculous or odd behaviour, jokes, etc. 2. a foolish person. —'buffoonery *n.*

bug (bʌg) *n.* 1. an insect having piercing and sucking mouthparts specialized as a beak. 2. *Chiefly U.S.* any insect. 3. *Inf.* a. a microorganism, esp. a bacterium, that produces disease. b. a disease, esp. a stomach infection, caused by a microorganism. 4. *Inf.* an obsessive idea, hobby, etc.; craze. 5. (*often pl.*) *Inf.* a fault, as in a machine. 6. *Inf.* a concealed microphone used for recording conversations, as in spying. ~vb. **bugging**, **bugged**. *Inf.* 7. (*tr.*) to irritate; bother. 8. (*tr.*) to conceal a microphone in (a room, etc.). 9. (*intr.*) *U.S.* (of eyes) to protrude.

bugbear ('bʌg,bɛə) *n.* 1. a thing that causes obsessive anxiety. 2. (in English folklore) a goblin in the form of a bear.

bugger ('bʌgə) *n.* 1. a person who practises buggery. 2. *Taboo sl.* a person or thing considered to be contemptible, unpleasant, or difficult. 3. *Sl.* a humorous or affectionate term for a man or child: a friendly little bugger. 4. **bugger all.** *Sl.* nothing. ~vb. 5. to practise buggery

(with). **6.** (tr.) *Sl.*, chiefly *Brit.* to ruin, complicate, or frustrate. **7.** *Sl.* to tire; weary. ~*interj.* **8.** *Taboo sl.* an exclamation of annoyance or disappointment..

bugger about or around *vb.* (adv.) *Sl.* **1.** (intr.) to fool about and waste time. **2.** (tr.) to create difficulties or complications for (a person).

bugger off *vb.* *Taboo sl.* (intr., adv.) to go away; depart.

buggery ('bʌgəri) *n.* anal intercourse between a man and another man, a woman, or an animal.

buggy¹ ('bʌgi) *n.*, pl. **-gies**. **1.** a light horse-drawn carriage having either four wheels (esp. in the U.S.) or two wheels (esp. in Britain and India). **2.** any small light cart or vehicle, such as a baby buggy, golf buggy, or beach buggy.

buggy² ('bʌgi) *adj.* **-gier, -giest.** infested with bugs.

bugle ('bjʊ:gl) *n.* **1.** *Music.* a brass instrument similar to the cornet but usually without valves: used for military fanfares, signal calls, etc. ~*vb.* **2.** (intr.) to play or sound (on) a bugle. — **'bugler** *n.*

build (bɪld) *vb.* **building, built.** **1.** to make, construct, or form by joining parts or materials: *to build a house*. **2.** (tr.) to order the building of: *the government builds most of our hospitals*. **3.** (foll. by *on* or *upon*) to base; found: *his theory was not built on facts*. **4.** (tr.) to establish and develop: *it took ten years to build a business*. **5.** (tr.) to make in a particular way or for a particular purpose: *the car was not built for speed*. **6.** (intr.; often foll. by *up*) to increase in intensity. ~*n.* **7.** physical form, figure, or proportions: *a man with an athletic build*. — See also **build-up**.

builder ('bɪldə) *n.* a person who builds, esp. one who contracts for and supervises the construction or repair of buildings.

building ('bɪldɪŋ) *n.* **1.** something built with a roof and walls. **2.** the act, business, occupation, or art of building houses, boats, etc.

building society *n.* a cooperative banking enterprise financed by deposits on which interest is paid and from which mortgage loans are advanced on homes and real estate.

build up *vb.* (adv.) **1.** (tr.) to construct gradually, systematically, and in stages. **2.** to increase or strengthen, esp. by degrees: *the murmur built up to a roar*. **3.** (tr.) to improve the health or physique of (a person). **4.** to prepare for or gradually approach a climax, as in a story. ~*n.* **build-up.** **5.** progressive increase in number, size, etc.: *the build-up of industry*. **6.** extravagant publicity or praise, esp. in the form of a campaign. **7.** *Mil.* the process of attaining the required strength of forces and equipment.

built (bɪlt) *vb.* the past tense or past participle of **build**.

built-in *adj.* **1.** made or incorporated as an integral part: *a built-in cupboard*. **2.** essential; inherent. ~*n.* **3.** *Austral.* a built-in cupboard.

built-up *adj.* **1.** having many buildings (esp. in **built-up area**). **2.** increased by the addition of parts: *built-up heels*.

bulb (bʌlb) *n.* **1.** a rounded organ of vegetative reproduction in plants such as the tulip and onion: a flattened stem bearing a central shoot surrounded by fleshy nutritive inner leaves and thin brown outer leaves. **2.** a plant, such as a hyacinth or daffodil, that grows from a bulb. **3.** any bulb-shaped thing. — **bulbous** ('bʌlbəs) or **bulba-ceous** (bʌl'beɪʃəs) *adj.*

bulge (bʌldʒ) *n.* **1.** a swelling or an outward curve. **2.** a sudden increase in number, esp. of population. ~*vb.* **3.** to swell outward. — **'bulgingly** *adv.* — **'bulgy** *adj.*

bulk (bʌlk) *n.* **1.** volume, size, or magnitude, esp. when great. **2.** the main part: *the bulk of the work is repetitions*. **3.** a large body, esp. of a person. **4.** the part of food which passes unabsorbed through the digestive system. **5.** *In bulk.* **a.** in large quantities. **b.** (of a cargo, etc.) unpackaged. ~*vb.* **6.** to cohere or cause to cohere in a mass. **7.** **bulk large.** to be or seem important or prominent.

bulk buying *n.* the purchase of goods in large amounts, often at reduced prices.

bulkhead ('bʌlk,hed) *n.* *Naut.* any upright wall-like partition in a vessel.

bulky ('bʌlki) *adj.* **bulkier, bulkiest.** very large and massive, esp. so as to be unwieldy. — **'bulkily** *adv.* — **'bulkiness** *n.*

bull¹ (bʊl) *n.* **1.** any male bovine animal, esp. one that is sexually mature. **2.** the male of various other animals including the elephant and whale. **3.** a very large, strong, or aggressive person. **4.** *Stock Exchange.* a a

speculator who buys in anticipation of rising prices in order to make a profit on resale. **b.** (as modifier): *a bull market*. Cf. **bear**² (sense 5). **5.** Chiefly *Brit.* short for **bull's-eye** (senses 1, 2). **6.** *Sl.* short for **bullshit**. **7.** a **bull in a china shop.** a clumsy person. **8.** **take the bull by the horns.** to face and tackle a difficulty without shirking. ~*adj.* **9.** male; masculine: *a bull elephant*. **10.** large; strong. — **'bullish** *adj.*

bull² (bʊl) *n.* a ludicrously self-contradictory or inconsistent statement.

bull³ (bʊl) *n.* a formal document issued by the pope.

Bull (bʊl) *n.* the constellation Taurus, the second sign of the zodiac.

bulldog ('bʊl,dɒg) *n.* a sturdy thickset breed of dog with an undershot jaw, broad head, and a muscular body.

bulldog clip *n.* a clip for holding papers together, consisting of two T-shaped metal clamps held in place by a cylindrical spring.

bulldoze ('bʊl,dəʊz) *vb.* (tr.) **1.** to move, demolish, flatten, etc., with a bulldozer. **2.** *Inf.* to force; push. **3.** *Inf.* to intimidate or coerce.

bulldozer ('bʊl,dəʊzə) *n.* **1.** a powerful tractor fitted with caterpillar tracks and a blade at the front, used for moving earth, rocks, etc. **2.** *Inf.* a person who bulldozes.

bullet ('bʊlət) *n.* **1. a.** a small metallic missile enclosed in a cartridge, used as the projectile of a gun, rifle, etc. **b.** the entire cartridge. **2.** something resembling a bullet, esp. in shape or effect. — **'bullet-like** *adj.*

bulletin ('bʊlətɪn) *n.* **1.** an official statement on a matter of public interest. **2.** a broadcast summary of the news. **3.** a periodical publication of an association, etc. ~*vb.* **4.** (tr.) to make known by bulletin.

bullfight ('bʊl,fait) *n.* a traditional Spanish, Portuguese, and Latin American spectacle in which a matador baits and usually kills a bull in an arena. — **'bullfighter** *n.* — **'bullfighting** *n.*

bullfinch ('bʊl,fɪntʃ) *n.* **1.** a common European finch: the male has a bright red throat and breast. **2.** any of various similar finches.

bullfrog ('bʊl,frog) *n.* any of various large American frogs having a loud deep croak.

bull-headed *adj.* blindly obstinate; stupid. — **'bull-headedly** *adv.* — **'bull-headedness** *n.*

bullion ('bʊljən) *n.* **1.** gold or silver in mass. **2.** gold or silver in the form of bars and ingots, suitable for further processing.

bull-necked *adj.* having a short thick neck.

bullock ('bʊlək) *n.* **1.** a gelded bull; steer. ~*vb.* **2.** (intr.) *Austral. inf.* to work hard and long.

bullring ('bʊl,rɪŋ) *n.* an arena for bullfighting.

bullroarer ('bʊl,rɔ:ɹə) *n.* a wooden slat attached to a thong that makes a roaring sound when the thong is whirled: used esp. by Australian Aborigines in religious rites.

bull's-eye *n.* **1.** the small central disc of a target, usually the highest valued area. **2.** a shot hitting this. **3.** *Inf.* something that exactly achieves its aim. **4.** a small circular or oval window or opening. **5.** a thick disc of glass set into a ship's deck, etc., to admit light. **6.** the glass boss at the centre of a sheet of blown glass. **7. a.** a small thick plano-convex lens used as a condenser. **b.** a lamp or lantern containing such a lens. **8.** a peppermint-flavoured boiled sweet.

bullshit ('bʊl,ʃɪt) *Taboo sl.* ~*n.* **1.** exaggerated or foolish talk; nonsense. **2.** deceitful or pretentious talk. **3.** (in the British Army) exaggerated zeal, esp. for ceremonial drill, cleaning, polishing, etc. Usually shortened to **bull**. ~*vb.* **-shitting, -shitted.** **4.** (intr.) to talk in an exaggerated or foolish manner. **5.** (tr.) to talk bullshit to.

bull terrier *n.* a breed of terrier having a short smooth coat, developed by crossing a bulldog with the original English terrier.

bully ('bʊli) *n.*, pl. **-lies**. **1.** a person who hurts, persecutes, or intimidates weaker people. **2.** a small New Zealand freshwater fish. ~*vb.* **-lying, -lied.** **3.** (when tr., often foll. by *into*) to hurt, intimidate, or persecute (a weaker or smaller person), esp. to make him do something. ~*adj.* **4.** *dashing; jolly:* *my bully boy*. **5.** *Inf.* very good; fine. ~*interj.* **6.** Also: **bully for you, him, etc.** *Inf.* well done! bravo!

bully beef *n.* canned corned beef. Often shortened to **bully**.

bully-off *Hockey.* ~*n.* **1.** the method by which a game is started. Two opposing players stand with the ball between them and alternately strike their sticks together and against the ground three times before

trying to hit the ball. ~vb. **bully off**. 2. (*intr., adv.*) to start play with a bully-off. ~Often shortened to **bully**.

bulrush ('bʊl,rʌʃ) *n.* 1. Also called: **cat's-tail**. any tall reedlike marsh plant having thick straplike leaves and flowers in long dense brown cylindrical spikes. 2. a grasslike marsh plant used for making mats, chair seats, etc. 3. a biblical word for **papyrus** (the plant).

bulwark ('bʊlwɜ:k) *n.* 1. a wall or similar structure used as a fortification; rampart. 2. a person or thing acting as a defence. 3. (*often pl.*) *Naut.* a solid vertical fencelike structure along the outward sides of a deck. 4. a breakwater or mole. ~vb. 5. (*tr.*) to defend or fortify with or as if with a bulwark.

bum ('bʌm) *n. Brit. sl.* the buttocks or anus.

bum ('bʌm) *Inf., chiefly U.S.* ~*n.* 1. a disreputable loafer or idler. 2. a tramp; hobo. ~vb. **bumming**, **bummed**. 3. (*tr.*) to get by begging; cadge: *to bum a lift*. 4. (*intr.*; often foll. by *around*) to live by begging or as a vagrant or loafer. 5. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *around*) to spend time to no good purpose; loaf; idle. ~adj. 6. (*prenominal*) of poor quality; useless.

bumbaillif ('bʌm'beɪlɪf) *n. Brit. derog.* (formerly) an officer employed to collect debts and arrest debtors.

bumble ('bʌmbəl) *vb.* 1. to speak or do in a clumsy, muddled, or inefficient way. 2. (*intr.*) to proceed unsteadily. —**bumbler** *n.* —**bumbling** *adj.*

bumblebee ('bʌmbəl'bi:) or **humbeebie** *n.* any large hairy social bee of temperate regions.

bumf ('bʌmf) *n.* a variant spelling of **bumph**.

bump ('bʌmp) *vb.* 1. (when *intr.*, usually foll. by *against* or *into*) to knock or strike with a jolt. 2. (*intr.*; often foll. by *along*) to travel or proceed in jerks and jolts. 3. (*tr.*) to hurt by knocking. 4. *Cricket*. to bowl (a ball) so that it bounces high on pitching or (of a ball) to bounce high when bowled. ~*n.* 5. an impact; knock; jolt; collision. 6. a dull thud or other noise from an impact or collision. 7. the shock of a blow or collision. 8. a lump on the body caused by a blow. 9. a protuberance, as on a road surface. 10. any of the natural protuberances of the human skull, said by phrenologists to indicate underlying faculties and character. ~See also **bump into**, **bump off** etc. —**bumpy** *adj.*

bumper ('bʌmpə) *n.* 1. a horizontal usually metal bar attached to the front or rear end of a car, lorry, etc., to protect against damage from impact. 2. *Cricket*. a ball bowled so that it bounces high on pitching; bouncer.

bumper ('bʌmpə) *n.* 1. a glass, tankard, etc., filled to the brim, esp. as a toast. 2. an unusually large or fine example of something. ~adj. 3. unusually large, fine, or abundant: a **bumper crop**.

bumph or **bumf** ('bʌmf) *n. Brit.* 1. *Inf., derog.* official documents, forms, etc. 2. *Sl.* toilet paper.

bump into *vb. (intr., prep.)* to meet by chance; encounter unexpectedly.

bumpkin ('bʌmpkɪn) *n.* an awkward simple rustic person (esp. in country bumpkin).

bump off *vb. (tr., adv.) Sl.* to murder; kill.

bumptious ('bʌmpʃəs) *adj.* offensively self-assertive or conceited. —**bumptiously** *adv.* —**bumptiousness** *n.*

bump up *vb. (tr., adv.) Inf.* to raise or increase.

bun ('bʌn) *n.* 1. a small roll, similar to bread but usually containing sweetening, currants, etc. 2. a hair style in which long hair is gathered into a bun shape at the back of the head.

bunch ('bʌntʃ) *n.* 1. a number of things growing, fastened, or grouped together: a **bunch of grapes**; a **bunch of keys**. 2. a collection; group: a **bunch of queries**. 3. *Inf.* a group or company: a **bunch of boys**. ~vb. 4. (sometimes foll. by *up*) to group or be grouped into a bunch.

buncombe ('bʌŋkəm) *n.* a variant spelling (esp. U.S.) of **bunkum**.

bundle ('bʌndl) *n.* 1. a number of things or a quantity of material gathered or loosely bound together: a **bundle of sticks**. Related *adj.*: **fascicular**. 2. something wrapped or tied for carrying; package. 3. *Sl.* a large sum of money. 4. **go a bundle on**. *Sl.* to be extremely fond of. 5. *Biol.* a collection of strands of specialized tissue such as nerve fibres. 6. **drop one's bundle**. *Austral. sl.* to panic or give up hope. ~vb. 7. (*tr.*; often foll. by *up*) to make into a bundle. 8. (*foll. by out, off, into*, etc.) to go or cause to go, esp. roughly or unceremoniously. 9. (*tr.*; usually foll. by *into*) to sleep or throw, esp. quickly and untidily. 10. (*intr.*) to sleep or lie in one's clothes on the same bed as one's betrothed: formerly a custom in New England, Wales, and elsewhere. —**bundler** *n.*

bundle up *vb. (adv.)* 1. to dress (somebody) warmly

and snugly. 2. (*tr.*) to make (something) into a bundle or bundles, esp. by tying.

bundu ('bʊndu) *n. S. African sl.* a largely uninhabited wild region far from towns.

bun fight *n. Brit. sl.* a tea party.

bung ('bʌŋ) *n.* 1. a stopper, esp. of cork or rubber, for a cask, etc. 2. short for **bunghole**. ~vb. (*tr.*) 3. (often foll. by *up*) *Inf.* to close or seal with or as with a bung. 4. *Brit. sl.* to throw; sling. 5. **bung (it) on**. *Austral. sl.* to behave in a pretentious manner.

bungalow ('bʌŋgə,ləʊ) *n.* a one-storey house, sometimes with an attic.

bunghole ('bʌŋ,həʊl) *n.* a hole in a cask, barrel, etc., through which liquid can be drained.

bungle ('bʌŋɡl) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to spoil (an operation) through clumsiness, incompetence, etc.; botch. ~*n.* 2. a clumsy or unsuccessful performance; mistake; botch. —**bungler** *n.* —**bungling** *adj., n.*

bunion ('bʌnjən) *n.* an inflamed swelling of the first joint of the big toe.

bunk ('bʌŋk) *n.* 1. a narrow shelflike bed fixed along a wall. 2. short for **bunk bed**. 3. *Inf.* any place where one sleeps. ~vb. 4. (*intr.*; often foll. by *down*) to prepare to sleep: *he bunked down on the floor*. 5. (*intr.*) to occupy a bunk or bed.

bunk ('bʌŋk) *n. Inf.* short for **bunkum** (sense 1).

bunk ('bʌŋk) *n. Brit. sl.* a hurried departure, usually under suspicious circumstances (esp. in **do a bunk**).

bunk bed *n.* one of a pair of beds constructed one above the other to save space.

bunker ('bʌŋkə) *n.* 1. a large storage container or tank, as for coal. 2. Also called (esp. U.S.): **sand trap**. an obstacle on a golf course, usually a sand-filled hollow bordered by a ridge. 3. an underground shelter with a bank and embrasures for guns above ground. ~vb. 4. (*tr.*) *Golf.* a. to drive (the ball) into a bunker. b. (*passive*) to have one's ball trapped in a bunker.

bunkum or **bumcombe** ('bʌŋkəm) *n.* 1. empty talk; nonsense. 2. *Chiefly U.S.* empty or insincere speech-making by a politician.

bunny ('bʌni) *n., pl. -nies*. 1. Also called: **bunny rabbit**. a child's word for rabbit (sense 1). 2. Also called: **bunny girl**. a night-club hostess whose costume includes rabbit-like tail and ears. 3. *Austral. sl.* a mug; dupe.

Bunsen burner ('bʌnsn) *n.* a gas burner consisting of a metal tube with an adjustable air valve at the base.

bunting ('bʌntɪŋ) *n.* 1. a coarse, loosely woven cotton fabric used for flags, etc. 2. decorative flags, pennants, and streamers.

bunting ('bʌntɪŋ) *n.* any of numerous seed-eating songbirds of the Old World and North America. They all have short stout bills.

buoy ('bɔɪ; U.S. 'bʊɪ) *n.* 1. a distinctively shaped and coloured float, anchored to the bottom, for designating moorings, navigable channels, or obstructions in a body of water. See also **life buoy**. ~vb. 2. (*tr.*; usually foll. by *up*) to prevent from sinking: *the life belt buoyed him up*. 3. (*tr.*; usually foll. by *up*) to raise the spirits of; hearten. 4. (*tr.*) *Naut.* to mark (a channel or obstruction) with a buoy or buoys. 5. (*intr.*) to rise to the surface; float.

buoyancy ('bɔɪənsɪ) *n.* 1. the ability to float in a liquid or to rise in liquid, air, or other gas. 2. the tendency of a fluid to keep a body afloat. 3. the ability to recover quickly after setbacks; resilience. 4. cheerfulness. —**buoyant** *adj.*

BUPA ('bjʊ:p) *n. acronym* for British United Provident Association, a private health insurance scheme.

bur ('bɜ:) *n.* 1. a seed vessel or flower head having hooks or prickles. 2. any plant that produces burs. 3. a person or thing that clings like a bur. 4. a small surgical or dental drill. ~vb. **burring**, **burred**. 5. (*tr.*) to remove burs from. ~Also: **burrr**.

burble ('bɜ:bl) *vb.* 1. to make or utter with a bubbling sound; gurgle. 2. (*intr.*; often foll. by *away* or *on*) to talk quickly and excitedly. ~*n.* 3. a bubbling or gurgling sound. 4. a flow of excited speech. —**burbler** *n.*

burbot ('bɜ:bɒt) *n., pl. -bots* or **-bot**. a freshwater gadoid food fish that has barbels around its mouth and occurs in Europe, Asia, and North America.

burden ('bɜ:dən) *n.* 1. something that is carried; load. 2. something that is exacting, oppressive, or difficult to bear. Related *adj.*: **onerous**. 3. *Naut.* a. the cargo capacity of a ship. b. the weight of a ship's cargo. ~vb. (*tr.*) 4. (sometimes foll. by *up*) to put or impose a burden on; load. 5. to weigh down; oppress. —**burdensome** *adj.*

burden ('bɜ:dən) *n.* 1. a line of words recurring at the

end of each verse of a song; chorus or refrain. 2. the theme of a speech, book, etc. 3. another word for **bourdon**.

burdock ('bɜːdɒk) *n.* a coarse weedy Eurasian plant having large heart-shaped leaves, tiny purple flowers surrounded by hooked bristles, and burlike fruits.

bureau ('bjʊərəʊ) *n.*, *pl.* **-reaux** or **-reaux** (-rəʊz). 1. *Chiefly Brit.* a writing desk with pigeonholes, drawers, etc., against which the writing surface can be closed when not in use. 2. *U.S.* a chest of drawers. 3. an office or agency, esp. one providing services for the public. 4. a government department.

bureaucracy (bjʊə'krəsi) *n.*, *pl.* **-cies**. 1. a system of administration based upon organization into bureaus, division of labour, a hierarchy of authority, etc. 2. government by such a system. 3. government or other officials collectively. 4. any administration in which action is impeded by unnecessary official procedures.

bureaucrat ('bjʊərə,kɾət) *n.* 1. an official in a bureaucracy. 2. an official who adheres to bureaucracy, esp. rigidly. — **bureau/cratic** *adj.* — **bureau/cratically** *adv.*

bureaux *n.* a plural of **bureau**.

burette or **buret** (bjʊ'ret) *n.* a graduated glass tube with a stopcock on one end for dispensing and transferring known volumes of fluids, esp. liquids.

burgeon or **bourgeon** ('bɜːdʒən) *vb.* 1. (often foll. by *forth* or *out*) (of a plant) to sprout (buds). 2. (*intr.*; often foll. by *forth* or *out*) to develop or grow rapidly; flourish.

burgess ('bɜːdʒɪs) *n.* 1. (in England) a citizen, free-man, or inhabitant of a borough. 2. *English history.* a Member of Parliament from a borough, corporate town, or university.

burgh ('bʌɾə) *n.* 1. (in Scotland) a town with a degree of self-government: incorporated by charter. 2. an archaic form of **borough**. — **burghal** ('bɜːgəl) *adj.*

burgher ('bɜːgə) *n.* 1. a member of the trading or mercantile class of a medieval city. 2. a respectable citizen; bourgeois. 3. *Arch.* a citizen or inhabitant of a corporate town, esp. on the Continent. 4. *S. African history.* a citizen of the Cape not employed by the Dutch East India Company.

burglar ('bɜːglə) *n.* a person who commits burglary; housebreaker.

burglary ('bɜːgləri) *n.*, *pl.* **-ries**. the crime of entering a building as a trespasser to commit theft or another offence. — **burglarious** (bɜː'gleəriəs) *adj.* — **burgla/rize** or **-ise** *vb.*

burgle ('bɜːgl) *vb.* to commit burglary upon (a house, etc.).

burgomaster ('bɜːgə,mɑːstə) *n.* the chief magistrate of a town in Austria, Belgium, Germany, or the Netherlands; mayor.

burial ('beriəl) *n.* the act of burying, esp. the interment of a dead body.

burin ('bjʊəri:n) *n.* 1. a chisel of tempered steel used for engraving metal, wood, or marble. 2. *Archaeol.* a prehistoric flint tool.

burk or **berk** (bɜːk) *n.* *Brit. sl.* a stupid person; fool.

burlesque (bɜː'lesk) *n.* 1. an artistic work, esp. literary or dramatic, satirizing a subject by caricaturing it. 2. a ludicrous imitation or caricature. 3. *U.S. theatre.* a bawdy comedy show of the late 19th and early 20th centuries: the striptease eventually became one of its chief elements. — *adj.* 4. of, relating to, or characteristic of a burlesque. — *vb.* **-lesquing**, **-lesqued**. 5. to represent or imitate (a person or thing) in a ludicrous way; caricature. — **bur/lesquer** *n.*

burly ('bɜːli) *adj.* **-lier**, **-liest**. large and thick of build; sturdy. — **bur/linely** *n.*

burn¹ (bɜːn) *vb.* **burning**, **burnt** or **burned**. 1. to undergo or cause to undergo combustion. 2. to destroy or be destroyed by fire. 3. (*tr.*) to damage, injure, or mark by heat: *he burnt his hand; she was burnt by the sun*. 4. to die or put to death by fire. 5. (*intr.*) to be or feel hot: *my forehead burns*. 6. to smart or cause to smart: *brandy burns one's throat*. 7. (*intr.*) to feel strong emotion, esp. anger or passion. 8. (*tr.*) to use for the purposes of light, heat, or power: *to burn coal*. 9. (*tr.*) to form by or as if by fire: *to burn a hole*. 10. to char or become charred: *the potatoes are burning*. 11. (*tr.*) to brand or cauterize. 12. to produce by or subject to heat as part of a process: *to burn charcoal*. 13. **burn one's boats or bridges**. *Inf.* to proceed in such a way as to eliminate all alternative courses of action. 14. **burn one's fingers**. *Inf.* to suffer from having meddled or interfered. — *n.* 15. an injury caused by exposure to heat, electrical, chemical, or radioactive agents. 16. a mark, e.g. on wood, caused by burning. 17. a controlled use of rocket propellant, esp.

for a course correction. 18. *Sl.* tobacco or a cigarette. — *See also burn out*.

burn² (bɜːn) *n.* *N. Brit.* a small stream; brook.

burner ('bɜːnə) *n.* 1. the part of a stove, lamp, etc., that produces flame or heat. 2. an apparatus for burning something, as fuel or refuse.

burning ('bɜːniŋ) *adj.* 1. intense; passionate. 2. urgent; crucial: *a burning problem*.

burning glass *n.* a convex lens for concentrating the sun's rays to produce fire.

burnish ('bɜːniʃ) *vb.* 1. to make or become shiny or smooth by friction; polish. — *n.* 2. a shiny finish; lustre. — **'burnisher** *n.*

burnoose, **burnous**, or **burnouse** (bɜː'nuːs, -'nuːz) *n.* a long circular cloak with a hood attached, worn esp. by Arabs.

burn out *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. to become or cause to become inoperative as a result of heat or friction: *the clutch burnt out*. 2. (*intr.*) (of a rocket, jet engine, etc.) to cease functioning as a result of exhaustion of the fuel supply. 3. (*tr.*; usually passive) to destroy by fire. 4. to become or cause to become exhausted through overwork or dissipation.

burnt (bɜːnt) *vb.* 1. a past tense or past participle of **burn**¹. — *adj.* 2. affected by or as if by burning; charred.

burnt sienna *n.* 1. a reddish-brown pigment obtained by roasting raw sienna. 2. a reddish-brown colour.

burnt umber *n.* 1. a brown pigment obtained by heating umber. 2. a dark brown colour.

burp (bɜːp) *n.* 1. *Inf.* a belch. — *vb.* 2. (*intr.*) *Inf.* to belch. 3. (*tr.*) to cause (a baby) to burp.

burr (bɜː) *n.* 1. an articulation of (r) characteristic of certain English dialects, esp. the uvular fricative trill of Northumberland or the retroflex r of the West of England. 2. a whirling sound. — *vb.* 3. to pronounce (words) with a burr. 4. to make a whirling sound.

burrow ('bʌɾəʊ) *n.* 1. a hole dug in the ground by a rabbit or other small animal. 2. a small snug place affording shelter or retreat. — *vb.* 3. to dig (a burrow) in, through, or under (ground). 4. (*intr.*; often foll. by *through*) to move through by or as by digging. 5. (*intr.*) to hide or live in a burrow. 6. (*intr.*) to delve deeply: *he burrowed into his pockets*. 7. to hide (oneself). — **'burrower** *n.*

bursa ('bɜːsə) *n.*, *pl.* **-sae** (-siː) or **-sas**. *Anat.* a small fluid-filled sac that reduces friction, esp. at joints. — **'bur-sal** *adj.*

bursar ('bɜːsə) *n.* 1. a treasurer of a school, college, or university. 2. *Scot.* a student holding a bursary.

bursary ('bɜːsəri) *n.*, *pl.* **-ries**. 1. Also called: **'bursar,ship**. a scholarship awarded in Scottish schools and universities. 2. *Brit.* the treasury of a college, etc. — **'bursarial** (bɜː'seəriəl) *adj.*

bur-sitis (bɜː'saɪtɪs) *n.* inflammation of a bursa.

burst (bɜːst) *vb.* **bursting**, **burst**. 1. to break or cause to break open or apart suddenly and noisily; explode. 2. (*intr.*) to come, go, etc., suddenly and forcibly: *he burst into the room*. 3. (*intr.*) to be full to the point of breaking open. 4. (*intr.*) to give vent (to) suddenly or loudly: *to burst into song*. 5. to cause or suffer the rupture of: *to burst a blood vessel*. — *n.* 6. a sudden breaking open; explosion. 7. a break; breach; rupture. 8. a sudden display or increase of effort; spurt: *a burst of speed*. 9. a sudden and violent emission, occurrence, or outbreak: *a burst of applause*. 10. a volley of fire from a weapon.

burton ('bɜːtən) *n.* 1. *Naut.* a kind of light hoisting tackle. 2. *go for a burton*. *Brit. sl.* a. to be broken, useless, or lost. b. to die.

bury ('beri) *vb.* **burying**, **buried**. (*tr.*) 1. to place (a corpse) in a grave; inter. 2. to place in the earth and cover with soil. 3. to cover from sight; hide. 4. to embed; sink: *to bury a nail in plaster*. 5. to occupy (oneself) with deep concentration; engross: *to be buried in a book*. 6. to dismiss from the mind; abandon: *to bury old hatreds*. 7. **bury the hatchet**. to cease hostilities and become reconciled.

bus (bʌs) *n.*, *pl.* **buses** or **busses**. 1. a large motor vehicle designed to carry passengers between stopping places along a regular route. More formal name: **omni-bus**. 2. (*modifier*) of or relating to a bus or buses: *a bus driver; a bus station*. 3. *Inf.* a car or aircraft, esp. one that is old and shaky. 4. *miss the bus*. to miss an opportunity. — *vb.* **busing**, **bused** or **bussing**, **bussed**. 5. to travel or transport by bus. 6. *Chiefly U.S.* to transport

(children) by bus from one area to another in order to create racially integrated schools.

bus, *abbrev. for business.*

busby ('bʌzbi) *n.*, *pl.* **-bies**. 1. a tall fur helmet worn by hussars. 2. another name for **bearskin** (the hat).

bush¹ (buʃ) *n.* 1. a dense woody plant, smaller than a tree, with many branches arising from the lower part of the stem; shrub. 2. a dense cluster of such shrubs; thicket. 3. something resembling a bush, esp. in density: *a bush of hair*. 4. (often preceded by *the*) an uncultivated or sparsely settled area, covered with trees or shrubs, which can vary from open, shrubby country to dense rain-forest. 5. a forested area; woodland. 6. (often preceded by *the*) *Inf.* the countryside, as opposed to the city: *out in the bush*. 7. *Obs.* a bunch of ivy hung as a vintner's sign in front of a tavern. 8. **beat about the bush**, to avoid the point at issue; prevaricate. ~*adj.* 9. *Austral. & N.Z. inf.* rough and ready. 10. **go bush**, *Inf.*, chiefly *Austral.* a. to go off into the bush. b. to go into hiding. c. to run wild. ~*vb.* 11. (*intr.*) to grow thick and bushy. 12. (*tr.*) to cover, decorate, support, etc., with bushes. 13. **bush it**, *Austral.* to camp out in the bush.

bush² (buʃ) *n.* 1. a thin metal sleeve or tubular lining serving as a bearing. ~*vb.* 2. to fit a bush to (a casing, bearing, etc.).

bushbaby ('buʃbeɪbi) *n.*, *pl.* **-babies**. an agile nocturnal arboreal primate occurring in Africa south of the Sahara. They have large eyes and ears and a long tail. Also called: **galago**.

bushel ('bʊʃəl) *n.* 1. a British unit of dry or liquid measure equal to 8 Imperial gallons. 1 Imperial bushel is equivalent to 0.036 37 cubic metres. 2. a U.S. unit of dry measure equal to 64 U.S. pints. 1 U.S. bushel is equivalent to 0.035 24 cubic metres. 3. a container with a capacity equal to either of these quantities. 4. *Inf.* a large amount. 5. **hide one's light under a bushel**, to conceal one's abilities or good qualities.

bush jacket or shirt *n.* a casual jacket or shirt having four patch pockets and a belt.

bush line *n.* an airline operating in the bush country of Canada's northern regions.

bush lot *n.* *Canad.* a tract of woodland.

bushman ('bʊʃmən) *n.*, *pl.* **-men**. *Austral. & N.Z.* a person who lives or travels in the bush, esp. one versed in bush lore.

Bushman ('bʊʃmən) *n.*, *pl.* **-man** or **-men**. a member of a hunting and gathering people of southern Africa.

bush pilot *n.* *Canad.* a pilot who operates in the bush country.

bushranger ('bʊʃreɪndʒə) *n.* 1. *Austral.* (formerly), an outlaw living in the bush. 2. *U.S.* a person who lives away from civilization.

bush tea *n.* 1. a leguminous shrub of southern Africa. 2. a beverage prepared from the dried leaves of such a plant.

bush telegraph *n.* *Inf.* a means of spreading rumour, gossip, etc.

bushveld ('bʊʃfɛlt) *n.* *S. African.* bushy countryside.

bushy¹ ('bʊʃi) *adj.* **bushier**, **bushiest**. 1. covered or overgrown with bushes. 2. thick and shaggy. — **bushily** *adv.* — **bushiness** *n.*

bushy² or **bushie** ('bʊʃi) *n.*, *pl.* **bushies**. *Austral. inf.* 1. a person who lives in the bush. 2. an unsophisticated uncouth person.

busily ('bɪzli) *adv.* in a busy manner.

business ('biznis) *n.* 1. a trade or profession. 2. the purchase and sale of goods and services. 3. a commercial or industrial establishment. 4. volume of commercial activity: *business is poor today*. 5. commercial policy: *overcharging is bad business*. 6. proper or rightful concern or responsibility (often in **mind one's own business**). 7. a special task; assignment. 8. an affair; matter. 9. serious work or activity: *get down to business*. 10. *Theatre*. an incidental action performed by an actor for dramatic effect. 11. **mean business**, to be in earnest.

businesslike ('biznislaɪk) *adj.* efficient and methodical.

businessman ('biznis,mæn, -mən) or (*fem.*) **businesswoman** *n.*, *pl.* **-men** or **-women**. a person engaged in commercial or industrial business, esp. as an owner or executive.

busker ('bʌskə) *n.* a person who entertains for money in public places, as in front of theatre queues. — **busk** *vb.* (*intr.*).

buskin ('bʌskɪn) *n.* 1. (formerly) a sandal-like covering

for the foot and leg, reaching the calf. 2. a thick-soled laced half boot worn esp. by actors of ancient Greece. 3. (usually preceded by *the*) *Chiefly literary*. tragic drama.

busman's holiday ('bʌsmənʒ) *n.* *Inf.* a holiday spent doing the same as one does at work.

buss (bas) *n.*, *vb.* an archaic or dialect word for **kiss**.

bust¹ (bast) *n.* 1. the chest of a human being, esp. a woman's bosom. 2. a sculpture of the head, shoulders, and upper chest of a person.

bust² (bast) *Inf.* ~*vb.* **busting**, **busted** or **bust**. 1. to burst or break. 2. to make or become bankrupt. 3. (*tr.*) (of the police) to raid, search, or arrest. 4. (*tr.*) *U.S.* to demote, esp. in military rank. ~*n.* 5. a raid, search, or arrest by the police. 6. *Chiefly U.S.* a punch. 7. *U.S.* a failure, esp. bankruptcy. 8. a drunken party. ~*adj.* 9. broken. 10. bankrupt. 11. **go bust**, to become bankrupt.

bustard ('bʌstəd) *n.* a large terrestrial bird inhabiting open regions of the Old World. It has long strong legs, a heavy body, a long neck, and speckled plumage.

bustle¹ ('basl) *vb.* 1. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *about*) to hurry or cause to hurry with a great show of energy or activity. ~*n.* 2. energetic and noisy activity. — **'bustler** *n.*

bustle² ('basl) *n.* a cushion or framework worn by women in the late 19th century at the back in order to expand the skirt.

bust-up *Inf. n.* 1. a quarrel, esp. a serious one ending a friendship, etc. 2. *Brit.* a disturbance or brawl. ~*vb.* **bust up** (*adv.*). 3. (*intr.*) to quarrel and part. 4. (*tr.*) to disrupt (a meeting), esp. violently.

busy ('bɪzi) *adj.* **busier**, **busiest**. 1. actively or fully engaged; occupied. 2. crowded with or characterized by activity. 3. *Chiefly U.S.* (of a room, telephone line, etc.) in use; engaged. 4. overcrowded with detail: *a busy painting*. 5. meddlesome; inquisitive. ~*vb.* **busy**, **busied**. 6. (*tr.*) to make or keep (someone, esp. oneself) busy; occupy. — **'busily** *adv.* — **'busyness** *n.*

busybody ('bɪzi,bɒdi) *n.*, *pl.* **-bodies**. a meddlesome, prying, or officious person.

busy Lizzie ('lɪzi) *n.* a flowering plant that has fast-growing drooping stems and is often grown as a pot plant.

but¹ (bat; *unstressed* bat) *conj.* (*coordinating*) 1. contrary to expectation: *he cut his knee but didn't cry*. 2. in contrast; on the contrary: *I like opera but my husband doesn't*. 3. (usually used after a negative) other than: *we can't do anything but wait*. 4. only: *I can but try*. ~*conj.* (*subordinating*) 5. (usually used after a negative) without it happening: *we never go out but it rains*. 6. (foll. by *that*) except that: *nothing is impossible but that we live forever*. 7. *Arch.* if not; unless. ~*prep.* 8. except; save: *they saved all but one*. 9. **but for**, were it not for: *but for you, we couldn't have managed*. ~*adv.* 10. just; merely: *he was but a child*. 11. *Austral.* though; however: *it's a rainy day; warm, but*. ~*n.* 12. an objection (esp. in *ifs and buts*).

but² (bat) *n.* *Scot.* the outer room of a two-roomed cottage. Cf. **ben**.

butane ('bjʊːtɛm, bjuːˈtɛm) *n.* a colourless flammable gaseous alkane used mainly in the manufacture of rubber and fuels. Formula: C₄H₁₀.

butch (bʊtʃ) *Sl. ~adj.* 1. (of a woman or man) markedly or aggressively masculine. ~*n.* 2. a lesbian who is noticeably masculine. 3. a strong rugged man.

butcher ('bʊtʃə) *n.* 1. a retailer of meat. 2. a person who slaughters or dresses meat. 3. an indiscriminate or brutal murderer. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 4. to slaughter or dress (animals) for meat. 5. to kill indiscriminately or brutally. 6. to make a mess of; botch.

butcherbird ('bʊtʃə,bɜːd) *n.* 1. a shrike, esp. of the genus *Lanius*. 2. any of several Australian magpies that impale their prey on thorns.

butchery ('bʊtʃəri) *n.*, *pl.* **-eries**. 1. the business of a butcher. 2. wanton and indiscriminate slaughter. 3. a slaughterhouse.

butler ('bʌtlə) *n.* the male servant of a household in charge of the wines, table, etc.: usually the head servant.

butt¹ (bat) *n.* 1. the thicker or blunt end of something, such as the end of the stock of a rifle. 2. the unused end of something, esp. of a cigarette; stub. 3. *U.S.* a slang word for cigarette. 4. *Building*. a joint made end to end.

butt² (bat) *n.* 1. a person or thing that is the target of ridicule, wit, etc. 2. *Shooting, archery*. a. a mound of earth behind the target that stops bullets or wide shots. b. the target itself. c. (*pl.*) the target range. 3. a low barrier behind which sportsmen shoot game birds, esp.

grouse. ~vb. 4. (usually foll. by *on* or *against*) to lie or be placed end on to; abut.

but¹ (bat) vb. 1. to strike or push (something) with the head or horns. 2. (*intr.*) to project; jut. 3. (*intr.*; foll. by *in* or *into*) to intrude, esp. into a conversation; interfere. ~n. 4. a blow with the head or horns.

butt² (bat) n. a large cask for storing wine or beer.

butter ('bʌtə) n. 1. an edible fatty whitish-yellow solid made from cream by churning. 2. any substance with a butter-like consistency, such as peanut butter. 3. **look as if butter wouldn't melt in one's mouth**, to look innocent, although probably not so. ~vb. (tr.) 4. to put butter on or in. 5. to flatter. ~See also **butter up**.

butter bean n. a variety of lima bean that has large pale flat edible seeds.

buttercup ('bʌtə,kʌp) n. any of various yellow-flowered plants of the genus *Ranunculus* of Europe, Asia, and North America.

butterfingers ('bʌtə,fɪŋgəz) n. *Inf.* a person who drops things inadvertently or fails to catch things. —'butter, fingered adj.

butterflies ('bʌtə,flaɪz) pl. n. *Inf.* tremors in the stomach region due to nervousness.

butterfly ('bʌtə,flaɪ) n., pl. -flies. 1. any diurnal insect that has a slender body with clubbed antennae and typically rests with the wings (often brightly coloured) closed over the back. 2. a person who never settles with one interest or occupation for long. 3. a swimming stroke in which the arms are plunged forward together in large circular movements.

butterfly nut n. another name for **wing nut**.

buttermilk ('bʌtə,mɪlk) n. the sourish liquid remaining after the butter has been separated from milk.

butter muslin n. a fine loosely woven cotton material originally used for wrapping butter.

butterscotch ('bʌtə,skɒtʃ) n. 1. a kind of hard brittle toffee made with butter, brown sugar, etc. 2. a flavouring made from these ingredients.

butter up vb. (tr., adv.) to flatter.

butterwort ('bʌtə,wɔ:t) n. a plant that grows in wet places and has violet-blue spurred flowers and fleshy greasy glandular leaves on which insects are trapped and digested.

buttery ('bʌtəri) adj. containing, like, or coated with butter. —'butteriness n.

buttery² ('bʌtəri) n., pl. -teries. 1. a room for storing foods or wines. 2. *Brit.* (in some universities) a room in which food and drink are supplied or sold to students.

buttock ('bʌtək) n. 1. either of the two large fleshy masses of thick muscular tissue that form the human rump. 2. the analogous part in some mammals.

button ('bʌtʌn) n. 1. a disc or knob of plastic, wood, etc., attached to a garment, etc., usually for fastening two surfaces together by passing it through a buttonhole or loop. 2. a small round object, such as any of various sweets, decorations, or badges. 3. a small disc that completes an electric circuit when pushed, as one that operates a doorbell or machine. 4. *Biol.* any rounded knoblike part or organ, such as an unripe mushroom. 5. *Fencing*, the protective knob fixed to the point of a foil. 6. *Brit.* an object of no value (esp. in **not worth a button**). ~vb. 7. to fasten with a button or buttons. 8. (tr.) to provide with buttons. ~See also **button up**. —'buttoner n. —'buttonless adj.

buttonhole ('bʌtʌn,həʊl) n. 1. a slit in a garment, etc., through which a button is passed to fasten two surfaces together. 2. a flower or small bunch of flowers worn pinned to the lapel or in the buttonhole, esp. at weddings. U.S. name: **boutonniere**. ~vb. (tr.) 3. to detain (a person) in conversation. 4. to make buttonholes in.

button up vb. (tr., adv.) 1. to fasten (a garment) with a button or buttons. 2. *Inf.* to conclude (business) satisfactorily. 3. **button up one's lip or mouth**. *Sl.* to be silent.

buttriss ('bʌtrɪs) n. 1. Also called **pier**, a construction, usually of brick or stone, built to support a wall. 2. any support or prop. 3. something shaped like a buttress, such as a projection from a mountainside. ~vb. (tr.) 4. to support (a wall) with a buttress. 5. to support or sustain.

butty ('bʌti) n., pl. -ties. Chiefly *N English dialect*. a sandwich: **a jam butty**.

butyl ('bjʊ:,taɪl,-tɪl) n. (*modifier*) of or containing any of four isomeric forms of the group C₄H₉—: **butyl rubber**.

buxom ('bʌksəm) adj. 1. (esp. of a woman) healthily plump, attractive, and vigorous. 2. (of a woman) full-bodied. —'buxomly adv. —'buxomness n.

buy (baɪ) vb. **buying, bought**. (*mainly tr.*) 1. to acquire by paying or promising to pay a sum of money; purchase. 2. to be capable of purchasing: *money can't buy love*. 3. to acquire by any exchange or sacrifice: *to buy time by equivocation*. 4. to bribe or corrupt; hire by or as by bribery. 5. *Inf.* to accept as true, practical, etc. 6. (*intr.*; foll. by *into*) to purchase shares of (a company). ~n. 7. *Inf.* a purchase (often in **good or bad buy**). ~See also **buy in, buy off, etc.**

buyer ('baɪə) n. 1. a person who buys; customer. 2. a person employed to buy merchandise, materials, etc., as for a shop or factory.

buy in vb. (adv.) 1. (tr.) to buy back for the owner (an item in an auction) at or below the reserve price. 2. (*intr.*) to purchase shares in a company. 3. (tr.) Also: **buy into**. *Inf.* to pay money to secure a position or place for (someone, esp. oneself) in some organization, esp. a business or club. 4. (*intr.*) Also: **buy into**. *Austral.* to get involved in (an argument or fight). 5. to purchase (goods, etc.) in large quantities.

buy off vb. (tr., adv.) to pay (a person or group) to drop a charge, end opposition, etc.

buy out vb. (tr., adv.) 1. to purchase the ownership, controlling interest, shares, etc., of (a company, etc.). 2. to gain the release of (a person) from the armed forces by payment.

buy up vb. (tr., adv.) 1. to purchase all, or all that is available, of (something). 2. to purchase a controlling interest in (a company, etc.).

buzz (bʌz) n. 1. a rapidly vibrating humming sound, as of a bee. 2. a low sound, as of many voices in conversation. 3. a rumour; report; gossip. 4. *Inf.* a telephone call. 5. U.S. sl. a pleasant sensation. ~vb. 6. (*intr.*) to make a vibrating sound like that of a prolonged z. 7. (*intr.*) to talk or gossip with an air of excitement: *the town buzzed with the news*. 8. (tr.) to utter or spread (a rumour). 9. (*intr.*; often foll. by *about*) to move around quickly and busily. 10. (tr.) to signal or summon with a buzzer. 11. (tr.) *Inf.* to call by telephone. 12. (tr.) *Inf.* to fly an aircraft very low over (an object). 13. (tr.) (esp. of insects) to make a buzzing sound with (wings, etc.).

buzzard ('bʌzəd) n. a diurnal bird of prey of the hawk family, typically having broad wings and tail and a soaring flight.

buzzer ('bʌzə) n. 1. a device that produces a buzzing sound, esp. one similar to an electric bell. 2. N.Z. a wood planing machine.

buzz off vb. (*intr.*, adv.; often imperative) *Inf.*, chiefly *Brit.* to go away; leave; depart.

buzz word n. *Inf.* a word, originally from a particular jargon, which becomes a popular vogue word.

B.V.M. abbrev. for Beata Virgo Maria.

bwana ('bwɑ:nə) n. (in E Africa) a master, often used as a form of address corresponding to *sir*.

by (baɪ) prep. 1. used to indicate the agent after a passive verb: *seeds eaten by the birds*. 2. used to indicate the person responsible for a creative work: *this song is by Schubert*. 3. via; through: *enter by the back door*. 4. foll. by a gerund to indicate a means used: *he frightened her by hiding behind the door*. 5. beside; next to; near: *a tree by the house*. 6. passing the position of; past: *he drove by the old cottage*. 7. not later than; before: *return the books by Tuesday*. 8. used to indicate extent, after a comparative: *it is hotter by five degrees*. 9. (esp. in oaths) invoking the name of: *I swear by all the gods*. 10. multiplied or divided by: *four by three equals twelve*. 11. during the passing of (esp. in **by day, by night**). 12. placed between measurements of the various dimensions of something: *a plank fourteen inches by seven*. ~adv. 13. near: *the house is close by*. 14. away; aside: *he put some money by each week*. 15. passing a point near something; past: *he drove by*. ~n., pl. **byes**. 16. a variant spelling of **bye**.

by- or bye- prefix. 1. near: *bystander*. 2. secondary or incidental: *by-election; by-product*.

by and by adv. presently or eventually.

bye (baɪ) n. 1. *Sport*, the situation in which a player or team wins a preliminary round by virtue of having no opponent. 2. *Golf*, one or more holes that are left unplayed after the match has been decided. 3. *Cricket*, a run scored off a ball not struck by the batsman. 4. something incidental or secondary. 5. **by the bye**, incidentally; by the way.

bye-bye interj. *Brit. inf.* goodbye.

by-election or bye-election n. (in Great Britain and other countries of the Commonwealth) an election held during the life of a parliament to fill a vacant seat.

bygone ('baɪ,gɒn) adj. 1. (usually *prenominal*) past;

former. ~*n.* **2.** (often *pl.*) a past occurrence. **3.** let bygones be bygones. to agree to forget past quarrels.

bylaw or **bye-law** ('bai,lɔː) *n.* **1.** a rule made by a local authority. **2.** a regulation of a company, society, etc.

by-line *n.* **1.** a line under the title of a newspaper or magazine article giving the author's name. **2.** Soccer. another word for **touchline**.

bypass ('bai,pɑːs) *n.* **1.** a main road built to avoid a city or other congested area. **2.** a means of redirecting the flow of a substance around an appliance through which it would otherwise pass. **3.** *Electronics*, an electrical circuit connected in parallel around one or more components, providing an alternative path for certain frequencies. ~*vb.* **-passing, -passed** or **-past.** (*tr.*) **4.** to go around or avoid (a city, obstruction, problem, etc.). **5.** to cause (traffic, fluid, etc.) to go through a bypass. **6.** to proceed without reference to (regulations, a superior, etc.); get round; avoid.

by-play *n.* *Chiefly U.S.* secondary action or talking carried on apart while the main action proceeds, esp. in a play.

by-product *n.* **1.** a secondary or incidental product of a manufacturing process. **2.** a side effect.

byre (baɪə) *n.* *Brit.* a shelter for cows.

byroad ('bai,rəʊd) or **bylane** *n.* a secondary or side road.

Byronic (baɪ'rɒnɪk) *adj.* of, like, or characteristic of Byron, his poetry, or his style.

bystander ('bai,stændə) *n.* a person present but not involved; onlooker; spectator.

byte (baɪt) *n.* *Computers.* **1.** a sequence of bits processed as one unit of information. **2.** the storage space allocated to one character. **3.** a subdivision of a word.

byway ('bai,wei) *n.* **1.** a secondary or side road, esp. in the country. **2.** an area, field of study, etc., that is very obscure or of secondary importance.

byword ('bai,wɜːd) *n.* **1.** a person or thing regarded as a perfect or proverbial example of something; *their name is a byword for good service.* **2.** an object of scorn or derision. **3.** a common saying; proverb.

Byzantine (bɪ'zæn,tain, -,tɪn, baɪ; 'bɪzən,tɪn, -,tain) *adj.* **1.** of or relating to Byzantium, an ancient Greek city on the Bosphorus. **2.** of or relating to the Byzantine Empire, the continuation of the Roman Empire in the East. **3.** of, relating to, or characterizing the Orthodox Church. **4.** of or relating to the highly coloured stylized form of religious art developed in the Byzantine Empire. **5.** of or relating to the style of architecture developed in the Byzantine Empire, characterized by massive domes, rounded arches, spires and minarets, and mosaics. **6.** (of attitudes, etc.) inflexible or complicated. ~*n.* **7.** an inhabitant of Byzantium.



c or **C** (si) *n.*, *pl.* **c's**, **C's**, or **Cs**. 1. the third letter of the English alphabet. 2. a speech sound represented by this letter, usually either as in *cigar*, or as in *case*. 3. the third in a series, esp. the third highest grade in an examination. 4. something shaped like a C.

c *symbol for*: 1. centi-. 2. cubic. 3. cycle. 4. *Maths*. constant. 5. specific heat capacity. 6. the velocity of electromagnetic radiation.

C *symbol for*: 1. *Music*. a. the first degree of a major scale containing no sharps or flats (**C major**). b. the major or minor key having this note as its tonic. c. a time signature denoting four crotchet beats to the bar. See also *alla breve* (sense 2), **common time**. 2. *Chem*. carbon. 3. capacitance. 4. heat capacity. 5. cold (water). 6. *Physics*. compliance. 7. Celsius. 8. centigrade. 9. century: *C20*. ~ 10. the Roman numeral for 100.

c. *abbrev. for*: 1. carat. 2. carbon (paper). 3. *Cricket*. caught. 4. cent(s). 5. century or centuries. 6. (*pl. cc.*) chapter. 7. (used esp. preceding a date) circa: c. 1800. 8. colt. 9. *contralto*. 10. copyright. 11. coulomb.

C. *abbrev. for*: 1. (on maps as part of name) Cape. 2. Catholic. 3. Celtic. 4. Conservative. 5. Corps.

Ca the chemical symbol for calcium.

ca. *abbrev. for* circa.

C.A. *abbrev. for*: 1. Central America. 2. chartered accountant. 3. Civil Aviation. 4. (in Britain) Consumers' Association.

C.A.A. (in Britain) *abbrev. for* Civil Aviation Authority.

cab (kæb) *n.* 1. a. a taxi. b. (as modifier): a cab rank. 2. the enclosed compartment of a lorry, crane, etc., from which it is driven. 3. (formerly) a horse-drawn vehicle used for public hire.

cabal (kə'bæl) *n.* 1. a small group of intriguers, esp. one formed for political purposes. 2. a secret plot; conspiracy. 3. a clique. ~vb. -balling, -balled. 4. (*intr.*) to form a cabal; plot.

cabaret ('kæbə,rei) *n.* 1. a floor show of dancing, singing, etc. at a nightclub or restaurant. 2. *Chiefly U.S.* a nightclub or restaurant providing such entertainment.

cabbage ('kæbidʒ) *n.* 1. Also called: **cole**. any of various cultivated varieties of a cruciferous plant having a short thick stalk and a large head of green or reddish edible leaves. See also **brassica**. 2. a. the head of a cabbage. b. the edible leaf bud of the cabbage palm. 3. *Inf.* a dull or unimaginative person. 4. *Inf.* a person who has no mental faculties and is dependent on others.

cabbage white *n.* a large white butterfly, the larvae of which feed on the leaves of cabbages and related vegetables.

cabby or **cabbie** ('kæbi) *n.*, *pl.* -bies. *Inf.* a cab driver.

caber ('keiba) *n.* *Scot.* a heavy wooden pole, esp. one thrown in the air in the Highland sport of **tossing the caber**.

cabin ('kæbin) *n.* 1. a small simple dwelling; hut. 2. a simple house providing accommodation for travellers or holiday-makers. 3. a room used as an office or living quarters in a ship. 4. a covered compartment used for shelter in a small boat. 5. *Brit.* another name for **signal box**. 6. a. the enclosed part of a light aircraft in which the pilot and passengers sit. b. the part of an aircraft for passengers or cargo. ~vb. 7. to confine in a small space.

cabin boy *n.* a boy who waits on the officers and passengers of a ship.

cabin cruiser *n.* a power boat fitted with a cabin for pleasure cruising or racing.

cabinet ('kæbɪnt) *n.* 1. a piece of furniture containing shelves, cupboards, or drawers for storage or display. 2. the outer case of a television, radio, etc. 3. a. (*often cap.*) the executive and policy-making body of a country, consisting of senior government ministers. b. (*sometimes cap.*) an advisory council to a president, governor, etc. c. (as modifier): a cabinet reshuffle. 4. a. a standard size of paper, 6 × 4 inches (15 × 10 cm), for mounted photographs. b. (as modifier): a cabinet photograph. 5. *Arch.* a private room.

cabinet-maker *n.* a craftsman specializing in the making of fine furniture. — **cabinet-making** *n.*

cable ('keɪbəl) *n.* 1. a strong thick rope, usually of

twisted hemp or steel wire. 2. *Naut.* an anchor chain or rope. 3. Also called: **cable length**, **cable's length**. a unit of length in nautical use that has various values. It is most commonly taken as 120 fathoms (720 feet) in the U.S. and one tenth of a nautical mile (608 feet) in Britain. 4. a wire or bundle of wires that conducts electricity: a submarine cable. 5. Also called: **cablegram**. a telegram sent abroad by submarine cable, telephone line, etc. 6. Also called: **cable stitch**. a knitting pattern resembling a twisted rope. ~vb. 7. to send (a message) to (someone) by cable. 8. (*tr.*) to fasten or provide with a cable or cables.

cable car *n.* the passenger car on a cable railway, drawn along by a strong cable operated by a motor.

cablegram ('keɪbəl,græm) *n.* a more formal name for cable (sense 5).

cable television *n.* a television service in which the subscriber's television is connected to the supplier by cable, providing greater choice of channels.

caboodle (kə'bu:dl̩) *n.* *Inf.* a lot, bunch, or group (esp. in the whole caboodle).

caboose (kə'bu:s) *n.* 1. *Railways U.S.* a guard's van. 2. *Naut.* a. a deckhouse for a galley aboard ship. b. *Chiefly Brit.* the galley itself. 3. *Canad.* a. a mobile bunkhouse used by lumbermen, etc. b. an insulated cabin on runners, equipped with a stove.

cabriolet (,kæbrɪəʊ'lei) *n.* 1. a small two-wheeled horse-drawn carriage with two seats and a folding hood. 2. a type of motor car with a folding top; drophead coupé.

cacao (kə'kəʊ, -'keɪʊ) *n.* 1. a small tropical American evergreen tree having reddish-brown seed pods from which cocoa and chocolate are prepared. 2. **cacao bean**. the seed pod; cocoa bean. 3. **cacao butter**. another name for **cocoa butter**.

cachalot ('kæʃəlɒt) *n.* another name for **sperm whale**.

cache (kæʃ) *n.* 1. a hidden store of provisions, weapons, treasure, etc. 2. the place where such a store is hidden. ~vb. 3. (*tr.*) to store in a cache.

cachet ('kæʃeɪ) *n.* 1. an official seal on a document, letter, etc. 2. a distinguishing mark. 3. prestige; distinction. 4. *Philately*. a mark stamped by hand on mail for commemorative purposes. 5. a hollow wafer, formerly used for enclosing an unpleasant-tasting medicine.

cachinnate ('kæki,neɪt) *vb.* (*intr.*) to laugh loudly. — **cachin'nation** *n.* — **cachin'natory** *adj.*

cachou ('kæʃu; kæ'ʃu:) *n.* 1. a lozenge eaten to sweeten the breath. 2. another name for **catechu**.

cacique (kə'sɪk) or **cazique** (kə'zɪk) *n.* 1. an American Indian chief in a Spanish-speaking region. 2. (esp. in Spanish America) a local political boss.

ack-handed (,kæk'hændɪd) *adj.* *Inf.* 1. left-handed. 2. clumsy.

cackle ('kækəl) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) (esp. of a hen) to squawk with shrill broken notes. 2. (*intr.*) to laugh or chatter raucously. 3. (*tr.*) to utter in a cackling manner. ~n. 4. the noise or act of cackling. 5. noisy chatter. 6. **cut the cackle**. *Inf.* to be quiet.

caco- combining form. bad, unpleasant, or incorrect: **cacophony**.

cacoethes (,kækəʊ'θi:z) *n.* an uncontrollable urge or desire: a cacoethes for smoking.

cacography (kæ'kɒgrəfi) *n.* 1. bad handwriting. 2. incorrect spelling. — **cacographic** (,kækə'græfɪk) *adj.*

cacophony (kə'kɒfəni) *n.*, *pl.* -nies. harsh discordant sound; dissonance. — **ca-cophonous** *adj.*

cactus ('kæktəs) *n.*, *pl.* -tuses or -ti (-tai). 1. any of a family of spiny succulent plants of the arid regions of America with swollen tough stems and leaves reduced to spines. 2. **cactus dahlia**. a double-flowered variety of dahlia. — **cactaceous** (kæk'teɪʃəs) *adj.*

cad (kæd) *n.* *Brit. inf.* old-fashioned. a man who does not behave in a gentlemanly manner towards others. — **'cad-dish** *adj.*

cadaver (kə'deɪvə, -'dɑ:v-) *n.* *Med.* a corpse. — **ca'daveric** *adj.*

cadaverous (kə'dævərəs) *adj.* 1. of or like a corpse, esp. in being deathly pale. 2. thin and haggard. — **ca'daverousness** *n.*

caddy or **caddy** ('kædi) *n.*, *pl.* -dies. 1. *Golf.* an

attendant who carries clubs, etc., for a player. ~*vb.* **-dying, -died.** 2. (*intr.*) to act as a caddie.

caddis worm or **caddis** ('kædɪs) *n.* the aquatic larva of a caddis fly, which constructs a protective case around itself made of silk, sand, stones, etc. Also called: **caseworm, strawworm.**

caddy ('kædi) *n., pl. -dies.* Chiefly Brit. a small container, esp. for tea.

caddy² ('kædi) *n., pl. -dies, vb. -dying, -died.* a variant spelling of **caddie**.

-cade *n.* combining form. indicating a procession of a specified kind: **motorcade**.

cadence ('keɪdɪns) or **cadency** *n., pl. -dences or -dencies.* 1. the beat or measure of something rhythmic. 2. a fall in the pitch of the voice, as at the end of a sentence. 3. intonation. 4. rhythm in verse or prose. 5. the close of a musical phrase.

cadenza (kə'dɛnzə) *n.* a virtuosic solo passage occurring near the end of a piece of music, formerly improvised by the soloist.

cadet (kə'det) *n.* 1. a young person undergoing preliminary training, usually before full entry to the uniformed services, police, etc. 2. (in England and in France before 1789) a gentleman who entered the army to prepare for a commission. 3. a younger son. 4. **cadet branch**, the family of a younger son. 5. (in New Zealand, formerly) a person learning sheep farming on a sheep station. —**ca'detship** *n.*

cadge (kædʒ) *vb.* 1. to get (food, money, etc.) by sponging or begging. ~*n.* 2. Brit. a person who cadges. —**cadger** *n.*

cadi or **kadi** ('kædi, 'keɪdi) *n., pl. -dis.* a judge in a Muslim community.

cadmium ('kædmɪəm) *n.* a malleable bluish-white metallic element that occurs in association with zinc ores. It is used in electroplating and alloys. Symbol: Cd; atomic no.: 48; atomic wt.: 112.4.

cadre ('kædə) *n.* 1. the nucleus of trained professional servicemen forming the basis for military expansion. 2. a basic unit or structure; nucleus. 3. a member of a cadre.

caduceus (kə'dju:sɪəs) *n., pl. -cei (-sɪ,ai).* 1. Classical myth. a winged staff entwined with two serpents carried by Hermes (Mercury) as messenger of the gods. 2. an insignia resembling this staff used as an emblem of the medical profession.

caecum or **U.S. cecum** ('si:kəm) *n., pl. -ca (-kə).* Anat. any structure that ends in a blind sac or pouch, esp. that at the beginning of the large intestine. —**caecal** or **U.S. 'cecal** *adj.*

Caenozoic (,si:nə'zəʊk) *adj.* a variant spelling of **Cenozoic**.

Caerphilly (kə'fɪli) *n.* a creamy white mild-flavoured cheese, orig. made in Caerphilly in SE Wales.

Caesar ('si:zə) *n.* 1. any Roman emperor. 2. (*sometimes not cap.*) any emperor, autocrat, or dictator. 3. a title of the Roman emperors from Augustus to Hadrian. 4. *Inf.* in medicine, a Caesarean section.

Caesarean, Caesarian, or U.S. Cesarean, Cesarian (si'zɛəriən) *adj.* 1. of or relating to any of the Caesars, esp. Julius Caesar. ~*n.* 2. (*sometimes not cap.*) Surgery. a. a Caesarean section. b. (as modifier): **Caesarean operation**.

Caesarean section *n.* surgical incision through the abdominal and uterine walls in order to deliver a baby.

caesium or **U.S. cesium** ('si:zɪəm) *n.* a ductile silvery-white element of the alkali metal group. It is used in photocells and in an atomic clock (**caesium clock**) that uses the frequency of radiation from changing the spin of electrons. The radioisotope **caesium-137**, with a half-life of 30.2 years, is used in radiotherapy. Symbol: Cs; atomic no.: 55; atomic wt.: 132.905.

caesura (si'zjʊərə) *n., pl. -ras or -rae (-ri:).* 1. (in modern prosody) a pause, esp. for sense, usually near the middle of a verse line. 2. (in classical prosody) a break between words within a metrical foot. —**ca'sural** *adj.*

café ('kæfeɪ, 'kæfi) *n.* a small or inexpensive restaurant serving light or easily prepared meals and refreshments.

cafeteria (,kæfi'tɪəriə) *n.* a self-service restaurant.

caff (kæf) *n.* a slang word for **café**.

caffeine or **cafein** ('kæfi:n) *n.* a white crystalline bitter alkaloid responsible for the stimulant action of tea, coffee, and cocoa.

caftan ('kæf,tæn, -tæn) *n.* a variant spelling of **kaftan**.

cage (keɪdʒ) *n.* 1. an enclosure, usually made with bars or wire, for keeping birds, monkeys, etc. b. (as modifier): **cagebird**. 2. a thing or place that confines. 3.

something resembling a cage in function or structure: **the rib cage**. 4. the enclosed platform of a lift, esp. as used in a mine. ~*vb.* 5. (*tr.*) to confine in or as in a cage.

cagey or **cagy** ('keɪdʒɪ) *adj. -ier, -iest.* *Inf.* not frank; wary. —**'caginess** *n.*

cagoule (kə'gu:l) *n.* a lightweight usually knee-length type of anorak.

cahoots (kə'hʊts) *pl. n. (sometimes sing.)* *Inf.* 1. U.S. partnership; league. 2. **in cahoots**, in collusion.

caiman ('keɪmən) *n., pl. -mans.* a variant spelling of **caiman**.

Cain (keɪn) *n.* 1. the first son of Adam and Eve, who killed his brother Abel (Genesis 4:1-16). 2. **raise Cain**. *Sl.* to cause a commotion.

Cainozoic (,kainə'zəʊk, ,keɪ-) *adj.* a variant spelling of **Cenozoic**.

cairn (keɪn) *n.* 1. a mound of stones erected as a memorial or marker. 2. Also called: **cairn terrier**, a small rough-haired breed of terrier originally from Scotland.

cairngorm ('keɪn,gɔ:m) *n.* a smoky yellow or brown variety of quartz, used as a gemstone. Also called: **smoky quartz**.

caisson (kə'su:n, 'keɪs'n) *n.* 1. a watertight chamber open at the bottom and containing air under pressure, used to carry out construction work under water. 2. a watertight float filled with air, used to raise sunken ships. 3. a watertight structure placed across the entrance of a dry dock, etc., to exclude water. 4. a. a box containing explosives formerly used as a mine. b. an ammunition chest.

caisson disease *n.* another name for **decompression sickness**.

cajole (kə'dʒɔ:l) *vb.* to persuade (someone) by flattery to do what one wants; wheedle; coax. —**ca'jolement** *n.* —**ca'joler** *n.* —**ca'jolery** *n.*

cake (keɪk) *n.* 1. a baked food, usually in loaf or layer form, made from a mixture of flour, sugar, and eggs. 2. a flat thin mass of bread, esp. unleavened bread. 3. a shaped mass of dough or other food: a **fish cake**. 4. a mass, slab, or crust of a solidified substance, as of soap. 5. **have one's cake and eat it**, to enjoy both of two desirable but incompatible alternatives. 6. **go or sell like hot cakes**, *Inf.* to be sold very quickly. 7. **piece of cake**, *Inf.* something that is easily achieved. 8. **take the cake**, *Inf.* to surpass all others, esp. in stupidity, folly, etc. 9. *Inf.* the whole of something that is to be shared or divided: a **larger slice of the cake**. ~*vb.* 10. (*tr.*) to encrust: the hull was **caked with salt**. 11. to form or be formed into a hardened mass.

cakewalk ('keɪk,wɔ:k) *n.* 1. a dance based on a march with intricate steps, originally performed by American Negroes with the prize of a cake. 2. a piece of music for this dance.

cal. *abbrev. for:* 1. calendar. 2. calibre. 3. calorie (small).

Cal. *abbrev. for* Calorie (large).

calabash ('kælə,bæʃ) *n.* 1. Also called: **calabash tree**, a tropical American evergreen tree that produces large round gourds. 2. the gourd. 3. the dried hollow shell of a gourd used as the bowl of a tobacco pipe, a bottle, etc. 4. **calabash nutmeg**, a tropical African shrub whose seeds can be used as nutmegs.

calamine ('kælə,mæn) *n.* a pink powder consisting of zinc oxide and ferric oxide, used medicinally in the form of soothing lotions or ointments.

calamitous (kə'læmɪtəs) *adj.* causing, involving, or resulting in a calamity; disastrous.

calamity (kə'læmɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. a disaster or misfortune, esp. one causing distress or misery. 2. a state or feeling of deep distress or misery.

calandria (kə'lændriə) *n.* a cylindrical vessel through which vertical tubes pass, esp. one forming part of a heat exchanger or nuclear reactor.

calcareous (kæl'kɛəriəs) *adj.* of, containing, or resembling calcium carbonate; chalky.

calceolaria (,kælsə'lɛəriə) *n.* a tropical American plant cultivated for its speckled, slipper-shaped flowers. Also called: **slipperwort**.

calces ('kælsi:z) *n.* a plural of **calx**.

calciferol (kæl'sɪfərəl) *n.* a fat-soluble steroid, found esp. in fish-liver oils and used in the treatment of rickets. Also called: **vitamin D₂**.

calciferous (kæl'sɪfərəs) *adj.* producing salts of calcium, esp. calcium carbonate.

calcify ('kælsi,fai) *vb. -fying, -fied.* 1. to convert or be

converted into lime. **2.** to harden or become hardened by impregnation with calcium salts. — **calcification** *n.*

calcline ('kælsain, -sɪn) *vb.* **1.** (tr.) to heat (a substance) so that it is oxidized, is reduced, or loses water. **2.** (intr.) to oxidize as a result of heating. — **calcination** ('kælsɪ-neɪʃən) *n.*

calcite ('kælsait) *n.* a colourless or white mineral consisting of crystalline calcium carbonate: the transparent variety is Iceland spar. Formula: CaCO₃.

calcium ('kælsɪəm) *n.* a malleable silvery-white metallic element of the alkaline earth group, occurring esp. as forms of calcium carbonate. It is an essential constituent of bones and teeth. Symbol: Ca; atomic no.: 20; atomic wt.: 40.08.

calcium carbonate *n.* a white crystalline salt occurring in limestone, chalk, and pearl: used in the production of lime. Formula: CaCO₃.

calcium hydroxide *n.* a white crystalline slightly soluble alkali with many uses, esp. in cement, water softening, and the neutralization of acid soils. Formula: Ca(OH)₂. Also called: **lime**, **slaked lime**, **caustic lime**.

calcspar ('kælk, spɑː) *n.* another name for **calcite**.

calculable ('kælkjʊləbəl) *adj.* **1.** that may be computed or estimated. **2.** predictable. — **calculability** *n.* — **calculably** *adv.*

calculate ('kælkjʊ,leɪt) *vb.* **1.** to solve (one or more problems) by a mathematical procedure. **2.** (tr.; may take a clause as object) to determine beforehand by judgment, etc.; estimate. **3.** (tr.; usually passive) to aim: *the car was calculated to appeal to women.* **4.** (intr.; foll. by *on* or *upon*) to rely. **5.** (tr.; may take a clause as object) U.S. dialect. to suppose. — **calculative** ('kælkjʊlətɪv) *adj.*

calculated ('kælkjʊ,leɪtɪd) *adj.* (usually *prenominal*) **1.** undertaken after considering the likelihood of success or failure. **2.** premeditated: *a calculated insult.*

calculating ('kælkjʊ,leɪtɪŋ) *adj.* **1.** selfishly scheming. **2.** shrewd. — **calculatingly** *adv.*

calculation ('kælkjʊ,leɪʃən) *n.* **1.** the act, process, or result of calculating. **2.** a forecast. **3.** careful planning, esp. for selfish motives.

calculator ('kælkjʊ,leɪtə) *n.* **1.** a device for performing mathematical calculations, esp. an electronic device that can be held in the hand. **2.** a person or thing that calculates. **3.** a set of tables used as an aid to calculations.

calculus ('kælkjʊləs) *n., pl. -luses.* **1.** a branch of mathematics, developed independently by Newton and Leibnitz. Both **differential calculus** and **integral calculus** are concerned with the effect on a function of an infinitesimal change in the independent variable. **2.** *pl. -li (-laɪ).* **Pathol.** a stonelike concretion of minerals found in organs of the body. **3.** any mathematical system of calculation involving the use of symbols.

cauldron ('kɔːldrən) *n.* a variant spelling of **cauldron**.

caleche (French 'ka'leʃ) *n.* **Canad.** a horse-drawn carriage used for taking tourists around in cities such as Montreal and Quebec.

Caledonian ('kæli'dɒniən) *adj.* **1.** relating to Scotland. **2.** of a period of mountain building in NW Europe in the Palaeozoic era. ~ *n.* **3.** *Literary.* a native or inhabitant of Scotland.

calendar ('kælɪndə) *n.* **1.** a system for determining the beginning, length, and order of years and their divisions. **2.** a table showing any such arrangement, esp. as applied to one or more successive years. **3.** a list or schedule of pending court cases, appointments, etc. ~ *vb.* **4.** (tr.) to enter in a calendar; schedule. — **calendrical** (kæ'len dɪkəl) or **ca'lendric** *adj.*

calender ('kælɪndə) *n.* **1.** a machine in which paper or cloth is smoothed by passing between rollers. ~ *vb.* **2.** (tr.) to subject (material) to such a process.

calends or kalends ('kælɪndz) *pl. n.* the first day of each month in the ancient Roman calendar.

calendula (kæ'leɪndjʊlə) *n.* any of a genus of Eurasian plants, esp. the pot marigold, having orange-and-yellow rayed flowers.

calf ('kɑːf) *n., pl. calves.* **1.** the young of cattle, esp. domestic cattle. **2.** the young of certain other mammals, such as the buffalo and whale. **3.** a large piece of ice detached from an iceberg, etc. **4.** **kill the fattened calf.** to celebrate lavishly, esp. as a welcome.

calf ('kɑːf) *n., pl. calves.* the thick fleshy part of the back of the leg between the ankle and the knee.

calf love *n.* temporary infatuation of an adolescent for a member of the opposite sex.

calf's-foot jelly *n.* a jelly made from the stock of boiled calves' feet and flavourings.

calfskin ('kɑːf,skɪn) *n.* **1.** the skin or hide of a calf. **2.** Also called: **caif.** a fine leather made from this skin. **b.** (as *modifier*): **calfskin boots.**

calibrate ('kæli,breɪt) *vb.* (tr.) **1.** to measure the calibre of (a gun, etc.). **2.** to mark (the scale of a measuring instrument) so that readings can be made in appropriate units. **3.** to determine the accuracy of (a measuring instrument, etc.). — **calibration** *n.* — **'calibrator** *n.*

calibre or U.S. caliber ('kælibə) *n.* **1.** the diameter of a cylindrical body, esp. the internal diameter of a tube or the bore of a firearm. **2.** the diameter of a shell or bullet. **3.** ability; distinction. **4.** personal character: *a man of high calibre.* — **'calibred or U.S. 'calibered** *adj.*

calices ('kæli,sɪz) *n.* the plural of **calix**.

calico ('kæli,kəʊ) *n., pl. -coes or -cos.* **1.** a white or unbleached cotton fabric. **2.** *Chiefly U.S.* a coarse printed cotton fabric.

californium ('kæli'fɔːnɪəm) *n.* a transuranic element artificially produced from curium. Symbol: Cf; atomic no.: 98; half-life of most stable isotope, ²⁵¹Cf: 800 years (approx.).

caliper ('kæli,pə) *n.* the usual U.S. spelling of **calliper**.

caliph, calif, or khalif ('keɪlɪf, 'kæli-) *n.* *Islam.* the title of the successors of Mohammed as rulers of the Islamic world.

caliphate, califate, or khalifate ('keɪli,feɪt) *n.* the office, jurisdiction, or reign of a caliph.

calisthenics ('kælsɪθeniks) *n.* a variant spelling (esp. U.S.) of **calisthenics**.

calix ('keɪlɪks, 'kæ-) *n., pl. calices* ('kæli,sɪz). a cup; chalice.

caulk (kɔːk) *vb.* a variant spelling of **caulk**.

call (kɔːl) *vb.* **1.** (often foll. by *out*) to speak or utter (words, sounds, etc.) loudly so as to attract attention: *he called out her name.* **2.** (tr.) to ask or order to come: *to call a policeman.* **3.** (intr.; sometimes foll. by *on*) to make a visit (to): *she called on him.* **4.** (often foll. by *up*) to telephone (a person). **5.** (tr.) to summon to a specific office, profession, etc. **6.** (of animals or birds) to utter (a characteristic sound or cry). **7.** (tr.) to summon (a bird or animal), as by imitating its cry. **8.** (tr.) to name or style: *they called the dog Rover.* **9.** (tr.) to designate: *they called him a coward.* **10.** (tr.) to regard in a specific way: *I call it a foolish waste of time.* **11.** (tr.) to attract (attention). **12.** (tr.) to read (a list, etc.) aloud to check for omissions or absences. **13.** (when tr., usually foll. by *for*) to give an order (for): *to call a strike.* **14.** (intr.) to try to predict the result of tossing a coin. **15.** (tr.) to awaken: *I was called early this morning.* **16.** (tr.) to cause to assemble. **17.** (tr.) *Sport.* (of an umpire, etc.) to pass judgment upon (a shot, etc.) with a call. **18.** *Austral.* to broadcast a commentary on a race, esp. a horse race. **19.** (tr.) to demand repayment of (a loan, security, etc.). **20.** *Brit.* to award (a student at an Inn of Court) the degree of barrister (esp. in **call to the bar**). **21.** (tr.) *Poker.* to demand that (a player) expose his hand, after equaling his bet. **22.** (intr.) *Bridge.* to make a bid. **23.** (tr.) to expose (a person's misleading statements, etc.): *I called his bluff.* **24.** (in square dancing) to call out (instructions) to the dancers. **25.** (intr.; foll. by *for*) *a.* to require: *this problem calls for study.* *b.* to come or go (for) in order to fetch. **26.** (intr.; foll. by *on* or *upon*) to make an appeal or request (to): *they called upon him to reply.* **27.** **call into being.** to create. **28.** **call into play.** to begin to operate. **29.** **call into question.** See **question**. **30.** **call to mind.** to cause to be remembered. ~ *n.* **31.** a cry or shout. **32.** the characteristic cry of a bird or animal. **33.** a device, such as a whistle, intended to imitate the cry of a bird or animal. **34.** a summons or invitation. **35.** a summons or signal sounded on a horn, bugle, etc. **36.** a short visit: *the doctor made six calls this morning.* **37.** an inner urge to some task or profession; vocation. **38.** allure or fascination, esp. of a place: *the call of the forest.* **39.** need, demand, or occasion: *there is no call to shout.* **40.** demand or claim (esp. in the **call of duty**). **41.** *Theatre.* a notice to actors informing them of times of rehearsals. **42.** a conversation or a request for a connection by telephone. **43.** *Commerce.* a demand for repayment of a loan. *b.* (as *modifier*): *call money.* **44.** *Finance.* a demand for redeemable bonds or shares to be presented for repayment. **45.** *Poker.* a demand for a hand or hands to be exposed. **46.** *Bridge.* a bid, or a player's turn to bid. **47.** *Sport.* a decision of an umpire or referee regarding a shot, pitch, etc. **48.** *Austral.* a broadcast commentary on

camera. **a.** Law. relating to a hearing from which members of the public are excluded. **b.** in private.

camiknickers ('kæmi,nɪkəz) *pl. n.* (formerly) women's knickers attached to a camisole top.

camisole ('kæmi,səʊl) *n.* **1.** a woman's underbodice with shoulder straps, originally designed as a cover for a corset. **2.** a woman's short negligee.

camomile or **chamomile** ('kæmə,məɪl) *n.* **1.** any of a genus of aromatic plants whose finely dissected leaves and daisy-like flowers are used medicinally. **2.** any plant of a related genus as **German** or **wild camomile**. **3.** **camomile tea.** a medicinal beverage made from the fragrant leaves and flowers of any of these plants.

camouflage ('kæməflaɪʒ) *n.* **1.** the exploitation of natural surroundings or artificial aids to conceal or disguise the presence of military units, etc. **2.** the means by which animals escape the notice of predators. **3.** a device or expedient designed to conceal or deceive. ~*vb.* **4.** (*tr.*) to conceal by camouflage.

camp¹ ('kæmp) *n.* **1. a.** a place where tents, cabins, etc., are erected for the use of military troops, etc. **b.** (*as modifier*): a **camp fire**. **2.** tents, cabins, etc., used as temporary lodgings by holidaymakers, Scouts, gypsies, etc. **3.** the group of people living in such lodgings. **4.** a group supporting a given doctrine: the **socialist camp**. **5.** (*modifier*) suitable for use in temporary quarters, on holiday, etc.: a **camp bed**; a **camp chair**. **6.** *S. African.* a field or pasture. **7.** *Austral.* a place where sheep or cattle gather to rest. ~*vb.* **8.** (*intr.*; often foll. by *down*) to establish or set up a camp. **9.** (*intr.*; often foll. by *out*) to live temporarily in or as if in a tent. —'camper *n.* —'camping *n.*

camp² ('kæmp) *Inf.* ~*adj.* **1.** effeminate; affected. **2.** homosexual. **3.** consciously artificial, vulgar, or mannered. ~*vb.* **4.** (*tr.*) to perform or invest with a camp quality. **5.** **camp it up.** **a.** to overact. **b.** to flaunt one's homosexuality.

campaign ('kæmp'eɪn) *n.* **1.** a series of coordinated activities, such as public speaking, designed to achieve a social, political, or commercial goal: a **presidential campaign**. **2.** *Mil.* a number of operations aimed at achieving a single objective. ~*vb.* **3.** (*intr.*; often foll. by *for*) to conduct, serve in, or go on a campaign. —'cam'paigner *n.*

campanile ('kæmpə'nɪli) *n.* (*esp.* in Italy) a bell tower, not usually attached to another building.

campanology ('kæmpə'nɒlədʒi) *n.* the art or skill of ringing bells. —'campanological ('kæmpənə'lɒdʒɪkəl) *adj.* —'campa'nologist or 'campa'nologer *n.*

campanula ('kæmp'pænjula) *n.* any of a genus of *N* temperate plants having blue or white bell-shaped flowers. Also called: **bellflower**.

camp follower *n.* **1.** any civilian, *esp.* a prostitute, who unofficially provides services to military personnel. **2.** a nonmember who is sympathetic to a particular group, theory, etc.

camphor ('kæmfə) *n.* a whitish crystalline aromatic ketone obtained from the wood of an Asian and Australian laurel (**camphor tree**): used in medicine as a liniment. —'camphoric ('kæmf'ɒrɪk) *adj.*

camphorate ('kæmfə'reɪt) *vb.* (*tr.*) to apply, treat with, or impregnate with camphor.

campion ('kæmpjən) *n.* any of various plants related to the pink, having red, pink, or white flowers.

camp site *n.* an area on which holiday-makers may pitch a tent, etc. Also called: **camping site**.

campus ('kæmpəs) *n., pl. -puses.* **1.** the grounds and buildings of a university. **2.** Chiefly *U.S.* the outside area of a college, etc.

camshaft ('kæm,ʃɑ:ft) *n.* a shaft having one or more cams attached to it.

can¹ ('kæn; unstressed kən) *vb. past could.* (takes an infinitive without *to* or an implied infinitive) used as an auxiliary: **1.** to indicate ability, skill, or fitness to perform a task: *I can run.* **2.** to indicate permission or the right to something: *can I have a drink?* **3.** to indicate knowledge of how to do something: *he can speak three languages.* **4.** to indicate the possibility, opportunity, or likelihood: *my trainer says I can win the race.*

▷ **Usage.** See at **may**¹.

can² ('kæn) *n.* **1.** a container, *esp.* for liquids, usually of thin metal: a **petrol can**. **2.** a tin (metal container): a **beer can**. **3.** Also **canful.** the contents of a can or the amount a can will hold. **4.** a slang word for **prison**. **5.** *U.S.* a slang word for **toilet**. **6.** a shallow cylindrical metal container used for storing and handling film. **7.** **can of worms.** *Inf.* a complicated problem. **8.** **in the can.** *a.* (of a film, piece of music, etc.) having been

recorded, edited, etc. **b.** *Inf.* agreed: *the contract is in the can.* **9.** **carry the can.** *Inf.* to take responsibility for some misdemeanour, etc. ~*vb.* **canning, canned.** **10.** to put (food, etc.) into a can or cans. —'canner *n.*

Can. *abbrev. for:* **1.** Canada. **2.** Canadian.

Canaan ('kənən) *n.* an ancient region between the River Jordan and the Mediterranean: the Promised Land of the Israelites.

Canad. *abbrev. for* Canadian.

Canada Day ('kænədə) *n.* (in Canada) July 1, the anniversary of the day in 1867 when Canada received dominion status: a public holiday.

Canada goose *n.* a large common greyish-brown North American goose with a black neck and head and a white throat patch.

Canada jay *n.* a grey crestless jay, notorious in northern parts of *N America* for its stealing. Also called: **camp robber, whiskey-jack.**

Canadian ('kə'neɪdɪən) *adj.* **1.** of or relating to Canada or its people. ~*n.* **2.** a native, citizen, or inhabitant of Canada.

Canadiana (kə'neɪdɪ'ɑ:nə; *Canad.* -'æno) *n.* objects, such as books, furniture, and antiques, relating to Canadian history and culture.

Canadianism ('kə'neɪdɪə,nɪzəm) *n.* **1.** the Canadian national character or spirit. **2.** a linguistic usage, custom, or other feature peculiar to Canada, its people, or their culture.

Canadianize or **-ise** ('kə'neɪdɪə,nəɪz) *vb.* to make or become Canadian by changing customs, ownership, character, content, etc.

Canadian Shield *n.* (in Canada) the wide area of Precambrian rock extending over most of *E* and *C Canada*: rich in minerals. Also called: **Laurentian Shield**.

Canadien ('kana'djɛ; -dɪ'ɛn) or (*fem.*) **Canadienne** (-'djɛn; -dɪ'ɛn) *n.* a French Canadian.

canaille *French.* ('ka'naɪ) *n.* the masses; mob; rabble.

canal ('kə'næl) *n.* **1.** an artificial waterway constructed for navigation, irrigation, etc. **2.** any of various passages or ducts: the **alimentary canal**. **3.** any of various intercellular spaces in plants. **4.** *Astron.* any of the indistinct surface features of Mars originally thought to be a network of channels. ~*vb.* **-nalling, -nalled** or *U.S.* **-naling, -naled.** (*tr.*) **5.** to dig a canal through. **6.** to provide with a canal or canals.

canalize or **-lise** ('kænə,ləɪz) *vb.* (*tr.*) **1.** to provide with or convert into a canal or canals. **2.** to give a particular direction to or provide an outlet for. —'canal-ization or -li'sation *n.*

canapé ('kænəpi, -'peɪ) *n.* a small piece of bread, toast, etc., spread with a savoury topping.

canard ('kæ'nɑ:d) *n.* **1.** a false report; rumour or hoax. **2.** an aircraft in which the tailplane is mounted in front of the wing.

canary ('kænəri) *n., pl. -aries.* **1.** a small finch of the Canary Islands and Azores: a popular cage bird noted for its singing. **2.** **canary yellow.** a light yellow. **3.** a sweet wine similar to *madeira*.

canasta ('kənəstə) *n.* **1.** a card game for two to six players who seek to amass points by declaring sets of cards. **2.** Also called: **meld.** a declared set in this game, containing seven or more like cards.

cancan ('kæn,kæn) *n.* a high-kicking dance performed by a female chorus, originating in the music halls of 19th-century Paris.

cancel ('kænsəl) *vb.* **-celling, -celled** or *U.S.* **-celing, -celed.** (*mainly tr.*) **1.** to order (something already arranged, such as a meeting or event) to be postponed indefinitely; call off. **2.** to revoke or annul: *the order was cancelled.* **3.** to delete (writing, numbers, etc.); cross out. **4.** to mark (a cheque, stamp, etc.) with an official stamp to prevent further use. **5.** (*also intr.*; usually foll. by *out*) to counterbalance: *his generosity cancelled out his past unkindness.* **6.** *Maths.* to eliminate (numbers or terms) as common factors from both the numerator and denominator of a fraction or as equal terms from opposite sides of an equation. ~*n.* **7.** a new leaf or section of a book replacing one containing errors, or one that has been omitted. **8.** a cancellation. **9.** *Music.* a *U.S.* word for **natural** (sense 15.). —'canceller or *U.S.* 'cancel-er *n.*

cancellation ('kænsəl'eɪʃən) *n.* **1.** the fact or an instance of cancelling. **2.** something that has been cancelled, such as a theatre ticket: *we have a cancellation in the balcony.* **3.** the marks made by cancelling.

cancer ('kænsə) *n.* **1.** any type of malignant growth or

tumour, caused by abnormal and uncontrolled cell division. **2.** the condition resulting from this. **3.** an evil influence that spreads dangerously. —'cancerous *adj.*

Cancer ('kænsə) *n.* **Latin genitive Cancrī** ('kæŋkri:). **1.** *Astron.* a small N constellation. **2.** *Astrol.* the fourth sign of the zodiac. The sun is in this sign between about June 21 and July 22. **3.** See **tropic of Cancer**. See **tropic** (sense 1).

canceroid ('kæŋkroɪd) *adj.* **1.** resembling a cancerous growth. **2.** resembling a crab. ~*n.* **3.** a skin cancer.

candela (kæn'di:lə, -'deɪlə) *n.* the basic SI unit of luminous intensity; the intensity, in a perpendicular direction, of a surface of 1/600 000 square metre of a black body at the temperature of freezing platinum under a pressure of 101 325 newtons per square metre. Symbol: cd

candelabrum (,kændɪ'læbrəm) or **candelabra** *n.*, *pl.* -bra (-brə), -brums, or -bras, a large, branched table candle holder.

candid ('kændɪd) *adj.* **1.** frank and outspoken. **2.** without partiality; unbiased. **3.** unposed or informal: a *candid photograph*. —'candidly *adv.* —'candidness *n.*

candidate ('kændɪdeɪt) *n.* **1.** a person seeking or nominated for election to a position of authority or selection for a job, etc. **2.** a person taking an examination or test. **3.** a person or thing regarded as suitable or likely for a particular fate or position. —'candidacy ('kændɪdəsi) or **candidature** ('kændɪdəʃə) *n.*

candid camera *n.* a small camera that may be used to take informal photographs of people.

candied ('kændɪd) *adj.* impregnated or encrusted with or as if with sugar: *candied peel*.

candle ('kændl) *n.* **1.** a cylindrical piece of wax, tallow, or other fatty substance surrounding a wick, which is burned to produce light. **2.** *Physic.* another name for **candela**. **3.** **burn the candle at both ends.** *Inf.* to exhaust oneself, esp. by being up late enjoying oneself and getting up early to work. **4.** **not hold a candle to.** *Inf.* to be inferior or contemptible in comparison with. **5.** **not worth the candle.** *Inf.* not worth the price or trouble entailed. —*vb.* **6.** (tr.) to examine (eggs) for freshness or the likelihood of being hatched by viewing them against a bright light. —'candler *n.*

candlelight ('kændl,lait) *n.* **1.** a. the light from a candle or candles. *b.* (as *modifier*): a *candlelight dinner*. **2.** dusk; evening.

Candlemas ('kændl'məs) *n.* *Christianity.* Feb. 2, the Feast of the Purification of the Virgin Mary and the presentation of Christ in the Temple.

candlepower ('kændl,pauə) *n.* the luminous intensity of a source of light in a given direction: now expressed in *candelas*.

candlestick ('kændl,stɪk) or **candleholder** ('kændl,həʊldə) *n.* a holder, usually ornamental, with a spike or socket for a candle.

candlewick ('kændl,wɪk) *n.* **1.** unbleached cotton or muslin into which loops of yarn are hooked and then cut to give a tufted pattern. **2.** (*modifier*) being or made of candlewick fabric.

candour or *U.S. candor* ('kændə) *n.* **1.** the quality of being open and honest; frankness. **2.** fairness; impartiality.

candy ('kændɪ) *n.*, *pl.* -dies. **1.** Chiefly *U.S.* sweets, chocolate, etc. —*vb.* -dying, -died. **2.** to cause (sugar, etc.) to become crystalline or (of sugar) to become crystalline. **3.** to preserve (fruit peel, ginger, etc.) by boiling in sugar. **4.** to cover with any crystalline substance, such as ice or sugar.

candyfloss ('kændɪ,floʊs) *n.* *Brit.* a very light fluffy confection made from coloured spun sugar, usually held on a stick. *U.S. name:* **cotton candy**.

candy-striped *adj.* (esp. of clothing fabric) having narrow coloured stripes on a white background. —**candy stripe** *n.*

cane (keɪn) *n.* **1.** a. the long jointed pithy or hollow flexible stem of the bamboo, rattan, or any similar plant. *b.* any plant having such a stem. **2.** a. strips of such stems, woven or interlaced to make wickerwork, etc. *b.* (as *modifier*): a *cane chair*. **3.** the woody stem of a reed, blackberry, or loganberry. **4.** a flexible rod with which to administer a beating. **5.** a slender rod used as a walking-stick. **6.** see **sugar cane**. —*vb.* (tr.) **7.** to whip or beat with or as if with a cane. **8.** to make or repair with cane. **9.** *Inf.* to defeat: we got well caned in the match. —'caner *n.* —'caning *n.*

cane sugar *n.* **1.** the sucrose obtained from sugar cane. **2.** another name for **sucrose**.

canine ('keɪnɪn, 'kæn-) *adj.* **1.** of or resembling a dog.

2. of or belonging to the *Canidae*, a family of mammals, including dogs, wolves, and foxes, typically having a bushy tail, erect ears, and a long muzzle. **3.** of or relating to any of the four teeth, two in each jaw, situated between the incisors and the premolars. ~*n.* **4.** any animal of the family *Canidae*. **5.** a canine tooth.

canister ('kænɪstə) *n.* **1.** a container, usually made of metal, in which dry food, such as tea or coffee, is stored. **2.** (formerly) *a.* a type of shrapnel shell for firing from a cannon. *b.* Also called: **canister shot**, the shot or shrapnel packed inside this.

canker ('kæŋkə) *n.* **1.** an ulceration, esp. of the lips. **2.** *Vet. science.* a disease of horses in which the horn of the hoofs becomes spongy. *b.* an ulcerative disease of the lining of the external ear, esp. in dogs and cats. **3.** an open wound in the stem of a tree or shrub. **4.** something evil that spreads and corrupts. —*vb.* **5.** to infect or become infected with or as if with canker. —'cankerous *adj.*

cankerworm ('kæŋkə,wɜ:m) *n.* the larva of either of two moths, which feed on and destroy fruit and shade trees in North America.

cannabis ('kænbɪs) *n.* **1.** another name for **hemp** (the plant), esp. Indian hemp. **2.** the dried tops of the female flowers of the hemp plant, which are chewed or smoked for their euphoric effect. See also **hashish**, **marijuana**. **3.** **cannabis resin**, a poisonous resin obtained from the hemp plant.

canned (kænd) *adj.* **1.** preserved and stored in airtight cans or tins. **2.** *Inf.* prepared or recorded in advance: *canned music*. **3.** *Sl. drunk*.

cannelloni or **canneloni** (,kænlɪ'ləʊni) *pl. n.* tubular pieces of pasta filled with meat or cheese.

cannery ('kænəri) *n.*, *pl.* -neries, a place where foods are canned.

cannibal ('kænbɪl) *n.* **1.** a person who eats the flesh of other human beings. **2.** an animal that feeds on the flesh of others of its kind. —'canniba,lism *n.*

cannibalize or **-lize** ('kænbə,ləɪz) *vb.* (tr.) to use (serviceable parts from one machine or vehicle) to repair another. —'canniball'ization or -l'isation *n.*

canning ('kæŋɪŋ) *n.* the process or business of sealing food in cans or tins to preserve it.

cannon ('kænən) *n.*, *pl.* -nons or -non. **1.** a heavy artillery piece consisting of a metal tube mounted on a carriage. **2.** an automatic aircraft gun. **3.** a heavy tube or drum, esp. one that can rotate freely. **4.** See **cannon bone**. **5.** **Billiards**, a shot in which the cue ball is caused to contact one object ball after another. Usual *U.S.* word: **carom**. —*vb.* **6.** (intr.) to rebound; collide (with into). **7.** (intr.) **Billiards**, to make a cannon.

cannonade (,kænə'neɪd) *n.* **1.** an intense and continuous gunnery bombardment. —*vb.* **2.** to attack (a target) with cannon.

cannonball ('kænən,bɔ:l) *n.* **1.** a projectile fired from a cannon: usually a solid round metal shot. —*vb.* (intr.) **2.** (often foll. by *along*, etc.) to rush along. —*adj.* **3.** very fast or powerful.

cannon bone *n.* a bone in the legs of horses and other hoofed animals consisting of greatly elongated fused metatarsals or metacarpals.

cannon fodder *n.* men regarded as expendable in war because they are part of a huge army.

cannot ('kænət, kæn'nt) *vb.* an auxiliary verb expressing incapacity, inability, withholding permission, etc.; can not.

canny ('kæni) *adj.* -nier, -niest. **1.** shrewd, esp. in business. **2.** *Scot. & NE English dialect* good or nice: used as a general term of approval. **3.** *Scot.* lucky or fortunate. —'cannily *adv.* —'canniness *n.*

canoe (kə'nu:ə) *n.* **1.** a light narrow open boat, propelled by one or more paddles. —*vb.* -noeing, -noed. **2.** to go in or transport by canoe. —ca'noeist *n.*

canon ('kænən) *n.* **1.** *Christianity.* a Church decree enacted to regulate morals or religious practices. **2.** (often *pl.*) a general rule or standard, as of judgment, morals, etc. **3.** (often *pl.*) a principle or criterion applied in a branch of learning or art. **4.** *R.C. Church.* the list of the canonized saints. **5.** *R.C. Church.* Also called: **Eucharistic Prayer**, the prayer in the Mass in which the *Host* is consecrated. **6.** *Ecclesiast.* a list of sacred books, etc., recognized as genuine. **7.** a piece of music in which an extended melody in one part is imitated successively in one or more other parts. **8.** a list of the works of an author that are accepted as authentic.

canon ('kænən) *n.* **1.** a priest who is a member of a cathedral chapter. **2.** *R.C. Church.* a member of any of several religious orders (**canons regular**).

canonical (kəˈnɒnɪkəl) or **canonic** *adj.* 1. included in the canon of Scripture. 2. in conformity with canon law. 3. accepted; authoritative. 4. *Music*, in the form of a canon. 5. of or relating to a cathedral chapter. 6. of a canon (clergyman). —**canonically** *adv.*

canonical hour *n.* 1. *R.C. Church*, one of the seven prayer times appointed for each day by canon law. 2. *Church of England*, any time at which marriages may lawfully be celebrated.

canonicals (kəˈnɒnɪkəlz) *pl. n.* the vestments worn by clergy when officiating.

canonist (ˈkənənɪst) *n.* a specialist in canon law.

canonize or **-ise** (ˈkənənə,naɪz) *vb. (tr.)* 1. *R.C. Church*, to declare (a person) to be a saint. 2. to regard as a saint. 3. to sanction by canon law. —**canonization** or **-isation** *n.*

canon law *n.* the codified body of laws enacted by the supreme authorities of a Christian Church.

canoodle (kəˈnuːdl) *vb. (intr.; often foll. by with)* *Sl.* to kiss and cuddle.

canopy (ˈkænəpi) *n., pl. -pies*. 1. an ornamental awning above a throne, bed or person, etc. 2. a rooftop covering over an altar, niche, etc. 3. a roofed structure serving as a sheltered passageway. 4. a large or wide covering: *the sky was a grey canopy*. 5. the hemisphere that forms the supporting surface of a parachute. 6. the transparent cover of an aircraft cockpit. ~*vb.* **-pying, -pied**. 7. (*tr.*) to cover with or as with a canopy.

canst (kænst) *vb. Arch.* the form of **can** used with the pronoun *thou* or its relative form.

can't (kɑːnt) *vb.* a contraction of cannot.

cant (kænt) *n.* 1. insincere talk, esp. concerning religion or morals. 2. phrases that have become meaningless through repetition. 3. specialized vocabulary of a particular group, such as thieves, journalists, or lawyers. ~*vb.* 4. (*intr.*) to speak in or use cant. —**cantingly** *adv.*

cant' (kænt) *n.* 1. inclination from a vertical or horizontal plane. 2. a sudden movement that tilts or turns something. 3. the angle or tilt thus caused. 4. a corner or outer angle. 5. an oblique or slanting surface, edge, or line. ~*vb. (tr.)* 6. to tip, tilt, or overturn. 7. to set in an oblique position. 8. another word for **bevel** (sense 1). ~*adj.* 9. oblique; slanting. 10. having flat surfaces.

Cantab. (kænˈtæb) *abbrev.* for Cantabrigiensis.

Cantabile (kænˈtəbɪli) *Music*. ~*adj., adv.* 1. as if sung ~*n.* 2. a piece or passage performed in this way.

Cantabrigian (ˌkæntəˈbrɪdʒɪən) *adj.* 1. of or characteristic of Cambridge or Cambridge University. ~*n.* 2. a member or graduate of Cambridge University. 3. an inhabitant or native of Cambridge.

cantaloupe or **cantaloup** (ˈkæntəlʊp) *n.* 1. a cultivated variety of muskmelon with ribbed warty rind and orange flesh. 2. any of several other muskmelons.

cantankerous (kænˈtæŋkərəs) *adj.* quarrelsome; irascible. —**can'tankerously** *adv.* —**can'tankerousness** *n.*

cantata (kænˈtɑːtə) *n.* a musical setting of a text, esp. a religious text, consisting of arias, duets, and choruses.

canteen (kænˈtiːn) *n.* 1. a restaurant attached to a factory, school, etc., providing meals for large numbers. 2. a. a small shop that provides a limited range of items to a military unit. b. a recreation centre for military personnel. 3. a temporary or mobile stand at which food is provided. 4. a. a box in which a set of cutlery is laid out. b. the cutlery itself. 5. a flask for carrying water or other liquids.

canter (ˈkæntə) *n.* 1. a gait of horses, etc., between a trot and a gallop in speed. 2. *at a canter*, easily; without effort. ~*vb.* 3. to move or cause to move at a canter.

cantharides (kænˈθæriːdiːz) *pl. n., sing. cantharis (ˈkæntəris). a diuretic and urogenital stimulant prepared from the dried bodies of Spanish fly. Also called: **Spanish fly**.*

cantic (ˈkæntɪkəl) *n.* a nonmetrical hymn, derived from the Bible and used in the liturgy of certain Christian churches.

cantilever (ˈkæntɪlɪvə) *n.* 1. a beam, girder, or structural framework that is fixed at one end only. 2. a part of a beam or a structure projecting outwards beyond its support.

cantilever bridge *n.* a bridge having spans that are constructed as cantilevers.

canto (ˈkæntəu) *n., pl. -tos*. a main division of a long poem.

canton (ˈkæntən, kænˈtɒn) *n.* 1. a political division of Switzerland. 2. (ˈkæntən). *Heraldry*, a small square charge on a shield, usually in the top left corner. ~*vb.*

3. (kænˈtɒn), (*tr.*) to divide into cantons. 4. (kænˈtʊn). (*esp. formerly*) to allocate accommodation to (military personnel, etc.). —**cantonal** *adj.*

Cantonese (ˌkæntəˈniːz) *n.* 1. the Chinese language spoken in Canton, and elsewhere inside and outside China. 2. (*pl. -ese*) a native or inhabitant of Canton. ~*adj.* 3. of or relating to Canton or the Chinese language spoken there.

cantonment (kænˈtʊnmənt) *n. Mil.* (*esp. formerly*) 1. a large training camp. 2. the winter quarters of a campaigning army. 3. *History*, a permanent military camp in British India.

cantor (ˈkæntɔː) *n.* 1. *Judaism*, the leading singer in the synagogue liturgy. 2. *Christianity*, the leader of the singing in a church choir.

Canuck (kəˈnʌk) *n., adj. Inf.* Canadian.

canvas (ˈkænvəs) *n.* 1. a. a heavy cloth made of cotton, hemp, or jute, used for sails, tents, etc. b. (*as modifier*): a *canvas bag*. 2. a. a piece of canvas, etc. on which a painting is done, usually in oils. b. an oil painting. 3. a tent or tents collectively. 4. *Naut.* the sails of a vessel collectively. 5. any coarse loosely woven cloth on which tapestry, etc., is done. 6. (*preceded by the*) the floor of a boxing or wrestling ring. 7. *Rowing*, the covered part at either end of a racing boat: *to win by a canvas*. 8. *under canvas*, a. in tents. b. *Naut.* with sails unfurled.

canvass (ˈkænvəs) *vb.* 1. to solicit votes, orders, etc., from. 2. to determine the opinions of (voters before an election, etc.), esp. by conducting a survey. 3. to investigate (something) thoroughly, esp. by discussion. 4. *Chiefly U.S.* to inspect (votes) to determine their validity. ~*n.* 5. a solicitation of opinions, votes, etc. —**canvasser** *n.*

canyon or **cañon** (ˈkænjən) *n.* a gorge or ravine, esp. in North America, usually formed by a river.

caoutchouc (ˈkɑʊtʃʊk) *n.* another name for **rubber** (sense 1).

cap (kæp) *n.* 1. a covering for the head, esp. a small close-fitting one. 2. such a covering serving to identify the wearer's rank, occupation, etc.: a *nurse's cap*. 3. something that protects or covers: *lens cap*. 4. an uppermost surface or part: *the cap of a wave*. 5. a. See **percussion cap**. b. a small amount of explosive enclosed in paper and used in a toy gun. 6. *Sport, chiefly Brit.* a. an emblematic hat or beret given to someone chosen for a representative team. b. a player chosen for such a team. 7. any part like a cap in shape. 8. *Bot.* the pileus of a mushroom or toadstool. 9. *Hunting*, money contributed to the funds of a hunt by a follower who is neither a subscriber nor a farmer, in return for a day's hunting. 10. *Anat. a.* the natural enamel covering a tooth. b. an artificial protective covering for a tooth. 11. Also **Dutch cap**, same as **diaphragm** (sense 2). 12. a mortarboard worn at an academic ceremony (*esp. in cap and gown*). 13. *set one's cap for or at*, (of a woman) to be determined to win as a husband or lover. 14. *cap in hand*, humbly, as when asking a favour. ~*vb.* **caping, capped**. (*tr.*) 15. to cover, as with a cap: *snow capped the mountain tops*. 16. *Inf.* to outdo; excel. 17. *cap it all*, to provide the finishing touch. 18. *Sport, Brit.* to select (a player) for a representative team. 19. *Chiefly Scot. & N.Z.* to award a degree to.

cap. *abbrev. for:* 1. capacity. 2. capital. 3. capitalize. 4. capital letter.

capability (ˌkeɪpəˈbɪlɪti) *n., pl. -ties*. 1. the quality of being capable; ability. 2. the quality of being susceptible to the use or treatment indicated: *the capability of a metal to be fused*. 3. (*usually pl.*) potential aptitude.

capable (ˈkeɪpəbəl) *adj.* 1. having ability; competent. 2. (*postpositive*; foll. by *of*) able or having the skill (to do something): *she is capable of hard work*. 3. (*postpositive*; foll. by *of*) having the temperament or inclination (to do something): *he seemed capable of murder*. —**capableness** *n.* —**capably** *adv.*

capacious (kəˈpeɪʃəs) *adj.* capable of holding much; roomy. —**capaciously** *adv.* —**capaciousness** *n.*

capacitance (kəˈpæsɪtəns) *n.* 1. the property of a system that enables it to store electric charge. 2. a measure of this, equal to the charge that must be added to such a system to raise its electrical potential by one unit. Former name: **capacity**. —**capacitive** *adj.*

capacitor (kəˈpæsɪtə) *n.* a device for accumulating electric charge, usually consisting of two conducting surfaces separated by a dielectric. Former name: **condenser**.

capacity (kəˈpæsɪti) *n., pl. -ties*. 1. the ability or power to contain, absorb, or hold. 2. the amount that can be contained: *a capacity of six gallons*. 3. a. the maximum

amount something can contain or absorb (esp. in **filled to capacity**). **b.** (as modifier): a capacity crowd. **4.** the ability to understand or learn: he has a great capacity for Greek. **5.** the ability to do or produce: the factory's output was not at capacity. **6.** a specified position or function. **7.** a measure of the electrical output of a piece of apparatus such as a generator or accumulator. **8.** *Electronics.* a former name for **capacitance**. **9.** *Computers.* **a.** the number of words or characters that can be stored in a storage device. **b.** the range of numbers that can be processed in a register. **10.** legal competence: the capacity to make a will.

cap-a-pie (ˈkæpəˈpiː) *adv.* (dressed, armed, etc.) from head to foot.

caparison (kəˈpærɪsən) *n.* **1.** a decorated covering for a horse. **2.** rich or elaborate clothing and ornaments. *~vb.* **3.** (tr.) to put a caparison on.

cape¹ (keɪp) *n.* a sleeveless garment like a cloak but usually shorter.

cape² (keɪp) *n.* a headland or promontory.

Cape (keɪp) *n. the.* **1.** the Cape of Good Hope. **2.** the SW region of the Cape Province of South Africa.

Cape Coloured *n.* (in South Africa) another name for a Coloured (sense 2).

Cape doctor *n.* *S. African inf.* a strong fresh SE wind blowing in the vicinity of Cape Town, esp. in the summer.

Cape Dutch *n.* **1.** (in South Africa) a distinctive style in furniture or buildings. **2.** an obsolete name for **Afrikaans**.

caper¹ (ˈkeɪpə) *n.* **1.** a playful skip or leap. **2.** a high-spirited escapade. **3.** *cut a caper.* to leap or dance about. **4.** *U.S. sl.* a crime. *~vb.* **5.** (intr.) to leap or dance about in a light-hearted manner.

caper² (ˈkeɪpə) *n.* **1.** a spiny trailing Mediterranean shrub with edible flower buds. **2.** its pickled flower buds, used in sauces.

capercaillie or **capercailzie** (ˈkæpəˈkeɪljɪ) *n.* a large European woodland grouse having a black plumage.

Cape salmon *n.* *S. African.* same as **geelbek**.

Cape sparrow *n.* a sparrow very common in southern Africa. Also called (esp. in South Africa): **mossie**.

capillarity (ˈkæpɪˈlærɪti) *n.* a phenomenon caused by surface tension and resulting in the elevation or depression of the surface of a liquid in contact with a solid. Also called: **capillary action**.

capillary (kəˈpɪləri) *adj.* **1.** resembling a hair; slender. **2.** (of tubes) having a fine bore. **3.** *Anat.* of the delicate thin-walled blood vessels that interconnect between the arterioles and the venules. **4.** *Physics.* of or relating to capillarity. *~n., pl. -laries.* **5.** *Anat.* any of the capillary blood vessels.

capital¹ (ˈkæpɪtəl) *n.* **1. a.** the seat of government of a country. **b.** (as modifier): a capital city. **2.** material wealth owned by an individual or business enterprise. **3.** wealth available for or capable of use in the production of further wealth, as by industrial investment. **4.** **make capital (out) of.** to get advantage from. **5.** (sometimes *cap.*) the capitalist class or their interests: capital versus labour. **6.** *Accounting.* **a.** the ownership interests of a business as represented by the excess of assets over liabilities. **b.** the nominal value of the issued shares. **7.** any assets or resources. **8. a.** a capital letter. Abbrev.: **cap** or **cap.** **b.** (as modifier): capital B. *~adj.* **9.** (prenominal) Law. involving or punishable by death: a capital offence. **10.** very serious: a capital error. **11.** primary, chief, or principal: our capital concern. **12.** of, relating to, or designating the large letter used chiefly as the initial letter in personal names and place names and often for abbreviations and acronyms. See also **upper case**. **13.** *Chiefly Brit.* excellent; first-rate: a capital idea.

capital² (ˈkæpɪtəl) *n.* the upper part of a column or pier that supports the entablature.

capital expenditure *n.* expenditure to increase fixed assets.

capital gain *n.* the amount by which the selling price of a financial asset exceeds its cost.

capital gains tax *n.* a tax on the profit made from sale of an asset.

capital goods *pl. n.* *Econ.* goods that are themselves utilized in the production of other goods.

capitalism (ˈkæpɪtəlɪzəm) *n.* an economic system based on the private ownership of the means of production, distribution, and exchange. Also called: **free enterprise**, **private enterprise**. Cf. **socialism** (sense 1).

capitalist (ˈkæpɪtəlɪst) *n.* **1.** a person who owns capital, esp. capital invested in a business. **2.** *Politics.* a support-

er of capitalism. *~adj.* **3.** relating to capital, capitalists, or capitalism. —, **capital**³ *istic adj.*

capitalization or **-isation** (ˈkæpɪtəlaɪzəʃən) *n.* **1. a.** the act of capitalizing. **b.** the sum so derived. **2.** *Accounting.* the par value of the total share capital issued by a company. **3.** the act of estimating the present value of future payments, etc.

capitalize or **-ise** (ˈkæpɪtəˈlaɪz) *vb.* (mainly *tr.*) **1.** (intr.; foll. by *on*) to take advantage (of). **2.** to write or print (text) in capital letters. **3.** to convert (debt or earnings) into capital stock. **4.** to authorize (a business enterprise) to issue a specified amount of capital stock. **5.** *Accounting.* to treat (expenditures) as assets. **6. a.** to estimate the present value of (a periodical income). **b.** to compute the present value of (a business) from actual or potential earnings.

capital levy *n.* a tax on capital or property as contrasted with a tax on income.

capitally (ˈkæpɪtəli) *adv.* *Chiefly Brit.* in an excellent manner; admirably.

capital punishment *n.* the punishment of death for a crime; death penalty.

capital stock *n.* **1.** the par value of the total share capital that a company is authorized to issue. **2.** the total physical capital existing in an economy at any moment of time.

capital transfer tax *n.* (in Britain) a tax payable on the cumulative total of gifts of money or property made during the donor's lifetime or after his death.

capitation (ˈkæpɪˈteɪʃən) *n.* **1.** a tax levied on the basis of a fixed amount per head. **2.** **capitation grant.** a grant of money given to every person who qualifies under certain conditions.

capitulate (kəˈpɪtʃʊˌleɪt) *vb.* (intr.) to surrender, esp. under agreed conditions. — **ca**³ *pitu*, *latur* *n.*

capitulation (kəˈpɪtʃʊˌleɪʃən) *n.* **1.** the act of capitulating. **2.** a document containing terms of surrender. **3.** a statement summarizing the main divisions of a subject. — **ca**³ *pitulat* *adj.*

capo (ˈkæpəʊ) *n., pl. -pos.* a device fitted across all the strings of a guitar, lute, etc., so as to raise the pitch of each string simultaneously. Also called: **capo tasto** (ˈtæstəʊ).

capon (ˈkeɪpən) *n.* a castrated cock fowl fattened for eating. — **ca**³ *pon*, *ize* or *-ise* *vb.*

cappuccino (ˈkæpʊˈtʃɪːnəʊ) *n., pl. -nos.* coffee with steamed milk, sometimes served with whipped cream.

capriccio (kəˈprɪtʃɪˌəʊ) or **caprice** *n., pl. -priccios, -pricci* (ˈprɪtʃɪ), or *-prices.* *Music.* a lively piece of irregular musical form.

caprice (kəˈprɪsɪːn) *n.* **1.** a sudden change of attitude, behaviour, etc. **2.** a tendency to such changes. **3.** another word for **capriccio**.

capricious (kəˈprɪʃɪəs) *adj.* characterized by or liable to sudden unpredictable changes in attitude or behaviour. — **ca**³ *prɪ* *ci* *ously* *adv.*

Capricorn (ˈkæprɪˌkɔːn) *n.* **1.** *Astrol.* the tenth sign of the zodiac. The sun is in this sign between about Dec. 22 and Jan. 19. **2.** *Astron.* a S constellation. **3.** See **tropic of Capricorn**. See **tropic** (sense 1).

caprine (ˈkæpraɪn) *adj.* of or resembling a goat.

capriole (ˈkæprɪˌəʊl) *n.* **1.** *Dressage.* a high upward but not forward leap made by a horse with all four feet off the ground. *~vb.* **2.** (intr.) to perform a capriole.

caps. *abbrev. for:* 1. capital letters. 2. capsule.

capsicum (ˈkæpsɪkəm) *n.* **1.** any of a genus of tropical American plants related to the potato, having mild or pungent seeds enclosed in a bell-shaped fruit. **2.** the fruit of any of these plants, used as a vegetable or ground to produce a condiment. *~See* also **pepper** (sense 4).

capsize (kæpˈsaɪz) *vb.* to overturn accidentally; upset. — **cap**³ *sizal* *n.*

capstan (ˈkæpstən) *n.* **1.** a windlass with a drum equipped with a ratchet, used on ships for hauling in ropes, etc. **2.** the rotating shaft in a tape recorder that pulls the tape past the head.

capstone (ˈkæpstəʊn) or **copestone** (ˈkəʊpˌstəʊn) *n.* one of a set of slabs on the top of a wall, etc.

capsule (ˈkæpsjʊl) *n.* **1.** a soluble case of gelatin enclosing a dose of medicine. **2.** a thin metal cap, seal, or cover. **3.** *Bot. a.* a dry fruit that liberates its seeds by splitting, as in the violet, or through pores, as in the poppy. **b. the spore-producing organ of mosses and liverworts. **4.** *Anat.* a membranous envelope surrounding any of certain organs or parts. **5.** See **space capsule**. **6.** an aeroplane cockpit that can be ejected in a flight emergency, complete with crew, instruments, etc. **7.****

(*modifier*) in a highly concise form: a *capsule summary*.
—**'capsulate** *adj.*

capsulize or **-ise** ('kæpsju,ləɪz) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to state (information, etc.) in a highly condensed form. 2. to enclose in a capsule.

Capt. *abbrev.* for Captain.

captain ('kæptɪn) *n.* 1. the person in charge of a vessel. 2. an officer of the navy who holds a rank junior to a rear admiral. 3. an officer of the army, certain air forces, and the marines who holds a rank junior to a major. 4. the officer in command of a civil aircraft. 5. the leader of a team in games. 6. a person in command over a group, organization, etc.: a *captain of industry*. 7. U.S. a policeman in charge of a precinct. 8. U.S. a head waiter. ~*vb.* 9. (tr.) to be captain of. —**'captaincy** or **'captainship** *n.*

caption ('kæpʃən) *n.* 1. a title, brief explanation, or comment accompanying an illustration. 2. a heading or title of a chapter, article, etc. 3. graphic material used in television presentation. 4. another name for **subtitle** (sense 2). 5. the formal heading of a legal document. ~*vb.* 6. to provide with a caption or captions.

captious ('kæpfəs) *adj.* apt to make trivial criticisms. —**'captiously** *adv.* —**'captiousness** *n.*

captivate ('kæptɪ,veɪt) *vb.* (tr.) to hold the attention of by fascinating; enchant. —**'captivating** *adj.* —**'captivation** *n.*

captive ('kæptɪv) *n.* 1. a person or animal that is confined or restrained. 2. a person whose behaviour is dominated by some emotion: a *captive of love*. ~*adj.* 3. held as prisoner. 4. held under restriction or control; confined. 5. captivated. 6. unable to avoid speeches, advertisements, etc.: a *captive audience*.

captivity ('kæptɪvɪti) *n.*, *pl.* **-ties**. 1. imprisonment. 2. the period of imprisonment.

captor ('kæptə) *n.* a person or animal that holds another captive.

capture ('kæptʃə) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to take prisoner or gain control over: to *capture a town*. 2. (in a game) to win possession of: to *capture a pawn in chess*. 3. to succeed in representing (something elusive): the artist *captured her likeness*. 4. *Physics*. (of an atom, etc.) to acquire (an additional particle). ~*n.* 5. the act of taking by force. 6. the person or thing captured. 7. *Physics*. a process by which an atom, etc. acquires an additional particle. 8. *Geog.* the process by which the headwaters of one river are diverted into another. —**'captor** *n.*

capuchin ('kæpjʊtʃɪn, -ʃɪn) *n.* 1. an agile intelligent S. American monkey having a cowl of thick hair on the top of the head. 2. a woman's hooded cloak. 3. (*sometimes cap.*) a variety of domestic fancy pigeon.

Capuchin ('kæpjʊtʃɪn, -ʃɪn) *n.* a friar belonging to a branch of the Franciscan Order founded in 1528.

car (kɑː) *n.* 1. *a.* Also called: **motorcar**, **automobile**. a self-propelled road vehicle designed to carry passengers, that is powered by an internal-combustion engine. *b.* (*as modifier*): *car coat*. 2. a conveyance for passengers, freight, etc., such as a cable car or the carrier of an airship or balloon. 3. *Brit.* a railway vehicle for passengers only. 4. *Chiefly U.S.* a railway carriage or van. 5. a poetic word for **chariot**.

carabineer or **carabinier** (,kærəbɪ'nɪə) *n.* variants of **carbineer**.

carabiner (,kærə'bɪ:nə) *n.* variant of **karabiner**.

caracal ('kærə,kæl) *n.* 1. a lynxlike feline mammal inhabiting deserts of N. Africa and S. Asia, having a smooth coat of reddish fur. 2. this fur.

caracole ('kærə,kəʊl) or **caracol** ('kærə,kəʊl) *n.* 1. *Dressage*. a half turn to the right or left. ~*vb.* (*intr.*) 2. *Dressage*. to execute a half turn.

carafe (kə'reɪf, -rɑːf) *n.* a glass bottle for table use, for water or wine.

caramel ('kærəməʊl) *n.* 1. burnt sugar, used for colouring and flavouring food. 2. a chewy sweet made from sugar, milk, etc.

caramelize or **-ise** ('kærəmə,ləɪz) *vb.* to convert or be converted into caramel.

carapace ('kærə,peɪs) *n.* the thick hard shield that covers part of the body of crabs, tortoises, etc.

carat ('kærət) *n.* 1. a measure of the weight of precious stones, esp. diamonds, now standardized as 0.20 grams. 2. Usual U.S. spelling: **karat**. a measure of the gold in an alloy, expressed as the number of parts of gold in 24 parts of the alloy.

caravan ('kærə,væn) *n.* 1. *a.* a large enclosed vehicle capable of being pulled by a car and equipped to be lived in. U.S. name: **trailer**. *b.* (*as modifier*): a *caravan site*.

2. (esp. in some parts of Asia and Africa) a company of traders or other travellers journeying together. 3. a large covered vehicle, esp. a gaily coloured one used by Gypsies, circuses, etc. ~*vb.* **-vanning**, **-vanned**. 4. (*intr.*) *Brit.* to travel or have a holiday in a caravan.

caravanserai (,kærə'vænsə,raɪ) or **caravansary** (,kærə'vænsəri) *n.*, *pl.* **-rais** or **-ries**. (in some Eastern countries) a large inn enclosing a courtyard, providing accommodation for caravans.

caravel ('kærə,vel) or **carvel** *n.* a two- or three-masted sailing ship used by the Spanish and Portuguese in the 15th and 16th centuries.

caraway ('kærə,weɪ) *n.* 1. an umbelliferous Eurasian plant having finely divided leaves and clusters of small whitish flowers. 2. **caraway seed**. the pungent aromatic fruit of this plant, used in cooking.

carbide ('kɑːbaɪd) *n.* an inorganic compound of carbon with a more electropositive element.

carbine ('kɑːbɪn) *n.* 1. a light automatic or semiautomatic rifle. 2. a light short-barrelled rifle formerly used by cavalry.

carbineer (,kɑːbɪ'nɪə), **carabineer**, or **carabinier** (,kærəbɪ'nɪə) *n.* (formerly) a soldier equipped with a carbine.

carbo- or **before a vowel carb-** combining form. *carbon: carbohydrate; carbonate.*

carbohydrate (,kɑːbəʊ'haidreɪt) *n.* any of a large group of organic compounds, including sugars and starch, that contain carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen, with the general formula $C_m(H_2O)_x$: a source of food and energy for animals.

carbulated ('kɑːbə,leɪtɪd) *adj.* containing carbolic acid.

carbolic acid (kɑː'bolɪk) *n.* another name for **phenol**, esp. when it is used as a disinfectant.

carbon ('kɑːbɪn) *n.* 1. *a.* a nonmetallic element existing in the three allotropic forms: amorphous carbon, graphite, and diamond; occurring in all organic compounds. The isotope **carbon-12** is the standard for atomic wt.; **carbon-14** is used in radiocarbon dating and as a tracer. Symbol: C; atomic no.: 6; atomic wt.: 12.011 15. *b.* (*as modifier*): a *carbon compound*. 2. short for **carbon paper** or **carbon copy**. 3. a carbon electrode used in a carbon-arc light. 4. a rod or plate, made of carbon, used in some types of battery.

carbonaceous (,kɑːbə'neɪʃəs) *adj.* of, resembling, or containing carbon.

carbonate *n.* ('kɑːbə,neɪt, -nɪt). 1. a salt or ester of carbonic acid. ~*vb.* ('kɑːbə,neɪt). 2. to turn into a carbonate. 3. (*tr.*) to treat with carbon dioxide, as in the manufacture of soft drinks.

carbon black *n.* a finely divided form of carbon produced by incomplete combustion of natural gas or petroleum: used in pigments and ink.

carbon copy *n.* 1. a duplicate copy of writing, typewriting, or drawing obtained by using carbon paper. 2. *Inf.* a person or thing that is identical to another.

carbon dating *n.* a technique for determining the age of organic materials, such as wood, based on their content of the radioisotope ^{14}C acquired from the atmosphere when they formed part of a living plant.

carbon dioxide *n.* a colourless odourless incombustible gas present in the atmosphere and formed during respiration, etc.: used in fire extinguishers, and as dry ice for refrigeration. Formula: CO_2 . Also called: **carbonic acid gas**.

carbon-14 dating *n.* another name for **carbon dating**.

carbonic (kɑː'bonɪk) *adj.* (of a compound) containing carbon, esp. tetravalent carbon.

carbonic acid *n.* a weak acid formed when carbon dioxide combines with water. Formula: H_2CO_3 .

carboniferous (,kɑːbə'nɪfərəs) *adj.* yielding coal or carbon.

Carboniferous (,kɑːbə'nɪfərəs) *adj.* 1. of, denoting, or formed in the fifth period of the Palaeozoic era during which coal measures were formed. ~*n.* 2. the Carboniferous period or rock system divided into the **Upper Carboniferous** period and the **Lower Carboniferous** period.

carbonize or **-ise** ('kɑːbə,naɪz) *vb.* 1. to turn into carbon as a result of heating. 2. (*tr.*) to coat (a substance) with carbon. —**'carbonization** or **-isation** *n.*

carbon monoxide *n.* a colourless odourless poisonous gas formed when carbon compounds burn in insufficient air. Formula: CO .

carbon paper *n.* a thin sheet of paper coated on one side with a dark waxy pigment, often containing carbon,

that is transferred by pressure onto the copying surface below.

carbon tetrachloride *n.* a colourless volatile non-flammable liquid made from chlorine and used as a solvent, cleaning fluid, and insecticide. Formula: CCl₄.

Carborundum (ˈkɑːbɔːrʌndəm) *n.* Trademark. any of various abrasive materials, esp. one consisting of silicon carbide.

carboxyl group or radical (kɑːˈbɒksaɪl) *n.* the monovalent group -COOH: the functional group in organic acids.

carboy (ˈkɑːɔɪ) *n.* a large bottle, usually protected by a basket or box, used for containing corrosive liquids.

carbuncle (ˈkɑːbʌŋkl̩) *n.* 1. an extensive skin eruption, similar to a boil, with several openings. 2. a rounded gemstone, esp. a garnet cut without facets. —**carbuncular** (kɑːˈbʌŋkjʊlə) *adj.*

carburettor, carburettor (ˈkɑːbjʊˈreɪtə, ˈkɑːbjʊˈreɪtə) or *U.S. carburetor* (ˈkɑːbjʊˈreɪtə) *n.* a device used in petrol engines for mixing atomized petrol with air, and regulating the intake of the mixture into the engine.

carcass or carcase (ˈkɑːkəs) *n.* 1. the dead body of an animal, esp. one that has been slaughtered for food. 2. *Inf.* usually facetious or derog. a person's body. 3. the skeleton or framework of a structure. 4. the remains of anything when its life or vitality is gone.

carcinogen (kɑːˈsɪnədʒən) *n.* *Pathol.* any substance that produces cancer. —**carcinogenic** *adj.*

carcinoma (ˈkɑːsɪˈnɒmə) *n.* pl. **-mas** or **-mata** (-mɒtə). *Pathol.* any malignant tumour derived from epithelial tissue, esp. a cancer.

card (kɑːd) *n.* 1. a piece of stiff paper or thin cardboard, usually rectangular, with varied uses, as for bearing a written notice for display, etc. 2. such a card used for identification, reference, proof of membership, etc.: *identity card*. 3. such a card used for sending greetings, messages, or invitations: *birthday card*. 4. a. one of a set of small pieces of cardboard, marked with figures, symbols, etc., used for playing games or for fortune-telling. b. (as modifier): a card game. 5. *Inf.* a witty or eccentric person. 6. Also called: **race card**. *Horse racing*, a daily programme of all the races at a meeting. 7. **a card up one's sleeve**. a thing or action used in order to gain an advantage, esp. one kept in reserve until needed. ~See also **cards**.

card (kɑːd) *n.* 1. a machine for combing fibres of cotton, wool, etc., to remove small unwanted fibres before spinning. 2. a comblike tool for raising the nap on cloth. ~vb. 3. (tr.) to process with such a machine or tool. —**carder** *n.*

cardamom or cardamum (ˈkɑːdəmɒm) *n.* 1. a tropical Asian plant that has large hairy leaves. 2. the seeds of this plant, used esp. as a spice or condiment.

cardboard (ˈkɑːdˌbɔːd) *n.* 1. a. a thin stiff board made from paper pulp. b. (as modifier): *cardboard boxes*. ~adj. (prenominal) 2. without substance.

card-carrying *adj.* being an official member of an organization: a card-carrying Communist.

cardiac (ˈkɑːdɪˌæk) *adj.* 1. of or relating to the heart. 2. of or relating to the portion of the stomach connected to the oesophagus. ~n. 3. a person with a heart disorder.

cardigan (ˈkɑːdɪɡən) *n.* a knitted jacket or sweater with buttons up the front.

cardinal (ˈkɑːdɪnəl) *n.* 1. R.C. Church. any of the members of the Sacred College who elect the pope and act as his chief counsellors. 2. Also called: **cardinal red**. a deep red colour. 3. See **cardinal number**. 4. Also called: (U.S.) **redbird**. a crested North American bunting, the male of which has a bright red plumage. 5. a woman's hooded shoulder cape worn in the 17th and 18th centuries. ~adj. 6. (usually prenominal) fundamentally important; principal. 7. of a deep red. —**cardinally** *adv.*

cardinalate (ˈkɑːdɪnˌleɪt) or **cardinalship** *n.* 1. the rank, office, or term of office of a cardinal. 2. the cardinals collectively.

cardinal number or numeral *n.* a number denoting quantity but not order in a group. Sometimes shortened to **cardinal**. Cf. **ordinal number**.

cardinal points *pl. n.* the four main points of the compass: north, south, east, and west.

cardinal virtues *pl. n.* the most important moral qualities, traditionally justice, prudence, temperance, and fortitude.

card index or file *n.* 1. an index in which each item is separately listed on systematically arranged cards.

~vb. **card-index**. (tr.) 2. to make such an index of (a book, etc.).

cardio- or before a vowel **cardi-** combining form. heart: *cardiogram*.

cardiogram (ˈkɑːdɪəˌɡræm) *n.* short for **electrocardiogram**. See **electrocardiograph**.

cardiology (ˈkɑːdɪˌɒlədʒɪ) *n.* the branch of medical science concerned with the heart and its diseases.

—**cardiologist** *n.*

cardiovascular (ˈkɑːdɪəˌvæskjʊlə) *adj.* of or relating to the heart and the blood vessels.

cards (kɑːdz) *n.* 1. (usually functioning as sing.) a. any game played with cards. b. the playing of such a game. 2. an employee's tax and national insurance documents or information held by the employer. 3. **ask for or get one's cards**. to ask or be told to terminate one's employment. 4. on the cards. possible. 5. **play one's cards (right)**. to manoeuvre (cleverly). 6. **put or lay one's cards on the table**. to declare one's intentions, etc.

cardsharp (ˈkɑːdʃɑːp) or **cardsharpener** *n.* a professional card player who cheats.

card vote *n.* *Brit.* a vote by delegates, esp. at a trade-union conference, in which each delegate's vote counts as a vote by all his constituents.

care (keə) *vb.* 1. (when tr., may take a clause as object) to be troubled or concerned: *he is dying, and she doesn't care*. 2. (intr.; foll. by for or about) to have regard or consideration (for): *he cares more for his hobby than his job*. 3. (intr.; foll. by for) to have a desire or taste (for): *would you care for tea?* 4. (intr.; foll. by for) to provide physical needs, help, or comfort (for). 5. (tr.) to agree or like (to do something): *would you care to sit down?* 6. **for all I care or I couldn't care less**. I am completely indifferent. ~n. 7. careful or serious attention: *he does his work with care*. 8. protective or supervisory control: *in the care of a doctor*. 9. Also called: **child care**. *Brit.* the provision of a home, etc. for a disturbed or neglected child by a local authority. 10. (often pl.) trouble; worry. 11. an object of or cause for concern. 12. caution: *handle with care*. 13. **care of**. at the address of: written on envelopes. *Useful abbrev.: c/o.*

CARE (keə) *n.* acronym for: 1. Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere. 2. N.Z. Citizens' Association for Racial Equality.

careen (keəˈriːn) *vb.* 1. to sway or cause to sway over to one side. 2. (tr.) *Naut.* to cause (a vessel) to keel over to one side, esp. in order to clean its bottom. 3. (intr.) *Naut.* (of a vessel) to keel over to one side. —**ca'reen** *n.*

career (keəˈrɪə) *n.* 1. a path through life or history. 2. a profession or occupation chosen as one's life's work. 3. (as modifier): a career diplomat. 4. a course or path, esp. a headlong one. ~vb. 5. (intr.) to rush in an uncontrolled way.

careerist (keəˈrɪərɪst) *n.* a person who seeks to advance his career by any possible means.

carefree (ˈkeəˌfriː) *adj.* without worry or responsibility. —**care, freeness** *n.*

careful (ˈkeəfʊl) *adj.* 1. cautious in attitude or action. 2. painstaking in one's work; exact and thorough. 3. (usually postpositive; foll. by of, in, or about) solicitous; protective. 4. *Brit.* mean or miserly. —**carefully** *adv.* —**carefulness** *n.*

careless (ˈkeəls) *adj.* 1. done with or acting with insufficient attention. 2. (often foll. by in, of, or about) unconcerned in attitude or action. 3. (usually prenominal) carefree. 4. (usually prenominal) unstudied: *careless elegance*. —**carelessly** *adv.* —**carelessness** *n.*

caress (keəˈres) *n.* 1. a gentle touch or embrace, esp. one given to show affection. ~vb. 2. (tr.) to touch or stroke gently with or as with affection.

caret (ˈkæɪt) *n.* a symbol (^) used to indicate the place in written or printed matter at which something is to be inserted.

caretaker (ˈkeəˌteɪkə) *n.* 1. a person who is in charge of a place or thing, esp. in the owner's absence. 2. (modifier) interim: a caretaker government.

careworn (ˈkeəˌwɔːn) *adj.* showing signs of care, stress, worry, etc.: a careworn face.

cargo (ˈkɑːɡəʊ) *n.* pl. **-goes** or **-gos**. 1. a. goods carried by a ship, aircraft, or other vehicle; freight. b. (as modifier): a cargo vessel. 2. any load: a cargo of new arrivals.

Carib (ˈkæɪb) *n.* 1. (pl. **-ibs** or **-ib**) a member of a group of American Indian peoples of NE South America and the Lesser Antilles. 2. the family of languages spoken by these peoples.

Caribbean (ˈkærɪbiən) *adj.* 1. of the Caribbean Sea and its islands. 2. of the Caribbean or any of their languages. ~*n.* 3. the Caribbean Sea. 4. a member of any of the peoples inhabiting the islands of the Caribbean Sea, such as a West Indian or a Carib.

caribou (ˈkærɪbuː) *n., pl. -bous or -bou.* a large North American reindeer.

caricature (ˈkærɪkəʃʊə) *n.* 1. a pictorial, written, or acted representation of a person, which exaggerates his characteristic traits for comic effect. 2. an inadequate or inaccurate imitation. ~*vb.* 3. (tr.) to represent in or produce a caricature of. —'carica, *tourist n.*

caries (ˈkærɪz) *n., pl. -ies.* progressive decay of a bone or a tooth. —'carious (ˈkærɪəs) *adj.*

carillon (kəˈrɪljən) *n. Music.* 1. a set of bells usually hung in a tower. 2. a tune played on such bells. 3. a mixture stop on an organ giving the effect of a bell.

carinate (ˈkærɪneɪt) *or carinated adj. Biol.* having a keel or ridge.

cariole *or* **carriole** (ˈkærɪəʊl) *n.* 1. a small open two-wheeled horse-drawn vehicle. 2. a covered cart.

carl *or* **carle** (kɑːl) *n. Arch. or Scot.* another word for *churl*.

Carlovingian (kəˈlɔːvɪndʒɪən) *adj., n. History.* a variant of *Carolingian*.

Carmelite (ˈkɑːməˌlaɪt) *n. R.C. Church.* 1. a member of an order of mendicant friars founded about 1154. 2. a member of a corresponding order of nuns founded in 1452.

carminative (ˈkɑːmɪnətɪv) *adj.* 1. able to relieve flatulence. ~*n.* 2. a carminative drug.

carmine (ˈkɑːmɪn) *n.* 1. a. a vivid red colour. *b. (as adj.):* carmine paint. 2. a pigment of this colour obtained from cochineal.

carnage (ˈkɑːnɪdʒ) *n.* extensive slaughter.

carnal (ˈkɑːnəl) *adj.* relating to the appetites and passions of the body. —'carnality *n.* —'carnally *adv.*

carnation (kəˈneɪʃən) *n.* 1. Also called: *clove pink.* a Eurasian plant cultivated in many varieties for its white, pink, or red flowers, which have a fragrant scent of cloves. 2. the flower of this plant. 3. a. a pink or reddish-pink colour. *b. (as adj.):* a carnation dress.

carnelian (kəˈniːljən) *n.* a reddish-yellow translucent variety of chalcedony, used as a gemstone.

carnet (ˈkɑːnet) *n.* 1. a customs licence authorizing the temporary importation of a motor vehicle. 2. an official document permitting motorists to cross certain frontiers.

carnival (ˈkɑːnɪvəl) *n.* 1. a. a festive period marked by merrymaking, etc.: esp. in some Roman Catholic countries, the period just before Lent. *b. (as modifier):* a carnival atmosphere. 2. a travelling fair having side shows, merry-go-rounds, etc. 3. a show or display arranged as an amusement. 4. *Austral.* a sports meeting.

carnivore (ˈkɑːnɪvɔː) *n.* 1. any of an order of mammals having large pointed canine teeth specialized for eating flesh. The order includes cats, dogs, bears, and weasels. 2. any other animal or any plant that feeds on animals.

carnivorous (kəˈnɪvərəs) *adj.* 1. (esp. of animals) feeding on flesh. 2. (of plants such as the pitcher plant and sundew) able to trap and digest insects. 3. of or relating to the carnivores. —'carnivorousness *n.*

carob (ˈkærəb) *n.* 1. an evergreen Mediterranean tree with compound leaves and edible pods. 2. the long blackish sugary pod of this tree, used for animal fodder and sometimes for human food.

carol (ˈkærəl) *n.* 1. a joyful hymn or religious song, esp. one (a Christmas carol) celebrating the birth of Christ. ~*vb.* -olling, -olled *or* *U.S. -oling, -oled.* 2. (intr.) to sing carols at Christmas. 3. to sing (something) in a joyful manner.

Carolingian (kəˈrɔːlɪndʒɪən) *adj.* 1. of or relating to the Frankish dynasty founded by Pepin the Short which ruled in France from 751–987 A.D. and in Germany until 911 A.D. ~*n.* 2. a member of the dynasty of the Carolingian Franks. ~Also: *Carlovingian, Carolinian.*

carotid (kəˈrɒtɪd) *n.* 1. either of the two principal arteries that supply blood to the head and neck. ~*adj.* 2. of either of these arteries.

carousal (kəˈraʊzəl) *n.* a merry drinking party.

carouse (kəˈraʊz) *vb.* 1. (intr.) to have a merry drinking spree. ~*n.* 2. another word for *carousal*. —'ca'rouser *n.*

carousel (ˈkærəʊsəl, -ˈzel) *n.* 1. *U.S.* a merry-go-round. 2. a circular tray in which slides for a projector are held in slots from which they can be released in turn. 3.

History. a tournament in which horsemen took part in races.

carp¹ (kɑːp) *n., pl. carp or carps.* 1. a freshwater food fish having one long dorsal fin, and two barbels on each side of the mouth. 2. a cyprinid.

carp² (kɑːp) *vb. (intr.)* to complain or find fault. —'carper *n.*

-carp *n. combining form.* (in botany) fruit or a reproductive structure that develops into a particular part of the fruit: *epicarp*.

carpal (ˈkɑːpəl) *n. a.* any bone of the wrist. *b. (as modifier):* carpal bones.

car park *n.* an area or building reserved for parking cars. Usual *U.S. term:* parking lot.

carpel (ˈkɑːpəl) *n.* the female reproductive organ of flowering plants, consisting of an ovary, style, and stigma. —'carpellary *adj.*

carpenter (ˈkɑːpɪntə) *n.* 1. a person skilled in woodwork, esp. in buildings, ships, etc. ~*vb.* 2. (intr.) to do the work of a carpenter. 3. (tr.) to make or fit together by or as if by carpentry.

carpentry (ˈkɑːpɪntrɪ) *n.* 1. the art or technique of working wood. 2. the work produced by a carpenter; woodwork.

carpet (ˈkɑːpɪt) *n.* 1. a heavy fabric for covering floors. 2. a covering like a carpet: a carpet of leaves. 3. on the carpet. *Inf.* a. before authority to be reproved. *b.* under consideration. ~*vb. (tr.)* 4. to cover with or as if with a carpet. 5. *Inf.* to reprimand.

carpetbag (ˈkɑːpɪt,bæg) *n.* a travelling bag originally made of carpeting.

carpetbagger (ˈkɑːpɪt,bægə) *n. U.S.* a politician who seeks public office in a locality where he has no real connections.

carpeting (ˈkɑːpɪŋ) *n.* carpet material or carpets in general.

carpet snake *or* **python** *n.* a large nonvenomous Australian snake having a carpetlike pattern on its back.

carport (ˈkɑːpɔːt) *n.* a shelter for a car usually consisting of a roof built out from the side of a building and supported by posts.

-carpous *or* **-carpic** *adj. combining form.* (in botany) indicating a certain kind or number of fruit: *apocarpous*.

carpus (ˈkɑːpəs) *n., pl. -pi (-pai).* 1. the technical name for wrist. 2. the eight small bones of the human wrist.

carrack (ˈkærək) *n.* a galleon sailed in the Mediterranean as a merchantman in the 15th and 16th centuries.

carrageen, carragheen, or carageen (ˈkærəˌɡɪn) *n.* an edible red seaweed, of rocky shores of North America and N Europe, used to make a beverage, medicine, and jelly. Also called: *Irish moss*.

carrel *or* **carrell** (ˈkærəl) *n.* a small individual study room, often in a library.

carriage (ˈkærɪdʒ) *n.* 1. *Brit.* a railway coach for passengers. 2. the manner in which a person holds and moves his head and body. 3. a four-wheeled horse-drawn vehicle for persons. 4. the moving part of a machine that bears another part: a typewriter carriage. 5. (ˈkærɪdʒ, ˈkærɪdʒ) *a.* the act of conveying. *b.* the charge made for conveying (esp. in carriage forward, when the charge is to be paid by the receiver, and carriage paid).

carriage clock *n.* a portable clock, usually in a rectangular case, originally used by travellers.

carriageway (ˈkærɪdʒ,weɪ) *n. Brit.* the part of a road along which traffic passes in a single line moving in one direction only: a dual carriageway.

carrier (ˈkæriə) *n.* 1. a person, thing, or organization employed to carry goods, etc. 2. a mechanism by which something is carried or moved, such as a device for transmitting rotation from the faceplate of a lathe to the workpiece. 3. *Pathol.* another name for *vector* (sense 2). 4. *Pathol.* a person or animal that, without having any symptoms of a disease, is capable of transmitting it to others. 5. Also called: *charge carrier. Physics.* an electron or hole that carries the charge in a conductor or semiconductor. 6. Also called: *carrier wave. Radio.* a wave of fixed amplitude and frequency that is modulated in order to carry a signal in radio transmission, etc. 7. *Chem.* a. an inert substance used to absorb a dyestuff, transport a sample through a gas chromatography column, contain a radioisotope for radioactive tracing, etc. *b.* a catalyst or substance used to support a catalyst. 8. See *aircraft carrier*.

carrier bag *n. Brit.* a large paper or plastic bag for carrying shopping, etc.

carrier pigeon *n.* any homing pigeon, esp. one used for carrying messages.

carrion ('kærɪən) *n.* 1. dead and rotting flesh. 2. (*modifier*) eating carrion. 3. something rotten.

carrion crow *n.* a common predatory and scavenging European crow similar to the rook but having a pure black bill.

carrot ('kærət) *n.* 1. an umbelliferous plant, with finely divided leaves. 2. the long tapering orange root of this plant, eaten as a vegetable. 3. something offered as a lure or incentive.

carroty ('kærəti) *adj.* 1. of a reddish or yellowish-orange colour. 2. having red hair.

carrousel (,kærə'sel, -'zel) *n.* a variant spelling of carousel.

carry ('kæri) *vb.* -rying, -ried. (*mainly tr.*) 1. (*also intr.*) to take or bear (something) from one place to another. 2. to transfer for consideration: *he carried his complaints to her superior.* 3. to have on one's person: *he carries a watch.* 4. (*also intr.*) to be transmitted or serve as a medium for transmitting: *sound carries over water.* 5. to bear or be able to bear the weight, pressure, or responsibility of: *her efforts carry the whole production.* 6. to have as an attribute or result: *this crime carries a heavy penalty.* 7. to bring or communicate: *to carry news.* 8. (*also intr.*) to be pregnant with (young). 9. to bear (the head, body, etc.) in a specified manner: *she carried her head high.* 10. to conduct or bear (oneself) in a specified manner: *she carried herself well.* 11. to continue or extend: *the war was carried into enemy territory.* 12. to cause to move or go: *desire for riches carried him to the city.* 13. to influence, esp. by emotional appeal: *his words carried the crowd.* 14. to secure the passage of (a bill, motion, etc.). 15. to win (an election). 16. to obtain victory for (a candidate). 17. *Chiefly U.S.* to win a majority of votes in (a district, etc.): *the candidate carried 40 states.* 18. to capture: *our troops carried the town.* 19. (of communications media) to include as the content: *this newspaper carries no book reviews.* 20. *Also (esp. U.S.):* **carry over.** *Book-keeping.* to transfer (an item) to another account, esp. to transfer to the following year's account: *to carry a loss.* 21. *Maths.* to transfer (a number) from one column of figures to the next. 22. (of a shop, trader, etc.) to keep in stock: *to carry confectionery.* 23. to support (a musical part or melody) against the other parts. 24. (*intr.*) (of a ball, projectile, etc.) to travel through the air or reach a specified point: *his first drive carried to the green.* 25. *Inf.* to imbibe (alcoholic drink) without showing ill effects. 26. **carry all before (one).** to win unanimous support or approval for (oneself). 27. **carry a tune.** to be able to sing in tune. 28. **carry the day.** to win a contest; succeed. ~*n.*, *pl.* -ries. 29. the act of carrying. 30. *U.S.* a portion of land over which a boat must be portaged. 31. the range of a firearm or its projectile. 32. *Golf.* the distance from where the ball is struck to where it first touches the ground.

carry away *vb.* (*tr.*, *adv.*) 1. to remove forcefully. 2. (*usually passive*) to cause (a person) to lose self-control. 3. (*usually passive*) to delight: *he was carried away by the music.*

carrycot ('kærɪ,kot) *n.* a light cot with handles, similar to but smaller than the body of a pram.

carry forward *vb.* (*tr.*, *adv.*) 1. *Book-keeping.* to transfer (a balance) to the next column, etc. 2. *Tax accounting.* to apply (a legally permitted credit, esp. an operating loss) to the taxable income of following years. ~*Also:* **carry over.**

carry off *vb.* (*tr.*, *adv.*) 1. to remove forcefully. 2. to win. 3. to handle (a situation) successfully: *he carried off the introductions well.* 4. to cause to die: *he was carried off by pneumonia.*

carry on *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. (*intr.*) to continue or persevere. 2. (*tr.*) to conduct: *to carry on a business.* 3. (*intr.*, *often foll. by with*) *Inf.* to have an affair. 4. (*intr.*) *Inf.* to cause a fuss or commotion. ~*n.* **carry-on.** 5. *Inf.*, *chiefly Brit.* a fuss.

carry out *vb.* (*tr.*, *adv.*) 1. to perform or cause to be implemented: *I wish he could afford to carry out his plan.* 2. to accomplish. ~*n.* **carry-out.** *Chiefly Scot.* 3. alcohol bought at an off-licence, etc. for consumption elsewhere. 4. *a.* a shop which sells hot, cooked food for consumption away from the premises. *b.* (*as modifier*): *a carry-out shop.*

carry over *vb.* (*tr.*, *adv.*) 1. to postpone or defer. 2. *Book-keeping, tax accounting.* another term for **carry forward**. ~*n.* **carry-over.** 3. something left over for

future use, esp. goods to be sold. 4. *Book-keeping.* a sum or balance carried forward.

carry through *vb.* (*tr.*, *adv.*) 1. to bring to completion. 2. to enable to endure (hardship, trouble, etc.); support.

carsick ('kɑːsɪk) *adj.* nauseated from riding in a car or other vehicle. —'car,sickness *n.*

cart (kɑːt) *n.* 1. a heavy open vehicle, usually having two wheels and drawn by horses. 2. a light open horse-drawn vehicle for business or pleasure. 3. any small vehicle drawn or pushed by hand, such as a trolley. 4. *in the cart.* *a.* in an awkward situation. *b.* in the lurch. 5. **put the cart before the horse.** to reverse the usual order of things. —*vb.* 6. (*usually tr.*) to use or draw a cart to convey (goods, etc.). 7. (*tr.*) to carry with effort: *to cart wood home.* —'carter *n.*

carte blanche ('kɑːt 'blɑːntʃ) *n.*, *pl.* *cartes blanches* ('kɑːts 'blɑːntʃ). complete discretion or authority: *the government gave their negotiator carte blanche.*

cartel (kɑː'tel) *n.* 1. *Also called: trust.* a collusive association of independent enterprises formed to monopolize production and distribution of a product or service. 2. *Politics.* an alliance of parties to further common aims.

Cartesian (kɑː'tiːziən) *adj.* 1. of or relating to the works of Descartes, 17th-century French philosopher and mathematician. 2. of or used in Descartes' mathematical system. —'Cartesianism *n.*

Cartesian coordinates *pl. n.* a system of coordinates that defines the location of a point in space in terms of its perpendicular distance from each of a set of mutually perpendicular axes.

carthorse ('kɑːt,hɔːs) *n.* a large heavily built horse kept for pulling carts or carriages.

Carthusian (kɑː'θjuːziən) *n.* *R.C. Church.* a member of a monastic order founded by Saint Bruno in 1084 near Grenoble, France.

cartilage ('kɑːtɪlɪdʒ) *n.* a tough elastic tissue composing most of the embryonic skeleton of vertebrates. In the adults of higher vertebrates it is mostly converted into bone. *Nontechnical name:* gristle. —'cartilaginous (,kɑːt'rɪlɪdʒɪnəs) *adj.*

cartogram ('kɑːtə,grəm) *n.* a map showing statistical information in diagrammatic form.

cartography (kɑː'tɒɡrəfi) *n.* the art, technique, or practice of compiling or drawing maps or charts. —'cartographer *n.* —'cartographic (,kɑːtə'græfɪk) or 'carto-graphical *adj.*

carton ('kɑːtɒn) *n.* 1. a cardboard box for containing goods. 2. a container of waxed paper in which liquids, such as milk, are sold.

cartoon (kɑː'tuːn) *n.* 1. a humorous or satirical drawing, esp. one in a newspaper or magazine. 2. a sequence of drawings in a newspaper, magazine, etc. *U.S. name:* comic strip. 3. See **animated cartoon**. 4. a full-size preparatory sketch for a fresco, tapestry, mosaic, etc. —'cartoonist *n.*

cartouche or cartouch (kɑː'tuːʃ) *n.* 1. a carved or cast ornamental tablet or panel in the form of a scroll. 2. an oblong figure enclosing characters expressing royal or divine names in Egyptian hieroglyphics.

cartridge ('kɑːtrɪdʒ) *n.* 1. a metal casing containing an explosive charge and often a bullet, for a rifle or other small arms. 2. a stylus unit in the pickup of a gramophone, either containing a piezoelectric crystal (**crystal cartridge**) or an electromagnet (**magnetic cartridge**). 3. an enclosed container of magnetic tape, photographic film, ink, etc. for insertion into a tape deck, camera, pen, etc.

cartridge belt *n.* a belt with pockets for cartridge clips or loops for cartridges.

cartridge clip *n.* a metallic container holding cartridges for an automatic firearm.

cartridge paper *n.* 1. an uncoated type of drawing or printing paper. 2. a heavy paper used in making cartridges or as drawing or printing paper.

cartwheel ('kɑːt,wɪl) *n.* 1. the wheel of a cart, usually having wooden spokes. 2. an acrobatic movement in which the body makes a revolution supported on the hands with legs outstretched.

carve (kɑːv) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to cut or chip in order to form something: *to carve wood.* 2. to form (something) by cutting or chipping: *to carve statues.* 3. to slice (meat) into pieces. —'carver *n.*

carvel ('kɑːvəl) *n.* another word for **caravel**.

carve out *vb.* (*tr.*, *adv.*) *Inf.* to make or create (a career): *he carved out his own future.*

carve up *vb.* (*tr., adv.*) **1.** to cut (something) into pieces. **2.** to divide (land, etc.). ~*n.* **carve-up**. **3.** *Sl.* the distribution of something.

carving ('kɑ:vɪŋ) *n.* a figure or design produced by carving stone, wood, etc.

carving knife *n.* a long-bladed knife for carving cooked meat for serving.

carwash ('kɑ:ˌwɒʃ) *n.* an installation for the automatic washing and polishing of cars.

caryatid (ˌkærɪˈætɪd) *n., pl. -ids or -ides* (-ɪˌdɪz). a column, used to support an entablature, in the form of a draped female figure.

Casanova (ˌkæsəˈnɒʊə) *n.* any man noted for his amorous adventures.

casbah ('kæzbɑː) *n.* (sometimes *cap.*) a variant spelling of *kasbah*.

cascade (kæsˈkeɪd) *n.* **1.** a waterfall or series of waterfalls over rocks. **2.** something resembling this, such as folds of lace. **3.** a consecutive sequence of chemical or physical processes. **4.** a set of electrical components connected in series. ~*vb.* **5.** (*intr.*) to flow or fall in or like a cascade.

cascara (kæsˈkɑ:rə) *n.* **1.** Also called: **cascara sagrada**, the dried bark of the cascara buckthorn, used as a laxative and stimulant. **2.** Also called: **cascara buckthorn**, a shrub or small tree of NW North America.

case¹ (keɪs) *n.* **1.** a single instance, or example of something. **2.** an instance of disease, injury, etc. **3.** a question or matter for discussion. **4.** a specific condition or state of affairs; situation. **5.** a set of arguments supporting a particular action, cause, etc. **6.** *a.* a person attended or served by a doctor, social worker, solicitor, etc. *b.* (as *modifier*): a case study. **7.** *a.* an action or suit at law: he has a good case. *b.* the evidence offered in court to support a claim. **8.** *Grammar.* *a.* a set of grammatical categories of nouns, pronouns, and adjectives indicating the relation of the noun, adjective, or pronoun to other words in the sentence. *b.* any one of these categories: the *nominative* case. **9.** *Inf.* an eccentric. **10.** in any case. (*adv.*) no matter what. **11.** in case. (*adv.*) *a.* in order to allow for eventualities. *b.* (as *conj.*) in order to allow for the possibility that: take your coat in case it rains. **12.** in case of. (*prep.*) in the event of. **13.** in no case. (*adv.*) under no circumstances.

case² (keɪs) *n.* **1.** *a.* a container, such as a box or chest. *b.* (in combination): suitcase. **2.** an outer cover, esp. for a watch. **3.** a receptacle and its contents: a case of ammunition. **4.** *Archit.* another word for **casing** (sense 3). **5.** a cover ready to be fastened to a book to form its binding. **6.** *Printing.* a tray in which a compositor keeps individual metal types of a particular size and style. Cases were originally used in pairs, one (the **upper case**) for capitals, the other (the **lower case**) for small letters. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) **7.** to put into or cover with a case. **8.** *U.S. sl.* to inspect carefully (esp. a place to be robbed).

case-harden *vb.* (*tr.*) **1.** *Metallurgy.* to form a hard surface layer of high carbon content on (a steel component). **2.** to make callous: experience had case-hardened the judge.

case history *n.* a record of a person's background, medical history, etc.

casein ('keɪsɪn, -sɪn) *n.* a protein, precipitated from milk by the action of rennin, forming the basis of cheese.

case law *n.* law established by following judicial decisions given in earlier cases. Cf. **statute law**.

casement ('keɪsmənt) *n.* **1.** a window frame that is hinged on one side. **2.** a window containing frames hinged at the side. **3.** a poetic word for **window**.

casework ('keɪs,wɜ:k) *n.* social work based on close study of the personal histories and circumstances of individuals and families. —**case, worker** *n.*

cash (kæʃ) *n.* **1.** bank notes and coins, esp. in hand or readily available. **2.** immediate payment for goods or services (esp. in **cash down**). **3.** (*modifier*) of, for, or paid by cash: a cash transaction. ~*vb.* **4.** (*tr.*) to obtain or pay ready money for. ~See also **cash in**. —**cashable** *adj.*

cash-and-carry *adj., adv.* sold or operated on a basis of cash payment for merchandise that is not delivered but removed by the purchaser.

cash-book *n.* *Book-keeping.* a journal in which all receipts and disbursements are recorded.

cash crop *n.* a crop grown for sale rather than for subsistence.

cash desk *n.* a counter or till in a shop where purchases are paid for.

cash discount *n.* a discount granted to a purchaser who pays before a stipulated date.

cashew ('kæʃuː, kæˈʃuː) *n.* **1.** a tropical American evergreen tree, bearing kidney-shaped nuts. **2.** Also called: **cashew nut**, the nut of this tree, edible only when roasted.

cash flow *n.* the movement of money into and out of a business.

cashier¹ (kæˈʃɪə) *n.* **1.** a person responsible for receiving payments for goods, services, etc., as in a shop. **2.** an employee of a bank responsible for receiving deposits, cashing cheques, etc.: bank clerk. **3.** any person responsible for handling cash in a business.

cashier² (kæˈʃɪə) *vb.* (*tr.*) to dismiss with dishonour, esp. from the armed forces.

cash in *vb.* (*adv.*) **1.** (*tr.*) to give (something) in exchange. **2.** (*intr.*; often foll. by *on*) *Sl.* *a.* to profit (from). *b.* to take advantage (of).

cashmere ('kæʃmə) *n.* **1.** a fine soft wool from goats of the Kashmir area. **2.** *a.* cloth or knitted material made from this or similar wool. *b.* (as *modifier*): a cashmere sweater.

cash on delivery *n.* a service entailing cash payment to the carrier on delivery of merchandise.

cash register *n.* a till with a keyboard that operates a mechanism for displaying and adding the amounts of cash received in individual sales.

casing ('keɪsɪŋ) *n.* **1.** a protective case or cover. **2.** material for a case or cover. **3.** Also called: **case**, a frame containing a door or window.

casino (kəˈsɪːnəʊ) *n., pl. -nos.* **1.** a public building or room in which gaming takes place. **2.** a variant spelling of **cassino**.

cask (kɑːsk) *n.* **1.** a strong wooden barrel used mainly to hold alcoholic drink: a wine cask. **2.** any barrel. **3.** the quantity contained in a cask.

casket ('kæːskɪt) *n.* **1.** a small box or chest for valuables, esp. jewels. **2.** another word for **coffin** (sense 1).

casque (kæsk) *n.* *Zool.* a helmet or a helmet-like structure, as on the bill of most hornbills. —**casqued** *adj.*

Cassandra (kəˈsændrə) *n.* **1.** *Greek myth.* a daughter of Priam and Hecuba, endowed with the gift of prophecy but fated never to be believed. **2.** anyone whose prophecies of doom are unheeded.

cassava (kəˈsɑ:və) *n.* **1.** Also called: **manioc**, any of various tropical plants, esp. the widely cultivated American species (**bitter cassava**, **sweet cassava**). **2.** a starch derived from the root of this plant: a source of tapioca.

casserole ('kæsə,rəʊl) *n.* **1.** a covered dish of earthenware, glass, etc., in which food is cooked and served. **2.** any food cooked and served in such a dish: chicken casserole. ~*vb.* **3.** to cook or be cooked in a casserole.

cassette (kæˈset) *n.* **1.** *a.* a plastic container for magnetic tape, inserted into a tape deck to be played or used. *b.* (as *modifier*): a cassette recorder. **2.** *Photog.* another term for **cartridge** (sense 3).

cassia ('kæsiə) *n.* **1.** any of a genus of tropical plants whose pods yield **cassia pulp**, a mild laxative. See also **senna**. **2.** a lauraceous tree of tropical Asia. **3.** **cassia bark**, the cinnamon-like bark of this tree, used as a spice.

cassimere or **casimere** ('kæsi,mɪə) *n.* a woollen suiting cloth of plain or twill weave.

cassino or **casino** (kəˈsɪnəʊ) *n.* a card game for two to four players in which players pair cards with those exposed on the table.

Cassiopeia (ˌkæsiəˈpi:ə) *n.* *Latin genitive Cassiopeiae* (ˌkæsiəˈpi:ɪə). a very conspicuous W-shaped constellation near the Pole Star.

cassock ('kæsɒk) *n.* *Ecclesiast.* an ankle-length garment, usually black, worn by priests.

cashowary ('kæʃə,wɛəri) *n., pl. -warries.* a large flightless bird inhabiting forests in NE Australia, New Guinea, and adjacent islands, having a horny head crest, black plumage, and brightly coloured neck.

cast (kɑːst) *vb.* **casting, cast.** (*mainly tr.*) **1.** to throw or expel with force. **2.** to throw off or away: she cast her clothes to the ground. **3.** to reject: he cast the idea from his mind. **4.** to shed or drop: the horse cast a shoe. **5.** to be cast. *N.Z.* (of sheep) to have fallen and been unable to rise. **6.** to cause to appear: to cast a shadow. **7.** to express (doubts, etc.) or cause (them) to be felt. **8.** to direct (a glance, etc.): cast your eye over this. **9.** to place, esp. violently: he was cast into prison. **10.** (also *intr.*) *Angling.* to throw (a baited line) into the water. **11.** to draw or choose (lots). **12.** to give or deposit (a vote). **13.** to select (actors) to play parts in (a play, etc.). **14.** *a.* to shape (molten metal, glass, etc.) by pouring into

a mould. **b.** to make (an object) by such a process. **15.** (also *intr.*; often foll. by *up*) to compute (figures or a total). **16.** *Astrol.* to draw on (a horoscope) details concerning the positions of the planets in the signs of the zodiac at a particular time for interpretation. **17.** to contrive (esp. in **cast a spell**). **18.** to formulate: *he cast his work in the form of a chart*. **19.** (also *intr.*) to twist or cause to twist. **20.** (*intr.*) (of birds of prey) to eject from the crop and bill a pellet consisting of the indigestible parts of birds or animals previously eaten. **21.** *Printing.* to stereotype or electotype. **22.** **cast in one's lot with.** to share in the activities of (someone else). **~n.** **23.** the act of casting or throwing. **24.** **a.** Also called: **casting.** something that is shed, dropped, or egested, such as the coil of earth left by an earthworm. **b.** another name for **pellet** (sense 4). **25.** the distance an object is or may be thrown. **26.** **a.** a throw at dice. **b.** the resulting number shown. **27.** *Angling.* the act or an instance of casting a line. **28.** the wide sweep made by a sheepdog to get behind a flock of sheep or by a hunting dog in search of a scent. **29.** **a.** the actors in a play collectively. **b.** (as *modifier*): *a cast list*. **30.** **a.** an object made of metal, glass, etc., that has been shaped in a molten state by being poured or pressed into a mould. **b.** the mould used to shape such an object. **31.** form or appearance. **32.** sort, kind, or style. **33.** a fixed twist or defect, esp. in the eye. **34.** a distortion of shape. **35.** *Surgery.* a rigid encircling casing, often made of plaster of Paris, **plaster cast**, for immobilizing broken bones while they heal. **36.** a slight tinge or trace, as of colour. **37.** fortune or stroke of fate. **~See also cast about, castaway, etc.**

cast about *vb.* (*intr., adv.*) to make a mental or visual search: *to cast about for a plot*.

castanets ('kæstə'nets) *pl. n.* curved pieces of hollow wood, usually held between the fingers and thumb and made to click together: used esp. by Spanish dancers.

castaway ('kæstə'wei) *n.* **1.** a person who has been shipwrecked. **~adj. (prenominal)** **2.** shipwrecked. **3.** thrown away or rejected. **~vb. cast away.** **4.** (*tr., adv.; often passive*) to cause (a ship, person, etc.) to be shipwrecked.

cast back *vb. (adv.)* to turn (the mind) to the past.

cast down *vb. (tr., adv.)* to make (a person) discouraged or dejected.

caste ('kɑ:st) *n.* **1. a.** any of the four major hereditary classes, namely the **Brahman**, **Kshatriya**, **Vaisya**, and **Sudra**, into which Hindu society is divided. **b.** Also called: **caste system.** the system or basis of such classes. **2.** any social class or system based on such distinctions as heredity, rank, wealth, etc. **3.** the position conferred by such a system. **4. lose caste.** *Inf.* to lose one's social position. **5. Entomol.** any of various types of individual, such as the worker, in social insects.

castellated ('kæstɪ'leɪtəd) *adj.* **1.** having turrets and battlements, like a castle. **2.** having indentations similar to battlements: *a castellated nut*. **—castel'lation** *n.*

caster ('kæstə) *n.* **1.** a person or thing that casts. **2.** a bottle with a perforated top for sprinkling sugar, etc. **3.** a small swivelling wheel attached to each leg or bottom corner of a piece of furniture to facilitate movement. Also called (for senses 2, 3): **castor**.

caster sugar ('kæstə) *n.* finely ground white sugar.

castigate ('kæstɪ'geɪt) *vb. (tr.)* to rebuke or criticize in a severe manner. **—casti'gation** *n.* **—casti'gator** *n.*

casting ('kæstɪŋ) *n.* **1.** an object that has been cast, esp. in metal from a mould. **2.** the process of transferring molten steel to a mould. **3.** the choosing of actors for a production. **4. Zool.** another word for **cast** (sense 24) or **pellet** (sense 4).

casting vote *n.* the deciding vote used by the presiding officer of an assembly when votes cast on both sides are equal in number.

cast iron *n.* **1.** iron containing so much carbon that it cannot be wrought and must be cast into shape. **~adj. cast-iron.** **2.** made of cast iron. **3.** rigid or unyielding: *a cast-iron decision*.

castle ('kɑ:sl) *n.* **1.** a fortified building or set of buildings as in medieval Europe. **2.** any fortified place or structure. **3.** a large magnificent house, esp. when the present or former home of a nobleman or prince. **4. Chess.** another name for **rook**². **~vb.** **5. Chess.** to move (the king) two squares laterally on the first rank and place the nearest rook on the square passed over by the king.

castle in the air or in Spain *n.* a hope or desire unlikely to be realized; daydream.

cast-off *adj.* **1.** (*prenominal*) abandoned: *cast-off*

shoes. **~n. castoff.** **2.** a person or thing that has been discarded or abandoned. **3. Printing.** an estimate of the amount of space that a piece of copy will occupy. **~vb. cast off. (adv.)** **4.** to remove (mooring lines) that hold (a vessel) to a dock. **5.** to knot (a row of stitches, esp. the final row) in finishing off knitted or woven material. **6. Printing.** to estimate the amount of space that will be taken up by (a book, piece of copy, etc.).

castor¹ ('kɑ:stə) *n.* **1.** the aromatic secretion of a beaver, used in perfumery and medicine. **2.** the fur of the beaver. **3.** a hat made of beaver or similar fur.

castor² ('kɑ:stə) *n.* a variant spelling of **caster** (senses 2, 3).

castor oil *n.* an oil obtained from the seeds of the castor-oil plant and used as a lubricant and cathartic.

castor-oil plant *n.* a tall Indian plant cultivated for its poisonous seeds, from which castor oil is extracted.

castrate (kæ'streɪt) *vb. (tr.)* **1.** to remove the testicles of. **2.** to deprive of vigour, masculinity, etc. **3.** to remove the ovaries of; spay. **—cas'tration** *n.* **—cas'tra-tor** *n.*

castrato (kæ'stra:təʊ) *n., pl. -ti (-ti) or -tos.* (in 17th- and 18th-century opera, etc.) a male singer whose testicles were removed before puberty, allowing the retention of a soprano or alto voice.

cast steel *n.* steel containing varying amounts of carbon, manganese, etc. that is cast into shape rather than wrought.

casual ('kæʒjuəl) *adj.* **1.** happening by accident or chance. **2.** offhand: *a casual remark*. **3.** shallow or superficial: *a casual affair*. **4.** being or seeming unconcerned or apathetic: *he assumed a casual attitude*. **5.** (esp. of dress) for informal wear: *a casual coat*. **6.** occasional or irregular; part-time: *a casual labourer*. **~n.** **7. (usually pl.)** an informal article of clothing or footwear. **8.** a part-time or occasional worker. **—'casu-ally** *adv.* **—'casualness** *n.*

casualty ('kæʒjuəlɪ) *n., pl. -ties.* **1.** a serviceman who is killed, wounded, captured, or missing as a result of enemy action. **2.** a person who is injured or killed in an accident. **3.** the hospital department treating victims of accidents. **4.** anything that is lost, damaged, or destroyed as the result of an accident, etc.

casuarina ('kæʒjuə'rɪnə) *n.* any of a genus of trees of Australia and the East Indies, having jointed leafless branches.

casuistry ('kæʒjuɪstrɪ) *n., pl. -ries.* **1. Philosophy.** the application of general ethical principles to particular moral problems. **2.** reasoning that is specious or over-subtle.

cat (kæt) *n.* **1.** Also called: **domestic cat.** a small domesticated feline mammal having thick soft fur and occurring in many breeds in which the colour of the fur varies greatly: kept as a pet or to catch rats and mice. **2.** Also called: **big cat.** any of the larger felines, such as a lion or tiger. **3.** any wild feline mammal such as the lynx or serval, resembling the domestic cat. **4. Inf.** a woman who gossips maliciously. **5. Sl.** a man. **6. Naut.** a heavy tackle for hoisting an anchor to the cathead. **7. Inf.** short for **caterpillar** (the vehicle). **8.** short for **cat-o'-nine-tails**. **9.** fight like **Kilkenny cats.** to fight until both parties are destroyed. **10.** let the cat out of the bag. to disclose a secret, often by mistake. **11.** like a cat on a hot tin roof or on hot bricks. in an uneasy or agitated state. **12.** put, set, etc., the cat among the pigeons. to introduce some violently disturbing new element. **13.** rain cats and dogs. to rain very heavily. **~vb. catting, catted.** **14. (tr.) Naut.** to hoist (an anchor) to the cathead. **15. (intr.) Sl.** to vomit. **—'cat,like** *adj.* **—'cattish** *adj.*

C.A.T. (in Britain) *abbrev. for* College of Advanced Technology.

cat. *abbrev. for:* **1.** catalogue. **2.** catamaran.

cata-, kata-, before an aspirate cath-, or before a vowel cat- *prefix.* **1.** down; downwards; lower in position: *catadromous*. **2.** indicating reversal, opposition, degeneration, etc.: *catatonia*.

catabolism or katabolism (kə'tæbə'lɪzəm) *n.* a metabolic process in which complex molecules are broken down into simple ones with the release of energy; destructive metabolism. **—catabolic or katabolic** ('kæ'tə'bɒlɪk) *adj.*

cataclysm ('kætə'klɪzəm) *n.* **1.** a violent upheaval, esp. of a political, military, or social nature. **2.** a disastrous flood. **—cata'clysmic or 'cata'clysmal** *adj.* **—cata'clysmically** *adv.*

catacomb ('kætə'kəʊm) *n.* **1. (usually pl.)** an underground burial place, esp. in Rome, consisting of tunnels

with niches leading off them for tombs. **2.** a series of underground tunnels or caves.

catafalque ('kætə,fælk) *n.* a temporary raised platform on which a body lies in state before or during a funeral.

Catalan ('kætə,læn) *n.* **1.** a language of Catalonia, closely related to Spanish and Provençal. **2.** a native or inhabitant of Catalonia. **~adj.** **3.** denoting or characteristic of Catalonia, its inhabitants, or their language.

cataplexy ('kætə,leps) *n.* a disturbance of consciousness, occurring esp. in schizophrenia, characterized by prolonged maintenance of rigid postures. —,cata'leptic *adj.*

catalogue or **U.S. catalog** ('kætə,lɒg) *n.* **1.** a complete, usually alphabetical list of items. **2.** a list of all the books of a library. **3.** *U.S.* a list of courses offered by a university, etc. **~vb.** **4.** to compile a catalogue of (a library, etc.). **5.** to add (books, items, etc.) to an existing catalogue. —,cata'loguer *n.*

catalpa (kə'tælpə) *n.* any of a genus of trees of North America and Asia, having large leaves, bell-shaped whitish flowers, and long slender pods.

catalyse or **U.S. catalyze** ('kætə,laɪz) *vb.* (*tr.*) to influence (a chemical reaction) by catalysis.

catalysis (kə'tælɪsɪs) *n.*, *pl.* **-ses** (-sɪz) acceleration of a chemical reaction by the action of a catalyst. —cata'lytic ('kætə,lɪtɪk) *adj.*

catalyst ('kætə,lɪst) *n.* **1.** a substance that increases the rate of a chemical reaction without itself suffering any permanent chemical change. **2.** a person or thing that causes a change.

catamaran ('kætə,məræn) *n.* **1.** a sailing vessel with twin hulls held parallel by a rigid framework. **2.** a primitive raft made of logs lashed together. **3.** *Inf.* a quarrelsome woman.

catamite ('kætə,mɪt) *n.* a boy kept for homosexual purposes.

cataplexy ('kætə,pleksɪ) *n.* **1.** sudden temporary paralysis, brought on by intense emotion, etc. **2.** a state assumed by animals while shamming death. —,cata'plectic *adj.*

catapult ('kætə,palt) *n.* **1.** a Y-shaped implement with a loop of elastic fastened to the ends of the prongs, used mainly by children for shooting stones, etc. *U.S. name: slingshot.* **2.** a war engine used formerly for hurling stones, etc. **3.** a device installed in warships to launch aircraft. **~vb.** **4.** (*tr.*) to shoot forth from or as if from a catapult. **5.** (*fol.*) by over, into, etc.) to move precipitately.

cataract ('kætə,rækt) *n.* **1.** a large waterfall or rapids. **2.** a downpour. **3.** *Pathol.* a partial or total opacity of the lens of the eye. **4.** the opaque area.

catarrh (kə'tæ:ɾ) *n.* inflammation of a mucous membrane with increased production of mucus, esp. affecting the nose and throat. —,cata'rarrhal *adj.*

catastrophe (kə'tæstrəfi) *n.* **1.** a sudden, extensive disaster or misfortune. **2.** the dénouement of a play. **3.** a final decisive event, usually causing a disastrous end. —cata'strophic ('kætə'strofɪk) *adj.* —,cata'strophically *adv.*

catatonia (kætə'təʊniə) *n.* a form of schizophrenia characterized by stupor, with outbreaks of excitement. —,cata'tonic ('kætə'tonɪk) *adj.*, *n.*

cat burglar *n.* a burglar who enters buildings by climbing through upper windows, etc.

catcall ('kæt,kɔ:l) *n.* **1.** a shrill whistle or cry expressing disapproval, as at a public meeting, etc. **~vb.** **2.** to utter such a call (at).

catch (kætʃ) *vb.* **catching, caught.** **1.** (*tr.*) to take hold of so as to retain or restrain. **2.** (*tr.*) to take or capture, esp. after pursuit. **3.** (*tr.*) to ensnare or deceive. **4.** (*tr.*) to surprise or detect in an act: *he caught the dog rifling the larder.* **5.** (*tr.*) to reach with a blow: *the stone caught him on the side of the head.* **6.** (*tr.*) to overtake or reach in time to board. **7.** (*tr.*) to see or hear; attend. **8.** (*tr.*) to be infected with: *to catch a cold.* **9.** to hook or entangle or become hooked or entangled. **10.** to fasten or be fastened with or as if with a latch or other device. **11.** (*tr.*) to attract: *she tried to catch his eye.* **12.** (*tr.*) to comprehend: *I didn't catch his meaning.* **13.** (*tr.*) to hear accurately: *I didn't catch what you said.* **14.** (*tr.*) to captivate or charm. **15.** (*tr.*) to reproduce accurately: *the painter managed to catch his model's beauty.* **16.** (*tr.*) to hold back or restrain: *he caught his breath in surprise.* **17.** (*intr.*) to become alight: *the fire won't catch.* **18.** (*tr.*) *Cricket.* to dismiss (a batsman) by intercepting and holding a ball struck by him before it touches the ground. **19.** (*intr.*; often *fol.*) by at **a.** to

grasp or attempt to grasp. **b.** to take advantage (of): *he caught at the chance.* **20.** *catch it.* *Inf.* to be scolded or reprimanded. **~n.** **21.** the act of catching or grasping. **22.** a device that catches and fastens, such as a latch. **23.** anything that is caught. **24.** the amount or number caught. **25. *Inf.* an eligible matrimonial prospect. **26.** a check or break in the voice. **27. *Inf.* **a.** a concealed, unexpected, or unforeseen drawback. **b.** (as modifier): *a catch question.* **28. *Cricket.* the catching of a ball struck by a batsman before it touches the ground, resulting in him being out. **29. *Music.* a type of round having a humorous text that is often indecent or bawdy and hard to articulate. **~See also** catch on, catch out, catch up. —,catchable *adj.*********

catching ('kætʃɪŋ) *adj.* **1.** infectious. **2.** attractive; captivating.

catchment ('kætʃmənt) *n.* **1.** the act of catching or collecting water. **2.** a structure in which water is collected. **3.** the water so collected. **4.** *Brit.* the intake of a school from one catchment area.

catchment area *n.* **1.** the area of land bounded by watersheds draining into a river, basin, or reservoir. **2.** the area from which people are allocated to a particular school, hospital, etc.

catch on *vb.* (*intr.*, *adv.*) *Inf.* **1.** to become popular or fashionable. **2.** to understand.

catch out *vb.* (*tr.*, *adv.*) *Inf.*, chiefly *Brit.* to trap (a person), esp. in an error.

catchpenny ('kætʃ,pɛni) *adj.* (*prepositional*) designed to have instant appeal, esp. in order to sell quickly: *catchpenny ornaments.*

catch phrase *n.* a well-known frequently used phrase, esp. one associated with a particular group, etc.

catch-22 *n.* a situation characterized by obstacles that defeat all attempts of the victim to escape from it.

catch up *vb.* (*adv.*) **1.** (*tr.*) to seize and take up (something) quickly. **2.** (when *intr.*, often *fol.*) by with) to reach or pass (someone or something): *he caught him up.* **3.** (*intr.*; usually *fol.*) by on or with) to make up for lost ground or deal with a backlog. **4.** (*tr.*; often *passive*) to absorb or involve: *she was caught up in her reading.* **5.** (*tr.*) to raise by or as if by fastening.

catchword ('kætʃ,wɜ:d) *n.* **1.** a word or phrase made temporarily popular; slogan. **2.** a word printed as a running head in a book. **3.** *Theatre.* an actor's cue to speak or enter. **4.** the first word of a page repeated at the bottom of the page preceding.

catchy ('kætʃɪ) *adj.* **catchier, catchiest.** **1.** (of a tune, etc.) pleasant and easily remembered. **2.** deceptive: *a catchy question.* **3.** irregular: *a catchy breeze.*

catechism ('kæti,kɪzəm) *n.* instruction by a series of questions and answers, esp. a book containing such instruction on the religious doctrine of a Christian Church. —,cate'chismal *adj.*

catechize or **-ise** ('kæti,kəɪz) *vb.* (*tr.*) **1.** to teach or examine by means of questions and answers. **2.** *Ecclesiast.* to give oral instruction in Christianity, esp. by using a catechism. **3.** to put questions to (someone). —,cate'chist, 'cate, 'chizer or -iser *n.*

catechu ('kæti,tʃu:), **cachou**, or **cutch** *n.* an astringent resinous substance obtained from any of certain tropical plants, and used in medicine, tanning, and dyeing.

categorical ('kæti'gɒrɪkəl) or **categoric** *adj.* **1.** unqualified; unconditional: *a categorical statement.* **2.** relating to or included in a category. **3.** (of a statement in logic) consisting of a subject (X) and an attribute (Y) linked by a copula; subject-predicate proposition, as in: *all X are Y.* —,cate'gorically *adv.*

categorize or **-ise** ('kæti'gɒrə,raɪz) *vb.* (*tr.*) to place in a category. —,categori'zation or -i'sation *n.*

category ('kæti'gɒri) *n.*, *pl.* **-ries.** **1.** a class or group of things, people, etc., possessing some quality or qualities in common. **2.** *Metaphysics.* the most basic class into which objects and concepts can be analysed. **3.** **a.** (in the philosophy of Aristotle) one of ten fundamental modes of being, such as quantity, quality, and substance. **b.** (in the philosophy of Kant) one of twelve concepts required by human beings to interpret the empirical world. —,categori'al ('kæti'gɒrɪəl) *adj.*

catena (kə'tɪnə) *n.*, *pl.* **-nae** (-ni:), a connected series, esp. of patristic comments on the Bible.

cater ('keɪtə) *vb.* **1.** (*intr.*; *fol.*) by for or to) to provide what is required or desired (for). **2.** (when *intr.*, *fol.*) by for) to provide food, services, etc. (for): *we cater for parties.* —,cater'ing *n.*

caterer ('keɪtərə) *n.* one who as a profession provides food for large social events, etc.

caterpillar ('kætə,pɪlə) *n.* 1. the wormlike larva of butterflies and moths, having numerous pairs of legs and powerful biting jaws. 2. an endless track, driven by sprockets or wheels, used to propel a heavy vehicle. 3. a vehicle, such as a tractor, tank, etc., driven by such tracks.

caterwaul ('kætə,wɔ:l) *vb. (intr.)* 1. to make a yowling noise, as a cat on heat. ~*n.* 2. a yell made by or sounding like a cat on heat.

catfish ('kæt,fɪʃ) *n., pl. -fish or -fishes.* any of numerous mainly freshwater fishes having whisker-like barbels around the mouth.

catgut ('kæt,gʌt) *n.* a strong cord made from the dried intestines of sheep and other animals that is used for stringing certain musical instruments and sports rackets.

Cath. abbrev. for: 1. Cathedral. 2. Catholic.

cath- prefix. variant of *cata-* before an aspirate: *cathode*.

catharsis or katharsis (kə'θɑ:sɪs) *n.* 1. the purging or purification of the emotions through the evocation of pity and fear, as in tragedy. 2. *Psychoanal.* a method of bringing repressed ideas or experiences to consciousness, by means of free association, etc. 3. purgation, esp. of the bowels.

cathartic (kə'θɑ:tɪk) *adj.* 1. purgative. 2. effecting catharsis. ~*n.* 3. a purgative drug or agent. —*ca'thar-tically adv.*

Cathay (kæ'theɪ) *n.* a literary or archaic name for China.

cathedral (kə'ti:drəl) *n.* a. the principal church of a diocese, containing the bishop's official throne. b. (as modifier): a cathedral city.

Catherine wheel ('kæθrɪn) *n.* 1. a firework which rotates, producing sparks and coloured flame. 2. a circular window having ribs radiating from the centre.

catheter ('kæθɪtə) *n. Med.* a long slender flexible tube for inserting into a bodily cavity for introducing or withdrawing fluid. —*'catheter, ize or -lize vb.*

cathode ('kæθəd) *n.* 1. the negative electrode in an electrolytic cell. 2. the negatively charged electron source in an electronic valve. 3. the positive terminal of a primary cell. —*Cf. anode.* —**cathodal** (kæ'thəʊdəl) or **cathodic** (kæ'thəʊdɪk, -'θəʊ-) *adj.*

cathode rays pl. n. a stream of electrons emitted from the surface of a cathode in a vacuum tube.

cathode-ray tube *n.* a vacuum tube in which a beam of electrons is focused onto a fluorescent screen to give a visible spot of light. The device is used in television tubes, oscilloscopes, etc.

catholic ('kæθəlɪk, 'kæθəlɪk) *adj.* 1. universal; relating to all men. 2. broad-minded; liberal. —**catholically or catholicly** (kə'θəlɪklɪ) *adv.*

Catholic ('kæθəlɪk, 'kæθəlɪk) *adj. Christianity.* 1. denoting or relating to the entire body of Christians, esp. to the Church before separation into the Eastern and Western Churches. 2. denoting or relating to the Latin or Western Church after this separation. 3. denoting or relating to the Roman Catholic Church. ~*n.* 4. a member of the Roman Catholic Church.

Catholicism (kə'θəlɪsɪzəm) *n.* 1. short for **Roman Catholicism**. 2. the beliefs, practices, etc., of any Catholic Church.

catholicity (kə'θəʊlɪsɪtɪ) *n.* 1. a wide range of interests, tastes, etc. 2. comprehensiveness.

cation ('kætəɪən) *n.* a positively charged ion; an ion that is attracted to the cathode during electrolysis. *Cf. anion.* —**cationic** (kə'teɪə'nɪk) *adj.*

catkin ('kætkɪn) *n.* an inflorescence consisting of a hanging spike of much reduced flowers of either sex: occurs in birch, hazel, etc.

catmint ('kæt,mɪnt) *n.* a Eurasian plant having spikes of purple-spotted white flowers and scented leaves of which cats are fond. Also called: **catnip**.

catnap ('kæt,næp) *n.* 1. a short sleep or doze. ~*vb. -napping, -napped.* 2. (*intr.*) to sleep or doze for a short time or intermittently.

cat-o'-nine-tails *n., pl. -tails.* a rope whip consisting of nine knotted thongs, used formerly to flog prisoners. Often shortened to **cat**.

cat's cradle *n.* a game played by making patterns with a loop of string between the fingers.

cat's-eye *n.* 1. *Brit.* a glass reflector set into a small fixture, placed at intervals along roads to indicate traffic lanes at night. 2. any of a group of gemstones that reflect a streak of light when cut in a rounded unfaceted shape.

cat's-paw *n.* 1. a person used by another as a tool;

dupe. 2. a pattern of ripples on the surface of water caused by a light wind.

cattle ('kætl) *n. (functioning as pl.)* 1. bovid mammals of the tribe *Bovini* (bovines). 2. Also called: **domestic cattle**, any domesticated bovine mammals.

cattle-grid *n.* a ditch in a roadway covered by a grid, intended to prevent the passage of livestock while allowing vehicles, etc., to pass unhindered.

catty ('kæti) or **cattish** *adj. -tier, -tiest.* 1. *Inf. spiteful:* a catty remark. 2. of or resembling a cat. —*'cattily or 'cattishly adv.* —*'cattiness or 'cattishness n.*

catwalk ('kæt,wɔ:k) *n.* a narrow pathway over the stage of a theatre, along a bridge, etc.

Caucasian (kə'keɪʒən) *adj.* 1. another word for **Caucasoid**. 2. of or relating to the Caucasus in the SW Soviet Union. ~*n.* 3. a member of the Caucasoid race; a white man. 4. a native or inhabitant of the Caucasus.

Caucasoid ('kə:kə,zɔɪd) *adj.* 1. denoting or belonging to the light-complexioned racial group of mankind, which includes the peoples indigenous to Europe, N Africa, SW Asia, and the Indian subcontinent. ~*n.* 2. a member of this racial group.

caucus ('kɔ:kəs) *n., pl. -cuses.* 1. *Chiefly U.S.* a closed meeting of the members of one party in a legislative chamber, etc., to coordinate policy, choose candidates, etc. 2. *Chiefly U.S.* a local meeting of party members. 3. *Brit.* a party organization, esp. on a local level. 4. *N.Z.* a formal meeting of all M.P.s of one party. 5. *Austral.* a group of members of parliament from one party who meet to discuss tactics, etc. ~*vb.* 6. (*intr.*) to hold a caucus.

caudal ('kɔ:dəl) *adj.* 1. *Anat.* of the posterior part of the body. 2. *Zool.* resembling or in the position of the tail. —*'caudally adv.*

caudle ('kɔ:dəl) *n.* a hot spiced wine drink made with gruel, formerly used medicinally.

caught (kɔ:t) *vb.* the past tense and past participle of **catch**.

caul (kɔ:l) *n. Anat.* a portion of the amniotic sac sometimes covering a child's head at birth.

cauldron or caldron ('kɔ:ldrən) *n.* a large pot used for boiling, esp. one with handles.

cauliflower ('kɔ:lɪ,flaʊs) *n.* 1. a variety of cabbage having a large edible head of crowded white flowers on a very short thick stem. 2. the flower head of this plant, used as a vegetable.

cauliflower ear *n.* permanent swelling and distortion of the external ear as the result of ruptures of the blood vessels: usually caused by blows received in boxing.

caulk or calk (kɔ:k) *vb.* 1. to stop up (cracks, crevices, etc.) with a filler. 2. *Naut.* to pack (the seams) between the planks of the bottom of (a vessel) with waterproof material to prevent leakage.

causal ('kɔ:zəl) *adj.* 1. acting as or being a cause. 2. stating, involving, or implying a cause: *the causal part of the argument.* 3. *Grammar.* (of a word, phrase, or clause) indicating cause or reason: "because" is a causal conjunction. —*'causally adv.*

causality (kɔ:'zælɪtɪ) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. a. the relationship of cause and effect. b. the principle that nothing can happen without being caused. 2. causal agency or quality.

causation (kɔ:'zeɪʃən) *n.* 1. the production of an effect by a cause. 2. the relationship of cause and effect. —*cau'sational adj.*

causative ('kɔ:zətɪv) *adj.* 1. *Grammar.* relating to a form or class of verbs that express causation. 2. (*often postpositive and foll. by of*) producing an effect. ~*n.* 3. the causative form or class of verbs. —*'causatively adv.*

cause (kɔ:z) *n.* 1. a person, thing, event, state, or action that produces an effect. 2. a basis or the grounds for action: *her rudeness was a cause for complaint.* 3. reason: *she had good cause to shout like that.* 4. the ideals, etc., of a group or movement: *the Communist cause.* 5. the welfare or interests of a person or group in a dispute: *they fought for the miners' cause.* 6. a. a ground for legal action; matter giving rise to a lawsuit. b. the lawsuit itself. 7. *Arch.* a subject of debate or discussion. 8. **make common cause with.** to join with (a person, group, etc.) for a common objective. ~*vb.* 9. (*tr.*) to be the cause of; bring about. —*'causable adj.* —*'causeless adj.*

cause célèbre ('kɔ:z sə'lebrə) *n., pl. causes célèbres* ('kɔ:z sə'lebrəz). a famous lawsuit, trial, or controversy.

causerie ('kəʊzəri) *n.* an informal talk or conversational piece of writing.

causeway ('kɔ:z,wei) *n.* 1. a raised path or road crossing water, marshland, etc. 2. a paved footpath.

caustic ('kɔ:stɪk) *adj.* 1. capable of burning or corroding by chemical action: *caustic soda*. 2. sarcastic; cutting: *a caustic reply*. ~*n.* 3. Also called: **caustic surface**, a surface that envelops the light rays reflected or refracted by a curved surface. 4. Also called: **caustic curve**, a curve formed by the intersection of a caustic surface with a plane. 5. *Chem.* a caustic substance, esp. an alkali. — **caustically** *adv.* — **causticity** ('kɔ:'stɪtɪ) *n.*

cauterize or -ise ('kɔ:tə,raɪz) *vb.* (tr.) (esp. in the treatment of a wound) to burn or sear (body tissue) with a hot iron or caustic agent. — **cauterization or -isation** *n.*

caution ('kɔ:ʃən) *n.* 1. care, forethought, or prudence, esp. in the face of danger. 2. something intended or serving as a warning. 3. *Law, chiefly Brit.* a formal warning given to a person suspected of an offence that his words will be taken down and may be used in evidence. 4. *Inf.* an amusing or surprising person or thing. ~*vb.* 5. (tr.) to warn (a person) to be careful. 6. (tr.) *Law, chiefly Brit.* to give a caution to (a person). 7. (intr.) to warn, urge, or advise: *he cautioned against optimism*. — **cautionary** *adj.*

cautious ('kɔ:ʃəs) *adj.* showing or having caution. — **cautiously** *adv.* — **cautiousness** *n.*

cavalcade (,kævəl'keɪd) *n.* 1. a procession of people on horseback, in cars, etc. 2. any procession.

cavalier (,kævə'liə) *adj.* 1. supercilious; offhand. ~*n.* 2. a courtly gentleman, esp. one acting as a lady's escort. 3. *Arch.* a horseman, esp. one who is armed. — **cavalierly** *adv.*

Cavalier (,kævə'liə) *n.* a supporter of Charles I during the English Civil War.

cavalry ('kævlrɪ) *n., pl. -ries*. 1. (esp. formerly) the part of an army composed of mounted troops. 2. the motorized armoured element of a modern army. 3. (as modifier): *a cavalry unit*. — **cavalryman** *n.*

cave¹ ('keɪv) *n.* 1. an underground hollow with access from the ground surface or from the sea. 2. *Brit. history.* a secession or a group seceding from a political party on some issue. 3. (modifier) living in caves. ~*vb.* 4. (tr.) to hollow out.

cave² ('keɪv) *Brit. school sl.* ~*n.* 1. lookout: *keep cave*. ~*interj.* 2. watch out!

caveat ('keɪvɪ,æt, 'kæv-) *n.* 1. *Law.* a formal notice requesting the court not to take a certain action without warning the person lodging the caveat. 2. a caution.

cave in *vb.* (intr., adv.) 1. to collapse; subside. 2. *Inf.* to yield completely, esp. under pressure. ~*n.* **cave-in**. 3. the sudden collapse of a roof, piece of ground, etc. 4. the site of such a collapse, as at a mine or tunnel.

cavel ('keɪvl) *n.* *N.Z.* a drawing of lots among miners for an easy and profitable place at the coalface.

caveman ('keɪv,mæn) *n., pl. -men*. 1. a man of the Palaeolithic age; cave dweller. 2. *Inf.* a man who is primitive or brutal in behaviour, etc.

cavern ('kævn) *n.* 1. a cave, esp. when large. ~*vb.* (tr.) 2. to shut in or as if in a cavern. 3. to hollow out.

cavernous ('kævənəs) *adj.* 1. suggestive of a cavern in vastness, etc.: *cavernous eyes*. 2. filled with small cavities. 3. (of rocks) containing caverns.

caviar or caviare ('kævɪ,ɑ:, 'kævn'ɑ:) *n.* the salted roe of sturgeon, usually served as an hors d'oeuvre.

cavil ('kævɪl) *vb.* -illing, -illed or *U.S.* -iling, -iled. 1. (intr.; foll. by at or about) to raise annoying petty objections. ~*n.* 2. a trifling objection. — **caviller** *n.*

caving ('keɪvɪŋ) *n.* the sport of climbing in and exploring caves. — **caver** *n.*

cavity ('kævɪtɪ) *n., pl. -ties*. 1. a hollow space. 2. *Dentistry.* a decayed area on a tooth. 3. any empty or hollow space within the body.

cavort (kə'vɔ:t) *vb.* (intr.) to prance; caper. — **ca'vort-er** *n.*

caw (kɔ:) *n.* 1. the cry of a crow, rook, or raven. ~*vb.* 2. (intr.) to make this cry.

cay (keɪ, ki:) *n.* a small low island or bank composed of sand and coral fragments.

cayenne pepper (keɪ'en) *n.* a very hot red condiment made from the dried seeds of various capsicums. Often shortened to **cayenne**. Also called: **red pepper**.

cayman or caiman ('keɪmən) *n., pl. -mans*. a tropical American crocodilian similar to alligators but with a more heavily armoured belly.

Cb the chemical symbol for columbium.

CB abbrev. for Citizens' Band.

C.B. abbrev. for: 1. Companion of the (Order of the) Bath (a Brit. title). 2. County Borough.

CBC abbrev. for Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

C.B.E. abbrev. for Commander of the (Order of the) British Empire.

C.B.I. abbrev. for: 1. Confederation of British Industry. 2. U.S. Central Bureau of Investigation.

cc or **c.c.** abbrev. for: 1. carbon copy or copies. 2. cubic centimetre(s).

cc. abbrev. for chapters.

C.C. abbrev. for: 1. City Council. 2. County Council. 3. Cricket Club.

cd abbrev. for candela.

Cd the chemical symbol for cadmium.

C.D. abbrev. for: 1. Civil Defence (Corps). 2. Corps Diplomatique (Diplomatic Corps).

Cdr. *Mil.* abbrev. for Commander.

CDT (in the U.S. & Canada) abbrev. for Central Daylight Time.

Ce the chemical symbol for cerium.

C.E. abbrev. for: 1. Church of England. 2. civil engineer. 3. Common Era.

cease (si:s) *vb.* 1. (when tr., may take a gerund or an infinitive as object) to bring or come to an end. ~*n.* 2. without cease, without stopping.

cease-fire *Chiefly mil.* ~*n.* 1. a period of truce, esp. one that is temporary. ~*interj.*, *n.* 2. the order to stop firing.

ceaseless ('si:sli:s) *adj.* without stop or pause; incessant. — **ceaselessly** *adv.*

cedar ('si:də) *n.* 1. any of a genus of Old World coniferous trees having needle-like evergreen leaves, and erect barrel-shaped cones. See also **cedar of Lebanon**, **deodar**. 2. any of various other conifers, such as the red cedars and white cedars. 3. the wood of any of these trees. ~*adj.* 4. made of the wood of a cedar tree.

cedar of Lebanon ('lebanən) *n.* a cedar of SW Asia with level spreading branches and fragrant wood.

cede (si:d) *vb.* 1. (when intr., often foll. by to) to transfer, make over, or surrender (something, esp. territory or legal rights). 2. (tr.) to allow or concede (a point in an argument, etc.). — **ceder** *n.*

cedilla (si'dɪlə) *n.* a character (,) placed underneath a c before a, o, or u, esp. in French, Spanish, or Portuguese, denoting that it is to be pronounced (s), not (k).

Ceefax ('si:fæks) *n.* *Trademark.* the B.B.C. teletext service.

ceilidh ('keɪlɪ) *n.* (esp. in Scotland and Ireland) an informal social gathering with singing, dancing, and storytelling.

ceiling ('si:lɪŋ) *n.* 1. the inner upper surface of a room. 2. an upper limit, such as one set by regulation on prices or wages. 3. the upper altitude to which an aircraft can climb measured under specified conditions. 4. *Meteorol.* the highest level in the atmosphere from which the earth's surface is visible at a particular time, usually the base of a cloud layer.

celandine ('selən,dəɪn) *n.* either of two unrelated plants, greater celandine or lesser celandine, with yellow flowers.

-cele *n.* combining form, tumour or hernia: *hydrocele*.

celebrant ('selbrənt) *n.* a person participating in a religious ceremony, esp. at the Eucharist.

celebrate ('sel,breɪt) *vb.* 1. to rejoice in or have special festivities to mark (a happy day, event, etc.). 2. (tr.) to observe (a birthday, anniversary, etc.). 3. (tr.) to perform (a solemn or religious ceremony), esp. to officiate at (Mass). 4. (tr.) to praise publicly; proclaim. — **cele'bration** *n.* — **'celebrator** *n.* — **'celebratory** *adj.*

celebrated ('sel,breɪtɪd) *adj.* (usually prenominal) famous: *a celebrated pianist*.

celebrity ('selbrɪtɪ) *n., pl. -ties*. 1. a famous person. 2. fame or notoriety.

celeriac (si'leri,æk) *n.* a variety of celery with a large turnip-like root, used as a vegetable.

celerity (si'lerɪtɪ) *n.* rapidity; swiftness; speed.

celery ('seləri) *n.* 1. an umbelliferous Eurasian plant whose blanched leafstalks are used in salads or cooked as a vegetable. 2. **wild celery**, a related and similar plant.

celesta (si'lestə) or **celeste** (si'lest) *n.* *Music.* a keyboard percussion instrument consisting of a set of steel plates of graduated length that are struck with key-operated hammers.

celestial (si'lestʃəl) *adj.* 1. heavenly; divine: *celestial peace*. 2. of or relating to the sky: *celestial bodies*. 3. of or connected with the celestial sphere: *celestial pole*. —*ce'lestially adv.*

celestial equator *n.* the great circle lying on the celestial sphere the plane of which is perpendicular to the line joining the north and south celestial poles. Also called: **equinoctial**, **equinoctial circle**.

celestial sphere *n.* an imaginary sphere of infinitely large radius enclosing the universe so that all celestial bodies appear to be projected onto its surface.

celibate ('selibit) *n.* 1. a person who is unmarried, esp. one who has taken a religious vow of chastity. —*adj.* 2. unmarried. —*'celibacy n.*

cell (sel) *n.* 1. a small simple room, as in a prison, convent, etc. 2. any small compartment: *the cells of a honeycomb*. 3. *Biol.* the smallest unit of an organism that is able to function independently. It consists of a nucleus, containing the genetic material, surrounded by the cytoplasm. 4. *Biol.* any small cavity, such as the cavity containing pollen in an anther. 5. a device for converting chemical energy into electrical energy, usually consisting of a container with two electrodes immersed in an electrolyte. See also **dry cell**, **fuel cell**. 6. in full **electrolytic cell**, a device in which electrolysis occurs. 7. a small religious house dependent upon a larger one. 8. a small group of persons operating as a nucleus of a larger organization: *Communist cell*.

cellar ('selə) *n.* 1. an underground room, or storey of a building, usually used for storage. 2. a place where wine is stored. 3. a stock of bottled wines. —*vb.* 4. (*tr.*) to store in a cellar.

cellarage ('seləridʒ) *n.* 1. an area of a cellar. 2. a charge for storing goods in a cellar, etc.

cellaret (,selə'ret) *n.* a cabinet or sideboard with compartments for holding wine bottles.

cello (tʃeləʊ) *n., pl. -los.* *Music.* a bowed stringed instrument of the violin family. It has four strings, is held between the knees, and has a metal spike at the lower end, which acts as a support. Full name: **violoncello**. —*'cellist n.*

cellophane ('selə,fem) *n.* a flexible thin transparent sheeting made from wood pulp and used as a moisture-proof wrapping.

cellular ('seljələ) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or resembling a cell. 2. consisting of or having cells or small cavities; porous. 3. *Textiles.* woven with an open texture: *a cellular blanket*.

cellule ('selju:l) *n.* a very small cell.

cellulite ('selju,laɪt) *n.* a name sometimes given to subcutaneous fat alleged to resist dieting.

Celluloid ('selju,lɔɪd) *n.* 1. *Trademark.* a flammable material consisting of cellulose nitrate and camphor: used in sheets, rods, etc. 2. (*usually not cap.*) a. a cellulose derivative used for coating film. b. cinema film.

cellulose ('selju,ləʊz, -ləʊs) *n.* a substance which is the main constituent of plant cell walls and used in making paper, rayon, and film.

cellulose acetate *n.* nonflammable material used in the manufacture of film, dopes, lacquers, and artificial fibres.

Celsius ('selsiəs) *adj.* denoting a measurement on the Celsius scale. Symbol: C

Celsius scale *n.* a scale of temperature in which 0° represents the melting point of ice and 100° represents the boiling point of water. Also called: **centigrade scale**. Cf. **Fahrenheit scale**.

Celt (kelt, selt) or **Kelt** *n.* 1. a person who speaks a Celtic language. 2. a member of an Indo-European people who in pre-Roman times inhabited Britain, Gaul, and Spain.

Celtic ('keltik, 'sɪl-) or **Keltic** *n.* 1. a branch of the Indo-European family of languages that includes Gaelic, Welsh, and Breton. Modern Celtic is divided into the Brythonic (southern) and Goidelic (northern) groups. —*adj.* 2. of, relating to, or characteristic of the Celts or the Celtic languages. —**Celticism** ('kelt,siʒəm, 'sel-) or **Kelticism n.**

cement (si'ment) *n.* 1. a fine grey powder made of a mixture of limestone and clay, used with water and sand to make mortar, or with water, sand, and aggregate, to make concrete. 2. a binder, glue, or adhesive. 3. something that unites or joins. 4. *Dentistry.* any of various materials used in filling teeth. 5. to join, bind, or glue together with or as if with cement. 6. to coat or cover with cement. —*ce'menter n.*

cemetery ('semitri) *n., pl. -teries.* a place where the dead are buried, esp. one not attached to a church.

-cene *n. and adj. combining form.* denoting a recent geological period.

cenobite ('si:nəʊ,bait) *n.* a variant spelling of **coenobite**.

cenotaph ('senə,tə:f) *n.* a monument honouring a dead person or persons buried elsewhere.

Cenozoic (,si:nəʊ'zəʊk) or **Cainozoic** *adj.* 1. of, denoting, or relating to the most recent geological era characterized by the development and increase of the mammals. —*n.* 2. *the.* the Cenozoic era.

censer ('sensə) *n.* a container for burning incense. Also called: **thurible**.

censor ('sensə) *n.* 1. a person authorized to examine publications, films, letters, etc., in order to suppress in whole or part those considered obscene, politically unacceptable, etc. 2. any person who controls or suppresses the behaviour of others, usually on moral grounds. 3. (in republican Rome) either of two senior magistrates elected to keep the list of citizens up to date, and supervise public morals. 4. *Psychoanal.* the postulated factor responsible for regulating the translation of ideas and desires from the unconscious to the conscious mind. —*vb. (tr.)* 5. to ban or cut portions of (a film, letter, etc.). 6. to act as a censor of (behaviour, etc.). —**censorial** (sen'sɔ:riəl) *adj.*

censorious (sen'sɔ:riəs) *adj.* harshly critical; fault-finding. —**cen'soriously adv.**

censorship ('sensə,ʃɪp) *n.* 1. a policy or programme of censoring. 2. the act or system of censoring.

censure ('sensə) *n.* 1. severe disapproval. —*vb.* 2. to criticize (someone or something) severely. —**'censurable adj.**

census ('sensəs) *n., pl. -suses.* 1. an official periodic count of a population including such information as sex, age, occupation, etc. 2. any official count: *a traffic census*. 3. (in ancient Rome) a registration of the population and a property evaluation for taxation.

cent (sent) *n.* a monetary unit of Australia, Barbados, Botswana, Canada, Hong Kong, Kenya, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, the United States, etc. It is worth one hundredth of their respective standard units.

cent. *abbrev. for:* 1. centigrade. 2. central. 3. century.

centaur ('sentɔ:) *n.* *Greek myth.* one of a race of creatures with the head, arms, and torso of a man, and the lower body and legs of a horse.

centenarian (,sentɪ'neəriən) *n.* 1. a person who is at least 100 years old. —*adj.* 2. being at least 100 years old. 3. of or relating to a centenarian.

centenary (sen'tɪnəri) *adj.* 1. of or relating to a period of 100 years. 2. occurring once every 100 years. —*n., pl. -naries.* 3. a 100th anniversary or its celebration.

centennial (sen'tenəri) *adj.* 1. relating to or completing a period of 100 years. 2. occurring every 100 years. —*n.* 3. *U.S.* another name for **centenary** (sense 3).

center ('sentə) *n., vb.* the *U.S.* spelling of **centre**.

centesimal (sen'tesiməl) *n.* 1. hundredth. —*adj.* 2. relating to division into hundredths. —**cen'tesimal-ly adv.**

centi- or before a vowel cent- *prefix.* 1. denoting one hundredth: *centimetre*. Symbol: c 2. *Rare.* denoting a hundred: *centipede*.

centigrade ('sentɪ,greɪd) *adj.* 1. another name for **Celsius**. —*n.* 2. a unit of angle equal to one hundredth of a grade.

▷ **Usage.** *Centigrade*, when indicating the Celsius scale of temperature, is now usually avoided in scientific contexts because of possible confusion with the hundredth part of a grade.

centigram or centigramme ('sentɪ,græm) *n.* one hundredth of a gram.

centilitre or U.S. centiliter ('sentɪ,lɪtə) *n.* one hundredth of a litre.

centime ('sɒn,tɪ:m; *French* sɑ'tim) *n.* a monetary unit of Algeria, Belgium, the Central African Republic, France, Guinea, Haiti, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mali, Mauritania, Switzerland, Tahiti, Togo, etc. It is worth one hundredth of their respective standard units.

centimetre or U.S. centimeter ('sentɪ,mɪtə) *n.* one hundredth of a metre.

centipede ('sentɪ,pɪd) *n.* a carnivorous arthropod having a body of between 15 and 190 segments, each bearing one pair of legs.

cento ('sentəʊ) *n.*, *pl.* -tos. a piece of writing, esp. a poem, composed of quotations from other authors.

CENTO ('sentəʊ) *n.* acronym for Central Treaty Organization, an organization for military and economic co-operation formed in 1959 by the U.K., Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey.

central ('sentrəl) *adj.* 1. in, at, of, from, containing, or forming the centre of something: *the central street in a city.* 2. main, principal, or chief: *the central cause of a problem.* —**centrality** ('sentrəliti) *n.* —**centrally** *adv.*

Central America *n.* an isthmus joining the continents of North and South America, extending from the S border of Mexico to the NW border of Colombia. —**Central American** *adj.*

central bank *n.* a national bank that does business mainly with a government and with other banks: it regulates the volume of credit.

central heating *n.* a system for heating the rooms of a building by means of radiators or air vents connected to a central source of heat.

centralism ('sentrəlɪzəm) *n.* the principle or act of bringing something under central control. —**centralist** *n.*, *adj.*

centralize or **-lize** ('sentrəlaɪz) *vb.* 1. to bring or move (something) to or towards a centre. 2. to draw or come under central, esp. governmental control. —, **centralization** or **-lization** *n.*

central nervous system *n.* the mass of nerve tissue that controls and coordinates the activities of an animal. In vertebrates it consists of the brain and spinal cord.

central processing unit *n.* the part of a computer that performs logical and arithmetical operations on the data. Abbrev.: CPU

centre or **U.S. center** ('sentə) *n.* 1. *Geom.* a. the midpoint of any line or figure, esp. the point within a circle or sphere that is equidistant from any point on the circumference or surface. b. the point within a body through which a specified force may be considered to act, such as the centre of gravity. 2. the point, axis, or pivot about which a body rotates. 3. a point, area, or part that is approximately in the middle of a larger area or volume. 4. a place at which some specified activity is concentrated: a *shopping centre*. 5. a person or thing that is a focus of interest. 6. a place of activity or influence: a *centre of power*. 7. a person, group, or thing in the middle. 8. (*usually cap.*) *Politics.* a political party or group favouring moderation. 9. a bar with a conical point upon which a workpiece or part may be turned or ground. 10. *Football, hockey, etc.* a. a player who plays in the middle of the forward line. b. an instance of passing the ball from a wing to the middle of the field, etc. ~*vb.* 11. to move towards, mark, put, or be at a centre. 12. (*tr.*) to focus or bring together: *to centre one's thoughts.* 13. (*intr.*; often foll. by *on*) to have as a main theme: *the novel centred on crime.* 14. (*intr.*; foll. by *on* or *round*) to have as a centre. 15. (*tr.*) *Football, hockey, etc.* to pass (the ball) into the middle of the field or court.

▷ **Usage.** To *centre round* is considered illogical by many writers and speakers, who prefer the more precise phrase *to centre on*.

Centre ('sentə) *n.* the. Also called: **Centralla** (archaic), **the Red Centre**, the sparsely inhabited central region of Australia.

centreboard ('sentə,bɔ:d) *n.* a supplementary keel for a sailing vessel.

centrefold or **U.S. centerfold** ('sentə,fəʊld) *n.* a large coloured illustration folded so that it forms the central spread of a magazine.

centre forward *n.* Soccer, hockey, etc. the central forward in the attack.

centre half *n.* Soccer. a defender who plays in the middle of the defence.

centre of gravity *n.* the point through which the resultant of the gravitational forces on a body always acts.

centrepiece ('sentə,pɪs) *n.* an object used as the centre of something, esp. for decoration.

centri- combining form. variant of **centro-**.

centric ('sentrik) or **centrical** *adj.* 1. being central or having a centre. 2. relating to a nerve centre. —**centricity** ('sentrisiti) *n.*

-centric suffix forming adjectives. having a centre as specified: *heliocentric*.

centrifugal (sen'trifʊgəl, 'sentri,fju:ɡəl) *adj.* 1. acting, moving, or tending to move away from a centre. Cf.

centripetal. 2. of, concerned with, or operated by centrifugal force: *centrifugal pump*. —**centrifugally** *adv.*

centrifuge ('sentri,fju:dʒ) *n.* 1. any of various rotating machines that separate liquids from solids or other liquids by the action of centrifugal force. 2. any of various rotating devices for subjecting human beings or animals to varying accelerations. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to subject to the action of a centrifuge. —**centrifugation** ('sentrifju:'geɪʃən) *n.*

centring ('sentriŋ) or **U.S. centering** ('sentəriŋ) *n.* a temporary structure, esp. one made of timber, used to support an arch during construction.

centripetal (sen'triptəl, 'sentri,pitəl) *adj.* 1. acting, moving, or tending to move towards a centre. Cf. **centrifugal**. 2. of, concerned with, or operated by centripetal force. —**centripetally** *adv.*

centrist ('sentrist) *n.* a person holding moderate political views. —**centrism** *n.*

centro-, centri-, or before a vowel **centr-** combining form. denoting a centre: *centrosome*; *centrist*.

centurion (sen'tjʊəriən) *n.* the officer commanding a Roman century.

century ('sentʃəri) *n.*, *pl.* -ries. 1. a period of 100 years. 2. one of the successive periods of 100 years dated before or after an epoch or event, esp. the birth of Christ. 3. a score or grouping of 100: *to score a century in cricket.* 4. (in ancient Rome) a unit of foot soldiers, originally consisting of 100 men. 5. (in ancient Rome) a division of the people for purposes of voting.

cep (sep) *n.* an edible woodland fungus with a brown shining cap and a rich nutty flavour.

cephalic (si'fælik) *adj.* 1. of or relating to the head. 2. situated in, on, or near the head.

-cephalic or **-cephalous** *adj.* combining form. indicating skull or head; -headed: *brachycephalic*. —**cephaly** or **-cephalism** *n.* combining form.

cephalo- or before a vowel **cephal-** combining form. indicating the head: *cephalopod*.

cephalopod ('sefələ,pɒd) *n.* any of various marine molluscs, characterized by well-developed head and eyes and a ring of sucker-bearing tentacles, including the octopuses, squids, and cuttlefish. —, **cephalopodan** *adj.*, *n.*

ceramic (sɪ'ræmik) *n.* 1. a hard brittle material made by firing clay and similar substances. 2. an object made from such a material. ~*adj.* 3. of or made from a ceramic. 4. of or relating to ceramics: *ceramic arts*.

ceramics (sɪ'ræmiks) *n.* (*functioning as sing.*) the art and techniques of producing articles of clay, porcelain, etc. —**ceramist** ('serəmist) *n.*

cere (sɪə) *n.* a soft waxy swelling, containing the nostrils, at the base of the upper beak, as in the parrot.

cereal ('siəriəl) *n.* 1. any grass that produces an edible grain, such as oat, wheat, rice, maize, and millet. 2. the grain produced by such a plant. 3. any food made from this grain, esp. breakfast food. 4. (*modifier*) of or relating to any of these plants or their products.

cerebellum (,serɪ'bɛləm) *n.*, *pl.* -lums or -la (-lə). one of the major divisions of the vertebrate brain whose function is coordination of voluntary movements.

cerebral ('siəribrəl; U.S. also sɔ:ri'brəl) *adj.* 1. of or relating to the cerebrum or to the entire brain. 2. involving intelligence rather than emotions or instinct. —**cerebrally** *adv.*

cerebral palsy *n.* an impairment of muscular function and weakness of the limbs, caused by damage to the brain before or during birth.

cerebrate ('siəri,breit) *vb.* (*intr.*) *Usually facetious.* to use the mind; think; ponder; consider. —, **cerebration** *n.*

cerebro- or before a vowel **cerebr-** combining form. indicating the brain: *cerebrospinal*.

cerebrospinal (,serɪbrəu'spɑ:məl) *adj.* of or relating to the brain and spinal cord: *cerebrospinal fluid*.

cerebrovascular (,serɪbrəu'væskjələ) *adj.* of or relating to the blood vessels and the blood supply of the brain.

cerebrum ('siəribrəm) *n.*, *pl.* -brums or -bra (-brə). 1. the anterior portion of the brain of vertebrates, consisting of two lateral hemispheres: the dominant part of the brain in man, associated with intellectual function, emotion, and personality. 2. the brain considered as a whole. —**cerebric** ('siəribrɪk) *adj.*

cerecloth ('siə,kloθ) *n.* waxed waterproof cloth of a kind formerly used as a shroud.

ceremonial (,serɪ'məʊniəl) *adj.* 1. involving or relating to ceremony or ritual. ~*n.* 2. the observance of formality, esp. in etiquette. 3. a plan for formal observances; ritual. 4. *Christianity.* a. the prescribed order of

rites and ceremonies. **b.** a book containing this. — **ceremonialism** *n.* — **ceremonialist** *n.* — **ceremonially** *adv.*

ceremonious (ˌsɛrɪˈmɒniəs) *adj.* 1. especially or excessively polite or formal. 2. involving formalities. — **ceremoniously** *adv.*

ceremony (ˈsɛrɪməni) *n., pl. -nies.* 1. a formal act or ritual, often set by custom or tradition, performed in observation of an event or anniversary. 2. a religious rite or series of rites. 3. a courteous gesture or act: *the ceremony of toasting the Queen.* 4. ceremonial observances or gestures collectively. 5. **stand on ceremony.** to insist on or act with excessive formality.

cerise (səˈrɪz, ˈrɪs) *n.* a moderate to dark red colour.

cerium (ˈsɛəriəm) *n.* a malleable ductile steel-grey element of the lanthanide series of metals, used in lighter flints. Symbol: Ce; atomic no.: 58; atomic wt.: 140.12.

CERN (sɜːn) *n.* acronym for Conseil Européen pour la Recherche Nucléaire; an organization of European states with a centre in Geneva, for research in high-energy particle physics.

cert (sɜːt) *n.* *Inf.* something that is a certainty, esp. a horse that is certain to win a race.

cert. *abbrev. for:* 1. certificate. 2. certification. 3. certified.

certain (ˈsɜːtɪn) *adj.* 1. (*postpositive*) positive and confident about the truth of something; convinced: *I am certain that he wrote a book.* 2. (*usually postpositive*) definitely known: *it is certain that they were on the bus.* 3. (*usually postpositive*) sure; bound: *he was certain to fail.* 4. fixed: *the date is already certain for the invasion.* 5. reliable: *his judgment is certain.* 6. moderate or minimum: *to a certain extent.* ~*adv.* 7. **for certain.** without a doubt. ~*determiner.* 8. a. known but not specified or named: *certain people.* b. (*as pronoun; functioning as pl.*): *certain of the members have not paid.* 9. named but not known: *he had written to a certain Mrs. Smith.*

certainly (ˈsɜːtɪnli) *adv.* 1. without doubt: *he certainly rides very well.* 2. *sentence substitute.* by all means; definitely.

certainty (ˈsɜːtɪnti) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. the condition of being certain. 2. something established as inevitable. 3. **for a certainty.** without doubt.

certes (ˈsɜːtɪz) *adv.* *Arch.* with certainty; truly.

certificate *n.* (səˈtɪfɪkət) 1. an official document attesting the truth of the facts stated, as of birth, death, completion of an academic course, etc. 2. short for **share certificate.** ~*vb.* (səˈtɪfɪkeɪt) 3. (*tr.*) to authorize by or present with an official document. — **cer'tifi-catory** *adj.*

Certificate of Secondary Education *n.* the full name for CSE.

certification (ˌsɜːtɪfɪˈkeɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of certifying or state of being certified. 2. *Law.* a document attesting the truth of a fact or statement.

certified (ˈsɜːtɪfaɪd) *adj.* 1. holding or guaranteed by a certificate. 2. endorsed or guaranteed: *a certified cheque.* 3. (of a person) declared legally insane.

certify (ˈsɜːtɪfaɪ) *vb. -fying, -fied.* 1. to confirm or attest (to), usually in writing. 2. (*tr.*) to endorse or guarantee that certain required standards have been met. 3. to give reliable information or assurances: *he certified that it was Walter's handwriting.* 4. (*tr.*) to declare legally insane. — **cer'ti,fi-able** *adj.*

certitude (ˈsɜːtɪtjuːd) *n.* confidence; certainty.

cerulean (sɪˈruːliən) *n.* a deep blue colour.

cervical smear *n.* *Med.* a smear taken from the neck (cervix) of the uterus for detection of cancer. See also **Pap test.**

cervine (ˈsɜːvaɪn) *adj.* resembling or relating to a deer.

cervix (ˈsɜːvɪks) *n., pl. cervixes or cervices* (səˈvaɪsɪz) 1. the technical name for **neck.** 2. any necklike part, esp. the lower part of the uterus that extends into the vagina. — **cervical** (səˈvaɪkəl, ˈsɜːvɪkəl) *adj.*

caesium (ˈsɛɪzɪəm) *n.* the usual U.S. spelling of **caesium.**

cessation (sɪˈseɪʃən) *n.* a ceasing or stopping; pause: *temporary cessation of hostilities.*

cession (ˈseɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of ceding. 2. something that is ceded, esp. land or territory.

cesspool (ˈses,puːl) *n.* 1. Also called: **cesspit, sink, sump.** a covered cistern, etc., for collecting and storing sewage or waste water. 2. a filthy or corrupt place: *a cesspool of iniquity.*

cestus or **caestus** (ˈsɛstəs) *n., pl. -tus or -tuses.* (in classical Roman boxing) a pugilist's gauntlet of bull's hide studded with metal.

cesura (sɪˈzjuərə) *n., pl. -ras or -rae* (ˈrɪː). *Prosody.* a variant spelling of **caesura.**

cetacean (sɪˈteɪʃən) *adj.* also **cetaceous.** 1. of or belonging to an order of aquatic placental mammals having no hind limbs and a blowhole for breathing: includes toothed whales (dolphins, porpoises, etc.) and whalebone whales (rorquals, etc.). ~*n.* 2. a whale.

cetane (ˈsɛɪtən) *n.* a colourless insoluble liquid hydrocarbon used in the determination of the cetane number of diesel fuel. Also called: **hexadecane.**

cetane number *n.* a measure of the quality of a diesel fuel expressed as the percentage of cetane. Also called: **cetane rating.** Cf. **octane number.**

Cf. *the chemical symbol for californium.*

CF *abbrev. for* Canadian Forces.

cf. *abbrev. for:* 1. (in bookbinding, etc.) calfskin. 2. confer.

CFB *abbrev. for* Canadian Forces Base.

CFL *abbrev. for* Canadian Football League.

cg *abbrev. for* centigram.

ch. *abbrev. for:* 1. chain (unit of measure). 2. chapter. 3. Chess. check. 4. chief. 5. church.

C.H. *abbrev. for* Companion of Honour (a Brit. title).

chablis (ˈʃæbli) *n.* (*sometimes cap.*) a dry white wine made around Chablis, France.

chafe (tʃeɪf) *vb.* 1. to make or become sore or worn by rubbing. 2. (*tr.*) to warm (the hands, etc.) by rubbing. 3. to irritate or be irritated or impatient. 4. (*intr.*; often foll. by *on, against,* etc.) to rub. ~*n.* 5. a soreness or irritation caused by friction.

chafer (ˈtʃeɪfə) *n.* any of various beetles, such as the cockchafer.

chaff (tʃɑːf) *n.* 1. the mass of husks, etc., separated from the seeds during threshing. 2. finely cut straw and hay used to feed cattle. 3. something of little worth; rubbish: *to separate the wheat from the chaff.* 4. thin strips of metallic foil released into the earth's atmosphere to deflect radar signals and prevent detection. — **chaffy** *adj.*

chaff (tʃɑːf) *n.* 1. light-hearted teasing or joking; banter. ~*vb.* 2. to tease good-naturedly. — **chaffer** *n.*

chaffer (ˈtʃæfə) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to haggle or bargain. 2. to chatter, talk, or say idly. ~*n.* 3. haggling or bargaining. — **chafferer** *n.*

chaffinch (ˈtʃæfɪntʃ) *n.* a common European finch with black and white wings and, in the male, a reddish body and blue-grey head.

chafing dish (ˈtʃeɪfɪŋ) *n.* a vessel with a heating apparatus beneath it, for cooking or keeping food warm at the table.

chagrin (ˈʃægrɪn) *n.* 1. a feeling of annoyance or mortification. ~*vb.* 2. to embarrass and annoy.

chain (tʃeɪn) *n.* 1. a flexible length of metal links, used for confining, connecting, etc., or in jewellery. 2. (*usually pl.*) anything that confines or restrains: *the chains of poverty.* 3. (*usually pl.*) a set of metal links that fit over the tyre of a motor vehicle to reduce skidding on an icy surface. 4. a series of related or connected facts, events, etc. 5. a. a number of establishments such as hotels, shops, etc., having the same owner or management. b. (*as modifier*): *a chain store.* 6. Also called: **Gunter's chain.** a unit of length equal to 22 yards. 7. Also called: **engineer's chain.** a unit of length equal to 100 feet. 8. Also called: **nautical chain.** a unit of length equal to 15 feet. 9. *Austral. & N.Z.* a. the rail along which carcasses are moved in a slaughterhouse. b. the team of workers who slaughter, skin, and otherwise process carcasses in a slaughterhouse. 10. *Chem.* two or more atoms or groups bonded together so that the resulting molecule, ion, or radical resembles a chain. 11. *Geog.* a series of natural features, esp. mountain ranges. ~*vb.* 12. (*tr.*; often foll. by *up*) to confine, tie, or make fast with or as if with a chain.

chain gang *n.* U.S. a group of convicted prisoners chained together.

chain letter *n.* a letter, often with a request for and promise of money, that is sent to many people who add to or recopy it and send it on.

chain mail *n.* another term for **mail**¹ (sense 1).

chain reaction *n.* 1. a process in which a neutron colliding with an atomic nucleus causes fission and the ejection of one or more other neutrons. 2. a chemical reaction in which the product of one step is a reactant in the following step. 3. a series of events, each of which precipitates the next. — **chain-re-act** *vb. (intr.)*

chain saw *n.* a motor-driven saw in which the cutting teeth form links in a continuous chain.

chain-smoke *vb.* to smoke (cigarettes, etc.) continually, esp. lighting one from the preceding one. —**chain smoker** *n.*

chain stitch *n.* 1. a looped embroidery stitch resembling the links of a chain. —*vb.* **chain-stitch.** 2. to sew (something) with this stitch.

chair (tʃɛə) *n.* 1. a seat with a back on which one person sits, typically having four legs and often having arms. 2. an official position of authority. 3. a person holding an office of authority: *questions are to be addressed to the chair.* 4. a professorship. 5. *Railways.* an iron or steel socket designed to take the rail and secure it to the sleeper. 6. short for **sedan chair**. 7. **take the chair.** to preside as chairman for a meeting, etc. 8. **the chair.** *Inf.* the electric chair. —*vb.* (tr.) 9. to preside over (a meeting). 10. *Brit.* to carry aloft in a sitting position after a triumph. 11. to provide with a chair of office. 12. to install in a chair.

chair lift *n.* a series of chairs suspended from a power-driven cable for conveying people, esp. skiers, up a mountain.

chairman (tʃeəmən) *n., pl. -men.* a person who presides over a company's board of directors, a committee, a debate, etc. Also: **chairperson** or (*fem.*) **chairwoman.**

chaise (ʃeɪz) *n.* 1. a light open horse-drawn carriage, esp. one with two wheels. 2. short for **post chaise** and **chaise longue.**

chaise longue (tʃeɪz ˈlɒŋ) *n., pl. chaise longues* or **chaises longues** (tʃeɪz ˈlɒŋ). a long low chair with a back and single armrest.

chalcedony (kælˈsedəni) *n., pl. -nies.* a form of quartz with crystals arranged in parallel fibres: a gemstone. —**chalcedonic** (kælˈsɛdɒnɪk) *adj.*

chalet (tʃælət) *n.* 1. a type of wooden house of Swiss origin, with wide projecting eaves. 2. a similar house used as a ski lodge, etc.

chalice (tʃælsɪs) *n.* 1. *Poetic.* a drinking cup; goblet. 2. *Christianity.* a gold or silver cup containing the wine at Mass. 3. a cup-shaped flower.

chalk (tʃɔ:k) *n.* 1. a soft fine-grained white sedimentary rock consisting of nearly pure calcium carbonate, containing minute fossil fragments of marine organisms. 2. a piece of chalk, or substance like chalk, often coloured, used for writing and drawing on blackboards. 3. **as alike (or different) as chalk and cheese.** *Inf.* totally different in essentials. 4. **by a long chalk.** *Brit. inf.* by far. 5. **not by a long chalk.** *Brit. inf.* by no means. 6. (*modifier*) made of chalk. —*vb.* 7. to draw or mark (something) with chalk. 8. (tr.) to mark, rub, or whiten with or as with chalk. —**'chalk, like** *adj.* —**'chalky** *adj.* —**'chalkiness** *n.*

chalk up *vb.* (tr., adv.) *Inf.* 1. to score or register (something). 2. to credit (money) to an account etc. (esp. in **chalk it up**).

challenge (tʃælɪndʒ) *vb.* (*mainly* tr.) 1. to invite or summon (someone) to do something, esp. to take part in a contest). 2. (*also* intr.) to call (something) into question. 3. to make demands on; stimulate: *the job challenges his ingenuity.* 4. to order (a person) to halt and be identified. 5. *Law.* to make formal objection to (a juror or jury). 6. to lay claim to (attention, etc.). 7. to inject (an experimental animal immunized with a test substance) with disease microorganisms to test for immunity to the disease. —*n.* 8. a call to engage in a fight, argument, or contest. 9. a questioning of a statement or fact. 10. a demanding or stimulating situation, career, etc. 11. a demand by a sentry, etc., for identification or a password. 12. *Law.* a formal objection to a person selected to serve on a jury or to the whole body of jurors. —**'challengeable** *adj.* —**'challenger** *n.*

chalybeate (kəˈlɪbɪt) *adj.* containing or impregnated with iron salts.

chamber (tʃeɪmbə) *n.* 1. a meeting hall, esp. one used for a legislative or judicial assembly. 2. a reception room in an official residence, palace, etc. 3. *Arch. or poetic.* a room in a private house, esp. a bedroom. 4. *a.* a legislative, judicial, or administrative assembly. *b.* any of the houses of a legislature. 5. an enclosed space; compartment; cavity. 6. an enclosure for a cartridge in the cylinder of a revolver or for a shell in the breech of a cannon. 7. short for **chamber pot**. 8. (*modifier*) of, relating to, or suitable for chamber music: *a chamber concert.*

chamberlain (tʃeɪmbəlɪn) *n.* 1. an officer who manages the household of a king. 2. the steward of a nobleman or land owner. 3. the treasurer of a municipal corporation.

chambermaid (tʃeɪmbəˈmeɪd) *n.* a woman employed to clean bedrooms, esp. in hotels.

chamber music *n.* music for performance by a small group of instrumentalists.

chamber of commerce *n.* (*sometimes* cap.) an organization composed mainly of local businessmen to promote, regulate, and protect their interests.

chamber pot *n.* a vessel for urine, used in bedrooms.

chambers (tʃeɪmbəz) *pl. n.* 1. a judge's room for hearing private cases not taken in open court. 2. (in England) the set of rooms occupied by barristers where clients are interviewed.

chameleon (kəˈmɪliən) *n.* 1. a lizard of Africa and Madagascar, having long slender legs, a prehensile tail and tongue, and the ability to change colour. 2. a changeable or fickle person. —**chameleonic** (kəˈmɪliˈɒnɪk) *adj.*

chamfer (tʃæmfə) *n.* 1. a narrow flat surface at the corner of a beam, post, etc. —*vb.* (tr.) 2. to cut such a surface on (a beam, etc.). —**'chamferer** *n.*

chamois (tʃæmi) *n., pl. -ois.* 1. (tʃæmwɑː). a sure-footed goat antelope of Europe and SW Asia, having vertical horns with backward-pointing tips. 2. a soft suede leather formerly made from this animal, now obtained from the skins of sheep and goats. 3. Also called: **chamois leather**, **shammy (leather)**, **chammy (leather)**, a piece of such leather or similar material used for polishing, etc. 4. (tʃæmwɑː). a greyish-yellow colour. —*vb.* (tr.) 5. to dress (leather or skin) like chamois. 6. to polish with a chamois.

champ' (tʃæmp) *vb.* 1. to munch (food) noisily like a horse. 2. (when intr., often foll. by *on*, *at*, etc.) to bite (something) nervously or impatiently. 3. **champ (or chafe) at the bit.** *Inf.* to be impatient to start work, a journey, etc. —*n.* 4. the act or noise of champing.

champ' (tʃæmp) *n. Inf.* short for **champion** (sense 1a).

champagne (tʃæmˈpeɪn) *n.* 1. (*sometimes* cap.) a white sparkling wine produced around Reims and Epernay, France. 2. any effervescent white wine. 3. a pale tawny colour.

champers (tʃæmpəz) *n. Sl.* champagne.

champion (tʃæmpjən) *n.* 1. *a.* a person, plant, or animal who has defeated all others in a competition: *a chess champion.* *b.* (*as modifier*): *a champion team; a champion marrow.* 2. a person who defends a person or cause: *champion of the underprivileged.* 3. (formerly) a knight who did battle for another, esp. a king or queen. —*adj.* 4. *N. Brit. dialect.* excellent. —*adv.* 5. *N. Brit. dialect.* very well. —*vb.* (tr.) 6. to support: *we champion the cause of liberty.* —**'champion, ship** *n.*

chance (tʃɑ:ns) *n.* 1. the unknown and unpredictable element that causes an event to result in a certain way rather than another, spoken of as a real force. *b.* (*as modifier*): *a chance meeting.* Related *adj.*: **fortuitous.** 2. fortune; luck; fate. 3. an opportunity or occasion. 4. a risk; gamble. 5. the extent to which an event is likely to occur; probability. 6. an unpredicted event, esp. a fortunate one. 7. **by chance.** accidentally: *he slipped by chance.* 8. on the (off) chance. acting on the (remote) possibility. —*vb.* 9. (tr.) to risk; hazard. 10. to happen by chance: *I chanced to catch sight of her.* 11. **chance on (or upon).** to come upon by accident. 12. **chance one's arm.** to attempt to do something although the chance of success may be slight. —**'chanceful** *adj.*

chancel (tʃɑ:nsəl) *n.* the part of a church containing the altar, sanctuary, and choir.

chancellery or chancellory (tʃɑ:nsələri) *n., pl. -leries or -lories.* 1. the building or room occupied by a chancellor's office. 2. the position or office of a chancellor. 3. *U.S.* the office of an embassy or legation.

chancellor (tʃɑ:nsəl) *n.* 1. the head of the government in several European countries. 2. *U.S.* the president of a university. 3. *Brit.* the honorary head of a university. *Cf.* **vice chancellor.** 4. *Christianity.* a clergyman acting as the law officer of a bishop. —**'chancellor, ship** *n.*

Chancellor of the Exchequer *n. Brit.* the cabinet minister responsible for finance.

chancery (tʃɑ:nsəri) *n., pl. -ceries.* 1. Also called: **Chancery Division.** (in England) the Lord Chancellor's court, now a division of the High Court of Justice. 2. Also called: **court of chancery.** (in the U.S.) a court of equity. 3. *Brit.* the political section or offices of an embassy or legation. 4. another name for **chancellery.** 5. a court of public records. 6. *Christianity.* a diocesan office under the supervision of a bishop's chancellor. 7. **in chancery.** *a. Law.* (of a suit) pending in a court of equity. *b.* in an awkward situation.

chancere ('fæŋkə) *n.* *Pathol.* a small hard growth, which is the first sign of syphilis. — **chancrous** *adj.*

chancy or **chancey** ('tʃænsɪ) *adj.* **chancier**, **chanciest**. *Inf.* uncertain; risky.

chandelier (ˌʃændrɪˈliə) *n.* an ornamental hanging light with branches and holders for several candles or bulbs.

chandler ('tʃændlɪ) *n.* 1. a dealer in a specified trade or merchandise: *ship's chandler*. 2. a person who makes or sells candles. — **chandlery** *n.*

change (tʃeɪndʒ) *vb.* 1. to make or become different; alter. 2. (*tr.*) to replace with or exchange for another: *to change one's name*. 3. (sometimes foll. by *to* or *into*) to transform or convert or be transformed or converted. 4. to give and receive (something) in return: *to change places*. 5. (*tr.*) to give or receive (money) in exchange for the equivalent sum in a smaller denomination or different currency. 6. (*tr.*) to remove or replace the coverings of: *to change a baby*. 7. (when *intr.*, may be foll. by *into* or *out of*) to put on other clothes. 8. to operate (the gear lever of a motor vehicle): *to change gear*. 9. to alight from (one bus, train, etc.) and board another. 10. **change hands**, to pass from one owner to another. 11. **change one's mind**, to alter one's decision or opinion. 12. **change one's tune**, to alter one's attitude or tone of speech. ~ *n.* 13. the act or fact of changing or being changed. 14. a variation or modification. 15. the substitution of one thing for another. 16. anything that is or may be substituted for something else. 17. variety or novelty (esp. in for a change). 18. a different set, esp. of clothes. 19. money given or received in return for its equivalent in a larger denomination or in a different currency. 20. the balance of money when the amount tendered is larger than the amount due. 21. coins of a small denomination. 22. (*often cap.*) *Arch.* a place where merchants meet to transact business. 23. the act of passing from one state or phase to another. 24. the transition from one phase of the moon to the next. 25. the order in which a peal of bells may be rung. 26. **change of heart**, a profound change of outlook, etc. 27. **get no change out of (someone)**. *Sl.* not to be successful in attempts to exploit (someone). 28. **ring the changes**, to vary the manner or performance of an action that is often repeated. ~ *See also change down, changeover, change up*. — **changeable** *adj.* — **changeless** *adj.* — **changer** *n.*

changeable ('tʃeɪndʒəbəl) *adj.* 1. able to change or be changed: *changeable weather*. 2. varying in colour as when viewed from different angles. — **changeability** *n.* — **changeably** *adv.*

change down *vb.* (*intr.*, *adv.*) to select a lower gear when driving.

changeling ('tʃeɪndʒlɪŋ) *n.* a child believed to have been exchanged by fairies for the parents' true child.

change of life *n.* a nontechnical name for **menopause**.

changeover ('tʃeɪndʒəʊvə) *n.* 1. an alteration or complete reversal from one method, system, or product to another. 2. a reversal of a situation, attitude, etc. 3. *Sport*, the act of transferring to or being relieved by a teammate in a relay race, as by handing over a baton, etc. ~ *vb.* **change over**, (*adv.*) 4. to adopt (a different position or attitude): *the driver and navigator changed over*.

change up *vb.* (*intr.*, *adv.*) to select a higher gear when driving.

channel ('tʃænl) *n.* 1. a broad strait connecting two areas of sea. 2. the bed or course of a river, stream, or canal. 3. a navigable course through a body of water. 4. (*often pl.*) a means or agency of access, communication, etc.: *through official channels*. 5. a course into which something can be directed or moved. 6. *Electronics*, a. a band of radio frequencies assigned for a particular purpose, esp. the broadcasting of a television signal. b. a path for an electrical signal: *a stereo set has two channels*. 7. a tubular passage for fluids. 8. a groove, as in the shaft of a column. 9. *Computers*, a. a path along which data can be transmitted. b. one of the lines along the length of a paper tape on which information can be stored in the form of punched holes. ~ *vb.* **-nelling**, **-nelled** or *U.S.* **-neling**, **-neled**. 10. to make or cut channels in (something). 11. (*tr.*) to guide into or convey through a channel or channels: *information was channelled through to them*.

Channel ('tʃænl) *n.* the English Channel, between England and France.

chant (tʃænt) *n.* 1. a simple song. 2. a short simple melody in which several words or syllables are assigned to one note. 3. a psalm or canticle performed by using

such a melody. 4. a rhythmic or repetitious slogan, usually spoken or sung, as by sports supporters, etc. ~ *vb.* 5. to sing or recite (a psalm, etc.) as a chant. 6. to intone (a slogan). — **chanting** *n.*, *adj.*

chanter ('tʃæntə) *n.* the pipe on a set of bagpipes on which the melody is played.

chanticleer (ˌtʃæntɪˈkleə) or **chantecler** (ˌtʃæntɪˈkleə) *n.* a name for a cock, used esp. in fables.

chantry ('tʃæntri) *n.*, *pl.* **-tries**. *Christianity*. 1. an endowment for the singing of Masses for the soul of the founder. 2. a chapel or altar so endowed.

chanty ('tʃæntɪ, 'tʃæn-) *n.*, *pl.* **-ties**. a variant spelling of **shanty**.

chaos ('keɪɒs) *n.* 1. (*usually cap.*) the disordered formless matter supposed to have existed before the ordered universe. 2. complete disorder; utter confusion. — **chaotic** (keɪˈɒtɪk) *adj.* — **chaotically** *adv.*

chap (tʃæp) *vb.* **chapping**, **chapped**. 1. (of the skin) to make or become raw and cracked, esp. by exposure to cold. ~ *n.* 2. (*usually pl.*) a cracked patch on the skin.

chap (tʃæp) *n.* *Inf.* a man or boy; fellow.

chapatti or **chapati** (tʃəˈpæti, -ˈpæti) *n.*, *pl.* **-ti**, **-tis**, or **-ties**. (in Indian cookery) a flat unleavened bread resembling a pancake.

chapel ('tʃæpl) *n.* 1. a place of Christian worship, esp. with a separate altar, in a church or cathedral. 2. a similar place of worship in a large house or institution, such as a college. 3. a church subordinate to a parish church. 4. (in Britain) a. a Nonconformist place of worship. b. Nonconformist religious practices or doctrine. 5. a. the members of a trade union in a particular newspaper office, printing house, etc. b. a meeting of these members.

chaperon or **chaperone** (ˌʃæpəˈrʊn) *n.* 1. (esp. formerly) an older or married woman who accompanies or supervises a young unmarried woman on social occasions. ~ *vb.* 2. to act as a chaperon to. — **chaperonage** (ˌʃæpəˈrɒnɪdʒ) *n.*

chaplain ('tʃæplɪn) *n.* a Christian clergyman attached to a chapel of an institution or ministering to a military body, etc. — **chaplaincy** or **chaplainry** *n.*

chaplet ('tʃæplɪt) *n.* 1. an ornamental wreath of flowers worn on the head. 2. a string of beads. 3. *R.C. Church*, a. a string of prayer beads constituting one third of the rosary. b. the prayers counted on this string. 4. a narrow moulding in the form of a string of beads; astragal. — **chapleted** *adj.*

chapman ('tʃæpmən) *n.*, *pl.* **-men**. *Arch.* a trader, esp. an itinerant pedlar.

chappie ('tʃæpi) *n.* *Inf.* another word for **chap**.

chaps (tʃæps, ʃæps) *pl. n.* leather overleggings without a seat, worn by cowboys. Also called: **chaparajos**, **chape-rejos**.

chapter ('tʃæptə) *n.* 1. a division of a written work. 2. a sequence of events: *a chapter of disasters*. 3. a period in a life, history, etc. 4. a numbered reference to that part of a Parliamentary session which relates to a specified Act of Parliament. 5. a branch of some societies, clubs, etc. 6. the collective body or a meeting of the canons of a cathedral or of the members of a monastic or knightly order. 7. **chapter and verse**, exact authority for an action or statement. ~ *vb.* 8. (*tr.*) to divide into chapters.

char (tʃɑː) *vb.* **charring**, **charred**. 1. to burn or be burned partially; scorch. 2. (*tr.*) to reduce (wood) to charcoal by partial combustion.

char or **charr** (tʃɑː) *n.*, *pl.* **char**, **chars** or **charr**, **charrs**. any of various troutlike fishes occurring in cold lakes and northern seas.

char (tʃɑː) *n.* 1. *Inf.* short for **charwoman**. ~ *vb.* **charring**, **charred**. 2. *Brit. inf.* to do cleaning as a job.

char (tʃɑː) *n.* *Brit.* a slang word for tea.

charabanc (ˌʃærəˈbæŋ) *n.* *Brit.* a coach, esp. for sightseeing.

character ('kærɪktə) *n.* 1. the combination of traits and qualities distinguishing the individual nature of a person or thing. 2. one such distinguishing quality; characteristic. 3. moral force: *a man of character*. 4. a. reputation, esp. a good reputation. b. (*as modifier*): *character assassination*. 5. a person represented in a play, film, story, etc.; role. 6. an outstanding person: *one of the great characters of the century*. 7. *Inf.* an odd, eccentric, or unusual person: *he's quite a character*. 8. an informal word for **person**: *a shady character*. 9. a symbol used in a writing system, such as a letter of the alphabet. 10. Also called: **sort**. *Printing*. any single letter, numeral, etc., cast as a type. 11. *Computers*. any

such letter, numeral, etc., each of which can be represented uniquely by binary code. **12.** a style of writing or printing. **13. Genetics.** any structure, function, attribute, etc., in an organism that is determined by a gene or group of genes. **14.** a short prose sketch of a distinctive type of person. **15. in (or out of) character.** typical (or not typical) of the apparent character of a person. — **characterful** *adj.* — **characterless** *adj.*

characteristic (ˌkærɪktəˈrɪstɪk) *n.* **1.** a distinguishing quality, attribute, or trait. **2. Maths.** a. the integral part of a common logarithm: the characteristic of 2.4771 is 2. b. another name for **exponent** (sense 4). — *adj.* **3.** indicative of a distinctive quality, etc.; typical. — **characteristically** *adv.*

characterize or **-ise** (ˌkærɪktəˈraɪz) *vb.* (tr.) **1.** to be a characteristic of. **2.** to distinguish or mark as a characteristic. **3.** to describe or portray the character of. — **characterization** or **-isation** *n.*

charade (ʃəˈrɑːd) *n.* **1.** an act in the game of charades. **2. Chiefly Brit.** an absurd act; travesty.

charades (ʃəˈrɑːdz) *n.* a parlour game in which one team acts out each syllable of a word, the other team having to guess the word.

charcoal (ˈtʃɑːkəʊl) *n.* **1.** a black amorphous form of carbon made by heating wood or other organic matter in the absence of air. **2.** a stick of this for drawing. **3.** a drawing done in charcoal. — *vb.* **4.** (tr.) to write, draw, or blacken with charcoal.

chard (tʃɑːd) *n.* a variety of beet with large succulent leaves and thick stalks, used as a vegetable. Also called: **Swiss chard.**

charge (tʃɑːdʒ) *vb.* **1.** to set or demand (a price). **2.** (tr.) to enter a debit against a person or his account. **3.** (tr.) to accuse or impute a fault to (a person, etc.), as formally in a court of law. **4.** (tr.) to command; place a burden upon or assign responsibility to: *I was charged to take the message to headquarters.* **5.** to make a rush at or sudden attack upon (a person or thing). **6.** (tr.) to fill (a receptacle) with the proper quantity. **7.** (often foll. by *up*) to cause (an accumulator, capacitor, etc.) to take or store electricity or (of an accumulator) to have electricity fed into it. **8.** to fill or be filled with matter by dispersion, solution, or absorption: *to charge water with carbon dioxide.* **9.** (tr.) to fill or suffuse with feeling, emotion, etc.: *the atmosphere was charged with excitement.* **10.** (tr.) Law. (of a judge) to address (a jury) authoritatively. **11.** (tr.) to load (a firearm). **12.** (tr.) *Heraldry.* to paint (a shield, banner, etc.) with a charge. — *n.* **13.** a price charged for some article or service; cost. **14.** a financial liability, such as a tax. **15.** a debt or a book entry recording it. **16.** an accusation or allegation, such as a formal accusation of a crime in law. **17. a.** an onrush, attack, or assault. **b.** the call to such an attack in battle. **18.** custody or guardianship. **19.** a person or thing committed to someone's care. **20. a.** a cartridge or shell. **b.** the explosive required to discharge a firearm. **c.** an amount of explosive to be detonated at any one time. **21.** the quantity of anything that a receptacle is intended to hold. **22. Physics.** a. the attribute of matter responsible for all electrical phenomena, existing in two forms: *negative charge; positive charge.* **b.** an excess or deficiency of electrons in a system. **c.** a quantity of electricity determined by the product of an electric current and the time for which it flows, measured in coulombs. **d.** the total amount of electricity stored in a capacitor or an accumulator. **23.** a load or burden. **24.** a duty or responsibility; control. **25.** a command, injunction, or order. **26. Heraldry.** a design depicted on heraldic arms. **27. in charge.** in command. **28. in charge of.** a. having responsibility for. **b. U.S.** under the care of.

chargeable (ˈtʃɑːdʒəbəl) *adj.* **1.** liable to be charged. **2.** liable to result in a legal charge.

chargé d'affaires (ʃɑːʒeɪ dæˈfɛə) *n., pl. chargés d'affaires* (ˈʃɑːʒeɪ, -ʒeɪz). **1.** the temporary head of a diplomatic mission in the absence of the ambassador or minister. **2.** the head of a diplomatic mission of the lowest level.

charge hand *n. Brit.* a workman whose grade of responsibility is just below that of a foreman.

charger¹ (ˈtʃɑːdʒə) *n.* **1.** a person or thing that charges. **2.** a horse formerly ridden into battle. **3.** a device for charging an accumulator.

charger² (ˈtʃɑːdʒə) *n.* *Antiques.* a large dish.

chariot (ˈtʃɑːrɪət) *n.* **1.** a two-wheeled horse-drawn vehicle used in ancient wars, races, etc. **2.** a light four-wheeled horse-drawn ceremonial carriage. **3. Poetic.** any stately vehicle.

charioteer (ˌtʃɑːrɪəˈtɪə) *n.* the driver of a chariot.

charisma (kəˈrɪzmə) or **charism** (ˈkærɪzəm) *n.* **1.** a special personal quality or power of an individual making him capable of influencing or inspiring large numbers of people. **2.** a quality inherent in a thing, such as a particular type of car, which inspires great enthusiasm and devotion. **3. Christianity.** a divinely bestowed power or talent. — **charismatic** (ˌkærɪzˈmætɪk) *adj.*

charismatic movement *n.* *Christianity.* any of various groups, within existing denominations, emphasizing the charismatic gifts of speaking in tongues, healing, etc.

charitable (ˈtʃɑːrɪtəbəl) *adj.* **1.** generous in giving to the needy. **2.** kind or lenient in one's attitude towards others. **3.** of or for charity. — **charitableness** *n.* — **charitably** *adv.*

charity (ˈtʃɑːrɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* **1. a.** the giving of help, money, food, etc., to those in need. **b. (as modifier):** *a charity show.* **2.** an institution or organization set up to provide help, money, etc., to those in need. **3.** the help, money, etc., given to the needy; alms. **4.** a kindly attitude towards people. **5.** love of one's fellow men.

charlatan (ˈtʃɑːlətən) *n.* someone who professes expertise, esp. in medicine, that he does not have; quack. — **charlatanism** or **charlatanism** *n.*

Charles's Wain (ˈtʃɑːlɪz weɪn) *n.* another name for the **Plough**.

charleston (ˈtʃɑːlstən) *n.* a fast rhythmic dance of the 1920s, characterized by kicking and by twisting of the legs from the knee down.

charley horse (ˈtʃɑːli) *n. U.S. inf.* cramp following strenuous athletic exercise.

charlie (ˈtʃɑːli) *n. Inf. Brit.* a silly person; fool.

charlock (ˈtʃɑːlək) *n.* a weedy Eurasian plant with hairy stems and foliage and yellow flowers. Also called: **wild mustard.**

charlotte (ˈtʃɑːlət) *n.* a dessert made with fruit and layers or a casing of bread or cake crumbs, sponge cake, etc.: *apple charlotte.*

charm (tʃɑːm) *n.* **1.** the quality of pleasing, fascinating, or attracting people. **2.** a pleasing or attractive feature. **3.** a small object worn for supposed magical powers; amulet. **4.** a trinket worn on a bracelet. **5.** a magic spell. **6.** a formula used in casting such a spell. **7. Physics.** a property of certain elementary particles, used to explain some scattering experiments. **8. like a charm.** perfectly; successfully. — *vb.* **9.** to attract or fascinate; delight greatly. **10.** to cast a magic spell on. **11.** to protect, influence, or heal, supposedly by magic. **12.** (tr.) to influence or obtain by personal charm. — **charmer** *n.*

charming (ˈtʃɑːmɪŋ) *adj.* delightful; pleasant; attractive. — **charmingly** *adv.*

charnel (ˈtʃɑːnl) *n.* **1.** short for **charnel house**. — *adj.* **2.** ghastly; sepulchral; deathly.

charnel house *n.* (esp. formerly) a building or vault where corpses or bones are deposited.

Charon (ˈkeərən) *n. Greek myth.* the ferryman who brought the dead across the rivers Styx or Acheron to Hades.

chart (tʃɑːt) *n.* **1.** a map designed to aid navigation by sea or air. **2.** an outline map, esp. one on which weather information is plotted. **3.** a sheet giving graphical, tabular, or diagrammatical information. **4. the charts.** *Inf.* the lists produced weekly of the best-selling pop singles and albums. — *vb.* (tr.) **5.** to make a chart of. **6.** to plot or outline the course of. — **chartless** *adj.*

charter (ˈtʃɑːtə) *n.* **1.** a formal document from the sovereign or state incorporating a city, bank, college, etc., and specifying its purposes and rights. **2. (sometimes cap.)** a formal document granting or demanding certain rights or liberties. **3.** a document issued by a society or an organization authorizing the establishment of a local branch or chapter. **4.** a special privilege or exemption. **5. (often cap.)** the fundamental principles of an organization; constitution. **6. a.** the hire or lease of transportation. **b. (as modifier):** *a charter flight.* — *vb.* (tr.) **7.** to lease or hire by charter. **8.** to hire (a vehicle, etc.). **9.** to grant a charter to (a group or person). — **charterer** *n.*

chartered accountant *n. Brit.* an accountant who has passed the examinations of the Institute of Chartered Accountants.

chartered bank *n. Canad.* a privately owned bank that has been incorporated by Parliament to operate in the commercial banking system.

Chartism (ˈtʃɑːtɪzəm) *n. English history.* a movement (1838-48) to achieve certain political reforms, demand

for which was embodied in charters presented to Parliament. — **Chartist** *n.*, *adj.*

chartreuse (ʃɑː'trɜːz; French [ʃɑː'trɔːz] *n.* 1. either of two liqueurs, green or yellow, made from herbs. 2. a yellowish-green colour.

charwoman (ˈtʃɑːwʊmən) *n.*, *pl.* **women**. *Brit.* a woman who is hired to clean a house.

chary (ˈtʃɛəri) *adj.* **churier**, **chariest**. 1. wary; careful. 2. choosy; finicky. 3. shy. 4. sparing; mean. — **charily** *adv.* — **chariness** *n.*

Charybdis (kə'ribɪs) *n.* a ship-devouring monster in classical mythology, identified with a whirlpool off the coast of Sicily. Cf. **Scylla**.

chase¹ (tʃeɪs) *vb.* 1. to follow or run after (a person, animal, or goal) persistently or quickly. 2. (*tr.*; often foll. by *out*, *away*, or *off*) to force to run (away); drive (out). 3. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to court (a member of the opposite sex) in an unsuitable manner. 4. (*tr.*; often foll. by *up*) *Inf.* to pursue persistently and energetically in order to obtain results, information, etc. 5. (*intr.*) *Inf.* to hurry; rush. ~ *n.* 6. the act of chasing; pursuit. 7. any quarry that is pursued. 8. *Brit.* an unenclosed area of land where wild animals are preserved to be hunted. 9. *Brit.* the right to hunt a particular quarry over the land of others. 10. **the chase**, the act or sport of hunting. 11. short for **steepchase**. 12. **give chase**, to pursue (a person, animal, or thing) actively.

chase² (tʃeɪs) *n.* 1. **Letterpress printing**, a rectangular steel frame into which metal type and blocks are locked for printing. 2. the part of a cannon enclosing the bore. 3. a groove or channel, esp. to take a pipe, cable, etc. ~ *vb.* (*tr.*) 4. Also: **chamfer**, to cut a groove, furrow, or flute in (a surface, column, etc.).

chase³ (tʃeɪs) *vb.* (*tr.*) Also: **enchase**, to ornament (metal) by engraving or embossing.

chaser (ˈtʃeɪsə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that chases. 2. a drink drunk after another of a different kind, as beer after spirits.

chasm (ˈkæzəm) *n.* 1. a deep cleft in the ground; abyss. 2. a break in continuity; gap. 3. a wide difference in interests, feelings, etc. — **chasmal** (ˈkæzməl) or **'chasmic** *adj.*

chassis (ˈʃæsi) *n.*, *pl.* **-sis** (-sɪz). 1. the steel frame, wheels, and mechanical parts of a motor vehicle. 2. **Electronics**, a mounting for the circuit components of an electrical or electronic device, such as a radio or television. 3. the landing gear of an aircraft. 4. the frame on which a cannon carriage moves.

chaste (tʃeɪst) *adj.* 1. not having experienced sexual intercourse; virginal. 2. abstaining from unlawful sexual intercourse. 3. (of conduct, speech, etc.) pure; decent; modest. 4. (of style) simple; restrained. — **chastely** *adv.* — **chasteness** *n.*

chasten (ˈtʃeɪsən) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to bring to submission; subdue. 2. to discipline or correct by punishment. 3. to moderate; restrain. — **chastener** *n.*

chastise (tʃæs'taɪz) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to punish, esp. by beating. 2. to scold severely. — **chastisement** (tʃæs'taɪzmənt, tʃæs'taɪz-) *n.* — **chas'tiser** *n.*

chastity (ˈtʃæstɪti) *n.* 1. the state of being chaste; purity. 2. abstention from sexual intercourse; virginity or celibacy.

chasuble (ˈtʃæzjʊbəl) *n.* **Christianity**, a long sleeveless outer vestment worn by a priest when celebrating Mass.

chat (tʃæt) *n.* 1. informal conversation or talk in an easy familiar manner. 2. an Old World songbird of the thrush family, having a harsh chattering cry. 3. any of various North American warblers. 4. any of various Australian wrens. ~ *vb.* **chatting**, **chatted**. 5. (*intr.*) to talk in an easy familiar way. ~ See also **chat up**.

chateau or **château** (ʃætəʊ) *n.*, *pl.* **-teaux** (-təʊ, -təʊz) or **-teaus**. 1. a country house or castle, esp. in France. 2. (in the name of a wine) estate or vineyard.

chatelaine (ˈʃætəˌleɪn; French [ʃat'leɪn]) *n.* 1. (esp. formerly) the mistress of a castle or large household. 2. a chain or clasp worn at the waist by women in the 16th to the 19th centuries, with handkerchief, keys, etc., attached.

chat show *n.* *Brit.* a television or radio show in which guests are interviewed informally.

chattel (ˈtʃætəl) *n.* 1. (*often pl.*) **Property law**, a **chattel personal**, an item of movable personal property, such as furniture, etc. **b. chattel real**, an interest in land less than a freehold. 2. **goods** and **chattels**, personal property.

chatter (ˈtʃætə) *vb.* 1. to speak (about unimportant matters) rapidly and incessantly. 2. (*intr.*) (of birds,

monkeys, etc.) to make rapid repetitive high-pitched noises. 3. (*intr.*) (of the teeth) to click together rapidly through cold or fear. 4. (*intr.*) to make rapid intermittent contact with a component, as in machining. ~ *n.* 5. idle or foolish talk; gossip. 6. the high-pitched repetitive noise made by a bird, monkey, etc. 7. the rattling of objects, such as parts of a machine. — **'chatterer** *n.*

chatterbox (ˈtʃætəˌbɒks) *n.* *Inf.* a person who talks constantly, esp. about trivial matters.

chatty (ˈtʃæti) *adj.* **-tier**, **-tiest**. 1. full of trivial conversation; talkative. 2. informal and friendly; gossipy. — **'chattily** *adv.* — **'chattiness** *n.*

chat up *vb.* (*tr.*, *adv.*) *Brit. inf.* 1. to talk persuasively to (a person), esp. with an ulterior motive. 2. to talk flirtatiously to (a person of the opposite sex).

chauffeur (ˈʃɔːfə, ˈʃəʊ'fɜː) *n.* 1. a person employed to drive a car. ~ *vb.* 2. to act as driver for (a person, etc.): *he chauffeured me to the stadium.* — **chauffeuse** (ʃəʊ'fɜːz) *fem. n.*

chauvinism (ˈʃəʊvɪnɪzəm) *n.* 1. aggressive or fanatical patriotism; jingoism. 2. enthusiastic devotion to a cause. 3. smug irrational belief in the superiority of one's own race, party, sex, etc.: **male chauvinism**. — **'chauvinist** *n.* — **'chauvin'istic** *adj.* — **'chauvin'istically** *adv.*

cheap (tʃiːp) *adj.* 1. costing relatively little; inexpensive; good value. 2. charging low prices: *a cheap hairdresser*. 3. of poor quality; shoddy: *cheap furniture*. 4. worth relatively little: *promises are cheap*. 5. not worthy of respect; vulgar. 6. ashamed; embarrassed: *to feel cheap*. 7. stingy; miserly. 8. *Inf.* mean; despicable: *a cheap liar*. 9. **dirty cheap**, *Inf.* extremely inexpensive. ~ *n.* 10. **on the cheap**, *Brit. inf.* at a low cost. ~ *adv.* 11. at very little cost. — **'cheaply** *adv.* — **'cheapness** *n.*

cheapen (ˈtʃiːpən) *vb.* 1. to make or become lower in reputation, quality, etc. 2. to make or become cheap or cheaper. — **'cheapener** *n.*

cheap-jack *Inf.* ~ *n.* 1. a person who sells cheap and shoddy goods. ~ *adj.* 2. shoddy or inferior.

cheapskate (ˈtʃiːpˌskeɪt) *n.* *Inf.* a miserly person.

cheat (tʃiːt) *vb.* 1. to deceive or practise deceit, esp. for one's own gain; trick or swindle (someone). 2. (*intr.*) to obtain unfair advantage by trickery, as in a game of cards. 3. (*tr.*) to escape or avoid (something unpleasant) by luck or cunning: *to cheat death*. 4. (*when intr.*, usually foll. by *on*) *Inf.* to be sexually unfaithful to (one's wife, husband, or lover). ~ *n.* 5. a person who cheats. 6. a deliberately dishonest transaction, esp. for gain; fraud. 7. *Inf.* sham. 8. *Law*, the obtaining of another's property by fraudulent means. — **'cheater** *n.* — **'cheatingly** *adv.*

check (tʃek) *vb.* 1. to pause or cause to pause, esp. abruptly. 2. (*tr.*) to restrain or control: *to check one's tears*. 3. (*tr.*) to slow the growth or progress of; retard. 4. (*tr.*) to rebuke or rebuff. 5. (*when intr.*, often foll. by *on* or *up on*) to examine, investigate, or make an inquiry into (facts, a product, etc.) for accuracy, quality, or progress. 6. (*tr.*) **Chiefly U.S.** to mark off so as to indicate approval, correctness, or preference. 7. (*intr.*; often foll. by *with*) **Chiefly U.S.** to correspond or agree: *this report checks with the other*. 8. (*tr.*) **Chiefly U.S.** to leave in or accept for temporary custody. 9. **Chess**, to place (an opponent's king) in check. 10. (*tr.*) to mark with a pattern of squares or crossed lines. 11. to crack or cause to crack. 12. (*tr.*) **Ice hockey**, to impede (an opponent). 13. (*intr.*) **Hunting**, (of hounds) to pause while relocating a lost scent. ~ *n.* 14. a break in progress; stoppage. 15. a restraint or rebuff. 16. a person or thing that restrains, halts, etc. 17. a control, esp. a rapid or informal one, to ensure accuracy, progress, etc. 18. a means or standard to ensure against fraud or error. 19. the U.S. word for **tick**. 20. the U.S. spelling of **cheque**. 21. *U.S.* the bill in a restaurant. 22. **Chiefly U.S.** a tag used to identify property deposited for custody. 23. a pattern of squares or crossed lines. 24. a single square in such a pattern. 25. fabric with a pattern of squares or crossed lines. 26. **Chess**, the state or position of a king under direct attack. 27. a small crack, as one that occurs in timber during seasoning. 28. a chip or counter used in some card and gambling games. 29. **Hunting**, a pause by the hounds owing to loss of the scent. 30. **Ice hockey**, the act of impeding an opponent with one's body or stick. 31. **in check**, under control or restraint. ~ *interj.* 32. **Chess**, a call made to an opponent indicating that his king is in check. 33. **Chiefly U.S.** an expression of agreement. ~ See also **check in**, **check out**, **checkup**. — **'checkable** *adj.*

checked (tʃekt) *adj.* having a pattern of squares.

checker ('tʃekə) *n.*, *vb.* 1. the usual U.S. spelling of **chequer**. ~*n.* 2. *Textiles*, a variant spelling of **chequer** (sense 2). 3. the U.S. name for **draughtsman** (sense 3).

checker² ('tʃekə) *n.* *Chiefly U.S.* 1. a cashier, esp. in a supermarket. 2. an attendant in a cloakroom, left-luggage office, etc.

checkers ('tʃekəz) *n.* (*functioning as sing.*) the U.S. name for **draughts**.

check in *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. (*intr.*) to record one's arrival, as at a hotel or for work; sign in or report. 2. (*tr.*) to register the arrival of (passengers, etc.). ~*n.* **check-in**. 3. the formal registration of arrival, as at an airport or a hotel. 4. the place where one registers arrival at an airport, etc.

check list *n.* a list of items, names, etc., to be referred to for identification or verification.

checkmate ('tʃek,meɪt) *n.* 1. *Chess*. a. the winning position in which an opponent's king is under attack and unable to escape. b. the move by which this position is achieved. 2. utter defeat. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 3. *Chess*. to place (an opponent's king) in checkmate. 4. to thwart or render powerless. ~*interj.* 5. *Chess*. a call made when placing an opponent's king in checkmate.

check out *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. (*intr.*) to pay the bill and depart, esp. from a hotel. 2. (*intr.*) to depart from a place; record one's departure from work. 3. to investigate or prove to be in order after investigation: *the police checked out all the statements*. ~*n.* **checkout**. 4. the latest time for vacating a room in a hotel, etc. 5. a counter, esp. in a supermarket, where customers pay.

checkpoint ('tʃek,pɔɪnt) *n.* a place, as at a frontier, where vehicles or travellers are stopped for official identification, inspection, etc.

checkup ('tʃek,ʌp) *n.* 1. an examination to see if something is in order. 2. *Med.* a medical examination, esp. one taken at regular intervals. ~*vb.* **check up**. 3. (*intr.*, *adv.* sometimes foll. by *on*) to investigate or make an inquiry into (a person's character, evidence, etc.).

Cheddar ('tʃeda) *n.* (*sometimes not cap.*) any of several types of smooth hard yellow or whitish cheese.

cheek (tʃi:k) *n.* 1. either side of the face, esp. that part below the eye. 2. *Inf.* impudence; effrontery. 3. (*often pl.*) *Inf.* either side of the buttocks. 4. (*often pl.*) a side of a door jamb. 5. one of the jaws of a vice. 6. **cheek by jowl**. close together; intimately linked. 7. **turn the other cheek**. to be submissive and refuse to retaliate. 8. **with one's tongue in one's cheek**. See **tongue** (sense 18). ~*vb.* 9. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to speak or behave disrespectfully to.

cheeky ('tʃi:ki) *adj.* **cheekier**, **cheekiest**. disrespectful in speech or behaviour; impudent. —'cheekily *adv.* —'cheekiness *n.*

cheep (tʃi:p) *n.* 1. the short weak high-pitched cry of a young bird; chirp. ~*vb.* 2. (*intr.*) (of young birds) to utter such sounds. —'cheeper *n.*

cheer (tʃiə) *vb.* 1. (usually foll. by *up*) to make or become happy or hopeful; comfort or be comforted. 2. to applaud with shouts. 3. (when *tr.*, sometimes foll. by *on*) to encourage (a team, etc.) with shouts. ~*n.* 4. a shout or cry of approval, encouragement, etc., often using **hurrah!** 5. happiness; good spirits. 6. state of mind; spirits (archaic, except in **be of good cheer, with good cheer**). 7. *Arch.* provisions for a feast; fare.

cheerful ('tʃi:fʊl) *adj.* 1. having a happy disposition; in good spirits. 2. pleasantly bright: *a cheerful room*. 3. ungrudging: *cheerful help*. —'cheerfully *adv.* —'cheerfulness *n.*

cheerio ('tʃiəriə) *Inf.* ~*interj.* 1. *Chiefly Brit.* a farewell greeting. 2. *Chiefly Brit.* a drinking toast. ~*n.* 3. *N.Z.* a type of small sausage.

cheerleader ('tʃi:li:də) *n.* *U.S.* a person who leads a crowd in cheers, esp. at sports events.

cheerless ('tʃi:lis) *adj.* dreary or gloomy. —'cheerlessly *adv.* —'cheerlessness *n.*

cheers (tʃi:z) *interj.* *Inf.* *chiefly Brit.* 1. a drinking toast. 2. goodbye! **cheerio!** 3. thanks! 4. **three cheers**. three shouts of hurrah given in unison to honour someone or celebrate something.

cheery ('tʃiəri) *adj.* **cheerier**, **cheeriest**. showing or inspiring cheerfulness; gay. —'cheerily *adv.* —'cheeriness *n.*

cheese (tʃi:z) *n.* 1. the curd of milk separated from the whey and variously prepared as a food. 2. a mass or cake of this substance. 3. any of various substances of similar consistency, etc.: *lemon cheese*. 4. *Sl.* an important person (esp. in **big cheese**).

cheeseburger ('tʃi:z,bɜ:ɡə) *n.* a hamburger cooked with a slice of cheese on top of it.

cheesecake ('tʃi:z,keɪk) *n.* 1. a rich tart filled with cheese, esp. cream cheese, cream, sugar, etc. 2. *Sl.* women displayed for their sex appeal, as in photographs in magazines or films.

cheesecloth ('tʃi:z,kloʊð) *n.* a loosely woven cotton cloth formerly used for wrapping cheese.

cheesed off *adj.* (*usually postpositive*) *Brit. sl.* bored, disgusted, or angry.

cheeseparings ('tʃi:z,pɛərɪŋ) *adj.* 1. penny-pinching. ~*n.* 2. a. a paring of cheese rind. b. anything similarly worthless. 3. stinginess.

cheesy ('tʃi:zi) *adj.* **cheesier**, **cheesiest**. like cheese in flavour, smell, or consistency. —'cheesiness *n.*

cheetah or **chetah** ('tʃi:tə) *n.* a large feline of Africa and SW Asia: the swiftest mammal, having very long legs, and a black-spotted coat.

chef (ʃeʃ) *n.* a cook, esp. the principal cook in a restaurant.

Chelsea Pensioner ('tʃelsi:) *n.* an inhabitant of the Chelsea Royal Hospital in SW London, a home for old and infirm soldiers.

chem. *abbrev. for:* 1. chemical. 2. chemist. 3. chemistry.

chem- *combining form.* variant of **chemo-** before a vowel.

chemical ('kemɪkəl) *n.* 1. any substance used in or resulting from a reaction involving changes to atoms or molecules. ~*adj.* 2. of or used in chemistry. 3. of, made from, or using chemicals: *chemical fertilizer*. —'chemically *adv.*

chemical engineering *n.* the branch of engineering concerned with the design and manufacture of the plant used in industrial chemical processes. —'chemical engineer *n.*

chemical warfare *n.* warfare using asphyxiating gases, poisons, defoliants, incendiaries, etc.

chemin de fer (ʃə'mæn də 'feə) *n.* a gambling game, a variation of baccarat.

chemise (ʃə'mi:z) *n.* Also called: **shift**. a. an unwaisted loose-fitting dress hanging straight from the shoulders. b. a loose shirtlike undergarment.

chemist ('kemɪst) *n.* 1. *Brit.* a shop selling medicines, cosmetics, etc. 2. *Brit.* a qualified dispenser of prescribed medicines. 3. a person studying, trained in, or engaged in chemistry.

chemistry ('kemɪstri) *n.*, *pl.* -*tries*. 1. the branch of physical science concerned with the composition, properties, and reactions of substances. 2. the composition, properties, and reactions of a particular substance. 3. the nature and effects of any complex phenomenon: *the chemistry of humour*.

chemo-, chemi-, or before a vowel **chem-** *combining form.* indicating that chemicals or chemical reactions are involved: *chemotherapy*.

chemotherapy (keməu'terəpi) *n.* treatment of disease by means of chemical agents. —'chemo'therapist *n.*

chemurgy ('kemɜ:dʒi) *n.* the branch of chemistry concerned with the industrial use of organic raw materials, esp. of agricultural origin. —'chem'urgic or 'chem'urgical *adj.*

chenille ('tʃeni:l) *n.* 1. a thick soft tufted silk or worsted velvet cord or yarn used in embroidery and for trimmings, etc. 2. a fabric of such yarn. 3. a carpet of such fabric.

cheque or **U.S. check** (tʃek) *n.* 1. a bill of exchange drawn on a bank by the holder of a current account. 2. *Austral. & N.Z.* the total sum of money received for contract work or a crop.

cheque card *n.* another name for **banker's card**.

chequer or **U.S. checker** ('tʃekə) *n.* 1. any of the marbles, pegs, or other pieces used in the game of Chinese checkers. 2. a. a pattern of squares. b. one of the squares in such a pattern. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 3. to make irregular in colour or character; variegate. 4. to mark off with alternating squares of colour.

chequered or esp. *U.S.* **checkered** ('tʃekəd) *adj.* marked by fluctuations of fortune (esp. in a **chequered career**).

chequers ('tʃekəz) *n.* (*functioning as sing.*) another name for **draughts**.

cherish ('tʃerɪʃ) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to feel or show great tenderness or care for. 2. to cling fondly to (a hope, idea, etc.): *nurse to cherish ambitions*.

cheroot (ʃə'ru:t) *n.* a cigar with both ends cut off squarely.

cherry ('tʃeri) *n.*, *pl.* -*ries*. 1. any of several trees of the

genus *Prunus*, having a small fleshy rounded fruit containing a hard stone. 2. the fruit or wood of any of these trees. 3. any of various unrelated plants, such as the ground cherry and Jerusalem cherry. 4. a bright red colour; cerise. 5. *Taboo sl.* virginity or the hymen as its symbol.

cherub ('tʃerəb *n.*, *pl.* **cherubs** or **cherubim** ('tʃerəbɪm, -ubɪm). 1. *Theol.* a member of the second order of angels, often represented as a winged child. 2. an innocent or sweet child. —**cherubic** (tʃə'ru:bɪk) or **cherubical** *adj.* —**che'rubically** *adv.*

chervil ('tʃɜ:vɪl) *n.* an aromatic umbelliferous Eurasian plant with small white flowers and aniseed-flavoured leaves used as herbs in soups and salads.

chess (tʃes) *n.* a game of skill for two players using a chessboard on which chessmen are moved. The object is to checkmate the opponent's king.

chessboard ('tʃes,bɔ:d) *n.* a square board divided into 64 squares of two alternating colours, used for playing chess or draughts.

chessman ('tʃes,mæn, -mən) or **chess piece** *n.*, *pl.* **men** or **pieces**. any of the pieces and pawns used in a game of chess.

chest (tʃest) *n.* 1. *a.* the front part of the trunk from the neck to the belly. Related *adj.*: **pectoral**. *b.* (as *modifier*): *a chest cold*. 2. *get (something) off one's chest*. *Inf.* to unburden oneself of troubles, worries, etc., by talking about them. 3. a box used for storage or shipping: *a tea chest*. —**chested** *adj.*

chesterfield ('tʃestə,fɪld) *n.* 1. a man's overcoat, usually with a velvet collar. 2. a large tightly stuffed sofa, with straight upholstered arms of the same height as the back.

chestnut ('tʃes,nʌt) *n.* 1. a N temperate tree such as the *sweet* or *Spanish chestnut*, which produces flowers in long catkins and nuts in a prickly bur. *Cf.* **horse chestnut**. 2. the edible nut of any of these trees. 3. the hard wood of any of these trees, used in making furniture, etc. 4. *a.* a reddish-brown colour. *b.* (as *adj.*): *chestnut hair*. 5. a horse of a golden-brown colour. 6. *Inf.* an old or stale joke.

chest of drawers *n.* a piece of furniture consisting of a set of drawers in a frame.

chesty ('tʃesti) *adj.* **chestier**, **chestiest**. *Inf.* 1. *Brit.* suffering from or symptomatic of chest disease: *a chesty cough*. 2. having a large well-developed chest or bosom. —**chestiness** *n.*

cheval glass (ʃə'væl) *n.* a full-length mirror mounted so as to swivel within a frame.

chevalier (ʃə'veljə) *n.* 1. a member of certain orders of merit, such as the French Legion of Honour. 2. the lowest title of rank in the old French nobility. 3. an archaic word for **knight**. 4. a chivalrous man; gallant.

Cheviot ('tʃi:vɪt, 'tʃi:v-) *n.* 1. a large British breed of sheep reared for its wool. 2. (often *not cap.*) a rough twill-weave woollen suiting fabric.

chevron ('tʃevrən) *n.* 1. *Mil.* a badge or insignia consisting of one or more V-shaped stripes to indicate a noncommissioned rank or length of service. 2. *Heraldry*, an inverted V-shaped charge on a shield. 3. any V-shaped pattern or device.

chew (tʃu:) *vb.* 1. to work the jaws and teeth in order to grind (food); masticate. 2. to bite repeatedly: *she chewed her nails anxiously*. 3. (*intr.*) to use chewing tobacco. 4. **chew the fat** or **rag**. *Sl.* *a.* to argue over a point. *b.* to talk idly; gossip. —*n.* 5. the act of chewing. 6. something that is chewed. —**chewable** *adj.* —**chew-er** *n.*

chewing gum *n.* a preparation for chewing, usually made of flavoured and sweetened chicle.

chewy ('tʃu:) *adj.* **chewier**, **chewiest**. of a consistency requiring chewing.

chez *French*. (ʒe) *prep.* 1. at the home of. 2. with, among, or in the manner of.

chg. *Commerce, etc. abbrev. for charge.*

chi (kai) *n.* the 22nd letter of the Greek alphabet (χ, X).

chianti (kɪ'æntɪ) *n.* (sometimes *cap.*) a dry red or white wine produced in Tuscany, Italy.

chiaroscuro (kɪ,ɑ:rə'skʊərʊ) *n.*, *pl.* **-ros**. 1. the artistic distribution of light and dark masses in a picture. 2. monochrome painting using light and dark only.

chic (ʃɪk, ʃɪk) *adj.* 1. (esp. of fashionable clothes, women, etc.) stylish or elegant. —*n.* 2. stylishness, esp. in dress; modishness; fashionable good taste. —**chicly** *adv.*

chicane (ʃi'keɪn) *n.* 1. a bridge or whist hand without trumps. 2. *Motor racing*, a barrier placed before a dangerous corner to reduce speeds by allowing drivers

through in single file only. 3. a less common word for **chicanery**. —*vb.* 4. (*tr.*) to deceive or trick by chicanery. 5. (*intr.*) to use tricks or chicanery. —**chi'caner** *n.*

chicanery (ʃi'keɪnəri) *n.*, *pl.* **-eries**. 1. verbal deception or trickery, dishonest or sharp practice. 2. a trick, deception, or quibble.

chick (tʃɪk) *n.* 1. the young of a bird, esp. of a domestic fowl. 2. *Sl.* a girl or young woman, esp. an attractive one. 3. a young child: used as a term of endearment.

chicken ('tʃɪkən) *n.* 1. a domestic fowl bred for its flesh or eggs. 2. the flesh of such a bird used for food. 3. any of various similar birds, such as a prairie chicken. 4. *Sl.* a cowardly person. 5. *Sl.* a young inexperienced person.

count one's chickens before they are hatched. to be over-optimistic in acting on expectations which are not yet fulfilled. —*adj.* 7. *Sl.* easily scared; cowardly; timid.

chicken feed *n.* *Sl.* a trifling amount of money.

chicken-hearted or **chicken-livered** *adj.* easily frightened; cowardly.

chicken out *vb.* (*intr.*, *adv.*) *Inf.* to fail to do something through fear or lack of conviction.

chickenpox ('tʃɪkɪn,pɒks) *n.* a highly communicable viral disease most commonly affecting children, characterized by slight fever and the eruption of a rash.

chicken wire *n.* wire netting with a hexagonal mesh.

chickpea ('tʃɪk,pɪ:) *n.* 1. a bushy leguminous plant, cultivated for its edible pea-like seeds. 2. the seed of this plant.

chickweed ('tʃɪk,wɪd) *n.* any of various plants of the pink family, esp. a common garden weed with small white flowers.

chicle ('tʃɪk'l) *n.* a gumlike substance obtained from the sapodilla; the main ingredient of chewing gum.

chicory ('tʃɪkəri) *n.*, *pl.* **-ries**. 1. a blue-flowered plant, cultivated for its leaves, which are used in salads, and for its roots. 2. the root of this plant, roasted, dried, and used as a coffee substitute. —*Cf.* **endive**.

chide (tʃaɪd) *vb.* **chiding**, **chided** or **chid**; **chided**, **chid** or **chidden**. 1. to rebuke or scold. 2. (*tr.*) to goad into action. —**chider** *n.* —**chidingly** *adv.*

chief (tʃi:f) *n.* 1. the head or leader of a group or body of people. 2. *Heraldry*, the upper third of a shield. —*adj.* 3. (*prepositional*) *a.* most important; principal. *b.* highest in rank or authority. —*adv.* 4. **in chief**, primarily; especially. 5. *Arch.* principally.

chiefly ('tʃi:flɪ) *adv.* 1. especially or essentially; above all. 2. in general; mainly; mostly. —*adj.* 3. of or relating to a chief or chieftain.

chief petty officer *n.* the senior naval rank for personnel without commissioned or warrant rank.

chieftain ('tʃi:ftən, -tɪn) *n.* the head or leader of a tribe or clan. —**chieftaincy** or **chieftainship** *n.*

chief technician *n.* a noncommissioned officer in the Royal Air Force, junior to a flight sergeant.

chiffchaff ('tʃɪf,tʃæf) *n.* a common European warbler with a yellowish-brown plumage.

chiffon (ʃɪ'fɒn, 'ʃɪfɒn) *n.* 1. a fine almost transparent fabric of silk, nylon, etc. 2. (often *pl.*) *Now rare*. feminine finery. —*adj.* 3. made of chiffon. 4. (of soufflés, pies, cakes, etc.) having a very light fluffy texture.

chiffonier or **chiffonnier** (ʃɪ'fɒnɪə) *n.* 1. a tall, elegant chest of drawers. 2. a wide low open-fronted cabinet.

chignon ('ʃɪnʒjɒn) *n.* an arrangement of long hair in a roll or knot at the back of the head.

chigoe ('tʃɪɡəʊ) *n.* a tropical flea, the female of which burrows into the skin of its host, which includes man.

Chihuahua (tʃi'wɑ:wɑ:, -wə) *n.* a breed of tiny dog originally from Mexico, having short hair and protruding eyes.

chilblain ('tʃɪl,bleɪn) *n.* (usually *pl.*) an inflammation of the fingers or toes, caused by exposure to cold. —**chil-,blained** *adj.*

child (tʃaɪld) *n.*, *pl.* **children**. 1. *a.* a boy or girl between birth and puberty. *b.* (as *modifier*): *child labour*. 2. a baby or infant. 3. an unborn baby. 4. **with child**, another term for **pregnant**. 5. a human offspring; a son or daughter. Related *adj.*: **filial**. 6. a childish or immature person. 7. a member of a family or tribe; descendant: *a child of Israel*. 8. a person or thing regarded as the product of an influence or environment: *a child of nature*. —**childless** *adj.* —**childlessness** *n.*

child benefit *n.* (in Britain) a regular government payment to parents of children up to a certain age. Australian equivalent: **child endowment**.

childbirth ('tʃaɪld,bɜ:θ) *n.* the act of giving birth to a child.

childhood ('tʃaɪldhʊd) *n.* the condition of being a child; the period of life before puberty.

childish ('tʃaɪldɪʃ) *adj.* 1. in the manner of or suitable to a child. 2. foolish or petty: *childish fears*. — **childishly** *adv.* — **childishness** *n.*

childlike ('tʃaɪld,lʌk) *adj.* like or befitting a child, as in being innocent, trustful, etc.

child minder *n.* a person who looks after children, esp. those whose parents are working.

children ('tʃɪldrən) *n.* the plural of **child**.

child's play *n. Inf.* something easy to do.

chiliad ('kɪli,æd) *n.* 1. a group of one thousand. 2. one thousand years.

chill ('tʃɪl) *n.* 1. a moderate coldness. 2. a sensation of coldness resulting from a cold or damp environment, or from a sudden emotional reaction. 3. a feverish cold. 4. a check on enthusiasm or joy. ~*adj.* 5. another word for **chilly**. ~*vb.* 6. (tr.) to make or become cold. 7. (tr.) to cool or freeze (food, drinks, etc.). 8. (tr.) a. to depress (enthusiasm, etc.). b. to discourage. — **chiller** *n.* — **chillingly** *adv.* — **chilliness** *n.*

chilli ('tʃɪli) *n., pl. chillies.* the small red hot-tasting pod of a type of capsicum used for flavouring sauces, etc.

chilli con carne ('tʃɪli kɒn 'kɑːni) *n.* a highly seasoned Mexican dish of meat, onions, beans, and chilli powder.

chilly ('tʃɪli) *adj.* -ier, -iest. 1. causing or feeling cool or moderately cold. 2. without warmth; unfriendly. 3. (of people) sensitive to cold. — **chilliness** *n.*

Chiltern Hundreds ('tʃɪltən) *n. Brit.* short for **Stewardship of the Chiltern Hundreds**; a nominal office that an M.P. applies for in order to resign his seat.

chimaera (kaɪ'mɪərə, kr-) *n.* a variant spelling of **chimera**.

chime (tʃaɪm) *n.* 1. an individual bell or the sound it makes when struck. 2. (*often pl.*) the machinery employed to sound a bell in this way. 3. Also called: **bell**. a percussion instrument consisting of a set of vertical metal tubes of graduated length, suspended in a frame and struck with a hammer. 4. agreement; concord. ~*vb.* 5. a. to sound (a bell) or (of a bell) to be sounded by a clapper or hammer. b. to produce (music or sounds) by chiming. 6. (tr.) to indicate or show (time or the hours) by chiming. 7. (*intr.*; foll. by *with*) to agree or harmonize. — **chimer** *n.*

chimera or chimaera (kaɪ'mɪərə, kr-) *n.* 1. (*often cap.*) *Greek myth.* a fire-breathing monster with the head of a lion, body of a goat, and tail of a serpent. 2. a fabulous beast made up of parts taken from various animals. 3. a grotesque product of the imagination. 4. *Biol.* an organism consisting of at least two genetically different kinds of tissue as a result of mutation, grafting, etc.

chimerical (kaɪ'merɪkəl, kr-) or **chimeric** *adj.* 1. wildly fanciful; imaginary. 2. given to or indulging in fantasies. — **chimerically** *adv.*

chimney ('tʃɪmni) *n.* 1. a vertical structure of brick, masonry, or steel that carries smoke or steam away from a fire, engine, etc. 2. another name for **flue**! (sense 1). 3. an open-ended glass tube fitting around the flame of an oil or gas lamp in order to exclude draughts. 4. *Brit.* a fireplace, esp. an old and large one. 5. the vent of a volcano. 6. *Mountaineering.* a fissure large enough for a person's body to enter.

chimney sweep or sweeper *n.* a person who cleans soot from chimneys.

chimp ('tʃɪmp) *n. Inf.* short for **chimpanzee**.

chimpanzee (tʃɪmˈpænzɪ) *n.* a gregarious and intelligent anthropoid ape, inhabiting forests in central W Africa.

chin (tʃɪn) *n.* 1. the protruding part of the lower jaw. 2. the front part of the face below the lips. 3. **keep one's chin up.** *Inf.* to keep cheerful under difficult circumstances. 4. **take it on the chin.** *Inf.* to face squarely up to a defeat, adversity, etc. ~*vb.* **chinning, chinned.** 5. *Gymnastics.* to raise one's chin to (a horizontal bar, etc.) when hanging by the arms.

Chin. *abbrev. for:* 1. China. 2. Chinese.

china ('tʃaɪnə) *n.* 1. ceramic ware of a type originally from China. 2. any porcelain or similar ware. 3. cups, saucers, etc., collectively. 4. (*modifier*) made of china.

china clay *n.* another name for **kaolin**.

Chinaman ('tʃaɪməmən) *n., pl. -men.* 1. a native or inhabitant of China. 2. *Cricket.* a ball bowled by a left-handed bowler to a right-handed batsman that spins from off to leg.

Chinatown ('tʃaɪnə,taʊn) *n.* a quarter of any city or

town outside China with a predominantly Chinese population.

chinchierinchee (tʃɪntʃərn'tʃiː, -rɪntʃi) *n.* a bulbous South African liliaceous plant, having long spikes of white or yellow long-lasting flowers.

chinchilla (tʃɪn'tʃɪlə) *n.* 1. a small gregarious rodent, inhabiting mountainous regions of South America. It is bred in captivity for its soft silvery grey fur. 2. the highly valued fur of this animal. 3. a thick napped woolen cloth used for coats.

chine¹ (tʃaɪn) *n.* 1. the backbone. 2. the backbone of an animal with adjoining meat, cut for cooking. 3. a ridge or crest of land. ~*vb.* 4. (tr.) to cut (meat) along or across the backbone.

chine² (tʃaɪn) *n. Southern Brit. dialect.* a deep fissure in the wall of a cliff.

Chinese (tʃaɪ'nɪz) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or characteristic of China, its people, or their languages. ~*n.* 2. (*pl. -nese*) a native or inhabitant of China or a descendant of one. 3. any of the languages of China.

Chinese lantern *n.* 1. a collapsible lantern made of thin coloured paper. 2. an Asian plant, cultivated for its attractive orange-red inflated calyx.

Chinese puzzle *n.* 1. an intricate puzzle, esp. one consisting of boxes within boxes. 2. a complicated problem.

chink¹ (tʃɪŋk) *n.* 1. a small narrow opening, such as a fissure or crack. 2. **chink in one's armour.** a small but fatal weakness.

chink² (tʃɪŋk) *vb.* 1. to make or cause to make a light ringing sound, as by the striking of glasses or coins. ~*n.* 2. such a sound.

chinless wonder ('tʃɪnlɪs) *n. Brit. inf.* a person, esp. upper-class, lacking strength of character.

chinoiserie (ʃɪn,wəːzəri, -'wəːzəri) *n.* 1. a style of decorative or fine art based on imitations of Chinese motifs. 2. an object or objects in this style.

chinook (tʃɪ'nʊk, -'nʊk) *n.* 1. a warm dry southwesterly wind blowing down the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains. 2. a warm moist wind blowing onto the Washington and Oregon coasts from the sea.

Chinook (tʃɪ'nʊk, -'nʊk) *n.* 1. (*pl. -nook or -nooks*) a North American Indian people of the Pacific coast near the Columbia River. 2. the Chinookan language of this people.

Chinook salmon *n.* a Pacific salmon valued as a food fish.

chintz (tʃɪnts) *n.* a printed, patterned cotton fabric, with glazed finish.

chintzy ('tʃɪntsi) *adj.* **chintzier, chintziest.** 1. of, resembling, or covered with chintz. 2. *Brit. inf.* typical of the decor associated with the use of chintz soft furnishings.

chinwag ('tʃɪn,wæg) *n. Brit. inf.* a chat.

chip (tʃɪp) *n.* 1. a small piece removed by chopping, cutting, or breaking. 2. a mark left after a small piece has been broken off something. 3. (in some games) a counter used to represent money. 4. a thin strip of potato fried in deep fat. 5. the U.S. name for **crisp** (sense 10). 6. *Sport.* a shot, kick, etc., lofted into the air, and travelling only a short distance. 7. *Electronics.* a tiny wafer of semiconductor material, such as silicon, processed to form a type of integrated circuit or component such as a transistor. 8. a thin strip of wood or straw used for making woven hats, baskets, etc. 9. *N.Z.* a container for soft fruit, made of thin sheets of wood; punnet. 10. **chip off the old block.** *Inf.* a person who resembles one of his or her parents in behaviour. 11. **have a chip on one's shoulder.** *Inf.* to be aggressive or bear a grudge. 12. **have had one's chips.** *Brit. Inf.* to be defeated, condemned to die, killed, etc. 13. **when the chips are down.** *Inf.* at a time of crisis. ~*vb.* **chipping, chipped.** 14. to break small pieces from or become broken off in small pieces: *will the paint chip?* 15. (*tr.*) to break or cut into small pieces: *to chip ice.* 16. (*tr.*) to shape by chipping. 17. *Austral.* to dig or weed (a crop) with a hoe. 18. *Sport.* to strike or kick (a ball) in a high arc.

chip-based ('tʃɪp,best) *adj.* using or incorporating microchips in electronic equipment.

chipboard ('tʃɪp,bɔːd) *n.* a thin rigid sheet made of compressed wood particles.

chip in *vb. (adv.) Inf.* 1. to contribute (money, time, etc.) to a cause or fund. 2. (*intr.*) interpose a remark or interrupt with a remark.

chipmunk ('tʃɪp,mʌŋk) *n.* a burrowing rodent of North America and Asia, typically having black-striped yellowish fur and cheek pouches for storing food.

chilopata (ˈtʃɪpəˈlɑ:tə) *n.* Chiefly Brit. a small sausage.

Chippendale (ˈtʃɪpˈnɛɪl) *adj.* (of furniture) designed, made by, or in the style of Thomas Chippendale (?1718-79), characterized by the use of Chinese and Gothic motifs, cabriole legs, and massive carving.

chirography (kaiˈrɒgrəfi) *n.* another name for **calligraphy**. —**chirographer** *n.* —**chirographic** (ˌkaiərəˈgræfɪk) or **chirographical** *adj.*

chiromancy (ˈkaiərəˌmænsi) *n.* another word for **palmistry**. —**chiro, mancer** *n.*

chirology (kaiˈrɒlədʒi) *n.* the treatment of the feet, esp. corns, verrucas, etc. —**chirologist** *n.*

chiropractic (ˌkaiərəˈpræktɪk) *n.* a system of treating bodily disorders by manipulation of the spine and other parts. —**chiro, practor** *n.*

chirp (tʃɜ:p) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) (esp. of some birds and insects) to make a short high-pitched sound. 2. to speak in a lively fashion. ~*n.* 3. a chirping sound. —**chirper** *n.* —**chirpy** *adj.* —**chirpily** *adv.* —**chirpiness** *n.*

chirrup (ˈtʃɪrəp) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) (esp. of some birds) to chirp repeatedly. 2. to make clucking sounds with the lips. ~*n.* 3. such a sound. —**chirrupe** *n.* —**chirrupy** *adj.*

chisel (ˈtʃɪzəl) *n.* 1. a. a hand tool for working wood, consisting of a flat steel blade with a handle. b. a similar tool without a handle for working stone or metal. ~*vb.* -**elling**, -**elled** or U.S. -**eling**, -**eled**. 2. to carve (wood, stone, metal, etc.) or form (an engraving, statue, etc.) with or as with a chisel. 3. *Sl.* to cheat or obtain by cheating. —**chiseller** *n.*

chit (tʃɪt) *n.* 1. a voucher for a sum of money owed, esp. for food or drink. 2. Also called: **chitty**. Chiefly Brit. a. a note or memorandum. b. a requisition or receipt.

chit (tʃɪt) *n.* **Facetious** or **derog.** a pert, impudent, or self-confident girl or child.

chitchat (ˈtʃɪtʃæt) *n.* 1. gossip. ~*vb.* -**chatting**, -**chatted**. 2. (*intr.*) to gossip.

chitin (ˈkaɪtɪn) *n.* a polysaccharide that is the principal component of the exoskeletons of arthropods and of the bodies of fungi. —**chitinous** *adj.*

chitterlings (ˈtʃɪtlɪŋz) or **chitlings** (ˈtʃɪtlɪnz) *pl. n.* (sometimes *sing.*) the intestines of a pig or other animal prepared as a dish.

chivalrous (ˈtʃɪvələs) *adj.* 1. gallant; courteous. 2. involving chivalry. —**chivalrously** *adv.* —**chivalrousness** *n.*

chivalry (ˈtʃɪvəlri) *n., pl. -ries*. 1. the combination of qualities expected of an ideal knight, esp. courage, honour, justice, and a readiness to help the weak. 2. courteous behaviour, esp. towards women. 3. the medieval system and principles of knighthood. 4. knights, noblemen, etc., collectively. —**chivalric** *adj.*

chive (tʃaɪv) *n.* a small Eurasian purple-flowered alliaceous plant, whose long slender hollow leaves are used in cooking. Also called: **chives**.

chivy, chivvy (ˈtʃɪvi), or **chevy** (ˈtʃeɪvi) *vb.* **chivying**, **chivied**, **chivvied**, or **chevying**, **chevied**. Brit. 1. (*tr.*) to harass or nag. 2. (*tr.*) to hunt. 3. (*intr.*) to run about. ~*n., pl. chivies, chivvies, or chevies*. 4. Brit. a hunt. 5. Brit. **obsolete**. a hunting cry.

chloral (ˈklɔ:ral) *n.* 1. a colourless oily liquid with a pungent odour, made from chlorine and acetaldehyde and used in preparing chloral hydrate and DDT. 2. short for **chloral hydrate**.

chloral hydrate *n.* a colourless crystalline soluble solid produced by the reaction of chloral with water and used as a sedative and hypnotic.

chlorate (ˈklɔ:reɪt, -rɪt) *n.* any salt of chloric acid, containing the monovalent ion ClO₃⁻.

chloric (ˈklɔ:ɪrɪk) *adj.* of or containing chlorine in the pentavalent state.

chloride (ˈklɔ:raɪd) *n.* 1. any salt of hydrochloric acid, containing the chloride ion Cl⁻. 2. any compound containing a chlorine atom, such as methyl chloride, CH₃Cl.

chlorinate (ˈklɔ:ɪn,eɪt) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to combine or treat (a substance) with chlorine. 2. to disinfect (water) with chlorine. —**chlorin,ation** *n.* —**chlorin,ator** *n.*

chlorine (ˈklɔ:ɪrɪn) or **chlorin** (ˈklɔ:ɪrɪn) *n.* a toxic pungent greenish-yellow gas of the halogen group; occurring only in the combined state, mainly in common salt: used in the manufacture of many organic chemicals, in water purification, and as a disinfectant and bleaching agent. Symbol: Cl; atomic no.: 17; atomic wt.: 35.453.

chloro- or before a vowel **chlor-** combining form. 1. indicating the colour green: **chlorophyll**. 2. chlorine: **chloroform**.

chloroform (ˈklɔ:ɪrə,fɔ:m) *n.* a heavy volatile liquid

with a sweet taste and odour, used as a solvent and cleansing agent and in refrigerants: formerly used as an inhalation anaesthetic. Formula: CHCl₃.

chlorophyll or U.S. **chlorophyl** (ˈklɔ:ɪrəfɪl) *n.* the green pigment of plants, occurring in chloroplasts, that traps the energy of sunlight for photosynthesis. —**chloro, phylloid** *adj.* —**chlorophyllous** (ˈklɔ:ɪrəˈfɪləs) *adj.*

chlorosis (klɔˈrəʊsɪs) *n.* a once-common iron-deficiency disease of adolescent girls, characterized by greenish-yellow skin colour, weakness, and palpitation. Also called: **greensickness**.

chock (tʃɒk) *n.* 1. a block or wedge of wood used to prevent the sliding or rolling of a heavy object. 2. **Naut.** a. a ringlike device with an opening at the top through which a rope is placed. b. a cradle-like support for a boat, barrel, etc. ~*vb. (tr.)* 3. (usually foll. by *up*) Brit. to cram full. 4. to fit with or secure by a chock. 5. to support (a boat, barrel, etc.) on chocks. ~*adv.* 6. as closely or tightly as possible: **chock against the wall**.

chock-a-block *adj., adv.* 1. filled to capacity; in a crammed state. 2. **Naut.** with the blocks brought close together, as when a tackle is pulled as tight as possible.

chock-full or **choke-full** *adj. (postpositive)* completely full.

chocolate (ˈtʃɒkəlɪt, ˈtʃɒklɪt, -lət) *n.* 1. a food preparation made from roasted ground cacao seeds, usually sweetened and flavoured. 2. a drink or sweetmeat made from this. 3. a deep brown colour. —**chocolaty** *adj.*

choice (tʃɔɪs) *n.* 1. the act or an instance of choosing or selecting. 2. the opportunity or power of choosing. 3. a person or thing chosen or that may be chosen: *he was a possible choice*. 4. an alternative action or possibility: *what choice did I have?* 5. a supply from which to select. ~*adj.* 6. of superior quality; excellent: *choice wine*. —**choicely** *adv.* —**choiceness** *n.*

choir (kwaɪə) *n.* 1. an organized group of singers, esp. for singing in church services. 2. the part of a cathedral, abbey, or church in front of the altar and used by the choir and clergy. 3. a number of instruments of the same family playing together; a **brass choir**. 4. Also called: **choir organ**. one of the manuals on an organ controlling a set of soft sweet-toned pipes.

choirboy (ˈkwaɪə,bɔɪ) *n.* a young boy who sings the treble part in a church choir.

choke (tʃɒk) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to hinder or stop the breathing of (a person or animal), esp. by constricting the windpipe or by asphyxiation. 2. (*intr.*) to have trouble or fail in breathing, swallowing, or speaking. 3. (*tr.*) to block or clog up (a passage, pipe, street, etc.). 4. (*tr.*) to retard the growth or action of: *the weeds are choking my plants*. 5. (*tr.*) to enrich the petrol-air mixture by reducing the air supply to (a carburettor, petrol engine, etc.) ~*n.* 6. the act or sound of choking. 7. a device in the carburettor of a petrol engine that enriches the petrol-air mixture by reducing the air supply. 8. any mechanism for reducing the flow of a fluid in a pipe, tube, etc. 9. Also called: **choke coil**. **Electronics.** an inductor having a relatively high impedance, used to prevent the passage of high frequencies or to smooth the output of a rectifier. —**choky** or **chokey** *adj.*

choke back or **down** *vb. (tr., adv.)* to suppress (anger, tears, etc.).

choke up *vb. (tr., adv.)* 1. to block (a drain, pipe, etc.) completely. 2. *Inf. (usually passive)* to overcome (a person) with emotion.

cholera (ˈkɒləɹə) *n.* an acute intestinal infection characterized by severe diarrhoea, cramp, etc.: caused by ingestion of water or food contaminated with the bacterium *Vibrio comma*. —**choleriac** (ˌkɒləˈreɪnk) *adj.*

choleric (ˈkɒləɪrɪk) *adj.* 1. bad-tempered. 2. **Obs.** bilious or causing biliousness. —**cholERICALLY** *adv.*

cholesterol (kəˈlestə,rɒl) or **cholesterin** (kəˈlestərɪn) *n.* a white or pale yellow almost insoluble sterol found in all animal tissues, blood, bile, and animal fats.

choline (ˈkəʊlɪn, -ɪn, ˈkɒl-) *n.* a colourless viscous soluble alkaline substance present in animal tissues, esp. as a constituent of lecithin.

chomp (tʃɒmp) or **chump** *vb.* 1. to chew (food) noisily; **chomp**. ~*n.* 2. the act or sound of chewing in this manner.

choose (tʃu:z) *vb.* **choosing**, **chose**, **chosen**. 1. to select (a person, thing, course of action, etc.) from a number of alternatives. 2. (*tr.*; takes a clause as object or an infinitive) to consider it desirable or proper: *I don't choose to read that book*. 3. (*intr.*) to like; please: *you may stand if you choose*. —**chooser** *n.*

choosy ('tʃu:zi) *adj.* **choosier, choosiest.** *Inf.* particular in making a choice; difficult to please.

chop¹ (tʃɒp) *vb.* **chopping, chopped.** 1. (often foll. by *down* or *off*) to cut (something) with a blow from an axe or other sharp tool. 2. (*tr.*; often foll. by *up*) to cut into pieces. 3. (*tr.*) *Brit. inf.* to dispense with or reduce. 4. (*intr.*) to move quickly or violently. 5. *Tennis, cricket, etc.* to hit (a ball) sharply downwards. 6. *Boxing, karate, etc.* to punch or strike (an opponent) with a short sharp blow. ~*n.* 7. a cutting blow. 8. the act or an instance of chopping. 9. a piece chopped off. 10. a slice of mutton, lamb, or pork, generally including a rib. 11. *Austral. sl.* a share (esp. in *get* or *hop* in for one's chop). 12. *Austral & N.Z.* a competition of skill and speed in chopping logs. 13. *Sport.* a sharp downward blow or stroke. 14. *not much chop.* *Austral. inf.* not much good; poor. 15. the chop. *Sl., chiefly Brit.* dismissal from employment.

chop² (tʃɒp) *vb.* **chopping, chopped.** 1. (*intr.*) to change direction suddenly; vacillate (esp. in **chop and change**). 2. **chop logic.** to argue over small points.

chop chop *adv.* *pidgin English* for quickly.

chophouse ('tʃɒp,haʊs) *n.* a restaurant specializing in steaks, grills, chops, etc.

chopper ('tʃɒpə) *n.* 1. *Chiefly Brit.* a small hand axe. 2. a butcher's cleaver. 3. a person or thing that cuts or chops. 4. an informal name for a **helicopter**. 5. a device for periodically interrupting an electric current or beam of radiation to produce a pulsed current or beam. 6. a type of bicycle or motorcycle with very high handlebars. 7. *N.Z.* a child's bicycle. 8. *Sl., chiefly U.S.* a sub-machine-gun.

choppy ('tʃɒpi) *adj.* **-pier, -piest.** (of the sea, weather, etc.) fairly rough. —**choppily** *adv.* —**choppiness** *n.*

chops ('tʃɒps) *pl. n.* 1. the jaws or cheeks; jowls. 2. the mouth. 3. **lick one's chops.** *Inf.* to anticipate with pleasure.

chopsticks ('tʃɒpstɪks) *pl. n.* a pair of thin sticks, of ivory, wood, etc., used as eating utensils by the Chinese, Japanese, etc.

chop suey ('su:ɪ) *n.* a Chinese-style dish originating in the U.S., consisting of meat, bean sprouts, etc., stewed and served with rice.

choral ('kɔ:ɪ) *adj.* relating to, sung by, or designed for a chorus or choir. —**chorally** *adv.*

chorale or **choral** ('kɔ:ɪ) *n.* 1. a slow stately hymn tune. 2. *Chiefly U.S.* a choir or chorus.

chord¹ (kɔ:d) *n.* 1. *Maths.* a straight line connecting two points on a curve or curved surface. 2. *Engineering.* one of the principal members of a truss, esp. one that lies along the top or the bottom. 3. *Anat.* a variant spelling of **cord**. 4. an emotional response, esp. one of sympathy: *the story struck the right chord.*

chord² (kɔ:d) *n.* 1. the simultaneous sounding of a group of musical notes, usually three or more in number. ~*vb.* 2. (*tr.*) to provide (a melodic line) with chords. —**chordal** *adj.*

chore (tʃɔ:) *n.* 1. a small routine task, esp. a domestic one. 2. an unpleasant task.

-chore *n.* *combining form.* (in botany) indicating a plant that is distributed by a certain means: *anemochore*. —**chorous** or **-choric** *adj.* *combining form.*

chorea ('kɔ:ɪə) *n.* a disorder of the central nervous system characterized by uncontrollable irregular brief jerky movements. Nontechnical name: **Saint Vitus's dance**.

choreography (ˌkɔ:ɪɒ'græfi) or **choreography** (kɔ:'regræfi) *n.* 1. the composition of dance steps and sequences for ballet and stage dancing. 2. the steps and sequences of a ballet or dance. 3. the notation representing such steps. 4. the art of dancing. —**choreographer** or **cho'reographer** *n.* —**choreographic** (ˌkɔ:ɪɒ'græfik) or **choreographic** (ˌkɔ:ɪ'græfik) *adj.* —**choreographically** or **chore'graphically** *adv.*

chorister ('kɔ:ɪstə) *n.* a singer in a choir, esp. a choirboy.

chortle ('tʃɔ:tʃl) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) *Inf.* to chuckle gleefully. ~*n.* 2. *Inf.* a gleeful chuckle. —**chortler** *n.*

chorus ('kɔ:ɪəs) *n., pl. -ruses.* 1. a large choir of singers or a piece of music composed for such a choir. 2. a body of singers or dancers who perform together. 3. a section of a song in which a soloist is joined by a group of singers, esp. in a recurring refrain. 4. an intermediate section of a pop song, blues, etc., as distinct from the verse. 5. *Jazz.* any of a series of variations on a theme. 6. (in ancient Greece) a. a lyric poem sung by a group of dancers, originally as a religious rite. b. an ode or series of odes sung by a group of actors. c. the actors who

sang the chorus and commented on the action of the play. 7. a. (esp. in Elizabethan drama) the actor who spoke the prologue, etc. b. the part spoken by this actor. 8. a group of people or animals producing words or sounds simultaneously. 9. any speech, song, or utterance produced by a group of people or animals simultaneously: *the dawn chorus*. 10. **in chorus.** in unison. ~*vb.* 11. to speak, sing, or utter (words, sounds, etc.) in unison.

chorus girl *n.* a girl who dances or sings in the chorus of a musical comedy, revue, etc.

chose (tʃəʊz) *vb.* the past tense of **choose**.

chosen ('tʃəʊz'n) *vb.* 1. the past participle of **choose**. ~*adj.* 2. selected or picked out, esp. for some special quality.

chough (tʃʌf) *n.* a large black passerine bird of parts of Europe, Asia, and Africa, with a long downward-curving red bill: family *Corvidae* (crows).

choux pastry (ʃu:) *n.* a very light pastry made with eggs, used for eclairs, etc.

chow (tʃəʊ) *n.* 1. *Inf.* food. 2. short for **chow-chow** (sense 1). 3. *Austral. & N.Z. obs.* a derogatory term for Chinese.

chow-chow *n.* 1. a thick-coated breed of dog with a curled tail, originally from China. Often shortened to **chow**. 2. a Chinese preserve of ginger, orange peel, etc. in syrup. 3. a mixed vegetable pickle.

chowder ('tʃaʊdə) *n.* *Chiefly U.S.* a thick soup or stew containing clams or fish.

chow mein (mein) *n.* a Chinese-American dish, consisting of mushrooms, meat, shrimps, etc., served with fried noodles.

Chr. *abbrev. for:* 1. Christ. 2. Christian.

chrism or **chrism** ('krɪzəm) *n.* a mixture of olive oil and balsam used for sacramental anointing in the Greek Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches. —**chrismal** ('krɪzməl) *adj.*

Christ (kraɪst) *n.* 1. Jesus of Nazareth (Jesus Christ), regarded by Christians as fulfilling Old Testament prophecies of the Messiah. 2. the Messiah or anointed one of God as the subject of Old Testament prophecies. 3. an image or picture of Christ. ~*interj.* 4. *Taboo sl.* an oath expressing annoyance, surprise, etc. ~*See* also **Jesus**. —**Christly** *adj.*

christen ('kraɪsn) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to give a Christian name to in baptism as a sign of incorporation into a Christian Church. 2. another word for **baptize**. 3. to give a name to anything, esp. with some ceremony. 4. *Inf.* to use for the first time. —**christener** *n.* —**christening** *n.*

Christendom ('kraɪs'ndəm) *n.* the collective body of Christians throughout the world.

Christian ('kraɪstjən) *n.* 1. a. a person who believes in and follows Jesus Christ. b. a member of a Christian Church or denomination. 2. *Inf.* a person who possesses Christian virtues. ~*adj.* 3. of, relating to, or derived from Jesus Christ, his teachings, example, or his followers. 4. (sometimes *not cap.*) exhibiting kindness or goodness. —**Christianly** *adv.*

Christian Era *n.* the period beginning with the year of Christ's birth.

Christianity (ˌkraɪstɪ'ænɪti) *n.* 1. the Christian religion. 2. Christian beliefs or practices. 3. a less common word for **Christendom**.

Christianize or **-ise** ('kraɪstɪ'naɪz) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to make Christian or convert to Christianity. 2. (*tr.*) to imbue with Christian principles, spirit, or outlook. —**Christianization** or **-i'sation** *n.* —**Christianizer** or **-iser** *n.*

Christian name *n.* *Brit.* a personal or given name. It is formally given to Christians at christening.

Christian Science *n.* the religious system of the Church of Christ, Scientist, founded by Mary Baker Eddy (1866), and emphasizing spiritual healing. —**Christian Scientist** *n.*

Christlike ('kraɪst,laɪk) *adj.* resembling the spirit of Jesus Christ. —**Christ, likeness** *n.*

Christmas ('krɪsməs) *n.* a. the annual commemoration by Christians of the birth of Jesus Christ, on Dec. 25. b. Also called: **Christmas Day**. Dec. 25, observed as a day of secular celebrations when gifts and greetings are exchanged. c. (as modifier): *Christmas celebrations*.

Christmas box *n.* a tip or present given at Christmas, esp. to postmen, tradesmen, etc.

Christmas Eve *n.* the evening or the whole day before Christmas Day.

Christmas pudding *n.* *Brit.* a rich steamed pudding containing suet, dried fruit, spices, etc. Also called: **plum pudding**.

Christmas rose *n.* an evergreen plant of S Europe and W Asia, with white or pinkish winter-blooming flowers. Also called: **hellebore**, **winter rose**.

Christmas tree *n.* 1. an evergreen tree or an imitation of one, decorated as part of Christmas celebrations. 2. Also called (Austral.): **Christmas bush**. any of various trees or shrubs flowering at Christmas and used for decoration.

chromate ('krəumeɪt) *n.* any salt or ester of chromic acid.

chromatic (krə'mætɪk) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or characterized by a colour or colours. 2. *Music.* a. involving the sharpening or flattening of notes or the use of such notes in chords and harmonic progressions. b. of or relating to the chromatic scale or an instrument capable of producing it. —**chromatically** *adv.* —**chromaticism** *n.* —**chromaticity** (,krəmə'tɪsɪti) *n.*

chromatics (krəʊ'mætɪks) *n.* (functioning as *sing.*) the science of colour.

chromatic scale *n.* a twelve-note scale including all the semitones of the octave.

chromatin ('krəuməɪn) *n.* the part of the nucleus that consists of DNA, RNA, and proteins, forms the chromosomes, and stains with basic dyes.

chromato- or before a vowel **chromat-** combining form. 1. indicating colour or coloured: **chromatophore**. 2. indicating chromatin: **chromatolysis**.

chromatography (,krəʊmə'tɒɡrəfi) *n.* the technique of separating and analysing the components of a mixture of liquids or gases by selective adsorption in a column of powder (**column chromatography**) or on a strip of paper (**paper chromatography**).

chrome (krəʊm) *n.* 1. a. another word for **chromium**, esp. when present in a pigment or dye. b. (as *modifier*): a **chrome dye**. 2. anything plated with chromium. 3. a pigment or dye that contains chromium. ~vb. 4. to plate or be plated with chromium. 5. to treat or be treated with a chromium compound, as in dyeing or tanning.

-chrome *n.* and *adj.* combining form. colour, coloured, or pigment: **monochrome**.

chromic ('krəʊmɪk) *adj.* 1. of or containing chromium in the trivalent state. 2. of or derived from chromic acid.

chromite ('krəʊmaɪt) *n.* a brownish-black mineral consisting of a ferrous chromic oxide in crystalline form: the only commercial source of chromium. Formula: FeCr₂O₄.

chromium ('krəʊmɪəm) *n.* a hard grey metallic element, used in steel alloys and electroplating to increase hardness and corrosion-resistance. Symbol: Cr; atomic no.: 24; atomic wt.: 51.996.

chromo- or before a vowel **chrom-** combining form. 1. indicating colour, coloured, or pigment: **chromogen**. 2. indicating chromium: **chromyl**.

chromosome ('krəʊmə'səʊm) *n.* any of the microscopic rod-shaped structures that appear in a cell nucleus during cell division, consisting of nucleoprotein arranged into units (genes) that are responsible for the transmission of hereditary characteristics. —**chromosomal** *adj.*

chromosphere ('krəʊmə'sfɪə) *n.* a gaseous layer of the sun's atmosphere extending from the photosphere to the corona. —**chromospheric** (,krəʊmə'sferɪk) *adj.*

chromous ('krəʊməs) *adj.* of or containing chromium in the divalent state.

chron. or **chronol.** *abbrev. for:* 1. chronological. 2. chronology.

Chron. *Bible. abbrev. for* Chronicles.

chronic ('krɒnɪk) *adj.* 1. continuing for a long time; constantly recurring. 2. (of a disease) developing slowly, or of long duration. Cf. **acute** (sense 7). 3. inveterate; habitual: a **chronic smoker**. 4. *Inf.* a. very bad: *the play was chronic*. b. very serious: *he left her in a chronic condition*. —**chronically** *adv.* —**chronicity** (krɒ'nɪsɪti) *n.*

chronicle ('krɒnɪkl̩) *n.* 1. a record or register of events in chronological order. ~vb. 2. (tr.) to record in or as if in a chronicle. —**chronicler** *n.*

chrono- or before a vowel **chron-** combining form. time: **chronology**.

chronological (,krɒnə'lɒdʒɪkəl, ,krəʊ-) or **chronologic** *adj.* 1. (esp. of a sequence of events) arranged in order of occurrence. 2. relating to or in accordance with chronology. —**chronologically** *adv.*

chronology (krɒ'nɒlədʒi) *n.*, *pl.* **-gies**. 1. the determination of the proper sequence of past events. 2. the

arrangement of dates, events, etc., in order of occurrence. 3. a table of events arranged in order of occurrence. —**chronologist** *n.*

chronometer (krə'nɒmɪtə) *n.* a timepiece designed to be accurate in all conditions of temperature, pressure, etc., used esp. at sea. —**chronometric** (,krɒnə'metrɪk) or **chronometrical** *adj.* —**chronometrically** *adv.*

chrysalis ('krɪsəls) *n.*, *pl.* **chrysalises** or **chrysalides** (krɪ'sæliːdɪz). 1. the pupa of a moth or butterfly, in a case or cocoon. 2. anything in the process of developing.

chrysanthemum (krɪ'sænθəməm) *n.* 1. any of various widely cultivated plants of the composite family, having brightly coloured showy flower heads in autumn. 2. any other plant of the genus *Chrysanthemum*, such as the oxeye daisy.

chrysoberyl ('krɪsə,berɪl) *n.* a rare very hard greenish-yellow mineral consisting of beryllium aluminate: used as a gemstone. Formula: BeAl₂O₄.

chrysolite ('krɪsə,lait) *n.* a brown or yellowish-green olive: used as a gemstone.

chrysoprase ('krɪsə,preɪz) *n.* an apple-green variety of chalcedony: a gemstone.

chub (tʃʌb) *n.*, *pl.* **chub** or **chubs**. 1. a common European freshwater cyprinid game fish, having a cylindrical dark-green body. 2. any of various North American fishes, esp. certain whitefishes and minnows.

chubby ('tʃʌbi) *adj.* **-bier**, **-biest**. (esp. of the human form) plump and round. —**'chubbiness** *n.*

chuck¹ (tʃʌk) *vb.* (mainly tr.) 1. *Inf.* to throw. 2. to pat affectionately, esp. under the chin. 3. *Inf.* (sometimes foll. by *in* or *up*) to give up; reject: *he chucked up his job*. ~n. 4. a throw or toss. 5. a pat under the chin. 6. **the chuck**. *Inf.* dismissal.

chuck² (tʃʌk) *n.* 1. Also called: **chuck steak**. a cut of beef from the neck to the shoulder blade. 2. a device that holds a workpiece in a lathe or tool in a drill.

chuckle ('tʃʌkl̩) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. to laugh softly or to oneself. 2. (of animals, esp. hens) to make a clucking sound. ~n. 3. a partly suppressed laugh. —**'chuckler** *n.*

chucklehead ('tʃʌkl̩,hed) *n.* *Inf.* a stupid person; blockhead; dolt.

chuff¹ (tʃʌf) *n.* 1. a puffing sound as of a steam engine. ~vb. 2. (*intr.*) to move while emitting such sounds.

chuff² (tʃʌf) *vb.* (tr.; usually passive) *Brit. sl.* to please or delight: *he was chuffed by his pay rise*.

chug (tʃʌɡ) *n.* 1. a short dull sound, such as that made by an engine. ~vb. **chugging**, **chugged**. 2. (*intr.*) (of an engine, etc.) to operate while making such sounds.

chukker or **chukka** ('tʃʌkə) *n.* *Polo*. a period of continuous play, generally lasting 7½ minutes.

chum (tʃʌm) *n.* 1. *Inf.* a close friend. ~vb. **chumming**, **chummed**. 2. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *up with*) to be or become an intimate friend (of).

chummy ('tʃʌmi) *adj.* **-mier**, **-est**. *Inf.* friendly. —**'chummily** *adv.* —**'chumminess** *n.*

chump (tʃʌmp) *n.* 1. *Inf.* a stupid person. 2. a thick heavy block of wood. 3. the thick blunt end of anything, esp. of a piece of meat. 4. *Brit. sl.* the head (esp. in **off one's chump**).

chunk (tʃʌŋk) *n.* 1. a thick solid piece, as of meat, wood, etc. 2. a considerable amount.

chunky ('tʃʌŋki) *adj.* **chunkier**, **chunkiest**. 1. thick and short. 2. containing thick pieces. 3. *Chiefly Brit.* (of clothes, esp. knitwear) made of thick bulky material. —**'chunkiness** *n.*

church (tʃɜːtʃ) *n.* 1. a building for public worship, esp. Christian worship. 2. an occasion of public worship. 3. the clergy as distinguished from the laity. 4. (usually *cap.*) institutionalized forms of religion as a political or social force: **conflict between Church and State**. 5. (usually *cap.*) the collective body of all Christians. 6. (often *cap.*) a particular Christian denomination or group. 7. (often *cap.*) the Christian religion. ~Related *adj.*: **ecclesiastical**. ~vb. (tr.) 8. **Church of England**. to bring (someone, esp. a woman after childbirth) to church for special ceremonies.

Church Commissioners *pl. n.* *Brit.* a group of representatives of Church and State that administers the property of the Church of England.

churchgoer ('tʃɜːtʃ,ɡəʊə) *n.* a person who attends church regularly. —**'churchgoing** *n.*

churchly ('tʃɜːtʃli) *adj.* appropriate to or associated with the church. —**'churchliness** *n.*

Church of England *n.* the reformed established state church in England, with the Sovereign as its temporal head.

churchwarden (ˈtʃɜːtʃwɔːdɪn) *n.* 1. *Church of England, Episcopal Church.* one of two assistants of a parish priest who administer the secular affairs of the church. 2. a long-stemmed tobacco pipe made of clay.

churchyard (ˈtʃɜːtʃjɑːd) *n.* the grounds round a church, used as a graveyard.

churl (tʃɜːl) *n.* 1. a surly ill-bred person. 2. a farm labourer. 3. a miserly person. —'churlish *adj.*

churn (tʃɜːn) *n.* 1. *Brit.* a large container for milk. 2. a vessel or machine in which cream or whole milk is vigorously agitated to produce butter. ~*vb.* 3. *a.* to agitate (milk or cream) to make butter. *b.* to make (butter) by this process. 4. (sometimes foll. by *up*) to move or cause to move with agitation.

chute (tʃuːt) *n.* 1. an inclined channel or vertical passage down which water, parcels, coal, etc., may be dropped. 2. a steep slope, used as a slide as for toboggans. 3. a slide into a swimming pool. 4. a rapid or waterfall.

chute (tʃuːt) *n., vb.* *Inf.* short for **parachute**. —'chutist *n.* **chutney** (ˈtʃʊtni) *n.* a pickle of Indian origin, made from fruit, vinegar, spices, sugar, etc.: *mango chutney*.

chyle (kail) *n.* a milky fluid composed of lymph and emulsified fat globules, formed in the small intestine during digestion. —chylaceous (kaiˈleɪʃəs) or 'chylous *adj.*

chyme (kaim) *n.* the thick fluid mass of partially digested food that leaves the stomach. —'chymous *adj.*

chypre *French.* (ʃipr) *n.* a perfume made from sandalwood.

Ci *abbrev. for curie.*

C.I. *abbrev. for Channel Islands.*

C.I.A. *abbrev. for Central Intelligence Agency;* a federal U.S. bureau created in 1947 to coordinate and conduct espionage and intelligence activities.

cicada (sɪˈkɑːdə) or **cicala** *n., pl. -das, -dae* (-diː) or *-las, -le* (-le). any large broad insect, most common in warm regions, having membranous wings: the males produce a high-pitched drone by vibration of a pair of drumlike abdominal organs.

cicatrix (ˈsɪkətrɪks) *n., pl. cicatrices* (ˈsɪkəˈtreɪsɪz). 1. the tissue that forms in a wound during healing; scar. 2. a scar on a plant indicating the former point of attachment of a part, esp. a leaf. —cicatricial (ˈsɪkəˈtriʃəl) *adj.*

cicerone (ˌsɪsəˈrəʊni, ˈtʃɪf-) *n., pl. -nes or -ni* (-ni). a person who conducts and informs sightseers.

C.I.D. (in Britain) *abbrev. for Criminal Investigation Department;* the detective division of a police force.

-cide *n. combining form.* 1. indicating a person or thing that kills: *insecticide*. 2. indicating a killing; murder: *homicide*. —cidal *adj. combining form.*

cider or **cyder** (ˈsaɪdə) *n.* 1. an alcoholic drink made from the fermented juice of apples. 2. Also called: **sweet cider**. U.S. an unfermented drink made from apple juice.

c.i.f. or **C.I.F.** *abbrev. for cost, insurance, and freight* (included in the price quoted).

cigar (sɪˈɡɑː) *n.* a cylindrical roll of cured tobacco leaves, for smoking.

cigarette or U.S. (sometimes) **cigaret** (ˌsɪɡəˈret) *n.* a short tightly rolled cylinder of tobacco, wrapped in thin paper for smoking.

cigarette card *n.* a small picture card, formerly given away with cigarettes, now collected as a hobby.

C in C or **C-in-C.** *Mil. abbrev. for Commander in Chief.*

cinch (sɪntʃ) *n.* 1. *Sl.* an easy task. 2. *Sl.* a certainty. 3. a U.S. name for girth (sense 2). 4. U.S. *inf.* a firm grip. ~*vb.* 5. (often foll. by *up*) U.S. to fasten a girth around (a horse). 6. (tr.) *inf.* to make sure of. 7. (tr.) *Inf., chiefly U.S.* to get a firm grip on.

cinchona (sɪŋˈkɒnə) *n.* 1. any tree or shrub of the South American genus *Cinchona*, having medicinal bark. 2. the dried bark of any of these trees, which yields quinine. 3. any of the drugs derived from cinchona bark. —cinchonic (sɪŋˈkɒnik) *adj.*

cincture (ˈsɪŋktʃə) *n.* something that encircles, esp. a belt or girdle.

cinder (ˈsɪndə) *n.* 1. a piece of incombustible material left after the combustion of coal, coke, etc.; clinker. 2. a piece of charred material that burns without flames; ember. 3. any solid waste from smelting or refining. 4. (pl.) fragments of volcanic lava; scoriae. —cindery *adj.*

Cinderella (ˌsɪndəˈreɪlə) *n.* 1. a girl who achieves fame after being obscure. 2. a poor, neglected, or unsuccessful person or thing.

ciné- *combining form.* indicating motion picture or cinema: *cinecamera; cinephotography*.

cinema (ˈsɪnmə) *n.* 1. *Chiefly Brit.* a place designed for the exhibition of films. 2. *the cinema.* a. the art or business of making films. b. films collectively. —cinematic (ˌsɪniˈmætɪk) *adj.* —, *ciné-* *adv.*

cinematograph (ˌsɪniˈmætəˌɡrɑːf, -ˌgræf) *Chiefly Brit.* ~*n.* 1. a combined camera, printer, and projector. ~*vb.* 2. to take (pictures) with a film camera. —cinematographer (ˌsɪniˈmætəˈtɒɡrəfə) *n.* —cinematographic (ˌsɪniˈmætəˌɡræfɪk) *adj.* —, *ciné-* *adv.* graphically *adv.* —, *cinéma* 'to'graphy *n.*

cineraria (ˌsɪnəˈreəriə) *n.* a plant of the Canary Islands, widely cultivated for its blue, purple, red, or variegated daisy-like flowers.

cinerarium (ˌsɪnəˈreəriəm) *n., pl. -raria* (-ˈreəriə). a place for keeping the ashes of the dead after cremation. —cinerary (ˌsɪnəri) *adj.*

cinnabar (ˈsɪnəˌbɑː) *n.* 1. a heavy red mineral consisting of mercuric sulphide: the chief ore of mercury. Formula: HgS. 2. the red form of mercuric sulphide, esp. when used as a pigment. 3. a bright red; vermilion. 4. a large red-and-black European moth.

cinnamon (ˈsɪnəmən) *n.* 1. a tropical Asian tree, having aromatic yellowish-brown bark. 2. the spice obtained from the bark of this tree, used for flavouring food and drink. 3. a light yellowish-brown.

cinque (sɪŋk) *n.* the number five in cards, dice, etc.

cinquefoil (ˈsɪŋkˌfɔɪl) *n.* 1. any plant of the *N* temperate rosaceous genus *Potentilla*, typically having five-lobed compound leaves. 2. an ornamental carving in the form of five arcs arranged in a circle and separated by cusps.

Cinque Ports (sɪŋk) *pl. n.* an association of ports on the SE coast of England, which from late Anglo-Saxon times until 1685 provided ships for the king's service in return for the profits of justice in their courts.

cipher or **cypher** (ˈsaɪfə) *n.* 1. a method of secret writing using substitution of letters according to a key. 2. a secret message. 3. the key to a secret message. 4. an obsolete name for zero (sense 1). 5. any of the Arabic numerals or the Arabic system of numbering. 6. a person or thing of no importance; nonentity. 7. a design consisting of interwoven letters; monogram. ~*vb.* 8. to put (a message) into secret writing. 9. Rare. to perform (a calculation) arithmetically.

circa (ˈsɜːkə) *prep.* (used with a date) at the approximate time of: *circa 1182 B.C.* *Abbrev: c*

circadian (ˈsɜːkeɪdiən) *adj.* of or relating to biological processes that occur regularly at 24-hour intervals. See also **biological clock**.

circle (ˈsɜːkl) *n.* 1. a closed plane curve every point of which is equidistant from a given fixed point, the centre. 2. the figure enclosed by such a curve. 3. *Theatre.* the section of seats above the main level of the auditorium, usually comprising the dress circle and the upper circle. 4. something formed or arranged in the shape of a circle. 5. a group of people sharing an interest, activity, upbringing, etc.; set: *golf circles; a family circle*. 6. a domain or area of activity, interest, or influence. 7. a circuit. 8. a process or chain of events or parts that forms a connected whole; cycle. 9. a parallel of latitude. See also **great circle**. 10. one of a number of Neolithic or Bronze Age rings of standing stones, such as Stonehenge. 11. **come full circle.** to arrive back at one's starting point. See also **vicious circle**. ~*vb.* 12. to move in a circle (around). 13. to enclose in a circle; encircle. —'circler *n.*

circlet (ˈsɜːklɪt) *n.* a small circle or ring, esp. a circular ornament worn on the head.

circuit (ˈsɜːkɪt) *n.* 1. a. a complete route or course, esp. one that is curved or circular or that lies around an object. b. the area enclosed within such a route. 2. the act of following such a route: *we made three circuits of the course*. 3. a. a complete path through which an electric current can flow. b. (as modifier): *a circuit diagram*. 4. a. a periodical journey around an area, as made by judges, salesmen, etc. b. the places visited on such a journey. c. the persons making such a journey. 5. a number of theatres, cinemas, etc., under one management. 6. *Sport.* a. a series of tournaments in which the same players regularly take part: *the international tennis circuit*. b. (usually preceded by *the*) the contestants who take part in such a series. 7. *Chiefly Brit.* a motor racing track, usually of irregular shape. ~*vb.* 8. to make or travel in a circuit around (something). —'circuital *adj.*

circuit breaker *n.* a device that under abnormal

conditions, such as a short circuit, stops the flow of current in an electrical circuit.

circuitous (sə'kjʊətəs) *adj.* indirect and lengthy; roundabout: a circuitous route. —**circuitously** *adv.* —**circuitousness** *n.*

circuitry ('sɜ:kɪtri) *n.* 1. the design of an electrical circuit. 2. the system of circuits used in an electronic device.

circular ('sɜ:kjʊlə) *adj.* 1. of, involving, resembling, or shaped like a circle. 2. circuitous. 3. (of arguments, etc.) assuming as one of the premises the conclusion that is to be proved: the fallacy of begging the question. 4. travelling or occurring in a cycle. 5. (of letters, announcements, etc.) intended for general distribution. ~*n.* 6. a printed advertisement or notice for mass distribution. —**circularity** (sɜ:kjʊlə'renti) *n.* —**circularly** *adv.*

circularize or **-ise** ('sɜ:kjʊləraɪz) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to distribute circulars to. 2. to canvass or petition (people), as for support, votes, etc., by distributing letters, etc. 3. to make circular. —**circularization** or **-isation** *n.*

circular saw *n.* a power-driven saw in which a circular disc with a toothed edge is rotated at high speed.

circulate ('sɜ:kjʊleɪt) *vb.* 1. to send, go, or pass from place to place or person to person: don't circulate the news. 2. to distribute or be distributed over a wide area. 3. to move or cause to move through a circuit, system, etc., returning to the starting point: blood circulates through the body. 4. to move in a circle. —**circulative** *adj.* —**circulator** *n.* —**circulatory** *adj.*

circulating library *n.* 1. another word (esp. U.S.) for lending library. 2. a small library circulated in turn to a group of institutions.

circulation (sɜ:kjʊ'leɪʃən) *n.* 1. the transport of oxygenated blood through the arteries, and the return of oxygen-depleted blood through the veins to the heart, where the cycle is renewed. 2. the flow of sap through a plant. 3. any movement through a closed circuit. 4. the spreading or transmission of something to a wider group of people or area. 5. (of air and water) free movement within an area or volume. 6. a. the distribution of newspapers, magazines, etc. b. the number of copies of an issue that are distributed. 7. in circulation. a. (of currency) serving as a medium of exchange. b. (of people) active in a social or business context.

circum- *prefix.* around; surrounding; on all sides: *circumlocution*; *circumpolar*.

circumambient (sɜ:kəm'æmbɪənt) *adj.* surrounding. —**circumambience** or **circumambieny** *n.*

circumcise ('sɜ:kəm,saɪz) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to remove the foreskin of (a male). 2. to incise surgically the skin over the clitoris of (a female). 3. to perform this operation as a religious rite on (someone). —**circumcision** *n.*

circumference (sə'kamfərəns) *n.* 1. the boundary of a specific area or figure, esp. of a circle. 2. the length of a closed geometric curve, esp. of a circle. —**circumferential** (sə'kamfərə'nʃjəl) *adj.* —**circumferentially** *adv.*

circumflex ('sɜ:kəm,fleks) *n.* 1. a mark (˘) placed over a vowel to show that it is pronounced with rising and falling pitch, as in ancient Greek, or as a long vowel, as in French. ~*adj.* 2. (of nerves, arteries, etc.) bending or curving around. —**circumflexion** *n.*

circumlocution (sɜ:kəm'lə'kju:ʃən) *n.* 1. an indirect way of expressing something. 2. an indirect expression. —**circumlocutory** (sɜ:kəm'lə'kju:təri, -tri) *adj.*

circumnavigate (sɜ:kəm'nævi,geɪt) *vb.* (tr.) to sail or fly completely around. —**circumnavigation** *n.* —**circumnavigator** *n.*

circumscribe (sɜ:kəm'skraɪb, 'sɜ:kəm,skraɪb) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to restrict within limits. 2. to mark or set the bounds of. 3. to draw a geometric construction around (another construction) so that the two are in contact but do not intersect. 4. to draw a line round. —**circumscribable** *adj.* —**circumscriber** *n.* —**circumscription** (sɜ:kəm'skri'pʃən) *n.*

circumspect ('sɜ:kəm,spɛkt) *adj.* cautious, prudent, or discreet. —**circumspection** *n.* —**circumspectly** *adv.*

circumstance ('sɜ:kəmstəns) *n.* 1. (usually pl.) a condition of time, place, etc., that accompanies or influences an event or condition. 2. an incident or occurrence, esp. a chance one. 3. accessory information or detail. 4. formal display or ceremony (archaic except in **pomp and circumstance**). 5. under or in no circumstances. in no case; never. 6. under the circumstances. because of conditions; this being the case. ~*vb.* (tr.) 7. to place in a particular condition or situation.

circumstantial (sɜ:kəm'stænʃəl) *adj.* 1. of or dependent on circumstances. 2. fully detailed. 3. incidental.

—**circumstantiality** (sɜ:kəm'stænʃi'ælɪti) *n.* —**circumstantially** *adv.*

circumstantial evidence *n.* indirect evidence that tends to establish a conclusion by inference.

circumstantiate (sɜ:kəm'stænʃi,et) *vb.* (tr.) to support by giving particulars. —**circumstantiation** *n.*

circumvent (sɜ:kəm'vent) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to evade or go around. 2. to outwit. 3. to encircle (an enemy) so as to intercept or capture. —**circumvention** *n.*

circus ('sɜ:kəs) *n., pl. -cuses.* 1. a travelling company of entertainers such as acrobats, clowns, trapeze artists, and trained animals. 2. a public performance given by such a company. 3. an arena, usually tented, in which such a performance is held. 4. (in ancient Rome) a. an open-air stadium, usually oval or oblong, for chariot races or public games. b. the games themselves. 5. *Brit. a.* an open place, usually circular, where several streets converge. b. (*cap. when part of a name*): *Piccadilly Circus*. 6. *Inf.* noisy or rowdy behaviour. 7. *Inf.* a group of people travelling together and putting on a display.

cirrhosis (sɪ'rəʊsɪs) *n.* any of various chronic progressive diseases of the liver, characterized by death of liver cells, irreversible fibrosis, etc. —**cirrhotic** (sɪ'rəʊtɪk) *adj.*

cirrocumulus (sɪrəʊ'kju:mjʊləs) *n., pl. -li* (-lai). a high cloud of ice crystals grouped into small separate globular masses.

cirrostratus (sɪrəʊ'straɪtəs) *n., pl. -ti* (-tai). a uniform layer of cloud above about 6000 metres.

cirrus ('sɪrəs) *n., pl. -ri* (-rai). 1. a thin wispy fibrous cloud at high altitudes, composed of ice particles. 2. a plant tendril or similar part. 3. a slender tentacle or filament in barnacles and other marine invertebrates.

cisalpine (sɪs'ælpɪn) *adj.* on this (the southern) side of the Alps, as viewed from Rome.

cisco ('sɪskəʊ) *n., pl. -coes* or **-cos.** any of various whitefish, esp. the lake herring of cold deep lakes of North America.

cist (sɪst) *n.* a wooden box for holding ritual objects used in ancient Rome and Greece.

cist (sɪst) or **kist** *n.* a box-shaped burial chamber made from stone slabs or a hollowed tree-trunk.

Cistercian (sɪ'stɜ:ʃən) *n.* a member of a Christian order of monks and nuns founded in 1098, which follows an especially strict form of the Benedictine rule. Also called: **White Monk**.

cistern ('sɪstən) *n.* 1. a tank for the storage of water, esp. on or within the roof of a house or connected to a W.C. 2. an underground reservoir for the storage of a liquid, esp. rainwater. 3. Also called: **cisterna**. *Anat.* a sac or partially enclosed space containing body fluid.

citadel ('sɪtədl, -del) *n.* 1. a stronghold within or close to a city. 2. any strongly fortified building or place of safety; refuge.

citation (saɪ'teɪʃən) *n.* 1. the quoting of a book or author. 2. a passage or source cited. 3. a. an official commendation or award, esp. for bravery or outstanding service. b. a formal public statement of this. 4. *Law.* a. an official summons to appear in court. b. the document containing such a summons. —**citatory** ('saɪtətəri) *adj.*

cite (saɪt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to quote or refer to (a passage, book, or author). 2. to mention or commend (a soldier, etc.) for outstanding bravery or meritorious action. 3. to summon to appear before a court of law. 4. to enumerate: he cited the king's virtues. —**'citable** or **'citeable** *adj.*

cithara ('sɪθərə) or **kithara** *n.* a stringed musical instrument of ancient Greece, similar to the lyre.

citified or **cityfied** ('sɪtɪfaɪd) *adj.* *Often derog.* having the customs, manners, or dress of city people.

citizen ('sɪtɪzn) *n.* 1. a native or naturalized member of a state, nation, or other political community. 2. an inhabitant of a city or town. 3. a civilian, as opposed to a soldier, public official, etc.

citizenry ('sɪtɪzənri) *n., pl. -ries.* citizens collectively. **Citizens' Band** *n.* a range of radio frequencies assigned officially for use by the public for private communication.

citizenship ('sɪtɪzən,ʃɪp) *n.* 1. the condition or status of a citizen, with its rights and duties. 2. a person's conduct as a citizen.

citrate ('sɪtreɪt, -rɪt; 'saɪtreɪt) *n.* any salt or ester of citric acid.

citric ('sɪtrɪk) *adj.* of or derived from citrus fruits or citric acid.

citric acid *n.* a water-soluble weak tribasic acid found in many fruits, esp. citrus fruits, and used in pharmaceu-

ticals and as a flavouring. Formula: $\text{CH}_2(\text{COOH})\text{C}(\text{OH})(\text{COOH})\text{CH}_2\text{COOH}$.

citriculture ('sitrɪ,kʌltʃə) *n.* the cultivation of citrus fruits.

citron ('sitrɒn) *n.* 1. a small Asian tree, having lemon-like fruit with a thick aromatic rind. 2. the fruit of this tree. 3. the rind of this fruit candied and used for decoration and flavouring of foods.

citronella ('sitrə'nelə) *n.* 1. a tropical Asian grass, with bluish-green lemon-scented leaves. 2. Also called: **citronella oil**, the yellow aromatic oil obtained from this grass, used in insect repellents, soaps, perfumes, etc.

citrus ('sitrʊs) *n., pl. -ruses.* 1. any tree or shrub of the tropical and subtropical genus *Citrus*, which includes the orange, lemon, and lime. ~*adj.* also **citrous**. 2. of or relating to the genus *Citrus* or to the fruits of plants of this genus.

cittern ('sɪtɜ:n), **cither** ('sɪθə) or **cithern** ('sɪðən) *n.* a medieval stringed instrument resembling a lute but having wire strings and a flat back.

city ('sɪti) *n., pl. cities.* 1. any large town or populous place. 2. (in Britain) a large town that has received this title from the Crown: usually the seat of a bishop. 3. (in the U.S.) an incorporated urban centre with its own government and administration established by state charter. 4. the people of a city collectively. 5. (*modifier*) in or characteristic of a city: *city habits*. ~Related *adjs.*: **civic**, **urban**, **municipal**.

City ('sɪti) *n. the.* 1. the area in central London in which the United Kingdom's major financial business is transacted. 2. the various financial institutions located in this area.

city editor *n.* (on a newspaper) 1. *Brit.* the editor in charge of financial and commercial news. 2. *U.S.* the editor in charge of local news.

city-state *n.* *Ancient history.* a state consisting of a sovereign city and its dependencies.

civet ('sɪvɪt) *n.* 1. a catlike mammal of Africa and S Asia, typically having spotted fur and secreting a powerfully smelling fluid from anal glands. 2. the yellowish fatty secretion of such an animal, used as a fixative in the manufacture of perfumes. 3. the fur of such an animal.

civic ('sɪvɪk) *adj.* of or relating to a city, citizens, or citizenship. —*civically* *adv.*

civic centre *n.* *Brit.* the public buildings of a town, including recreational facilities and offices of local administration.

civics ('sɪvɪks) *n.* (*functioning as sing.*) the study of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

civil ('sɪvɪl) *adj.* 1. of the ordinary life of citizens as distinguished from military, legal, or ecclesiastical affairs. 2. of or relating to the citizen as an individual: *civil rights*. 3. of or occurring within the state or between citizens: *civil strife*. 4. polite or courteous: *a civil manner*. 5. of or in accordance with Roman law. —*civility* *adv.*

civil defence *n.* the organizing of civilians to deal with enemy attacks.

civil disobedience *n.* a refusal to obey laws, pay taxes, etc.: a nonviolent means of protesting.

civil engineer *n.* a person qualified to design and construct public works, such as roads, bridges, harbours, etc. —*civil engineering* *n.*

civilian ('sɪvɪljən) *n. a.* a person whose occupation is civil or nonmilitary. *b.* (*as modifier*): *civilian life*.

civility ('sɪvɪlɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. politeness or courtesy. 2. (*often pl.*) an act of politeness.

civilization or -isation ('sɪvɪlaɪ'zeɪʃən) *n.* 1. a human society that has a complex cultural, political, and legal organization; an advanced state in social development. 2. the peoples or nations collectively who have achieved such a state. 3. the total culture and way of life of a particular people, nation, region, or period. 4. the process of bringing or achieving civilization. 5. intellectual, cultural, and moral refinement. 6. cities or populated areas, as contrasted with sparsely inhabited areas, deserts, etc.

civilize or -ise ('sɪvɪlaɪz) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to bring out of savagery or barbarism into a state characteristic of civilization. 2. to refine, educate, or enlighten. —*civilizable or -isable* *adj.* —*civilized or -ised* *adj.*

civil law *n.* 1. the law of a state relating to private and civilian affairs. 2. the body of law in ancient Rome, esp. as applicable to private citizens. 3. law based on the Roman system as distinguished from common law and canon law.

civil list *n.* (in Britain) the annuities voted by Parliament for the support of the royal household and the royal family.

civil marriage *n.* *Law.* a marriage performed by an official other than a clergyman.

civil rights *pl. n.* 1. the personal rights of the individual citizen. 2. (*modifier*) of, relating to, or promoting equality in social, economic, and political rights.

civil servant *n.* a member of the civil service.

civil service *n.* 1. the service responsible for the public administration of the government of a country. It excludes the legislative, judicial, and military branches. 2. the members of the civil service collectively.

civil war *n.* war between parties or factions within the same nation.

civvy ('sɪvi) *n., pl. civvies or civies.* 1. a civilian. 2. (*pl.*) civilian dress as opposed to uniform. 3. **civvy street**, civilian life.

Cl *the chemical symbol for chlorine.*

clack (klæk) *vb.* 1. to make or cause to make a sound like that of two pieces of wood hitting each other. 2. to jabber. ~*n.* 3. a short sharp sound. 4. chatter. 5. Also called: **clack valve**, a simple nonreturn valve using a hinged flap or a ball. —*clacker* *n.*

clad¹ (klæd) *vb.* a past participle of **clothe**.

clad² (klæd) *vb. cladding, clad. (tr.)* to bond a metal to (another metal), esp. to form a protective coating.

cladding ('kleɪdɪŋ) *n.* 1. the process of protecting one metal by bonding a second metal to its surface. 2. the protective coating so bonded to metal. 3. the material used for the outside facing of a building, etc.

claim (kleɪm) *vb. (mainly tr.)* 1. to demand as being due or as one's property; assert one's title or right to: *he claimed the record*. 2. (*takes a clause as object or an infinitive*) to assert as a fact; maintain against denial: *he claimed to be telling the truth*. 3. to call for or need; deserve: *this problem claims our attention*. 4. to take: *the accident claimed four lives*. ~*n.* 5. an assertion of a right; a demand for something as due. 6. an assertion of something as true, real, or factual. 7. a right or just title to something; basis for demand: *a claim to fame*. 8. anything that is claimed, such as a piece of land staked out by a miner. 9. *a.* a demand for payment in connection with an insurance policy, etc. *b.* the sum of money demanded. —*claimable* *adj.* —*claimant* or *'claim-er* *n.*

clairvoyance (kleɪ'vɔɪəns) *n.* 1. the alleged power of perceiving things beyond the natural range of the senses. 2. keen intuitive understanding.

clairvoyant (kleɪ'vɔɪənt) *adj.* 1. of or possessing clairvoyance. 2. having great insight. ~*n.* 3. a person claiming to have the power to foretell future events. —*clairvoyantly* *adv.*

clam (klæm) *n.* 1. any of various burrowing bivalve molluscs. 2. the edible flesh of such a mollusc. 3. *Inf.* a reticent person. ~*vb.* **clamming, clammed.** 4. (*intr.*) *Chiefly U.S.* to gather clams.

clamber ('kleɪmbə) *vb.* 1. (usually foll. by *up*, *over*, etc.) to climb (something) awkwardly, esp. by using both hands and feet. ~*n.* 2. a climb performed in this manner. —*clamberer* *n.*

clammy ('kleɪmi) *adj.* *-mier, -miest.* 1. unpleasantly sticky; moist. 2. (of the weather) close; humid. —*clam-mily* *adv.* —*clamminess* *n.*

clamour or U.S. clamor ('kleɪmə) *n.* 1. a loud persistent outcry. 2. a vehement expression of collective feeling or outrage: *a clamour against higher prices*. 3. a loud and persistent noise: *the clamour of traffic*. ~*vb.* 4. (*intr.*; often foll. by *for* or *against*) to make a loud noise or outcry; make a public demand. 5. (*tr.*) to move or force by outcry. —*clamorous* *adj.* —*clamorously* *adv.* —*clamorously* *n.*

clamp¹ (klæmp) *n.* 1. a mechanical device with movable jaws with which an object can be secured to a bench or with which two objects may be secured together. ~*vb. (tr.)* 2. to fix or fasten with or as if with a clamp. 3. to inflict or impose forcefully: *they clamped a curfew on the town*.

clamp² (klæmp) *n.* 1. a mound of a harvested root crop, covered with straw and earth to protect it from winter weather. ~*vb.* 2. (*tr.*) to enclose (a harvested root crop) in a mound.

clan (klæn) *n.* 1. a group of people interrelated by ancestry or marriage. 2. a group of families with a common surname and a common ancestor, esp. among the Scots and the Irish. 3. a group of people united by common characteristics, aims, or interests.

clandestine (klæn'destɪn) *adj.* secret and concealed, often for illicit reasons; furtive. — **clan'destinely** *adv.*

clang (klæŋ) *vb.* 1. to make or cause to make a loud resounding noise, as metal when struck. 2. (*intr.*) to move or operate making such a sound. ~*n.* 3. a resounding metallic noise. 4. the harsh cry of certain birds.

clanger ('klæŋgə) *n.* 1. *Inf.* a conspicuous mistake (esp. in **drop a clanger**). 2. something that clangs or causes a clang.

clank (klæŋk) *n.* 1. an abrupt harsh metallic sound. ~*vb.* 2. to make or cause to make such a sound. 3. (*intr.*) to move or operate making such a sound. — **'clankingly** *adv.*

clannish ('klæniʃ) *adj.* 1. of or characteristic of a clan. 2. tending to associate closely within a group to the exclusion of outsiders; cliquish. — **'clannishly** *adv.* — **'clannishness** *n.*

clap¹ (klæp) *vb.* **clapping, clapped.** 1. to make or cause to make a sharp abrupt sound, as of two nonmetallic objects struck together. 2. to applaud (someone or something) by striking the palms of the hands together sharply. 3. (*tr.*) to strike (a person) lightly with an open hand, in greeting, etc. 4. (*tr.*) to place or put quickly or forcibly: *they clapped him into jail.* 5. (of certain birds) to flap (the wings) noisily. 6. (*intr.*; foll. by *up* or *together*) to contrive or put together hastily. 7. **clap eyes on.** *Inf.* to catch sight of. 8. **clap hold of.** *Inf.* to grasp suddenly or forcibly. ~*n.* 9. the sharp abrupt sound produced by striking the hands together. 10. the act of clapping, esp. in applause. 11. a sudden sharp sound, esp. of thunder. 12. a light blow. 13. *Arch.* a sudden attack or mishap.

clap² (klæp) *n.* (usually preceded by *the*) a slang word for gonorrhoea.

clapper ('klæpə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that claps. 2. Also called: **tongue.** a small piece of metal suspended within a bell that causes it to sound when made to strike against its side. 3. **go (run, move) like the clappers.** *Brit. inf.* to move extremely fast.

claptrap ('klæp,trap) *n.* *Inf.* 1. contrived but foolish talk. 2. insincere and pretentious talk: *politicians' claptrap.*

claque (klæk) *n.* 1. a group of people hired to applaud. 2. a group of fawning admirers.

claret ('klærət) *n.* 1. a red wine, esp. one from the Bordeaux district of France. 2. a purplish-red colour.

clarify ('klærɪ,faɪ) *vb.* **-fying, -fied.** 1. to make or become clear or easy to understand. 2. to make or become free of impurities. 3. to make (fat, butter, etc.) clear by heating, etc., or (of fat, etc.) to become clear as a result of such a process. — **'clarifi'cation** *n.* — **'clarifi'er** *n.*

clarinet (,klærɪ'net) *n.* *Music.* 1. a keyed woodwind instrument with a cylindrical bore and a single reed. 2. an orchestral musician who plays the clarinet. — **'clarinetist** or **'clarinetist** *n.*

clarion ('klærɪən) *n.* 1. a stop of trumpet quality on an organ. 2. an obsolete, high-pitched, small-bore trumpet. 3. the sound of such an instrument or any similar sound. ~*adj.* 4. (*prenominal*) clear and ringing; inspiring: *a clarion call to action.* ~*vb.* 5. to proclaim loudly.

clarity ('klærɪti) *n.* 1. clearness, as of expression. 2. clearness, as of water.

-class *n.* **combining form.** (in mineralogy) indicating a particular type of cleavage: *plagioclase.*

clash (klæʃ) *vb.* 1. to make or cause to make a loud harsh sound, esp. by striking together. 2. (*intr.*) to be incompatible. 3. (*intr.*) to engage together in conflict. 4. (*intr.*) (of dates or events) to coincide. 5. (of colours) to look inharmonious together. ~*n.* 6. a loud harsh noise. 7. a collision or conflict. — **'clasher** *n.*

clasp (klæsp) *n.* 1. a fastening, such as a catch or hook, for holding things together. 2. a firm grasp or embrace. 3. *Mil.* a bar on a medal ribbon, to indicate either a second award or the battle, campaign, or reason for its award. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 4. to hold in a firm grasp. 5. to grasp firmly with the hand. 6. to fasten together with or as if with a clasp. — **'clasper** *n.*

clasp knife *n.* a large knife with one or more blades or other devices folding into the handle.

class (klɑ:s) *n.* 1. a collection or division of people or things sharing a common characteristic. 2. a group of persons sharing a similar social and economic position. 3. a. the pattern of divisions that exist within a society on the basis of rank, economic status, etc. b. (*as modifier*): *the class struggle; class distinctions.* 4. a. a group of pupils or students who are taught together. b. a meeting

of a group of students for tuition. 5. *U.S.* a group of students who graduated in a specified year: *the class of '53.* 6. (*in combination and as modifier*) *Brit.* a grade of attainment in a university honours degree: *second-class honours.* 7. one of several standards of accommodation in public transport. 8. *Inf.* excellence or elegance, esp. in dress, design, or behaviour. 9. *Biol.* any of the taxonomic groups into which a phylum is divided and which contains one or more orders. 10. *Maths.* another name for **set** (sense 3). 11. **in a class by oneself or in a class of its own.** unequalled; unparalleled. ~*vb.* 12. to have or assign a place within a group, grade, or class.

class. *abbrev. for:* 1. classic(al). 2. classification. 3. classified.

classic ('klæsɪk) *adj.* 1. of the highest class, esp. in art or literature. 2. serving as a standard or model of its kind. 3. adhering to an established set of principles in the arts or sciences: *a classic proof.* 4. characterized by simplicity, balance, regularity, and purity of form; classical. 5. of lasting interest or significance. 6. continuously in fashion because of its simple style: *a classic dress.* ~*n.* 7. an author, artist, or work of art of the highest excellence. 8. a creation or work considered as definitive. 9. *Horse racing.* any of the five principal races for three-year-old horses in Britain, namely the One Thousand Guineas, Two Thousand Guineas, Derby, Oaks, and Saint Leger.

▷ **Usage.** The adjectives *classic* and *classical* can often be treated as synonyms, but there are two contexts in which they should be carefully distinguished. *Classic* is applied to that which is of the first rank, esp. in art and literature, as in: *Lewis Carroll's classic works for children.* *Classical* is used to refer to Greek and Roman culture.

classical ('klæsɪkəl) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or characteristic of the ancient Greeks and Romans or their civilization. 2. designating, following, or influenced by the art or culture of ancient Greece or Rome: *classical architecture.* 3. *Music.* a. of, relating to, or denoting any music or its period of composition marked by stability of form, intellectualism, and restraint. Cf. **romantic** (sense 5). b. accepted as a standard: *the classical suite.* c. denoting serious art music in general. Cf. **pop**. 4. denoting or relating to a style in any of the arts characterized by emotional restraint and conservatism: *a classical style of painting.* 5. (of an education) based on the humanities and the study of Latin and Greek. 6. *Physics.* not involving the quantum theory or the theory of relativity: *classical mechanics.* — **'classi'cality** or **'classicalness** *n.* — **'classically** *adv.*

▷ **Usage.** See at **classic.**

classicism ('klæsɪ,sɪzəm) or **classicalism** ('klæsɪkəlɪzəm) *n.* 1. a style based on the study of Greek and Roman models, characterized by emotional restraint and regularity of form; the antithesis of romanticism. 2. knowledge of the culture of ancient Greece and Rome. 3. a. a Greek or Latin expression. b. an expression in a modern language that is modelled on a Greek or Latin form. — **'classicalist** *n.*

classics ('klæsɪks) *n.* **the.** 1. a body of literature regarded as great or lasting, esp. that of ancient Greece or Rome. 2. the ancient Greek and Latin languages.

classification (,klæsɪfɪ'keɪʃən) *n.* 1. systematic placement in categories. 2. one of the divisions in a system of classifying. 3. *Biol.* a. the placing of animals and plants in a series of increasingly specialized groups because of similarities in structure, origin, etc., that indicate a common relationship. b. the study of the principles and practice of this process; taxonomy. — **'classifi'catory** *adj.*

classify ('klæsɪ,faɪ) *vb.* **-fying, -fied.** (*tr.*) 1. to arrange or order by classes; categorize. 2. *Government.* to declare (information, documents, etc.) of possible aid to an enemy and therefore not available to people outside a restricted group. — **'classifi'able** *adj.* — **'classifi'er** *n.*

classmate ('klɑ:s,meɪt) *n.* a friend or contemporary of the same class in a school.

classroom ('klɑ:s,rʊm, -rʊm) *n.* a room in which classes are conducted, esp. in a school.

classy ('klɑ:sɪ) *adj.* **classier, classiest.** *Sl.* elegant; stylish. — **'classiness** *n.*

clatter ('klætə) *vb.* 1. to make or cause to make a rattling noise, esp. as a result of movement. 2. (*intr.*) to chatter. ~*n.* 3. a rattling sound or noise. 4. a noisy commotion, such as loud chatter. — **'clatterer** *n.* — **'clatteringly** *adv.*

clause (klɔ:z) *n.* 1. *Grammar.* a group of words, consisting of a subject and a predicate including a finite verb,

that does not necessarily constitute a sentence. See also **main clause**, **subordinate clause**. 2. a section of a legal document such as a contract, will, or statute. — **clausal adj.**

claustrophobia (ˈkloʊstrəˈfoʊbiə, ˈkloʊs-) *n.* an abnormal fear of being in a confined space. — **claustrophobe** *n.* — **claustrophobic adj.**

clavichord (ˈklævɪˌkɔːd) *n.* a keyboard instrument consisting of a number of thin wire strings struck from below by brass tangents.

clavicle (ˈklævɪkəl) *n.* 1. either of the two bones connecting the shoulder blades with the upper part of the breastbone. Nontechnical name: **collarbone**. 2. the corresponding structure in other vertebrates. — **clavicular** (kləˈvɪkjələ) *adj.*

clavier (kləˈvɪə, ˈklævɪə) *n.* a. any keyboard instrument. b. the keyboard itself.

claw (kloʊ) *n.* 1. a curved pointed horny process on the end of each digit in birds, some reptiles, and certain mammals. 2. a corresponding structure in some invertebrates, such as the pincer of a crab. 3. a part or member like a claw in function or appearance. ~*vb.* 4. to scrape, tear, or dig (something or someone) with claws, etc. 5. (tr.) to create by scratching as with claws: *to claw an opening*. — **clawer** *n.*

claw back *vb.* (tr, adv.) 1. to get back (something) with difficulty. 2. to recover (a part of a tax, duty, etc.) in the form of an allowance. ~*n.* **clawback**. 3. the recovery of part of a tax, etc., in the form of an allowance. 4. the sum so recovered.

clay (kleɪ) *n.* 1. a very fine-grained material that occurs as sedimentary rocks, soils, and other deposits. It becomes plastic when moist but hardens on heating and is used in the manufacture of bricks, ceramics, etc. 2. earth or mud. 3. *Poetic*. the material of the human body. — **clayey**, **clayish**, or **claylike adj.**

claymore (ˈkleɪˌmɔːr) *n.* a large two-edged broadsword used formerly by Scottish Highlanders.

clay pigeon *n.* a disc of baked clay hurled into the air from a machine as a target to be shot at.

CLC *abbrev.* for Canadian Labour Congress.

-cle *suffix forming nouns.* indicating smallness: *cubicle*; *particle*.

clean (kliːn) *adj.* 1. without dirt or other impurities; unsoiled. 2. without anything in it or on it: *a clean page*. 3. recently washed; fresh. 4. without extraneous or foreign materials. 5. without defect, difficulties, or problems. 6. (of a nuclear weapon) producing little or no radioactive fallout or contamination. 7. (of a wound, etc.) having no pus or other sign of infection. 8. pure; morally sound. 9. without objectionable language or obscenity. 10. thorough or complete: *a clean break*. 11. dexterous or adroit: *a clean throw*. 12. *Sport*. played fairly and without fouls. 13. simple in design: *a ship's clean lines*. 14. *Aeronautics*. causing little turbulence; streamlined. 15. honourable or respectable. 16. habitually neat. 17. (esp. of a driving licence) showing or having no record of offences. 18. *Sl.* a. innocent; not guilty. b. not carrying illegal drugs, weapons, etc. ~*vb.* 19. to make or become free of dirt, filth, etc.: *the stove cleans easily*. 20. to remove in making clean: *to clean marks off the wall*. 21. (tr.) to prepare (fish, poultry, etc.) for cooking: *to clean a chicken*. ~*adv.* 22. in a clean way; cleanly. 23. *Not standard*. (intensifier): *clean forgotten*. 24. *come clean*. *Inf.* to make a revelation or confession. ~*n.* 25. the act or an instance of cleaning: *he gave his shoes a clean*. — **cleanable adj.** — **cleanness** *n.*

clean-cut *adj.* 1. clearly outlined; neat: *clean-cut lines of a ship*. 2. definite.

cleaner (ˈkliːnə) *n.* 1. a person, device, chemical agent, etc., that removes dirt, as from clothes or carpets. 2. (usually *pl.*) a shop, etc. that provides a dry-cleaning service.

cleanly *adv.* (ˈkliːnli) 1. in a fair manner. 2. easily or smoothly. ~*adj.* (ˈkliːnli) -lier, -liest. 3. habitually clean or neat. — **cleanlily** (ˈkliːnli) *adv.* — **cleanliness** (ˈkliːnliːns) *n.*

cleanse (klenz) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to remove dirt, filth, etc., from. 2. to remove guilt from. 3. *Arch.* to cure. — **cleanser** *n.*

clean-shaven *adj.* (of men) having the facial hair shaved off.

clean up *vb.* (adv.) 1. to rid (something) of dirt, filth, or other impurities. 2. to make (someone or something) orderly or presentable. 3. (tr.) to rid (a place) of undesirable people or conditions. 4. *Inf.*, chiefly U.S. to

make (a great profit). ~*n.* **cleanup**. 5. the process of cleaning up. 6. *Inf.*, chiefly U.S. a great profit.

clear (kliə) *adj.* 1. free from darkness or obscurity; bright. 2. (of weather) free from dullness or clouds. 3. transparent: *clear water*. 4. even and pure in tone or colour. 5. without blemish, or defect: *a clear skin*. 6. easy to see or hear; distinct. 7. free from doubt or confusion. 8. (postpositive) certain in the mind; sure: *are you clear?* 9. (in combination) perceptive, alert: *clear-eyed*; *clear-headed*; *clear-sighted*. 10. evident or obvious: *it is clear that he won't come now*. 11. (of sounds or the voice) not harsh or hoarse. 12. serene; calm. 13. without qualification or limitation; complete: *a clear victory*. 14. free of suspicion, guilt, or blame: *a clear conscience*. 15. free of obstruction; open: *a clear passage*. 16. free from debt or obligation. 17. (of money, profits, etc.) without deduction; net. 18. emptied of freight or cargo. 19. *Showjumping*. (of a round) ridden without any points being lost. ~*adv.* 20. in a clear or distinct manner. 21. completely or utterly. 22. (postpositive; often foll. by *off*) not in contact (with); free: *stand clear of the gates*. ~*n.* 23. a clear space. 24. *in the clear*. a. free of suspicion, guilt, or blame. b. *Sport*. able to receive a pass without being tackled. ~*vb.* 25. to make or become free from darkness, obscurity, etc. 26. (intr.) a. (of the weather) to become free from dullness, fog, rain, etc. b. (of mist, fog, etc.) to disappear. 27. (tr.) to free from impurity or blemish. 28. (tr.) to free from doubt or confusion. 29. (tr.) to rid of objects, obstructions, etc. 30. (tr.) to make or form (a path, way, etc.) by removing obstructions. 31. (tr.) to free or remove (a person or thing) from something, as of suspicion, blame, or guilt. 32. (tr.) to move or pass by or over without contact: *he cleared the wall easily*. 33. (tr.) to rid (the throat) of phlegm. 34. (tr.) to make or gain (money) as profit. 35. (tr.; often foll. by *off*) to discharge or settle (a debt). 36. (tr.) to free (a debtor) from obligation. 37. (intr.) (of a cheque) to pass through one's bank and be charged against one's account. 38. *Banking*. to settle accounts by exchanging (commercial documents) in a clearing house. 39. to permit (ships, aircraft, cargo, passengers, etc.) to unload, disembark, depart, etc., or (of ships, etc.) to be permitted to unload, etc. 40. to obtain or give (clearance). 41. (tr.) to obtain clearance from. 42. (tr.) to permit (a person, company, etc.) to see or handle classified information. 43. (tr.) *Mil.*, etc. to decode (a message, etc.). 44. *Computers*. to remove data from a storage device and revert to zero. 45. *clear the air*. to dispel tension, confusion, etc. ~*See also clear away*, *clear off*, etc. — **clearable adj.** — **clearer** *n.* — **clearly adv.** — **clearness** *n.*

clearance (ˈkliərəns) *n.* 1. a. the process or an instance of clearing: *slum clearance*. b. (as modifier): *a clearance order*. 2. space between two parts in motion or in relative motion. 3. permission for an aircraft, ship, passengers, etc., to proceed. 4. official permission to have access to secret information, projects, areas, etc. 5. *Banking*. the exchange of commercial documents drawn on the members of a clearing house. 6. a. the disposal of merchandise at reduced prices. b. (as modifier): *a clearance sale*.

clear away *vb.* (adv.) to remove (objects) from (the table) after a meal.

clear-cut *adj.* (clear cut when postpositive). 1. definite; not vague: *a clear-cut proposal*. 2. clearly outlined.

clearing (ˈkliəriŋ) *n.* an area with few or no trees or shrubs in wooded or overgrown land.

clearing bank *n.* *Brit.* any bank that makes use of the central clearing house in London.

clearing house *n.* 1. *Banking*. an institution where cheques and other commercial papers drawn on member banks are cancelled against each other so that only net balances are payable. 2. a central agency for the collection and distribution of information or materials.

clear off *vb.* (intr., adv.) *Inf.* to go away: often used imperatively.

clear out *vb.* (adv.) 1. (intr.) *Inf.* to go away: often used imperatively. 2. (tr.) to remove and sort the contents of (a room, container, etc.). 3. (tr.) *Sl.* to leave (someone) with no money. 4. (tr.) *Sl.* to exhaust (stocks, goods, etc.) completely.

clearstory (ˈkliəˌstɔːri) *n.* a variant spelling of **clere-story**. — **clear, storied adj.**

clear up *vb.* (adv.) 1. (tr.) to explain or solve (a mystery, misunderstanding, etc.). 2. to put (a place or thing that is disordered) in order. 3. (intr.) (of the weather) to become brighter.

clearway ('kli:wei) *n.* *Brit.* a stretch of road on which motorists may stop only in an emergency.

cleat (kli:t) *n.* 1. a wedge-shaped block attached to a structure to act as a support. 2. a device consisting of two hornlike prongs projecting horizontally in opposite directions from a central base, used for securing lines on vessels, wharves, etc. ~*vb.* (tr.) 3. to supply or support with a cleat or cleats. 4. to secure (a line) on a cleat.

cleavage ('kli:vɪdʒ) *n.* 1. *Inf.* the separation between a woman's breasts, esp. as revealed by a low-cut dress. 2. a division or split. 3. (of crystals) the act of splitting or the tendency to split along definite planes so as to yield smooth surfaces. 4. (in animals) the repeated division of a fertilized ovum into a solid ball of cells. 5. the breaking of a chemical bond in a molecule to give smaller molecules or radicals.

cleave¹ ('kli:v) *vb.* **cleaving; cleft, cleaved, or clove; cleft, cleaved, or cloven.** 1. to split or cause to split, esp. along a natural weakness. 2. (tr.) to make by or as if by cutting: to cleave a path. 3. (when intr., foll. by through) to penetrate or traverse. —'cleavable *adj.*

cleave² ('kli:v) *vb.* (intr.; foll. by to) to cling or adhere.

cleaver ('kli:və) *n.* a heavy knife or long-bladed hatchet, esp. one used by butchers.

cleavers ('kli:vəz) *n.* (functioning as *sing.*) a Eurasian plant, having small white flowers and prickly stems and fruits. Also called: **goosegrass, harif.**

cleft (klef) *n.* one of several symbols placed on the left-hand side beginning of each stave indicating the pitch of the music written after it.

cleft (kleft) *vb.* 1. the past tense or a past participle of **cleave**¹. ~*n.* 2. a fissure or crevice. 3. an indentation or split in something, such as the chin, palate, etc. ~*adj.* 4. split; divided.

cleft palate *n.* a congenital crack or fissure in the midline of the hard palate, often associated with a harelip.

cleg (kleg) *n.* another name for a **horsefly**.

clematis ('klemtəs) *n.* any N temperate climbing plant of the genus *Clematis*. Many species are cultivated for their large colourful flowers.

clement ('klemənt) *adj.* 1. merciful. 2. (of the weather) mild. —'clemency *n.* —'clemently *adv.*

clementine ('klemənti:n, -tə:n) *n.* a citrus fruit thought to be either a variety of tangerine or a hybrid between a tangerine and sweet orange.

clench (klenʃ) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to close or squeeze together (the teeth, a fist, etc.) tightly. 2. to grasp or grip firmly. ~*n.* 3. a firm grasp or grip. 4. a device that grasps or grips. ~*n.*, *vb.* 5. another word for **clinch**.

clerestory or clearstory ('kli:stɔ:ri) *n.*, *pl.* -ries. 1. a row of windows in the upper part of the wall of a church that divides the nave from the aisle. 2. the part of the wall in which these windows are set. —'clerestoried or 'clearstoried *adj.*

clergy ('klɜ:dʒi) *n.*, *pl.* -gies. the collective body of men and women ordained as ministers of the Christian Church.

clergyman ('klɜ:dʒɪmən) *n.*, *pl.* -men. a member of the clergy.

cleric ('klerik) *n.* a member of the clergy.

clerical ('klerikl) *adj.* 1. relating to or associated with the clergy; clerical dress. 2. of or relating to office clerks or their work: a clerical error. 3. supporting or advocating clericalism. —'clerically *adv.*

clerical collar *n.* a stiff white collar with no opening at the front that buttons at the back of the neck; the distinctive mark of the clergy in certain Churches. Informal name: **dog collar**.

clerihew ('klerɪ,hju:) *n.* a form of comic or satiric verse, consisting of two couplets of metrically irregular lines, containing the name of a well-known person.

clerk (kla:k; U.S. klɜ:rk) *n.* 1. a worker, esp. in an office, who keeps records, files, etc. 2. an employee of a court, legislature, board, corporation, etc., who keeps records and accounts, etc.: a town clerk. 3. Also called: **clerk in holy orders**, a cleric. 4. Also called: **desk clerk**. U.S. a hotel receptionist. 5. *Arch.* a scholar. ~*vb.* 6. (intr.) to serve as a clerk. —'clerkless *n.* (chiefly Scot.) —'clerkish *adj.* —'clerkship *n.*

clever ('klevə) *adj.* 1. displaying sharp intelligence or mental alertness. 2. adroit or dexterous, esp. with the hands. 3. smart in a superficial way. 4. *Brit. inf.* sly; cunning. —'cleverly *adv.* —'cleverness *n.*

clew (klu:) *n.* 1. a ball of thread, yarn, or twine. 2. *Naut.* either of the lower corners of a square sail or the

after lower corner of a fore-and-aft sail. ~*vb.* 3. (tr.) to coil into a ball.

click ('kli:k) *n.* 1. a word or expression that has lost much of its force through overexposure. 2. an idea, action, or habit that has become trite from overuse. 3. *Printing, chiefly Brit.* a stereotype or electrolyte plate. —'clichéd or 'clichéd *adj.*

click (klik) *n.* 1. a short light often metallic sound. 2. the locking member of a ratchet mechanism, such as a pawl or detent. 3. *Phonetics.* any of various stop consonants that are produced by the suction of air into the mouth. ~*vb.* 4. to make or cause to make a clicking sound: to click one's heels. 5. (intr.) *Sl.* to be a great success: that idea really clicked. 6. (intr.) *Inf.* to become suddenly clear: it finally clicked when her name was mentioned. 7. (intr.) *Sl.* to go or fit together with ease: they clicked from their first meeting. —'clicker *n.*

client ('klaɪənt) *n.* 1. a person, company, etc., that seeks the advice of a professional man or woman. 2. a customer. 3. a person for whom a social worker, etc., is responsible. —'clential (klaɪəntl) *adj.*

clientele ('klaɪəntel) or **clientage** ('klaɪəntɪdʒ) *n.* customers or clients collectively.

cliff (klɪf) *n.* a steep high rock face, esp. one that runs along the seashore. —'cliffy *adj.*

cliffhanger ('klɪf,hæŋɡə) *n.* 1. a. a situation of imminent disaster usually occurring at the end of each episode of a serialized film. b. the serialized film itself. 2. a situation that is dramatic or uncertain. —'cliff, hanging *adj.*

climacteric ('klaɪmæktərɪk, 'klaɪmækt'ərɪk) *n.* 1. a critical event or period. 2. another name for **menopause**. 3. the period in the life of a man corresponding to the menopause, chiefly characterized by diminished sexual activity. ~*adj.* also **climacterical** ('klaɪmækt'ərɪkl). 4. involving a crucial event or period.

climate ('klaɪmɪt) *n.* 1. the long-term prevalent weather conditions of an area, determined by latitude, altitude, etc. 2. an area having a particular kind of climate. 3. a prevailing trend: the political climate. —'climatic (klaɪ'mætɪk), 'climatical, or 'climatal *adj.* —'climatically *adv.*

climax ('klaɪmæks) *n.* 1. the most intense or highest point of an experience or of a series of events: the party was the climax of the week. 2. a decisive moment in a dramatic or other work. 3. a rhetorical device by which a series of sentences, clauses, or phrases are arranged in order of increasing intensity. 4. *Ecology.* the stage in the development of a community during which it remains stable under the prevailing environmental conditions. 5. another word for **orgasm**. ~*vb.* 6. to reach or bring to a climax. —'climactic *adj.*

▷ **Usage.** In formal English careful writers avoid the use of **climax** as a verb. The phrase *reach a climax* is preferred.

climb (klaɪm) *vb.* (mainly intr.) 1. (also tr.; often foll. by up) to go up or ascend (stairs, a mountain, etc.). 2. (often foll. by along) to progress with difficulty: to climb along a ledge. 3. to rise to a higher point or intensity: the temperature climbed. 4. to incline or slope upwards: the road began to climb. 5. to ascend in social position. 6. (of plants) to grow upwards by twining, using tendrils or suckers, etc. 7. *Inf.* (foll. by into) to put (on) or get (into). 8. to be a climber or mountaineer. ~*n.* 9. the act of climbing. 10. a place or thing to be climbed, esp. a route in mountaineering. —'climbable *adj.* —'climber *n.*

climb down *vb.* (intr., adv.) 1. to descend. 2. (often foll. by from) to retreat (from an opinion, position, etc.). ~*n.* **climb-down**. 3. a retreat from an opinion, etc.

clime (klaɪm) *n.* *Poetic.* a region or its climate.

clinch (klinʃ) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to secure a driven nail, by bending the protruding point over. 2. (tr.) to hold together in such a manner. 3. (tr.) to settle something, such as an argument, bargain, etc., in a definite way. 4. (tr.) *Naut.* to fasten by means of a clinch. 5. (intr.) to engage in a clinch, as in boxing or wrestling. ~*n.* 6. the act of clinching. 7. a. a nail with its point bent over. b. the part of such a nail, etc., that has been bent over. 8. *Boxing, wrestling, etc.* an act or an instance in which one or both competitors hold on to the other to avoid punches, regain wind, etc. 9. *Sl.* a lovers' embrace. 10. *Naut.* a loop or eye formed in a line. ~Also (for senses 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 10): **clench**.

clincher ('klinʃə) *n.* 1. *Inf.* something decisive, such as fact, score, etc. 2. a person or thing that clinches.

—'cline *n.* combining form. indicating a slope: anticline. —'clinal combining form of adjectives.

cling (klɪŋ) *vb.* **clinging, clung.** (*intr.*) 1. (often foll. by *to*) to hold fast or adhere closely (to something), as by gripping or sticking. 2. (foll. by *together*) to remain in contact (with each other). 3. to be or remain physically or emotionally close. —**clinger** *n.* —**clingly** *adv.* —**clinginess** or **clingingness** *n.*

Clingfilm ('klɪŋ,fɪlm) *n.* **Trademark.** a thin polythene material having the power to adhere closely: used for wrapping food.

clinic ('klɪnɪk) *n.* 1. a place in which outpatients are given medical treatment or advice. 2. a similar place staffed by specialist physicians or surgeons: *eye clinic*. 3. *Brit.* a private hospital or nursing home. 4. the teaching of medicine to students at the bedside. 5. *Chiefly U.S.* a group or centre that offers advice or instruction.

clinical ('klɪnɪkəl) *adj.* 1. of or relating to a clinic. 2. of or relating to the observation and treatment of patients directly: *clinical medicine*. 3. scientifically detached; strictly objective: *a clinical attitude to life*. 4. plain, simple, and usually unattractive. —**clinically** *adv.*

clinical thermometer *n.* a thermometer for determining the temperature of the body.

clink¹ (klɪŋk) *vb.* 1. to make or cause to make a light and sharply ringing sound. ~*n.* 2. such a sound.

clink² (klɪŋk) *n.* a slang word for **prison**.

clinker ('klɪŋkə) *n.* 1. the ash and partially fused residues from a coal-fired furnace or fire. 2. a partially vitrified brick or mass of brick. 3. *U.S. sl.* a mistake or fault, esp. a wrong note in music. ~*vb.* 4. (*intr.*) to form clinker during burning.

clinker-built or **clinch-built** *adj.* (of a boat or ship) having a hull constructed with each plank overlapping that below.

clinometer (klaɪ'nɒmɪtə) *n.* an instrument used in surveying for measuring an angle of inclination. —**clinometric** (klaɪ'nɒ'metrɪk) or **clinometrical** *adj.* —**clinometry** *n.*

clip¹ (klɪp) *vb.* **clipping, clipped.** (*mainly tr.*) 1. (*also intr.*) to cut, snip, or trim with or as if with scissors or shears, esp. in order to shorten or remove a part. 2. *Brit.* to punch (a hole) in something, esp. a ticket. 3. to curtail or cut short. 4. to move a short section from (a film, etc.). 5. to shorten (a word). 6. *Inf.* to strike with a sharp, often slanting, blow. 7. *Sl.* to defraud or swindle, esp. by overcharging. ~*n.* 8. the act or process of clipping. 9. something clipped off. 10. a short extract from a film, newspaper, etc. 11. *Inf.* a sharp, often slanting, blow. 12. *Inf.* speed: a *rapid clip*. 13. *Austral.* the total quantity of wool shorn, as in one place, season, etc. 14. another word for **clipped form**. —**clippable** *adj.*

clip² (klɪp) *n.* 1. any of various small implements used to hold loose articles together or to attach one article to another. 2. an article of jewellery that can be clipped onto a dress, hat, etc. 3. short for **paperclip** or **cartridge clip**. ~*vb.* **clipping, clipped.** (*tr.*) 4. to hold together tightly, as with a clip.

clipboard ('klɪp,bɔɪd) *n.* a portable writing board with a clip at the top for holding paper.

clip joint *n. Sl.* a place, such as a nightclub or restaurant, in which customers are overcharged.

clipped form *n.* a shortened form of a word.

clipper ('klɪpə) *n.* 1. any fast sailing ship. 2. a person or thing that cuts or clips.

clippers ('klɪpəz) or **clips** *pl. n.* 1. a hand tool for clipping fingernails, veneers, etc. 2. a hairdresser's tool for cutting short hair.

clippie ('klɪpi) *n. Brit. inf.* a bus conductress.

clipping ('klɪpɪŋ) *n.* something cut out, esp. an article from a newspaper; cutting.

clique (kli:k, klik) *n.* a small, exclusive group of friends or associates. —**cliquey** or **cliquy** *adj.* —**cliquish** *adj.* —**cliquishly** *adv.* —**cliquishness** *n.*

clitoris ('klɪtɒrɪs, 'klaɪ-) *n.* a part of the female genitalia consisting of a small elongated highly sensitive erectile organ at the front of the vulva: homologous with the penis. —**clitoral** *adj.*

cloak (kləʊk) *n.* 1. a wraplike outer garment fastened at the throat and falling straight from the shoulders. 2. something that covers or conceals. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 3. to cover with or as if with a cloak. 4. to hide or disguise.

cloak-and-dagger *n. (modifier)* characteristic of or concerned with intrigue and espionage.

cloakroom ('kləʊk,rʊ:m) *n.* 1. a room in which hats, coats, etc., may be temporarily deposited. 2. *Brit.* a euphemistic word for **lavatory**.

clobber¹ ('klɒbə) *vb.* (*tr.*) *Sl.* 1. to batter. 2. to defeat utterly. 3. to criticize severely.

clobber² ('klɒbə) *n. Brit. sl.* personal belongings, such as clothes.

cloche (klɒʃ) *n.* 1. a bell-shaped cover used to protect young plants. 2. a woman's close-fitting hat.

clock¹ (klɒk) *n.* 1. a timepiece having mechanically or electrically driven pointers that move constantly over a dial showing the numbers of the hours. *Cf.* **watch** (sense 7). 2. any clocklike device for recording or measuring, such as a taximeter or pressure gauge. 3. the downy head of a dandelion that has gone to seed. 4. short for **time clock**. 5. **around** or **round the clock**, all day and all night. 6. (usually preceded by *the*) an informal word for **speedometer** or **mileometer**. 7. *Brit.* a slang word for **face**. ~*vb.* 8. (*tr.*) *Brit. & Austral. sl.* to strike, esp. on the face or head. 9. (*tr.*) to record time as with a stopwatch, esp. in the calculation of speed.

clock² (klɒk) *n.* an ornamental design on the side of a stocking.

clock off or **out** *vb. (intr., adv.)* to depart from work, esp. when it involves registering the time of departure on a card.

clock on or **in** *vb. (intr., adv.)* to arrive at work, esp. when it involves registering the time of arrival on a card.

clock up *vb. (tr., adv.)* to record or register: *this car has clocked up 80 000 miles*.

clock-watcher *n.* an employee who frequently checks the time in anticipation of a break or of the end of the working day.

clockwise ('klɒk,wəɪz) *adv., adj.* in the direction that the hands of a clock rotate; from top to bottom towards the right when seen from the front.

clockwork ('klɒk,wɜ:k) *n.* 1. the mechanism of a clock. 2. any similar mechanism, as in a wind-up toy. 3. **like clockwork**, with complete regularity and precision; smoothly.

clod (klɒd) *n.* 1. a lump of earth or clay. 2. earth, esp. when heavy or in hard lumps. 3. Also called: **clod poll**, **clodpate**, a dull or stupid person. —**cloddy** *adj.* —**cloddish** *adj.* —**cloddishly** *adv.* —**cloddishness** *n.*

clodhopper ('klɒd,hɒpə) *n. Inf.* 1. a clumsy person; lout. 2. (usually *pl.*) a large heavy shoe.

clog (klɒg) *vb.* **cllogging, clogged.** 1. to obstruct or become obstructed with thick or sticky matter. 2. (*tr.*) to encumber; hinder; impede. 3. (*intr.*) to adhere or stick in a mass. ~*n.* 4. *a.* any of various wooden or wooden-soled shoes. *b. (as modifier):* *clog dance*. 5. a heavy block, esp. of wood, fastened to the leg of a person or animal to impede motion. 6. something that impedes motion or action; hindrance. —**cloggy** *adj.* —**clogginess** *n.*

cloisonné (klwə:'zɒneɪ) *n.* 1. *a.* a design made by filling in with coloured enamel an outline of flattened wire put on edge. *b.* the method of doing this. ~*adj.* 2. of or made by cloisonné.

cloister ('klɔɪstə) *n.* 1. a covered walk, usually around a quadrangle in a religious institution, having an open colonnade on the inside. 2. (sometimes *pl.*) a place of religious seclusion, such as a monastery. 3. life in a monastery or convent. ~*vb.* 4. (*tr.*) to confine or seclude in or as if in a monastery. —**cloistered** *adj.* —**cloistral** *adj.*

clomp (klɒmp) *n., vb.* a less common word for **clump** (senses 2, 7).

clone (kləʊn) *n. also clon* (klɒn, kləʊn). 1. a group of organisms or cells of the same genetic constitution that are descended from a common ancestor by asexual reproduction, as by cuttings, grafting, etc. ~*vb.* 2. to produce or cause to produce a clone. —**cloning** *n.*

clonk (klɒŋk) *vb. (intr.)* 1. to make a loud dull thud. 2. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to hit. ~*n.* 3. a loud thud.

close *vb.* (klaʊz). 1. to put or be put in such a position as to cover an opening; shut: *the door closed behind him*. 2. (*tr.*) to bar, obstruct, or fill up (an entrance, a hole, etc.): *to close a road*. 3. to bring the parts or edges of (a wound, etc.) together or (of a wound, etc.) to be brought together. 4. (*intr.*, foll. by *on, over, etc.*) to take hold: *his hand closed over the money*. 5. to bring or be brought to an end; terminate. 6. (of agreements, deals, etc.) to complete or be completed successfully. 7. to cease or cause to cease to render service: *the shop closed at six*. 8. (*intr.*) *Stock Exchange*, to have a value at the end of a day's trading, as specified: *steels closed two points down*. 9. (*tr.*) *Arch.* to enclose or shut in. ~*adj.* (klaʊs). 10. near in space or time; in proximity. 11. having the parts near together; dense: *a close formation*. 12. near to the

surface; short: a *close hair-cut*. 13. near in relationship: a *close relative*. 14. intimate: a *close friend*. 15. almost equal: a *close contest*. 16. **close call**. *Inf.* a narrow escape. 17. not deviating or varying greatly from a model or standard: a *close resemblance*; a *close translation*. 18. careful, strict, or searching: a *close study*. 19. confined or enclosed. 20. shut or shut tight. 21. oppressive, heavy, or airless: a *close atmosphere*. 22. strictly guarded: a *close prisoner*. 23. neat or tight in fit. 24. secretive or reticent. 25. miserly; not generous, esp. with money. 26. (of money or credit) hard to obtain; scarce. 27. restricted as to public admission or membership. 28. hidden or secluded. 29. Also: **closed**, restricted or prohibited as to the type of game or fish able to be taken. ~adv. (kləʊs). 30. **close to the wind**. *Naut.* sailing as nearly as possible towards the direction from which the wind is blowing. 31. closely; tightly. 32. near or in proximity. ~n. (kləʊz). 33. the act of closing. 34. the end or conclusion: *the close of the day*. 35. (kləʊs). *Brit.* a courtyard or quadrangle enclosed by buildings or an entry leading to such a courtyard. 36. (kləʊs). *Brit.* (cap. when part of a street name) a small quiet residential road: *Hillside Close*. 37. (kləʊs), the precincts of a cathedral or similar building. ~See also **close down**, **close in**, etc. ~closely ('kləʊslɪ) adv. ~closeness ('kləʊsnɪs) n. ~closer ('kləʊzə) n.

closed (kləʊzd) *adj.* 1. blocked against entry; shut. 2. restricted; exclusive. 3. not open to question or debate. 4. (of a hunting season, etc.) close. 5. *Maths.* a. (of a curve or surface) completely enclosing an area or volume. b. (of a set) having members that can be produced by a specific operation on other members of the same set. 6. *Phonetics.* denoting a syllable that ends in a consonant. 7. not open to public entry or membership: a *closed society*.

closed circuit *n.* a complete electrical circuit through which current can flow.

closed-circuit television *n.* a television system in which signals are transmitted from the television camera to the receivers by cables or telephone links.

close down (kləʊz) *vb.* (adv.) 1. to cease or cause to cease operations. ~n. **close-down** ('kləʊz,daʊn). 2. a closure or stoppage, esp. in a factory. 3. *Brit. radio, television.* the end of a period of broadcasting, esp. late at night.

closed shop *n.* an industrial establishment in which there exists a contract between a trade union and the employer permitting the employment of the union's members only.

close in (kləʊz) *vb.* (intr., adv.) 1. (of days) to become shorter with the approach of winter. 2. (foll. by *on* or *upon*) to advance (on) so as to encircle or surround.

close out (kləʊz) *vb.* (adv.) to terminate (a client's or other account) usually by sale of securities to realize cash.

close quarters (kləʊs) *pl. n.* 1. a narrow cramped space or position. 2. at **close quarters**, a. engaged in hand-to-hand combat. b. in close proximity; very near together.

close season (kləʊs) or **closed season** *n.* the period of the year when it is prohibited to kill certain game or fish.

close shave (kləʊs) *n.* *Inf.* a narrow escape.

closet ('kloʊzɪt) *n.* 1. a small cupboard or recess. 2. a small private room. 3. short for **water closet**. 4. (modifier) U.S. private or secret. ~vb. 5. (tr.) to shut up or confine in a small private room, esp. for conference or meditation.

close-up ('kləʊs,ʌp) *n.* 1. a photograph, film, or television shot, taken at close range. 2. a detailed or intimate view or examination. ~vb. **close up** (kləʊz). (adv.) 3. to shut entirely. 4. (intr.) to draw together: *the ranks closed up*. 5. (intr.) (of wounds) to heal completely.

close with (kləʊz) *vb.* (intr., prep.) to engage in battle with (an enemy).

closure ('kləʊʒə) *n.* 1. the act of closing or the state of being closed. 2. an end or conclusion. 3. something that closes or shuts, such as a cap or seal for a container. 4. (in a deliberative body) a procedure by which debate may be halted and an immediate vote taken. ~vb. 5. (tr.) (in a deliberative body) to end (debate) by closure.

clot (klot) *n.* 1. a soft thick lump or mass. 2. *Brit. sl.* a stupid person; fool. ~vb. **clotting**, **clotted**. 3. to form or cause to form into a soft thick lump or lumps.

cloth (kləʊθ) *n., pl. cloths* (kləʊθs, kləʊðz). 1. a fabric formed by weaving, felting or knitting wool, cotton, etc. b. (as modifier): a *cloth bag*. 2. a piece of such fabric

used for a particular purpose, as for a dishcloth. 3. (usually preceded by *the*) the clergy.

clothe (kləʊð) *vb.* **clothing**, **clothed** or **clad**. (tr.) 1. to dress or attire (a person). 2. to provide with clothing. 3. to conceal or disguise. 4. to endow or invest.

clothes (kləʊðz) *pl. n.* 1. articles of dress. 2. *Chiefly Brit.* short for **bedclothes**.

clotheshorse ('kləʊð,hoʊs) *n.* 1. a frame on which to hang laundry for drying or airing. 2. *Inf.* an excessively fashionable person.

clothes peg *n.* a small wooden or plastic clip for attaching washing to a clothesline.

clothier ('kləʊðɪə) *n.* a person who makes, sells, or deals in clothes or cloth.

clothing ('kləʊðɪŋ) *n.* 1. garments collectively. 2. something that covers or clothes.

clotted cream *n.* *Brit.* a thick cream made from scalded milk, esp. in SW England.

cloud (klaʊd) *n.* 1. a mass of water or ice particles visible in the sky. 2. any collection of particles visible in the air, esp. of smoke or dust. 3. a large number of insects or other small animals in flight. 4. something that darkens, threatens, or carries gloom. 5. *Jewellery.* a cloudlike blemish in a transparent stone. 6. in the clouds, not in contact with reality. 7. under a cloud, a. under reproach or suspicion. b. in a state of gloom or bad temper. 8. on cloud nine. *Inf.* elated; very happy. ~vb. 9. (when intr., often foll. by *over* or *up*) to make or become cloudy, overcast, or indistinct. 10. (tr.) to make obscure; darken. 11. to make or become gloomy or depressed. 12. (tr.) to place under or render liable to suspicion or disgrace. 13. to render (liquids) milky or dull or (of liquids) to become milky or dull. ~cloudless *adj.* ~cloudlessly *adv.* ~cloudiness *n.*

cloudburst ('klaʊd,bɜːst) *n.* a heavy downpour.

cloud chamber *n.* *Physics.* an apparatus for detecting high-energy particles by observing their tracks through a chamber containing a supersaturated vapour.

cloudy ('klaʊdɪ) *adj.* **cloudier**, **cloudiest**. 1. covered with cloud or clouds. 2. of or like clouds. 3. streaked or mottled like a cloud. 4. opaque or muddy. 5. obscure or unclear. 6. troubled or gloomy. ~cloudily *adv.* ~cloudiness *n.*

clough (klaʊf) *n.* *Brit. dialect.* a ravine.

clout (klaʊt) *n.* 1. *Inf.* a blow with the hand or a hard object. 2. power or influence, esp. political. 3. Also called: **clout nail**, a short, flat-headed nail. 4. *Brit. dialect.* a piece of cloth: *a dish clout*. b. a garment. ~vb. (tr.) 5. *Inf.* to give a hard blow to, esp. with the hand.

clove¹ (kləʊv) *n.* 1. a tropical evergreen tree of the myrtle family. 2. the dried unopened flower buds of this tree, used as a pungent fragrant spice.

clove² (kləʊv) *n.* any of the segments of a compound bulb that arise from the axils of the scales of a large bulb.

clove³ (kləʊv) *vb.* a past tense of **cleave**¹.

clove hitch *n.* a knot or hitch used for securing a rope to a spar, post, or larger rope.

cloven ('kləʊvɪn) *vb.* 1. a past participle of **cleave**¹. ~adj. 2. split; cleft; divided.

cloven hoof or **foot** *n.* 1. the divided hoof of a pig, goat, cow, deer, or related animal. 2. the mark or symbol of Satan. ~cloven-hoofed or ~cloven-footed *adj.*

clover ('kləʊvə) *n.* 1. a leguminous fodder plant having trifoliate leaves and dense flower heads. 2. any of various similar or related plants. 3. in **clover**. *Inf.* in a state of ease or luxury.

cloverleaf ('kləʊvə,lɪf) *n., pl. -leaves*. 1. an arrangement of connecting roads, resembling a four-leaf clover in form, that joins two intersecting main roads. 2. (modifier) in the shape or pattern of a leaf of clover.

clown (klaʊn) *n.* 1. a comic entertainer, usually grotesquely costumed and made up, appearing in the circus. 2. a person who acts in a comic or buffoon-like manner. 3. a clumsy rude person; boor. 4. *Arch.* a countryman or rustic. ~vb. (intr.) 5. to perform as a clown. 6. to play jokes or tricks. 7. to act foolishly. ~clownery *n.* ~clownish *adj.* ~clownishly *adv.* ~clownishness *n.*

cloy (kloɪ) *vb.* to make weary or cause weariness through an excess of something initially pleasurable or sweet. ~cloyingly *adv.*

club (klʌb) *n.* 1. a stout stick, usually with one end thicker than the other, esp. one used as a weapon. 2. a stick or bat used to strike the ball in various sports, esp. golf. See **golf club**. 3. short for **Indian club**. 4. a group or association of people with common aims or interests.

5. the room, building, or facilities used by such a group. 6. a building in which elected, fee-paying members go to meet, dine, read, etc. 7. a commercial establishment providing drinks, food, etc. See also **nightclub**. 8. *Chiefly Brit.* an organization, esp. in a shop, set up as a means of saving. 9. *Brit.* an informal word for **friendly society**. 10. **a.** the black trefoil symbol on a playing card. **b.** a card with one or more of these symbols or (when pl.) the suit of cards so marked. 11. **in the club.** *Brit. sl.* pregnant. ~**vb.** **clubbing, clubbed.** 12. (tr.) to beat with or as if with a club. 13. (often foll. by *together*) to gather or become gathered into a group. 14. (often foll. by *together*) to unite or combine (resources, efforts, etc.) for a common purpose. —'clubber *n.*

club foot *n.* 1. a congenital deformity of the foot, esp. one in which the foot is twisted so that most of the weight rests on the heel. Technical name: **talipes**. 2. a foot so deformed. —'club-'footed *adj.*

clubhouse ('klʌb,haʊs) *n.* the premises of a sports or other club, esp. a golf club.

club root *n.* a fungal disease of cabbages and related plants, in which the roots become thickened and distorted.

cluck (klʌk) *n.* 1. the low clicking sound made by a hen or any similar sound. ~**vb.** 2. (intr.) (of a hen) to make a clicking sound. 3. (tr.) to call or express (a feeling) by making a similar sound.

clue (kluː) *n.* 1. something that helps to solve a problem or unravel a mystery. 2. **not to have a clue.** **a.** to be completely baffled. **b.** to be ignorant or incompetent. ~**vb.** **cluing, clued.** 3. (tr.; usually foll. by *in* or *up*) to provide with helpful information.

clueless ('kluːls) *adj.* *Sl.* helpless; stupid.

clump (klʌmp) *n.* 1. a cluster, as of trees or plants. 2. a dull heavy tread or any similar sound. 3. an irregular mass. 4. an inactive mass of microorganisms, esp. a mass of bacteria produced as a result of agglutination. 5. an extra sole on a shoe. 6. *Sl.* a blow. ~**vb.** 7. (intr.) to walk or tread heavily. 8. to gather or be gathered into clumps, clusters, clots, etc. 9. to cause (bacteria, blood cells, etc.) to collect together or (of bacteria, etc.) to collect together. See also **agglutination** (sense 2). 10. (tr.) *Sl.* to punch (someone). —'clumpy or 'clumpish *adj.*

clumsy ('klʌmzi) *adj.* -sler, -slest. 1. lacking in skill or physical coordination. 2. awkwardly constructed or contrived. —'clumsily *adv.* —'clumsiness *n.*

clung (klʌŋ) *vb.* the past tense or past participle of **cling**.

clunk (klʌŋk) *n.* 1. a blow or the sound of a blow. 2. a dull metallic sound. ~**vb.** 3. to make or cause to make such a sound.

cluster ('klʌstə) *n.* 1. a number of things growing, fastened, or occurring close together. 2. a number of persons or things grouped together. ~**vb.** 3. to gather or be gathered in clusters. —'clustered *adj.* —'clustery *adj.*

clutch¹ (klʌtʃ) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to seize with or as if with hands or claws. 2. (tr.) to grasp or hold firmly. 3. (intr.; usually foll. by *at*) to attempt to get hold or possession (of). ~*n.* 4. a device that enables two revolving shafts to be joined or disconnected, esp. one that transmits the drive from the engine to the gearbox in a vehicle. 5. a device for holding fast. 6. a firm grasp. 7. a hand, claw, or talon in the act of clutching: *in the clutches of a bear*. 8. (often pl.) power or control: *in the clutches of the Mafia*.

clutch² (klʌtʃ) *n.* 1. a hatch of eggs laid by a particular bird or laid in a single nest. 2. a brood of chickens. 3. *Inf.* a group or cluster. ~**vb.** 4. (tr.) to hatch (chickens).

clutter ('klʌtə) *vb.* 1. (usually tr.; often foll. by *up*) to strew or amass (objects) in a disorderly manner. 2. (intr.) to move about in a bustling manner. ~*n.* 3. a disordered heap or mass of objects. 4. a state of disorder. 5. unwanted echoes that confuse the observation of signals on a radar screen.

Clydesdale ('klaɪdz,deɪl) *n.* a heavy powerful breed of carthorse, originally from Scotland.

cm or **cm.** *abbrev.* for centimetre.

Cm *the chemical symbol for curium.*

Cmdr. *Mil. abbrev.* for Commander.

C.M.G. *abbrev.* for Companion of St. Michael and St. George (a Brit. title).

cml. *abbrev.* for commercial.

C.N.D. (in Britain) *abbrev.* for Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

Co *the chemical symbol for cobalt.*

Co. or **co.** *abbrev.* for: 1. (esp. in names of business organizations) Company. 2. **and co.** (kəʊ) *Inf.* and the rest of them: *Harold and co.*

Co. *abbrev.* for County.

C.O. *abbrev.* for: 1. Commanding Officer. 2. conscientious objector.

co- *prefix.* 1. together; joint or jointly; mutual or mutually: *coproduction*. 2. indicating partnership or equality: *coaster*; *copilot*. 3. to the same or a similar degree: *coextend*. 4. (in mathematics and astronomy) of the complement of an angle: *cosecant*.

c/o *abbrev.* for: 1. care of. 2. *Book-keeping.* carried over.

coach (kəʊtʃ) *n.* 1. a vehicle for several passengers, used for transport over long distances, sightseeing, etc. 2. a large four-wheeled enclosed carriage, usually horse-drawn. 3. a railway carriage. 4. a trainer or instructor: *a drama coach*. 5. a tutor who prepares students for examinations. ~**vb.** 6. to give tuition or instruction to (a pupil). 7. (tr.) to transport in a bus or coach. —'coachman *n.*

coachman ('kəʊtʃmən) *n., pl. -men.* the driver of a coach or carriage.

coachwork ('kəʊtʃ,wɜ:k) *n.* 1. the design and manufacture of car bodies. 2. the body of a car.

coadjutor (kəʊ'ædʒʊtə) *n.* 1. a bishop appointed as assistant to a diocesan bishop. 2. *Rare.* an assistant.

coagulate *vb.* (kəʊ'æɡjʊ,leɪt). 1. to cause (a fluid, such as blood) to change into a soft semisolid mass or (of such a fluid) to change into such a mass; clot; curdle. ~*n.* (kəʊ'æɡjʊlɪt, -leɪt). 2. the solid or semisolid substance produced by coagulation. —coagulant (kəʊ'æɡjʊlənt) or co'agulator *n.* —co'agulation *n.* —co'agulative (kəʊ'æɡjʊlətɪv) *adj.*

coal (kəʊl) *n.* 1. **a.** a compact black or dark brown carbonaceous rock consisting of layers of partially decomposed vegetation deposited in the Carboniferous period: a fuel and a source of coke, coal gas, and coal tar. **b.** (as modifier): *coal cellar*; *coal mine*; *coal dust*. 2. one or more lumps of coal. 3. short for **charcoal**. 4. **coals to Newcastle.** something supplied where it already exists. ~**vb.** 5. to take in, provide with, or turn into coal. —'coaly *adj.*

coalesce (kəʊ'les) *vb.* (intr.) to unite or come together in one body or mass; merge; fuse; blend. —,co'a'lescence *n.* —,co'a'lescent *adj.*

coalface ('kəʊl,feɪs) *n.* the exposed seam of coal in a mine.

coalfield ('kəʊl,fɪld) *n.* an area rich in deposits of coal.

coalfish ('kəʊl,fɪʃ) *n., pl. -fish or -fishes.* a dark-coloured gadoid food fish occurring in northern seas. Also called (Brit.): *saithe, coley*.

coal gas *n.* a mixture of gases produced by the distillation of bituminous coal and used for heating and lighting.

coalition (kəʊ'ʌlɪʃən) *n.* 1. **a.** an alliance between groups or parties, esp. for some temporary and specific reason. **b.** (as modifier): *a coalition government*. 2. a fusion or merging into one body or mass. —co'a'litionist *n.*

coal scuttle *n.* a domestic metal container for coal.

coal tar *n.* a black tar, produced by the distillation of bituminous coal, that can be further distilled to yield benzene, toluene, etc.

coal tit *n.* a small European songbird having a black head with a white patch on the nape.

coaming ('kəʊmɪŋ) *n.* a raised frame round a ship's hatchway for keeping out water.

coarse (kɔ:s) *adj.* 1. rough in texture, structure, etc.; not fine: *coarse sand*. 2. lacking refinement or taste; indelicate; vulgar: *coarse jokes*. 3. of inferior quality. 4. (of a metal) not refined. —'coarsely *adv.* —'coarseness *n.*

coarse fish *n.* a freshwater fish that is not of the salmon family. —coarse fishing *n.*

coarsen ('kɔ:sɪn) *vb.* to make or become coarse.

coast (kəʊst) *n.* 1. the line or zone where the land meets the sea. Related *adj.*: **littoral**. 2. *Brit.* the seaside. 3. *U.S. a.* a slope down which a sledge may slide. **b. the act or an instance of sliding down a slope. 4. **the coast is clear.** *Inf.* the obstacles or dangers are gone. ~**vb.** 5. to move or cause to move by momentum or force of gravity. 6. (intr.) to proceed without great effort: *to coast to victory*. 7. to sail along (a coast). —'coastal *adj.***

coaster ('kəʊstə) *n.* 1. *Brit.* a vessel engaged in coastal

commerce. **2.** a small tray for holding a decanter, wine bottle, etc. **3.** a person or thing that coasts. **4.** *Chiefly U.S.* a protective mat for glasses. **5.** *U.S.* short for **roller coaster**.

Coaster ('kəʊstə) *n.* *N.Z.* a person from the West Coast of the South Island, New Zealand.

coastguard ('kəʊst,gɑ:d) *n.* **1.** a maritime force which aids shipping, saves lives at sea, prevents smuggling, etc. **2.** Also called: **coastguardsman**, a member of such a force.

coastline ('kəʊst,lain) *n.* the outline of a coast.

coat (kəʊt) *n.* **1.** an outdoor garment with sleeves, covering the body from the shoulders to waist, knee, or foot. **2.** any similar garment, esp. one forming the top to a suit. **3.** a layer that covers or conceals a surface: a coat of dust. **4.** the hair, wool, or fur of an animal. ~*vb.* **5.** (*tr.*; often foll. by *with*) to cover (with) a layer or covering. **6.** (*tr.*) to provide with a coat.

coating ('kəʊtɪŋ) *n.* **1.** a layer or film spread over a surface. **2.** fabric suitable for coats.

coat of arms *n.* the heraldic bearings of a person, family, or corporation.

coat of mail *n.* a protective garment made of linked metal rings or overlapping metal plates.

coat-tail *n.* the long tapering tails at the back of a man's tailed coat.

coax (kəʊks) *vb.* **1.** to seek to manipulate or persuade (someone) by tenderness, flattery, pleading, etc. **2.** (*tr.*) to obtain by persistent coaxing. —*coaxer n.* —*coaxingly adv.*

coaxial (kəʊ'æksɪəl) or **coaxal** (kəʊ'æksəl) *adj.* **1.** having or mounted on a common axis. **2.** *Geom.* (of a set of circles) having the same radical axis. **3.** *Electronics.* formed from, using, or connected to a coaxial cable.

cob (kɒb) *n.* **1.** a male swan. **2.** a thickset type of riding and draught horse. **3.** short for **corn cob**. **4.** *Brit.* another name for **hazel** (sense 1). **5.** a small rounded lump or heap of coal, ore, etc. **6.** a building material consisting of a mixture of clay and chopped straw. **7.** *Brit.* a round loaf of bread.

cobalt ('kəʊbəl) *n.* a brittle hard silvery-white element that is a ferromagnetic metal: used in alloys. The radioisotope **cobalt-60** is used in radiotherapy and as a tracer. Symbol: Co; atomic no.: 27; atomic wt.: 58.933.

cobalt blue *n.* **1.** any greenish-blue pigment containing cobalt aluminate. **2.** *a.* a deep blue colour. *b.* (*as adj.*): a cobalt-blue car.

cobalt bomb *n.* **1.** a cobalt-60 device used in radiotherapy. **2.** a nuclear weapon consisting of a hydrogen bomb encased in cobalt, which releases large quantities of radioactive cobalt-60 into the atmosphere.

cobber ('kɒbə) *n.* *Austral. arch. & N.Z.* a friend; mate: used as a term of address to males.

cobble ('kɒbl) *n.* **1.** short for **cobblestone**. ~*vb.* **2.** (*tr.*) to pave (a road, etc.) with cobblestones.

cobble ('kɒbl) *vb.* (*tr.*) **1.** to make or mend shoes. **2.** to put together clumsily.

cobbler ('kɒblə) *n.* a person who makes or mends shoes.

cobbler² ('kɒblə) *n.* **1.** a sweetened iced drink, usually made from fruit and wine. **2.** *Chiefly U.S.* a hot dessert made of fruit covered with a rich cakelike crust.

cobblers ('kɒbləz) *Brit. taboo sl.* ~*pl. n.* **1.** testicles. **2.** (a load of old) cobblers, rubbish; nonsense.

cobblestone ('kɒbl,stəʊn) *n.* a rounded stone used for paving. Sometimes shortened to **cobble**.

COBOL ('kəʊ,bəl) *n.* a high-level computer programming language designed for general commercial use.

cobra ('kəʊbrə) *n.* **1.** any highly venomous snake such as the **Indian cobra**, of tropical Africa and Asia. When alarmed they spread the skin of the neck region into a hood. **2.** any related snake, such as the king cobra.

cobweb ('kɒb,web) *n.* **1.** a web spun by certain spiders. **2.** a single thread of such a web. **3.** something like a cobweb, as in its flimsiness or ability to trap. —*cobwebbed adj.* —*cobwebby adj.*

cobwebs ('kɒb,webz) *pl. n.* **1.** mustiness, confusion, or obscurity. **2.** *Inf.* stickiness of the eyelids experienced upon first awakening.

coca ('kəʊkə) *n.* either of two shrubs, native to the Andes, the dried leaves of which contain cocaine and are chewed for their stimulating effects.

Coca-Cola (,kəʊkə'kəʊlə) *n.* *Trademark.* a carbonated soft drink flavoured with coca leaves, cola nuts, caramel, etc.

cocaine or cocain (kə'keɪn) *n.* an addictive narcotic

drug derived from coca leaves or synthesized, used medicinally as a topical anaesthetic.

coccus ('kɒkəs) *n.* *pl. -ci (-sai).* any spherical or nearly spherical bacterium, such as a staphylococcus. —*'coccoid or 'coccal adj.*

coccyx ('kɒksɪks) *n.* *pl. coccyges* (kɒk'saɪdʒɪz). a small triangular bone at the end of the spinal column in man and some apes. —*coccygeal* (kɒk'saɪdʒɪəl) *adj.*

cochineal (,kɒtʃɪ'ni:l, 'kɒtʃɪ,ni:l) *n.* **1.** a Mexican insect that feeds on cacti. **2.** a crimson substance obtained from the crushed bodies of these insects, used for colouring food and for dyeing. **3.** the colour of this dye.

cochlea ('kɒkliə) *n.* *pl. -leae* (-li:). the spiral tube that forms part of the internal ear, converting sound vibrations into nerve impulses. —*'cochlear adj.*

cock¹ (kɒk) *n.* **1.** the male of the domestic fowl. **2.** *a.* any other male bird. *b.* the male of certain other animals, such as the lobster. *c.* (*as modifier*): a cock sparrow. **3.** short for **stopcock** or **weathercock**. **4.** a taboo slang word for **penis**. **5.** *a.* the hammer of a firearm. *b.* its position when the firearm is ready to be discharged. *6.* *Brit. inf.* a friend, mate, or fellow. **7.** a jaunty or significant tilting upwards: a cock of the head. ~*vb.* **8.** (*tr.*) to set or pull the hammer of (a firearm) into firing position. **9.** (*tr.*; sometimes foll. by *up*) to raise in an alert or jaunty manner. **10.** (*intr.*) to stick or stand up conspicuously. ~*See also cockup.*

cock² (kɒk) *n.* **1.** a small, cone-shaped heap of hay, straw, etc. ~*vb.* **2.** (*tr.*) to stack (hay, etc.) in such heaps.

cockade (kə'keɪd) *n.* a feather or ribbon worn on military headwear. —*cockaded adj.*

cock-a-hoop *adj.* (*usually postpositive*) **1.** in very high spirits. **2.** boastful. **3.** askew; confused.

cock-a-leekie or cocky-leeky (,kɒkə'li:kɪ) *n.* a soup made from a fowl boiled with leeks, etc.

cock-and-bull story *n.* *Inf.* an obviously improbable story, esp. one used as an excuse.

cockatoo (,kɒkə'tu:, 'kɒkə,tu:) *n.* *pl. -toos.* **1.** any of a genus of parrots having an erectile crest and light-coloured plumage. **2.** *Austral. & N.Z.* a small farmer or settler. **3.** *Austral. inf.* a lookout during some illegal activity.

cockatrice ('kɒkətrɪs, -,traɪs) *n.* **1.** a legendary monster, part snake and part cock, that could kill with a glance. **2.** another name for **basilisk**.

cockchafer ('kɒk,tʃeɪfə) *n.* any of various Old World beetles, whose larvae feed on crops and grasses. Also called: **May beetle**, **May bug**.

cockcrow ('kɒk,kraʊ) or **cockcrowing** *n.* day-break.

cocked hat *n.* **1.** a hat with brims turned up and caught together in order to give two points (bicorn) or three points (tricorn). **2.** knock into a cocked hat. *Sl.* to outdo or defeat someone.

cockerel ('kɒkərəl, 'kɒkrəl) *n.* a young domestic cock, less than a year old.

cocker spaniel ('kɒkə) *n.* a small compact breed of spaniel.

cockeyed ('kɒk,aɪd) *adj. Inf.* **1.** afflicted with crosseye or squint. **2.** physically or logically abnormal, absurd, etc.; askew: cockeyed ideas. **3.** drunk.

cockfight ('kɒk,fait) *n.* a fight between two gamecocks fitted with sharp metal spurs. —*cockfighting n.*

cockle¹ ('kɒkəl) *n.* **1.** any edible sand-burrowing bivalve mollusc of Europe, typically having a rounded shell with radiating ribs. **2.** any of certain similar or related molluscs. **3.** short for **cockleshell** (sense 1). **4.** a wrinkle or puckering. **5.** one's deepest feelings (esp. in warm the cockles of one's heart). ~*vb.* **6.** to contract or cause to contract into wrinkles.

cockle² ('kɒkəl) *n.* any of several plants, esp. the corn cockle, that grow as weeds in cornfields.

cockleshell ('kɒkəl,ʃel) *n.* **1.** the shell of the cockle. **2.** any of the shells of certain other molluscs. **3.** any small light boat.

cockney ('kɒkni) *n.* **1.** (*often cap.*) a native of London, esp. of the East End, speaking a characteristic dialect of English. Traditionally defined as someone born within the sound of the bells of St. Mary-le-Bow church. **2.** the urban dialect of London or its East End. ~*adj.* **3.** characteristic of cockneys or their dialect of English. —*'cockneyish adj.* —*'cockneyism n.*

cockpit ('kɒk,pɪt) *n.* **1.** the compartment in a small aircraft in which the pilot, crew, and sometimes the passengers sit. Cf. **flight deck** (sense 1). **2.** the driver's compartment in a racing car. **3.** *Naut.* an enclosed area

towards the stern of a small vessel containing the wheel and tiller. 4. the site of numerous battles or campaigns. 5. an enclosure used for cockfights.

cockroach ('kɒk,rəʊtʃ) *n.* an insect having an oval flattened body with long antennae and biting mouthparts: a household pest.

cockscumb or **coxcomb** ('kɒks,kəʊm) *n.* 1. the comb of a domestic cock. 2. a garden plant with yellow, crimson, or purple flowers in a broad spike resembling the comb of a cock. 3. *Inf.* a conceited dandy.

cockshy ('kɒkʃaɪ) *n., pl. -shies.* *Brit. sl.* a target aimed at in throwing games. 2. the throw itself. ~Often shortened to **shy**.

cocksure ('kɒkʃʊə, -'ʃɔ:) *adj.* overconfident; arrogant. — **cocksureness** *n.*

cocktail ('kɒk,tel) *n.* 1. a. any mixed drink with a spirit base. b. (as *modifier*): the *cocktail hour*. 2. an appetizer of seafood, mixed fruits, etc. 3. (*modifier*) appropriate for formal occasions: a *cocktail dress*.

cockup ('kɒk,ʌp) *n.* 1. *Brit. sl.* something done badly. ~*vb.* **cock up** (tr., *adv.*) 2. (of an animal) to raise (ears, etc.), esp. in an alert manner. 3. (tr.) *Brit. sl.* to botch.

cocky ('kɒki) *adj.* cockier, **cockiest**, excessively proud of oneself. — **cockily** *adv.* — **cockiness** *n.*

cocky ('kɒki) *n.* *Austral. & N.Z. inf.* short for **cockatoo** (sense 2).

coco ('kəʊkəʊ) *n., pl. -cos.* short for **coconut**.

cocoa ('kəʊkəʊ) or **cacao** *n.* 1. a powder made from cocoa beans after they have been roasted and ground. 2. a hot or cold drink made from cocoa and milk or water. 3. a light to moderate brown colour.

cocoa butter *n.* a yellowish-white waxy solid that is obtained from cocoa beans and used for confectionery, soap, etc.

coconut or **cocoanut** ('kəʊkəʊ,nat) *n.* 1. the fruit of a tall tropical tree, the coconut palm, consisting of a thick fibrous oval husk inside which is a thin hard shell enclosing edible white meat. The hollow centre is filled with a milky fluid (**coconut milk**). 2. the meat of the coconut, often shredded and used in cakes, curries, etc.

coconut matting *n.* a form of coarse matting made from the fibrous husk of the coconut.

cocoon ('kəʊkʊ:n) *n.* 1. a silky protective envelope secreted by silkworms and certain other insect larvae, in which the pupae develop. 2. a protective spray covering used as a seal on machinery. 3. a cosy warm covering. ~*vb.* 4. (tr.) to wrap in a cocoon.

cocopan ('kəʊkəʊ,pæn) *n.* (in South Africa) a small wagon running on narrow-gauge railway lines used in mines. Also called **hopper**.

cocotte ('kəʊ'kɒt, kə-) *n.* 1. a small fireproof dish in which individual portions of food are cooked and served. 2. a prostitute or promiscuous woman.

cod ('kɒd) *n., pl. cod or cods.* 1. any of the gadoid food fishes which occur in the North Atlantic and have a long body with three rounded dorsal fins. 2. any of various Australian fishes of fresh or salt water, such as the Murray cod or the red cod.

cod ('kɒd) *n.* 1. *Brit. & U.S. dialect.* a pod or husk. 2. *Taboo.* an obsolete word for **scrotum**.

cod ('kɒd) *Brit. sl.* ~*vb.* **codding**, **codded**. (tr.) 1. to make fun of, tease. 2. to play a trick on; befool. ~*n.* 3. a hoax or trick.

C.O.D. *abbrev. for:* 1. cash on delivery. 2. (in the U.S.) collect on delivery.

coda ('kəʊdə) *n.* *Music.* the final part of a musical structure.

coddle ('kɒdl) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to treat with indulgence. 2. to cook (something, esp. eggs) in water just below the boiling point. — **'coddler** *n.*

code ('kəʊd) *n.* 1. a system of letters or symbols, by which information can be communicated secretly, briefly, etc.: *binary code*; *Morse code*. See also **genetic code**. 2. a message in code. 3. a symbol used in a code. 4. a conventionalized set of principles or rules: a *code of behaviour*. 5. a system of letters or digits used for identification purposes. ~*vb. (tr.)* 6. to translate or arrange into a code. — **'coder** *n.*

codeine ('kəʊdɪ:n) *n.* a white crystalline alkaloid prepared mainly from morphine. It is used as an analgesic, a sedative, and to relieve coughing.

codex ('kəʊdeks) *n., pl. codices* ('kəʊdɪ,sɪz, 'kɒdɪ-). 1. a volume of manuscripts of an ancient text. 2. *Obs.* a legal code.

codfish ('kɒd,fɪʃ) *n., pl. -fish or -fishes.* a cod.

codger ('kɒdʒə) *n.* *Inf.* a man, esp. an old or eccentric one: often in **old codger**.

codicil ('kɒdɪsɪl) *n.* 1. *Law.* a supplement modifying a will or revoking some provision of it. 2. an additional provision; appendix. — **codicillary** ('kɒdɪ'sɪlərɪ) *adj.*

codify ('kəʊdɪ,fai, 'kɒ-) *vb. -fying, -fied.* (tr.) to organize or collect together (laws, rules, procedures, etc.) into a system or code. — **codi,fier** *n.* — **codi,fication** *n.*

codling ('kɒdlɪŋ) or **codlin** ('kɒdlɪn) *n.* 1. any of several varieties of long tapering apples. 2. any unripe apple.

codling² ('kɒdlɪŋ) *n.* a codfish, esp. a young one.

cod-liver oil *n.* an oil extracted from the livers of cod and related fish, rich in vitamins A and D.

codpiece ('kɒd,pɪs) *n.* a bag covering the male genitals, attached to breeches: worn in the 15th and 16th centuries.

coeducation ('kəʊedʒu'keɪʃən) *n.* instruction in schools, colleges, etc., attended by both sexes. — **coedu,cational** *adj.* — **coedu,cationally** *adv.*

coefficient ('kəʊ'fɪʃənt) *n.* 1. *Maths.* a numerical or constant factor in an algebraic term: the *coefficient of the term* *3xyz* is 3. 2. *Physics.* a number that is the value of a given substance under specified conditions.

coelacanth ('si:lə,kænθ) *n.* a primitive marine bony fish, having fleshy limblike pectoral fins: thought to be extinct until a living specimen was discovered in 1938.

coelenterate ('si:lentə,reit,-rɪt) *n.* any of various invertebrates having a saclike body with a single opening (mouth), such as jellyfishes, sea anemones, and corals.

coeliac or **U.S. celiac** ('si:lɪ,æk) *adj.* of the abdomen.

coeliac disease *n.* a wasting intestinal disease of childhood caused by failure to absorb fats and calcium properly.

coeno- or (before a vowel) **coen-** *combining form.* common: *coenobite*.

coenobite or **cenobite** ('si:nəʊ,bait) *n.* a member of a religious order following a communal rule of life. — **coenobitic** ('si:nəʊ'bitɪk), **coeno'bitical** or **ceno'bitic**, **ce-no'bitical** *adj.*

coequal ('kəʊ'i:kwəl) *adj.* 1. of the same size, rank, etc. ~*n.* 2. a person or thing equal with another. — **coequality** ('kəʊ'i:kwəlɪti) *n.*

coerce ('kəʊ'ɜ:s) *vb. (tr.)* to compel or restrain by force or authority without regard to individual wishes or desires. — **co'ercer** *n.* — **co'errible** *adj.* — **co'ercion** *n.*

coeval ('kəʊ'i:vəl) *adj.* 1. of or belonging to the same age or generation. ~*n.* 2. a contemporary. — **coevality** ('kəʊ'i:vəlɪti) *n.* — **co'evally** *adv.*

coexist ('kəʊɪg'zɪst) *vb. (intr.)* 1. to exist together at the same time or in the same place. 2. to exist together in peace. — **coex'istence** *n.* — **coex'istent** *adj.*

coextend ('kəʊɪk'stend) *vb.* to extend or cause to extend equally in space or time. — **coex'tension** *n.* — **coex'tensive** *adj.*

C. of E. *abbrev. for* Church of England.

coffee ('kɒfi) *n.* 1. a. a drink consisting of an infusion of the roasted and ground seeds of the coffee tree. b. (as *modifier*): *coffee grounds*. 2. Also called: **coffee beans**, the beanlike seeds of the coffee tree, used to make this beverage. 3. the tree yielding these seeds. 4. a light brown colour.

coffee bar *n.* a café; snack bar.

coffee house *n.* a place where coffee is served, esp. one that was a fashionable meeting place in 18th-century London.

coffee mill *n.* a machine for grinding roasted coffee beans.

coffee table *n.* a low table, on which coffee may be served.

coffer ('kɒfə) *n.* 1. a chest, esp. for storing valuables. 2. (usually *pl.*) a store of money. 3. an ornamental sunken panel in a ceiling, dome, etc. 4. a watertight box or chamber. 5. short for **cofferdam**. ~*vb. (tr.)* 6. to store, as in a coffer. 7. to decorate (a ceiling, dome, etc.) with coffers.

cofferdam ('kɒfə,dæm) *n.* a watertight structure that encloses an area under water, pumped dry to enable construction work to be carried out. Often shortened to **coffer**.

coffin ('kɒfɪn) *n.* 1. a box in which a corpse is buried or cremated. 2. the bony part of a horse's foot. ~*vb.* 3. (tr.) to place in or as in a coffin.

cog¹ ('kɒg) *n.* 1. any of the teeth or projections on the rim of a gearwheel. 2. a gearwheel, esp. a small one. 3. a person or thing playing a small part in a large organization or process.

cog² ('kɒg) *n.* 1. a tenon that projects from the end of a

timber beam for fitting into a mortise. ~vb. **cogging, coggled**. 2. (tr.) to join (pieces of wood) with cogs.

cogent ('kɒdʒənt) *adj.* compelling belief or assent; forcefully convincing. —'cogency *n.* —'cogently *adv.*

cogitate ('kɒdʒɪteɪt) *vb.* to think deeply about (a problem, possibility, etc.). ~ponder. —'cogitation *n.* —'cogitative *adj.* —'cogitator *n.*

Cognac ('kɒnjæk) *n.* (sometimes not cap.) a high-quality grape brandy, distilled near Cognac in SW France.

cognate ('kɒɡneɪt) *adj.* 1. akin; related: *cognate languages*. 2. related by blood or descended from a common maternal ancestor. ~*n.* 3. something that is cognate with something else. —'cognately *adv.* —'cognateness *n.* —'cog'nation *n.*

cognition ('kɒɡnɪʃən) *n.* 1. the mental act or process by which knowledge is acquired, including perception, intuition, and reasoning. 2. the knowledge that results from such an act or process. —'cog'nitional *adj.* —'cognitive ('kɒɡnɪtɪv) *adj.*

cognizance or **cognisance** ('kɒɡnɪzəns, 'kɒni-) *n.* 1. knowledge; acknowledgment. 2. take cognizance of, to take notice of; acknowledge, esp. officially. 3. the range or scope of knowledge or perception. 4. Law, the right of a court to hear and determine a cause or matter. 5. *Heraldry*, a distinguishing badge or bearing.

cognomen ('kɒɡnəmən) *n., pl. -nomens* or *-nomina* (-'nɒmɪnə, -'nɒu-). (originally) an ancient Roman's third name or nickname, which later became his family name. —'cognominal ('kɒɡnə'mɪnəl, -'nɒu-) *adj.*

cognoscenti ('kɒŋjəʊ'fenti, 'kɒɡnə-) or **cosnoscenti** *pl. n., sing. -te* (-ti). (sometimes sing.) people with informed appreciation of a particular field, esp. in the fine arts; connoisseurs.

cogwheel ('kɒɡ,wɪl) *n.* another name for **gear** (sense 1).

cohabit ('kəʊ'hæbɪt) *vb. (intr.)* to live together as husband and wife, esp. without being married. —'co'habitant or **co'habiter** *n.* —'co,habi'tation *n.*

coheir ('kəʊ'eə) *n.* a person who inherits jointly with others. —'co'heirress *fem. n.*

cohere ('kəʊ'hɪə) *vb. (intr.)* 1. to hold or stick firmly together. 2. to connect or be connected logically; be consistent. 3. *Physics*, to be held together by the action of molecular forces.

coherent ('kəʊ'hɪərənt) *adj.* 1. capable of intelligible speech. 2. logical; consistent and orderly. 3. cohering or sticking together. 4. *Physics*, (of two or more waves) having the same frequency and the same phase or a fixed phase difference: *coherent light*. —'coherence *n.* —'coherently *adv.*

cohesion ('kəʊ'hɪ:ʒən) *n.* 1. the act or state of cohering; tendency to unite. 2. *Physics*, the force that holds together the atoms or molecules in a solid or liquid, as distinguished from adhesion. 3. *Bot.* the fusion in some plants of flower parts, such as petals, that are usually separate. —'cohesive *adj.*

cohort ('kəʊhɔ:t) *n.* 1. one of the ten units of an ancient Roman Legion. 2. any band of warriors or associates: *the cohorts of Satan*.

COHSE ('kəʊzi) (in Britain) *acronym* for Confederation of Health Service Employees.

C.O.I. (in Britain) *abbrev. for* Central Office of Information.

coif (kɔɪf) *n.* 1. a close-fitting cap worn under a veil in the Middle Ages. 2. a leather cap worn under a chainmail hood. 3. (kwɔ:f) a less common word for **coiffure** (sense 1). ~vb. **coiffing, coiffed**. (tr.) 4. to cover with or as if with a coif. 5. (kwɔ:f) to arrange (the hair).

coiffeur (kwɔ:'fɜ: n. a hairdresser. —'coiffeuse (kwɔ:'fɜ:z) *fem. n.*

coiffure (kwɔ:'fjuə) *n.* 1. a hairstyle. 2. an obsolete word for **headdress**. ~vb. 3. (tr.) to dress or arrange (the hair).

coign of vantage (kɔɪn) *n.* an advantageous position for observation or action.

coil ('kɔɪl) *vb.* 1. to wind or gather (ropes, hair, etc.) into loops or (of rope, hair, etc.) to be formed in such loops. 2. (intr.) to move in a winding course. ~*n.* 3. something wound in a connected series of loops. 4. a single loop of such a series. 5. an arrangement of pipes in a spiral or loop, as in a condenser. 6. an electrical conductor wound into the form of a spiral, to provide inductance or a magnetic field. 7. an intrauterine contraceptive device in the shape of a coil. 8. the transformer in a petrol engine that supplies the high voltage to the sparking plugs.

coil ('kɔɪl) *n.* the troubles of the world (in Shakespeare's phrase *this mortal coil*).

coin (kɔɪn) *n.* 1. a metal disc or piece used as money. 2. metal currency, as opposed to paper currency, etc. 3. *Archit.* a variant spelling of **quoin**. 4. **pay** (a person) **back** in (his) **own coin**, to treat (a person) in the way that he has treated others. ~vb. 5. (tr.) to make or stamp (coins). 6. (tr.) to make into a coin. 7. (tr.) to fabricate or invent (words, etc.). 8. (tr.) *Inf.* to make (money) rapidly (esp. in **coin it in**).

coinage ('kɔɪnɪdʒ) *n.* 1. coins collectively. 2. the act of striking coins. 3. the currency of a country. 4. the act of inventing something, esp. a word or phrase. 5. a newly invented word, phrase, usage, etc.

coincide ('kɔɪn'saɪd) *vb. (intr.)* 1. to occur or exist simultaneously. 2. to be identical in nature, character, etc. 3. to agree.

coincidence ('kɔɪn'sɪdəns) *n.* 1. a chance occurrence of events remarkable either for being simultaneous or for apparently being connected. 2. the fact, condition, or state of coinciding. 3. (*modifier*) *Electronics*, of or relating to a circuit that produces an output pulse only when both its input terminals receive pulses within a specified interval: *coincidence gate*.

coincident ('kɔɪn'sɪdənt) *adj.* 1. having the same position in space or time. 2. (usually *postpositive* and *followed by with*) in exact agreement. —'co,inci'dental *adj.* —'co,inci'dentially *adv.*

Cointreau ('kwɔ:ntʀəʊ) *n.* *Trademark*, a colourless liqueur with orange flavouring.

coir ('kɔɪə) *n.* the fibre from the husk of the coconut, used in making rope and matting.

coitus ('kɔɪtəs) or **coition** ('kɔɪʃən) *n.* a technical term for **sexual intercourse**. —'coital *adj.*

coke ('kəʊk) *n.* 1. a solid-fuel product produced by distillation of coal to drive off its volatile constituents; used as a fuel. 2. the layer formed in the cylinders of a car engine by incomplete combustion of the fuel. ~vb. 3. to become or convert into coke.

coke ('kəʊk) *n.* *Sl.* short for **cocaine**.

Coke ('kəʊk) *n.* *Trademark*, short for **Coca-Cola**.

col (kɔɪl) *n.* 1. a strip of land or a ridge connecting two mountain peaks. 2. *Meteorol.* a low-pressure region between two anticyclones.

Col. *abbrev. for:* 1. Colombia(n). 2. Colonel. 3. *Bible*, Colossians.

col- *prefix*, variant of **com-** before *l*: *collateral*.

cola or **kola** ('kɔʊlə) *n.* 1. either of two trees widely cultivated in tropical regions for their seeds (**cola nut**). 2. a sweet carbonated drink flavoured with cola nuts.

colander ('kɒləndə, 'kɔ:l-) or **cullender** *n.* a pan with a perforated bottom for straining or rinsing foods.

cold ('kɔʊld) *adj.* 1. having relatively little warmth; of a rather low temperature: *cold weather*; *cold hands*. 2. without proper warmth: *this meal is cold*. 3. lacking in affection or enthusiasm: *a cold manner*. 4. not affected by emotion: *cold logic*. 5. dead. 6. sexually unresponsive or frigid. 7. lacking in freshness: *a cold scent*; *cold news*. 8. chilling to the spirit; depressing. 9. (of a colour) having violet, blue, or green predominating; giving no sensation of warmth. 10. *Sl.* unconscious. 11. *Inf.* (of a seeker) far from the object of a search. 12. **cold comfort**, little or no comfort. 13. **in cold blood**, without feeling pity or remorse, ruthlessly. 14. **leave (someone) cold**, *Inf.* to fail to excite: *the performance left me cold*. 15. **throw cold water on**, *Inf.* to be unenthusiastic about or discourage. ~*n.* 16. the absence of heat regarded as a positive force: *the cold took away our breath*. 17. the sensation caused by loss or lack of heat. 18. **out in the cold**, *Inf.* neglected; ignored. 19. an acute viral infection of the upper respiratory passages characterized by discharge of watery mucus from the nose, sneezing, etc. ~adv. 20. *Inf.* without preparation: *he played his part cold*. —'coldish *adj.* —'coldly *adv.* —'coldness *n.*

cold-blooded *adj.* 1. having or showing a lack of feeling or pity. 2. *Inf.* particularly sensitive to cold. 3. (of all animals except birds and mammals) having a body temperature that varies with that of the surroundings. —'cold-'bloodedly *adv.* —'cold-'bloodedness *n.*

cold chisel *n.* a toughened steel chisel.

cold cream *n.* an emulsion of water and fat used for softening and cleansing the skin.

cold feet *n.* *Inf.* loss or lack of confidence.

cold frame *n.* an unheated wooden frame with a glass top, used to protect young plants.

cold front *n.* *Meteorol.* the boundary line between a

warm air mass and the cold air pushing it from beneath and behind as it moves.

cold-hearted *adj.* lacking in feeling or warmth; unkind. — **cold-heartedly** *adv.* — **cold-heartedness** *n.*

cold shoulder *n. Inf.* 1. (often preceded by *the*) a show of indifference; a slight. ~*vb.* **cold-shoulder**. (tr.) 2. to treat with indifference.

cold sore *n.* a cluster of blisters at the margin of the lips, caused by a viral infection. Technical name: *herpes labialis*.

cold storage *n.* 1. the storage of things in an artificially cooled place for preservation. 2. *Inf.* a state of temporary suspension: to put an idea into cold storage.

cold sweat *n. Inf.* a bodily reaction to fear or nervousness, characterized by chill and moist skin.

cold war *n.* a state of political hostility and military tension between two countries or power blocs, involving propaganda, threats, etc.

cole (*kəʊl*) *n.* any of various plants such as the cabbage and rape. Also called: **colewort**.

coleslaw (*'kəʊl,slɔː*) *n.* a salad of shredded cabbage, mayonnaise, carrots, onions, etc.

coletit (*'kəʊlɪt*) *n.* another name for **coal tit**.

coleus (*'kəʊliəs*) *n., pl. -uses.* any plant of the Old World genus *Coleus*: cultivated for their variegated leaves.

coley (*'kəʊli*, *'kɒli*) *n. Brit.* any of various edible fishes, esp. the coalfish.

colic (*'kɒlɪk*) *n.* a condition characterized by acute spasmodic abdominal pain, esp. that caused by inflammation, distention, etc., of the gastrointestinal tract. — **colicky** *adj.*

coliseum (*'kɒlɪsɪəm*) or **colosseum** (*'kɒlə'siəm*) *n.* a large building, such as a stadium, used for entertainments, sports, etc.

colitis (*kə'laitɪs*) *n.* inflammation of the colon.

collaborate (*kə'læbə'reɪt*) *vb. (intr.)* 1. (often foll. by *on*, *with*, etc.) to work with another or others on a joint project. 2. to cooperate as a traitor, esp. with an enemy occupying one's own country. — **collabo'ration** *n.* — **collabo'rative** *adj.* — **collabo'rator** or **collabo'rationalist** *n.*

collage (*kə'lɑːʒ*, *kɔː*) *n.* 1. an art form in which compositions are made out of pieces of paper, cloth, photographs, etc. pasted on a dry ground. 2. a composition made in this way. 3. any collection of unrelated things. — **collagist** *n.*

collagen (*'kɒlədʒən*) *n.* a fibrous protein of connective tissue and bones that yields gelatin on boiling.

collapse (*'kɒləps*) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to fall down or cave in suddenly: *the whole building collapsed*. 2. (*intr.*) to fail completely. 3. (*intr.*) to break down or fall down from lack of strength. 4. to fold (furniture, etc.) compactly or (of furniture, etc.) to be designed to fold compactly. ~*n.* 5. the act or instance of suddenly falling down, caving in, or crumbling. 6. a sudden failure or breakdown. — **collapsible** or **collapsible** *adj.* — **collapsibility** *n.*

collar (*'kɒlə*) *n.* 1. the part of a garment around the neck and shoulders, often detachable or folded over. 2. any band, necklace, garland, etc., encircling the neck. 3. a band or chain of leather, rope, or metal placed around an animal's neck. 4. *Biol.* a marking resembling a collar, such as that found around the necks of some birds. 5. a section of a shaft or rod having a locally increased diameter to provide a bearing seat or a locating ring. 6. a cut of meat, esp. bacon, taken from around the neck of an animal. 7. **hot under the collar**. *Inf.* angry; excited. ~*vb.* (tr.) 8. to put a collar on; furnish with a collar. 9. to seize by the collar. 10. *Inf.* to seize; arrest; detain.

collarbone (*'kɒlə,bəʊn*) *n.* the nontechnical name for **clavicle**.

collate (*kə'lɛɪt*, *kɔː*) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to examine and compare (texts, statements, etc.) in order to note points of agreement and disagreement. 2. to check the number and order of (the pages of a book). 3. *Bookbinding.* a. to check the sequence of (the sections of a book) after gathering. b. a nontechnical word for **gather** (sense 8). 4. (often foll. by *to*) *Christianity.* to appoint (an incumbent) to a benefice. — **collator** *n.*

collateral (*kə'lætərəl*, *kɔː*) *n.* 1. a. security pledged for the repayment of a loan. b. (*as modifier*): a *collateral loan*. 2. a person, animal, or plant descended from the same ancestor as another but through a different line. ~*adj.* 3. situated or running side by side. 4. descended from a common ancestor but through different lines. 5. serving to support or corroborate. — **collaterally** *adv.*

collation (*kə'lɛɪʃən*, *kɔː*) *n.* 1. the act or process of

collating. 2. a description of the technical features of a book. 3. *R.C. Church.* a light meal permitted on fast days. 4. any light informal meal.

colleague (*'kɒliːg*) *n.* a fellow worker or member of a staff, department, profession etc.

collect (*'kɒlɛkt*) *vb.* 1. to gather together or be gathered together. 2. to accumulate (stamps, books, etc.) as a hobby or for study. 3. (tr.) to call for or receive payment of (taxes, dues, etc.). 4. (tr.) to regain control of (oneself, one's emotions, etc.) as after a shock or surprise: *he collected his wits*. 5. (tr.) to fetch: *collect your own post*. 6. (*intr.*, sometimes foll. by *on*) *Sl.* to receive large sums of money. 7. *Austral. & N.Z. inf.* to collide with; be hit by. ~*adv.*, *adj.* 8. *U.S.* (of telephone calls, etc.) on a transferred-charge basis. — **col'lectable** or **col'lectible** *adj.*

collect (*'kɒlɛkt*) *n. Christianity.* a short Church prayer in Communion and other services.

collected (*kə'lɛktəd*) *adj.* 1. in full control of one's faculties; composed. 2. assembled in totality or brought together into one volume or a set of volumes: *the collected works of Dickens*. — **col'lectedly** *adv.* — **col'lectedness** *n.*

collection (*kə'lɛkʃən*) *n.* 1. the act or process of collecting. 2. a number of things collected or assembled together. 3. something gathered into a mass or pile; accumulation: *a collection of rubbish*. 4. a sum of money collected or solicited, as in church. 5. removal, esp. regular removal of letters from a postbox. 6. (*often pl.*) (at Oxford University) a college examination or an oral report by a tutor.

collective (*kə'lɛktɪv*) *adj.* 1. formed or assembled by collection. 2. forming a whole or aggregate. 3. of, done by, or characteristic of individuals acting in cooperation. ~*n.* 4. a. a cooperative enterprise or unit, such as a collective farm. b. the members of such a cooperative. — **col'lectively** *adv.* — **col'lectiveness** *n.* — **col'lectivity** *n.*

collective bargaining *n.* negotiation between a trade union and an employer or an employers' organization on the incomes and working conditions of the employees.

collectivism (*kə'lɛktɪvɪzəm*) *n.* the principle of ownership of the means of production, by the state or the people. — **col'lectivist** *n.* — **col'lectivistic** *adj.*

collectivize or **-vise** (*kə'lɛktɪvaɪz*) *vb. (tr.)* to organize according to the principles of collectivism. — **col'lectivization** or **-vɪ'sation** *n.*

collector (*kə'lɛktə*) *n.* 1. a person or thing that collects. 2. a person employed to collect debts, rents, etc. 3. a person who collects objects as a hobby. 4. (formerly, in India) the head of a district administration. 5. *Electronics.* the region in a transistor into which charge carriers flow from the base.

colleen (*'kɒlɪn*, *kə'lɪn*) *n.* an Irish word for **girl**.

college (*'kɒldʒ*) *n.* 1. an institution of higher education; part of a university. 2. a school or an institution providing specialized courses: *a college of music*. 3. the buildings in which a college is housed. 4. the staff and students of a college. 5. an organized body of persons with specific rights and duties: *an electoral college*. 6. a body organized within a particular profession, concerned with regulating standards. 7. *Brit.* a name given to some secondary schools.

college pudding *n. Brit.* a baked or steamed suet pudding containing dried fruit and spice.

collegian (*kə'lɛdʒɪən*) *n.* a member of a college.

collegiate (*kə'lɛdʒɪət*) *adj.* 1. Also: **collegial** (*kə'lɛdʒɪəl*). of or relating to a college or college students. 2. (of a university) composed of various colleges of equal standing.

collide (*kə'laid*) *vb. (intr.)* 1. to crash together with a violent impact. 2. to conflict; clash; disagree.

collie (*'kɒli*) *n.* a silky-coated breed of sheepdog with a long narrow head.

collier (*'kɒliə*) *n. Chiefly Brit.* 1. a coal miner. 2. a. a ship designed to transport coal. b. a member of its crew.

colliery (*'kɒljəri*) *n., pl. -lieries.* *Chiefly Brit.* a coal mine.

collimate (*'kɒlɪmeɪt*) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to adjust the line of sight of (an optical instrument). 2. to use a collimator on (a beam of radiation). 3. to make parallel or bring into line. — **collimation** *n.*

collision (*kə'lɪʒən*) *n.* 1. a violent impact of moving objects; crash. 2. the conflict of opposed ideas, wishes, attitudes, etc.

collocate ('kɒlə,keɪt) *vb.* (tr.) to group or place together in some system or order. — **collo'cation** *n.*

colloid ('kɒləɪd) *n.* 1. a mixture having particles of one component suspended in a continuous phase of another component. The mixture has properties between those of a solution and a fine suspension. 2. *Physiol.* a gelatinous substance of the thyroid follicles that holds the hormonal secretions of the thyroid gland. — **col'loidal** *adj.*

collop ('kɒləp) *n.* *Dialect, chiefly northern Brit.* 1. a slice of meat. 2. a small piece of anything.

colloq. *abbrev. for colloquial(ly).*

colloquial ('kɒləkwɪəl) *adj.* 1. of or relating to conversation. 2. denoting or characterized by informal or conversational idiom or vocabulary. — **col'loquially** *adv.* — **col'loquialness** *n.*

colloquialism ('kɒləkwɪəlɪzəm) *n.* 1. a word or phrase appropriate to conversation and other informal situations. 2. the use of colloquial words and phrases.

colloquium ('kɒləkwɪəm) *n., pl. -quiums or -quia* (-kwɪə). 1. a gathering for discussion. 2. an academic seminar.

colloquy ('kɒləkwɪ) *n., pl. -quies.* 1. a formal conversation or conference. 2. an informal conference on religious or theological matters. — **colloquist** *n.*

collusion ('kɒlɪʒən) *n.* 1. secret agreement for a fraudulent purpose; conspiracy. 2. a secret agreement between opponents at law for some improper purpose. — **col'lusive** *adj.*

collywobblers ('kɒlɪ,wɒb'lɪz) *pl. n.* (usually preceded by *the*) *Sl.* 1. an upset stomach. 2. an intense feeling of nervousness.

cologne ('kɒləʊn) *n.* a perfumed liquid or solid made of fragrant essential oils and alcohol. Also called: **Cologne water**, **eau de cologne**.

colon¹ ('kəʊlən) *n., pl. -lons.* 1. the punctuation mark : , usually preceding an explanation or an example, a list, or an extended quotation. 2. this mark used for certain other purposes, such as when a ratio is given in figures, as in 5:3.

colon² ('kəʊlən) *n., pl. -lons or -la* (-lə). the part of the large intestine between the caecum and the rectum. — **colonic** ('kɒləɪnɪk) *adj.*

colonel ('kɒ:nəl) *n.* an officer of land or air forces junior to a brigadier but senior to a lieutenant colonel. — **colone'ncy** or **'colonel,ship** *n.*

colonial ('kɒləɪniəl) *adj.* 1. of, characteristic of, relating to, possessing, or inhabiting a colony or colonies. 2. (*often cap.*) characteristic of or relating to the 13 British colonies that became the United States of America (1776). 3. (*often cap.*) of or relating to the colonies of the British Empire. 4. denoting or having the style of Neoclassical architecture used in the British colonies in America in the 17th and 18th centuries. 5. (of animals and plants) having become established in a community in a new environment. ~ *n.* 6. a native of a colony. — **col'lonialism** *adv.*

colonialism ('kɒləɪniəlɪzəm) *n.* the policy and practice of a power in extending control over weaker peoples or areas. Also called: **imperialism**. — **col'lonialist** *n., adj.*

colonist ('kɒlənɪst) *n.* 1. a person who settles or colonizes an area. 2. an inhabitant of a colony.

colonize or **-ise** ('kɒlə,naɪz) *vb.* 1. to send colonists to or establish a colony in (an area). 2. to settle in (an area) as colonists. 3. (tr.) to transform (a community, etc.) into a colony. 4. (of plants and animals) to become established in (a new environment). — **coloni'zation** or **-i'sation** *n.* — **colo,nizer** or **-iser** *n.*

colonnade ('kɒlə'neɪd) *n.* 1. a set of evenly-spaced columns. 2. a row of regularly spaced trees. — **colon'nade** *adj.*

colony ('kɒləni) *n., pl. -nies.* 1. a body of people who settle in a country distant from their homeland but maintain ties with it. 2. the community formed by such settlers. 3. a subject territory occupied by a settlement from the ruling state. 4. a community of people who form a national, racial, or cultural minority concentrated in a particular place: *an artists' colony*. b. the area itself. 5. *Zool.* a group of the same type of animal or plant living or growing together. 6. *Bacteriol.* a group of bacteria, fungi, etc., derived from one or a few spores, esp. when grown on a culture medium.

colophon ('kɒlə,fən, -fən) *n.* 1. a publisher's emblem on a book. 2. (formerly) an inscription at the end of a book showing the title, printer, date, etc.

color ('kʌlə) *n.* the U.S. spelling of **colour**.

Colorado beetle ('kɒlə'rɑ:dəʊ) *n.* a black-and-yellow beetle that is a serious pest of potatoes, feeding on the leaves.

coloration or **colouration** ('kʌlə'reɪʃən) *n.* 1. arrangement of colour; colouring. 2. the colouring or markings of insects, birds, etc.

coloratura ('kɒlə'rɑ:tʊərə) *n. Music.* 1. (in 18th- and 19th-century arias) a florid virtuosic passage. 2. Also called: **coloratura soprano**. a soprano who specializes in such music.

colossal ('kɒləsəl) *adj.* 1. of immense size; huge; gigantic. 2. (in figure sculpture) approximately twice life-size. 3. *Archit.* of the order of columns that extend more than one storey in a facade. — **col'ossally** *adv.*

colossus ('kɒləsəs) *n., pl. -si* (-sai) or **-suses**. something very large, esp. a statue.

colostomy ('kɒləstəmɪ) *n., pl. -mies.* the surgical formation of an opening from the colon onto the surface of the body, which functions as an anus.

colostrum ('kɒləstrəm) *n.* the thin milky secretion from the nipples that precedes and follows true lactation.

colour or **U.S. color** ('kʌlə) *n.* 1. a. an attribute of things that results from the light they reflect or emit in so far as this causes a visual sensation that depends on its wavelengths. b. the aspect of visual perception by which an observer recognizes this attribute. c. the quality of the light producing this visual perception. 2. Also called: **chromatic colour**. a. a colour, such as red or green, that possesses hue, as opposed to achromatic colours such as white or black. b. (*as modifier*): *colour television*. 3. a substance, such as a dye or paint, that imparts colour. 4. a. the skin complexion of a person, esp. as determined by his race. b. (*as modifier*): *colour prejudice*. 5. the use of all the hues in painting as distinct from composition, form, and light and shade. 6. the quantity and quality of ink used in a printing process. 7. the distinctive tone of a musical sound. 8. vividness or authenticity: *period colour*. 9. semblance or pretext: *under colour of*. 10. **off colour**. a. not well; ill. b. in bad taste. ~ *vb.* 11. (tr.) to apply colour to (something). 12. (tr.) to give a convincing appearance to: *to colour an alibi*. 13. (tr.) to influence or distort: *anger coloured her judgment*. 14. (*intr.*; often foll. by *up*) to become red in the face, esp. when embarrassed or annoyed. ~ See also **colours**.

colourable ('kʌlərəbəl) *adj.* 1. capable of being coloured. 2. appearing to be true; plausible. 3. pretended; feigned.

colour bar *n.* discrimination against people of a different race, esp. as practised by Whites against Blacks.

colour-blind *adj.* of or relating to any defect in the normal ability to distinguish certain colours. — **colour blindness** *n.*

coloured ('kʌləd) *adj.* 1. possessing colour. 2. having a strong element of fiction or fantasy; distorted (esp. in **highly coloured**).

Coloured ('kʌləd) *n.* 1. an individual who is not a White, esp. a Negro. 2. Also called: **Cape Coloured**. (in South Africa) a person of racially mixed parentage or descent. ~ *adj.* 3. designating or relating to a Coloured or Coloureds.

colourful ('kʌləfʊl) *adj.* 1. having intense colour or richly varied colours. 2. vivid, rich, or distinctive in character. — **colourfully** *adv.*

colouring ('kʌlərɪŋ) *n.* 1. the process or art of applying colour. 2. anything used to give colour, such as paint. 3. appearance with regard to shade and colour. 4. arrangements of colours, as in the markings of birds. 5. the colour of a person's complexion. 6. a false or misleading appearance.

colourless ('kʌləlɪs) *adj.* 1. without colour. 2. lacking in interest: *a colourless individual*. 3. grey or pallid in tone or hue. 4. without prejudice; neutral. — **colourlessly** *adv.*

colours ('kʌləz) *pl. n.* 1. a. the flag that indicates nationality. b. *Mil.* the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the colours. 2. true nature or character (esp. in **show one's colours**). 3. a distinguishing badge or flag. 4. *Sport, Brit.* a badge or other symbol denoting membership of a team, esp. at a school or college. 5. **one's colours to the mast**. to refuse to admit defeat. 6. **with flying colours**. very successfully.

colour sergeant *n.* a sergeant who carries the regimental, battalion, or national colours.

colour supplement *n. Brit.* an illustrated magazine accompanying a newspaper.

colt (kəʊlt) *n.* 1. a male horse or pony under the age of four. 2. *Sport.* a. a young and inexperienced player. b. a member of a junior team.

coltish ('kəʊltɪʃ) *adj.* 1. inexperienced; unruly. 2. playful and lively. — **coltishness** *n.*

coltsfoot ('kəʊlts,fʊt) *n., pl. -foots.* a European plant with yellow daisy-like flowers and heart-shaped leaves: a common weed.

columbine ('kɒləm,bain) *n.* any plant of the genus *Aquilegia*, having flowers with five spurred petals. Also called: *aquilegia*.

Columbine ('kɒləm,bain) *n.* the sweetheart of Harlequin in English pantomime.

column ('kɒləm) *n.* 1. an upright pillar usually having a cylindrical shaft, a base, and a capital. 2. a. a form or structure in the shape of a column: a *column of air*. b. a monument. 3. a line, as of people in a queue. 4. *Mil.* a formation in which units follow one behind the other. 5. *Journalism.* a. a single row of type on a newspaper. b. a regular feature in a paper: the *fashion column*. 6. a vertical array of numbers. — **columnar** (kə'ləmnəri) *adj.* — **columned** *adj.*

columnist ('kɒləmist, -əmnist) *n.* a journalist who writes a regular feature in a newspaper.

COM (kɒm) *n.* direct conversion of computer output to microfiche or film.

Com. *abbrev. for:* 1. Commander. 2. Committee. 3. Commodore. 4. Communist.

com- or **con-** *prefix.* together; with; jointly: *commingle*.

coma ('kəʊmə) *n., pl. -mas.* a state of unconsciousness from which a person cannot be aroused, caused by injury, narcotics, poisons, etc.

comatose ('kəʊmə,təʊs) *adj.* 1. in a state of coma. 2. torpid; lethargic.

comb (kəʊm) *n.* 1. a toothed device for disentangling or arranging hair. 2. a tool or machine that cleans and straightens wool, cotton, etc. 3. *Austral. & N.Z.* the fixed cutter on a sheep-shearing machine. 4. anything resembling a comb in form or function. 5. the fleshy serrated outgrowth on the heads of certain birds, esp. the domestic fowl. 6. a honeycomb. 7. **go over with a fine-tooth comb**, to search or revise thoroughly. — *vb.* 8. to use a comb on. 9. (when *tr.*, often foll. by *through*) to search with great care: the *police combed the woods*.

combat *n.* ('kɒmbæt, -bæt, 'kʌm-). 1. a fight, conflict, or struggle. 2. a. an action fought between two military forces. b. (as *modifier*): a *combat jacket*. 3. **single combat**, a duel. — *vb.* (also kəm'bat) 4. (tr.) to fight. 5. (intr.; often foll. by *with* or *against*) to struggle or strive (against): *to combat against disease*.

combatant ('kɒmbæt'nt, 'kʌm-) *n.* 1. a person or group engaged in or prepared for a fight. — *adj.* 2. engaged in or ready for combat.

combe or **comb** (ku:m) *n.* variant spellings of **coomb**.

comber ('kəʊmə) *n.* 1. a person, tool, or machine that combs wool, flax, etc. 2. a long curling wave; roller.

combination (,kɒmbi'neɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of combining or state of being combined. 2. a union of separate parts, qualities, etc. 3. an alliance of people or parties. 4. the set of numbers that opens a combination lock. 5. *Brit.* a motorcycle with a sidcar attached. 6. *Maths.* an arrangement of the numbers, terms, etc., of a set into specified groups without regard to order in the group. 7. the chemical reaction of two or more compounds, usually to form one other compound. 8. a coordinated sequence of chess moves. — **combi'national** *adj.*

combination lock *n.* a type of lock that can only be opened when a set of dials is turned to show a specific sequence of numbers.

combinations (,kɒmbi'neɪʃənz) *pl. n.* *Brit.* a one-piece undergarment with long sleeves and legs. Often shortened to **combs** or **coms**.

combine *vb.* (kəm'bain). 1. to join together. 2. to unite or cause to unite to form a chemical compound. — *n.* ('kɒmbain). 3. Also called: **combine harvester**, a machine that simultaneously cuts, threshes, and clears a standing crop of grain. 4. an association of enterprises, esp. in order to gain a monopoly of a market. 5. *U.S. inf.* an association for the promotion of commercial or other interests, esp. by doubtful means. — **combinable** *adj.* — **combinability** *n.* — **combi'native** or **combi'natory** *adj.*

combings ('kəʊmɪnz) *pl. n.* 1. the loose hair removed by combing. 2. the unwanted fibres removed in combing cotton, etc.

combining form *n.* a linguistic element that occurs

only as part of a compound word, such as *anthropo-* in *anthropology* and *anthropomorph*.

combustible (kəm'bʌstəbəl) *adj.* 1. capable of igniting and burning. 2. easily annoyed; excitable. — *n.* 3. a combustible substance. — **com'bustibility** or **com'bustibleness** *n.*

combustion (kəm'bʌstʃən) *n.* 1. the process of burning. 2. any process in which a substance reacts to produce a significant rise in temperature and the emission of light. 3. a process in which a compound reacts slowly with oxygen to produce little heat and no light. — **com'bustive** *n., adj.*

come (kʌm) *vb.* **coming, came, come.** (mainly intr.) 1. to move towards a specified person or place. 2. to arrive by movement or by making progress. 3. to become perceptible: *light came into the sky*. 4. to occur: *Christmas comes but once a year*. 5. to happen as a result: *no good will come of this*. 6. to be derived: *good may come of evil*. 7. to occur to the mind: *the truth suddenly came to me*. 8. to reach: *she comes up to my shoulder*. 9. to be produced: *that dress comes in red*. 10. to arrive at or be brought into a particular state: *you will soon come to grief*. 11. (foll. by *from*) to be or have been a resident or native (of): *I come from London*. 12. to become: *your wishes will come true*. 13. (tr.; takes an infinitive) to be given awareness: *I came to realize its value*. 14. *Taboo sl.* to have an orgasm. 15. (tr.) *Brit. inf.* to play the part of: *don't come the fine gentleman with me*. 16. (tr.) *Brit. inf.* to cause or produce: *don't come that nonsense*. 17. (subjunctive use): *come next August, he will be fifty years old: when next August arrives*. 18. *as...as they come*, the most characteristic example of a type. 19. **come again?** *Inf.* what did you say? 20. **come clean.** *Inf.* to make a confession. 21. **come good.** *Austral. & N.Z. inf.* to recover after a setback; succeed. 22. **come to light.** to be revealed. 23. **come to light with.** *Austral. & N.Z. inf.* to find or produce. 24. **come to pass.** to take place. — *interj.* 25. an exclamation expressing annoyance, etc.: *come now!* — *See also come about, come across, etc.*

come about *vb. (intr., adv.)* 1. to take place; happen. 2. *Naut.* to change tacks.

come across *vb. (intr.)* 1. (*prep.*) to meet or find by accident. 2. (*adv.*) to communicate the intended meaning or impression. 3. (often foll. by *with*) to provide what is expected.

come at *vb. (intr., prep.)* 1. to discover (facts, the truth, etc.). 2. to attack: *he came at me with an axe*. 3. (usually used with a negative) *Austral. sl.* to agree to do (something).

comeback ('kʌm,bæk) *n.* 1. a return to a former position, status, etc. 2. a response, esp. recriminatory. 3. a quick retort. — *vb.* **come back.** (*intr., adv.*) 4. to return, esp. to the memory. 5. to become fashionable again.

come between *vb. (intr., prep.)* to cause the estrangement or separation of (two people).

come by *vb. (intr., prep.)* to find or obtain, esp. accidentally: *do you ever come by any old books?*

Comecon ('kɒm,kɒn) *n.* an association of Soviet-oriented Communist nations, founded in 1949 to coordinate economic development, etc.

comedian (kə'mi:diən) *n.* 1. an entertainer who specializes in jokes, comic skits, etc. 2. an actor in comedy.

comedown ('kʌm,daʊn) *n.* 1. a decline in status or prosperity. 2. *Inf.* a disappointment. — *vb.* **come down.** (*intr., adv.*) 3. to come to a place regarded as lower. 4. to lose status, etc. (esp. in **come down in the world**). 5. (of prices) to become lower. 6. to reach a decision: *the report came down in favour of a pay increase*. 7. (often foll. by *to*) to be handed down by tradition or inheritance. 8. *Brit.* to leave university. 9. (foll. by *with*) to succumb (to illness). 10. (foll. by *on*) to rebuke harshly. 11. (foll. by *to*) to amount in essence (to): *it comes down to two choices*.

comedy ('kɒmɪdi) *n., pl. -dies.* 1. a dramatic or other work of light and amusing character. 2. the genre of drama represented by works of this type. 3. (in classical literature) a play in which the main characters triumph over adversity. 4. the humorous aspect of life or of events. 5. an amusing event or sequence of events. 6. humour: *the comedy of Chaplin*. — **comedic** (kə'mi:dik) *adj.*

come forward *vb. (intr., adv.)* 1. to offer one's services; volunteer. 2. to present oneself.

come-hither *adj. (usually prenominal)* *Inf.* alluring; seductive: *a come-hither look*.

come in *vb. (intr., mainly adv.)* 1. to enter. 2. to

prove to be: *it came in useful*. **3.** to become fashionable or seasonable. **4.** *Cricket*. to begin an innings. **5.** to finish a race (in a certain position). **6.** to be received: *news is coming in of a big fire in Glasgow*. **7.** (of money) to be received as income. **8.** to play a role: *where do I come in?* **9.** (foll. by *for*) to be the object of: *the Chancellor came in for a lot of criticism*.

come into *vb.* (*intr., prep.*) **1.** to enter. **2.** to inherit. **3.** *come into one's own*. to become fulfilled.

comely ('kəmlɪ) *adj.* **-lier, -liest**. **1.** good-looking; attractive. **2.** *Arch.* suitable; fitting. — **'comeliness** *n.*

come of *vb.* (*intr., prep.*) **1.** to be descended from. **2.** to result from: *nothing came of it*.

come off *vb.* (*intr., mainly adv.*) **1.** (*also prep.*) to fall (from). **2.** to become detached. **3.** (*prep.*) to be removed from (a price, tax, etc.): *will anything come off income tax in the budget?* **4.** (*copula*) to emerge from or as if from a contest: *he came off the winner*. **5.** *Inf.* to happen. **6.** *Inf.* to have the intended effect: *his jokes did not come off*. **7.** *Taboo sl.* to have an orgasm.

come-on *n.* *Inf.* **1.** anything that serves as a lure. ~*vb.* **come on** (*intr., mainly adv.*) **2.** (of power, water, etc.) to start running or functioning. **3.** to progress: *my plants are coming on nicely*. **4.** to advance, esp. in battle. **5.** to begin: *a new bowler has come on*. **6.** to make an entrance on stage. **7.** **come on strong**. to make a forceful or exaggerated impression.

come out *vb.* (*intr., adv.*) **1.** to be made public or revealed: *the news of her death came out last week*. **2.** to make a debut in society. **3.** to declare openly that one is a homosexual. **4.** *Chiefly Brit.* to go on strike. **5.** to declare oneself: *the government came out in favour of scrapping the project*. **6.** to be shown clearly: *you came out very well in the photos*. **7.** to yield a satisfactory solution: *these sums just won't come out*. **8.** to be published: *the paper comes out on Fridays*. **9.** (foll. by *in*) to become covered with. **10.** (foll. by *with*) to declare openly: *you can rely on him to come out with the facts*.

come over *vb.* (*intr.*) **1.** (*adv.*) to communicate the intended meaning or impression: *he came over very well*. **2.** (*adv.*) to change allegiances. **3.** *Inf.* to feel a particular sensation: *I came over funny*.

come round *vb.* (*intr., adv.*) **1.** to be restored to consciousness. **2.** to modify one's opinion.

comestible (kə'mestəbəl) *n.* (*usually pl.*) food.

comet ('kɒmɪt) *n.* a celestial body that travels around the sun, usually in a highly elliptical orbit: thought to consist of a frozen nucleus, part of which vaporizes on approaching the sun to form a long luminous tail. — **'cometary** or **cometic** (kə'metɪk) *adj.*

come through *vb.* (*intr.*) **1.** (*adv.*) to emerge successfully. **2.** (*prep.*) to survive (an illness, etc.).

come to *vb.* (*intr.*) **1.** (when *prep.*, used reflexively) to regain consciousness. **2.** (*adv.*) *Naut.* to slow a vessel or bring her to a stop. **3.** (*prep.*) to amount to (a sum of money). **4.** (*prep.*) to arrive at: *what is the world coming to?*

come up *vb.* (*intr., adv.*) **1.** to come to a place regarded as higher. **2.** (of the sun) to rise. **3.** to present itself: *that question will come up again*. **4.** *Brit.* to begin a term at a university. **5.** to appear from out of the ground: *my beans have come up early*. **6.** *Inf.* to win: *have your premium bonds ever come up?* **7.** **come up against**. to come into conflict with. **8.** **come up to**. to meet a standard. **9.** **come up with**. to produce.

come upon *vb.* (*intr., prep.*) to meet or encounter unexpectedly.

comeuppance (,kəm'ʌpəns) *n.* *Sl.* just retribution.

comfit ('kʌmfɪt, 'kɒm-) *n.* a sugar-coated sweet containing a nut or seed.

comfort ('kʌmfət) *n.* **1.** a state of ease or well-being. **2.** relief from affliction, grief, etc. **3.** a person, thing, or event that brings solace or ease. **4.** (*usually pl.*) something that affords physical ease and relaxation. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) **5.** to soothe; cheer. **6.** to bring physical ease to. — **'comforting** *adj.* — **'comfortless** *adj.*

comfortable ('kʌmfətəbəl) *adj.* **1.** giving comfort. **2.** at ease. **3.** free from affliction or pain. **4.** (of a person or situation) relaxing. **5.** *Inf.* having adequate income. **6.** *Inf.* (of income, etc.) adequate to provide comfort. — **'comfortably** *adv.*

comforter ('kʌmfətə) *n.* **1.** a person or thing that comforts. **2.** *Chiefly Brit.* a woollen scarf. **3.** a baby's dummy.

Comforter ('kʌmfətə) *n.* *Christianity*. an epithet of the Holy Spirit.

comfrey ('kʌmfri) *n.* a hairy Eurasian plant having blue, purplish-pink, or white flowers.

comfy ('kʌmfɪ) *adj.* **-lier, -liest**. *Inf.* short for **comfortable**.

comic ('kɒmɪk) *adj.* **1.** of, characterized by, or characteristic of comedy. **2.** (*prenominal*) acting in or composing comedy: *a comic writer*. **3.** humorous; funny. ~*n.* **4.** a person who is comic; comedian. **5.** a book or magazine containing comic strips.

comical ('kɒmɪkəl) *adj.* **1.** causing laughter. **2.** ludicrous; laughable. — **'comically** *adv.*

comic opera *n.* a play largely set to music, employing comic effects or situations.

comic strip *n.* a sequence of drawings in a newspaper, magazine, etc., relating a comic or adventurous situation.

coming ('kʌmɪŋ) *adj.* **1.** (*prenominal*) (of time, events, etc.) approaching or next. **2.** promising (esp. in **up and coming**). **3.** **have it coming to one**. *Inf.* to deserve what one is about to suffer. ~*n.* **4.** arrival or approach.

comity ('kɒmɪti) *n.*, *pl.* **-ties**. mutual civility; courtesy.

comm. *abbrev. for:* **1.** commerce. **2.** commercial. **3.** committee. **4.** commonwealth.

comma ('kɒmə) *n.* **1.** the punctuation mark, indicating a slight pause and used where there is a listing of items or to separate a nonrestrictive clause from a main clause. **2.** *Music.* a minute interval.

command (kə'mə:nd) *vb.* **1.** (when *tr.*, may take a clause as object or an infinitive) to order or compel. **2.** to have or be in control or authority over. **3.** (*tr.*) to receive as due: *his nature commands respect*. **4.** to dominate (a view, etc.) as from a height. ~*n.* **5.** an order. **6.** the act of commanding. **7.** the right to command. **8.** the exercise of the power to command. **9.** knowledge; control: *a command of French*. **10.** *Chiefly mil.* the jurisdiction of a commander. **11.** a military unit or units commanding a specific function, as in the R.A.F. **12.** *Brit. a.* an invitation from the monarch. **b.** (*as modifier*): *a command performance*. **13.** *Computers.* another name for **instruction** (sense 3).

commandant ('kɒmən,dənt,-dɒnt) *n.* an officer commanding a group or establishment.

commandeer (,kɒmən'diə) *vb.* (*tr.*) **1.** to seize for public or military use. **2.** to seize arbitrarily.

commander (kə'mə:ndə) *n.* **1.** an officer in command of a military formation or operation. **2.** a naval commissioned rank junior to captain but senior to lieutenant commander. **3.** the second in command of larger British warships. **4.** someone who holds authority. **5.** a high-ranking member of some knightly orders. **6.** an officer responsible for a district of the Metropolitan Police in London. — **'com-mander, ship** *n.*

commander in chief *n.*, *pl.* **commanders in chief**. the officer holding supreme command of the forces in an area or operation.

commanding (kə'mə:ndɪŋ) *adj.* (*usually prenominal*) **1.** being in command. **2.** having the air of authority: *a commanding voice*. **3.** (of a situation) exerting control. **4.** (of a viewpoint, etc.) overlooking; advantageous. — **'com-mandingly** *adv.*

commandment (kə'mə:ndmənt) *n.* **1.** a divine command, esp. one of the Ten Commandments of the Old Testament. **2.** *Literary.* any command.

command module *n.* the module used as the living quarters in an Apollo spacecraft and functioning as the splashdown vehicle.

commando (kə'mə:ndəu) *n.*, *pl.* **-dos** or **-does**. **1. a.** an amphibious military unit trained for raiding. **b.** a member of such a unit. **2.** the basic unit of the Royal Marine Corps. **3.** (originally) an armed force raised by Boers during the Boer War. **4.** (*modifier*) denoting or relating to commandos: *a commando unit*.

command paper *n.* (in Britain) a government document that is presented to Parliament, in theory by royal command.

commedia dell'arte (*Italian* kɒm'medja del'larte) *n.* a form of popular improvised comedy in Italy during the 16th to 18th centuries, with stock characters such as Punchinello, Harlequin, and Columbine.

commemorate (kə'memə'reɪt) *vb.* (*tr.*) to honour or keep alive the memory of. — **'com-memo'ration** *n.* — **'com-memorative** *adj.* — **'com-memo,rator** *n.*

commence (kə'mens) *vb.* to begin; come or cause to come into being, operation, etc.

commencement (kə'mensmənt) *n.* **1.** the beginning; start. **2.** *U.S.* a ceremony for the conferment of academic degrees.

commend (kə'mend) *vb.* 1. to represent as being worthy of regard, confidence, etc.; recommend. 2. to give in charge; entrust. 3. to praise. 4. to give the regards of: *commend me to your aunt.* —**com'mendable** *adj.* —**com'mendably** *adv.* —**com'mendation** *n.* —**com'mendatory** *adj.*

commensurable (kə'mensərəbəl, -fə) *adj.* 1. *Maths.* a. having a common factor. b. having units of the same dimensions and being related by whole numbers. 2. proportionate. —**com'mensurability** *n.* —**com'mensurably** *adv.*

commensurate (kə'mensərɪt, -fə) *adj.* 1. having the same extent or duration. 2. corresponding in degree, amount, or size; proportionate. 3. commensurable. —**com'mensurately** *adv.*

comment ('koment) *n.* 1. a remark, criticism, or observation. 2. talk or gossip. 3. a note explaining or criticizing a passage in a text. 4. explanatory or critical matter added to a text. —*vb.* 5. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *on*; when *tr.*, takes a clause as object) to remark or express an opinion. 6. (*intr.*) to write notes explaining or criticizing a text. —**commenter** *n.*

commentary ('komentəri) *n.*, *pl.* -*tries*. 1. an explanatory series of notes. 2. a spoken accompaniment to a broadcast, film, etc. 3. an explanatory treatise on a text. 4. (usually *pl.*) a personal record of events: *the commentaries of Caesar.*

commentate ('koment,teɪt) *vb.* 1. to serve as a commentator. 2. (*tr.*) to make a commentary on.

▶ **Usage.** The verb *commentate*, derived from *commentator*, is sometimes used as a synonym for *comment on* or *provide a commentary for*. It is not yet fully accepted as standard, though widespread in sports reporting and journalism.

commentator ('koment,teɪtə) *n.* 1. a person who provides a spoken commentary for a broadcast, film, etc., esp. of a sporting event. 2. a person who writes notes on a text, etc.

commerce ('kɒmɜ:s) *n.* 1. the activity embracing all forms of the purchase and sale of goods and services. 2. social relations. 3. *Arch.* sexual intercourse.

commercial (kə'mɜ:ʃəl) *adj.* 1. of or engaged in commerce. 2. sponsored or paid for by an advertiser: *commercial television*. 3. having profit as the main aim: *commercial music*. 4. (of chemicals, etc.) unrefined and produced in bulk for use in industry. ~*n.* 5. a commercially sponsored advertisement on radio or television. —**commerciality** (kə'mɜ:ʃɪ'ælɪtɪ) *n.* —**com'mercially** *adv.*

commercialism (kə'mɜ:ʃəlɪzəm) *n.* 1. the spirit, principles, or procedure of commerce. 2. exclusive or inappropriate emphasis on profit.

commercialize or **-lize** (kə'mɜ:ʃəlɪz) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to make commercial. 2. to exploit for profit, esp. at the expense of quality. —**com'merciali'zation** or **-li'sation** *n.*

commercial traveller *n.* another name for a travelling salesman.

commie or **commy** ('kɒmi) *n.*, *pl.* -*mies*, *adj.* *Inf. & derog.* short for *communist*.

commination (,kɒmɪ'neɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of threatening punishment or vengeance. 2. *Church of England.* a recital of prayers, including a list of God's judgments against sinners, in the office for Ash Wednesday. —**commi'natory** ('kɒmɪnətəri) *adj.*

commingle (kə'mɪŋɡl) *vb.* to mix or be mixed.

commis ('kɒmɪs, 'kɒmi) *n.*, *pl.* -*mis*. 1. an agent or deputy. 2. an apprentice waiter or chef.

commiserate (kə'mɪzə'reɪt) *vb.* (when *intr.*, usually foll. by *with*) to feel or express sympathy or compassion (for). —**com'miser'ation** *n.* —**com'miser'ator** *n.*

commissar ('kɒmɪsə, 'kɒmɪ'sə) *n.* (in the Soviet Union) 1. an official of the Communist Party responsible for political education. 2. (before 1946) the head of a government department.

commissariat (,kɒmɪ'seəriət) *n.* 1. (in the Soviet Union) a government department before 1946. 2. a military department in charge of food supplies, etc.

commissary ('kɒmɪsəri) *n.*, *pl.* -*saries*. 1. *U.S.* a shop supplying food or equipment, as in a military camp. 2. *U.S. army.* an officer responsible for supplies. 3. *U.S.* a restaurant in a film studio. 4. a representative or deputy, esp. of a bishop. —**commissarial** (,kɒmɪ'seəriəl) *adj.*

commission (kə'mɪʃən) *n.* 1. a duty committed to a person or group to perform. 2. authority to perform certain duties. 3. a document granting such authority.

4. *Mil.* a. a document conferring a rank on an officer. b. the rank granted. 5. a group charged with certain duties: *a commission of inquiry*. 6. a government board empowered to exercise administrative, judicial, or legislative authority. 7. a. the authority given to a person or organization to act as an agent to a principal in commercial transactions. b. the fee allotted to an agent for services rendered. 8. the state of being charged with specific responsibilities. 9. the act of committing a sin, crime, etc. 10. good working condition or (esp. of a ship) active service (esp. in *commission*, out of *commission*). ~*vb.* (*mainly tr.*) 11. to grant authority to. 12. *Mil.* to confer a rank. 13. to equip and test (a ship) for active service. 14. to place an order for (something); *to commission a portrait*. 15. to make or become operative or operable: *the plant is due to commission next year.*

commissionaire (kə,mɪʃə'neə) *n.* *Chiefly Brit.* a uniformed doorman at a hotel, theatre, etc.

commissioned officer *n.* a military officer holding a commission, such as Second Lieutenant in the British Army, Acting Sub-Lieutenant in the Royal Navy, Pilot Officer in the Royal Air Force, and officers of all ranks senior to these.

commissioner (kə'mɪʃənə) *n.* 1. a person endowed with certain powers. 2. any of several types of civil servant. 3. a member of a commission. —**com'missioner, ship** *n.*

commit (kə'mɪt) *vb.* -*mitting*, -*mitted*. (*tr.*) 1. to hand over, as for safekeeping; entrust. 2. **commit to memory.** to memorize. 3. to take into custody: *to commit someone to prison*. 4. (*usually passive*) to pledge or align (oneself), as to a particular cause: *a committed radical*. 5. to order (forces) into action. 6. to perform (a crime, error, etc.). 7. to surrender, esp. for destruction: *she committed the letter to the fire*. 8. to refer (a bill, etc.) to a committee. —**com'mittable** *adj.* —**com'mitter** *n.*

commitment (kə'mɪtmənt) *n.* 1. the act of committing or pledging. 2. the state of being committed or pledged. 3. an obligation, promise, etc. that restricts freedom of action. 4. Also called (esp. formerly): **mittimus**. *Law.* a written order of a court directing that a person be imprisoned. 5. a future financial obligation or contingent liability. ~*Also called* (esp. for sense 4): **committal** (kə'mɪtɪl).

committee *n.* 1. (kə'mɪti), a group of people appointed to perform a specified service or function. 2. (,kɒmɪ'ti:), (formerly) a person to whom the care of a mentally incompetent person or his property was entrusted by a court.

commode (kə'mɒd) *n.* 1. a piece of furniture, usually highly ornamented, containing drawers or shelves. 2. a bedside table with a cabinet for a chamber pot or washbasin. 3. a chair with a hinged flap concealing a chamber pot.

commodious (kə'mɒdiəs) *adj.* 1. roomy; spacious. 2. *Arch.* convenient. —**com'modiousness** *n.*

commodity (kə'mɒdɪti) *n.*, *pl.* -*ties*. 1. an article of commerce. 2. something of use or profit. 3. *Econ.* an exchangeable unit of economic wealth, such as a primary product.

commodore ('kɒmə,dɔ:) *n.* 1. *Brit.* a naval rank junior to rear admiral and senior to captain. 2. the captain of a shipping line. 3. the officer in command of a merchant convoy. 4. the titular head of a yacht club.

common ('kɒmən) *adj.* 1. belonging to two or more people; *common property*. 2. belonging to members of one or more communities; public: *a common culture*. 3. of ordinary standard; average. 4. prevailing; widespread: *common opinion*. 5. frequently encountered; ordinary: *a common brand of soap*. 6. notorious: *a common nuisance*. 7. *Derog.* considered by the speaker to be low-class, vulgar, or coarse. 8. (*prenominal*) having no special distinction: *the common man*. 9. *Maths.* having a specified relationship with a group of numbers or quantities: *common denominator*. 10. *Prosody*. (of a syllable) able to be long or short. 11. *Grammar*. (in certain languages) denoting or belonging to a gender of nouns that includes both masculine and feminine referents. 12. **common or garden.** *Inf.* ordinary. ~*n.* 13. a tract of open public land. 14. *Law.* the right to go onto someone else's property and remove natural products, as by pasturing cattle (esp. in **right of common**). 15. *Christianity.* a. a form of the proper of the Mass used on festivals that have no special proper of their own. b. the ordinary of the Mass. 16. **in common.** mutually held or used. —**commonly** *adv.* —**commonness** *n.*

commonality (,kɒmə'nælɪti) *n.*, *pl.* -*ties*. 1. the fact of

being common. 2. another word for **commonalty** (sense 1).

commonalty ('kɒmənəlti) *n.*, *pl.* **-ties**. 1. the ordinary people as distinct from those with rank or title. 2. the members of an incorporated society.

commoner ('kɒməɪnə) *n.* 1. a person who does not belong to the nobility. 2. a person who has a right in or over common land. 3. *Brit.* a student at a university who is not on a scholarship.

common fraction *n.* another name for **simple fraction**.

common law *n.* the body of law based on judicial decisions and custom, as distinct from statute law.

common-law marriage *n.* a state of marriage deemed to exist between a man and a woman after a number of years of cohabitation.

Common Market *n.* the European economic association, originally composed (1958) of Belgium, France, West Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands, joined in 1973 by the United Kingdom, the Irish Republic, and Denmark, and in 1981 by Greece. Officially called: **European Economic Community**.

commonplace ('kɒmən,pleɪs) *adj.* 1. ordinary; everyday. 2. dull; trite: **commonplace prose**. ~*n.* 3. a platitude; truism. 4. a passage in a book marked for inclusion in a commonplace book, etc. 5. an ordinary thing. — **common,placeness** *n.*

common room *n.* Chiefly *Brit.* a sitting room in schools, colleges, etc.

commons ('kɒmənz) *n.* 1. (functioning as *pl.*) the lower classes as contrasted with the ruling or noble classes of society. 2. (functioning as *sing.*) *Brit.* a hall for dining, recreation, etc., usually attached to a college, etc. 3. (usually functioning as *pl.*) *Brit.* food or rations (esp. in **short commons**).

Commons ('kɒmənz) *n.* the. See **House of Commons**.

common sense *n.* 1. sound practical sense. ~*adj.* **common-sense**; also **common-sensical**. 2. inspired by or displaying this.

common time *n.* *Music.* a time signature indicating four crotchets beats to the bar; four-four time. Symbol: **C**

commonwealth ('kɒmən,welθ) *n.* 1. the people of a state or nation viewed politically; body politic. 2. a state in which the people possess sovereignty; republic. 3. a group of persons united by some common interest.

Commonwealth ('kɒmən,welθ) *n.* the. 1. Official name: **the Commonwealth of Nations**, an association of sovereign states that are or at some time have been ruled by Britain. 2. the republic that existed in Britain from 1649 to 1660. 3. the official designation of Australia, four states of the U.S., and Puerto Rico.

commotion (kə'məʊʃən) *n.* 1. violent disturbance; upheaval. 2. political insurrection. 3. a confused noise; din.

communal ('kɒmjənəl) *adj.* 1. belonging to a community as a whole. 2. of a commune or a religious community. — **communality** ('kɒmjənəli) *n.* — **communally** *adv.*

commune¹ *vb.* (kə'mju:n) (*intr.*; usually foll. by *with*) 1. to talk intimately. 2. to experience strong emotion (for): *to commune with nature*. ~*n.* ('kɒmj:n). 3. intimate conversation; communion.

commune² ('kɒmj:n) *n.* 1. a group of families or individuals living together and sharing possessions and responsibilities. 2. any small group of people having common interests or responsibilities. 3. the smallest administrative unit in Belgium, France, Italy, and Switzerland. 4. a medieval town enjoying a large degree of autonomy.

Commune ('kɒmj:n) *n.* *French history.* a committee that governed Paris during the French Revolution: suppressed 1794.

communicable (kə'mju:nɪkəbəl) *adj.* 1. capable of being communicated. 2. (of a disease) capable of being passed on readily. — **com,munica'bility** *n.* — **com'municably** *adv.*

communicant (kə'mju:nɪkənt) *n.* 1. *Christianity.* a person who receives Communion. 2. a person who communicates or informs.

communicate (kə'mju:nɪ,keɪt) *vb.* 1. to impart (knowledge) or exchange (thoughts) by speech, writing, gestures, etc. 2. (*tr.*; usually foll. by *to*) to transmit (to): *the dog communicated his fear to the other animals*. 3. (*intr.*) to have a sympathetic mutual understanding. 4. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *with*) to make or have a connecting passage: *the kitchen communicates with the dining room*. 5. (*tr.*) to transmit (a disease). 6. *Christianity.* to

receive Communion. — **com'muni,cator** *n.* — **com'municatory** *adj.*

communication (kə,mju:nɪ'keɪʃən) *n.* 1. the imparting or exchange of information, ideas, or feelings. 2. something communicated, such as a message. 3. (usually *pl.*; sometimes functioning as *sing.*) the study of ways in which human beings communicate. 4. a connecting route or link. 5. (*pl.*) *Mil.* the system by which forces, supplies, etc., are moved within an area of operations.

communication cord *n.* *Brit.* a cord or chain in a train which may be pulled by a passenger to stop the train in an emergency.

communism (kə'mju:nɪzəm) *n.* 1. an exchange of thoughts, emotions, etc. 2. sharing in common; participation. 3. (foll. by *with*) strong feelings (for): **communism with nature**. 4. a religious group or denomination having common beliefs and practices. 5. spiritual union.

Communism (kə'mju:nɪzəm) *n.* *Christianity.* 1. the act of participating in the Eucharist. 2. the celebration of the Eucharist. 3. the consecrated elements of the Eucharist. ~Also called: **Holy Communion**.

communiqué (kə'mju:nɪ,keɪ) *n.* an official communication or announcement, esp. to the press or public.

communism ('kɒmjʊ,nɪzəm) *n.* 1. advocacy of a classless society in which private ownership has been abolished and the means of production belong to the community. 2. any movement or doctrine aimed at achieving such a society. 3. (usually *cap.*) a political movement based upon the writings of Marx that considers history in terms of class conflict and revolutionary struggle. 4. (usually *cap.*) a system of government established by a ruling Communist Party, esp. in the Soviet Union. 5. communal living.

communist ('kɒmjʊnɪst) *n.* 1. a supporter of communism. 2. (often *cap.*) a supporter of a Communist movement or state. 3. (often *cap.*) a member of a Communist party. 4. (often *cap.*) Chiefly *U.S.* any person holding left-wing views, esp. when considered subversive. 5. a person who practises communal living. ~*adj.* 6. of, favouring, or relating to communism. — **commu'nistic** *adj.*

community (kə'mju:nɪti) *n.*, *pl.* **-ties**. 1. a. the people living in one locality. b. the locality in which they live. c. (as modifier): **community spirit**. 2. a group of people having cultural, religious, or other characteristics in common: *the Protestant community*. 3. a group of nations having certain interests in common. 4. the public; society. 5. common ownership. 6. similarity or agreement: **community of interests**. 7. (in Wales and Scotland) the smallest unit of local government. 8. *Ecology.* a group of interdependent plants and animals inhabiting the same region.

community centre *n.* a building used by a community for social gatherings, etc.

commutation ('kɒmjʊ'teɪʃən) *n.* 1. a substitution or exchange. 2. the replacement of one method of payment by another. 3. the reduction in severity of a penalty imposed by law. 4. the process of commuting an electric current.

commutative (kə'mju:tətɪv, 'kɒmjʊ,tetɪv) *adj.* relating to or involving substitution.

commutator ('kɒmjʊ,tetə) *n.* 1. a device used to reverse the direction of flow of an electric current. 2. the segmented metal cylinder or disc of an electric motor, generator, etc., used to make electrical contact with the rotating coils.

commute (kə'mju:t) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to travel some distance regularly between one's home and one's place of work. 2. (*tr.*) to substitute. 3. (*tr.*) *Law.* to reduce (a sentence) to one less severe. 4. to pay (an annuity, etc.) at one time, instead of in instalments. 5. to change: *to commute base metal into gold*. — **com'mutable** *adj.* — **com,muta'bility** *n.*

commuter (kə'mju:tə) *n.* a person who travels to work over an appreciable distance, usually from the suburbs to the centre of a city.

comp (kɒmp) *Inf.* ~*n.* 1. a compositor. 2. an accompaniment. 3. a competition. ~*vb.* 4. (*intr.*) to work as a compositor in the printing industry. 5. to play an accompaniment (to).

comp. *abbrev. for:* 1. companion. 2. comparative. 3. compare. 4. compiled. 5. composer. 6. composition. 7. compositor. 8. compound. 9. comprehensive. 10. comprising.

compact *adj.* (kəm'pækt). 1. closely packed together. 2. neatly fitted into a restricted space. 3. concise; brief. 4. well constructed; solid; firm. 5. (foll. by *of*) composed (of). ~*vb.* (kəm'pækt). (*tr.*) 6. to pack closely together.

er; compress. 7. (foll. by *of*) to form by pressing together: *sediment compacted of three types of clay*. 8. *Metallurgy*, to compress (a metal powder) to form a stable product suitable for sintering. ~*n.* ('kɒmpækt). 9. a small flat case containing a mirror, face powder, etc., designed to be carried in a woman's handbag. 10. *U.S.* a small and economical car. —*com'pactly* adv. —*com'pactness* *n.*

compact' ('kɒmpækt) *n.* an official contract or agreement.

compact disc ('kɒmpækt) *n.* 1. a small PVC-covered metal audio disc read by an optical laser system. 2. a similar disc carrying material for display on a VDU or television screen.

companion' (kəm'pænjən) *n.* 1. a person who is an associate of another or others; comrade. 2. (esp. formerly) an employee, usually a woman, who provides company for an employer. 3. *a.* one of a pair. *b.* (as modifier): *a companion volume*. 4. a guidebook or handbook. 5. a member of the lowest rank of certain orders of knighthood. 6. *Astron.* the fainter of the two components of a double star. ~*vb.* 7. (tr.) to accompany. —*com'panion,ship* *n.*

companion' (kəm'pænjən) *n.* *Naut.* a raised frame on an upper deck with windows to give light to the deck below.

companionable (kəm'pænjənəb'l) *adj.* sociable. —*com'panionableness* *n.* —*com'panionably* adv.

companionway (kəm'pænjən,wei) *n.* a ladder from one deck to another in a ship.

company ('kæmpəni) *n., pl. -nies*. 1. a number of people gathered together; assembly. 2. the fact of being with someone; companionship: *I enjoy her company*. 3. a guest or guests. 4. a business enterprise. 5. the members of an enterprise not specifically mentioned in the enterprise's title. Abbrev.: *Co., co.* 6. a group of actors. 7. a small unit of troops. 8. the officers and crew of a ship. 9. a unit of Girl Guides. 10. *English history*, a medieval guild. 11. *keep company*, *a.* to accompany (someone). *b.* (esp. of lovers) to spend time together. ~*vb.* -*nying*, -*nied*. 12. *Arch.* to associate (with someone).

company sergeant-major *n.* *Mil.* the senior non-commissioned officer in a company.

comparable ('kɒmpərəb'l) *adj.* 1. worthy of comparison. 2. able to be compared (with). —*compara'bility* or *'comparableness* *n.*

comparative (kəm'pærətɪv) *adj.* 1. denoting or involving comparison: *comparative literature*. 2. relative: *a comparative loss of prestige*. 3. *Grammar*, denoting the form of an adjective that indicates that the quality denoted is possessed to a greater extent. In English the comparative is marked by the suffix *-er* or the word *more*. ~*n.* 4. the comparative form of an adjective. —*com'paratively* adv. —*com'parativeness* *n.*

compare (kəm'pɛə) *vb.* 1. (tr.; foll. by *to*) to regard as similar; liken: *the general has been compared to Napoleon*. 2. (tr.) to examine in order to observe resemblances or differences: *to compare rum and gin*. 3. (intr.; usually foll. by *with*) to be the same or similar: *gin compares with rum in alcoholic content*. 4. (intr.) to bear a specified relation when examined: *this car compares badly with the other*. 5. (tr.) *Grammar*, to give the positive, comparative, and superlative forms of (an adjective). 6. *compare notes*, to exchange opinions. ~*n.* 7. comparison (esp. in *beyond compare*).

comparison (kəm'pærɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of comparing. 2. the state of being compared. 3. likeness: *there was no comparison between them*. 4. a rhetorical device involving comparison, such as a simile. 5. Also called: *degrees of comparison*. *Grammar*, the listing of the positive, comparative, and superlative forms of an adjective or adverb. 6. *bear or stand comparison (with)*, to be sufficiently similar to be compared with (something else), esp. favourably.

compartment (kəm'pɑ:t'mənt) *n.* 1. one of the sections into which an area, esp. an enclosed space, is partitioned. 2. any separate section: *a compartment of the mind*. 3. a small storage space. —*compartmental* (,kɒmpɑ:t'mentl) *adj.* —*compart'mentally* adv.

compartmentalize or -lize (,kɒmpɑ:t'mentl,laɪz) *vb.* (usually tr.) to put into categories, etc., esp. to an excessive degree. —*compart,mentali'zation* or *-li'sa-tion* *n.*

compass ('kæmpəs) *n.* 1. Also called: *magnetic compass*, an instrument for finding direction, having a magnetized needle which points to magnetic north. 2. (often pl.) Also called: *pair of compasses*, an instrument used

for drawing circles, measuring distances, etc., that consists of two arms, joined at one end. 3. limits or range: *within the compass of education*. 4. *Music*, the interval between the lowest and highest note attainable. ~*vb.* (tr.) 5. to surround; hem in. 6. to grasp mentally. 7. to achieve; accomplish. 8. *Obs.* to plot. —*'compassable* *adj.*

compassion (kəm'pæʃən) *n.* a feeling of distress and pity for the suffering or misfortune of another.

compassionate (kəm'pæʃənət) *adj.* 1. showing or having compassion. 2. *compassionate leave*, leave granted on the grounds of bereavement, family illness, etc. —*com'passionately* adv.

compatible (kəm'pætəb'l) *adj.* 1. (usually foll. by *with*) able to exist together harmoniously. 2. (usually foll. by *with*) consistent: *her deeds were not compatible with her ideology*. 3. (of pieces of machinery, etc.) capable of being used together without modification or adaptation. —*com'pati'bility* *n.* —*com'patibly* adv.

compatriot (kəm'pætriət) *n.* a fellow countryman. —*com'patri'otic* *adj.*

compeer ('kɒmpɪə) *n.* 1. a person of equal rank, status, or ability. 2. a comrade.

compel (kəm'pel) *vb.* -*elling*, -*elled*. (tr.) 1. to cause (someone) by force (to be or do something). 2. to obtain by force; exact: *to compel obedience*. —*com'pel-able* *adj.* —*com'peller* *n.*

compendious (kəm'pendɪəs) *adj.* stating the essentials of a subject in a concise form. —*com'pendiously* adv. —*com'pendiousness* *n.*

compendium (kəm'pendɪəm) *n., pl. -diums or -dia* (-diə). 1. *Brit.* a book containing a collection of useful hints. 2. *Brit.* a selection, esp. of different games in one container. 3. a summary.

compensate ('kɒmpən,seɪt) *vb.* 1. to make amends to (someone), esp. for loss or injury. 2. (tr.) to serve as compensation or damages for (injury, loss, etc.). 3. to counterbalance the effects of (a force, weight, etc.) so as to produce equilibrium. 4. (intr.) to attempt to conceal one's shortcomings by the exaggerated exhibition of qualities regarded as desirable. —*compensative* ('kɒmpən,seɪtɪv, kəm'pensə) or *compensatory* ('kɒmpən,seɪtəri, kəm'pensətəri) *adj.* —*'compensator* *n.*

compensation (,kɒmpən'seɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of making amends for something. 2. something given as reparation for loss, injury, etc. 3. the attempt to conceal one's shortcomings by the exaggerated exhibition of qualities regarded as desirable. —*com'pensational* *adj.*

compere ('kɒmpɛə) *Brit. ~n.* 1. a master of ceremonies who introduces cabaret, television acts, etc. ~*vb.* 2. to act as a compere (for).

compete (kəm'pi:t) *vb.* (intr.; often foll. by *with*) to contend (against) for profit, an award, etc.

competence ('kɒmpɪtəns) or **competency** *n.* 1. the condition of being capable; ability. 2. a sufficient income to live on. 3. the state of being legally competent or qualified.

competent ('kɒmpɪtənt) *adj.* 1. having sufficient skill, knowledge, etc.; capable. 2. suitable or sufficient for the purpose: *a competent answer*. 3. *Law.* (of a witness, etc.) qualified to testify, etc. —*'competently* adv. —*'competentness* *n.*

competition (,kɒmpɪ'tɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of competing. 2. a contest in which a winner is selected from among two or more entrants. 3. a series of games, sports events, etc. 4. the opposition offered by competitors. 5. competitors offering opposition.

competitive (kəm'petɪtɪv) *adj.* 1. involving rivalry: *competitive sports*. 2. sufficiently low in price or high in quality to be successful against commercial rivals. 3. characterized by an urge to compete: *a competitive personality*. —*com'petitiveness* *n.*

competitor (kəm'petɪtə) *n.* a person, group, team, firm, etc., that vies or competes; rival.

compile (kəm'pail) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to make or compose from other sources: *to compile a list of names*. 2. to collect for a book, hobby, etc. 3. *Computers*, to create (a set of machine instructions) from a high-level programming language, using a compiler. —*compilation* (,kɒmpɪ'leɪʃən) *n.*

compiler (kəm'pailə) *n.* 1. a person who compiles something. 2. a computer program by which a high-level programming language is converted into machine language that can be acted upon by a computer. Cf. *assembler*.

complacency (kəm'pleɪsənsɪ) or **complacence** *n.* extreme self-satisfaction; smugness. —*com'placent* *adj.*

complain (kəm'pleɪn) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. to express resentment, displeasure, etc.; grumble. 2. (foll. by *of*) to state the presence of pain, illness, etc.: *she complained of a headache.* —**com'plainer** *n.* —**com'plainingly** *adv.*

complainant (kəm'pleɪnənt) *n.* *Law.* a plaintiff.

complaint (kəm'pleɪnt) *n.* 1. the act of complaining. 2. a cause for complaining; grievance. 3. a mild ailment.

complaisant (kəm'pleɪz'ənt) *adj.* showing a desire to comply or oblige; polite. —**com'plaisance** *n.*

complement *n.* ('kɒmplɪmənt). 1. a person or thing that completes something. 2. a complete amount, number, etc. (often in **full complement**). 3. the officers and crew needed to man a ship. 4. *Grammar.* a word, phrase, or clause that completes the meaning of the predicate, as an *adverb* in *He is an idiot or that he would be early in I hoped that he would be early.* 5. *Maths.* the angle that when added to a specified angle produces a right angle. 6. *Logic.* the class of all the things that are not members of a given class. 7. a heat-sensitive component of blood serum that destroys pathogenic substances, esp. bacteria. —*vb.* ('kɒmplɪ,ment). 8. (*tr.*) to complete or form a complement to.

complementary (kəm'plɪ'mentəri) *adj.* 1. forming a complement. 2. forming a satisfactory or balanced whole. —**comple'mentarily** *adv.* —**comple'mentari-ness** *n.*

complete (kəm'plɪt) *adj.* 1. having every necessary part; entire. 2. finished. 3. (*prepositional*) thorough: *he is a complete rogue.* 4. perfect in quality or kind: *he is a complete scholar.* 5. (of a logical system) constituted such that a contradiction or inconsistency arises on the addition of an axiom that cannot be deduced from the axioms of the system. 6. *Arch.* skilled; accomplished. —*vb.* (*tr.*) 7. to make perfect. 8. to finish. —**com'pletely** *adv.* —**com'pleteness** *n.* —**com'pletion** *n.*

complex ('kɒmpleks) *adj.* 1. made up of interconnected parts. 2. (of thoughts, writing, etc.) intricate. 3. *Maths.* a. of or involving complex numbers. b. consisting of a real and an imaginary part, either of which can be zero. —*n.* 4. a whole made up of related parts: a *building complex*. 5. *Psychoanal.* a group of emotional impulses that have been banished from the conscious mind but continue to influence a person's behaviour. 6. *Inf.* an obsession: *he's got a complex about cats.* 7. any chemical compound in which one molecule is linked to another by a coordinate bond. —**'complexness** *n.*

complex fraction *n.* *Maths.* a fraction in which the numerator or denominator or both contain fractions. Also called: **compound fraction**.

complexion (kəm'plekʃən) *n.* 1. the colour and general appearance of a person's skin, esp. of the face. 2. aspect or nature: *the general complexion of a nation's finances.* 3. *Obs.* temperament. —**com'plexional** *adj.*

complexity (kəm'pleksɪtɪ) *n.*, *pl.* -ties. 1. the state or quality of being intricate or complex. 2. something intricate or complex; complication.

complex number *n.* any number of the form $a + bi$, where a and b are real numbers and $i = \sqrt{-1}$.

compliance (kəm'plaɪəns) or **compliance** *n.* 1. acquiescence. 2. a disposition to yield to others. 3. a measure of the ability of a mechanical system to respond to an applied vibrating force. —**com'pliant** *adj.*

complicate *vb.* ('kɒmplɪ,keɪt). 1. to make or become complex, etc. —*adj.* ('kɒmplɪkɪt). 2. *Biol.* folded on itself: a *complicate leaf*.

complicated ('kɒmplɪ,keɪtɪd) *adj.* made up of intricate parts or aspects that are difficult to understand or analyse. —**compli,catedly** *adv.*

complication (kəm'plɪ'keɪʃən) *n.* 1. a condition, event, etc., that is complex or confused. 2. the act of complicating. 3. an event or condition that complicates or frustrates: *her coming was a serious complication.* 4. a disease arising as a consequence of another.

complicity (kəm'plɪsɪtɪ) *n.*, *pl.* -ties. 1. the fact of being an accomplice, esp. in a criminal act. 2. a less common word for **complexity**.

compliment *n.* ('kɒmplɪmənt). 1. a remark or act expressing respect, admiration, etc. 2. (*usually pl.*) a greeting of respect or regard. —*vb.* ('kɒmplɪ,ment). (*tr.*) 3. to express admiration for; congratulate. 4. to express or show regard for, esp. by a gift.

complimentary (kəm'plɪ'mentəri) *adj.* 1. conveying a compliment. 2. flattering. 3. given free, esp. as a courtesy or for publicity purposes. —**compli'mentarily** *adv.*

compline ('kɒmplɪn, -pleɪn) or **complin** ('kɒmplɪn) *n.* *R.C. Church.* the last of the seven canonical hours of the divine office.

comply (kəm'plai) *vb.* -plying, -plied. (*intr.*) (usually foll. by *with*) to act in accordance with rules, wishes, etc.; be obedient (to).

component (kəm'pəʊnənt) *n.* 1. a constituent part or aspect of something more complex. 2. any electrical device that has distinct electrical characteristics and may be connected to other devices to form a circuit. 3. *Maths.* one of a set of two or more vectors whose resultant is a given vector. —*adj.* 4. forming or functioning as a part or aspect; constituent. —**componential** (kəm'pəʊnɪəl) *adj.*

comport (kəm'pɔ:t) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to conduct or bear (oneself) in a specified way. 2. (*intr.*; foll. by *with*) to agree (with). —**com'portment** *n.*

compose (kəm'pəʊz) *vb.* (*mainly tr.*) 1. to put together or make up. 2. to be the component elements of. 3. to create (a musical or literary work). 4. (*intr.*) to write music. 5. to calm (someone, esp. oneself); make quiet. 6. to adjust or settle (a quarrel, etc.). 7. to order the elements of (a painting, sculpture, etc.); design. 8. *Printing.* to set up (type). —**com'poser** *n.*

composed (kəm'pəʊzɪd) *adj.* (of people) calm; tranquil. —**composedly** (kəm'pəʊzɪdli) *adv.*

composite ('kɒmpəzɪt) *adj.* 1. composed of separate parts; compound. 2. of or belonging to the plant family *Compositae*. 3. *Maths.* capable of being factorized: a *composite function*. 4. (*sometimes cap.*) denoting one of the five classical orders of architecture: characterized by a combination of the Ionic and Corinthian styles. —*n.* 5. something composed of separate parts; compound. 6. any plant of the family *Compositae*, having flower heads composed of many small flowers (e.g. dandelion, daisy). 7. a material, such as reinforced concrete, made of two or more distinct materials. —*vb.* (*tr.*) (kəm'pəzɪt). 8. to merge related motions from local branches (of a political party, trade union, etc.) so as to produce a manageable number of proposals for discussion at national level. —**compositely** *adv.* —**compositeness** *n.*

composite school *n.* *Canad.* a secondary school offering both academic and nonacademic courses.

composition (kəm'pəzɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of putting together or making up by combining parts. 2. something formed in this manner; a mixture. 3. the parts of which something is composed; constitution. 4. a work of music, art, or literature. 5. the harmonious arrangement of the parts of a work of art in relation to each other. 6. a piece of writing undertaken as an academic exercise; an essay. 7. *Printing.* the act or technique of setting up type. 8. a settlement by mutual consent, esp. a legal agreement whereby the creditors agree to accept partial payment of a debt in full settlement.

compositor (kəm'pəzɪtə) *n.* *Printing.* a person who sets and corrects type.

compos mentis *Latin.* ('kɒmpəs 'mentɪs) *adj.* (*post-positive*) of sound mind; sane.

compost ('kɒmpəst) *n.* 1. a mixture of organic residues such as decomposed vegetation, manure, etc., used as a fertilizer. 2. *Rare.* a mixture. —*vb.* (*tr.*) 3. to make (vegetable matter) into compost. 4. to fertilize with compost.

composure (kəm'pəʊʒə) *n.* calmness, esp. of the mind; tranquillity; serenity.

compo ('kɒmpəʊt) *n.* a dish of fruit stewed with sugar or in a syrup.

compound *n.* ('kɒmpaʊnd). 1. a substance that contains atoms of two or more chemical elements held together by chemical bonds. 2. any combination of two or more parts, aspects, etc. 3. a word formed from two existing words or combining forms. —*vb.* (kəm'paʊnd). (*mainly tr.*) 4. to combine so as to create a compound. 5. to make by combining parts, aspects, etc.: *to compound a new plastic.* 6. to intensify by an added element: *his anxiety was compounded by her crying.* 7. (*also intr.*) to come to an agreement in (a dispute, etc.) or to settle (a debt, etc.) for less than what is owed; compromise. 8. *Law.* to agree not to prosecute in return for a consideration: *to compound a crime.* —*adj.* ('kɒmpaʊnd). 9. composed of two or more parts, elements, etc. 10. (of a word) consisting of elements that are also words or combining forms. 11. *Grammar.* (of tense, mood, etc.) formed by using an auxiliary verb in addition to the main verb. 12. *Music.* a. denoting a time in which the number of beats per bar is a multiple of three: *six-four is an example of compound time.* b. (of an interval) greater than an octave. 13. (of a steam engine, etc.) having multiple stages in which the steam or working fluid from one stage is used in a subsequent stage. 14. (of a piston engine) having a supercharger

powered by a turbine in the exhaust stream. —**com-poundable** *adj.*

compound ('kɒmpaʊnd) *n.* 1. (esp. in South Africa) an enclosure in which native workers are housed. 2. any similar enclosure, such as a camp for prisoners of war.

compound eye *n.* the convex eye of insects and some crustaceans, consisting of numerous separate light-sensitive units (ommatidia).

compound fracture *n.* a fracture in which the broken bone pierces the skin.

compound interest *n.* interest calculated on both the principal and its accrued interest.

compound sentence *n.* a sentence containing at least two coordinate clauses.

compound time *n.* see **compound** (sense 12).

comprehend (,kɒmpri'hend) *vb.* 1. to understand. 2. (tr.) to comprise; include. —**compre'hensible** *adj.*

comprehension (,kɒmpri'hensən) *n.* 1. the act or capacity of understanding. 2. the state of including; comprehensiveness.

comprehensive (,kɒmpri'hensiv) *adj.* 1. of broad scope or content. 2. (of a car insurance policy) providing protection against most risks, including third-party liability, fire, theft, and damage. 3. of or being a comprehensive school. ~*n.* 4. short for **comprehensive school**. —**compre'hensively** *adv.* —**compre'hensiveness** *n.*

comprehensive school *n.* Chiefly Brit. a large secondary school for children of all abilities from the same district.

compress *vb.* (kəm'pres). 1. (tr.) to squeeze together; condense. ~*n.* (kəm'pres). 2. a cloth or gauze pad applied firmly to some part of the body to relieve discomfort, reduce fever, etc. —**com'pressible** *adj.* —**com,pressi'bility** *n.* —**com'pressive** *adj.*

compression (kəm'preʃən) *n.* 1. the act of compressing or the condition of being compressed. 2. an increase in pressure of the charge in an engine or compressor obtained by reducing its volume.

compressor (kəm'presə) *n.* 1. any device that compresses a gas. 2. the part of a gas turbine that compresses the air before it enters the combustion chambers. 3. any muscle that causes compression. 4. an electronic device for reducing the variation in signal amplitude in a transmission system.

comprise (kəm'praɪz) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to include; contain. 2. to constitute the whole of; consist of: *her singing comprised the entertainment*. —**com'prisable** *adj.*

compromise ('kɒmprə,maɪz) *n.* 1. settlement of a dispute by concessions on both or all sides. 2. the terms of such a settlement. 3. something midway between different things. ~*vb.* 4. to settle (a dispute) by making concessions. 5. (tr.) to expose (oneself or another) to disrepute. —**compro,miser** *n.* —**compro,misingly** *adv.*

Computometer (kɒmp'tɒmɪtə) *n.* Trademark. a high-speed calculating machine.

comptroller (kən'trɒlə) *n.* a variant spelling of **controller** (sense 2), esp. as a title of any of various financial executives.

compulsion (kəm'pʌlʃən) *n.* 1. the act of compelling or the state of being compelled. 2. something that compels. 3. *Psychiatry*. an inner drive that causes a person to perform actions, often repetitive, against his will. See also **obsession**.

compulsive (kəm'pʌlsiv) *adj.* relating to or involving compulsion. —**com'pulsively** *adv.*

compulsory (kəm'pʌlsɔːri) *adj.* 1. required by regulations or laws; obligatory. 2. involving or employing compulsion; compelling; essential. —**com'pulsorily** *adv.* —**com'pulsoriness** *n.*

compulsory purchase *n.* purchase of a property by a local authority or government department for public use or development, regardless of whether or not the owner wishes to sell.

compunction (kəm'pʌŋkʃən) *n.* a feeling of remorse, guilt, or regret. —**com'punctious** *adj.* —**com'punctiously** *adv.*

computation (kɒmpju'teɪʃən) *n.* a calculation involving numbers or quantities. —**compu'tational** *adj.*

compute (kəm'pjʊt) *vb.* to calculate (an answer, result, etc.), often with the aid of a computer. —**com'putable** *adj.* —**com,puta'bility** *n.*

computer (kəm'pjʊtə) *n.* 1. a. a device, usually electronic, that processes data according to a set of instructions. The **digital computer** stores data in discrete units and performs operations at very high speed. The **analog computer** has no memory and is slower than the

digital computer but has a continuous rather than a discrete input. b. (as modifier): *computer technology*. 2. a person who computes or calculates.

computerize or **-ise** (kəm'pjʊtə,raɪz) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to cause (certain operations) to be performed by a computer, esp. as a replacement for human labour. 2. (intr.) to install a computer. 3. (tr.) to control or perform (operations) by means of a computer. 4. (tr.) to process or store (information) by or in a computer. —**com,puteri'zation** or **-i'sation** *n.*

comrade ('kɒmreɪd, -rɪd) *n.* 1. a companion. 2. a fellow member of a political party, esp. a fellow Communist. —**comradely** *adj.* —**comrade,ship** *n.*

con¹ (kɒn) *Sl.* ~*n.* 1. a. short for **confidence trick**. b. (as modifier): *con man*. ~*vb.* **conning**, **conned**. 2. (tr.) to swindle or defraud.

con² (kɒn) *n.* (usually pl.) an argument or vote against a proposal, motion, etc.

con³ or (esp. U.S.) **conn** (kɒn) *vb.* **conning**, **conned**. (tr.) *Naut.* to direct the steering of (a vessel).

con⁴ (kɒn) *vb.* **conning**, **conned**. (tr.) *Arch.* to study attentively or learn.

con⁵ *prep.* *Music.* with.

con. *abbrev. for:* 1. concerto. 2. conclusion. 3. connection. 4. consolidated. 5. continued.

con- *prefix.* variant of **com-**.

concatenate (kɒn'kæti,neɪt) *vb.* (tr.) to link or join together, esp. in a chain or series. —**concate'nation** *n.*

concave ('kɒnkeɪv, kɒn'keɪv) *adj.* 1. curving inwards; having the shape of a section of the interior of a sphere, paraboloid, etc.: a *concave lens*. ~*vb.* 2. (tr.) to make concave. —**con'cavely** *adv.* —**con'caveness** *n.*

conceal (kən'siːl) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to keep from discovery; hide. 2. to keep secret. —**con'cealer** *n.* —**con'cealment** *n.*

concede (kən'siːd) *vb.* 1. (when tr., may take a clause as object) to admit or acknowledge (something) as true or correct. 2. to yield or allow (something, such as a right). 3. (tr.) to admit that defeat is certain: *to concede an election*. —**con'ceder** *n.*

conceit (kən'siːt) *n.* 1. a high, often exaggerated, opinion of oneself or one's accomplishments. 2. *Literary*. an elaborate image or far-fetched comparison. 3. *Arch.* a. a witty expression. b. fancy; imagination. c. an idea. ~*vb.* (tr.) 4. *Obs.* to think.

conceited (kən'siːtɪd) *adj.* having an exaggerated opinion of oneself or one's accomplishments. —**con'ceitedly** *adv.* —**con'ceitedness** *n.*

conceivable (kən'siːvəbəl) *adj.* capable of being understood, believed, or imagined; possible. —**con,ceiva'bility** *n.* —**con'ceivably** *adv.*

conceive (kən'siːv) *vb.* 1. (when intr., foll. by *of*; when tr., often takes a clause as object) to have an idea (of); imagine; think. 2. (tr.; takes a clause as object or an infinitive) to believe. 3. (tr.) to develop: *she conceived a passion for music*. 4. to become pregnant with (a child). 5. (tr.) *Rare.* to express in words.

concentrate ('kɒnsən,treɪt) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to come or cause to come to a single purpose or aim: *to concentrate one's hopes on winning*. 2. to make or become denser or purer by the removal of certain elements. 3. (intr.; often foll. by *on*) to think intently (about). ~*n.* 4. a concentrated material or solution. —**con'cen,trative** *adj.* —**con'cen,trator** *n.*

concentration (,kɒnsən'treɪʃən) *n.* 1. intense mental application. 2. the act of concentrating. 3. something that is concentrated. 4. the strength of a solution, esp. the amount of dissolved substance in a given volume of solvent. 5. *Mil.* a. the act of bringing together military forces. b. the application of fire from a number of weapons against a target.

concentration camp *n.* a guarded prison camp, esp. one in Nazi Germany.

concentric (kən'sentrɪk) *adj.* having a common centre: *concentric circles*. —**con'centrically** *adv.*

concept ('kɒnsɛpt) *n.* something formed in the mind; thought; general idea.

conception (kən'seɪpʃən) *n.* 1. something conceived; notion, idea, or plan. 2. the state of an ovum being fertilized by a sperm in the womb. 3. origin or beginning. —**con'ceptional** or **con'ceptive** *adj.*

conceptual (kən'septʃʊəl) *adj.* of or characterized by concepts. —**con'ceptually** *adv.*

conceptualize or **-lize** (kən'septʃʊə,laɪz) *vb.* to form (a concept or concepts) out of observations, experience, data, etc. —**con,ceptuali'zation** or **-li'sation** *n.*

concern (kən'sɜːn) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to relate to; affect. 2.

(usually foll. by *with* or *in*) to involve or interest (one-self): *he concerns himself with other people's affairs.* ~*n.* 3. something that affects a person; affair; business. 4. regard or interest: *he felt a strong concern for her.* 5. anxiety or solicitude. 6. important relation: *his news has great concern for us.* 7. a commercial company. 8. *Inf.* a material thing, esp. one of which one has a low opinion. **concerned** (kən'sɜːnd) *adj.* 1. (postpositive) interested, guilty or involved: *I shall find the boy concerned and punish him.* 2. worried or solicitous. —**concernedly** (kən'sɜːndli) *adv.*

concerning (kən'sɜːniŋ) *prep.* 1. about; regarding. ~*adj.* 2. worrying or troublesome.

concert *n.* ('kɒnsət) 1. a. a performance of music by players or singers that does not involve theatrical staging. b. (as modifier): *a concert version of an opera.* 2. agreement in design, plan, or action. 3. **in concert**. a. acting with a common purpose. b. (of musicians, etc.) performing live. ~*vb.* (kən'sɜːt) 4. to arrange or contrive (a plan) by mutual agreement.

concerted (kən'sɜːtɪd) *adj.* 1. mutually contrived, planned, or arranged; combined: *a concerted effort.* 2. *Music.* arranged in parts for a group of singers or players.

concertina (,kɒnsə'tɪnə) *n.* 1. a hexagonal musical instrument similar to the accordion. ~*vb.* -**naing**, -**naed**. 2. (*intr.*) to collapse or fold up like a concertina. —, **concer'tinist** *n.*

concerto (kən'tʃɛətə) *n.*, *pl.* -**tos** or -**ti** (-ti) a composition for an orchestra and one or more soloists.

concert pitch *n.* 1. the frequency of 440 hertz assigned to the A above middle C. 2. *Inf.* a state of extreme readiness.

concession (kən'sɛʃən) *n.* 1. the act of yielding or conceding. 2. something conceded. 3. any grant of rights, land, or property by a government, local authority, corporation, or individual. 4. the right, esp. an exclusive right, to market a particular product in a given area. 5. *Canad.* a. a land subdivision in a township survey. b. another name for a **concession road**. —**con'cessible** *adj.* —**con'cessive** *adj.*

concessionaire (kən'sɛʃənɛə), **concessioner** (kən'sɛʃənə), or **concessionary** *n.* someone who holds or operates a concession.

concession road *n.* *Canad.* any of a number of roughly parallel roads forming a grid pattern along township survey lines.

conch (kɒŋk, kɒntʃ) *n.*, *pl.* **conchs** (kɒŋks) or **conches** ('kɒntʃɪz) 1. any of various tropical marine gastropod molluscs characterized by a large brightly coloured spiral shell. 2. the shell of such a mollusc, used as a trumpet.

conciliate (kən'sɪli,eɪt) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to overcome the hostility of; win over. 2. to gain (favour, regard, etc.), esp. by making friendly overtures. —**con'ciliable** *adj.* —**con,cili'ation** *n.* —**con'ciliator** *n.*

conciliatory (kən'sɪljətəri) or **conciliative** (kən'sɪljətɪv) *adj.* intended to placate or reconcile. —**con'ciliatorily** *adv.*

concise (kən'saɪs) *adj.* brief and to the point. —**con'cisely** *adv.* —**con'ciseness** or **concision** (kən'sɪʒən) *n.*

conclave ('kɒŋklev) *n.* 1. a secret meeting. 2. *R.C. Church.* a. the closed apartments where the college of cardinals elects a new pope. b. a meeting of the college of cardinals for this purpose.

conclude (kən'kluːd) *vb.* (*mainly tr.*) 1. (*also intr.*) to come or cause to come to an end. 2. (*takes a clause as object*) to decide by reasoning; deduce: *the judge concluded that the witness had told the truth.* 3. to settle; to conclude a treaty. 4. *Obs.* to confine.

conclusion (kən'kluːʒən) *n.* 1. end or termination. 2. the last main division of a speech, essay, etc. 3. outcome or result (esp. in a **foregone conclusion**). 4. an intuitive rather than well-reasoned deduction: *to jump to conclusions.* 5. a final decision or judgment (esp. *in come to a conclusion*). 6. *Logic.* a proposition inferred from a set of premisses, that can be shown, on logical grounds, to be true if the premisses are true. 7. *Law.* a. an admission or statement binding on the party making it; estoppel. b. the close of a pleading or of a conveyance. 8. *in conclusion.* lastly; to sum up.

conclusive (kən'kluːsɪv) *adj.* 1. putting an end to doubt; decisive; final. 2. approaching or involving an end. —**con'clusively** *adv.*

concoct (kən'kɒkt) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to make by combining different ingredients. 2. to invent; make up; contrive. —**con'cocter** or **con'coctor** *n.* —**con'coction** *n.*

concomitant (kən'kɒmɪtənt) *adj.* 1. existing or occurring together. ~*n.* 2. a concomitant act, person, etc.

concord ('kɒŋkɔːd) *n.* 1. agreement or harmony. 2. a treaty establishing peaceful relations between nations. 3. *Music.* a combination of musical notes, esp. one containing a series of consonant intervals. 4. *Grammar.* another word for **agreement** (sense 6).

concordance (kən'kɔːdəns) *n.* 1. a state of harmony. 2. a book that indexes the principal words in a literary work, often with the immediate context and an account of the meaning. 3. an index produced by computer or machine.

concordat (kən'kɔːdət) *n.* a pact or treaty, esp. one between the Vatican and another state concerning the interests of religion in that state.

concourse ('kɒŋkɔːs) *n.* 1. a crowd; throng. 2. a coming together; confluence. 3. a large open space for the gathering of people in a public place.

concrete ('kɒŋkriːt) *n.* 1. a building material made of cement, sand, aggregate, and water that hardens as it dries. ~*adj.* 2. relating to a particular instance; specific as opposed to general. 3. relating to things capable of being perceived by the senses, as opposed to abstractions. 4. formed by the coalescence of particles; condensed; solid. ~*vb.* 5. (*tr.*) to construct in or cover with concrete. 6. (kən'kriːt). to become or cause to become solid; coalesce. —**con'cretely** *adv.* —**con'creteness** *n.*

concretion (kən'kriːʃən) *n.* 1. the act of growing together; coalescence. 2. a solidified mass. 3. something made real, tangible, or specific. 4. a rounded or irregular mineral mass different in composition from the sedimentary rock that surrounds it. 5. *Pathol.* another word for **calculus**. —**con'cretinary** *adj.*

concubine ('kɒŋkjʊ,bain, 'kɒn-) *n.* 1. (in polygamous societies) a secondary wife. 2. a woman who cohabits with a man, esp. (formerly) the mistress of a king, nobleman, etc. —**con'cubinage** *n.* —**con'cubinary** *n.*, *adj.*

concupiscence (kən'kjuːpɪsəns) *n.* strong desire, esp. sexual desire. —**con'cupiscent** *adj.*

concur (kən'kɜː) *vb.* -**curing**, -**red**. (*intr.*) 1. to agree; be in accord. 2. to combine or cooperate. 3. to occur simultaneously; coincide.

concurrence (kən'kʌrəns) *n.* 1. the act of concurring. 2. agreement; accord. 3. cooperation or combination. 4. simultaneous occurrence.

concurrent (kən'kʌrənt) *adj.* 1. taking place at the same time or in the same location. 2. cooperating. 3. meeting at, approaching, or having a common point: **concurrent lines**. 4. in agreement; harmonious. —**con'currently** *adv.*

concuss (kən'kas) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to injure (the brain) by a violent blow, fall, etc. 2. to shake violently.

concussion (kən'kʌʃən) *n.* 1. a jarring of the brain, caused by a blow or a fall, usually resulting in loss of consciousness. 2. any violent shaking.

condemn (kən'dem) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to express strong disapproval of. 2. to pronounce judicial sentence on. 3. to demonstrate the guilt of: *his secretive behaviour condemned him.* 4. to judge or pronounce unfit for use. 5. to force into a particular state: *his disposition condemned him to boredom.* —**con'demnable** *adj.* —, **con-dem'nation** *n.* —**con'demnatory** *adj.*

condensation (,kɒndən'seɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act or process of condensing, or the state of being condensed. 2. anything that has condensed from a vapour on a window. 3. *Chem.* a type of reaction in which two organic molecules combine to form a larger molecule as well as a simple molecule such as water, etc. 4. an abridged version of a book. —, **con'den'sational** *adj.*

condense (kən'dens) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to increase the density of; compress. 2. to reduce or be reduced in volume or size. 3. to change or cause to change from a gaseous to a liquid or solid state. 4. *Chem.* to undergo or cause to undergo condensation. —**con'densable** or **con'densible** *adj.*

condensed milk *n.* milk reduced by evaporation to a thick concentration, with sugar added.

condenser (kən'densə) *n.* 1. a. an apparatus for reducing gases to their liquid or solid form by the abstraction of heat. b. a device for abstracting heat, as in a refrigeration unit. 2. a lens that concentrates light. 3. another name for **capacitor**. 4. a person or device that condenses.

condescend (,kɒndɪ'send) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. to act graciously towards another or others regarded as being on a lower level; behave patronizingly. 2. to do something

that one regards as below one's dignity. —, **conde-scending** *adj.* —, **conde-scension** *n.*

condign (kən'daɪn) *adj.* (esp. of a punishment) fitting; deserved. —, **con-dignly** *adv.*

condiment ('kɒndɪmənt) *n.* any spice or sauce such as salt, pepper, mustard, etc.

condition (kən'dɪʃən) *n.* 1. a particular state of being or existence: the *human condition*. 2. something that limits or restricts; a qualification. 3. (*pl.*) circumstances: *conditions were right for a takeover*. 4. an assumption in logical or inductive reasoning that should or must be fulfilled. See **sufficient** (sense 2), **necessary** (sense 3b.). 5. something required as part of an agreement; terms: *the conditions of the lease are set out*. 6. Law. *a.* a provision in a will, contract, etc., that makes some right or liability contingent upon the happening of some event. *b.* the event itself. 7. something indispensable: *your happiness is a condition of mine*. 8. state of physical fitness, esp. good health: *out of condition*. 9. an ailment: *a heart condition*. 10. rank, status, or position. 11. **on condition that**. (*conj.*) provided that. ~*vb.* (*mainly tr.*) 12. Psychol. *a.* to alter the response of (a person or animal) to a particular stimulus or situation. *b.* to establish a conditioned response in. 13. to put into a fit condition. 14. to accustom or inure. 15. to subject to a condition. —, **con-ditioner** *n.* —, **con-ditioning** *n.*

conditional (kən'dɪʃənəl) *adj.* 1. depending on other factors. 2. Grammar. expressing a condition on which something else is contingent: "*If he comes*" is a *conditional clause in the sentence "If he comes I shall go"*. 3. Logic. (of a proposition) consisting of two component propositions associated by the words *if...then* so that the proposition is false only when the antecedent is true and the consequent false. ~*n.* 4. a conditional verb form, clause, sentence, etc. —, **con-ditionality** *n.* —, **con-ditionally** *adv.*

condole (kən'dəʊl) *vb.* (*intr.*; foll. by *with*) to express sympathy with someone in grief, pain, etc. —, **con-dolence** *n.*

condom ('kɒndəm) *n.* a rubber sheath worn on the penis during sexual intercourse to prevent conception or infection.

condominium (kɒndə'mɪniəm) *n., pl. -ums.* 1. joint rule or sovereignty. 2. a country ruled by two or more foreign powers. 3. U.S. an apartment building in which each apartment is individually owned and the common areas are jointly owned.

condone (kən'daʊn) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to overlook or forgive an offence, etc. 2. Law. (esp. of a spouse) to pardon or overlook (an offence, usually adultery). —, **con-donation** (kɒndə'neɪʃən) *n.* —, **con-doner** *n.*

condor ('kɒndɔː) *n.* either of two very large rare New World vultures, the **Andean condor**, which has black plumage with white around the neck, and the **California condor**, which is nearly extinct.

conduce (kən'djuːs) *vb.* (*intr.*; foll. by *to*) to lead or contribute (to a result). —, **con-ducive** *adj.*

conduct *n.* ('kɒndʌkt). 1. behaviour. 2. the way of managing a business, affair, etc.; handling. 3. Rare. the act of leading. ~*vb.* (kən'dʌkt). 4. (*tr.*) to accompany and guide (people, a party, etc.) (esp. in **conducted tour**). 5. (*tr.*) to direct (affairs, business, etc.); control. 6. (*tr.*) to behave (oneself). 7. to control (an orchestra, etc.) by the movements of the hands or a baton. 8. to transmit (heat, electricity, etc.). —, **con-ductible** *adj.* —, **con-duct-ibility** *n.*

conductance (kən'dʌktəns) *n.* the ability of a system to conduct electricity, measured by the ratio of the current flowing through the system to the potential difference across it. Symbol: *G*

conduction (kən'dʌkʃən) *n.* 1. the transfer of heat or electricity through a medium. 2. the transmission of an impulse along a nerve fibre. 3. the act of conveying or conducting, as through a pipe. 4. Physics. another name for **conductivity** (sense 1). —, **con-ductional** *adj.*

conductivity (kɒndʌk'tɪvɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. the property of transmitting heat, electricity, or sound. 2. a measure of the ability of a substance to conduct electricity, as determined by the current flowing between opposite faces of a unit cube of the substance when there is unit potential difference between them. Symbol: *κ*.

conductor (kən'dʌktə) *n.* 1. an official on a bus who collects fares. 2. a person who conducts an orchestra, choir, etc. 3. a person who leads or guides. 4. U.S. a railway official in charge of a train. 5. a substance, body, or system that conducts electricity, heat, etc. 6. See **lightning conductor**. —, **con-ductor, ship** *n.* —, **con-ductress** (kən'daktrɪs) *fem. n.*

conduit ('kɒndɪt, -djuːt) *n.* 1. a pipe or channel for carrying a fluid. 2. a rigid tube for carrying electrical cables.

cone (kəʊn) *n.* 1. a geometric solid consisting of a plane base bounded by a closed curve, usually a circle or an ellipse, every point of which is joined to a fixed point lying outside the plane of the base. 2. anything that tapers from a circular section to a point, such as a wafer shell used to contain ice cream. 3. *a.* the reproductive body of conifers and related plants, made up of overlapping scales. *b.* a similar structure in horsetails, club mosses, etc. 4. a small cone used as a temporary traffic marker on roads. 5. any one of the cone-shaped cells in the retina of the eye, sensitive to colour and bright light. ~*vb.* 6. (*tr.*) to shape like a cone.

confab ('kɒnfəb) *Inf. ~n.* 1. a conversation. ~*vb.* -**fabb**ing, -**fabb**ed. 2. (*intr.*) to converse.

confabulate (kən'fæbjʊ,leɪt) *vb. (intr.)* 1. to talk together; chat. 2. Psychiatry. to replace the gaps left by a disorder of the memory with imaginary remembered experiences consistently believed to be true. —, **con, fabu-lation** *n.*

confection (kən'fekʃən) *n.* 1. the act of compounding or mixing. 2. any sweet preparation, such as a preserve or a sweet. 3. Old-fashioned. an elaborate article of clothing, esp. for women.

confectioner (kən'fekʃənə) *n.* a person who makes or sells sweets or confections.

confectionery (kən'fekʃənəri) *n., pl. -eries.* 1. sweets and other confections collectively. 2. the art or business of a confectioner.

confederacy (kən'fedərəsi) *n., pl. -cies.* 1. a union of states, etc.; alliance; league. 2. a combination of groups or individuals for unlawful purposes.

confederate *n.* (kən'fedərɪt). 1. a nation, state, or individual that is part of a confederacy. 2. someone who is part of a conspiracy. ~*adj.* (kən'fedərɪt). 3. united; allied. ~*vb.* (kən'fedə,reɪt). 4. to form into or become part of a confederacy.

Confederate (kən'fedərɪt) *adj.* 1. of or supporting the **Confederate States of America**, that seceded from the Union in 1861. ~*n.* 2. a supporter of the Confederate States.

confederation (kən'fedə'reɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of confederating or the state of being confederated. 2. a loose alliance of political units. 3. (esp. in Canada) another name for a **federation**. —, **con,feder'ationist** *n.*

confer (kən'fɜː) *vb. -ferring, -ferred.* 1. (*tr.*; foll. by *on* or *upon*) to grant or bestow (an honour, gift, etc.). 2. (*intr.*) to consult together. —, **con'ferment** or **con'ferral** *n.* —, **con'ferrable** *adj.*

conference ('kɒnfərəns) *n.* 1. a meeting for consultation or discussion, esp. one with a formal agenda. 2. an assembly of the clergy or of clergy and laity of any of certain Protestant Churches acting as representatives of their denomination. 3. Sport, U.S. a league of clubs or teams. —, **conferential** (kɒnfə'renʃəl) *adj.*

confess (kən'fes) *vb.* (when *tr.*, may take a *clause as object*) 1. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *to*) to make an admission (of faults, crimes, etc.). 2. (*tr.*) to admit to be true; concede. 3. Christianity. to declare (one's sins) to God or to a priest as his representative, so as to obtain pardon and absolution. —, **confessedly** (kən'fesɪdli) *adv.*

confession (kən'feɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of confessing. 2. something confessed. 3. an acknowledgment, esp. of one's faults or crimes. 4. Christianity. the act of a penitent accusing himself of his sins. 5. **confession of faith**, a formal public avowal of religious beliefs. 6. a religious sect united by common beliefs. —, **con'fession-ary** *adj.*

confessional (kən'feɪʃənəl) *adj.* 1. of or suited to a confession. ~*n.* 2. Christianity. a small stall where a priest hears confessions.

confessor (kən'fesə) *n.* 1. Christianity. a priest who hears confessions and sometimes acts as a spiritual counsellor. 2. History. a person who bears witness to his Christian religious faith by the holiness of his life, but does not suffer martyrdom. 3. a person who makes a confession.

confetti (kən'feti) *n.* small pieces of coloured paper thrown on festive occasions, esp. at weddings.

confidant or (*fem.*) **confidante** (kɒnfɪ'dænt, 'kɒnfɪ,dænt) *n.* a person to whom private matters are confided.

confide (kən'faɪd) *vb.* 1. (usually foll. by *in*; when *tr.*, may take a *clause as object*) to disclose (secret or personal matters) in confidence (to). 2. (*intr.*; foll. by *in*)

to have complete trust. **3.** (*tr.*) to entrust into another's keeping. —**con'fider** *n.*

confidence ('kɒnfɪdəns) *n.* **1.** trust in a person or thing. **2.** belief in one's own abilities; self-assurance. **3.** trust or a trustful relationship: *take me into your confidence*. **4.** something confided; secret. **5.** **in confidence**, as a secret.

confidence trick or **U.S. confidence game** *n.* a swindle involving money in which the victim's trust is won by the swindler.

confident ('kɒnfɪdənt) *adj.* **1.** (*postpositive*; foll. by *of*) having or showing certainty; sure: *confident of success*. **2.** sure of oneself. **3.** presumptuous. —**confidently** *adv.*

confidential ('kɒnfɪdənʃəl) *adj.* **1.** spoken or given in confidence; private. **2.** entrusted with another's secret affairs: *a confidential secretary*. **3.** suggestive of intimacy: *a confidential approach*. —**confi,denti'al**ity *n.* —**confi,dentially** *adv.*

confiding (kən'faɪdɪŋ) *adj.* unsuspicious; trustful. —**con'fidingly** *adv.* —**con'fidingness** *n.*

configuration (kən'fɪgʊ'reɪʃən) *n.* **1.** the arrangement of the parts of something. **2.** the external form or outline achieved by such an arrangement. **3.** *Psychol.* the unit or pattern in perception studied by Gestalt psychologists. —**con,figu'rational** or **con'figurative** *adj.*

confine *vb.* (kən'faɪn). (*tr.*) **1.** to keep within bounds; limit; restrict. **2.** to restrict the free movement of: *arthritis confined him to bed*. ~*n.* ('kɒnfain). **3.** (*often pl.*) a limit; boundary. —**con'finer** *n.*

confinement (kən'faɪnmənt) *n.* **1.** the act of confining or the state of being confined. **2.** the period of the birth of a child.

confirm (kən'fɜ:m) *vb.* (*tr.*) **1.** (*may take a clause as object*) to prove to be true or valid; corroborate. **2.** (*may take a clause as object*) to assert for a further time, so as to make more definite: *he confirmed that he would appear in court*. **3.** to strengthen: *his story confirmed my doubts*. **4.** to make valid by a formal act; ratify. **5.** to administer the rite of confirmation to. —**con'firmatory** or **con'firmative** *adj.*

confirmation (kən'fɜ:'meɪʃən) *n.* **1.** the act of confirming. **2.** something that confirms. **3.** a rite in several Christian churches that confirms a baptized person in his faith and admits him to full participation in the church.

confirmed (kən'fɜ:md) *adj.* **1.** (*prenominal*) long-established in a habit, way of life, etc. **2.** having received the rite of confirmation.

confiscate ('kɒnfɪskeit) *vb.* (*tr.*) **1.** to seize (property), esp. for public use and esp. by way of a penalty. ~*adj.* **2.** confiscated; forfeit. —**confis'cation** *n.* —**confis,cator** *n.* —**confiscatory** (kən'fɪskətəri) *adj.*

conflagration (kən'flə'greɪʃən) *n.* a large destructive fire.

conflate (kən'fleɪt) *vb.* (*tr.*) to combine or blend (two things, esp. two versions of a text) so as to form a whole. —**con'flation** *n.*

conflict *n.* ('kɒnflikt). **1.** a struggle between opposing forces; battle. **2.** opposition between ideas, interests, etc.; controversy. **3.** *Psychol.* opposition between two simultaneous but incompatible wishes or impulses, sometimes leading to emotional tension. —*vb.* (kən'flikt). (*intr.*) **4.** to come into opposition; clash. **5.** to fight. —**con'flict**ingly *adv.* —**con'fliction** *n.*

confluence ('kɒnfluəns) or **conflux** ('kɒnflʌks) *n.* **1.** a flowing together, esp. of rivers. **2.** a gathering. —**con'fluent** *adj.*

conform (kən'fɔ:m) *vb.* **1.** (*intr.*; usually foll. by *to*) to comply in actions, behaviour, etc., with accepted standards. **2.** (*intr.*; usually foll. by *with*) to be in accordance: *he conforms with my idea of a teacher*. **3.** to make or become similar. **4.** (*intr.*) to comply with the practices of an established church, esp. the Church of England. —**con'former** *n.* —**con'formist** *n., adj.*

conformal (kən'fɔ:məl) *adj.* (of a map projection) maintaining true shape over a small area and scale in every direction.

conformation (kən'fɔ:'meɪʃən) *n.* **1.** the general shape of an object; configuration. **2.** the arrangement of the parts of an object.

conformity (kən'fɔ:miti) or **conformance** *n., pl. -ities* or *-ances*. **1.** compliance in actions, behaviour, etc., with certain accepted standards. **2.** likeness; congruity; agreement. **3.** compliance with the practices of an established church.

confound (kən'faʊnd) *vb.* (*tr.*) **1.** to astound; bewilder. **2.** to confuse. **3.** to treat mistakenly as similar to or identical with. **4.** (kən'faʊnd). to curse (usually in **con-**

found it). **5.** to contradict or refute (an argument, etc.). **6.** to rout or defeat (an enemy). —**con'founder** *n.*

confounded (kən'faʊndɪd) *adj.* **1.** bewildered; confused. **2.** (*prenominal*) *Inf.* execrable; damned. —**con'foundedly** *adv.*

confrère ('kɒnfɹeə) *n.* a fellow member of a profession, etc.

confront (kən'frʌnt) *vb.* (*tr.*) **1.** (usually foll. by *with*) to present (with something), esp. in order to accuse or criticize. **2.** to face boldly; oppose in hostility. **3.** to be face to face with. —**con'frontation** (kən'frʌn'teɪʃən) *n.*

Confucian (kən'fju:ʃən) *adj.* **1.** of or relating to the doctrines of Confucius. ~*n.* **2.** a follower of Confucius.

Confucianism (kən'fju:ʃənɪzəm) *n.* the ethical system of Confucius (551-479 B.C.), Chinese philosopher, emphasizing devotion to family (including ancestral spirits), peace, and justice. —**Con'fucianist** *n.*

confuse (kən'fju:z) *vb.* (*tr.*) **1.** to bewilder; perplex. **2.** to mix up (things, ideas, etc.). **3.** to make unclear: *he confused his talk with irrelevant details*. **4.** to mistake (one thing) for another. **5.** to disconcert; embarrass. **6.** to cause to become disordered: *the enemy ranks were confused by gas*. —**con'fusable** *adj.* —**confusedly** (kən'fju:zɪdli, -'fju:zɪd) *adv.* —**con'fusingly** *adv.*

confusion (kən'fju:ʒən) *n.* **1.** the act of confusing or the state of being confused. **2.** disorder. **3.** bewilderment; perplexity. **4.** lack of clarity. **5.** embarrassment; abashment.

confute (kən'fju:t) *vb.* (*tr.*) to prove (a person or thing) wrong, invalid, or mistaken; disprove. —**con'futable** *adj.* —**confutation** (kən'fju'teɪʃən) *n.*

conga ('kɒŋgə) *n.* **1.** a Latin American dance of three steps and a kick to each bar, performed by a number of people in single file. **2.** Also called: **conga drum**, a large tubular bass drum, usually played with the hands. ~*vb.* -*ga*ing, -*ga*ed. **3.** (*intr.*) to perform this dance.

congé ('kɒŋgeɪ) *n.* **1.** permission to depart or dismissal, esp. when formal. **2.** a farewell.

congeal (kən'dʒi:əl) *vb.* **1.** to change or cause to change from a soft or fluid state to a firm state. **2.** to form or cause to form into a coagulated mass; jell. —**con'gealable** *adj.* —**con'gealment** *n.*

congener (kən'dʒɪnə, 'kɒndʒɪnə) *n.* a member of a class, group, or other category, esp. any animal of a specified genus.

congenial (kən'dʒɪ:njəl) *adj.* **1.** friendly, pleasant, or agreeable: *a congenial atmosphere to work in*. **2.** having a similar disposition, tastes, etc.; compatible. —**con'geniality** (kən'dʒɪ:nɪ'ælɪti) *n.*

congenital (kən'dʒenɪ'tl) *adj.* **1.** denoting any nonhereditary condition, esp. an abnormal condition, existing at birth: *congenital blindness*. **2.** *Inf.* complete, as if from birth: *a congenital idiot*. —**con'genitally** *adv.*

conger ('kɒŋgə) *n.* a large marine eel occurring in temperate and tropical coastal waters.

congest (kən'dʒest) *vb.* **1.** to crowd or become crowded to excess; overflow. **2.** to clog (an organ) with blood or (of an organ) to become clogged with blood. **3.** (*tr.*; usually *passive*) to block (the nose) with mucus. —**con'gestion** *n.*

conglomerate *n.* (kən'glɒməɪt). **1.** a thing composed of heterogeneous elements. **2.** any coarse-grained sedimentary rock consisting of rounded fragments of rock embedded in a finer matrix. **3.** a large corporation consisting of a group of companies dealing in widely diversified goods, services, etc. ~*vb.* (kən'glɒmə'reɪt). **4.** to form into a mass. ~*adj.* (kən'glɒməɪt). **5.** made up of heterogeneous elements. **6.** (of sedimentary rocks) consisting of rounded fragments within a finer matrix. —**con,glomer'ation** *n.*

congratulate (kən'grætju:leɪt) *vb.* (*tr.*) **1.** (usually foll. by *on*) to communicate pleasure, approval, or praise to; compliment. **2.** (often foll. by *on*) to consider (oneself) clever or fortunate (as a result of): *she congratulated herself on her tact*. **3.** *Obs.* to greet; salute. —**con,gratu'lation** *n.* —**con'gratulatory** or **con'gratu'lative** *adj.*

congratulations (kən,grætju:'leɪʃənz) *pl. n., interj.* expressions of pleasure or joy on another's success, good fortune, etc.

congregate ('kɒŋgrɪ,geɪt) *vb.* to collect together in a body or crowd; assemble. —**'congre,gator** *n.*

congregation ('kɒŋgrɪ'geɪʃən) *n.* **1.** a group of persons gathered for worship, prayer, etc., esp. in a church. **2.** the act of congregating together. **3.** a group collected together; assemblage. **4.** the group of persons habitually attending a given church, chapel, etc. **5.** *R.C. Church. a.*

a society of persons who follow a common rule of life but who are bound only by simple vows. **b.** an administrative subdivision of the papal curia. **6.** *Chiefly Brit.* an assembly of senior members of a university. — **congre-gational** *adj.*

Congregationalism (ˌkɒŋgrɪˈɡeɪʃənəlɪzəm) *n.* a system of Christian doctrines and ecclesiastical government in which each congregation is self-governing. — **Congre-gationalist** *adj., n.*

Congress (ˈkɒŋɡres) *n.* 1. a meeting or conference, esp. of representatives of sovereign states. 2. a national legislative assembly. 3. a society or association. — **con-gressional** (kənˈɡreɪʃənəl) *adj.*

Congress (ˈkɒŋɡres) *n.* 1. the bicameral federal legislature of the U.S., consisting of the House of Representatives and the Senate. 2. Also called: **Congress Party.** (in India) a major political party. — **Con-gressional** *adj.*

congruence (ˈkɒŋɡruːns) or **congruency** *n.* 1. the quality or state of corresponding, agreeing, or being congruent. 2. the relationship between two integers, *x* and *y*, such that their difference, with respect to another integer called the modulus, *n*, is a multiple of the modulus.

congruent (ˈkɒŋɡruːnt) *adj.* 1. agreeing; corresponding. 2. having identical shapes so that all parts correspond: *congruent triangles.* 3. of or concerning two integers related by a congruence.

congruous (ˈkɒŋɡruːs) *adj.* 1. corresponding or agreeing. 2. appropriate. — **con-gruity** (kənˈɡruːɪti) *n.*

conic (ˈkɒnɪk) *adj. also conical.* 1. **a.** having the shape of a cone. **b.** of a cone. ~*n.* 2. another name for **conic section.** — **con-ically** *adv.*

conic section *n.* one of a group of curves formed by the intersection of a plane and a right circular cone. It is either a circle, ellipse, parabola, or hyperbola.

conifer (ˈkɒnɪfə, ˈkɒn-) *n.* any tree or shrub of the group *Coniferae*, typically bearing cones and evergreen leaves. The group includes the pines, spruces, firs, larches, etc. — **co-niferous** *adj.*

conjectural (kənˈdʒektʃərəl) *adj.* involving or inclined to conjecture. — **con-jecturally** *adv.*

conjecture (kənˈdʒektʃə) *n.* 1. the formation of conclusions from incomplete evidence; guess. 2. the conclusion so formed. ~*vb.* 3. to infer or arrive at (an opinion, conclusion, etc.) from incomplete evidence. — **con-jecturable** *adj.*

conjoin (kənˈdʒɔɪn) *vb.* to join or become joined. — **con-joiner** *n.*

conjoint (kənˈdʒɔɪnt) *adj.* united, joint, or associated. — **con-joinly** *adv.*

conjugal (ˈkɒndʒʊɡl) *adj.* of or relating to marriage or the relationship between husband and wife: *conjugal rights.* — **conjugality** (ˌkɒndʒʊˈɡælɪti) *n.* — **conjugal-ly** *adv.*

conjugate *vb.* (ˈkɒndʒʊˌɡeɪt). 1. (*tr.*) *Grammar.* to state or set out the conjugation of (a verb). 2. (*intr.*) (of a verb) to undergo inflection according to a specific set of rules. 3. (*intr.*) *Biol.* to undergo conjugation. 4. (*tr.*) *Obs.* to join together, esp. in marriage. ~*adj.* (ˈkɒndʒʊɡɪt, -ˌɡeɪt). 5. joined together in pairs. 6. *Maths.* **a.** (of two angles) having a sum of 360°. **b.** (of two complex numbers) differing only in the sign of the imaginary part as 4 + 3*i* and 4 - 3*i*. 7. *Chem.* of the state of equilibrium in which two liquids can exist as separate phases that are both solutions. 8. *Chem.* (of acids and bases) related by loss or gain of a proton. 9. (of a compound leaf) having one pair of leaflets. 10. (of words) cognate; related in origin. ~*n.* (ˈkɒndʒʊɡɪt). 11. one of a pair or set of conjugate substances, values, quantities, words, etc. — **conju-gative** *adj.* — **conju-gator** *n.*

conjugation (ˌkɒndʒʊˈɡeɪʃən) *n.* 1. *Grammar.* **a.** inflection of a verb for person, number, tense, voice, mood, etc. **b.** the complete set of the inflections of a given verb. 2. a joining. 3. a type of sexual reproduction in ciliate protozoans involving the temporary union of two individuals and the subsequent migration and fusion of the gametic nuclei. 4. the union of gametes, as in some fungi. 5. the pairing of chromosomes in the early phase of a meiotic division. — **conju-gational** *adj.*

conjunction (kənˈdʒʌŋkʃən) *n.* 1. the act of joining together; union. 2. simultaneous occurrence of events; coincidence. 3. any word or group of words, other than a relative pronoun, that connects words, phrases, or clauses; for example *and* and *while.* 4. *Astron.* **a.** the position of a planet when it is in line with the sun as seen from the earth. **b.** the apparent proximity or coincidence of two celestial bodies on the celestial sphere. 5.

Logic. **a.** a compound proposition in which the component propositions are joined by *and*, which is true only if the component propositions are true. **b.** the relation between the terms of such a proposition. — **con-’junctional** *adj.*

conjunctiva (ˌkɒndʒʌŋk’taɪvə) *n., pl. -vas or -vae* (-vɪr). the delicate mucous membrane that covers the eyeball and the under surface of the eyelid. — **conjunc-tival** *adj.*

conjunctive (kənˈdʒʌŋktɪv) *adj.* 1. joining; connective. 2. joined. 3. of or relating to conjunctions. ~*n.* 4. a less common word for **conjunction** (sense 3).

conjunctivitis (kənˈdʒʌŋktɪˈvaɪtɪs) *n.* inflammation of the conjunctiva.

conjunction (kənˈdʒʌŋktʃən) *n.* a combination of events, esp. a critical one.

conjuración (ˌkɒndʒʊˈreɪʃən) *n.* 1. a magic spell; incantation. 2. a less common word for **conjuring**. 3. *Arch.* supplication; entreaty.

conjure (ˈkɒndʒə) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to practise conjuring. 2. (*intr.*) to call upon supposed supernatural forces by spells and incantations. 3. (*tr.*) (kənˈdʒʊə) to appeal earnestly to: *I conjure you to help me.* 4. **a.** name to **conjure with.** **a.** a person thought to have great power or influence. **b.** any name that excites the imagination. ~*See also* **conjure up.**

conjurer or **conjurator** (ˈkɒndʒərə) *n.* 1. a person who practises conjuring, esp. for people's entertainment. 2. a sorcerer.

conjure up *vb. (tr., adv.)* 1. to present to the mind; evoke or imagine: *he conjured up a picture of his childhood.* 2. to call up or command (a spirit or devil) by an incantation.

conjuring (ˈkɒndʒərɪŋ) *n.* 1. the performance of tricks that appear to defy natural laws. ~*adj.* 2. denoting or of such tricks or entertainment.

conk (kɒŋk) *Sl. ~vb.* 1. to strike (someone) a blow, esp. on the head or nose. ~*n.* 2. a punch or blow, esp. on the head or nose. 3. the head or nose.

conker (ˈkɒŋkə) *n.* an informal name for the horse chestnut.

conkers (ˈkɒŋkəz) *n. (functioning as sing.)* *Brit.* a game in which a player swings a horse chestnut (conker), threaded onto a string, against that of another player to try to break it.

conk out *vb. (intr.) Inf.* 1. (of machines, cars, etc.) to fail suddenly. 2. to tire suddenly or collapse.

con man *n. Inf.* a person who swindles another by means of a confidence trick. More formal term: **confidence man.**

connect (kəˈnekt) *vb.* 1. to link or be linked. 2. (*tr.*) to associate: *I connect him with my childhood.* 3. (*tr.*) to establish telephone communications with or between. 4. (*intr.*) (of two public vehicles, such as trains or buses) to have the arrival of one timed to occur just before the departure of the other, for the convenient transfer of passengers. 5. (*intr.*) *Inf.* to hit, punch, kick, etc., solidly. — **con-nectible** or **con-nectable** *adj.* — **con-nector** or **con-necter** *n.*

connection or **connexion** (kəˈnektʃən) *n.* 1. the act of connecting; union. 2. something that connects or relates; link or bond. 3. a relationship or association. 4. logical sequence in thought or expression; coherence. 5. the relation of a word or phrase to its context: *in this connection the word has no political significance.* 6. (*often pl.*) an acquaintance, esp. one who is influential. 7. a relative, esp. if distant and related by marriage. 8. **a.** an opportunity to transfer from one train, bus, etc., to another. **b.** the vehicle scheduled to provide such an opportunity. 9. a link, usually a wire or metallic strip, between two components in an electric circuit. 10. a communications link, esp. by telephone. 11. *Sl.* a supplier of illegal drugs, such as heroin. 12. *Rare.* sexual intercourse. — **con-nectional** or **con-nectional** *adj.*

connective (kəˈnektɪv) *adj.* 1. connecting. ~*n.* 2. a thing that connects. 3. *Grammar.* any word that connects phrases, clauses, or individual words. 4. *Bot.* the tissue of a stamen that connects the two lobes of the anther. 5. *Logic.* a symbol used in a formal language in the construction of compound sentences, corresponding to terms such as *or*, *and*, etc., in ordinary speech.

connective tissue *n.* an animal tissue that supports organs, fills the spaces between them, and forms tendons and ligaments.

conning tower (ˈkɒnɪŋ) *n.* 1. a superstructure of a submarine, used as the bridge when the vessel is on the surface. 2. the armoured pilot house of a warship.

connivance (kəˈnaɪvəns) *n.* 1. the act or fact of conniving. 2. *Law.* the tacit encouragement of or assent

to another's wrongdoing.

connive (kə'naɪv) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. to plot together; conspire. 2. *Law.* (foll. by *at*) to give assent or encouragement (to the commission of a wrong). — **con'niver** *n.*

connoisseur (,kɒnɪ'sɜː) *n.* a person with special knowledge or appreciation of a field, esp. in the arts. — **connois'seurship** *n.*

connote (kə'nəʊt) *vb.* (*tr.*; often takes a clause as object) 1. (of a word, phrase, etc.) to imply or suggest (associations or ideas) other than the literal meaning: the word "maiden" connotes modesty. 2. to involve as a consequence or condition. — **conno'tation** *n.*

connubial (kə'njuːbiəl) *adj.* of or relating to marriage: *connubial bliss*. — **con,nubi'al** *n.*

conquer ('kɒŋkə) *vb.* 1. to overcome (an enemy, army, etc.); defeat. 2. to overcome (an obstacle, desire, etc.); surmount. 3. (*tr.*) to gain possession or control of as by force or war; win. — **conquerable** *adj.* — **conqueror** *n.*

conquest ('kɒŋkwɛst) *n.* 1. the act of conquering or the state of having been conquered; victory. 2. a person, thing, etc., that has been conquered. 3. a person whose compliance, love, etc., has been won.

conquistador (kɒn'kwɪstə,dɔː) *n., pl. -dors or -dores* (-dɔːrɛs), an adventurer or conqueror, esp. one of the Spanish conquerors of the New World in the 16th century.

cons. *abbrev. for:* 1. consecrated. 2. consigned. 3. consignment. 4. consolidated. 5. consonant. 6. constitutional. 7. construction.

Cons. *abbrev. for* Conservative.

conscience ('kɒŋsɪəns) *n.* 1. the sense of right and wrong that governs a person's thoughts and actions. 2. conscientiousness; diligence. 3. a feeling of guilt or anxiety: *he has a conscience about his unkind action*. 4. *in (all) conscience*, *a.* with regard to truth and justice. *b.* certainly. 5. *on one's conscience*, causing feelings of guilt or remorse.

conscience money *n.* money paid voluntarily to compensate for dishonesty, esp. for taxes formerly evaded.

conscience-stricken *adj.* feeling anxious or guilty. Also: **conscience-smitten**.

conscientious (,kɒŋʃɪ'ɛnʃəs) *adj.* 1. involving or taking great care; painstaking. 2. governed by or done according to conscience. — **consci'entiously** *adv.* — **consci'entiousness** *n.*

conscientious objector *n.* a person who refuses to serve in the armed forces on the grounds of conscience.

conscious ('kɒŋʃəs) *adj.* 1. *a.* denoting a part of the human mind that is aware of a person's self, environment, and mental activity and that to a certain extent determines his choices of action. *b.* (as *n.*): *the conscious is only a small part of the mind*. 2. alert and awake. 3. *a.* aware of a particular fact: *I am conscious of your great kindness to me*. *b.* (in combination): *clothes-conscious*. 4. deliberate or intended: *he spoke with conscious rudeness*. — **consciously** *adv.* — **consciousness** *n.*

conscript *n.* ('kɒŋskript). 1. *a.* a person who is enrolled for compulsory military service. *b.* (as *modifier*): *a conscript army*. ~*vb.* (kə'ŋskript). 2. (*tr.*) to enrol (youths, civilians, etc.) for compulsory military service.

conscription (kə'ŋskriptʃən) *n.* compulsory military service.

consecrate ('kɒŋsɪ,kreɪt) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to make or declare sacred or holy. 2. to dedicate (one's life, time, etc.) to a specific purpose. 3. to cause to be respected or revered: *time has consecrated this custom*. — **consec'ration** *n.* — **consec'rator** *n.* — **consecratory** (,kɒŋsɪ'kreɪtəri) *adj.*

Consecration (,kɒŋsɪ'kreɪʃən) *n.* R.C. Church. the part of the Mass after the sermon in which the bread and wine to be used in the Mass are ritually offered to God.

consecutive (kən'sekjʊtɪv) *adj.* 1. (of a narrative, account, etc.) following chronological sequence. 2. following one another without interruption; successive. 3. characterized by logical sequence. 4. *Music.* another word for **parallel** (sense 3). — **con'secutively** *adv.* — **con'secutiveness** *n.*

consensus (kən'sensəs) *n.* general or widespread agreement (esp. in **consensus of opinion**).

▷ **Usage.** Since **consensus** refers to a collective opinion, the words of *opinion* in the phrase **consensus of opinion** are redundant and are therefore avoided in careful usage.

consent (kən'sent) *vb.* 1. to give assent or permission; agree. ~*n.* 2. acquiescence to or acceptance of something done or planned by another. 3. harmony in opinion; agreement (esp. in **with one consent**). 4. **age of consent**, the lowest age at which the law recognizes the right of a person, esp. a girl, to consent to sexual intercourse. — **con'sentingly** *adv.*

consequence ('kɒnsɪkwəns) *n.* 1. a result or effect. 2. an unpleasant result (esp. in **take the consequences**). 3. an inference reached by reasoning; conclusion. 4. significance or importance (esp. in **man of consequence**). 5. *in consequence*, as a result.

consequent ('kɒnsɪkwənt) *adj.* 1. following as an effect. 2. following as a logical conclusion. 3. (of a river) flowing in the direction of the original slope of the land. ~*n.* 4. something that follows something else, esp. as a result. 5. *Logic.* the second proposition in a conditional, such as *he is British* in *if Ian was born in Scotland then he is British*.

▷ **Usage.** See at **consequential**.

consequently ('kɒnsɪkwəntli) *adv.*, *sentence connect.* or as a result or effect; therefore; hence.

consequential (,kɒŋsɪ'kwɛnʃəl) *adj.* 1. important or significant. 2. self-important. 3. following as a consequence, esp. indirectly: **consequential loss**. — **consequen'tial** *ity* *n.* — **con'se'quentially** *adv.*

▷ **Usage.** Although both **consequential** and **consequent** can refer to that which follows as a result, **consequent** is more frequently used in this sense in general contexts, while **consequential** is often used in commercial or legal contexts.

consequently ('kɒnsɪkwəntli) *adv.* *sentence connect.* or as a result or effect; therefore; hence.

conservancy (kən'sɜːvənsɪ) *n., pl. -cies*. 1. (in Britain) a court or commission with jurisdiction over a river, port, area of countryside, etc. 2. another word for **conservation** (sense 2).

conservation (,kɒŋsə'veɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of conserving or keeping from change, loss, injury, etc. 2. *a.* protection, preservation, and careful management of natural resources. *b.* (as *modifier*): *a conservation area*. 3. *Physics*, etc. the preservation of a specified aspect or value of a system, as in **conservation of charge**, **conservation of momentum**, **conservation of parity**. — **conser'vational** *adj.* — **conser'vationist** *n.*

conservative (kən'sɜːvətɪv) *adj.* 1. favouring the preservation of established customs, values, etc., and opposing innovation. 2. of conservatism. 3. moderate or cautious: *a conservative estimate*. 4. conventional in style: *a conservative suit*. ~*n.* 5. a person who is reluctant to change or consider new ideas; conformist. 6. a supporter of conservatism. — **con'serva'tism** *n.* — **con'servatively** *adv.* — **con'servativeness** *n.*

Conservative (kən'sɜːvətɪv) (in Britain and elsewhere) ~*adj.* 1. of, supporting, or relating to a Conservative Party. 2. (in Canada) of, supporting, or relating to the Progressive Conservative Party. 3. of, relating to, or characterizing **Conservative Judaism**, a movement favouring certain moderate relaxations of Jewish law and tradition. ~*n.* 4. a supporter or member of a Conservative Party, or, (in Canada) of the Progressive Conservative Party.

conservatoire (kən'sɜːvə,twɑː) *n.* an institution or school for instruction in music. Also called: **conservatory**.

conservatory (kən'sɜːvətɪ) *n., pl. -tories*. 1. a greenhouse, esp. one attached to a house. 2. another word for **conservatoire**.

conserve *vb.* (kən'sɜːv). (*tr.*) 1. to keep or protect from harm, decay, loss, etc. 2. to preserve (a foodstuff, esp. fruit) with sugar. ~*n.* ('kɒŋsɜːv, kən'sɜːv). 3. a preparation similar to jam but containing whole pieces of fruit.

consider (kən'sɪdə) *vb.* (*mainly tr.*) 1. (*also intr.*) to think carefully about (a problem, decision, etc.). 2. (*may take a clause as object*) to judge; deem: *I consider him a fool*. 3. to have regard for: *consider your mother's feelings*. 4. to look at: *he considered her face*. 5. (*may take a clause as object*) to bear in mind: *when buying a car consider this make*. 6. to describe or discuss. — **con'siderer** *n.*

considerable (kən'sɪdərəb'l) *adj.* 1. large enough to reckon with: *a considerable quantity*. 2. a lot of; much: *he had considerable courage*. 3. worthy of respect: *a considerable man in the scientific world*. — **con'siderably** *adv.*

considerate (kən'sɪdərɪt) *adj.* 1. thoughtful towards

other people; kind. **2. Rare.** carefully thought out; considered. —**con'siderately** *adv.*

consideration (kən,sɪdər'eɪʃən) *n.* 1. deliberation; contemplation. **2. take into consideration.** to bear in mind; consider. **3. under consideration.** being currently discussed. **4. a fact to be taken into account** when making a judgment or decision. **5. thoughtfulness** for other people; kindness. **6. payment** for a service. **7. thought** resulting from deliberation; opinion. **8. Law.** the promise, object, etc., given by one party to persuade another to enter into a contract. **9. esteem.** **10. in consideration of.** a. because of. b. in return for.

considered (kən'sɪdəd) *adj.* 1. presented or thought out with care: a considered opinion. **2. (qualified by a preceding adverb)** esteemed: highly considered.

considering (kən'sɪdərɪŋ) *prep.* 1. in view of. ~*adv.* **2. Inf.** all in all; taking into account the circumstances: it's not bad considering. ~*conj.* **3. (subordinating)** in view of the fact that.

consign (kən'sam) *vb.* (mainly *tr.*) 1. to give into the care or charge of; entrust. **2. to commit irrevocably:** he consigned the papers to the flames. **3. to commit:** to consign someone to jail. **4. to address or deliver (goods):** it was consigned to his London address. —**consignable** *adj.* —**consign'ee** *n.* —**consignor** or **consigner** *n.*

consignment (kən'saɪnmənt) *n.* 1. the act of consigning; commitment. **2. a shipment** of goods consigned. **3. on consignment.** for payment by the consignee after sale.

consist (kən'sɪst) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. (foll. by *of* or *in*) to be composed (of). **2. (foll. by *in* or *of*)** to have its existence (in): his religion consists only in going to church. **3. to be consistent;** accord.

consistency (kən'sɪstənsɪ) or **consistence** *n., pl. -encies or -ences.* 1. agreement or accordance. **2. degree of viscosity** or firmness. **3. the state or quality of holding** or sticking together and retaining shape. **4. conformity** with previous attitudes, behaviour, practice, etc.

consistent (kən'sɪstənt) *adj.* 1. (usually foll. by *with*) showing consistency or harmony. **2. Logic.** (of a logical system) constituted so that the propositions deduced from different axioms of the system do not contradict each other. —**consistently** *adv.*

consolation (ˌkɒnsə'leɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of consoling or state of being consoled. **2. a person or thing** that is a comfort in a time of grief, disappointment, etc. —**consolatory** (kən'sɒlətəri) *adj.*

console (ˌkɒnsəʊl) *vb.* to serve as a comfort to (someone) in disappointment, sadness, etc. —**consoleable** *adj.* —**consoler** *n.* —**consoleingly** *adv.*

console (ˌkɒnsəʊl) *n.* 1. an ornamental bracket used to support a wall fixture, etc. **2. the part** of an organ comprising the manuals, pedals, stops, etc. **3. a desk or table** on which the controls of an electronic system are mounted. **4. a cabinet** for a television, etc., designed to stand on the floor.

consolidate (kən'sɒlɪdeɪt) *vb.* 1. to form or cause to form into a whole. **2. to make** or become stronger or more stable. **3. Mil.** to strengthen one's control over (a situation, area, etc.). —**consoli,dator** *n.*

consols (ˈkɒnsɒlz, kən'sɒlz) *pl. n.* irredeemable British government securities carrying annual interest.

consommé (kən'sɒmeɪ) *n.* a clear soup made from meat stock.

consonance (ˈkɒnsənəns) or **consonancy** *n., pl. -nances or -nancies.* 1. agreement, harmony, or accord. **2. Prosody.** similarity between consonants, but not between vowels, as between the *s* and *t* sounds in *sweet silent thought*. **3. Music.** a combination of notes which can sound together without harshness.

consonant (ˈkɒnsənənt) *n.* 1. a speech sound or letter of the alphabet other than a vowel. —*adj.* **2. (postpositive; foll. by *with* or *to*)** consistent; in agreement. **3. harmonious.** **4. Music.** characterized by the presence of a consonance. —**conso'nantal** *adj.* —**consonantly** *adv.*

consort *vb.* (kən'sɔ:t). 1. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *with*) to keep company (with undesirable people); associate. **2. (intr.)** to harmonize. ~*n.* (ˈkɒnsɔ:t). **3. (esp. formerly)** a small group of instruments, either of the same type (a whole consort) or of different types (a broken consort). **4. the husband** or wife of a reigning monarch. **5. a husband** or wife. **6. a ship** that escorts another.

consortium (kən'sɔ:tɪəm) *n., pl. -tia (-tiə).* 1. an association of financiers, companies, etc., esp. for a particular purpose. **2. Law.** the right of husband or wife to the company and affection of the other.

conspectus (kən'spektʊs) *n.* 1. an overall view; survey. **2. a summary;** resumé.

conspicuous (kən'spɪkjʊəs) *adj.* 1. clearly visible. **2. attracting attention** because of a striking feature: conspicuous stupidity. —**con'spiciously** *adv.* —**con'spicuousness** *n.*

conspiracy (kən'spɪrəsi) *n., pl. -cies.* 1. a secret plan to carry out an illegal or harmful act, esp. with political motivation; plot. **2. the act** of making such plans in secret. —**con'spirator** *n.* —**conspiratorial** (kən'spɪrə'tɔ:riəl) *adj.*

conspire (kən'spaɪə) *vb.* (when *intr.*, sometimes foll. by *against*) 1. to plan (a crime) together in secret. **2. (intr.)** to act together as if by design: the elements conspired to spoil our picnic.

constable (ˈkɒnstəb'l, 'kɒn-) *n.* 1. (in Britain, Australia, Canada, etc.) a police officer of the lowest rank. **2. any of various officers** of the peace, esp. one who arrests offenders, serves writs, etc. **3. the keeper** of a royal castle. **4. (in medieval Europe)** the chief military officer and functionary of a royal household. **5. an officer** of a hundred in medieval England. —**constable,ship** *n.*

constabulary (kən'stæbjʊləri) *Chiefly Brit.* ~*n., pl. -laries.* 1. the police force of a town or district. ~*adj.* **2. of or relating** to constables.

constant (ˈkɒnstənt) *adj.* 1. unchanging. **2. incessant:** constant interruptions. **3. resolute;** loyal. ~*n.* **4. something** that is unchanging. **5. a specific quantity** that is invariable: the velocity of light is a constant. **6. a. Maths.** a symbol representing an unspecified number that remains invariable throughout a particular series of operations. **b. Physics.** a quantity or property that is considered invariable throughout a particular series of experiments. —**constancy** *n.* —**constantly** *adv.*

constellation (ˌkɒnstə'leɪʃən) *n.* 1. any of the 88 groups of stars seen from the earth, many of which were named by the ancient Greeks after animals, objects, or mythological persons. **2. a gathering** of brilliant people or things. **3. Psychoanal.** a group of ideas felt to be related. —**constellatory** (kən'stelətəri) *adj.*

consternation (ˌkɒnstə'neɪʃən) *n.* a feeling of anxiety, dismay, dread, or confusion.

constipate (ˈkɒnstɪ,peɪt) *vb. (tr.)* to cause constipation in. —**consti,pated** *adj.*

constipation (ˌkɒnstɪ'peɪʃən) *n.* infrequent or difficult evacuation of the bowels.

constituency (kən'stɪtjuənsɪ) *n., pl. -cies.* 1. the whole body of voters who elect one representative to a legislature or all the residents represented by one deputy. **2. a district** that sends one representative to a legislature.

constituent (kən'stɪtjuənt) *adj. (prenominal)* 1. forming part of a whole; component. **2. having the power** to frame a constitution or to constitute a government: constituent assembly. ~*n.* **3. a component part;** ingredient. **4. a resident** of a constituency, esp. one entitled to vote. **5. Chiefly law.** a person who appoints another to act for him. —**constituently** *adv.*

constitute (ˈkɒnstɪ,tju:t) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to form; compose: the people who constitute a jury. **2. to appoint** to an office: a legally constituted officer. **3. to set up** (an institution) formally; found. **4. Law.** to give legal form to (a court, assembly, etc.). —**consti,tuter** or **consti,tutor** *n.*

constitution (ˌkɒnstɪ'tju:ʃən) *n.* 1. the act of constituting or state of being constituted. **2. physical make-up;** structure. **3. the fundamental principles** on which a state is governed, esp. when considered as embodying the rights of the subjects. **4. (often cap.)** (in certain countries, esp. the U.S.) a statute embodying such principles. **5. a person's state of health.** **6. a person's temperament.**

constitutional (ˌkɒnstɪ'tju:ʃənəl) *adj.* 1. of a constitution. **2. authorized** by or subject to a constitution: constitutional monarchy. **3. inherent** in the nature of a person or thing: a constitutional weakness. **4. beneficial** to one's physical well-being. ~*n.* **5. a regular walk** taken for the benefit of one's health. —**consti,tution'al** *n.* —**consti,tutionally** *adv.*

constitutive (ˈkɒnstɪ,tju:tɪv) *adj.* 1. having power to enact or establish. **2. another word** for constituent (sense 1). —**consti,tutively** *adv.*

constrain (kən'streɪn) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to compel, esp. by circumstances, etc. **2. to restrain** as by force. —**con'strainer** *n.*

constrained (kən'streɪnd) *adj.* embarrassed, unnatural, or forced: a constrained smile.

constraint (kən'streɪnt) *n.* 1. compulsion or restraint. **2. repression** of natural feelings. **3. a forced unnatural**

manner. 4. something that serves to constrain; restrictive condition.

constrict (kən'strɪkt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to make smaller or narrower, esp. by contracting at one place. 2. to hold in or inhibit; limit.

constriction (kən'strɪkʃən) *n.* 1. a feeling of tightness in some part of the body, such as the chest. 2. the act of constricting or condition of being constricted. 3. something that is constricted. —**con'strictive** *adj.*

constrictor (kən'strɪktə) *n.* 1. any of various very large nonvenomous snakes, such as the boas, that coil around and squeeze their prey to kill it. 2. any muscle that constricts; sphincter.

construct *vb.* (kən'strʌkt). (tr.) 1. to put together substances or parts systematically; build; assemble. 2. to frame mentally (an argument, sentence, etc.). 3. *Geom.* to draw (a line, angle, or figure) so that certain requirements are satisfied. ~*n.* ('kɒnstrʌkt). 4. something formulated or built systematically. 5. a complex idea resulting from a synthesis of simpler ideas. —**con'structor** or **con'structor** *n.*

construction (kən'strʌkʃən) *n.* 1. the act of constructing or manner in which a thing is constructed. 2. a structure. 3. a. the business or work of building dwellings, offices, etc. b. (as modifier): a construction site. 4. an interpretation: they put a sympathetic construction on her behaviour. 5. *Grammar*. a group of words that make up one of the constituents into which a sentence may be analysed; a phrase or clause. 6. an abstract work of art in three dimensions. —**con'structional** *adj.* —**con'structionally** *adv.*

constructive (kən'strʌktɪv) *adj.* 1. serving to improve; positive: *constructive criticism*. 2. *Law*. deduced by inference; not expressed. 3. another word for **structural**. —**con'structively** *adv.*

construe (kən'stru:) *vb.* -struing, -strued. (mainly tr.) 1. to interpret the meaning of (something): you can construe that in different ways. 2. (may take a clause as object) to infer; deduce. 3. to analyse the grammatical structure of; parse (esp. a Latin or Greek text as a preliminary to translation). 4. to combine words syntactically. 5. (also intr.) *Old-fashioned*. to translate literally, esp. aloud. —**con'struable** *adj.*

consul ('kɒnsʌl) *n.* 1. an official appointed by a sovereign state to protect its commercial interests and aid its citizens in a foreign city. 2. (in ancient Rome) either of two annually elected magistrates who jointly exercised the highest authority in the republic. 3. (in France from 1799 to 1804) any of the three chief magistrates of the First Republic. —**consular** ('kɒnsjʊlə) *adj.* —**consulship** *n.*

consulate ('kɒnsjʊlət) *n.* 1. the premises of a consul. 2. government by consuls. 3. the office or period of office of a consul. 4. (often cap.) a. the government of France by the three consuls from 1799 to 1804. b. this period. 5. (often cap.) the consular government of the Roman republic.

consult (kən'sʌlt) *vb.* 1. (when intr., often foll. by *with*) to ask advice from (someone). 2. (tr.) to refer to for information: to consult a map. 3. (tr.) to have regard for (a person's feelings, interests, etc.); consider.

consultant (kən'sʌltənt) *n.* 1. a. a specialist physician who is asked to confirm a diagnosis. b. a physician or surgeon holding the highest appointment in a particular branch of medicine or surgery in a hospital. 2. a specialist who gives expert advice or information. 3. a person who asks advice in a consultation. —**con'sultancy** *n.*

consultation (kən'sʌltə'tʃən) *n.* 1. the act of consulting. 2. a conference for discussion or the seeking of advice. —**consultative** (kən'sʌltətɪv) *adj.*

consulting (kən'sʌltɪŋ) *adj.* (prenominal) acting in an advisory capacity on professional matters: a consulting engineer.

consulting room *n.* a room in which a doctor sees his patients.

consume (kən'sju:m) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to eat or drink. 2. (tr.; often passive) to obsess. 3. (tr.) to use up; expend. 4. to destroy or be destroyed by: fire consumed the forest. 5. (tr.) to waste. 6. (intr.; passive) to waste away. —**con'sumable** *adj.* —**con'sumingly** *adv.*

consumer (kən'sju:mə) *n.* 1. a person who purchases goods and services for his own personal needs. Cf. **producer** (sense 4). 2. a person or thing that consumes.

consumer goods *pl. n.* goods that satisfy personal needs rather than those required for the production of other goods or services.

consumerism (kən'sju:mə'rɪzəm) *n.* 1. protection of

the interests of consumers. 2. advocacy of a high rate of consumption as a basis for a sound economy. —**con'sumerist** *n., adj.*

consummate *vb.* ('kɒnsə,meɪt). 1. (tr.) to bring to completion; fulfil. 2. (tr.) to complete (a marriage) legally by sexual intercourse. ~*adj.* (kən'samɪt, 'kɒnsəmit). 3. supremely skilled: a consummate artist. 4. (prenominal) (intensifier): a consummate fool. —**con'summately** *adv.* —**con'sum'mation** *n.*

consumption (kən'sʌmpʃən) *n.* 1. the act of consuming or the state of being consumed, esp. by eating, burning, etc. 2. *Econ.* expenditure on goods and services for final personal use. 3. the quantity consumed. 4. a wasting away of the tissues of the body, esp. in tuberculosis of the lungs.

consumptive (kən'sʌmptrɪv) *adj.* 1. causing consumption; wasteful; destructive. 2. relating to or affected with tuberculosis of the lungs. ~*n.* 3. *Pathol.* a person who suffers from consumption. —**con'sumptively** *adv.* —**con'sumptiveness** *n.*

cont. *abbrev. for:* 1. contents. 2. continued.

contact *n.* ('kɒntækt). 1. the act or state of touching. 2. the state or fact of communication (esp. in **in contact, make contact**). 3. a. a junction of electrical conductors. b. the part of the conductors that make the junction. c. the part of an electrical device to which such connections are made. 4. an acquaintance, esp. one who might be useful in business, etc. 5. any person who has been exposed to a contagious disease. 6. (modifier) caused by touching the causative agent: *contact dermatitis*. 7. (modifier) of or maintaining contact. ~*vb.* ('kɒntækt, kən'tækt). 8. (when intr., often foll. by *with*) to put, come, or be in association, touch, or communication. —**contactual** (kən'tæktʃʊəl) *adj.*

contact lens *n.* a lens placed directly on the surface of the eye to correct defects of vision.

contagion (kən'teɪdʒən) *n.* 1. the transmission of disease from one person to another by contact. 2. a contagious disease. 3. a corrupting influence that tends to spread. 4. the spreading of an emotional or mental state among a number of people: the contagion of mirth.

contagious (kən'teɪdʒəs) *adj.* 1. (of a disease) capable of being passed on by direct contact with a diseased individual or by handling his clothing, etc. 2. (of an organism) harbouring the causative agent of a transmissible disease. 3. causing or likely to cause the same reaction in several people: *her laughter was contagious*.

contain (kən'teɪn) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to hold or be capable of holding: this contains five pints. 2. to restrain (feelings, behaviour, etc.). 3. to consist of: the book contains three sections. 4. *Mil.* to prevent (enemy forces) from operating beyond a certain area. 5. to be a multiple of, leaving no remainder: 6 contains 2 and 3. —**con'tainable** *adj.*

container (kən'teɪnə) *n.* 1. an object used for or capable of holding, esp. for transport or storage. 2. a. a large cargo-carrying standard-sized container that can be loaded from one mode of transport to another. b. (as modifier): a container ship.

containerize or **-ise** (kən'teɪnə,raɪz) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to convey (cargo) in standard-sized containers. 2. to adapt (a port or transportation system) to the use of standard-sized containers. —**con'taineri'zation** or **-i'sation** *n.*

containment (kən'teɪnmənt) *n.* the act of containing, esp. of restraining the power of a hostile country or the operations of a hostile military force.

contaminate (kən'tæmɪneɪt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to make impure; pollute. 2. to make radioactive by the addition of radioactive material. —**con'taminable** *adj.* —**con'taminant** *n.* —**con'tami'nation** *n.* —**con'tami,nator** *n.*

contemn (kən'tem) *vb.* (tr.) to regard with contempt; scorn. —**contemner** (kən'temnə, 'tɛmə) *n.*

contemplate ('kɒntem,pleɪt) *vb.* (mainly tr.) 1. to think about intently and at length. 2. (intr.) to think intently and at length, esp. for spiritual reasons; meditate. 3. to look at thoughtfully. 4. to have in mind as a possibility. —**con'tem'plation** *n.* —**con'tem,plator** *n.*

contemplative ('kɒntem,pleɪtɪv, -təm; kən'templə) *adj.* 1. denoting, concerned with, or inclined to contemplation; meditative. ~*n.* 2. a person dedicated to religious contemplation.

contemporaneous (kən'tempə'reɪniəs) *adj.* existing, beginning, or occurring in the same period of time. —**contemporaneity** (kən'tempə'reɪnɪti) or **con,tempo'raneousness** *n.*

contemporary (kən'tempərəri) *adj.* 1. living or occurring in the same period. 2. existing or occurring at the present time. 3. conforming to modern ideas in style, fashion, etc. 4. having approximately the same age as

one another. ~*n.*, *pl.* -*aries*. 5. a person living at the same time or of approximately the same age as another. 6. something that is contemporary. —*con'temporarily* *adv.* —*con'temporariness* *n.*

► **Usage.** *Contemporary* is most acceptable when used to mean of the same period, in a sentence like *it is useful to compare Shakespeare's plays with those of contemporary* (that is, other Elizabethan) *playwrights*. The word is, however, often used to mean modern or up-to-date in contexts such as *the furniture was of a contemporary design*. The second use should be avoided where ambiguity is likely to arise, as in *a production of Othello in contemporary dress*.

contempt (kən'tempt) *n.* 1. the feeling of a person towards a person or thing that he considers despicable; scorn. 2. the state of being scorned; disgrace (esp. in **hold in contempt**). 3. wilful disregard of the authority of a court of law or legislative body: *contempt of court*.

contemptible (kən'temptəb'l) *adj.* deserving or worthy of contempt. —*con'tempti'bility* or *con'temptibleness* *n.* —*con'temptibly* *adv.*

contemptuous (kən'temptjuəs) *adj.* (when *predicative*, often foll. by *of*) showing or feeling contempt; disdainful. —*con'temptuously* *adv.*

contend (kən'tend) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*; often foll. by *with*) to struggle in rivalry, battle, etc.; vie. 2. to argue earnestly. 3. (*tr.*; may take a clause as object) to assert. —*con'tender* *n.*

content¹ ('kɒntent) *n.* 1. (*often pl.*) everything inside a container. 2. (*usually pl.*) a. the chapters or divisions of a book. b. a list of these printed at the front of a book. 3. the meaning or significance of a work of art, as distinguished from its style or form. 4. all that is contained or dealt with in a piece of writing, etc.; substance. 5. the capacity or size of a thing. 6. the proportion of a substance contained in an alloy, mixture, etc.: *the lead content of petrol*.

content² (kən'tent) *adj.* (*postpositive*) 1. satisfied with things as they are. 2. assenting to or willing to accept circumstances, a proposed course of action, etc. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to make (oneself or another person) satisfied. ~*n.* 4. peace of mind. —*con'tentment* *n.*

contented (kən'tentɪd) *adj.* accepting one's situation or life with equanimity and satisfaction. —*con'tentedly* *adv.* —*con'tentedness* *n.*

contention (kən'tenʃən) *n.* 1. a struggling between opponents; competition. 2. a point of dispute (esp. in **bone of contention**). 3. a point asserted in argument.

contentious (kən'tenʃəs) *adj.* 1. tending to quarrel. 2. causing or characterized by dispute; controversial. —*con'tentiousness* *n.*

contiguous (kən'tɪɡjuəs) or **coterminous** (kəu'tɜːmɪnəs) *adj.* 1. enclosed within a common boundary. 2. without a break or interruption.

contest *n.* ('kɒntest) 1. a formal game or match in which people, teams, etc., compete. 2. a struggle for victory between opposing forces. ~*vb.* (kən'test). 3. (*tr.*) to try to disprove; call in question. 4. (when *intr.*, foll. by *with* or *against*) to dispute or contend (with): *a contested election*. —*con'testable* *adj.* —*con'tester* *n.*

contestant (kən'testənt) *n.* a person who takes part in a contest; competitor.

context ('kɒntekst) *n.* 1. the parts of a piece of writing, speech, etc., that precede and follow a word or passage and contribute to its full meaning: *it is unfair to quote out of context*. 2. the circumstances that are relevant to an event, fact, etc. —*con'textual* *adj.*

contiguous (kən'tɪɡjuəs) *adj.* 1. touching along the side or boundary; in contact. 2. neighbouring. 3. preceding or following in time. —*con'tiguously* *adv.*

continent¹ ('kɒntɪnənt) *n.* 1. one of the earth's large land masses (Asia, Australia, Africa, Europe, North and South America, and Antarctica). 2. *Obs.* a. mainland. b. a continuous extent of land. —*continental* ('kɒntɪ'nentl) *adj.* —*conti'nentially* *adv.*

continent² ('kɒntɪnənt) *adj.* 1. able to control urination and defecation. 2. exercising self-restraint, esp. from sexual activity; chaste. —*con'tinence* *n.*

Continent ('kɒntɪnənt) *n.* the mainland of Europe as distinguished from the British Isles.

Continental ('kɒntɪ'nentl) *adj.* 1. of or characteristic of Europe, excluding the British Isles. 2. of or relating to the 13 original British North American colonies during the War of American Independence. ~*n.* 3. (*sometimes not cap.*) an inhabitant of Europe, excluding the British Isles. 4. a regular soldier of the rebel army during the War of American Independence.

continental breakfast *n.* a light breakfast of coffee and rolls.

continental climate *n.* a climate characterized by hot summers, cold winters, and little rainfall, typical of the interior of a continent.

continental drift *n.* *Geol.* the theory that the earth's continents move gradually over the surface of the planet on a substratum of magma.

continental quilt *n.* *Brit.* a quilt, stuffed with down, used as a bed cover in place of the top sheet and blankets. Also called: *duvet*.

continental shelf *n.* the sea bed surrounding a continent at depths of up to about 200 metres (100 fathoms), at the edge of which the **continental slope** drops steeply.

contingency (kən'tɪndʒənsɪ) or **contingence** (kən'tɪndʒəns) *n.*, *pl.* -*cies* or -*ces*. 1. a. a possible but not very likely future event or condition. b. (*as modifier*): *a contingency plan*. 2. something dependent on a possible future event. 3. a fact, event, etc., incidental to something else. 4. *Logic*. the state of being contingent. 5. uncertainty. 6. *Statistics*. a. the degree of association between theoretical and observed common frequencies of two graded or classified variables. b. (*as modifier*): *a contingency table*.

contingent (kən'tɪndʒənt) *adj.* 1. (when *postpositive*, often foll. by *on* or *upon*) dependent on events, conditions, etc., not yet known; conditional. 2. *Logic*. (of a proposition) true under certain conditions, false under others; not logically necessary. 3. happening by chance; accidental. 4. uncertain. ~*n.* 5. a part of a military force, parade, etc. 6. a group distinguished by common interests, etc., that is part of a larger group. 7. a chance occurrence.

continual (kən'tɪnjuəl) *adj.* 1. recurring frequently, esp. at regular intervals. 2. occurring without interruption; continuous in time. —*con'tinually* *adv.*

continuance (kən'tɪnjuəns) *n.* 1. the act of continuing. 2. the duration of an action, etc. 3. *U.S.* the adjournment of a legal proceeding.

continuation (kən'tɪnju'eɪʃən) *n.* 1. a part or thing added, esp. to a book or play; sequel. 2. a renewal of an interrupted action, process, etc.; resumption. 3. the act of continuing; prolongation.

continue (kən'tɪnjuː) *vb.* -*uing*, -*ued*. 1. (when *tr.*, may take an *infinitive*) to remain or cause to remain in a particular condition or place. 2. (when *tr.*, may take an *infinitive*) to carry on uninterruptedly (a course of action): *he continued running*. 3. (when *tr.*, may take an *infinitive*) to resume after an interruption: *we'll continue after lunch*. 4. to prolong or be prolonged: *continue the chord until it meets the tangent*. 5. (*tr.*) *Law*, chiefly *Scot.* to adjourn (legal proceedings). —*con'tinuer* *n.*

continuity (kən'tɪnjuːɪti) *n.*, *pl.* -*ties*. 1. logical sequence. 2. a continuous or connected whole. 3. the comprehensive script or scenario of detail in a film or broadcast. 4. the continuous projection of a film.

continuo (kən'tɪnjuːə) *n.*, *pl.* -*os*. 1. *Music*. a. Also called: *basso continuo*. a continuous bass accompaniment played on a harpsichord or organ. b. (*as modifier*): *a continuo accompaniment*. 2. the bass part as played on a keyboard instrument.

continuous (kən'tɪnjuəs) *adj.* 1. unceasing: *a continuous noise*. 2. in an unbroken series or pattern. 3. *Statistics*. (of a variable) having consecutive values that are infinitesimally close, so that its analysis requires integration rather than summation. 4. *Grammar*. another word for **progressive** (sense 7). —*con'tinuously* *adv.* —*con'tinuoussness* *n.*

continuum (kən'tɪnjuəm) *n.*, *pl.* -*tinua* (-'tɪnjuə) or -*tinuums*. a continuous series or whole, no part of which is perceptibly different from the adjacent parts.

contort (kən'tɔːt) *vb.* to twist or bend out of place or shape. —*con'tortion* *n.* —*con'tortive* *adj.*

contortionist (kən'tɔːtɪnɪst) *n.* 1. a performer who contorts his body for the entertainment of others. 2. a person who twists or warps meaning.

contour ('kɒntʊə) *n.* 1. the outline of a mass of land, figure, or body; a defining line. 2. a. See **contour line**. b. (*as modifier*): *a contour map*. 3. (*often pl.*) the shape of a curving form: *the contours of her body were full and round*. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 4. to shape so as to form the contour of something. 5. to mark contour lines on. 6. to construct (a road, railway, etc.) to follow the outline of the land.

contour line *n.* a line on a map or chart joining points of equal height or depth.

contra- *prefix*. 1. against; contrary; opposing; con-

trasting; *contraceptive*. 2. (in music) pitched below: *contrabass*.

contraband (ˈkɒntrəˌbænd) *n.* 1. a. goods that are prohibited by law from being exported or imported. b. illegally imported or exported goods. 2. illegal traffic in such goods; smuggling. 3. Also called: **contraband of war**. goods that a neutral country may not supply to a belligerent. ~*adj.* 4. (of goods) a. forbidden by law from being imported or exported. b. illegally imported or exported. —*contra'bandist n.*

conception (ˌkɒntrəˈsepʃən) *n.* the intentional prevention of conception by artificial or natural means. —*contra'ceptive adj., n.*

contract *vb.* (kənˈtrækt). 1. to make or become smaller, narrower, shorter, etc. 2. (ˈkɒntrækt). (when *intr.*, sometimes foll. by *for*; when *tr.*, may take an infinitive) to enter into an agreement with (a person, company, etc.) to deliver (goods or services) or to do (something) on mutually agreed terms. 3. to draw or be drawn together. 4. (*tr.*) to incur or become affected by (a disease, debt, etc.). 5. (*tr.*) to shorten (a word or phrase) by the omission of letters or syllables, usually indicated in writing by an apostrophe. 6. (*tr.*) (of the brow) to wrinkle. 7. (*tr.*) to arrange (a marriage) for; betroth. ~*n.* (ˈkɒntrækt). 8. a formal agreement between two or more parties. 9. a document that states the terms of such an agreement. 10. the branch of law treating of contracts. 11. marriage considered as a formal agreement. 12. See **contract bridge**. 13. **Bridge**. a. the highest bid, which determines trumps and the number of tricks one side must make. b. the number and suit of these tricks. —*contra'ctible adj.*

contract bridge (ˈkɒntrækt) *n.* the most common variety of bridge, in which the declarer receives points counting towards game and rubber only for tricks he bids as well as makes. Cf. **auction bridge**.

contractile (kənˈtræktɪl) *adj.* having the power to contract or to cause contraction.

contraction (kənˈtrækʃən) *n.* 1. an instance of contracting or the state of being contracted. 2. a shortening of a word or group of words, often marked by an apostrophe: *I've come for I have come*. —*contra'ctive adj.*

contractor (kənˈtræktə) *n.* 1. a person or firm that contracts to supply materials or labour, esp. for building. 2. something that contracts.

contract out *vb.* (*intr., adv.*) *Brit.* to agree not to participate in something, esp. the state pension scheme.

contractual (kənˈtræktʃʊəl) *adj.* of the nature of or assured by a contract.

contradict (ˌkɒntrəˈdɪkt) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to affirm the opposite of (a statement, etc.). 2. (*tr.*) to declare (a statement, etc.) to be false or incorrect; deny. 3. (*tr.*) to be inconsistent with: *the facts contradicted his theory*. 4. (*intr.*) to be at variance; be in contradiction. —*contra'dictor or contra'dictor n.* —*contra'diction n.*

contradictory (ˌkɒntrəˈdɪktəri) *adj.* 1. inconsistent; incompatible. 2. given to argument and contention: *a contradictory person*. 3. *Logic*. (of a pair of propositions) unable to be both true or both false at once; mutually exclusive. —*contra'dictorily adv.* —*contra'dictoriness n.*

contradistinction (ˌkɒntrəˈdɪstɪŋkʃən) *n.* a distinction made by contrasting different qualities. —*contra'distinctive adj.*

contralto (kənˈtræltəʊ) *n., pl. -tos or -ti (-ti)*. 1. the alto voice of a female singer. 2. a singer with such a voice. Cf. *alto*. ~*adj.* 3. of or denoting a contralto: *the contralto part*.

contraption (kənˈtræpʃən) *n.* *Inf.*, often facetious or derog. a device or contrivance, esp. one considered strange, unnecessarily intricate, or improvised.

contrapuntal (ˌkɒntrəˈpʌntl) *adj.* *Music*. characterized by counterpoint. —*contra'punctally adv.* —*contra'punctist or contra'punctalist n.*

contrariwise (ˈkɒntrəriˌwaɪz) *adv.* 1. from a contrasting point of view. 2. in the reverse way. 3. (kənˈtrærɪˌwaɪz). in a contrary manner.

contrary (ˈkɒntrəri) *adj.* 1. opposed in nature, position, etc.: *contrary ideas*. 2. (kənˈtrærɪ). perverse; obstinate. 3. (esp. of wind) adverse; unfavourable. 4. (of plant parts) situated at right angles to each other. 5. *Logic*. (of a pair of propositions) related so they cannot both be true, although they may both be false. ~*n., pl. -ries*. 6. the exact opposite (esp. in *to the contrary*). 7. *on the contrary*, quite the reverse. 8. either of two exactly opposite objects, facts, or qualities. ~*adv.* (usually foll. by *to*) 9. in an opposite or unexpected way: *contrary to*

usual belief. 10. in conflict (with): *contrary to nature*. —*contra'rily adv.* —*contra'riness n.*

contrast *vb.* (kənˈtræst). 1. (often foll. by *with*) to distinguish or be distinguished by comparison of unlike or opposite qualities. ~*n.* (ˈkɒntræst). 2. distinction by comparison of opposite or dissimilar things, qualities, etc. (esp. in *by contrast*, *in contrast to or with*). 3. a person or thing showing differences when compared with another. 4. the effect of the juxtaposition of different colours, tones, etc. 5. the extent to which adjacent areas on a television screen differ in brightness. —*contra'strastingly adv.* —*contra'strastive adj.* —*contra'strasty adj.*

contravene (ˌkɒntrəˈvi:n) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to infringe (rules, laws, etc.). 2. to dispute or contradict (a statement, proposition, etc.). —*contra'vener n.* —*contravention* (ˌkɒntrəˈvenʃən) *n.*

contretemps (ˈkɒntrəˌtɛmː) *n., pl. -temps*. an awkward or difficult situation or mishap.

contribute (kənˈtribju:t) *vb.* (often foll. by *to*) 1. to give (support, money, etc.) for a common purpose or fund. 2. to supply (ideas, opinions, etc.). 3. (*intr.*) to be partly responsible (for): *drink contributed to the accident*. 4. to write (articles, etc.) for a publication. —*contra'ribution n.* —*contra'ributive adj.* —*contra'ributor n.* —*contra'ributory adj.*

contrite (kənˈtraɪt, ˈkɒntraɪt) *adj.* 1. full of guilt or regret; remorseful. 2. arising from a sense of shame or guilt: *contrite promises*. —*contra'ritely adv.* —*contra'riteness or contrition* (kənˈtrɪʃən) *n.*

contrivance (kənˈtraɪvəns) *n.* 1. something contrived, esp. an ingenious device; contraption. 2. inventive skill or ability. 3. an artificial rather than natural arrangement of details, parts, etc. 4. an elaborate or deceitful plan; stratagem.

contrive (kənˈtraɪv) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to manage (something) or to do something, esp. by a trick: *he contrived to make them meet*. 2. (*tr.*) to think up or adapt ingeniously: *he contrived a new mast for the boat*. 3. to plot or scheme. —*contra'river n.*

control (kənˈtrəʊl) *vb.* -trolling, -trolled. (*tr.*) 1. to command, direct, or rule. 2. to check, limit, or restrain: *to control one's emotions*. 3. to regulate or operate (a machine). 4. to verify (a scientific experiment) by conducting a parallel experiment in which the variable being investigated is held constant or is compared with a standard. 5. a. to regulate (financial affairs). b. to examine (financial accounts). ~*n.* 6. power to direct: *under control*. 7. a curb; check: *a frontier control*. 8. (often *pl.*) a mechanism for operating a car, aircraft, etc. 9. a. a standard of comparison used in a statistical analysis, etc. b. (as modifier): *a control group*. 10. a. a device that regulates the operation of a machine. b. (as modifier): *control room*. —*contra'rollable adj.* —*contra'rollability n.* —*contra'rollably adv.*

controller (kənˈtrəʊlə) *n.* 1. a person who directs. 2. Also called: **comptroller**. a business executive or government officer responsible for financial planning, control, etc. 3. the equipment concerned with controlling the operation of an electrical device. —*contra'troller, ship n.*

control tower *n.* a tower at an airport from which air traffic is controlled.

controversy (ˈkɒntrəˌvɜːsi, kənˈtrɒvˌ) *n., pl. -sies*. dispute, argument, or debate, esp. one concerning a matter about which there is strong disagreement and esp. one carried on in public or in the press. —*controversial* (ˌkɒntrəˈvɜːʃəl) *adj.* —*contra'versialism n.* —*contra'versialist n.* —*controvert* (ˈkɒntrəˌvɜːt, kənˈtrəˌvɜːt) *vb.*

contumacy (ˈkɒntjʊməsi) *n., pl. -cies*. obstinate and wilful resistance to authority, esp. refusal to comply with a court order. —*contu'macious adj.*

contumely (ˈkɒntjʊmɪli) *n., pl. -lies*. 1. scornful or insulting language or behaviour. 2. a humiliating insult. —*contumelious* (ˌkɒntjʊˈmi:liəs) *adj.* —*contu'meliously adv.*

contuse (kənˈtjuːz) *vb.* (*tr.*) to injure (the body) without breaking the skin; bruise. —*contra'tusion n.*

conundrum (kəˈnʌndrəm) *n.* 1. a riddle, esp. one whose answer makes a play on words. 2. a puzzling question or problem.

conurbation (ˌkɒnɜːˈbeɪʃən) *n.* a large densely populated urban sprawl formed by the growth and coalescence of individual towns or cities.

convalesce (ˌkɒnvəˈles) *vb.* (*intr.*) to recover from illness, injury, or the aftereffects of a surgical operation.

convalescence (ˌkɒnvəˈlesəns) *n.* 1. gradual return to health after illness, injury, or an operation. 2. the period

during which such recovery occurs. — **conva'lescent** *n.*, *adj.*

convection (kən'vekʃən) *n.* 1. the process of heat transfer caused by movement of molecules from cool regions to warmer regions of lower density. 2. *Meteorol.* the process by which masses of relatively warm air are raised into the atmosphere, often cooling and forming clouds, with compensatory downward movements of cooler air. — **con'vectional** *adj.* — **con'vective** *adj.*

convector (kən'vektə) *n.* a space-heating device from which heat is transferred to the surrounding air by convection.

convene (kən'vi:n) *vb.* 1. to gather, call together or summon, esp. for a formal meeting. 2. (tr.) to order to appear before a court of law, judge, tribunal, etc. — **con'venable** *adj.*

convenor or **convenor** (kən'vi:nə) *n.* a person who convenes or chairs a meeting, committee, etc., esp. one who is specifically elected to do so: a *convenor of shop stewards*.

convenience (kən'vi:njəns) *n.* 1. the quality of being suitable or opportune. 2. a convenient time or situation. 3. at your **convenience**, at a time suitable to you. 4. usefulness, comfort, or facility. 5. an object that is useful, esp. a labour-saving device. 6. *Euphemistic*, chiefly *Brit.* a lavatory, esp. a public one. 7. **make a convenience of**, to take advantage of; impose upon.

convenient (kən'vi:njənt) *adj.* 1. suitable; opportune. 2. easy to use. 3. close by; handy. — **con'veniently** *adv.*

convent ('kɒnvənt) *n.* 1. a building inhabited by a religious community, usually of nuns. 2. the religious community inhabiting such a building. 3. Also called: **convent school**, a school in which the teachers are nuns.

conventicle (kən'ventɪk'l) *n.* 1. a secret or unauthorized assembly for worship. 2. a small meeting house or chapel, esp. of Dissenters.

convention (kən'venʃən) *n.* 1. a large formal assembly of a group with common interests, such as a trade union. 2. *U.S. politics*, an assembly of delegates of one party to select candidates for office. 3. an international agreement second only to a treaty in formality. 4. any agreement or contract. 5. the established view of what is thought to be proper behaviour, good taste, etc. 6. an accepted rule, usage, etc.: a *convention used by printers*. 7. *Bridge*, a bid or play not to be taken at its face value, which one's partner can interpret according to a prearranged bidding system.

conventional (kən'venʃənəl) *adj.* 1. following the accepted customs and proprieties, esp. in a way that lacks originality. 2. established by accepted usage or general agreement. 3. of a convention or assembly. 4. *Visual arts*, conventionalized. 5. (of weapons, warfare, etc.) not nuclear. — **con'ventionalism** *n.* — **con'ventionally** *adv.*

conventionality (kən'venʃənəli) *n.*, *pl.* -ties. 1. the quality of being conventional. 2. (often *pl.*) something conventional.

conventionalize or **-lize** (kən'venʃənəlaɪz) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to make conventional. 2. to simplify or stylize (a design, decorative device, etc.). — **con'ventionalization** or **-li'sation** *n.*

converge (kən'vɜ:dʒ) *vb.* 1. to move or cause to move towards the same point. 2. to meet or join. 3. (intr.) (of opinions, effects, etc.) to tend towards a common conclusion or result. 4. (intr.) *Maths.* (of an infinite series) to approach a finite limit as the number of terms increases. 5. (intr.) (of animals and plants) to undergo convergence. — **con'vergent** *adj.*

convergence (kən'vɜ:dʒəns) *n.* 1. Also: **convergency**, the act, degree, or a point of converging. 2. Also called: **convergent evolution**, the evolutionary development of a superficial resemblance between unrelated animals that occupy a similar environment, as in the evolution of wings in birds and bats.

conversible (kən'vɜ:səb'l) *adj.* 1. easy or pleasant to talk to. 2. able or inclined to talk.

conversant (kən'vɜ:sənt) *adj.* (usually *postpositive* and foll. by *with*) experienced (in), familiar (with), or acquainted (with). — **con'versance** or **con'versancy** *n.* — **con'versantly** *adv.*

conversation (,kɒnvə'seɪʃən) *n.* the interchange through speech of information, ideas, etc.; spoken communication.

conversational (,kɒnvə'seɪʃənəl) *adj.* 1. of, using, or in the manner of conversation. 2. inclined to conversation; conversable. — **con'versationalist** *n.* — **con'versationally** *adv.*

conversation piece *n.* 1. something, esp. an un-

usual object, that provokes conversation. 2. (esp. in 18th-century Britain) a group portrait in a landscape or domestic setting.

converse *vb.* (kən'vɜ:s) (intr.; often foll. by *with*) 1. to engage in conversation (with). 2. to commune spiritually (with). ~n. ('kɒnvɜ:s) 3. conversation (often in **hold converse with**). — **con'verser** *n.*

converse ('kɒnvɜ:s) *adj.* 1. (prenominal) reversed; opposite; contrary. ~n. 2. something that is opposite or contrary. 3. *Logic*, a proposition inferred from another proposition by the transposition of the subject and predicate: "all bad men are bald" is the *converse* of "all bald men are bad". In the syllogism this can only be done nonaccidentally with universal negative (no x's are y's) and particular affirmative (some x's are y's) propositions. — **con'versely** *adv.*

conversion (kən'vɜ:ʃən) *n.* 1. a. a change or adaptation in form, character, or function. b. something changed in one of these respects. 2. a change to another belief, as in a change of religion. 3. *Maths.* a change in the units or form of a number or expression: the *conversion of miles to kilometres*. 4. *Rugby*, a score made after a try by kicking the ball over the crossbar from a place kick. 5. *Physics*, a change of fertile material to fissionable material in a reactor. 6. an alteration to a car engine to improve its performance.

convert *vb.* (kən'vɜ:t) (mainly *tr.*) 1. to change or adapt the form, character, or function of. 2. to cause (someone) to change in opinion, belief, etc. 3. (intr.) to admit of being changed (into): the *table converts into a tray*. 4. (also *intr.*) to change or be changed into another state: to *convert water into ice*. 5. *Law*, to assume unlawful proprietary rights over (personal property). 6. (also *intr.*) *Rugby*, to make a conversion after (a try). 7. *Logic*, to transpose the subject and predicate of (a proposition). 8. to change (a value or measurement) from one system of units to another. 9. to exchange (a security or bond) for something of equivalent value. ~n. ('kɒnvɜ:t) 10. a person who has been converted to another belief, religion, etc.

converter or **convertor** (kən'vɜ:tə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that converts. 2. *Physics*, a. a device for converting alternating current to direct current or vice versa. b. a device for converting a signal from one frequency to another. 3. a vessel in which molten metal is refined, using a blast of air or oxygen.

convertible (kən'vɜ:təb'l) *adj.* 1. capable of being converted. 2. (of a car) having a folding or removable roof. 3. *Finance*, a. (of a currency) freely exchangeable into other currencies. b. (of a paper currency) exchangeable on demand for precious metal to an equivalent value. ~n. 4. a car with a folding or removable roof. — **con'vertibility** *n.* — **con'vertibly** *adv.*

convex ('kɒnveks, kɒn'veks) *adj.* 1. curving outwards. 2. having one or two surfaces curved or ground in the shape of a section of the exterior of a sphere, ellipsoid, etc.: a *convex lens*. — **con'vexity** *n.* — **con'vexly** *adv.*

convey (kən'veɪ) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to take, carry, or transport from one place to another. 2. to communicate (a message, information, etc.). 3. (of a channel, path, etc.) to conduct or transfer. 4. *Law*, to transfer (the title to property). — **con'veyable** *adj.*

conveyance (kən'veɪəns) *n.* 1. the act of conveying. 2. a means of transport. 3. *Law*, a. a transfer of the legal title to property. b. the document effecting such a transfer. — **con'veyancer** *n.* — **con'veyancing** *n.*

conveyor or **conveyer** (kən'veɪə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that conveys. 2. short for **conveyor belt**.

conveyor belt *n.* a flexible endless strip of fabric or linked plates driven by rollers and used to transport objects, esp. in a factory.

convict *vb.* (kən'vɪkt) (tr.) 1. to pronounce (someone) guilty of an offence. ~n. ('kɒnvɪkt) 2. a person found guilty of an offence against the law. 3. a person serving a prison sentence.

conviction (kən'vɪkʃən) *n.* 1. the state of being convinced. 2. a firmly held belief, opinion, etc. 3. the act of convicting. 4. the act of convicting or the state of being convicted. 5. **carry conviction**, to be convincing. — **con'veictional** *adj.* — **con'veictive** *adj.*

convince (kən'vɪns) *vb.* (tr.) (may take a *clause as object*) to make (someone) agree, understand, or realize the truth or validity of something; persuade. — **con'veinc-** *n.* — **con'veincible** *adj.* — **con'veincing** *adj.*

convivial (kən'vɪvɪəl) *adj.* sociable; jovial or festive: a *convivial atmosphere*. — **con'veiviality** *n.*

convocation (,kɒnvə'keɪʃən) *n.* 1. a large formal assembly. 2. the act of convoking or state of being

convoked. **3.** *Church of England.* either of the synods of the provinces of Canterbury or York. **4.** *Episcopal Church.* an assembly of the clergy and part of the laity of a diocese. **5.** (*sometimes cap.*) (in some British universities) a legislative assembly. — **convocational** *adj.*

convoke (kən'vauk) *vb.* (tr.) to call (a meeting, assembly, etc.) together; summon. — **convoker** *n.*

convolute ('kɒnvəlu:t) *vb.* (tr.) **1.** to form into a twisted, coiled, or rolled shape. ~*adj.* **2.** *Bot.* rolled longitudinally upon itself: a *convolute* petal.

convoluted ('kɒnvəlu:tɪd) *adj.* **1.** (esp. of meaning, style, etc.) difficult to comprehend; involved. **2.** coiled. — **convolutedly** *adv.*

convolution (kən'vɒlu:ʃən) *n.* **1.** a turn, twist, or coil. **2.** an intricate or confused matter or condition. **3.** any of the numerous convex folds of the surface of the brain. — **convolutional** or **convolutionary** *adj.*

convolve (kən'vɒlv) *vb.* to wind or roll together; coil; twist.

convolvulus (kən'vɒlvjʊləs) *n.*, *pl.* -luses or -li (-laɪ), a twining herbaceous plant having funnel-shaped flowers and triangular leaves.

convoy ('kɒnvoi) *n.* **1.** a group of merchant ships with an escort of warships. **2.** a group of land vehicles assembled to travel together. **3.** the act of travelling or escorting by convoy (esp. in **in convoy**). ~*vb.* **4.** (tr.) to escort while in transit.

convulse (kən'vʌls) *vb.* **1.** (tr.) to shake or agitate violently. **2.** (tr.) to cause (muscles) to undergo violent spasms or contractions. **3.** (*intr.*; often foll. by *with*) *Inf.* to shake or be overcome (with violent emotion, esp. laughter). — **convulsively** *adj.*

convulsion (kən'vʌlʃən) *n.* **1.** a violent involuntary muscular contraction. **2.** a violent upheaval, esp. a social one. **3.** (*usually pl.*) *Inf.* uncontrollable laughter: *I was in convulsions.*

cony or **coney** ('kəʊni) *n.*, *pl.* -nies or -neys. a rabbit or fur made from the skin of a rabbit.

coo (ku:) *vb.* **cooling**, **cooed**. **1.** (*intr.*) (of doves, pigeons, etc.) to make a characteristic soft throaty call. **2.** (tr.) to speak in a soft murmur. **3.** (*intr.*) to murmur lovingly (esp. in **bill and coo**). ~*n.* **4.** the sound of cooing. ~*interj.* **5.** *Brit. sl.* an exclamation of surprise, awe, etc. — **cooingly** *adv.*

cooe or **cooe** ('ku:ɪ) *interj.* **1.** a call used to attract attention, esp. a long loud high-pitched call on two notes. ~*n.* **2.** *Austral.* & *N.Z.* *inf.* calling distance (esp. in **within (a) cooe (off)**). ~*vb.* **cooeing**, **cooeed** or **cooeing**, **cooeed**. **3.** (*intr.*) to utter this call.

cook (kuk) *vb.* **1.** to prepare (food) by the action of heat, or (of food) to become ready for eating through such a process. Related *adj.*: **culinary**. **2.** to subject or be subjected to intense heat: *the town cooked in the sun*. **3.** (tr.) *Sl.* to alter or falsify (figures, accounts, etc.): *to cook the books*. **4.** (tr.) *Sl.* to spoil (something). **5.** (*intr.*) *Sl.* to happen (esp. in **what's cooking?**). **6.** *Inf.* **cook someone's goose.** *a.* to spoil a person's plans. *b.* to bring about someone's downfall. ~*n.* **7.** a person who prepares food for eating. ~*See also* **cook up**. — **'cookable** *adj.*

cooker ('kʊkə) *n.* **1.** an apparatus heated by gas, electricity, oil, or solid fuel, for cooking food. **2.** *Brit.* any large sour apple used in cooking.

cookery ('kʊkəri) *n.* **1.** the art, study, or practice of cooking. **2.** *U.S.* a place for cooking.

cookery book or (esp. *U.S.*) **cookbook** ('kuk,bʊk) *n.* a book containing recipes.

cookie or **cooky** ('kʊki) *n.*, *pl.* -ies. **1.** the *U.S.* word for **biscuit**. **2.** *Inf.* chiefly *U.S.* a person: *smart cookie*. **3.** **that's the way the cookie crumbles.** *Inf.*, chiefly *U.S.* matters are inevitably so.

cook up *vb.* (tr., *adv.*) **1.** *Inf.* to concoct or invent (a story, alibi, etc.). **2.** to prepare (a meal), esp. quickly. **3.** *Sl.* to prepare (a drug) for use by heating, as by dissolving heroin in a spoon.

cool (ku:l) *adj.* **1.** moderately cold: *a cool day*. **2.** comfortably free of heat: *a cool room*. **3.** calm: *a cool head*. **4.** lacking in enthusiasm, cordiality, etc.: *a cool welcome*. **5.** calmly impudent. **6.** *Inf.* (of sums of money, etc.) without exaggeration; actual: *a cool ten thousand*. **7.** (of a colour) having violet, blue, or green predominating; cold. **8.** (of jazz) economical and rhythmically relaxed. **9.** *Inf.* sophisticated or elegant; unruffled. **10.** *Inf.*, chiefly *U.S.* marvellous. ~*n.* **11.** coolness: *the cool of the evening*. **12.** *Sl.* calmness; composure (esp. in **keep one's cool**). **13.** *Sl.* unruffled elegance or sophistication. ~*vb.* **14.** (usually foll. by *down* or *off*) to make or become cooler. **15.** (usually foll. by *down* or

off) to lessen the intensity of (anger or excitement) or (of anger or excitement) to become less intense; calm down. **16.** **cool it.** (*usually imperative*) *Sl.*, chiefly *U.S.* to calm down. **17.** **cool one's heels.** to be kept waiting. — **'coolly** *adv.* — **'coolness** *n.*

coolant ('ku:lənt) *n.* **1.** a fluid used to cool a system or to transfer heat from one part of it to another. **2.** a liquid used to lubricate and cool the workpiece and cutting tool during machining.

cool drink *n.* *S. African.* a soft drink.

cooler ('ku:lə) *n.* **1.** a container, vessel, or apparatus for cooling, such as a heat exchanger. **2.** a slang word for **prison**.

coolie or **cooly** ('ku:li) *n.*, *pl.* -ies. an unskilled Oriental labourer.

cooling tower *n.* a tall, hollow structure, designed to permit free passage of air, inside which hot water trickles down, becoming cool as it does so: the water is normally reused as part of an industrial process.

coomb, **combe**, **coombe**, or **comb** (ku:m) *n.* Chiefly *southeastern Brit.* a short valley or deep hollow.

coon (ku:n) *n.* **1.** *Inf.* short for **raccoon**. **2.** *Derog. sl.* a Negro or Australian Aborigine.

coop ('ku:p) *n.* **1.** a cage or small enclosure for poultry or small animals. **2.** a small narrow place of confinement, esp. a prison cell. **3.** a wicker basket for catching fish. ~*vb.* **4.** (tr.; often foll. by *up* or *in*) to confine in a restricted area.

coop or **co-op** ('kəʊ,ɒp) *n.* a cooperative society or a shop run by a cooperative society.

cooper ('kʊ:pə) *n.* **1.** a person skilled in making and repairing barrels, casks, etc. ~*vb.* **2.** (tr.) to make or mend (barrels, casks, etc.). — **'cooperage** *n.*

cooperate or **co-operate** (kəʊ'pəʊ,ret) *vb.* (*intr.*) **1.** to work or act together. **2.** to be of assistance or be willing to assist. **3.** *Econ.* to engage in economic cooperation. — **co-operator** or **co-'operator** *n.* — **co-operation** or **co-'operation** *n.*

cooperative or **co-operative** (kəʊ'pəʊrətɪv, -'ɒpə-) *adj.* **1.** willing to cooperate; helpful. **2.** acting in conjunction with others; cooperating. **3.** *a.* (of an enterprise, farm, etc.) owned collectively and managed for joint economic benefit. *b.* (of an economy) based on collective ownership and cooperative use of the means of production and distribution. ~*n.* **4.** a cooperative organization, such as a farm.

cooperative society *n.* a commercial enterprise owned and managed by and for the benefit of customers or workers.

coopt or **co-opt** (kəʊ'ɒpt) *vb.* (tr.) to add (someone) to a committee, board, etc., by the agreement of the existing members. — **co-'option**, **co-'option** or **co-'optation**, **co-'optation** *n.*

coordinate or **co-ordinate** *vb.* (kəʊ'ɔ:dɪneɪt). **1.** (tr.) to integrate diverse elements in a harmonious operation. **2.** to place (things) in the same class, or (of things) to be placed in the same class, etc. **3.** (*intr.*) to work together harmoniously. **4.** (*intr.*) to take or be in the form of a harmonious order. ~*n.* (kəʊ'ɔ:dɪnɪt). **5.** *Maths.* any of a set of numbers that defines the location of a point with reference to a system of axes. **6. a person or thing equal in rank, type, etc. ~*adj.* (kəʊ'ɔ:dɪnɪt). **7.** of or involving coordination. **8.** of the same rank, type, etc. **9.** of or involving the use of coordinates: *coordinate geometry*. **10.** *Chem.* denoting a type of covalent bond in which both the shared electrons are provided by one of the atoms. — **co-'ordinative** or **co-'ordinative** *adj.* — **co-'ordinator** or **co-'ordinator** *n.* — **co,ordi'nation** or **co,ordi'nation** *n.***

coordinates (kəʊ'ɔ:dɪnɪts) *pl. n.* clothes of matching or harmonious colours and design, suitable for wearing together.

coot (ku:t) *n.* **1.** an aquatic bird of Europe and Asia, having dark plumage, and a white bill with a frontal shield: family *Rallidae* (rails, etc.). **2.** a foolish person, esp. an old man.

cop¹ (kɒp) *Sl.* ~*n.* **1.** another name for **policeman**. **2.** *Brit.* an arrest (esp. in **a fair cop**). ~*vb.* **copping**, **copped**. (tr.) **3.** to catch. **4.** to steal. **5.** to suffer (a punishment, etc.): *you'll cop a clout if you do that!* **6.** *Sl.* **cop this!** just look at this! ~*See also* **cop out**.

cop² (kɒp) *n.* *Brit. sl.* (*usually used with a negative*) value: *not much cop*.

copal ('kɒpəl, -pæl) *n.* a hard aromatic resin obtained from various tropical trees and used in making varnishes and lacquers.

copartner (kəu'pɑ:tnə) *n.* a partner or associate, esp. an equal partner in business.

cope ('kəup) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*; foll. by *with*) to contend (against). 2. (*intr.*) to deal successfully with; manage: *she coped well with the problem.*

cope ('kəup) *n.* 1. a large ceremonial cloak worn at liturgical functions by priests of certain Christian sects. 2. any covering shaped like a cope. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to dress (someone) in a cope.

cope ('kəup) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to provide (a wall, etc.) with a coping. ~*n.* 2. another name for **coping**.

copeck ('kəupek) *n.* a variant spelling of **kopeck**.

Copernican system (kə'pɜ:nɪkən) *n.* the theory published in 1543 by Copernicus which stated that the earth and the planets rotated around the sun.

copestone ('kəup,stəʊn) *n.* 1. Also called: **coping stone**, a stone used to form a coping. 2. the stone at the top of a building, wall, etc.

copier ('kɒpiə) *n.* a person or device that copies.

copilot ('kəu,pailət) *n.* a second or relief pilot of an aircraft.

coping ('kəupɪŋ) *n.* the sloping top course of a wall, usually made of masonry or brick.

coping saw *n.* a handsaw with a U-shaped frame used for cutting curves in a material too thick for a fret saw.

copious ('kəupiəs) *adj.* 1. abundant; extensive. 2. having an abundant supply. 3. full of words, ideas, etc.; profuse. —'copiously *adv.* —'copiousness *n.*

cop out *U.S. & N.Z. sl. vb.* (*intr.*, *adv.*) to fail to assume responsibility or to fail to perform.

copper¹ ('kɒpə) *n.* 1. a malleable reddish metallic element occurring as the free metal, copper glance, and copper pyrites: used in such alloys as brass and bronze. Symbol: Cu; atomic no.: 29; atomic wt.: 63.54. Related adjs.: **cupric**, **cuprous**. 2. the reddish-brown colour of copper. 3. *Inf.* any copper or bronze coin. 4. *Chiefly Brit.* a large vessel, formerly of copper, used for boiling or washing. 5. any of various small widely distributed butterflies having reddish-brown wings. ~*vb.* 6. (*tr.*) to coat or cover with copper.

copper² ('kɒpə) *n.* a slang word for **policeman**. Often shortened to **cop**.

copper-bottomed *adj.* reliable, esp. financially reliable.

copperhead ('kɒpə,hed) *n.* 1. a venomous pit viper of the U.S., with a reddish-brown head. 2. a venomous marsh snake of Australia, with a reddish band behind the head.

copperplate ('kɒpə,plet) *n.* 1. a polished copper plate on which a design has been etched or engraved. 2. a print taken from such a plate. 3. a fine handwriting based upon that used on copperplate engravings.

coppersmith ('kɒpə,smɪθ) *n.* a person who works in copper.

copper sulphate *n.* a copper salt found naturally and made by the action of sulphuric acid on copper oxide: used as a mordant, in electroplating, and in plant sprays. Formula: CuSO₄.

coprice ('kɒpris) *n.* another word (esp. Brit.) for **copse**. —'copriced *adj.*

copra ('kɒprə) *n.* the dried, oil-yielding kernel of the coconut.

copro- or *before a vowel* **copr-** *combining form.* indicating dung or obscenity, as in **coprology** *n.* preoccupation with excrement, **coprophagous** *adj.* feeding on dung.

copse (kɒps) *n.* a thick or dense growth of small trees or bushes.

Copt (kɒpt) *n.* 1. a member of the Coptic Church. 2. an Egyptian descended from the ancient Egyptians.

Coptic ('kɒptɪk) *n.* 1. an Afro-Asiatic language, written in the Greek alphabet but descended from ancient Egyptian. Extinct as a spoken language, it survives in the Coptic Church. ~*adj.* 2. of this language. 3. of the Copts.

copula ('kɒpjulə) *n., pl. -las or -lae* (-li:). 1. a verb, such as *be*, *seem*, or *taste*, that is used to identify or link the subject with the complement of a sentence, as in *he became king*, *sugar tastes sweet*. 2. anything that serves as a link. —'copular *adj.*

copulate ('kɒpjuleɪt) *vb.* (*intr.*) to perform sexual intercourse. —'copulation *n.* —'copulatory *adj.*

copy ('kɒpi) *n., pl. copies.* 1. an imitation or reproduction of an original. 2. a single specimen of something that occurs in a multiple edition, such as a book. 3. a. matter to be reproduced in print. b. written matter or text as distinct from graphic material in books, etc. 4.

Journalism, inf. suitable material for an article: *disasters are always good copy*. 5. *Arch.* a model to be copied, esp. an example of penmanship. ~*vb.* **copying**, **copied**. 6. (when *tr.*, often foll. by *out*) to make a copy of. 7. to imitate as a model. 8. (*intr.*) to imitate unfairly.

copybook ('kɒpi,bʊk) *n.* 1. a book of specimens, esp. of penmanship, for imitation. 2. *Chiefly U.S.* a book for or containing documents. 3. **blot one's copybook**. *Inf.* to sully one's reputation. 4. (*modifier*) trite or unoriginal.

copycat ('kɒpi,kæt) *n.* *Inf.* a person, esp. a child, who imitates or copies another.

copyhold ('kɒpi,həʊld) *n.* *Law.* (formerly) a tenure less than freehold of land in England evidenced by a copy of the Court roll.

copyist ('kɒpɪst) *n.* 1. a person who makes written copies. 2. a person who imitates.

copyright ('kɒpi,raɪt) *n.* 1. the exclusive right to produce copies and to control an original literary, musical, or artistic work, granted by law for a specified number of years. ~*adj.* 2. (of a work, etc.) subject to copyright. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to take out a copyright on.

copy typist *n.* a typist whose job is to type from written or typed drafts rather than dictation.

copywriter ('kɒpi,raɪtə) *n.* a person employed to write advertising copy. —'copy, **writing** *n.*

coquette (kəu'ket, kə'ket) *n.* 1. a woman who flirts. 2. any humming bird of the genus *Lophornis*. —co'quettish *adj.* —co'quettishness *n.*

Cor. *Bible. abbrev.* for **Corinthians**.

coracle ('kɒrəkəl) *n.* a small roundish boat made of waterproofed hides stretched over a wicker frame.

coral ('kɒrəl) *n.* 1. any of a class of marine colonial coelenterates having a calcareous, horny, or soft skeleton. 2. a. the calcareous or horny material forming the skeleton of certain of these animals. b. (*as modifier*): a *coral necklace*. 3. a rocklike aggregation of certain of these animals or their skeletons, forming an island or reef. 4. a yellowish-pink colour. 5. the roe of a lobster or crab, which becomes pink when cooked.

cor anglais ('kɔ:ɹ'æŋɡleɪ) *n., pl. cors anglais* ('kɔ:ɹ'æŋɡleɪ). *Music.* a woodwind instrument, the alto of the oboe family. Also called: **English horn**.

corbel ('kɒrbəl) *Archit.* ~*n.* 1. a bracket, usually of stone or brick. ~*vb.* -**bellng**, -**belled** or *U.S.* -**belng**, -**beled**. 2. (*tr.*) to lay (a stone) so that it forms a corbel.

corbie ('kɒbi) *n.* a Scot. name for **raven** or **crow**.

cord (kɔ:d) *n.* 1. string or thin rope made of twisted strands. 2. a length of woven or twisted strands of silk, etc., used as a belt, etc. 3. a ribbed fabric, esp. corduroy. 4. the U.S. name for **flex** (sense 1). 5. *Anat.* any part resembling a rope: the *spinal cord*. 6. a unit for measuring cut wood, equal to 128 cubic feet. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 7. to bind or furnish with a cord or cords. —'cord, **like** *adj.*

cordate ('kɔ:deɪt) *adj.* heart-shaped.

corded ('kɔ:deɪd) *adj.* 1. bound or fastened with cord. 2. (of a fabric) ribbed. 3. (of muscles) standing out like cords.

cordial ('kɔ:diəl) *adj.* 1. warm and friendly: a *cordial greeting*. 2. stimulating. ~*n.* 3. a nonalcoholic drink with a fruit base: *lime cordial*. 4. another word for **liqueur**. —'cordially *adv.*

cordiality ('kɔ:di'ælɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* warmth of feeling.

cordite ('kɔ:daɪt) *n.* any of various explosive materials containing cellulose nitrate, sometimes mixed with nitroglycerin.

cordon ('kɔ:dən) *n.* 1. a chain of police, soldiers, ships, etc., stationed around an area. 2. a ribbon worn as insignia of honour. 3. a cord or ribbon worn as an ornament. 4. *Archit.* another name for **string course**. 5. *Horticulture.* a fruit tree consisting of a single stem bearing fruiting spurs, produced by cutting back all lateral branches. ~*vb.* 6. (*tr.*; often foll. by *off*) to put or form a cordon (around); close (off).

cordón bleu (French kɔrdɔ̃ 'blø) *n.* 1. *French history.* the sky-blue ribbon worn by members of the highest order of knighthood under the Bourbon monarchy. 2. any very high distinction. ~*adj.* 3. of or denoting food prepared to a very high standard.

cordón sanitaire French. (kɔrdɔ̃ sani'tɛ:r) *n.* 1. a guarded line isolating an infected area. 2. a line of buffer states shielding a country.

cordovan ('kɔ:dəvən) *n.* a fine leather now made principally from horsehide.

cords (kɔ:dz) *pl. n.* trousers, esp. jeans, made of corduroy.

corduroy ('kɔ:də,rɔɪ, kɔ:də'rɔɪ) *n.* a heavy cotton pile fabric with lengthways ribs.

corduroys (ˈkɔːdəˈrɔɪz, ˈkɔːdərɔɪz) *pl. n.* trousers or breeches of corduroy.

cordwainer (ˈkɔːdˌweɪnə) *n. Arch.* a shoemaker or worker in leather.

core (kɔː) *n.* 1. the central part of certain fleshy fruits, such as the apple, consisting of the seeds. 2. the central or essential part of something: *the core of the argument*. 3. a piece of magnetic material, such as soft iron, inside an electromagnet or transformer. 4. *Geol.* the central part of the earth. 5. a cylindrical sample of rock, soil, etc., obtained by the use of a hollow drill. 6. *Physics.* the region of a nuclear reactor in which the reaction takes place. 7. *Computers.* a. a ferrite ring used in a computer memory to store one bit of information. b. the whole memory of a computer when made up of such rings. c. (as modifier): *core memory*. 8. *Archaeol.* a stone or flint from which flakes have been removed. ~*vb.* 9. (tr.) to remove the core from (fruit).

co-respondent (ˌkəʊrɪˈspɒndənt) *n. Law.* a person cited in divorce proceedings, alleged to have committed adultery with the respondent.

corgi (ˈkɔːɡɪ) *n.* either of two short-legged sturdy breeds of dog, the Cardigan and the Pembroke.

coriander (ˌkɒrɪˈændə) *n.* 1. a European umbelliferous plant, cultivated for its aromatic seeds. 2. the dried seeds of this plant used in flavouring food, etc.

Corinthian (kəˈrɪnθiən) *adj.* 1. of Corinth. 2. denoting one of the five classical orders of architecture: characterized by a bell-shaped capital having carved ornaments based on acanthus leaves. 3. *Obs.* given to luxury; dissolute. ~*n.* 4. a native or inhabitant of Corinth.

cork (kɔːk) *n.* 1. the thick light porous outer bark of the cork oak. 2. a piece of cork used as a stopper. 3. an angling float. 4. Also called: **phellem**. *Bot.* a protective layer of dead impermeable cells on the outside of the stems and roots of woody plants. ~*vb.* (tr.) 5. to stop up (a bottle, etc.) with or as with a cork. 6. (often foll. by *up*) to restrain. 7. to black (the face, hands, etc.) with burnt cork. — **cork, like** *adj.*

corkage (ˈkɔːkɪdʒ) *n.* a charge made at a restaurant for serving wine, etc., bought off the premises.

corked (kɔːkt) *adj.* tainted through having a cork containing excess tannin.

corker (ˈkɔːkə) *n. Old-fashioned sl.* 1. something or somebody striking or outstanding. 2. an irrefutable remark that puts an end to discussion.

corkscrew (ˈkɔːkskruː) *n.* 1. a device for drawing corks from bottles, typically consisting of a pointed metal spiral attached to a handle or screw mechanism. 2. (modifier) resembling a corkscrew in shape. ~*vb.* 3. to move or cause to move in a spiral or zigzag course.

corm (kɔːm) *n.* an organ of vegetative reproduction in plants such as the crocus, consisting of a globular stem base swollen with food and surrounded by papery scale leaves.

cormorant (ˈkɔːmərənt) *n.* an aquatic bird having a dark plumage, a long neck and body, and a slender hooked beak.

corn (kɔːn) *n.* 1. *Brit.* a. any of various cereal plants, esp. the predominant crop of a region, such as wheat in England and oats in Scotland. b. the seeds of such plants, esp. after harvesting. c. a single seed of such plants; a grain. 2. the usual U.S., Austral., & N.Z. name for **maize**. 3. *Sl.* an idea, song, etc., regarded as banal or sentimental. ~*vb.* (tr.) 4. a. to preserve in brine. b. to salt.

corn (kɔːn) *n.* 1. a hardening of the skin, esp. of the toes, caused by pressure. 2. **tread on (someone's) corns**. *Brit. inf.* to hurt someone's feelings.

corn cob (ˈkɔːn,kɒb) *n.* the core of an ear of maize, to which kernels are attached.

corn crane (ˈkɔːn,kreɪk) *n.* a common Eurasian rail with a buff speckled plumage and reddish wings.

cornea (ˈkɔːniə) *n., pl. -neas (-niːz) or -neae (-niːe).* the convex transparent membrane that forms the anterior covering of the eyeball. — **corneal** *adj.*

corned (kɔːnd) *adj.* (esp. of beef) cooked and then preserved or pickled in salt or brine.

cornel (ˈkɔːnl) *n.* any plant of the genus *Cornus*, such as the dogwood.

cornelian (kɔːˈniːliən) *n.* a variant spelling of **carnelian**.

corner (ˈkɔːnə) *n.* 1. the place or angle formed by the meeting of two converging lines or surfaces. 2. a projecting angle of a solid object. 3. the place where two streets meet. 4. any small, secluded, or private place. 5. a dangerous position from which escape is

difficult: *a tight corner*. 6. any region, esp. a remote place. 7. something used to protect or mark a corner, as of the hard cover of a book. 8. *Commerce.* a monopoly over the supply of a commodity so that its market price can be controlled. 9. *Soccer, hockey, etc.* a free kick or shot from the corner of the field, taken against a defending team when the ball goes out of play over their goal line after last touching one of their players. 10. either of two opposite angles of a boxing ring in which the opponents take their rests. 11. **cut corners**, to take short cuts. 12. **turn the corner**, to pass the critical point (in an illness, etc.). 13. (modifier) on a corner: *a corner shop*. ~*vb.* 14. (tr.) to manoeuvre (a person or animal) into a position from which escape is difficult or impossible. 15. (tr.) a. to acquire enough of (a commodity) to attain control of the market. b. Also: **engross**, to attain control of (a market) in such a manner. 16. (intr.) (of vehicles, etc.) to turn a corner. 17. (intr.) (in soccer, etc.) to take a corner.

cornerstone (ˈkɔːnəˌstəʊn) *n.* 1. a stone at the corner of a wall, uniting two intersecting walls. 2. a stone placed at the corner of a building during a ceremony to mark the start of construction. 3. a person or thing of prime importance: *the cornerstone of the whole argument*.

cornet (ˈkɔːnɪt) *n.* 1. a three-valved brass instrument of the trumpet family. 2. a person who plays the cornet. 3. a cone-shaped paper container for sweets, etc. 4. *Brit.* a cone-shaped wafer container for ice cream. 5. (formerly) the lowest rank of commissioned cavalry officer in the British army. 6. the large white headdress of some nuns. — **cor'netist** *n.*

corn exchange *n.* a building where corn is bought and sold.

cornflakes (ˈkɔːnˌfleɪks) *pl. n.* a breakfast cereal made from toasted maize.

cornflour (ˈkɔːnˌflaʊə) *n.* a fine maize flour, used for thickening sauces. U.S. name: **cornstarch**.

cornflower (ˈkɔːnˌflaʊə) *n.* a herbaceous plant, with blue, purple, pink, or white flowers, formerly a common weed in cornfields.

cornice (ˈkɔːnɪs) *n.* 1. *Archit.* a. the top projecting mouldings of an entablature. b. a continuous horizontal projecting course or moulding at the top of a wall, building, etc. 2. an overhanging ledge of snow.

Cornish (ˈkɔːnɪʃ) *adj.* 1. of Cornwall or its inhabitants. ~*n.* 2. a former language of Cornwall: extinct by 1800. 3. the. (functioning as *pl.*) the natives or inhabitants of Cornwall. — **Cornishman** *n.*

Cornish pasty *n. Cookery.* a pastry case with a filling of meat and vegetables.

cornucopia (ˌkɔːnjuˈkɒpiə) *n.* 1. a representation of a horn in painting, sculpture, etc., overflowing with fruit, vegetables, etc.; horn of plenty. 2. a great abundance. 3. a horn-shaped container. — **cornu'copian** *adj.*

corny (ˈkɔːni) *adj.* **cornier, corniest**. *Sl.* 1. trite or banal. 2. sentimental or mawkish. 3. abounding in corn.

corolla (kəˈrɒlə) *n.* the petals of a flower collectively, forming an inner floral envelope.

corollary (kəˈrɒləri) *n., pl. -laries.* 1. a proposition that follows directly from the proof of another proposition. 2. an obvious deduction. 3. a natural consequence.

corona (kəˈrəʊnə) *n., pl. -nas or -nae (-niː).* 1. a circle of light around a luminous body, usually the moon. 2. Also called: **aureole**, the outermost region of the sun's atmosphere, visible as a faint halo during a solar eclipse. 3. *Archit.* the flat vertical face of a cornice. 4. a circular chandelier. 5. *Bot.* a. the trumpet-shaped part of the corolla of daffodils and similar plants. b. a crown of leafy outgrowths from inside the petals of some flowers. 6. *Anat.* a crownlike structure. 7. a long cigar with blunt ends. 8. *Physics.* an electrical discharge appearing around the surface of a charged conductor.

coronary (ˈkɒrənəri) *adj.* 1. *Anat.* designating blood vessels, nerves, ligaments, etc., that encircle a part or structure. ~*n., pl. -naries.* 2. short for **coronary thrombosis**.

coronary thrombosis *n.* a condition of interrupted blood flow to the heart due to a blood clot in a coronary artery.

coronation (ˌkɒrəˈneɪʃən) *n.* the act or ceremony of crowning a monarch.

coroner (ˈkɒrənə) *n.* a public official responsible for the investigation of violent, sudden, or suspicious deaths. — **coroner, ship** *n.*

coronet (ˈkɒrənɪt) *n.* 1. any small crown, esp. one worn by princes or peers. 2. a woman's jewelled circlet for

the head. **3.** the margin between the skin of a horse's pastern and the horn of the hoof.

corporal ('kɔ:pərəl, 'kɔ:pərəl) *adj.* of or relating to the body; bodily. — **corporality** *n.* — **corporally** *adv.*

corporal ('kɔ:pərəl) *n.* **1.** a noncommissioned officer junior to a sergeant in the army, air force, or marines. **2.** (in the Royal Navy) a petty officer who assists the master-at-arms.

corporal punishment *n.* punishment of a physical nature, such as caning.

corporate ('kɔ:pəɪt) *adj.* **1.** forming a corporation; incorporated. **2.** of a corporation. **3.** of or belonging to a united group; joint. — **corporatism** *n.*

corporation ('kɔ:pə'reɪʃən) *n.* **1.** an association of persons having separate powers, duties, and liabilities. **2.** Also called: **municipal corporation.** the municipal authorities of a city or town. **3.** a group of people acting as one body. **4.** *Brit. inf.* a large paunch. — **corporative** *adj.*

corporeal ('kɔ:pəɪəl) *adj.* **1.** of the nature of the physical body; not spiritual. **2.** of a material nature; physical. — **corporeality** or **corporeity** ('kɔ:pə'ri:ti) *n.* — **corporeally** *adv.*

corps (kɔ:) *n., pl.* **corps** (kɔ:z). **1.** a military formation that comprises two or more divisions. **2.** a body of people associated together: *the diplomatic corps.*

corps de ballet ('kɔ: də 'bæleɪ) *n.* the members of a ballet company who dance together in a group.

corpse (kɔ:ps) *n.* a dead body, esp. of a human being.

corpulent ('kɔ:pjələnt) *adj.* physically bulky; fat. — **corpulence** *n.*

corpus ('kɔ:pəs) *n., pl.* **-pora** (-pərə). **1.** a body of writings, esp. by a single author or on a specific topic: *the corpus of Dickens' works.* **2.** the main body or substance of something. **3.** *Anat.* a. any distinct mass or body. b. the main part of an organ or structure. **4.** *Obs.* a corpse.

corpuscle ('kɔ:pəsəl) *n.* **1.** any cell or similar minute body that is suspended in a fluid, esp. any of the **red blood corpuscles** (see **erythrocyte**) or **white blood corpuscles** (see **leucocyte**). **2.** Also: **corpuscule.** any minute particle. — **corpuscular** (kɔ:'paskjələ) *adj.*

corral (kɔ'ræl) *n.* **1.** Chiefly *U.S.* an enclosure for cattle or horses. **2.** Chiefly *U.S.* (formerly) a defensive enclosure formed by a ring of covered wagons. ~*vb.* **-ralling, -ralled.** (tr.) *U.S.* **3.** to drive into a corral. **4.** *Inf.* to capture.

corrasion (kɔ'reɪzən) *n.* erosion of a rock surface by rock fragments transported over it by water, wind, or ice.

correct ('kɔ:rekt) *vb. (tr.)* **1.** to make free from errors. **2.** to indicate the errors in. **3.** to rebuke or punish in order to improve: *to stand corrected.* **4.** to rectify (a malfunction, ailment, etc.). **5.** to adjust or make conform, esp. to a standard. ~*adj.* **6.** true; accurate: *the correct version.* **7.** in conformity with accepted standards: *correct behaviour.* — **cor'rective** *adj.* — **cor'rectly** *adv.* — **cor'rectness** *n.*

correction ('kɔ:rekʃən) *n.* **1.** the act of correcting. **2.** something substituted for an error; an improvement. **3.** a reproof. **4.** a quantity added to or subtracted from a scientific calculation or observation to increase its accuracy. — **cor'rectional** *adj.*

correlate ('kɔ:ri,leɪt) *vb.* **1.** to place or be placed in a complementary or reciprocal relationship. **2.** (tr.) to establish or show a correlation. ~*n.* **3.** either of two things mutually related. — **corre'lation** *n.*

correlative ('kɔ:relatɪv) *adj.* **1.** in complementary or reciprocal relationship; corresponding. **2.** denoting words, usually conjunctions, occurring together though not adjacently in certain grammatical constructions, as *neither* and *nor*. ~*n.* **3.** either of two things that are correlative. **4.** a correlative word. — **cor'relatively** *adv.* — **cor,rela'tivity** *n.*

correspond ('kɔ:ri'spɒnd) *vb. (intr.)* **1.** (usually foll. by *with* or *to*) to be consistent or compatible (with); tally (with). **2.** (usually foll. by *to*) to be similar in character or function. **3.** (usually foll. by *with*) to communicate by letter. — **corre'spondingly** *adv.*

Usage. See at **similar**.

correspondence ('kɔ:ri'spɒndəns) *n.* **1.** the condition of agreeing or corresponding. **2.** similarity. **3.** agreement or conformity. **4. a.** communication by letters. **b.** the letters so exchanged.

correspondence school *n.* an educational institution that offers tuition (correspondence courses) by post.

correspondent ('kɔ:ri'spɒndənt) *n.* **1.** a person who communicates by letter. **2.** a person employed by a newspaper, etc., to report on a special subject or from a foreign country. **3.** a person or firm that has regular business relations with another, esp. one abroad. ~*adj.* **4.** similar or analogous.

corridor ('kɔ:ri,dɔ:) *n.* **1.** a passage connecting parts of a building. **2.** a strip of land or air space that affords access, either from a landlocked country to the sea or from a state to an exclave. **3.** a passageway connecting the compartments of a railway coach. **4.** **corridors of power.** the higher echelons of government, the Civil Service, etc., considered as the location of power and influence.

corrie ('kɔ:ri) *n.* **1.** (in Scotland) a circular hollow on a hillside. **2.** *Geol.* another name for **cirque**.

corrigendum ('kɔ:ri'dʒəndəm) *n., pl.* **-da** (-də). **1.** an error to be corrected. **2.** (sometimes pl.) Also called: **erratum.** a slip of paper inserted into a book after printing, listing corrections.

corrigible ('kɔ:ri'dʒɪbl) *adj.* **1.** capable of being corrected. **2.** submissive.

corroborate ('kɔ:rɒbə,reit) *vb. (tr.)* to confirm or support (facts, opinions, etc.), esp. by providing fresh evidence. — **cor,robo'ration** *n.* — **corroborative** (kɔ'rɒbəreitɪv) *adj.* — **cor'robo,rator** *n.*

corroboree ('kɔ:rɒbəri) *n.* *Austral.* **1.** a native assembly of sacred, festive, or warlike character. **2.** any noisy gathering.

corrode ('kɔ:rəʊd) *vb.* **1.** to eat away or be eaten away, esp. as in the oxidation or rusting of a metal. **2.** (tr.) to destroy gradually: *his jealousy corroded his happiness.* — **cor'rodible** *adj.*

corrosion ('kɔ:rəʊzən) *n.* **1.** a process in which a solid, esp. a metal, is eaten away and changed by a chemical action, as in the oxidation of iron. **2.** slow deterioration by being eaten or worn away. **3.** the product of corrosion. — **corrosive** ('kɔ:rəʊsɪv) *adj.*

corrugate ('kɔ:rʊ,geɪt) *vb. (usually tr.)* to fold or be folded into alternate furrows and ridges. — **corru'gation** *n.*

corrugated iron *n.* a thin sheet of iron or steel, formed with alternating ridges and troughs.

corrupt ('kɔ:rʌpt) *adj.* **1.** open to or involving bribery or other dishonest practices: *a corrupt official; corrupt practices.* **2.** morally depraved. **3.** putrid or rotten. **4.** (of a text or manuscript) made meaningless or different in meaning by scribal errors or alterations. ~*vb.* **5.** to become or cause to become dishonest or disloyal. **6.** to deprave. **7.** (tr.) to infect or contaminate. **8.** (tr.) to cause to become rotten. **9.** (tr.) to alter (a text, etc.) from the original. — **cor'rupter** or **cor'ruptor** *n.* — **cor'ruptly** *adv.* — **cor'ruptness** *n.*

corruptible ('kɔ:rʌptəbəl) *adj.* capable of being corrupted. — **cor'ruptibly** *adv.*

corruption ('kɔ:rʌpʃən) *n.* **1.** the act of corrupting or state of being corrupt. **2.** depravity. **3.** dishonesty, esp. bribery. **4.** decay. **5.** alteration, as of a manuscript. **6.** an altered form of a word.

corsage ('kɔ:sæʒ) *n.* **1.** a small bunch of flowers worn pinned to the lapel, bosom, etc. **2.** the bodice of a dress.

corsair ('kɔ:səɪ) *n.* **1.** a pirate. **2.** a privateer, esp. of the Barbary Coast.

corse (kɔ:s) *n.* an archaic word for **corpse**.

corselet ('kɔ:slɪt) *n.* **1.** Also spelt: **corslet.** a piece of armour for the top part of the body. **2.** a one-piece foundation garment.

corset ('kɔ:sɪt) *n.* **1. a.** a stiffened, elasticated, or laced foundation garment, worn esp. by women. **b.** a similar garment worn because of injury, weakness, etc., by either sex. **2.** *Inf.* a restriction or limitation, esp. government control of bank lending. ~*vb.* **3.** (tr.) to dress or enclose in, or as in, a corset. — **corsetière** ('kɔ:sɪti'eə) *n.* — **'corsetry** *n.*

cortege or **cortège** (kɔ:'teɪʒ) *n.* **1.** a formal procession, esp. a funeral procession. **2.** a train of attendants; retinue.

cortex ('kɔ:teks) *n., pl.* **-tices** (-tɪ:sɪz). **1.** *Anat.* the outer layer of any organ or part, such as the grey matter in the brain that covers the cerebrum (**cerebral cortex**). **2.** *Bot.* a. the tissue in plant stems and roots between the vascular bundles and the epidermis. **b.** the outer layer of a part such as the bark of a stem. — **cortical** ('kɔ:tɪkəl) *adj.*

corticate ('kɔ:tɪkɪt, -kɛɪt) or **corticated** *adj.* (of plants, seeds, etc.) having a bark, husk, or rind.

cortisone ('kɔ:tɪ,zʌn) *n.* a steroid hormone, the syn-

thetic form of which has been used in treating rheumatoid arthritis, allergic and skin diseases, leukaemia, etc.

corundum (kə'raʊndəm) *n.* a hard mineral consisting of aluminium oxide: used as an abrasive. Precious varieties include ruby and sapphire. Formula: Al_2O_3 .

coruscate ('kɒrəskeɪt) *vb.* (*intr.*) to emit flashes of light; sparkle. — **coruscation** *n.*

corvette ('kɒr'vet) *n.* a lightly armed escort warship.

corymb ('kɒrɪmb, -rɪm) *n.* an inflorescence in the form of a flat-topped flower cluster with the oldest flowers at the periphery.

coryza (kə'raɪzə) *n.* acute inflammation of the mucous membrane of the nose, with discharge of mucus; a head cold.

cos¹ or **cos lettuce** (kɒs) *n.* a variety of lettuce with a long slender head and crisp leaves. Usual U.S. name: **romaine**.

cos² (kɒz) *abbrev.* for cosine.

Cos. or **cos.** *abbrev.* for: 1. Companies. 2. Counties.

cosec ('kəʊsek) *abbrev.* for cosecant.

cosecant (kəʊ'sɪkənt) *n.* (of an angle) a trigonometric function that in a right-angled triangle is the ratio of the length of the hypotenuse to that of the opposite side.

cosh¹ (kɒʃ) *Brit. ~n.* 1. a blunt weapon, often made of hard rubber; bludgeon. 2. an attack with such a weapon. ~*vb.* 3. to hit with such a weapon, esp. on the head.

cosh² (kɒʃ, 'kɒs'eɪʃ) *n.* hyperbolic cosine.

cosignatory (kəʊ'sɪɡnətəri, -tri) *n., pl. -ries.* 1. a person, country, etc., that signs a document jointly with others. ~*adj.* 2. signing jointly.

cosine ('kəʊ,sam) *n.* (of an angle) a trigonometric function that in a right-angled triangle is the ratio of the length of the adjacent side to that of the hypotenuse.

cosmetic (kɒz'metɪk) *n.* 1. any preparation applied to the body, esp. the face, with the intention of beautifying it. ~*adj.* 2. serving or designed to beautify the body, esp. the face. 3. having no other function than to beautify: *cosmetic illustrations in a book.* — **cos'metically** *adv.*

cosmic ('kɒzmɪk) *adj.* 1. of or relating to the whole universe: *cosmic laws.* 2. occurring or originating in outer space, esp. as opposed to the vicinity of the earth: *cosmic rays.* 3. immeasurably extended; vast. — **cos'mically** *adv.*

cosmo- or before a vowel **cosm-** *combining form.* indicating the world or universe: *cosmology; cosmonaut.*

cosmogony (kɒz'mɒɡəni) *n., pl. -nies.* the study of the origin and development of the universe or of a particular system in the universe, such as the solar system. — **cos'mogonic** (kɒz'mə'ɡɒnɪk) or **cosmo'gonical** *adj.* — **cos'mogonist** *n.*

cosmology (kɒz'mɒlədʒɪ) *n.* the study of the origin and nature of the universe. — **cos'mological** (kɒz'mə'lədʒɪkəl) or **cosmo'logic** *adj.* — **cos'mologist** *n.*

cosmonaut ('kɒz'mə,nɔ:t) *n.* a Soviet astronaut.

cosmopolitan (kɒz'mə'pɒlɪt'n) *n.* 1. a person who has lived and travelled in many countries, esp. one who is free of national prejudices. ~*adj.* 2. familiar with many parts of the world. 3. sophisticated or urbane. 4. composed of people or elements from all parts of the world or from many different spheres. — **cosmo'poltanism** *n.*

cosmos ('kɒzmɒs) *n.* 1. the universe considered as an ordered system. 2. any ordered system. 3. (*pl. -mos* or *-moses*) any tropical American plant of the genus *Cosmos*, cultivated as garden plants for their brightly coloured flowers.

Cossack ('kɒsæk) *n.* 1. (formerly) any of the free warrior-peasants of chiefly East Slavonic descent who served as cavalry under the tsars. ~*adj.* 2. of, relating to, or characteristic of the Cossacks: *a Cossack dance.*

cosset ('kɒsɪt) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to pamper; coddle; pet. ~*n.* 2. any pet animal, esp. a lamb.

cost (kɒst) *n.* 1. the price paid or required for acquiring, producing, or maintaining something, measured in money, time, or energy; outlay. 2. suffering or sacrifice: *I know to my cost.* 3. a. the amount paid for a commodity by its seller: *to sell at cost.* b. (*as modifier*): *the cost price.* 4. (*pl.*) Law. the expenses of judicial proceedings. 5. at all costs. regardless of sacrifice involved. 6. at the cost of. at the expense of losing. ~*vb.* **costing**, **cost**. 7. (*tr.*) to be obtained or obtainable in exchange for: *the ride cost one pound.* 8. to cause or require the loss or sacrifice (of): *the accident cost him dearly.* 9. to estimate the cost of (a product, process, etc.) for the purposes of pricing, budgeting, control, etc.

cost accounting *n.* the recording and controlling of

all the expenditures of an enterprise in order to facilitate control of separate activities. Also called: **management accounting.** — **cost accountant** *n.*

costermonger ('kɒstə,mʌŋɡə) or **coster** *n. Brit., rare.* a person who sells fruit, vegetables, etc., from a barrow.

costive ('kɒstɪv) *adj.* 1. constipated. 2. niggardly. — **costiveness** *n.*

costly ('kɒstli) *adj. -lier, -liest.* 1. expensive. 2. entailing great loss or sacrifice: *a costly victory.* 3. splendid; lavish. — **costliness** *n.*

cost of living *n.* 1. the basic cost of the food, clothing, shelter, and fuel necessary to maintain life, esp. at a standard of living regarded as basic. 2. (*as modifier*): *the cost-of-living index.*

costume ('kɒstjʊm) *n.* 1. a style of dressing, including all the clothes, accessories, etc., worn at one time, as in a particular country or period. 2. *Old-fashioned.* a woman's suit. 3. a set of clothes, esp. unusual or period clothes: *a jester's costume.* 4. short for **swimming costume.** ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 5. to furnish the costumes for (a show, film, etc.). 6. to dress (someone) in a costume.

costumier (kɒ'stju:mɪə) or **costumer** *n.* a person or firm that makes or supplies theatrical or fancy costumes.

cosy or **U.S. cozy** ('kəʊzi) *adj. -slier, -sliest* or **U.S. -zlier, -ziest.** 1. warm and snug. 2. intimate; friendly. ~*n., pl. -sies* or **U.S. -zies.** 3. a cover for keeping things warm: *egg cosy.* — **cosily** or **U.S. cozily** *adv.* — **cosiness** or **U.S. coziness** *n.*

cot¹ (kɒt) *n.* 1. a child's boxlike bed, usually incorporating vertical bars. 2. a portable bed. 3. a light bedstead. 4. *Naut.* a hammock-like bed.

cot² (kɒt) *n.* 1. *Literary* or *arch.* a small cottage. 2. Also called: **cote.** a. a small shelter, esp. one for pigeons, sheep, etc. b. (*in combination*): *dovecot.*

cot³ (kɒt) *abbrev.* for cotangent.

cotangent (kəʊ'tændʒənt) *n.* (of an angle) a trigonometric function that in a right-angled triangle is the ratio of the length of the adjacent side to that of the opposite side.

C.O.T.C. *abbrev.* for Canadian Officers Training Corps.

cot death *n.* the unexplained sudden death of an infant during sleep.

cote (kəʊt) or **cot** *n.* 1. a small shelter for pigeons, sheep, etc. 2. (*in combination*): *dovecote.*

coterie ('kɒtəri) *n.* a small exclusive group of friends or people with common interests; clique.

cotoneaster (kə,təʊnɪ'æstə) *n.* any Old World shrub of the rosaceous genus *Cotoneaster*: cultivated for their ornamental flowers and red or black berries.

cottage ('kɒtɪdʒ) *n.* a small simple house, esp. in a rural area. — **'cottage** *n.*

cottage cheese *n.* a mild loose soft white cheese made from skimmed milk curds.

cottage industry *n.* an industry in which employees work in their own homes, often using their own equipment.

cotter¹ ('kɒtə) *Machinery. n.* 1. any part, such as a pin, wedge, key, etc., that is used to secure two other parts so that relative motion between them is prevented. 2. short for **cotter pin.**

cotter² ('kɒtə) *n.* 1. *English history.* a villen in late Anglo-Saxon and early Norman times occupying a cottage and land in return for labour. 2. Also called: **cottar.** a peasant occupying a cottage and land in the Scottish Highlands.

cotter pin *n.* *Machinery.* a split pin secured, after passing through holes in the parts to be attached, by spreading the ends.

cotton ('kɒt'n) *n.* 1. any of various herbaceous plants and shrubs cultivated in warm climates for the fibre surrounding the seeds and the oil within the seeds. 2. the soft white downy fibre of these plants, used to manufacture textiles. 3. cotton plants collectively, as a cultivated crop. 4. a cloth or thread made from cotton fibres. ~*See also* **cotton on.** — **'cottony** *adj.*

cotton on *vb.* (*intr., adv.*; often foll. by *to*) *Inf.* to perceive the meaning (of).

cotton wool *n.* 1. *Chiefly Brit.* bleached and sterilized cotton from which the impurities, such as the seeds, have been removed. Usual U.S. term: **absorbent cotton.** 2. cotton in the natural state. 3. *Brit. inf.* a state of pampered comfort and protection.

cotyledon (kɒt'li:d'n) *n.* a simple embryonic leaf in seed-bearing plants, which, in some species, forms the

first green leaf after germination. —, *coty'ledonous* *adj.* —, *coty'ledonal* *adj.*

couch (*kautʃ*) *n.* 1. a piece of upholstered furniture, usually having a back and armrests, for seating more than one person. 2. a bed, esp. one used in the daytime by the patients of a doctor or a psychoanalyst. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to express in a particular style of language: *couched in an archaic style*. 4. (when *tr.*, usually *reflexive* or *passive*) to lie down or cause to lie down for or as for sleep. 5. (*intr.*) *Arch.* to crouch. 6. (*intr.*) *Arch.* to lie in ambush; lurk. 7. (*tr.*) *Surgery.* to remove (a cataract) by downward displacement of the lens of the eye. 8. (*tr.*) *Arch.* to lower (a lance) into a horizontal position. —'coucher *n.*

couchette (*ku:'ʃet*) *n.* a bed or berth in a railway carriage, esp. one converted from seats.

couch grass (*kautʃ, kʌtʃ*) *n.* a grass with a yellowish-white creeping underground stem by which it spreads quickly: a troublesome weed. Also called: **twitch grass**, **quitch grass**.

cougar (*'ku:gə*) *n.* another name for **puma**.

cough (*kɒf*) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to expel air abruptly and explosively through the partially closed vocal chords. 2. (*intr.*) to make a sound similar to this. 3. (*tr.*) to utter or express with a cough or coughs. ~*n.* 4. an act or sound of coughing. 5. a condition of the lungs or throat which causes frequent coughing. —'cougher *n.*

cough mixture *n.* any medicine that relieves coughing.

cough up *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. *Inf.* to surrender (money, information, etc.), esp. reluctantly. 2. (*tr.*) to bring into the mouth or eject (phlegm, food, etc.) by coughing.

could (*kʊd*) *vb.* (takes an infinitive without *to* or an implied infinitive) used as an auxiliary: 1. to make the past tense of **can**. 2. to make the subjunctive mood of **can**, esp. used in polite requests or in conditional sentences: *could I see you tonight?* 3. to indicate suggestion of a course of action: *you could take the car if it's raining*. 4. (often foll. by *well*) to indicate a possibility: *he could well be a spy*.

coulomb (*'ku:lɒm*) *n.* the derived SI unit of electric charge; the quantity of electricity transported in one second by a current of 1 ampere. Symbol: C

coulter (*'kʊltə*) *n.* a blade or sharp-edged disc attached to a plough so that it cuts through the soil vertically in advance of the ploughshare. Also (esp. U.S.): **colter**.

council (*'kaʊnsəl*) *n.* 1. an assembly of people meeting for discussion, consultation, etc. 2. a. a body of people elected or appointed to serve in an administrative, legislative, or advisory capacity: *a student council*. *b.* short for **legislative council**. 3. *Brit.* (sometimes *cap.*; often preceded by *the*) the local governing authority of a town, county, etc. 4. a meeting of a council. 5. (*modifier*) of, provided for, or used by a local council: *a council chamber*; *council offices*. 6. (*modifier*) *Brit.* provided by a local council, esp. (of housing) at a subsidized rent: *a council house*; *a council estate*; *a council school*. 7. Christianity, an assembly of bishops, etc., convened for regulating matters of doctrine or discipline.

councillor or **U.S. counselor** (*'kaʊnsələ*) *n.* a member of a council.

counsel (*'kaʊnsəl*) *n.* 1. advice or guidance on conduct, behaviour, etc. 2. discussion; consultation: *to take counsel with a friend*. 3. a person whose advice is sought. 4. a barrister or group of barristers engaged in conducting cases in court and advising on legal matters. 5. Christianity, any of the **counsels of perfection**, namely poverty, chastity, and obedience. 6. **counsel of perfection**, excellent but unrealistic advice. 7. private opinions (esp. in **keep one's own counsel**). 8. *Arch.* wisdom; prudence. ~*vb.* -*selling*, -*selling* or *U.S.* -*selling*, -*seled*. 9. (*tr.*) to give advice or guidance to. 10. (*tr.*; often takes a clause as *object*) to recommend; urge. 11. (*intr.*) *Arch.* to take counsel; consult.

counsellor or **U.S. counselor** (*'kaʊnsələ*) *n.* 1. a person who gives counsel; adviser. 2. Also called: **counselor-at-law**. *U.S.* a lawyer, esp. one who conducts cases in court. 3. a senior diplomatic officer.

count (*'kaʊnt*) *vb.* 1. to add up or check (each unit in a collection) in order to ascertain the sum: *count your change*. 2. (*tr.*) to recite numbers in ascending order up to and including. 3. (*tr.*; often foll. by *in*) to take into account or include: *we must count him in*. 4. **not counting**, excluding. 5. (*tr.*) to consider; deem: *count yourself lucky*. 6. (*intr.*) to have importance: *this picture counts as a rarity*. 7. (*intr.*) *Music.* to keep time by counting beats. ~*n.* 8. the act of counting. 9. the

number reached by counting; sum: *a blood count*. 10. *Law.* a paragraph in an indictment containing a separate charge. 11. **keep or lose count**, to keep or fail to keep an accurate record of items, events, etc. 12. **Boxing, wrestling**, the act of telling off a number of seconds by the referee, as when a boxer has been knocked down by his opponent. 13. **out for the count**, *Boxing*, knocked out and unable to continue after a count of ten by the referee. ~*See* also **count against**, **countdown**, etc. —'countable *adj.*

count¹ (*'kaʊnt*) *n.* 1. a nobleman in any of various European countries having a rank corresponding to that of a British earl. 2. any of various officials in the late Roman Empire and in the early Middle Ages.

count against *vb.* (*intr.*, *prep.*) to have influence to the disadvantage of.

countdown (*'kaʊnt,daʊn*) *n.* 1. the act of counting backwards to time a critical operation exactly, such as the launching of a rocket. ~*vb.* **count down**. (*intr.*, *adv.*) 2. to count thus.

countenance (*'kaʊntnəns*) *n.* 1. the face, esp. when considered as expressing a person's character or mood. 2. support or encouragement; sanction. 3. composure; self-control (esp. in **keep or lose one's countenance**). ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 4. to support or encourage; sanction. 5. to tolerate; endure.

counter¹ (*'kaʊntə*) *n.* 1. a horizontal surface, as in a shop or bank, over which business is transacted. 2. (in some cafeterias) a long table on which food is served. 3. a. a small flat disc of wood, metal, or plastic, used in various board games. *b.* a similar disc or token used as an imitation coin. 4. a person or thing that may be used or manipulated. 5. **under the counter**, (**under-the-counter** when prenominal) (of the sale of goods) clandestine, or illegal. 6. **over the counter**, (**over-the-counter** when prenominal) (of security transactions) through a broker rather than on a stock exchange.

counter² (*'kaʊntə*) *n.* 1. a person who counts. 2. an apparatus that records the number of occurrences of events.

counter³ (*'kaʊntə*) *adv.* 1. in a contrary direction or manner. 2. in a wrong or reverse direction. 3. **run counter to**, to have a contrary effect or action to. ~*adj.* 4. opposing; opposite; contrary. ~*n.* 5. something that is contrary or opposite to some other thing. 6. an act, effect, or force that opposes another. 7. a return attack, such as a blow in boxing. 8. *Fencing*, a parry in which the foils move in a circular fashion. 9. the portion of the stern of a boat or ship that overhangs the water aft of the rudder. 10. a piece of leather forming the back of a shoe. ~*vb.* 11. to say or do (something) in retaliation or response. 12. (*tr.*) to move, act, or perform in a manner or direction opposite to (a person or thing). 13. to return the attack of (an opponent).

counter- *prefix.* 1. against; opposite; contrary: *counterattack*. 2. complementary; corresponding: *counterfoil*. 3. duplicate or substitute: *counterfeit*.

counteract (*'kaʊntər'ækt*) *vb.* (*tr.*) to oppose or neutralize by contrary action; check. —, **counter'action** *n.* —, **counter'active** *adj.*

counterattack (*'kaʊntərətæk*) *n.* 1. an attack in response to an attack. ~*vb.* 2. to make a counterattack (against).

counterbalance *n.* (*'kaʊntə,bæləns*). 1. a weight or force that balances or offsets another. ~*vb.* (*'kaʊntə,bæləns*). (*tr.*) 2. to act as a counterbalance. ~Also: **counterpoise**.

counterblast (*'kaʊntə,blɑ:st*) *n.* an aggressive response to a verbal attack.

counterclockwise (*'kaʊntə'klɒk,wəɪz*) *adv.*, *adj.* the U.S. equivalent of **anticlockwise**.

counterespionage (*'kaʊntər'espɪə,nɔ:ʒ*) *n.* activities to counteract enemy espionage.

counterfeit (*'kaʊntəfɪt*) *adj.* 1. made in imitation of something genuine with the intent to deceive or defraud; forged. 2. simulated; sham: *counterfeit affection*. ~*n.* 3. an imitation designed to deceive or defraud. ~*vb.* 4. (*tr.*) to make a fraudulent imitation of. 5. (*intr.*) to make counterfeits. 6. to feign; simulate. —'counter,feiter *n.*

counterfoil (*'kaʊntə,fɔɪl*) *n.* *Brit.* the part of a cheque, receipt, etc., retained as a record. Also called (esp. in the U.S.): **stub**.

counterintelligence (*'kaʊntərɪn'telɪdʒəns*) *n.* activities designed to frustrate enemy espionage.

countermand *vb.* (*'kaʊntə'mɑ:nd*). (*tr.*) 1. to revoke or cancel (a command, order, etc.). 2. to order (forces, etc.) to retreat; recall. ~*n.* (*'kaʊntə'mɑ:nd*). 3. a command revoking another.

countermarch ('kauntə,mɑ:tʃ) *vb.* 1. Chiefly *mil.* to march back or in the opposite direction. ~*n.* 2. the act or instance of countermarching.

countermeasure ('kauntə,mɛʒə) *n.* action taken to oppose, neutralize, or retaliate against some other action.

counterpane ('kauntə,peɪn) *n.* another word for *bedspread*.

counterpart ('kauntə,pɑ:t) *n.* 1. a person or thing identical to or closely resembling another. 2. one of two parts that complement or correspond to each other. 3. a duplicate, esp. of a legal document; copy.

counterpoint ('kauntə,pɔɪnt) *n.* 1. the technique involving the simultaneous sounding of two or more parts or melodies. 2. a melody or part combined with another melody or part. 3. the musical texture resulting from the simultaneous sounding of two or more melodies or parts. ~*vb.* 4. (tr.) to set in contrast. ~Related adj.: **contrapuntal**.

counterpoise ('kauntə,pɔɪz) *n.* 1. a force, influence, etc., that counterbalances another. 2. a state of balance; equilibrium. 3. a weight that balances another. ~*vb.* 4. to oppose with something of equal effect, weight, or force; offset. 5. to bring into equilibrium.

counterproductive ('kauntəprə'daktɪv) *adj.* tending to hinder the achievement of an aim; having effects contrary to those intended.

countersign *vb.* ('kauntə,sam, 'kauntə'sam). 1. (tr.) to sign (a document already signed by another). ~*n.* ('kauntə,sam). 2. Also called: **countersignature**. the signature so written. 3. a secret sign given in response to another sign. 4. Chiefly *mil.* a password.

countersink ('kauntə,sɪŋk) *vb.* -sinking, -sank, -sunk. (tr.) 1. to enlarge the upper part of (a hole) in timber, metal, etc., so that the head of a bolt or screw can be sunk below the surface. 2. to drive (a screw) or sink (a bolt) into such a hole. ~*n.* 3. Also called: **countersink bit**, a tool for countersinking. 4. a countersunk hole.

countertenor ('kauntə'tenə) *n.* 1. an adult male voice with an alto range. 2. a singer with such a voice.

countervail ('kauntə'veɪl, 'kauntə'veɪl) *vb.* 1. (when *intr.*, usually foll. by *against*) to act or act against with equal power or force. 2. (tr.) to make up for; compensate; offset.

counterweigh ('kauntə'wei) *vb.* another word for *counterbalance*.

countess ('kauntɪs) *n.* 1. the wife or widow of a count or earl. 2. a woman of the rank of count or earl.

countless ('kauntlɪs) *adj.* innumerable; myriad.

count noun *n.* a noun that denotes an object that can exist in the plural without change of meaning and that can be preceded by *a* or *an*, such as *telephone* or *cup*, as contrasted with *honesty*. Cf. **mass noun**.

count on *vb.* (*intr.*, *prep.*) to rely or depend on.

count out *vb.* (tr., *adv.*) 1. *Inf.* to leave out; exclude. 2. (of a boxing referee) to judge (a floored boxer) to have failed to recover within the specified time.

countrified or **countryfied** ('kʌntri,faiəd) *adj.* in the style, manners, etc., of the country; rural.

country ('kʌntri) *n.* *pl.* -tries. 1. a territory distinguished by its people, culture, geography, etc. 2. an area of land distinguished by its political autonomy; state. 3. the people of a territory or state. 4. a. the part of the land that is away from cities or industrial areas; rural districts. b. (as *modifier*): *country house*. Related adj.: **pastoral**, **rural**. 5. **up country**, away from the coast or the capital. 6. one's native land or nation of citizenship. 7. **across country**, not keeping to roads, etc. 8. **go or appeal to the country**. Chiefly *Brit.* to dissolve Parliament and hold an election.

country-and-western *n.* a. a type of urban 20th-century White folk music of the southeastern U.S. b. (as *modifier*): *country-and-western music*.

country club *n.* a club in the country, having sporting and social facilities.

country dance *n.* a type of folk dance in which couples face one another in a line.

countryman ('kʌntrɪmən) *n.*, *pl.* -men. 1. a person who lives in the country. 2. a person from a particular country or from one's own country. —'country,woman *fem. n.*

countryside ('kʌntri,said) *n.* a rural area or its population.

county ('kaunti) *n.*, *pl.* -ties. 1. a. any of various administrative, political, or judicial subdivisions of certain English-speaking countries or states. b. (as *modifier*:

er): *county cricket*. ~*adj.* 2. *Brit. inf.* upper class; of or like the landed gentry.

coup (ku:) *n.* 1. a brilliant and successful stroke or action. 2. short for **coup d'état**.

coup de grâce *French.* (ku də 'gras) *n.*, *pl.* **coups de grâce** (ku də 'gras). 1. a mortal or finishing blow, esp. one delivered as an act of mercy to a sufferer. 2. a final or decisive stroke.

coup d'état ('ku: deɪ'tɑ:) *n.*, *pl.* **coups d'état** ('ku:z deɪ'tɑ:). a sudden violent or illegal seizure of government.

coupe (kup) *n.* 1. a dessert of fruit and ice cream. 2. a dish or stemmed glass bowl designed for this dessert.

coupé ('ku:peɪ) *n.* 1. a four-seater car with a sloping back, and usually two doors. 2. a four-wheeled horse-drawn carriage with two seats inside and one outside for the driver.

couple ('kʌpl) *n.* 1. two people who regularly associate with each other or live together: *an engaged couple*. 2. (functioning as *sing.* or *pl.*) two people considered as a pair, for or as if for dancing, games, etc. 3. a pair of equal and opposite parallel forces that have a tendency to produce rotation. 4. a connector or link between two members, such as a tie connecting a pair of rafters in a roof. 5. a **couple of**, (functioning as *sing.* or *pl.*) a. a combination of two; a pair of: *a couple of men*. b. *Inf.* a small number of; a few: *a couple of days*. ~*pron.* 6. (usually preceded by *a*; functioning as *sing.* or *pl.*) two; a pair: *give him a couple*. ~*vb.* 7. (tr.) to connect (two things) together or to connect (one thing) to (another): *to couple railway carriages*. 8. to form or be formed into a pair or pairs. 9. to associate, put, or connect together. 10. (*intr.*) to have sexual intercourse.

couplet ('kʌplɪt) *n.* two successive lines of verse, usually rhymed and of the same metre.

coupling ('kʌplɪŋ) *n.* 1. a mechanical device that connects two things. 2. a device for connecting railway cars or trucks together.

coupon ('kʌpʊn) *n.* 1. a. a detachable part of a ticket or advertisement entitling the holder to a discount, free gift, etc. b. a detachable slip usable as a commercial order form. c. a voucher given away with certain goods, a certain number of which are exchangeable for goods offered by the manufacturers. 2. one of a number of detachable certificates attached to a bond, the surrender of which entitles the bearer to receive interest payments. 3. *Brit.* a detachable entry form for any of certain competitions, esp. football pools.

courage ('kʌrɪdʒ) *n.* 1. the power or quality of dealing with or facing danger, fear, pain, etc. 2. the **courage of one's convictions**, the confidence to act in accordance with one's beliefs.

courageous (kə'reɪdʒəs) *adj.* possessing or expressing courage. —*cou'rageously* *adv.* —*cou'rageousness* *n.*

coureur de bois (*French* kurœ:r də 'bwa) *n.*, *pl.* **coureurs de bois** (kurœ:r də 'bwa). *Canad. history.* a French Canadian woodsman who traded with Indians for furs.

courgette (kʊʒ'ʒet) *n.* a small variety of vegetable marrow. U.S. name: **zucchini**.

courier ('kʊəriə) *n.* 1. a special messenger, esp. one carrying diplomatic correspondence. 2. a person who makes arrangements for or accompanies a group of travellers on a journey or tour.

course (kɔ:s) *n.* 1. a continuous progression in time or space; onward movement. 2. a route or direction followed. 3. the path or channel along which something moves: *the course of a river*. 4. an area or stretch of land or water on which a sport is played or a race is run: *a golf course*. 5. a period of time; duration: *in the course of the next hour*. 6. the usual order of and time required for a sequence of events; regular procedure: *the illness ran its course*. 7. a mode of conduct or action: *if you follow that course, you will fail*. 8. a connected series of events, actions, etc. 9. a. a prescribed number of lessons, lectures, etc., in an educational curriculum. b. the material covered in such a curriculum. 10. a regimen prescribed for a specific period of time: *a course of treatment*. 11. a part of a meal served at one time. 12. a continuous, usually horizontal, layer of building material, such as a row of bricks, tiles, etc. 13. as **a matter of course**, as a natural or normal consequence, mode of action, or event. 14. **the course of nature**, the ordinary course of events. 15. **in course of**, in the process of. 16. **in due course**, at some future time, esp. the natural or appropriate time. 17. **of course**, a. (*adv.*) as expected; naturally. b. (*sentence substitute*) certainly; definitely. ~*vb.* 18. (*intr.*) to run, race, or flow. 19. to cause

(hounds) to hunt by sight rather than scent or (of hounds) to hunt (a quarry) thus.

courser¹ ('kɔ:sə) *n.* 1. a person who courses hounds or dogs, esp. greyhounds. 2. a hound or dog trained for coursing.

courser² ('kɔ:sə) *n.* *Literary.* a swift horse; steed.

coursing ('kɔ:siŋ) *n.* 1. (of hounds or dogs) hunting by sight. 2. a sport in which hounds are matched against one another in pairs for the hunting of hares by sight.

court (kɔ:t) *n.* 1. an area of ground wholly or partly surrounded by walls or buildings. 2. *Brit.* a. a block of flats. b. a mansion or country house. c. a short street, sometimes closed at one end. 3. a. the residence, retinue, or household of a sovereign or nobleman. b. (*as modifier*): a court ball. 4. a sovereign or prince and his retinue, advisers, etc. 5. any formal assembly held by a sovereign or nobleman. 6. homage, flattering attention, or amorous approaches (esp. in pay court to someone). 7. *Law.* a tribunal having power to adjudicate in civil, criminal, military, or ecclesiastical matters. 8. *Law.* the regular sitting of such a judicial tribunal. 9. a. a marked outdoor or enclosed area used for any of various ball games, such as tennis, squash, etc. b. a marked section of such an area. 10. go to court, to take legal action. 11. hold court, to preside over admirers, attendants, etc. 12. out of court, without a trial or legal case. 13. the ball is in your court, you are obliged to make the next move. ~vb. 14. to attempt to gain the love of; woo. 15. (tr.) to pay attention to (someone) in order to gain favour. 16. (tr.) to try to obtain (fame, honour, etc.). 17. (tr.) to invite, usually foolishly, as by taking risks.

court card *n.* (in a pack of playing cards) a king, queen, or jack of any suit.

Courtele ('kɔ:tel) *n.* *Trademark.* a synthetic acrylic fibre resembling wool.

courteous ('kɔ:tɪəs) *adj.* polite and considerate in manner. —'courteously *adv.* —'courteousness *n.*

courtesan or **courtezan** ('kɔ:tri:zən) *n.* (esp. formerly) a prostitute, or the mistress of a man of rank.

courtesy ('kɔ:tisi) *n.* pl. -sies. 1. politeness; good manners. 2. a courteous gesture or remark. 3. favour or consent (esp. in by courtesy of). 4. common consent as opposed to right (esp. in by courtesy).

courthouse ('kɔ:t,haus) *n.* a public building in which courts of law are held.

courtier ('kɔ:tiə) *n.* 1. an attendant at a court. 2. a person who seeks favour in an ingratiating manner.

courtly ('kɔ:tlɪ) *adj.* -lier, -liest. 1. of or suitable for a royal court. 2. refined in manner. 3. ingratiating. —'courtliness *n.*

court martial *n.* pl. court martials or courts martial. 1. a military court that tries charges of serious breaches of martial law. ~vb. court-martial, -tialling, -tialled or U.S. -tialing, -tialed. 2. (tr.) to try by court martial.

court plaster *n.* a plaster, composed of isinglass on silk, formerly used to cover superficial wounds.

courtship ('kɔ:tlɪp) *n.* 1. the act, period, or art of seeking the love of someone with intent to marry. 2. the seeking or soliciting of favours.

court shoe *n.* a low-cut shoe for women, without any laces or straps.

courtyard ('kɔ:tjɑ:d) *n.* an open area of ground surrounded by walls or buildings; court.

couscous ('kuskus) *n.* a spicy dish, originating in North Africa, consisting of steamed semolina served with a meat stew.

cousin ('kʌzɪn) *n.* 1. Also called: first cousin, cousin-german, full cousin. the child of one's aunt or uncle. 2. a relative descended from one of one's common ancestors. 3. a title used by a sovereign when addressing another sovereign or a nobleman. —'cousin,hood or 'cousin,ship *n.* —'cousinly *adj.*, *adv.*

couture (ku:'tuə) *n.* high fashion designing and dressmaking.

couturier (ku:'tuəri,ɛ) *n.* a person who designs, makes, and sells fashion clothes for women. —'couturière (ku:'tu:ri:'ɛə) *fem. n.*

cove¹ ('kəʊv) *n.* 1. a small bay or inlet. 2. a narrow cavern in the side of a cliff, mountain, etc. 3. Also called: coving. *Archit.* a concave curved surface between the wall and ceiling of a room.

cove² ('kəʊv) *n.* *Sl., Brit. old-fashioned & Austral.* a fellow; chap.

coven ('kʌvɪn) *n.* a meeting of witches.

covenant ('kʌvənənt) *n.* 1. a binding agreement; con-

tract. 2. *Law.* an agreement in writing under seal, as to pay a stated annual sum to a charity. 3. *Bible.* God's promise to the Israelites and their commitment to worship him alone. ~vb. 4. to agree to a covenant (concerning). —'covenantal ('kʌvə'næntl) *adj.* —'covenantor or covenanter ('kʌvənəntə) *n.*

Covenanter ('kʌvənəntə, kʌvə'næntə) *n.* *Scot. history.* a person upholding either of two 17th-century covenants to establish and defend Presbyterianism.

Coventry ('kʌvəntri) *n.* send to Coventry, to ostracize or ignore.

cover¹ ('kʌvə) *vb.* (*mainly tr.*) 1. to place or spread something over so as to protect or conceal. 2. to provide with a covering; clothe. 3. to put a garment, esp. a hat, on (the body or head). 4. to extend over or lie thickly on the surface of: snow covered the fields. 5. to bring upon (oneself); invest (oneself) as if with a covering: covered with shame. 6. (sometimes foll. by up) to act as a screen or concealment for; hide from view. 7. *Mil.* to protect (an individual, formation, or place) by taking up a position from which fire may be returned if those being protected are fired upon. 8. (*also intr.*, sometimes foll. by for) to assume responsibility for (a person or thing). 9. (*intr.*; foll. by for or up for) to provide an alibi (for). 10. to have as one's territory: this salesman covers your area. 11. to travel over. 12. (tr.) to have or place in the aim and within the range of (a firearm). 13. to include or deal with. 14. (of an asset or income) to be sufficient to meet (a liability or expense). 15. a. to insure against loss, risk, etc. b. to provide for (loss, risk, etc.) by insurance. 16. to deposit (an equivalent stake) in a bet. 17. to act as reporter or photographer on (a news event, etc.) for a newspaper or magazine: to cover sports events. 18. *Sport.* to guard or protect (an opponent, teammate, or area). 19. (of a male animal, esp. a horse) to copulate with (a female animal). ~n. 20. anything that covers, spreads over, protects, or conceals. 21. a. a blanket used on a bed for warmth. b. another word for bedspread. 22. a pretext, disguise, or false identity: the thief sold brushes as a cover. 23. an envelope or package for sending through the post: under plain cover. 24. *Philately.* an entire envelope that has been postmarked. 25. a. an individual table setting, esp. in a restaurant. b. (*as modifier*): a cover charge. 26. *Crick-et.* a. (*often pl.*) the area more or less at right angles to the pitch on the off side and usually about halfway to the boundary. b. (*as modifier*): a cover drive. 27. break cover, to come out from a shelter or hiding place. 28. take cover, to make for a place of safety or shelter. 29. under cover, protected, concealed, or in secret. —'coverable *adj.* —'coverer *n.*

coverage ('kʌvərɪdʒ) *n.* 1. the amount or extent to which something is covered. 2. *Journalism.* the amount and quality of reporting or analysis given to a particular subject or event. 3. the extent of the protection provided by insurance.

cover girl *n.* a glamorous girl whose picture appears on the cover of a magazine.

covering letter *n.* an accompanying letter sent as an explanation, introduction, or record.

coverlet ('kʌvəlɪt) *n.* another word for bedspread.

cover note *n.* *Brit.* a certificate providing temporary insurance.

cover point *n.* *Crick-et.* a. a fielding position in the covers. b. a fielder in this position.

covert¹ ('kʌvət) *adj.* 1. concealed or secret. ~n. 2. a shelter or disguise. 3. a thicket or woodland providing shelter for game. 4. *Ornithol.* any of the small feathers on the wings and tail of a bird that surround the bases of the larger feathers. —'covertly *adv.* —'covertness *n.*

cover-up *n.* 1. concealment or attempted concealment of a mistake, crime, etc. ~vb. cover up, (*adv.*) 2. (tr.) to cover completely. 3. (when intr., often foll. by for) to attempt to conceal (a mistake or crime).

covet¹ ('kʌvɪt) *vb.* (tr.) to wish, long, or crave for (something, esp. the property of another person). —'covetable *adj.*

covetous ('kʌvɪtəs) *adj.* (*usually postpositive* and foll. by of) jealously eager for the possession of something (esp. the property of another person). —'covetously *adv.* —'covetousness *n.*

covey¹ ('kʌvi) *n.* 1. a small flock of grouse or partridge. 2. a small group, as of people.

cow¹ ('kau) *n.* 1. the mature female of any species of cattle, esp. domesticated cattle. 2. the mature female of various other mammals, such as the elephant, whale, and seal. 3. (*not in technical use*) any domestic species

of cattle. 4. *Inf.* a disagreeable woman. 5. *Austral. sl.* something objectionable (esp. in a **fair cow**).

cow² (kau) *vb.* (*tr.*) to frighten or overawe, as with threats.

coward ('kauəd) *n.* a person who shrinks from or avoids danger, pain, or difficulty. — **'cowardly** *adj.*

cowardice ('kauədis) *n.* lack of courage in facing danger, pain, or difficulty.

cowbell ('kau,bel) *n.* a bell hung around a cow's neck so that the cow can be easily located.

cowboy ('kau,bɔɪ) *n.* 1. Also called: **cowhand**, a hired man who herds and tends cattle, usually on horseback, esp. in the western U.S. 2. a conventional character of Wild West folklore, films, etc., esp. one involved in fighting Indians. 3. *Inf.* an irresponsible or unscrupulous operator in business, etc. — **'cow, girl** *fem. n.*

cowcatcher ('kau,kætʃə) *n.* U.S. a metal frame on the front of a locomotive to clear the track of obstructions.

cower ('kauə) *vb.* (*intr.*) to crouch or cringe, as in fear.

cowhide ('kau,haid) *n.* 1. the hide of a cow. 2. the leather made from such a hide.

cowl (kaul) *n.* 1. a hood, esp. a loose one. 2. the hooded habit of a monk. 3. a cover fitted to a chimney to increase ventilation and prevent draughts. 4. the part of a car body that supports the windscreen and the bonnet. ~ *vb.* (*tr.*) 5. to cover or provide with a cowl.

cowlick ('kau,lik) *n.* U.S. a tuft of hair over the forehead.

cowling ('kaulɪŋ) *n.* a streamlined metal covering, esp. around an aircraft engine.

co-worker *n.* a fellow worker; associate.

cow parsley *n.* a common Eurasian umbelliferous hedgerow plant having umbrella-shaped clusters of white flowers.

cowpat ('kau,pæt) *n.* a single dropping of cow dung.

cowpox ('kau,pɒks) *n.* a contagious viral disease of cows characterized by vesicles, esp. on the teats and udder. Inoculation of humans with this virus provides temporary immunity to smallpox.

cowry or **cowrie** ('kauri) *n., pl. -ries.* 1. any marine gastropod mollusc of a mostly tropical family having a glossy brightly marked shell. 2. the shell of any of these molluscs, esp. the money cowrie, used as money in parts of Africa and S Asia.

cowslip ('kau,slɪp) *n.* 1. a primrose native to temperate regions of the Old World, having yellow flowers. 2. U.S. another name for **marsh marigold**.

cox (kɒks) *n.* 1. a coxswain. ~ *vb.* 2. to act as coxswain of (a boat). — **'coxless** *adj.*

coxcomb ('kɒks,kəʊm) *n.* 1. a variant spelling of **cockcomb**. 2. *Obs.* the cap, resembling a cock's comb, worn by a jester. — **'cox, combry** *n.*

coxswain ('kɒksən, -sweɪn) *n.* the helmsman of a lifeboat, racing shell, etc. Also called: **cockswain**.

coy (kɔɪ) *adj.* 1. affectedly demure, esp. in a playful or provocative manner. 2. shy; modest. 3. evasive, esp. in an annoying way. — **'coily** *adv.* — **'coyness** *n.*

Coy. *Mil. abbrev.* for company.

coyote ('kɔɪəʊt, kɔɪ'əʊti; esp. U.S. 'kaɪəʊt, kaɪ'əʊti) *n., pl. -otes or -otes.* a predatory canine mammal of the deserts and prairies of North America. Also called: **prairie wolf**.

coypu ('kɔɪpu; *n., pl. -pus or -pu.* 1. an aquatic South American rodent, introduced into Europe. It resembles a small beaver and is bred for its fur. 2. the fur of this animal. ~ Also called: **nutria**.

cozen ('kaz'n) *vb.* to cheat or trick (someone). — **'cozenage** *n.*

cp. *abbrev.* for compare.

c.p. *abbrev.* for candle power.

C.P. *abbrev.* for: 1. Common Prayer. 2. Communist Party. 3. (in Australia) Country Party. 4. Canadian Pacific Ltd.

Cpl. *abbrev.* for Corporal.

C.P.O. *abbrev.* for Chief Petty Officer.

c.p.s. *Physics. abbrev.* for cycles per second.

Cr *the chemical symbol* for chromium.

cr. *abbrev.* for: 1. credit. 2. creditor.

crab¹ (kræb) *n.* 1. any chiefly marine decapod crustacean having a broad flattened carapace covering the cephalothorax, beneath which is folded the abdomen. The first pair of limbs are pincers. 2. any of various similar or related arthropods. 3. short for **crab louse**. 4. a mechanical lifting device, esp. the travelling hoist of a gantry crane. 5. **catch a crab**. *Rowing.* to make a stroke in which the oar either misses the water or digs too deeply, causing the rower to fall backwards. ~ *vb.* **crabbing, crabbed.** 6. (*intr.*) to hunt or catch crabs.

crab² (kræb) *Inf. vb.* **crabbing, crabbed.** 1. (*intr.*) to find fault; grumble. ~ *n.* 2. an irritable person.

crab³ (kræb) *n.* short for **crab apple**.

Crab (kræb) *n.* the constellation Cancer, the fourth sign of the zodiac.

crab apple *n.* 1. any of several rosaceous trees that have white, pink, or red flowers and small sour apple-like fruits. 2. the fruit of any of these trees, used to make jam.

crabbed ('kræbɪd) *adj.* 1. surly; irritable; perverse. 2. (*esp.* of handwriting) cramped and hard to decipher. 3. *Rare.* abstruse. — **'crabbedly** *adv.* — **'crabbedness** *n.*

crabby ('kræbi) *adj.* -bier, -biest. bad-tempered.

crab louse *n.* a parasitic louse that infests the pubic region in man.

crack (kræk) *vb.* 1. to break or cause to break without complete separation of the parts. 2. to break or cause to break with a sudden sharp sound; snap. 3. to make or cause to make a sudden sharp sound: *to crack a whip*. 4. to cause (the voice) to change tone or become harsh or (of the voice) to change tone, esp. to a higher register; break. 5. *Inf.* to fail or cause to fail. 6. to yield or cause to yield. 7. (*tr.*) to hit with a forceful or resounding blow. 8. (*tr.*) to break into or force open: *to crack a safe*. 9. (*tr.*) to solve or decipher (a code, problem, etc.). 10. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to tell (a joke, etc.). 11. to break (a molecule) into smaller molecules or radicals by the action of heat, as in the distillation of petroleum. 12. (*intr.*) *Scot. & N English dialect.* to chat; gossip. 13. (*tr.*) *Austral. Inf.* to achieve (esp. in **crack it**). 14. **crack a smile.** *Inf.* to break into a smile. 15. **crack hardy.** *Austral. Inf.* to disguise one's discomfort, etc.; put on a bold front. ~ *n.* 16. a sudden sharp noise. 17. a break or fracture without complete separation of the two parts. 18. a narrow opening or fissure. 19. *Inf.* a resounding blow. 20. a physical or mental defect; flaw. 21. a moment or specific instant: *the crack of day*. 22. a broken or cracked tone of voice, as a boy's during puberty. 23. (often foll. by *at*) *Inf.* an attempt; opportunity to try. 24. *Sl.* a gibe; wisecrack; joke. 25. *Sl.* a person that excels. 26. *Scot. & N English dialect.* a talk; chat. 27. *a fair crack of the whip.* *Inf.* a fair chance or opportunity. 28. **crack of doom.** *doomsday;* the end of the world; the Day of Judgment. ~ *adj.* 29. (*prenominal*) *Sl.* first-class; excellent: *a crack shot*. ~ See also **crack down, crack up**.

crackbrained ('kræk,breɪnd) *adj.* insane, idiotic, or crazy.

crack down *vb.* (*intr., adv.*; often foll. by *on*) 1. to take severe measures (against); become stricter (with). ~ *n.* **crackdown.** 2. severe or repressive measures.

cracked (krækt) *adj.* 1. damaged by cracking. 2. *Sl.* crazy.

cracker ('krækə) *n.* 1. a decorated cardboard tube that emits a bang when pulled apart, releasing a toy, a joke, or a paper hat. 2. short for **firecracker**. 3. a thin crisp biscuit, usually unsweetened. 4. a person or thing that cracks. 5. *Brit. sl.* a person of notable qualities or abilities, esp. an attractive girl.

crackers ('krækəz) *adj.* (*postpositive*) *Brit.* a slang word for insane.

cracking ('krækiŋ) *adj.* 1. (*prenominal*) *Inf.* fast; vigorous (esp. in a **cracking pace**). 2. **get cracking.** *Inf.* to start doing something quickly or with increased speed. ~ *adv., adj.* 3. *Brit. Inf.* first-class; excellent. ~ *n.* 4. the process in which molecules are cracked, esp. the oil-refining process in which heavy oils are broken down into hydrocarbons of lower molecular weight by heat or catalysis.

crackle ('krækɪl) *vb.* 1. to make or cause to make a series of slight sharp noises, as of paper being crushed. 2. (*tr.*) to decorate (porcelain or pottery) by causing fine cracks to appear in the glaze. 3. (*intr.*) to abound in vivacity or energy. ~ *n.* 4. the act or sound of crackling. 5. intentional crazing in the glaze of porcelain or pottery. 6. Also called: **crackleware**, porcelain or pottery so decorated. — **'crackly** *adj.*

crackling ('krækiŋ) *n.* the crisp browned skin of roast pork.

crackpot ('kræk,pɒt) *Inf.* ~ *n.* 1. an eccentric person; crank. ~ *adj.* 2. eccentric; crazy.

crack up *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. (*intr.*) to break into pieces. 2. (*intr.*) *Inf.* to undergo a physical or mental breakdown. 3. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to present or report, esp. in glowing terms: *it's not all it's cracked up to be*. ~ *n.* **crackup.** 4. *Inf.* a physical or mental breakdown.

-cracy *n.* combining form. indicating a type of government or rule: **plutocracy; mobocracy**. See also **-crat**.

cradle ('kreɪdl) *n.* 1. a baby's bed, often with rockers.

2. a place where something originates. **3.** a frame, rest, or trolley made to support a piece of equipment, aircraft, ship, etc. **4.** a platform or trolley in which workmen are suspended on the side of a building or ship. **5.** *Agriculture*. **a.** a framework of several wooden fingers attached to a scythe to gather the grain into bunches as it is cut. **b.** a scythe with such a cradle. **6.** Also called: **rocker**. a boxlike apparatus for washing rocks, sand, etc., containing gold or gem stones. **7. rob the cradle.** *Inf.* to take for a lover, husband, or wife a person much younger than oneself. ~vb. **8. (tr.)** to rock or place in or as if in a cradle; hold tenderly. **9. (tr.)** to nurture in or bring up from infancy. **10. (tr.)** to wash (soil bearing gold, etc.) in a cradle. —'cradler *n.*

craft (kra:ft) *n.* **1.** skill or ability. **2.** skill in deception and trickery. **3.** an occupation or trade requiring special skill, esp. manual dexterity. **4. a.** the members of such a trade, regarded collectively. **b. (as modifier):** a *craft union*. **5.** a single vessel, aircraft, or spacecraft. **6. (functioning as pl.)** ships, boats, aircraft, or spacecraft collectively. ~vb. **7. (tr.)** to make or fashion with skill, esp. by hand.

craftsman ('kra:ftsmən) *n., pl. -men.* **1.** a member of a skilled trade; someone who practises a craft; artisan. **2.** an artist skilled in an art or craft. —'craftsman-ship *n.*

crafty ('kra:fti) *adj. -tier, -tiest.* **1.** skilled in deception; shrewd; cunning. **2.** *Arch.* skilful. —'craftily *adv.* —'craftiness *n.*

crag (kræg) *n.* a steep rugged rock or peak. —'craggy *adj.*

crake (kreik) *n.* *Zool.* any of several rails of the Old World, such as the corncrake.

cram (kræm) *vb.* **cramping, crammed.** **1. (tr.)** to force more (people, material, etc.) into (a room, container, etc.) than it can hold; stuff. **2.** to eat or cause to eat more than necessary. **3. Inf.** to study or cause to study (facts, etc.), esp. for an examination, by hastily memorizing. ~n. **4.** the act or condition of cramming. **5.** a crush.

crammer ('kræmə) *n.* a person or school that prepares pupils for an examination.

cramp ('kræmp) *n.* **1.** a painful involuntary contraction of a muscle, typically caused by overexertion, heat, or chill. **2.** temporary partial paralysis of a muscle group: *writer's cramp*. **3. (usually pl. in the U.S.)** severe abdominal pain. ~vb. **4. (tr.)** to affect with or as if with a cramp.

cramp ('kræmp) *n.* **1.** Also called: **cramp iron**. a strip of metal with its ends bent at right angles, used to bind masonry. **2.** a device for holding pieces of wood while they are glued; clamp. **3.** something that confines or restricts. ~vb. (tr.) **4.** to hold with a cramp. **5.** to confine or restrict. **6. cramp (someone's) style.** *Inf.* to prevent (a person) from using his abilities or acting freely and confidently.

cramped ('kræmpt) *adj.* **1.** closed in; restricted. **2.** (esp. of handwriting) small and irregular.

crampton ('kræmpən) or **crampoon** (kræm'pu:n) *n.* **1.** one of a pair of pivoted steel levers used to lift heavy objects; grappling iron. **2. (often pl.)** a metal spike fitted to boots for climbing, walking on ice, etc.

cranberry ('krænbəri, -bri) *n., pl. -ries.* **1.** any of several trailing shrubs that bear sour edible red berries. **2.** the berry of this plant.

crane (krein) *n.* **1.** a large long-necked long-legged wading bird inhabiting marshes and plains in most parts of the world. **2. (not in ornithological use)** any similar bird, such as a heron. **3.** a device for lifting and moving heavy objects, typically consisting of a pivoted boom rotating about a vertical axis with lifting gear suspended from the end of the boom. ~vb. **4. (tr.)** to lift or move (an object) by or as if by a crane. **5.** to stretch out (esp. the neck), as to see over other people's heads.

crane fly *n.* a dipterous fly having long legs, slender wings, and a narrow body. Also called (Brit.): **daddy-longlegs**.

cranial ('kreiniəl) *adj.* of or relating to the skull. —'cranially *adv.*

cranio- or before a vowel **crani-** combining form. indicating the cranium or cranial.

craniology (,kreini'blɒdʒi) *n.* the branch of science concerned with the shape and size of the human skull. —'craniological (,kreini'blɒdʒikl) *adj.* —'cranio'logically *adv.* —'crani'ologist *n.*

cranium ('kreiniəm) *n., pl. -niums or -nia* (-niə). **1.** the skull of a vertebrate. **2.** the part of the skull that encloses the brain.

crank (kræŋk) *n.* **1.** a device for communicating or converting motion, consisting of an arm projecting from a shaft, often with a second member attached to it parallel to the shaft. **2.** Also called: **crank handle, starting handle**. a handle incorporating a crank, used to start an engine or motor. **3. Inf. a.** an eccentric or odd person. **b. U.S.** a bad-tempered person. ~vb. **4. (tr.)** to rotate (a shaft) by means of a crank. **5. (tr.)** to start (an engine, motor, etc.) by means of a crank handle.

crankcase ('kræŋk,keis) *n.* the metal housing that encloses the crankshaft, connecting rods, etc., in an internal-combustion engine.

crankpin ('kræŋk,pin) *n.* a short cylindrical surface fitted between two arms of a crank parallel to the main shaft of the crankshaft.

crankshaft ('kræŋk,ʃɑ:ft) *n.* a shaft having one or more cranks, to which the connecting rods are attached.

crank up *vb. (tr., adv.)* **1.** to start (an engine, motor, etc.) with a crank handle. **2. Sl.** to speed up.

cranky ('kræŋki) *adj.* **crankier, crankiest.** **1. Inf.** eccentric. **2. U.S. inf.** fussy and bad-tempered. **3.** shaky; out of order. —'crankily *adv.* —'crankiness *n.*

crannog ('krænəg) *n.* an ancient Celtic lake or bog dwelling.

cranny ('kræni) *n., pl. -nies.* a narrow opening, as in a wall or rock face; chink; crevice (esp. in every nook and cranny). —'crannied *adj.*

crap ('kræp) *n.* **1.** a losing throw in the game of craps. **2.** another name for **craps**.

crap ('kræp) *n. Sl.* **1.** nonsense. **2.** rubbish. **3.** a taboo word for **faeces**. ~vb. **crapping, crapped.** **4. (intr.)** a taboo word for **defecate**.

rape (kreip) *n.* **1.** a variant spelling of **crepe**. **2.** crepe, esp. when used for mourning clothes. **3.** a band of black crepe worn in mourning.

craps (kræps) *n. (usually functioning as sing.)* **1.** a gambling game using two dice. **2. shoot craps.** to play this game. —'crap,shooter *n.*

crapulent ('kræpjulənt) or **crapulous** ('kræpjuləs) *adj.* **1.** given to or resulting from intemperance. **2.** suffering from intemperance; drunken. —'crapulence *n.*

crash ('kræʃ) *vb.* **1.** to make or cause to make a loud noise as of solid objects smashing or clattering. **2.** to fall or cause to fall with force, breaking in pieces with a loud noise. **3. (intr.)** to break or smash in pieces with a loud noise. **4. (intr.)** to collapse or fail suddenly. **5.** to cause (an aircraft) to land violently resulting in severe damage or (of an aircraft) to land in this way. **6.** to cause (a car, etc.) to collide with another car or other object or (of two or more cars) to be involved in a collision. **7.** to move or cause to move violently or noisily. ~n. **8.** an act or instance of breaking and falling to pieces. **9.** a sudden loud noise. **10.** a collision, as between vehicles. **11.** a sudden descent of an aircraft as a result of which it hits land or water. **12.** the sudden collapse of a business, stock exchange, etc. **13. (modifier)** requiring or using intensive effort and all possible resources in order to accomplish something quickly: a *crash programme*.

crash ('kræʃ) *n.* a coarse cotton or linen cloth.

crash barrier *n.* a barrier erected along the centre of a motorway, around a racetrack, etc., for safety purposes.

crash dive *n.* **1.** a sudden steep dive from the surface by a submarine. ~vb. **crash-dive.** **2.** (usually of an aircraft) to descend steeply and rapidly, before hitting the ground. **3.** to perform or cause to perform a crash dive.

crash helmet *n.* a padded helmet worn for motor-cycling, flying, etc., to protect the head.

crashing ('kræʃɪŋ) *adj. (prenominal) Inf.* (intensifier) (esp. in a *crashing bore*).

crash-land *vb.* to land (an aircraft) causing some damage to it or (of an aircraft) to land in this way. —'crash-,landing *n.*

crass (kræs) *adj.* **1.** stupid; gross. **2. Rare.** thick or coarse. —'crassly *adv.* —'crassness or 'crassitude *n.*

-crat *n. combining form.* indicating a person who takes part in or is a member of a form of government or class. —'cratic or -cratical *adj.* combining form.

crate (kreit) *n.* **1.** a fairly large container, usually made of wooden slats or wickerwork, used for packing, storing, or transporting goods. **2. Sl.** an old car, aeroplane, etc. ~vb. **3. (tr.)** to pack or place in a crate. —'crater *n.* —'crateful *n.*

crater ('kreitə) *n.* **1.** the bowl-shaped opening in a volcano or a geyser. **2.** a similar depression formed by

the impact of a meteorite or exploding bomb. 3. any of the roughly circular or polygonal walled formations on the moon and some other planets. 4. a large open bowl with two handles, used for mixing wines, esp. in ancient Greece. ~vb. 5. to make or form craters in (a surface, such as the ground). —'crater-like adj. —'craterous adj.

cravat (krə'væt) *n.* a scarf worn round the neck instead of a tie, esp. by men.

crave (kreiv) *vb.* 1. (when *intr.*, foll. by *for* or *after*) to desire intensely; long (for). 2. (tr.) to need greatly or urgently. 3. (tr.) to beg or plead for. —'craver *n.* —'craving *n.*

craven ('kreivn) *adj.* 1. cowardly. ~*n.* 2. a coward. —'cravenly *adv.* —'cravenness *n.*

craw (krɔ:) *n.* 1. a less common word for **crop** (sense 6). 2. the stomach of an animal. ~vb. 3. **stick in someone's craw**. *Sl.* to be unacceptable or irritating to someone.

crawfish ('krɔ:ʃ) *n.*, *pl.* -fish or -fishes. a variant spelling of **crayfish** (esp. sense 2).

crawl (krɔ:l) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. to move slowly, either by dragging the body along the ground or on the hands and knees. 2. to proceed very slowly or laboriously. 3. to act in a servile manner; fawn. 4. to be or feel as if overrun by crawling creatures: *the pile of refuse crawled with insects*. 5. (*intr.*) (of insects, worms, snakes, etc.) to move with the body close to the ground. 6. (*intr.*) to swim the crawl. ~*n.* 7. a slow creeping pace or motion. 8. *Swimming*, a stroke in which the feet are kicked like paddles while the arms reach forward and pull back through the water. —'crawlingly *adv.*

crayfish ('kreiʃ) *n.* or *esp. U.S. crawfish* *n.*, *pl.* -fish or -fishes. 1. a freshwater decapod crustacean resembling a small lobster. 2. any of various similar crustaceans, esp. the spiny lobster.

crayon ('kreɪn, -ɒn) *n.* 1. a small stick or pencil of charcoal, wax, clay, or chalk mixed with coloured pigment. 2. a drawing made with crayons. ~vb. 3. to draw or colour with crayons. —'crayonist *n.*

craze (kreiz) *n.* 1. a short-lived fashion. 2. a wild or exaggerated enthusiasm. ~vb. 3. to make or become mad. 4. *Ceramics, metallurgy*, to develop or cause to develop fine cracks.

crazy ('kreizi) *adj.* -zier, -ziest. 1. *Inf.* insane. 2. fantastic; strange; ridiculous. 3. (*postpositive*); foll. by *about* or *over* *Inf.* extremely fond (of). —'crazily *adv.* —'craziness *n.*

crazy paving *n.* *Brit.* a form of paving, as for a path, made of irregular slabs of stone.

creak (kri:k) *vb.* 1. to make or cause to make a harsh squeaking sound. 2. (*intr.*) to make such sounds while moving: *the old car creaked along*. ~*n.* 3. a harsh squeaking sound. —'creaky *adj.* —'creakily *adv.* —'creakiness *n.* —'creakingly *adv.*

cream (kri:m) *n.* 1. a. the fatty part of milk, which rises to the top. b. (*as modifier*): *cream buns*. 2. anything resembling cream in consistency. 3. the best one or most essential part of something; pick. 4. a soup containing cream or milk: *cream of chicken soup*. 5. any of various foods resembling or containing cream. 6. a. a yellowish-white colour. b. (*as adj.*): *cream wallpaper*. ~vb. 7. (tr.) to skim or otherwise separate the cream from (milk). 8. (tr.) to beat (foodstuffs) to a light creamy consistency. 9. (tr.) to add or apply cream or any creamlike substance to. 10. (tr.); sometimes foll. by *off* to take away the best part of. 11. (tr.) to prepare or cook (vegetables, chicken, etc.) with cream or milk. —'cream, like *adj.* —'creamy *adj.*

cream cheese *n.* a smooth soft white cheese made from soured cream or milk.

creamery ('kri:məri) *n.*, *pl.* -eries. 1. an establishment where milk and cream are made into butter and cheese. 2. a place where dairy products are sold.

cream of tartar *n.* potassium hydrogen tartrate, esp. when used in baking powders.

crease (kri:s) *n.* 1. a line or mark produced by folding, pressing, or wrinkling. 2. a wrinkle or furrow, esp. on the face. 3. *Cricket*, any three lines near each wicket marking positions for the bowler or batsman. ~vb. 4. to make or become wrinkled or furrowed. 5. (tr.) to graze with a bullet. —'creaser *n.* —'creasy *adj.*

create (kri:'eɪt) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to cause to come into existence. 2. (tr.) to invest with a new honour, office, or title; appoint. 3. (tr.) to be the cause of. 4. (tr.) to act (a role) in the first production of a play. 5. (*intr.*) *Brit. sl.* to make a fuss or uproar.

creation (kri:'eɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act or process of creat-

ing. 2. the fact of being created or produced. 3. something brought into existence or created. 4. the whole universe.

Creation (kri:'eɪʃən) *n.* *Christianity*. 1. (often preceded by *the*) God's act of bringing the universe into being. 2. the universe as thus brought into being by God.

creative (kri:'eɪtv) *adj.* 1. having the ability to create. 2. characterized by originality of thought; having or showing imagination. 3. designed to or tending to stimulate the imagination. —'creatively *adv.* —'creative-ness *n.* —'creativity *n.*

creator (kri:'eɪtə) *n.* a person or thing that creates; originator. —'creator, ship *n.*

Creator (kri:'eɪtə) *n.* (usually preceded by *the*) an epithet of God.

creature ('kri:tʃə) *n.* 1. a living being, esp. an animal. 2. something that has been created, whether animate or inanimate. 3. a human being; person: used as a term of scorn, pity, or endearment. 4. a person who is dependent upon another; tool. —'creatural or 'creaturely *adj.*

crèche (kreʃ, kreɪʃ) *n.* 1. *Chiefly Brit.* a day nursery for very young children. 2. a tableau of Christ's Nativity.

credence ('kri:dəns) *n.* 1. acceptance or belief, esp. with regard to the evidence of others. 2. something supporting a claim to belief; credential (esp. in **letters of credence**).

credential (kri:'denʃəl) *n.* 1. something that entitles a person to confidence, authority, etc. 2. (*pl.*) a letter or certificate giving evidence of the bearer's identity or competence.

credibility gap *n.* a disparity between claims or statements made and the evident facts of the situation or circumstances to which they relate.

credible ('kredɪbəl) *adj.* 1. capable of being believed. 2. trustworthy. —'credibility *n.* —'credibly *adv.*

credit ('kredit) *n.* 1. commendation or approval, as for an act or quality. 2. a person or thing serving as a source of good influence, repute, etc. 3. influence or reputation coming from the good opinion of others. 4. belief in the truth, reliability, quality, etc., of someone or something. 5. a sum of money or equivalent purchasing power, available for a person's use. 6. a. the positive balance in a person's bank account. b. the sum of money that a bank makes available to a client in excess of any deposit. 7. a. the practice of permitting a buyer to receive goods or services before payment. b. the time permitted for paying for such goods or services. 8. reputation for solvency and probity, inducing confidence among creditors. 9. *Accounting*, a. acknowledgment of an income, liability, or capital item by entry on the right-hand side of an account. b. the right-hand side of an account. c. an entry on this side. d. the total of such entries. e. (*as modifier*): *credit entries*. 10. *Education*, a. a distinction awarded to an examination candidate obtaining good marks. b. a section of an examination syllabus satisfactorily completed. 11. on **credit**, with payment to be made at a future date. ~vb. (tr.) 12. (foll. by *with*) to ascribe (to); give credit (for). 13. to accept as true; believe. 14. to do credit to. 15. *Accounting*, a. to enter (an item) as a credit in an account. b. to acknowledge (a payer) by making such an entry.

creditable ('kreditəbəl) *adj.* deserving credit, honour, etc.; praiseworthy. —'credibility *n.* —'credibly *adv.*

credit card *n.* a card issued by banks, businesses, etc., enabling the holder to obtain goods and services on credit.

Creditiste (kredɪ'ti:st) *Canad.* ~*adj.* 1. of, supporting, or relating to the Social Credit Rally of Quebec. ~*n.* 2. a supporter or member of this organization.

creditor ('kreditə) *n.* a person or commercial enterprise to whom money is owed.

credit rating *n.* an evaluation of the creditworthiness of an individual or business enterprise, based on earning power, previous record of debt repayment, etc.

credits ('kredits) *pl. n.* a list of those responsible for the production of a film.

credo ('kri:dəu, 'krei-) *n.*, *pl.* -dos. any formal statement of beliefs, principles, or opinions.

Crede ('kri:dəu, 'krei-) *n.*, *pl.* -dos. 1. the Apostles' or Nicene Creed. 2. a musical setting of the Creed.

credulity (kri:'djʊlɪti) *n.* disposition to believe something on little evidence; gullibility.

credulous ('kredjʊləs) *adj.* 1. tending to believe something on little evidence. 2. arising from or characterized

by credulity: *credulous beliefs*. — *credulously adv.* — *credulousness n.*

creed (kri:d) *n.* 1. a concise, formal statement of the essential articles of Christian belief, such as the Apostles' Creed or the Nicene Creed. 2. any statement or system of beliefs or principles. — *creedal or 'credal adj.*

creek (kri:k) *n.* 1. *Chiefly Brit.* a narrow inlet or bay, esp. of the sea. 2. *U.S., Canad., Austral. & N.Z.* a small stream or tributary. 3. *up the creek.* *Sl.* in trouble; in a difficult position.

Creek (kri:k) *n.* 1. (*pl. Creek or Creeks*) a member of a confederacy of N American Indian tribes formerly living in Georgia and Alabama. 2. any of their languages.

creel (kri:l) *n.* 1. a wickerwork basket, esp. one used to hold fish. 2. a wickerwork trap for catching lobsters, etc.

creep (kri:p) *vb.* **creeping, crept.** (*intr.*) 1. to crawl with the body near to or touching the ground. 2. to move slowly, quietly, or cautiously. 3. to act in a servile way; fawn; cringe. 4. to move or slip out of place, as from pressure or wear. 5. (of plants) to grow along the ground or over rocks. 6. to develop gradually: *creeping unrest*. 7. to have the sensation of something crawling over the skin. ~ *n.* 8. the act of creeping or a creeping movement. 9. *Sl.* a person considered to be obnoxious or servile. 10. *Geol.* the gradual downward movement of loose rock material, soil, etc., on a slope.

creeper ('kri:pə) *n.* 1. a person or animal that creeps. 2. a plant, such as the ivy, that grows by creeping. 3. the U.S. name for the tree **crepper**. 4. a hooked instrument for dragging deep water. 5. *Inf.* a shoe with a soft sole.

creeps (kri:ps) *pl. n.* (preceded by *the*) *Sl.* a feeling of fear, repulsion, disgust, etc.

creepy ('kri:p) *adj.* -*ier, -iest.* 1. *Inf.* having or causing a sensation of repulsion or fear, as of creatures crawling on the skin. 2. creeping; slow-moving. — *creepily adv.* — *creepiness n.*

creepy-crawly *Brit. inf.* ~ *n., pl. -crawlies.* 1. a small crawling creature. ~ *adj.* 2. feeling or causing a sensation as of creatures crawling on one's skin.

cremate (kri:'meit) *vb.* (tr.) to burn up (something, esp. a corpse) and reduce to ash. — *cre'mation n.* — *cre'ma-tor n.* — *crematory* ('kremə'tɔ:ri, -tri) *adj.*

crematorium (kremə'tɔ:riəm) *n., pl. -riums or -ria* (-riə) *Brit.* a building in which corpses are cremated. Also called (esp. U.S.): **crematory**.

crème (krem, krim, kreim; French krem) *n.* 1. cream. 2. any of various sweet liqueurs: *crème de moka*. ~ *adj.* 3. (of a liqueur) rich and sweet.

crème de menthe ('krem də 'menθ, 'mint, 'krim, 'kreim) *n.* a liqueur flavoured with peppermint.

crenate ('kri:neit) or **crenated** *adj.* having a scalloped margin, as certain leaves. — *crenately adv.* — *crenation n.*

crenellate or *U.S. crenelate* ('kreni,leit) *vb.* (tr.) to supply with battlements. — *crenelated or U.S. crenelated adj.* — *crenel'ation or U.S. crenel'ation n.*

creole ('kri:əul) *n.* 1. a language that has its origin in extended contact between two language communities, one of which is European. ~ *adj.* 2. of or relating to creole. 3. (of a sauce or dish) containing or cooked with tomatoes, green peppers, onions, etc.

Creole ('kri:əul) *n.* 1. (*sometimes not cap.*) (in the West Indies and Latin America) a. a native-born person of European ancestry. b. a native-born person of mixed European and Negro ancestry who speaks a creole. 2. (in Louisiana and other Gulf States) a native-born person of French ancestry. 3. the French Creole spoken in Louisiana. ~ *adj.* 4. of or relating to any of these peoples.

creosote ('kri:əsəut) *n.* 1. a colourless or pale yellow liquid with a burning taste and penetrating odour distilled from wood tar. It is used as an antiseptic. 2. a thick dark liquid mixture prepared from coal tar: used as a preservative for wood. ~ *vb.* 3. to treat (wood) with creosote. — *creosotic* ('kri:əsəutik) *adj.*

crepe or crape (kreip) *n.* 1. a. a light cotton, silk, or other fabric with a fine ridged or crinkled surface. b. (*as modifier*): a *crepe dress*. 2. a black armband originally made of this, worn as a sign of mourning. 3. a very thin pancake, often folded around a filling. 4. short for **crepe paper** or **crepe rubber**.

crepe paper *n.* thin crinkled coloured paper, resembling crepe and used for decorations.

crepe rubber *n.* a type of rubber in crinkled sheets: used for the soles of shoes.

crepitate ('krepi,tet) *vb. (intr.)* to make a rattling or crackling sound. — *crepitant adj.* — *crepi'tation n.*

crept (krept) *vb.* the past tense or past participle of **creep**.

crepuscular (kri:'paskjələ) *adj.* 1. of or like twilight; dim. 2. (of certain creatures) active at twilight or just before dawn.

Cres. *abbrev. for* **Crecent**.

crescendo (kri:'endəʊ) *n., pl. -dos or -di* (-di). 1. *Music.* a. a gradual increase in loudness or the musical direction or symbol indicating this. *Abbrev.: cresc.* b. (*as modifier*): a *crescendo passage*. 2. any similar gradual increase in loudness. ~ *vb. -doing, -doed.* 3. (*intr.*) to increase in loudness or force. ~ *adv.* 4. with a crescendo.

crescnt ('kres'nt, -z'nt) *n.* 1. the biconcave shape of the moon in its first or last quarter. 2. any shape or object resembling this. 3. *Chiefly Brit.* a crescent-shaped street. 4. (*often cap.* and preceded by *the*) a. the emblem of Islam or Turkey. b. Islamic or Turkish power. ~ *adj.* 5. *Arch. or poetic.* increasing or growing. — *cre'scentic* (kri:'sentik) *adj.*

cress (kres) *n.* any of various plants having pungent-tasting leaves often used in salads and as a garnish.

crest (krest) *n.* 1. a tuft or growth of feathers, fur, or skin along the top of the heads of some birds, reptiles, and other animals. 2. something resembling or suggesting this. 3. the top, highest point, or highest stage of something. 4. an ornamental piece, such as a plume, on top of a helmet. 5. *Heraldry.* a symbol of a family or office, borne in addition to a coat of arms and used in medieval times to decorate the helmet. ~ *vb.* 6. (*intr.*) to come or rise to a high point. 7. (tr.) to lie at the top of; cap. 8. (tr.) to reach the top of (a hill, wave, etc.). — *crested adj.* — *crestless adj.*

crestfallen ('krest,fələn) *adj.* dejected or disheartened. — *crestfallenly adv.*

cretaceous (kri:'teifəs) *adj.* consisting of or resembling chalk.

Cretaceous (kri:'teifəs) *adj.* 1. of, denoting, or formed in the last period of the Mesozoic era, during which chalk deposits were formed. ~ *n.* 2. *the.* the Cretaceous period or rock system.

cretin ('kretin) *n.* 1. a person afflicted with cretinism. 2. a person considered to be extremely stupid. — *cretinous adj.*

cretinism ('kreti,nizəm) *n.* a condition arising from a deficiency of thyroid hormone, present from birth, characterized by dwarfism and mental retardation. See also **myxoedema**.

cretonne (kre'ton, 'kretin) *n.* a heavy cotton or linen fabric with a printed design, used for furnishing.

crevasse (kri:'væs) *n.* 1. a deep crack or fissure, esp. in the ice of a glacier. 2. *U.S.* a break in a river embankment. ~ *vb.* 3. (tr.) *U.S.* to make a break or fissure in (a dyke, wall, etc.).

crevice ('krevis) *n.* a narrow fissure or crack; split; cleft.

crew¹ (kru:) *n. (sometimes functioning as pl.)* 1. the men who man a ship, boat, aircraft, etc. 2. *Naut.* a group of people assigned to a particular job or type of work. 3. *Inf.* a gang, company, or crowd. ~ *vb.* 4. to serve on (a ship) as a member of the crew.

crew² (kru:) *vb.* *Arch.* a past tense of **crow**¹.

crew cut *n.* a closely cropped haircut for men.

crewel ('kru:il) *n.* a loosely twisted worsted yarn, used in fancy work and embroidery. — *crewelist n.* — *crewel,work n.*

crew neck *n.* a plain round neckline in sweaters. — *crew-,neck or 'crew-,necked adj.*

crib (krib) *n.* 1. a child's bed with slatted wooden sides; cot. 2. a cattle stall or pen. 3. a fodder rack or manger. 4. a small crude cottage or room. 5. *N.Z.* a weekend cottage: term is South Island usage only. 6. any small confined space. 7. a representation of the manger in which the infant Jesus was laid at birth. 8. *Inf.* a theft, esp. of another's writing or thoughts. 9. *Inf., chiefly Brit.* a translation of a foreign text or a list of answers used by students, often illicitly, as an aid in lessons, examinations, etc. 10. short for **cribbage**. 11. **Cribbage**, the discard pile. 12. Also called: **cribwork**, a framework of heavy timbers used in the construction of foundations, mines, etc. ~ *vb.* **cribbing, cribbed.** 13. (tr.) to put or enclose in or as if in a crib; furnish with a crib. 14. (tr.) *Inf.* to steal another's writings or thoughts. 15. (*intr.*) *Inf.* to copy either from a crib or from someone else during a lesson or examination. 16. *Inf.* to grumble. — *cribber n.*

cribbage ('krɪbɪdʒ) *n.* a game of cards for two to four, in which players try to win a set number of points before their opponents.

crick (kɹɪk) *Inf.* *~n.* 1. a painful muscle spasm or cramp, esp. in the neck or back. *~vb.* 2. (*tr.*) to cause a crick in.

cricket ('krɪkɪt) *n.* an insect having long antennae and, in the males, the ability to produce a chirping sound by rubbing together the leathery forewings.

cricket ('krɪkɪt) *n.* 1. **a.** a game played by two teams of eleven players on a field with a wicket at either end of a 22-yard pitch, the object being for one side to score runs by hitting a hard leather-covered ball with a bat while the other side tries to dismiss them by bowling, catching, running them out, etc. **b.** (*as modifier*): a cricket bat. 2. **not cricket.** *Inf.* not fair play. *~vb.* (*intr.*) 3. to play cricket. *—'cricketer n.*

crier ('kraɪə) *n.* 1. a person or animal that cries. 2. (formerly) an official who made public announcements, esp. in a town or court.

crime ('kraɪm) *n.* 1. an act or omission prohibited and punished by law. 2. unlawful acts in general. 3. an evil act. 4. *Inf.* something to be regretted.

criminal ('krɪmɪnəl) *n.* 1. a person charged with and convicted of crime. 2. a person who commits crimes for a living. *~adj.* 3. of, involving, or guilty of crime. 4. (*prepositional*) of or relating to crime or its punishment. 5. *Inf.* senseless or deplorable. *—'criminally adv.* *—'criminality n.*

criminology ('krɪmɪnələdʒɪ) *n.* the scientific study of crime. *—'criminological ('krɪmɪnələdʒɪkəl) or 'crimino'logic adj.* *—'crimino'logically adv.* *—'crimi'nologist n.*

crimp (krɪmp) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to fold or press into ridges. 2. to fold and pinch together (something, such as two pieces of metal). 3. to curl or wave (the hair) tightly, esp. with curling tongs. 4. *U.S. inf.* to hinder. *~n.* 5. the act or result of folding or pressing together or into ridges. 6. a tight wave or curl in the hair. *—'crimper n.* *—'crimpy adj.*

Crimplene ('krɪmplɪn) *n.* *Trademark.* a synthetic material similar to Terylene, characterized by its crease-resistance.

crimson ('krɪmzən) *n.* 1. **a.** a deep or vivid red colour. **b.** (*as adj.*): a crimson rose. *~vb.* 2. to make or become crimson. 3. (*intr.*) to blush. *—'crimsonness n.*

cringe (krɪndʒ) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. to shrink or flinch, esp. in fear or servility. 2. to behave in a servile or timid way. *~n.* 3. the act of cringing. *—'cringer n.*

crinkle ('krɪŋkəl) *vb.* 1. to form or cause to form wrinkles, twists, or folds. 2. to make or cause to make a rustling noise. *~n.* 3. a wrinkle, twist, or fold. 4. a rustling noise. *—'crinkly adj.*

crinoline ('krɪnəlɪn) *n.* 1. a stiff fabric, originally of horsehair and linen used in lining garments. 2. a petticoat stiffened with this, worn to distend skirts, esp. in the mid-19th century. 3. a framework of steel hoops worn for the same purpose.

cripple ('krɪpəl) *n.* 1. a person who is lame. 2. a person who is or seems disabled or deficient in some way: a mental cripple. *~vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to make a cripple of; disable. *—'crippler n.*

crisis ('kraɪsɪs) *n.*, *pl.* **-ses** (-sɪz). 1. a crucial stage or turning point, esp. in a sequence of events or a disease. 2. an unstable period, esp. one of extreme trouble or danger. 3. *Pathol.* a sudden change in the course of a disease.

crisp (krɪsp) *adj.* 1. dry and brittle. 2. fresh and firm. 3. invigorating or bracing: a crisp breeze. 4. clear; sharp: crisp reasoning. 5. lively or stimulating. 6. clean and orderly. 7. concise and pithy. 8. wrinkled or curly: crisp hair. *~vb.* 9. to make or become crisp. *~n.* 10. *Brit.* a very thin slice of potato fried and eaten cold as a snack. 11. something that is crisp. *—'crisply adv.* *—'crispness n.*

crispbread ('krɪsp,bred) *n.* a thin dry biscuit made of wheat or rye.

crispy ('krɪspi) *adj.* **crispier, crispiest.** 1. crisp. 2. having waves or curls. *—'crispiness n.*

crisscross ('krɪs,kɹɒs) *vb.* 1. to move or cause to move in a crosswise pattern. 2. to mark with or consist of a pattern of crossing lines. *~adj.* 3. (*esp.* of lines) crossing one another in different directions. *~n.* 4. a pattern made of crossing lines. *~adv.* 5. in a crosswise manner or pattern.

criterion (kraɪ'tɪərɪən) *n.*, *pl.* **-ria** (-rɪə) or **-rions**. a standard by which something can be judged or decided.

▷ **Usage.** *Criteria*, the plural of *criterion*, is not acceptable as a singular noun in careful English.

critic ('krɪtɪk) *n.* 1. a person who judges something. 2. a professional judge of art, music, literature, etc. 3. a person who often finds fault and criticizes.

critical ('krɪtɪkəl) *adj.* 1. containing or making severe or negative judgments. 2. containing analytical evaluations. 3. of a critic or criticism. 4. of or forming a crisis; crucial. 5. urgently needed. 6. *Physics.* of, denoting, or concerned with a state in which the properties of a system undergo an abrupt change. 7. **go critical.** (of a nuclear power station or reactor) to reach a state in which a nuclear-fission chain reaction becomes self-sustaining. *—'criti'cality n.* *—'critically adv.* *—'criticalness n.*

critical path analysis *n.* a technique for planning projects with reference to the critical path, which is the sequence of stages requiring the longest time.

criticism ('krɪtɪsɪzəm) *n.* 1. the act or an instance of making an unfavourable or severe judgment, comment, etc. 2. the analysis or evaluation of a work of art, literature, etc. 3. the occupation of a critic. 4. a work that sets out to evaluate or analyse.

criticize or -ise ('krɪtɪsaɪz) *vb.* 1. to judge (something) with disapproval; censure. 2. to evaluate or analyse (something). *—'criti,cizable or -cisable adj.* *—'criti,cizer or -ciser n.*

critique (krɪ'tɪk) *n.* 1. a critical essay or commentary. 2. the act or art of criticizing.

croak (krəʊk) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) (of frogs, crows, etc.) to make a low, hoarse cry. 2. to utter (something) in this manner. 3. (*intr.*) to grumble or be pessimistic. 4. *Sl. a.* (*intr.*) to die. *b.* (*tr.*) to kill. *~n.* 5. a low hoarse utterance or sound. *—'croaky adj.* *—'croakiness n.*

Croatian (krəʊ'eɪʃən) *adj.* 1. of or relating to Croatia, its people, or their dialect of Serbo-Croatian. *~n.* 2. the dialect of Croatia. 3. *a.* a native or inhabitant of Croatia. *b.* a speaker of Croatian.

crochet ('krəʊʃeɪ,-ʃi) *vb.* **-cheting** (-ʃeɪŋ,-ʃɪŋ), **-cheted** (-ʃeɪd,-ʃɪd). 1. to make (a piece of needlework, a garment, etc.) by looping and intertwining thread with a hooked needle (**crochet hook**). *~n.* 2. work made by crocheting. *—'crocheter n.*

crock¹ (krɒk) *n.* 1. an earthen pot, jar, etc. 2. a piece of broken earthenware.

crock² (krɒk) *n.* *Sl., chiefly Brit.* a person or thing that is old or decrepit (*esp.* in **old crock**).

crockery ('krɒkəri) *n.* china dishes, earthen vessels, etc., collectively.

crocodile ('krɒkə,dail) *n.* 1. a large tropical reptile having a broad head, tapering snout, massive jaws, and a thick outer covering of bony plates. 2. **a.** leather made from the skin of any of these animals. **b.** (*as modifier*): crocodile shoes.

crocodile tears *pl. n.* an insincere show of grief; false tears.

crocus ('krəʊkəs) *n.*, *pl.* **-cuses**. any plant of the iridaceous genus *Crocus*, having white, yellow, or purple flowers.

Croesus ('kri:siəs) *n.* any very rich man.

croft (krɒft) *n.* *Brit.* a small enclosed plot of land, adjoining a house, worked by the occupier and his family, esp. in Scotland. *—'crofter n.*

croissant ('krwəsɒŋ) *n.* a flaky crescent-shaped bread roll.

cromlech ('krɒmlek) *n.* 1. a megalithic chamber tomb or dolmen. 2. a circle of prehistoric standing stones or a single one.

crone (krəʊn) *n.* a witchlike old woman.

crony ('kraʊni) *n.*, *pl.* **-nies**. a friend or companion.

crook (krʊk) *n.* 1. a curved or hooked thing. 2. a staff with a hooked end, such as a bishop's crosier or shepherd's staff. 3. a turn or curve; bend. 4. *Inf.* a dishonest person, esp. a swindler or thief. *~vb.* 5. to bend or curve or cause to bend or curve. *~adj.* 6. *Austral. sl. a.* ill. *b.* of poor quality. *c.* unpleasant; bad. 7. **go (off) crook.** *Austral. sl.* to lose one's temper. 8. **go crook at or on.** *Austral. sl.* to rebuke or upbraid.

crooked ('krʊkɪd) *adj.* 1. bent, angled or winding. 2. set at an angle; not straight. 3. deformed or contorted. 4. *Inf.* dishonest or illegal. 5. **crooked on.** (*also* *krut*) *Austral. inf.* hostile or averse to. *—'crookedly adv.* *—'crookedness n.*

croon (krʊn) *vb.* 1. to sing or speak in a soft low tone. *~n.* 2. a soft low singing or humming. *—'crooner n.*

crop (krɒp) *n.* 1. the produce of cultivated plants, esp. cereals, vegetables, and fruit. 2. **a.** the amount of such

produce in any particular season. **b.** the yield of some other farm produce: *the lamb crop*. **3.** a group of products, thoughts, people, etc., appearing at one time or in one season. **4.** the stock of a thonged whip. **5.** short for *riding crop*. **6.** a pouchlike part of the oesophagus of birds, in which food is stored or partially digested before passing on to the gizzard. **7.** a short cropped hair style. **8.** a notch in or a piece cut out of the ear of an animal. **9.** the act of cropping. ~*vb.* **cropping, cropped.** (*mainly tr.*) **10.** to cut (hair, grass, etc.) very short. **11.** to cut and collect (mature produce) from the land or plant on which it has been grown. **12.** to clip part of (the ear or ears) of (an animal), esp. as a means of identification. **13.** (of herbivorous animals) to graze on (grass or similar vegetation).

crop-eared *adj.* having the ears or hair cut short.

cropper ('krɒpə) *n.* **1.** a person who cultivates or harvests a crop. **2. come a cropper.** *Inf.* **a.** to fall heavily. **b.** to fail completely.

crop up *vb.* (*intr., adv.*) *Inf.* to occur or appear unexpectedly.

croquet ('krɒkeɪ, -kɪ) *n.* a game for two to four players who hit a wooden ball through iron hoops with mallets in order to hit a peg.

croquette (krɒ'ket, krɒ-) *n.* a savoury cake of minced meat, fish, etc., fried in breadcrumbs.

crozier or **crozier** ('krɒziə) *n.* a staff surmounted by a crook or cross, carried by bishops as a symbol of pastoral office.

cross (krɒs) *n.* **1.** a structure or symbol consisting of two intersecting lines or pieces at right angles to one another. **2.** a wooden structure used as a means of execution, consisting of an upright post with a transverse piece to which people were nailed or tied. **3.** a representation of the Cross used as an emblem of Christianity or as a reminder of Christ's death. **4.** any mark or shape consisting of two intersecting lines, esp. such a symbol (X) used as a signature, error mark, etc. **5.** a sign representing the Cross made either by tracing a figure in the air or by touching the forehead, breast, and either shoulder in turn. **6.** any variation of the Christian symbol, such as a Maltese or Greek cross. **7.** a cruciform emblem awarded to indicate membership of an order or as a decoration for distinguished service. **8.** (*sometimes cap.*) Christianity or Christendom, esp. as contrasted with non-Christian religions. **9.** the place in a town or village where a cross has been set up. **10. Biol.** **a.** the process of crossing; hybridization. **b.** an individual produced as a result of this process. **11.** a mixture of two qualities or types. **12.** an opposition, hindrance, or misfortune; affliction (esp. in *bear one's cross*). **13. Boxing.** a straight punch delivered from the side, esp. with the right hand. ~*vb.* **14.** (*sometimes foll. by over*) to move or go across (something); traverse or intersect. **15. a.** to meet and pass. **b.** (of each of two letters in the post) to be dispatched before receipt of the other. **16. (tr.; usually foll. by out, off, or through)** to cancel with a cross or with lines; delete. **17. (tr.)** to place or put in a form resembling a cross: *to cross one's legs*. **18. (tr.)** to mark with a cross or crosses. **19. (tr.) Brit.** to draw two parallel lines across the face of (a cheque) and so make it payable only into a bank account. **20. (tr.) a.** to trace the form of the Cross upon (someone or something) in token of blessing. **b.** to make the sign of the Cross upon (oneself). **21. (intr.)** (of telephone lines) to interfere with each other so that several callers are connected together at one time. **22.** to cause fertilization between (plants or animals of different breeds, races, varieties, etc.). **23. (tr.)** to oppose the wishes or plans of; thwart. **24. cross one's fingers.** to fold one finger across another in the hope of bringing good luck. **25. cross one's heart.** to promise or pledge, esp. by making the sign of a cross over one's heart. **26. cross one's mind.** to occur to one briefly or suddenly. **27. cross the path (of).** to meet or thwart (someone). **28. cross swords.** to enter into an argument or contest. ~*adj.* **29.** angry; ill-humoured; vexed. **30.** lying or placed across; transverse: *a cross timber*. **31.** involving interchange; reciprocal. **32.** contrary or unfavourable. —*crossly* *adv.* —*crossness* *n.*

Cross (krɒs) *n.* **the.** **1.** the cross on which Jesus Christ was crucified. **2.** the Crucifixion of Jesus.

cross- *combining form.* **1.** indicating action from one individual, group, etc., to another: *cross-cultural*; *crossfertilize*; *cross-refer*. **2.** indicating movement, position, etc., across something: *crosscurrent*; *crosswalk*. **3.** indicating a crosslike figure or intersection: *crossbones*.

crossbar ('krɒs,bɑː) *n.* **1.** a horizontal bar, line, stripe,

etc. **2.** a horizontal beam across a pair of goal posts. **3.** the horizontal bar on a man's bicycle.

cross-bench *n.* (*usually pl.*) *Brit.* a seat in Parliament occupied by a neutral or independent member. —*cross-bencher* *n.*

crossbill ('krɒs,bɪl) *n.* any of various widely distributed finches that occur in coniferous woods and have a bill with crossed tips.

crossbow ('krɒs,bəʊ) *n.* a type of medieval bow fixed transversely on a stock grooved to direct a square-headed arrow. —*cross, bowman* *n.*

crossbreed ('krɒs,briːd) *vb.* *-breeding, -bred.* **1. Also: interbreed.** to breed (animals or plants) using parents of different races, varieties, breeds, etc. ~*n.* **2.** the offspring produced by such a breeding.

crosscheck (,krɒs'tʃek) *vb.* **1.** to verify (a fact, report, etc.) by considering conflicting opinions or consulting other sources. ~*n.* **2.** the act or an instance of cross-checking.

cross-country *adj., adv.* **1.** by way of fields, etc., as opposed to roads. **2.** across a country. ~*n.* **3.** a long race held over open ground.

crosscut ('krɒs,kʌt) *adj.* **1.** cut at right angles or obliquely to the major axis. ~*n.* **2.** a transverse cut or course. **3. Mining.** a tunnel through a vein of ore or from the shaft to a vein. ~*vb.* *-cutting, -cut.* **4.** to cut across.

cross-examine *vb.* (*tr.*) **1.** Law. to examine (a witness for the opposing side), as in attempting to discredit his testimony. **2.** to examine closely or relentlessly. —*cross-examination* *n.* —*cross-examiner* *n.*

cross-eye *n.* a turning inwards towards the nose of one or both eyes, caused by abnormal alignment. —*cross-eyed* *adj.*

cross-fertilize *vb.* to fertilize by fusion of male and female gametes from different individuals of the same species. —*cross-fertilization* *n.*

crossfire ('krɒs,faɪə) *n.* **1. Mil., etc.** converging fire from one or more positions. **2.** a lively exchange of ideas, opinions, etc.

crosshatch ('krɒs,hætʃ) *vb.* *Drawing.* to shade or hatch with two or more sets of parallel lines that cross one another.

crossing ('krɒsɪŋ) *n.* **1.** the place where one thing crosses another. **2.** a place where a street, railway, etc., may be crossed. **3.** the act or process of crossbreeding.

cross-legged ('krɒs'legd, -'legd) *adj.* standing or sitting with one leg crossed over the other.

crosspatch ('krɒs,pætʃ) *n. Inf.* a bad-tempered person.

cross-ply *adj.* (of a motor tyre) having the fabric cords in the outer casing running diagonally to stiffen the sidewalls.

cross-purpose *n.* **1.** a contrary aim or purpose. **2. at cross-purposes.** conflicting; opposed; disagreeing.

cross-question *vb.* **1.** to cross-examine. ~*n.* **2.** a question asked in cross-examination.

cross-refer *vb.* to refer from one part of something, esp. a book, to another.

cross-reference *n.* **1.** a reference within a text to another part of the text. ~*vb.* **2.** to cross-refer.

crossroad ('krɒs,roʊd) *n. U.S.* **1.** a road that crosses another road. **2. Also called: crossway.** a road that crosses from one main road to another.

crossroads ('krɒs,rəʊdz) *n. (construed as sing.)* **1.** the point at which two or more roads cross each other. **2.** the point at which an important choice has to be made (esp. in *at the crossroads*).

cross section *n.* **1. Maths.** a plane surface formed by cutting across a solid, esp. perpendicular to its longest axis. **2.** a section cut off in this way. **3.** the act of cutting anything in this way. **4.** a random sample, esp. one regarded as representative. —*cross-sectional* *adj.*

cross-stitch *n.* **1.** an embroidery stitch made by two stitches forming a cross. **2.** embroidery worked with this stitch. ~*vb.* **3.** to embroider (a piece of needlework) with cross-stitch.

crossstalk ('krɒs,tɔːk) *n.* **1. Radio, telephony.** unwanted sounds picked up in one receiving channel from other channels. **2. Brit.** rapid or witty talk.

crosswise ('krɒs,wəɪz) or **crossways** ('krɒs,wəɪz) *adj., adv.* **1.** across; transversely. **2.** in the shape of a cross.

crossword puzzle ('krɒs,wɜːd) *n.* a puzzle in which the solver guesses words suggested by numbered clues and writes them into a grid to form a vertical and horizontal pattern.

crotch (krɒtʃ) *n.* **1. Also called (Brit.): crutch.** **a.** the angle formed by the legs where they join the human

trunk. **b.** the human genital area. **c.** the corresponding part of a pair of trousers, pants, etc. **2.** a forked region formed by the junction of two members. **3.** a forked pole or stick. — **crotched** (krɒtʃt) *adj.*

crotchet ('krɒtʃɪt) *n.* **1.** *Music.* a note having the time value of a quarter of a semibreve. **2.** a perverse notion.

crotchety ('krɒtʃɪti) *adj.* **1.** *Inf.* irritable; contrary. **2.** full of crotchets. — **crotchety** *n.*

crouch (kraʊtʃ) *vb.* **1.** (*intr.*) to bend low with the limbs pulled up close together. **2.** (*intr.*) to cringe, as in humility or fear. ~ *n.* **3.** the act of stooping or bending.

croup (kru:p) *n.* a throat condition, occurring usually in children, characterized by a hoarse cough and laboured breathing, resulting from inflammation of the larynx. — **croupous** or **croupy** *adj.*

croup (kru:p) *n.* the hindquarters, esp. of a horse.

croupier ('kru:piə) *n.* a person who deals cards, collects bets, etc., at a gaming table.

crouton ('kru:tɒn) *n.* a small piece of fried or toasted bread, usually served in soup.

crow (kroʊ) *n.* **1.** any large gregarious songbird of the genus *Corvus* of Europe and Asia, such as the raven, rook, and jackdaw. All have a heavy bill, glossy black plumage, and rounded wings. **2.** any of various similar birds. **3.** *Sl.* an old or ugly woman. **4.** as the **crow** flies, as directly as possible. **5.** *eat crow.* *U.S. inf.* to be forced to do something humiliating. **6.** *stone the crows.* (*interj.*) *Brit. & Austral. sl.* an expression of surprise, horror, etc.

crow (kroʊ) *vb.* (*intr.*) **1.** (past tense **crowed** or **crew**) to utter a shrill squawking sound, as a cock. **2.** (often foll. by *over*) to boast one's superiority. **3.** (esp. of babies) to utter cries of pleasure. ~ *n.* **4.** an act or instance of crowing. — **crower** *n.* — **crowingly** *adv.*

crowbar ('kroʊ,bɑ:) *n.* a heavy iron lever with one end forged into a wedge shape.

crowd (kraʊd) *n.* **1.** a large number of things or people gathered or considered together. **2.** a particular group of people, esp. considered as a set: *the crowd from the office.* **3.** (preceded by *the*) the common people; the masses. ~ *vb.* **4.** (*intr.*) to gather together in large numbers; throng. **5.** (*tr.*) to press together into a confined space. **6.** (*tr.*) to fill to excess; fill by pushing into. **7.** (*tr.*) *Sl.* to urge or harass by urging. — **crowded** *adj.* — **crowdedness** *n.*

crowfoot ('kroʊ,fʊt) *n.* *pl.* **-foots.** any of several plants that have yellow or white flowers and divided leaves resembling the foot of a crow.

crown (kraʊn) *n.* **1.** an ornamental headdress denoting sovereignty, usually made of gold embedded with precious stones. **2.** a wreath or garland for the head, awarded as a sign of victory, success, honour, etc. **3.** (*sometimes cap.*) monarchy or kingship. **4.** an award, distinction, or title, given as an honour to reward merit, victory, etc. **5.** anything resembling or symbolizing a crown. **6.** *a.* a coin worth 25 pence (five shillings). *b.* any of several continental coins, such as the krona or krone, with a name meaning **crown**. **7.** the top or summit of something: *crown of a hill.* **8.** the centre part of a road, esp. when it is cambered. **9.** the outstanding quality, achievement, state, etc.: *the crown of his achievements.* **10.** *a.* the enamel-covered part of a tooth above the gum. *b.* **artificial crown.** a substitute crown, usually of gold, porcelain, or acrylic resin, fitted over a decayed or broken tooth. **11.** the part of an anchor where the arms are joined to the shank. ~ *vb.* (*tr.*) **12.** to put a crown on the head of, symbolically vesting with royal title, powers, etc. **13.** to place a crown, wreath, garland, etc., on someone's head. **14.** to place something on or over the head or top of. **15.** to confer a title, dignity, or reward upon. **16.** to form the summit or topmost part of. **17.** to occur as the culminating event in a series: *to crown it all it rained, too.* **18.** *Draughts.* to promote (a draught) to a king by placing another draught on top of it. **19.** to attach a crown to (a tooth). **20.** *Sl.* to hit over the head.

Crown (kraʊn) *n.* (*sometimes not cap.*; usually preceded by *the*) **1.** the sovereignty or realm of a monarch. **2.** *a.* the government of a monarchy. *b.* (*as modifier*): *Crown property.*

crown colony *n.* a British colony whose administration is controlled by the Crown.

crown court *n.* *English law.* a court of criminal jurisdiction holding sessions in towns throughout England and Wales.

Crown Derby *n.* a type of porcelain manufactured at Derby from 1784-1848.

crown jewels *pl. n.* the jewellery, including the regalia, used by a sovereign on a state occasion.

crown prince *n.* the male heir to a sovereign throne.

crow's-foot *n.* *pl.* **-feet.** (*often pl.*) a wrinkle at the outer corner of the eye.

crow's-nest *n.* a lookout platform high up on a ship's mast.

crozier ('kroʊziə) *n.* a variant spelling of **crozier**.

CRTC *abbrev.* for Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission.

crucial ('kru:ʃəl) *adj.* **1.** involving a final or supremely important decision or event; decisive; critical. **2.** *Inf.* very important. — **crucially** *adv.*

crucible ('kru:sɪbəl) *n.* **1.** a vessel in which substances are heated to high temperatures. **2.** the hearth at the bottom of a metallurgical furnace in which the metal collects. **3.** a severe trial or test.

crucifix ('kru:sɪfɪks) *n.* a cross or image of a cross with a figure of Christ upon it.

crucifixion ('kru:sɪfɪkʃən) *n.* a method of putting to death by nailing or binding to a cross, normally by the hands and feet.

Crucifixion ('kru:sɪfɪkʃən) *n.* **1.** (usually preceded by *the*) the crucifying of Christ. **2.** a picture or representation of this.

cruciform ('kru:sɪfɔ:m) *adj.* shaped like a cross. — **cruci,formly** *adv.*

crucify ('kru:sɪfai) *vb.* **-fying, -fied.** (*tr.*) **1.** to put to death by crucifixion. **2.** *Sl.* to defeat, ridicule, etc., totally. **3.** to treat very cruelly; torment. — **cruci,fier** *n.*

crud (krʌd) *n.* **1.** *Sl.* chiefly *U.S.* a sticky substance, esp. when dirty and encrusted. **b.** a despicable person. **2.** an undesirable residue, esp. one inside a nuclear reactor. — **crud** *adj.*

crude (krʊd) *adj.* **1.** lacking taste, tact, or refinement; vulgar. **2.** in a natural or unrefined state. **3.** lacking care, knowledge, or skill. **4.** (*prepositional*) stark; blunt. ~ *n.* **5.** short for **crude oil**. — **crudely** *adv.* — **crudity** or **crudeness** *n.*

crude oil *n.* unrefined petroleum.

cruel ('kru:əl) *adj.* **1.** causing or inflicting pain without pity. **2.** causing pain or suffering. ~ *vb.* (*tr.*) **3.** *Austral. sl.* to ruin the chances of: *to cruel his pitch.* — **cruelly** *adv.* — **cruelness** *n.* — **cruelty** *n.*

cruet ('kru:t) *n.* **1.** a small container for holding pepper, salt, vinegar, oil, etc., at table. **2.** a set of such containers, esp. on a stand.

cruise (kru:z) *vb.* **1.** (*intr.*) to make a trip by sea for pleasure, usually calling at a number of ports. **2.** to sail or travel over (a body of water) for pleasure. **3.** to search for enemy vessels in a warship. **4.** (*intr.*) of a vehicle, aircraft, or vessel) to travel at a moderate and efficient speed. ~ *n.* **5.** an act or instance of cruising, esp. a trip by sea.

cruise missile *n.* a subsonic missile that is guided throughout its flight.

cruiser ('kru:zə) *n.* **1.** a high-speed, long-range warship armed with medium-calibre weapons. **2.** Also called: **cabin cruiser.** a pleasure boat, esp. one that is power-driven and has a cabin. **3.** any person or thing that cruises.

cruiseweight ('kru:zə,weɪt) *n.* *Boxing.* another term (esp. *Brit.*) for **light heavyweight**.

crumb (krʌm) *n.* **1.** a small fragment of bread, cake, or other baked foods. **2.** a small piece or bit. **3.** the soft inner part of bread. **4.** *Sl.* a contemptible person. ~ *vb.* **5.** (*tr.*) to prepare or cover (food) with breadcrumbs. **6.** to break into small fragments.

crumble ('krʌmbəl) *vb.* **1.** to break or be broken into crumbs or fragments. **2.** (*intr.*) to fall apart or away. ~ *n.* **3.** *Brit.* a baked pudding consisting of a crumbly mixture of flour, fat, and sugar over stewed fruit: *apple crumble.*

crumbly ('krʌmbli) *adj.* **-blier, -bliest.** easily crumbled or crumbling. — **crumblyness** *n.*

crummy ('krʌmi) *adj.* **-bier, -biest.** **1.** full of or littered with crumbs. **2.** soft, like the inside of bread. **3.** a variant spelling of **crummy**.

crummy ('krʌmi) *adj.* **-mier, -miest.** *Sl.* **1.** of little value; contemptible. **2.** unwell or depressed: *to feel crummy.*

crumpet ('krʌmpɪt) *n.* Chiefly *Brit.* **1.** a light soft yeast cake, eaten toasted and buttered. **2.** *Sl.* women collectively.

crumple ('krʌmpəl) *vb.* **1.** (when *intr.*, often foll. by *up*) to collapse or cause to collapse. **2.** (when *tr.*, often foll. by *up*) to crush or cause to be crushed so as to form

wrinkles or creases. ~*n.* 3. a loose crease or wrinkle. —'crumply *adj.*

crunch (krantʃ) *vb.* 1. to bite or chew with a crushing or crackling sound. 2. to make or cause to make a crisp or brittle sound. ~*n.* 3. the sound or act of crunching. 4. the **crunch**. *Inf.* the critical moment or situation. —'crunchy *adj.* —'crunchily *adv.* —'crunchiness *n.*

crupper ('kɹapə) *n.* 1. a strap from the back of a saddle that passes under a horse's tail. 2. the horse's rump.

crusade (kru:'seɪd) *n.* 1. (*often cap.*) any of the military expeditions undertaken in the 11th, 12th, and 13th centuries by the Christian powers of Europe to recapture the Holy Land from the Muslims. 2. (formerly) any holy war. 3. a vigorous and dedicated action or movement in favour of a cause. ~*vb. (intr.)* 4. to campaign vigorously for something. 5. to go on a crusade. —'crusader *n.*

cruse (kru:z) *n.* a small earthenware container used, esp. formerly, for liquids.

crush (krʌʃ) *vb. (mainly tr.)* 1. to press, mash, or squeeze so as to injure, break, crease, etc. 2. to break or grind into small particles. 3. to put down or subdue, esp. by force. 4. to extract (juice, water, etc.) by pressing. 5. to oppress harshly. 6. to hug or clasp tightly. 7. to defeat or humiliate utterly, as in argument or by a cruel remark. 8. (*intr.*) to crowd; throng. 9. (*intr.*) to become injured, broken, or distorted by pressure. ~*n.* 10. a dense crowd, esp. at a social occasion. 11. the act of crushing; pressure. 12. a drink or pulp prepared by or as if by crushing fruit: *orange crush*. 13. *Inf.* a. an infatuation: *she had a crush on him*. b. the person with whom one is infatuated. —'crushable *adj.* —'crusher *n.*

crush barrier *n.* a barrier erected to separate sections of large crowds.

crust (krʌst) *n.* 1. a. the hard outer part of bread. b. a piece of bread consisting mainly of this. 2. the baked shell of a pie, tart, etc. 3. any hard or stiff outer covering or surface: a *crust of ice*. 4. the outer layer of the earth. 5. the dry covering of a skin sore or lesion; scab. 6. *Sl.* impertinence. 7. *Austral. sl.* a living (esp. in *earn a crust*). ~*vb.* 8. to cover with or acquire a crust. 9. to form or be formed into a crust.

crustacean (krʌ'steɪʃən) *n.* 1. any arthropod of the mainly aquatic class *Crustacea*, typically having a carapace and including the lobsters, crabs, woodlice, and water fleas. ~*adj.* also **crustaceous**. 2. of, relating to, or belonging to the *Crustacea*.

crusty ('krʌsti) *adj. -ier, -iest.* 1. having or characterized by a crust. 2. having a rude or harsh character or exterior. —'crustily *adv.* —'crustiness *n.*

crutch (krʌtʃ) *n.* 1. a long staff having a rest for the armpit, for supporting the weight of the body. 2. something that supports, helps, or sustains. 3. *Brit.* another word for *crotch* (sense 1). ~*vb.* 4. (*tr.*) to support or sustain (a person or thing) as with a crutch. 5. *Austral. & N.Z.* to clip (wool) from the hindquarters of a sheep.

crux (krʌks) *n., pl. cruxes or cruces* ('kru:si:z) 1. a vital or decisive stage, point, etc. (often in *the crux of the matter*). 2. a baffling problem or difficulty.

cry (krai) *vb.* cries, crying, cried. 1. (*intr.*) to utter inarticulate sounds, esp. when weeping; sob. 2. (*intr.*) to shed tears; weep. 3. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *out*) to scream or shout in pain, terror, etc. 4. (*tr.*; often foll. by *out*) to utter or shout (words of appeal, exclamation, fear, etc.). 5. (*intr.*; often foll. by *out*) (of animals, birds, etc.) to utter loud characteristic sounds. 6. (*tr.*) to hawk or sell by public announcement: *to cry newspapers*. 7. to announce (something) publicly or in the streets. 8. (*intr.*; foll. by *for*) to clamour or beg. 9. *cry for the moon*, to desire the unattainable. 10. *cry one's eyes or heart out*, to weep bitterly. ~*n., pl. cries*. 11. the act or sound of crying; a shout, scream, or wail. 12. the characteristic utterance of an animal or bird. 13. a fit of weeping. 14. *Hunting*, the baying of a pack of hounds hunting their quarry by scent. 15. a *far cry*, a. a long way. b. something very different. 16. *in full cry*, a. hotly pursuing. b. the baying of a pack of hounds hunting together.

crying ('kraɪŋ) *adj. (prenominal)* notorious; lamentable (esp. in *crying shame*).

cry off *vb. (intr.) Inf.* to withdraw from or cancel (an agreement or arrangement).

cryogenics ('kraɪə'dʒenɪks) *n. (functioning as sing.)* the branch of physics concerned with very low temperatures and the phenomena occurring at these temperatures. —'cryogenic *adj.*

crypt (kript) *n.* a vault or underground chamber, esp.

beneath a church, often used as a chapel, burial place, etc.

cryptic ('kriptɪk) or **cryptical** *adj.* 1. hidden; secret. 2. esoteric or obscure in meaning. 3. (of coloration) effecting camouflage or concealment. —'cryptically *adv.*

crypto- or *before a vowel crypt-* combining form. secret, hidden, or concealed.

cryptogam ('kriptəʊ,gæm) *n.* (in former classification schemes) any plant that does not produce seeds, including algae, fungi, mosses, and ferns. —'crypto'gamic or **cryptogamous** (krip'tɒgəməs) *adj.*

cryptography (krip'tɒgrəfi) *n.* the science or study of analysing and deciphering codes, ciphers, etc. Also called: **cryptanalysis**. —'crypt'ographer, **crypt'ographer** *n.* —'cryptographic ('kriptə'græfɪk) or 'crypto-graphical *adj.* —'crypto'graphically *adv.*

crystal ('krɪstl) *n.* 1. a solid, such as quartz, with a regular shape in which plane faces intersect at definite angles. 2. a single grain of a crystalline substance. 3. anything resembling a crystal, such as a piece of cut glass. 4. a. a highly transparent and brilliant type of glass. b. (*as modifier*): a *crystal chandelier*. 5. something made of or resembling crystal. 6. crystal glass articles collectively. 7. *Electronics*. a. a crystalline element used in certain electronic devices as a detector, oscillator, etc. b. (*as modifier*): *crystal pickup*. 8. a transparent cover for the face of a watch. 9. (*modifier*) of or relating to a crystal or the regular atomic arrangement of crystals: *crystal structure*. ~*adj.* 10. resembling crystal; transparent: *crystal water*.

crystal ball *n.* the glass globe used in crystal gazing.

crystal gazing *n.* 1. the act of staring into a crystal ball supposedly in order to arouse visual perceptions of the future, etc. 2. the act of trying to foresee or predict. —'crystal gazer *n.*

crystalline ('krɪstə,lain) *adj.* 1. having the characteristics or structure of crystals. 2. consisting of or containing crystals. 3. made of or like crystal; transparent; clear.

crystallize or **-ise** ('krɪstə,ləɪz) *vb.* 1. to form or cause to form crystals; assume or cause to assume a crystalline form or structure. 2. to coat or become coated with sugar. 3. to give a definite form or expression to (an idea, argument, etc.) or (of an idea, argument, etc.) to assume a definite form. —'crystal,lizable or -isable *adj.* —'crystallization or -i'sation *n.*

crystallography ('krɪstə'lɒgrəfi) *n.* the science of crystals. —'crystal'lographer *n.* —'crystallographic ('krɪstə'lɒ'græfɪk) *adj.*

crystalloid ('krɪstə,lɔɪd) *adj.* 1. resembling or having the properties of a crystal. 2. a substance that in solution can pass through a semipermeable membrane. —'crystal'loid *adj.*

Cs *the chemical symbol for caesium.*

CS *abbrev. for case.*

C.S. *abbrev. for:* 1. Also: *c.s.* Capital Stock. 2. chartered surveyor. 3. Christian Science. 4. Civil Service. 5. Also: *c.s.* Court of Session.

csc *abbrev. for cosecant.*

CSC *abbrev. for Canadian Services College.*

C.S.C. *abbrev. for Civil Service Commission.*

CSE *n. (in Britain) abbrev. for Certificate of Secondary Education; an examination the first grade pass of which is an equivalent to a GCE O level.*

CS gas *n.* a gas causing tears, salivation, and painful breathing, used in chemical warfare and civil disturbances.

C.S.I.R.O. (in Australia) *abbrev. for Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization.*

ct. *abbrev. for:* 1. cent. 2. carat. 3. court.

CTV *abbrev. for Canadian Television (Network Ltd.)*

cu or **cu.** *abbrev. for cubic.*

Cu *the chemical symbol for copper.*

cub (kʌb) *n.* 1. the young of certain animals, such as the lion, bear, etc. 2. a young or inexperienced person. ~*vb.* **cubbing**, **cubbed**. 3. to give birth to (cubs). —'cub-bish *adj.*

Cub (kʌb) *n.* short for **Cub scout**.

cubbyhole ('kʌbɪ,həʊl) *n.* a small enclosed space or room.

cube (kju:b) *n.* 1. a solid having six plane square faces in which the angle between two adjacent sides is a right angle. 2. the product of three equal factors. 3. something in the form of a cube. ~*vb.* 4. to raise (a number or quantity) to the third power. 5. (*tr.*) to make, shape, or cut (something) into cubes. —'cuber *n.*

cube root *n.* the number or quantity whose cube is a given number or quantity: 2 is the cube root of 8 (usually written $\sqrt[3]{8}$ or $8^{1/3}$).

cubic ('kju:bik) *adj.* 1. having the shape of a cube. 2. *a.* having three dimensions. *b.* denoting or relating to a linear measure that is raised to the third power: a *cubic metre*. 3. *Maths.* of, relating to, or containing a variable to the third power or a term in which the sum of the exponents of the variables is three. — **cubical** *adj.*

cubicle ('kju:bikl) *n.* a partially or totally enclosed section of a room, as in a dormitory.

cube measure *n.* a system of units for the measurement of volumes.

cubism ('kju:bizəm) *n.* (often *cap.*) a French school of art, initiated in 1907 by Picasso and Braque, which amalgamated viewpoints of natural forms into a multifaceted surface of geometrical planes. — **cubist** *adj.*, *n.* — **cu'bistic** *adj.*

cubit ('kju:bit) *n.* an ancient measure of length based on the length of the forearm.

cuboid ('kju:boid) *adj.* also **cuboidal** ('kju:boidl). 1. shaped like a cube; cubic. 2. of or denoting the cuboid bone. ~*n.* 3. the cubelike bone of the foot. 4. *Maths.* a geometric solid whose six faces are rectangles.

Cub Scout or **Cub** *n.* a member of the junior branch of the Scout Association.

cuckold ('kækəld) *n.* 1. a man whose wife has committed adultery. ~*vb.* 2. (tr.) to make a cuckold of. — **cuckoldry** *n.*

cuckoo ('kuku:) *n.*, *pl.* -*oos*. 1. any bird of the family *Cuculidae*, having pointed wings and a long tail. Many species, including the **European cuckoo**, lay their eggs in the nests of other birds and have a two-note call. 2. *Inf.* an insane or foolish person. ~*adj.* 3. *Inf.* insane or foolish. ~*interj.* 4. an imitation or representation of the call of a cuckoo. ~*vb.* -*ooing*, -*ooed*. 5. (intr.) to make the sound imitated by the word *cuckoo*.

cuckoo-pint ('kuku:paɪnt) *n.* a European plant with arrow-shaped leaves, a spathe marked with purple, a pale purple spadix, and scarlet berries. Also called: **lords-and-ladies**.

cuckoo spit *n.* a white frothy mass on the stems and leaves of many plants, produced by froghopper larvae.

cucumber ('kju:kamba) *n.* 1. a creeping plant cultivated in many forms for its edible fruit. 2. the cylindrical fruit of this plant, which has hard thin green rind and white crisp flesh.

cud (kʌd) *n.* 1. partially digested food regurgitated from the first stomach of ruminants to the mouth for a second chewing. 2. **chew the cud**, to reflect or think over something.

cuddle ('kʌdl) *vb.* 1. to hold close or (of two people, etc.) to hold each other close, as for affection or warmth; hug. 2. (intr.; foll. by *up*) to curl or snuggle up into a comfortable or warm position. ~*n.* 3. a close embrace, esp. when prolonged. — **cuddlesome** *adj.* — **cuddly** *adj.*

cuddy ('kʌdi) *n.*, *pl.* -*dies*, a small cabin in a boat.

cudgel ('kʌdʒəl) *n.* 1. a short stout stick used as a weapon. 2. **take up the cudgels**, (often foll. by *for* or *on behalf of*) to join in a dispute, esp. to defend oneself or another. ~*vb.* -*elling*, -*elled* or *U.S.* -*eling*, -*eled*. 3. (tr.) to strike with a cudgel. 4. **cudgel one's brains**, to think hard. — **cudgeller** *n.*

cue¹ ('kju:) *n.* 1. *a.* (in the theatre, films, music, etc.) anything that serves as a signal to an actor, musician, etc., to follow with specific lines or action. *b.* **on cue**, at the right moment. 2. a signal or reminder to do something. ~*vb.* **cueing**, **cued**. 3. (tr.) to give a cue or cues to (an actor). 4. (usually foll. by *in* or *into*) to signal (to something or somebody) at a specific moment in a musical or dramatic performance.

cue² ('kju:) *n.* 1. *Billiards*, etc. a long tapered shaft used to drive the balls. 2. hair caught at the back forming a tail or braid. ~*vb.* **cueing**, **cued**. 3. to drive (a ball) with a cue.

cuff¹ ('kʌf) *n.* 1. the end of a sleeve, sometimes turned back. 2. the part of a glove that extends past the wrist. 3. the U.S. and Australian name for **turn-up** (sense 5). 4. **off the cuff**, *Inf.* improvised; extemporary.

cuff² ('kʌf) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to strike with an open hand. ~*n.* 2. a blow of this kind.

cuirass ('kwɪrəs) *n.* 1. a piece of armour covering the chest and back. ~*vb.* 2. (tr.) to equip with a cuirass.

Cuisenaire rod ('kwɪzə'nɔ:) *n.* **Trademark**. one of a set of rods of various colours and lengths representing different numbers, used to teach arithmetic to young children.

cuisine (kwɪ'zi:n) *n.* 1. a style or manner of cooking: *French cuisine*. 2. the food prepared by a restaurant, household, etc.

cul-de-sac ('kʌldə'sæk, 'kʊl-) *n.*, *pl.* **culs-de-sac** or **cul-de-sacs**. 1. a road with one end blocked off; dead end. 2. an inescapable position.

-cule *suffix forming nouns*, indicating smallness.

culinary ('kʌlnəri) *adj.* of, relating to, or used in the kitchen or in cookery. — **culinarily** *adv.*

cull (kʌl) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to choose or gather the best or required examples. 2. to take out (an animal, esp. an inferior one) from a herd. 3. to gather (flowers, fruit, etc.). ~*n.* 4. the act or product of culling. 5. an inferior animal taken from a herd. — **culler** *n.*

culminate ('kʌlmiːneɪt) *vb.* 1. (when *intr.*, usually foll. by *in*) to reach or bring to a final or climactic stage. 2. (intr.) (of a celestial body) to cross the meridian. — **culminant** ('kʌlmiːnənt) *adj.* — **culmi'nation** *n.*

culottes (kju:'lɒts) *pl. n.* women's flared knee-length or ankle-length trousers cut to look like a skirt.

culpable ('kʌlpəbəl) *adj.* deserving censure; blameworthy. — **culpa'bility** *n.* — **culpably** *adv.*

culprit ('kʌlprɪt) *n.* 1. Law. a person awaiting trial. 2. the person responsible for a particular offence, misdeed, etc.

cult (kʌlt) *n.* 1. a specific system of religious worship. 2. a sect devoted to the beliefs of a cult. 3. intense interest in and devotion to a person, idea, or activity. 4. the person, idea, etc., arousing such devotion. 5. any popular fashion; craze. 6. (modifier) of, relating to, or characteristic of a cult or cult: a *cult figure*. — **cultic** *adj.* — **cultism** *n.* — **cultist** *n.*

cultivable ('kʌltɪvəbəl) or **cultivable** ('kʌltɪ'veɪtəbəl) *adj.* (of land) capable of being cultivated. — **cultiva'bility** *n.*

cultivate ('kʌltɪ'veɪt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to prepare (land or soil) for the growth of crops. 2. to plant, tend, harvest, or improve (plants). 3. to break up (land or soil) with a cultivator or hoe. 4. to improve (the mind, body, etc.) as by study, education, or labour. 5. to give special attention to: *to cultivate a friendship*. — **culti,vated** *adj.*

cultivation ('kʌltɪ'veɪʃən) *n.* 1. *Agriculture*, *a.* the cultivating of crops or plants. *b.* the preparation of ground to promote their growth. 2. development, esp. through education, training, etc. 3. culture or sophistication.

cultivator ('kʌltɪ'veɪtə) *n.* 1. a farm implement used to break up soil and remove weeds. 2. a person or thing that cultivates.

culture ('kʌltʃə) *n.* 1. the total of the inherited ideas, beliefs, values, and knowledge, which constitute the shared bases of social action. 2. the total range of activities and ideas of a people. 3. a particular civilization at a particular period. 4. the artistic and social pursuits, expression, and tastes valued by a society or class. 5. the enlightenment or refinement resulting from these pursuits. 6. the cultivation of plants to improve stock or to produce new ones. 7. the rearing and breeding of animals, esp. with a view to improving the strain. 8. the act or practice of tilling or cultivating the soil. 9. *Biol.* *a.* the experimental growth of microorganisms in a nutrient substance. *b.* a group of microorganisms grown in this way. ~*vb.* (tr.) 10. to cultivate (plants or animals). 11. to grow (microorganisms) in a culture medium. — **cultural** *adj.* — **culturist** *n.*

cultured ('kʌltʃəd) *adj.* 1. showing or having good taste, manners, and education. 2. artificially grown or synthesized: **cultured pearls**. 3. treated by a culture of microorganisms.

cultured pearl *n.* a pearl induced to grow in the shell of an oyster or clam, by the insertion of a small object.

culvert ('kʌlvət) *n.* 1. a drain or covered channel that crosses under a road, railway, etc. 2. a channel for an electric cable.

cum (kʌm) *prep.* used between nouns to designate a combined nature: *a kitchen-cum-dining room*.

cumber ('kʌmbə) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to obstruct or hinder. 2. *Obs.* to inconvenience.

cumbersome ('kʌmbəsəm) or **cumbrous** ('kʌmbɹəs) *adj.* 1. awkward because of size, weight, or shape. 2. difficult because of extent or complexity: *cumbersome accounts*. — **cumbersomeness** or **cumbrousness** *n.*

cumbrance ('kʌmbɹəns) *n.* 1. a burden, obstacle, or hindrance. 2. trouble or bother.

cumin or **cummin** ('kʌmɪn) *n.* 1. an umbelliferous Mediterranean plant with small white or pink flowers.

2. the aromatic seeds (collectively) of this plant, used as a condiment and a flavouring.

cummerbund or **kummerbund** ('kʌməbʌnd) *n.* a wide sash, worn with a dinner jacket.

cumquat ('kʌmkwɒt) *n.* a variant spelling of **kumquat**.

cumulate *vb.* ('kju:mju:leit). 1. to accumulate. ~*adj.* ('kju:mju:leit). 2. heaped up. —**cumu**'lation *n.*

cumulative ('kju:mju:lətiv) *adj.* 1. growing in quantity, strength, or effect by successive additions. 2. (of dividends or interest) intended to be accumulated. 3. *Statistics.* a. (of a frequency) including all values of a variable either below or above a specified value. b. (of error) tending to increase as the sample size is increased. —**cumulatively** *adv.* —**cumulativeness** *n.*

cumulus ('kju:mju:ləs) *n.*, *pl.* -li (-lɔi). a bulbous or billowing white or dark grey cloud. —**cumulous** *adj.*

cuneiform ('kju:nɪfɔ:m) *adj.* 1. Also: **cuneal**. wedge-shaped. 2. of, relating to, or denoting the wedge-shaped characters in several ancient languages of Mesopotamia and Persia. 3. of or relating to a tablet in which this script is employed. ~*n.* 4. cuneiform characters.

cunnilingus (,kʌn'liŋgəs) or **cunnilinctus** (,kʌn'liŋktəs) *n.* a sexual activity in which the female genitalia are stimulated by the partner's lips and tongue. Cf. **fellatio**.

cunning ('kʌnɪŋ) *adj.* 1. crafty and shrewd, esp. in deception. 2. made with or showing skill; ingenious. ~*n.* 3. craftiness, esp. in deceiving. 4. skill or ingenuity. —**cunningly** *adv.* —**cunningness** *n.*

cunt (kʌnt) *n.* *Taboo sl.* 1. the female genitals. 2. *Offens.* a woman considered sexually. 3. *Offens.* a mean or obnoxious person.

cup (kʌp) *n.* 1. a small open container, usually having one handle, used for drinking from. 2. the contents of such a container. 3. Also called: **teacup**; **cupful**. a unit of capacity used in cooking. 4. something resembling a cup. 5. either of two cup-shaped parts of a brassiere. 6. a cup-shaped trophy awarded as a prize. 7. *Brit.* a. a sporting contest in which a cup is awarded to the winner. b. (as modifier): a cup competition. 8. a mixed drink with one ingredient as a base: **claret cup**. 9. *Golf.* the hole or metal container in the hole on a green. 10. the chalice or the consecrated wine used in the Eucharist. 11. one's lot in life. 12. **one's cup of tea.** *Inf.* one's chosen or preferred thing, task, company, etc. 13. **in one's cups.** drunk. ~*vb.* **cupping**, **cupped**. (tr.) 14. to form (something, such as the hands) into the shape of a cup. 15. to put into or as if into a cup. 16. to draw blood to the surface of the body by cupping.

cupboard ('kʌpbɔ:d) *n.* a piece of furniture or a recessed area of a room, with a door concealing storage space.

cupboard love *n.* a show of love inspired only by some selfish or greedy motive.

Cup Final *n.* 1. (often preceded by *the*) the annual final of the F.A. Cup soccer competition. 2. (often *not cap.*) the final of any cup competition.

Cupid ('kju:pɪd) *n.* 1. the Roman god of love, represented as a winged boy with a bow and arrow. Greek counterpart: **Eros**. 2. (not *cap.*) any similar figure.

cupidity (kju:'pɪdɪti) *n.* strong desire, esp. for wealth; greed.

cupola ('kju:pələ) *n.* 1. a roof or ceiling in the form of a dome. 2. a small structure, usually domed, on the top of a roof or dome. 3. a protective dome for a gun on a warship. 4. a furnace in which metals are remelted. —**cupolated** ('kju:pə,leɪtɪd) *adj.*

cupping ('kʌpɪŋ) *n.* *Med.* formerly, the use of an evacuated glass cup to draw blood to the surface of the skin for bloodletting.

cupreous ('kju:priəs) *adj.* 1. of, containing, or resembling copper. 2. of the colour of copper.

cupric ('kju:prɪk) *adj.* of or containing copper in the divalent state.

cupriferous (kju:'prɪfərəs) *adj.* (of a substance such as an ore) containing or yielding copper.

cupro-, **cupri-**, or before a vowel **cupr-** combining form. indicating copper.

cupronickel (,kju:prəʊ'nɪkəl) *n.* any copper alloy containing up to 40 per cent nickel.

cuprous ('kju:prəs) *adj.* of or containing copper in the monovalent state.

cup tie *n.* *Sport.* an eliminating match or round between two teams in a cup competition.

cur (kɜ:) *n.* 1. any vicious dog, esp. a mongrel. 2. a despicable or cowardly person.

cur. abbrev. for currency.

curable ('kjuərəbəl) *adj.* capable of being cured. —, **cura**'bility or **'curableness** *n.*

curaçao (,kjuərə'səʊ) *n.* an orange-flavoured liqueur originally made in Curaçao, a Caribbean island.

curacy ('kjuərəsi) *n.*, *pl.* -cies. the office or position of curate.

curare or **curari** (kju'rɑ:rɪ) *n.* 1. black resin obtained from certain tropical South American trees, which causes muscular paralysis: used medicinally as a muscle relaxant and by South American Indians as an arrow poison. 2. any of various trees from which this resin is obtained.

curate ('kjuəri) *n.* a clergyman appointed to assist a parish priest.

curative ('kjuərətɪv) *adj.* 1. able or tending to cure. ~*n.* 2. anything able to heal or cure. —**'curatively** *adv.* —**'curativeness** *n.*

curator (kjuə'reɪtə) *n.* the administrative head of a museum, art gallery, etc. —**curatorial** (,kjuərə'tɔ:riəl) *adj.* —**cu**'rator, **ship** *n.*

curb (kɜ:b) *n.* 1. something that restrains or holds back. 2. any enclosing framework, such as a wall around the top of a well. 3. Also called: **curb bit**. a horse's bit with an attached chain or strap, which checks the horse. ~*vb.* (tr.) 4. to control with or as if with a curb; restrain. ~See also **kerb**.

curd (kɜ:d) *n.* 1. (often *pl.*) a substance formed from the coagulation of milk, used in making cheese or eaten as a food. 2. something similar in consistency. ~*vb.* 3. to turn into or become curd. —**'curdy** *adj.*

curdle ('kɜ:dl) *vb.* 1. to turn or cause to turn into curd. 2. **curdle someone's blood.** to fill someone with fear. —**'curdler** *n.*

cure (kjʊə) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to get rid of (an ailment or problem); heal. 2. (tr.) to restore to health or good condition. 3. (intr.) to bring about a cure. 4. (tr.) to preserve (meat, fish, etc.) by salting, smoking, etc. 5. (tr.) a. to treat or finish (a substance) by chemical or physical means. b. to vulcanize (rubber). 6. (tr.) to assist the hardening of (concrete, mortar, etc.) by keeping it moist. ~*n.* 7. a return to health. 8. any course of medical therapy, esp. one proved effective. 9. a means of restoring health or improving a situation, etc. 10. the spiritual and pastoral charge of a parish. 11. a process or method of preserving meat, fish, etc. —**'cureless** *adj.* —**'curer** *n.*

cure-all *n.* something reputed to cure anything.

curet or **curette** (kjuə'ret) *n.* 1. a surgical instrument for removing dead tissue, growths, etc., from the walls of body cavities. ~*vb.* **retting**, **retted**. 2. (tr.) to scrape or clean with such an instrument. —**cu**'retteage (,kjuəri'teɪdʒ) *n.*

curfew ('kɜ:fju:) *n.* 1. an official regulation setting restrictions on movement, esp. after a specific time at night. 2. the time set as a deadline by such a regulation. 3. (in medieval Europe) a. the ringing of a bell to prompt people to extinguish fires and lights. b. the time at which the curfew bell was rung. c. the bell itself.

curia ('kjuəriə) *n.*, *pl.* -riae (-rɪ,i). 1. (sometimes *cap.*) the papal court and government of the Roman Catholic Church. 2. (in the Middle Ages) a court held in the king's name. —**'curial** *adj.*

curie ('kjuəri, -rɪ) *n.* a unit of radioactivity equal to 3.7 × 10¹⁰ disintegrations per second.

curio ('kjuəri,əʊ) *n.*, *pl.* -rios. a small article valued as a collector's item, esp. something unusual.

curiosity (,kjuəri'ɒsɪti) *n.*, *pl.* -ties. 1. an eager desire to know; inquisitiveness. 2. the quality of being curious; strangeness. 3. something strange or fascinating.

curious ('kjuəriəs) *adj.* 1. eager to learn; inquisitive. 2. overinquisitive; prying. 3. interesting because of oddness or novelty. —**'curiously** *adv.* —**'curiousness** *n.*

curium ('kjuəriəm) *n.* a silvery-white metallic transuranic element artificially produced from plutonium. Symbol: Cm; at. no.: 96; half-life of most stable isotope, ²⁴⁷Cm: 1.6 × 10⁷ years.

curl (kɜ:l) *vb.* 1. (intr.) (esp. of hair) to grow into curves or ringlets. 2. (tr., sometimes foll. by *up*) to twist or roll (esp. hair) into coils or ringlets. 3. (often foll. by *up*) to become or cause to become spiral-shaped or curved. 4. (intr.) to move in a curving or twisting manner. 5. (intr.) to play the game of curling. 6. (tr.) **curl one's lip**. to show contempt, as by raising a corner of the lip. ~*n.* 7. a curve or coil of hair. 8. a curved or spiral shape or mark. 9. the act of curling or state of being curled. —**'curly** *adj.*

curler ('kɜ:lə) *n.* 1. any of various pins, clasps, or

rollers used to curl or wave hair. 2. a person or thing that curls. 3. a person who plays curling.

curlew ('kʊ:lju:) *n.* any of certain large shore birds of Europe and Asia. They have a long downward-curving bill and occur in northern and arctic regions.

curlique or **curlycue** ('kʊ:lɪ,kju:) *n.* an intricate ornamental curl or twist.

curling ('kʊ:lɪŋ) *n.* a game played on ice, esp. in Scotland, in which heavy stones with handles (**curling stones**) are slid towards a target (**tee**).

curmudgeon ('kʊ:'mʌdʒən) *n.* a surly or miserly person. —**cur' mudgeonly** *adj.*

currant ('kʌrənt) *n.* 1. a small dried seedless grape of the Mediterranean region. 2. any of several mainly N temperate shrubs, esp. redcurrant and blackcurrant. 3. the small acid fruit of any of these plants.

currency ('kʌrənsɪ) *n., pl. -cies.* 1. a metal or paper medium of exchange that is in current use. 2. general acceptance or circulation; prevalence. 3. the period of time during which something is valid, accepted, or in force. ~*adj.* 4. *Austral. inf.* native-born as distinct from immigrant: a **currency** lad.

current ('kʌrənt) *adj.* 1. of the immediate present; in progress. 2. most recent; up-to-date. 3. commonly known, practised, or accepted. 4. circulating and valid at present: **current coins**. ~*n.* 5. (esp. of water or air) a steady, usually natural, flow. 6. a mass of air, body of water, etc., that has a steady flow in a particular direction. 7. the rate of flow of such a mass. 8. *Physics. a.* a flow of electric charge through a conductor. *b.* the rate of flow of this charge. 9. a general trend or drift: **currents of opinion**. —**currently** *adv.* —**currentness** *n.*

current account *n.* a bank account that usually carries no interest and against which cheques may be drawn at any time.

curricule ('kʌrɪkʏl) *n.* a two-wheeled open carriage drawn by two horses side by side.

curriculum ('kʌ'rɪkjʊləm) *n., pl. -la (-lə) or -lums.* 1. a course of study in one subject at a school or college. 2. a list of all the courses of study offered by a school or college. 3. any programme or plan of activities. —**cur'ricular** *adj.*

curriculum vitae ('kʌ'rɪkjʊləm 'vɪ:tai, 'vaɪtɪ:) *n., pl. curricula vitae* ('kʌ'rɪkjʊlə) an outline of a person's educational and professional history, usually prepared for job applications.

curry ('kʌrɪ) *n., pl. -ries.* 1. a spicy dish of oriental, esp. Indian, origin that usually consists of meat or fish prepared in a hot piquant sauce. 2. curry seasoning or sauce. 3. **give someone curry.** *Austral. sl.* to assault (a person) verbally or physically. ~*vb.* -**ries, -rying, -ried.** 4. (*tr.*) to prepare (food) with curry powder or sauce.

curry ('kʌrɪ) *vb. -ries, -rying, -ried.* 1. to beat vigorously, as in order to clean. 2. to dress and finish (leather) after it has been tanned. 3. *Arch.* to groom (a horse). 4. **curry favour.** to ingratiate oneself, esp. with superiors.

currycomb ('kʌrɪ,kəʊm) *n.* a square comb used for grooming horses.

curse ('kʊ:s) *n.* 1. a profane or obscene expression of anger, disgust, surprise, etc.; oath. 2. an appeal to a supernatural power for harm to come to a specific person, group, etc. 3. harm resulting from an appeal to a supernatural power. 4. something that brings or causes great trouble or harm. 5. (preceded by *the*) *Inf.* menstruation or a menstrual period. ~*vb.* **cursing, cursed** or (*Arch.*) **curst.** 6. (*intr.*) to utter obscenities or oaths. 7. (*tr.*) to abuse (someone) with obscenities or oaths. 8. (*tr.*) to invoke supernatural powers to bring harm to (someone or something). 9. (*tr.*) to bring harm upon. —**curser** *n.*

cursed ('kʊ:sɪd, kʊ:st) or **curst** *adj.* 1. under a curse. 2. deserving to be cursed; detestable; hateful. —**cursedly** *adv.* —**cursedness** *n.*

cursive ('kʊ:sɪv) *adj.* 1. of or relating to handwriting in which letters are joined in a flowing style. 2. *Printing.* of or relating to typefaces that resemble handwriting. ~*n.* 3. a cursive letter or printing type. —**cursively** *adv.*

cursor ('kʊ:sə) *n.* 1. the sliding part of a measuring instrument, esp. on a slide rule. 2. a movable point of light, etc., that identifies a specific position on a visual display unit.

cursorry ('kʊ:səri) *adj.* hasty and usually superficial; quick. —**cursorily** *adv.* —**cursoriness** *n.*

curt (kʊ:t) *adj.* 1. rudely blunt and brief. 2. short or concise. —**curtly** *adv.* —**curtness** *n.*

curtail (kʊ:'teɪl) *vb. (tr.)* to cut short; abridge. —**cur'tailer** *n.* —**cur'tailment** *n.*

curtain ('kʊ:tɪn) *n.* 1. a piece of material that can be drawn across an opening or window, to shut out light or to provide privacy. 2. a barrier to vision, access, or communication. 3. a hanging cloth or similar barrier for concealing all or part of a theatre stage from the audience. 4. (often preceded by *the*) the end of a scene of a play, opera, etc., marked by the fall or closing of the curtain. 5. the rise or opening of the curtain at the start of a performance. ~*vb.* 6. (*tr.*; sometimes foll. by *off*) to shut off or conceal as with a curtain. 7. (*tr.*) to provide (a window, etc.) with curtains.

curtain-raiser *n.* 1. *Theatre.* a short dramatic piece presented before the main play. 2. any preliminary event.

curtains *pl. n.* *Inf.* death or ruin: the end.

curtain wall *n.* a non-load-bearing external wall attached to a framed structure.

curtsy or **curtsey** ('kʊ:tsɪ) *n., pl. -sies or -seys.* 1. a formal gesture of greeting and respect made by women, in which the knees are bent and the head slightly bowed. ~*vb.* -**sying, -sied or -sying, -seyed.** 2. (*intr.*) to make a curtsy.

curvaceous (kʊ:'veɪʃəs) *adj. Inf.* (of a woman) having a well-rounded body.

curvature ('kʊ:vətʃə) *n.* 1. something curved or a curved part of a thing. 2. any curving of a bodily part. 3. the act of curving or the state or degree of being curved or bent.

curve (kʊ:v) *n.* 1. a continuously bending line that has no straight parts. 2. something that curves or is curved. 3. the act or extent of curving; curvature. 4. *Maths.* a system of points whose coordinates satisfy a given equation. 5. a line representing data on a graph. ~*vb.* 6. to take or cause to take the shape or path of a curve; bend. —**curvedness** *n.* —**curvy** *adj.*

curvet (kʊ:'vet) *n.* 1. *Dressage.* a low leap with all four feet off the ground. ~*vb.* -**vetting, -vetted or -vetting, -veted.** 2. *Dressage.* to make or cause to make such a leap. 3. (*intr.*) to prance or frisk about.

curvilinear (kʊ:vɪ'lɪnɪə) or **curvilinear** *adj.* consisting of, bounded by, or characterized by a curved line.

cushion ('kʊʃən) *n.* 1. a bag filled with a yielding substance, used for sitting on, leaning against, etc. 2. something resembling a cushion in function or appearance, esp. one to support or pad or to absorb shock. 3. the resilient felt-covered rim of a billiard table. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 4. to place on or as on a cushion. 5. to provide with cushions. 6. to protect. 7. to lessen or suppress the effects of. 8. to provide with a means of absorbing shock. —**cushiony** *adj.*

cushy ('kʊʃɪ) *adj. Sl.* easy; comfortable.

CUSO or **C.U.S.O.** ('kju:səu) *n.* Canadian University Services Overseas; an organization that sends students to work as volunteers in developing countries.

cusp (kʌsp) *n.* 1. any of the small elevations on the grinding or chewing surface of a tooth. 2. any of the triangular flaps of a heart valve. 3. a point or pointed end. 4. *Geom.* a point at which two arcs of a curve intersect and at which the two tangents are coincident. 5. *Archit.* a carving at the meeting place of two arcs. 6. *Astron.* either of the points of a crescent moon. 7. *Astron.* any division between houses or signs of the zodiac. —**cusped** *adj.*

cuspid ('kʌspɪd) *n.* a tooth having one point; canine tooth.

cuspidate ('kʌspɪ,deɪt), **cuspidated**, or **cuspidal** ('kʌspɪdɪl) *adj.* 1. having a cusp or cusps. 2. (esp. of leaves) narrowing to a point.

cuspidor ('kʌspɪ,dɔ:) *n.* another name (esp. U.S.) for **spittoon**.

cuss (kʌs) *Inf.* ~*n.* 1. a curse; an oath. 2. a person or animal, esp. an annoying one. ~*vb.* 3. another word for **curse** (senses 6, 7).

cussed ('kʌsɪd) *adj. Inf.* 1. another word for **cursed**. 2. obstinate. 3. annoying: a **cussed nuisance**. —**cussedly** *adv.* —**cussedness** *n.*

custard ('kʌstəd) *n.* 1. a baked sweetened mixture of eggs and milk. 2. a sauce made of milk and sugar thickened with cornflour.

custodian (kʌ'stəʊdɪən) *n.* 1. a person who has custody, as of a prisoner, ward, etc. 2. a keeper of an art collection, etc. —**cus'todian, ship** *n.*

custody ('kʌstədi) *n., pl. -dies.* 1. the act of keeping safe or guarding. 2. the state of being held by the police; arrest. —**custodial** (kʌ'stəʊdɪəl) *adj.*

custom ('kastəm) *n.* 1. a usual or habitual practice; typical mode of behaviour. 2. the long-established habits or traditions of a society collectively; convention. 3. a. a practice which by long-established usage has come to have the force of law. b. such practices collectively (esp. in **custom and practice**). 4. habitual patronage, esp. of a shop or business. 5. the customers of a shop or business collectively. ~*adj.* 6. **Chiefly U.S.** made to the specifications of an individual customer.

customary ('kastəməri, -təməri) *adj.* 1. in accordance with custom or habitual practice; usual. 2. **Law.** a. founded upon long-continued practices and usage. b. (of land) held by custom. ~*n., pl. -aries.* 3. a statement in writing of customary laws and practices. —'customarily *adv.* —'customariness *n.*

custom-built *adj.* **Chiefly U.S.** (of cars, houses, etc.) made according to the specifications of an individual buyer.

customer ('kastəmə) *n.* 1. a person who buys. 2. *Inf.* a person with whom one has dealings.

custom house *n.* a government office, esp. at a port, where customs are collected and ships cleared for entry.

customs ('kastəmz) *n.* (functioning as *sing.* or *pl.*) 1. duty on imports or exports. 2. the government department responsible for the collection of these duties. 3. the part of a port, airport, etc., where baggage and freight are examined for dutiable goods and contraband.

cut (kʌt) *vb.* **cutting, cut.** 1. to open up or incise (a person or thing) with a sharp edge or instrument. 2. (of a sharp instrument) to penetrate or incise (a person or thing). 3. to divide or be divided with or as if with a sharp instrument. 4. (*intr.*) to use an instrument that cuts. 5. (*tr.*) to trim or prune by or as if by clipping. 6. (*tr.*) to reap or mow (a crop, grass, etc.). 7. (*tr.*; sometimes *fol.* by *out*) to make, form, or shape by cutting. 8. (*tr.*) to hollow or dig out; excavate. 9. to strike (an object) sharply. 10. **Cricket.** to hit (the ball) to the off side with a roughly horizontal bat. 11. to hurt the feelings of (a person). 12. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to refuse to recognize; snub. 13. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to absent oneself from, esp. without permission or in haste: *to cut a class*. 14. (*tr.*) to abridge or shorten. 15. (*tr.*; often *fol.* by *down*) to lower, reduce, or curtail. 16. (*tr.*) to dilute or weaken: *to cut whisky with water*. 17. (*tr.*) to dissolve or break up: *to cut fat*. 18. (when *intr.*, *fol.* by *across* or *through*) to cross or traverse. 19. (*intr.*) to make a sharp or sudden change in direction; veer. 20. to grow (teeth) through the gums or (of teeth) to appear through the gums. 21. (*intr.*) **Films.** a. to call a halt to a shooting sequence. b. (*fol.* by *to*) to move quickly to another scene. 22. **Films.** to edit film. 23. to switch off a light, car engine, etc. 24. (*tr.*) to make (a record or tape of a song, performance, etc.). 25. **Cards.** a. to divide (the pack) at random into two parts after shuffling. b. (*intr.*) to pick cards from a spread pack to decide dealer, partners, etc. 26. (*tr.*) (of a tool) to bite into (an object). 27. **cut a caper or capers.** a. to skip or jump playfully. b. to act or behave playfully. 28. **cut both ways.** a. to have both good and bad effects. b. to affect both sides, as two parties in an argument, etc. 29. **cut a dash.** to behave or dress showily. 30. **cut (a person) dead.** *Inf.* to ignore (a person) completely. 31. **cut a (good, poor, etc.) figure.** to appear or behave in a specified manner. 32. **cut and run.** *Inf.* to make a rapid escape. 33. **cut it fine.** *Inf.* to leave little or no margin for error. 34. **cut corners.** to take the easiest or shortest way, esp. at the expense of high standards. 35. **cut loose.** to free or become freed from restraint, custody, anchorage, etc. 36. **cut no ice.** *Inf.* to fail to make an impression. 37. **cut one's teeth on.** *Inf.* a. to use at an early age or stage. b. to practise on. ~*adj.* 38. detached, divided, or separated by cutting. 39. made, shaped, or fashioned by cutting. 40. reduced or diminished as by cutting: *cut prices*. 41. weakened or diluted. 42. **Brit.** a slang word for **drunk**: *half cut*. 43. **cut and dried.** *Inf.* settled or arranged in advance. ~*n.* 44. the act of cutting. 45. a stroke or incision made by cutting; gash. 46. a piece or part cut off: *a cut of meat*. 47. the edge of anything cut or sliced. 48. a passage, channel, path, etc., cut or hollowed out. 49. an omission or deletion, esp. in a text, film, or play. 50. a reduction in price, salary, etc. 51. *Inf.* a portion or share. 52. *Inf.* a straw, slip of paper, etc., used in drawing lots. 53. the manner or style in which a thing, esp. a garment, is cut. 54. a direct route; short cut. 55. the U.S. name for **block** (sense 13). 56. **Cricket.** a stroke made with the bat in a roughly horizontal position. 57. **Films.** an immediate transition from one shot to the next. 58. words or an action that hurt another person's feelings. 59. a refusal to recognize an acquaintance;

snub. 60. **Brit.** a stretch of water, esp. a canal. 61. **a cut above.** *Inf.* superior to; better than. 62. **cold cuts.** cooked meats. ~See also **cut across, cutback, cut down**, etc.

cut across *vb.* (*intr.*, *prep.*) 1. to be contrary to ordinary procedure or limitations. 2. to cross or traverse, making a shorter route.

cutaneous (kju:'teɪnəs) *adj.* of or relating to the skin.

cutaway ('kʌtə,wei) *n.* 1. a man's coat cut diagonally from the front waist to the back of the knees. 2. a. a drawing or model of a machine, engine, etc., in which part of the casing is omitted to reveal the workings. b. (*as modifier*): a cutaway model.

cutback ('kʌt,bæk) *n.* 1. a decrease or reduction. ~*vb.* **cut back** (*adv.*). 2. (*tr.*) to shorten by cutting off the end; prune. 3. (when *intr.*, *fol.* by *on*) to reduce or make a reduction (in).

cut down *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. (*tr.*) to fell. 2. (when *intr.*, often *fol.* by *on*) to reduce or make a reduction (in). 3. (*tr.*) to remake (an old garment) in order to make a smaller one. 4. (*tr.*) to kill. 5. **cut (a person) down to size.** to reduce in importance or decrease the conceit of.

cute (kjut) *adj.* 1. appealing or attractive, esp. in a pretty way. 2. *Inf.*, **chiefly U.S.** affecting cleverness or prettiness. 3. clever; shrewd. —'cutely *adv.* —'cuteness *n.*

cut glass *n.* 1. glass, esp. bowls, vases, etc., decorated by facet-cutting or grinding. 2. (*modifier*): a cut-glass vase.

cuticle ('kju:tɪkl) *n.* 1. dead skin, esp. round the base of a fingernail or toenail. 2. another name for **epidermis**. 3. the protective layer that covers the epidermis of higher plants. 4. the protective layer covering the epidermis of many invertebrates. —'cuticular (kju:'tɪkjələ) *adj.*

cutis ('kju:tɪs) *n., pl. -tes* (-tiz) or *-tises.* **Anat.** a technical name for the skin.

cutlass ('kʌtləs) *n.* a curved, one-edged sword formerly used by sailors.

cutler ('kʌtlə) *n.* a person who makes or sells cutlery.

cutlery ('kʌtləri) *n.* 1. implements used for eating, such as knives, forks, and spoons. 2. instruments used for cutting. 3. the art or business of a cutler.

cutlet ('kʌtlɪt) *n.* 1. a piece of meat taken esp. from the best end of neck of lamb, pork, etc. 2. a flat croquette of minced chicken, lobster, etc.

cut off *vb.* (*tr.*, *adv.*) 1. to remove by cutting. 2. to intercept or interrupt something, esp. a telephone conversation. 3. to discontinue the supply of. 4. to bring to an end. 5. to deprive of rights; disinherit: *cut off without a penny*. 6. to sever or separate. 7. to occupy a position so as to prevent or obstruct (a retreat or escape). ~*n.* 8. **cutoff.** a. the act of cutting off; limit or termination. b. (*as modifier*): the cutoff point. 9. **Chiefly U.S.** a short cut. 10. a device to terminate the flow of a fluid in a pipe or duct.

cut out *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. (*tr.*) to delete or remove. 2. (*tr.*) to shape or form by cutting. 3. (*tr.*; usually *passive*) to suit or equip for: *you're not cut out for this job*. 4. (*intr.*) (of an engine, etc.) to cease to operate suddenly. 5. (*intr.*) (of an electrical device) to switch off, usually automatically. 6. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to oust and supplant (a rival). 7. (*intr.*) (of a person) to be excluded from a card game. 8. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to cease doing something, esp. something undesirable (esp. in **cut it out**). 9. (*tr.*) **Soccer.** to intercept (a pass). 10. (*tr.*) **Austral.** to separate (cattle) from a herd. 11. (*intr.*) **Austral.** to end or finish: *the road cuts out at the creek*. 12. **have one's work cut out.** to have as much work as one can manage. ~*n.* **cutout.** 13. something that has been or is intended to be cut out from something else. 14. a device that switches off or interrupts an electric circuit, esp. as a safety device. 15. **Austral. sl.** the end of shearing.

cut-price or **end of U.S. cut-rate** *adj.* 1. available at prices or rates below the standard price or rate. 2. (*prenominal*) offering goods or services at prices below the standard price.

cutter ('kʌtə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that cuts, esp. a person who cuts cloth for clothing. 2. a sailing boat with its mast stepped further aft than that of a sloop. 3. a ship's boat, powered by oars or sail, for carrying passengers or light cargo. 4. a small lightly armed boat, as used in the enforcement of customs regulations.

cutthroat ('kʌt,θrəʊt) *n.* 1. a person who cuts throats; murderer. 2. Also called: **cutthroat razor.** **Brit.** a razor with a long blade that usually folds into the handle. ~*adj.* 3. bloodthirsty or murderous; cruel. 4. fierce or relentless in competition: *cutthroat prices*. 5. (of some

games) played by three people: *cutthroat poker*.

cutting ('kʌtɪŋ) *n.* 1. a piece cut off from something. 2. *Horticulture.* a. a method of propagation in which a part of a plant is induced to form its own roots. b. a part separated for this purpose. 3. Also called (esp. U.S.): **clipping**, an article, photograph, etc., cut from a publication. 4. the editing process of a film. 5. an excavation in a piece of high land for a road, railway, etc. 6. (*modifier*) designed for or adapted to cutting; sharp: a *cutting tool*. ~*adj.* 7. keen; piercing. 8. tending to hurt the feelings: a *cutting remark*. — **'cuttingly** *adv.*

cuttlefish ('kʌtəl'fɪʃ) *n., pl. -fish or -fishes*. a cephalopod mollusc which occurs near the bottom of inshore waters and has a broad flattened body. Sometimes shortened to **cuttle**.

cut up *vb. (tr., adv.)* 1. to cut into pieces. 2. to inflict injuries on. 3. (*usually passive*) *Inf.* to affect the feelings of deeply. 4. *Inf.* to subject to severe criticism. 5. **cut up rough**. *Brit. Inf.* to become angry or bad-tempered.

Cwlth. *abbrev. for* Commonwealth.

cwm (ku:m) *n.* 1. (in Wales) a valley. 2. *Geol.* another name for **cirque**.

cwt. *abbrev. for* hundredweight.

-cy *suffix.* 1. indicating state, quality, or condition: *plutocracy*; *lunacy*. 2. rank or office: *captaincy*.

cyanic (saɪ'ænik) *adj.* 1. of or containing cyanogen. 2. blue.

cyanic acid *n.* a colourless poisonous volatile liquid acid.

cyanide ('saɪənaɪd) or **cyanid** ('saɪənɪd) *n.* any salt of hydrocyanic acid. Cyanides are extremely poisonous. — **'cyanidation** *n.*

cyan- or before a vowel **cyan-** *combining form.* 1. blue or dark blue. 2. indicating cyanogen. 3. indicating cyanide.

cyanogen (saɪ'ænədʒɪn) *n.* an extremely poisonous colourless flammable gas.

cyanosis (saɪə'nəʊsɪs) *n. Pathol.* a bluish-purple discoloration of skin and mucous membranes usually resulting from a deficiency of oxygen in the blood. — **'cyanotic** (saɪə'notɪk) *adj.*

cybernetics (saɪbə'netɪks) *n. (functioning as sing.)* the branch of science concerned with control systems and comparisons between man-made and biological systems. — **'cyber'netic** *adj.* — **'cyber'neticist** *n.*

cyclamate ('saɪkləmeɪt, 'saɪkləmeɪt) *n.* any of certain compounds formerly used as food additives and sugar substitutes.

cyclamen ('saɪkləmən, -,men) *n.* any Old World plant of the genus *Cyclamen*, having white, pink, or red flowers, with reflexed petals.

cycle ('saɪkl) *n.* 1. a recurring period of time in which certain events or phenomena occur and reach completion. 2. a completed series of events that follows or is followed by another series of similar events occurring in the same sequence. 3. the time taken or needed for one such series. 4. a vast period of time; age; aeon. 5. a group of poems or prose narratives about a central figure or event: the *Arthurian cycle*. 6. short for **bicycle**, **motorcycle**, etc. 7. a recurrent series of events or processes in plants and animals: a *life cycle*. 8. one of a series of repeated changes in the magnitude of a periodically varying quantity, such as current or voltage. ~*vb.* 9. (*tr.*) to process through a cycle or system. 10. (*intr.*) to move in or pass through cycles. 11. to travel by or ride a bicycle or tricycle.

cyclic ('saɪklɪk, 'saɪklɪk) or **cyclical** *adj.* 1. recurring or revolving in cycles. 2. (of an organic compound) containing a closed saturated or unsaturated ring of atoms. 3. *Bot. a.* arranged in whorls: *cyclic petals*. b. having parts arranged in this way: *cyclic flowers*. — **'cyclically** *adv.*

cyclist ('saɪklɪst) or **U.S. cyclist** *n.* a person who rides or travels by bicycle, motorcycle, etc.

cyclo- or before a vowel **cycl-** *combining form.* 1. indicating a circle or ring: *cyclotron*. 2. denoting a cyclic compound: *cyclopropane*.

cyclometer (saɪ'klɒmɪtə) *n.* a device that records the number of revolutions made by a wheel and hence the distance travelled.

cyclone ('saɪkləʊn) *n.* 1. another name for **depression** (sense 6). 2. a violent tropical storm; hurricane. ~*adj.* 3. *Austral. Trademark.* (of fencing) made of interlaced wire and metal. — **'cyclonic** (saɪ'klɒnɪk) *adj.* — **'cyclonically** *adv.*

cyclopedias or **cyclopaedias** (saɪkləʊ'pi:diə) *n.* a less common word for **encyclopedia**.

Cyclops ('saɪklɒps) *n., pl. Cyclopes (saɪ'klɒpi:z) or **Cyclopeses**. *Classical myth.* one of a race of giants having a single eye in the middle of the forehead.*

cyclostyle ('saɪklə'staɪl) *n.* 1. a kind of pen with a small toothed wheel, used for cutting holes in a specially prepared stencil. 2. an office duplicator using such a stencil. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to print using such a stencil. — **'cyclo,styled** *adj.*

cyclotron ('saɪklə'trɒn) *n.* a type of particle accelerator in which the particles spiral under the effect of a strong vertical magnetic field.

cyder ('saɪdə) *n.* a variant spelling of **cider**.

cygnet ('sɪɡnɪt) *n.* a young swan.

cylinder ('sɪlɪndə) *n.* 1. a solid consisting of two parallel planes bounded by identical closed curves, usually circles, that are interconnected at every point by a set of parallel lines, usually perpendicular to the planes. 2. a surface formed by a line moving round a closed plane curve at a fixed angle to it. 3. any object shaped like a cylinder. 4. the chamber in a reciprocating internal-combustion engine, pump, or compressor within which the piston moves. The cylinders are housed in the metal **cylinder block**, which is topped by the **cylinder head**. 5. the rotating mechanism of a revolver, containing cartridge chambers. 6. *Printing.* any of the rotating drums on a printing press. 7. Also called: **cylinder seal**, an ancient cylindrical seal found in the Middle East and Balkans. — **'cylindrical, like** *adj.* — **'cylindrical** *adj.*

cymbal ('sɪmbəl) *n.* a percussion instrument consisting of a thin circular piece of brass, which vibrates when clashed together with another cymbal or struck with a stick. — **'cymbalist** *n.*

cyme (saɪm) *n.* an inflorescence in which the first flower is the terminal bud of the main stem and subsequent flowers develop as terminal buds of lateral stems. — **'cymiferous** (saɪ'mɪfərəs) *adj.* — **'cymose** ('saɪməʊs, -məʊz, saɪ'məʊs) *adj.*

Cymric or **Kymric** ('kɪmɪk) *n.* 1. the Welsh language. 2. the Brythonic group of Celtic languages. ~*adj.* 3. of or relating to the Cymry, any of their languages, Wales, or the Welsh.

cynic ('sɪnɪk) *n.* 1. a person who believes the worst about people or the outcome of events. ~*adj.* 2. a less common word for **cynical**.

Cynic ('sɪnɪk) *n.* a member of an ancient Greek sect that scorned worldly things.

cynical ('sɪnɪkəl) *adj.* 1. believing the worst of others, esp. that all acts are selfish. 2. sarcastic; mocking. 3. showing contempt for accepted standards, esp. of honesty or morality. — **'cynically** *adv.* — **'cynicalness** *n.*

cynicism ('sɪnɪsɪzəm) *n.* 1. the attitude or beliefs of a cynic. 2. a cynical action, idea, etc.

Cynicism ('sɪnɪsɪzəm) *n.* the doctrines of the Cynics.

cynosure ('sɪnə'ʒʊə, -ʃʊə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that attracts notice. 2. something that serves as a guide.

cypher ('saɪfə) *n., vb.* a variant spelling of **cipher**.

cypress ('saɪprəs) *n.* 1. any coniferous tree of a *N* temperate genus having dark green scalelike leaves and rounded cones. 2. any of several similar and related trees. 3. the wood of any of these trees. 4. cypress branches used as a symbol of mourning.

Cypriot ('sɪprɪət) or **Cypriote** ('sɪprɪ'əʊt) *n.* 1. a native or inhabitant of Cyprus, an island in the E Mediterranean. 2. the dialect of Greek spoken in Cyprus. ~*adj.* 3. denoting or relating to Cyprus, its inhabitants, or dialects.

Cyrillic ('sɪrɪlɪk) *adj.* 1. denoting or relating to the alphabet devised supposedly by Saint Cyril, for Slavonic languages: now used primarily for Russian and Bulgarian. ~*n.* 2. this alphabet.

cyst (sɪst) *n.* 1. *Pathol.* any abnormal membranous sac or blisterlike pouch containing fluid or semisolid material. 2. *Anat.* any normal sac in the body. 3. a protective membrane enclosing a cell, larva, or organism. — **'cystic** *adj.*

-cyst *n. combining form.* indicating a bladder or sac: *otocyst*.

cystic fibrosis *n.* a congenital disease of the exocrine glands, usually affecting young children, characterized by chronic infection of the respiratory tract and by pancreatic insufficiency.

cystitis (sɪ'staɪtɪs) *n.* inflammation of the urinary bladder.

cysto- or before a vowel **cyst-** *combining form.* indicating a cyst or bladder: *cystoscope*.

cystoscope ('sɪstə'skəʊp) *n.* a slender tubular medical instrument for examining the interior of the urethra and

urinary bladder. —**cystoscopic** (ˌsɪstəˈskɒpɪk) *adj.*

—**cystoscopy** (sɪsˈtɒskəpi) *n.*

-cyte *n.* combining form. indicating a cell.

cyto- combining form. indicating a cell: *cytoplasm*.

cytology (saɪˈtɒlədʒi) *n.* the study of plant and animal cells. —**cytological** (ˌsaɪtəˈlɒdʒɪkəl) *adj.* —, **cyto'logical-ly** *adv.* —**cy'tologist** *n.*

cytoplasm (ˈsaɪtəʊˌplæzəm) *n.* the protoplasm of a cell excluding the nucleus. —, **cyto'plasmic** *adj.*

czar (zɑː) *n.* a variant spelling (esp. U.S.) of *tsar*.

—**'czardom** *n.* —**'Czarevitch**, **cza'revna**, **cza'rina**, **'czarism**, **'czarist**: see *ts-* spellings.

Czech (tʃɛk) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or characteristic of Bohemia, Moravia, and, loosely, of Czechoslovakia, a

republic of central Europe, of which Bohemia and Moravia (with Slovakia) are constituent parts, or their people or language. ~*n.* 2. one of the two official languages of Czechoslovakia. Czech and Slovak are closely related and mutually intelligible. 3. a. a native or inhabitant of Bohemia or Moravia. b. (loosely) a native or inhabitant of Czechoslovakia.

Czech. *abbrev. for:* 1. Czechoslovak. 2. Czechoslovakian. 3. Czechoslovakia.

Czechoslovak (ˌtʃɛkəʊˈsləʊvæk) or **Czechoslovakian** (ˌtʃɛkəʊsləʊˈvækiən) *adj.* 1. of or relating to Czechoslovakia, its peoples, or languages. ~*n.* 2. (loosely) either of the two languages of Czechoslovakia: Czech or Slovak.

D

d or **D** (di:) *n.*, *pl.* **d's**, **D's**, or **Ds**. 1. the fourth letter of the modern English alphabet. 2. a speech sound represented by this letter.

D *symbol for*: 1. *Music*. a. the second note of the scale of C major. b. the major or minor key having this note as its tonic. 2. *Chem.* deuterium. ~ 3. the *Roman numeral* for 500.

d. *abbrev. for*: 1. date. 2. daughter. 3. degree. 4. delete. 5. *Brit. currency before decimalization*. penny or pennies. 6. depart(s). 7. diameter. 8. died.

D. *abbrev. for*: 1. U.S. Democrat(ic). 2. Department. 3. Deus. 4. Optics. dioptré. 5. Director. 6. Dominus. 7. Dutch.

dab¹ ('dæb) *vb.* **dabbing**, **dabbed**. 1. to touch or pat lightly and quickly. 2. (*tr.*) to daub with short tapping strokes: *to dab the wall with paint*. 3. (*tr.*) to apply (paint, cream, etc.) with short tapping strokes. ~*n.* 4. a small amount, esp. of something soft or moist. 5. a light stroke or tap, as with the hand. 6. (*often pl.*) *Chiefly Brit.* a slang word for **fingerprint**. — **dabber** *n.*

dab² ('dæb) *n.* 1. a small common European flatfish covered with rough toothed scales. 2. any of various other small flatfish.

dab³ ('dæb) *n.* *Brit. inf.* See **dab hand**.

dabble ('dæbəl) *vb.* 1. to dip, move, or splash (the fingers, feet, etc.) in a liquid. 2. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *in*, *with*, or *at*) to deal (with) or work (at) frivolously or superficially. 3. (*tr.*) to splash or smear. — **dabbler** *n.*

dabchick ('dæb,tʃɪk) *n.* any of several small grebes.

dab hand *n.* *Brit. inf.* a person who is particularly skilled at something: *a dab hand at chess*.

da capo (dɑ: 'kɑ:pəʊ) *adj.*, *adv.* *Music.* to be repeated from the beginning.

dace (deɪs) *n.*, *pl.* **dace** or **daces**. 1. a European freshwater fish of the carp family. 2. any of various similar fishes.

dachshund ('dæks,hʊnd) *n.* a long-bodied short-legged breed of dog.

Dacron ('dækrɒn, 'dæk-) *n.* the U.S. name (trademark) for Terylene.

dactyl ('dæktɪl) *n.* *Prosody*. a metrical foot of three syllables, one long followed by two short (—).

dad (dæd) *n.* an informal word for **father**. — **daddy** *n.*

Dada ('dɑ:dɑ:) or **Dadaism** ('dɑ:dɑ:,ɪzəm) *n.* a nihilistic artistic movement of the early 20th century, founded on principles of irrationality, incongruity, and irreverence towards accepted aesthetic criteria. — **Dadaist** *n.*, *adj.* — **Dada'istic** *adj.*

daddy-longlegs *n.* *Brit.* an informal name for a crane fly.

dado ('deɪdəʊ) *n.*, *pl.* **-does** or **-dos**. 1. the lower part of an interior wall that is decorated differently from the upper part. 2. *Archit.* the part of a pedestal between the base and the cornice. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to provide with a dado.

daemon ('di:mən) or **daimon** *n.* 1. a demigod. 2. the guardian spirit of a place or person. 3. a variant spelling of **demon** (sense 3). — **daemonic** (di:'mɒnɪk) *adj.*

daff (dæf) *n.* *Inf.* short for **daffodil**.

daffodil ('dæfədɪl) *n.* 1. Also called: **Lent lily**. a widely cultivated Eurasian plant, *Narcissus pseudonarcissus*, having spring-blooming yellow nodding flowers. 2. any other plant of the genus *Narcissus*. 3. a brilliant yellow colour.

daft (dɑ:ft) *adj.* *Chiefly Brit.* 1. *Inf.* foolish, simple, or stupid. 2. a slang word for **insane**. 3. *Inf.* (*postpositive*; foll. by *about*) extremely fond (of). 4. *Sl.* frivolous; giddy.

dagga ('daxə, 'dɑ:gə) *n.* hemp smoked as a narcotic.

dagger ('dægə) *n.* 1. a short stabbing weapon with a pointed blade. 2. Also called: **obelisk**. a character (†) used in printing to indicate a cross-reference. 3. at **daggers drawn**. in a state of open hostility. 4. **look daggers**. to glare with hostility; scowl.

dago ('deɪɡəʊ) *n.*, *pl.* **-gos** or **-goes**. *Derog.* a foreigner, esp. a Spaniard or Portuguese.

daguerreotype (dɑ:'ɡerəʊ,təɪp) *n.* 1. one of the earliest photographic processes, in which the image was

produced on iodine-sensitized silver and developed in mercury vapour. 2. a photograph formed by this process. — **da'guerreo**, **typy** *n.*

dahlia ('dɛljə) *n.* 1. any herbaceous perennial plant of the Mexican genus *Dahlia*, having showy flowers and tuberous roots. 2. the flower or root of any of these plants.

Dáil Eireann ('dɔɪl 'eɪərən) or **Dáil** *n.* (in the Republic of Ireland) the lower chamber of parliament.

daily ('deɪli) *adj.* 1. of or occurring every day or every weekday. ~*n.*, *pl.* **-lies**. 2. a daily newspaper. 3. *Brit.* a charwoman. ~*adv.* 4. every day. 5. constantly; often.

dainty ('deɪnti) *adj.* **-tier**, **-tiest**. 1. delicate or elegant. 2. choice; delicious: *a dainty morsel*. 3. excessively genteel; fastidious. ~*n.*, *pl.* **-ties**. 4. a choice piece of food; delicacy. — **daintily** *adv.*

daikiri ('daɪkɪri, 'dæ-) *n.*, *pl.* **-ris**. an iced drink containing rum, lime juice, and sugar.

dairy ('deəri) *n.*, *pl.* **dairies**. 1. a shop or company that supplies milk and milk products. 2. a room or building where milk and cream are stored or made into butter and cheese. 3. **a.** (*modifier*) of milk and milk products. **b.** (*in combination*): a dairymaid. 4. *N.Z.* a general shop, selling provisions, cigarettes, etc., and open seven days a week.

dairyman ('deəri:mən) *n.*, *pl.* **-men**. a male dairy worker.

daïs ('dens, deɪs) *n.* a raised platform, usually at one end of a hall, used by speakers, etc.

daisy ('deɪzi) *n.*, *pl.* **-sies**. 1. a small low-growing European plant having flower heads with a yellow centre and pinkish-white outer rays. 2. any of various other composite plants having conspicuous ray flowers. 3. *Sl.* an excellent person or thing. 4. **pushing up the daisies**. dead and buried. — **daisied** *adj.*

Dalai Lama ('dælaɪ 'lɑ:mə) *n.* 1. (until 1959) the chief lama and ruler of Tibet. 2. the 14th holder of this office (1940), who fled to India (1959).

dale (deɪl) *n.* an open valley.

dalles (dæɪz) *pl. n.* *Canad.* the rapids of a river flowing in a narrow channel between high rock walls.

dally ('dæli) *vb.* **-lying**, **-lied**. (*intr.*) 1. to waste time idly; dawdle. 2. (usually foll. by *with*) to deal frivolously: *to dally with someone's affections*. — **dalliance** *n.*

Dalmatian (dæl'meɪʃən) *n.* 1. a large breed of dog having a short smooth white coat with black or brown spots. 2. a native or inhabitant of Dalmatia. ~*adj.* 3. of Dalmatia or its inhabitants.

dal segno ('dæl 'senjəʊ) *adv.* *Music.* to be repeated from the point marked with a sign to the word *fine*.

dam¹ (dæm) *n.* 1. a barrier of concrete, earth, etc., built across a river to create a body of water. 2. a reservoir of water created by such a barrier. 3. something that resembles or functions as a dam. ~*vb.* **damming**, **dammed**. 4. (*tr.*; often foll. by *up*) to restrict by a dam.

dam² (dæm) *n.* the female parent of an animal, esp. of domestic livestock.

damage ('dæmɪdʒ) *n.* 1. injury or harm impairing the function or condition of a person or thing. 2. loss of something desirable. 3. *Inf.* cost; expense. ~*vb.* 4. (*tr.*) to cause damage to. 5. (*intr.*) to suffer damage. — **dam-agingly** *adv.*

damages ('dæmɪdʒɪz) *pl. n.* *Law.* money to be paid as compensation for injury, loss, etc.

damask ('dæmɒsk) *n.* 1. a reversible fabric, usually silk or linen, with a pattern woven into it. It is used for table linen, curtains, etc. **b.** table linen made from this. **c.** (*as modifier*): a damask tablecloth. 2. the wavy markings on such steel. 3. **a.** the greyish-pink colour of the damask rose. **b.** (*as adj.*): *damask wallpaper*.

damask rose *n.* a rose with fragrant flowers, which are used to make the perfume attar.

dame (deɪm) *n.* 1. (formerly) a woman of rank or dignity; lady. 2. *Arch.*, *chiefly Brit.* an elderly woman. 3. *Sl.*, *chiefly U.S.* a woman. 4. *Brit.* the role of a comic old woman in a pantomime, usually played by a man.

Dame (deɪm) *n.* (in Britain) 1. the title of a woman who has been awarded the Order of the British Empire or

any of certain other orders of chivalry. 2. the title of the wife of a knight or baronet.

damn (dæm) *interj.* 1. *Sl.* an exclamation of annoyance. 2. *Inf.* an exclamation of surprise or pleasure. ~*adj.* 3. (*prenominal*) 4. *Sl.* (intensifier): a damn good pianist. ~*adv.* 5. **damn all.** *Sl.* absolutely nothing. ~*vb.* (mainly *tr.*) 6. to condemn as bad, worthless, etc. 7. to curse. 8. to condemn to eternal damnation. 9. (often *passive*) to doom to ruin. 10. (also *intr.*) to prove (someone) guilty: *damning evidence*. 11. **damn with faint praise.** to praise so unenthusiastically that the effect is condemnation. ~*n.* 12. *Sl.* something of negligible value (esp. in not worth a damn). 13. **not give a damn.** *Inf.* not care.

damnable ('dæmnbəl) *adj.* 1. execrable; detestable. 2. liable to or deserving damnation. —'damnableness or 'damna'bility *n.*

damnation ('dæmneɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of damning or state of being damned. ~*interj.* 2. an exclamation of anger, disappointment, etc. —'damnatory *adj.*

damned (dæmd) *adj.* 1. a. condemned to hell. b. (as *n.*): the damned. ~*adv.*, *adj.* *Sl.* 2. (intensifier): a damned good try. 3. used to indicate amazement, disavowal, or refusal (as in **damned if I care**).

damp (dæmp) *adj.* 1. slightly wet. ~*n.* 2. slight wetness; moisture. 3. rank air or poisonous gas, esp. in a mine. 4. a discouragement; damper. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 5. to make slightly wet. 6. (often *fall. by down*) to stifle or deaden: *to damp one's ardour*. 7. (often *fall. by down*) to reduce the flow of air to (a fire) to make it burn more slowly. 8. *Physics.* to reduce the amplitude of (an oscillation or wave). 9. *Music.* to muffle (a vibrating string). —'dampness *n.*

dampcourse ('dæmp,kɔ:s) *n.* a layer of impervious material in a wall, to stop moisture rising. Also called: **damp-proof course**.

dampen ('dæmpən) *vb.* 1. to make or become damp. 2. (*tr.*) to stifle; deaden. —'dampener *n.*

damper ('dæmpə) *n.* 1. a person, event, or circumstance that depresses or discourages. 2. a movable plate to regulate the draught in a stove or furnace flue. 3. a device to reduce electronic, mechanical, acoustical, or aerodynamic oscillations in a system. 4. the pad in a piano or harpsichord that deadens the vibration of each string as its key is released. 5. *Chiefly Austral. & N.Z.* any of various unleavened loaves and scones, typically cooked on an open fire.

damsel ('dæmzəl) *n.* *Arch. or poetic.* a young unmarried woman; maiden.

damson ('dæmzən) *n.* 1. a small tree cultivated for its blue-black edible plumlike fruit. 2. the fruit of this tree.

dan (dæn) *n.* *Judo.* 1. any one of the 12 black-belt grades of proficiency. 2. a competitor entitled to band grading.

Dan. *abbrev. for:* 1. Bible. Daniel. 2. Danish.

dance (dɑ:ns) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to move the feet and body rhythmically, esp. in time to music. 2. (*tr.*) to perform (a particular dance). 3. (*intr.*) to skip or leap. 4. to move or cause to move in a rhythmical way. 5. **dance attendance (on someone).** to attend (someone) solicitously or obsequiously. ~*n.* 6. a series of rhythmical steps and movements, usually in time to music. 7. an act of dancing. 8. a. a social meeting arranged for dancing. b. (as *modifier*): a dance hall. 9. a piece of music in the rhythm of a particular dance form. 10. dancelike movements. 11. **lead (someone) a dance.** *Brit. inf.* to cause (someone) continued worry and exasperation. —'dancer *n.*

D and C *n.* *Med.* dilation (of the cervix) and curettage (of the uterus).

dandelion ('dændəlɪən) *n.* 1. a plant native to Europe and Asia and naturalized as a weed in North America, having yellow rayed flowers and deeply notched leaves. 2. any of several similar plants.

dander ('dændə) *n.* 1. small particles of hair or feathers. 2. **get one's (or someone's) dander up.** *Sl., chiefly U.S.* to become or cause to become annoyed or angry.

dandify ('dændɪ,fai) *vb.* -fying, -fied. (*tr.*) to dress like or cause to resemble a dandy.

dandle ('dændl) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to move (a young child) up and down (on the knee or in the arms). 2. to pet; fondle. —'dandler *n.*

dandruff ('dændrʌf) or **dandriff** ('dændrɪf) *n.* loose scales of dry dead skin shed from the scalp.

dandy ('dændɪ) *n.*, *pl.* -dies. 1. a man greatly concerned with smartness of dress. ~*adj.* -dier, -diest. 2. *Inf.* very good or fine. —'dandyish *adj.*

dandy-brush *n.* a stiff brush used for grooming a horse.

Dane (dem) *n.* 1. a native, citizen, or inhabitant of Denmark. 2. any of the Vikings who invaded England from the late 8th to the 11th century A.D.

danger ('deɪndʒə) *n.* 1. the state of being vulnerable to injury, loss, or evil; risk. 2. a person or thing, that may cause injury, pain, etc. 3. **in danger of.** liable to. 4. **on the danger list.** critically ill in hospital. —'dangerless *adj.*

danger money *n.* extra money paid to compensate for the risks involved in certain dangerous jobs.

dangerous ('deɪndʒərəs) *adj.* causing danger; perilous. —'dangerously *adv.*

dangle ('dæŋɡl) *vb.* 1. to hang or cause to hang freely: *his legs dangled over the wall*. 2. (*tr.*) to display as an enticement. —'dangler *n.*

Danish ('deɪnɪʃ) *adj.* 1. of Denmark, its people, or their language. ~*n.* 2. the official language of Denmark. 3. **the Danish.** (*functioning as pl.*) the people of Denmark collectively.

Danish blue *n.* a strong-tasting white cheese with blue veins.

Danish pastry *n.* a rich flaky pastry filled with apple, almond paste, icing, etc.

dank (dæŋk) *adj.* (esp. of cellars, caves, etc.) unpleasantly damp and chilly. —'dankly *adv.* —'dankness *n.*

dankie ('dæŋki:) *interj.* *S. African.* thank you.

daphne ('dæfni) *n.* any of various Eurasian ornamental shrubs with shiny evergreen leaves and clusters of small bell-shaped flowers.

dapper ('dæpə) *adj.* 1. neat in dress and bearing. 2. small and nimble. —'dapperly *adv.* —'dapperness *n.*

dapple ('dæpəl) *vb.* 1. to mark or become marked with spots of a different colour; mottle. ~*n.* 2. mottled or spotted markings. 3. a dappled horse, etc. ~*adj.* 4. marked with dapples or spots.

dapple-grey *n.* a horse with a grey coat having spots of darker colour.

darbies ('dɑ:bɪz) *pl. n.* *Brit.* a slang term for handcuffs.

Darby and Joan ('dɑ:bɪ) *n.* 1. an ideal elderly married couple living in domestic harmony. 2. **Darby and Joan Club.** a club for elderly people.

dare (deə) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to challenge (a person to do something) as proof of courage. 2. (can take an infinitive with or without *to*) to be courageous enough to try (to do something). 3. (*tr.*) Rare. to oppose without fear; defy. 4. **I dare say.** a. (it is) quite possible (that). b. probably. ~*n.* 5. a challenge to do something as proof of courage. 6. something done in response to such a challenge. —'darer *n.*

▷ **Usage.** When used negatively or interrogatively and not followed by an infinitive with *to*, *dare* does not add *-s*: *he dare not; dare she come?*

daredevil ('deədɛvəl) *n.* 1. a recklessly bold person. ~*adj.* 2. reckless; daring; bold. —'dare,devilry or 'dare,deviltry *n.*

daring ('deərɪŋ) *adj.* 1. bold or adventurous. ~*n.* 2. courage in taking risks; boldness.

dark (dɑ:k) *adj.* 1. having little or no light. 2. (of a colour) reflecting or transmitting little light: *dark brown*. 3. (of complexion, hair colour, etc.) not fair; swarthy; brunette. 4. gloomy or dismal. 5. sinister; evil: *a dark purpose*. 6. sullen or angry. 7. ignorant or unenlightened: *a dark period in our history*. 8. secret or mysterious. ~*n.* 9. absence of light; darkness. 10. night or nightfall. 11. a dark place. 12. a state of ignorance (esp. in the dark). —'darkish *adj.* —'darkly *adv.* —'darkness *n.*

Dark Continent *n.* the, a term for Africa when it was relatively unexplored.

darken ('dɑ:kən) *vb.* 1. to make or become dark or darker. 2. to make or become gloomy, angry, or sad. 3. **darken (someone's) door.** (*usually used with a negative*) to visit someone: *never darken my door again!* —'darkener *n.*

dark horse *n.* 1. a competitor in a race or contest about whom little is known. 2. a person who reveals little about himself, esp. one who has unexpected talents. 3. *U.S. politics.* a candidate who is unexpectedly nominated or elected.

darkroom ('dɑ:k,ru:m) *n.* a room in which photographs are processed in darkness or safe light.

darling ('dɑ:lɪŋ) *n.* 1. a person very much loved. 2. a favourite. ~*adj.* (*prenominal*) 3. beloved. 4. much admired; pleasing: *a darling hat*.

darn¹ ('dɑ:n) *vb.* 1. to mend (a hole or a garment) with a

series of crossing or interwoven stitches. ~*n.* 2. a patch of darned work on a garment. — **darner** *n.*

darn ('dɑ:n) *interj., adj., adv., n.* a euphemistic word for **damn** (senses 1-4).

darnel ('dɑ:n'l) *n.* any of several grasses that grow as weeds in grain fields in Europe and Asia.

darning ('dɑ:nɪŋ) *n.* 1. the act of mending a hole using interwoven stitches. 2. garments needing to be darned. 3. (as modifier): *darning needle, darning wool.*

dart ('dɑ:t) *n.* 1. a small narrow pointed missile that is thrown or shot, as in the game of darts. 2. a sudden quick movement. 3. *Zool.* a slender pointed structure, as in snails for aiding copulation. 4. a tapered tuck made in dressmaking. ~*vb.* 5. to move or throw swiftly and suddenly; shoot.

dartboard ('dɑ:t,bɔ:d) *n.* a circular piece of wood, cork, etc., used as the target in the game of darts.

darts ('dɑ:ts) *n.* any of various competitive games in which darts are thrown at a dartboard.

Darwinism ('dɑ:wɪnɪzəm) or **Darwinian theory** *n.* the theory of the origin of animal and plant species by evolution through a process of natural selection. — **Darwinist** *n., adj.*

dash ('dæʃ) *vb. (mainly tr.)* 1. to hurl; crash: *he dashed the cup to the floor.* 2. to mix: *white paint dashed with blue.* 3. (*intr.*) to move hastily or recklessly; rush. 4. (usually foll. by *off* or *down*) to write (down) or finish (off) hastily. 5. to frustrate: *his hopes were dashed.* 6. to daunt (someone); discourage. ~*n.* 7. a sudden quick movement. 8. a small admixture: *coffee with a dash of cream.* 9. a violent stroke or blow. 10. the sound of splashing or smashing. 11. panache; style: *he rides with dash.* 12. the punctuation mark —, used to indicate a sudden change of subject or to enclose a parenthetical remark. 13. the symbol (·) used, in combination with the symbol dot (·), in the written representation of Morse and other telegraphic codes. 14. *Athletics.* another word (esp. U.S.) for sprint.

dash ('dæʃ) *interj., adj., adv., vb.* *Inf.* a euphemistic word for **damn** (senses 1, 3, 4).

dashboard ('dæʃ,bɔ:d) *n.* 1. Also called (Brit.): *fascia.* the instrument panel in a car, boat, or aircraft. 2. Obs. a board at the side of a carriage or boat to protect against splashing.

dasher ('dæʃə) *n.* 1. one that dashes. 2. *Canad.* the ledge along the top of the boards of an ice hockey rink.

dashing ('dæʃɪŋ) *adj.* 1. spirited; lively: *a dashing young man.* 2. stylish; showy.

dassie ('dæsi) *n.* another name for a **hyrax**, esp. the rock hyrax.

dastard ('dæstəd) *n.* *Arch.* a contemptible sneaking coward. — **dastardly** *adj.*

dat. *abbrev.* for **dative**.

data ('deɪtə, 'dɑ:tə) *n.* 1. a series of observations, measurements, or facts; information. 2. Also called: **information.** *Computers* the information operated on by a computer program.

▷ **Usage.** Although now generally used as a singular noun, *data* is properly a plural.

data bank or **data base** *n.* a store of a large amount of information, esp. in a form that can be handled by a computer.

data capture *n.* any process for converting information into a form that can be handled by a computer.

data processing *n. a.* a sequence of operations performed on data, esp. by a computer, in order to extract information, reorder files, etc. *b. (as modifier):* a *data-processing centre.*

date ('deɪt) *n.* 1. a specified day of the month. 2. the particular day or year of an event. 3. an inscription on a coin, letter, etc., stating when it was made or written. 4. a. an appointment for a particular time, esp. with a person of the opposite sex. b. the person with whom the appointment is made. 5. the present moment; now (esp. in *to date, up to date*). ~*vb.* 6. (*tr.*) to mark (a letter, coin, etc.) with the day, month, or year. 7. (*tr.*) to assign a date of occurrence or creation to. 8. (*intr.*; foll. by *from* or *back to*) to have originated (at a specified time). 9. (*tr.*) to reveal the age of: *that dress dates her.* 10. to become old-fashioned: *some good films hardly date at all.* 11. *Inf., chiefly U.S.* a. to be a boyfriend or girlfriend of (someone of the opposite sex). b. to accompany (a member of the opposite sex) on a date. — **'dateable** or **'dateable** *adj.*

▷ **Usage.** See at **day, decade, year.**

date ('deɪt) *n.* 1. the fruit of the date palm, having sweet

edible flesh and a single large woody seed. 2. short for **date palm.**

dateless ('deɪtlɪs) *adj.* likely to remain fashionable, good or interesting regardless of age.

date line *n. (often caps.)* the line approximately following the 180° meridian from Greenwich on the east side of which the date is one day earlier than on the west.

dateline ('deɪt,ləɪn) *n.* *Journalism.* the date and location of a story, placed at the top of an article.

date palm *n.* a tall feather palm grown in tropical regions for its sweet edible fruit.

date stamp *n.* 1. an adjustable rubber stamp for recording the date. 2. an inked impression made by this.

dative ('deɪtv) *Grammar.* ~*adj.* 1. denoting a case of nouns, pronouns, and adjectives used to express the indirect object, to identify the recipients, and for other purposes. ~*n.* 2. a. the dative case. b. a word or speech element in this case. — **'dative** ('deɪ'taɪv) *adj.* — **'datively** *adv.*

datum ('deɪtəm, 'dɑ:təm) *n., pl. -ta (-tə).* 1. a single piece of information; fact. 2. a fact or proposition, known or assumed, from which inferences can be drawn. See also **sense datum.**

daub ('dɔ:b) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to smear or spread (paint, mud, etc.), esp. carelessly. 2. (*tr.*) to cover or coat (with paint, plaster, etc.) carelessly. 3. to paint (a picture) clumsily or badly. ~*n.* 4. an unskilful or crude painting. 5. something daubed on, esp. as a wall covering. 6. a smear (of paint, mud, etc.) — **'dauber** *n.*

daughter ('dɔ:tə) *n.* 1. a female offspring; a girl or woman in relation to her parents. 2. a female descendant. 3. a female from a certain country, etc., or one closely connected with a certain environment, etc.: *a daughter of the church.* ~(*modifier*) 4. *Biol.* denoting a cell or unicellular organism produced by the division of one of its own kind. 5. *Physics.* (of a nuclide) formed from another nuclide by radioactive decay. — **'daughterhood** *n.* — **'daughterless** *adj.* — **'daughtery** *adj.*

daughter-in-law *n., pl. daughters-in-law.* the wife of one's son.

daunt ('daʊnt) *vb. (tr.; often passive)* 1. to intimidate. 2. to dishearten. — **'daunter** *n.* — **'dauntingly** *adv.*

dauntless ('daʊntlɪs) *adj.* bold; fearless; intrepid. — **'dauntlessly** *adv.* — **'dauntlessness** *n.*

dauphin ('dɔ:fɪn) *n.* (from 1349-1830) the title of the eldest son of the king of France.

davenport ('dævən,pɔ:t) *n.* 1. *Chiefly Brit.* a small decorative writing desk with drawers. 2. *U.S.* a large sofa, esp. one convertible into a bed.

davit ('dævɪt, 'deɪ-) *n.* a cranelike device, usually one of a pair, fitted with a tackle for suspending or lowering equipment, esp. a lifeboat.

Davy Jones ('deɪvɪ dʒəʊnz) *n.* 1. Also called: **Davy Jones's locker.** the ocean's bottom, esp. when regarded as the grave of those lost or buried at sea. 2. the spirit of the sea.

Davy lamp *n.* See **safety lamp.**

dawdle ('dɔ:dlɪ) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to be slow or lag behind. 2. (when *tr.*, often foll. by *away*) to waste (time); trifle. — **'dawdler** *n.*

dawn ('dɔ:n) *n.* 1. daybreak. Related *adj.*: **auroral.** 2. the sky when light first appears in the morning. 3. the beginning of something. ~*vb. (intr.)* 4. to begin to grow light after the night. 5. to begin to develop or appear. 6. (usually foll. by *on* or *upon*) to begin to become apparent (to). — **'dawn,like** *adj.*

dawn chorus *n.* the singing of large numbers of birds at dawn.

day ('deɪ) *n.* 1. Also called: **civil day.** the period of time, the **calendar day**, of 24 hours duration reckoned from one midnight to the next. 2. the period of light between sunrise and sunset. 3. the part of a day occupied with regular activity, esp. work. 4. (*sometimes pl.*) a period or point in time: *in days gone by; any day now.* 5. the period of time, the **sidereal day**, during which the earth makes one complete revolution on its axis relative to a particular star. 6. the period of time, the **solar day**, during which the earth makes one complete revolution on its axis relative to the sun. 7. the period of time taken by a specified planet to make one complete rotation on its axis: *the Martian day.* 8. (*often cap.*) a day designated for a special observance: *Christmas Day.* 9. all in a **day's work.** part of one's normal activity. 10. at the end of the day. in the final reckoning. 11. **day of rest.** the Sabbath; Sunday. 12. **every dog has his day.**

one's luck will come. **13. in this day and age.** nowadays. **14. late in the day.** very late (in a particular situation). **15. that will be the day.** a. that is most unlikely to happen. b. I look forward to that. **16.** a time of success, recognition, etc.: *his day will come.* **17.** a struggle or issue at hand: *the day is lost.* **18. call it a day.** *Inf.* to stop work or other activity. **19. day after day.** without respite; relentlessly. **20. day by day.** gradually or progressively. **21. day in, day out.** every day and all day long. **22. (as modifier):** *the day shift.* ~Related adj.: **diurnal.**

► **Usage.** Numerals are used for the day of the month: in formal written English, either cardinal or ordinal numbers may be used either preceding or following the month. In this dictionary the date is given in this manner: *May 15, 1974.*

day bed *n.* an armless couch intended for use as a seat and as a bed.

dayboy ('dei,bɔɪ) *n.* *Brit.* a boy who attends a boarding school daily, but returns home each evening. —'day, girl *fem. n.*

daybreak ('dei,breɪk) *n.* the time in the morning when light first appears; dawn; sunrise.

daydream ('dei,dri:m) *n.* 1. a pleasant dreamlike fantasy indulged in while awake. 2. a pleasant scheme or wish that is unlikely to be fulfilled. ~*vb.* 3. (*intr.*) to indulge in idle fantasy. —'day, dreamer *n.* —'day-, dreamy *adj.*

daylight ('dei,lait) *n.* 1. light from the sun. 2. daytime. 3. daybreak. 4. *see* daylight. a. to understand something previously obscure. b. to realize that the end of a difficult task is approaching.

daylight robbery *n.* *Inf.* blatant overcharging.

daylights ('dei,lait) *pl. n.* consciousness or wits (esp. in scare, knock, or beat the (living) daylights out of someone).

day release *n.* *Brit.* a system whereby workers are released for part-time education without loss of pay.

day return *n.* a reduced fare for a journey (by train, etc.) travelling both ways in one day.

day room *n.* a communal living room in a residential institution such as a hospital.

days (deɪz) *adv. Inf.* during the day, esp. regularly: *he works days.*

day school *n.* 1. a private school taking day students only. 2. a school giving instruction during the daytime.

day-to-day *adj.* routine; everyday.

daze (deɪz) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to stun, esp. by a blow or shock. 2. to bewilder or amaze. ~*n.* 3. a state of stunned confusion or shock (esp. in **a daze**).

dazzle ('dæzl) *vb.* 1. (*usually tr.*) to blind or be blinded partially and temporarily by sudden excessive light. 2. (*tr.*) to amaze, as with brilliance. ~*n.* 3. bright light that dazzles. 4. bewilderment caused by glamour, brilliance, etc.: *the dazzle of fame.* —'dazzler *n.* —'dazzlingly *adv.*

db or db *symbol* for decibel or decibels.

D.B.E. *abbrev.* for Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire (a Brit. title).

DC *abbrev.* for direct current. Cf. AC.

D.C. *abbrev. for:* 1. *Music.* da capo. 2. *U.S.* District of Columbia.

D.C.B. *abbrev.* for Dame Commander of the Order of the Bath (a Brit. title).

D.C.M. *Brit. mil. abbrev.* for Distinguished Conduct Medal.

DD *abbrev. for:* 1. Doctor of Divinity. 2. direct debit.

D-day *n.* the day selected for the start of some operation, esp. of the Allied invasion of Europe on June 6, 1944.

DDR *abbrev.* for Deutsche Demokratische Republik (East Germany; G.D.R.).

D.D.S. or D.D.Sc. *abbrev.* for Doctor of Dental Surgery or Science.

DDT *n.* dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane; a colourless odourless substance used as an insecticide.

de- *prefix forming verbs and verbal derivatives.* 1. removal of or from something: *deforest; dethrone.* 2. reversal of something: *decode; desegregate.* 3. departure from: *decamp.*

deacon ('di:kən) *n.* *Christianity.* 1. (in the Roman Catholic and other episcopal churches) an ordained minister ranking immediately below a priest. 2. (in Protestant churches) a lay official who assists the minister, esp. in secular affairs. —'deacon, ate *n.* —'deacon, ship *n.*

deaconess ('di:kənis) *n.* *Christianity.* (in the early

church and in some modern Churches) a female member of the laity with duties similar to those of a deacon.

deactivate (di:'æktɪ'veɪt) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to make (a bomb, etc.) harmless or inoperative. 2. to make less radioactive. —'de'acti, vator *n.*

dead (ded) *adj.* 1. a. no longer alive. b. (as *n.*): *the dead.* 2. not endowed with life; inanimate. 3. no longer in use, effective, or relevant: *a dead issue; a dead language.* 4. unresponsive or unaware. 5. lacking in freshness or vitality. 6. devoid of physical sensation; numb. 7. resembling death: *a dead sleep.* 8. no longer burning or hot: *dead coals.* 9. (*prenominal*) (intensifier): *a dead stop.* 10. Also: *dead beat.* *Inf.* very tired. 11. *Electronics.* a. drained of electric charge. b. not connected to a source of potential difference or electric charge. 12. lacking acoustic resonance: *a dead sound.* 13. *Sport.* (of a ball, etc.) out of play. 14. accurate; precise (esp. in **a dead shot**). 15. lacking resilience or bounce: *a dead ball.* 16. not yielding a return: *dead capital.* 17. (of colours) not glossy or bright. 18. stagnant: *dead air.* 19. *Mil.* shielded from view, as by a geographic feature. 20. **dead from the neck up.** *Inf.* stupid. 21. **dead to the world.** *Inf.* fast asleep. ~*n.* 22. a period during which coldness, darkness, etc. is at its most intense: *the dead of winter.* ~*adv.* 23. (intensifier): *dead easy; stop dead.* 24. **dead on.** exactly right. —'deadness *n.*

deadbeat ('ded,bɪt) *n.* 1. *Inf., chiefly U.S.* a lazy or socially undesirable person. 2. a high grade escapement used in pendulum clocks. 3. (*modifier*) without recoil.

dead duck *n.* *Sl.* a person or thing doomed to death, failure, etc., esp. because of a mistake.

deadend ('ded'ɛn) *vb.* 1. to make or become less sensitive, intense, lively, etc. 2. (*tr.*) to make acoustically less resonant. —'deadener *n.*

dead end *n.* 1. a cul-de-sac. 2. a situation in which further progress is impossible.

deadhead ('ded,hed) *n.* *U.S. inf.* 1. a person who uses a free ticket, as for the theatre, etc. 2. a train, etc., travelling empty. 3. a dull person. 4. *U.S. & Canad.* a log sticking out of the water as a snag to navigation. ~*vb.* 5. *U.S. inf. (intr.)* to drive an empty bus, train, etc. 6. (*tr.*) to remove dead flower heads.

dead heat *n.* a. a race or contest in which two or more participants tie for first place. b. a tie between two or more contestants in any position.

dead letter *n.* a law or ordinance that is no longer enforced.

deadlight ('ded,lait) *n.* 1. *Naut.* a. a bull's-eye to admit light to a cabin. b. a shutter for sealing off a porthole or cabin window. 2. a skylight designed not to be opened.

deadline ('ded,lain) *n.* a time limit for any activity.

deadlock ('ded,lɒk) *n.* 1. a state of affairs in which further action between two opposing forces is impossible. 2. a tie between opponents. 3. a lock having a full unchamfered bolt. ~*vb.* 4. to bring or come to a deadlock.

dead loss *n.* 1. a complete loss for which no compensation is paid. 2. *Inf.* a useless person or thing.

deadly ('dedli) *adj. -lier, -liest.* 1. likely to cause death. 2. *Inf.* extremely boring. ~*adv., adj.* 3. like death in appearance or certainty.

deadly nightshade *n.* a poisonous Eurasian plant having purple bell-shaped flowers and black berries. Also called: *belladonna, dwale.*

dead man's handle or pedal *n.* a safety switch on a piece of machinery that allows operation only while depressed by the operator.

dead march *n.* a piece of solemn funeral music played to accompany a procession.

dead-nettle *n.* any of several Eurasian plants having leaves resembling nettles but lacking stinging hairs.

deadpan ('ded,pæn) *adj., adv.* with a deliberately emotionless face or manner.

dead reckoning *n.* a method of establishing one's position using the distance and direction travelled rather than astronomical observations.

dead set *adv.* 1. absolutely: *he is dead set against going to Spain.* ~*n.* 2. the motionless position of a dog when pointing towards game. ~*adj.* 3. (of a hunting dog) in this position.

dead weight *n.* 1. a heavy weight or load. 2. an oppressive burden. 3. the difference between the loaded and the unloaded weights of a ship. 4. the intrinsic invariable weight of a structure, such as a bridge.

deadwood ('ded,wud) *n.* 1. dead trees or branches. 2. *Inf.* a useless person; encumbrance.

deaf (def) *adj.* 1. *a.* partially or totally unable to hear. *b.* (as *n.*): *the deaf*. 2. refusing to heed. —'deafness *n.*

deaf-and-dumb *adj.* 1. unable to hear or speak. 2. for the use of those unable to hear or speak.

deafen ('defn) *vb. (tr.)* to make deaf, esp. momentarily, as by a loud noise. —'deafeningly *adv.*

deaf-mute *n.* 1. a person who is unable to hear or speak. ~*adj.* 2. unable to hear or speak.

deal¹ (di:l) *vb. dealing, dealt.* (mainly *intr.*) 1. (foll. by *with*) to take action on: *to deal with a problem*. 2. (foll. by *with* or *in*) to treat (some subject matter): *his manuscript deals with art*. 3. (foll. by *with*) to conduct oneself (towards others), esp. with regard to fairness. 4. *a.* (foll. by *with*) to do business. *b.* (foll. by *in*) to engage in commercially: *to deal in upholstery*. 5. (often foll. by *out*) to apportion or distribute. 6. (tr.) to give (a blow, etc.) to (someone); inflict. 7. *Sl.* to sell narcotics. ~*n.* 8. *Inf.* a bargain, transaction, or agreement. 9. a particular type of treatment received, esp. as the result of an agreement: *a fair deal*. 10. an indefinite amount (esp. in good or great deal). 11. *Cards.* *a.* the process of distributing the cards. *b.* a player's turn to do this. *c.* a single round in a card game. 12. **big deal.** *Inf.* an important person, event, or matter: often used sarcastically. —'dealer *n.*

deal² (di:l) *n.* 1. a plank of softwood timber, such as fir or pine, or such planks collectively. 2. the sawn wood of various coniferous trees. ~*adj.* 3. of fir or pine.

dealings ('di:liŋz) *pl. n.* (sometimes *sing.*) transactions or business relations.

dealt (delt) *vb.* the past tense or past participle of **deal**¹.

dean (din) *n.* 1. the chief administrative official of a college or university faculty. 2. (at Oxford and Cambridge universities) a college fellow with responsibility for undergraduate discipline. 3. *Chiefly Church of England.* the head of a chapter of canons and administrator of a cathedral or collegiate church. 4. *R.C. Church.* the cardinal bishop senior by consecration and head of the college of cardinals. Related *adj.*: **decanal**. See also: **rural dean**.

deanery ('dinəri) *n., pl. -eries.* 1. the office or residence of a dean. 2. the group of parishes presided over by a rural dean.

dear (diə) *adj.* 1. beloved; precious. 2. used in conventional forms of address, as in *Dear Sir*. 3. (postpositive; foll. by *to*) important; close. 4. *a.* highly priced. *b.* charging high prices. 5. appealing. 6. for **dear life**, as though life were in danger. ~*interj.* 7. used in exclamations of surprise or dismay, such as *Oh dear!* ~*n.* 8. Also: **dearest.** (often used in direct address) someone regarded with affection and tenderness. ~*adv.* 9. *dearly.* —'dearly *adv.* —'dearness *n.*

dearth (dɜ:θ) *n.* an inadequate amount, esp. of food; scarcity.

deary or **dearie** ('diəri) *n.* 1. (*pl. dearies*) *Inf.* a term of affection: now often sarcastic or facetious. 2. **deary** or **dearie me!** an exclamation of surprise or dismay.

death (deθ) *n.* 1. the permanent end of all functions of life in an organism. 2. an instance of this: *his death ended an era*. 3. a murder or killing. 4. termination or destruction. 5. a state of affairs or an experience considered as terrible as death. 6. a cause or source of death. 7. (usually *cap.*) a personification of death, usually a skeleton or an old man holding a scythe. 8. to **death. *a.* until dead. *b.* very much. 9. at **death's door**, likely to die soon. 10. **catch one's death** (of cold). *Inf.* to contract a severe cold. 11. do to **death.** *a.* to kill. *b.* to overuse. 12. in at the **death.** *a.* present when a hunted animal is killed. *b.* present at the finish or climax. 13. **like death warmed up.** *Inf.* very ill. 14. **like grim death.** as if afraid of one's life. 15. **put to death.** to kill deliberately or execute. ~Related *adjs.*: **fatal**, **lethal**, **mortal**.**

deathbed ('deθ,bed) *n.* the bed in which a person is about to die.

deathblow ('deθ,bləʊ) *n.* a thing or event that destroys life or hope, esp. suddenly.

death certificate *n.* a legal document issued by a qualified medical practitioner certifying the death of a person and stating the cause if known.

death duty *n.* a tax on property inheritances.

deathless ('deθlis) *adj.* immortal, esp. because of greatness; everlasting. —'deathlessness *n.*

deathly ('deθli) *adj.* 1. deadly. 2. resembling death: *a deathly quiet*.

death rate *n.* the ratio of deaths in a specified area,

group, etc., to the population of that area, group, etc. Also called: **mortality rate**.

death rattle *n.* a low-pitched gurgling sound sometimes made by a dying person.

death's-head *n.* a human skull or a representation of one.

deathtrap ('deθ,træp) *n.* a building, vehicle, etc., that is considered very unsafe.

death warrant *n.* 1. the official authorization for carrying out a sentence of death. 2. **sign one's (own) death warrant.** to cause one's own destruction.

deathwatch ('deθ,wɒtʃ) *n.* 1. a vigil held beside a dying or dead person. 2. **deathwatch beetle.** any of several beetles that bore into wood and produce a tapping sound.

deb (deb) *n.* *Inf.* short for **debutante**.

debacle (deɪ'bakl, di-) *n.* 1. a sudden disastrous collapse or defeat; rout. 2. the breaking up of ice in a river, often causing flooding. 3. a violent rush of water carrying along debris.

debag (di:'bæg) *vb. -bagging, -bagged.* (tr.) *Brit. sl.* to remove the trousers from (someone) by force.

debar (di:'bɑ:) *vb. -barring, -barred.* (tr.; usually foll. by *from*) to exclude from a place, a right, etc.; bar. —'debarment *n.*

debase (di:'beis) *vb. (tr.)* to lower in quality, character, or value; adulterate. —'debasement *n.* —'de'baser *n.*

debate (di:'beit) *n.* 1. a formal discussion, as in a legislative body, in which opposing arguments are put forward. 2. discussion or dispute. 3. the formal presentation and opposition of a specific motion, followed by a vote. ~*vb.* 4. to discuss (a motion, etc.), esp. in a formal assembly. 5. to deliberate upon (something). —'de'bateable *adj.* —'de'bater *n.*

debauch (di:'bɔ:tʃ) *vb.* 1. (when *tr.*, usually *passive*) to lead into a life of depraved self-indulgence. 2. (tr.) to seduce (a woman). ~*n.* 3. an instance or period of extreme dissipation. —'de'baucher *n.* —'de'bauchery *n.*

debauchee (,debb:'tʃi:) *n.* a man who leads a life of promiscuity, and self-indulgence.

debenture (di:'bentʃə) *n.* 1. a long-term bond, bearing fixed interest and usually unsecured, issued by a company or governmental agency. 2. a certificate acknowledging a debt. 3. a customs certificate providing for a refund of excise or import duty. —'de'bentured *adj.*

debenture stock *n.* shares issued by a company, which guarantee a fixed return at regular intervals.

debilitate (di:'bilɪ'teɪt) *vb. (tr.)* to make feeble; weaken. —'de,bilɪ'tation *n.* —'de'bilitative *adj.*

debility (di:'bilɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* weakness or infirmity.

debit ('debit) *n.* 1. *a.* acknowledgment of a sum owing by entry on the left side of an account. *b.* the left side of an account. *c.* an entry on this side. *d.* the total of such entries. *e.* (as *modifier*): *a debit balance*. ~*vb.* 2. (tr.) *a.* to record (an item) as a debit in an account. *b.* to charge (a person or his account) with a debt.

debonair or **debonnaire** (,debbə'neɪə) *adj.* 1. suave and refined. 2. carefree; gay. 3. courteous and cheerful. —'debbə'nairly *adv.* —'debbə'nairness *n.*

debouch (di:'baʊtʃ) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) (esp. of troops) to move into a more open space. 2. (*intr.*) (of a river, glacier, etc.) to flow into a larger area or body. —'de'bouchment *n.*

debrief (di:'bri:f) *vb.* (of a soldier, diplomat, etc.) to make or (of his superiors) to elicit a report after a mission or event. —'de'briefing *n.*

debris or **débris** ('deɪbri, 'deɪbri) *n.* 1. fragments of something destroyed or broken; rubble. 2. a collection of loose material derived from rocks, or an accumulation of animal or vegetable matter.

debt (det) *n.* 1. something owed, such as money, goods, or services. 2. **bad debt.** a debt that has little prospect of being paid. 3. an obligation to pay or perform something. 4. the state of owing something, or of being under an obligation (esp. in *in debt*, *in (someone's) debt*).

debt of honour *n.* a debt that is morally but not legally binding.

debtor ('detə) *n.* a person or commercial enterprise that owes a financial obligation.

debug (di:'bæg) *Inf. vb. -bugging, -bugged.* (tr.) 1. to locate and remove concealed microphones from (a room, etc.). 2. to locate and remove defects in (a device, system, plan, etc.). 3. to remove insects from.

debunk (di:'bʌŋk) *vb. (tr.)* *Inf.* to expose the pretensions or falseness of, esp. by ridicule. —'de'bunker *n.*

debut ('deɪbjʊ, 'deɪbjʊ:) *n.* 1. the first public appear-

ance of an actor, musician, etc. **2.** the presentation of a debutante.

debutante ('debju:tənt, -tənt) *n.* **1.** a young upper-class woman who is formally presented to society. **2.** a young woman regarded as being upper-class, wealthy, and frivolous.

Dec. *abbrev. for December.*

deca-, deka- or before a vowel **dec-, dek-** *prefix.* denoting ten: *decagon*. In conjunction with scientific units the symbol **da** is used.

decade ('dekəɪd, 'keɪd) *n.* **1.** a period of ten years. **2.** a group of ten. —**de'cadal** *adj.*

▷ **Usage.** Specific decades are referred to as follows: *the 1660s; the 1970s*. Where ambiguity does not arise contractions are allowable though it is preferable to write out the contracted forms in words rather than numerals: *the sixties* rather than *the 60s* or *the '60s*.

decadence ('dekədəns) or **decadency** *n.* **1.** deterioration, esp. of morality or culture. **2.** the state reached through such a process. —**decadent** *adj.*

decaffeinate (di'kæfi,neɪt) *vb.* (*tr.*) to remove all or part of the caffeine from (coffee).

decagon ('dekə,ɡɒn) *n.* a polygon having ten sides. —**decagonal** (di'kæɡənəl) *adj.*

decahedron ('dekə'hɪdrən) *n.* a solid figure having ten plane faces. —**deca'hedral** *adj.*

decalitre or **U.S. decaliter** ('dekə,lɪtrə) *n.* a metric measure of volume equivalent to 10 litres.

Decalogue ('dekə,lɒɡ) *n.* another name for the **Ten Commandments**.

decametre or **U.S. decameter** ('dekə,mɪtrə) *n.* a metric measure of length equivalent to 10 metres.

decamp (di'kæmp) *vb.* (*intr.*) **1.** to leave a camp; break camp. **2.** to depart secretly or suddenly; abscond. —**de'campment** *n.*

decant (di'kænt) *vb.* to pour (a liquid, such as wine) from one container to another, esp. without disturbing any sediment.

decanter (di'kæntə) *n.* a stoppered bottle, into which a drink is poured for serving.

decapitate (di'kæpɪ,tet) *vb.* (*tr.*) to behead. —**de,capit'ation** *n.* —**de'capitator** *n.*

decapod ('dekə,pɒd) *n.* **1.** any crustacean having five pairs of walking limbs, as a crab, lobster, shrimp, etc. **2.** any cephalopod mollusc having eight short tentacles and two longer ones, as a squid or cuttlefish. —**decapodal** (di'kæpɒdəl), **de'capodan**, or **de'capodous** *adj.*

decarbonize or **-ise** (di'kɑ:bə,naɪz) *vb.* (*tr.*) to remove carbon from (an internal-combustion engine, etc.). Also: **decoke**, **decarburize**. —**de,carboni'zation** or **-i'sation** *n.* —**de'carbonizer** or **-iser** *n.*

decathlon (di'kæθlən) *n.* an athletic contest in which each athlete competes in ten different events.

decay (di'keɪ) *vb.* **1.** to decline or cause to decline gradually in health, prosperity, excellence, etc.; deteriorate. **2.** to rot or cause to rot; decompose. **3.** (*intr.*) Also: **disintegrate**. **Physics.** a. (of an atomic nucleus) to undergo radioactive disintegration. b. (of an elementary particle) to transform into two or more different elementary particles. **4. Physics.** (of a stored charge, magnetic flux, etc.) to decrease gradually when the source of energy has been removed. ~*n.* **5.** the process of decline, as in health, mentality, etc. **6.** the state brought about by this process. **7.** decomposition. **8.** rotten or decayed matter. **9. Physics.** a. disintegration of a nucleus that occurs spontaneously or as a result of electron capture. Also called: **disintegration**. b. a spontaneous transformation of an elementary particle into two or more different particles. **10. Physics.** a gradual decrease of a stored charge, current, etc., when the source of energy has been removed. —**de'cayable** *adj.*

decease (di'si:s) *n.* **1.** a more formal word for **death**. ~*vb.* **2.** (*intr.*) a more formal word for **die**.

deceased (di'si:st) *adj.* a. a more formal word for **dead** (sense 1). b. (as *n.*): *the deceased*.

deceit (di'si:t) *n.* **1.** the act or practice of deceiving. **2.** a statement, act, or device intended to mislead; fraud; trick. **3.** a tendency to deceive.

deceitful (di'si:tful) *adj.* full of deceit.

deceive (di'si:v) *vb.* (*tr.*) **1.** to mislead by deliberate misrepresentation or lies. **2.** to delude (oneself). **3.** *Arch.* to disappoint. —**de'ceivable** *adj.* —**de'ceiver** *n.*

decelerate (di'selə,ret) *vb.* to slow down or cause to slow down. —**de,celer'ation** *n.* —**de'celerator** *n.*

December (di'sembə) *n.* the twelfth month of the year, consisting of 31 days.

decencies ('di:s'nsɪz) *pl. n.* **1.** the. those things that are

considered necessary for a decent life. **2.** the proprieties.

decency ('di:s'nsɪ) *n., pl. -cies.* **1.** conformity to the prevailing standards of propriety, morality, modesty, etc. **2.** the quality of being decent.

decennial (di'senɪəl) *adj.* **1.** lasting for ten years. **2.** occurring every ten years. ~*n.* **3.** a tenth anniversary. —**de'cennially** *adv.*

decent ('di:s'nt) *adj.* **1.** polite or respectable. **2.** proper and suitable; fitting. **3.** conforming to conventions of sexual behaviour; not indecent. **4.** free of oaths, blasphemy, etc. **5.** good or adequate: a *decent wage*. **6. Inf.** kind; generous. **7. Inf.** sufficiently clothed to be seen by other people: *are you decent?* —**'decently** *adv.*

decentralize or **-ise** (di'sentrə,ləɪz) *vb.* **1.** to reorganize into smaller more autonomous units. **2.** to disperse (a concentration, as of industry or population). —**de'centralist** *n., adj.* —**de,centrali'zation** or **-i'sation** *n.*

deception (di'sepʃən) *n.* **1.** the act of deceiving or the state of being deceived. **2.** something that deceives; trick.

deceptive (di'septɪv) *adj.* likely or designed to deceive; misleading. —**de'ceptively** *adv.* —**de'ceptiveness** *n.*

deci- *prefix.* denoting one tenth: *decimetre*. Symbol: **d**

decibel ('desɪ,bel) *n.* **1.** a unit for comparing two currents, voltages, or power levels, equal to one tenth of a bel. **2.** a similar unit for measuring the intensity of a sound. Abbrev.: **dB**

decide (di'saɪd) *vb.* **1.** (*may take a clause or an infinitive as object; when intr., sometimes foll. by on or about*) to reach a decision: *decide what you want; he decided to go*. **2.** (*tr.*) to cause to reach a decision. **3.** (*tr.*) to determine or settle (a contest or question). **4.** (*tr.*) to influence decisively the outcome of (a contest or question). **5.** (*intr.*; foll. by *for or against*) to pronounce a formal verdict. —**de'cidable** *adj.* —**de'cider** *n.*

decided (di'saɪdɪd) *adj.* (*prenominal*) **1.** unmistakable. **2.** determined; resolute: *a decided effort*. —**de'cidedly** *adv.* —**de'cidedness** *n.*

deciduous (di'sɪdjuəs) *adj.* **1.** (of trees and shrubs) shedding all leaves annually at the end of the growing season. Cf. **evergreen**. **2.** (of antlers, teeth, etc.) being shed at the end of a period of growth. —**de'ciduousness** *n.*

decilitre or **U.S. deciliter** ('desɪ,lɪtrə) *n.* a metric measure of volume equivalent to one tenth of a litre.

decimal ('desɪməl) *n.* **1.** Also called: **decimal fraction**. a fraction that has an unwritten denominator of a power of ten. It is indicated by a decimal point to the left of the numerator: $.2=2/10$. **2.** any number used in the decimal system. —*adj.* **3.** a. relating to or using powers of ten. b. of the base ten. **4.** (*prenominal*) expressed as a decimal. —**'decimally** *adv.*

decimal currency *n.* a system of currency in which the monetary units are parts or powers of ten.

decimalize or **-ise** ('desɪmə,ləɪz) *vb.* to change (a system, number, etc.) to the decimal system. —**decim'alization** or **-i'sation** *n.*

decimal point *n.* a full stop or a raised full stop placed between the integral and fractional parts of a number in the decimal system.

▷ **Usage.** Conventions relating to the use of the decimal point are confused. The IX General Conference on Weights and Measures resolved in 1948 that the decimal point should be a point on the line or a comma, but not a centre dot. It also resolved that figures could be grouped in threes about the decimal point, but that no point or comma should be used for this purpose. These conventions are adopted in this dictionary. However, the Decimal Currency Board recommended that for sums of money the centre dot should be used as the decimal point and that the comma should be used as the thousand marker. Moreover, in some countries the position is reversed, the comma being used as the decimal point and the dot as the thousand marker.

decimal system *n.* **1.** the number system in general use, having a base of ten, in which numbers are expressed by combinations of the ten digits 0 to 9. **2.** a system of measurement in which the multiple and sub-multiple units are related to a basic unit by powers of ten.

decimate ('desɪ,meɪt) *vb.* (*tr.*) **1.** to destroy or kill a large proportion of. **2.** (esp. in the ancient Roman army) to kill every tenth man of (a mutinous section). —**decim'ation** *n.* —**'deci,mator** *n.*

decimetre or **U.S. decimeter** ('desɪ,mɪtrə) *n.* one tenth of a metre. Symbol: **dm**

decipher (di'saifə) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to determine the meaning of (something obscure or illegible). 2. to convert from code into plain text; decode. —**de'cipherable** *adj.* —**de'cipherment** *n.*

decision (di'siʒən) *n.* 1. a judgment, conclusion, or resolution reached or given; verdict. 2. the act of making up one's mind. 3. firmness of purpose or character; determination.

decisive (di'saisiv) *adj.* 1. influential; conclusive. 2. characterized by the ability to make decisions, esp. quickly; resolute. —**de'cisively** *adv.* —**de'cisiveness** *n.*

deck (dek) *n.* 1. *Naut.* any of various platforms built into a vessel. 2. a similar platform, as in a bus. 3. a. the horizontal platform that supports the turntable and pick-up of a gramophone. b. **tape deck**. 4. a pack of playing cards. 5. *Computers*. a collection of punched cards relevant to a particular program. 6. *Sl*. a packet of a narcotic drug. 7. the flat top part of a skateboard. 8. **clear the decks**. *Inf.* to prepare for action, as by removing obstacles. 9. **hit the deck**. *Inf.* a. to fall to the ground, esp. to avoid injury. b. to prepare for action. c. to get out of bed. ~*vb.* (tr.) 10. (often foll. by *out*) to dress or decorate. 11. to build a deck on (a vessel).

deck chair *n.* a folding chair consisting of a wooden frame suspending a length of canvas.

-decker *adj.* (in combination): having a certain specified number of levels or layers: a **double-decker bus**.

deck hand *n.* 1. a seaman assigned duties on the deck of a ship. 2. (in Britain) a seaman who has seen sea duty for at least one year. 3. a helper aboard a yacht.

deckle edge *n.* 1. the rough edge of paper made in a frame (**deckle**) used to support pulp in the making of handmade paper, often left as ornamentation. 2. an imitation of this. —**deckle-edged** *adj.*

declaim (di'kleim) *vb.* 1. to make (a speech, statement, etc.) loudly and in a rhetorical manner. 2. to speak lines from (a play, poem, etc.) with studied eloquence. 3. (*intr.*; foll. by *against*) to protest (against) loudly and publicly. —**de'clainer** *n.* —**de'clama'tion** *n.* —**declamatory** (di'kleimətəri) *adj.*

declaration (,deklo'reifən) *n.* 1. an explicit or emphatic statement. 2. a formal statement or announcement. 3. the act of declaring. 4. the ruling of a judge or court on a question of law. 5. *Law*. an unsworn statement of a witness admissible in evidence under certain conditions. 6. *Cricket*. the voluntary closure of an innings before all ten wickets have fallen. 7. *Contract bridge*. the final contract. 8. a statement or inventory of goods, etc., submitted for tax assessment.

declare (di'kleə) *vb.* (*mainly tr.*) 1. (*may take a clause as object*) to make clearly known or announce officially: *war was declared*. 2. to state officially that (a person, fact, etc.) is as specified: *he declared him fit*. 3. (*may take a clause as object*) to state emphatically; assert. 4. to show, reveal, or manifest. 5. (*intr.*; often foll. by *for* or *against*) to make known one's choice or opinion. 6. to make a statement of (dutiable goods, etc.). 7. (*also intr.*) *Cards*. a. to display (cards) on the table so as to add to one's score. b. to decide (the trump suit) by making the winning bid. 8. (*intr.*) *Cricket*. to close an innings voluntarily before all ten wickets have fallen. 9. to authorize payment of (a dividend). —**de'clarable** *adj.* —**declarative** (di'kleərətiv) *adj.* —**de'clarer** *n.*

declassify (di'kleɪsi,fai) *vb.* **-fying, -fied.** (tr.) to release (a document or information) from the security list. —**de'classifi'cation** *n.*

declension (,dekli'neifən) *n.* 1. *Grammar*. a. inflection of nouns, pronouns, or adjectives for case, number, and gender. b. the complete set of the inflections of such a word. 2. a decline or deviation. 3. a downward slope. —**de'clensional** *adj.*

declination (,dekli'neifən) *n.* 1. *Astron.* the angular distance of a star, planet, etc., north or south from the celestial equator. Symbol: δ . 2. the angle made by a compass needle with the direction of the geographical north pole. 3. a refusal, esp. a courteous or formal one. —**decli'national** *adj.*

decline (di'klaɪn) *vb.* 1. to refuse to do or accept (something), esp. politely. 2. (*intr.*) to grow smaller; diminish. 3. to slope or cause to slope downwards. 4. (*intr.*) to deteriorate gradually. 5. *Grammar*. to list the inflections of (a noun, adjective, or pronoun), or (of a noun, adjective, or pronoun) to be inflected for number, case, or gender. ~*n.* 6. gradual deterioration or loss. 7. a movement downward; diminution. 8. a downward slope. 9. *Arch.* any slowly progressive disease, such as tuberculosis. —**de'clinable** *adj.* —**de'cliner** *n.*

declivity (di'kliviti) *n.*, *pl. -ties*. a downward slope, esp. of the ground. —**de'clivitous** *adj.*

declutch (di'kleɪtʃ) *vb.* (*intr.*) to disengage the clutch of a motor vehicle.

decoct (di'kɒkt) *vb.* to extract (the essence or active principle) from (a medicinal or similar substance) by boiling. —**de'coction** *n.*

decode (di'kəʊd) *vb.* to convert from code into ordinary language. —**de'coder** *n.*

decoke (di'kəʊk) *vb.* (tr.) another word for **decarbonize**.

décolletage (,deikol'ta:ʒ) *n.* a low-cut dress or neckline.

décolleté (de'kol'teɪ) *adj.* 1. (of a woman's garment) low-cut. 2. wearing a low-cut garment.

decolonize or **-ise** (di'kɒlə,naɪz) *vb.* (tr.) to grant independence to (a colony). —**de,coloniz'ation** or **-is'ation** *n.*

decompose (,di:kəm'pəʊz) *vb.* 1. to break down or be broken down into constituent elements by bacterial or fungal action; rot. 2. *Chem.* to break down or cause to break down into simpler chemical compounds. 3. to break up or separate into constituent parts. —**de'composition** (,di:kɒmpə'ziʃən) *n.*

decompress (,di:kəm'pres) *vb.* 1. to relieve or be relieved of pressure. 2. to return (a diver, etc.) to a condition of normal atmospheric pressure or to be returned to such a condition. —**de'com'pression** *n.*

decompression sickness or **illness** *n.* a disorder characterized by severe pain, cramp, and difficulty in breathing, caused by a sudden and substantial change in atmospheric pressure.

decongestant (,di:kən'dʒestənt) *adj.* 1. relieving congestion, esp. nasal congestion. ~*n.* 2. a decongestant drug.

decontaminate (,di:kən'tæmi'neɪt) *vb.* (tr.) to render harmless by the removal or neutralization of poisons, radioactivity, etc. —**de'con,tami'nation** *n.*

décor or **decor** ('deikɔː) *n.* 1. a style or scheme of interior decoration, furnishings, etc., as in a room or house. 2. stage decoration; scenery.

decorate ('dekə'reɪt) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to ornament; adorn. 2. to paint or wallpaper. 3. (tr.) to confer a mark of distinction, esp. a medal, upon. —**de'corative** *adj.* —**de'co,rator** *n.*

Decorated style *n.* a 14th-century style of English architecture characterized by geometrical tracery and floral decoration.

decoration (,dekə'reifən) *n.* 1. an addition that renders something more attractive or ornate. 2. the act or art of decorating. 3. a medal, etc., conferred as a mark of honour.

decorous ('dekɔːrəs) *adj.* characterized by propriety in manners, conduct, etc. —**de'corously** *adv.* —**de'corousness** *n.*

decorum (di'kɔːrəm) *n.* 1. propriety, esp. in behaviour or conduct. 2. a requirement of correct behaviour in polite society.

decoy *n.* ('di:kɔɪ, di'kɔɪ). 1. a person or thing used to lure someone into danger. 2. *Mil.* something designed to deceive an enemy. 3. a bird or animal, or an image of one, used to lure game into a trap or within shooting range. 4. a place into which game can be lured for capture. ~*vb.* (di'kɔɪ). 5. to lure or be lured by or as if by means of a decoy. 6. (tr.) *Canad.* another word for **deke**.

decrease *vb.* (di'kri:s) 1. to diminish or cause to diminish in size, strength, etc. ~*n.* ('di:kri:s, di'kri:s). 2. a diminution; reduction. 3. the amount by which something has been diminished. —**de'creasingly** *adv.*

decree (di'kriː) *n.* 1. an edict, law, etc., made by someone in authority. 2. an order or judgment of a court. ~*vb.* **de'creeing, decreed**. 3. to order, adjudge, or ordain by decree.

decree absolute *n.* the final decree in divorce proceedings, which leaves the parties free to remarry. Cf. **decree nisi**.

decree nisi ('naɪsaɪ) *n.* a provisional decree, esp. in divorce proceedings, which will later be made absolute unless cause is shown why it should not. Cf. **decree absolute**.

decrepit (di'kreɪt) *adj.* 1. enfeebled by old age; infirm. 2. broken down or worn out by hard or long use; dilapidated. —**de'crepi,tude** *n.*

decrescendo (,di:kri'fendəʊ) *n.* another word for **diminuendo**.

decretal (di'kri:təl) *n.* 1. *R.C. Church*. a papal decree;

edict on doctrine or church law. ~adj. 2. of or relating to a decree.

decry (di'krai) vb. -crying, -cried. (tr.) 1. to express open disapproval of; disparage. 2. to depreciate by proclamation: *to decry obsolete coinage*.

dedicate ('dedi,keɪt) vb. (tr.) 1. (often foll. by *to*) to devote (oneself, one's time, etc.) wholly to a special purpose or cause. 2. (foll. by *to*) to address (a book, performance, etc.) to (a person, cause, etc.) as a token of affection or respect. 3. to set apart for a deity or for sacred uses. —**'dedicator** *n.* —**dedicatory** ('dedi-,keɪtəri, 'dedikətəri) or **'dedicative** adj.

dedicated ('dedi,keɪtɪd) adj. 1. devoted to a particular purpose or cause. 2. Computers. designed to fulfil one function.

dedication ('dedi'keɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of dedicating or being dedicated. 2. an inscription prefixed to a book, etc., dedicating it to a person or thing. 3. wholehearted devotion, esp. to a career, ideal, etc. —**'dedicational** adj.

deduce (di'dju:s) vb. (tr.) 1. (may take a clause as object) to reach (a conclusion) by reasoning; conclude (that); infer. 2. Arch. to trace the origin or derivation of. —**'deducible** adj.

deduct (di'dʌkt) vb. (tr.) to take away or subtract (a number, quantity, part, etc.).

deductible (di'dʌktɪbəl) adj. 1. capable of being deducted. 2. U.S. short for **tax-deductible**. ~*n.* 3. Insurance. the U.S. name for **excess** (sense 5).

deduction (di'dʌkʃən) *n.* 1. the act or process of deducting or subtracting. 2. something that is or may be deducted. 3. Logic. a. a process of reasoning by which a specific conclusion necessarily follows from a set of general premisses. b. a logical conclusion reached by this process. —**'deductive** adj.

deed (di:ɪd) *n.* 1. something that is done or performed; act. 2. a notable achievement. 3. action as opposed to words. 4. Law. a legal document signed, sealed, and delivered to effect a conveyance or transfer of property or to create a legal contract. ~vb. 5. (tr.) U.S. to convey or transfer (property) by deed.

deed box *n.* a strong box in which deeds and other documents are kept.

deed poll *n.* Law. a deed made by one party only, esp. one by which a person changes his name.

deejay ('di:,dʒeɪ) *n.* an informal name for **disc jockey**.

deem (di:m) vb. (tr.) to judge or consider.

deemster ('di:mstə) *n.* the title of one of the two justices in the Isle of Man. Also called: **dempster**.

deep (di:p) adj. 1. extending or situated far down from a surface: a **deep pool**. 2. extending or situated far inwards, backwards, or sideways. 3. Cricket. far from the pitch: **the deep field**. 4. (postpositive) of a specified dimension downwards, inwards, or backwards: **six feet deep**. 5. coming from or penetrating to a great depth. 6. difficult to understand; abstruse. 7. intellectually demanding: **a deep discussion**. 8. of great intensity: **deep trouble**. 9. (postpositive; foll. by *in*) absorbed (by); immersed (in): **deep in study**. 10. very cunning; devious. 11. mysterious: **a deep secret**. 12. (of a colour) having an intense or dark hue. 13. low in pitch: **a deep voice**. 14. **deep down**. *Inf.* in reality, esp. as opposed to appearance. 15. **go off the deep end**. *Inf.* a. to become hysterical; lose one's temper. b. Chiefly U.S. to act rashly. 16. **in deep water**. *Inf.* in a tricky position or in trouble. ~*n.* 17. any deep place on land or under water. 18. **the deep**. a. a poetic term for the ocean. b. Cricket. the area of the field relatively far from the pitch. 19. the most profound, intense, or central part: **the deep of winter**. 20. a vast extent, as of space or time. ~adv. 21. far on in time; late: **they worked deep into the night**. 22. profoundly or intensely. —**'deeply** adv. —**'deepness** *n.*

deepen ('di:pən) vb. to make or become deep, deeper, or more intense. —**'deepener** *n.*

deepfreeze ('di:p'fri:z) *n.* 1. a refrigerator in which food, etc., is stored for long periods at temperatures below freezing. 2. storage in a deepfreeze. 3. *Inf.* a state of suspended activity. ~vb. **deep-freeze**, **-froze** or **-frozen**, **-frozen** or **-frozen**. 4. (tr.) to freeze or keep in a deepfreeze.

deep-laid adj. (of a plot or plan) carefully worked out and kept secret.

deep-rooted or **deep-seated** adj. (of ideas, beliefs, etc.) firmly fixed or held; ingrained.

deer (diə) *n.*, pl. **deer** or **deers**. any of a family of hoofed, ruminant mammals including reindeer, elk, and roe deer, typically having antlers in the male. Related adj.: **cervine**.

deerskin ('diə,skɪn) *n.* a. the hide of a deer. b. (as modifier): *a deerskin jacket*.

deerstalker ('diə,stɔ:kə) *n.* 1. a person who stalks deer, esp. in order to shoot them. 2. a hat, peaked in front and behind, with earflaps usually tied together on the top. —**'deerstalking** adj., *n.*

de-escalate (di:'eskeɪleɪt) vb. to reduce the level or intensity of. —**'de-escalation** *n.*

deface (di'feɪs) vb. (tr.) to spoil or mar the surface or appearance of; disfigure. —**'de'faceable** adj. —**'de'facement** *n.* —**'de'facer** *n.*

de facto (dei 'fæktəʊ) adv. 1. in fact. ~adj. 2. existing in fact, whether legally recognized or not: *a de facto regime*. Cf. **de jure**. ~*n.* 3. N.Z. & Austral. a de facto wife or husband.

defalcate ('defæl,keɪt) vb. (intr.) Law. to misuse or misappropriate property or funds entrusted to one. —**'defalcator** *n.*

defame (di'feɪm) vb. (tr.) to attack the good name or reputation of; slander; libel. —**'defamation** ('defə'meɪʃən) *n.* —**'defamatory** (di'fæmətəri) adj.

default (di'fɔ:lt) *n.* 1. a failure to act, esp. a failure to meet a financial obligation or to appear in a court of law at a time specified. 2. absence. 3. in **default of**, through or in the lack or absence of. 4. **judgment by default**. Law. a judgment in the plaintiff's favour when the defendant fails to plead or to appear. 5. lack, want, or need. ~vb. 6. (intr.; often foll. by *on* or *in*) to fail to make payment when due. 7. (intr.) to fail to fulfil an obligation. 8. Law. to lose (a case) by failure to appear in court.

defeat (di'fi:t) vb. (tr.) 1. to overcome; win a victory over. 2. to thwart or frustrate. 3. Law. to render null and void. ~*n.* 4. a defeating or being defeated. —**'defeatism** *n.*

defecate ('defɪ,keɪt) vb. 1. (intr.) to discharge waste from the body through the anus. 2. (tr.) to remove impurities from. —**'defecation** *n.* —**'defecator** *n.*

defect *n.* (di'fekt, 'di:fekt). 1. a lack of something necessary for completeness; deficiency. 2. an imperfection or blemish. ~vb. (di'fekt). 3. (intr.) to desert one's country, cause, etc., esp. in order to join the opposing forces. —**'defection** *n.* —**'defector** *n.*

defective (di'fektɪv) adj. 1. having a defect or flaw; imperfect. 2. (of a person) below the usual standard or level, esp. in intelligence. 3. Grammar. lacking the full range of inflections characteristic of its form class. —**'defectiveness** *n.*

defence or **U.S. defense** (di'fens) *n.* 1. resistance against danger or attack. 2. a person or thing that provides such resistance. 3. a plea, essay, etc., in support of something. 4. military measures or resources protecting a country against an opponent. 5. Law. a defendant's denial of the truth of the allegations or charge against him. 6. Law. the defendant and his legal advisers collectively. 7. Sport. a. the action of protecting oneself or part of the playing area against an opponent's attacks. b. (usually preceded by *the*) the players in a team whose function is to do this. 8. (pl.) fortifications. —**'defenceless** or **U.S. de'fenseless** adj.

defend (di'fend) vb. 1. to protect from harm or danger. 2. (tr.) to support in the face of criticism, esp. by argument. 3. to represent (a defendant) in court. 4. Sport. to guard (one's goal, etc.) against attack. 5. (tr.) to protect (a title, etc.) against a challenge. —**'defender** *n.*

defendant (di'fendənt) *n.* 1. a person against whom an action or claim is brought in a court of law. Cf. **plaintiff**. ~adj. 2. defending.

defensible (di'fensəbəl) adj. capable of being defended, as in war, an argument, etc. —**'defensibility** or **'defensibleness** *n.*

defensive (di'fensɪv) adj. 1. intended for defence. 2. rejecting criticisms of oneself. ~*n.* 3. a position of defence. 4. on the **defensive**, in a position of defence, as in being ready to reject criticism. —**'defensively** adv.

defer (di'fɜ:) vb. -ferring, -ferred, to delay until a future time; postpone. —**'deferment** or **de'ferral** *n.* —**'defer-rer** *n.*

defer' (di'fɜ:) vb. -ferring, -ferred. (intr.; foll. by *to*) to yield (to) or comply (with) the wishes or judgments of another.

deference ('defərəns) *n.* 1. compliance with the wishes of another. 2. courteous regard; respect.

deferential ('defɜ:'renʃəl) adj. showing deference; respectful. —**'deferentially** adv.

defiance (di'faiəns) *n.* 1. open or bold resistance to

authority, opposition, or power. 2. a challenge. —**de'fiant** *adj.*

deficiency (di'fɪʃənsi) *n.*, *pl.* **-cies**. 1. the state or quality of being deficient. 2. a lack or insufficiency; shortage. 3. a deficit.

deficiency disease *n.* any condition, such as pellagra, beriberi, or scurvy, produced by a lack of vitamins or other essential substances.

deficient (di'fɪʃənt) *adj.* 1. lacking some essential; incomplete; defective. 2. inadequate in quantity or supply; insufficient. —**de'ficiently** *adv.*

deficit ('defɪst, di'fɪst) *n.* 1. the amount by which an actual sum is lower than that expected or required. 2. a. an excess of liabilities over assets. b. an excess of expenditures over revenues.

defile (di'fʌɪl) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to make foul or dirty; pollute. 2. to taint; corrupt. 3. to damage or sully (someone's reputation, etc.). 4. to make unfit for ceremonial use. 5. to violate the chastity of. —**de'filement** *n.*

defile ('di'fʌɪl, di'fʌɪl) *n.* 1. a narrow pass or gorge. 2. a single file of soldiers, etc. ~*vb.* 3. to march in single file.

define (di'faɪn) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to state precisely the meaning of (words, etc.). 2. to describe the nature of. 3. to determine the boundary or extent of. 4. (often passive) to delineate the form or outline of. 5. to fix with precision; specify. —**de'finable** *adj.* —**de'finer** *n.*

definite ('defɪnɪt) *adj.* 1. clearly defined; exact. 2. having precise limits or boundaries. 3. known for certain. —**definitely** *adv.* —**definiteness** *n.*

▷ **Usage.** *Definite* and *definitive* should be carefully distinguished. *Definite* indicates precision and firmness, as in a *definite decision*. *Definitive* includes these senses but also indicates conclusiveness. A *definite answer* indicates a clear and firm answer to a particular question; a *definitive answer* implies an authoritative resolution of a complex question.

definite article *n.* *Grammar.* a determiner that expresses specificity of reference, such as *the* in English. Cf. **indefinite article**.

definition ('defɪnɪʃən) *n.* 1. a formal and concise statement of the meaning of a word, phrase, etc. 2. the act of defining. 3. the act of making clear or definite. 4. the state of being clearly defined. 5. a measure of the clarity of an optical, photographic, or television image as characterized by its sharpness and contrast.

definitive (di'fɪnɪtɪv) *adj.* 1. serving to decide or settle finally. 2. most reliable or authoritative. 3. serving to define or outline. 4. *Zool.* fully developed. 5. (of postage stamps) permanently on sale. ~*n.* 6. *Grammar.* a word indicating specificity of reference. —**de'finitively** *adv.*

▷ **Usage.** See at **definite**.

deflate (di'flet) *vb.* 1. to collapse through the release of gas. 2. (tr.) to take away the self-esteem or conceit from. 3. *Econ.* to cause deflation of (an economy, the money supply, etc.). —**de'flator** *n.*

deflation (di'fleiʃən) *n.* 1. a deflating or being deflated. 2. *Econ.* a reduction in economic activity resulting in lower levels of output, employment, investment, trade, profits, and prices. 3. the removal of loose rock material, etc., by wind. —**de'flationary** *adj.* —**de'flationist** *n.*, *adj.*

deflect (di'flekt) *vb.* to turn or cause to turn aside from a course; swerve. —**de'flection** *n.* —**de'flector** *n.*

deflower (di'flaʊə) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to deprive (esp. a woman) of virginity. 2. to despoil of beauty, innocence, etc. 3. to rob or despoil of flowers. —**de'flo'ration** *n.*

defoliate (di'fəʊli,et) *vb.* to deprive (a plant) of its leaves. —**de'foli'ation** *n.*

deform (di'fɔ:m) *vb.* 1. to make or become misshapen or distorted. 2. (tr.) to mar the beauty of; disfigure. 3. (tr.) to subject or be subjected to a stress that causes a change of dimensions. —**de'formable** *adj.* —**de'for'mation** *n.*

deformed (di'fɔ:md) *adj.* 1. disfigured or misshapen. 2. morally perverted; warped.

deformity (di'fɔ:mti) *n.*, *pl.* **-ties**. 1. a deformed condition. 2. *Pathol.* a distortion of an organ or part. 3. a deformed person or thing. 4. a defect, esp. of the mind or morals; depravity.

defraud (di'frɔ:d) *vb.* (tr.) to take away or withhold money, rights, property, etc., from (a person) by fraud; swindle. —**de'frauder** *n.*

defray (di'frei) *vb.* (tr.) to provide money for (costs, expenses, etc.); pay. —**de'frayable** *adj.* —**de'frayal** or **de'frayment** *n.*

defrock (di:'frɒk) *vb.* (tr.) to deprive (a person in holy orders) of ecclesiastical status; unrock.

defrost (di:'frɒst) *vb.* 1. to make or become free of frost or ice. 2. to thaw, esp. through removal from a refrigerator.

deft (deft) *adj.* quick and neat in movement; nimble; dexterous. —**deftly** *adv.* —**deftness** *n.*

defunct (di'fʌŋkt) *adj.* 1. no longer living; dead or extinct. 2. no longer operative or valid. —**de'functness** *n.*

defuse or **U.S. (sometimes) defuze** (di:'fju:z) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to remove the triggering device of (a bomb, etc.). 2. to remove the cause of tension from (a crisis, etc.).

defy (di'fai) *vb.* **-fying, -fied.** (tr.) 1. to resist openly and boldly. 2. to elude, esp. in a baffling way. 3. *Formal.* to challenge (someone to do something); dare. 4. *Arch.* to invite to do battle or combat. —**de'fier** *n.*

degenerate *vb.* (di'dʒenə,ret). (intr.) 1. to become degenerate. 2. *Biol.* (of organisms or their parts) to become less specialized or functionally useless. ~*adj.* (di'dʒenərit). 3. having declined or deteriorated to a lower mental, moral, or physical level; degraded; corrupt. ~*n.* (di'dʒenərit). 4. a degenerate person. —**de'generacy** or **de'generateness** *n.* —**de'generately** *adv.* —**de'generative** *adj.*

degeneration (di'dʒenə'reiʃən) *n.* 1. the process of degenerating. 2. the state of being degenerate. 3. *Biol.* the loss of specialization, function, or structure by organisms and their parts. 4. impairment or loss of the function and structure of cells or tissues, as by disease or injury. 5. *Electronics.* negative feedback of a signal.

degrade (di'greɪd) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to reduce in worth, character, etc.; disgrace. 2. (di:'greɪd) (tr.) to reduce in rank or status; demote. 3. (tr.) to reduce in strength, quality, etc. 4. to reduce or be reduced by erosion or down-cutting, as a land surface or bed of a river. 5. *Chem.* to decompose into atoms or smaller molecules. —**de'gradation** *n.* —**de'grader** *n.* —**de'grading** *adj.*

degree (di'gri:) *n.* 1. a stage in a scale of relative amount or intensity: a *high degree of competence*. 2. an academic award conferred by a university or college on successful completion of a course or as an honorary distinction (**honorary degree**). 3. any of three categories of seriousness of a burn. 4. (in the U.S.) any of the categories into which a crime is divided according to its seriousness. 5. *Genealogy.* a step in a line of descent. 6. *Grammar.* any of the forms of an adjective used to indicate relative amount or intensity: in English they are *positive, comparative, and superlative*. 7. *Music.* any note of a diatonic scale relative to the other notes in that scale. 8. a unit of temperature on a specified scale. Symbol: °. See also **Celsius scale**, **Fahrenheit scale**. 9. a measure of angle equal to one three-hundred-and-sixtieth of the angle traced by one complete revolution of a line about one of its ends. Symbol: °. 10. a unit of latitude or longitude used to define points on the earth's surface. Symbol: °. 11. a unit on any of several scales of measurement, as for specific gravity. Symbol: °. 12. *Maths.* a. the highest power or the sum of the powers of any term in a polynomial or by itself: $x^4 + x + 3$ and xyz^2 are of the *fourth degree*. b. the greatest power of the highest order derivative in a differential equation. 13. *Obs.* a step; rung. 14. *Arch.* a stage in social status or rank. 15. by **degrees**. little by little; gradually. 16. to a **degree**. somewhat; rather.

dehisce (di'his) *vb.* (intr.) (of fruits, anthers, etc.) to burst open spontaneously, releasing seeds, pollen, etc. —**de'hiscent** *adj.*

dehumanize or **-ise** (di:'hju:mə,naɪz) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to deprive of human qualities. 2. to render mechanical, artificial, or routine. —**de,hu'mani'zation** or **-i'sation** *n.*

dehydrate (di:'haɪdreɪt) *vb.* 1. to lose or cause to lose water. 2. to lose or deprive of water, as the body or tissues. —**de'hydration** *n.* —**de'hydrator** *n.*

de-ice (di:'aɪs) *vb.* to free or be freed of ice. —**de-'icer** *n.*

deify ('di:ɪ,faɪ, 'deɪ-) *vb.* **-fying, -fied.** (tr.) 1. to exalt to the position of a god or personify as a god. 2. to accord divine honour or worship to. —**deifi'cation** *n.* —**de,ifier** *n.*

deign (deɪn) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to think it fit or worthy of oneself (to do something); condescend. 2. *Arch.* to vouchsafe.

deism ('di:ɪzəm, 'deɪ-) *n.* belief in the existence of God based solely on natural reason, without reference to revelation. Cf. **theism**. —**de'ist** *n.*, *adj.* —**de'istic** or **de'istical** *adj.* —**de'istically** *adv.*

deity ('di:ɪti, 'deɪ-) *n.*, *pl.* **-ties**. 1. a god or goddess. 2.

the state of being divine; godhead. **3.** the rank of a god.
4. the nature or character of God.

Deity ('di:ti, 'dei-) *n.* the God.

déjà vu ('deɪʒə 'vu:) *n.* the experience of perceiving a new situation as if it had occurred before.

deject (di'dʒekt) *vb.* (tr.) to have a depressing effect on; dispirit; dishearten. —**de'jection** *n.*

dejected (di'dʒektɪd) *adj.* miserable; despondent; downhearted. —**de'jectedly** *adv.*

de jure (dei 'dʒurei) *adj.* according to law; by right; legally. Cf. **de facto**.

deke (di:k) *Canad. sl.* ~*vb.* **1.** (tr.) (in ice hockey or box lacrosse) to draw a defending player out of position by faking a shot or movement. ~*n.* **2.** such a shot or movement.

dekkō ('dekəʊ) *n., pl. -kos.* *Brit. sl.* a look; glance.

delay (di'lei) *vb.* **1.** (tr.) to put off to a later time; defer. **2.** (tr.) to slow up or cause to be late. **3.** (intr.) to be irrelative or put off doing something. **4.** (intr.) to linger; dawdle. ~*n.* **5.** a delaying or being delayed. **6.** the interval between one event and another. —**de'layer** *n.*

delectable (di'lektəbəl) *adj.* highly enjoyable, esp. pleasing to the taste; delightful. —**de'lectableness** or **de'lectability** *n.*

delectation (,di:lek'teɪʃən) *n.* pleasure; enjoyment.

delegate *n.* (,deli,geit, -gɪt). **1.** a person chosen to act for another or others, esp. at a conference or meeting. ~*vb.* (,deli,geit). **2.** to give (duties, powers, etc.) to another as representative; depute. **3.** (tr.) to authorize (a person) as representative. —**delegable** (,deli,geəbəl) *adj.*

delegation (,deli,geɪʃən) *n.* **1.** a person or group chosen to represent another or others. **2.** a delegating or being delegated.

delete (di'li:t) *vb.* (tr.) to remove (something printed or written); erase; strike out. —**de'letion** *n.*

deleterious (,deli'tɪəriəs) *adj.* harmful; injurious; hurtful. —**dele'teriousness** *n.*

Delft (delft) *n.* **1.** a town in the SW Netherlands. **2.** Also called: **delftware**, tin-glazed earthenware which originated in Delft, typically having blue decoration on a white ground.

deliberate *adj.* (di'lɪbəɪt). **1.** carefully thought out in advance; intentional. **2.** careful or unhurried: *a deliberate pace*. ~*vb.* (di'lɪbə,reit). **3.** to consider (something) deeply; think over. —**de'liberately** *adv.* —**de'liberateness** *n.* —**de'liberative** *adj.* —**de'liber,ator** *n.*

deliberation (di,lɪbə'reɪʃən) *n.* **1.** careful consideration. **2.** (often pl.) formal discussion, as of a committee. **3.** care or absence of hurry.

delicacy ('delɪkəsi) *n., pl. -cies.* **1.** fine or subtle quality, character, construction, etc. **2.** fragile or graceful beauty. **3.** something that is considered choice to eat, such as caviar. **4.** fragile construction or constitution. **5.** refinement of feeling, manner, or appreciation. **6.** fussy or squeamish refinement, esp. in matters of taste, propriety, etc. **7.** need for tactful or sensitive handling. **8.** sensitivity of response, as of an instrument.

delicate ('delɪkɪt) *adj.* **1.** fine or subtle in quality, character, construction, etc. **2.** having a soft or fragile beauty. **3.** (of colour, tone, taste, etc.) pleasantly subtle. **4.** easily damaged or injured; fragile. **5.** precise or sensitive in action: *a delicate mechanism*. **6.** requiring tact. **7.** showing regard for the feelings of others. **8.** excessively refined; squeamish. —**de'licately** *adv.* —**de'licateness** *n.*

delicatessen (,delɪkə'tes'n) *n.* **1.** various foods, esp. unusual or imported foods, already cooked or prepared. **2.** a shop selling these foods.

delicious (di'liʃəs) *adj.* **1.** very appealing, esp. to taste or smell. **2.** extremely enjoyable. —**de'liciously** *adv.* —**de'liciousness** *n.*

delight (di'laɪt) *vb.* **1.** (tr.) to please greatly. **2.** (intr.; foll. by *in*) to take great pleasure (in). ~*n.* **3.** extreme pleasure. **4.** something that causes this. —**de'lighted** *adj.* —**de'lightedly** *adv.*

delightful (di'laɪtful) *adj.* giving great delight; very pleasing, beautiful, charming, etc. —**de'lightfully** *adv.* —**de'lightfulness** *n.*

delimit (di:'lɪmt) or **delimitate** *vb.* (tr.) to mark or prescribe the limits or boundaries of. —**de,limi'tation** *n.* —**de'limitative** *adj.*

delineate (di:'lɪni,eɪt) *vb.* (tr.) **1.** to trace the outline of. **2.** to represent pictorially; depict. **3.** to portray in words; describe. —**de,line'ation** *n.* —**de'lineative** *adj.*

delinquent (di'liŋkwənt) *n.* **1.** someone, esp. a young

person, guilty of delinquency. ~*adj.* **2.** guilty of an offence or misdeed. **3.** failing in or neglectful of duty or obligation. —**de'linquency** *n.*

deliquesce (,delɪ'kwes) *vb.* (intr.) (esp. of certain salts) to dissolve gradually in water absorbed from the air. —**de'liquescence** *n.*

delirious (di'lɪriəs) *adj.* **1.** affected with delirium. **2.** wildly excited, esp. with joy or enthusiasm. —**de'liiriously** *adv.*

delirium (di'lɪriəm) *n., pl. -liriums, -liria* (-'lɪriə). **1.** a state of excitement and mental confusion, often accompanied by hallucinations, caused by high fever, poisoning, brain injury, etc. **2.** violent excitement or emotion; frenzy.

delirium tremens ('tremenz, 'tri:-) *n.* a severe psychotic condition occurring in some persons with chronic alcoholism, characterized by delirium, tremor, anxiety, and vivid hallucinations. Abbrevs.: **D.T.'s** (informal), **d.t.**

deliver (di'lɪvə) *vb.* (mainly tr.) **1.** to carry to a destination, esp. to distribute (goods, mail, etc.) to several places. **2.** (often foll. by *over* or *up*) to hand over or transfer. **3.** (often foll. by *from*) to release or rescue (from captivity, harm, etc.). **4.** (also intr.) **a.** to aid in the birth (of offspring). **b.** to give birth to (offspring). **c.** (usually foll. by *of*) to aid (a female) in the birth (of offspring). **d.** (passive; foll. by *of*) to give birth (to offspring). **5.** to present (a speech, idea, etc.). **6.** to utter: *to deliver a cry of exultation*. **7.** to discharge or release (something, such as a blow or shot) suddenly. **8.** Chiefly U.S. to cause (voters, etc.) to support a given candidate, cause, etc. **9.** deliver oneself of. to speak with deliberation or at length. **10.** deliver the goods. *Inf.* to produce something promised or expected. —**de'liverrable** *adj.* —**de'liverrance** *n.* —**de'liverr** *n.*

delivery (di'lɪvəri) *n., pl. -eries.* **1. a.** the act of delivering or distributing goods, mail, etc. **b.** something that is delivered. **2.** the act of giving birth to a child. **3.** manner or style of utterance, esp. in public speaking: *the chairman had a clear delivery*. **4.** the act of giving or transferring or the state of being given or transferred. **5.** a rescuing or being rescued; liberation. **6.** Sport. the act or manner of bowling or throwing a ball. **7.** the handing over of property, a deed, etc.

dell (del) *n.* a small, esp. wooded hollow.

delouse (di:'laus, 'laʊz) *vb.* (tr.) to rid (a person or animal) of lice as a sanitary measure.

Delphic ('delfɪk) or **Delphian** *adj.* **1.** of or relating to the ancient Greek city of Delphi or its oracle or temple. **2.** obscure or ambiguous.

delphinium (del'fɪniəm) *n., pl. -iums or -ia* (-ɪə). a plant with spikes of blue, pink, or white spurred flowers. See also **larkspur**.

delta ('delta) *n.* **1.** the fourth letter in the Greek alphabet (Δ or δ). **2.** (cap. when part of name) the flat alluvial area at the mouth of some rivers where the mainstream splits up into several distributaries. **3.** Maths. a finite increment in a variable. —**deltaic** (del'tenk) or **de'ltic** *adj.*

delta wing *n.* a triangular swept-back aircraft wing.

delude (di'lud) *vb.* (tr.) to deceive; mislead; beguile. —**de'ludable** *adj.* —**de'luder** *n.* —**delusive** (di'lusɪv) *adj.*

deluge ('deljʊ:dʒ) *n.* **1.** a great flood of water. **2.** torrential rain. **3.** an overwhelming rush or number. ~*vb.* (tr.) **4.** to flood. **5.** to overwhelm; inundate.

Deluge ('deljʊ:dʒ) *n.* the. another name for the Flood.

delusion (di'lʊ:ʒən) *n.* **1.** a mistaken idea, belief, etc. **2.** Psychiatry. a belief held in the face of evidence to the contrary, that is resistant to all reason. **3.** a deluding or being deluded. —**de'lusional** *adj.* —**de'lusive** *adj.* —**delusory** (di'lusəri) *adj.*

de luxe (də 'lʌks, 'lʊks) *adj.* **1.** rich or sumptuous; superior in quality: *the de luxe model of a car*. ~*adv.* **2.** Chiefly U.S. in a luxurious manner.

delve (delv) *vb.* (mainly intr.; often foll. by *in* or *into*) **1.** to research deeply or intensively (for information, etc.). **2.** to search or rummage. **3.** to dig or burrow deeply. **4.** (also tr.) Arch. or Brit. dialect. to dig. —**delver** *n.*

demagnetize or **-ise** (di:'mæɡnə,təɪz) *vb.* to remove or lose magnetic properties. Also: **degauss**. —**de,magnetization** or **-i'sation** *n.* —**de'magnet,izer** or **-iser** *n.*

demagogue or U.S. (sometimes) **demagog** ('demo,ɡɒɡ) *n.* **1.** a political agitator who appeals with crude oratory to the prejudice and passions of the mob. **2.** (esp. in the ancient world) any popular political leader or orator. —**demagogic** (,demo'ɡɒɡɪk) *adj.* —**dema'goguery** *n.* —**demagogy** ('demo,ɡɒɡɪ) *n.*

demand (dɪ'mɑːnd) *vb.* (tr.; may take a clause as object or an infinitive) 1. to request preemptorily or urgently. 2. to require as just, urgent, etc.: *the situation demands attention*. 3. to claim as a right; exact. 4. *Law*. to make a formal legal claim to (property). ~*n.* 5. an urgent or peremptory requirement or request. 6. something that requires special effort or sacrifice. 7. the act of demanding something or the thing demanded. 8. an insistent question. 9. *Econ.* a. willingness and ability to purchase goods and services. b. the amount of a commodity that consumers are willing and able to purchase at a specified price. Cf. **supply**. 10. *Law*. a formal legal claim, esp. to real property. 11. in demand, sought after. 12. on demand, as soon as requested. —**de'mand-able** *adj.* —**de'mander** *n.*

demanding (dɪ'mɑːndɪŋ) *adj.* requiring great patience, skill, etc.: *a demanding job*.

demarcation or demarkation (,dɪ'mɑː'keɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of establishing limits or boundaries. 2. a limit or boundary. 3. a. a strict separation of the kinds of work performed by members of different trade unions. b. (as modifier): *demarcation dispute*. 4. separation or distinction (as in line of demarcation).

demean (dɪ'miːn) *vb.* (tr.) to lower (oneself) in dignity, status, or character; humble; debase.

demeanour or U.S. demeanor (dɪ'miːnə) *n.* 1. the way a person behaves towards others. 2. bearing or mien.

demented (dɪ'mentɪd) *adj.* mad; insane. —**de'mentedly** *adv.* —**de'mentedness** *n.*

dementia (dɪ'menʃə, -ʃiə) *n.* a state of serious mental deterioration, of organic or functional origin.

demerara (,dɛmə'reɪə, -'rɑːrə) *n.* brown crystallized cane sugar from the West Indies.

demerit (dɪ'merɪt) *n.* 1. something that deserves censure. 2. *U.S.* a mark given against a student, etc. for failure or misconduct. 3. a fault. —**de,meri'torious** *adj.*

demesne (dɪ'meɪn, -'miːn) *n.* 1. land surrounding a house or manor. 2. *Property law*. the possession and use of one's own property or land. 3. realm; domain. 4. a region or district.

semi- *prefix.* 1. half: *demirelief*. 2. of less than full size, status, or rank: *demigod*.

demigod (,dɛmɪ,gɒd) *n.* 1. a. a being who is part mortal, part god. b. a lesser deity. 2. a person with godlike attributes. —**'demi,goddess** *fem. n.*

demijohn (,dɛmɪ,dʒɒn) *n.* a large bottle with a short narrow neck, often encased in wickerwork.

demilitarize or -ise (dɪ'mɪlɪtə,raɪz) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to remove and prohibit any military presence or function in (an area): *demilitarized zone*. 2. to free of military character, purpose, etc. —**de,militari'zation** or **-i'sation** *n.*

demimonde (,dɛmɪ'mɒnd) *n.* 1. (esp. in the 19th century) those women considered to be outside respectable society, esp. on account of sexual promiscuity. 2. any group considered to be not wholly respectable.

demise (dɪ'maɪz) *n.* 1. failure or termination. 2. a euphemistic or formal word for **death**. 3. *Property law*. a transfer of an estate by lease or on the death of the owner. 4. the transfer of sovereignty to a successor upon the death, abdication, etc., of a ruler (esp. in **demise of the crown**). ~*vb.* 5. to transfer or be transferred by inheritance, will, or succession. 6. (tr.) *Property law*. to transfer for a limited period; lease. 7. (tr.) to transfer (sovereignty, a title, etc.) —**de'mis-able** *adj.*

demisemiquaver (,dɛmɪ,semi,kweɪvə) *n.* *Music*. a note having the time value of one thirty-second of a semibreve. Usual U.S. name: **thirty-second note**.

demo (,dɛməʊ) *n., pl. -os.* short for **demonstration**.

demo- or before a vowel **dem-** *combining form.* indicating people or population: *demography*.

demob (dɪ'mɒb) *Brit. inf.* ~*vb.* **mobbing**, **mobbed**. 1. to demobilize. ~*n.* 2. demobilization.

demobilize or -ise (dɪ'məʊbɪ,laɪz) *vb.* to disband, as troops, etc. —**de,mobili'zation** or **-i'sation** *n.*

democracy (dɪ'mɒkrəsi) *n., pl. -cies.* 1. government by the people or their elected representatives. 2. control of any organization by its members: *industrial democracy*. 3. a political or social unit governed ultimately by all its members. 4. the practice or spirit of social equality. 5. a social condition of classlessness and equality.

democrat (,dɛmə,kreɪt) *n.* 1. an advocate of democracy. 2. a member or supporter of a democratic party or movement.

Democrat (,dɛmə,kreɪt) *n.* *U.S. politics.* a member or supporter of the Democratic Party. —**Demo'cratic** *adj.*

democratic (,dɛmə'krætɪk) *adj.* 1. of or relating to the principles of democracy. 2. upholding democracy or the interests of the common people. 3. popular with or for the benefit of all. —**demo'cratically** *adv.*

demodulation (,dɪ'mɒdju'leɪʃən) *n.* *Electronics.* the act or process by which an output wave or signal is obtained having the characteristics of the original modulating wave or signal; the reverse of modulation.

demography (dɪ'mɒgrəfi) *n.* the science of population statistics. —**de'mographer** *n.* —**demographic** (,dɪ'mə'græfɪk, ,dɛmə-) *adj.*

demolish (dɪ'mɒlɪʃ) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to tear down or break up (buildings, etc.). 2. to put an end to (an argument, etc.). 3. *Facetious.* to eat up. —**de'molisher** *n.* —**demo'lition** *n.*

demon (,dɪ:mən) *n.* 1. an evil spirit or devil. 2. a person, obsession, etc., thought of as evil or cruel. 3. Also called: **daemon**, an attendant or ministering spirit; genius: *the demon of inspiration*. 4. a. a person extremely skilful in or devoted to a given activity, esp. a sport: *a demon at cycling*. b. (as modifier): *a demon cyclist*. 5. a variant spelling of **daemon** (sense 1). 6. *Austral. sl.* a detective or policeman, esp. one in plain clothes. —**demonic** (dɪ'mɒnɪk) *adj.*

demonetize or -ise (dɪ'məni'taɪz) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to deprive (a metal) of its capacity as a monetary standard. 2. to withdraw from use as currency. —**de,moneti'zation** or **-i'sation** *n.*

demoniac (dɪ'məni,æk) *adj.* also **demoniacal** (,dɪ:mə-'nærɪkəl). 1. of or like a demon. 2. suggesting inner possession or inspiration: *the demoniac fire of genius*. 3. frantic; frenzied. ~*n.* 4. a person possessed by a demon. —**demo'niacally** *adv.*

demonolatry (,dɪ:mə'nɒlətri) *n.* the worship of demons.

demonology (,dɪ:mə'nɒlədʒɪ) *n.* the study of demons or demonic beliefs. Also called: **demonism**. —**demon'ologist** *n.*

demonstrable (,dɛmənstreɪbəl) *adj.* able to be demonstrated or proved. —**de,monstra'bility** *n.* —**demon-strably** *adv.*

demonstrate (,dɛmənst'reɪt) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to show or prove, esp. by reasoning, evidence, etc. 2. (tr.) to explain by experiment, example, etc. 3. (tr.) to display and explain the workings of (a machine, product, etc.). 4. (intr.) to manifest support, protest, etc., by public parades or rallies. 5. (intr.) to be employed as a demonstrator of machinery, etc. 6. (intr.) *Mil.* to make a show of force.

demonstration (,dɛmənst'reɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of demonstrating. 2. proof or evidence leading to proof. 3. an explanation, illustration, or experiment showing how something works. 4. a manifestation of support or protest by public rallies, parades, etc. 5. a manifestation of emotion. 6. a show of military force. —**demon'strational** *adj.* —**demon'strationist** *n.*

demonstrative (dɪ'mɒnstreɪtɪv) *adj.* 1. tending to express one's feelings easily or unreservedly. 2. (*postpositive*; foll. by *of*) serving as proof; indicative. 3. involving or characterized by demonstration. 4. conclusive. 5. *Grammar*. denoting or belonging to a class of determiners used to point out the individual referent or referents intended, such as *this* and *those*. Cf. **interrogative**, **relative**. ~*n.* 6. *Grammar*. a demonstrative word. —**de'monstratively** *adv.* —**de'monstrativeness** *n.*

demonstrator (,dɛmənst'reɪtə) *n.* 1. a person who demonstrates equipment, machines, products, etc. 2. a person who takes part in a public demonstration.

demoralize or -ise (dɪ'mɒrə,laɪz) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to undermine the morale of; dishearten. 2. to corrupt. 3. to throw into confusion. —**de,morali'zation** or **-i'sation** *n.*

demote (dɪ'məʊt) *vb.* (tr.) to lower in rank or position; relegate. —**de'motion** *n.*

demotic (dɪ'mɒtɪk) *adj.* 1. of or relating to the common people; popular. 2. of or relating to a simplified form of hieroglyphics used in ancient Egypt. Cf. **hieratic**. ~*n.* 3. the demotic script of ancient Egypt. —**de'motist** *n.*

demur (dɪ'mɜː) *vb.* **murring**, **murred**. (intr.) 1. to show reluctance; object. 2. *Law*. to raise an objection by entering a demurrer. ~*n.* also **demurral** (dɪ'mɜːrəl). 3. the act of demurring. 4. an objection raised. —**de'mur-able** *adj.*

demure (dɪ'mjʊə) *adj.* 1. sedate; decorous; reserved. 2. affectedly modest or prim; coy. —**de'murely** *adv.* —**de'mureness** *n.*

demurrer (di'mərə) *n.* 1. *Law.* a pleading that admits an opponent's point but denies that it is relevant or valid. 2. any objection raised.

demystify (di:'misti,fai) *vb.* **-fying, -fied.** (tr.) to remove the mystery from; make clear. —**de,mystifi-cation** *n.*

den (den) *n.* 1. the habitat or retreat of a wild animal; lair. 2. a small or secluded room in a home, often used for carrying on a hobby. 3. a squalid room or retreat. 4. a site or haunt: *a den of vice.* 5. *Scot.* a small wooded valley. ~**vb.** **denning, denned.** 6. (intr.) to live in or as if in a den.

Den. *abbrev.* for Denmark.

denarius (di'neəriəs) *n., pl. -narii* (-'neəri,ai). 1. a silver coin of ancient Rome, often called a penny in translation. 2. a gold coin worth 25 silver denarii.

denary ('di:nəri) *adj.* 1. calculated by tens; decimal. 2. containing ten parts; tenfold.

denationalize or **-ise** (di:'næʃən,laiz) *vb.* 1. to transfer (an industry, etc.) from public to private ownership. 2. to deprive of national character or nationality. —**de-,nationali'zation** or **-i'sation** *n.*

denature (di:'neitʃə) or **denaturize, -ise** (di:'neitʃə,raiz) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to change the nature of. 2. to change the properties of (a protein), as by the action of acid or heat. 3. to render (alcohol) unfit for drinking by adding other substances. 4. to render (fissile material) unfit for use in nuclear weapons by addition of an isotope. —**de-,naturant** *n.* —**de,natur'ation** *n.*

dendro-, dendri-, or before a vowel **dendr-** *combining form.* tree: **dendrochronology.**

dendrology (den'drɒlədʒi) *n.* the branch of botany that is concerned with the natural history of trees. —**dendro-logical** (den'drɒ'lɒdʒikəl) or **dendro'logic** *adj.* —**dendrologist** *n.*

dene or **dean** (di:n) *n. Brit.* a narrow wooded valley.

dengue ('dengi) or **dandy** ('dændi) *n.* an acute viral disease transmitted by mosquitoes, characterized by headache, fever, pains in the joints, and skin rash.

denial (di'naɪəl) *n.* 1. a refusal to agree or comply with a statement. 2. the rejection of the truth of a proposition, doctrine, etc. 3. a rejection of a request. 4. a refusal to acknowledge; disavowal. 5. abstinence; self-denial.

denier *n.* 1. ('deni,eɪ, 'denjə) a unit of weight used to measure the fineness of silk and man-made fibres, esp. when woven into women's tights, etc. 2. (də'njeɪ, -'niə) any of several former European coins of various denominations.

denigrate ('deni,greit) *vb.* to belittle or disparage the character of; defame. —**deni'gration** *n.* —**deni,grator** *n.*

denim ('denɪm) *n.* 1. a hard-wearing twill-weave cotton fabric used for trousers, work clothes, etc. 2. a similar lighter fabric used in upholstery.

denims ('denɪmz) *pl. n.* jeans or overalls made of denim.

denizen ('denɪzən) *n.* 1. an inhabitant; resident. 2. *Brit.* an individual permanently resident in a foreign country where he enjoys certain rights of citizenship. 3. a plant or animal established in a place to which it is not native. 4. a naturalized foreign word.

denominate *vb.* (di'nɒmi,neɪt). 1. (tr.) to give a specific name to; designate. ~*adj.* (di'nɒmi,nɪt, -'neɪt). 2. *Maths.* (of a number) representing a multiple of a unit of measurement: 4 is the denominate number in 4 miles.

denomination (di,nɒmi'neɪʃən) *n.* 1. a group having a distinctive interpretation of a religious faith and usually its own organization. 2. a grade or unit in a series of designations of value, weight, measure, etc. 3. a name given to a class or group; classification. 4. the act of giving a name. 5. a name; designation. —**de,nomi'national** *adj.*

denominator (di'nɒmi,neɪtə) *n.* the divisor of a fraction, as 8 in 7/8. Cf. **numerator.**

denotation (,di:nəu'teɪʃən) *n.* 1. a denoting; indication. 2. a sign, term, etc., that denotes. 3. a particular meaning given by a sign or symbol. 4. specific meaning as distinguished from suggestive meaning and associations. 5. *Logic.* Also called **extension.** the class of entities to which a given word correctly applies.

denote (di'nəʊt) *vb.* (tr.; may take a clause as object) 1. to be a sign of; designate. 2. (of words, phrases, etc.) to have as a literal or obvious meaning. —**deno'tation** *n.* —**de'notative** *adj.*

denouement (de'nu:mənt) or **dénouement** (*French*

denu'mā *n.* 1. the clarification or resolution of a plot in a play or other work. 2. final outcome; solution.

denounce (di'naʊns) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to condemn openly or vehemently. 2. to give information against; accuse. 3. to announce formally the termination of (a treaty, etc.). —**de'nouncement** *n.* —**de'nouncer** *n.*

dense (dens) *adj.* 1. thickly crowded or closely set. 2. thick; impenetrable. 3. *Physics.* having a high density. 4. stupid; dull. 5. (of a photographic negative) having many dark or exposed areas. —**densely** *adv.* —**denseness** *n.*

density ('densɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. the degree to which something is filled or occupied: *high density of building in towns.* 2. stupidity. 3. a measure of the compactness of a substance, expressed as its mass per unit volume. Symbol: ρ 4. a measure of a physical quantity per unit of length, area, or volume. 5. *Physics, photog.* a measure of the extent to which a substance or surface transmits or reflects light.

dent (dent) *n.* 1. a hollow in a surface, as one made by pressure or a blow. 2. an appreciable effect, esp. of lessening: *a dent in our resources.* ~**vb.** 3. to make a dent in.

dental ('dentl) *adj.* 1. of or relating to the teeth or dentistry. 2. *Phonetics.* pronounced with the tip of the tongue touching the backs of the upper teeth, as for *t* in French *tout*. ~*n.* 3. *Phonetics.* a dental consonant.

dental floss *n.* a soft thread for cleaning the teeth and the spaces between them.

dental surgeon *n.* another name for dentist.

dentate ('dentɪt) *adj.* 1. having teeth or toothlike processes. 2. (of leaves) having a toothed margin. —**dentately** *adv.*

dent- or before a vowel **dent-** *combining form.* indicating a tooth: **dentine.**

dentifrice ('dentɪfrɪs) *n.* any substance, esp. paste or powder, for use in cleaning the teeth.

dentine ('dentɪn) or **dentin** ('dentɪn) *n.* the calcified tissue comprising the bulk of a tooth. —**dentinal** *adj.*

dentist ('dentɪst) *n.* a person qualified to practise dentistry.

dentistry ('dentɪstri) *n.* the branch of medical science concerned with the diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the teeth and gums.

dentition (den'tɪʃən) *n.* 1. the arrangement, type, and number of the teeth in a particular species. 2. the time or process of teething.

denture ('dentʃə) *n. (usually pl.)* 1. a partial or full set of artificial teeth. 2. *Rare.* a set of natural teeth.

denude (di'nju:d) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to make bare; strip. 2. to expose (rock) by the erosion of the layers above. —**denudation** (denju:'deɪʃən) *n.*

denumerable (di'nju:mərəbəl) *adj.* *Maths.* capable of being put into a one-to-one correspondence with the positive integers; countable. —**de-numerably** *adv.*

denunciate (di'nʌnsi,eɪt) *vb.* (tr.) to condemn; denounce. —**de'nunciator** *n.* —**de'nunciatory** *adj.*

denunciation (di,nʌnsi'eɪʃən) *n.* 1. open condemnation; denouncing. 2. *Law, obsolete.* a charge or accusation of crime made before a public prosecutor or tribunal. 3. a formal announcement of the termination of a treaty.

deny (di'naɪ) *vb.* **-nying, -nied.** (tr.) 1. to declare (a statement, etc.) to be untrue. 2. to reject as false. 3. to withhold. 4. to refuse to fulfil the expectations of: *it is hard to deny a child.* 5. to refuse to acknowledge; disown. 6. to refuse (oneself) things desired.

deodar ('di:əʊ,də:) *n.* 1. a Himalayan cedar with drooping branches. 2. the durable fragrant highly valued wood of this tree.

deodorant (di:'əʊdərənt) *n.* 1. a substance applied to the body to suppress or mask the odour of perspiration. 2. any substance for destroying or masking odours.

deodorize or **-ise** (di:'əʊdə,raiz) *vb.* (tr.) to remove, disguise, or absorb the odour of, esp. when unpleasant. —**de,odori'zation** or **-i'sation** *n.* —**de'odor,izer** or **-iser** *n.*

dep. *abbrev. for:* 1. department. 2. departure. 3. deposited. 4. deposit. 5. depot. 6. deputy.

depart (di'pɑ:t) *vb. (mainly intr.)* 1. to leave. 2. to set forth. 3. (usually foll. by *from*) to differ; vary: *to depart from normal procedure.* 4. (tr.) to quit (arch., except in **depart this life**).

departed (di'pɑ:tɪd) *adj.* *Euphemistic.* a. dead; deceased. b. (as collective *n.*): the departed.

department (di'pɑ:t'mənt) *n.* 1. a specialized division of a large concern, such as a business, store, or univer-

sity. 2. a major subdivision of the administration of a government. 3. a branch of learning. 4. an administrative division in several countries, such as France. 5. *Inf.* a specialized sphere of skill or activity: *wine-making is my wife's department.* —**departmental** (di:pɑ:t-'mentl) *adj.*

department store *n.* a large shop divided into departments selling a great many kinds of goods.

departure (di:pɑ:tʃə) *n.* 1. the act or an instance of departing. 2. a variation from previous custom. 3. a course of action, venture, etc.: *selling is a new departure for him.* 4. *Naut.* the net distance travelled due east or west by a vessel. 5. a euphemistic word for death.

depend (di:'pend) *vb. (intr.)* 1. (foll. by *on* or *upon*) to put trust (in); rely (on). 2. (usually foll. by *on* or *upon*) to be influenced or determined (by): *it all depends on you.* 3. (foll. by *on* or *upon*) to rely (on) for income, support, etc. 4. (foll. by *from*) *Rare.* to hang down. 5. to be undecided.

dependable (di:'pendəbəl) *adj.* able to be depended on; reliable. —**de,penda'bility** or **de'pendableness** *n.* —**de'pendably** *adv.*

dependant (di:'pendənt) *n.* a person who depends on another person, organization, etc., for support, aid, or sustenance, esp. financial support.

dependence or **U.S. (sometimes) dependance** (di:'pendəns) *n.* 1. the state or fact of being dependent, esp. for support or help. 2. reliance; trust; confidence.

dependency or **U.S. (sometimes) dependancy** (di:'pendənsi) *n., pl. -cies.* 1. a territory subject to a state on which it does not border. 2. a dependent or subordinate person or thing. 3. another word for **dependence**.

dependent or **U.S. (sometimes) dependant** (di:'pendənt) *adj.* 1. depending on a person or thing for aid, support, etc. 2. (postpositive; foll. by *on* or *upon*) influenced or conditioned (by). 3. subordinate; subject. 4. *Obs.* hanging down. ~*n.* 5. a variant spelling (esp. U.S.) of **dependant**. —**de'pendently** *adv.*

depict (di:'pɪkt) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to represent by drawing, sculpture, painting, etc. 2. to represent in words; describe. —**de'pictor** or **de'pictor** *n.* —**de'piction** *n.* —**de'pictive** *adj.*

depilatory (di:'pɪlətəri, -tri) *adj.* 1. able or serving to remove hair. ~*n., pl. -ries.* 2. a chemical used to remove hair from the body.

deplete (di:'pli:t) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to use up (supplies, money, etc.); exhaust. 2. to empty entirely or partially. —**de'pletion** *n.*

deplorable (di:'plɔ:rəbəl) *adj.* 1. lamentable. 2. worthy of censure or reproach; very bad. —**de'plorably** *adv.*

deplete (di:'plɔ:) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to express or feel sorrow about. 2. to express or feel strong disapproval of; censure. —**de'plorably** *adv.*

deploy (di:'plɔi) *vb. Chiefly mil.* 1. to adopt or cause to adopt a battle formation. 2. (tr.) to redistribute (forces) to or within a given area. —**de'ployment** *n.*

depolarize or **-ise** (di:'pəʊlə,raɪz) *vb.* to undergo or cause to undergo a loss of polarity or polarization. —**de,polari'zation** or **-i'sation** *n.*

deponent (di:'pəʊnənt) *adj.* 1. *Grammar.* (of a verb, esp. in Latin) having the inflectional endings of a passive verb but the meaning of an active verb. ~*n.* 2. *Grammar.* a deponent verb. 3. *Law.* a person who makes an affidavit or a deposition.

depopulate (di:'pɒpjʊ,leɪt) *vb.* to be or cause to be reduced in population. —**de,popu'lation** *n.*

deport (di:'pɔ:t) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to remove forcibly from a country; expel. 2. to conduct, hold, or behave (oneself) in a specified manner. —**de'portable** *adj.*

deportation (di:'pɔ:'teɪʃən) *n.* the act of expelling someone from a country.

deportee (di:'pɔ:'ti:) *n.* a person deported or awaiting deportation.

deportment (di:'pɔ:tmənt) *n.* the manner in which a person behaves, esp. in physical bearing: *military deportment.*

depose (di:'pəʊz) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to remove from an office or position of power. 2. *Law.* to testify or give (evidence, etc.) on oath.

deposit (di:'pɒzɪt) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to put or set down, esp. carefully; place. 2. to entrust for safekeeping. 3. to place (money) in a bank or similar institution to earn interest or for safekeeping. 4. to give (money) in part payment or as security. 5. to lay down naturally: *the river deposits silt.* ~*n.* 6. a. an instance of entrusting money or valuables to a bank or similar institution. b. the money or valuables so entrusted. 7. money given in

part payment or as security. 8. an accumulation of sediments, mineral ores, coal, etc. 9. any deposited material, such as a sediment. 10. a depository or storehouse. 11. **on deposit**, payable as the first instalment, as when buying on hire-purchase.

deposit account *n. Brit.* a bank account that earns interest and usually requires notice of withdrawal.

depository (di:'pɒzɪtəri, -tri) *n., pl. -taries.* 1. a person or group to whom something is entrusted for safety. 2. a variant spelling of **depository**.

deposition (,de:pə'zɪʃən) *n.* 1. *Law.* a. the giving of testimony on oath. b. the testimony given. c. the sworn statement of a witness used in court in his absence. 2. the act or instance of depositing. 3. the act or an instance of depositing. 4. something deposited.

depositor (di:'pɒzɪtə) *n.* a person who places or has money on deposit, esp. in a bank.

depository (di:'pɒzɪtəri, -tri) *n., pl. -ries.* 1. a store for furniture, valuables, etc.; repository. 2. a variant spelling of **depository**.

depot ('depəʊ) *n.* 1. a storehouse or warehouse. 2. *Mil.* a. a store for supplies. b. a training and holding centre for recruits and replacements. 3. *Chiefly Brit.* a building used for the storage and servicing of buses or railway engines. 4. *U.S.* a railway station.

deprave (di:'preɪv) *vb. (tr.)* to make morally bad; corrupt. —**depravation** (,deprə'veɪʃən) *n.* —**de'praved** *adj.*

depravity (di:'prævɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* the state or an instance of moral corruption.

deprecate ('depri,keɪt) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to express disapproval of; protest against. 2. to deprecate; belittle. —**de'pre,catingly** *adv.* —**de'pre,cation** *n.* —**de'pre,cative** *adj.* —**de'pre,cator** *n.* —**de'pre,catory** *adj.*

depreciate (di:'pri:ʃɪ,eɪt) *vb.* 1. to reduce or decline in value or price. 2. (tr.) to lessen the value of by derision, criticism, etc. —**de'preci,atingly** *adv.* —**de'preciatory** (di:'pri:ʃɪ,eɪt) or **de'precative** *adj.*

depreciation (di:'pri:ʃɪ'eɪʃən) *n.* 1. *Accounting.* a. the reduction in value of a fixed asset due to use, obsolescence, etc. b. the amount deducted from gross profit to allow for this. 2. the act or an instance of depreciating or belittling. 3. a decrease in the exchange value of a currency brought about by excess supply of that currency under conditions of fluctuating exchange rates.

degradation (,deprɪ'deɪʃən) *n.* the act or an instance of plundering; robbery; pillage.

depress (di:'pres) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to lower in spirits; make gloomy. 2. to weaken the force, or energy of. 3. to lower prices of. 4. to press or push down. —**de'press,ingly** *adv.* —**de'pressive** *adj.*

depressant (di:'pres'nt) *adj.* 1. *Med.* able to reduce nervous or functional activity. 2. causing gloom; depressing. ~*n.* 3. a depressant drug.

depressed (di:'prest) *adj.* 1. low in spirits; downcast. 2. lower than the surrounding surface. 3. pressed down or flattened. 4. Also: **distressed**, characterized by economic hardship, such as unemployment: *a depressed area.* 5. lowered in force, intensity, or amount. 6. *Bot., zool.* flattened.

depression (di:'preʃən) *n.* 1. a depressing or being depressed. 2. a depressed or sunken place. 3. *Psychol.* an emotional state characterized by feelings of gloom and inadequacy. 4. *Pathol.* an abnormal lowering of the rate of any physiological activity or function. 5. an economic condition characterized by substantial unemployment, falling prices and security values, and low levels of investment, trade, etc.; slump. 6. Also called: **cyclone**, **low**. *Meteorol.* a body of moving air below normal atmospheric pressure, which often brings rain. 7. (esp. in surveying and astronomy) the angular distance of an object below the horizontal plane.

Depression (di:'preʃən) *n.* (usually preceded by *the*) the worldwide economic depression of the early 1930s, when there was mass unemployment.

deprive (di:'praɪv) *vb. (tr.)* 1. (foll. by *of*) to prevent from possessing or enjoying; dispossess (of). 2. *Arch.* to depose; demote. —**de'prival** *n.* —**deprivation** (,deprɪ'veɪʃən) *n.*

deprived (di:'praɪvd) *adj.* lacking adequate food, shelter, education, etc.: *deprived inner-city areas.*

dept. *abbrev. for department.*

depth (de:pθ) *n.* 1. the distance downwards, backwards, or inwards. 2. the quality of being deep; deepness. 3. intensity of emotion. 4. profundity of moral character; sagacity; integrity. 5. complexity or abstruseness, as of thought. 6. intensity, as of silence, colour, etc. 7.

lowness of pitch. 8. (often pl.) a deep, inner, or remote part, such as an inaccessible region of a country. 9. (often pl.) the most intense or severe part: the depths of winter. 10. (usually pl.) a low moral state. 11. (often pl.) a vast space or abyss. 12. beyond or out of one's depth. a. in water deeper than one is tall. b. beyond the range of one's competence or understanding. 13. in depth. a. thoroughly or comprehensively. b. (as modifier): an in-depth study.

depth charge or bomb *n.* a bomb used to attack submarines that explodes at a pre-set depth of water.

deputation (ˌdɛpjʊˈteɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of appointing a person or body of people to represent others. 2. a person or body of people so appointed; delegation.

depute (dɪˈpjʊːt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to appoint as an agent. 2. to assign (authority, duties, etc.) to a deputy. ~*n.* 3. (ˈdɛpjʊːt) *Scot.* a. a deputy. b. (as modifier, usually postpositive): a sheriff-depute.

deputize or -ise (ˈdɛpjʊˈtaɪz) *vb.* to appoint or act as deputy.

deputy (ˈdɛpjʊti) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. a person appointed to act on behalf of or represent another. 2. a member of a legislative assembly in various countries, such as France. 3. (as modifier): the deputy chairman.

derail (dɪˈreɪl) *vb.* to go or cause to go off the rails, as a train, tram, etc. —**de'railment** *n.*

derange (dɪˈreɪndʒ) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to throw into disorder; disarrange. 2. to disturb the action of. 3. to make insane. —**de'range** *n.*

derby (ˈdɜːbi) *n., pl. -bies.* the U.S. name for bowler'.

Derby (ˈdɜːbrɪ; U.S. ˈdɜːbri) *n.* 1. the. an annual horse race run at Epsom Downs, Surrey, since 1780. 2. any of various other horse races. 3. local Derby. a football match between two teams from the same area.

derelict (ˈdɛrɪlɪkt) *adj.* 1. deserted or abandoned, as by an owner, occupant, etc. 2. falling into ruins. 3. neglectful of duty; remiss. ~*n.* 4. a social outcast or vagrant. 5. property deserted or abandoned by an owner, occupant, etc. 6. a vessel abandoned at sea. 7. a person who is neglectful of duty.

dereliction (ˌdɛrɪˈlɪkʃən) *n.* 1. conscious or wilful neglect (esp. in dereliction of duty). 2. an abandoning or being abandoned. 3. Law. accretion of dry land gained by the gradual receding of the sea.

derestrict (ˌdɪˈrɪstrikt) *vb.* (tr.) to render or leave free from restriction, esp. a road from speed limits. —**dere'striction** *n.*

deride (dɪˈraɪd) *vb.* (tr.) to speak of or treat with contempt or ridicule; scoff at. —**de'rid** *n.* —**de'ridingly** *adv.*

de rigueur French. (də riˈgʊər) *adj.* required by etiquette or fashion.

derisive (dɪˈraɪsɪv) or **derisory** (dɪˈraɪsəri) *adj.* 1. characterized by derision; mocking; scornful. 2. worthy of derision; ridiculous. —**derision** (dɪˈrɪʒən) *n.* —**de'risively** *adv.* —**de'risiveness** *n.*

derivation (ˌdɛrɪˈveɪʃən) *n.* 1. a deriving or being derived. 2. the origin or descent of something, such as a word. 3. something derived; a derivative. 4. a. the process of deducing a mathematical theorem, formula, etc., as a necessary consequence of a set of accepted statements. b. this sequence of statements. —**deri'vational** *adj.*

derivative (dɪˈrɪvətɪv) *adj.* 1. derived. 2. based on other sources; not original. ~*n.* 3. a term, idea, etc., that is based on or derived from another in the same class. 4. a word derived from another word. 5. Chem. a compound that is formed from, or can be regarded as formed from, a structurally related compound. 6. Maths. a. Also called: **differential coefficient**, **first derivative**, the change of a function, $f(x)$, with respect to an infinitesimally small change in the independent variable, x . b. the rate of change of one quantity with respect to another. —**de'rivatively** *adv.*

derive (dɪˈraɪv) *vb.* 1. (usually foll. by *from*) to draw or be drawn (from) in source or origin. 2. (tr.) to obtain by reasoning; deduce; infer. 3. (tr.) to trace the source or development of. 4. (usually foll. by *from*) to produce or be produced (from) by a chemical reaction. —**de'rivable** *adj.* —**de'river** *n.*

-derm *n. combining form.* indicating skin: *endoderm*.

dermatitis (ˌdɜːməˈtaɪtɪs) *n.* inflammation of the skin.

dermato-, derma- or before a vowel **dermat-**,

derm- *combining form.* indicating skin: *dermatitis*.

dermatology (ˌdɜːməˈtɒlədʒɪ) *n.* the branch of medicine concerned with the skin and its diseases.

—**dermatological** (ˌdɜːməˈtɒlədʒɪkəl) *adj.* —**derma'tologist** *n.*

derogate (ˈdɛrəˌgeɪt) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*; foll. by *from*) to cause to seem inferior; detract. 2. (*intr.*; foll. by *from*) to deviate in standard or quality. 3. (tr.) to cause to seem inferior, etc.; disparage. —**dero'gation** *n.* —**derogative** (dɪˈrɒɡətɪv) *adj.*

derogatory (dɪˈrɒɡətəri) *adj.* tending or intended to detract, disparage, or belittle; intentionally offensive. —**de'rogatorily** *adv.*

derrick (ˈdɛrɪk) *n.* 1. a simple crane having lifting tackle slung from a boom. 2. the framework erected over an oil well to enable drill tubes to be raised and lowered.

derring-do (ˈdɛrɪŋˈduː) *n.* Arch. or literary. boldness or bold action.

derv (dɜːv) *n.* a Brit. name for diesel oil when used for road transport.

dervish (ˈdɜːvɪʃ) *n.* a member of any of various Muslim orders of ascetics, some of which (whirling dervishes) are noted for a frenzied, ecstatic, whirling dance.

desalination (dɪˌsæliˈneɪʃən) or **desalinization**, **-isation** *n.* the process of removing salt, esp. from sea water.

descant (ˈdeskənt) *n.* 1. Also called: **discant**, a decorative counterpoint added above a basic melody. 2. a comment or discourse. ~*adj.* 3. Also: **discant**, of the highest member in a family of musical instruments: a descant recorder. ~*vb.* (*intr.*) 4. Also: **discant**, (often foll. by *on* or *upon*) to perform a descant. 5. (often foll. by *on* or *upon*) to discourse or make comments. 6. Arch. to sing sweetly. —**des'cant** *n.*

descend (dɪˈsend) *vb.* (mainly *intr.*) 1. (also *tr.*) to move down (a slope, staircase, etc.) 2. to lead or extend down; slope. 3. to move to a lower level, pitch, etc.; fall. 4. (often foll. by *from*) to be connected by a blood relationship (to a dead or extinct individual, species, etc.). 5. to be inherited. 6. to sink or come down in morals or behaviour. 7. (often foll. by *on* or *upon*) to arrive or attack in a sudden or overwhelming way. 8. (of the sun, moon, etc.) to move towards the horizon. —**des'cendable** or **des'cendible** *adj.*

descendant (dɪˈsendənt) *n.* 1. a person, animal, or plant when described as descended from an individual, race, species, etc. 2. something that derives from an earlier form. ~*adj.* 3. a variant spelling of **descendent**.

descendent (dɪˈsendənt) *adj.* 1. descending. ~*n.* 2. a variant spelling of **descendant**.

descent (dɪˈsent) *n.* 1. the act of descending. 2. a downward slope. 3. a path or way leading downwards. 4. derivation from an ancestor; lineage. 5. a generation in a particular lineage. 6. a decline or degeneration. 7. a movement or passage in degree or state from higher to lower. 8. (often foll. by *on*) a sudden and overwhelming arrival or attack. 9. Property law. (formerly) the transmission of real property to the heir.

describe (dɪˈskraɪb) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to give an account or representation of in words. 2. to pronounce or label. 3. to draw a line or figure, such as a circle. —**de'scribable** *adj.* —**de'scriber** *n.*

description (dɪˈskrɪpʃən) *n.* 1. a statement or account that describes. 2. the act, process, or technique of describing. 3. sort or variety: *reptiles of every description*.

descriptive (dɪˈskrɪptɪv) *adj.* 1. characterized by or containing description. 2. Grammar. (of an adjective) serving to describe the referent of the noun modified, as for example the adjective *brown* as contrasted with *my*. 3. relating to description or classification rather than explanation or prescription. —**de'scriptively** *adv.* —**de'scriptiveness** *n.*

descry (dɪˈskraɪ) *vb.* —**scrying**, **-scried**. (tr.) 1. to catch sight of. 2. to discover by looking carefully.

desecrate (ˈdesɪˌkreɪt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to violate the sacred character of (an object or place) by destructive, blasphemous, or sacrilegious action. 2. to deconsecrate. —**des'e'craton** *n.* —**des'e,crator** or **des'e,crater** *n.*

desegregate (dɪˌsegrɪˈgeɪt) *vb.* to end racial segregation in (a school or other public institution). —**desegre'gation** *n.*

desert (ˈdɛzət) *n.* 1. a region that is devoid or almost devoid of vegetation, esp. because of low rainfall. 2. an uncultivated uninhabited region. 3. a place which lacks some desirable feature or quality: a cultural desert. 4. (modifier) of, relating to, or like a desert.

desert (dɪˈzɜːt) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to abandon (a person, place, etc.) without intending to return, esp. in violation of a promise or obligation. 2. Mil. to abscond from (a post or

duty) with no intention of returning. **3.** (tr.) to fail (someone) in time of need. —**de'serter** *n.* —**de'ser-tion** *n.*

desert' (di'zɜ:t) *n.* **1.** (often pl.) just reward or punishment. **2.** the state of deserving a reward or punishment.

deserve (di'zɜ:v) *vb.* **1.** (tr.) to be entitled to or worthy of; merit. **2.** (intr.; foll. by *of*) Obs. to be worthy. —**de'server** *n.*

deserved (di'zɜ:vd) *adj.* rightfully earned; justified; warranted. —**deservedly** (di'zɜ:vdi) *adv.* —**deservedness** (di'zɜ:vdi:nis) *n.*

deserving (di'zɜ:vɪŋ) *adj.* (often postpositive and foll. by *of*) worthy, esp. of praise or reward. —**de'servingly** *adv.* —**de'servingness** *n.*

deshabille (,deizə'bi:l) *n.* a variant of **dishabille**.

desiccate ('desi,keɪt) *vb.* (tr.) **1.** to remove most of the water from; dehydrate. **2.** to preserve (food) by removing moisture; dry. —**desic,cated** *adj.* —**desic'cation** *n.*

design (di'zain) *vb.* **1.** to work out the structure or form of (something), as by making a sketch or plans. **2.** to plan and make (something) artistically or skilfully. **3.** (tr.) to invent. **4.** (tr.) to intend, as for a specific purpose; plan. ~*n.* **5.** a plan or preliminary drawing. **6.** the arrangement, elements, or features of an artistic or decorative work: *the design of the desk is Chippendale*. **7.** a finished artistic or decorative creation. **8.** the art of designing. **9.** a plan or project. **10.** an intention; purpose. **11.** (often pl.; often foll. by *on* or *against*) a plot, often to gain possession of (something) by illegitimate means. —**de'signable** *adj.*

designate *vb.* ('deizɪŋ,neɪt). (tr.) **1.** to indicate or specify. **2.** to give a name to; style; entitle. **3.** to select or name for an office or duty; appoint. ~*adj.* ('deizɪŋnɪt, -neɪt). **4.** (immediately postpositive) appointed, but not yet in office: *a minister designate*. —**de'sig,nator** *n.*

designation (,deizɪŋ'neɪʃən) *n.* **1.** something that designates, such as a name. **2.** the act of designating or the fact of being designated.

designedly (di'zainɪdli) *adv.* by intention or design; on purpose.

designer (di'zainə) *n.* **1.** a person who devises and executes designs, as for clothes, machines, etc. **2.** a person who devises plots; intriguer.

designing (di'zainɪŋ) *adj.* artful and scheming.

desirable (di'zainərəbəl) *adj.* **1.** worthy of desire: *a desirable residence*. **2.** arousing desire, esp. sexual desire; attractive. —**de,sira'bility** or **de'sirableness** *n.* —**de'sirably** *adv.*

desire (di'zaɪə) *vb.* (tr.) **1.** to wish or long for; crave. **2.** to request; ask for. ~*n.* **3.** a wish or longing. **4.** an expressed wish; request. **5.** sexual appetite. **6.** a person or thing that is desired. —**de'sirer** *n.*

desirous (di'zairəs) *adj.* (usually postpositive and foll. by *of*) having or expressing desire (for).

desist (di'zɪst) *vb.* (intr.; often foll. by *from*) to cease, as from an action; stop or abstain.

desk (desk) *n.* **1.** a piece of furniture with a writing surface and usually drawers or other compartments. **2.** a service counter or table in a public building, such as a hotel. **3.** a support for the book from which services are read in a church. **4.** the editorial section of a newspaper, etc., responsible for a particular subject: *the news desk*. **5.** a music stand shared by two orchestral players.

desolate *adj.* ('desəleɪt). **1.** uninhabited; deserted. **2.** make uninhabitable; laid waste; devastated. **3.** without friends, hope, or encouragement. **4.** dismal; depressing. ~*vb.* ('desə,leɪt). (tr.) **5.** to deprive of inhabitants; depopulate. **6.** to lay waste; devastate. **7.** to make wretched or forlorn. **8.** to forsake or abandon. —**desolately** *adv.* —**desolateness** *n.* —**deso,late** or **deso,lator** *n.*

desolation (,desə'leɪʃən) *n.* **1.** a desolating or being desolated; ruin or devastation. **2.** solitary misery; wretchedness. **3.** a desolate region.

despair (di'speə) *vb.* **1.** (intr.; often foll. by *of*) to lose or give up hope: *I despair of his coming*. ~*n.* **2.** total loss of hope. **3.** a person or thing that causes hopelessness or for which there is no hope.

despatch (di'spætʃ) *vb.* (tr.) a less common spelling of **dispatch**. —**des'patcher** *n.*

desperado (,despə'rɑ:dəu) *n.*, pl. **-does** or **-dos**. a reckless or desperate person, esp. one ready to commit any violent illegal act.

desperate ('despərt, -prɪt) *adj.* **1.** careless of danger, as from despair. **2.** (of an act) reckless; risky. **3.** used or undertaken as a last resort. **4.** critical; very grave: *in desperate need*. **5.** (often postpositive and foll. by *for*) in distress and having a great need or desire. **6.** moved by

or showing despair. —**desperately** *adv.* —**desperateness** *n.*

desperation (,despə'reɪʃən) *n.* **1.** desperate recklessness. **2.** the state of being desperate.

despicable ('despɪkəbəl, di'spɪk-) *adj.* worthy of being despised; contemptible; mean. —**des'pically** *adv.*

despise (di'spaɪz) *vb.* (tr.) to look down on with contempt; scorn: *he despises flattery*. —**de'spiser** *n.*

despite (di'spaɪt) *prep.* **1.** in spite of; undeterred by. ~*n.* **2.** Arch. contempt; insult. **3.** in spite of. (*prep.*) Rare. in spite of.

despoil (di'spɔɪl) *vb.* (tr.) to deprive by force; plunder; loot. —**de'spoiler** *n.* —**de'spoilment** *n.*

despond *vb.* **1.** (intr.) (di'spɒnd) to become disheartened; despair. ~*n.* **2.** ('despond, di'spɒnd). Arch. despondency. —**de'spondingly** *adv.*

despondent (di'spɒndnt) *adj.* downcast or disheartened; dejected. —**de'spondency** or **de'spondence** *n.* —**de'spondently** *adv.*

despot ('despɒt) *n.* **1.** an absolute or tyrannical ruler. **2.** any person in power who acts tyrannically. —**despotic** (des'pɒtɪk) or **des'pɒtical** *adj.* —**des'potically** *adv.*

despotism (,despə'tɪzəm) *n.* **1.** the rule of a despot; absolute or tyrannical government. **2.** arbitrary or tyrannical authority or behaviour.

dessert (di'zɜ:t) *n.* **1.** the sweet, usually last course of a meal. **2.** Chiefly Brit. (esp. formerly) fruit, dates, nuts, etc., served at the end of a meal.

dessertspoon (di'zɜ:t,spu:n) *n.* a spoon intermediate in size between a tablespoon and a teaspoon.

destination (,destɪ'neɪʃən) *n.* **1.** the predetermined end of a journey. **2.** the end or purpose for which something is created or a person is destined.

destine ('destɪn) *vb.* (tr.) to set apart (for a certain purpose or person); intend; design.

destiny ('destɪni) *n.*, pl. **-nies**. **1.** the future destined for a person or thing. **2.** the predetermined or inevitable course of events. **3.** the power that predetermines the course of events.

destitute ('destɪ,tju:t) *adj.* **1.** lacking the means of subsistence; totally impoverished. **2.** (postpositive; foll. by *of*) completely lacking: *destitute of words*. —**desti'tution** *n.*

destroy (di'strɔɪ) *vb.* (mainly tr.) **1.** to ruin; spoil. **2.** to tear down or demolish. **3.** to put an end to. **4.** to kill or annihilate. **5.** to crush or defeat. **6.** (intr.) to be destructive or cause destruction.

destroyer (di'strɔɪə) *n.* **1.** a small fast lightly armoured but heavily armed warship. **2.** a person or thing that destroys.

destruct (di'strækt) *vb.* **1.** to destroy (one's own missile, etc.) for safety. **2.** (intr.) (of a missile, etc.) to be destroyed, for safety, by those controlling it. ~*n.* **3.** the act of destructing.

destructible (di'stræktəbəl) *adj.* capable of being or liable to be destroyed.

destruction (di'strækʃən) *n.* **1.** the act of destroying or state of being destroyed; demolition. **2.** a cause of ruin or means of destroying.

destructive (di'stræktɪv) *adj.* **1.** (often postpositive and foll. by *of* or *to*) causing or tending to cause the destruction (of). **2.** intended to discredit, esp. without positive suggestions or help; negative: *destructive criticism*. —**de'strictively** *adv.* —**de'strictiveness** *n.*

destructor (di'stræktə) *n.* **1.** a furnace or incinerator for the disposal of refuse. **2.** a device used to blow up a defective missile.

desuetude (di'sju:t, tju:d, 'deswɪtju:d) *n.* the condition of not being in use or practice; disuse.

desultory ('desɒltəri, -trɪ) *adj.* **1.** passing from one thing to another, esp. in a fitful way; unmethodical; disconnected. **2.** random or incidental: *a desultory thought*. —**desultorily** *adv.* —**desultoriness** *n.*

detach (di'tætʃ) *vb.* (tr.) **1.** to disengage and separate or remove; unfasten; disconnect. **2.** Mil. to separate (a small unit) from a larger, esp. for a special assignment. —**de,tacha'bility** *n.* —**de'tachable** *adj.*

detached (di'tætʃt) *adj.* **1.** disconnected or standing apart; not attached: *a detached house*. **2.** showing no bias or emotional involvement.

detachment (di'tætʃmənt) *n.* **1.** indifference; aloofness. **2.** freedom from self-interest or bias; disinterest. **3.** the act of detaching something. **4.** the condition of being detached; disconnection. **5.** Mil. a. the separation of a small unit from its main body. b. the unit so detached.

detail ('di:teɪl) *n.* **1.** an item that is considered sepa-

rately; particular. **2.** an item that is unimportant: *passengers' comfort was regarded as a detail.* **3.** treatment of particulars: *this essay includes too much detail.* **4.** items collectively; particulars. **5.** a small section or element in a painting, building, statue, etc., esp. when considered in isolation. **6.** *Mil.* a. the act of assigning personnel for a specific duty. b. the personnel selected. c. the duty. **7.** in detail, including all or most particulars or items thoroughly. ~vb. (tr.) **8.** to list or relate fully. **9.** *Mil.* to select (personnel) for a specific duty.

detailed ('di:teɪld) *adj.* having many details or giving careful attention to details.

detain (di'teɪn) *vb.* (tr.) **1.** to delay; hold back. **2.** to confine or hold in custody. —**de'tainable** *adj.* —**detainee** (di'teɪ'ni:) *n.* —**de'tainment** *n.*

detect (di'tekt) *vb.* (tr.) **1.** to discover or notice. **2.** to discover, or reveal (a crime, criminal, etc.). **3.** to extract information from (an electromagnetic wave). —**de'tectable** or **de'tectible** *adj.* —**de'tector** *n.*

detection (di'tekʃən) *n.* **1.** the act of discovering or the fact of being discovered. **2.** the act or process of extracting information, esp. at audio or video frequencies, from an electromagnetic wave; demodulation.

detective (di'tektɪv) *n.* **1. a.** a police officer who investigates crimes. **b. private detective.** an individual privately employed to investigate a crime or make other inquiries. **c. (as modifier):** a detective story. ~adj. **2.** of or for detection.

détente (de'tɑ:nt; *French* de'tɑ:t) *n.* the relaxing or easing of tension, esp. between nations.

detention (di'tenʃən) *n.* **1.** a detaining or being detained. **2. a.** custody or confinement, esp. of a suspect awaiting trial. **b. (as modifier):** a detention order. **3.** a form of punishment in which a pupil is detained after school.

detention centre *n.* a place where young persons may be detained for short periods by order of a court.

deter (di'tɜ:) *vb.* -**terr**ing, -**tered. (tr.) to discourage (from acting) or prevent (from occurring), usually by instilling fear, doubt, or anxiety. —**de'terment** *n.***

detergent (di'tɜ:dʒənt) *n.* **1.** a cleansing agent, esp. a chemical such as an alkyl sulphonate, widely used in industry, laundering, etc. ~adj. **2.** having cleansing power.

deteriorate (di'tɪəriə'reɪt) *vb.* **1.** to make or become worse; depreciate. **2. (intr.)** to wear away or disintegrate. —**de,terio'ration** *n.* —**de'teriorative** *adj.*

determinant (di'tɜ:mɪnənt) *adj.* **1.** serving to determine. ~*n.* **2.** a factor that influences or determines. **3. Maths.** a square array of elements that represents the sum of certain products of these elements, used to solve simultaneous equations, in vector studies, etc.

determinate (di'tɜ:mɪnɪt) *adj.* **1.** definitely limited, defined, or fixed. **2.** determined. **3.** able to be predicted or deduced. **4. Bot.** having the main and branch stems ending in flowers. —**de'terminateness** *n.*

determination (di'tɜ:mɪ'neɪʃən) *n.* **1.** the act of making a decision. **2.** the condition of being determined; resoluteness. **3.** an ending of an argument by the decision of an authority. **4.** the act of fixing the quality, limit, position, etc., of something. **5.** a decision or opinion reached. **6.** a resolute movement towards some object or end. **7. Law.** the termination of an estate or interest. **8. Law.** the decision reached by a court of justice on a disputed matter.

determine (di'tɜ:mɪn) *vb.* **1.** to settle or decide (an argument, question, etc.) conclusively. **2. (tr.)** to conclude, esp. after observation or consideration. **3. (tr.)** to influence; give direction to. **4. (tr.)** to fix in scope, variety, etc.: *the river determined the edge of the property.* **5.** to make or cause to make a decision. **6. (tr.) Logic.** to define or limit (a notion) by adding or requiring certain features or characteristics. **7. (tr.) Geom.** to fix or specify the position or form of. **8. Chiefly law.** to come or bring to an end, as an estate. —**de'terminable** *adj.*

determined (di'tɜ:mɪnd) *adj.* of unwavering mind; resolute; firm. —**de'terminedly** *adv.*

determiner (di'tɜ:mɪnə) *n.* **1.** a word, such as a number, an article, or *all*, that determines the referent or referents of a noun phrase. **2.** a person or thing that determines.

determinism (di'tɜ:mɪ'nɪzəm) *n.* the philosophical doctrine that all acts, choices, and events are the inevitable consequence of antecedent sufficient causes. Cf. **free will.** —**de'terminist** *n., adj.* —**de,termin'istic** *adj.*

deterrent (di'terənt) *n.* **1.** something that deters. **2.** a weapon, esp. nuclear, held by one state, etc., to deter

attack by another. ~adj. **3.** tending or used to deter. —**de'terrence** *n.*

detest (di'test) *vb.* (tr.) to dislike intensely; loathe. —**de'testable** *adj.* —**de'tester** *n.*

detestation (di'tes'teɪʃən) *n.* **1.** intense hatred; abhorrence. **2.** a person or thing that is detested.

dethrone (di'θrəʊn) *vb.* (tr.) to remove from a throne or deprive of any high position or title. —**de'thronement** *n.* —**de'throner** *n.*

detonate ('detə,neɪt) *vb.* to cause (a bomb, mine, etc.) to explode or (of a bomb, mine, etc.) to explode. —**de'to-nation** *n.*

detonator ('detə,neɪtə) *n.* **1.** a small amount of explosive, as in a percussion cap, used to initiate a larger explosion. **2.** a device, such as an electrical generator, used to set off an explosion from a distance. **3.** an explosive.

detour ('di:tʊə) *n.* **1.** a deviation from a direct route or course of action. ~vb. **2.** to deviate or cause to deviate from a direct route or course of action.

detoxify (di'tɒksɪ'faɪ) *vb.* -**fy**ing, -**fied. (tr.) to remove poison from. —**de,toxifi'cation** *n.***

detract (di'trækt) *vb.* **1.** (when *intr.*, usually foll. by *from*) to take away a part (of); diminish: *her anger detracts from her beauty.* **2. (tr.)** to distract or divert. —**de'traction** *n.* —**de'tractive** *adj.* —**de'tractor** *n.*

detriment ('detrɪmənt) *n.* **1.** disadvantage or damage. **2.** a cause of disadvantage or damage. —**de'trimental** *adj.*

detritus (di'treɪtəs) *n.* **1.** a loose mass of stones, silt, etc., worn away from rocks. **2.** debris. —**de'trital** *adj.*

detumescence (di'tju:'mesəns) *n.* the subsidence of a swelling.

deuce¹ (dju:s) *n.* **1. a.** a playing card or dice with two spots. **b.** a throw of two in dice. **2. Tennis, etc.** a tied score that requires one player to gain two successive points to win the game.

deuce² (dju:s) *Inf.* ~*interj.* **1.** an expression of annoyance or frustration. ~*n.* **2. the deuce.** (intensifier): used in such phrases as *what the deuce, where the deuce, etc.*

Deut. *Bible.* abbrev. for Deuteronomy.

deuterium (dju:'tɪəriəm) *n.* a stable isotope of hydrogen, occurring in natural hydrogen and in heavy water. Symbol: D or ²H; atomic no.: 1; atomic wt.: 2.014.

deutero-, deuto- or before a vowel **deuter-, deuto-** combining form, second or secondary: *deuterium.*

Deutsche Mark ('dɔɪtʃə) or **Deutschmark** *n.* the standard monetary unit of West Germany.

devalue (di:'vælju:) or **devalue** (di:'vælju:,eɪt) *vb.* -**valuing**, -**valued** or -**valuating**, -**valuated. **1.** to reduce (a currency) or (of a currency) be reduced in exchange value. **2. (tr.)** to reduce the value of. —**de,valu'ation** *n.***

devastate ('devə,steɪt) *vb.* (tr.) **1.** to lay waste or make desolate; ravage; destroy. **2. Inf.** to confound or overwhelm. —**devas'tation** *n.* —**devas,tator** *n.*

develop (di'veləp) *vb.* **1.** to come or bring to a later or more advanced or expanded stage; grow or cause to grow gradually. **2. (tr.)** to work out in detail. **3.** to disclose or unfold (thoughts, a plot, etc.) gradually or (of thoughts, etc.) to be gradually disclosed or unfolded. **4.** to come or bring into existence: *he developed a new faith in God.* **5. (tr.)** to improve the value or change the use of (land). **6. (tr.) Photog.** to treat (exposed film, plate, or paper) with chemical solutions in order to produce a visible image. **7. Biol.** to progress or cause to progress from simple to complex stages in the growth of an individual or the evolution of a species. **8. (tr.)** to elaborate upon (a musical theme) by varying the melody, key, etc. **9. (tr.) Maths.** to expand (a function or expression) in the form of a series. **10. (tr.) Geom.** to project or roll out (a surface) onto a plane without stretching or shrinking any element. **11. Chess.** to bring (a piece) into play from its initial position on the back rank. **12. (tr.)** to contract (a disease or illness). —**de'velopable** *adj.*

developer (di'veləpə) *n.* **1.** a person or thing that develops something, esp. a person who develops property. **2. Photog.** a chemical used to convert the latent image recorded in the emulsion of a film or paper into a visible image.

developing country *n.* a poor or non-industrial country that is seeking to develop its resources by industrialization.

development (di'veləpmənt) *n.* **1.** the act or process of growing or developing. **2.** the product of developing. **3.** a fact or event, esp. one that changes a situation. **4.**

an area of land that has been developed. **5.** the section of a movement, usually in sonata form, in which the basic musical themes are developed. **6.** Chess, the process of developing pieces. —**de,velop'mental adj.**

development area *n.* (in Britain) an area which has experienced economic depression because of the decline of its main industry or industries, and which is given government assistance to establish new industry.

deviant ('di:vɪənt) *adj.* **1.** deviating, as from what is considered acceptable behaviour. **~n.** **2.** a person whose behaviour, esp. sexual behaviour, deviates from what is considered to be acceptable. —**deviance** *n.*

deviate ('di:vɪ,et) *vb.* **1.** (usually *intr.*) to differ or cause to differ, as in belief or thought. **2.** (usually *intr.*) to turn aside or cause to turn aside. **3.** (*intr.*) *Psychol.* to depart from an accepted standard. **~n., adj.** ('di:vɪt). **4.** another word for **deviant**. —**'devi,ator** *n.* —**'devi,atory** *adj.*

deviation ('di:vɪ'eɪʃən) *n.* **1.** an act or result of deviating. **2.** *Statistics.* the difference between an observed value in a series of such values and their arithmetic mean. **3.** the error of a compass due to local magnetic disturbances.

device ('di:vəɪs) *n.* **1.** a machine or tool used for a specific task. **2.** a plan, esp. a clever or evil one; trick. **3.** any ornamental pattern or picture, as in embroidery. **4.** a design or figure, used as a heraldic sign, emblem, etc. **5.** a particular pattern of words, figures of speech, etc., used in literature to produce an effect on the reader. **6.** leave (someone) to his own devices. to leave (someone) alone to do as he wishes.

devil ('devɪl) *n.* **1.** *Theol. (often cap.)* the chief spirit of evil and enemy of God, often depicted as a human figure with horns, cloven hoofs, and tail. **2.** *Theol.* any subordinate evil spirit. **3.** a person or animal regarded as wicked or ill-natured. **4.** a person or animal regarded as unfortunate or wretched. **5.** a person or animal regarded as daring, mischievous, or energetic. **6.** *Inf.* something difficult or annoying. **7.** *Christian Science.* an error, lie, or false belief. **8.** (in Malaysia) a ghost. **9.** a portable furnace or brazier. **10.** any of various mechanical devices, such as a machine for making wooden screws or a rag-tearing machine. **11.** See **printer's devil**. **12.** *Law.* (in England) a junior barrister who does work for another in order to gain experience, usually for a half fee. **13.** between the devil and the deep blue sea. between equally undesirable alternatives. **14.** devil of a. *Inf. (intensifier):* a devil of a fine horse. **15.** give the devil his due. to acknowledge the talent or success of an unpleasant person. **16.** go to the devil. a. to fail or become dissipated. **b. (interj.)** used to express annoyance with the person causing it. **17.** raise the devil. a. to cause a commotion. **b.** to make a great protest. **18.** talk (or speak) of the devil! (*interj.*) used when an absent person who has been the subject of conversation appears. **19.** the devil! (*intensifier:*) a. used in what the devil, where the devil, etc. **b.** an exclamation of anger, surprise, disgust, etc. **20.** (let) the devil take the hindmost. look after oneself and leave others to their fate. **21.** the devil to pay. trouble to be faced as a consequence of an action. **~vb. -illing, -illed or U.S. -iling, -illed.** **22.** (*tr.*) *Inf.* to harass, vex, etc. **23.** (*tr.*) to prepare (food) by coating with a highly flavoured spiced paste or mixture of condiments before cooking. **24.** (*tr.*) to tear (rags) with a devil. **25.** (*intr.*) to serve as a printer's devil. **26.** (*intr.*) *Chiefly Brit.* to do hackwork, esp. for a lawyer or author.

devilish ('devɪlɪʃ) *adj.* **1.** of, resembling, or befitting a devil; diabolic; fiendish. **~adv., adj. Inf.** **2.** (*intensifier:*) devilish good food. —**devilishly** *adv.* —**devilishness** *n.*

devil-may-care *adj.* careless or reckless; happy-go-lucky: a devil-may-care attitude.

devilment ('devɪlmənt) *n.* devilish or mischievous conduct.

devilry ('devɪlri) or **deviltry** *n., pl. -ries or -tries.* **1.** reckless or malicious fun or mischief. **2.** wickedness. **3.** black magic or other forms of diabolism.

devil's advocate *n.* **1.** a person who advocates an opposing or unpopular view, often for the sake of argument. **2.** *R.C. Church.* the official appointed to put the case against the beatification or canonization of a candidate.

devious ('di:vɪəs) *adj.* **1.** not sincere or candid; deceitful. **2.** (of a route or course of action) rambling; indirect. **3.** going astray; erring. —**deviously** *adv.* —**deviousness** *n.*

devise ('di:vəɪz) *vb.* **1.** to work out or plan (something) in one's mind. **2.** (*tr.*) *Law.* to dispose of (real property)

by will. **~n. Law.** **3.** a disposition of property by will. **4.** a will or clause in a will disposing of real property. —**de'viser** *n.*

devoid ('di:vɔɪd) *adj. (postpositive; foll. by of)* destitute or void (of); free (from).

devolution ('devɔ:lʊʃən) *n.* **1.** a devolving. **2.** a passing onwards or downwards from one stage to another. **3.** a transfer of authority from a central government to regional governments. —**'devo'lutionary** *adj.* —**'devo'lutionist** *n., adj.*

devolve ('devɔlv) *vb.* **1.** (foll. by *on, upon, to, etc.*) to pass or cause to pass to a successor or substitute, as duties, power, etc. **2.** (*intr.*; foll. by *on or upon*) *Law.* (of an estate, etc.) to pass to another by operation of law. —**de'volution** *n.*

Devonian ('devəʊniən) *adj.* **1.** of, denoting, or formed in the fourth period of the Palaeozoic era, between the Silurian and Carboniferous periods. **2.** of or relating to Devon. **~n.** **3.** the Devonian period or rock system.

devote ('di:vəʊt) *vb. (tr.)* to apply or dedicate (oneself, money, etc.) to some pursuit, cause, etc.

devoted ('di:vəʊtɪd) *adj.* **1.** feeling or demonstrating loyalty or devotion; devout. **2.** (*postpositive; foll. by to*) dedicated or consecrated. —**de'votedly** *adv.* —**de'votedness** *n.*

devotee ('devəʊtiː) *n.* **1.** a person ardently enthusiastic about something, such as a sport or pastime. **2.** a zealous follower of a religion.

devotion ('devəʊʃən) *n.* **1.** (often foll. by *to*) strong attachment (to) or affection (for a cause, person, etc.) marked by dedicated loyalty. **2.** religious zeal; piety. **3.** (often *pl.*) religious observance or prayers. —**de'votional** *adj.*

devour ('di:vəʊə) *vb. (tr.)* **1.** to eat up greedily or voraciously. **2.** to waste or destroy; consume. **3.** to consume greedily or avidly with the senses or mind. **4.** to engulf or absorb. —**de'vourer** *n.*

devout ('di:vəʊt) *adj.* **1.** deeply religious; reverent. **2.** sincere; earnest; heartfelt. —**de'voutly** *adv.* —**de'voutness** *n.*

dew (djuː) *n.* **1.** drops of water condensed on a cool surface, esp. at night, from vapour in the air. **2.** something like this, esp. in freshness: the dew of youth. **3.** small drops of moisture, such as tears. **~vb.** **4.** (*tr.*) to moisten with or as with dew. —**'dewy** *adj.*

dewclaw ('djuː,klɔː) *n.* **1.** a nonfunctional claw in dogs. **2.** an analogous rudimentary hoof in deer, goats, etc. —**'dew,clawed** *adj.*

Dewey Decimal System ('djuːni) *n.* a system of library book classification with ten main subject classes. Also called: **decimal classification**.

dewlap ('djuː,læp) *n.* **1.** a loose fold of skin hanging from beneath the throat in cattle, dogs, etc. **2.** loose skin on an elderly person's throat.

dew point *n.* the temperature at which dew begins to form.

dew pond *n.* a small natural pond.

dexter ('dekstə) *adj.* **1.** *Arch.* of or located on the right side. **2.** (usually *postpositive*) *Heraldry.* of, on, or starting from the right side of a shield from the bearer's point of view and therefore on the spectator's left. **~Cf. sinister.**

dexterity ('dekstərɪtɪ) *n.* **1.** physical, esp. manual, skill or nimbleness. **2.** mental skill or adroitness.

dexterous ('dekstərəs) *adj.* possessing or done with dexterity. —**'dexterously** *adv.* —**'dexterousness** *n.*

dextrin ('dekstrɪn) or **dextrine** ('dekstrɪn, -trɪn) *n.* any of a group of sticky substances obtained from starch: used as thickening agents in foods and as gums.

dextrose ('dekstrəʊz, -traʊs) *n.* a glucose occurring widely in fruit, honey, and in the blood and tissue of animals. Formula: C₆H₁₂O₆. Also called: **grape sugar**, **dextroglucose**.

D.F. *abbrev. for* Defender of the Faith.

D.F.C. *abbrev. for* Distinguished Flying Cross.

D.F.M. *abbrev. for* Distinguished Flying Medal.

dg or dg. *abbrev. for* decigram.

dhal, dal, or dhoil (dɔːl) *n.* **1.** a tropical African and Asian shrub cultivated for its nutritious pea-like seeds. **2.** the seed of this shrub.

dharma ('dɑːmə) *n.* **1.** *Hinduism.* social custom regarded as a religious and moral duty. **2.** *Hinduism.* a. the essential principle of the cosmos; natural law. **b.** conduct that conforms with this. **3.** *Buddhism.* ideal truth.

dhoti ('dɔːti), **dhooti**, **dhootee**, or **dhuti** ('duːti) *n.* a long loincloth worn by men in India.

dhow (dau) *n.* a lateen-rigged coastal Arab sailing vessel.

DHSS (in Britain) *abbrev. for* Department of Health and Social Security.

di- *prefix.* 1. twice; two; double: *dicotyledon*. 2. *a.* containing two specified atoms or groups of atoms: *carbon dioxide*. *b.* a nontechnical equivalent of *bi-* (sense 5).

di- *combining form.* variant of **dia-** before a vowel: *dioptré*.

dia- or **di-** *prefix.* 1. through or during: *diachronic*. 2. across: *diatonic*. 3. apart: *diacritic*.

diabetes (ˌdaɪəˈbɪtɪs, -tɪz) *n.* any of various disorders, esp. diabetes mellitus, characterized by excretion of an abnormally large amount of urine.

diabetes mellitus (məˈlaɪtəs) *n.* a disorder of carbohydrate metabolism characterized by excessive thirst and excretion of abnormally large quantities of urine containing an excess of sugar, caused by a deficiency of insulin.

diabetic (ˌdaɪəˈbetɪk) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or having diabetes. 2. for the use of diabetics. *~n.* 3. a person who has diabetes.

diabolic (ˌdaɪəˈbɒlɪk) *adj.* 1. of the devil; satanic. 2. extremely cruel or wicked; fiendish. 3. very difficult or unpleasant. — **dia**'*bolically* *adv.* — **dia**'*bolicalness* *n.*

diaboliacal (ˌdaɪəˈbɒlɪkəl) *adj. Inf.* 1. excruciatingly bad. 2. (intensifier): *a diaboliacal liberty*. — **dia**'*bolically* *adv.* — **dia**'*bolicalness* *n.*

diabolism (daɪˈæbəlɪzəm) *n.* 1. *a.* witchcraft or sorcery. *b.* worship of devils or beliefs concerning them. 2. character or conduct that is devilish. — **di**'*abolist* *n.*

diaconate (daɪˈækənt, -neɪt) *n.* the office, sacramental status, or period of office of a deacon.

diacritic (ˌdaɪəˈkrɪtɪk) *n.* 1. a sign placed above or below a character or letter to indicate that it has a different phonetic value, is stressed, or for some other reason. *~adj.* 2. another word for **diacritical**.

diacritical (ˌdaɪəˈkrɪtɪkəl) *adj.* 1. of or relating to a diacritic. 2. showing up a distinction.

diadem (ˈdaɪədem) *n.* 1. a royal crown, esp. a light jewelled circlet. 2. royal dignity or power.

diaeresis or, esp. *U.S.* **dieresis** (daɪˈerɪsɪs) *n., pl. -ses* (-sɪz). 1. the mark " placed over the second of two adjacent vowels to indicate that it is to be pronounced separately, as in some spellings of *coöperate*, *naïve*, etc. 2. this mark used for any other purpose, such as to indicate a special pronunciation for a particular vowel. 3. a pause in a line of verse when the end of a foot coincides with the end of a word. — **diae**'*retic* or **dieretic** (ˌdaɪəˈretɪk) *adj.*

diagnose (ˈdaɪəɡnəʊz) *vb.* 1. to determine by diagnosis. 2. (*tr.*) to examine (a person or thing), as for a disease. — **diag**'*nosable* *adj.*

diagnosis (ˌdaɪəɡˈnəʊsɪs) *n., pl. -ses* (-sɪz). 1. *a.* the identification of diseases from the examination of symptoms. *b.* an opinion so reached. 2. *a.* thorough analysis of facts or problems in order to gain understanding. *b.* an opinion reached through such analysis. — **diagnostic** (ˌdaɪəɡˈnɒstɪk) *adj.*

diagonal (daɪˈæɡənəl) *adj.* 1. *Maths.* connecting any two vertices that in a polygon are not adjacent and in a polyhedron are not in the same face. 2. slanting; oblique. 3. marked with slanting lines or patterns. *~n.* 4. a diagonal line, plane, or pattern. 5. something put, set, or drawn obliquely. — **di**'*agonally* *adv.*

diagram (ˈdaɪəɡrəm) *n.* 1. a sketch or plan demonstrating the form or workings of something. 2. *Maths.* a pictorial representation of a quantity or of a relationship. *~vb.* **-gramming**, **-grammed** or *U.S.* **-graming**, **-gramed**. 3. to show in or as if in a diagram. — **diagrammatic** (ˌdaɪəɡrəˈmætɪk) *adj.*

dial (ˈdaɪəl) *n.* 1. the face of a watch, clock, etc., marked with divisions representing units of time. 2. the graduated disc of various measuring instruments. 3. *a.* the control on a radio or television set used to change the station or channel. *b.* the panel on a radio on which the frequency, wavelength, or station is indicated. 4. a numbered disc on a telephone that is rotated a set distance for each digit of a number being called. 5. *Brit.* a slang word for *face*. *~vb.* **dialling**, **dialled** or *U.S.* **dialing**, **dialed**. 6. to try to establish a telephone connection with (a subscriber) by operating the dial on a telephone. 7. (*tr.*) to indicate, measure, or operate with a dial. — **dialler** *n.*

dial. *abbrev. for* dialect(al).

dialect (ˈdaɪəlekt) *n.* *a.* a form of a language spoken in

a particular geographical area or by members of a particular social class or occupational group, distinguished by its vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation. *b.* a form of a language that is considered inferior. — **dia**'*lectal* *adj.*

dialectic (ˌdaɪəˈlektɪk) *n.* 1. the art or practice of assessing the truth of a theory by discussion and logical disputation. 2. logical argumentation. 3. a variant of **dialectics** (sense 1). 4. *Philosophy.* an interpretive method used by Hegel in which contradictions are resolved at a higher level of truth (synthesis). *~adj.* 5. of or relating to logical disputation. — **dialec**'*ician* *n.*

dialectical (ˌdaɪəˈlektɪkəl) *adj.* of or relating to dialectic or dialectics. — **dia**'*lectically* *adv.*

dialectics (ˌdaɪəˈlektɪks) *n.* 1. Also: **dialectic**. *Philosophy.* *a.* logic or a branch of logic. *b.* any formal system of reasoning. 2. the rationale of dialectical materialism.

dialling tone or *U.S.* **dial tone** *n.* a continuous purring heard over a telephone indicating that a number can be dialled.

dialogue or *U.S. (often)* **dialog** (ˈdaɪəlɒɡ) *n.* 1. conversation between two or more people. 2. an exchange of opinions; discussion. 3. the lines spoken by characters in drama or fiction. 4. a passage of conversation in a literary or dramatic work. 5. a literary composition in the form of a dialogue. 6. a political discussion between representatives of two nations or groups.

dialysis (daɪˈælɪsɪs) *n., pl. -ses* (-sɪz). 1. the separation of the crystalloids from a solution containing crystalloids and colloids by osmosis of the crystalloids. 2. *Med.* the filtering of blood through a semipermeable membrane to remove waste products. — **dialytic** (ˌdaɪəlɪtɪk) *adj.*

diamagnetism (ˌdaɪəˈmæɡnɪtɪzəm) *n.* the phenomenon exhibited by substances that are repelled by both poles of a magnet and thus lie across the magnet's line of influence.

diamanté (ˌdaɪəˈmæntɪ) *adj.* 1. decorated with glittering ornaments, such as sequins. *~n.* 2. a fabric so covered.

diameter (daɪˈæmɪtə) *n.* 1. *a.* a straight line connecting the centre of a circle, sphere, etc. with two points on the perimeter or surface. *b.* the length of such a line. 2. the thickness of something, esp. with circular cross section. — **diametric** (ˌdaɪəˈmetrɪk) or **dia**'*metrical* *adj.* — **dia**'*metrically* *adv.*

diamond (ˈdaɪəmənd) *n.* 1. *a.* a usually colourless exceptionally hard form of carbon in cubic crystalline form. It is used as a precious stone and for industrial cutting or abrading. *b. (as modifier): a diamond ring*. 2. *Geom.* a figure having four sides of equal length forming two acute angles and two obtuse angles; rhombus. 3. *a.* a red lozenge-shaped symbol on a playing card. *b.* a card with one or more of these symbols or (*when pl.*) the suit of cards so marked. 4. *Baseball.* *a.* the whole playing field. *b.* the square formed by the four bases. 5. **rough diamond**, a person of fine character who lacks refinement and polish. *~vb.* 6. (*tr.*) to decorate with or as with diamonds. — **diamantine** (ˌdaɪəˈmæntaɪn) *adj.*

diamond wedding *n.* the 60th, or occasionally the 75th, anniversary of a marriage.

dianthus (daɪˈændʊs) *n., pl. -thuses*. any Eurasian plant of the widely cultivated genus *Dianthus*, such as the carnation, pink, and sweet william.

diapason (ˌdaɪəˈpeɪzən) *n. Music.* 1. either of two stops (**open** and **stopped diapason**) found throughout the compass of a pipe organ that give it its characteristic tone colour. 2. the compass of an instrument or voice. 3. *a.* a standard pitch used for tuning. *b.* a tuning fork or pitch pipe. 4. (in classical Greece) an octave.

diaper (ˈdaɪəpə) *n.* 1. the *U.S.* word for *nappy*. 2. *a.* a fabric having a pattern of a small repeating design, esp. diamonds. *b.* such a pattern, used as decoration. *~vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to decorate with such a pattern.

diaphanous (daɪˈæfənəs) *adj.* (usually of fabrics) fine and translucent. — **di**'*aphanously* *adv.*

diaphragm (ˈdaɪəfræm) *n.* 1. *Anat.* any separating membrane, esp. the muscular partition that separates the abdominal and thoracic cavities in mammals. 2. a contraceptive membrane placed over the mouth of the cervix. 3. any thin dividing membrane. 4. Also called: **stop**, a device to control the amount of light entering an optical instrument, such as a camera. 5. a thin vibrating disc used to convert sound signals to electrical signals or vice versa in telephones, etc. — **diaphragmatic** (ˌdaɪəfræɡˈmætɪk) *adj.*

diapositive (ˌdaɪəˈpɒzɪtɪv) *n.* a positive transparency; slide.

diarist ('daɪərɪst) *n.* a person who writes a diary, esp. one that is subsequently published.

diarrhoea or esp. U.S. **diarrhea** (ˌdaɪəˈrɪə) *n.* frequent and copious discharge of abnormally liquid faeces. —**diar'rhoeal**, **diar'rhoeic** or esp. U.S. **diar'rhéal**, **diar'rhéic** *adj.*

diary ('daɪəri) *n., pl. -ries.* 1. a personal record of daily events, appointments, observations, etc. 2. a book for this.

Diaspora (daɪˈæspərə) *n.* 1. a. the dispersion of the Jews from Palestine after the Babylonian captivity. b. the Jewish communities that arose after this dispersion. 2. (often not cap.) a dispersion, as of people originally belonging to one nation.

diastase ('daɪəˌsteɪs, -steɪz) *n.* any of a group of enzymes that hydrolyse starch to maltose. They are present in germinated barley and in the pancreas. —**dia'stasic** *adj.*

diatom ('daɪətəm) *n.* a microscopic unicellular alga having a cell wall impregnated with silica.

diatomic (ˌdaɪəˈtɒmɪk) *adj.* (of a compound or molecule) a. containing two atoms. b. containing two characteristic groups or atoms.

diatonic (ˌdaɪəˈtɒnɪk) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or based upon any scale of five tones and two semitones produced by playing the white keys of a keyboard instrument. 2. not involving the sharpening or flattening of the notes of the major or minor scale nor the use of such notes as modified by accidentals.

diatribe ('daɪəˌtraɪb) *n.* a bitter or violent criticism or attack.

dibble ('dɪbəl) *n.* 1. Also: **digber** ('dɪbə). a small hand tool used to make holes in the ground for bulbs, seeds, or roots. ~*vb.* 2. to make a hole in (the ground) with a dibble. 3. to plant (seeds, etc.) with a dibble.

dice (daɪs) *pl. n.* 1. cubes of wood, plastic, etc., each of whose sides has a different number of spots (1 to 6), used in games of chance. 2. (functioning as *sing.*) Also called: **die**. one of these cubes. 3. small cubes as of vegetables, meat, etc. 4. **no dice**. *Sl.*, chiefly U.S. an expression of refusal. ~*vb.* 5. to cut (food, etc.) into small cubes. 6. (*intr.*) to gamble or play with dice. 7. (*intr.*) to take a chance or risk (esp. in **dice with death**). 8. (*tr.*) *Austral. inf.* to abandon or reject (someone or something). —**dicer** *n.*

dicey ('daɪsi) *adj.* **dicier**, **diciest**. *Sl.*, chiefly *Brit.* difficult or dangerous; risky; tricky.

dichotomy (daɪˈkɒtəmi) *n., pl. -mies.* 1. division into two parts or classifications, esp. when they are sharply distinguished or opposed. 2. *Bot.* a simple method of branching by repeated division into two equal parts. —**di'chotomous** *adj.*

dichromatic (ˌdaɪkrəʊˈmætɪk) *adj.* 1. Also: **dichroic**. having two colours. 2. (of animal species) having two different colour varieties. 3. able to perceive only two colours. —**dichromatism** (ˌdaɪkrəʊˈmætɪzəm) *n.*

dict (dɪk) *n. Sl.* 1. *Brit.* a fellow or person. 2. **clever dict**. *Brit.* an opinionated person; know-all. 3. a taboo word for penis.

dictens ('dɪkɪnz) *n. Inf.* a euphemistic word for devil (used as intensifier in **what the dictens**).

Dickensian (dɪˈkɛnzɪən) *adj.* 1. of Charles Dickens, (1812-70), English novelist, or his novels. 2. a. denoting poverty, distress, and exploitation as depicted in the novels of Dickens. b. grotesquely comic, as some of the characters of Dickens.

dicker ('dɪkə) *Chiefly U.S.* ~*vb.* 1. to trade (goods) by bargaining; barter. ~*n.* 2. a petty bargain or barter.

dicky or **dickey** ('dɪki) *n., pl. dickets or dickeys.* 1. a false blouse or shirt front. 2. Also called: **dicky bow**. *Brit.* a bow tie. 3. Also called: **dicky-bird**, **dickeybird**. a child's word for a bird. 4. a folding outside seat at the rear of some early cars.

dicky or **dickey** ('dɪki) *adj. dickier, dickiest.* *Brit. sl.* shaky, unsteady, or unreliable: *I feel a bit dicky today.*

dicotyledon (daɪˌkɒtɪˈlɪdɒn) *n.* a flowering plant having two embryonic seed leaves. —**dicoty'ledonous** *adj.*

Dictaphone ('dɪktəˌfəʊn) *n. Trademark.* a tape recorder designed esp. for dictation and subsequent typing.

dictate *vb.* (dɪk'tet). 1. to say (letters, speeches, etc.) aloud for mechanical recording or verbatim transcription by another person. 2. (*tr.*) to prescribe (commands, etc.) authoritatively. 3. (*intr.*) to seek to impose one's will on others. ~*n.* ('dɪkteɪt). 4. an authoritative command. 5. a guiding principle: *the dictates of reason.*

dictation (dɪk'tetʃən) *n.* 1. the act of dictating material to be recorded or taken down in writing. 2. the material

dictated. 3. authoritative commands or the act of giving them.

dictator (dɪk'tetə) *n.* 1. a. a ruler who is not effectively restricted by a constitution, laws, etc. b. an absolute, esp. tyrannical, ruler. 2. (in ancient Rome) a person appointed during a crisis to exercise supreme authority. 3. a person who makes pronouncements, which are regarded as authoritative. 4. a person who behaves in an authoritarian or tyrannical manner. —**dic'tator-ship** *n.*

dictatorial (dɪk'təˈtɔːriəl) *adj.* 1. of or characteristic of a dictator. 2. tending to dictate; tyrannical; overbearing. —**dicta'torially** *adv.*

diction ('dɪkʃən) *n.* 1. the choice of words in writing or speech. 2. the manner of enunciating words and sounds.

dictionary ('dɪkʃənəri) *n., pl. -aries.* 1. a. a book that consists of an alphabetical list of words with their meanings, parts of speech, pronunciations, etymologies, etc. b. a similar book giving equivalent words in two or more languages. 2. a reference book listing words or terms and giving information about a particular subject or activity. 3. a collection of information or examples with the entries alphabetically arranged: *a dictionary of quotations.*

dictum ('dɪktəm) *n., pl. -tums or -ta (-tə).* 1. a formal or authoritative statement; pronouncement. 2. a popular saying or maxim.

did (dɪd) *vb.* the past tense of **do**.

didactic (dɪˈdæktɪk) *adj.* 1. intended to instruct, esp. exclusively. 2. morally instructive. 3. (of works of art or literature) containing a political or moral message to which aesthetic considerations are subordinated. —**di'dactically** *adv.* —**di'dacticism** *n.*

diddle ('dɪdl̩) *vb. (tr.) Inf.* to cheat or swindle. —**did-dle** *n.*

didgeridoo (ˌdɪdʒərɪˈduː) *n. Music.* a native Australian wind instrument.

die (daɪ) *vb. dying, died.* (*mainly intr.*) 1. (of an organism, organs, etc.) to cease all biological activity permanently. 2. (of something inanimate) to cease to exist. 3. (often foll. by *away*, *down*, or *out*) to lose strength, power, or energy, esp. by degrees. 4. (often foll. by *away* or *down*) to become calm; subside. 5. to stop functioning: *the engine died.* 6. to languish, as with love, longing, etc. 7. (usually foll. by *of*) *Inf.* to be nearly overcome (with laughter, boredom, etc.). 8. *Theol.* to lack spiritual life within the soul. 9. (*tr.*) to suffer (a death of a specified kind): *he died a saintly death.* 10. **never say die.** *Inf.* never give up. 11. **die hard**. to cease to exist after a struggle: *old habits die hard.* 12. **die in harness.** to die while still working or active. 13. **be dying.** (foll. by *for* or an infinitive) to be eager or desperate (for something or to do something). ~*See* also **die down**, **die out**.

die (daɪ) *n.* 1. a. a shaped block used to cut or form metal in a drop forge, press, etc. b. a tool with a conical hole through which wires, etc. are drawn to reduce their diameter. 2. an internally-threaded tool for cutting external threads. 3. a casting mould. 4. *Archit.* the dado of a pedestal, usually cubic. 5. another name for **dice** (sense 2). 6. **the die is cast.** the irrevocable decision has been taken.

die down *vb. (intr., adv.)* 1. (of plants) to wither above ground, leaving only the root alive during the winter. 2. to lose strength or power, esp. by degrees. 3. to become calm.

die-hard *n.* 1. a person who resists change or who holds onto an untenable position. 2. (*modifier*) obstinately resistant to change.

dieldrin ('dɪɪldrɪn) *n.* a crystalline substance, consisting of a chlorinated derivative of naphthalene: a contact insecticide.

dielectric (ˌdaɪˈlektɪk) *n.* 1. a substance that can sustain an electric field. 2. a substance of very low electrical conductivity; insulator. ~*adj.* 3. concerned with or having the properties of a dielectric. —**die'lectrically** *adv.*

-diene *n. combining form.* denoting an organic compound containing two double bonds between carbon atoms: *butadiene*.

die out or off *vb. (intr., adv.)* 1. to die one after another until few or none are left. 2. to become extinct, esp. after a period of gradual decline.

diesel ('dɪzəl) *n.* 1. *See* **diesel engine**. 2. a ship, locomotive, lorry, etc., driven by a diesel engine. 3. *Inf.* short for **diesel oil** (or **fuel**).

diesel-electric *n.* 1. a locomotive fitted with a diesel engine driving an electric generator that feeds electric

traction motors. ~*adj.* 2. of or relating to such a locomotive or system.

diesel engine or **motor** *n.* a type of internal-combustion engine in which atomized fuel oil is ignited by compression alone.

diesel oil or **fuel** *n.* a fuel obtained from petroleum distillation that is used in diesel engines. Also called: *derv.*

Dies Irae *Latin.* ('di:ɪz 'ɪrəɪ) *n.* 1. a Latin hymn of the 13th century, describing the Last Judgment. It is used in the Mass for the dead. 2. a musical setting of this.

diet ('daɪət) *n.* 1. a specific allowance or selection of food, esp. prescribed to control weight or for health reasons: a *salt-free diet*. 2. the food and drink that a person or animal regularly consumes. 3. regular activities or occupations. ~*vb.* 4. (usually *intr.*) to follow or cause to follow a dietary regimen. —*dietary adj.* —*dieter n.*

diet ('daɪət) *n.* 1. (sometimes *cap.*) a legislative assembly in various countries. 2. (sometimes *cap.*) the assembly of the estates of the Holy Roman Empire. 3. *Scot. law.* a single session of a court.

dietetic (,daɪ'etɪk) or **dietetical** *adj.* 1. denoting or relating to diet. 2. prepared for special dietary requirements. —*die'tetically adv.*

dietetics (,daɪ'etɪks) *n.* (functioning as *sing.*) the scientific study and regulation of food intake and preparation.

dietitian or **dietician** (,daɪ'tɪʃən) *n.* a person who specializes in dietetics.

differ ('dɪfə) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. (often foll. by *from*) to be dissimilar in quality, nature, or degree (to); vary (from). 2. (often foll. by *from* or *with*) to disagree (with). 3. *Dialect.* to quarrel or dispute.

difference ('dɪfərəns) *n.* 1. the state or quality of being unlike. 2. a specific instance of being unlike. 3. a distinguishing mark or feature. 4. a significant change. 5. a disagreement or argument. 6. a degree of distinctness, as between two people or things. 7. the result of the subtraction of one number, quantity, etc., from another. 8. *Heraldry.* an addition to the arms of a family to represent a younger branch. 9. *make a difference.* a. to have an effect. b. to treat differently. 10. *split the difference.* a. to compromise. b. to divide a remainder equally. 11. *with a difference.* with some distinguishing quality, good or bad.

different ('dɪfərənt) *adj.* 1. partly or completely unlike. 2. not identical or the same; other. 3. unusual. —*differently adv.* —*differentness n.*

differentia (,dɪfə'renʃɪə) *n., pl. -tiae* (-ʃɪ:ɪ). *Logic.* a feature by which two subclasses of the same class of named objects can be distinguished.

differential (,dɪfə'renʃəl) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or using a difference. 2. constituting a difference; distinguishing. 3. *Maths.* involving one or more derivatives or differentials. 4. *Physics, engineering.* relating to, operating on, or based on the difference between two opposing effects, motions, forces, etc. ~*n.* 5. a factor that differentiates between two comparable things. 6. *Maths.* a. an increment in a given function, expressed as the product of the derivative of that function and the corresponding increment in the independent variable. b. an increment in a given function of two or more variables, $f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$, expressed as the sum of the products of each partial derivative and the increment in the corresponding variable. 7. See *differential gear*. 8. *Chiefly Brit.* the difference between rates of pay for different types of labour, esp. when forming a pay structure within an industry. 9. (in commerce) a difference in rates, esp. between comparable services. —*differ'entially adv.*

differential calculus *n.* the branch of calculus concerned with the study, evaluation, and use of derivatives and differentials.

differential gear *n.* the epicyclic gear mounted in the driving axle of a road vehicle that permits one driving wheel to rotate faster than the other, as when cornering.

differentiate (,dɪfə'renʃɪ,et) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to serve to distinguish between. 2. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *between*) to perceive, show, or make a difference (in or between); discriminate. 3. (*intr.*) to become dissimilar or distinct. 4. *Maths.* to perform a differentiation on (a quantity, expression, etc.). 5. (*intr.*) (of unspecialized cells, etc.) to change during development to more specialized forms. —*differ'enti'ation n.* —*differ'enti'a-tor n.*

difficult ('dɪfɪk'lɪt) *adj.* 1. not easy to do; requiring

effort. 2. not easy to understand or solve. 3. troublesome: a *difficult child*. 4. not easily convinced, pleased, or satisfied. 5. full of hardships or trials. —*difficultly adv.*

difficulty ('dɪfɪk'lɪt) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. the state or quality of being difficult. 2. a task, problem, etc., that is hard to deal with. 3. (often *pl.*) a troublesome or embarrassing situation, esp. a financial one. 4. a disagreement. 5. (often *pl.*) an objection or obstacle. 6. a trouble or source of trouble; worry. 7. lack of ease; awkwardness.

diffident ('dɪfɪdənt) *adj.* lacking self-confidence; timid; shy. —*diffidence n.* —*diffidently adv.*

diffract (dɪ'frækt) *vb.* to undergo or cause to undergo diffraction. —*diffractive adj.* —*diffractively adv.* —*diffractiveness n.*

diffraction (dɪ'frækʃən) *n.* 1. *Physics.* a deviation in the direction of a wave at the edge of an obstacle in its path. 2. any phenomenon caused by diffraction, such as the formation of light and dark fringes by the passage of light through a small aperture.

diffuse *vb.* (dɪ'fju:z). 1. to spread in all directions. 2. to undergo or cause diffusion. 3. to scatter; disperse. ~*adj.* (dɪ'fju:z). 4. spread out over a wide area. 5. lacking conciseness. 6. characterized by diffusion. —*diffusely* (dɪ'fju:ʃli) *adv.* —*diffuseness n.* —*diffusible* (dɪ'fju:zəb'l) *adj.*

diffusion (dɪ'fju:ʒən) *n.* 1. a diffusing or being diffused; dispersion. 2. verbosity. 3. *Physics.* a. the random thermal motion of atoms, molecules, etc., in gases, liquids, and some solids. b. the transfer of atoms or molecules by their random motion from one part of a medium to another. 4. *Physics.* the transmission or reflection of electromagnetic radiation, esp. light, in which the radiation is scattered in many directions. 5. *Anthropol.* the transmission of social institutions, skills, and myths from one culture to another.

dig (dɪg) *vb.* *digging, dug.* 1. (when *tr.*, often foll. by *up*) to cut into, break up, and turn over or remove (earth, etc.), esp. with a spade. 2. to excavate (a hole, tunnel, etc.) by digging, usually with an implement or (of animals) with claws, etc. 3. (often foll. by *through*) to make or force (one's way): *he dug his way through the crowd*. 4. (*tr.*; often foll. by *out* or *up*) to obtain by digging. 5. (*tr.*; often foll. by *out* or *up*) to find by effort or searching: *to dig out facts*. 6. (*tr.*; foll. by *in* or *into*) to thrust or jab. 7. (*tr.*; foll. by *in* or *into*) to mix (compost, etc.) with soil by digging. 8. (*intr.*; foll. by *in* or *into*) *Inf.* to begin vigorously to do something. 9. *Inf.* to like, understand, or appreciate. 10. (*intr.*) *U.S. sl.* to work hard, esp. for an examination. ~*n.* 11. the act of digging. 12. a thrust or poke. 13. a cutting remark. 14. *Inf.* an archaeological excavation. 15. *Austral. & N.Z. Inf.* short for *digger*.

digest *vb.* (dɪ'dʒest, daɪ-). 1. to subject (food) to a process of digestion. 2. (*tr.*) to assimilate mentally. 3. *Chem.* to soften or disintegrate by the action of heat, moisture, or chemicals. 4. (*tr.*) to arrange in a methodical order; classify. 5. (*tr.*) to reduce to a summary. ~*n.* ('daɪdʒest). 6. a comprehensive and systematic compilation of information or material, often condensed. 7. a magazine, periodical, etc., that summarizes news. 8. a compilation of rules of law. —*di'gestible adj.*

digestion (dɪ'dʒestʃən, daɪ-) *n.* 1. the act or process in living organisms of breaking down food into easily absorbed substances by the action of enzymes, etc. 2. mental assimilation, esp. of ideas. 3. the decomposition of sewage by bacteria. 4. *Chem.* the treatment of material with heat, solvents, etc., to cause decomposition. —*di'gestional adj.*

digestive (dɪ'dʒestɪv, daɪ-) or **digestant** (daɪ'dʒestənt) *adj.* 1. relating to, aiding, or subjecting to digestion. ~*n.* 2. any substance that aids digestion. —*di'gestively adv.*

digestive biscuit *n.* a round semisweet biscuit made from wholemeal flour.

digger ('dɪgə) *n.* 1. a person, animal, or machine that digs. 2. a miner. 3. a tool or machine used for excavation. 4. *Austral. & N.Z. Inf.* (sometimes *cap.*) an Australian or New Zealander, esp. a soldier: often used as a friendly term of address.

diggings ('dɪgɪŋz) *pl. n.* 1. (*pl.*) material that has been dug out. 2. (*sing. or pl.*) a place where mining has taken place. 3. (*pl.*) *Brit. Inf.* a less common name for *digs*.

dig in *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. *Mil.* to dig foxholes, trenches, etc. 2. *Inf.* to entrench (oneself). 3. (*intr.*) *Inf.* to defend a position firmly, as in an argument. 4. *dig one's heels in.* *Inf.* to refuse to move or be persuaded.

digit ('dɪdʒɪt) *n.* 1. a finger or toe. 2. any of the ten Arabic numerals from 0 to 9.

digital ('dɪdʒɪtəl) *adj.* 1. of, resembling, or possessing a

digit or digits. 2. performed with the fingers. 3. *Computers, recording engineer.* operating by the use of discrete signals to represent data in the form of numbers or other characters. 4. displaying information as numbers rather than by a pointer moving over a dial. ~*n.* 5. *Music.* a key on a piano, harpsichord, etc. —'digital-ly adv.

digital clock or watch *n.* a clock or watch in which the time is indicated by digits rather than by hands on a dial.

digital computer *n.* an electronic computer in which the input is discrete, consisting of numbers, letters, etc. that are represented internally in binary notation.

digitalis (ˌdɪdʒɪ'teɪlɪs) *n.* 1. any of a genus of Eurasian plants such as the foxglove, having long spikes of bell-shaped flowers. 2. a drug prepared from the dried leaves of the foxglove: used medicinally as a heart stimulant.

digitate (ˌdɪdʒɪ'teɪt) or **digitated** *adj.* 1. (of leaves) having the leaflets in the form of a spread hand. 2. (of animals) having digits. —'digit, tately adv. —'digi' tation *n.*

digitize or -tise (ˌdɪdʒɪ'taɪz) *vb.* (tr.) to transcribe (data) into a digital form for processing by a computer. —'digi' tization or -'sation *n.*

digified (ˌdɪɡni'faɪd) *adj.* characterized by dignity of manner or appearance; stately; noble. —'digni, fiedly adv. —'digni, fiedness *n.*

diglify (ˌdɪɡni'faɪ) *vb.* -fying, -fied. (tr.) 1. to invest with honour or dignity. 2. to add distinction to. 3. to add a semblance of dignity to, esp. by the use of a pretentious name or title.

dignitary (ˌdɪɡnɪ'tɔːri) *n., pl. -taries.* a person of high official position or rank.

dignity (ˌdɪɡnɪ'ti) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. a formal, stately, or grave bearing. 2. the state or quality of being worthy of honour. 3. relative importance; rank. 4. sense of self-importance (often in *stand (or be) on one's dignity, beneath one's dignity*). 5. high rank, esp. in government or the church.

digraph (ˌdaɪɡrə'f) *n.* a combination of two letters used to represent a single sound such as *gh* in *tough*. —'di- graphic (daɪ'græfɪk) *adj.*

digress (daɪ'ɡres) *vb. (intr.)* 1. to depart from the main subject in speech or writing. 2. to wander from one's path. —'di- gresser *n.* —'di- gression *n.*

digs (dɪgz) *pl. n. Brit. inf.* lodgings.

dihedral (daɪ'hɪdrəl) *adj.* 1. having or formed by two intersecting planes. ~*n.* 2. Also called: **dihedron, dihe- dral angle.** the figure formed by two intersecting planes. 3. the upward or downward inclination of an aircraft wing in relation to the lateral axis.

dike (daɪk) *n.* 1. *Inf., chiefly Austral.* a lavatory. ~*n., vb.* 2. the usual U.S. spelling of *dyke*¹.

dilapidate (dɪ'læpɪ'deɪt) *vb.* to fall or cause to fall into ruin. —'di, lapi' dation *n.* —'di, lapi, dated *adj.*

dilate (daɪ'leɪt, dr-) *vb.* 1. to make or become wider or larger. 2. (*intr.*; often foll. by *on* or *upon*) to speak or write at length. —'di, lata' bility *n.* —'di' latable *adj.* —'di' lation or dilatation (ˌdaɪlə'teɪʃən) *n.* —'di' lative (daɪ'leɪtv) *adj.*

dilatatory (ˌdɪlə'tɔːri) *adj.* 1. tending to delay or waste time. 2. intended to waste time or defer action. —'dilatatorily adv. —'dilatatoriness *n.*

dildo or dildoe (ˌdɪldəʊ) *n., pl. -dōs or -does.* an object used as a substitute for an erect penis.

dilemma (dɪ'lemə, daɪ-) *n.* 1. a situation necessitating a choice between two equally undesirable alternatives. 2. a problem that seems incapable of a solution. 3. *on the horns of a dilemma* *a.* faced with the choice between two equal alternatives. *b.* in an awkward situation. —'dilemmatic (ˌdɪlɪ'mætɪk) *adj.*

dilettante (ˌdɪlɪ'tænti) *n., pl. -tantes or -tanti* (ˌtæntɪ). 1. a person whose interest in a subject is superficial rather than professional. 2. a person who loves the arts. ~*adj.* 3. of or characteristic of a dilettante. —'dilet' tan- tish or 'dilet' tanteish *adj.* —'dilet' tantism or 'dilet- tanteism *n.*

diligent (ˌdɪlɪdʒənt) *adj.* 1. careful and persevering in carrying out tasks or duties. 2. carried out with care and perseverance: *diligent work.* —'diligence *n.* —'diligently adv.

dill (dɪl) *n.* 1. an aromatic Eurasian plant with umbrella-shaped clusters of yellow flowers. 2. the leaves or fruits of this plant, used for flavouring and in medicine.

dilly-dally (ˌdɪlɪ'dæli) *vb. -lying, -lied. (intr.)* *Inf.* to loiter or vacillate.

dilute (daɪ'lʊt) *vb.* 1. to make or become less concentrated, esp. by adding water or a thinner. 2. to make or become weaker in force, effect, etc. ~*adj.* 3. *Chem. a.* (of a solution, etc.) having a low concentration. *b.* (of a substance) present in solution, esp. a weak solution in water: *dilute acetic acid.* —'di' luter *n.* —'di' lution *n.*

diluvial (daɪ'lʊvɪəl, dr-) or **diluvian** *adj.* of or connected with a deluge, esp. with the great Flood described in Genesis.

dim (dɪm) *adj.* **dimmer, dimmest.** 1. badly illuminated. 2. not clearly seen; faint. 3. having weak or indistinct vision. 4. mentally dull. 5. not clear in the mind; obscure: *a dim memory.* 6. lacking in brightness or lustre. 7. unfavourable; gloomy (esp. in *take a dim view*). ~*vb.* **dimming, dimmed.** 8. to become or cause to become dim. 9. (tr.) to cause to seem less bright. 10. the U.S. word for **dip** (sense 5). —'dimly adv. —'dim- ness *n.*

dim. *abbrev. for:* 1. dimension. 2. Also: **dimin.** *Music.* diminuendo. 3. Also: **dimin.** diminutive.

dime (daɪm) *n.* 1. a coin of the U.S. and Canada, worth one tenth of a dollar or ten cents. 2. *a dime a dozen.* very cheap or common.

dimension (dɪ'menʃən) *n.* 1. (*often pl.*) a measurement of the size of something in a particular direction, such as the length, width, height, or diameter. 2. (*often pl.*) scope; size; extent. 3. aspect: *a new dimension to politics.* 4. *Maths.* the number of coordinates required to locate a point in space. ~*vb.* 5. (tr.) *Chiefly U.S.* to cut to or mark with specified dimensions. —'di' mension- al *adj.* —'di' mensionless *adj.*

diminish (dɪ'mɪnɪʃ) *vb.* 1. to make or become smaller, fewer, or less. 2. (tr.) *Archit.* to cause to taper. 3. *Music. (tr.)* to decrease (a minor or perfect interval) by a semitone. 4. to reduce in authority, status, etc. —'di- minishable *adj.*

diminished responsibility *n.* *Law.* a plea under which mental derangement is submitted as demonstrating lack of criminal responsibility.

diminuendo (dɪ'mɪnju'endəʊ) *n., pl. -dos.* 1. *Music. a.* a gradual decrease in loudness. Symbol: > *b.* a musical passage affected by a diminuendo. ~*adj.* 2. gradually decreasing in loudness. 3. with a diminuendo.

diminution (dɪ'mɪnju:ʃən) *n.* 1. reduction; decrease. 2. *Music.* the presentation of the subject of a fugue, etc., in which the note values are reduced in length.

diminutive (dɪ'mɪnju:tɪv) *adj.* 1. very small; tiny. 2. *Grammar. a.* denoting an affix added to a word to convey the meaning *small* or *unimportant* or to express affection. *b.* denoting a word formed by the addition of a diminutive affix. ~*n.* 3. *Grammar.* a diminutive word or affix. 4. a tiny person or thing. —'di' minutively adv. —'di' minuteness *n.*

dimity (ˌdɪmɪtɪ) *n., pl. -ties.* a light strong cotton fabric with woven stripes or squares.

dimmer (ˈdɪmə) *n.* 1. a device for dimming an electric light. 2. (*often pl.*) *U.S. a.* a dipped headlight on a road vehicle. *b.* a parking light on a car.

dimple (ˈdɪmpəl) *n.* 1. a small natural dent, esp. on the cheeks or chin. 2. any slight depression in a surface. ~*vb.* 3. to make or become dimpled. 4. (*intr.*) to produce dimples by smiling. —'dimply *adj.*

dimwit (ˈdɪm,wɪt) *n. Inf.* a stupid or silly person. —'dim- witted *adj.* —'dim- wittedness *n.*

din (dɪn) *n.* 1. a loud discordant confused noise. ~*vb.* **dinning, dinned.** 2. (tr.; usually foll. by *into*) to instil by constant repetition. 3. (tr.) to subject to a din. 4. (tr.) to make a din.

dinar (ˈdɪnɑː) *n.* 1. the standard monetary unit of Algeria, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Southern Yemen, Tunisia, and Yugoslavia. 2. an Iranian monetary unit.

dine (daɪn) *vb. 1. (intr.)* to eat dinner. 2. (*intr.*; often foll. by *on*, *off*, or *upon*) to make one's meal (of): *the guests dined upon roast beef.* 3. (tr.) *Inf.* to entertain to dinner (esp. in *to wine and dine someone*).

diner (ˈdaɪnə) *n.* 1. a person eating a meal, esp. in a restaurant. 2. *Chiefly U.S.* a small cheap restaurant. 3. short for **dining car**.

dinette (daɪ'net) *n.* an alcove or small area for use as a dining room.

ding (dɪŋ) *vb.* 1. to ring, esp. with tedious repetition. 2. (tr.) another word for **din** (sense 2). ~*n.* 3. an imitation of the sound of a bell.

ding-dong *n.* 1. the sound of a bell or bells. 2. an imitation of the sound of a bell. 3. *a.* a violent exchange

of blows or words. **b.** (as modifier): a *ding-dong battle*. ~adj. **4.** sounding or ringing repeatedly.

dinges ('dɪŋs) *n.* *S. African inf.* a jocular word for something whose name is unknown or forgotten; thingumabob.

dinghy, dingy, or dingey ('dɪŋi) *n., pl. -ghies, -gies, or -geys.* any small boat, powered by sail, oars, or outboard motor.

dingle ('dɪŋɡl̩) *n.* a small wooded dell.

dingo ('dɪŋɡəʊ) *n., pl. -goes.* a wild dog of Australia, having a yellowish-brown coat and resembling a wolf.

dingy ('dɪŋdʒi) *adj. -gier, -giest.* **1.** lacking light or brightness; drab. **2.** dirty; discoloured. —'dingily *adv.* —'dinginess *n.*

dining car *n.* a railway coach in which meals are served at tables. Also called: **restaurant car.**

dining room *n.* a room where meals are eaten.

dinkum ('dɪŋkəm) *adj. Austral. inf.* **1.** genuine or right: a fair dinkum offer. **2.** dinkum oil. the truth.

dinky ('dɪŋki) *adj. dinkier, dinkiest. Inf.* **1.** *Brit.* small and neat; dainty. **2.** *U.S.* inconsequential; insignificant.

dinner ('dɪnə) *n.* **1.** a meal taken in the evening. **2.** a meal taken at midday, esp. when it is the main meal of the day; lunch. **3.** a formal meal or banquet in honour of someone or something. **4.** (as modifier): dinner table; dinner hour.

dinner-dance *n.* a formal dinner followed by dancing.

dinner jacket *n.* a man's semiformal evening jacket without tails, usually black. *U.S.* name: **tuxedo.**

dinner service *n.* a set of matching plates, dishes, etc., suitable for serving a meal.

dinosaur ('daɪnəʊsɔː) *n.* any of a large order of extinct reptiles many of which were of gigantic size and abundant in the Mesozoic era. —'dino'saurian *adj.*

dint ('dɪnt) *n.* **1.** by dint of. by means or use of. by dint of hard work. **2.** Arch. a blow or a mark made by a blow. ~vb. **3.** (tr.) to mark with dints.

diocesan (daɪ'ɒssɪən) *adj.* **1.** of or relating to a diocese. ~n. **2.** the bishop of a diocese.

diocese ('daɪəsɪs) *n.* the district under the jurisdiction of a bishop.

diode ('daɪəʊd) *n.* **1.** a semiconductor device used in circuits for converting alternating current to direct current. **2.** the earliest type of electronic valve having two electrodes between which a current can flow only in one direction.

dioecious (daɪ'ɪʃəs) *adj.* (of plants) having the male and female reproductive organs on separate plants.

Dionysian (daɪ'ɒnɪʒiən) *adj.* **1.** of or relating to Dionysus, the Greek god of wine and revelry. **2.** (often not cap.) wild or orgiastic.

diopetre or U.S. diopter (daɪ'ɒptə) *n.* a unit for measuring the refractive power of a lens: the reciprocal of the focal length of the lens expressed in metres. —'di'op-tral *adj.*

diorama (daɪ'ɒrəmə) *n.* **1.** a miniature three-dimensional scene, in which models of figures are seen against a background. **2.** a picture made up of illuminated translucent curtains, viewed through an aperture. **3.** a museum display, as of an animal, of a specimen in its natural setting. —'dioramic (daɪ'ɒrəmək) *adj.*

dioxide (daɪ'ɒksaɪd) *n.* any oxide containing two oxygen atoms per molecule, both of which are bonded to an atom of another element.

dip (dɪp) *vb.* **dipping, dipped.** **1.** to plunge or be plunged quickly or briefly into a liquid, esp. to wet or coat. **2.** (intr.) to undergo a slight decline, esp. temporarily: sales dipped in November. **3.** (intr.) to slope downwards. **4.** to sink quickly. **5.** (tr.) to switch (car headlights) from the main to the lower beam. *U.S.* word: **dim.** **6.** (tr.) a. to immerse (sheep, etc.) briefly in a chemical to rid them of or prevent infestation by insects, etc. b. to immerse (grain, vegetables, or wood) in a preservative liquid. **7.** (tr.) to dye by immersing in a liquid. **8.** (tr.) to baptize (someone) by immersion. **9.** (tr.) to plate or galvanize (a metal, etc.) by immersion in an electrolyte or electrolytic cell. **10.** (tr.) to scoop up a liquid or something from a liquid in the hands or in a container. **11.** to lower or be lowered briefly. **12.** (tr.) to make (a candle) by plunging the wick into melted wax. **13.** (intr.) to plunge a container, the hands, etc., into something, esp. to obtain an object. **14.** (intr., foll. by *in* or *into*) to draw (upon): he dipped into his savings. **15.** (intr., foll. by *in* or *into*) to dabble (in); play (at). **16.** (intr., foll. by *in* or *into*) to select passages to read at random (from a book, newspaper, etc.). **17.** (intr.) (of an aircraft) to drop suddenly and then regain height. ~n. **18.** the act

of dipping or state of being dipped. **19.** a brief swim in water. **20.** a. any liquid chemical in which sheep, etc. are dipped. b. any liquid preservative into which objects are dipped. **21.** a dye into which fabric is immersed. **22.** a depression, esp. in a landscape. **23.** something taken up by dipping. **24.** a container used for dipping; dipper. **25.** a momentary sinking down. **26.** the angle of slope of rock strata, etc., from the horizontal plane. **27.** the angle between the direction of the earth's magnetic field and the plane of the horizon; the angle that a magnetic needle free to swing in a vertical plane makes with the horizontal. **28.** a creamy savoury mixture into which potato crisps, etc., are dipped before being eaten. **29.** *Surveying.* the angular distance of the horizon below the plane of observation. **30.** a candle made by plunging a wick into wax. **31.** a momentary loss of altitude when flying.

Dip. A. D. *abbrev.* for Diploma in Art and Design.

Dip. Ed. (in Britain) *abbrev.* for Diploma in Education.

diphtheria (dɪp'tɪəriə) *n.* an acute contagious disease caused by a bacillus, producing fever, severe prostration, and difficulty in breathing and swallowing as the result of swelling of the throat and formation of a false membrane. —'diph'therial, **diphtheritic** (dɪp'tɪrɪtɪk), or **diphtheric** (dɪp'tɪrɪk) *adj.*

diphthong ('dɪfθŋ) *n.* **1.** a vowel sound, occupying a single syllable, during the articulation of which the tongue moves continuously from one position to another, as in the pronunciation of *a* in *late*. **2.** a digraph or ligature representing a composite vowel such as *ai*, as *ae* in *Caesar*. —'diph'thŋal *adj.*

diploma (dɪ'pləʊmə) *n.* **1.** a document conferring a qualification, recording success in examinations or successful completion of a course of study. **2.** an official document that confers an honour or privilege.

diplomacy (dɪ'pləʊməsi) *n., pl. -cies.* **1.** the conduct of the relations of one state with another by peaceful means. **2.** skill in the management of international relations. **3.** tact, skill, or cunning in dealing with people.

diplomat ('dɪplə,mæt) *n.* ~Also called: **diplomatist** (dɪ'pləʊmætɪst). **1.** an official such as an ambassador, engaged in diplomacy. **2.** a person who deals with people tactfully or skillfully.

diplomatic (dɪ'plə,mætɪk) or **diplomatical** *adj.* **1.** of or relating to diplomacy or diplomats. **2.** skilled in negotiating, esp. between states or people. **3.** tactful in dealing with people. —'di'plo'matɪkəl *adv.*

diplomatic immunity *n.* the immunity from local jurisdiction and exemption from taxation in the country to which they are accredited afforded to diplomats.

dipole ('daɪ,pəʊl) *n.* **1.** two equal but opposite electric charges or magnetic poles separated by a small distance. **2.** a molecule in which the centre of positive charge does not coincide with the centre of negative charge. **3.** an aerial consisting of a single metal rod with the connecting wire fixed to its midpoint. —'di'polar *adj.*

dipper ('dɪpə) *n.* **1.** a ladle used for dipping. **2.** Also called: **water ouzel.** any of a genus of aquatic songbirds that inhabit fast-flowing streams. **3.** a person or thing that dips. **4.** Arch. an Anabaptist.

dippy ('dɪpi) *adj. -pier, -piest.* *Sl.* odd, eccentric, or crazy.

dipso ('dɪpsəʊ) *n., pl. dipsos* *Inf.* a dipsomaniac.

dipsomania (dɪpsəʊ'meɪniə) *n.* a compulsive desire to drink alcoholic beverages. —'dipso'maniac *n., adj.*

dipstick ('dɪp,stɪk) *n.* a graduated rod or strip dipped into a container to indicate the fluid level.

dip switch *n.* a device for dipping car headlights.

dipterous ('dɪptərəs) *adj.* **1.** Also: **dipteran.** of a large order of insects having a single pair of wings and sucking or piercing mouthparts. The group includes flies, mosquitoes, and midges. **2.** Bot. having two wing-like parts.

diptych ('dɪptɪk) *n.* **1.** a pair of hinged wooden tablets with waxed surfaces for writing. **2.** a painting or carving on two hinged panels.

dire (daɪə) *adj. (usually prenominal)* **1.** Also: **direful.** disastrous; fearful. **2.** desperate; urgent: a dire need. —'direly *adv.* —'direness *n.*

direct (dɪ'rekt, daɪ-) *vb. (mainly tr.)* **1.** to conduct or control the affairs of. **2.** (also intr.) to give commands or orders with authority to (a person or group). **3.** to tell or show (someone) the way to a place. **4.** to aim, point, or cause to move towards a goal. **5.** to address (a letter, etc.). **6.** to address (remarks, etc.). **7.** (also intr.) to provide guidance to (actors, cameramen, etc.) in a play or film. **8.** (also intr.) to conduct (a piece of music or

musicians), usually while performing oneself. ~*adj.* 9. without delay or evasion; straightforward. 10. without turning aside; shortest; straight: *a direct route*. 11. without intervening persons or agencies: *a direct link*. 12. honest; frank. 13. (usually prenominal) precise; exact: *a direct quotation*. 14. diametrical: *the direct opposite*. 15. in an unbroken line of descent: *a direct descendant*. 16. (of government, decisions, etc.) by or from the electorate rather than through representatives. 17. *Maths.* (of a relationship) containing two variables such that an increase (or decrease) in one results in an increase (or decrease) in the other. Cf. *inverse*. 18. *Astron.* moving from west to east. Cf. *retrograde*. 19. of or relating to direct current. 20. *Music.* (of an interval or chord) in root position; not inverted. ~*adv.* 21. directly; straight. —*di'rectness* *n.*

direct access *n.* a method of reading data from a computer file without reading through the file from the beginning.

direct current *n.* a continuous electric current that flows in one direction only.

direct-grant school *n.* (in Britain, formerly) a school financed by endowment, fees, and a state grant conditional upon admittance of a percentage of nonpaying pupils.

direction (di'rekʃən, dai-) *n.* 1. the act of directing or the state of being directed. 2. management, control, or guidance. 3. the work of a stage or film director. 4. the course or line along which a person or thing moves, points, or lies. 5. the place towards which a person or thing is directed. 6. a line of action; course. 7. the name and address on a letter, parcel, etc. 8. *Music.* the process of conducting an orchestra, choir, etc. 9. *Music.* an instruction to indicate tempo, dynamics, mood, etc.

directional (di'rekʃənl, dai-) *adj.* 1. of or relating to a spatial direction. 2. *Electronics.* a. having or relating to an increased sensitivity to radio waves, nuclear particles, etc., coming from a particular direction. b. (of an aerial) transmitting or receiving radio waves more effectively in some directions than in others. 3. *Physics, electronics.* concentrated in, following, or producing motion in a particular direction. —*di'rekʃən'al* *n.*

direction finder *n.* a device to determine the direction of incoming radio signals, used esp. as a navigation aid.

directions (di'rekʃənz, dai-) *pl. n.* (sometimes sing.) instructions for doing something or for reaching a place.

directive (di'rektiv, dai-) *n.* 1. an instruction; order. ~*adj.* 2. tending to direct; directing. 3. indicating direction.

directly (di'rektlɪ, dai-) *adv.* 1. in a direct manner. 2. at once; without delay. 3. (foll. by *before* or *after*) immediately; just. ~*conj.* 4. (subordinating) as soon as.

direct object *n.* *Grammar.* a noun, pronoun, or noun phrase whose referent receives the direct action of a verb. For example, *the man* in *They shot the man with a rifle*.

director (di'rekto, dai-) *n.* 1. a person or thing that directs, controls, or regulates. 2. a member of the governing board of a business concern. 3. a person who directs the affairs of an institution, trust, etc. 4. the person responsible for the staging of a play or the making of a film. 5. *Music.* another word (esp. U.S.) for conductor. —*di'rek'torial* *adj.* —*di'rek'torship* *n.* —*di'rek'tress* *fem. n.*

directorate (di'rektarit, dai-) *n.* 1. a board of directors. 2. Also: *directorship*, the position of director.

directory (di'rektəri, -tri, dai-) *n., pl. -ries.* 1. a book listing names, addresses, telephone numbers, etc., of individuals or firms. 2. a book giving directions. 3. a book containing the rules to be observed in the forms of worship used in churches. 4. a directorate. ~*adj.* 5. directing.

direct speech or *esp. U.S. direct discourse* *n.* the reporting of what someone has said or written by quoting his exact words.

direct tax *n.* a tax paid by the person or organization on which it is levied.

dirge (dɜ:dʒ) *n.* 1. a chant of lamentation for the dead. 2. the funeral service in its solemn or sung forms. 3. any mourning song or melody. —*'dirgeful* *adj.*

dirigible ('dɪrɪdʒɪbəl) *adj.* 1. able to be steered or directed. ~*n.* 2. another name for *airship*. —*'dirigibility* *n.*

dirk (dɜ:k) *n.* 1. a dagger, esp. as formerly worn by Scottish Highlanders. ~*vb.* 2. (tr.) to stab with a dirk.

dirndl ('dɜ:ndl) *n.* 1. a woman's dress with a full

gathered skirt and fitted bodice; originating from Tyrolean peasant wear. 2. a gathered skirt of this kind.

dirt (dɜ:t) *n.* 1. any unclean substance, such as mud, etc.; filth. 2. loose earth; soil. 3. a. packed earth, gravel, cinders, etc., used to make a racetrack. b. (as modifier): *a dirt track*. 4. *Mining.* the gravel or soil from which minerals are extracted. 5. a person or thing regarded as worthless. 6. obscene or indecent speech or writing. 7. moral corruption. 8. do (someone) dirt. *Sl.* to do something vicious to (someone). 9. eat dirt. *Sl.* to accept insult without complaining.

dirt-cheap *adj., adv. Inf.* at an extremely low price.

dirty ('dɜ:tɪ) *adj. dirtier, dirtiest.* 1. covered or marked with dirt; filthy. 2. obscene: *dirty books*. 3. causing one to become grimy: *a dirty job*. 4. (of a colour) not clear and bright. 5. unfair; dishonest. 6. mean; nasty: *a dirty cheat*. 7. scandalous; unkind. 8. revealing dislike or anger. 9. (of weather) rainy or squally; stormy. 10. (of a nuclear weapon) producing a large quantity of radioactive fallout. 11. *dirty linen. Inf.* intimate secrets, esp. those that might give rise to gossip. 12. *dirty work.* unpleasant or illicit activity. 13. do the dirty on. *Inf.* to behave meanly towards. ~*vb.* *dirtying, dirtied.* 14. to make or become dirty; stain; soil. —*'dirtily* *adv.* —*'dirtiness* *n.*

dis- *prefix.* 1. indicating reversal: *disconnect*. 2. indicating negation, lack, or deprivation: *dissimilar; disgrace*. 3. indicating removal or release: *disembowel*. 4. expressing intensive force: *dissever*.

disability (,disə'bɪlɪtɪ) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. the condition of being physically or mentally impaired. 2. something that disables; handicap. 3. lack of necessary intelligence, strength, etc. 4. an incapacity in the eyes of the law to enter into certain transactions.

disable (dis'eɪbəl) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to make ineffective, unfit, or incapable, as by crippling. 2. to make or pronounce legally incapable. —*dis'ablement* *n.*

disabuse (,disə'bju:z) *vb. (tr., usually foll. by of)* to rid of a mistaken idea; set right.

disadvantage (,disəd'væntɪdʒ) *n.* 1. an unfavourable circumstance, thing, person, etc. 2. injury, loss, or detriment. 3. an unfavourable situation (esp. in at a disadvantage). ~*vb.* 4. (tr.) to put at a disadvantage; handicap. —*dis,advan'tageous* *adj.*

disadvantaged (,disəd'væntɪdʒd) *adj.* socially or economically deprived or discriminated against.

disaffect (,disə'fekt) *vb. (tr., often passive)* to cause to lose loyalty or affection; alienate. —*disaf'fectedly* *adv.* —*disaf'fection* *n.*

disagree (,disə'grɪ:) *vb. -greeing, -greed. (intr., often foll. by with)* 1. to dissent in opinion or dispute (about an idea, fact, etc.). 2. to fail to correspond; conflict. 3. to be unacceptable (to) or unfavourable (for): *curry disagrees with me*. 4. to be opposed (to).

disagreeable (,disə'grəbəl) *adj.* 1. not likable; badtempered. 2. unpleasant; offensive. —*disa'greeableness* *n.* —*disa'greeably* *adv.*

disagreement (,disə'grɪmənt) *n.* 1. a refusal or failure to agree. 2. a failure to correspond. 3. an argument or dispute.

disallow (,disə'lau) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to reject as untrue or invalid. 2. to cancel. —*disal'lowable* *adj.* —*disal'lowance* *n.*

disappear (,disə'pɪə) *vb. (intr.)* 1. to cease to be visible; vanish. 2. to go away or become lost, esp. without explanation. 3. to cease to exist; become extinct or lost. —*disap'pearance* *n.*

disappoint (,disə'pɔɪnt) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to fail to meet the expectations, hopes, etc. of; let down. 2. to prevent the fulfilment of (a plan, etc.); frustrate. —*disap'pointed* *adj.* —*disap'pointingly* *adv.*

disappointment (,disə'pɔɪntmənt) *n.* 1. a disappointing or being disappointed. 2. a person or thing that disappoints.

disapprove (,disə'pru:v) *vb.* 1. (intr.; often foll. by of) to consider wrong, bad, etc. 2. (tr.) to withhold approval from. —*disap'proval* *n.* —*disap'prover* *n.* —*disap'provingly* *adv.*

disarm (dis'ɑ:m) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to remove defensive or offensive capability from (a country, army, etc.). 2. (tr.) to deprive of weapons. 3. (tr.) to win the confidence or affection of. 4. (intr.) (of a nation, etc.) to decrease the size and capability of one's armed forces. 5. (intr.) to lay down weapons. —*dis'armer* *n.*

disarmament (dis'ɑ:məmənt) *n.* 1. the reduction of fighting capability, as by a nation. 2. a disarming or being disarmed.

disarming (dis'ɑ:mɪŋ) *adj.* tending to neutralize hostility, suspicion, etc. — **dis'armingly** *adv.*

disarrange (,disə'reɪndʒ) *vb. (tr.)* to throw into disorder. — **disar'rangement** *n.*

disarray (,disə'reɪ) *n.* 1. confusion, dismay, and lack of discipline. 2. (esp. of clothing) disorderliness; untidiness. ~*vb. (tr.)* 3. to throw into confusion. 4. *Arch.* to undress.

disassociate (,disə'səʊsi'eɪt) *vb.* a less common word for **dissociate**. — **disas,soc'i'ation** *n.*

disaster (di'zɑ:stə) *n.* 1. an occurrence that causes great distress or destruction. 2. a thing, project, etc., that fails or has been ruined. — **dis'astrous** *adj.*

disavow (,disə'vaʊ) *vb. (tr.)* to deny knowledge of, connection with, or responsibility for. — **disa'vowal** *n.* — **disavowedly** (,disə'vaʊdli) *adv.*

disband (dis'bænd) *vb.* to cease to function or cause to stop functioning, as a unit, group, etc. — **dis'banded** *n.*

disbar (dis'ba:) *vb.* -barring, -barred. (tr.) *Law.* to deprive of the status of barrister; expel from the Bar. — **dis'barment** *n.*

disbelieve (,disbr'i:li:v) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to reject as false or lying. 2. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *in*) to have no faith (in). — **disbe'lief** *n.* — **disbe'liever** *n.*

disbud (dis'bad) *vb.* -budding, -budded. to remove superfluous buds from (a plant).

disburden (dis'ba:d'n) *vb.* 1. to remove (a load) from. 2. (tr.) to relieve (one's mind, etc.) of a distressing worry.

disburse (dis'ba:s) *vb. (tr.)* to pay out. — **dis'burseable** *adj.* — **dis'bursement** *n.* — **dis'burser** *n.*

disc (disk) *n.* 1. a flat circular plate. 2. something resembling this. 3. a gramophone record. 4. *Anat.* any approximately circular flat structure in the body, esp. an intervertebral disc. 5. the flat receptacle of composite flowers, such as the daisy. 6. *a.* Also called: **parking disc**, a marker or device for display in a parked vehicle showing the time of arrival or the latest permitted time of departure or both. *b.* (*as modifier*): **disc parking**. 7. *Computers.* a variant spelling of **disk**.

discard *vb. (dis'ka:d).* 1. (tr.) to get rid of as useless or undesirable. 2. *Cards.* to throw out (a card or cards) from one's hand. 3. *Cards.* to play (a card not of the suit led nor a trump) when unable to follow suit. ~*n.* ('diskɑ:d). 4. a person or thing that has been cast aside. 5. *Cards.* a discarded card. 6. the act of discarding.

disc brake *n.* a type of brake in which two pads rub against a flat disc attached to the wheel hub when the brake is applied.

discern (di'sɜ:n) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to recognize or perceive clearly. 2. to recognize or perceive (differences). — **dis'cerner** *n.* — **dis'cernible** *adj.* — **dis'cerning** *adj.* — **dis'cernment** *n.*

discharge *vb. (dis'tʃɑ:dʒ).* 1. (tr.) to release or allow to go. 2. (tr.) to dismiss from or relieve of duty, employment, etc. 3. to fire or be fired, as a gun. 4. to pour forth or cause to pour forth: *the boil discharges pus*. 5. (tr.) to remove (the cargo) from (a boat, etc.); unload. 6. (tr.) to perform the duties of or meet the demands of (an office, obligation, etc.). 7. (tr.) to relieve (oneself) of (a responsibility, debt, etc.). 8. *Physics.* a. to lose or remove electric charge. b. to form an arc, spark, or corona in a gas. c. to take or supply electrical current from a cell or battery. 9. (tr.) *Law.* to release (a prisoner from custody, etc.). ~*n.* ('dis'tʃɑ:dʒ, dis'tʃɑ:dʒ). 10. a person or thing that is discharged. 11. a. dismissal or release from an office, job, institution, etc. b. the document certifying such release. 12. the fulfilment of an obligation or release from a responsibility or liability. 13. the act of removing a load, as of cargo. 14. a pouring forth of a fluid; emission. 15. a. the act of firing a projectile. b. the volley, bullet, etc., fired. 16. *Law.* a. a release, as of a person held under legal restraint. b. an annulment, as of a court order. 17. *Physics.* a. the act or process of removing or losing charge. b. a conduction of electricity through a gas by the formation and movement of electrons and ions in an applied electric field. — **dis'chargeable** *adj.* — **dis'charger** *n.*

disciple (di'saɪpl) *n.* 1. a follower of the doctrines of a teacher or a school of thought. 2. one of the personal followers of Christ (including his 12 apostles) during his earthly life. — **dis'ciple,ship** *n.* — **discipular** (di'sɪpjʊlə) *adj.*

disciplinarian (,disɪplɪ'neəriən) *n.* a person who imposes or advocates strict discipline.

disciplinary (,disɪplɪ'nɪəri) *adj.* of, promoting, or used for discipline; corrective.

discipline (,disɪplɪn) *n.* 1. training or conditions im-

posed for the improvement of physical powers, self-control, etc. 2. systematic training in obedience. 3. the state of improved behaviour, etc., resulting from such training. 4. punishment or chastisement. 5. a system of rules for behaviour, etc. 6. a branch of learning or instruction. 7. the laws governing members of a Church. ~*vb. (tr.)* 8. to improve or attempt to improve the behaviour, orderliness, etc., of by training, conditions, or rules. 9. to punish or correct. — **disci,plinable** *adj.* — **disciplinary** (,disɪ'plɪnəbəl) *adj.* — **disci,pliner** *n.*

disc jockey *n.* a person who announces and plays recorded music, esp. pop music, on a radio programme, etc.

disclaim (dis'kleɪm) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to deny or renounce (any claim, connection, etc.). 2. (tr.) to deny the validity or authority of. 3. *Law.* to renounce or repudiate (a legal claim or right).

disclaimer (dis'kleɪmə) *n.* a repudiation or denial.

disclose (dis'kloʊz) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to make known. 2. to allow to be seen. — **dis'closer** *n.* — **dis'closure** *n.*

disco ('diskəʊ) *n., pl. -cos.* *Inf.* short for **discotheque**.

discolour or *U.S.* **discolor** (dis'kʌlə) *vb.* to change in colour; fade or stain. — **dis,color'ation**, **dis'colourment**, or *U.S.* **dis'colorment** *n.*

discomfit (dis'kamfɪt) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to make uneasy or confused. 2. to frustrate the plans or purpose of. 3. *Arch.* to defeat. — **dis'comfiture** *n.*

discomfort (dis'kamfət) *n.* 1. an inconvenience, distress, or mild pain. 2. something that disturbs or deprives of ease. ~*vb.* 3. (tr.) to make uncomfortable or uneasy.

discommode (,diskə'məʊd) *vb. (tr.)* to cause inconvenience to; disturb. — **dis'commo'dious** *adj.*

discompose (,diskəm'pəʊz) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to disturb the composure of; disconcert. 2. *Now rare.* to disarrange. — **dis'com'posure** *n.*

disconcert (,diskən'sɜ:t) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to disturb the composure of. 2. to frustrate or upset. — **discon'certed** *adj.* — **discon'certion** *n.*

disconnect (,diskə'nekt) *vb. (tr.)* to undo or break the connection of or between (something, as a plug and a socket). — **discon'nection** *n.*

disconnected (,diskə'nektɪd) *adj.* 1. not rationally connected; confused or incoherent. 2. not connected or joined.

disconsolate (dis'kɒnsələt) *adj.* sad beyond comfort; dejected. — **dis'consolately** *adv.* — **dis,conso'lation** or **dis'consolateness** *n.*

discontent (,diskən'tent) *n.* 1. Also called: **discontentment**, lack of contentment, as with one's condition or lot in life. ~*vb.* 2. (tr.) to make dissatisfied. — **discon'tented** *adj.* — **discon'tentedness** *n.*

discontinue (,diskən'tɪnju:) *vb.* -uing, -ued. 1. to come or bring to an end; interrupt or be interrupted; stop. 2. (tr.) *Law.* to terminate or abandon (an action, suit, etc.). — **discon'tinuation** *n.* — **discon,tinu'ation** *n.* — **dis,conti'nuity** *n.*

discontinuous (,diskən'tɪnjuəs) *adj.* characterized by interruptions or breaks; intermittent. — **discon'tinuously** *adv.* — **discon'tinuousness** *n.*

discord *n.* ('diskɔ:d). 1. lack of agreement or harmony. 2. harsh confused mingling of sounds. 3. a combination of musical notes, esp. one containing one or more dissonant intervals. ~*vb.* (dis'kɔ:d). 4. (*intr.*) to disagree; clash.

discordant (dis'kɔ:dənt) *adj.* 1. at variance; disagreeing. 2. harsh in sound; inharmonious. — **dis'cordance** *n.* — **dis'cordantly** *adv.*

discotheque ('diskə,tek) *n.* 1. a club or other public place for dancing to recorded pop music. 2. mobile equipment for providing amplified pop music for dancing.

discount *vb.* (dis'kaunt, 'diskaunt). (*mainly tr.*) 1. to leave out of account as being unreliable, prejudiced, or irrelevant. 2. to anticipate and make allowance for. 3. a. to deduct (an amount or percentage) from the price, cost, etc. b. to reduce (the regular price, etc.) by a percentage or amount. 4. to sell or offer for sale at a reduced price. 5. to buy or sell (a bill of exchange, etc.) before maturity, with a deduction for interest. 6. (*also intr.*) to loan money on (a negotiable instrument) with a deduction for interest. ~*n.* ('diskaunt). 7. short for **cash discount**. 8. Also called: **discount rate**, a. the amount of interest deducted in the purchase or sale of or the loan of money on unmatured negotiable instruments. b. the rate of interest deducted. 9. (in the issue of shares) a percentage deducted from the par value to

give a reduced amount payable by subscribers. **10.** a discounting. **11.** at a discount. *a. below the regular price. b. in low regard.* **12.** (modifier) offering or selling at reduced prices: a discount shop. —**dis'count-able** adj. —**discount** *n.*

discountenance (dis'kauntinəns) *vb.* (tr.) **1.** to make ashamed or confused. **2.** to disapprove of. ~*n.* **3.** disapproval.

discourage (dis'kʌrɪdʒ) *vb.* (tr.) **1.** to deprive of the will to persist in something. **2.** to inhibit; prevent: *this solution discourages rust.* **3.** to oppose by expressing disapproval. —**discouragement** *n.* —**discouraging-ly** adv.

discourse *n.* ('diskɔ:s, dis'kɔ:s). **1.** verbal communication; talk; conversation. **2.** a formal treatment of a subject in speech or writing. **3.** a unit of text used by linguists for the analysis of linguistic phenomena that range over more than one sentence. **4.** Arch. the ability to reason. ~*vb.* (dis'kɔ:s). **5.** (intr.; often foll. by *on* or *upon*) to speak or write (about) formally. **6.** (intr.) to hold a discussion. **7.** (tr.) Arch. to give forth (music).

discourteous (dis'kɜ:tɪəs) *adj.* showing bad manners; impolite; rude. —**discourteously** adv. —**dis'courteousness** *n.* —**dis'courtesy** *n.*

discover (di'skʌvə) *vb.* (tr.; may take a clause as object) **1.** to be the first to find or find out about. **2.** to learn about for the first time; realize. **3.** to find after study or search. **4.** to reveal or make known. —**dis'cover-able** adj. —**discoverer** *n.*

discovery (di'skʌvəri) *n., pl. -eries*. **1.** the act, process, or an instance of discovering. **2.** a person, place, or thing that has been discovered. **3.** Law. the compulsory disclosure by a party to an action of relevant documents in his possession.

discredit (dis'kredit) *vb.* (tr.) **1.** to damage the reputation of. **2.** to cause to be disbelieved or distrusted. **3.** to reject as untrue. ~*n.* **4.** something that causes disgrace. **5.** damage to a reputation. **6.** lack of belief or confidence. —**dis'creditable** adj.

discreet (di'skri:t) *adj.* **1.** careful to avoid embarrassment, esp. by keeping confidences secret; tactful. **2.** unobtrusive. —**dis'creetly** adv. —**dis'creteness** *n.*

discrepancy (di'skrepənsi) *n., pl. -cies*. a conflict or variation, as between facts, figures, or claims. —**dis'crepant** adj.

discrete (di'skri:t) *adj.* **1.** separate or distinct. **2.** consisting of distinct or separate parts. —**dis'cretely** adv. —**dis'creteness** *n.*

discretion (di'skrefjən) *n.* **1.** the quality of behaving so as to avoid social embarrassment or distress. **2.** freedom or authority to make judgments and to act as one sees fit (esp. in **at one's own discretion, at the discretion of**). **3.** age or years of discretion. the age at which a person is able to manage his own affairs. —**dis'cretionary** adj.

discriminate *vb.* (di'skrɪmɪneɪt). **1.** (intr.) to single out a particular person, group, etc., for special favour or disfavour. **2.** (when intr., foll. by *between* or *among*) to recognize or understand the difference (between); distinguish. **3.** (tr.) to constitute or mark a difference. **4.** (intr.) to be discerning in matters of taste. ~*adj.* (di'skrɪmɪnət). **5.** showing or marked by discrimination. —**dis'criminately** adv. —**dis'criminating** adj.

discrimination (di'skrɪmɪneɪʃən) *n.* **1.** unfair treatment of a person, racial group, minority, etc.; action based on prejudice. **2.** subtle appreciation in matters of taste. **3.** the ability to see fine distinctions and differences.

discriminatory (di'skrɪmɪnətəri, -trɪ) or **discriminative** (di'skrɪmɪnətɪv) *adj.* **1.** based on or showing prejudice; biased. **2.** capable of making fine distinctions.

discursive (di'skɜ:sɪv) *adj.* **1.** rambling; digressive. **2.** Philosophy. of or relating to knowledge obtained by reason and argument rather than intuition. —**dis'cur-sively** adv. —**dis'curiveness** *n.*

discus ('diskʌs) *n., pl. discuses or disci* ('diskai). **1.** (originally) a circular stone or plate used in throwing competitions by the ancient Greeks. **2.** Field sports. a similar disc-shaped object with a heavy middle, thrown by athletes. **3.** (preceded by *the*) the event or sport of throwing the discus.

discuss (di'skʌs) *vb.* (tr.) **1.** to have a conversation about; consider by talking over. **2.** to treat (a subject) in speech or writing. —**dis'cussant** or **dis'cusser** *n.* —**dis'cussible** or **dis'cussable** adj.

discussion (di'skʌʃən) *n.* the examination or consideration of a matter in speech or writing.

disdain (dis'deɪn) *n.* **1.** a feeling or show of superiority

and dislike; contempt; scorn. ~*vb.* **2.** (tr.; may take an infinitive) to refuse or reject with disdain. —**dis'dainful** adj.

disease (di'zi:z) *n.* **1.** any impairment of normal physiological function affecting an organism, esp. a change caused by infection, stress, etc., producing characteristic symptoms; illness or sickness in general. **2.** a corresponding condition in plants. **3.** any condition likened to this. —**dis'eased** adj.

disembark (,disɪm'bɔ:k) *vb.* to land or cause to land from a ship, aircraft, etc. —**disembarkation** (dis.embə-'keɪʃən) *n.*

disembody (,disɪm'bɒdi) *vb.* -**bodying**, -**bodied**. (tr.) to free from the body or from physical form. —**disem'bod-ied** adj. —**disem'bodiment** *n.*

disembowel (,disɪm'baʊl) *vb.* -**elling**, -**elled** or *U.S.* -**eling**, -**eled**. (tr.) to remove the entrails of. —**disem'-bowelment** *n.*

disenchant (,disɪn'tʃənt) *vb.* (tr.) to free from or as if from an enchantment; disillusion. —**disen'chantingly** adv. —**disen'chantment** *n.*

disengage (,disɪn'geɪdʒ) *vb.* **1.** to release or become released from a connection, obligation, etc. **2.** Mil. to withdraw (forces) from close action. **3.** Fencing. to move (one's blade) from one side of an opponent's blade to another in a circular motion. —**disen'gaged** adj. —**disen'gagement** *n.*

disentangle (,disɪn'teɪŋɡl) *vb.* **1.** to release or become free from entanglement or confusion. **2.** (tr.) to unravel or work out. —**disen'tanglement** *n.*

disequilibrium (,disɪ:kwi'libriəm) *n.* a loss or absence of equilibrium, esp. in an economy.

disestablish (,disɪ'stæblɪʃ) *vb.* (tr.) to deprive (a church, custom, institution, etc.) of established status. —**dis'es'tablishment** *n.*

disfavour or *U.S.* **disfavor** (dis'feɪvə) *n.* **1.** disapproval or dislike. **2.** the state of being disapproved of or disliked. **3.** an unkind act. ~*vb.* **4.** (tr.) to treat with disapproval or dislike.

disfigure (dis'figə) *vb.* (tr.) **1.** to spoil the appearance or shape of; deface. **2.** to mar the effect or quality of. —**dis'figurement** *n.*

disfranchise (dis'fræntʃaɪz) or **disenfranchise** *vb.* (tr.) **1.** to deprive (a person) of the right to vote or other rights of citizenship. **2.** to deprive (a place) of the right to send representatives to an elected body. **3.** to deprive (a person, place, etc.) of any franchise or right. —**dis-franchisement** (dis'fræntʃɪzmənt) or **disen'franchise-ment** *n.*

disgorge (dis'gɔ:dʒ) *vb.* **1.** to throw out (food, etc.) from the throat or stomach; vomit. **2.** to discharge or empty (of contents). **3.** (tr.) to yield up unwillingly. —**dis'gorgement** *n.*

disgrace (dis'greɪs) *n.* **1.** a condition of shame, loss of reputation, or dishonour. **2.** a shameful person or thing. **3.** exclusion from confidence or trust: *he is in disgrace with his father.* ~*vb.* (tr.) **4.** to bring shame upon. **5.** to treat or cause to be treated with disfavour. —**dis'grace-ful** adj.

disgruntle (dis'grʌntl) *vb.* (tr.) to make sulky or discontented. —**dis'gruntlement** *n.*

disguise (dis'gaɪz) *vb.* **1.** to modify the appearance or manner in order to conceal the identity of (someone or something). **2.** (tr.) to misrepresent in order to obscure the actual nature or meaning. ~*n.* **3.** a mask, costume, or manner that disguises. **4.** a disguising or being disguised.

disgust (dis'gʌst) *vb.* (tr.) **1.** to sicken or fill with loathing. **2.** to offend the moral sense of. ~*n.* **3.** a great loathing or distaste. **4.** in disgust. as a result of disgust. —**dis'gusted** adj. —**dis'gustedly** adv. —**dis'gustedness** *n.*

dish (dɪʃ) *n.* **1.** a container used for holding or serving food, esp. an open shallow container. **2.** the food in a dish. **3.** a particular kind of food. **4.** Also called: **'dishful**. the amount contained in a dish. **5.** something resembling a dish. **6.** a concavity. **7.** an informal name for a parabolic aerial. **8.** Sl. an attractive person. **9.** Inf. something that one particularly enjoys or excels in. ~*vb.* (tr.) **10.** to put into a dish. **11.** to make concave. **12.** Brit. sl. to ruin or spoil. ~*See also* **dish out, dish up**. —**'dish, like** adj.

dishabille (,disə'bi:l) or **deshabille** *n.* the state of being partly or carelessly dressed.

disharmony (dis'hɑ:məni) *n., pl. -nies*. **1.** lack of accord or harmony. **2.** a situation, circumstance, etc., that is inharmonious. —**disharmonious** (,dɪʃhɑ:'məniəs) adj.

dishcloth (ˈdɪʃ,klɒθ) *n.* a cloth or rag for washing or drying dishes.

dishearten (dɪsˈhɑːtən) *vb.* (tr.) to weaken or destroy the hope, courage, enthusiasm, etc., of. —**dishearteningly** *adv.* —**disheartenment** *n.*

dished (dɪʃt) *adj.* 1. shaped like a dish. 2. (of wheels) closer to one another at the bottom than at the top. 3. *sl.* exhausted or defeated.

dishevel (dɪˈʃeɪvəl) *vb.* -elling, -elled or *U.S.* -eling, -eled. to disarrange (the hair or clothes) of (someone). —**dishevelled** or *U.S.* -eled *adj.* —**dishevelment** *n.*

dishonest (dɪsˈɒnɪst) *adj.* not honest or fair; deceiving or fraudulent. —**dishonestly** *adv.* —**dishonesty** *n.*

dishonour or *U.S.* **dishonor** (dɪsˈɒnə) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to treat with disrespect. 2. to fail or refuse to pay (a cheque, etc.). 3. to cause the disgrace of (a woman) by seduction or rape. ~*n.* 4. a lack of honour or respect. 5. a state of shame or disgrace. 6. a person or thing that causes a loss of honour. 7. an insult; affront. 8. refusal or failure to accept or pay a commercial paper. —**dishonourable** or *U.S.* **dishonorable** *adj.*

dish out ~Inf. *vb.* (tr., *adv.*) 1. to distribute. 2. **dish it out** to inflict punishment.

dishtowel (ˈdɪʃ,taʊəl) *n.* another name (esp. Scot. and *U.S.*) for a tea towel.

dish up *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. to serve (a meal, food, etc.). 2. (tr.) *Inf.* to prepare or present, esp. in an attractive manner.

dishwasher (ˈdɪʃ,wɒʃə) *n.* 1. a machine for washing dishes, etc. 2. a person who washes dishes, etc.

dishwater (ˈdɪʃ,wɔːtə) *n.* 1. water in which dishes have been washed. 2. something resembling this.

dishy (ˈdɪʃlɪ) *adj.* **dishier**, **dishiest**. *Sl.* chiefly *Brit.* good-looking or attractive.

disillusion (ˌdɪsɪˈluːʒən) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to destroy the ideals, illusions, or false ideas of. ~*n.* also **disillusionment**. 2. the act of disillusioning or the state of being disillusioned.

disincentive (ˌdɪsɪnˈsɛntɪv) *n.* 1. something that acts as a deterrent. ~*adj.* 2. acting as a deterrent: a disincentive effect on productivity.

disincline (ˌdɪsɪnˈklaɪn) *vb.* to make or be unwilling, reluctant, or averse. —**disinclination** (ˌdɪsɪnklɪˈneɪʃən) *n.*

disinfect (ˌdɪsɪnˈfekt) *vb.* (tr.) to rid of microorganisms potentially harmful to man, esp. by chemical means. —**disinfectant** *n.* —**disinfection** *n.*

disingenuous (ˌdɪsɪnˈdʒɛnjuəs) *adj.* not sincere; lacking candour. —**disingenuously** *adv.* —**disingenuousness** *n.*

disinherit (ˌdɪsɪnˈherɪt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. Law. to deprive (an heir or next of kin) of inheritance or right to inherit. 2. to deprive of a right or heritage. —**disinheritance** *n.*

disintegrate (dɪsˈɪntɪˌɡreɪt) *vb.* 1. to break or be broken into fragments or parts; shatter. 2. to lose or cause to lose cohesion. 3. (intr.) to lose judgment or control. 4. *Physics.* a. to induce or undergo nuclear fission. b. another word for decay (sense 3). —**disintegration** *n.* —**disintegrator** *n.*

disinterest (dɪsˈɪntrɪst) *n.* 1. freedom from bias or involvement. 2. lack of interest.

disinterested (dɪsˈɪntrɪstɪd, -tərɪs) *adj.* free from bias or partiality; objective. —**disinterestedly** *adv.* —**disinterestedness** *n.*

▷ **Usage.** In spoken and sometimes written English, *disinterested* (impartial) is used where *uninterested* (showing or feeling lack of interest) is meant. Careful writers and speakers avoid this confusion: a *disinterested* judge; he was *uninterested* in public reaction.

disjoin (dɪsˈdʒɔɪn) *vb.* 1. to take apart or come apart at the joints. 2. (tr.) to disunite or disjoin. 3. to dislocate or become dislocated. 4. (tr.; usually passive) to end the unity, sequence, or coherence of.

disjoined (dɪsˈdʒɔɪntɪd) *adj.* 1. having no coherence; disconnected. 2. separated at the joint. 3. dislocated. —**disjointedly** *adv.*

disjunctive (dɪsˈdʒʌŋktɪv) *adj.* 1. serving to disconnect or separate. 2. *Grammar.* denoting a word, esp. a conjunction, that serves to express opposition or contrast: *but in She was poor but she was honest.* ~*n.* 3. *Grammar.* a disjunctive word, esp. a conjunction. —**disjunctively** *adv.*

disk (dɪsk) *n.* 1. a variant spelling (esp. *U.S.*) of **disc**. 2. Also called: **disk pack**, **magnetic disk**. *Computers.* a direct-access storage device consisting of a stack of plates coated with a magnetic layer, the whole assembly rotating rapidly as a single unit.

dislike (dɪsˈlaɪk) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to consider unpleasant or disagreeable. ~*n.* 2. a feeling of aversion or antipathy. —**dislikable** or **dislikeable** *adj.*

dislocate (ˈdɪslə,keɪt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to disrupt or shift out of place. 2. to displace from its normal position, esp. a bone from its joint. —**dislocation** *n.*

dislodge (dɪsˈlɒdʒ) *vb.* to remove from or leave a lodging place, hiding place, or previously fixed position. —**dislodgment** or **dislodgement** *n.*

disloyal (dɪsˈlɔɪəl) *adj.* not loyal or faithful; deserting one's allegiance. —**disloyally** *adv.* —**disloyalty** *n.*

dismal (ˈdɪzml) *adj.* 1. causing gloom or depression. 2. causing dismay or terror. —**dismally** *adv.* —**dismalness** *n.*

dismantle (dɪsˈmæntl) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to take apart. 2. to demolish or raze. 3. to strip off covering. —**dismantlement** *n.*

dismay (dɪsˈmeɪ) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to fill with apprehension or alarm. 2. to fill with depression or discouragement. ~*n.* 3. consternation or agitation.

dismember (dɪsˈmembə) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to remove the limbs or members of. 2. to cut to pieces. 3. to divide or partition (something, such as an empire). —**dismemberment** *n.*

dismiss (dɪsˈmɪs) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to remove or discharge from employment or service. 2. to send away or allow to go. 3. to dispel from one's mind; discard. 4. to cease to consider (a subject). 5. to decline further hearing to (a claim or action). 6. *Cricket.* to bowl out a side for a particular number of runs. —**dismissal** *n.* —**dismissible** *adj.* —**dismissive** *adj.*

dismount (dɪsˈmaʊnt) *vb.* 1. to get off a horse, bicycle, etc. 2. (tr.) to disassemble or remove from a mounting. ~*n.* 3. the act of dismounting.

disobedient (ˌdɪsəˈbɪdɪənt) *adj.* not obedient; neglecting or refusing to obey. —**disobedience** *n.* —**disobediently** *adv.*

disobey (ˌdɪsəˈbeɪ) *vb.* to neglect or refuse to obey (someone, an order, etc.). —**disobeyer** *n.*

disorder (dɪsˈɔːdə) *n.* 1. a lack of order; confusion. 2. a disturbance of public order. 3. an upset of health; ailment. 4. a deviation from the normal system or order. ~*vb.* (tr.) 5. to upset the order of. 6. to disturb the health or mind of.

disorderly (dɪsˈɔːdli) *adj.* 1. untidy; irregular. 2. uncontrolled; unruly. 3. Law. violating public peace or order. —**disorderliness** *n.*

disorganize or **-ise** (dɪsˈɔːɡə,naɪz) *vb.* (tr.) to disrupt the arrangement, system, or unity of. —**disorganize** or **-isation** *n.*

disorientate (dɪsˈɔːriən,teɪt) or **disorient** *vb.* (tr.) 1. to cause (someone) to lose his bearings. 2. to perplex; confuse.

disown (dɪsˈəʊn) *vb.* (tr.) to deny any connection with; refuse to acknowledge. —**disowner** *n.*

disparage (dɪsˈpærɪdʒ) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to speak contemptuously of; belittle. 2. to damage the reputation of. —**disparagement** *n.* —**disparaging** *adj.* —**disparagingly** *adv.*

disparate (ˈdɪspərɪt) *adj.* 1. utterly different or distinct in kind. ~*n.* 2. (pl.) unlike things or people. —**disparately** *adv.* —**disparateness** *n.* —**disparity** *n.*

dispassionate (dɪsˈpæʃənɪt) *adj.* devoid of or uninfluenced by emotion or prejudice; objective; impartial. —**dispassionately** *adv.*

dispatch or **despatch** (dɪspætʃ) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to send off promptly, as to a destination or to perform a task. 2. to discharge or complete (a duty, etc.) promptly. 3. *Inf.* to eat up quickly. 4. to murder or execute. ~*n.* 5. the act of sending off a letter, messenger, etc. 6. prompt action or speed (often in **with dispatch**). 7. an official communication or report, sent in haste. 8. a report sent to a newspaper, etc., by a correspondent. 9. murder or execution. —**dispatcher** or **despatcher** *n.*

dispatch rider *n.* a horseman or motorcyclist who carries dispatches.

dispel (dɪˈspel) *vb.* -pelling, -pelled. (tr.) to disperse or drive away. —**dispeller** *n.*

dispensable (dɪspɛnsəbəl) *adj.* 1. not essential; expendable. 2. (of a law, vow, etc.) able to be relaxed. —**dispensability** *n.*

dispensary (dɪspɛnsəri) *n.*, pl. -ries. a place where medicine, etc. is dispensed.

dispensation (ˌdɪspɛnˈseɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of distributing or dispensing. 2. something distributed or dispensed. 3. a system or plan of administering or dispensing. 4. *Chiefly R.C. Church.* permission to dispense with an

obligation of church law. 5. any exemption from an obligation. 6. *Theol.* a. the ordering of life and events by God. b. a religious system or code of prescriptions for life and conduct regarded as of divine origin. — **dispen'sational** *adj.*

dispense (di'spens) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to give out or distribute in portions. 2. (*tr.*) to prepare and distribute (medicine), esp. on prescription. 3. (*tr.*) to administer (the law, etc.). 4. (*intr.*; foll. by *with*) to do away (with) or manage (without). 5. to grant a dispensation to. 6. to exempt or excuse from a rule or obligation. — **dis'penser** *n.*

disperse (di'spɜ:s) *vb.* 1. to scatter; distribute over a wide area. 2. to dissipate. 3. to leave or cause to leave a gathering. 4. to separate or be separated by dispersion. 5. (*tr.*) to spread (news, etc.). 6. to separate (particles) throughout a solid, liquid, or gas. ~*adj.* 7. of or consisting of the particles in a colloid or suspension: *disperse phase*. — **dis'persal** *n.* — **dis'perser** *n.* — **dis'persion** *n.*

dispirit (di'spirit) *vb.* (*tr.*) to lower the spirit of; make downhearted; discourage. — **dis'pirited** *adj.* — **dis'pirit-edness** *n.* — **dis'pirling** *adj.*

displace (di'spleis) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to move from the usual or correct location. 2. to remove from office or employment. 3. to occupy the place of; replace; supplant.

displaced person *n.* a person forced from his home or country, esp. by war or revolution.

displacement (dis'pleismənt) *n.* 1. a displacing or being displaced. 2. the weight or volume displaced by a body in a fluid. 3. *Psychoanal.* the transferring of emotional feelings from their original object to one that disguises their real nature.

display (di'splɪ) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to show or make visible. 2. to put out to be seen; exhibit. 3. to disclose; reveal. 4. to flaunt in an ostentatious way. 5. to spread out; unfold. 6. to give prominence to. ~*n.* 7. an exhibiting or displaying; show. 8. something exhibited or displayed. 9. an ostentatious exhibition. 10. an arrangement of certain typefaces to give prominence to headings, etc. 11. *Electronics.* a. a device capable of representing information visually, as on a cathode-ray tube screen. b. the information so presented. 12. *Zool.* a pattern of behaviour by which the animal attracts attention while it is courting the female, defending its territory, etc. 13. (*modifier*) designating typefaces that give prominence to the words they are used to set. — **dis'player** *n.*

displease (dis'pli:z) *vb.* to annoy, offend, or cause displeasure to (someone). — **dis'pleasingly** *adv.* — **dis-pleasure** (-'pleʒə) *n.*

disport (di'spɔ:t) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to indulge (oneself) in pleasure. 2. (*intr.*) to frolic or gambol. ~*n.* 3. *Arch.* amusement.

disposal (di'spəʊzəl) *n.* 1. the act or means of getting rid of something. 2. arrangement in a particular order. 3. a specific method of tending to matters, as in business. 4. the act or process of transferring something to or providing something to or providing something for another. 5. the power or opportunity to make use of someone or something (esp. in at one's disposal).

dispose (di'spəʊz) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*; foll. by *of*) a. to deal with or settle. b. to give, sell, or transfer to another. c. to throw out or away. d. to consume, esp. hurriedly. 2. to arrange or settle (matters). 3. (*tr.*) to make willing or receptive. 4. (*tr.*) to place in a certain order. 5. (*tr.*; often foll. by *to*) to accustom or condition. — **dis'poser** *n.*

disposition (dis'pəʊziʃən) *n.* 1. a person's usual temperament or frame of mind. 2. a tendency, inclination, or habit. 3. another word for **disposal** (senses 2-5). 4. *Arch.* manner of placing or arranging.

dispossess (dis'pəʊzɪs) *vb.* (*tr.*) to take away possession of something, esp. property; expel. — **dis'possession** *n.* — **dispos'sessor** *n.*

disproportion (dis'prɔ:pəʊʃən) *n.* 1. lack of proportion or equality. 2. an instance of disparity or inequality. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to cause to become exaggerated or unequal. — **dis'pro'portional** *adj.*

disproportionate (dis'prɔ:pəʊʃənɪt) *adj.* out of proportion; unequal. — **dis'pro'portionately** *adv.* — **dis'pro'portionateness** *n.*

disprove (dis'pru:v) *vb.* (*tr.*) to show (an assertion, claim, etc.) to be incorrect. — **dis'provable** *adj.* — **dis'proval** *n.*

dispute (di'spjut) *vb.* 1. to argue, debate, or quarrel about (something). 2. (*tr.*; may take a clause as object) to doubt the validity, etc., of. 3. (*tr.*) to seek to win; contest for. 4. (*tr.*) to struggle against; resist. ~*n.* 5. an argument or quarrel. 6. *Rare.* a fight. — **disputable** (di'spjutəbəl, 'disputə-) *adj.* — **disputant** (di'spjutənt,

'disputənt) *n.* —, **dispu'tation** *n.* —, **dispu'tatious** *adj.* — **dis'puter** *n.*

disqualify (dis'kwɒli,fai) *vb.* -*fy*ing, -*fied*. (*tr.*) 1. to make unfit or unqualified. 2. to make ineligible, as for entry to an examination. 3. to debar from a contest. 4. to deprive of rights, powers, or privileges. — **dis,qualifi-'cation** *n.*

disquiet (dis'kwɪət) *n.* 1. a feeling or condition of anxiety or uneasiness. ~*vb.* 2. (*tr.*) to make anxious or upset. — **dis'quieting** *adj.* — **dis'quite,tude** *n.*

disregard (disri'gə:d) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to give little or no attention to; ignore. 2. to treat as unworthy of consideration or respect. ~*n.* 3. lack of attention or respect. — **disre'gardful** *adj.*

disrepair (disri'peə) *n.* the condition of being worn out or in poor working order; a condition requiring repairs.

disreputable (dis'repjutəbəl) *adj.* 1. having or causing a lack of repute. 2. disordered in appearance. — **dis'reputably** *adv.*

disrepute (disri'pjut) *n.* a loss or lack of credit or repute.

disrespect (disri'spekt) *n.* contempt; rudeness; lack of respect. —, **disre'spectful** *adj.*

disrobe (dis'rəʊb) *vb.* 1. to undress. 2. (*tr.*) to divest of authority, etc. — **dis'robement** *n.*

disrupt (dis'rʌpt) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to throw into turmoil or disorder. 2. (*tr.*) to interrupt the progress of. 3. to break or split apart. — **dis'rupter** or **dis'ruptor** *n.* — **dis-'ruption** *n.* — **dis'ruptive** *adj.*

dissatisfy (dis'sætɪs,fai) *vb.* -*fy*ing, -*fied*. (*tr.*) to fail to satisfy; disappoint. —, **dissatis'faction** *n.* —, **dissatis-'factory** *adj.*

dissect (di'sekt, dar-) *vb.* 1. to cut open and examine the structure of (a dead animal or plant). 2. (*tr.*) to examine critically and minutely. — **dis'section** *n.* — **dis-'sector** *n.*

disselboom ('dis'l,bu:m) *n.* *S. African.* the single shaft of a wagon, esp. an ox wagon.

dissemble (di'sembəl) *vb.* 1. to conceal (one's real motives, emotions, etc.) by pretence. 2. (*tr.*) to pretend; simulate. — **dis'semblance** *n.* — **dis'sembler** *n.*

disseminate (di'semi,nɛt) *vb.* (*tr.*) to distribute or scatter about; diffuse. — **dis,semi'nation** *n.* — **dis'semi-nator** *n.*

disseminated sclerosis *n.* another name for **multiple sclerosis**.

dissension (di'senʃən) *n.* disagreement, esp. when leading to a quarrel.

dissent (di'sent) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. to have a disagreement or withhold assent. 2. *Christianity.* to reject the doctrines, beliefs, or practices of an established church, and to adhere to a different system of beliefs. ~*n.* 3. a difference of opinion. 4. *Christianity.* separation from an established church; Nonconformism. 5. the voicing of a minority opinion in the decision on a case at law. — **dis'senter** *n.* — **dis'senting** *adj.*

Dissenter (di'sentə) *n.* *Christianity.* chiefly *Brit.* a Nonconformist or a person who refuses to conform to the established church.

dissentient (di'senʃənt) *adj.* 1. dissenting, esp. from the opinion of the majority. ~*n.* 2. a dissenter. — **dis'sentience** or **dis'sentiency** *n.*

dissertation (di'sə'teɪʃən) *n.* 1. a written thesis, often based on original research, usually required for a higher degree. 2. a formal discourse. —, **diss'er'tational** *adj.*

disservice (dis'sɜ:vɪs) *n.* an ill turn; wrong; injury, esp. when trying to help.

dissident ('disɪdnt) *adj.* 1. disagreeing; dissenting. ~*n.* 2. a person who disagrees, esp. one who disagrees with the government. — **dissidence** *n.* — **dissident-ly** *adv.*

dissimilar (di'similə) *adj.* not alike; not similar; different. —, **dissimi'larity** *n.* — **dis'similarly** *adv.*

dissimulate (di'simjʊ,leɪt) *vb.* to conceal (one's real feelings, etc.) by pretence. — **dis,simu'lation** *n.* — **dis'simu,lator** *n.*

dissipate ('disi,peɪt) *vb.* 1. to exhaust or be exhausted by dispersion. 2. (*tr.*) to scatter or break up. 3. (*intr.*) to indulge in the pursuit of pleasure. — **dis'si,pator** or **'dissi,pator** *n.* — **'dissi,pative** *adj.*

dissipated ('disi,peɪtɪd) *adj.* 1. indulging without restraint in the pursuit of pleasure; debauched. 2. wasted, scattered, or exhausted.

dissipation (di'sipi'eɪʃən) *n.* 1. a dissipating or being dissipated. 2. unrestrained indulgence in physical pleasures. 3. excessive expenditure; wastefulness.

dissociate (di'səʊʃi,eɪt, -sɪ-) *vb.* 1. to break or cause to

break the association between (people, organizations, etc.). 2. (tr.) to regard or treat as separate or unconnected. 3. to undergo or subject to dissociation. —**dis-'sociative** adj.

dissoluble (di'sɒljʊbəl) *adj.* a less common word for **soluble**. —**dis-,solu'bility** *n.*

dissolute (di'sɒlʊt) *adj.* given to dissipation; debauched. —**disso,lutely** *adv.* —**disso,luteness** *n.*

dissolution (di'sɒljʊʃən) *n.* 1. separation into component parts; disintegration. 2. destruction by breaking up and dispersing. 3. the termination of a meeting or assembly, such as Parliament. 4. the termination of a formal or legal relationship, such as a business, marriage, etc. 5. the act or process of dissolving.

dissolve (di'zɒlv) *vb.* 1. to go or cause to go into solution. 2. to become or cause to become liquid; melt. 3. to disintegrate or disperse. 4. to come or bring to an end. 5. to dismiss (a meeting, parliament, etc.) or (of a meeting, etc.) to be dismissed. 6. to collapse or cause to collapse emotionally; to **dissolve into tears**. 7. to lose or cause to lose distinctness. 8. (tr.) to terminate legally, as a marriage, etc. 9. (*intr.*) *Films, television.* to fade out one scene and replace with another to make two scenes merge imperceptibly or slowly overlap. ~*n.* 10. *Films, television.* a scene filmed or televised by dissolving. —**dis-'solvable** *adj.*

dissonance (di'sɒnəns) or **dissonancy** *n.* 1. a discordant combination of sounds. 2. lack of agreement or consistency. 3. *Music.* a. a sensation of harshness and incompleteness associated with certain intervals and chords. b. an interval or chord of this kind. —**dissonant** *adj.*

dissuade (di'sweɪd) *vb.* (tr.) 1. (often foll. by *from*) to deter (someone) by persuasion from a course of action, policy, etc. 2. to advise against (an action, etc.). —**dis-'suader** *n.* —**dis-'suasion** *n.* —**dis-'suasive** *adj.*

disyllable (di'sɪləbəl) or **disyllable** (di'sɪləbəl) *n.* a word of two syllables. —**disyllabic** (di'sɪləbɪk) or **disyllabic** (di'sɪləbɪk) *adj.*

distaff ('distɑ:f) *n.* 1. the rod on which wool, flax, etc., is wound preparatory to spinning. 2. *Figurative.* women's work.

distaff side *n.* the female side of a family.

distal ('distəl) *adj.* *Anat.* situated farthest from the centre or point of attachment or origin. —**distally** *adv.*

distance ('distəns) *n.* 1. the space between two points. 2. the length of this gap. 3. the state of being apart in space; remoteness. 4. an interval between two points in time. 5. the extent of progress. 6. a distant place or time. 7. a separation or remoteness in relationship. 8. **keep one's distance**, to maintain a reserve in respect of another person. 9. (preceded by *the*) the most distant or a faraway part of the visible scene. 10. *Horse racing.* a. *Brit.* a point on a racecourse 240 yards from the winning post. b. *U.S.* the part of a racecourse that a horse must reach before the winner passes the finishing line in order to qualify for later heats. 11. **go the distance**, to be able to complete an assigned task or responsibility. 12. **middle distance**, halfway between the foreground and the observer and the horizon. ~*vb.* (tr.) 13. to hold or place at a distance. 14. to separate (oneself) mentally from something. 15. to outdo; outstrip.

distant ('dɪstənt) *adj.* 1. far apart in space or time. 2. (*postpositive*) separated in space or time by a specified distance. 3. apart in relationship; a *distant cousin*. 4. coming from or going to a faraway place. 5. remote in manner; aloof. 6. abstracted; absent; a *distant look*. —**distantly** *adv.* —**distantness** *n.*

distaste (di'steɪst) *n.* (often foll. by *for*) a dislike (of); aversion (to).

distasteful (di'steɪstfʊl) *adj.* unpleasant or offensive. —**dis-'tastefulness** *n.*

distemper¹ (di'stempə) *n.* 1. any of various infectious diseases of animals, esp. **canine distemper**, a highly contagious viral disease of young dogs. 2. *Arch.* a. a disorder. b. disturbance. c. discontent.

distemper² (di'stempə) *n.* 1. a technique of painting in which the pigments are mixed with water, glue, size, etc., used for poster, mural, and scene painting. 2. the paint used in this technique or any of various water-based paints. ~*vb.* 3. to paint (something) with distemper.

distend (di'stend) *vb.* 1. to expand by or as if by pressure from within; swell; inflate. 2. (tr.) to stretch out or extend. —**dis-'tensible** *adj.* —**dis-'tension** or **dis-'tention** *n.*

distich ('dɪstɪk) *n.* *Prosody.* a unit of two verse lines, usually a couplet.

distil or **U.S. distill** (di'stɪl) *vb.* -tilling, -tilled. 1. to subject to or undergo distillation. 2. (sometimes foll. by *out* or *off*) to purify, separate, or concentrate, or be purified, separated, or concentrated by distillation. 3. to obtain or be obtained by distillation. 4. to exude or give off (a substance) in drops. 5. (tr.) to extract the essence of.

distillate ('dɪstɪlət) *n.* 1. the product of distillation. 2. a concentrated essence.

distillation (di'stɪleɪʃən) *n.* 1. a distilling. 2. the process of evaporating or boiling a liquid and condensing its vapour. 3. purification or separation of mixtures by using different evaporation rates or boiling points of their components. 4. the process of obtaining the essence or an extract of a substance, usually by heating it in a solvent. 5. a distillate. 6. a concentrated essence. —**dis-'tillatory** *adj.*

distiller (di'stɪlə) *n.* a person or organization that distils, esp. a company that makes spirits.

distillery (di'stɪləri) *n.* pl. -eries. a place where alcoholic drinks, etc., are made by distillation.

distinct (di'stɪŋkt) *adj.* 1. easily sensed or understood; clear. 2. (when *postpositive*, foll. by *from*) not the same (as); separate (from). 3. not alike; different. 4. sharp; clear. 5. recognizable; definite. 6. explicit; unequivocal. —**dis-'tinctly** *adv.* —**dis-'tinctness** *n.*

distinction (di'stɪŋkʃən) *n.* 1. the act or an instance of distinguishing or differentiating. 2. a distinguishing feature. 3. the state of being different or distinguishable. 4. special honour, recognition, or fame. 5. excellence of character; distinctive qualities. 6. distinguished appearance. 7. a symbol of honour or rank.

distinctive (di'stɪŋktɪv) *adj.* serving or tending to distinguish; characteristic. —**dis-'tinctively** *adv.* —**dis-'tinctiveness** *n.*

distingué French. (dist'eŋ'ge) *adj.* distinguished or noble.

distinguish (di'stɪŋɡwɪʃ) *vb.* (*mainly tr.*) 1. (when *intr.*, foll. by *between* or *among*) to make, show, or recognize a difference (between or among); differentiate (between). 2. to be a distinctive feature of; characterize. 3. to make out; perceive. 4. to mark for a special honour. 5. to make (oneself) noteworthy. 6. to classify. —**dis-'tin-guishable** *adj.*

distinguished (di'stɪŋɡwɪʃt) *adj.* 1. noble or dignified in appearance or behaviour. 2. eminent; famous; celebrated.

distort (di'stɔ:t) *vb.* (tr.) 1. (*often passive*) to twist or pull out of shape; contort; deform. 2. to alter or misrepresent (facts, etc.). 3. *Electronics.* to reproduce or amplify (a signal) inaccurately. —**dis-'torted** *adj.* —**dis-'tortion** *n.*

distract (di'strækt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. (*often passive*) to draw the attention of (a person) away from something. 2. to divide or confuse the attention of (a person). 3. to amuse or entertain. 4. to trouble greatly. 5. to make mad. —**dis-'traced** *adj.*

distraction (di'strækʃən) *n.* 1. a distracting or being distracted. 2. something that serves as a diversion or entertainment. 3. an interruption; obstacle to concentration. 4. mental turmoil or madness.

distrain (di'streɪn) *vb.* *Law.* to seize (personal property) as security or indemnity for a debt. —**dis-'trainment** *n.* —**dis-'trainor** or **dis-'trainer** *n.* —**dis-'traint** *n.*

distract (di'streɪt; French di'stre) *adj.* absent-minded; abstracted.

distraught (di'strɔ:t) *adj.* 1. distracted or agitated. 2. *Rare.* mad.

distress (di'stres) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to cause mental pain to; upset badly. 2. (*usually passive*) to subject to financial or other trouble. 3. *Law.* a less common word for **distrain**. ~*n.* 4. mental pain; anguish. 5. a distressing or being distressed. 6. physical or financial trouble. 7. **in distress**, (of a ship, etc.) in dire need of help. 8. *Law.* a. the seizure of property as security for or in satisfaction of a debt, claim, etc.; **distrain**. b. the property thus seized. c. *U.S.* (as modifier): **distress merchandise**. —**dis-'tressful** *adj.* —**dis-'tressing** *adj.* —**dis-'tressingly** *adv.*

distressed (di'strest) *adj.* 1. much troubled; upset; afflicted. 2. in financial straits; poor. 3. *Econ.* another word for **depressed**.

distribute (di'stribju:t) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to give out in shares; dispense. 2. to hand out or deliver. 3. (*often passive*) to spread throughout an area. 4. (*often passive*) to divide into classes or categories. 5. *Printing.* to return (used type) to the correct positions in the type case. 6. *Logic.* to use (a term) so that it refers to all members of the class it designates. —**dis-'tributable** *adj.*

distribution (ˌdɪstrɪˈbjʊːʃən) *n.* 1. the act of distributing or the state or manner of being distributed. 2. a thing or portion distributed. 3. arrangement or location. 4. the transporting, merchandising, and marketing of goods from producer to consumer. 5. *Econ.* the division of the total income of a community among its members. 6. *Statistics.* a set of values with reference to their theoretical or observed frequency. 7. *Law.* the apportioning of the estate of a deceased intestate. —**distrib'utional** *adj.*

distributive (dɪˈstrɪbjʊtɪv) *adj.* 1. characterized by or relating to distribution. 2. *Grammar.* referring separately to the individual people or items in a group, as the words *each* and *every*. 3. *Maths, logic.* (of an operation) leading to the same result whether performed before or after a second specified operation. ~*n.* 4. *Grammar.* a distributive word. —**dis'tributively** *adv.* —**dis'tributiveness** *n.*

distributor (dɪˈstrɪbjʊtə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that distributes. 2. a wholesaler or middleman engaged in the distribution of a category of goods, esp. to retailers in a specific area. 3. the device in a petrol engine that distributes the high-tension voltage to the sparking plugs.

district (ˈdɪstrɪkt) *n.* 1. a. an area of land marked off for administrative or other purposes. b. (as modifier): *district nurse*. 2. a locality separated by geographical attributes; region. 3. any subdivision of a territory, region, etc. 4. a political subdivision of a county, region, etc., that elects a council responsible for certain local services. ~*vb.* 5. (tr.) to divide into districts.

district nurse *n. Brit.* a nurse appointed to attend patients within a particular district, usually in the patients' homes.

distrust (dɪs'trʌst) *vb.* 1. to regard as untrustworthy or dishonest. ~*n.* 2. suspicion; doubt. —**dis'truster** *n.* —**dis'trustful** *adj.*

disturb (dɪs'tɜːb) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to intrude on; interrupt. 2. to destroy the quietness or peace of. 3. to disarrange; muddle. 4. (often passive) to upset; trouble. 5. to inconvenience; put out. —**dis'turber** *n.* —**dis'turbing** *adj.* —**dis'turbingly** *adv.*

disturbance (dɪs'tɜːbəns) *n.* 1. a disturbing or being disturbed. 2. an interruption or intrusion. 3. an unruly outburst or tumult. 4. *Law.* an interference with another's rights. 5. *Geol.* a minor movement of the earth causing a small earthquake. 6. *Meteorol.* a small depression. 7. *Psychiatry.* a mental or emotional disorder.

disturbed (dɪs'tɜːbd) *adj. Psychiatry.* emotionally upset, troubled, or maladjusted.

disunite (ˌdɪsjʊˈnaɪt) *vb.* 1. to separate; disrupt. 2. (tr.) to set at variance; estrange. —**dis'union** *n.* —**dis'unity** *n.*

disuse (dɪs'juːs) *n.* the condition of being unused; neglect (often in *in* or *into* disuse).

disyllable (ˈdaɪsləbəl) *n.* a variant spelling of *dissyllable*.

ditch (dɪtʃ) *n.* 1. a narrow channel dug in the earth, usually used for drainage, irrigation, or as a boundary marker. 2. *last ditch.* a last resort or place of last defence. ~*vb.* 3. to make a ditch in. 4. (intr.) to edge with a ditch. 5. *Sl.* to crash, esp. deliberately, as to avoid more unpleasant circumstances: *he had to ditch the car*. 6. (tr.) *Sl.* to abandon. 7. *Sl.* to land (an aircraft) on water in an emergency. 8. (tr.) *U.S. sl.* to evade. —**'ditcher** *n.*

dither (ˈdɪðə) *vb.* (intr.) 1. *Chiefly Brit.* to be uncertain or indecisive. 2. *Chiefly U.S.* to be in an agitated state. 3. to tremble, as with cold. ~*n.* 4. *Chiefly Brit.* a state of indecision. 5. a state of agitation. —**'ditherer** *n.*

dithyramb (ˈdɪθɪˌræm, -ræmb) *n.* 1. (in ancient Greece) a passionate choral hymn in honour of Dionysus. 2. any utterance or a piece of writing that resembles this. —**'dithyrambic** *adj.*

dittany (ˈdɪtəni) *n., pl. -nies.* 1. an aromatic Cretan plant with pink flowers: formerly credited with medicinal properties. 2. a North American plant with purplish flowers.

ditto (ˈdɪtʊ) *n., pl. -tos.* 1. the aforementioned; the above; the same. Used in accounts, lists, etc., to avoid repetition, and symbolized by two small marks (,) known as *ditto marks*, placed under the thing repeated. 2. *Inf.* a duplicate. ~*adv.* 3. in the same way. ~ 4. *sentence substitute.* *Inf.* used to avoid repeating or to confirm agreement with an immediately preceding sentence. ~*vb.* —**to-ing, -toed.** 5. (tr.) to copy; repeat.

ditty (ˈdɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* a short simple song or poem.

diuretic (ˌdaɪjuˈretɪk) *adj.* 1. acting to increase the

flow of urine. ~*n.* 2. a drug or agent that increases the flow of urine. —**diuresis** (ˌdaɪjuˈrɪsɪs) *n.*

diurnal (daɪˈɜːnl) *adj.* 1. happening during the day or daily. 2. (of flowers) open during the day and closed at night. 3. (of animals) active during the day. ~*Cf.* **nocturnal.** —**di'urnally** *adv.*

diva (ˈdɪvə) *n., pl. -vas* or *-ve* (-vɪ). a highly distinguished female singer; prima donna.

divalent (daɪˈveɪlənt, ˈdaɪˌveɪ-) *adj. Chem.* 1. having a valency of two. 2. having two valencies. ~Also: **bivalent.** —**di'valency** *n.*

divan (dɪˈvæn) *n.* 1. a. a backless sofa or couch. b. a bed resembling such a couch. 2. (esp. formerly) a smoking room. 3. a Muslim law court, council chamber, or counting house. b. a Muslim council of state.

dive (daɪv) *vb. diving, dived* or *U.S. dove, dived.* (mainly intr.) 1. to plunge headfirst into water. 2. (of a submarine, etc.) to submerge under water. 3. (also tr.) to fly in a steep nose-down descending path. 4. to rush, go, or reach quickly, as in a headlong plunge: *he dived for the ball*. 5. (also tr.; foll. by *in* or *into*) to dip or put (one's hand) quickly or forcefully (into). 6. (usually foll. by *in* or *into*) to involve oneself (in something), as in eating food. ~*n.* 7. a headlong plunge into water. 8. an act or instance of diving. 9. a steep nose-down descent of an aircraft. 10. *Sl.* a disreputable bar or club. 11. *Boxing sl.* the act of a boxer pretending to be knocked down or out.

dive bomber *n.* a military aircraft designed to release its bombs on a target during a steep dive. —**'dive-bomb** *vb.*

diver (ˈdaɪvə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that dives. 2. a person who works or explores underwater. 3. any of various aquatic birds of northern oceans: noted for skill in diving. *U.S. name:* loon. 4. any of various other diving birds.

diverge (daɪˈvɜːdʒ) *vb.* 1. to separate or cause to separate and go in different directions from a point. 2. (intr.) to be at variance; differ. 3. (intr.) to deviate from a prescribed course. 4. (intr.) *Maths.* (of a series) to have no limit. —**di'vergence** or **di'vergency** *n.* —**di'vergent** *adj.* —**di'vergently** *adv.*

divers (ˈdaɪvəz) *determiner.* *Arch. or literary.* various; sundry; some.

▷ **Usage.** In spite of the frequency with which *divers* (several) and *diverse* (disparate, set apart by marked differences) are treated as synonyms, and although they were originally the same word, careful writers and speakers always distinguish between these two words: *there were divers persons in the room; the personalities of those present were extremely diverse.*

diverse (daɪˈvɜːs, ˈdaɪˌvɜːs) *adj.* 1. having variety; assorted. 2. distinct in kind. —**di'versely** *adv.*

diversify (daɪˈvɜːsɪfaɪ) *vb. -fying, -fied.* 1. (tr.) to create different forms of; variegate; vary. 2. (of an enterprise) to vary (products, operations, etc.) in order to spread risk, expand, etc. 3. to distribute (investments) among several securities in order to spread risk. —**di'versifi'cation** *n.*

diversion (daɪˈvɜːʃən) *n.* 1. the act of diverting from a specified course. 2. *Chiefly Brit.* an official detour used by traffic when a main route is closed. 3. something that distracts from business, etc.; amusement. 4. *Mil.* a feint attack designed to draw an enemy away from the main attack. —**di'versional** or **di'versionary** *adj.*

diversity (daɪˈvɜːsɪtɪ) *n.* 1. the state or quality of being different or varied. 2. a point of difference.

divert (daɪˈvɜːt) *vb.* 1. to turn aside; deflect. 2. (tr.) to entertain; amuse. 3. (tr.) to distract the attention of. —**di'verting** *adj.* —**di'vertingly** *adv.*

diverticulitis (ˌdaɪvɜːˈtɪkjʊˈlaɪtɪs) *n.* inflammation of one or more diverticula, esp. of the colon.

diverticulum (ˌdaɪvɜːˈtɪkjʊləm) *n., pl. -la* (-lə). any sac or pouch formed by herniation of the wall of a tubular organ or part, esp. the intestines.

divertimento (dɪˈvɜːtɪˈmentəʊ) *n., pl. -ti* (-tɪ). 1. a piece of entertaining music, often scored for a mixed ensemble and having no fixed form. 2. an episode in a fugue.

divertissement (dɪˈvɜːtɪsmənt) *n.* a brief entertainment or diversion, usually between the acts of a play.

divest (daɪˈvest) *vb.* (tr.; usually foll. by *of*) 1. to strip (of clothes). 2. to deprive or dispossess. —**divestiture** (daɪˈvestʃʊə), **divesture** (daɪˈvestʃʊə), or **di'vestment** *n.*

divide (dɪˈvaɪd) *vb.* 1. to separate into parts; split up. 2. to share or be shared out in parts; distribute. 3. to diverge or cause to diverge in opinion or aim. 4. (tr.) to keep apart or be a boundary between. 5. (intr.) to vote by separating into two groups. 6. to categorize; classify.

7. to calculate the quotient of (one number or quantity) and (another number or quantity) by division. 8. (*intr.*) to diverge: *the roads divide*. 9. (*tr.*) to mark increments of (length, angle, etc.). ~*n.* 10. Chiefly U.S. an area of relatively high ground separating drainage basins; watershed. 11. a division; split.

dividend (dɪˈvɪdənd) *n.* 1. a. a distribution from the net profits of a company to its shareholders. b. a portion of this distribution received by a shareholder. 2. the share of a cooperative society's surplus allocated to members. 3. *Insurance* a sum of money distributed from a company's net profits to the holders of certain policies. 4. something extra; a bonus. 5. a number or quantity to be divided by another number or quantity. 6. *Law* the proportion of an insolvent estate payable to the creditors.

divider (dɪˈvaɪdə) *n.* 1. Also called: **room divider**, an object placed to divide a room into separate areas. 2. a person or thing that divides.

dividers (dɪˈvaɪdəz) *pl. n.* a type of compass with two pointed arms, used for measuring lines or dividing them.

divination (dɪˈvɪneɪʃən) *n.* 1. the art or practice of discovering future events or unknown things, as though by supernatural powers. 2. a prophecy. 3. a guess. —**divinatory** (dɪˈvɪnətəri) *adj.*

divine (dɪˈvaɪn) *adj.* 1. of God or a deity. 2. godlike. 3. of or associated with religion or worship. 4. of supreme excellence or worth. 5. *Inf.* splendid; perfect. ~*n.* 6. (*often cap.*; preceded by *the*) another term for God. 7. a priest, esp. one learned in theology. ~*vb.* 8. to perceive (something) by intuition. 9. to conjecture (something); guess. 10. to discern (a hidden or future reality) as though by supernatural power. 11. (*tr.*) to search for (water, metal, etc.) using a divining rod. —**divinely** *adv.* —**diviner** *n.*

diving bell *n.* an early diving submersible having an open bottom and being supplied with compressed air.

diving board *n.* a platform or springboard from which swimmers may dive.

diving suit or dress *n.* a waterproof suit used by divers, having a heavy detachable helmet and an air supply.

divining rod *n.* a forked twig said to move when held over ground in which water, metal, etc., is to be found. Also called: **dowsing rod**.

divinity (dɪˈvɪnɪti) *n., pl. -ties*. 1. the nature of a deity or the state of being divine. 2. a god. 3. (*often cap.*; preceded by *the*) another term for God. 4. another word for **theology**.

divisible (dɪˈvɪzəbəl) *adj.* capable of being divided, usually with no remainder. —**divisibility** or **divisibleness** *n.* —**divisibly** *adv.*

division (dɪˈvɪʒən) *n.* 1. a dividing or being divided. 2. the act of sharing out; distribution. 3. something that divides; boundary. 4. one of the parts, groups, etc., into which something is divided. 5. a part of a government, business, etc., that has been made into a unit for administrative or other reasons. 6. a formal vote in Parliament or a similar legislative body. 7. a difference of opinion. 8. (in sports) a section or class organized according to age, weight, skill, etc. 9. a mathematical operation in which the quotient of two numbers or quantities is calculated. Usually written: $a \div b$, a/b , $\frac{a}{b}$. 10. *Army*, a major formation, larger than a regiment but smaller than a corps, containing the necessary arms to sustain combat. 11. *Biol.* a major taxonomic division that corresponds to a phylum. —**divisively** or **divisively** *adv.*

division sign *n.* the symbol \div , placed between the dividend and the divisor to indicate division, as in $12 \div 6 = 2$.

divisive (dɪˈvaɪsɪv) *adj.* tending to cause disagreement or dissension. —**divisively** *adv.* —**divisiveness** *n.*

divisor (dɪˈvaɪzə) *n.* 1. a number or quantity to be divided into another number or quantity (the dividend). 2. a number that is a factor of another number.

divorce (dɪˈvɔːs) *n.* 1. the legal dissolution of a marriage. 2. a judicial decree declaring a marriage to be dissolved. 3. a separation, esp. one that is total or complete. ~*vb.* 4. to separate or be separated by divorce; give or obtain a divorce. 5. (*tr.*) to remove or separate, esp. completely. —**divorceable** *adj.*

divorcée (dɪˈvɔːsi) or (*masc.*) **divorcé** (dɪˈvɔːseɪ) *n.* a person who has been divorced.

divot (ˈdɪvət) *n.* a piece of turf dug out of a grass surface, as by a golf club or by horses' hooves.

divulge (dɪˈvʌldʒ) *vb.* (*tr.*; may take a clause as object)

to make known; disclose. —**divulgence** or **divulgement** *n.* —**divulger** *n.*

divvy (ˈdɪvi) *Inf.* ~*n., pl. -vies*. 1. *Brit.* short for **dividend**, esp. (formerly) one paid by a cooperative society. 2. U.S. a share; portion. ~*vb.* -*vy*ing, -*vi*ed. 3. (*tr.*; usually foll. by *up*) U.S. to divide and share.

dixie (ˈdɪksi) *n.* 1. Chiefly *mil.* a large metal pot for cooking, brewing tea, etc. 2. a mess tin.

Dixie (ˈdɪksi) *n.* 1. Also called: **Dixieland**, the southern states of the U.S. ~*adj.* 2. of the southern states of the U.S.

D.I.Y. or d.i.y. (in Britain) *abbrev. for* do-it-yourself.

dizzy (ˈdɪzi) *adj.* -*zier*, -*ziest*. 1. affected with a whirling or reeling sensation; giddy. 2. mentally confused or bewildered. 3. causing or tending to cause vertigo or bewilderment. 4. *Inf.* foolish or flighty. ~*vb.* -*zies*, -*zying*, -*zied*. 5. (*tr.*) to make dizzy. —**dizzily** *adv.* —**dizziness** *n.*

D.J. or d.j. *abbrev. for:* 1. dinner jacket. 2. disc jockey.

djinni or djinny (dʒɪˈni, ˈdʒɪni) *n., pl. djinn* (dʒɪn). variant spellings of **jinni**.

dl *abbrev. for* decilitre.

dm *abbrev. for* decimetre.

DM *abbrev. for* Deutsche Mark.

D.Mus. or DMus *abbrev. for* Doctor of Music.

DNA *n.* deoxyribonucleic acid, the main constituent of the chromosomes of all organisms in the form of a double helix. DNA is self-replicating and is responsible for the transmission of hereditary characteristics.

D-notice *n.* *Brit.* an official notice sent to newspapers, etc., prohibiting the publication of certain security information.

do (du; unstressed du, də) *vb.* **does, doing, did, done**. 1. to perform or complete (a deed or action): *to do a portrait*. 2. (*often intr.*; foll. by *for*) to serve the needs of; be suitable for; suffice. 3. (*tr.*) to arrange or fix. 4. (*tr.*) to prepare or provide; serve: *this restaurant doesn't do lunch on Sundays*. 5. (*tr.*) to make tidy, elegant, ready, etc.: *to do one's hair*. 6. (*tr.*) to improve (esp. in **do something to or for**). 7. (*tr.*) to find an answer to (a problem or puzzle). 8. (*tr.*) to translate or adapt the form or language of: *the book was done into a play*. 9. (*intr.*) to conduct oneself: *do as you please*. 10. (*intr.*) to fare or manage. 11. (*tr.*) to cause or produce: *complaints do nothing to help*. 12. (*tr.*) to give or render: *do me a favour*. 13. (*tr.*) to work at, esp. as a course of study or a profession. 14. (*tr.*) to perform (a play, etc.); act. 15. (*tr.*) to travel at a specified speed, esp. as a maximum. 16. (*tr.*) to travel or traverse (a distance). 17. (takes an infinitive without *to*) used as an auxiliary *a.* before the subject of an interrogative sentence as a way of forming a question: *do you agree?* *b.* to intensify positive statements and commands: *I do like your new house; do hurry!* *c.* before a negative adverb to form negative statements or commands: *do not leave me here alone!* *d.* in inverted constructions: *little did he realize that*. 18. used as an auxiliary to replace an earlier verb or verb phrase: *he likes you as much as I do*. 19. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to visit as a sightseer or tourist. 20. (*tr.*) to wear out; exhaust. 21. (*intr.*) to happen (esp. in **nothing doing**). 22. (*tr.*) *Sl.* to serve (a specified period) as a prison sentence. 23. (*tr.*) *Sl.* to cheat or swindle. 24. (*tr.*) *Sl.* to rob. 25. (*tr.*) *Austral. sl.* to spend (money). 26. (*tr.*) *Sl., chiefly Brit.* to treat violently; assault. 27. (*tr.*) *Taboo sl.* (of a male) to have sexual intercourse with. 28. **do or die**, to make a final or supreme effort. 29. **make do**, to manage with whatever is available. ~*n., pl. dos or do's*. 30. *Sl.* an act or instance of cheating or swindling. 31. *Inf., chiefly Brit.* a formal or festive gathering; party. 32. **do's and don'ts**, *Inf.* rules. ~See also **do away with**, **do by**, **do down**, **do for**, etc.

do² (dəʊ) *n., pl. dos*, a variant spelling of **doh**.

do. *abbrev. for* ditto.

doable (ˈduːəbəl) *adj.* capable of being done.

do away with *vb.* (*intr., adv. + prep.*) 1. to kill or destroy. 2. to discard or abolish.

dobbin (ˈdɒbɪn) *n.* a name for a horse, esp. a workhorse. **Doberman pinscher** (ˈdɒbəmən ˈpɪnʃə) *n.* a breed of large dog with a glossy black-and-tan coat.

do by *vb.* (*intr., prep.*) to treat in the manner specified.

doc (dɒk) *n.* *Inf.* short for doctor.

docile (ˈdɒsəl) *adj.* 1. easy to manage or discipline; submissive. 2. *Rare*. easy to teach. —**docilely** *adv.* —**docility** (dɒˈsɪlɪti) *n.*

dock¹ (dɒk) *n.* 1. a wharf or pier. 2. a space between two wharves or piers for the mooring of ships. 3. an

area of water that can accommodate a ship and can be closed off to allow regulation of the water level. 4. short for **dry dock**. 5. **in or into dock**. *Brit. inf. a.* (of people) in hospital. **b.** (of cars, etc.) in a repair shop. 6. *Chiefly U.S.* a platform from which lorries, goods trains, etc., are loaded and unloaded. ~vb. 7. to moor or be moored at a dock. 8. to put (a vessel) into, or (of a vessel) to come into a dry dock. 9. (of two spacecraft) to link together in space or link together (two spacecraft) in space.

dock' (dɒk) *n.* 1. the bony part of the tail of an animal. 2. the part of an animal's tail left after the major part of it has been cut off. ~vb. (tr.) 3. to remove (the tail or part of the tail) of (an animal) by cutting through the bone. 4. to deduct (an amount) from (a person's wages, pension, etc.).

dock¹ (dɒk) *n.* an enclosed space in a court of law where the accused sits or stands during his trial.

dock² (dɒk) *n.* any of various weedy plants having greenish or reddish flowers and broad leaves.

docker ('dɒkə) *n.* *Brit.* a man employed in the loading or unloading of ships. *U.S. equivalent: longshoreman.* See also **stevedore**.

docket ('dɒkt) *n.* 1. *Chiefly Brit.* a piece of paper accompanying or referring to a package or other delivery, stating contents, delivery instructions, etc., sometimes serving as a receipt. 2. *Law. a.* a summary of the proceedings in a court. **b. a register containing this. 3. *Brit. a.* a customs certificate declaring that duty has been paid. **b. a certificate giving particulars of a shipment. 4. a summary of contents, as in a document. 5. *U.S.* a list of things to be done. 6. *U.S. law.* a list of cases awaiting trial. ~vb. (tr.) 7. to fix a docket to (a package, etc.). 8. *Law. a.* to make a summary of (a judgment, etc.). **b. to abstract and enter in a register. 9. to endorse (a document, etc.) with a summary.******

dockyard ('dɒk,jɑ:d) *n.* a naval establishment with docks, workshops, etc., for the building, fitting out, and repair of vessels.

doctor ('dɒktə) *n.* 1. a person licensed to practise medicine. 2. a person who has been awarded a higher academic degree in any field of knowledge. 3. *Chiefly U.S.* a person licensed to practise dentistry or veterinary medicine. 4. (*often cap.*) Also called: **Doctor of the Church**, a title given to any of several of the early Fathers of the Christian Church. 5. *Angling.* any of various artificial flies. 6. *Inf.* a person who mends or repairs things. 7. *Sl.* a cook on a ship or at a camp. 8. *Arch.* a man, esp. a teacher, of learning. 9. **go for the doctor.** *Austral. sl.* to make a great effort or move very fast. 10. **what the doctor ordered.** something needed or desired. ~vb. 11. (tr.) to give medical treatment to. 12. (intr.) *Inf.* to practise medicine. 13. (tr.) to repair or mend. 14. (tr.) to make different in order to deceive. 15. (tr.) to adapt. 16. (tr.) *Inf.* to castrate (a cat, dog, etc.). — '**doctoral or doctorial** (dɒk'tɔ:riəl) *adj.*

doctorate ('dɒktərit, -trɪt) *n.* the highest academic degree in any field of knowledge.

doctrinaire ('dɒktri'neə) *adj.* 1. stubbornly insistent on the observation of the niceties of a theory, esp. without regard to practicality, suitability, etc. 2. theoretical; impractical. ~n. 3. a person who stubbornly attempts to apply a theory without regard to practical difficulties. — '**doctrinairism** *n.* — '**doctrinarian** *n.*

doctrine ('dɒktrɪn) *n.* 1. a creed or body of teachings of a religious, political, or philosophical group presented for acceptance or belief; dogma. 2. a principle or body of principles that is taught or advocated. — '**doctrinal** (dɒk'trɪnəl) *adj.* — '**doctrinally** *adv.*

document *n.* ('dɒkjumənt). 1. a piece of paper, booklet, etc., providing information, esp. of an official nature. 2. *Arch.* proof. ~vb. ('dɒkjumənt). (tr.) 3. to record or report in detail, as in the press, on television, etc. 4. to support (statements in a book) with references, etc. 5. to support (a claim, etc.) with evidence. 6. to furnish (a vessel) with documents specifying its registration, dimensions, etc.

documentary ('dɒkjʊ'mentəri) *adj.* 1. Also: **documental**, consisting of or relating to documents. 2. presenting factual material with few or no fictional additions. ~n., *pl. -ries*. 3. a factual film or television programme about an event, person, etc., presenting the facts with little or no fiction. — '**documentarily** *adv.*

documentation ('dɒkjumənt'eɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of supplying with or using documents or references. 2. the documents or references supplied.

dodder ('dɒdə) *vb.* (intr.) 1. to move unsteadily; totter. 2. to shake or tremble, as from age. — '**dodderer** *n.* — '**doddery** *adj.*

doddle ('dɒd'l) *n.* *Brit. sl.* something easily accomplished.

dodeca- combining form. indicating twelve: **dodeca-phonics**.

dodecagon (dɒu'dekə,gɒn) *n.* a polygon having twelve sides.

dodecahedron (dɒde'kə'hɪdrən) *n.* a solid figure having twelve plane faces. — '**dodeca'hedral** *adj.*

dodge (dɒdʒ) *vb.* 1. to avoid or attempt to avoid (a blow, discovery, etc.), as by moving suddenly. 2. to evade by cleverness or trickery. 3. (intr.) **Change-ringing.** to make a bell change places with its neighbour when sounding in successive changes. 4. (tr.) **Photog.** to lighten or darken (selected areas on a print). ~n. 5. a plan contrived to deceive. 6. a sudden evasive movement. 7. a clever contrivance. 8. **Change-ringing.** the act of dodging.

Dodgem ('dɒdʒəm) *n.* **Trademark.** an electric vehicle driven at a funfair.

dodger ('dɒdʒə) *n.* 1. a person who evades or shirks. 2. a shifty dishonest person. 3. a canvas shelter on a ship's bridge, etc., to protect the helmsman from bad weather. 4. **Dialect.** food, esp. bread.

dodgy ('dɒdʒɪ) *adj.* **dodgier, dodgiest.** *Brit. inf.* 1. risky, difficult, or dangerous. 2. uncertain or unreliable; tricky.

dodo ('dɒdəʊ) *n.*, *pl. dodos or dodoes.* 1. any of a now extinct family of flightless birds formerly found on Mauritius. They had a hooked bill and short stout legs. 2. *Inf.* an intensely conservative person who is unaware of changing fashions, ideas, etc. 3. (as) **dead as a dodo.** irretrievably dead or defunct.

do down *vb.* (tr., *adv.*) 1. to belittle or humiliate. 2. to deceive or cheat.

doe (dəʊ) *n.*, *pl. does or doe.* the female of the deer, hare, rabbit, and certain other animals.

D.O.E. (in Britain) *abbrev. for* Department of the Environment.

doek (duk) *n.* *S. African inf.* a square of cloth worn mainly by African women to cover the head.

doer ('du:ə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that does something. 2. an active or energetic person. 3. *N.Z.* a thriving farm animal.

does (dæz) *vb.* (used with a singular noun or the pronouns *he, she, or it*) a form of the present tense (indicative mood) of **do**.

doeskin ('dɒz,skɪn) *n.* 1. the skin of a deer, lamb, or sheep. 2. a very supple leather made from this. 3. a heavy smooth cloth.

doff (dɒf) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to take off or lift (one's hat) in salutation. 2. to remove (clothing). — '**doffer** *n.*

do for *vb.* (*prep.*) *Inf.* 1. (tr.) to convict of a crime or offence. 2. (intr.) to cause the ruin, death, or defeat of. 3. (intr.) to do housework for. 4. **do well for oneself.** to thrive or succeed.

dog (dɒg) *n.* 1. a domesticated canine mammal occurring in many breeds that show a great variety in size and form. 2. any other carnivore of the dog family, such as the dingo and coyote. 3. the male of animals of the dog family. 4. a mechanical device for gripping or holding. 5. *Inf.* a fellow; chap. 6. *Inf.* a man or boy regarded as unpleasant or wretched. 7. *U.S. sl.* an unattractive girl or woman. 8. *U.S. inf.* something unsatisfactory or inferior. 9. short for **firedog**. 10. **a dog's chance.** no chance at all. 11. **a dog's life.** a wretched existence. 12. **dog eat dog.** ruthless competition. 13. like a dog's dinner, dressed smartly or ostentatiously. 14. **put on the dog.** *U.S. inf.* to behave pretentiously. ~vb. **dogging, dogged.** (tr.) 15. to pursue or follow after like a dog. 16. to trouble; plague. 17. to chase with a dog. 18. to grip or secure by a mechanical device. ~See also **dogs**.

dog biscuit *n.* a hard biscuit for dogs.

dogcart ('dɒg,kɑ:t) *n.* a light horse-drawn two-wheeled vehicle.

dog collar *n.* 1. a collar for a dog. 2. *Inf.* a clerical collar. 3. *Inf.* a tight-fitting necklace.

dog days *pl. n.* the hot period of the summer reckoned in ancient times from the heliacal rising of Sirius (the Dog Star).

doge (dɒdʒ) *n.* (formerly) the chief magistrate in the republics of Venice and Genoa.

dog-ear *vb.* 1. (tr.) to fold down the corner of (a page). ~n. also **dog's-ear.** 2. a folded-down corner of a page.

dog-eared *adj.* 1. having dog-ears. 2. shabby or worn.

dog-end *n.* an informal name for a cigarette end.

dogfight ('dɒg,fait) *n.* 1. close-quarters combat between fighter aircraft. 2. any rough fight.

dogfish ('dɒg,fɪʃ) *n., pl. -fish or -fishes.* any of several small sharks.

dogged ('dɒɡɪd) *adj.* obstinately determined; wilful or tenacious. —**doggedly** *adv.* —**doggedness** *n.*

doggerel ('dɒɡərəl) or **dogrel** ('dɒɡrəl) *n.* 1. a comic verse, usually irregular in measure. 2. (as modifier): a doggerel rhythm. 3. nonsense.

doggo ('dɒɡəʊ) *adv.* *Brit. inf.* out of sight; in hiding (esp. in *lie doggo*).

doggy or **doggie** ('dɒɡɪ) *n., pl. -gies.* 1. a children's word for a dog. ~*adj.* 2. of, like, or relating to a dog. 3. fond of dogs.

doghouse ('dɒg,haʊs) *n.* 1. the U.S. name for kennel. 2. *inf.* disfavour (in *in the doghouse*).

dogie, **doggy**, or **dogey** ('dɒɡɪ) *n., pl. -gies or -geys.* U.S. & *Canad.* a motherless calf.

dogleg ('dɒɡ,leg) *n.* 1. a sharp bend or angle. ~*vb.* -legging, -legged. 2. (*intr.*) to go off at an angle. ~*adj.* 3. of or with the shape of a dogleg. —**doglegged** ('dɒg-'legɪd, 'dɒg,legd) *adj.*

dogma ('dɒɡmə) *n., pl. -mas or -mata (-mətə).* 1. a religious doctrine or system of doctrines proclaimed by ecclesiastical authority as true. 2. a belief, principle, or doctrine or a code of beliefs, principles, or doctrines.

dogmatic ('dɒɡ'mætɪk) or **dogmatical** *adj.* 1. characterized by making authoritative or arrogant assertions, opinions, etc. 2. of or constituting dogma. 3. based on assumption rather than observation. —**dog'matically** *adv.*

do-gooder *n. inf.* a well-intentioned person, esp. a naive or impractical one.

dog paddle *n.* 1. a swimming stroke in which the swimmer paddles his hands in imitation of a swimming dog. ~*vb.* **dog-paddle.** 2. (*intr.*) to swim using the dog paddle.

dog rose *n.* a prickly wild European rose that has pink or white scented flowers.

dogs ('dɒgz) *pl. n.* 1. *the. Brit. inf.* greyhound racing. 2. *Sl.* the feet. 3. go to the dogs. *inf.* to go to ruin physically or morally. 4. let sleeping dogs lie. to leave things undisturbed.

dogsbody ('dɒgz,bɒdɪ) *n., pl. -bodies.* *inf.* a person who carries out menial tasks for others.

Dog Star *n. the.* another name for Sirius.

dog-tired *adj.* (usually postpositive) *inf.* exhausted.

dogtooth violet ('dɒg,tu:θ) *n.* any of a genus of plants, esp. a North American plant with yellow flowers, or a European plant with purple flowers.

dogtrot ('dɒg,trot) *n.* a gently paced trot.

dogwatch ('dɒg,wɒtʃ) *n.* either of two two-hour watches aboard ship, from four to six p.m. or from six to eight p.m.

dogwood ('dɒg,wʊd) *n.* any of various trees or shrubs, esp. a European shrub with small white flowers and black berries.

doh (dəʊ) *n., pl. dohs.* *Music.* (tonic sol-fa) the first degree of any major scale.

doily or **doyley** ('dɔɪli) *n., pl. -lies or -leys.* a decorative mat of lace or lacelike paper, etc., laid on plates.

do in *vb. (tr., adv.) Sl.* 1. to kill. 2. to exhaust.

doings ('dɔɪnz) *pl. n.* 1. deeds, actions, or events. 2. *inf.* anything of which the name is not known, or euphemistically left unsaid, etc.

do-it-yourself *n. a.* the hobby or process of constructing and repairing things oneself. *b. (as modifier):* a do-it-yourself kit.

doldrums ('dɒldrəmz) *n. the.* 1. a depressed or bored state of mind. 2. a state of inactivity or stagnation. 3. a belt of light winds or calms along the equator.

dole (dəʊl) *n.* 1. a small portion of money or food given to a poor person. 2. the act of distributing such portions. 3. (usually preceded by *the*) *Brit. inf.* money received from the state while out of work. 4. on the dole. *Brit. inf.* receiving such money. 5. *Arch.* fate. ~*vb.* 6. (*tr.*; usually foll. by *out*) to distribute, esp. in small portions.

doleful ('dɒləfʊl) *adj.* dreary; mournful. —**dolefully** *adv.* —**dolefulness** *n.*

doll (dɒl) *n.* 1. a small model or dummy of a human being, used as a toy. 2. *Sl.* a pretty girl or woman of little intelligence.

dollar ('dɒlə) *n.* 1. the standard monetary unit of the U.S., divided into 100 cents. 2. the standard monetary unit, comprising 100 cents, of various other countries including: Australia, the Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, Canada, Guyana, Hong Kong, Jamaica, Malaysia, Singa-

pore, and New Zealand. 3. *Brit. inf.* (formerly) five shillings.

dollop ('dɒləp) *n. inf.* 1. a semi-solid lump. 2. a measure or serving. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*; foll. by *out*) to serve out (food).

doll up *vb. (tr., adv.) Sl.* to dress in a stylish or showy manner.

dolly ('dɒli) *n., pl. -lies.* 1. a child's word for a doll. 2. *Films, etc.* a wheeled support on which a camera may be mounted. 3. a cup-shaped anvil used to hold a rivet. 4. *Cricket.* a simple catch. 5. a full toss bowled in a slow high arc. 6. Also called: **dolly bird.** *Sl., chiefly Brit.* an attractive and fashionable girl. ~*vb.* -lying, -lied. 6. *Films, etc.* to wheel (a camera) backwards or forwards on a dolly.

dolman sleeve ('dɒlmən) *n.* a sleeve that is very wide at the armhole and tapers to a tight wrist.

dolmen ('dɒlmən) *n.* a Neolithic stone formation, consisting of a horizontal stone supported by several vertical stones, and thought to be a tomb.

dolomite ('dɒlə,məɪt) *n.* 1. a mineral consisting of calcium magnesium carbonate. 2. a rock resembling limestone but consisting principally of the mineral dolomite. —**dolomitic** ('dɒlə'mɪtɪk) *adj.*

dolos ('dɒləs) *n., pl. dolosse.* *S. African.* a knucklebone of a sheep, buck, etc., used esp. by diviners.

dolour or **U.S. dolor** ('dɒlə) *n. Poetic.* grief or sorrow.

dolphin ('dɒlfɪn) *n.* 1. any of various marine mammals that are typically smaller than whales and larger than porpoises and have a beaklike snout. 2. **river dolphin.** any of various freshwater mammals inhabiting rivers of North and South America and S Asia. 3. either of two large marine fishes that have an iridescent coloration. 4. *Naut.* a post or buoy for mooring a vessel.

dolphinarium ('dɒlfɪ'næəriəm) *n.* a pool or aquarium for dolphins, esp. one in which they give public displays.

dolt ('dɒlt) *n.* a slow-witted or stupid person. —**doltish** *adj.* —**doltishness** *n.*

-dom *suffix forming nouns.* 1. state or condition: freedom. 2. rank, office, or domain of: earldom. 3. a collection of persons: officialdom.

domain ('dɔɪmən) *n.* 1. land governed by a ruler or government. 2. land owned by one person or family. 3. a field or scope of knowledge or activity. 4. a region having specific characteristics. 5. *N.Z. & Austral.* a park or recreation reserve maintained by a public authority, often the government. 6. *Law.* the absolute ownership and right to dispose of land. 7. *Maths.* the set of values of the independent variable of a function for which the functional value exists. 8. *Physics.* one of the regions in a ferromagnetic solid in which all the atoms have their magnetic moments aligned in the same direction.

dome (dəʊm) *n.* 1. a hemispherical roof or vault. 2. something shaped like this. 3. a slang word for the head. ~*vb. (tr.)* 4. to cover with or as if with a dome. 5. to shape like a dome. —**dome,like** *adj.* —**domical** ('dɔʊmɪkəl, 'dɒm-) *adj.*

Domesday Book or **Doomsday Book** ('dʊ:mz,deɪ) *n. History.* the record of a survey of the land of England carried out by the commissioners of William I in 1086.

domestic (də'mestɪk) *adj.* 1. of the home or family. 2. enjoying or accustomed to home or family life. 3. (of an animal) bred or kept by man as a pet or for purposes such as the supply of food. 4. of one's own country or a specific country: domestic and foreign affairs. ~*n.* 5. a household servant. —**do'mestically** *adv.*

domesticate (də'mestɪ,keɪt) or **U.S. (sometimes) domesticize** *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to bring or keep (wild animals or plants) under control or cultivation. 2. (*tr.*) to accustom to home life. 3. (*tr.*) to adapt to an environment. —**do'mesticable** *adj.* —**do,mestɪ'cation** *n.*

domesticity (,dəʊmɪ'sɪtɪ) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. home life. 2. devotion to or familiarity with home life. 3. (usually *pl.*) a domestic duty or matter.

domestic science *n.* the study of cooking, needlework, and other subjects concerned with household skills.

domicile ('dɒmɪ,səl) or **domicil** ('dɒmɪsəl) *n.* 1. a dwelling place. 2. a permanent legal residence. 3. *Commerce, Brit.* the place where a bill of exchange is to be paid. ~*vb.* also **domiciliate** ('dɒmɪ'sɪl,et). 4. to establish or be established in a dwelling place. —**domi'ciliary** ('dɒmɪ'sɪliəri) *adj.*

dominant ('dɒmɪnənt) *adj.* 1. having primary authority or influence; governing; ruling. 2. predominant or primary: the dominant topic of the day. 3. occupying a commanding position. 4. *Genetics.* (of a gene) produc-

ing the same phenotype in the organism whether its allele is identical or dissimilar. Cf. **recessive**. 5. *Music*. of or relating to the fifth degree of a scale. 6. *Ecology*. (of a plant or animal species) more prevalent than any other species and determining the appearance and composition of the community. ~n. 7. *Genetics*. a dominant gene. 8. *Music*. a. the fifth degree of a scale. b. a key or chord based on this. 9. *Ecology*. a dominant plant or animal in a community. —'dominance n. —'dominantly adv.

dominate ('domiːneɪt) vb. 1. to control, rule, or govern. 2. to tower above (surroundings, etc.). 3. (tr.; usually passive) to predominate in. —'domiːnation n.

dominee ('duːmiːni, 'dʊː-) n. (in South Africa) a minister in any of the Afrikaner Churches.

domineer ('domiːniə) vb. (intr., often foll. by over) to act with arrogance or tyranny; behave imperiously. —'domiːneering adj. —'domiːneeringly adv.

Dominican ('domiːnikən) n. 1. a. a member of an order of preaching friars founded by Saint Dominic in 1215; a Blackfriar. b. a nun of one of the orders founded under his patronage. ~adj. 2. of Saint Dominic or the Dominican order.

Dominican² ('domiːnikən) adj. 1. of or relating to the Dominican Republic. ~n. 2. a native or inhabitant of the Dominican Republic.

dominion ('domiːnjən) n. 1. rule; authority. 2. the land governed by one ruler or government. 3. sphere of influence; area of control. 4. a name formerly applied to self-governing divisions of the British Empire.

Dominion Day n. another name for **Canada Day**.

domino¹ ('domiːnəʊ) n. pl. -noes. a small rectangular block marked with dots, used in dominoes.

domino² ('domiːnəʊ) n., pl. -noes or -nos. 1. a large hooded cloak worn with an eye mask at a masquerade. 2. the eye mask worn with such a cloak.

dominoes ('domiːnəʊz) n. (*functioning as sing.*) any of several games in which dominoes with matching halves are laid together.

domino theory n. the theory that an event in one place will influence the occurrence of similar events elsewhere, esp. that a Communist takeover of one country will lead to Communist takeovers in all the neighbouring states.

don¹ (dɒn) vb. **donning, donned**. (tr.) to put on (clothing).

don² (dɒn) n. 1. *Brit.* a member of the teaching staff at a university or college, esp. at Oxford or Cambridge. 2. the head of a student dormitory at certain Canadian universities and colleges. 3. a Spanish gentleman or nobleman. 4. *Arch.* a person of rank. 5. *Austral. inf.* an expert.

Don (dɒn) n. a Spanish title equivalent to *Mr.*

Doña ('donja) n. a Spanish title of address equivalent to *Mrs.* or *Madam*.

donate (dəʊˈneɪt) vb. to give (money, time, etc.), esp. to a charity. —'doːnator n.

donation (dəʊˈneɪʃən) n. 1. the act of donating. 2. a contribution.

donder ('dɒnə) *S. African sl.* ~vb. 1. (tr.) to beat someone up. ~n. 2. a wretch; swine.

done (dʌn) vb. 1. the past participle of **do**¹. 2. **be or have done with**. to end relations with. 3. **have done**. to be completely finished: *have you done?* ~interj. 4. an expression of agreement, as on the settlement of a bargain. ~adj. 5. completed. 6. cooked enough. 7. used up. 8. socially acceptable. 9. *Inf.* cheated; tricked. 10. **done for**. *Inf.* a. dead or almost dead. b. in serious difficulty. 11. **done in or up**. *Inf.* exhausted.

dong (dɒŋ) n. 1. an imitation of the sound of a bell. ~vb. 2. (intr.) to make such a sound.

donga ('dɒŋɡə) n. *S. African & Austral.* a steep-sided gully created by soil erosion.

donjon ('dɒndʒən, 'dɒn-) n. the heavily fortified central tower or keep of a medieval castle. Also: **dungeon**.

Don Juan ('dɒn 'dʒuːən) n. 1. a legendary Spanish nobleman and philanderer: hero of many poems, plays, and operas. 2. a successful seducer of women.

donkey ('dɒŋki) n. 1. a long-eared member of the horse family. 2. a person who is considered to be stupid or stubborn. 3. (*modifier*) auxiliary: a *donkey engine*. 4. **talk the hind leg(s) off a donkey**. to talk endlessly.

donkey jacket n. a short thick jacket, often worn by workmen.

donkey's years n. *Inf.* a long time.

donkey-work n. a. groundwork. b. drudgery.

Donna ('dɒnə) n. an Italian title of address equivalent to *Madam*.

donnish ('dɒnɪʃ) adj. of or resembling a university don, esp. denoting pedantry or fussiness. —'dɒnnɪʃness n.

donor ('dɒnə) n. 1. a person who makes a donation. 2. *Med.* any person who gives blood, organs, etc., for use in the treatment of another person. 3. the atom supplying both electrons in a coordinate bond.

Don Quixote ('dɒn kiː'həʊtiː, 'kwɪksət) n. an impractical idealist.

doodah ('duːdɑː) or *U.S.* **doodad** ('duːdæd) n. *Inf.* an unnamed thing, esp. an object the name of which is unknown or forgotten.

doodle ('duːdl) *Inf.* ~vb. 1. to scribble or draw aimlessly. 2. to play or improvise idly. 3. (*intr.*; often foll. by away) *U.S.* to dawdle or waste time. ~n. 4. a shape, picture, etc., drawn aimlessly. —'doodler n.

doodlebug ('duːdlɪ,bʌɡ) n. 1. a robot bomb invented by the Germans in World War II: used esp. to bombard London. Also called: **V-1, buzzbomb**. 2. a diviner's rod.

doom (duːm) n. 1. death or a terrible fate. 2. a judgment. 3. (*sometimes cap.*) another term for the **Last Judgment**. ~vb. 4. (tr.) to destine or condemn to death or a terrible fate.

doomsday or **domesday** ('duːmz,deɪ) n. 1. (*sometimes cap.*) the day on which the **Last Judgment** will occur. 2. any day of reckoning.

door (dɔː) n. 1. a hinged or sliding panel for closing the entrance to a room, cupboard, etc. 2. a doorway or entrance. 3. a means of access or escape: a *door to success*. 4. **lay at someone's door**. to lay (the blame or responsibility) on someone. 5. **out of doors**. in or into the open air. 6. **show someone the door**. to order someone to leave.

doorjamb ('dɔː,dʒæm) n. one of the two vertical members forming the sides of a doorframe. Also called: **doorpost**.

doorman ('dɔː,mæn, -mən) n., pl. -men. a man employed to attend the doors of certain buildings.

doormat ('dɔː,mæt) n. 1. a mat, placed at an entrance, for wiping dirt from shoes. 2. *Sl.* a person who offers little resistance to ill-treatment.

doorstep ('dɔː,step) n. 1. a step in front of a door. 2. *Sl.* a thick slice of bread.

doorstop ('dɔː,stop) n. any device which prevents an open door from moving.

door to door adv. (**Door-to-door when prenominal**), adv. 1. (of selling, etc.) from one house to the next. 2. (of journeys, etc.) direct.

doorway ('dɔː,weɪ) n. 1. an opening into a building, room, etc., esp. one that has a door. 2. a means of access or escape: a *doorway to freedom*.

dop (dɒp) n. *S. African sl.* 1. Cape brandy. 2. a tot of this.

dope (dəʊp) n. 1. any of a number of preparations applied to fabric in order to improve strength, tautness, etc. 2. an additive, such as an antiknock compound added to petrol. 3. a thick liquid, such as a lubricant, applied to a surface. 4. a combustible absorbent material used to hold the nitroglycerine in dynamite. 5. *Sl.* any illegal drug. 6. a drug administered to a racehorse or greyhound to affect its performance. 7. *Sl.* a stupid or slow-witted person. 8. *Sl.* news or facts, esp. confidential information. ~vb. (tr.) 9. *Electronics*. to add impurities to (a semiconductor) in order to produce or modify its properties. 10. to apply or add dope to. 11. *Sl.* to administer a drug to (oneself or another).

dopey or dopy ('dəʊpi) adj. **dopier, dopiest**. *Sl.* 1. silly. 2. under the influence of a drug.

doppelgänger ('dɒpˌlɜːŋɡɜː) n. *Legend*. a ghostly duplicate of a living person.

Doppler effect ('dɒplə) n. a change in the apparent frequency of a sound or light wave, etc., as a result of relative motion between the observer and the source. Also called: **Doppler shift**.

Doric ('dɒrɪk) adj. 1. of the inhabitants of Doris in ancient Greece or their dialect. 2. of or denoting one of the five classical orders of architecture: characterized by a heavy fluted column and a simple capital. 3. (*sometimes not cap.*) rustic. ~n. 4. one of four chief dialects of Ancient Greek.

dormant ('dɔːmənt) adj. 1. quiet and inactive, as during sleep. 2. latent or inoperative. 3. (of a volcano) neither extinct nor erupting. 4. *Biol.* alive but in a resting condition with reduced metabolism. 5. (*usually postpositive*) *Heraldry*. (of a beast) in a sleeping position. —'dormancy n.

dormer ('dɔ:mə) *n.* a construction with a gable roof and a window that projects from a sloping roof. Also called: **dormer window**.

dormitory ('dɔ:mitəri, -tri) *n., pl. -ries*. 1. a large room, esp. at a school, containing several beds. 2. *U.S.* a building, esp. at a college or camp, providing living and sleeping accommodation. 3. (*modifier*) *Brit.* denoting or relating to an area from which most of the residents commute to work (esp. in **dormitory suburb**).

Dormobile ('dɔ:məʊ,bil) *n.* *Trademark.* a vanlike vehicle specially equipped for living in while travelling.

dormouse ('dɔ:maʊs) *n., pl. -mice*. a small Eurasian rodent resembling a mouse with a furry tail.

dorp (dɔ:p) *n.* *S. African.* a small town or village.

dorsal ('dɔ:səl) *adj.* *Anat., zool.* relating to the back or spinal part of the body. —**dorsally** *adv.*

dory ('dɔ:ri) *n., pl. -ries*. any of various spiny-finned food fishes, esp. the John Dory.

dose (dɔ:s) *n.* 1. *Med.* a specific quantity of a therapeutic drug or agent taken at any one time or at specified intervals. 2. *Inf.* something unpleasant to experience: a dose of influenza. 3. Also called: **dosage**, the total energy of ionizing radiation absorbed by unit mass of material, esp. of living tissue; usually measured in rads. 4. Also called: **dosage**, a small amount of syrup added to wine during bottling. 5. *Sl.* a venereal infection. 6. like a dose of salts, very quickly. ~*vb. (tr.)* 7. to administer a dose to (someone). 8. *Med.* to prescribe (a drug) in appropriate quantities. 9. to add syrup to (wine) during bottling. —**'dosage** *n.*

doss (dɔs) *Brit. sl.* ~*vb.* 1. (*intr.*; often foll. by *down*) to sleep, esp. in a dosshouse. ~*n.* 2. a bed, esp. in a dosshouse. 3. a slang word for sleep. 4. short for dosshouse. —**'dossier** *n.*

dosshouse ('dɔs,haʊs) *n.* *Brit. sl.* a cheap lodging house, esp. one used by tramps. *U.S. name:* flophouse.

dossier ('dɔs,i:ə) *n.* a collection of papers about a subject or person.

dot (dɒt) *n.* 1. a small round mark; spot; point. 2. anything resembling a dot; a small amount. 3. the mark (·) above the letters *i, j*. 4. *Music.* a. the symbol (·) placed after a note or rest to increase its time value by half. b. this symbol written above or below a note indicating staccato. 5. *Maths., logic.* a. the symbol (·) indicating multiplication or logical conjunction. b. a decimal point. 6. the symbol (·) used, in combination with the symbol for dash (—), in Morse and other codes. 7. the year dot. *Inf.* as long ago as can be remembered. 8. on the dot, at exactly the arranged time. ~*vb.* dotting, dotted. 9. (*tr.*) to mark or form with a dot. 10. (*tr.*) to scatter or intersperse (as with dots): bushes dotting the plain. 11. (*intr.*) to make a dot or dots. 12. dot one's *i*'s and cross one's *t*'s. *Inf.* to be meticulous. —**'dotter** *n.*

dotage ('dɔ:tidʒ) *n.* 1. feebleness of mind, esp. as a result of old age. 2. foolish infatuation.

dotard ('dɔ:təd) *n.* a person who is weak-minded, esp. through senility. —**'dotardly** *adv.*

dote (dɔ:t) *vb. (intr.)* 1. (foll. by *on* or *upon*) to love to an excessive or foolish degree. 2. to be foolish or weak-minded, esp. as a result of old age. —**'doter** *n.*

dotterel or **dottrel** ('dɒtrəl) *n.* 1. a rare Eurasian plover with white bands around the head and neck. 2. *Brit. dialect.* a person who is foolish or easily duped.

dottle ('dɒtl) *n.* the plug of tobacco left in a pipe after smoking.

dotty ('dɒti) *adj. -tier, -tiest*. 1. *Sl., chiefly Brit.* feeble-minded; slightly crazy. 2. *Brit. sl.* (foll. by *about*) extremely fond (of) 3. marked with dots. —**'dottily** *adv.* —**'dottiness** *n.*

double ('dʌbl) *adj. (usually prenominal)* 1. as much again in size, strength, number, etc.: a double portion. 2. composed of two equal or similar parts. 3. designed for two users: a double room. 4. folded in two; composed of two layers. 5. stooping; bent over. 6. having two aspects; ambiguous: a double meaning. 7. false, deceitful, or hypocritical: a double life. 8. (of flowers) having more than the normal number of petals. 9. *Music.* a. (of an instrument) sounding an octave lower: a double bass. b. (of time) duple. ~*adv.* 10. twice over; twofold. 11. two together; two at a time (esp. in *see double*). ~*n.* 12. twice the number, amount, size, etc. 13. *Inf.* a double measure of spirits. 14. a duplicate or counterpart, esp. a person who closely resembles another; understudy. 15. a ghostly apparition of a living person; Doppelgänger. 16. a sharp turn, esp. a return on one's own tracks. 17. *Bridge.* a call that increases certain scoring points if the last preceding bid becomes the contract. 18. *Billiards,*

etc. a strike in which the object ball is struck so as to make it rebound against the cushion to an opposite pocket. 19. a bet on two horses in different races in which any winnings from the first race are placed on the horse in the later race. 20. a. the narrow outermost ring on a dartboard. b. a hit on this ring. 21. at or on the double. a. at twice normal marching speed. b. quickly or immediately. ~*vb.* 22. to make or become twice as much. 23. to bend or fold (material, etc.). 24. (*tr.*; sometimes foll. by *up*) to clench (a fist). 25. (*tr.*; often foll. by *together* or *up*) to join or couple. 26. (*tr.*) to repeat exactly; copy. 27. (*intr.*) to play two parts or serve two roles. 28. (*intr.*) to turn sharply; follow a winding course. 29. *Naut.* to sail around (a headland or other point). 30. *Music.* a. to duplicate (a part) either in unison or at the octave above or below it. b. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *on*) to be capable of performing (upon an additional instrument). 31. *Bridge.* to make a call that will double certain scoring points if the preceding bid becomes the contract. 32. *Billiards, etc.* to cause (a ball) to rebound or (of a ball) to rebound. 33. (*intr.*; foll. by *for*) to act as substitute. 34. (*intr.*) to go or march at twice the normal speed. ~*See also doubles.* —**'double** *n.*

double agent *n.* a spy employed by two mutually antagonistic countries, companies, etc.

double-barrelled or **U.S. -barreled** *adj.* 1. (of a gun) having two barrels. 2. extremely forceful. 3. *Brit.* (of surnames) having two or more hyphenated parts. 4. serving two purposes; ambiguous: a double-barrelled remark.

double bass (beɪs) *n.* 1. Also called (*U.S.*): **bass viol.** a stringed instrument, the largest and lowest member of the violin family with a range of almost three octaves. Informal name: **bass fiddle**. ~*adj.* **double-bass**. 2. of an instrument whose pitch lies below the bass; contra-bass.

double-breasted *adj.* (of a garment) having overlapping fronts.

double-check *vb.* 1. to check again; verify. ~*n.* **double check**. 2. a second examination or verification. 3. *Chess.* a simultaneous check from two pieces.

double chin *n.* a fold of fat under the chin. —**'double-chinned** *adj.*

double cream *n.* thick cream with a high fat content.

double-cross *Inf.* ~*vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to cheat or betray. ~*n.* 2. the act or an instance of double-crossing; betrayal. —**'double-crosser** *n.*

double-dealing *n.* a. action characterized by treachery or deceit. b. (*as modifier*): double-dealing treachery. —**'double-dealer** *n.*

double-decker *n.* 1. *Chiefly Brit.* a bus with two passenger decks. 2. *Inf., chiefly U.S.* a. a thing or structure having two decks, layers, etc. b. (*as modifier*): a double-decker sandwich.

double Dutch *n.* *Brit. inf.* incomprehensible talk; gibberish.

double-edged *adj.* 1. acting in two ways. 2. (of a remark, etc.) having two possible interpretations, esp. applicable both for and against. 3. (of a knife, etc.) having a cutting edge on either side of the blade.

double entendre ('dʌbl ˌæntɑ:ndrə) *n.* 1. a word, phrase, etc., that can be interpreted in two ways, esp. one having one meaning that is indelicate. 2. the type of humour that depends upon this.

double entry *n.* a. a book-keeping system in which any commercial transaction is entered as a debit in one account and as a credit in another. b. (*as modifier*): double-entry book-keeping.

double glazing *n.* 1. two panes of glass in a window, fitted to reduce heat loss. 2. the fitting of glass in such a manner.

double-jointed *adj.* having unusually flexible joints permitting an abnormal degree of motion.

double knitting *n.* knitting wool of medium thickness.

double pneumonia *n.* pneumonia affecting both lungs.

double-quick *adj.* 1. very quick; rapid. ~*adv.* 2. in a very quick or rapid manner.

doubles ('dʌblz) *n.* a. a game between two pairs of players. b. (*as modifier*): a doubles match.

double standard *n.* a set of principles that allows greater freedom to one person or group than to another.

doublet ('dʌblɪt) *n.* 1. (formerly) a man's close-fitting jacket, with or without sleeves (esp. in **doublet and hose**). 2. a. a pair of similar things, esp. two words deriving ultimately from the same source. b. one of

such a pair. **3. Jewellery.** a false gem made by welding or fusing stones together. **4. Physics.** a closely spaced pair of related spectral lines. **5. (in pl.)** two dice each showing the same number of spots on one throw.

double take *n.* (esp. in comedy) a delayed reaction by a person to a remark, situation, etc.

double talk *n.* 1. rapid speech with a mixture of nonsense syllables and real words; gibberish. 2. empty, deceptive, or ambiguous talk.

doublethink ('dʌb'lθɪŋk) *n.* deliberate, perverse, or unconscious acceptance or promulgation of conflicting facts, principles, etc.

double time *n.* 1. a doubled wage rate, paid for working on public holidays, etc. 2. *Music.* two beats per bar. 3. *U.S. Army.* a. a fast march. b. a slow running pace, keeping in step.

doubloon (dʌ'blu:n) *n.* 1. a former Spanish gold coin. 2. (pl.) *Sl.* money.

doubly ('dʌbli) *adv.* 1. to or in a double degree, quantity, or measure. 2. in two ways.

doubt (daʊt) *n.* 1. uncertainty about the truth, fact, or existence of something (esp. in *in doubt*, *without doubt*, etc.). 2. (often pl.) lack of belief in or conviction about something. 3. an unresolved difficulty, point, etc. 4. *Obs.* fear. 5. *give (someone) the benefit of the doubt.* to presume (someone suspected of guilt) innocent. 6. *no doubt.* almost certainly. ~vb. 7. (tr.; may take a clause as object) to be inclined to disbelieve. 8. (tr.) to distrust or be suspicious of. 9. (intr.) to feel uncertainty or be undecided. 10. (tr.) *Arch.* to fear. —'doubtable *adj.* —'doubter *n.* —'doubtingly *adv.*

▷ **Usage.** Where a clause follows *doubt* in a positive statement, the conjunction may be *whether*, *that*, or *if*. *Whether (I doubt whether he is there)* is universally accepted; *that (I doubt that he is there)* is less widely accepted and *if (I doubt if he is there)* is usually restricted to informal contexts. In negative statements, *doubt* is followed by *that*: *I do not doubt that he is telling the truth*. In such sentences, *but (I do not doubt but that he is telling the truth)* is redundant.

doubtful ('daʊtful) *adj.* 1. unlikely; improbable. 2. uncertain: *a doubtful answer*. 3. unsettled; unresolved. 4. of questionable reputation or morality. 5. having reservations or misgivings. —'doubtfully *adv.* —'doubtfulness *n.*

doubtless ('daʊtlɪs) *adv.* also *doubtlessly.* sentence substitute or sentence modifier. 1. certainly. 2. probably. ~adj. 3. certain; assured. —'doubtlessness *n.*

douche (duːʃ) *n.* 1. a stream of water directed onto or into the body for cleansing or medical purposes. 2. the application of such a stream of water. 3. an instrument for applying a douche. ~vb. 4. to cleanse or treat or be cleansed or treated by means of a douche.

dough (daʊ) *n.* 1. a thick mixture of flour or meal and water or milk, used for making bread, pastry, etc. 2. any similar pasty mass. 3. *Chiefly U.S.* a slang word for money. —'doughy *adj.*

doughnut ('daʊnʌt) *n.* 1. a small cake of sweetened dough, often ring-shaped, cooked in hot fat. 2. anything shaped like a ring, such as the reaction vessel of a thermonuclear reactor.

doughty ('daʊti) *adj.* -tier, -tiest. hardy; resolute. —'doughtily *adv.* —'doughtiness *n.*

Douglas fir, spruce, or hemlock ('daʊgləs) *n.* a North American pyramidal coniferous tree, widely planted for ornament and for timber.

do up *vb.* (adv.; mainly tr.) 1. to wrap and make into a bundle: *to do up a parcel*. 2. to cause the downfall of (a person). 3. to beautify or adorn. 4. (also intr.) to fasten or be fastened. 5. *Inf.* to renovate or redecorate. 6. *Sl.* to assault.

dour (daʊ) *adj.* 1. sullen. 2. hard or obstinate. —'dourly *adv.* —'dourness *n.*

douse or dowse (daʊs) *vb.* 1. to plunge or be plunged into liquid; duck. 2. (tr.) to drench with water. 3. (tr.) to put out (a light, candle, etc.). ~n. 4. an immersion.

dove (dʌv) *n.* 1. any of a family of birds having a heavy body, small head, short legs, and long pointed wings. 2. a gentle or innocent person: used as a term of endearment. 3. *Politics.* a person opposed to war. 4. a greyish-brown colour. —'dove, like *adj.*

Dove (dʌv) *n.* *Christianity.* the. a manifestation of the Holy Ghost (John 1:32).

dovecote ('dʌv,kəʊt) or **dovecot** ('dʌv,kɒt) *n.* a structure for housing pigeons.

dovetail ('dʌv,teɪl) *n.* 1. a wedge-shaped tenon. 2. Also called: **dovetail joint.** a joint containing such tenons.

~vb. 3. (tr.) to join by means of dovetails. 4. to fit or cause to fit together closely or neatly.

dowager ('daʊdʒə) *n.* 1. a. a widow possessing property or a title obtained from her husband. b. (as modifier): *the dowager duchess*. 2. a wealthy or dignified elderly woman.

dowdy ('daʊdi) *adj.* -dier, -diest. 1. (esp. of a woman or a woman's dress) shabby or old-fashioned. ~n, pl. -dies. 2. a dowdy woman. —'dowdily *adv.* —'dowdiness *n.* —'dowdyish *adj.*

dowel ('daʊəl) *n.* a wooden or metal peg that fits into two corresponding holes to join two adjacent parts.

dower ('daʊə) *n.* 1. the life interest in a part of her husband's estate allotted to a widow by law. 2. an archaic word for **dowry** (sense 1). 3. a natural gift. ~vb. 4. (tr.) to endow.

dower house *n.* a house for the use of a widow, often on her deceased husband's estate.

do with *vb.* 1. *could or can do with.* to find useful; benefit from. 2. *have to do with.* to be involved in or connected with. 3. *to do with.* concerning; related to. 4. *what...do with.* a. to put or place: *what did you do with my coat?* b. to handle or treat. c. to fill one's time usefully: *she didn't know what to do with herself when the project was finished*.

do without *vb.* (intr.) 1. to forgo; manage without. 2. (prep.) not to require (uncalled-for comments): *we can do without your criticisms*.

down¹ (daʊn) *prep.* 1. used to indicate movement from a higher to a lower position. 2. at a lower or further level or position on, in, or along: *he ran down the street*. ~adv. 3. downwards; at or to a lower level or position. 4. (particle) used with many verbs when the result of the verb's action is to lower or destroy its object: *knock down*. 5. (particle) used with several verbs to indicate intensity or completion: *calm down*. 6. immediate: *a down payment*. 7. on paper: *write this down*. 8. arranged; scheduled. 9. in a helpless position. 10. a. away from a more important place. b. away from a more northerly place. c. (of a member of some British universities) away from the university. d. in a particular part of a country: *down south*. 11. *Naut.* (of a helm) having the rudder to windward. 12. reduced to a state of lack or want: *down to the last pound*. 13. lacking a specified amount. 14. lower in price. 15. including all intermediate grades. 16. from an earlier to a later time. 17. to a finer or more concentrated state: *to grind down*. 18. *Sport.* being a specified number of points, goals, etc. behind another competitor, team, etc. 19. (of a person) being inactive, owing to illness: *down with flu*. 20. (functioning as imperative) (to dogs, etc.): *down, Rover!* 21. (functioning as imperative) *down with.* wanting the end of somebody or something: *down with the king!* ~adj. 22. (postpositive) depressed. 23. (prenominal) of or relating to a train or trains from a more important place or one regarded as higher: *the down line*. ~vb. 24. (tr.) to knock, push, or pull down. 25. (intr.) to go or come down. 26. (tr.) *Inf.* to drink, esp. quickly. 27. (tr.) to bring (someone) down, esp. by tackling. ~n. 28. a descent; downward movement. 29. a lowering or a poor period (esp. in **ups and downs**). 30. in Canadian football, any of a series of three attempts to advance the ball ten yards. 31. *have a down on.* *Inf.* to bear ill will towards.

down² (daʊn) *n.* 1. soft fine feathers. 2. another name for **eiderdown** (sense 1). 3. *Bot.* a fine coating of soft hairs, as on certain leaves, fruits, and seeds. 4. any growth or coating of soft fine hair. —'downy *adj.*

down³ (daʊn) *n.* *Arch.* a hill, esp. a sand dune. ~See also **downs**.

downbeat ('daʊn,bɪt) *n.* 1. *Music.* the first beat of a bar or the downward gesture of a conductor's baton indicating this. ~adj. 2. *Inf.* depressed; gloomy. 3. *Inf.* relaxed.

downcast ('daʊn,kʌst) *adj.* 1. dejected. 2. (esp. of the eyes) directed downwards. ~n. 3. *Mining.* a ventilation shaft.

downer ('daʊnə) *n.* *Sl.* 1. a barbiturate or tranquillizer pill which reverses the effect of a stimulant. 2. a depressing experience.

downfall ('daʊn,fɔ:l) *n.* 1. a sudden loss of position, health, or reputation. 2. a fall of rain, snow, etc., esp. a sudden heavy one.

downgrade ('daʊn,gred) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to reduce in importance or value, esp. to demote (a person) to a poorer job. 2. to speak of disparagingly. ~n. 3. *Chiefly U.S.* a downward slope. 4. *on the downgrade.* waning in importance, health, etc.

downhearted (ˈdaʊnˈhɑːtɪd) *adj.* discouraged; dejected.
—**downheartedly** *adv.*

downhill (ˈdaʊnˈhɪl) *adj.* 1. going or sloping down.
~*adv.* 2. towards the bottom of a hill; downwards. 3. **go downhill**. *Inf.* to decline; deteriorate. ~*n.* 4. the downward slope of a hill; a descent. 5. a skiing race downhill.

Downing Street (ˈdaʊnɪŋ) *n.* 1. a street in W central London: official residences of the prime minister of Great Britain and the chancellor of the exchequer. 2. *Inf.* the prime minister or the British Government.

down-market *adj.* relating to commercial products, services, etc., that are cheap, have little prestige, or are poor in quality.

down payment *n.* the deposit paid on an item purchased on hire-purchase, mortgage, etc.

downpour (ˈdaʊn,pɔː) *n.* a heavy continuous fall of rain.

downright (ˈdaʊn,raɪt) *adj.* 1. frank or straightforward; blunt. ~*adv.*, *adj.* (prenominal) 2. (intensifier): **downright rude**. —**down, rightly** *adv.* —**down, rightness** *n.*

downs (daʊnz) *pl. n.* 1. rolling upland, esp. in the chalk areas of S Britain, characterized by lack of trees and used mainly as pasture. 2. N.Z. a flat grassy area, not necessarily of uplands.

Down's syndrome *n.* *Pathol.* another term for mongolism.

downstairs (ˈdaʊnˈsteəz) *adv.* 1. down the stairs; to or on a lower floor. ~*n.* 2. a. a lower or ground floor. b. (as modifier): a downstairs room. 3. *Brit. inf.* the servants of a household collectively.

downstream (ˈdaʊnˈstriːm) *adv.*, *adj.* in or towards the lower part of a stream; with the current.

down-to-earth *adj.* sensible; practical; realistic.

downtown (ˈdaʊnˈtaʊn) *n.* 1. the central or lower part of a city, esp. the main commercial area. ~*adv.* 2. towards, to, or into this area. ~*adj.* 3. of, relating to, or situated in the downtown area: a downtown cinema.

downtrodden (ˈdaʊn,troʊd'n) *adj.* 1. subjugated; oppressed. 2. trodden down.

down under *n.* *Inf.* Australia or New Zealand.

downward (ˈdaʊnwəd) *adj.* 1. descending from a higher to a lower level, condition, position, etc. 2. descending from a beginning. ~*adv.* 3. a variant of **downwards**. —**downwardly** *adv.*

downwards (ˈdaʊnwədz) or **downward** *adv.* 1. from a higher to a lower place, level, etc. 2. from an earlier time or source to a later.

downwind (ˈdaʊnˈwɪnd) *adv.*, *adj.* in the same direction towards which the wind is blowing; with the wind from behind.

dowry (ˈdaʊəri) *n.*, *pl.* -ries. 1. the property brought by a woman to her husband at marriage. 2. a natural talent or gift.

dowse (daʊz) *vb.* (*intr.*) to search for underground water, minerals, etc., using a divining rod; divine. —**dowser** *n.*

doxology (dɒkˈsɒlədʒi) *n.*, *pl.* -gies. a hymn, verse, or form of words in Christian liturgy glorifying God. —**doxological** (ˌdɒksəˈlɒdʒɪkəl) *adj.*

doyen (ˈdɔɪən) *n.* the senior member of a group, profession, or society. —**doyenne** (ˈdɔɪˈen) *fem. n.*

doz. *abbrev. for* dozen.

doze (dɔːz) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. to sleep lightly or intermittently. 2. (often foll. by *off*) to fall into a light sleep. ~*n.* 3. a short sleep. —**dozer** *n.*

dozen (ˈdɒzn) *determiner.* 1. (preceded by a or a numeral) twelve or a group of twelve: two dozen oranges. ~*n.*, *pl.* dozens or dozens. 2. **daily dozen**. *Brit.* regular physical exercises. 3. **by the dozen**. in large quantities. 4. **baker's dozen**. thirteen. 5. **talk nineteen to the dozen**. to talk without stopping. —**dozenth** *adj.*

dozy (ˈdɔːzi) *adj.* **dozler**, **dozlest**. 1. drowsy. 2. *Brit. inf.* stupid. —**dozily** *adv.* —**doziness** *n.*

D.P. *abbrev. for:* 1. data processing. 2. displaced person.

D.Phil, D.Ph., or DPh *abbrev. for* Doctor of Philosophy. Also: **Ph.D., PhD**

DPP or D.P.P. (in Britain) *abbrev. for* Director of Public Prosecutions.

dr or dr. *abbrev. for* dram.

Dr. *abbrev. for:* 1. Doctor. 2. Drive.

drab (dræb) *adj.* **drabber**, **drabbest**. 1. dull; dingy. 2. cheerless; dreary. 3. of the colour drab. ~*n.* 4. a light olive-brown colour. —**drably** *adv.* —**drabness** *n.*

drab (dræb) *Arch.* ~*n.* 1. a stately woman. 2. a

whore. ~*vb.* **drabbing**, **drabbed**. 3. (*intr.*) to consort with prostitutes.

drachm (dræm) *n.* 1. Also called: **fluid dram**. *Brit.* one eighth of a fluid ounce. 2. U.S. another name for **dram** (sense 2). 3. another name for **drachma**.

drachma (ˈdrækmə) *n.*, *pl.* -mas or -mae (-miː). 1. the standard monetary unit of Greece. 2. U.S. another name for **dram** (sense 2). 3. a silver coin of ancient Greece.

Draconian (dreɪˈkɒniən) or **Draconic** (dreɪˈkɒnik) *adj.* (sometimes not *cap.*) 1. of or relating to Draco (Athenian statesman, 7th century B.C.), or his code of laws. 2. harsh.

draft (draʊt) *n.* 1. a plan, sketch, or drawing of something. 2. a preliminary outline of a book, speech, etc. 3. another word for **bill of exchange**. 4. a demand or drain on something. 5. U.S. & Austral. selection for compulsory military service. 6. detachment of military personnel from one unit to another. 7. Austral. & N.Z. a group of livestock separated from the rest of the herd or flock. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 8. to draw up an outline or sketch for something. 9. to prepare a plan or design of. 10. to detach (military personnel) from one unit to another. 11. U.S. to select for compulsory military service. 12. Austral. & N.Z. a. to select (cattle or sheep) from a herd or flock. b. to select (farm stock) for sale. ~*n.*, *vb.* 13. the usual U.S. spelling of **draught**. —**drafter** *n.*

drag (dræg) *vb.* **dragging**, **dragged**. 1. to pull or be pulled with force, esp. along the ground. 2. (*tr.*; often foll. by *away* or *from*) to persuade to come away. 3. to trail or cause to trail on the ground. 4. (*tr.*) to move with effort or difficulty. 5. to linger behind. 6. (when *intr.*, usually foll. by *for*) to search (the bed of a river, etc.) with a dragnet or hook. 7. (often foll. by *on* or *out*) to prolong tediously: *his talk dragged on for hours*. 8. (*tr.* foll. by *out* or *from*) to crush (clods) or level (a soil surface) by use of a drag. 9. (of hounds) to follow (a fox or its trail). 10. (*intr.*) *Sl.* to draw (on a cigarette, etc.). 11. (*tr.*) U.S. *sl.* to bore or annoy. 12. **drag anchor**. (of a vessel) to move away from its mooring because the anchor has failed to hold. 13. **drag one's feet or heels**. *Inf.* to act with deliberate slowness. ~*n.* 14. the act of dragging or the state of being dragged. 15. an implement, such as a dragnet, dredge, etc., used for dragging. 16. a type of harrow used to crush clods, level soil, etc. 17. a coach with seats inside and out, usually drawn by four horses. 18. a braking device. 19. a person or thing that slows up progress. 20. slow progress or movement. 21. *Aeronautics*. the resistance to the motion of a body passing through a fluid, esp. through air. 22. the trail of scent left by a fox, etc. 23. an artificial trail of scent drawn over the ground for hounds to follow. 24. *Sl.* a person or thing that is very tedious. 25. *Sl.* a car. 26. *Sl.* short for **drag race**. 27. *Sl.* a. women's clothes worn by a man (esp. in *drag*). b. (as modifier): a drag show. c. clothes collectively. 28. *Inf.* a draw on a cigarette, etc. 29. U.S. *sl.* influence. 30. *Chiefly* U.S. *sl.* a street. ~*See* also **drag up**.

dragg (ˈdræɡl) *vb.* 1. to make or become wet or dirty by trailing on the ground; bedraggle. 2. (*intr.*) to lag; dawdle.

dragnet (ˈdræɡ.net) *n.* 1. a net used to scour the bottom of a pond, river, etc., as when searching for something. 2. any system of coordinated efforts to track down wanted persons.

dragoman (ˈdræɡəʊmən) *n.*, *pl.* -mans or -men. (in some Middle Eastern countries, esp. formerly) a professional interpreter or guide.

dragon (ˈdræɡən) *n.* 1. a mythical monster usually represented as breathing fire and having a scaly reptilian body, wings, claws, and a long tail. 2. *Inf.* a fierce person, esp. a woman. 3. any of various very large lizards, esp. the Komodo dragon.

dragonfly (ˈdræɡən,flaɪ) *n.*, *pl.* -flies. a predatory insect having a long slender body and two pairs of iridescent wings that are outspread at rest.

dragoon (draˈɡuːn) *n.* 1. (originally) a mounted infantryman armed with a carbine. 2. (sometimes *cap.*) a domestic fancy pigeon. 3. a. a type of cavalryman. b. (*pl.*; *cap.* when part of a name): the Royal Dragoons. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 4. to coerce; force. 5. to persecute by military force.

drag race *n.* a type of motor race in which specially built or modified cars are timed over a measured course. —**drag racing** *n.*

drag up *vb.* (*tr.*, *adv.*) *Inf.* 1. to rear (a child) poorly and in an undisciplined manner. 2. to introduce or revive (an unpleasant fact or story).

drain (dren) *n.* 1. a pipe or channel that carries off

water, sewage, etc. **2.** an instance or cause of continuous diminution in resources or energy; depletion. **3.** *Surgery.* a device, such as a tube, to drain off pus, etc. **4.** *down the drain.* wasted. ~vb. **5.** (tr.; often foll. by off) to draw off or remove (liquid) from. **6.** (intr.; often foll. by away) to flow (away) or filter (off). **7.** (intr.) to dry or be emptied as a result of liquid running off or flowing away. **8.** (tr.) to drink the entire contents of (a glass, cup, etc.). **9.** (tr.) to consume or make constant demands on (resources, energy, etc.); exhaust. **10.** (intr.) to disappear or leave, esp. gradually. **11.** (tr.) (of a river, etc.) to carry off the surface water from an area. **12.** (intr.) (of an area) to discharge its surface water into rivers, streams, etc. —'drainer *n.*

drainage ('dreɪnɪdʒ) *n.* **1.** the process or a method of draining. **2.** a system of watercourses or drains. **3.** liquid, sewage, etc., that is drained away.

draining board *n.* a sloping grooved surface at one side of a sink, used for draining washed dishes, etc. Also called: **drainer.**

drainpipe ('dreɪn,paɪp) *n.* a pipe for carrying off rain-water, sewage, etc.; downpipe.

drake (dreɪk) *n.* the male of any duck.

dram (dræm) *n.* **1.** one sixteenth of an ounce (avoirdupois). **1** dram is equivalent to 0.0018 kilogram. **2.** *U.S.* one eighth of an apothecaries' ounce; 60 grains. **1** dram is equivalent to 0.0039 kilogram. **3.** a small amount of an alcoholic drink, esp. a spirit; tot.

drama ('drɑ:mə) *n.* **1.** a work to be performed by actors; play. **2.** the genre of literature represented by works intended for the stage. **3.** the art of the writing and production of plays. **4.** a situation that is highly emotional, tragic, or turbulent.

dramatic (drə'mætɪk) *adj.* **1.** of drama. **2.** like a drama in suddenness, emotional impact, etc. **3.** striking; effective. **4.** acting or performed in a flamboyant way. —'dramatically *adv.*

dramatics (drə'mætɪks) *n.* **1.** (functioning as sing. or pl.) the art of acting or producing plays. **2.** dramatic productions. **3.** histrionic behaviour.

dramatis personae ('drɑ:mətɪs pə'səʊnəɪ) *n.* the characters in a play.

dramatist ('dræmətɪst) *n.* a playwright.

dramatize or **-tise** ('dræmə'taɪz) *vb.* **1.** (tr.) to put into dramatic form. **2.** to express (something) in a dramatic or exaggerated way. —'dramatization or -i'sation *n.*

drank (dræŋk) *vb.* the past tense of **drink.**

drape (dreɪp) *vb.* **1.** (tr.) to hang or cover with material or fabric, usually in folds. **2.** to hang or arrange or be hung or arranged, esp. in folds. **3.** (tr.) to place casually and loosely. ~n. **4.** (often pl.) a cloth or hanging that covers something in folds. **5.** the way in which fabric hangs.

draper ('dreɪpə) *n.* **1.** *Brit.* a dealer in fabrics and sewing materials. **2.** *Arch.* a maker of cloth.

drapery ('dreɪpəri) *n.* pl. **peries.** **1.** fabric or clothing arranged and draped. **2.** (often pl.) curtains or hangings that drape. **3.** *Brit.* the occupation or shop of a draper. **4.** fabrics and cloth collectively. —'draperied *adj.*

drastic ('dræstɪk) *adj.* extreme or forceful; severe. —'drastically *adv.*

drat (dræt) *interj.* *Sl.* an exclamation of annoyance.

draught or **U.S. draft** (draʊt) *n.* **1.** a current of air, esp. in an enclosed space. **2.** a. the act of pulling a load, as by a vehicle or animal. b. (as modifier): a draught horse. **3.** the load or quantity drawn. **4.** a portion of liquid to be drunk, esp. a dose of medicine. **5.** the act or an instance of drinking; a gulp or swallow. **6.** the act or process of drawing air, etc., into the lungs. **7.** the amount of air, etc., inhaled. **8.** a. beer, wine, etc., stored in bulk, esp. in a cask. b. (as modifier): draught beer. c. on draught. drawn from a cask or keg. **9.** any one of the flat discs used in the game of draughts. *U.S. equivalent: checker.* **10.** the depth of a loaded vessel in the water. **11.** feel the draught. to be short of money.

draughtboard ('draʊt,bɔ:d) *n.* a square board divided into 64 squares of alternating colours, used for playing draughts or chess.

draughts (draʊts) *n.* a game for two players using a draughtboard and 12 draughtsmen each. *U.S. name: checkers.*

draughtsman or **U.S. draftsman** ('draʊtsmən) *n.* pl. **-men.** **1.** a person employed to prepare detailed scale drawings of machinery, buildings, etc. **2.** a person skilled in drawing. **3.** *Brit.* any of the flat discs used in

the game of draughts. *U.S. equivalent: checker.* —'draughtsman, ship or *U.S. draftsman, ship n.*

draughty or **U.S. drafty** ('draʊti) *adj.* draughtier, draughtiest or *U.S. draftier, draftiest.* characterized by or exposed to draughts of air. —'draughtily or *U.S. draftily adv.* —'draughtiness or *U.S. draftiness n.*

Dravidian (drə'vɪdiən) *n.* **1.** a family of languages spoken in S and central India and Ceylon, including Tamil, Malayalam, etc. **2.** a member of one of the aboriginal races of India, pushed south by the Indo-Europeans and now mixed with them. ~adj. **3.** of or denoting this family of languages or these peoples.

draw (drɔ:) *vb.* **drawing, drew, drawn.** **1.** to cause (a person or thing) to move towards or away by pulling. **2.** to bring, take, or pull (something) out, as from a drawer, holster, etc. **3.** (tr.) to extract or pull or take out: to draw teeth. **4.** (tr.; often foll. by off) to take (liquid) out of a cask, etc., by means of a tap. **5.** (intr.) to move, esp. in a specified direction: to draw alongside. **6.** (tr.) to attract: to draw attention. **7.** (tr.) to cause to flow: to draw blood. **8.** to depict or sketch (a figure, picture, etc.) in lines, as with a pencil or pen. **9.** (tr.) to make, formulate, or derive: to draw conclusions. **10.** (tr.) to write (a legal document) in proper form. **11.** (tr.; sometimes foll. by in) to suck or take in (air, etc.). **12.** (intr.) to induce or allow a draught to carry off air, smoke, etc. **13.** (tr.) to take or receive from a source: to draw money from the bank. **14.** (tr.) to earn: draw interest. **15.** (tr.) to write out (a bill of exchange, etc.): to draw a cheque. **16.** (tr.) to choose at random. **17.** (tr.) to reduce the diameter of (a wire) by pulling it through a die. **18.** (tr.) to shape (metal or glass) by rolling, by pulling through a die, or by stretching. **19.** *Archery.* to bend (a bow) by pulling the string. **20.** to steep (tea) or (of tea) to steep in boiling water. **21.** (tr.) to disembowel. **22.** (tr.) to cause (pus, etc.) to discharge from an abscess or wound. **23.** (intr.) (of two teams, etc.) to finish a game with an equal number of points, goals, etc.; tie. **24.** (tr.) *Bridge, whist.* to keep leading a suit. **25.** *draw trumps.* *Bridge, whist.* to play the trump suit until the opponents have none left. **26.** (tr.) *Billiards.* to cause (the cue ball) to spin back after a direct impact with another ball. **27.** (tr.) to search (a place) in order to find wild animals, etc., for hunting. **28.** *Golf.* to drive (the ball) too far to the left. **29.** (tr.) *Naut.* (of a vessel) to require (a certain depth) in which to float. **30.** **draw** (a) blank. to be unsuccessful; fail. **31.** **draw and quarter. to disembowel and dismember (a person) after hanging. **32.** **draw stumps. *Cricket.* to close play. **33.** **draw the line. *Inf.* a. to fix a limit. b. to refuse to do. **34.** **draw the shot. *Bowls.* to deliver the bowl in such a way that it approaches the jack. ~n. **35.** the act of drawing. **36.** *U.S.* a sum of money advanced to finance anticipated expenses. **37.** *Inf.* an event, act, etc., that attracts a large audience. **38.** a raffle or lottery. **39.** something taken at random, as a ticket in a lottery. **40.** a contest or game ending in a tie. **41.** *U.S.* a small natural drainage way or gully. —See also **drawback, draw off, etc.**********

drawback ('drɔ:,bæk) *n.* **1.** a disadvantage or hindrance. **2.** a refund of certain excise duties paid on imported goods that are re-exported. ~vb. **draw back.** (intr., adv.; often foll. by from) **3.** to retreat; move backwards. **4.** to turn aside from an undertaking.

drawbridge ('drɔ:,brɪdʒ) *n.* a bridge that may be raised to prevent access or to enable vessels to pass.

drawee ('drɔ:'i) *n.* the person or organization on which an order for payment is drawn.

drawer ('drɔ:ə) *n.* **1.** a person or thing that draws, esp. a draughtsman. **2.** a person who draws a cheque. **3.** a person who draws up a commercial paper. **4.** *Arch.* a person who draws beer, etc., in a bar. **5.** (drɔ:) a boxlike container in a chest, table, etc., made for sliding in and out.

drawers (drɔ:z) *pl. n.* a legged undergarment for either sex, worn below the waist.

drawing ('drɔ:ɪŋ) *n.* **1.** a picture or plan made by means of lines on a surface, esp. one made with a pencil or pen. **2.** a sketch or outline. **3.** the art of making drawings; draughtsmanship.

drawing pin *n.* *Brit.* a short tack with a broad smooth head for fastening papers to a drawing board, etc. *U.S. names: thumbtack, pushpin.*

drawing room *n.* **1.** a room where visitors are received and entertained; living room; sitting room. **2.** *Arch.* a formal reception.

drawl (drɔ:l) *vb.* **1.** to speak or utter (words) slowly, esp. prolonging the vowel sounds. ~n. **2.** the way of speech of someone who drawls. —'drawler *n.*

drawn (droun) *adj.* haggard, tired, or tense in appearance.

draw off *vb. (adv.)* 1. (tr.) to cause (a liquid) to flow from something. 2. to withdraw (troops).

draw on *vb. 1. (intr., prep.)* to use or exploit (a source, fund, etc.). 2. (intr., adv.) to come near. 3. (tr., prep.) to withdraw (money) from (an account). 4. (tr., adv.) to put on (clothes). 5. (tr., adv.) to lead further; entice.

draw out *vb. (adv.)* 1. to extend. 2. (tr.) to cause (a person) to talk freely. 3. (tr.; foll. by *of*) Also: **draw from**, to elicit (information) (from). 4. (tr.) to withdraw (money) as from a bank account. 5. (intr.) (of hours of daylight) to become longer. 6. (intr.) (of a train) to leave a station. 7. (tr.) to extend (troops) in line. 8. (intr.) (of troops) to proceed from camp.

draw sheet *n.* a bed sheet that can be withdrawn while the bed is occupied.

drawstring ('dra:striŋ) *n.* a cord, etc., run through a hem around an opening, so that when it is pulled tighter, the opening closes.

draw up *vb. (adv.)* 1. to come or cause to come to a halt. 2. (tr.) a. to prepare a draft of (a document, etc.). b. to formulate and write out: to draw up a contract. 3. (used reflexively) to straighten oneself. 4. to form or arrange (a body of soldiers, etc.) in order or formation.

dray (drei) *n. a.* a low cart used for carrying heavy loads. *b. (in combination)* a drayman.

dread (dred) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to anticipate with apprehension or terror. 2. to fear greatly. 3. *Arch.* to be in awe of. ~*n.* 4. great fear. 5. an object of terror. 6. *Arch.* deep reverence.

dreadful ('dredfʊl) *adj.* 1. extremely disagreeable, shocking, or bad. 2. (intensifier): a dreadful waste of time. 3. causing dread; terrifying. 4. *Arch.* inspiring awe. —**dreadfully** *adv.*

dreadnought ('dred,nɔ:t) *n.* 1. a battleship armed with heavy guns of uniform calibre. 2. an overcoat made of heavy cloth.

dream (dri:m) *n.* 1. a mental activity, usually an imagined series of events, occurring during sleep. *b. (as modifier):* a dream sequence. *c. (in combination):* dreamland. 2. a. a sequence of imaginative thoughts indulged in while awake; daydream; fantasy. *b. (as modifier):* a dream world. 3. a person or thing seen or occurring in a dream. 4. a cherished hope; aspiration. 5. a vain hope. 6. a person or thing that is as pleasant or seemingly unreal as a dream. 7. go like a dream, to move, develop, or work very well. —*vb.* **dreaming, dreamt or dreamed.** 8. (may take a clause as object) to undergo or experience (a dream or dreams). 9. (intr.) to indulge in daydreams. 10. to suffer delusions; be unrealistic. 11. (when intr., foll. by *of* or *about*) to have an image (of) or fantasy (about) in or as if in a dream. 12. (intr.; foll. by *of*) to consider the possibility (of). —**dreamer** *n.*

dream up *vb. (tr., adv.)* *Inf.* to invent by ingenuity and imagination: to dream up an excuse.

dreamy ('dri:mi) *adj.* **dreamier, dreamiest.** 1. vague or impractical. 2. resembling a dream. 3. relaxing; gentle: dreamy music. 4. *Inf.* wonderful. 5. having dreams, esp. daydreams. —**dreamily** *adv.* —**dreaminess** *n.*

dreary ('driəri) *adj.* **drearier, dreariest.** 1. sad or dull; dismal. 2. wearying; boring. ~Also (literary): **drear.** —**drearily** *adv.* —**dreariness** *n.*

dredge ('dredʒ) *n.* 1. a machine used to scoop or suck up material from a riverbed, channel, etc. 2. Also called: **dredger.** a vessel used for dredging. —*vb.* 3. to remove (material) from a riverbed, etc., by means of a dredge. 4. (tr.) to search for (a submerged object) with or as if with a dredge; drag. —**dredger** *n.*

dredge ('dredʒ) *vb.* to sprinkle or coat (food) with flour, etc. —**dredger** *n.*

dredge up *vb. (tr., adv.)* 1. *Inf.* to bring to notice, esp. with effort and from an obscure source. 2. to raise, as with a dredge.

dreps ('dregz) *pl. n.* 1. solid particles that settle at the bottom of some liquids. 2. residue or remains. 3. *Brit. sl.* a despicable person.

drench ('drentʃ) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to make completely wet; soak. 2. to give liquid medicine to (an animal). ~*n.* 3. a soaking. 4. a dose of liquid medicine given to an animal.

Dresden ('drezdɪn) *n.* 1. a city in East Germany. 2. Also called: **Dresden china.** delicate and decorative

porcelain ware made near Dresden. ~*adj.* 3. designating or of Dresden china.

dress (dres) *vb.* 1. to put clothes on; attire. 2. (intr.) to put on more formal attire. 3. (tr.) to provide (someone) with clothing; clothe. 4. (tr.) to arrange merchandise in (a shop window). 5. (tr.) to arrange (the hair). 6. (tr.) to apply protective or therapeutic covering to (a wound, sore, etc.). 7. (tr.) to prepare (food, esp. fowl and fish) by cleaning, gutting, etc. 8. (tr.) to put a finish on (stone, metal, etc.). 9. (tr.) to cultivate (land), esp. by applying fertilizer. 10. (tr.) to trim (trees, etc.). 11. (tr.) to groom (a horse). 12. (tr.) to convert (tanned hides) into leather. 13. *Mil.* to bring (troops) into line or (of troops) to come into line (esp. in **dress ranks**). 14. **dress ship.** *Naut.* to decorate a vessel by displaying signal flags on lines. ~*n.* 15. a one-piece garment for a woman, consisting of a skirt and bodice. 16. complete style of clothing; costume: *military dress*. 17. (modifier) suitable for a formal occasion: a dress shirt. 18. outer covering or appearance. ~See also **dress down, dress up.**

dressage ('dres:ʒ) *n. a.* the training of a horse to perform manoeuvres in response to the rider's body signals. *b.* the manoeuvres performed.

dress circle *n.* a tier of seats in a theatre or other auditorium, usually the first gallery.

dress down *vb. (tr., adv.)* *Inf.* to reprimand severely or scold (a person).

dresser¹ ('dresə) *n.* 1. a set of shelves, usually also with cupboards, for storing or displaying dishes, etc. 2. a chest of drawers for storing clothing, often having a mirror on top.

dresser² ('dresə) *n.* 1. a person who dresses in a specified way: a fashionable dresser. 2. *Theatre.* a person employed to assist actors with their costumes. 3. a tool used for dressing stone, etc. 4. *Brit.* a person who assists a surgeon during operations. 5. *Brit.* a window-dresser.

dressing ('dresɪŋ) *n.* 1. a sauce for food, esp. for salad. 2. the U.S. name for **stuffing** (sense 2). 3. a covering for a wound, etc. 4. fertilizer spread on land. 5. size used for stiffening textiles. 6. the processes in the conversion of hides into leather.

dressing-down *n. Inf.* a severe scolding.

dressing gown *n.* a full robe worn before dressing or for lounging.

dressing station *n. Mil.* a first-aid post close to a combat area.

dressing table *n.* a piece of bedroom furniture with a mirror and a set of drawers for clothes, cosmetics, etc.

dressmaker ('dres,meɪkə) *n.* a person whose occupation is making clothes, esp. for women. —**dress-making** *n.*

dress rehearsal *n.* 1. the last rehearsal of a play, etc., using costumes, lighting, etc., as for the first night. 2. any full-scale practice.

dress shirt *n.* a man's evening shirt, worn as part of formal evening dress.

dress suit *n.* a man's evening suit, esp. tails.

dress up *vb. (adv.)* 1. to attire (oneself or another) in one's best clothes. 2. to put fancy dress, etc., on. 3. (tr.) to improve the appearance or impression of: to dress up the facts.

dressy ('dresɪ) *adj.* **dressier, dressiest.** *Inf.* 1. (of clothes) elegant. 2. (of persons) dressing stylishly. 3. overelegant. —**dressiness** *n.*

drew (dru:) *vb.* the past tense of **draw**.

drey or dray (drei) *n.* a squirrel's nest.

dribble ('dribl) *vb.* 1. (usually intr.) to flow or allow to flow in a thin stream or drops; trickle. 2. (intr.) to allow saliva to trickle from the mouth. 3. (in soccer, basketball, hockey, etc.) to propel (the ball) by repeatedly tapping it with the hand, foot, or a stick. ~*n.* 4. a small quantity of liquid falling in drops or flowing in a thin stream. 5. a small quantity or supply. 6. an act or instance of dribbling. —**dribbler** *n.* —**dribbly** *adj.*

dribblet or dribblet ('driblɪt) *n.* a small amount.

dried (draɪd) *vb.* the past tense or past participle of **dry**.

drier¹ ('draɪə) *adj.* the comparative of **dry**.

drier² ('draɪə) *n.* a variant spelling of **dryer**¹.

driest ('draɪst) *adj.* the superlative of **dry**.

drift (drɪft) *vb. (mainly intr.)* 1. (also tr.) to be carried along as by currents of air or water or (of a current) to carry (a vessel, etc.) along. 2. to move aimlessly from one place or activity to another. 3. to wander away from a fixed course or point; stray. 4. (also tr.) (of snow, etc.) to accumulate in heaps or to drive (snow, etc.) into heaps. ~*n.* 5. something piled up by the wind or

current, as a snowdrift. **6.** tendency or meaning: *the drift of the argument*. **7.** a state of indecision or inaction. **8.** the extent to which a vessel, aircraft, etc. is driven off course by winds, etc. **9.** a general tendency of surface ocean water to flow in the direction of the prevailing winds. **10.** a driving movement, force, or influence; impulse. **11.** a controlled four-wheel skid used to take bends at high speed. **12.** a deposit of sand, gravel, etc., esp. one transported and deposited by a glacier. **13.** a horizontal passage in a mine that follows the mineral vein. **14.** something, esp. a group of animals, driven along. **15.** a steel tool driven into holes to enlarge or align them. **16.** an uncontrolled slow change in some operating characteristic of a piece of equipment. **17.** *S. African*, a ford.

drifter ('driftə) *n.* **1.** a person or thing that drifts. **2.** *Inf.* a person who moves aimlessly from place to place. **3.** a boat used for drift-net fishing.

drift net *n.* a large fishing net that is allowed to drift with the tide or current.

driftwood ('drift,wud) *n.* wood floating on or washed ashore by the sea or other body of water.

drill¹ ('dril) *n.* **1.** a machine or tool for boring holes. **2.** *Mil.* training in procedures or movements, as for parades or the use of weapons. **3.** strict and often repetitious training or exercises used in teaching. **4.** *Inf.* correct procedure. **5.** a marine mollusc that preys on oysters. **~vb.** **6.** to pierce, bore, or cut (a hole) in (material) with or as if with a drill. **7.** to instruct or be instructed in military procedures or movements. **8.** (*tr.*) to teach by rigorous exercises or training. **9.** (*tr.*) *Inf.* to riddle with bullets. — **driller** *n.*

drill² ('dril) *n.* **1.** a machine for planting seeds in rows. **2.** a furrow in which seeds are sown. **3.** a row of seeds planted by means of a drill. **~vb.** **4.** to plant (seeds) by means of a drill. — **driller** *n.*

drill³ ('dril) *n.* a hard-wearing twill-weave cotton cloth, used for uniforms, etc.

drill⁴ ('dril) *n.* an Old World monkey of W Africa, related to the mandrill.

drilling platform *n.* a structure, either fixed to the sea bed or mobile, which supports the machinery and equipment (**drilling rig**), together with the stores, etc., required for drilling an offshore oil well.

drilling rig *n.* **1.** the complete machinery, equipment, and structures needed to drill an oil well. **2.** a mobile drilling platform used for exploratory offshore drilling.

drily ('draili) *adv.* a variant spelling of **dryly**.

drink (drɪŋk) *vb.* **drinking, drank, drunk.** **1.** to swallow (a liquid). **2.** (*tr.*) to soak up (liquid); absorb. **3.** (*tr.*; usually foll. by *in*) to pay close attention (to). **4.** (*tr.*) to bring (oneself into a certain condition) by consuming alcohol. **5.** (*tr.*; often foll. by *away*) to dispose of or ruin by excessive expenditure on alcohol. **6.** (*intr.*) to consume alcohol, esp. to excess. **7.** (when *intr.*, foll. by *to*) to drink (a toast). **8.** **drink the health of**, to salute or celebrate with a toast. **9.** **drink with the flies**, *Austral. inf.* to drink alone. **~n.** **10.** liquid suitable for drinking. **11.** alcohol or its habitual or excessive consumption. **12.** a portion of liquid for drinking; draught. **13.** **the drink**, *Inf.* the sea. — **drinkable** *adj.* — **drinker** *n.*

drip (drɪp) *vb.* **dripping, dripped.** **1.** to fall or let fall in drops. **~n.** **2.** the formation and falling of drops of liquid. **3.** the sound made by falling drops. **4.** a projection at the edge of a sill or cornice designed to throw water clear of the wall. **5.** *Inf.* an inane, insipid person. **6.** *Med.* the usually intravenous drop-by-drop administration of a solution.

drip-dry *adj.* designating clothing or a fabric that will dry relatively free of creases if hung up when wet.

drip feed *vb.* (*tr.*) **1.** to feed someone a liquid drop by drop, esp. intravenously. **~n.** **drip-feed.** **2.** another term for **drip** (sense 6).

dripping ('drɪpɪŋ) *n.* **1.** the fat that exudes from meat while it is being roasted or fried. **2.** (*often pl.*) liquid that falls in drops. **~adv.** **3.** (intensifier): *dripping wet*.

drippy ('drɪpi) *adj.* **~pier, ~plest.** **1.** tending to drip. **2.** *Inf.* mawkish, insipid, or inane.

drive (draɪv) *vb.* **driving, drove, driven.** **1.** to push, propel, or be pushed or propelled. **2.** to guide the movement of (a vehicle, animal, etc.). **3.** (*tr.*) to compel or urge to work or act, esp. excessively. **4.** (*tr.*) to goad into a specified attitude or state: *work drove him to despair*. **5.** (*tr.*) to cause (an object) to make (a hole, crack, etc.). **6.** to move rapidly by striking or throwing with force. **7.** *Sport.* to hit (a ball) very hard and straight. **8.** *Golf.* to strike (the ball) with a driver. **9.** (*tr.*) to chase (game) from cover. **10.** to transport or be

transported in a vehicle. **11.** (*intr.*) to rush or dash violently, esp. against an obstacle. **12.** (*tr.*) to transact with vigour (esp. in **drive a hard bargain**). **13.** (*tr.*) to force (a component) into or out of its location by means of blows or a press. **14.** (*tr.*) *Mining.* to excavate horizontally. **15.** **drive home.** **a.** to cause to penetrate to the fullest extent. **b.** to make clear by special emphasis. **~n.** **16.** the act of driving. **17.** a journey in a driven vehicle. **18.** a road for vehicles, esp. a private road leading to a house. **19.** vigorous pressure, as in business. **20.** a united effort, esp. towards a common goal. **21.** *Brit.* a large gathering of persons to play whist, bridge, etc. **22.** energy, ambition, or initiative. **23.** a sustained and powerful military offensive. **24.** **a.** the means by which force, motion, etc. is transmitted in a mechanism: *fluid drive*. **b.** (as modifier): *a drive shaft*. **25.** *Sport.* a hard straight shot or stroke. **26.** a search for and chasing of game towards waiting guns. — **drivable** or **driveable** *adj.*

drive at *vb.* (*intr., prep.*) *Inf.* to aim at; intend or mean: *what are you driving at?*

drive-in *adj.* **1.** denoting a public facility or service designed to be used by patrons seated in their cars: *a drive-in bank*. **~n.** **2.** *Chiefly U.S.* a cinema designed to be used in such a manner.

drivel ('drɪvəl) *vb.* **~elling, ~elled** or *U.S.* **~eling, ~eled.** **1.** to allow (saliva) to flow from the mouth; dribble. **2.** (*intr.*) to speak foolishly. **~n.** **3.** foolish or senseless talk. **4.** saliva flowing from the mouth; slaver. — **driveler** *n.*

driven ('drɪvən) *vb.* the past participle of **drive**.

driver ('draɪvə) *n.* **1.** a person who drives a vehicle. **2.** a person who drives animals. **3.** a mechanical component that exerts a force on another to produce motion. **4.** *Golf.* a club, a No. 1 wood, used for tee shots. **5.** *Electronics.* a circuit whose output provides the input of another circuit. — **driverless** *adj.*

driveway ('draɪv,weɪ) *n.* a path for vehicles, often connecting a house with a public road.

driving licence *n.* an official document authorizing a person to drive a motor vehicle.

drizzle ('drɪzəl) *n.* **1.** very light rain. **~vb.** **2.** (*intr.*) to rain lightly. — **drizzly** *adj.*

droll ('drɒl) *adj.* amusing in a quaint or odd manner; comical. — **drollery** *n.* — **drollness** *n.* — **drolly** *adv.*

-drome *n.* combining form. **1.** a course, race course: *hippodrome*. **2.** a large place for a special purpose: *aerodrome*.

dromedary ('drɒmədəri) *n.*, *pl.* **-daries.** a type of Arabian camel bred for racing and riding and having a single hump.

-dromous *adj.* combining form. moving or running: *anadromous; catadromous*.

drone¹ ('drʌn) *n.* **1.** a male honeybee whose sole function is to mate with the queen. **2.** *Brit.* a person who lives off the work of others. **3.** a pilotless radio-controlled aircraft.

drone² ('drʌn) *vb.* **1.** (*intr.*) to make a monotonous low dull sound. **2.** (when *intr.*, often foll. by *on*) to utter (words) in a monotonous tone, esp. to talk without stopping. **~n.** **3.** a monotonous low dull sound. **4.** *Music.* a sustained bass note or chord. **5.** one of the single-reed pipes in a set of bagpipes. **6.** a person who speaks in a low monotonous tone.

drool ('drʊ:l) *vb.* **1.** (*intr.*; often foll. by *over*) to show excessive enthusiasm (for) or pleasure (in); gloat (over). **~vb., n.** **2.** another word for **drivel** (senses 1, 2, 4).

droop ('drʊ:p) *vb.* **1.** to sag or allow to sag, as from weakness. **2.** (*intr.*) to be overcome by weariness. **3.** (*intr.*) to lose courage. **~n.** **4.** the act or state of drooping. — **droopy** *adj.*

drop (drɒp) *n.* **1.** a small quantity of liquid that forms or falls in a spherical mass. **2.** a very small quantity of liquid. **3.** a very small quantity of anything. **4.** something resembling a drop in shape or size. **5.** the act or an instance of falling; descent. **6.** a decrease in amount or value. **7.** the vertical distance that anything may fall. **8.** a steep incline or slope. **9.** the act of unloading troops, etc. by parachute. **10.** *Theatre.* See **drop curtain**. **11.** another word for **gallows**. **12.** *Chiefly U.S.* a slot through which an object can be dropped into a receptacle. **13.** *Austral. cricket sl.* a fall of the wicket. **14.** **at the drop of a hat**, without hesitation or delay. **~vb.** **dripping, dropped.** **15.** (of liquids) to fall or allow to fall in globules. **16.** to fall or allow to fall vertically. **17.** (*tr.*) to allow to fall by letting go of. **18.** to sink or fall or cause to sink to the ground, as from a blow, weariness, etc. **19.** (*intr.*; foll. by *back, behind*, etc.) to move in a specified

manner, direction, etc. **20.** (*intr.*; foll. by *in*, *by*, etc.) *Inf.* to pay a casual visit (to). **21.** to decrease in amount or value. **22.** to sink or cause to sink to a lower position. **23.** to make or become less in strength, volume, etc. **24.** (*intr.*) to decline in health or condition. **25.** (*intr.*; sometimes foll. by *into*) to pass easily into a condition: *to drop into a habit*. **26.** (*intr.*) to move gently as with a current of air. **27.** (*tr.*) to mention casually: *to drop a hint*. **28.** (*tr.*) to leave out (a word or letter). **29.** (*tr.*) to set down (passengers or goods). **30.** (*tr.*) *Inf.* to send or post: *drop me a line*. **31.** (*tr.*) *Inf.* to discontinue: *let's drop the matter*. **32.** (*tr.*) *Inf.* to cease to associate with. **33.** (*tr.*) *Sl.*, chiefly *U.S.* to cease to employ. **34.** (*tr.*; sometimes foll. by *in*, *off*, etc.) *Inf.* to leave or deposit. **35.** (of animals) to give birth to (offspring). **36.** *Sl.*, chiefly *U.S.* to lose (money). **37.** (*tr.*) to lengthen (a hem, etc.). **38.** (*tr.*) to unload (troops, etc.) by parachute. **39.** (*tr.*) *Naut.* to sail out of sight of. **40.** (*tr.*) *Sport.* to omit (a player) from a team. **41.** (*tr.*) to lose (a game, etc.). **42.** (*tr.*) *Golf, basketball, etc.* to hit or throw (a ball) into a goal. ~See also **drop off**, **dropout**.

drop curtain *n.* *Theatre.* a curtain that can be raised and lowered onto the stage.

drop off *vb.* (*adv.*) **1.** (*intr.*) to grow smaller or less. **2.** (*tr.*) to set down. **3.** (*tr.*) *Inf.* to fall asleep. ~*n.* **drop-off**, **4.** a steep descent. **5.** a sharp decrease.

dropout ('drɒp,aut) *n.* **1.** a student who fails to complete a course. **2.** a person who rejects conventional society. **3. dropout.** *Rugby.* a drop kick taken to restart play. ~*vb.* **dropout out.** (*intr.*, *adv.*; often foll. by *of*) **4.** to abandon or withdraw from (a school, job, etc.).

dropper ('drɒpə) *n.* **1.** a small tube having a rubber bulb at one end for dispensing drops of liquid. **2.** a person or thing that drops.

droppings ('drɒpɪŋz) *pl. n.* the dung of certain animals, such as rabbits, sheep, and birds.

drops (drɒps) *pl. n.* any liquid medication applied by means of a dropper.

drop scone *n.* a scone made by dropping a spoonful of batter on a hot griddle.

dropsy ('drɒpsɪ) *n.* *Pathol.* a condition characterized by an accumulation of watery fluid in the tissues or in a body cavity. —**dropsical** ('drɒpsɪkəl) *adj.*

droshky ('drɒʃki) or **droshky** ('drɒʃki) *n., pl. -kies.* an open four-wheeled carriage, formerly used in Russia.

dross (drɒs) *n.* **1.** the scum formed on the surfaces of molten metals. **2.** worthless matter; waste. —**drossy** *adj.* —**drossiness** *n.*

drought (draʊt) *n.* **1.** a prolonged period of scanty rainfall. **2.** a prolonged shortage. —**droughty** *adj.*

drove¹ (drəʊv) *vb.* the past tense of **drive**.

drove² (drəʊv) *n.* **1.** a herd of livestock being driven together. **2.** (*often pl.*) a moving crowd of people. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) **3.** to drive (livestock), usually for a considerable distance.

drover ('drəʊvə) *n.* a person who drives sheep or cattle, esp. to and from market.

drown (draʊn) *vb.* **1.** to die or kill by immersion in liquid. **2.** (*tr.*) to get rid of: *he drowned his sorrows in drink*. **3.** (*tr.*) to drench thoroughly. **4.** (*tr.*; sometimes foll. by *out*) to render (a sound) inaudible by making a loud noise.

drowse (draʊz) *vb.* **1.** to be or cause to be sleepy, dull, or sluggish. ~*n.* **2.** the state of being drowsy.

drowsy ('draʊzi) *adj.* **drowsier**, **drowsiest**. **1.** heavy with sleepiness; sleepy. **2.** inducing sleep; soporific. **3.** sluggish or lethargic; dull. —**drowsily** *adv.* —**drowsiness** *n.*

drub (drʌb) *vb.* **drubbing**, **drubbed**. (*tr.*) **1.** to beat as with a stick. **2.** to defeat utterly, as in a contest. **3.** to drum or stamp (the feet). **4.** to instil with force or repetition. ~*n.* **5.** a blow, as from a stick.

drudge (drʌdʒ) *n.* **1.** a person who works hard at wearisome menial tasks. ~*vb.* **2.** (*intr.*) to toil at such tasks. —**drudger** *n.* —**drudgingly** *adv.*

drudgery ('drʌdʒəri) *n., pl. -eries.* hard, menial, and monotonous work.

drug (drʌg) *n.* **1.** any substance used in the treatment, prevention, or diagnosis of disease. Related *adj.*: **pharmaceutical**. **2.** a chemical substance, esp. a narcotic, taken for the effects it produces. **3. drug on the market.** a commodity available in excess of demand. ~*vb.* **drugging**, **drugged**. (*tr.*) **4.** to mix a drug with (food, etc.). **5.** to administer a drug to. **6.** to stupefy or poison with or as if with a drug.

drug addict *n.* any person who is abnormally dependent on narcotic drugs.

drugget ('drʌɡɪt) *n.* a coarse fabric used as a protective floor covering, etc.

druggist ('drʌɡɪst) *n.* a U.S. term for a pharmacist.

drugstore ('drʌɡ,stɔː) *n.* *U.S.* a shop where medical prescriptions are made up and a wide variety of goods and usually light meals are sold.

druid ('druɪd) *n.* (*sometimes cap.*) **1.** a member of an ancient order of priests in Gaul, Britain, and Ireland in the pre-Christian era. **2.** a member of any of several modern movements attempting to revive druidism. —**druidess** ('druɪdɪs) *fem. n.* —**druidic** or **druidical** *adj.* —**druidism** *n.*

drum (drʌm) *n.* **1.** a percussion instrument sounded by striking a membrane stretched across the opening of a hollow cylinder or hemisphere. **2.** the sound produced by a drum or any similar sound. **3.** an object that resembles a drum in shape, such as a large spool or a cylindrical container. **4. Archit.** a cylindrical block of stone used to construct the shaft of a column. **5.** short for **ear drum**. **6.** any of various North American fishes that utter a drumming sound. **7.** a cylindrical object or structure, esp. the centre body of an axial-flow compressor rotor. **8.** Also called: **magnetic drum.** *Computers.* a rotating cylindrical device on which data may be stored. **9. Arch.** a drummer. **10. Austral. sl.** a brothel. **11. the drum.** *Austral. inf.* the necessary information (esp. in *give (someone) the drum*). ~*vb.* **drumming**, **drummed**. **12.** to play (music) on or as if on a drum. **13.** to tap rhythmically or regularly. **14.** (*tr.*; sometimes foll. by *up*) to summon or call by drumming. **15.** (*tr.*) to instil by constant repetition. **16.** *beat the drum for.* *Inf.* to attempt to arouse interest in.

drumbeat ('drʌm,bɪt) *n.* the sound made by beating a drum.

drumhead ('drʌm,hed) *n.* **1.** the part of a drum that is actually struck. **2.** the head of a capstan. **3.** another name for **ear drum**.

drumlin ('drʌmlɪn) *n.* a streamlined mound of glacial drift.

drum major *n.* the noncommissioned officer, usually of sergeant major's rank, who commands the corps of drums of a military band and who is in command of both the drums and the band when paraded together.

drummer ('drʌmə) *n.* **1.** a drum player. **2.** Chiefly *U.S.* a travelling salesman.

drumstick ('drʌm,stɪk) *n.* **1.** a stick used for playing a drum. **2.** the lower joint of the leg of a cooked fowl.

drum up *vb.* (*tr.*, *adv.*) to obtain (support, business, etc.) by solicitation or canvassing.

drunk (drʌŋk) *adj.* **1.** intoxicated with alcohol to the extent of losing control over normal functions. **2.** overwhelmed by strong influence or emotion. ~*n.* **3.** a person who is drunk. **4. Inf.** a drinking bout.

drunkard ('drʌŋkəd) *n.* a person who is frequently or habitually drunk.

drunken ('drʌŋkən) *adj.* **1.** intoxicated. **2.** habitually drunk. **3.** (*prepositional*) caused by or relating to alcoholic intoxication: *a drunken brawl*. —**drunkenly** *adv.* —**drunkenness** *n.*

drupe (drʌp) *n.* any fruit that has a fleshy or fibrous part around a stone that encloses a seed, as the peach, plum, and cherry. —**drupaceous** (drʌ:'peɪʃəs) *adj.*

dry (draɪ) *adj.* **drier**, **driest** or **dryer**, **dryest**. **1.** lacking moisture; not damp or wet. **2.** having little or no rainfall. **3.** not in or under water. **4.** having the water drained away or evaporated: *a dry river*. **5.** not providing milk: *a dry cow*. **6.** (of the eyes) free from tears. **7.** a. thirsty. **b.** causing thirst. **8.** eaten without butter, jam, etc.: *dry toast*. **9.** (of wine, etc.) not sweet. **10.** not producing a mucous or watery discharge: *a dry cough*. **11.** consisting of solid as opposed to liquid substances. **12.** without adornment; plain: *dry facts*. **13.** lacking interest: *a dry book*. **14.** lacking warmth: *a dry greeting*. **15.** (of humour) shrewd and keen in an impersonal, sarcastic, or laconic way. **16. Inf.** opposed to or prohibiting the sale of alcoholic liquor: *a dry country*. ~*vb.* **drying**, **dried**. **17.** to make or become dry. **18.** (*tr.*) to preserve (fruit, etc.) by removing the moisture. ~*n., pl. dries* or **dries**. **19. the dry.** *Austral. inf.* (*sometimes caps.*) the dry season. ~See also **dry out**, **dry up**. —**dryly** or **drily** *adv.* —**dryness** *n.*

dryad ('draɪəd,-æd) *n., pl. -ads* or *-ades* (-ə,dɪz). *Greek myth.* a nymph or divinity of the woods.

dry battery *n.* an electric battery consisting of two or more dry cells.

dry cell *n.* a primary cell in which the electrolyte is in the form of a paste or is treated in some way to prevent it from spilling.

dry-clean *vb. (tr.)* to clean (fabrics, etc.) with a solvent other than water. —**dry-cleaner** *n.*
—**dry-cleaning** *n.*

dry dock *n.* a dock that can be pumped dry for work on a ship's bottom.

dryer¹ ('draɪə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that dries. 2. an apparatus for removing moisture by forced draught, heating, or centrifuging. 3. any of certain chemicals added to oils to accelerate their drying when used in paints, etc.

dryer² ('draɪə) *adj.* a variant spelling of **drier**¹.

dry fly *n. Angling.* a. an artificial fly designed to be floated on the surface of the water. b. (as modifier): *dry-fly fishing.*

dry goods *pl. n.* clothing, hardware, and related merchandise, as distinct from grocery items.

dry ice *n.* solid carbon dioxide used as a refrigerant. Also called: **carbon dioxide snow.**

dryly or **drily** ('draɪli) *adv.* in a dry manner.

dry measure *n.* a unit or system of units for measuring dry goods, such as fruit, grains, etc.

dry out *vb. (adv.)* 1. to make or become dry. 2. *Inf.* to undergo or cause to undergo treatment for alcoholism or drug addiction.

dry rot *n.* 1. crumbling and drying of timber, bulbs, potatoes, or fruit, caused by certain fungi. 2. any fungus causing this decay. 3. *Inf.* corrupt practices.

dry run *n.* 1. *Mil.* practice in firing without live ammunition. 2. *Inf.* a rehearsal.

dry-stone *adj.* (of a wall) made without mortar.

dry up *vb. (adv.)* 1. (intr.) to become barren or unproductive; fail. 2. to dry (dishes, cutlery, etc.) with a tea towel after they have been washed. 3. (intr.) *Inf.* to stop talking or speaking.

D.S. or d.s. *Music.* abbrev. for *dal segno*.

D.Sc. abbrev. for *Doctor of Science*.

D.S.C. *Mil.* abbrev. for *Distinguished Service Cross*.

D.S.M. *Mil.* abbrev. for *Distinguished Service Medal*.

D.S.O. *Brit. mil.* abbrev. for *Distinguished Service Order*.

D.T.'s *Inf.* abbrev. for *delirium tremens*.

Du. abbrev. for: 1. *Duke*. 2. *Dutch*.

dual ('dju:əl) *adj.* 1. relating to or denoting two. 2. twofold; double. 3. (in the grammar of some languages) denoting a form of a word indicating that exactly two referents are being referred to. ~*n.* 4. *Grammar.* a. the dual number. b. a dual form of a word. —**dual-ly** *adv.*

dual carriageway *n. Brit.* a road on which traffic travelling in opposite directions is separated by a central strip of turf, etc. U.S. name: **divided highway**.

dualism ('dju:əlɪzəm) *n.* 1. the state of being twofold or double. 2. *Philosophy.* the doctrine that reality consists of two basic principles, usually taken to be mind and matter. 3. *Theol.* a. the theory that the universe has been ruled from its origins by two conflicting powers, one good and one evil. b. the theory that there are two personalities, one human and one divine, in Christ. —**dualist** *n.* —**dual-istic** *adj.* —**quality** (dju:'ælti) *n.*

dub¹ (dab) *vb. dubbing, dubbed.* 1. (tr.) to invest (a person) with knighthood by tapping on the shoulder with a sword. 2. (tr.) to invest with a title, name, or nickname. 3. (tr.) to dress (leather) by rubbing. 4. *Angling.* to dress (a fly).

dub² (dab) *Films.* ~*vb. dubbing, dubbed.* 1. to alter the soundtrack of (a film, etc.). 2. (tr.) to provide (a film) with a new soundtrack, esp. in a different language. 3. (tr.) to provide (a film or tape) with a soundtrack. ~*n.* 4. the new sounds added.

dubbin ('dæbɪn) *n. Brit.* a greasy preparation applied to leather to soften it and make it waterproof.

dubiety (dju:'bæti) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. the state of being doubtful. 2. a doubtful matter.

dubious ('dju:biəs) *adj.* 1. marked by or causing doubt. 2. uncertain; doubtful. 3. of doubtful quality; untrustworthy. 4. not certain in outcome. —**dubiously** *adv.* —**dubiousness** *n.*

ducal ('dju:kəl) *adj.* of a duke or duchy.

ducat ('dʌkət) *n.* 1. any of various former European gold or silver coins. 2. (pl.) *Inf.* money.

duchess ('dʌtʃɪs) *n.* 1. the wife or widow of a duke. 2. a woman who holds the rank of duke in her own right.

duchy ('dʌtʃi) *n., pl. duchies.* the territory of a duke or duchess; dukedom.

duck¹ ('dʌk) *n., pl. ducks or duck.* 1. any of a family of aquatic birds, esp. those having short legs, webbed feet, and a broad blunt bill. 2. the flesh of this bird, used as

food. 3. the female of such a bird, as opposed to the male (drake). 4. Also: **ducks.** *Brit. inf.* dear or darling; used as a term of address. 5. *Cricket.* a score of nothing by a batsman. 6. like water off a duck's back. *Inf.* without effect.

duck² ('dʌk) *vb.* 1. to move (the head or body) quickly downwards or away, esp. to escape observation or evade a blow. 2. to plunge suddenly under water. 3. (when intr., often foll. by out) *Inf.* to dodge or escape (a person, duty, etc.). 4. (intr.) *Bridge.* to play a low card rather than trying to win a trick. ~*n.* 5. the act or an instance of ducking. —**ducker** *n.*

duck³ ('dʌk) *n.* a heavy cotton fabric of plain weave, used for clothing, tents, etc.

duck-billed platypus *n.* an amphibious egg-laying mammal of E Australia having dense fur, a broad bill and tail, and webbed feet.

duckboard ('dʌk,bɔ:d) *n.* a board or boards laid so as to form a path over wet or muddy ground.

duckling ('dʌkɪŋ) *n.* a young duck.

ducks and drakes *n.* 1. a game in which a flat stone is bounced across the surface of water. 2. **make ducks and drakes of or play (at) ducks and drakes with.** *Inf.* to use recklessly; squander.

ducky or **duckie** ('dʌki) *Inf.* ~*n., pl. duckies.* 1. *Brit.* darling or dear: a term of endearment. ~*adj.* 2. delightful; fine.

duct ('dʌkt) *n.* 1. a tube, pipe, or canal by means of which a substance, esp. a fluid or gas, is conveyed. 2. any bodily passage, esp. one conveying secretions or excretions. 3. a narrow tubular cavity in plants. 4. a channel or pipe carrying electric wires. 5. a passage through which air can flow, as in air conditioning. —**ductless** *adj.*

ductile ('dʌktail) *adj.* 1. (of a metal) able to sustain large deformations without fracture and able to be hammered into sheets or drawn out into wires. 2. able to be moulded. 3. easily led or influenced. —**ductility** ('dʌk'tɪlɪti) *n.*

ductless gland *n. Anat.* See **endocrine gland**.

dud ('dʌd) *Inf.* ~*n.* 1. a person or thing that proves ineffectual. 2. a shell, etc., that fails to explode. 3. (pl.) clothes or other belongings. ~*adj.* 4. failing in its purpose or function.

dude (dju:d) *n. Inf.* 1. *Western U.S.* a city dweller, esp. one holidaying on a ranch. 2. *U.S.* a dandy. 3. *U.S.* any person. —**dudish** *adj.* —**dudishly** *adv.*

dudgeon ('dʌdʒən) *n.* anger or resentment (archaic, except in **in high dudgeon**).

due (dju:) *adj.* 1. (postpositive) immediately payable. 2. (postpositive) owed as a debt. 3. fitting; proper. 4. (prenominal) adequate or sufficient. 5. (postpositive) expected or appointed to be present or arrive. 6. **due to.** attributable to or caused by. ~*n.* 7. something that is owed, required, or due. 8. **give (a person) his due.** to give or allow what is deserved or right. ~*adv.* 9. directly or exactly. ~See also **dues**.

▷ **Usage.** There is considerable controversy over the use of *due to* and *owing to* as compound prepositions equivalent to *because of*. Careful users of English prefer *because of* or *on account of*. There is no dispute about the postpositive adjectival use of *due to* to mean *caused by* (the error was *due to carelessness*), but *owing to* is not ordinarily used in this way.

duel ('dju:əl) *n.* 1. a formal prearranged combat with deadly weapons between two people in the presence of seconds, usually to settle a quarrel. 2. a contest or conflict between two persons or parties. ~*vb. duelling, duelled* or *U.S. dueling, duelled.* (intr.) 3. to fight in a duel. 4. to contest closely. —**dueller** or **duellist** *n.*

duenna (dju:'enə) *n.* (in Spain and Portugal, etc.) an elderly woman retained by a family to act as governess and chaperon to girls.

dues (dju:z) *pl. n. (sometimes sing.)* charges, as for membership of a club or organization; fees.

duet (dju:'et) *n.* 1. a musical composition for two performers or voices. 2. a pair of closely connected individuals; duo. —**duettist** *n.*

duff¹ ('dʌf) *n.* 1. a thick flour pudding boiled in a cloth bag. 2. **up the duff.** *Sl., chiefly Austral.* pregnant.

duff² ('dʌf) *Sl.* ~*vb. (tr.)* 1. to give a false appearance to (old or stolen goods); fake. 2. *Brit.* (foll. by up) to beat (a person) severely. 3. *Austral.* to steal (cattle), altering the brand. 4. *Golf.* to bungle a shot by hitting the ground behind the ball. ~*adj.* 5. *Brit.* bad or useless: a *duff engine*.

duffel or **duffle** ('dʌfl) *n.* 1. a heavy woollen cloth. 2. *Chiefly U.S.* equipment or supplies.

duffel coat *n.* a knee-length wool coat, usually with a hood and fastened with toggles.

duffer ('dʌfə) *n.* 1. *Inf.* a dull or incompetent person. 2. *Sl.* something worthless. 3. *Austral. sl.* a. a mine that proves unproductive. b. a person who steals cattle.

dig (dæg) *vb.* the past tense or past participle of **dig**.

dig (dæg) *n.* a nipple, teat, udder, or breast.

dugong ('du:ɡɒŋ) *n.* a whalelike mammal occurring in shallow tropical waters from E Africa to Australia.

dugout ('dʌɡ,aut) *n.* 1. a canoe, made by hollowing out a log. 2. *Mil.* a covered excavation dug to provide shelter. 3. in the Canadian prairies, a reservoir dug on a farm in which water from rain and snow is collected for use in irrigation, watering livestock, etc. 4. *Sl.* a retired officer, etc., recalled to employment.

duiker or **duyker** ('daɪkə) *n., pl. -kers or -ker.* 1. Also: **duikerbok**. any of various small African antelopes. 2. *S. African.* any of several cormorants, esp. the long-tailed shag.

duke (djʊ:k) *n.* 1. a nobleman of high rank: in the British Isles standing above the other grades of the nobility. 2. the prince or ruler of a small principality or duchy. —'dukedom *n.*

dulcet ('dʌlsɪt) *adj.* (of a sound) soothing or pleasant; sweet.

dulcimer ('dʌlsɪmə) *n.* 1. a tuned percussion instrument consisting of a set of strings stretched over a sounding board and struck with hammers. 2. an instrument used in U.S. folk music, with an elliptical body and usually three strings plucked with a goose quill.

dull (dʌl) *adj.* 1. slow to think or understand; stupid. 2. lacking in interest. 3. lacking in perception; insensitive. 4. lacking sharpness. 5. not acute, intense, or piercing. 6. (of weather) not bright or clear. 7. not active, busy, or brisk. 8. lacking in spirit; listless. 9. (of colour) lacking brilliance; sombre. 10. not loud or clear; muffled. —*vb.* 11. to make or become dull. —'dullish *adj.* —'dullness or 'dulness *n.* —'dully *adv.*

dullard ('dʌləd) *n.* a dull or stupid person.

dulse (dʌls) *n.* any of several seaweeds that occur on rocks and have large red edible fronds.

duly ('dʒʊli) *adv.* 1. in a proper manner. 2. at the proper time.

dumb (dʌm) *adj.* 1. lacking the power to speak; mute. 2. lacking the power of human speech: *dumb animals*. 3. temporarily bereft of the power to speak: *struck dumb*. 4. refraining from speech; uncommunicative. 5. producing no sound: *a dumb piano*. 6. made, done, or performed without speech. 7. *Inf., chiefly U.S.* a. dim-witted. b. foolish. —'dumbly *adv.* —'dumbness *n.*

dumbbell ('dʌm,bel) *n.* 1. an exercising weight consisting of a single bar with a heavy ball or disc at either end. 2. *Sl., chiefly U.S.* a fool.

dumbfound or **dumfound** (dʌm'faʊnd) *vb.* (tr.) to strike dumb with astonishment; amaze.

dumb show *n.* 1. formerly, a part of a play acted in pantomime. 2. meaningful gestures.

dumbwaiter ('dʌm,wetɪs) *n.* 1. *Brit.* a. a stand placed near a dining table to hold food. b. a revolving circular tray placed on a table to hold food. *U.S. name: lazy Susan*. 2. a lift for carrying food, rubbish, etc., between floors.

dumdum ('dʌm,dʌm) *n.* a soft-nosed bullet that expands on impact and inflicts extensive laceration.

dummy ('dʌmɪ) *n., pl. -mies.* 1. a figure representing the human form, used for displaying clothes, as a target, etc. 2. a. a copy of an object, often lacking some essential feature of the original. b. (as modifier): *a dummy drawer*. 3. *Sl.* a stupid person. 4. *Derog., sl.* a person without the power of speech. 5. *Inf.* a person who says or does nothing. 6. a. a person who appears to act for himself while acting on behalf of another. b. (as modifier): *a dummy buyer*. 7. *Mil.* a blank round. 8. *Bridge*. a. the hand exposed on the table by the declarer's partner and played by the declarer. b. the declarer's partner. 9. a. a prototype of a book, indicating the appearance of the finished product. b. a designer's layout of a page. 10. *Sport*. a feigned pass or move. 11. *Brit.* a rubber teat for babies to suck or bite on. *U.S. equivalent: pacifier*. 12. (modifier) counterfeit; sham. 13. (modifier) (of a card game) played with one hand exposed or unplayed. 14. **sell (someone) a dummy.** *Sport.* to use a dummy pass.

dummy run *n.* an experimental run; practice; rehearsal.

dump (dʌmp) *vb.* 1. to drop, fall, or let fall heavily or in a mass. 2. (tr.) to empty (objects or material) out of a container. 3. to unload or empty (a container), as by overturning. 4. (tr.) *Inf.* to dispose of. 5. *Commerce.* to market (goods) in bulk and at low prices, esp. abroad, in order to maintain a high price in the home market and obtain a share of the foreign markets. 6. (tr.) to store (supplies, etc.) temporarily. 7. (tr.) *Austral.* (of a wave) to hurl a swimmer or surfer down. 8. (tr.) *Austral.* to compact (bales of wool) by hydraulic pressure. 9. (tr.) *Computers.* to record (the contents of the memory) on a storage device at a series of points during a computer run. —*n.* 10. a place or area where waste materials are dumped. 11. a pile or accumulation of rubbish. 12. the act of dumping. 13. *Inf.* a dirty or unkempt place. 14. *Mil.* a place where weapons, supplies, etc., are stored.

dumping ('dʌmpɪŋ) *n.* 1. a small ball of dough cooked and served with stew. 2. a pudding consisting of a ball of dough filled with fruit: *apple dumpling*. 3. *Inf.* a short plump person.

dumps (dʌmps) *pl. n.* *Inf.* a state of melancholy or depression (esp. in *down in the dumps*).

dumpy ('dʌmpɪ) *adj.* **dumplier**, **dumpest**. short and plump; squat. —'dumply *adv.* —'dumppiness *n.*

dun (dʌn) *vb.* **dunning**, **dunned**. 1. (tr.) to press (a debtor) for payment. —*n.* 2. a person, esp. a hired agent, who importunes another for the payment of a debt. 3. a demand for payment.

dun (dʌn) *n.* 1. a brownish-grey colour. 2. a horse of this colour. 3. *Angling.* an immature adult mayfly. —*adj.* **dunner**, **dunniest**. 4. of a dun colour. 5. dark and gloomy.

dunce (dʌns) *n.* a person who is stupid or slow to learn.

Dundee cake (dʌn'di:) *n.* *Chiefly Brit.* a fairly rich fruit cake decorated with almonds.

dunderhead ('dʌndə,hed) *n.* a slow-witted person. —'dunder, **headed** *adj.*

dune (djʊ:n) *n.* a mound or ridge of drifted sand.

dung (dʌŋ) *n.* 1. excrement, esp. of animals; manure. 2. something filthy. —*vb.* 3. (tr.) to cover with manure.

dungaree (dʌŋɡə'ri:) *n.* 1. a coarse cotton fabric used chiefly for work clothes, etc. 2. (pl.) a. a suit of workman's overalls made of this material. b. a child's playsuit. 3. *U.S.* trousers.

dungeon ('dʌndʒən) *n.* 1. a prison cell, often underground. 2. a variant spelling of **donjon**.

dunghill ('dʌŋ,hɪl) *n.* 1. a heap of dung. 2. a foul place, condition, or person.

dunk (dʌŋk) *vb.* 1. to dip (bread, etc.) in tea, soup, etc., before eating. 2. to submerge. —'dunker *n.*

dunlin ('dʌnlɪn) *n.* a small sandpiper of northern and arctic regions, having a brown back and black breast in summer.

dunnoek ('dʌnək) *n.* another name for a hedge sparrow.

duo ('djʊ:ə) *n., pl. duos or dui* ('djʊ:i:). 1. *Music.* a. a pair of performers. b. a duet. 2. a pair of actors, etc. 3. *Inf.* a pair of closely connected individuals.

duo- combining form. indicating two.

duodecimal (,djʊ:ə'desɪməl) *adj.* 1. relating to twelve or twelfths. —*n.* 2. a twelfth. 3. one of the numbers used in a duodecimal number system. —,duo'decimally *adv.*

duodenum (,djʊ:ə'ðɪnəm) *n., pl. -na (-nə) or -nums.* the first part of the small intestine, between the stomach and the jejunum. —,duo'denal *adj.*

duologue or *U.S. (sometimes) duolog* ('djʊ:ə,lɒɡ) *n.* 1. a part or all of a play in which the speaking roles are limited to two actors. 2. a less common word for **dialogue**.

dupe (djʊ:p) *n.* 1. a person who is easily deceived. —*vb.* 2. (tr.) to deceive; cheat; fool. —'dupable *adj.* —'dupery *n.* —'dupery *n.*

duple ('djʊ:p'l) *adj.* 1. a less common word for **double**. 2. *Music.* (of time or music) having two beats in a bar.

duplex ('djʊ:pleks) *n.* 1. *U.S.* a duplex apartment or house. —*adj.* 2. having two parts. 3. having pairs of components of independent but identical function. 4. permitting the transmission of simultaneous signals in both directions. —du'plexity *n.*

duplicate *adj.* ('djʊ:plɪkt) 1. copied exactly from an original. 2. identical. 3. existing as a pair or in pairs. —*n.* ('djʊ:plɪkt) 4. an exact copy. 5. something additional of the same kind. 6. two exact copies (esp. in **duplicate**). —*vb.* ('djʊ:plɪ,keɪt) 7. (tr.) to make a replica of. 8. (tr.) to do or make again. 9. (tr.) to make in a

pair; make double. —**duplicable** ('dju:pləkəb'l) *adj.* —**duplica**tion *n.*

duplicity (dju:'plisiti) *n., pl. -ties.* deception; double-dealing.

durable ('djʊərəb'l) *adj.* long-lasting; enduring. —**dura**bility *n.* —**durably** *adv.*

durable goods *pl. n.* goods that require infrequent replacement. Also called: **durables**.

duration ('djʊərəns) *n.* Arch. or literary. 1. imprisonment. 2. duration.

duration (dju'reiʃən) *n.* the length of time that something lasts or continues. —**durational** *adj.*

durbar ('dɜ:bɑ:, 'dɜ:'bɑ:) *n.* a. (formerly) the court of a native ruler or a governor in India. b. a levée at such a court.

duress (dju'res, djuə-) *n.* 1. compulsion by use of force or threat; coercion (often in **under duress**). 2. imprisonment.

during ('djʊərɪŋ) *prep.* 1. concurrently with (some other activity). 2. within the limit of (a period of time).

durst (dɜ:st) *vb.* an archaic past tense of **dare**.

dusk (dɜ:sk) *n.* 1. the darker part of twilight. 2. Poetic. gloom; shade. —*adj.* 3. Poetic. shady; gloomy. —*vb.* 4. Poetic. to make or become dark.

dusky ('dɜ:ski) *adj.* **duskiest, duskiest.** 1. dark in colour; swarthy. 2. dim. — **duskiely** *adv.* — **duskiess** *n.*

dust (dɜ:st) *n.* 1. dry fine powdery material, such as particles of dirt, earth, or pollen. 2. a cloud of such fine particles. 3. Christian *theol.* a. the mortal body of man. b. the corpse of a dead person. 4. the earth; ground. 5. *Inf.* a disturbance; fuss (esp. in **kick up a dust, raise a dust**). 6. something of little worth. 7. short for **gold dust**. 8. ashes or household refuse. 9. **bite the dust.** *Inf.* a. to suffer complete defeat. b. to die. 10. **dust and ashes.** something that is very disappointing. 11. **shake the dust off one's feet.** to depart angrily. 12. **throw dust in the eyes of.** to confuse or mislead. —*vb.* 13. (*tr.*) to sprinkle or cover (something) with (dust or some other powdery substance). 14. to remove dust by wiping, sweeping, or brushing. 15. to make or become dirty with dust. — **dustless** *adj.*

dustbin ('dɜ:st,bɪn) *n.* a large, usually cylindrical container for rubbish, esp. one used by a household. U.S. names: **garbage can, trash can.**

dust bowl *n.* a semiarid area in which the surface soil is exposed to wind erosion.

dustcart ('dɜ:st,kɑ:t) *n.* a road vehicle for collecting refuse. U.S. name: **garbage truck.**

dust cover *n.* 1. Also called: **dustsheet.** a large cloth used to protect furniture from dust. 2. another name for **dust jacket**. 3. a perspex cover for a gramophone turntable.

duster ('dɜ:stə) *n.* 1. a cloth used for dusting. U.S. name: **dust cloth.** 2. a machine for blowing out dust. 3. a person or thing that dusts.

dust jacket or cover *n.* a removable paper cover used to protect a bound book.

dustman ('dɜ:stmən) *n., pl. -men.* Brit. a man whose job is to collect domestic refuse.

dustpan ('dɜ:st,pæn) *n.* a short-handled hooded shovel into which dust is swept from floors, etc.

dust-up *Inf.* ~*n.* 1. a fight or argument. —*vb.* **dust up.** 2. (*tr., adv.*) to attack (someone).

dusty ('dɜ:sti) *adj.* **dustier, dustiest.** 1. covered with or involving dust. 2. like dust. 3. (of a colour) tinged with grey; pale. 4. dull or unsatisfactory. — **dustily** *adv.* — **dustiness** *n.*

Dutch (dʌtʃ) *n.* 1. the language of the Netherlands. 2. the Dutch. (*functioning as pl.*) the natives, citizens, or inhabitants of the Netherlands. 3. See **double Dutch**. 4. in Dutch. *Sl.* in trouble. —*adj.* 5. of the Netherlands, its inhabitants, or their language. —*adv.* 6. **go Dutch.** *Inf.* to share expenses equally.

Dutch auction *n.* an auction in which the price is lowered by stages until a buyer is found.

Dutch barn *n.* Brit. a farm building consisting of a steel frame and a curved roof.

Dutch courage *n.* 1. false courage gained from drinking alcohol. 2. alcoholic drink.

Dutch elm disease *n.* a fungal disease of elm trees characterized by withering of the foliage and stems and eventual death of the tree.

Dutchman ('dʌtʃmən) *n., pl. -men.* 1. a native, citizen, or inhabitant of the Netherlands. 2. *S. African derog.* an Afrikaner.

Dutch medicine *n.* *S. African.* patent medicine, esp. made of herbs.

Dutch oven *n.* 1. an iron or earthenware container with a cover, used for stews, etc. 2. a metal box, open in front, for cooking in front of an open fire.

Dutch treat *n.* *Inf.* an entertainment, meal, etc., where each person pays for himself.

Dutch uncle *n.* *Inf.* a person who criticizes or reproves frankly and severely.

dutious ('djʊ:tʊəs) *adj.* Formal or arch. dutiful; obedient. — **dutiously** *adv.*

dutiable ('djʊ:tɪəb'l) *adj.* (of goods, etc.) liable to duty. — **dutia**bility *n.*

dutiful ('djʊ:tɪfʊl) *adj.* 1. exhibiting or having a sense of duty. 2. characterized by or resulting from a sense of duty: a dutiful answer.

duty ('djʊ:ti) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. a task or action that a person is bound to perform for moral or legal reasons. 2. respect or obedience due to a superior, older persons, etc. 3. the force that binds one morally or legally to one's obligations. 4. a government tax, esp. on imports. 5. Brit. a. the quantity of work for which a machine is designed. b. a measure of the efficiency of a machine. 6. a job or service allocated. 7. **do duty for.** to act as a substitute for. 8. **on (or off) duty.** at (or not at) work.

duty-bound *adj.* morally obliged.

duty-free *adj., adv.* with exemption from customs or excise duties.

duty-free shop *n.* a shop, esp. one at a port or on board a ship, that sells perfume, tobacco, etc., at duty-free prices.

duvet ('dʊ:vet) *n.* another name for **continental quilt**.

dwaal (dwa:l) *n.* *S. African.* a state of befuddlement; daze.

dwarf (dwɔ:f) *n., pl. dwarfs or dwarves* (dwɔ:vz). 1. an abnormally undersized person. 2. a. an animal or plant much below the average height for the species. b. (*as modifier*): a dwarf tree. 3. (in folklore) a small ugly manlike creature, often possessing magical powers. —*vb.* 4. to become or cause to become small in size, importance, etc. 5. (*tr.*) to stunt the growth of. — **dwarfish** *adj.*

dwelt (dwel) *vb.* **dwelling, dwelt or dwelled.** (*intr.*) 1. Formal, literary. to live as a permanent resident. 2. to live (in a specified state): to dwell in poverty. —*n.* 3. a regular pause in the operation of a machine. — **dweller** *n.*

dwelling ('dwelɪŋ) *n.* Formal, literary. a place of residence.

dwell on or upon *vb.* (*intr., prep.*) to think, speak, or write at length.

dwindle ('dwɪndl) *vb.* to grow or cause to grow less in size, intensity, or number.

Dy *The chemical symbol for dysprosium.*

dye (daɪ) *n.* 1. a staining or colouring substance. 2. a liquid that contains a colouring material and can be used to stain fabrics, skins, etc. 3. the colour produced by dyeing. —*vb.* **dyeing, dyed.** 4. (*tr.*) to impart a colour or stain to (fabric, hair, etc.) by or as if by the application of a dye. — **dyable** or **dyeable** *adj.* — **dyer** *n.*

dyed-in-the-wool *adj.* 1. extreme or unchanging in attitude, opinion, etc. 2. (of a fabric) made of dyed yarn.

dyeing ('daɪŋ) *n.* the process or industry of colouring yarns, fabric, etc.

dying ('daɪŋ) *vb.* 1. the present participle of **die**. —*adj.* 2. relating to or occurring at the moment of death: a dying wish.

dyke or **esp. U.S. dike** (daɪk) *n.* 1. an embankment constructed to prevent flooding or keep out the sea. 2. a ditch or watercourse. 3. a bank made of earth alongside a ditch. 4. a barrier or obstruction. 5. a wall-like mass of igneous rock in older sedimentary rock. 6. Austral. *inf.* a lavatory. —*vb.* 7. (*tr.*) to protect, enclose, or drain (land) with a dyke.

dyke or **dike** (daɪk) *n.* *Sl.* a lesbian.

dynamic (daɪ'næmɪk) *adj.* 1. of or concerned with energy or forces that produce motion, as opposed to static. 2. of or concerned with dynamics. 3. Also: **dynamical.** characterized by force of personality, ambition, energy, etc. 4. Computers. (of a memory) needing its contents refreshed periodically. — **dy**namically *adv.*

dynamics (daɪ'næmɪks) *n.* 1. (*functioning as sing.*) the branch of mechanics concerned with the forces that change or produce the motions of bodies. 2. (*functioning as sing.*) the branch of mechanics that includes statics and kinetics. 3. (*functioning as sing.*) the branch of any science concerned with forces. 4. those forces that produce change in any field or system. 5. Music. a. the various degrees of loudness called for in perfor-

mance. **b.** directions and symbols used to indicate degrees of loudness.

dynamism ('daɪnə,mɪzəm) *n.* 1. *Philosophy.* any of several theories that attempt to explain phenomena in terms of an immanent force or energy. 2. the forcefulness of an energetic personality. — '**dynamist** *n.* — '**dyna-mistic** *adj.*

dynamite ('daɪnə,məɪt) *n.* 1. an explosive consisting of nitroglycerin mixed with an absorbent. 2. *Inf.* a spectacular or potentially dangerous person or thing. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to mine or blow up with dynamite. — '**dyna-mite** *n.*

dynamo ('daɪnə,məʊ) *n., pl. -mos.* 1. a device for converting mechanical energy into electrical energy. 2. *Inf.* an energetic hard-working person.

dynamoelectric (,daɪnə,məʊ,'lektrɪk) or **dynamo-electrical** *adj.* of or concerned with the interconversion of mechanical and electrical energy.

dynamometer (,daɪnə'mɒmɪtə) *n.* any of a number of instruments for measuring power.

dynast ('daɪnəst, -æst) *n.* a ruler, esp. a hereditary one.

dynasty ('daɪnəsti) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. a sequence of hereditary rulers. 2. any sequence of powerful leaders of the same family. — '**dynastic** (daɪ'næstɪk) *adj.*

dyne (daɪn) *n.* the cgs unit of force; the force that imparts an acceleration of 1 centimetre per second per

second to a mass of 1 gram. 1 dyne is equivalent to 10^{-5} newton or 7.233×10^{-5} poundal.

dysentery ('dis'ntrɪ) *n.* infection of the intestine marked by severe diarrhoea with the passage of mucus and blood. — '**dysenteric** (,dis'n'terɪk) *adj.*

dysfunction (dis'fʌŋkʃən) *n.* *Med.* any disturbance or abnormality in the function of an organ or part. — '**dysfunctional** *adj.*

dyslexia (dis'leksɪə) *n.* impaired ability to read, due to a disorder of the brain. — '**dyslectic** (dis'lektɪk) *adj., n.* — '**dys'lexic** *adj.*

dysmenorrhoea or esp. U.S. **dysmenorrhea** (,dɪsmenə'riə) *n.* abnormally difficult or painful menstruation.

dyspepsia (dis'pepsɪə) *n.* indigestion or upset stomach. — '**dys'peptic** *adj., n.*

dysphasia (dis'feɪziə) *n.* impaired coordination of speech. — '**dys'phasic** *adj., n.*

dysprosium (dis'prəʊsiəm) *n.* a metallic element of the lanthanide series; used in laser materials and as a neutron absorber in nuclear control rods. Symbol: Dy; atomic no.: 66; atomic wt.: 162.50.

dystrophy ('dɪstrəfi) *n.* any of various bodily disorders, characterized by wasting of tissues. See also **muscular dystrophy**. — '**dystrophic** (dis'trɒfɪk) *adj.*

dz. *abbrev. for dozen.*

E

e or **E** (i:) *n.*, *pl.* **e's**, **E's**, or **Es**. 1. the fifth letter and second vowel of the English alphabet. 2. any of several speech sounds represented by this letter, as in *he*, *bet*, or *below*.

e *symbol for*: 1. *Maths.* a transcendental number used as the base of natural logarithms. Approximate value: 2.718 282... 2. *electron*.

E *symbol for*: 1. *Music.* a, the third note of the scale of C major. **b.** the major or minor key having this note as its tonic. 2. *Physics.* a, energy. **b.** electromotive force. 3. *East.* 4. *English.* 5. *Egypt(ian).*

e. *abbrev. for engineer(ing).*

E. *abbrev. for Earl.*

each (i:tʃ) *determiner*. 1. **a.** every (one) of two or more considered individually: *each day*; *each person*. **b.** (as *proun*): *each gave according to his ability*. ~*adv.* 2. *for, to, or from each one*; *apiece*: *four apples each*.

eager (i:ɡə) *adj.* 1. (postpositive; often foll. by *to* or *for*) impatiently desirous (of); anxious or avid (for). 2. characterized by or feeling expectancy or great desire: *an eager look*. 3. *Arch.* biting; sharp. —*eagerly adv.* —*eagerness n.*

eager beaver *n.* *Inf.* a person who displays conspicuous diligence.

eagle (i:ɡl) *n.* 1. any of various birds of prey having large broad wings and strong soaring flight. Related *adj.*: *aquiline*. 2. a representation of an eagle used as an emblem, etc., esp. representing power: *the Roman eagle*. 3. a standard, seal, etc., bearing the figure of an eagle. 4. *Golf.* a score of two strokes under par for a hole. 5. a former U.S. gold coin worth ten dollars.

eagle-eyed *adj.* having keen or piercing eyesight.

eaglet (i:ɡlt) *n.* a young eagle.

ear (i:ə) *n.* 1. the organ of hearing and balance in higher vertebrates (see *middle ear*). Related *adj.*: *aural*. 2. the outermost cartilaginous part of the ear in mammals, esp. man. 3. the sense of hearing. 4. sensitivity to musical sounds, poetic diction, etc.: *he has an ear for music*. 5. attention, consideration (esp. in *give ear to*, *lend an ear*). 6. an object resembling the external ear. 7. *all ears.* *Inf.* very attentive; listening carefully. 8. *by ear.* without reading from written music. 9. *fall on deaf ears.* to be ignored or pass unnoticed. 10. *in one ear and out the other.* *Inf.* heard but unheeded. 11. *keep (or have) one's ear to the ground.* *Inf.* to be or try to be well informed about current trends and opinions. 12. *out on one's ear.* *Inf.* dismissed unceremoniously. 13. *play by ear.* *a.* *Inf.* to act according to the demands of a situation; improvise. **b.** to perform a musical piece on an instrument without written music. 14. *a thick ear.* *Inf.* a blow on the ear. 15. *turn a deaf ear.* *Inf.* to be unwilling to pay attention. 16. *up to one's ears.* *Inf.* deeply involved, as in work or debt. —*eared adj.* —*earless adj.*

ear² (i:ə) *n.* 1. the part of a cereal plant, such as wheat or barley, that contains the seeds, grains, or kernels. ~*vb.* 2. (intr.) (of cereal plants) to develop such parts.

earache (i:ə,ek) *n.* pain in the ear.

eardrum (i:ə,drʌm) *n.* the nontechnical name for *tympanic membrane*.

earl (i:əl) *n.* (in the British Isles) a nobleman ranking below a marquis and above a viscount. Female equivalent: *countess*. —*earldom n.*

Earl Marshal *n.* an officer of the English peerage who presides over the College of Heralds and organizes royal processions and other important ceremonies.

early (i:əli) *adj.*, *adv.* *-lier, -liest.* 1. before the expected or usual time. 2. occurring in or characteristic of the first part of a period or sequence. 3. occurring in or characteristic of a period far back in time. 4. occurring in the near future. 5. *in the early days.* **a.** during the first years of any enterprise, such as marriage. **b.** *N.Z.* during the 19th-century pioneering period in New Zealand. —*earliness n.*

Early English *n.* a style of architecture used in England in the 12th and 13th centuries, characterized by lancet arches and plate tracery.

earmark (i:ə,mɑ:k) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to set aside or mark out for a specific purpose. 2. to make an identification mark on the ear of (a domestic animal). ~*n.* 3. such a mark

of identification. 4. any distinguishing mark or characteristic.

earn (i:ən) *vb.* 1. to gain or be paid (money or other payment) in return for work or service. 2. (tr.) to acquire or deserve through behaviour or action. 3. (tr.) (of securities, investments, etc.) to gain (interest, profit, etc.). —*earner n.*

earnest¹ (i:ɜ:nɪst) *adj.* 1. serious in mind or intention. 2. characterized by sincerity of intention. 3. demanding or receiving serious attention. ~*n.* 4. *in earnest.* with serious or sincere intentions. —*earnestness n.*

earnest² (i:ɜ:nɪst) *n.* 1. a part of something given in advance as a guarantee of the remainder. 2. Also called: **earnest money.** *Contract law.* something given, usually a nominal sum of money, to confirm a contract. 3. any token of something to follow.

earnings (i:ɜ:nɪŋz) *pl. n.* 1. money or other payment earned. 2. **a.** the profits of an enterprise. **b.** an individual's investment income.

earphone (i:ə,fəʊn) *n.* a device for converting electric currents into sound waves, held close to or inserted into the ear.

ear piercing *n.* the making of a hole in the lobe of an ear, using a sterilized needle, so that earrings may be worn fastened in the hole.

earplug (i:ə,plʌŋ) *n.* a piece of soft material placed in the ear to keep out noise or water.

earring (i:ə,rɪŋ) *n.* an ornament for the ear, usually clipped onto the lobe or fastened through a hole pierced in the lobe.

earshot (i:ə,ʃɒt) *n.* the range or distance within which sound may be heard.

ear-splitting or ear-piercing *adj.* so loud or shrill as to hurt the ears.

earth (i:əθ) *n.* 1. (sometimes *cap.*) the third planet from the sun, the only planet on which life is known to exist. Related *adjs.*: *terrestrial*, *telluric*. 2. the inhabitants of this planet: *the whole earth rejoiced*. 3. the dry surface of this planet; land; ground. 4. the loose soft material on the surface of the ground that consists of disintegrated rock particles, mould, clay, etc.; soil. 5. worldly or temporal matters as opposed to the concerns of the spirit. 6. the hole in which a burrowing animal, esp. a fox, lives. 7. *Chem.* See *rare earth*. 8. **a.** a connection between an electrical circuit or device and the earth, which is at zero potential. **b.** a terminal to which this connection is made. 9. (modifier) *Astrol.* of or relating to a group of three signs of the zodiac: Taurus, Virgo, and Capricorn. 10. *come back or down to earth.* to return to reality from a fantasy or daydream. 11. *on earth.* used as an intensifier in *what on earth*, *who on earth*, etc. 12. *run to earth.* **a.** to hunt (an animal, esp. a fox) to its earth and trap it there. **b.** to hunt (a criminal, etc.) down. ~*vb.* 13. (tr.) to connect (a circuit, device, etc.) to earth. ~See also *earth up*.

earthbound (i:əθ,baʊnd) *adj.* 1. confined to the earth. 2. heading towards the earth.

earth closet *n.* a type of lavatory in which earth is used to cover excreta.

earthen (i:ɜ:ðən) *adj.* (prenominal) 1. made of baked clay: *an earthen pot*. 2. made of earth.

earthenware (i:ɜ:ðən,wɛə) *n.* **a.** vessels, etc., made of baked clay. **b.** (as *adj.*): *an earthenware pot*.

earthly (i:ɜ:ðli) *adj.* *-lier, -liest.* 1. of or characteristic of the earth as opposed to heaven; materialistic; worldly. 2. (usually with a negative) *Inf.* conceivable or possible (in not an earthly (chance), etc.). —*earthliness n.*

earthnut (i:ɜ:ð,nʌt) *n.* 1. a perennial umbelliferous plant of Europe and Asia, having edible dark brown tubers. 2. any of various plants having an edible root, tuber or underground pod, such as the peanut or truffle.

earthquake (i:ɜ:ð,kweɪk) *n.* a series of vibrations at the earth's surface caused by movement along a fault plane, volcanic activity, etc. Related *adj.*: *seismic*.

earth science *n.* any of various sciences, such as geology and geography, that are concerned with the structure, age, etc. of the earth.

earth up *vb.* (tr., *adv.*) to cover (part of a plant) with soil to protect from frost, light, etc.

earthward ('ɜ:θwəd) *adj.* directed towards the earth.
—'earthwards *adv.*

earthwork ('ɜ:θ,wɜ:k) *n.* 1. excavation of earth, as in engineering construction. 2. a fortification made of earth.

earthworm ('ɜ:θ,wɜ:m) *n.* any of numerous worms which burrow in the soil and help aerate and break up the ground.

earthy ('ɜ:θi) *adj.* -ier, -iest. 1. of, composed of, or characteristic of earth. 2. unrefined, coarse, or crude.
—'earthily *adv.* —'earthiness *n.*

ear trumpet *n.* a trumpet-shaped instrument held to the ear: an old form of hearing aid.

earwig ('ɜ:wɪɡ) *n.* 1. any of various insects that typically have an elongated body with small leathery forewings, semicircular membranous hindwings, and curved forceps at the tip of the abdomen. ~*vb.* -wigg-ing, -wigg-ed. 2. (*tr.*) *Arch.* to attempt to influence (a person) by private insinuation.

ease (i:z) *n.* 1. freedom from discomfort, worry, or anxiety. 2. lack of difficulty, labour, or awkwardness. 3. rest, leisure, or relaxation. 4. freedom from poverty; affluence: a life of ease. 5. lack of restraint, embarrassment, or stiffness: ease of manner. 6. at ease. *a. Mil.* (of a standing soldier, etc.) in a relaxed position rather than at attention. *b.* a command to adopt such a position. *c.* in a relaxed attitude or frame of mind. ~*vb.* 7. to make or become less burdensome. 8. (*tr.*) to relieve (a person) of worry or care; comfort. 9. (*tr.*) to make comfortable or give rest to. 10. (*tr.*) to make less difficult; facilitate. 11. to move or cause to move into, out of, etc., with careful manipulation. 12. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *off* or *up*) to lessen or cause to lessen in severity, pressure, tension, or strain. 13. ease oneself or ease nature. *Arch., euphemistic.* to urinate or defecate.
—'easer *n.* —'easeful *adj.*

easel ('i:zəl) *n.* a frame, usually an upright tripod, for supporting or displaying an artist's canvas, a blackboard, etc.

easement ('i:zmənt) *n.* 1. *Property law.* the right enjoyed by a landowner of making limited use of his neighbour's land, as by crossing it to reach his own property. 2. the act of easing or something that brings ease.

easily ('i:zih) *adv.* 1. with ease; without difficulty or exertion. 2. by far; undoubtedly: easily the best. 3. probably; almost certainly.

▷ **Usage.** See at easy.

easiness ('i:zɪnis) *n.* 1. the quality or condition of being easy to accomplish, do, obtain, etc. 2. ease or relaxation of manner; nonchalance.

east (i:st) *n.* 1. the direction along a parallel towards the sunrise, at 90° to north; the direction of the earth's rotation. 2. the east. (*often cap.*) any area lying in or towards the east. Related *adj.* **oriental**. ~*adj.* 3. situated in, moving towards, or facing the east. 4. (esp. of the wind) from the east. ~*adv.* 5. in, to, or towards the east. 6. back East. *Canad.* in or to E Canada, esp. east of Quebec.

East (i:st) *n.* the. 1. the continent of Asia regarded as culturally distinct from Europe and the West; the Orient. 2. the countries under Communist rule, lying mainly in the E hemisphere. ~*adj.* 3. of or denoting the eastern part of a specified country, area, etc.

eastbound ('i:st,baʊnd) *adj.* going or leading towards the east.

Easter ('i:stə) *n.* 1. a festival of the Christian Church commemorating the Resurrection of Christ: falls on the Sunday following the first full moon after the vernal equinox. 2. Also called: **Easter Sunday**, **Easter Day**, the day on which this festival is celebrated. 3. the period between Good Friday and Easter Monday. Related *adj.* **paschal**.

Easter egg *n.* an egg given to children at Easter, usually a chocolate egg or a hen's egg with its shell painted.

easterly ('i:stəli) *adj.* 1. of or in the east. ~*adv.*, *adj.* 2. towards the east. 3. from the east: an easterly wind. ~*n.*, *pl.* -lies. 4. a wind from the east.

eastern ('i:stən) *adj.* 1. situated in or towards the east. 2. facing or moving towards the east.

Eastern Church *n.* 1. any of the Christian Churches of the former Byzantine Empire. 2. any Church owing allegiance to the Orthodox Church. 3. any Church having Eastern forms of liturgy and institutions.

eastern hemisphere *n.* (*often caps.*) 1. that half of the globe containing Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia,

lying east of the Greenwich meridian. 2. the lands in this, esp. Asia.

Easter tide ('i:stə,tʌɪd) *n.* the Easter season.

east-northeast *n.* 1. the point on the compass or the direction midway between northeast and east. ~*adj.*, *adv.* 2. in, from, or towards this direction.

east-southeast *n.* 1. the point on the compass or the direction midway between east and southeast. ~*adj.*, *adv.* 2. in, from, or towards this direction.

eastward ('i:stwəd) *adj.* 1. situated or directed towards the east. ~*n.* 2. the eastward part, direction, etc. —'eastwardly *adv.*, *adj.* —'eastwards *adv.*

easy ('i:zi) *adj.* easier, easiest. 1. not requiring much labour or effort; not difficult. 2. free from pain, care, or anxiety. 3. not restricting; lenient: easy laws. 4. tolerant and undemanding; easy-going: an easy disposition. 5. readily influenced; pliant: an easy victim. 6. not constricting; loose: an easy fit. 7. not strained or extreme; moderate: an easy pace. 8. *Inf.* ready to fall in with any suggestion made; not predisposed: he is easy about what to do. 9. **Easy Street.** *Inf.* a state of financial security. ~*adv.* 10. *Inf.* in an easy or relaxed manner. 11. easy does it. *Inf.* go slowly and carefully; be careful. 12. go easy. (*usually imperative*; often foll. by *on*) *Inf.* to exercise moderation. 13. stand easy. *Mil.* a command to soldiers standing at ease that they may relax further. 14. take it easy. *Inf.* a. to avoid stress or undue hurry. *b.* to remain calm.

▷ **Usage.** Easy is not used as an adverb by careful speakers and writers except in certain set phrases: to take it easy; easy does it. Where a fixed expression is not involved, the usual adverbial form of easy is preferred: this polish goes on more easily (not easier) than the other.

easy chair *n.* a comfortable upholstered armchair.

easy-going ('i:zi'gəʊɪŋ) *adj.* 1. relaxed in manner or attitude; excessively tolerant. 2. moving at a comfortable pace: an easy-going horse.

eat (i:t) *vb.* eating, ate, eaten. 1. to take into the mouth and swallow (food, etc.), esp. after biting and chewing. 2. (*tr.*; often foll. by *away* or *up*) to destroy as if by eating: the damp had eaten away the woodwork. 3. (often foll. by *into*) to use up or waste: taxes ate into his inheritance. 4. (often foll. by *into* or *through*) to make (a hole, passage, etc.) by eating or gnawing: rats ate through the floor. 5. to take or have (a meal or meals): we eat at six. 6. (*tr.*) to include as part of one's diet: he doesn't eat fish. 7. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to cause to worry; make anxious: what's eating you? 8. eat one's hat if. *Inf.* to be greatly surprised if (something happens). 9. eat one's heart out. *Inf.* to pine with grief or longing. 10. eat one's words. to take back something said; retract; retract. —'eater *n.*

eatable ('i:təbl̩) *adj.* fit or suitable for eating; edible.

eating ('i:tɪŋ) *n.* 1. food, esp. in relation to quality or taste: this fruit makes excellent eating. ~*adj.* 2. suitable for eating: eating pears. 3. relating to or for eating: an eating house.

eat out *vb.* (*intr.*, *adv.*) to eat away from home, esp. in a restaurant.

eats (i:ts) *pl. n.* *Sl.* articles of food; provisions.

eat up *vb.* (*adv.*, *mainly tr.*) 1. (*also intr.*) to eat or consume entirely. 2. *Inf.* to listen to with enthusiasm or appreciation: the audience ate up his every word. 3. (*often passive*) *Inf.* to affect grossly: she was eaten up by jealousy. 4. *Inf.* to travel (a distance) quickly: we just ate up the miles.

eau de Cologne ('æʊ də kə'lɒʒən) *n.* See cologne.

eau de vie ('æʊ də 'vi:) *n.* brandy or other spirits.

eaves (i:vz) *pl. n.* the edge of a roof that projects beyond the wall.

eavesdrop ('i:vz,drɒp) *vb.* -dropping, -dropped. (*intr.*) to listen secretly to the private conversation of others. —'eaves,dropper *n.*

ebb (eb) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. (of tide water) to flow back or recede. *Cf.* flow (sense 8). 2. to fall away or decline. ~*n.* 3. a. the flowing back of the tide from high to low water or the period in which this takes place. *b.* (as *modifier*): the ebb tide. *Cf.* flood (sense 3). 4. at a low ebb. in a state of weakness or decline.

ebony ('ebəni) *n.*, *pl.* -onies. 1. any of various tropical and subtropical trees that have hard dark wood. 2. the wood of such a tree. 3. a. a black colour. *b.* (as *adj.*): an ebony skin.

ebullient ('i:bəlɪjənt, 'i:bʊl-) *adj.* 1. overflowing with enthusiasm or excitement. 2. boiling. —'ebullience or 'ebulliency *n.*

ebullition (ˌɛbʊˈlɪʃən) *n.* 1. the process of boiling. 2. a sudden outburst, as of intense emotion.

ec- combining form. out from; away from: *eccentric; ecdisy.*

EC abbrev. for East Central.

eccentric (ɪkˈsɛntrɪk) *adj.* 1. deviating or departing from convention; irregular or odd. 2. situated away from the centre or the axis. 3. not having a common centre: *eccentric circles*. 4. not precisely circular. ~*n.* 5. a person who deviates from normal forms of behaviour. 6. a device for converting rotary motion to reciprocating motion. —**eccentrically** *adv.*

eccentricity (ˌɛksɛnˈtrɪsɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. unconventional or irregular behaviour. 2. the state of being eccentric. 3. deviation from a circular path or orbit. 4. *Geom.* a number that expresses the shape of a conic section. 5. the degree of displacement of the geometric centre of a part from the true centre, esp. of the axis of rotation of a wheel.

Eccles. or Eccl. *Bible.* abbrev. for Ecclesiastes.

ecclesiastic (ɪˌkliːzɪˈæstɪk) *n.* 1. a clergyman or other person in holy orders. ~*adj.* 2. of or associated with the Christian Church or clergy.

ecclesiastical (ɪˌkliːzɪˈæstɪkəl) *adj.* of or relating to the Christian Church. —**ecclésiastically** *adv.*

E.C.G. abbrev. for: 1. electrocardiogram. 2. electrocardiograph.

echelon (ˈɛʃələn) *n.* 1. a level of command, responsibility, etc. (esp. in the upper echelons). 2. *Mil. a.* a formation in which units follow one another but are offset sufficiently to allow each unit a line of fire ahead. *b.* a group formed in this way. ~*vb.* 3. to assemble in echelon.

echidna (ɪˈkɪdnə) *n., pl. -nas or -nae (-ni:).* a spine-covered monotreme mammal of Australia and New Guinea, having a long snout and claws. Also called: **spiny anteater**.

echinoderm (ɪˈkaɪnəˌdɜ:m) *n.* any of various marine invertebrates characterized by tube feet, a calcite body-covering, and a five-part symmetrical body. The group includes the starfish, sea urchins, and sea cucumbers.

echo (ˈɛkəʊ) *n., pl. -oes.* 1. *a.* the reflection of sound or other radiation by a reflecting medium, esp. a solid object. *b.* the sound so reflected. 2. a repetition or imitation, esp. an unoriginal reproduction of another's opinions. 3. something that evokes memories. 4. (sometimes *pl.*) an effect that continues after the original cause has disappeared: *echoes of the French Revolution*. 5. a person who copies another, esp. one who obsequiously agrees with another's opinions. 6. *a.* the signal reflected by a radar target. *b.* the trace produced by such a signal on a radar screen. ~*vb.* -*ing*, -*oed*. 7. to resound or cause to resound with an echo. 8. (*intr.*) (of sounds) to repeat or resound by echoes; reverberate. 9. (*tr.*) (of persons) to repeat (words, opinions, etc.) in imitation, agreement, or flattery. 10. (*tr.*) (of things) to resemble or imitate (another style, an earlier model, etc.). —**echoless** *adj.* —**echo, like** *adj.*

echo chamber *n.* Also called: **reverberation chamber**. a room with walls that reflect sound. It is used to make acoustic measurements and as a recording studio when echo effects are required.

echoic (ɪˈkəʊɪk) *adj.* 1. characteristic of or resembling an echo. 2. onomatopoeic; imitative.

echolocation (ˌɛkəʊləˈkeɪʃən) *n.* determination of the position of an object by measuring the time taken for an echo to return from it and its direction.

echo sounder *n.* a device for determining depth by measuring the time taken for a pulse of sound to reach the sea bed or a submerged object and for the echo to return. —**echo sounding** *n.*

éclair (eɪˈkleɪ, ɪˈkleɪ) *n.* a finger-shaped cake of choux pastry, usually filled with cream and covered with chocolate.

éclat (eɪˈkleɪ) *n.* 1. brilliant or conspicuous success, effect, etc. 2. showy display; ostentation. 3. social distinction. 4. approval; acclaim; applause.

eclectic (ɪˈklektɪk, ɪˈklek-) *adj.* 1. selecting from various styles, ideas, methods, etc. 2. composed of elements drawn from a variety of sources, styles, etc. ~*n.* 3. a person who favours an eclectic approach. —**eclectically** *adv.* —**eclecticism** *n.*

eclipse (ɪˈklɪps) *n.* 1. the total or partial obscuring of one celestial body by another (*total eclipse* or *partial eclipse*). A solar eclipse occurs when the moon passes between the sun and the earth; a **lunar eclipse** when the earth passes between the sun and the moon. 2. the

period of time during which such a phenomenon occurs. 3. any dimming or obstruction of light. 4. a loss of importance, power, fame, etc., esp. through overshadowing by another. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 5. to cause an eclipse of. 6. to cast a shadow upon; obscure. 7. to overshadow or surpass. —**eclipser** *n.*

ecliptic (ɪˈkliptɪk) *n.* 1. *Astron. a.* the great circle on the celestial sphere representing the apparent annual path of the sun relative to the stars. *b. (as modifier): the ecliptic plane.* 2. an equivalent great circle on the terrestrial globe. ~*adj.* 3. of or relating to an eclipse. —**ecliptically** *adv.*

eclogue (ˈɛklɒɡ) *n.* a pastoral or idyllic poem, usually in the form of a conversation.

eco- combining form. denoting ecology or ecological: *ecocide; ecosphere.*

ecology (ɪˈkɒlədʒi) *n.* 1. the study of the relationships between living organisms and their environment. 2. the set of relationships of a particular organism with its environment. —**ecological** (ɪˈkɒlədʒɪkəl) *adj.* —**ecologist** *n.*

econ. abbrev. for: 1. economical. 2. economics. 3. economy.

economic (ɪˈkɒnəmɪk, ˈɛkə-) *adj.* 1. of or relating to an economy, economics, or finance. 2. *Brit.* capable of being produced, operated, etc., for profit; profitable. 3. concerning or affecting material resources or welfare: *economic pests*. 4. concerned with or relating to the necessities of life; utilitarian. 5. a variant of **economical**. 6. *Inf.* inexpensive; cheap.

economical (ɪˈkɒnəmɪkəl, ˈɛkə-) *adj.* 1. using the minimum required; not wasteful. 2. frugal; thrifty. 3. a variant of **economic** (senses 1-4). —**economically** *adv.*

economics (ɪˈkɒnəmɪks, ˈɛkə-) *n.* 1. (*functioning as sing.*) the social science concerned with the production and consumption of goods and services and the analysis of the commercial activities of a society. 2. (*pl.*) financial aspects.

economist (ɪˈkɒnəmɪst) *n.* a specialist in economics.

economize or -ise (ɪˈkɒnəˌmaɪz) *vb.* (often foll. by *on*) to limit or reduce (expense, waste, etc.). —**economi'zation or -i'sation** *n.*

economy (ɪˈkɒnəmi) *n., pl. -mies.* 1. careful management of resources to avoid unnecessary expenditure or waste; thrift. 2. a means or instance of this; saving. 3. sparing, restrained, or efficient use. 4. *a.* the complex of activities undertaken for profit and concerned with the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services. *b.* a particular type or branch of this: *a socialist economy*. 5. the management of the resources, finances, income, and expenditure of a community, business enterprise, etc. 6. *a.* a class of travel in aircraft, cheaper and less luxurious than first class. *b. (as modifier): economy class.* 7. (*modifier*) purporting to offer a larger quantity for a lower price: *economy pack*. 8. the orderly interplay between the parts of a system or structure.

ecosystem (ˈɪkəʊˌsɪstəm, ˈɛkəʊ-) *n.* *Ecology.* a system involving the interactions between a community and its non-living environment.

ecru (ˈɛkrʊ, ˈeɪkrʊ) *n., adj.* (of) a greyish-yellow to a light greyish colour.

ecstasy (ˈɛkstəsi) *n., pl. -sies.* 1. (*often pl.*) a state of exalted delight, joy, etc.; rapture. 2. intense emotion of any kind: *an ecstasy of rage*. 3. *Psychol.* overpowering emotion sometimes involving temporary loss of consciousness: often associated with mysticism. —**ecstatic** *adj.*

E.C.T. abbrev. for electroconvulsive therapy.

ecto- combining form. indicating outer, outside.

ectomorph (ˈɛktəʊˌmɔ:f) *n.* a type of person having a body build characterized by thinness, weakness, and a lack of weight. —**ecto'morphic** *adj.* —**ecto, morphy** *n.*

-ectomy *n.* combining form. indicating surgical excision of a part: *appendectomy*.

ectoplasm (ˈɛktəʊˌplæzəm) *n.* 1. *Cytology.* the outer layer of cytoplasm. 2. *Spiritualism.* the substance supposedly emanating from the body of a medium during trances. —**ecto'plasmic** *adj.*

ecumenical, oecumenical (ɪˈkjuːmənɪkəl, ˈɛk-) or **ecumenic, oecumenic** *adj.* 1. of or relating to the Christian Church throughout the world, esp. with regard to its unity. 2. tending to promote unity among Churches. —**ecu'menically or, oecu'menically** *adv.*

eczema (ˈɛksɪmə) *n. Pathol.* a skin inflammation with lesions that scale, crust, or ooze a serous fluid, often

accompanied by intense itching. —**eczematous** (ek-'sematəs) *adj.*

ed. *abbrev. for:* 1. **edited**. 2. (*pl. eds.*) **edition**. 3. (*pl. eds.*) **editor**. 4. **education**.

Edam ('i:dəm) *n.* a round yellow cheese with a red outside covering.

E.D.C. *abbrev. for* European Defence Community.

eddy ('edi) *n., pl. -dies*. 1. a movement in air, water, or other fluid in which the current doubles back on itself causing a miniature whirlwind or whirlpool. 2. a deviation from or disturbance in the main trend of thought, life, etc. ~*vb.* -**dying**, -**died**. 3. to move or cause to move against the main current.

edelweiss ('eid'l,vaɪs) *n.* a small alpine flowering plant having white woolly oblong leaves and a tuft of floral leaves surrounding the flowers.

Eden ('i:d'n) *n.* 1. Also called: **Garden of Eden**. *Bible.* the garden in which Adam and Eve were placed at the Creation. 2. a place or state of great delight or contentment.

edentate (i:'dentet) *n.* 1. any mammal of the order *Edentata*, of tropical Central and South America, which have few or no teeth. The order includes anteaters, sloths, and armadillos. ~*adj.* 2. of or relating to the order *Edentata*.

edge (edʒ) *n.* 1. a border, brim, or margin. 2. a brink or verge. 3. a line along which two faces or surfaces of a solid meet. 4. the sharp cutting side of a blade. 5. keenness, sharpness, or urgency. 6. force, effectiveness, or incisiveness: *the performance lacked edge*. 7. a ridge. 8. **have the edge on** or **over**. to have a slight advantage or superiority (over). 9. **on edge**, *a.* nervously irritable; tense. *b.* nervously excited or eager. 10. **set (someone's) teeth on edge**. to make someone acutely irritated or uncomfortable. ~*vb.* 11. (*tr.*) to provide an edge or border for. 12. (*tr.*) to shape or trim (the edge or border of something). 13. to push (one's way, someone, something, etc.) gradually, esp. edgewise. 14. (*tr.*) *Cricket.* to hit (a bowled ball) with the edge of the bat. 15. (*tr.*) to sharpen (a knife, etc.). ~**edger** *n.*

edgeways ('edʒ,weɪz) or *esp. U.S. edgewise* ('edʒ-,waɪz) *adv.* 1. with the edge forwards or uppermost. 2. on, by, with, or towards the edge. 3. **get a word in edgeways**. (*usually with a negative*) *Inf.* to interrupt a conversation in which someone else is talking incessantly.

edging ('edʒɪŋ) *n.* 1. anything placed along an edge to finish it, esp. as an ornament. 2. the act of making an edge. ~*adj.* 3. relating to or used for making an edge: *edging shears*.

edgy ('edʒɪ) *adj. -ier, -iest.* (*usually postpositive*) nervous, irritable, tense, or anxious. —**edgily** *adv.* —**edginess** *n.*

edible ('edɪb'l) *adj.* fit to be eaten; eatable. —**edibility** or **'edibleness** *n.*

edict ('i:dikt) *n.* 1. a decree or order issued by any authority. 2. any formal or authoritative command, proclamation, etc. —**edictal** *adj.*

edifice ('edɪfɪs) *n.* 1. a building, esp. a large or imposing one. 2. a complex or elaborate institution or organization.

edify ('edi,fai) *vb. -fying, -fied.* (*tr.*) to improve the morality, intellect, etc., of, esp. by instruction. —**edification** *n.* —**edifier** *n.*

edit ('edit) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to prepare (text) for publication by checking and improving its accuracy, clarity, etc. 2. to be in charge of (a publication, esp. a periodical). 3. to prepare (a film, tape, etc.) by rearrangement or selection of material. 4. (often foll. by *out*) to remove, as from a manuscript or film.

edit. *abbrev. for:* 1. **edited**. 2. **edition**. 3. **editor**.

edition ('i:diʃən) *n.* 1. *Printing.* *a.* the entire number of copies of a book or other publication printed at one time. *b.* a copy from this number: *a first edition*. 2. one of a number of printings of a book or other publication, issued at separate times with alterations, amendments, etc. 3. *a.* an issue of a work identified by its format: *a leather-bound edition*. *b.* an issue of a work identified by its editor or publisher: *the Oxford edition*.

editor ('editə) *n.* 1. a person who edits written material for publication. 2. a person in overall charge of a newspaper or periodical. 3. a person in charge of one section of a newspaper or periodical: *the sports editor*. 4. *Films.* a person who makes a selection and arrangement of shots. —**editorship** *n.*

editorial ('edi:tɔ:riəl) *adj.* 1. of or relating to editing or editors. 2. of, relating to, or expressed in an editorial. 3. of or relating to the content of a publication. ~*n.* 4.

an article in a newspaper, etc., expressing the opinion of the editor or the publishers. —**editorialist** *n.*

E.D.P. *abbrev. for* electronic data processing.

educable ('edʒəkəb'l) or **educatable** ('edʒu,keɪtəb'l) *adj.* capable of being trained or educated; able to learn. —**educability** or **educatability** *n.*

educate ('edʒu,keɪt) *vb. (mainly tr.)* 1. (*also intr.*) to impart knowledge by formal instruction (to a pupil); teach. 2. to provide education for; pay for the schooling of. 3. to improve or develop (a person, taste, skills, etc.). 4. to train for some particular purpose or occupation. —**educative** *adj.* —**educator** *n.*

educated ('edʒu,keɪtɪd) *adj.* 1. having an education, esp. a good one. 2. displaying culture, taste, and knowledge; cultivated. 3. (*prepositional*) based on experience or information (esp. in an educated guess).

education ('edʒu'keɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act or process of acquiring knowledge. 2. the knowledge or training acquired by this process. 3. the act or process of imparting knowledge to, esp. at a school, college, or university. 4. the theory of teaching and learning. 5. a particular kind of instruction or training: *a university education*. —**educational** *adj.* —**educationalist** *n.* —**educationalism** *n.*

educe ('i:dʒu:s) *vb. (tr.)* *Rare.* 1. to evolve or develop. 2. to draw out or elicit (information, solutions, etc.). 3. *Logic.* to deduce. —**eductible** *adj.* —**eductive** ('i'dʌktɪv) *adj.*

Edwardian ('edwə:diən) *adj.* of or characteristic of the reign of Edward VII, king of Great Britain and Ireland, 1901–10. —**Edwardianism** *n.*

-ee *suffix forming nouns.* 1. indicating a recipient of an action (as opposed, esp. in legal terminology, to the agent): *assignee; lessee*. 2. indicating a person in a specified state or condition: *absentee*. 3. indicating a diminutive form of something: *bootee*.

EEC *abbrev. for* European Economic Community (the Common Market).

EEG *abbrev. for:* 1. **electroencephalogram**. 2. **electroencephalograph**.

eel (i:l) *n.* 1. any teleost fish such as the European freshwater eel, having a long snakelike body, a smooth slimy skin, and reduced fins. 2. any of various similar animals, such as the mud eel and the electric eel. 3. an evasive or untrustworthy person. —**eel-like** *adj.* —**eely** *adj.*

eelpout ('i:l,paut) *n.* 1. a marine eel-like fish. 2. another name for **burbot**.

e'en (i:n) *adv., n. Poetic or arch.* a contraction of **even'** or **evening**.

-eer or -ier *suffix.* 1. (*forming nouns*) indicating a person who is concerned with or who does something specified: *auctioneer; engineer; profiteer; mutineer*. 2. (*forming verbs*) to be concerned with something specified: *electioneer*.

e'er (eə) *adv. Poetic or arch.* a contraction of **ever**.

eerie ('iəri) *adj. eerier, eeriest.* uncannily frightening or disturbing; weird. —**eerily** *adv.* —**eeriness** *n.*

efface ('i:feɪs) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to obliterate or make dim. 2. to make (oneself) inconspicuous or humble. 3. to rub out; erase. —**effaceable** *adj.* —**effacement** *n.* —**effacer** *n.*

effect ('i:fekt) *n.* 1. something produced by a cause or agent; result. 2. power to influence or produce a result. 3. the condition of being operative (esp. in **in** or **into effect**). 4. **take effect**. to become operative or begin to produce results. 5. basic meaning or purpose (esp. in **in to that effect**). 6. an impression, usually contrived (esp. in **for effect**). 7. a scientific phenomenon: *the Doppler effect*. 8. **in effect**. *a.* in fact; actually. *b.* for all practical purposes. 9. the overall impression or result. ~*vb.* 10. (*tr.*) to cause to occur; accomplish. —**effector** *n.* —**effectible** *adj.*

effective ('i:fektɪv) *adj.* 1. productive of or capable of producing a result. 2. in effect; operative. 3. impressive: *an effective entrance*. 4. (*prepositional*) actual rather than theoretical. 5. (of a military force, etc.) equipped and prepared for action. ~*n.* 6. a serviceman equipped and prepared for action. —**effectively** *adv.* —**effectiveness** *n.*

effects ('i:fektɪs) *pl. n.* 1. Also called: **personal effects**. personal belongings. 2. Also called: **special effects**. *a.* lighting, sounds, etc., to accompany a stage, film, or broadcast production. *b.* the devices used to produce these.

effectual ('i:fektʃʊəl) *adj.* 1. capable of or successful in producing an intended result; effective. 2. (of docu-

ments, etc.) having legal force. —*ef,fectu'al*ity or *ef,fectu'al*ness *n.* —*ef,fectu'al*ly *adv.*

effectuate (i'fektʃu,ent) *vb. (tr.)* to cause to happen; effect; accomplish. —*ef,fectu'ation* *n.*

effeminate (i'feminit) *adj.* (of a man or boy) displaying characteristics regarded as typical of a woman; not manly. —*ef,femina*cy or *ef,femina*teness *n.*

effluent (i'eflənt) *adj.* *Physiol.* carrying or conducting outwards, esp. from the brain or spinal cord. *Cf.* *afferent*. —*effluence* *n.*

effervesce (i'efə'ves) *vb. (intr.)* 1. (of a liquid) to give off bubbles of gas. 2. (of a gas) to issue in bubbles from a liquid. 3. to exhibit great excitement, vivacity, etc. —*effervescence* *n.*

effete (i'fɪt) *adj.* 1. weak or decadent. 2. exhausted; spent. 3. (of animals or plants) no longer capable of reproduction. —*ef,feteness* *n.*

efficacious (i'efi'keiʃəs) *adj.* capable of or successful in producing an intended result; effective. —*efficacy* (i'efikəsi) or *effi,caciousness* *n.*

efficient (i'fɪʃnt) *adj.* 1. functioning or producing effectively and with the least waste of effort; competent. 2. *Philosophy.* producing a direct effect. —*ef,ficiency* *n.*

effigy (i'efɪdʒi) *n., pl. -gies.* 1. a portrait, esp. as a monument. 2. a crude representation of someone, used as a focus for contempt or ridicule (often in *burn* or *hang* in *effigy*).

effloresce (i'eflə'res) *vb. (intr.)* 1. to burst forth as into flower; bloom. 2. to become powdery by loss of water crystallization. 3. to become encrusted with powder or crystals as a result of chemical change or evaporation. —*efflo,rescence* *n.*

effluence (i'efluəns) or **efflux** (i'eflʌks) *n.* 1. the act or process of flowing out. 2. something that flows out.

effluent (i'efluənt) *n.* 1. liquid discharged as waste, as from an industrial plant or sewage works. 2. radioactive waste released from a nuclear power station. 3. a stream that flows out of another body of water. 4. something that flows out or forth. ~*adj.* 5. flowing out or forth.

effluvium (i'eflu:vɪəm) *n., pl. -via (-vɪə) or -viums.* an unpleasant smell or exhalation, as of gaseous waste or decaying matter. —*ef,fluvial* *adj.*

effort (i'efət) *n.* 1. physical or mental exertion. 2. a determined attempt. 3. achievement; creation. —*ef,fortful* *adj.* —*effortless* *adj.*

effrontery (i'frʌntəri) *n., pl. -ies.* shameless or insolent boldness.

effuse *vb. (i'fju:z).* 1. to pour or flow out. 2. to spread out; diffuse. ~*adj.* (i'fju:əs). 3. *Bot.* (esp. of an inflorescence) spreading out loosely.

effusion (i'fju:ʒən) *n.* 1. an unrestrained outpouring in speech or words. 2. the act or process of being poured out. 3. something that is poured out.

effusive (i'fju:siv) *adj.* 1. extravagantly demonstrative of emotion; gushing. 2. (of rock) formed by the solidification of magma. —*ef,fusively* *adv.* —*ef,fusiveness* *n.*

eft (eft) *n.* a dialect or archaic name for a *newt*.

EFTA (i'eftə) *n. acronym* for European Free Trade Association; established in 1960 to eliminate trade tariffs on industrial products; originally comprised Britain, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Austria, and Portugal.

e.g. *abbrev.* for *exempli gratia*; for example.

egad (i'gæd, i'gæd) *interj.* *Arch.* a mild oath.

egalitarian (i'gæli'teəriən) *adj.* 1. of or upholding the doctrine of the equality of mankind. ~*n.* 2. an adherent of egalitarian principles. —*e,gali'tarian,ism* *n.*

egg (eg) *n.* 1. the oval or round reproductive body laid by the females of birds, reptiles, fishes, insects, and some other animals, consisting of a developing embryo, its food store, and sometimes jelly or albumen, all surrounded by an outer shell or membrane. 2. Also called: *egg cell.* any female gamete; ovum. 3. the egg of the domestic hen used as food. 4. something resembling an egg, esp. in shape. 5. *good (or bad) egg.* *Old-fashioned sl.* a good (or bad) person. 6. *put or have all one's eggs in one basket.* to stake everything on a single venture. 7. *teach one's grandmother to suck eggs.* *Inf.* to presume to teach someone something that he knows already.

egg (eg) *vb. (tr.; usually foll. by on)* to urge or incite, esp. to daring or foolish acts.

egghead (eg,hed) *n.* *Inf.* an intellectual.

eggnog (eg,nog) or **egg-noggin** *n.* a drink made of eggs, milk, sugar, spice, and brandy, rum, or other spirit. Also called: *egg flip*.

eggplant ('eg,plɑ:nt) *n.* another name (esp. U.S.) for *aubergine*.

eggshell ('eg,ʃel) *n.* 1. the hard porous outer layer of a bird's egg. 2. (*modifier*) (of paint) having a matt finish similar to that of an egg.

eglantine ('eglon,tam) *n.* another name for *sweetbrier*.

ego ('i:gəu, 'egəu) *n., pl. egos.* 1. the self of an individual person; the conscious subject. 2. *Psychoanal.* the conscious mind, based on perception of the environment; responsible for modifying the antisocial instincts of the id and itself modified by the conscience (*superego*). 3. *Inf.* one's image of oneself; morale. 4. *Inf.* egotism; conceit.

egocentric (i'igəu'sentrik, 'eg-) *adj.* 1. regarding everything only in relation to oneself; self-centred. ~*n.* 2. a self-centred person; egotist. —*egocen'tricity* *n.* —*ego'centrism* *n.*

egoism ('i:gəu,izəm, 'eg-) *n.* 1. concern for one's own interests and welfare. 2. *Ethics.* the theory that the pursuit of one's own welfare is the highest good. 3. self-centredness; egotism. —*egoist* *n.*

egotism ('i:gə,ɪzəm, 'egə-) *n.* 1. an inflated sense of self-importance or superiority; self-centredness. 2. excessive reference to oneself. —*egotist* *n.*

ego trip *n.* *Inf.* something undertaken to boost or draw attention to a person's own image or appraisal of himself.

egregious (i'gri:dʒəs, -dʒəs) *adj.* 1. outstandingly bad; flagrant. 2. *Arch.* distinguished; eminent. —*e'gregiousness* *n.*

egress ('i:gres) *n.* 1. Also: *egression.* the act of going or coming out; emergence. 2. a way out; exit. 3. the right to go out or depart.

egret ('i:grɪt) *n.* any of various wading birds similar to herons but usually having white plumage and, in the breeding season, long feathery plumes.

Egyptian (i'dʒɪpɪən) *adj.* 1. of or relating to Egypt, a republic in NE Africa, its inhabitants, or their dialect of Arabic. 2. of or characteristic of the ancient Egyptians, their language, or culture. ~*n.* 3. a native or inhabitant of Egypt. 4. a member of a people who established an advanced civilization in Egypt that flourished from the late fourth millennium B.C. 5. the extinct language of the ancient Egyptians.

Egyptology (i'dʒɪp'tɒlədʒɪ) *n.* the study of the archaeology and language of ancient Egypt. —*Egypt'ologist* *n.*

eh (e) *interj.* an exclamation used to express questioning surprise or to seek the repetition or confirmation of a statement or question.

EHF *abbrev.* for extremely high frequency.

eider or **eider duck** ('aɪdə) *n.* any of several sea ducks of the N hemisphere. See *eiderdown*.

eiderdown ('aɪdə,daʊn) *n.* 1. the breast down of the female eider duck, used for stuffing pillows, quilts, etc. 2. a thick, warm cover for a bed, enclosing a soft filling.

eight (eɪt) *n.* 1. the cardinal number that is the sum of one and seven and the product of two and four. 2. a numeral 8, VIII, etc., representing this number. 3. the amount or quantity that is one greater than seven. 4. something representing, represented by, or consisting of eight units. 5. *Rowing.* a racing shell propelled by eight oarsmen. 6. the crew of such a shell. 6. Also called: *eight o'clock.* eight hours after noon or midnight. 7. *have one over the eight.* *Sl.* to be drunk. ~*determiner.* 8. a. amounting to eight. b. (as pronoun): *I could only find eight.* —*eight* *adj.*

eighteen ('eɪtɪn) *n.* 1. the cardinal number that is the sum of ten and eight and the product of two and nine. 2. a numeral 18, XVIII, etc., representing this number. 3. the amount or quantity that is eight more than ten. 4. something represented by, representing, or consisting of 18 units. ~*determiner.* 5. a. amounting to eighteen: *eighteen weeks.* b. (as pronoun): *eighteen of them knew.* —*eight'teenth* *adj.*

eightfold ('eɪt,fəʊld) *adj.* 1. equal to or having eight times as many or as much. 2. composed of eight parts. ~*adv.* 3. by eight times as much.

eightsome reel ('eɪtsəm) *n.* a Scottish dance for eight people.

eighty ('eɪti) *n., pl. -ies.* 1. the cardinal number that is the product of ten and eight. 2. a numeral 80, LXXX, etc., representing this number. 3. (*pl.*) the numbers 80-89, esp. the 80th to the 89th year of a person's life or of a century. 4. the amount or quantity that is eight times ten. 5. something represented by, representing, or consisting of 80 units. ~*determiner.* 6. a. amounting to

eighty; *eighty pages of nonsense*. **b.** (as pronoun): *eighty are expected*. — **'eightieth** *adj.*

einsteinium (aɪn'staɪniəm) *n.* a radioactive metallic transuranic element artificially produced from plutonium. Symbol: Es; atomic no.: 99; half-life of most stable isotope, ²⁵³Es: 276 days.

eisteddfod (aɪ'stedfəd) *n., pl. -fods or -fodau* (Welsh aɪ'stɛd'vɔdau). any of a number of annual festivals in Wales in which competitions are held in music, poetry, drama, and the fine arts. — **eisteddfodic** *adj.*

either ('aɪðə, 'i:ðə) *determiner*. **1. a.** one or the other (of two). **b.** (as pronoun): *either is acceptable*. **2.** both one and the other: *at either end of the table*. ~ *conj.* **3.** (coordinating) used preceding two or more possibilities joined by "or". ~ *adv.* (sentence modifier) **4.** (with a negative) used to indicate that the clause immediately preceding is a partial reiteration of a previous clause: *John isn't a liar, but he isn't exactly honest either*.

▷ **Usage.** *Either* is followed by a singular verb in good usage: *either of these books is useful*. Careful writers and speakers are cautious in using *either* to mean *both* or *each* because of possible ambiguity, as in: *a ship could be moored on either side of the channel*. Agreement between verb and subject in *either...or...* constructions follows the pattern for *neither...nor...*. See at **neither**.

ejaculate (v. 'dʒækjuːleɪt). **1.** to eject or discharge (semen) in orgasm. **2.** (tr.) to utter abruptly; blurt out. ~ *n.* ('dʒækjuːlɪt). **3.** another word for **semen**. — **ejaculation** *n.* — **ejaculator** *n.* — **ejaculatory** or **ejaculative** *adj.*

eject ('dʒekt) *vb.* **1.** (tr.) to force out; expel or emit. **2.** (tr.) to compel (a person) to leave; evict. **3.** (tr.) to dismiss, as from office. **4.** (intr.) to leave an aircraft rapidly, using an ejection seat or capsule. — **ejection** *n.* — **ejective** *adj.* — **ejector** *n.*

ejection seat or **ejector seat** *n.* a seat, esp. in military aircraft, fired by a cartridge or rocket to eject the occupant in an emergency.

eke (i:k) *vb.* (tr.) *Arch.* to increase, enlarge, or lengthen. **eke out** *vb.* (tr., adv.) **1.** to make (a supply) last, esp. by frugal use. **2.** to support (existence) with difficulty and effort. **3.** to add to (something insufficient), esp. with effort.

elaborate *adj.* ('i:ləbəɪt). **1.** planned with care and exactness. **2.** marked by complexity or detail. ~ *vb.* ('i:ləbəːreɪt). **3.** (intr.; usually foll. by *on* or *upon*) to add detail (to an account); expand (upon). **4.** (tr.) to work out in detail; develop. **5.** (tr.) to produce by careful labour. **6.** (tr.) *Physiol.* to change (food or simple substances) into more complex substances for use in the body. — **elaborateness** *n.* — **elaboration** *n.* — **elaborative** ('i:ləbəreɪtɪv) *adj.* — **elaborator** *n.*

élan (eɪ'læn) *n.* a combination of style and vigour.

eland ('i:lənd) *n.* **1.** a large spiral-horned antelope inhabiting bushland in eastern and southern Africa. **2.** **giant eland**, a similar but larger animal of central and W Africa.

elapse ('i:læps) *vb.* (intr.) (of time) to pass by.

elastic ('i:læstɪk) *adj.* **1.** (of a body or material) capable of returning to its original shape after compression, stretching, or other deformation. **2.** capable of adapting to change. **3.** quick to recover from fatigue, dejection, etc. **4.** springy or resilient. **5.** made of elastic. ~ *n.* **6.** tape, cord, or fabric containing flexible rubber or similar substance allowing it to stretch and return to its original shape. — **elastically** *adv.* — **elasticity** *n.*

elasticate ('i:læstɪˌkeɪt) *vb.* (tr.) to insert elastic into (a fabric or garment). — **elastication** *n.*

elastic band *n.* another name for **rubber band**.

elate ('i:leɪt) *vb.* (tr.) to fill with high spirits, exhilaration, pride, or optimism. — **elatedly** *adv.* — **elatedness** *n.* — **elation** *n.*

elbow ('elbəʊ) *n.* **1.** the joint between the upper arm and the forearm. **2.** the corresponding joint of birds or mammals. **3.** the part of a garment that covers the elbow. **4.** something resembling an elbow, such as a sharp bend in a road. **5.** at one's elbow, within easy reach. **6.** out at elbow(s), ragged or impoverished. ~ *vb.* **7.** to make (one's way) by shoving, jostling, etc. **8.** (tr.) to knock or shove as with the elbow.

elbow grease *n.* *Inf.* vigorous physical labour.

elbowroom ('elbəʊˌru:m, -'rʊm) *n.* sufficient scope to move or function.

elder ('eldə) *n.* **1.** born earlier; senior. **2.** (in certain card games) denoting or relating to the nondealer (the **elder hand**), who has certain advantages in the play. **3.** *Arch.* a. prior in rank or office. **b.** of a previous time. ~ *n.* **4.** an older person; one's senior. **5.** *Anthropol.* a

senior member of a tribe who has authority. **6.** (in certain Protestant Churches) a lay office. **7.** another word for **presbyter**. — **elder, ship** *n.*

elder² ('eldə) *n.* Also called: **elderberry**, any of various shrubs or small trees having clusters of small white flowers and red, purple, or black berry-like fruits.

elderberry ('eldəˌberi) *n., pl. -ries*. **1.** the fruit of the elder. **2.** another name for **elder²**.

elderly ('eldəli) *adj.* (of people) quite old; past middle age. — **elderliness** *n.*

eldest ('eldɪst) *adj.* being the oldest, esp. the oldest surviving child of the same parents.

El Dorado (el dɔːrəˌdɔʊ) *n.* **1.** a fabled city in South America, rich in treasure. **2.** Also: **eldorado**, any place of great riches or fabulous opportunity.

eldritch or **eldrich** ('eldrɪtʃ) *adj.* *Poetic.* unearthly; weird.

elect ('i:lekt) *vb.* **1.** (tr.) to choose (someone) to be (a representative or official) by voting. **2.** to select; choose. **3.** (tr.) (of God) to predestine for the grace of salvation. ~ *adj.* **4.** (immediately postpositive) voted into office but not yet installed: *president elect*. **5. a.** chosen; elite. **b.** (as collective *n.* preceded by *the*): *the elect*. **6.** *Christian theol.* a. predestined by God to receive salvation. **b.** (as collective *n.* preceded by *the*): *the elect*.

elect. or **elec.** *abbrev. for:* **1.** electric(al). **2.** electricity.

election ('i:lekʃən) *n.* **1.** the selection by vote of a person or persons for a position, esp. a political office. **2.** a public vote. **3.** the act or an instance of choosing. **4.** *Christian theol.* a. the doctrine that God chooses individuals for salvation without reference to faith or works. **b.** the doctrine that God chooses for salvation those who, by grace, persevere in faith and works.

electioneer ('i:lekʃəˌniə) *vb.* (intr.) **1.** to be active in a political election or campaign. ~ *n.* **2.** a person who engages in this activity. — **electioneering** *n., adj.*

elective ('i:lektɪv) *adj.* **1.** of or based on selection by vote. **2.** selected by vote. **3.** having the power to elect. **4.** open to choice; optional. — **electivity** ('i:lekʃɪˌtvɪti) or **electiveness** *n.*

elector ('i:lektə) *n.* **1.** someone who is eligible to vote in the election of a government. **2.** (often *cap.*) a member of the U.S. electoral college. **3.** (often *cap.*) (in the Holy Roman Empire) any of the German princes entitled to take part in the election of a new emperor. — **electoral** *adj.* — **elector, ship** *n.* — **electress** *fem. n.*

electorate ('i:lektəreɪt) *n.* **1.** the body of all qualified voters. **2.** the rank, position, or territory of an elector of the Holy Roman Empire. **3.** *Austral. & N.Z.* the area represented by a Member of Parliament.

electric ('i:lektɪk) *adj.* **1.** of, derived from, produced by, producing, transmitting, or powered by electricity. **2.** (of a musical instrument) amplified electronically. **3.** very tense or exciting; emotionally charged. ~ *n.* **4.** *Inf.* an electric train, car, etc.

▷ **Usage.** See at **electronic**.

electrical ('i:lektɪkəl) *adj.* of, relating to, or concerned with electricity. — **electricalness** *n.*

▷ **Usage.** See at **electronic**.

electrical engineering *n.* the branch of engineering concerned with practical applications of electricity. — **electrical engineer** *n.*

electric chair *n.* (in the U.S.) a. an electrified chair for executing criminals. **b.** (usually preceded by *the*) execution by this method.

electric eel *n.* an eel-like freshwater fish of N South America, having electric organs in the body.

electric field *n.* a field of force surrounding a charged particle within which another charged particle experiences a force.

electrician ('i:lektrɪʃən, 'i:lek-) *n.* a person whose occupation is the installation, maintenance, and repair of electrical devices.

electricity ('i:lektrɪsɪti, 'i:lek-) *n.* **1.** a form of energy associated with stationary or moving electrons, protons, or other charged particles. **2.** the science of electricity. **3.** an electric current or charge. **4.** emotional tension or excitement.

electrify ('i:lektrɪˌfaɪ) *vb.* **-fying, -fied.** (tr.) **1.** to adapt or equip (a system, device, etc.) for operation by electrical power. **2.** to charge with or subject to electricity. **3.** to startle or excite intensely. — **electrifiable** *adj.* — **electrification** *n.* — **electrifier** *n.*

electro ('i:lektrəʊ) *n., pl. -tros.* short for **electroplate** (sense 2) or **electrotype** (sense 1).

electro- or *sometimes before a vowel electro-*

combining form. 1. electric or electrolytically: *electrodynamic*. 2. electrolytic: *electrodialysis*.

electrocardiograph (i,lektrəu'kɑ:drəu,grɑ:f, -græf) *n.* an instrument for making tracings (**electrocardiograms**) recording the electrical activity of the heart. —*e,lectro,cardio,graphic* or *e,lectro,cardio,graphical* *adj.* —**electrocardiography** (i,lektrəu,kɑ:drɪ'ɒgrəfi) *n.*

electrocute (i'lektrə,kju:t) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to kill as a result of an electric shock. 2. *U.S.* to execute in the electric chair. —*e,lectro,cution* *n.*

electrode (i'lektrəd) *n.* 1. a conductor through which an electric current enters or leaves an electrolyte, an electric arc, or an electronic valve or tube. 2. an element in a semiconducting device that emits, collects, or controls the movement of electrons or holes.

electrodynamics (i,lektrədaɪ'næmiks) *n. (functioning as sing.)* the branch of physics concerned with the interactions between electrical and mechanical forces.

electroencephalograph (i,lektrəʊn'sefələ,grɑ:f, -græf) *n.* an instrument for making tracings (**electroencephalograms**) recording the electrical activity of the brain, usually by means of electrodes placed on the scalp. See also *brain wave*. —*e,lectroen,cephalo,graphic* *adj.* —**electroencephalography** (i,lektrəʊn'sefələ'grəfi) *n.*

electrolyse or *U.S. -lyze* (i'lektrəu,ləɪz) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to decompose (a chemical compound) by electrolysis. 2. to destroy (living tissue, such as hair roots) by electrolysis. —*e,lectroly,sation* *n.* —*e,lectro,lyser* *n.*

electrolysis (i'lektrə'laɪsɪs) *n.* 1. the conduction of electricity by an electrolyte, esp. the use of this process to induce chemical changes. 2. the destruction of living tissue, such as hair roots, by an electric current, usually for cosmetic reasons.

electrolyte (i'lektrəu,ləɪt) *n.* a solution or molten substance that conducts electricity.

electromagnet (i,lektrəu'mægnɪt) *n.* a magnet consisting of an iron or steel core wound with a coil of wire, through which a current is passed.

electromagnetic (i,lektrəu'mægnɪ'tetɪk) *adj.* 1. of, containing, or operated by an electromagnet. 2. of, relating to, or consisting of electromagnetism. 3. of or relating to electromagnetic radiation. —*e,lectromag,netically* *adv.*

electromagnetism (i,lektrəu'mægnɪ,tɪzəm) *n.* 1. magnetism produced by electric current. 2. the branch of physics concerned with this magnetism and with the interaction of electric and magnetic fields.

electromotive (i,lektrəu'məʊtɪv) *adj.* of, concerned with, or producing an electric current.

electromotive force *n. Physics. a.* a source of energy that can cause current to flow in an electrical circuit. *b.* the rate at which energy is drawn from this source when unit current flows through the circuit, measured in volts.

electron (i'lektrɒn) *n.* an elementary particle in all atoms, orbiting the nucleus in numbers equal to the atomic number of the element.

electronic (i'lektrɒnɪk, i'lek-) *adj.* 1. of, concerned with, using, or operated by devices, such as transistors, in which electrons are conducted through a semiconductor, vacuum, or gas. 2. of or concerned with electronics. 3. of or concerned with electrons. —*elec,tronically* *adv.*

▷ **Usage.** *Electronic* is used to refer to equipment, such as television sets, computers, etc., in which current is controlled by transistors, valves, etc. and also to these components themselves. *Electrical* is used in a more general sense, often to refer to the use of electricity as opposed to other forms of energy: *an electrical appliance*. *Electric*, in many cases used interchangeably with *electrical*, is often restricted to the description of devices or to concepts relating to the flow of current: *electric fire*.

electronic music *n.* music consisting of sounds produced by electric currents either controlled from an instrument panel or keyboard or prerecorded on magnetic tape.

electronic organ *n. Music.* an instrument played by means of a keyboard, in which sounds are produced by electronic or electrical means.

electronics (i'lektrɒnɪks, i'lek-) *n.* 1. (*functioning as sing.*) the science and technology concerned with the development, behaviour, and applications of electronic devices and circuits. 2. (*functioning as pl.*) the circuits and devices of a piece of electronic equipment.

electron microscope *n.* a powerful microscope that uses electrons, rather than light, and electron lenses to produce a magnified image.

electron tube *n.* an electrical device, such as a valve, in which a flow of electrons between electrodes takes place.

electronvolt (i,lektrɒn'vəʊlt) *n.* a unit of energy equal to the work done on an electron accelerated through a potential difference of 1 volt.

electroplate (i'lektrəu,pleɪt) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to plate (an object) by electrolysis. ~*n.* 2. electroplated articles collectively, esp. when plated with silver. —*e,lectro,plater* *n.*

electrostatics (i,lektrəu'stætɪks) *n.* the branch of physics concerned with static electricity. —*e,lectro,static* *adj.*

electrotype (i'lektrəu,təɪp) *n.* 1. a duplicate printing plate made by electrolytically depositing a layer of copper or nickel onto a mould of the original. ~*vb.* 2. (*tr.*) to make an electrotype of (printed matter, etc.). —*e,lectro,typer* *n.*

electrum (i'lektrəm) *n.* an alloy of gold and silver.

elegant (i'elɪɡənt) *adj.* 1. tasteful in dress, style, or design. 2. dignified and graceful. 3. cleverly simple; ingenious: *an elegant solution*. —*'elegance* *n.*

elegiac (i'elɪ'dʒaɪək) *adj.* 1. resembling, characteristic of, relating to, or appropriate to an elegy. 2. lamenting; mournful. 3. denoting or written in elegiac couplets (which consist of a dactylic hexameter followed by a dactylic pentameter) or elegiac stanzas (which consist of a quatrain in iambic pentameters with alternate lines rhyming). ~*n.* 4. (*often pl.*) an elegiac couplet or stanza.

elegy (i'elɪdʒɪ) *n. pl. -gies.* 1. a mournful poem or song, esp. a lament for the dead. 2. poetry written in elegiac couplets or stanzas.

element (i'elɪmənt) *n.* 1. any of the 105 known substances that consist of atoms with the same number of protons in their nuclei. 2. one of the fundamental or irreducible components making up a whole. 3. any group that is part of a larger unit, such as a military formation. 4. a small amount; hint. 5. a distinguishable section of a social group. 6. the most favourable environment for an animal or plant. 7. the situation in which a person is happiest or most effective (esp. in *in* or *out of one's element*). 8. the resistance wire that constitutes the electrical heater in a cooker, heater, etc. 9. one of the four substances thought in ancient and medieval cosmology to constitute the universe (earth, air, water, or fire). 10. (*pl.*) atmospheric conditions, esp. wind, rain, and cold. 11. (*pl.*) the basic principles. 12. *Christianity.* the bread or wine consecrated in the Eucharist.

elemental (i'elɪ'məntl) *adj.* 1. fundamental; basic. 2. motivated by or symbolic of primitive powerful natural forces or passions. 3. of or relating to earth, air, water, and fire considered as elements. 4. of or relating to atmospheric forces, esp. wind, rain, and cold. 5. of or relating to a chemical element. ~*n.* 6. *Rare.* a disembodied spirit. —*'ele,mental,ism* *n.*

elementary (i'elɪ'məntəri) *adj.* 1. not difficult; rudimentary. 2. of or concerned with the first principles of a subject; introductory or fundamental. 3. *Chem.* another word for *elemental* (sense 5). —*'ele,mentariness* *n.*

elementary particle *n.* any of several entities, such as electrons, neutrons, or protons, that are less complex than atoms.

elementary school *n.* 1. *Brit.* a former name for *primary school*. 2. *U.S.* a state school for the first six to eight years of a child's education.

elephant (i'elɪfənt) *n. pl. -phants* or *-phant.* either of two proboscidean mammals. The African elephant is the larger species, with large flapping ears and a less humped back than the Indian elephant, of S and SE Asia. —*'elephan,toid* *adj.*

elephantiasis (i'elɪfən'taɪəsɪs) *n. Pathol.* a complication of chronic filariasis, in which nematode worms block the lymphatic vessels, usually in the legs or scrotum, causing extreme enlargement of the affected area.

elephantine (i'elɪ'fəntəm) *adj.* 1. denoting, relating to, or characteristic of an elephant or elephants. 2. huge, clumsy, or ponderous.

elevate (i'elɪ'veɪt) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to move to a higher place. 2. to raise in rank or status. 3. to put in a cheerful mood; elate. 4. to put on a higher cultural plane; uplift. 5. to raise the axis of a gun. 6. to raise the intensity or pitch of (the voice). —*'ele,vatory* *adj.*

elevation (i'elɪ'veɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of elevating or the state of being elevated. 2. the height of something above a given place, esp. above sea level. 3. a raised area; height. 4. nobleness or grandeur. 5. a drawing to

scale of the external face of a building or structure. **6.** a ballet dancer's ability to leap high. **7.** *Astron.* another name for **altitude** (sense 3). **8.** the angle formed between the muzzle of a gun and the horizontal. — **elevation** *n.*

elevator (ˈɛlɪvətə) *n.* **1.** a person or thing that elevates. **2.** a mechanical hoist, often consisting of a chain of scoops linked together on a conveyor belt. **3.** the U.S. name for **lift** (sense 12a). **4.** Chiefly U.S. a granary equipped with mechanical devices for hoisting grain. **5.** a control surface on the tailplane of an aircraft, for making it climb or descend.

eleven (ɪˈlevən) *n.* **1.** the cardinal number that is the sum of ten and one. **2.** a numeral 11, XI, etc., representing this number. **3.** something representing, represented by, or consisting of 11 units. **4.** (functioning as *sing.* or *pl.*) a team of 11 players in football, cricket, etc. **5.** Also called: **eleven o'clock.** eleven hours after noon or midnight. ~ **determiner.** **6.** a. amounting to eleven. **b.** (as *pronoun*): another eleven. — **eleventh** *adj.*

eleven-plus *n.* (esp. formerly) an examination, taken in England and Wales by children aged 11 or 12, that selects suitable candidates for grammar schools.

elevenses (ɪˈlevˈnɪz) *pl. n. Brit. inf.* a light snack, usually with tea or coffee, taken in mid-morning.

elf (elf) *n., pl. elves* (elvz). **1.** (in folklore) one of a kind of legendary beings, usually characterized as small, manlike, and mischievous. **2.** a mischievous or whimsical child or girl. — **elfish** *adj.*

elicit (ɪˈlɪt) *vb. (tr.)* **1.** to give rise to; evoke. **2.** to bring to light. — **elicitable** *adj.* — **elicitation** *n.* — **elictor** *n.*

elide (ɪˈlaɪd) *vb.* to undergo or cause to undergo elision. — **elidable** *adj.*

eligible (ˈɛlɪdʒəbəl) *adj.* **1.** fit, worthy, or qualified, as for office. **2.** desirable, esp. as a spouse. — **eligibility** *n.* — **eligibly** *adv.*

eliminate (ɪˈlɪmɪneɪt) *vb. (tr.)* **1.** to remove or take out. **2.** to reject; omit from consideration. **3.** to remove (a competitor, team, etc.) from a contest, usually by defeat. **4.** *Sl.* to murder in cold blood. **5.** *Physiol.* to expel (waste) from the body. **6.** *Maths.* to remove (an unknown variable) from simultaneous equations. — **eliminable** *adj.* — **eliminant** *n.* — **elimination** *n.* — **eliminative** or **eliminatory** *adj.* — **eliminator** *n.*

elision (ɪˈlɪzən) *n.* **1.** omission of a syllable or vowel at the beginning or end of a word. **2.** omission of parts of a book.

elite or **élite** (ɪˈlɪt, ɛ-) *n.* **1.** (sometimes *functioning as pl.*) the most powerful, rich or gifted members of a group, community, etc. **2.** a typewriter typesize having 12 characters to the inch. ~ *adj.* **3.** of or suitable for an elite.

elitism (ɪˈlɪtɪzəm, ɛ-) *n.* **1.** a. the belief that society should be governed by an elite. **b.** such government. **2.** pride in or awareness of being one of an elite group. — **elitist** *n.*

elixir (ɪˈlɪksə) *n.* **1.** an alchemical preparation supposed to be capable of prolonging life (**elixir of life**) or of transmuting base metals into gold. **2.** anything that purports to be a sovereign remedy. **3.** a quintessence. **4.** a liquid containing a medicine with syrup, glycerin, or alcohol added to mask its unpleasant taste.

Elizabethan (ɪˈlɪzəˈbiːθən) *adj.* **1.** of, characteristic of, or relating to the reigns of Elizabeth I (queen of England, 1558–1603) or Elizabeth II (queen of Great Britain and N Ireland since 1952). **2.** of, relating to, or designating a style of architecture used in England during the reign of Elizabeth I. ~ *n.* **3.** a person who lived in England during the reign of Elizabeth I.

elk (ɛlk) *n., pl. elks* or **elk**. **1.** a large deer of N Europe and Asia; also occurs in N America, where it is called a moose. **2.** **American elk.** another name for **wapiti**.

ell (ɛl) *n.* an obsolete unit of length, approximately 45 inches.

ellipse (ɪˈlɪps) *n.* a closed conic section shaped like a flattened circle and formed by an inclined plane that does not cut the base of the cone.

ellipsis (ɪˈlɪpsɪs) *n., pl. -ses* (-sɪz). **1.** omission of parts of a word or sentence. **2.** **Printing.** a sequence of three dots (...) indicating an omission in text.

ellipsoid (ɪˈlɪpsɔɪd) *n.* a. a geometric surface, symmetrical about the three coordinate axes, whose plane sections are ellipses or circles. **b.** a solid having this shape. — **ellipsoidal** (ɪlɪpˈsɔɪdəl, ɛl-) *adj.*

elliptical (ɪˈlɪptɪkəl) *adj.* **1.** relating to or having the shape of an ellipse. **2.** relating to or resulting from ellipsis. **3.** (of speech, literary style, etc.) a. very con-

cise, often so as to be obscure or ambiguous. **b.** circumlocutory. ~ *Also* (for senses 1 and 2): **elliptic.** — **ellipticalness** *n.*

▷ **Usage.** The use of **elliptical** to mean **circumlocutory** is avoided by many careful speakers and writers.

elm (ɛlm) *n.* **1.** any tree of the genus *Ulmus*, occurring in the N hemisphere, having serrated leaves and winged fruits (samaras). **2.** the hard heavy wood of this tree.

eloquence (ˌɛləˈkjuːʃən) *n.* the art of public speaking. — **eloquently** *adj.* — **eloquentionist** *n.*

elongate (ɪˈlɒŋɡeɪt) *vb.* **1.** to make or become longer; stretch. ~ *adj.* **2.** long and narrow. **3.** lengthened or tapered. — **elongative** *adj.* — **elongation** *n.*

elope (ɪˈləʊp) *vb. (intr.)* to run away secretly with a lover, esp. in order to marry. — **elopement** *n.* — **eloper** *n.*

eloquence (ˈɛləkwəns) *n.* **1.** ease in using language. **2.** powerful and effective language. **3.** the quality of being persuasive or moving.

eloquent (ˈɛləkwənt) *adj.* **1.** (of speech, writing, etc.) fluent and persuasive. **2.** visibly or vividly expressive: **an eloquent yawn.** — **eloquentness** *n.*

Elsan (ˈɛlsən) *n.* **Trademark.** a type of portable chemical lavatory.

else (ɛls) *determiner.* (postpositive; used after an indefinite pronoun or an interrogative) **1.** in addition; more: *there is nobody else here.* **2.** other; different: *where else could he be?* ~ *adv.* **3.** or **else.** a. if not, then: *go away or else I won't finish my work today.* **b.** or something terrible will result: *used as a threat: sit down, or else!*

▷ **Usage.** The possessive of the expressions *anybody else*, *everybody else*, etc., is formed by adding *'s* to *else*: *somebody else's letter.* *Who else* is an exception in that *whose else* is an acceptable alternative to *who else's*: *whose else can it be? or who else's can it be?*

elsewhere (ˌɛlsˈweə) *adv.* in or to another place; somewhere else.

elucidate (ɪˈluːsiːdeɪt) *vb.* to make clear (something obscure or difficult); clarify. — **elucidation** *n.* — **elucidative** or **elucidatory** *adj.* — **elucidator** *n.*

elude (ɪˈluːd) *vb. (tr.)* **1.** to escape from or avoid, esp. by cunning. **2.** to avoid fulfilment of (a responsibility, obligation, etc.); evade. **3.** to escape discovery or understanding by; baffle. — **eluder** *n.* — **elusion** (ɪˈluːʒən) *n.*

elusive (ɪˈluːsɪv) *adj.* **1.** difficult to catch. **2.** preferring or living in solitude and anonymity. **3.** difficult to remember. **4.** avoiding the issue: *an elusive answer.* — **elusiveness** *n.*

elver (ˈɛlvə) *n.* a young eel, esp. one migrating up a river.

elves (elvz) *n.* the plural of **elf**.

elvish (ˈɛlvɪʃ) *adj.* a variant spelling of **elfish**; see **elf**.

Elysium (ɪˈlɪzəm) *n.* **1.** Also called: **Elysian fields.** Greek myth, the dwelling place of the blessed after death. **2.** a state or place of perfect bliss.

em (ɛm) *n. Printing.* **1.** the square of a body of any size of type, used as a unit of measurement. **2.** Also called: **pica em, pica.** a unit of measurement in printing, equal to one sixth of an inch.

emaciate (ɪˈmeɪsiːeɪt) *vb. (usually tr.)* to become or cause to become abnormally thin. — **emaciation** *n.*

emanate (ɪˈmæːneɪt) *vb. (intr.; often foll. by from)* to issue or proceed from or as from a source. **2.** (tr.) to send forth; emit. — **emanation** *n.* — **emanative** (ɪˈmæːnətɪv) *adj.* — **eminator** *n.* — **emanatory** (ɪˈmæːnətɔːri, -trɪ) *adj.*

emancipate (ɪˈmænsiːpeɪt) *vb. (tr.)* **1.** to free from restriction or restraint, esp. social or legal restraint. **2.** (often *passive*) to free from the inhibitions of conventional morality. **3.** to liberate (a slave) from bondage. — **emancipation** *n.* — **emancipative** *adj.* — **emancipist** or **emancipator** *n.* — **emancipatory** (ɪˈmænsiːpətɔːri, -trɪ) *adj.*

emasculate *vb.* (ɪˈmæskjuːleɪt). (tr.) **1.** to remove the testicles of; castrate; geld. **2.** to deprive of vigour, effectiveness, etc. ~ *adj.* (ɪˈmæskjuːləɪt). **3.** castrated; gelded. **4.** deprived of strength, effectiveness, etc. — **emasculatation** *n.* — **emasculative** or **emasculatory** *adj.* — **emasculator** *n.*

embalm (ɪmˈbɑːm) *vb. (tr.)* **1.** to treat (a dead body) with preservatives to retard putrefaction. **2.** to preserve or cherish the memory of. **3.** *Poetic.* to give a sweet fragrance to. — **embalmer** *n.* — **embalment** *n.*

embankment (ɪmˈbæŋkmənt) *n.* a man-made ridge of earth or stone that carries a road or railway or confines a waterway.

embargo (ɛmˈbɑːgəʊ) *n., pl. -goes.* **1.** a government

order prohibiting the departure or arrival of merchant ships in its ports. 2. any legal stoppage of commerce. 3. a restraint or prohibition. ~vb. **-going, -goed.** (tr.) 4. to lay an embargo upon. 5. to seize for use by the state.

embark (em'bark) vb. 1. to board (a ship or aircraft). 2. (intr.; usually foll. by *on* or *upon*) to commence or engage (in) a new project, venture, etc. —**embark'ation** *n.* —**embarkment** *n.*

embarrass (im'bærəs) vb. (mainly tr.) 1. to cause to feel confusion or self-consciousness; disconcert. 2. (usually passive) to involve in financial difficulties. 3. Arch. to complicate. 4. Arch. to impede or hamper. —**emb'arrassing** adj. —**embarrassment** *n.*

embassy ('embəsi) *n.*, pl. **-sies**. 1. the residence or place of business of an ambassador. 2. an ambassador and his entourage collectively. 3. the position, business, or mission of an ambassador. 4. any important or official mission.

embattle (im'bæt'l) vb. (tr.) 1. to deploy (troops) for battle. 2. to fortify (a position, town, etc.). 3. to provide with battlements.

embed or **imbed** (im'bed) vb. **-bedding, -bedded**. 1. (usually foll. by *in*) to fix or become fixed firmly and deeply in a surrounding solid mass. 2. (tr.) to surround closely. 3. (tr.) to fix or retain (a thought, idea, etc.) in the mind. —**embed'ment** or **im'bedment** *n.*

embellish (im'beliʃ) vb. (tr.) 1. to beautify; adorn. 2. to make (a story, etc.) more interesting by adding detail. —**embellisher** *n.* —**embellishment** *n.*

ember ('embə) *n.* 1. a glowing or smouldering piece of coal or wood, as in a dying fire. 2. the remains of a past emotion.

embezzle (im'bez'l) vb. to convert (money or property entrusted to one) fraudulently to one's own use. —**embezzlement** *n.* —**embezzler** *n.*

embitter (im'bitə) vb. (tr.) 1. to make (a person) bitter. 2. to aggravate (a hostile feeling, difficult situation, etc.). —**embitterment** *n.*

emblazon (im'bleiz'n) vb. (tr.) 1. to portray heraldic arms on (a shield, one's notepaper, etc.). 2. to make bright or splendid, as with colours, flowers, etc. 3. to glorify, praise, or extol. —**emblazonment** *n.*

emblem ('embləm) *n.* a visible object or representation that symbolizes a quality, type, group, etc. —**emblem'atic** or **emblem'atical** adj. —**emblem'atically** adv.

embody (im'bɒdi) vb. **-bodying, -bodied.** (tr.) 1. to give a tangible, bodily, or concrete form to (an abstract concept). 2. to be an example of or express (an idea, principle, etc.). 3. (often foll. by *in*) to collect or unite in a comprehensive whole. 4. *Christian theol.* to invest (a spiritual entity) with bodily form. —**embodiment** *n.*

embolden (im'bəuld'n) vb. (tr.) to encourage; make bold.

embolism ('embə,lizəm) *n.* the occlusion of a blood vessel by an embolus. —**embolic** adj.

embolus ('embələs) *n.*, pl. **-li** (-li). material, such as part of a blood clot or an air bubble, that becomes lodged within a small blood vessel and impedes the circulation.

emboss (im'bos) vb. 1. to mould or carve (a decoration) on (a surface) so that it is raised above the surface in low relief. 2. to cause to bulge; make protrude. —**embosser** *n.* —**embossment** *n.*

embrace (im'breis) vb. (mainly tr.) 1. (also intr.) (of a person) to take or clasp (another person) in the arms, or (of two people) to clasp each other, as in affection, greeting, etc.; hug. 2. to accept willingly or eagerly. 3. to take up (a new idea, faith, etc.); adopt. 4. to comprise or include as an integral part. 5. to encircle or enclose. 6. Rare. to perceive or understand. ~n. 7. the act of embracing. —**embraceable** adj. —**embracement** *n.* —**embracer** *n.*

embrasure (im'breɪʒə) *n.* 1. *Fortifications.* an opening or indentation, as in a battlement, for shooting through. 2. a door or window having splayed sides that increase the width of the opening in the interior. —**embrasured** adj.

embrocate ('embrou,keit) vb. (tr.) to apply a liniment or lotion to (a part of the body). —**embrocation** *n.*

embroider (im'brɔɪdə) vb. 1. to do decorative needlework upon (cloth, etc.). 2. to add fictitious or exaggerated detail to (a story, account, etc.). —**embroiderer** *n.*

embroidery (im'brɔɪdəri) *n.*, pl. **-deries**. 1. decorative needlework done usually on loosely woven cloth or canvas, often being a picture or pattern. 2. elaboration or exaggeration, esp. in writing or reporting; embellishment.

embroil (im'brɔɪl) vb. (tr.) 1. to involve (a person,

oneself, etc.) in trouble, conflict, or argument. 2. to throw (affairs, etc.) into a state of confusion or disorder; complicate; entangle. —**emb'roiler** *n.* —**emb'roilment** *n.*

embryo ('embri,əu) *n.*, pl. **-bryos**. 1. an animal in the early stages of development up to birth or hatching. 2. the human product of conception up to approximately the end of the second month of pregnancy. Cf. **foetus**. 3. a plant in the early stages of development. 4. an undeveloped or rudimentary state (esp. in **in embryo**). 5. something in an early stage of development. —**embry, old** adj.

embryology ('embri'ɒlədʒi) *n.* 1. the scientific study of embryos. 2. the structure and development of the embryo of a particular organism. —**embryological** ('embri'ɒlədʒɪkəl) or **embryo'logic** adj. —**embryo'ologist** *n.*

embryonic ('embri'ɒnik) or **embryonal** ('embriənəl) adj. 1. of or relating to an embryo. 2. in an early stage; rudimentary; undeveloped. —**embry'onically** adv.

-eme suffix forming nouns. *Linguistics.* indicating a minimal distinctive unit of a specified type in a language: **morpheme**; **phoneme**.

emend ('i'mend) vb. (tr.) to make corrections or improvements in (a text) by critical editing. —**e'mendable** adj. —**emendation** *n.*

emerald ('emərəld, 'emrəld) *n.* 1. a green transparent variety of beryl: highly valued as a gem. 2. its clear green colour.

Emerald Isle *n.* a poetic name for Ireland.

emerge ('i'mɜ:dʒ) vb. (intr.; often foll. by *from*) 1. to come up to the surface or rise from water or other liquid. 2. to come into view, as from concealment or obscurity. 3. (foll. by *from*) to come out (of) or live (through (a difficult experience, etc.)). 4. to become apparent. —**e'mergence** *n.* —**e'mergent** adj.

emergency ('i'mɜ:dʒənsi) *n.*, pl. **-cies**. 1. a. an unforeseen or sudden occurrence, esp. of danger demanding immediate action. **b.** (as *modifier*): an **emergency exit**. 2. a. a patient requiring urgent treatment. **b.** (as *modifier*): an **emergency ward**. 3. **state of emergency**, a condition, declared by a government, in which martial law applies, usually because of civil unrest or natural disaster. 4. *N.Z.* a player selected to stand by to replace an injured member of a team; reserve.

emeritus ('i'merɪtəs) adj. (*postpositive*) retired or honourably discharged from full-time work, but retaining one's title on an honorary basis: a **professor emeritus**.

emersion ('i'mɜ:ʃən) *n.* 1. the act or an instance of emerging. 2. *Astron.* the reappearance of a celestial body after an eclipse or occultation.

emery ('eməri) *n.* a. a hard greyish-black mineral consisting of corundum with either magnetite or haematite: used as an abrasive and polishing agent. **b.** (as *modifier*): **emery paper**.

emery board *n.* a strip of cardboard or wood with a rough surface of crushed emery, for filing one's nails.

emetic ('i'metɪk) adj. 1. causing vomiting. ~n. 2. an emetic agent or drug.

emf or **EMF** abbrev. for electromotive force.

emigrate ('emi,greɪt) vb. (intr.) to leave one place, esp. one's native country, to settle in another. —**'emigrant** *n.* —**em'igration** *n.* —**em'igratory** adj.

émigré ('emi,grei) *n.* an emigrant, esp. one forced to leave his native country for political reasons.

eminence ('eminəns) or **eminency** *n.*, pl. **-nences** or **-nencies**. 1. a position of superiority or fame. 2. a high or raised piece of ground.

Eminence ('eminəns) or **Eminency** *n.*, pl. **-nences** or **-nencies**. (preceded by *Your* or *His*) a title used to address or refer to a cardinal.

éminence grise French. (eminás 'griz) *n.*, pl. **éminences grises** (eminás 'griz); a person who wields power and influence unofficially or behind the scenes.

eminent ('eminənt) adj. 1. above others in rank, merit, or reputation; distinguished. 2. (*prenominal*) noteworthy or outstanding. 3. projecting or protruding; prominent.

emir ('e'mɪə) *n.* (in the Islamic world) 1. an independent ruler or chieftain. 2. a military commander or governor. 3. a descendant of Mohammed. —**'emirate** *n.*

emissary ('emisəri, -sɪri) *n.*, pl. **-saries**. 1. a. an agent sent on a mission, esp. one who represents a government or head of state. **b.** (as *modifier*): an **emissary delegation**. 2. an agent sent on a secret mission, as a spy.

emission ('i'mɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of emitting or sending forth. 2. energy, in the form of heat, light, radio waves,

etc., emitted from a source. **3.** a substance, fluid, etc., that is emitted; discharge. **4.** *Physiol.* any bodily discharge, esp. of semen. —*e'missive* *adj.*

emit (i'mit) *vb.* **emitting**, **emitted**. (tr.) **1.** to give or send forth; discharge. **2.** to give voice to; utter. **3.** *Physics.* to give off (radiation or particles).

Emmenthal (i'mən,təl) or **Emmenthaler** *n.* a hard Swiss cheese with holes in it.

emollient (i'mɒljənt) *adj.* **1.** softening or soothing, esp. to the skin. **~n.** **2.** any preparation or substance that has this effect. —*e'mollient* *n.*

emolument (i'mɒljumənt) *n.* the profit arising from an office or employment; fees or wages.

emote (i'məʊt) *vb.* (intr.) *Inf.* to display exaggerated emotion, as in acting. —*e'moter* *n.*

emotion (i'məʊʃən) *n.* any strong feeling, as of joy, sorrow, or fear.

emotional (i'məʊʃənl) *adj.* **1.** of, characteristic of, or expressive of emotion. **2.** readily or excessively affected by emotion. **3.** appealing to or arousing emotion. **4.** caused or determined by emotion rather than reason: *an emotional argument*. —*e'motion'ality* *n.*

emotive (i'məʊtɪv) *adj.* **1.** tending or designed to arouse emotion. **2.** of or characterized by emotion. —*e'motiveness* or *e'mot'ivity* *n.*

Emp. *abbrev. for:* **1.** Emperor. **2.** Empire. **3.** Empress.

empanel or **impanel** (im'pæn'l) *vb.* **-elling**, **-elled** or *U.S. -eling*, **-eled**. (tr.) *Law.* **1.** to enter on a list (names of persons to be summoned for jury service). **2.** to select (a jury) from such a list. —*em'panelment* or *im'panelment* *n.*

empathy (i'empəθi) *n.* **1.** the power of understanding and imaginatively entering into another person's feelings. **2.** the attribution to an object, such as a work of art, of one's own feelings about it. —*em'pathic* or *em'pathetic* *adj.* —*em'pathist* *n.*

emperor (i'empərə) *n.* a monarch who rules or reigns over an empire. —*e'mperor,ship* *n.*

emperor penguin *n.* an Antarctic penguin with orange-yellow patches on the neck: the largest penguin, reaching a height of 1.3 m (4 ft.).

emphasis (i'empəsɪs) *n.*, *pl. -ses* (-siz). **1.** special importance or significance. **2.** an object, idea, etc., that is given special importance or significance. **3.** stress on a particular syllable, word, or phrase in speaking. **4.** force or intensity of expression. **5.** sharpness or clarity of form or outline.

emphasize or **-ise** (i'empəsaɪz) *vb.* (tr.) to give emphasis or prominence to; stress.

emphatic (im'fætɪk) *adj.* **1.** expressed, spoken, or done with emphasis. **2.** forceful and positive; definite; direct. **3.** sharp or clear in form, contour, or outline. **4.** important or significant; stressed. —*em'phatically* *adv.*

emphysema (i'empfi:sɪmə) *n.* *Pathol.* **1.** a condition in which the air sacs of the lungs are grossly enlarged, causing breathlessness and wheezing. **2.** the abnormal presence of air in a tissue or part.

empire (i'empaɪə) *n.* **1.** an aggregate of peoples and territories under the rule of a single person, oligarchy, or sovereign state. **2.** any monarchy that has an emperor as head of state. **3.** the period during which a particular empire exists. **4.** supreme power; sovereignty. **5.** a large industrial organization with many ramifications.

Empire (i'empaɪə) *n.* **the.** **1.** the British Empire. **2.** *French history.* a. the period of imperial rule in France from 1804 to 1815 under Napoleon Bonaparte. **b.** Also called: **Second Empire.** the period from 1852 to 1870 when Napoleon III ruled as emperor. **~adj.** **3.** denoting, characteristic of, or relating to the British Empire. **4.** denoting, characteristic of, or relating to either French Empire, esp. the first.

empire-builder *n.* *Inf.* a person who seeks extra power, esp. by increasing the number of his staff. —*empire-building* *n.*, *adj.*

empirical (em'pɪrɪk'l) *adj.* **1.** derived from or relating to experiment and observation rather than theory. **2.** (of medical treatment) based on practical experience rather than scientific proof. **3.** *Philosophy.* (of knowledge) derived from experience rather than by logic from first principles. **4.** of or relating to medical quackery. —*em'piricalness* *n.*

empiricism (em'pɪrɪsɪzəm) *n.* **1.** *Philosophy.* the doctrine that all knowledge derives from experience. **2.** the use of empirical methods. **3.** medical quackery. —*em'piricist* *n.*, *adj.*

emplacement (im'pleɪsmənt) *n.* **1.** a prepared posi-

tion for a gun or other weapon. **2.** the act of putting or state of being put in place.

emplane (im'pleɪn) *vb.* to board or put on board an aeroplane.

employ (im'plɔɪ) *vb.* (tr.) **1.** to engage or make use of the services of (a person) in return for money; hire. **2.** to provide work or occupation for; keep busy. **3.** to use as a means. **~n.** **4.** the state of being employed (esp. in *in someone's employ*). —*em'ployable* *adj.* —*em,play-a'bility* *n.*

employee (em'plɔɪi, em'plɔɪ'ɪ) or **employé** *n.* a person who is hired to work for another or for a business, firm, etc., in return for payment.

employer (im'plɔɪə) *n.* **1.** a person, firm, etc., that employs workers. **2.** a person who employs.

employment (im'plɔɪmənt) *n.* **1.** the act of employing or state of being employed. **2.** a person's work or occupation.

emporium (em'pɔɪrɪəm) *n.*, *pl. -riums* or *-ria* (-rɪə). a large retail shop offering for sale a wide variety of merchandise.

empower (im'paʊə) *vb.* (tr.) **1.** to give power or authority to; authorize. **2.** to give ability to; enable or permit. —*em'powerment* *n.*

empress (i'empɪs) *n.* **1.** the wife or widow of an emperor. **2.** a woman who holds the rank of emperor in her own right.

empty (i'empti) *adj.* **-tier**, **-tiest**. **1.** containing nothing. **2.** without inhabitants; vacant or unoccupied. **3.** carrying no load, passengers, etc. **4.** without purpose, substance, or value: *an empty life*. **5.** insincere or trivial: *empty words*. **6.** not expressive or vital; vacant: *an empty look*. **7.** *Inf.* hungry. **8.** (*postpositive*, foll. by *of*) devoid; destitute. **9.** *Inf.* drained of energy or emotion. **10.** *Maths, logic.* (of a set or class) containing no members. **~vb. -fying, -fied.** **11.** to make or become empty. **12.** (when *intr.*, foll. by *into*) to discharge (contents). **13.** (tr.; often foll. by *of*) to unburden or rid (oneself). **~n.**, *pl. -ties.* **14.** *Inf.* an empty container, esp. a bottle or can. —*em'ptiable* *adj.* —*em'ptier* *n.* —*em'ptily* *adv.* —*em'ptiness* *n.*

empty-handed *adj.* **1.** carrying nothing in the hands. **2.** having gained nothing.

empty-headed *adj.* lacking sense; frivolous.

empyrean (i'empaɪrɪən) *n.* **1.** *Arch.* the highest part of the heavens, thought in ancient times to contain the pure element of fire and by early Christians to be the abode of God. **2.** *Poetic.* the heavens or sky. **~adj.** also **empyrean**. **3.** of or relating to the sky. **4.** heavenly or sublime.

emu (i'mjuː) *n.* a large Australian flightless bird, similar to the ostrich.

emulate (i'mjuːleɪt) *vb.* (tr.) **1.** to attempt to equal or surpass, esp. by imitation. **2.** to rival or compete with. —*emulative* *adj.* —*emu'lation* *n.* —*emu,lator* *n.*

emulous (i'mjuːləs) *adj.* **1.** desiring or aiming to equal or surpass another. **2.** characterized by or arising from emulation. —*emulousness* *n.*

emulsify (i'malsɪfaɪ) *vb.* **-fying**, **-fied**. to make or form into an emulsion. —*e'mulsi,fiab*le or *e'mulsible* *adj.* —*e,mulsifi'cation* *n.* —*e'mulsi,fier* *n.*

emulsion (i'malʃən) *n.* **1.** *Photog.* a light-sensitive coating on a base, such as paper or film, consisting of silver bromide suspended in gelatin. **2.** *Chem.* a colloid in which both phases are liquids. **3.** a type of paint in which the pigment is suspended in a vehicle that is dispersed in water as an emulsion. **4.** *Pharmacol.* a mixture in which an oily medicine is dispersed in another liquid. **5.** any liquid resembling milk. —*e'mul-sive* *adj.*

en (ɛn) *n.* *Printing.* half the width of an em.

enable (im'eɪb'l) *vb.* (tr.) **1.** to provide (someone) with adequate power, means, opportunity, or authority (to do something). **2.** to make possible or easy. —*en'abler* *n.*

enabling act *n.* a legislative act conferring certain specified powers on a person or organization.

enact (m'ækt) *vb.* (tr.) **1.** to make into an act or statute. **2.** to establish by law; decree. **3.** to represent or perform as in a play. —*en'actable* *adj.* —*en'active* or *en'ac-tory* *adj.* —*en'actment* or *en'act'ion* *n.* —*en'actor* *n.*

enamel (i'næməl) *n.* **1.** a coloured glassy substance, translucent or opaque, fused to the surface of articles made of metal, glass, etc., for ornament or protection. **2.** an article or articles ornamented with enamel. **3.** an enamel-like paint or varnish. **4.** any coating resembling enamel. **5.** the hard white substance that covers the crown of each tooth. **6.** (*modifier*) decorated or covered

with enamel. ~vb. **-elling, -elled** or U.S. **-eling, -eled**. (tr.) 7. to decorate with enamel. 8. to ornament with glossy variegated colours, as if with enamel. 9. to portray in enamel. —**e'nameller, e'namellist** or U.S. **e'nameler, e'namelist** *n.* —**e'namel, work** *n.*

enamoured or U.S. **enamored** (in'æmə) *vb.* (tr.; usually passive and foll. by *of*) to inspire with love; captivate. —**en'amoured** or U.S. **en'amored** *adj.*

en bloc French. (ā'blok) *adv.* in a lump or block; as a body or whole; all together.

enc. *abbrev. for:* 1. enclosed. 2. enclosure.

encamp (in'kæmp) *vb.* to lodge in a camp. —**en'campment** *n.*

encapsulate or **incapsulate** (in'kæpsjuːleɪt) *vb.* 1. to enclose or be enclosed in a capsule. 2. (tr.) to put in a short or concise form. —**en,capsu'lation** or **in,capsu'lation** *n.*

encase or **incase** (in'keɪs) *vb.* (tr.) to place or enclose as in a case. —**en'casement** or **in'casement** *n.*

encash (in'kæʃ) *vb.* (tr.) *Brit., formal.* to exchange (a cheque) for cash. —**en'cashable** *adj.* —**en'cashment** *n.*

encaustic (in'kɒstɪk) *Ceramics, etc.* ~*adj.* 1. decorated by any process involving burning in colours, esp. by inlaying coloured clays and baking or by fusing wax colours to the surface. ~*n.* 2. the process of burning in colours. 3. a product of such a process. —**en'caustically** *adv.*

enceinte (ɒn'sænt) *adj.* another word for **pregnant**.

encephalitis (ˌɛnsəfə'laɪtɪs) *n.* inflammation of the brain. —**encephalitic** (ˌɛnsəfə'laɪtɪk) *adj.*

encephalo- or before a vowel **encephal-** combining form. indicating the brain: *encephalogram; encephalitis.*

encephalogram (ɛn'sɛfələˌgræm) *n.* 1. an x-ray photograph of the brain, esp. one (a **pneumoencephalogram**) taken after replacing some of the cerebrospinal fluid with air or oxygen. 2. short for **electroencephalogram**; see **electroencephalograph**.

enchain (in'tʃeɪn) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to bind with chains. 2. to hold fast or captivate (the attention, etc.). —**en'chainment** *n.*

enchant (in'tʃænt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to cast a spell on; bewitch. 2. to delight or captivate utterly. —**en'chanter** *n.* —**en'chanting** *adj.* —**en'chantment** *n.* —**en'chantress** *fem. n.*

encircle (in'sɜːkl) *vb.* (tr.) to form a circle around; enclose within a circle; surround. —**en'circlement** *n.*

enclave ('ɛnkleɪv) *n.* a part of a country entirely surrounded by foreign territory: viewed from the position of the surrounding territories.

enclose or **inclose** (in'kləʊz) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to close; hem in; surround. 2. to surround (land) with or as if with a fence. 3. to put in an envelope or wrapper, esp. together with a letter. 4. to contain or hold. —**en'closable** or **in'closable** *adj.* —**en'closer** or **in'closer** *n.*

enclosure or **inclosure** (in'kləʊʒə) *n.* 1. the act of enclosing or state of being enclosed. 2. an area enclosed as by a fence. 3. the act of appropriating land by setting up a fence around it. 4. a fence, wall, etc., that encloses. 5. something enclosed within an envelope or wrapper, esp. together with a letter. 6. *Brit.* a section of a sports ground, race course, etc., allotted to certain spectators.

encomium (ɛn'kɒmɪəm) *n., pl. -miums* or *-mia* (-miə). a formal expression of praise; eulogy.

encompass (in'kæmpəs) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to enclose within a circle; surround. 2. to bring about: *he encompassed the enemy's ruin.* 3. to include entirely or comprehensively. —**en'compassment** *n.*

encore ('ɒŋkɔː) *interj.* 1. again: used by an audience to demand an extra or repeated performance. ~*n.* 2. an extra or repeated performance given in response to enthusiastic demand. ~*vb.* 3. (tr.) to demand an extra or repeated performance of (a work, piece of music, etc.) by a performer).

encounter (in'kaʊntə) *vb.* 1. to come upon or meet casually or unexpectedly. 2. to meet (an enemy, army, etc.) in battle or contest. 3. (tr.) to be faced with; contend with. ~*n.* 4. a casual or unexpected meeting. 5. a hostile meeting; contest. —**en'counterer** *n.*

encourage (in'kærɪdʒ) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to inspire (someone) with the courage or confidence (to do something). 2. to stimulate (something or someone) by approval or help. —**en'couragement** *n.* —**en'courager** *n.* —**en'couragingly** *adv.*

encroach (in'krəʊtʃ) *vb. (intr.)* 1. (often foll. by *on* or *upon*) to intrude gradually or stealthily upon the rights,

property, etc., of another. 2. to advance beyond certain limits. —**en'croacher** *n.* —**en'craochment** *n.*

encrust or **incrust** (in'krʌst) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to cover or overlay with or as with a crust or hard coating. 2. to form or cause to form a crust or hard coating. 3. (tr.) to decorate lavishly, as with jewels. —, **encrus'tation** or **incrus'tation** *n.*

encumber or **incumber** (in'kʌmbə) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to hinder or impede; hamper. 2. to fill with superfluous or useless matter. 3. to burden with debts, obligations, etc.

encumbrance or **incumbrance** (in'kʌmbɾəns) *n.* 1. a thing that impedes or is burdensome; hindrance. 2. *Law.* a burden or charge upon property, such as a mortgage or lien.

ency., encyc., or encycl. *abbrev. for* encyclopedia.

encyclical (ɛn'sɪklɪkəl) *n.* 1. a letter sent by the pope to all Roman Catholic bishops. ~*adj.* also **encyclic.** 2. (of letters) intended for general circulation.

encyclopedia or **encyclopaedia** (ɛnˌsaɪkləʊ'piːdiə) *n.* a book, often in many volumes, containing articles, often arranged in alphabetical order, dealing either with the whole range of human knowledge or with one particular subject. —**en,cyclo'pedic** or **en,cyclo'paedic** *adj.*

encyclopedia or **encyclopaedist** (ɛnˌsaɪkləʊ'pɪdɪst) *n.* a person who compiles or contributes to an encyclopedia. —**en,cyclo'pedism** or **en,cyclo'paedism** *n.*

end (ɛnd) *n.* 1. the extremity of the length of something, such as a road, line, etc. 2. the surface at either extremity of an object 3. the extreme extent, limit, or degree of something. 4. the most distant place or time that can be imagined: *the ends of the earth.* 5. the time at which something is concluded. 6. the last section or part. 7. a share or part. 8. (often *pl.*) a remnant or fragment (esp. in **odds and ends**). 9. a final state, esp. death; destruction. 10. the purpose of an action or existence. 11. *Sport.* either of the two defended areas of a playing field, rink, etc. 12. *Bowls.* a section of play from one side of the green to the other. 13. **at an end.** exhausted. 14. **come to an end.** to become completed or exhausted. 15. **in the end.** finally. 16. **make (both) ends meet.** to spend no more than the money one has. 17. **no end (of).** *Inf.* (intensifier): *I had no end of work.* 18. **on end.** *Inf.* without pause or interruption. 19. **the end.** *Sl.* the worst, esp. something that goes beyond the limits of endurance. ~*vb.* 20. to bring or come to a finish; conclude. 21. to die or cause to die. 22. (tr.) to surpass or outdo: *a novel to end all novels.* 23. **end it all.** *Inf.* to commit suicide. ~See also **end up**. —**ender** *n.*

end- combining form. a variant of **endo-** before a vowel.

-end suffix forming nouns. See **-and**.

endanger (in'deɪndʒə) *vb.* (tr.) to put in danger or peril; imperil. —**en'dangerment** *n.*

endear (in'diə) *vb.* (tr.) to cause to be beloved or esteemed. —**en'dearing** *adj.*

endearment (in'diəmənt) *n.* something that endears, such as an affectionate utterance.

endeavour or U.S. **endeavor** (in'devə) *vb.* 1. to try (to do something). ~*n.* 2. an effort to do or attain something. —**en'deavourer** or U.S. **en'deavorer** *n.*

endemic (ɛn'demɪk) *adj.* also **endemial** (ɛn'demiəl) or **endemical.** 1. present within a localized area or peculiar to persons in such an area. ~*n.* 2. an endemic disease or plant. —**en'demically** *adv.* —**'endemicity** *n.*

ending ('ɛndɪŋ) *n.* 1. the act of bringing to or reaching an end. 2. the last part of something. 3. the final part of a word, esp. a suffix.

endive ('ɛndaɪv) *n.* a plant cultivated for its crisp curly leaves, which are used in salads. Cf. **chicory**.

endless ('ɛndlɪs) *adj.* 1. having or seeming to have no end; eternal or infinite. 2. continuing too long or continually recurring. 3. formed with the ends joined. —**'endlessness** *n.*

endmost ('ɛnd,məʊst) *adj.* nearest the end; most distant.

endo- or before a vowel **end-** combining form. inside; within: *endocrine.*

endocrine ('ɛndəʊˌkraɪn, -krɪn) *adj.* also **endocrinal** ('ɛndəʊˌkraɪnəl), **endocrinic** ('ɛndəʊˌkrɪnɪk). 1. of or denoting endocrine glands or their secretions. ~*n.* 2. an endocrine gland.

endocrine gland *n.* any of the glands that secrete hormones directly into the blood stream, e.g. the pituitary, pineal, and thyroid.

endogenous (en'dɒdʒɪnəs) *adj.* Biol. developing or originating within an organism or part of an organism. — **en'dogeny** *n.*

endomorph (en'dəʊ,mɔ:f) *n.* 1. a type of person having a body build characterized by fatness and heaviness. 2. a mineral that naturally occurs enclosed within another mineral. — **endo'morphic** *adj.* — **endo,morphy** *n.*

endorsement (en'dɔ:s'eɪʃən) *n.* Canad. approval or support.

endorse or indorse (in'dɔ:s) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to give approval or sanction to. 2. to sign (one's name) on the back of (a cheque, etc.) to specify oneself as payee. 3. *Commerce.* a. to sign the back of (a document) to transfer ownership of the rights to a specified payee. b. to specify (a sum) as transferable to another as payee. 4. to write (a qualifying comment, etc.) on the back of a document. 5. to sign a document, as when confirming receipt of payment. 6. *Chiefly Brit.* to record (a conviction) on (a driving licence). — **en'dorsable** or **in'dorsable** *adj.* — **en'dorser**, **en'dorser** or **in'dorser**, **in'dorser** *n.* — **endor'see** or **in'dor'see** *n.* — **en'dorsement** *n.*

endow (in'dau) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to provide with or bequeath a source of permanent income. 2. (usually foll. by *with*) to provide (with qualities, characteristics, etc.). — **en'dower** *n.*

endowment (in'daʊmənt) *n.* 1. the income with which an institution, etc., is endowed. 2. the act or process of endowing. 3. (usually pl.) natural talents or qualities.

endowment assurance or insurance *n.* a form of life insurance that provides for the payment of a specified sum directly to the policyholder at a designated date or to his beneficiary should he die before this date.

endpaper (en'd,peɪpə) *n.* either of two leaves at the front and back of a book pasted to the inside of the board covers and the first leaf of the book.

end product *n.* the final result of a process, series, etc., esp. in manufacturing.

endue or indue (in'dju:) *vb.* -duing, -dued. (tr.) (usually foll. by *with*) to invest or provide, as with some quality or trait.

end up *vb.* (adv.) 1. (copula) to become eventually; turn out to be. 2. (intr.) to arrive, esp. by a circuitous or lengthy route or process.

endurance (in'djuərəns) *n.* 1. the capacity, state, or an instance of enduring. 2. something endured; a hardship, strain, or privation.

endure (in'djuə) *vb.* 1. to undergo (hardship, strain, etc.) without yielding; bear. 2. (tr.) to permit or tolerate. 3. (intr.) to last or continue to exist. — **en'durable** *adj.* — **en,dura'bility** or **en'durableness** *n.*

enduring (in'djuəriŋ) *adj.* 1. permanent; lasting. 2. having forbearance; long-suffering. — **en'duringly** *adv.* — **en'duringness** *n.*

endways (en'd,weɪz) or esp. *U.S.* **endwise** (en'd,waɪz) *adv.* 1. having the end forwards or upwards. — *adj.* 2. vertical or upright. 3. lengthways. 4. standing or lying end to end.

-ene *n.* combining form. (in chemistry) indicating an unsaturated compound containing double bonds: benzene; ethylene.

enema (en'ima) *n.*, pl. -mas or -mata (-mətə). *Med.* 1. the introduction of liquid into the rectum to evacuate the bowels, medicate, or nourish. 2. the liquid so introduced.

enemy (en'əmi) *n.*, pl. -mies. 1. a person hostile or opposed to a policy, cause, person, or group. 2. a. an armed adversary; opposing military force. b. (as modifier): enemy aircraft. 3. a. a hostile nation or people. b. (as modifier): an enemy alien. 4. something that harms or opposes. — *Related adj.* inimical.

energetic (en'ədʒetɪk) *adj.* having or showing energy; vigorous. — **en'er'getically** *adv.*

energize or -ise (en'ədʒaɪz) *vb.* 1. to have or cause to have energy; invigorate. 2. (tr.) to apply electric current or electromagnetic force to (a circuit, etc.). — **en'er,gizer** or **-iser** *n.*

energy (en'ədʒɪ) *n.*, pl. -gies. 1. intensity or vitality of action or expression; forcefulness. 2. capacity or tendency for intense activity; vigour. 3. *Physics.* a. the capacity of a body or system to do work. b. a measure of this capacity, measured in joules (SI units).

enervate (en'ə,vetɪ). 1. (tr.) to deprive of strength or vitality. — *adj.* (in'ə:vɪt). 2. deprived of strength or vitality. — **en'er'vation** *n.* — **en'er,vative** *adj.*

enfant terrible French. (ɑ:fɑ te'rɪbl) *n.*, pl. **enfants terribles** (ɑ:fɑ te'rɪbl). a person given to unconventional conduct or indiscreet remarks.

enfeeble (in'fi:bəl) *vb.* (tr.) to make weak. — **en'feeblement** *n.* — **en'feebler** *n.*

enfilade (enfi'leɪd) *Mil.* ~*n.* 1. gunfire directed along the length of a position or formation. 2. a position or formation subject to such fire. — *vb.* (tr.) 3. to attack (a position or formation) with enfilade.

enfold or infold (in'fəʊld) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to cover by enclosing. 2. to embrace. — **en'folder** or **in'folder** *n.* — **en'foldment** or **in'foldment** *n.*

enforce (in'fɔ:s) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to ensure obedience to (a law, decision, etc.). 2. to impose (obedience, etc.) as by force. 3. to emphasize or reinforce (an argument, etc.). — **en'forceable** *adj.* — **en,forcea'bility** *n.* — **enforcedly** (in'fɔ:sɪdli) *adv.* — **en'forcement** *n.* — **en'forcer** *n.*

enfranchise (in'fræntʃaɪz) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to grant the power of voting to. 2. to liberate, as from servitude. 3. (in England) to invest (a town, city, etc.) with the right to be represented in Parliament. — **en'franchisement** *n.* — **en'franchiser** *n.*

Eng. *abbrev. for:* 1. England. 2. English.

engage (in'geɪdʒ) *vb.* (mainly tr.) 1. to secure the services of. 2. to secure for use; reserve. 3. to involve (a person or his attention) intensely. 4. to attract (the affection) of (a person). 5. to draw (somebody) into conversation. 6. (intr.) to take part; participate. 7. to promise (to do something). 8. (also intr.) *Mil.* to begin an action with (an enemy). 9. to bring (a mechanism) into operation. 10. (also intr.) to undergo or cause to undergo interlocking, as of the components of a driving mechanism. 11. *Machinery.* to locate (a locking device) in its operative position or to advance (a tool) into a workpiece to commence cutting. — **en'gager** *n.*

engagé or (fem.) engagée French. (aga'ʒe) *adj.* (of an artist) committed to some ideology.

engaged (in'geɪdʒd) *adj.* 1. pledged to be married; betrothed. 2. occupied or busy. 3. *Archit.* built against or attached to a wall or similar structure. 4. (of a telephone line) in use.

engagement (in'geɪdʒmənt) *n.* 1. a pledge of marriage; betrothal. 2. an appointment or arrangement, esp. for business or social purposes. 3. the act of engaging or condition of being engaged. 4. a promise, obligation, or other condition that binds. 5. a period of employment, esp. a limited period. 6. an action; battle.

engaging (in'geɪdʒɪŋ) *adj.* pleasing, charming, or winning. — **en'gagingness** *n.*

engender (in'dʒendə) *vb.* (tr.) to bring about or give rise to; cause to be born.

engine ('endʒɪn) *n.* 1. any machine designed to convert energy into mechanical work. 2. a railway locomotive. 3. *Mil.* any piece of equipment formerly used in warfare, such as a battering ram. 4. any instrument or device.

engineer (en'dʒɪ'nɪə) *n.* 1. a person trained in any branch of engineering. 2. the originator or manager of a situation, system, etc. 3. *U.S.* the driver of a railway locomotive. 4. an officer responsible for a ship's engines. 5. a member of the armed forces trained in engineering and construction work. — *vb.* (tr.) 6. to originate, cause, or plan in a clever or devious manner. 7. to design, plan, or construct as a professional engineer.

engineering (en'dʒɪ'nɪəriŋ) *n.* the profession of applying scientific principles to the design, construction, and maintenance of engines, cars, machines, etc. (**mechanical engineering**), buildings, bridges, roads, etc. (**civil engineering**), electrical machines and communication systems (**electrical engineering**), chemical plant and machinery (**chemical engineering**), or aircraft (**aeronautical engineering**).

English ('ɪŋɡlɪʃ) *n.* 1. the official language of Britain, the U.S., most of the Commonwealth, and certain other countries. 2. **the English.** (functioning as pl.) the natives or inhabitants of England collectively. 3. (often not cap.) the usual U.S. term for *side* (in billiards). — *adj.* 4. of or relating to the English language. 5. relating to or characteristic of England or the English. — *vb.* (tr.) 6. *Arch.* to translate or adapt into English. — **Englishness** *n.*

English horn *n.* *Music.* another name for *cor anglais*.
Englishman ('ɪŋɡlɪʃmən) or (fem.) **Englishwoman** *n.*, pl. -men or -women. a native or inhabitant of England.

engorge (in'gɔ:ʒ) *vb.* (tr.) 1. *Pathol.* to congest with blood. 2. to eat (food) greedily. 3. to gorge (oneself); glut. — **en'gorgement** *n.*

engraft or ingraft (in'gra:fɪt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to graft (a shoot, bud, etc.) onto a stock. 2. to incorporate in a firm or permanent way; implant. — **en'graftation**, **ingraf-tation** or **en'graftment**, **in'graftment** *n.*

engrave (m'greiv) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to inscribe (a design, writing, etc.) onto (a block, plate, or other printing surface) by carving, etching, or other process. 2. to print (designs or characters) from a plate so made. 3. to fix deeply or permanently in the mind. —*en'graver n.*

engraving (m'greivɪŋ) *n.* 1. the art of a person who engraves. 2. a printing surface that has been engraved. 3. a print made from this.

engross (m'grəʊs) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to occupy one's attention completely; absorb. 2. to write or copy (manuscript) in large legible handwriting. 3. *Law.* to write or type out formally (a document) preparatory to execution. —*engrossedly* (m'grəʊsɪdli) *adv.* —*en'grossment n.* —*en'grosser n.*

engulf or ingulf (m'gʌlf) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to immerse, plunge, bury, or swallow up. 2. (*often passive*) to overwhelm. —*en'gulfment n.*

enhance (m'hɑ:ns) *vb. (tr.)* to intensify or increase in quality, value, etc.; improve; augment. —*en'hancement n.* —*en'hancer n.*

enigma (i'nigmə) *n.* a person, thing, or situation that is mysterious, puzzling, or ambiguous. —*enigmatic* (i'niɡ'mætɪk) or *enig'matical adj.* —*enig'matically adv.*

enjoin (m'dʒɔɪn) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to order (someone) to do (something). 2. to impose or prescribe (a mode of behaviour, etc.). 3. *Law.* to require (a person) to do or refrain from (some act), esp. by an injunction. —*en'joiner n.* —*en'joinment n.*

enjoy (m'dʒɔɪ) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to receive pleasure from; take joy in. 2. to have the benefit of; use. 3. to have as a condition; experience. 4. *enjoy oneself.* to have a good time. —*en'joyable adj.* —*en'joyableness n.* —*en'joyably adv.* —*en'joyer n.* —*en'joyment n.*

enkindle (m'kɪndl) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to set on fire; kindle. 2. to excite to activity or ardour; arouse.

enlace (m'leɪs) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to bind or encircle with or as with laces. 2. to entangle; intertwine. —*en'lacement n.*

enlarge (m'lɑ:dʒ) *vb.* 1. to make or grow larger; increase or expand. 2. (*tr.*) to make (a photographic print) of a larger size than the negative. 3. (*intr.*; *coll.*) to speak or write (about) in greater detail. —*en'largeable adj.* —*en'larger n.* —*en'largement n.*

enlighten (m'laɪt'n) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to give information or understanding to; instruct; edify. 2. to give spiritual or religious revelation to. 3. *Poetic.* to shed light on. —*en'lightener n.*

enlightenment (m'laɪt'nɪmənt) *n.* the act or means of enlightening or the state of being enlightened.

Enlightenment (m'laɪt'nɪmənt) *n.* the 18th-century philosophical movement stressing the importance of reason.

enlist (m'list) *vb.* 1. to enter or persuade to enter the armed forces. 2. (*tr.*) to engage or secure (a person or his support) for a venture, cause, etc. 3. (*intr.*; *coll.*) to enter into or join an enterprise, cause, etc. —*en'listen n.* —*en'listment n.*

enliven (m'laɪv'n) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to make active, vivacious, or spirited. 2. to make cheerful or bright; gladden. —*en'livener n.* —*en'liveningly adv.* —*en'livenment n.*

en masse (*French* ɛ 'mas) *adv.* in a group or mass; as a whole; all together.

enmesh, immesh (m'mɛʃ), or **immesh** (i'mɛʃ) *vb. (tr.)* to catch or involve in or as if in a net or snare; entangle. —*en'meshment n.*

enmity (i'nɪmɪti) *n.* *pl. -ties.* a feeling of hostility or ill will, as between enemies.

ennoble (i'nəʊb'l) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to make noble, honourable, or excellent; dignify; exalt. 2. to raise to a noble rank. —*en'noblement n.* —*en'nobler n.*

ennui (ɒ'nuɪ) *n.* a feeling of listlessness and general dissatisfaction resulting from lack of activity or excitement.

enormity (i'nɔ:mi) *n.* *pl. -ties.* 1. the quality or character of extreme wickedness. 2. an act of great wickedness; atrocity. 3. *Inf.* vastness of size or extent.

▷ **Usage.** In careful usage, the noun *enormity* is not employed to convey the idea of great size.

enormous (i'nɔ:məs) *adj.* 1. unusually large in size, extent, or degree; immense; vast. 2. *Arch.* extremely wicked; heinous. —*e'normously adv.* —*e'normousness n.*

enough (i'nʌf) *determiner.* 1. *a.* sufficient to answer a need, demand or supposition. *b. (as pronoun):* enough is now known. 2. *that's enough!* that will do; used to put an end to an action, speech, performance, etc. ~*adv.* 3. so as to be sufficient; as much as necessary. 4. (*not used*

with a negative) very or quite; rather. 5. (*intensifier*): *oddly enough.* 6. just adequately; tolerably.

enow (i'naʊ) *determiner, adv.* an archaic word for enough.

en passant (ɒn pæ'sɑ:nt) *adv.* in passing; in chess, said of capturing a pawn that has made an initial move of two squares. The capture is made as if the captured pawn had moved one square instead of two.

enplane (en'pleɪn) *vb. (intr.)* to board an aircraft.

enquire (m'kwəɪə) *vb.* (*often foll. by of*) 1. to seek (information) by questioning; ask. 2. See *inquire*. —*en'quirer n.* —*en'quiry n.*

enrage (m'reɪdʒ) *vb. (tr.)* to provoke to fury; put into a rage. —*en'rage ment n.*

enrapture (m'ræptʃə) *vb. (tr.)* to fill with delight; enchant.

enrich (m'rɪtʃ) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to increase the wealth of. 2. to endow with fine or desirable qualities. 3. to make more beautiful; adorn; decorate. 4. to improve in quality, colour, flavour, etc. 5. to increase the food value of by adding nutrients. 6. to fertilize (soil). 7. *Physics.* to increase the concentration or abundance of one component or isotope in (a solution or mixture). —*en'richment n.*

enrol or U.S. enroll (m'rəʊl) *vb.* -*rolling, -rolled.* (*mainly tr.*) 1. to record or note in a roll or list. 2. (*also intr.*) to become or cause to become a member; enlist; register. 3. to put on record. —*enrol'lee n.* —*en'roller n.* —*en'rolment n.*

en route (ɒn 'ru:t) *adv.* on or along the way.

ensconce (m'skɒns) *vb. (tr.; often passive)* 1. to establish or settle firmly or comfortably. 2. to place in safety; hide.

ensemble (ɒn'sɒmbəl) *n.* 1. all the parts of something considered together. 2. a person's complete costume; outfit. 3. the cast of a play other than the principals. 4. *Music.* a group of soloists singing or playing together. 5. *Music.* the degree of precision and unity exhibited by a group of instrumentalists or singers performing together. 6. the general effect of something made up of individual parts. ~*adv.* 7. all together or at once.

enshrine or inshrine (m'frəm) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to place or enclose as in a shrine. 2. to hold as sacred; cherish; treasure. —*en'shrinement n.*

enshroud (m'fraʊd) *vb. (tr.)* to cover or hide as with a shroud.

ensign (i'ensən) *n.* 1. (*also* 'ensən). a flag flown by a ship, branch of the armed forces, etc., to indicate nationality, allegiance, etc. See also *Red Ensign*. 2. any flag, standard, or banner. 3. a standard-bearer. 4. a symbol, token, or emblem; sign. 5. (in the U.S. Navy) a commissioned officer of the lowest rank. 6. (formerly in the British infantry) a commissioned officer of the lowest rank. —*'ensign, ship* or *'ensigny n.*

ensilage (i'ensɪlɪdʒ) *n.* 1. the process of ensiling green fodder. 2. a less common name for *silage*.

enslave (m'sleɪv) *vb. (tr.)* to make a slave of; subjugate. —*en'slavement n.* —*en'slaver n.*

ensnare or insnare (m'sneə) *vb. (tr.)* to catch or trap as in a snare. —*en'snarement n.* —*en'snarer n.*

ensue (m'sju:; *vb. -suing, -sued.* 1. (*intr.*) to come next or afterwards. 2. (*intr.*) to occur as a consequence; result. 3. (*tr.*) *Obs.* to pursue. —*en'suingly adv.*

en suite (*French* ɛ 'sɥit) *adv.* forming a unit: a room with bathroom *en suite*.

ensure (en'ʃʊə, -'ʃɔ: or (*esp. U.S.*) *insure* *vb. (tr.)* 1. (*may take a clause as object*) to make certain or sure; guarantee. 2. to make safe or secure; protect. —*en'surer n.*

E.N.T. *Med. abbrev.* for ear, nose, and throat.

entablature (en'tæblətʃə) *n.* *Archit.* 1. the part of a classical temple above the columns, having an architrave, a frieze, and a cornice. 2. any similar construction.

entail (m'teɪl) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to have as a necessary consequence: *this task entails careful thought.* 2. *Property law.* to restrict (the descent of an estate) to designated heirs. ~*n.* 3. *Property law.* a. such a limitation. b. an entailed estate. —*en'tailer n.* —*en'tailment n.*

entangle (m'tæŋɡl) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to catch or involve in or as if in a tangle; ensnare or enmesh. 2. to make tangled or twisted; snarl. 3. to make complicated; confuse. 4. to involve in difficulties. —*en'tanglement n.* —*en'tangler n.*

entente (*French* ɛ'tɑ:ti) *n.* 1. short for *entente cordiale*. 2. the parties to an entente cordiale collectively.

entente cordiale (*French* ɛ'tɑ:t kɔ:'djal) *n.* 1. a

friendly understanding between political powers. 2. (*of ten caps.*) the understanding reached by France and Britain in April 1904, over colonial disputes.

enter ('entə) *vb.* 1. to come or go into (a place, house, etc.). 2. to penetrate or pierce. 3. (*tr.*) to introduce or insert. 4. to join (a party, organization, etc.). 5. (*when intr., foll. by into*) to become involved or take part in. 6. (*tr.*) to record (an item) in a journal, account, etc. 7. (*tr.*) to record (a name, etc.) on a list. 8. (*tr.*) to present or submit: to *enter a proposal*. 9. (*intr.*) *Theatre*, to come on stage: used as a stage direction: *enter Juliet*. 10. (*when intr., often foll. by into, on, or upon*) to begin; start: to *enter upon a new career*. 11. (*intr.*, often foll. by *upon*) to come into possession (*of*). 12. (*tr.*) to place (evidence, etc.) before a court of law. — **enterable** *adj.* — **enterer** *n.*

enteric ('ent'et'ik) or **enteral** ('ent'et'ə'l) *adj.* intestinal.

enteritis ('entə'r'at'is) *n.* inflammation of the intestine.

entero- or **before a vowel enter-** combining form. indicating an intestine: *enterovirus*; *enteritis*.

enterprise ('entə'praiz) *n.* 1. a project or undertaking, esp. one that requires boldness or effort. 2. participation in such projects. 3. readiness to embark on new ventures; boldness and energy. 4. a company or firm. — **enterpriser** *n.*

enterprising ('entə'praɪzɪŋ) *adj.* ready to embark on new ventures; full of boldness and initiative. — **enterprisingly** *adv.*

entertain ('entə'teɪn) *vb.* 1. to provide amusement for (a person or audience). 2. to show hospitality to (guests). 3. (*tr.*) to hold in the mind.

entertainer ('entə'teɪnə) *n.* 1. a professional performer in public entertainments. 2. any person who entertains.

entertaining ('entə'teɪnɪŋ) *adj.* serving to entertain or give pleasure; diverting; amusing.

entertainment ('entə'teɪnmənt) *n.* 1. the act or art of entertaining or state of being entertained. 2. an act, production, etc., that entertains; diversion; amusement.

enthrall or **U.S. enthrall** ('enθrɔ:l) *vb.* -thralling, -thralled. (*tr.*) 1. to hold spellbound; enchant; captivate. 2. *Obs.* to hold as thrall; enslave. — **enthraller** *n.* — **enthrallment** or **U.S. enthrallment** *n.*

enthrone ('enθrəʊn) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to place on a throne. 2. to honour or exalt. 3. to assign authority to. — **enthronement** *n.*

enthuse ('enθju:z) *vb.* to feel or show or cause to feel or show enthusiasm.

enthusiasm ('enθju:zɪ'æzəm) *n.* 1. ardent and lively interest or eagerness. 2. an object of keen interest. 3. *Arch.* extravagant religious fervour.

enthusiast ('enθju:zɪ'æst) *n.* 1. a person motivated by enthusiasm; fanatic. 2. *Arch.* one whose zeal for religion is extravagant. — **en,thusi'astic** *adj.* — **en,thusi'astical-ly** *adv.*

entice ('ent'ais) *vb.* (*tr.*) to attract by exciting hope or desire; tempt; allure. — **enticement** *n.* — **enticer** *n.* — **enticingly** *adv.*

entire ('ent'iaə) *adj.* 1. (*prenominal*) whole; complete. 2. (*prenominal*) without reservation or exception. 3. not broken or damaged. 4. undivided; continuous. 5. (*of leaves, petals, etc.*) having a smooth margin not broken up into teeth or lobes. 6. not castrated: *an entire horse*. 7. *Obs.* unmixed; pure. ~ *n.* 8. an uncastrated horse. — **entirely** *adv.* — **entireness** *n.*

entirety ('ent'iaɪrəti) *n.*, *pl.* -ties. 1. the state of being entire or whole; completeness. 2. a thing, sum, amount, etc., that is entire; whole; total.

entitle ('ent'aitl) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to give (a person) the right to do or have something; qualify; allow. 2. to give a name or title to. 3. to confer a title of rank or honour upon. — **entitlement** *n.*

entity ('ent'iti) *n.*, *pl.* -ties. 1. something having real or distinct existence. 2. existence or being. — **entitative** ('ent'itativ) *adj.*

ento- combining form. inside; within: *entoderm*.

entomb ('ent'u:m) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to place in or as if in a tomb; bury; inter. 2. to serve as a tomb for. — **entombment** *n.*

entomology combining form. indicating an insect: *entomology*.

entomology ('entə'mɒlədʒi) *n.* the branch of science concerned with the study of insects. — **entomological** ('entə'mɒlədʒɪkəl) or **entomo'logic** *adj.* — **entomologist** *n.*

entourage ('entʊ'reɪʒ) *n.* 1. a group of attendants or retainers; retinue. 2. surroundings.

entr'acte ('en'trækt) *n.* 1. an interval between two acts of a play or opera. 2. (*esp. formerly*) an entertainment during such an interval.

entrails ('ent'reɪlz) *pl. n.* 1. the internal organs of a person or animal; intestines; guts. 2. the innermost parts of anything.

entrain ('en'trein) *vb.* to board or put aboard a train. — **entrainment** *n.*

entrance ('ent'ræns) *n.* 1. the act or an instance of entering; entry. 2. a place for entering, such as a door. 3. a. the power, liberty, or right of entering. b. (*as modifier*): *an entrance fee*. 4. the coming of an actor or other performer onto a stage.

entrance ('en'træns) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to fill with wonder and delight; enchant. 2. to put into a trance; hypnotize. — **entrancement** *n.*

entrant ('ent'rənt) *n.* a person who enters.

entrap ('en'træp) *vb.* -trapping, -trapped. (*tr.*) 1. to catch or snare as in a trap. 2. to trick into danger, difficulty, or embarrassment. — **entrapment** *n.* — **entrapper** *n.*

entreat or **intreat** ('en'tri:t) *vb.* 1. to ask (a person) earnestly; beg or plead with; implore. 2. to make an earnest request or petition for (something). 3. an archaic word for *treat* (sense 4). — **ent'treatment** or **in'treatment** *n.*

entreaty ('en'tri:t) *n.*, *pl.* -treaties. an earnest request or petition; supplication; plea.

entrecôte (*French* 'ætrə'kɔ:t) *n.* a beefsteak cut from between the ribs.

entrée ('ent'rei) *n.* 1. a dish served before a main course. 2. *Chiefly U.S.* the main course of a meal. 3. the power or right of entry.

entrench or **intrench** ('en'trentʃ) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to construct a defensive position by digging trenches around it. 2. (*tr.*) to fix or establish firmly. 3. (*intr.*, foll. by *on* or *upon*) to trespass or encroach. — **entrenchment** or **in'trenchment** *n.* — **entrencher** or **in'trencher** *n.*

entrepôt (*French* 'ætrə'pɔ) *n.* 1. a warehouse for commercial goods. 2. a trading centre or port at which goods are imported and re-exported without incurring duty.

entrepreneur ('ɒntrəprə'naɪz) *n.* 1. the owner or manager of a business enterprise who, by risk and initiative, attempts to make profits. 2. a middleman or commercial intermediary. — **entrepre'neurial** *adj.* — **entrepre'neurship** *n.*

entropy ('ent'rɒpi) *n.*, *pl.* -pies. 1. a thermodynamic quantity that changes in a reversible process by an amount equal to the heat absorbed or emitted divided by the thermodynamic temperature. It is measured in joules per kelvin. 2. lack of pattern or organization; disorder.

entrust or **intrust** ('en'trust) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. (*usually foll. by with*) to invest or charge (with a duty, responsibility, etc.). 2. (*often foll. by to*) to put into the care or protection of someone. — **entrustment** or **in'trustment** *n.*

entry ('ent'ri) *n.*, *pl.* -tries. 1. the act or an instance of entering; entrance. 2. a point or place for entering, such as a door, etc. 3. a. the right or liberty of entering. b. (*as modifier*): *an entry permit*. 4. the act of recording an item in a journal, account, etc. 5. an item recorded, as in a diary, dictionary, or account. 6. a person, horse, car, etc., entering a competition or contest. 7. the competitors entering a contest considered collectively. 8. the action of an actor in going on stage. 9. *Property law*, the act of going upon land with the intention of asserting the right to possession. 10. *Cards*, a card with which a player or hand can win a trick and so gain the lead. 11. *N Brit. dialect*, a passage between the backs of two rows of houses.

entwine or **intwine** ('en'twain) *vb.* (*of two or more things*) to twine together or (*of one or more things*) twine around (something else). — **entwinement** or **in'twinement** *n.*

enumerate ('nju:mə'reɪt) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to name one by one; list. 2. to determine the number of; count. — **enumerable** *adj.* — **e,numer'ation** *n.* — **e,numerative** *adj.*

enumerator ('nju:mə'reɪtə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that enumerates. 2. *Brit.* a person who issues and retrieves census forms.

enunciate ('nʌnsi'eɪt) *vb.* 1. to articulate or pronounce (words), esp. clearly and distinctly. 2. (*tr.*) to state precisely or formally. — **e,nunci'ation** *n.* — **e,nunciative** or **e'nunciatory** *adj.* — **e'nunciator** *n.*

enuresis (ˌɛnjuˈrɪsɪs) *n.* involuntary discharge of urine, esp. during sleep. — **enuretic** (ˌɛnjuˈrɛtɪk) *adj.*

envelop (ɪnˈvɛləp) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to wrap or enclose as in a covering. 2. to conceal or obscure. 3. to surround (an enemy force). — **envelopment** *n.*

envelope (ˈɛnvəˌlɒp, ˈɒn-) *n.* 1. a flat covering of paper, usually rectangular and with a flap that can be sealed, used to enclose a letter, etc. 2. any covering or wrapper. 3. *Biol.* any enclosing structure, such as a membrane, shell, or skin. 4. the bag enclosing gas in a balloon. 5. *Maths.* a curve or surface that is tangential to each one of a group of curves or surfaces.

enviable (ˈɛnvɪəbəl) *adj.* exciting envy; fortunate or privileged. — **enviableness** *n.*

envious (ˈɛnvɪəs) *adj.* feeling, showing, or resulting from envy. — **enviously** *adv.* — **enviousness** *n.*

environment (ɪnˈvaɪrənmənt) *n.* 1. external conditions or surroundings. 2. *Ecology.* the external surroundings in which a plant or animal lives, which influence its development and behaviour. 3. the state of being envired. — **en,viron'mental** *adj.*

environmentalist (ɪnˈvaɪrənməntəlɪst) *n.* a specialist in the maintenance of ecological balance and the conservation of the environment.

environs (ɪnˈvaɪrənz) *pl. n.* a surrounding area or region, esp. the suburbs or outskirts of a city.

envisage (ɪnˈvɪzɪdʒ) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to form a mental image of; visualize. 2. to conceive of as a possibility in the future. 3. *Arch.* to look in the face of. — **en'visagement** *n.*

► **Usage.** In careful English, *envisage* is usually used with a direct object rather than a clause to refer to conceptions of future possibilities: *he envisaged great success for his project.*

envoy¹ (ˈɛnvoɪ) *n.* 1. a diplomat ranking between an ambassador and a minister resident. 2. an accredited agent or representative. — **envoyship** *n.*

envoy² or **envoi** (ˈɛnvoɪ) *n.* 1. a brief concluding stanza, notably in ballades. 2. a postscript in other forms of verse or prose.

envy (ˈɛnvi) *n., pl. -vies.* 1. a feeling of grudging or somewhat admiring discontent aroused by the possessions, achievements, or qualities of another. 2. the desire to have something possessed by another; covetousness. 3. an object of envy. — *vb.* -**vying**, -**vied**. 4. to be envious of (a person or thing). — **envier** *n.* — **envy-ingly** *adv.*

enzyme (ˈɛnzaim) *n.* any of a group of complex proteins produced by living cells, that act as catalysts in specific biochemical reactions. — **enzymatic** (ˌɛnzaiˈmætɪk, -zɪ-) or **enzymic** (ɛnˈzaimɪk, -zɪm-) *adj.*

eo- combining form. early or primeval: *Eocene*; *eohippus*.

Eocene (ˈiːəʊˌsiːn) *adj.* 1. of or denoting the second epoch of the Tertiary period, during which hooved mammals appeared. ~*n.* 2. **the Eocene.** the Eocene epoch or rock series.

Eolithic (ˌiːəʊˈlɪθɪk) *adj.* denoting or relating to the early part of the Stone Age, characterized by the use of crude stone tools (*eoliths*).

EP *n.* 1. Also called: **maxisingle.** an extended-play gramophone record: a longer recording than a single. ~*adj.* 2. denoting such a record.

epaulette (ˈɛpəˌlet, -lɪt) *n.* a piece of ornamental material on the shoulder of a garment, esp. a military uniform.

épée (ˈɛpeɪ) *n.* a sword similar to the foil but with a heavier blade. — **épéeist** *n.*

epergne (ˈɛpɜːgn) *n.* an ornamental centrepiece for a table, holding fruit, flowers, etc.

Eph. or Ephes. *Bible.* abbrev. for Ephesians.

ephedrine or ephedrin (ˈɛfɛdɪn, ˈɛfɪˌdrɪn, -drɪn) *n.* a white crystalline alkaloid used for the treatment of asthma and hay fever.

ephemera (ˈɛfɛməɹə) *n., pl. -eras or -erae* (-əˌriː). 1. a mayfly, esp. one of the genus *Ephemera*. 2. something transitory or short-lived.

ephemeral (ˈɛfɛməɹəl) *adj.* 1. transitory; short-lived: *ephemeral pleasure*. ~*n.* 2. a short-lived organism, such as the mayfly. — **e,phemer'al**ity or **e'phemer'al**-ness *n.*

epi-, eph-, or before a vowel ep- *prefix.* 1. upon; above; over: *epidermis*; *epicentre*. 2. in addition to: *epiphenomenon*. 3. after: *epilogue*. 4. near; close to: *epicalyx*.

epic (ˈɛpɪk) *n.* 1. a long narrative poem recounting in elevated style the deeds of a legendary hero. 2. the

genre of epic poetry. 3. any work of literature, film, etc., having qualities associated with the epic. 4. an episode in the lives of men in which heroic deeds are performed. ~*adj.* 5. denoting, relating to, or characteristic of an epic or epics. 6. of heroic or impressive proportions.

epicene (ˈɛpɪˌsiːn) *adj.* 1. having the characteristics of both sexes. 2. of neither sex; sexless. 3. effeminate. 4. *Grammar.* a. denoting a noun that may refer to a male or a female. b. (in Latin, Greek, etc.) denoting a noun that retains the same gender regardless of the sex of the referent. — **epi'cenism** *n.*

epicentre or U.S. epicenter (ˈɛpɪˌsɛntə) *n., pl. -tres or U.S. -ters.* the area immediately above the origin of earthquake vibrations. — **epi'central** *adj.*

epicure (ˈɛpɪˌkjʊə) *n.* 1. a person who cultivates a discriminating palate for good food and drink. 2. a person devoted to sensual pleasures. — **epicur,ism** *n.*

epicurean (ˌɛpɪkjʊˈriːən) *adj.* 1. devoted to sensual pleasures, esp. food and drink. 2. suitable for an epicure. ~*n.* 3. an epicure; gourmet. — **epicu'reanism** *n.*

Epicurean (ˌɛpɪkjʊˈriːən) *adj.* 1. of or relating to the philosophy of Epicurus (341–270 B.C.), Greek philosopher, who held that the highest good is pleasure or freedom from pain. ~*n.* 2. a follower of the philosophy of Epicurus. — **Epicu'reanism** *n.*

epidemic (ˌɛpɪˌdemɪk) *adj.* 1. (esp. of a disease) attacking or affecting many persons simultaneously in a community or area. ~*n.* 2. a widespread occurrence of a disease. 3. a rapid development, spread, or growth of something. — **epi'demically** *adv.*

epidemiology (ˌɛpɪˌdɪmɪˈɒlədʒɪ) *n.* the branch of medical science concerned with epidemic diseases.

— **epidemiological** (ˌɛpɪˌdɪːmiˈɒlədʒɪkəl) *adj.* — **epi-,demi'ologist** *n.*

epidermis (ˌɛpɪˈdɜːmɪs) *n.* 1. the thin protective outer layer of the skin. 2. the outer layer of cells of an invertebrate. 3. the outer protective layer of cells of a plant. — **epi'dermal**, **epi'dermic**, or **epi'dermoid** *adj.*

epidiascope (ˌɛpɪˈdaɪəˌskəʊp) *n.* an optical device for projecting a magnified image onto a screen.

epidural (ˌɛpɪˈdjʊərəl) *adj.* 1. upon or outside the outermost membrane covering the brain and spinal chord (dura mater). ~*n.* 2. Also: **epidural anaesthesia.** a. injection of anaesthetic into the space outside the dura mater enveloping the spinal cord. b. anaesthesia induced by this method.

epiglottis (ˌɛpɪˈglɒtɪs) *n., pl. -tises or -tides* (-tɪˌdiːz). a thin cartilaginous flap that covers the entrance to the larynx during swallowing, preventing food from entering the trachea. — **epi'glottal** or **epi'glottic** *adj.*

epigram (ˈɛpɪˌgræm) *n.* 1. a witty, often paradoxical remark, concisely expressed. 2. a short poem, esp. one having a witty and ingenious ending. — **epigram'matic** *adj.* — **epigram'matically** *adv.*

epigraph (ˈɛpɪˌgrɑːf, -græf) *n.* 1. a quotation at the beginning of a book, chapter, etc. 2. an inscription on a monument or building. — **epigraphic** (ˌɛpɪˈgræfɪk) or **epi'graphical** *adj.*

epilepsy (ˈɛpɪˌlepsi) *n.* a disorder of the central nervous system characterized by periodic loss of consciousness with or without convulsions.

epileptic (ˌɛpɪˈleptɪk) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or having epilepsy. ~*n.* 2. a person who has epilepsy. — **epi'lep'tically** *adv.*

epilogue (ˈɛpɪˌlɒɡ) *n.* 1. a. a speech addressed to the audience by an actor at the end of a play. b. the actor speaking this. 2. a short postscript to any literary work. 3. *Brit.* the concluding programme of the day on a radio or television station. — **epilogist** (ˈɛpɪlədʒɪst) *n.*

Epiphany (ˈɛpɪˌfəni) *n., pl. -nies.* a Christian festival held on Jan. 6, commemorating, in the Western Church, the manifestation of Christ to the Magi.

epiphyte (ˈɛpɪˌfaɪt) *n.* a plant that grows on another plant but is not parasitic on it. — **epiphytic** (ˌɛpɪˈfɪtɪk), **epi'phytal**, or **epi'physical** *adj.*

Epis. abbrev. for: 1. Also: **Episc.** Episcopal or Episcopalian. 2. Epistle.

episcopacy (ˈɛpɪskəˌpəsi) *n., pl. -cies.* 1. government of a Church by bishops. 2. another word for **episcopate**.

episcopal (ˈɛpɪskəˌpəl) *adj.* of, denoting, governed by, or relating to a bishop or bishops.

Episcopal (ˈɛpɪskəˌpəl) *adj.* of or denoting the Episcopal Church, an autonomous church of Scotland and the U.S. which is in full communion with the Church of England.

episcopalian (ˌɛpɪskəˌpeɪliən) *adj. also episcopal.* 1. practising or advocating the principle of Church govern-

ment by bishops. ~*n.* 2. an advocate of such Church government. —*e.pisco'palianism n.*

Episcopalian (i,piskə'peɪliən) *adj.* 1. belonging to or denoting the Episcopal Church. ~*n.* 2. a member or adherent of this Church.

episcopate (i'piskəpɪt, -pɛt) *n.* 1. the office, status, or term of office of a bishop. 2. bishops collectively.

episode (i'epɪsəʊd) *n.* 1. an event or series of events. 2. any of the sections into which a serialized novel or radio or television programme is divided. 3. an incident or sequence that forms part of a narrative but may be a digression from the main story. 4. (in ancient Greek tragedy) a section between two choric songs. 5. *Music.* a contrasting section between statements of the subject, as in a fugue.

episodic (i'epɪsədɪk) or **episodical** *adj.* 1. resembling or relating to an episode. 2. divided into episodes. 3. irregular or sporadic. —*epi'sodically adv.*

epistemology (i,pɪstɪ'mɒlədʒɪ) *n.* the theory of knowledge, esp. the critical study of its validity, methods, and scope. —*epistemological* (i,pɪstɪmə'lɒdʒɪkəl) *adj.* —*e.piste'mologist n.*

epistle (i'pɪsəl) *n.* 1. a letter, esp. one that is long, formal, or didactic. 2. a literary work in letter form, esp. a verse letter.

Epistle (i'pɪsəl) *n.* 1. *Bible.* any of the letters of the apostles. 2. a reading from one of the Epistles, part of the Eucharistic service in many Christian Churches.

epistolary (i'pɪstələri), **epistolic** (i'epɪstɒlɪk), or **epistolatory** *adj.* 1. relating to, denoting, conducted by, or contained in letters. 2. (of a novel, etc.) in the form of a series of letters.

epitaph (i'epɪtəf, -tæf) *n.* 1. a commemorative inscription on a tombstone or monument. 2. a commemorative speech or written passage. 3. a final judgment on a person or thing. —*epitaphic* (i'epɪtəfɪk) *adj.* —*epi'taphist n.*

epithelium (i'epɪθi:lɪəm) *n., pl. -liums or -lia* (-liə). an animal cellular tissue covering the external and internal surfaces of the body. —*epi'thelial* or *epi'thelioid adj.*

epithet (i'epɪθet) *n.* a descriptive word or phrase added to or substituted for a person's name. —*epi'thetic* or *epi'thetical adj.*

epitome (i'pɪtəmi) *n.* 1. a typical example of a characteristic or class; embodiment; personification. 2. a summary of a written work; abstract. —*epitomical* (i'epɪtəmkəl) or *epi'tomic adj.*

epitomize or **-ise** (i'pɪtəmaɪz) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to be a personification of; typify. 2. to make an epitome of. —*epitomist n.* —*e.pitomization* or *-isation n.* —*e.pito,mizer or -iser n.*

E.P.N.S. *abbrev. for* electroplated nickel silver.

epoch (i'epɒk) *n.* 1. a point in time beginning a new or distinctive period. 2. a long period of time marked by some predominant characteristic; era. 3. *Astron.* a precise date to which information relating to a celestial body is referred. 4. a unit of geological time within a period during which a series of rocks is formed. —*epochal* (i'ep,ɒkəl) *adj.*

eponym (i'epɒnim) *n.* 1. a name, esp. a place name, derived from the name of a real or mythical person. 2. the name of the person from which such a name is derived. —*eponymous* (i'pɒniməs) *adj.* —*e'ponymously adv.* —*e'ponymy n.*

epoxy (i'pɒksɪ) *adj. Chem.* 1. of, consisting of, or containing an oxygen atom joined to two different groups that are themselves joined to other groups: *epoxy group*. 2. of, relating to, or consisting of an epoxy resin.

epoxy resin *n.* any of various tough resistant thermosetting synthetic resins containing epoxy groups: used in surface coatings, laminates, and adhesives.

epsilon (i'epsɪlən) *n.* the fifth letter of the Greek alphabet (Ε, ε).

Epsom salts (i'epsəm) *pl. n.* a medicinal preparation of hydrated magnesium sulphate, used as a purgative, etc.

equable (i'ekwəbəl) *adj.* 1. even-tempered; placid. 2. unvarying; uniform: *an equable climate*. —*equa'bility* or *'equableness n.*

equal (i'ikwəl) *adj.* 1. (often foll. by *to* or *with*) identical in size, quantity, degree, intensity, etc. 2. having identical privileges, rights, status, etc. 3. having uniform effect or application: *equal opportunities*. 4. evenly balanced or proportioned. 5. (usually foll. by *to*) having the necessary or adequate strength, ability, means, etc. (for). ~*n.* 6. a person or thing equal to another, esp. in merit, ability, etc. —*vb.* **equalling, equaled** or **U.S. equaling, equaled**. 7. (tr.) to be equal to; match. 8.

(intr.; usually foll. by *out*) to become equal. 9. (tr.) to make or do something equal to. —*'equally adv.*

equalitarian (i,kwəli'teəriən) *adj., n.* a less common word for **egalitarian**. —*e.quali'tarianism n.*

equality (i'kwɒləti) *n., pl. -ties* the state of being equal.

equalize or **-ise** (i'ikwə,ləɪz) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to make equal or uniform. 2. (intr.) (in sports) to reach the same score as one's opponent or opponents. —*'equalization* or *-isation n.*

equanimity (i'kwə'nɪmɪti, i'kwə-) *n.* calmness of mind or temper; composure. —*equanimous* (i'kwə'nɪməs) *adj.*

equate (i'kweɪt) *vb.* (mainly tr.) 1. to make or regard as equivalent or similar. 2. *Maths.* to indicate the equality of; form an equation from. 3. (intr.) to be equal. —*'equatable adj.* —*e.quata'bility n.*

equation (i'kweɪʒən, -ʃən) *n.* 1. a mathematical statement that two expressions are equal. 2. the act of equating. 3. the state of being equal, equivalent, or equally balanced. 4. a representation of a chemical reaction using symbols of the elements. —*'equational adj.* —*e'quationally adv.*

equator (i'kwetə) *n.* 1. the great circle of the earth, equidistant from the poles, dividing the N and S hemispheres. 2. a circle dividing a sphere into two equal parts. 3. *Astron.* See **celestial equator**.

equatorial (i'kwetə'riəl) *adj.* 1. of, like, or existing at or near the equator. 2. (of a telescope) mounted on perpendicular axes, one of which is parallel to the earth's axis. ~*n.* 3. an equatorial telescope or its mounting.

equerry (i'kwɛri) *n., pl. -ries*. 1. an officer attendant upon the British sovereign. 2. an officer in a royal household responsible for the horses.

equestrian (i'kwɛstriən) *adj.* 1. of or relating to horses and riding. 2. on horseback; mounted. 3. of, relating to, or composed of knights. ~*n.* 4. a person skilled in riding and horsemanship. —*e'questrianism n.*

equi- *combining form.* equal or equally: *equidistant; equilateral*.

equiangular (i'kwɪ'æŋɡjʊlə) *adj.* having all angles equal.

equidistant (i'kwɪ'dɪstənt) *adj.* equally distant. —*equi'distance n.* —*equi'distantly adv.*

equilateral (i'kwɪ'lateral) *adj.* 1. having all sides of equal length. ~*n.* 2. a geometric figure having all sides of equal length. 3. a side that is equal in length to other sides.

equilibrate (i'kwɪ'ləbreɪt, i'kwɪlɪ,breɪt) *vb.* to bring to or be in equilibrium; balance. —*equilibration* (i'kwɪlɪ'breɪʃən, i'kwɪlɪ-) *n.* —*equilibrator* (i'kwɪlɪ,breɪtə) *n.*

equilibrium (i'kwɪ'lbriəm) *n., pl. -riums or -ria* (-riə). 1. a stable condition in which forces cancel one another. 2. any unchanging state of a body, system, etc., resulting from the balance of the influences to which it is subjected. 3. *Physiol.* a state of bodily balance, maintained primarily by receptors in the inner ear.

equine (i'ekwaɪn) *adj.* of, relating to, or resembling a horse.

equinoctial (i'kwɪ'nɒkʃəl) *adj.* 1. relating to or occurring at either or both equinoxes. 2. *Astron.* of or relating to the celestial equator. ~*n.* 3. a storm or gale at or near an equinox. 4. another name for **celestial equator**. **equinoctial circle** or **line** *n.* another name for **celestial equator**.

equinox (i'kwɪ,nɒks) *n.* either of the two occasions, six months apart, when day and night are of equal length. In the N hemisphere the **vernal equinox** occurs around March 21 (Sept. 23 in the S hemisphere). The **autumnal equinox** occurs around Sept. 23 in the N hemisphere (March 21 in the S hemisphere).

equip (i'kwɪp) *vb.* **equipping, equipped.** (tr.) 1. to furnish with (necessary supplies, etc.). 2. (usually passive) to provide with abilities, understanding, etc. 3. to dress out; attire. —*e'quipment n.* —*e'quippier n.*

equipage (i'kwɪpɪdʒ) *n.* 1. a horse-drawn carriage, esp. one attended by liveried footmen. 2. the stores and equipment of a military unit. 3. *Arch.* a set of useful articles.

equipoise (i'kwɪ,pɔɪz) *n.* 1. even balance of weight; equilibrium. 2. a counterbalance; counterpoise. ~*vb.* 3. (tr.) to offset or balance.

equitable (i'kwɪtəbəl) *adj.* 1. fair; just. 2. *Law.* relating to or valid in equity, as distinct from common law or statute law. —*'equitableness n.*

equitation (i'kwɪ'teɪʃən) *n.* the study and practice of riding and horsemanship.

equities ('ɛkwɪtɪz) *pl. n.* another name for **ordinary shares**.

equity ('ɛkwɪtɪ) *n., pl. -ties*. 1. the quality of being impartial; fairness. 2. an impartial or fair act, decision, etc. 3. *Law*, a system of jurisprudence founded on principles of natural justice and fair conduct. It supplements common law, as by providing a remedy where none exists at law. 4. *Law*, an equitable right or claim. 5. the interest of ordinary shareholders in a company. 6. the value of a debtor's property in excess of debts to which it is liable.

Equity ('ɛkwɪtɪ) *n. Brit.* the actors' trade union.

equiv. *abbrev. for* equivalent.

equivalent ('ɛkwɪvələnt) *adj.* 1. equal in value, quantity, significance, etc. 2. having the same or a similar effect or meaning. 3. *Logic, Maths.* (of two propositions) having a biconditional between them. ~*n.* 4. something that is equivalent. 5. Also called: **equivalent weight**, the weight of a substance that will combine with or displace 8 grams of oxygen or 1.007 97 grams of hydrogen. —**e'quivalence** *n.* —**e'quivalently** *adv.*

equivocal ('ɛkwɪvəkəl) *adj.* 1. capable of varying interpretations; ambiguous. 2. deliberately misleading or vague. 3. of doubtful character or sincerity. —**e'quivo'cality** or **equivocacy** ('ɛkwɪvəkəsi) *n.* —**e'quivocalness** *n.*

equivocate ('ɛkwɪvə'keɪt) *vb. (intr.)* to use equivocal language, esp. to avoid speaking directly or honestly. —**e'quivo,catingly** *adv.* —**e'quivo'cation** *n.* —**e'quivo,cator** *n.* —**e'quivocatory** *adj.*

er (ə, ɜ:) *interj.* a sound made when hesitating in speech.

Er *the chemical symbol for* erbium.

E.R. *abbrev. for:* 1. Elizabeth Regina. 2. Eduardus Rex.

-er' *suffix forming nouns.* 1. a person or thing that performs a specified action: *reader; lighter*. 2. a person engaged in a profession, occupation, etc.: *writer; baker*. 3. a native or inhabitant of: *Londoner; villager*. 4. a person or thing having a certain characteristic: *new-comer; fiver*.

-er' *suffix.* forming the comparative degree of adjectives (*deeper, freer*, etc.) and adverbs (*faster, slower*, etc.).

era ('ɪərə) *n.* 1. a period of time considered as being of a distinctive character; epoch. 2. an extended period of time the years of which are numbered from a fixed point: *the Christian era*. 3. a point in time beginning a new or distinctive period. 4. a major division of geological time, divided into periods.

eradicate ('ɪrædɪ'keɪt) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to obliterate. 2. to pull up by the roots. —**e'radicable** *adj.* —**e,radi'cation** *n.* —**e'radicator** *n.*

erase ('ɪreɪz) *vb.* 1. to obliterate or rub out (something written, typed, etc.). 2. (*tr.*) to destroy all traces of. 3. to remove (a recording) from (magnetic tape). —**e'rasable** *adj.*

eraser ('ɪreɪzə) *n.* an object, such as a piece of rubber, for erasing something written, typed, etc.

erasure ('ɪreɪʒə) *n.* 1. the act or an instance of erasing. 2. the place or mark, as on a piece of paper, where something has been erased.

erbium ('ɜ:biəm) *n.* a soft malleable silvery-white element of the lanthanide series of metals. Symbol: Er; atomic no.: 68; atomic wt.: 167.26.

ere (ɛə) *conj., prep.* a poetic word for **before**.

erect ('ɪrɛkt) *adj.* 1. upright in posture or position. 2. *Physiol.* (of the penis, clitoris, or nipples) firm or rigid after swelling with blood, esp. as a result of sexual excitement. 3. (of plant parts) growing vertically or at right angles to the parts from which they arise. ~*vb.* (*mainly tr.*) 4. to put up; build. 5. to raise to an upright position. 6. to found or form; set up. 7. (*also intr.*) *Physiol.* to become or cause to become firm or rigid by filling with blood. 8. to exalt. 9. to draw or construct (a line, figure, etc.) on a given line or figure. —**e'rectable** *adj.* —**e'rector** or **e'rector** *n.* —**e'rection** *n.* —**e'rectness** *n.*

erectile ('ɪrɛktɪl) *adj.* 1. *Physiol.* (of tissues or organs, such as the penis or clitoris) capable of becoming erect. 2. capable of being erected. —**ere'ctility** ('ɪrɛk'tɪlɪtɪ, 'ɪrɛk-) *n.*

erelong (ɛə'ɪlɒŋ) *adv. Arch. or poetic.* before long; soon.

eremite ('ɛrɪ'maɪt) *n.* a Christian hermit or recluse. —**erem'itic** ('ɛrɪ'mɪtɪk) or **ere'mitical** *adj.* —**eremitism** ('ɛrɪmaɪ,tɪzəm) *n.*

erg (ɜ:g) *n.* the cgs unit of work or energy; the work

done when the point of application of a force of 1 dyne moves through 1 centimetre in the direction of the force.

ergo ('ɜ:gəʊ) *sentence connector.* therefore; hence.

ergonomics (ɜ:gə'nɒmɪks) *n. (functioning as sing.)* the study of the relationship between workers and their environment. —**ergo'nomi'c** *adj.* —**ergonomist** (ɜ:'gɒnə'mɪst) *n.*

ergot ('ɜ:gət, -gɒt) *n.* 1. a disease of cereals and other grasses caused by fungi of the genus *Claviceps*. 2. any fungus causing this disease. 3. the dried fungus, used as the source of certain alkaloids used in medicine.

Erin ('ɪərɪn, 'ɛərɪn) *n.* an archaic or poetic name for Ireland.

ermine ('ɜ:mɪn) *n., pl. -mines or -mine*. 1. the stoat in northern regions, where it has a white winter coat with a black-tipped tail. 2. the fur of this animal. 3. the dignity or office of a judge, noble, etc., whose state robes are trimmed with ermine.

erne or ern (ɜ:n) *n.* a fish-eating sea eagle.

Ernie ('ɜ:nɪ) *n.* (in Britain) a computer that randomly selects winning numbers of Premium Bonds.

erode ('ɪrəʊd) *vb.* 1. to grind or wear down or away or become ground or worn down or away. 2. to deteriorate or cause to deteriorate. —**e'rodent** *adj.* —**e'rodible** *adj.*

erogenous ('ɪrədʒɪnəs) or **erogenic** (ɪərə'dʒɪnɪk) *adj.* 1. sensitive to sexual stimulation. 2. arousing sexual desire or giving sexual pleasure. —**erogeneity** (ɪərə'dʒɪ'nɪtɪ) *n.*

erosion ('ɪrəʊʒən) *n.* 1. the wearing away of rocks, soil, etc. by the action of water, ice, wind, etc. 2. the act or process of eroding or the state of being eroded. —**e'rosive** or **e'rosional** *adj.*

erotic ('ɪrɒtɪk) *adj. also erotical.* 1. of, concerning, or arousing sexual desire or giving sexual pleasure. 2. marked by strong sexual desire or being especially sensitive to sexual stimulation. —**e'rotically** *adv.*

erotica ('ɪrɒtɪkə) *n.* explicitly sexual literature or art.

eroticism ('ɪrɒtɪsɪzəm) or **erotism** (ɪərə'tɪzəm) *n.* 1. erotic quality or nature. 2. the use of sexually arousing or pleasing symbolism in literature or art. 3. sexual excitement or desire.

err (ɜ:) *vb. (intr.)* 1. to make a mistake; be incorrect. 2. to deviate from a moral standard. 3. to act with bias, esp. favourable bias: *to err on the right side*. —**erran'cy** *n.*

errand ('ɛrənd) *n.* 1. a short trip undertaken to perform a task or commission (esp. in **run errands**). 2. the purpose or object of such a trip.

errant ('ɛrənt) *adj. (often postpositive)* 1. *Arch. or literary.* wandering in search of adventure. 2. erring or straying from the right course or accepted standards. —**erran'ry** *n.*

erratic ('ɪrætɪk) *adj.* 1. irregular in performance, behaviour, or attitude; unpredictable. 2. having no fixed or regular course. ~*n.* 3. a piece of rock that has been transported from its place of origin, esp. by glacial action. —**e'r'ratically** *adv.*

erratum ('ɪrə:təm) *n., pl. -ta (-tə)*. 1. an error in writing or printing. 2. another name for **corrigendum**.

erroneous ('ɪrəniəs) *adj.* based on or containing error; incorrect. —**e'r'roneousness** *n.*

error ('ɛərə) *n.* 1. a mistake or inaccuracy. 2. an incorrect belief or wrong judgment. 3. the condition of deviating from accuracy or correctness. 4. deviation from a moral standard; wrongdoing. 5. the amount of deviation by which something is incorrect or inaccurate. —**error'-free** *adj.*

ersatz ('ɛəzəts, 'ɜ:-) *adj.* 1. made in imitation; artificial. ~*n.* 2. an ersatz substance or article.

Erse (ɜ:s) *n.* 1. another name for **Gaelic** (sense 1). ~*adj.* 2. of or relating to the Gaelic language.

erst (ɜ:st) *adv. Arch.* 1. long ago; formerly. 2. at first.

erstwhile ('ɜ:st,wɪl) *adj.* 1. former; one-time. ~*adv.* 2. *Arch.* long ago; formerly.

eruct ('ɪrʌkt) or **erucate** *vb.* 1. to belch. 2. (of a volcano) to pour out (fumes or volcanic matter). —**eruc'ation** ('ɪrʌk'teɪʃən, 'ɪrʌk-) *n.*

erudite ('ɛru,dəɪt) *adj.* having or showing extensive scholarship; learned. —**erudition** (ɪru'dɪʃən) or **eru'diteness** *n.*

erupt ('ɪrʌpt) *vb.* 1. to eject (steam, water, and volcanic material) violently or (of volcanic material, etc.) to be so ejected. 2. (*intr.*) (of a blemish) to appear on the skin. 3. (*intr.*) (of a tooth) to emerge through the gum during normal tooth development. 4. (*intr.*) to burst forth

suddenly and violently. —**e'ruptible** *adj.* —**e'ruptive** *adj.* —**e'ruption** *n.*

erysipelas (ˌerɪˈsɪpləs) *n.* an acute streptococcal infectious disease of the skin, characterized by fever and purplish lesions.

erythro- or before a vowel **erythr-** combining form. red: erythrocyte.

erythrocyte (ɪˈrθrəʊsaɪt) *n.* a blood cell of vertebrates that transports oxygen and carbon dioxide, combined with haemoglobin. —**erythrocytic** (ɪˈrθrəʊˈsɪtɪk) *adj.*

Es the chemical symbol for einsteinium.

-es *suffix.* 1. variant of **-s** for nouns ending in *ch, s, sh, z*, postconsonantal *y*, for some nouns ending in a vowel, and nouns in *f* with *v* in the plural: *ashes; heroes; calves*. 2. variant of **-s** for verbs ending in *ch, s, sh, z*, postconsonantal *y*, or a vowel: *preaches; steadies; echoes*.

escalate (ˈeskəleɪt) *vb.* to increase or be increased in extent, intensity, or magnitude. —**esca'lation** *n.*

▷ **Usage.** *Escalate* is very commonly used in journalistic contexts in the sense of gradually increasing the intensity or scope of a war, etc. This word is, however, not yet completely accepted as appropriate in formal English.

escalator (ˈeskəleɪtə) *n.* 1. a moving staircase consisting of stair treads fixed to a conveyor belt. 2. short for **escalator clause**.

escalator clause *n.* a clause in a contract stipulating an adjustment in wages, prices, etc., in the event of specified changes in conditions, such as a large rise in the cost of living.

escallop (ˈeskələp, ˈɛskæl-) *n., vb.* another word for **scallop**.

escalope (ˈeskələp) *n.* a thin slice of meat, usually veal.

escapade (ˈeskəpeɪd, ˈeskəˈpeɪd) *n.* 1. an adventure, esp. one that is mischievous or unlawful. 2. a prank; romp.

escape (ɪˈskeɪp) *vb.* 1. to get away or break free from (confinements, etc.). 2. to manage to avoid (danger, etc.). 3. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *from*) (of gases, liquids, etc.) to issue gradually, as from a crack; seep; leak. 4. (*tr.*) to elude; be forgotten by: *the figure escapes me*. 5. (*tr.*) to be articulated inadvertently or involuntarily: *a roar escaped his lips*. ~*n.* 6. the act of escaping or state of having escaped. 7. avoidance of injury, harm, etc. 8. a. a means or way of escape. b. (*as modifier*): *an escape route*. 9. a means of distraction or relief. 10. a gradual outflow; leakage; seepage. 11. Also called: **escape valve**, **escape cock**. a valve that releases air, steam, etc., above a certain pressure. 12. a plant originally cultivated but now growing wild. —**es'capable** *adj.* —**es, cap'ee** *n.* —**es'caper** *n.*

escapement (ɪˈskeɪpmənt) *n.* 1. a mechanism consisting of a toothed wheel (**escape wheel**) and anchor, used in timepieces to provide periodic impulses to the pendulum or balance. 2. any similar mechanism that regulates movement. 3. in pianos, the mechanism which allows the hammer to clear the string after striking, so the string can vibrate. 4. Rare. an act or means of escaping.

escape road *n.* a road provided on a hill for a driver to drive into if his brakes fail or on a bend if he loses control of the turn.

escape velocity *n.* the minimum velocity necessary for a body to escape from the gravitational field of the earth or other celestial body.

escapism (ɪˈskeɪpɪzəm) *n.* an inclination to retreat from unpleasant reality, as through diversion or fantasy. —**es'capist** *n., adj.*

escapologist (ˌeskəˈpɒlədʒɪst) *n.* an entertainer who specializes in freeing himself from confinement. —**esca'pology** *n.*

escarpment (ɪˈska:pmənt) *n.* 1. the long continuous steep face of a ridge or plateau formed by erosion or faulting; scarp. 2. a steep artificial slope made around a fortified place.

-escent *suffix forming adjectives.* beginning to be, do, show, etc.: *convalescent; luminescent*. —**escence** *suffix forming nouns.*

eschatology (ˌeskəˈtɒlədʒɪ) *n.* the branch of theology concerned with the end of the world. —**eschatological** (ˌeskəˈtɒlədʒɪkəl) *adj.* —**escha'tologist** *n.*

escheat (ɪsˈtʃi:t) *Law. n.* 1. (before 1926) the reversion of property to the Crown in the absence of legal heirs. 2. **Feudalism**, the reversion of property to the feudal lord in the absence of legal heirs. 3. the property so revert-

ing. ~*vb.* 4. to take (land) by escheat or (of land) to revert by escheat. —**es'cheatable** *adj.* —**es'cheatage** *n.*

eschew (ɪsˈtʃu:) *vb. (tr.)* to keep clear of or abstain from (something disliked, injurious, etc.); shun; avoid. —**es'chewal** *n.* —**es'chewer** *n.*

escort (ɪˈeskɔ:t). 1. one or more persons, soldiers, vehicles, etc., accompanying another or others for protection or as a mark of honour. 2. a man or youth who accompanies a woman or girl on a social occasion. ~*vb.* (ɪsˈkɔ:t). 3. (*tr.*) to accompany or attend as an escort.

escritoire (ˌeskriˈtwɔ:) *n.* a writing desk with compartments and drawers.

escudo (ˈeskudəʊ) *n., pl. -dos* (-dəʊz). 1. the standard monetary unit of Portugal. 2. the standard monetary unit of Chile. 3. an old Spanish silver coin.

esculent (ˈeskjulənt) *n.* 1. any edible substance. ~*adj.* 2. edible.

escutcheon (ɪˈskʌtʃən) *n.* 1. a shield, esp. a heraldic one that displays a coat of arms. 2. a plate or shield around a keyhole, door handle, etc. 3. the place on the stern of a vessel where the name is shown. 4. **blot on one's escutcheon**, a stain on one's honour. —**es'cutcheoned** *adj.*

-ese *suffix forming adjectives and nouns.* indicating place of origin, language, or style: *Cantonese; Japanese; journalese*.

Eskimo (ˈeski,məʊ) *n.* 1. (*pl. -mos or -mo*) a member of a group of peoples inhabiting N Canada, Greenland, Alaska, and E Siberia. The Eskimos are more properly referred to as the **Inuit**. 2. the language of these peoples. ~*adj.* 3. of or relating to the Eskimos.

Eskimo dog *n.* a large powerful breed of sled dog with a long thick coat and curled tail.

E.S.N. *abbrev.* for educationally subnormal.

esoteric (ˌesəʊˈterɪk) *adj.* 1. restricted to or intended for an enlightened or initiated minority. 2. difficult to understand; abstruse. 3. not openly admitted; private. —**eso'terically** *adv.* —**eso'terism** *n.*

E.S.P. *abbrev.* for extrasensory perception.

esp. *abbrev.* for especially.

espadrille (ˌespaˈdrɪl) *n.* a light shoe with a canvas upper, esp. with a braided cord sole.

espalier (ɪˈspæljə) *n.* 1. an ornamental shrub or fruit tree trained to grow flat, as against a wall. 2. the trellis or framework on which such plants are trained. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to train (a plant) on an espalier.

esparto or esparto grass (ˌɛspɑ:təʊ) *n., pl. -tos.* any of various grasses of S Europe and N Africa, used to make ropes, mats, etc.

especial (ɪˈspeʃəl) *adj. (prenominal)* 1. unusual; notable. 2. applying to one person or thing in particular; specific; peculiar: *he had an especial dislike of relatives*. —**es'pecially** *adv.*

▷ **Usage.** *Special* is always used in preference to *especial* when the sense is one of being out of the ordinary: *a special lesson*. *Special* is also used when something is referred to as being for a particular purpose: *the word was specially underlined for you*. Where an idea of preeminence or individuality is involved, either *especial* or *special* may be used: *he is my especial (or special) friend*; *he is especially (or specially) good at his job*. In informal English, however, *special* is usually preferred in all contexts.

Esperanto (ˌɛspəˈræntəʊ) *n.* an artificial language based on words common to the chief European languages. —**Espe'rantist** *n., adj.*

espionage (ˌɛspɪəˌnɑ:ʒ) *n.* 1. the use of spies to obtain secret information, esp. by governments. 2. the act of spying.

esplanade (ˌɛspləˈneɪd) *n.* 1. a long open level stretch of ground for walking along, esp. beside the sea shore. Cf. **promenade** (sense 1). 2. an open area in front of a fortified place.

espousal (ɪˈspauzəl) *n.* 1. adoption or support: *an espousal of new beliefs*. 2. (*sometimes pl.*) Arch. a marriage or betrothal ceremony.

espouse (ɪˈspauz) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to adopt or give support to (a cause, ideal, etc.): *to espouse socialism*. 2. Arch. (esp. of a man) to take as spouse; marry. —**es'pouser** *n.*

espresso (ˌɛspresəʊ) *n., pl. -sos.* 1. coffee made by forcing steam or boiling water through ground coffee beans. 2. an apparatus for making coffee in this way.

esprit (ɛˈspri:) *n.* spirit and liveliness, esp. in wit.

esprit de corps (ɛˈspri: də ˈkɔ:) *n.* consciousness of and pride in belonging to a particular group; the sense of shared purpose and fellowship.

espy (i'spai) *vb.* **-pying, -pied.** (tr.) to catch sight of or perceive; detect. —**es'pial** *n.*

Esq. *abbrev.* for *esquire*.

-esque *suffix forming adjectives.* indicating a specified character, manner, style, or resemblance: *picturesque; Romanesque; statuesque*.

esquire (i'skwaɪə) *n.* 1. *Chiefly Brit.* a title of respect, usually abbreviated *Esq.*, placed after a man's name. 2. (in medieval times) the attendant of a knight, subsequently often knighted himself.

ESRO (i'ezrəʊ) *n.* acronym for European Space Research Organization.

-ess *suffix forming nouns.* indicating a female: *actress; lioness*.

essay *n.* (i'seɪ; *defs.* 2,3 also i'seɪ) 1. a short literary composition. 2. an attempt; effort. 3. a test or trial. ~*vb.* (i'seɪ) (tr.) 4. to attempt or try. 5. to test or try out.

essayist (i'senst) *n.* a person who writes essays.

essence (i'ɛsəns) *n.* 1. the characteristic or intrinsic feature of a thing, which determines its identity; fundamental nature. 2. a perfect or complete form of something. 3. *Philosophy.* the unchanging inward nature of something. 4. *a.* the constituent of a plant, usually an oil, alkaloid, or glycoside, that determines its chemical properties. *b.* an alcoholic solution of such a substance. 5. a rare word for *perfume*. 6. of the *essence*. indispensable; vitally important.

essential (i'senʃəl) *adj.* 1. vitally important; absolutely necessary. 2. basic; fundamental. 3. absolute; perfect. 4. derived from or relating to an extract of a plant, drug, etc.: an *essential oil*. ~*n.* 5. something fundamental or indispensable. —**essentiality** (i,senʃi'æliti) or **essentialness** *n.* —**es'sentially** *adv.*

essential oil *n.* any of various volatile oils in plants, having the odour or flavour of the plant from which they are extracted.

E.S.T. *abbrev. for:* 1. (in the U.S. and Canada) Eastern Standard Time. 2. electric-shock treatment.

est. *abbrev. for:* 1. established. 2. estimate(d).

-est *suffix.* forming the superlative degree of adjectives and adverbs: *fastest*.

establish (i'stæblɪʃ) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to make secure or permanent in a certain place, condition, job, etc. 2. to create or set up (an organization, etc.) as on a permanent basis. 3. to prove correct; validate: *establish a fact*. 4. to cause (a principle, theory, etc.) to be accepted: *establish a precedent*. 5. to give (a Church) the status of a national institution. —**es'tablisher** *n.*

establishment (i'stæblɪʃmənt) *n.* 1. the act of establishing or state of being established. 2. *a.* a business organization or other large institution. *b.* a place of business. 3. the staff and equipment of an organization. 4. any large organization or system. 5. a household; residence. 6. a body of employees or servants.

Establishment (i'stæblɪʃmənt) *n.* the, a group or class having institutional authority within a society: usually seen as conservative.

estate (i'steɪt) *n.* 1. a large piece of landed property, esp. in the country. 2. *Chiefly Brit.* a large area of property development, esp. of new houses or (*trading estate*) of factories. 3. *Law.* *a.* property or possessions. *b.* the nature of interest that a person has in land or other property. *c.* the total extent of the property of a deceased person or bankrupt. 4. Also called: *estate of the realm.* an order or class in a political community, regarded as a part of the body politic: the lords spiritual (*first estate*), lords temporal (*peers*) (*second estate*), and commons (*third estate*). See also *fourth estate*. 5. state, period, or position in life: *youth's estate; a poor man's estate*.

estate agent *n.* 1. *Brit.* an agent concerned with the valuation, management, lease, and sale of property. 2. the administrator of a large landed property; *estate manager*.

estate car *n.* *Brit.* a car containing a large carrying space, reached through a rear door: usually the back seats fold forward to increase the carrying space.

estate duty *n.* another name for *death duty*.

esteem (i'sti:m) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to have great respect or high regard for. 2. *Formal.* to judge or consider; deem. ~*n.* 3. high regard or respect; good opinion. 4. *Arch.* judgment; opinion.

ester (i'ɛstə) *n.* *Chem.* any of a class of compounds produced by reaction between acids and alcohols with the elimination of water.

estimable (i'estiməbəl) *adj.* worthy of respect; deserving of admiration. —**'estimableness** *n.* —**'estimably** *adv.*

estimate *vb.* (i'esti,meɪt) 1. to form an approximate idea of (size, cost, etc.); calculate roughly. 2. (tr.; *may take a clause as object*) to form an opinion about; judge. 3. to submit (an approximate price) for (a job) to a prospective client. ~*n.* (i'estimɪt) 4. an approximate calculation. 5. a statement of the likely charge for certain work. 6. a judgment; appraisal. —**'esti,mator** *n.* —**'estimative** *adj.*

estimation (i'esti'meɪʃən) *n.* 1. a considered opinion; judgment. 2. esteem; respect. 3. the act of estimating.

estoppel (i'stopəl) *n.* *Law.* a rule of evidence whereby a person is precluded from denying the truth of a statement he has previously asserted.

estrangle (i'streɪndʒ) *vb.* (tr.) to antagonize or lose the affection of (someone previously friendly); alienate. —**es'trangement** *n.*

estuary (i'estjuəri) *n., pl. -aries.* the widening channel of a river where it meets the sea. —**estuarial** (i'estju-'ɛəriəl) *adj.* —**'estuarine** *adj.*

-et *suffix of nouns.* small or lesser: *islet; baronet*.

eta (i'tɪtə) *n.* the seventh letter in the Greek alphabet (H, η).

E.T.A. *abbrev. for* estimated time of arrival.

et al. *abbrev. for:* 1. *et alibi*. 2. *et alii*.

etc. *abbrev. for* *et cetera*.

et cetera (it 'setrə) *n. and vb. substitute.* 1. and the rest; and others; and so forth. 2. or the like; or something similar.

▷ **Usage.** Since *et cetera* (or *etc.*) means *and other things*, careful writers do not use the expression *and etc.* The repetition of *etc.*, as in *notebooks, etc., etc.*, is avoided in formal contexts.

etceteras (it'setərəz) *pl. n.* miscellaneous extra things or persons.

etch (etʃ) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to wear away the surface of (a metal, glass, etc.) by the action of an acid. 2. to cut or corrode (a design, etc.) on (a metal or other printing plate) by the action of acid on parts not covered by wax or other acid-resistant coating. 3. (tr.) to cut as with a sharp implement. 4. (tr.; *usually passive*) to imprint vividly. —**'etcher** *n.*

etching (i'etʃɪŋ) *n.* 1. the art, act, or process of preparing etched surfaces or of printing designs from them. 2. an etched plate. 3. an impression made from an etched plate.

eternal (i'tɜ:nəl) *adj.* 1. *a.* without beginning or end; lasting for ever. *b.* (as *n.*): *the eternal*. 2. (*often cap.*) a name applied to God. 3. unchanged by time; immutable: *eternal truths*. 4. seemingly unceasing. —, **eter'nality** or **e'ternalness** *n.*

eternal triangle *n.* an emotional relationship in which there are conflicts involving a man and two women or a woman and two men.

eternity (i'tɜ:ni:tɪ) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. endless or infinite time. 2. the quality, state, or condition of being eternal. 3. (*usually pl.*) any aspect of life and thought considered timeless. 4. *Theol.* the timeless existence, believed by some to characterize the afterlife. 5. a seemingly endless period of time.

eternity ring *n.* a ring given as a token of lasting affection, esp. one set all around with stones to symbolize continuity.

ethane (i'θeɪn, i'θ-) *n.* a colourless odourless flammable gaseous alkane obtained from natural gas and petroleum: used as a fuel. Formula: C₂H₆.

ethanol (i'θɔ:nl, i'θ-) *n.* the technical name for alcohol (sense 1).

ethene (i'θi:n) *n.* the technical name for ethylene.

ether (i'θɜ:θ) *n.* 1. Also called: *diethyl ether, ethyl ether, ethoxyethane*. a colourless volatile highly flammable liquid: used as a solvent and anaesthetic. Formula: C₂H₅OC₂H₅. 2. any of a class of organic compounds with the general formula ROR', as in diethyl ether C₂H₅OC₂H₅. 3. *the ether.* the medium formerly believed to fill all space and to support the propagation of electromagnetic waves. 4. *Greek myth.* the upper regions of the atmosphere; clear sky or heaven. ~Also (for senses 3 and 4): **aether**. —**etheric** (i'θerɪk) *adj.*

ethereal (i'θiəriəl) *adj.* 1. extremely delicate or refined. 2. almost as light as air; airy. 3. celestial or spiritual. 4. of, containing, or dissolved in an ether, esp. diethyl ether. 5. of or relating to the ether. —*e, there'al*ity or *e'therealness* *n.*

etherealize or **-ise** (i'θiəriəlaɪz) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to make

or regard as being ethereal. **2.** to add ether to or make into ether. —**e,thereali'zation** or **-i'sation** *n.*

etherize or **-ise** ('i:ðə,raɪz) *vb.* (tr.) *Obs.* to subject (a patient, etc.) to the anaesthetic influence of ether fumes; anaesthetize. —**etheri'zation** or **-i'sation** *n.* —**'etherizer** or **-iser** *n.*

ethic ('eθɪk) *n.* **1.** a moral principle or set of moral values held by an individual or group. ~*adj.* **2.** another word for **ethical**.

ethical ('eθɪkəl) *adj.* **1.** in accordance with principles of conduct that are considered correct, esp. those of a given profession or group. **2.** of or relating to ethics. **3.** (of a medicinal agent) available legally only with a doctor's prescription. —**'ethicalness** or **'ethi'cality** *n.*

ethics ('eθɪks) *n.* **1.** (functioning as *sing.*) the philosophical study of the moral value of human conduct and of the rules and principles that ought to govern it. **2.** (functioning as *pl.*) a code of behaviour considered correct, esp. that of a particular group, profession, or individual. **3.** (functioning as *pl.*) the moral fitness of a decision, course of action, etc. —**'ethicist** *n.*

Ethiopian (i:θi'əʊpiən) *adj.* **1.** of or relating to Ethiopia (a state in NE Africa), its people, or any of their languages. ~*n.* **2.** a native or inhabitant of Ethiopia. **3.** any of the languages of Ethiopia, esp. Amharic. ~*n.*, *adj.* **4.** an archaic word for Negro.

ethnic ('eθnik) or **ethnical** *adj.* **1.** of or relating to a human group having racial, religious, linguistic, and other traits in common. **2.** relating to the classification of mankind into groups, esp. on the basis of racial characteristics. **3.** denoting or deriving from the cultural traditions of a group of people. —**ethnicity** ('eθ'nɪsɪti) *n.*

ethno- combining form. indicating race, people, or culture.

ethnography ('eθnɒgrəfi) *n.* the branch of anthropology that deals with the scientific description of individual human societies. —**eth'nographer** *n.* —**ethnographic** ('eθnə'græfɪk) or **ethnographical** *adj.*

ethnology ('eθnələdʒi) *n.* the branch of anthropology that deals with races and peoples, their origins, characteristics, etc. —**ethnologic** ('eθnə'lɒdʒɪk) or **ethnological** *adj.* —**eth'nologist** *n.*

ethos ('i:θɒs) *n.* the distinctive character, spirit, and attitude of a people, culture, era, etc.: *the revolutionary ethos*.

ethyl ('i:θaɪ, 'eθl) *n.* (modifier) of, consisting of, or containing the monovalent group C_2H_5 . —**ethylic** ('iθlɪk) *adj.*

ethyl alcohol *n.* another name for **alcohol** (sense 1).

ethylene ('eθɪlɪn) or **ethene** ('eθɪn) *n.* a colourless flammable gaseous alkene used in the manufacture of polythene and other chemicals. Formula: $CH_2=CH_2$. —**ethylenic** ('eθ'i:li:nɪk) *adj.*

etiolate ('i:tɪəʊ,let) *vb.* **1.** Bot. to whiten (a green plant) through lack of sunlight. **2.** to become or cause to become pale and weak. —**etio'lation** *n.*

etiquette ('eti,ket, 'eti'ket) *n.* **1.** the customs or rules governing behaviour regarded as correct in social life. **2.** a conventional code of practice followed in certain professions or groups.

Eton collar ('i:tɪ'n) *n.* a broad stiff white collar worn outside an Eton jacket.

Eton crop *n.* a very short mannish hair style worn by women in the 1920s.

Eton jacket *n.* a waist-length jacket, open in front, formerly worn by pupils of Eton College, a public school for boys in S England.

Etruscan ('i:trəskən) or **Etrurian** ('i:trʊəriən) *n.* **1.** a member of an ancient people of Etruria in central Italy whose civilization greatly influenced the Romans. **2.** the language of the ancient Etruscans. ~*adj.* **3.** of or relating to Etruria, the Etruscans, their culture, or their language.

-ette suffix of nouns. **1.** small: *cigarette*. **2.** female: *majorette*. **3. (esp. in trade names) imitation: *Leatherette*.**

étude ('eɪtju:d) *n.* a short musical composition for a solo instrument, esp. one designed as an exercise or exploiting virtuosity.

ety., etym., or etymol. abbrev. for: **1.** etymological. **2.** etymology.

etymology ('eɪtɪmələdʒi) *n.*, *pl.* -gies. **1.** the study of the sources and development of words. **2.** an account of the source and development of a word. —**etymological** ('eɪtɪmə'lɒdʒɪkəl) *adj.* —**ety'mologist** *n.* —**ety'mologize** or **-ise** *vb.*

Eu the chemical symbol for europium.

eu- prefix. well, pleasant, or good: *eupaptic*; *euphony*.

eucalyptus (ju:kə'liptəs) or **eucalypt** ('ju:kə,lipt) *n.*, *pl.* -lyptuses, -lypti ('-liptai), or -lypts. any tree of the mostly Australian genus *Eucalyptus*, widely cultivated for timber, gum, as ornament, and for the medicinal oil in their leaves (**eucalyptus oil**).

Eucharist ('ju:kərist) *n.* **1.** the Christian sacrament in which Christ's Last Supper is commemorated by the consecration of bread and wine. **2.** the consecrated elements of bread and wine offered in the sacrament. —**'Eucha'ristic** or **'Eucha'ristical** *adj.*

Euclidean or **Euclidian** (ju:'klɪdiən) *adj.* denoting a system of geometry based on the axioms of Euclid, 3rd century B.C. Greek mathematician, esp. upon the axiom that parallel lines meet at infinity.

eugenics (ju:'dʒenɪks) *n.* (functioning as *sing.*) the study of methods of improving the quality of the human race, esp. by selective breeding. —**eu'genic** *adj.* —**eu'genically** *adv.* —**eu'genicist** *n.*

eulogize or **-ise** ('ju:lə,dʒaɪz) *vb.* to praise (a person or thing) highly in speech or writing. —**'eulogist**, **'eulogizer**, or **-iser** *n.* —**'eulo'gistic** or **'eulo'gistical** *adj.*

eulogy ('ju:lədʒi) *n.*, *pl.* -gies. **1.** a speech or piece of writing praising a person or thing, esp. a person who has recently died. **2.** high praise or commendation. ~Also called (archaic): **eulogium** (ju:'ləʊdʒɪəm).

eunuch ('ju:nək) *n.* **1.** a man who has been castrated, esp. (formerly) for some office such as a guard in a harem. **2.** *Inf.* an ineffective man.

euphemism ('ju:fɪ,mɪzəm) *n.* **1.** an inoffensive word or phrase substituted for one considered offensive or hurtful. **2.** the use of such inoffensive words or phrases. —**'euphemist** *n.* —**'euphe'mistic** *adj.* —**'euphe'mistical** *adv.*

euphonic (ju:'fɒnik) or **euphoniuous** (ju:'fəʊniəs) *adj.* **1.** denoting or relating to euphony; pleasing to the ear. **2.** (of speech sounds) altered for ease of pronunciation. —**'euphonically** or **'euphoniuously** *adv.* —**'euphoniuousness** *n.*

euphonium (ju:'fəʊniəm) *n.* a brass musical instrument with four valves.

euphony ('ju:fəni) *n.*, *pl.* -nies. **1.** the alteration of speech sounds, esp. by assimilation, so as to make them easier to pronounce. **2.** a pleasing sound, esp. in speech.

euphoria ('ju:fəriə) *n.* a feeling of great elation, esp. when exaggerated. —**'euphoric** (ju:'fɒrik) *adj.*

euphuism ('ju:fju:,izəm) *n.* **1.** an artificial prose style of the Elizabethan period, marked by extreme use of antithesis, alliteration, and extended similes and allusions. **2.** any stylish affectation in speech or writing. —**'euphuist** *n.* —**'euphu'istic** or **'euphu'istical** *adj.* —**'euphu'istically** *adv.*

Eur. abbrev. for **Europe(an)**.

Eur- combining form. variant of **Euro-** before a vowel.

Eurasian (juə'reɪʃən, -ʒən) *adj.* **1.** of or relating to Europe and Asia considered as a whole. **2.** of mixed European and Asian descent. ~*n.* **3.** a person of mixed European and Asian descent.

Euratom (juə'rætəm) *n.* short for **European Atomic Energy Commission**; an authority established by the Common Market to develop peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

eureka (ju:'rika) *interj.* an exclamation of triumph on discovering or solving something.

eurhythmics or *esp.* **U.S. eurythmics** (ju:'riðmiks) *n.* (functioning as *sing.*) **1.** a system of training through physical movement to music. **2.** dancing of this style. —**'eu'rhythmy** or **'eu'rythmy** *n.*

Euro- ('juərə-) or before a vowel **Eur-** combining form. **European** or **European**.

Eurodollar ('juərəʊ,dɒlə) *n.* a U.S. dollar as part of a European holding.

European (juərə'pi:ən) *adj.* **1.** of or relating to Europe or its inhabitants. **2.** native to or derived from Europe. ~*n.* **3.** a native or inhabitant of Europe. **4.** a person of European descent. **5.** S. African. any white person. —**'Euro'peanist** *n.*

europium (ju'ɒrɒpiəm) *n.* a silvery-white element of the lanthanide series of metals. Symbol: Eu; atomic no.: 63; atomic wt.: 151.96.

eurythmics (ju:'riðmiks) *n.* a variant spelling (esp. U.S.) of **eurhythmics**.

Eustachian tube (ju:'steɪʃən) *n.* a tube that connects the middle ear with the pharynx and equalizes the pressure between the two sides of the eardrum.

euthanasia (ju:θə'neɪzə) *n.* the act of killing someone

painlessly, esp. to relieve suffering from an incurable illness.

eV *abbrev. for* electronvolt.

evacuate (i'vækju,et) *vb.* (mainly *tr.*) 1. (also *intr.*) to withdraw or cause to withdraw (from a place of danger) to a place of safety. 2. to make empty. 3. (also *intr.*) *Physiol. a.* to eliminate or excrete (faeces). *b.* to discharge (any waste) from (the body). 4. (tr.) to create a vacuum in (a bulb, flask, etc.). —*e*,*vacu*'ation *n.* —*e*,*vacu*'ative *adj.* —*e*,*vacu*,*ator* *n.* —*e*,*vacu*'ee *n.*

evade (i'veid) *vb.* (mainly *tr.*) 1. to get away from or avoid (imprisonment, captors, etc.). 2. to get around, shirk, or dodge (the law, a duty, etc.). 3. (also *intr.*) to avoid answering (a question). —*e*,*vad*'able *adj.* —*e*,*vad*'er *n.* —*e*,*vad*'ingly *adv.*

evaluate (i'væljʊ,et) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to ascertain or set the amount or value of. 2. to judge or assess the worth of. —*e*,*valu*'ation *n.* —*e*,*valu*'ative *adj.* —*e*,*valu*,*ator* *n.*

evanesce (i'væn'es) *vb.* (*intr.*) (of smoke, mist, etc.) to fade gradually from sight; vanish.

evanescent (i'væn'es'snt) *adj.* 1. passing out of sight; fading away; vanishing. 2. ephemeral or transitory. —*e*,*van*'escence *n.*

evangel (i'vændʒəl) *n.* 1. *Arch.* the gospel of Christianity. 2. (often *cap.*) any of the four Gospels of the New Testament. 3. any body of teachings regarded as basic.

evangelical (i'vændʒɪkəl) *Christianity. adj.* 1. of or following from the Gospels. 2. denoting or relating to any of certain Protestant sects, which emphasize personal conversion and faith in atonement through the death of Christ as a means of salvation. 3. denoting or relating to an evangelist. 4. a member of an evangelical sect. —*e*,*van*'gelicalism *n.*

evangelism (i'vændʒɪ,lɪzəm) *n.* 1. the practice of spreading the Christian gospel. 2. ardent or missionary zeal for a cause.

evangelist (i'vændʒɪlɪst) *n.* 1. an occasional preacher, sometimes itinerant. 2. a preacher of the Christian gospel. —*e*,*vange*'listic *adj.*

Evangelist (i'vændʒɪlɪst) *n.* any of the writers of the New Testament Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John.

evangelize or **-ise** (i'vændʒɪ,laɪz) *vb.* 1. to preach the Christian gospel (to). 2. (*intr.*) to advocate a cause with the object of making converts. —*e*,*vange*'lization or *-i*'sation *n.* —*e*,*vange*,*lizer* or *-iser* *n.*

evaporate (i'væpə,reit) *vb.* 1. to change or cause to change from a liquid or solid state to a vapour. 2. to lose or cause to lose liquid by vaporization leaving a more concentrated residue. 3. to disappear or cause to disappear. —*e*,*vapor*'able *adj.* —*e*,*vapora*'bility *n.* —*e*,*vapo*'ration *n.* —*e*,*vapor*'ative *adj.* —*e*,*vapo*,*ra*'tor *n.*

evaporated milk *n.* thick unsweetened tinned milk from which some of the water has been evaporated.

evasion (i'veɪʒən) *n.* 1. the act of evading, esp. a distasteful duty, responsibility, etc., by cunning or by illegal means: *tax evasion*. 2. cunning or deception used to dodge a question, duty, etc.; means of evading.

evasive (i'veɪsɪv) *adj.* 1. tending or seeking to evade; not straightforward. 2. avoiding or seeking to avoid trouble or difficulties. 3. hard to catch or obtain; elusive. —*e*,*vas*'ively *adv.* —*e*,*vas*'iveness *n.*

eve (i:v) *n.* 1. the evening or day before some special event. 2. the period immediately before an event: *the eve of war*. 3. an archaic word for **evening**.

even¹ (i'v:n) *adj.* 1. level and regular; flat. 2. (*postpositive*; foll. by *with*) on the same level or in the same plane (as). 3. without variation or fluctuation; regular; constant. 4. not readily moved or excited; calm: *an even temper*. 5. equally balanced between two sides: *an even game*. 6. equal or identical in number, quantity, etc. 7. *a.* (of a number) divisible by two. *b.* characterized or indicated by such a number: *the even pages*. 8. relating to or denoting two or either of two alternatives, events, etc., that have an equal probability: *an even chance of missing or catching a train*. 9. having no balance of debt; neither owing nor being owed. 10. just and impartial; fair. 11. exact in number, amount, or extent: *an even pound*. 12. equal, as in score; level. 13. **even money**, *a.* a bet that wins an identical sum if it succeeds. *b.* (as *modifier*): *the even-money favourite*. 14. **get even** (*with*). *Inf.* to exact revenge (on). ~*adv.* 15. (*intensifier*; used to suggest that the content of a statement is unexpected or paradoxical): *even an idiot can do that*. 16. (*intensifier*; used with comparative forms): *even better*. 17. notwithstanding; in spite of. 18. used to introduce a more precise version of a word, phrase, or statement: *he is base, even depraved*. 19. used preced-

ing a clause of supposition or hypothesis to emphasize that whether or not the condition in it is fulfilled, the statement in the main clause remains valid: *even if she died he wouldn't care*. 20. *Arch.* all the way; fully: *I love thee even unto death*. 21. **even as**, (*conj.*) at the very same moment or in the very same way that. 22. **even so**, in spite of any assertion to the contrary: nevertheless. ~See also **even out**, **even up**. —*e*,*ven*'er *n.* —*e*,*ven*'ely *adv.* —*e*,*ven*'ness *n.*

even² (i'v:n) *n.* an archaic word for **eve** or **evening**.

even-handed *adj.* fair; impartial. —*e*,*ven*'-handedly *adv.* —*e*,*ven*'-handedness *n.*

evening (i'vniŋ) *n.* 1. the latter part of the day, esp. from late afternoon until nightfall. 2. the latter or concluding period: *the evening of one's life*. 3. the early part of the night spent in a specified way: *an evening at the theatre*. 4. (*modifier*) of, used in, or occurring in the evening: *the evening papers*.

evening dress *n.* attire for a formal occasion during the evening.

evening primrose *n.* any plant of an American genus typically having yellow flowers that open in the evening.

evenings (i'vniŋz) *adv. Inf.* in the evening, esp. regularly.

evening star *n.* a planet, usually Venus, seen shining brightly in the west just after sunset.

even out *vb.* (*adv.*) to make or become even, as by the removal of bumps, inequalities, etc.

evens (i'vənz) *adj., adv.* 1. (of a bet) winning an identical sum if successful. 2. (of a runner) offered at such odds.

evenson (i'v:n,sən) *n.* 1. Also called: **Evening Prayer**. *Church of England.* the daily evening service. 2. *Chiefly R.C. Church.* another name for **vespers**.

event (i'vent) *n.* 1. anything that takes place, esp. something important; an incident. 2. the actual or final outcome (esp. in **in the event**, **after the event**). 3. any one contest in a programme of sporting or other contests. 4. **at all events** or **in any event**, regardless of circumstances; in any case. 5. **in the event of**, in case of; if (such a thing) happens. 6. **in the event that**, if it should happen that.

eventful (i'ventfʊl) *adj.* full of events. —*e*,*vent*'fully *adv.* —*e*,*vent*'fulness *n.*

eventide (i'v:n,taid) *n.* *Arch. or poetic.* another word for **evening**.

eventing (i'ventɪŋ) *n.* *Chiefly Brit.* the sport of taking part in equestrian competitions (esp. **three-day events**), usually involving cross-country riding, jumping, and dressage.

eventual (i'ventʃʊəl) *adj.* 1. (*prepositional*) happening in due course of time; ultimate. 2. *Arch.* contingent or possible. —*e*,*ventu*'ally *adv.*

eventuality (i'ventʃʊ'ælɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* a possible event, occurrence, or result; contingency.

eventuate (i'ventʃʊ,et) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. (often foll. by *in*) to result ultimately (in). 2. to come about as a result. —*e*,*ventu*'ation *n.*

even up *vb.* (*adv.*) to make or become equal, esp. in respect of claims or debts.

ever (i'evə) *adv.* 1. at any time. 2. by any chance; in any case: *how did you ever find out?* 3. at all times; always. 4. in any possible way or manner: *come as fast as ever you can*. 5. *Inf., chiefly Brit.* (intensifier, in **ever so**, **ever such**, and **ever such a**). 6. **is he or she ever!** *U.S. sl.* he or she displays the quality concerned in abundance. ~See also **for ever**.

evergreen (i'evə,grɪn) *adj.* 1. (of certain trees and shrubs) bearing foliage throughout the year. Cf. **deciduous**. 2. remaining fresh and vital. ~*n.* 3. an evergreen tree or shrub.

everlasting (i'evə'læstɪŋ) *adj.* 1. never coming to an end; eternal. 2. lasting for an indefinitely long period. 3. lasting so long or occurring so often as to become tedious. ~*n.* 4. eternity. 5. Also called: **everlasting flower**, a plant whose blossoms keep their colour and shape when dried. —*e*,*ver*'lastingly *adv.*

evermore (i'evə'mɔ:) *adv.* (often preceded by *for*) all time to come.

every (i'evri) *determiner.* 1. each one (of the class specified), without exception. 2. (*not used with a negative*) the greatest or best possible: *every hope*. 3. each: used before a noun phrase to indicate the recurrent, intermittent, or serial nature of a thing: *every third day*. 4. **every bit**, (used in comparisons with *as*) quite; just; equally. 5. **every other**, each alternate; every second;

6. from which way. *U.S. a.* in all directions; everywhere. *b.* from all sides.

everybody ('evri,bɒdi) *pron.* every person; everyone.

▷ **Usage.** See at **everyone**.

everyday ('evri,deɪ) *adj.* 1. happening each day. 2. commonplace or usual. 3. suitable for or used on ordinary days.

Everyman ('evri,mæn) *n.* 1. a medieval English morality play in which the central figure represents mankind. 2. (often not cap.) the ordinary person; common man.

every one *pron.* each person or thing in a group, without exception.

everyone ('evri,wʌn, -wən) *pron.* every person; everybody.

▷ **Usage.** *Everybody, everyone, none, no one, nobody, somebody, someone, and each* function as singular in careful English: *everyone nodded his head* (not *their heads*). The use of *their* in such constructions is, however, common in informal English.

everything ('evri,θɪŋ) *pron.* 1. the entirety of a specified or implied class. 2. a great deal, esp. of something very important.

everywhere ('evri,weə) *adv.* to or in all parts or places.

evict ('i:vɪkt) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to expel (a tenant) from property by process of law. 2. to recover (property or the title to property) by judicial process or by virtue of a superior title. — **e-viction** *n.* — **e-victor** *n.*

evidence ('eɪdɪns) *n.* 1. ground for belief or disbelief; data on which to base proof or to establish truth or falsehood. 2. a mark or sign that makes evident. 3. Law. matter produced before a court of law in an attempt to prove or disprove a point in issue. 4. **turn queen's (king's, state's) evidence.** (of an accomplice) to act as witness for the prosecution and testify against those associated with him in crime. 5. **in evidence.** on display; apparent. ~*vb. (tr.)* 6. to make evident; show clearly. 7. to give proof of or evidence for.

evident ('eɪdɪnt) *adj.* easy to see or understand; apparent. — **evidently** *adv.*

evidential ('eɪvɪdɪnəl) *adj.* relating to, serving as, or based on evidence. — **evidentially** *adv.*

evil ('i:vəl) *adj.* 1. morally wrong or bad; wicked. 2. causing harm or injury. 3. marked or accompanied by misfortune: *an evil fate*. 4. (of temper, disposition, etc.) characterized by anger or spite. 5. infamous: *an evil reputation*. 6. offensive or unpleasant: *an evil smell*. ~*n.* 7. the quality or an instance of being morally wrong; wickedness. 8. (sometimes cap.) a force or power that brings about wickedness or harm. ~*adv.* 9. (now usually in combination) in an evil manner; badly: *evil-smelling*. — **evilly** *adv.* — **evilness** *n.*

evildoer ('i:vəl,dʊə) *n.* a person who does evil. — **evil-doing** *n.*

evil eye *n. the.* 1. a look or glance superstitiously supposed to have the power of inflicting harm or injury. 2. the power to inflict harm, etc., by such a look. — **evil-eyed** *adj.*

evince ('i:vɪns) *vb. (tr.)* to make evident; show (something) clearly. — **e-vincible** *adj.* — **e-vincive** *adj.*

eviscerate ('i:vɪsə,reɪt) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to remove the internal organs of; disembowel. 2. (tr.) to deprive of meaning or significance. — **e-visceration** *n.* — **e-viscerator** *n.*

evocation ('eɪvə'keɪʃən) *n.* the act or an instance of evoking. — **evocative** ('i:vəkətɪv) *adj.*

evoke ('i:vəʊk) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to call or summon up (a memory, feeling, etc.), esp. from the past. 2. to provoke; elicit. 3. to cause (spirits) to appear; conjure up. — **evocable** ('eɪvəkəbəl) *adj.* — **e-voker** *n.*

evolution ('i:və'lju:ʃən) *n.* 1. *Biol.* a gradual change in the characteristics of a population of animals or plants over successive generations. 2. a gradual development, esp. to a more complex form: *the evolution of modern art*. 3. the act of throwing off, as heat, gas, vapour, etc. 4. a pattern formed by a series of movements or something similar. 5. an algebraic operation in which the root of a number, expression, etc., is extracted. 6. *Mil.* an exercise carried out in accordance with a set procedure or plan. — **evo-lutionary** *or* **evo-lutional** *adj.*

evolutionist ('i:və'lju:ʃənɪst) *n.* 1. a person who believes in a theory of evolution. ~*adj.* 2. of or relating to a theory of evolution. — **evo-lutionism** *n.* — **evolution-istic** *adj.*

evolve ('i:vɒlv) *vb.* 1. to develop or cause to develop gradually. 2. (of animal or plant species) to undergo evolution of (organs or parts). 3. (tr-) to yield, emit, or

give off (heat, gas, vapour, etc.). — **e-volvable** *adj.* — **e-volvement** *n.*

ewe (ju:) *n. a.* a female sheep. *b. (as modifier):* a *ewe lamb*.

ewer ('ju:ə) *n.* a large jug or pitcher with a wide mouth.

ex¹ (eks) *prep.* 1. *Finance.* excluding; without: *ex dividend*. 2. *Commerce.* without charge to the buyer until removed from: *ex warehouse*.

ex² (eks) *n. Inf.* (a person's) former wife, husband, etc.

ex⁻¹ *prefix.* 1. out of; outside of; from: *exclosure*; *exurbia*. 2. former: *ex-wife*.

ex⁻² *combining form.* variant of **exo-** before a vowel: *exergonic*.

Ex. *Bible.* abbrev. for *Exodus*.

exacerbate (ɪg'zæsə,beɪt, ɪk'sæs-) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to make (pain, disease, etc.) more intense; aggravate. 2. to irritate (a person). — **ex-acer,batingly** *adv.* — **ex-acer-bation** *n.*

exact (ɪg'zækt) *adj.* 1. correct in every detail; strictly accurate. 2. precise, as opposed to approximate. 3. (*prepositional*) specific; particular. 4. operating with very great precision. 5. allowing no deviation from a standard; rigorous; strict. 6. based on measurement and the formulation of laws, as opposed to description and classification: *an exact science*. ~*vb. (tr.)* 7. to force or compel (payment, etc.); extort: *to exact tribute*. 8. to demand as a right; insist upon. 9. to call for or require. — **ex-actable** *adj.* — **ex-actness** *n.* — **ex-actor** *or* **ex-act-er** *n.*

exacting (ɪg'zæktɪŋ) *adj.* making rigorous or excessive demands. — **ex-actingness** *n.*

exaction (ɪg'zækʃən) *n.* 1. the act or an instance of exacting. 2. an excessive or harsh demand, esp. for money. 3. a sum or payment exacted.

exactitude (ɪg'zæktɪ,tju:d) *n.* the quality of being exact; precision; accuracy.

exactly (ɪg'zæktli) *adv.* 1. in an exact manner; accurately or precisely. 2. in every respect; just. ~*interj.* 3. just so! precisely! 4. **not exactly.** *Ironical.* not at all; by no means.

exaggerate (ɪg'zædʒə,reɪt) *vb.* 1. to regard or represent as larger or greater, more important or more successful, etc., than is true. 2. (tr-) to make greater, more noticeable, etc. — **ex-agger,atingly** *adv.* — **ex-agger-ation** *n.* — **ex-aggravative** *or* **ex-aggravatory** *adj.* — **ex-agger,ated** *adj.* — **ex-agger,ator** *n.*

exalt (ɪg'zɔ:lɪt) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to elevate in rank, dignity, etc. 2. to praise highly; extol. 3. to stimulate; excite. 4. to fill with joy or delight; elate. — **ex-alted** *adj.* — **ex-alter** *n.* — **exal-tation** *n.*

exam (ɪg'zæm) *n.* short for *examination* (sense 2).

examination (ɪg,zæmɪ'neɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of examining or state of being examined. 2. *Education.* a. written exercises, oral questions, etc., set to test a candidate's knowledge and skill. *b. (as modifier):* *an examination paper*. 3. *Med.* a. physical inspection of a patient. *b.* laboratory study of secretory or excretory products, tissue samples, etc. 4. Law. the formal interrogation of a person on oath. — **ex,ami-national** *adj.*

examine (ɪg'zæmɪn) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to inspect or scrutinize carefully or in detail; investigate. 2. *Education.* to test the knowledge or skill of (a candidate) in (a subject or activity) by written or oral questions, etc. 3. Law. to interrogate (a person) formally on oath. 4. *Med.* to investigate the state of health of (a patient). — **ex-amin-able** *adj.* — **ex,ami-nee** *n.* — **ex-aminer** *n.*

example (ɪg'zɑ:mpəl) *n.* 1. a specimen or instance that is typical of its group or set; sample. 2. a person, action, thing, etc., that is worthy of imitation; pattern. 3. a precedent, illustration of a principle, or model. 4. a punishment or the recipient of a punishment intended to serve as a warning. 5. **for example.** as an illustration; for instance. ~*vb.* 6. (tr-; now usually passive) to present an example of; exemplify.

exasperate (ɪg'zɑ:spə,reɪt) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to cause great irritation or anger to. 2. to cause (something unpleasant) to worsen; aggravate. — **ex-asper,atedly** *adv.* — **ex-asper,ater** *n.* — **ex-asper,atingly** *adv.* — **ex-asper-a-tion** *n.*

ex cathedra (eks kə'θɪ:dʒə) *adj., adv.* 1. with authority. 2. *R.C. Church.* (of doctrines of faith or morals) defined by the pope as infallibly true, to be accepted by all Catholics.

excavate ('ekskeɪ,veɪt) *vb.* 1. to remove (soil, earth, etc.) by digging; dig out. 2. to make (a hole or tunnel) in (solid matter) by hollowing. 3. to unearth (buried ob-

jects) methodically to discover information about the past. —**exca'vation** *n.* —**exca,vator** *n.*

exceed (ik'si:ɔd) *vb.* 1. to be superior to; excel. 2. (*tr.*) to go beyond the limit or bounds of. 3. to be greater in degree or quantity than. —**ex'ceedable** *adj.* —**ex'ceed-er** *n.*

exceeding (ik'si:ɔɪŋ) *adj.* 1. very great; exceptional or excessive. ~*adv.* 2. *Arch.* to a great or unusual degree. —**ex'ceedingly** *adv.*

excel (ik'sel) *vb.* —**cel'ling, -celled. 1. to be superior to (another or others); surpass. 2. (*intr.*; foll. by *in* or *at*) to be outstandingly good or proficient.**

excellence ('eksələns) *n.* 1. the state or quality of excelling or being exceptionally good; extreme merit. 2. an action, feature, etc., in which a person excels. —**ex-cel'lent** *adj.* —**ex'cellently** *adv.*

Excellency ('eksələnsi) or **Excellence** *n., pl. -lencies or -lences.* 1. (usually preceded by *Your, His, or Her*) a title used to address or refer to a high-ranking official, such as an ambassador. 2. *R.C. Church.* a title of bishops and archbishops in many non-English-speaking countries.

except (ik'sept) *prep.* 1. Also: **except for.** other than; apart from. 2. **except that.** (*conj.*) but for the fact that; were it not true that. ~*conj.* 3. an archaic word for **unless.** 4. *Inf.* not standard in the U.S. except that; but for the fact that. ~*vb.* 5. (*tr.*) to leave out; omit; exclude. 6. (*intr.*; often foll. by *to*) Rare. to take exception; object. —**ex'ceptable** *adj.*

excepting (ik'septɪŋ) *prep.* 1. except; except for (*esp.* in not **excepting**). ~*conj.* 2. an archaic word for **unless.**

exception (ik'sepʃən) *n.* 1. the act of excepting or fact of being excepted; omission. 2. anything excluded from or not in conformance with a general rule, principle, class, etc. 3. criticism, esp. adverse; objection. 4. *Law.* (formerly) a formal objection in legal proceedings. 5. **take exception.** a. (usually foll. by *to*) to make objections (to); demur (at). b. (often foll. by *at*) to be offended (by); be resentful (at).

exceptionable (ik'sepʃənəbəl) *adj.* open to or subject to objection; objectionable. —**ex'ceptionableness** *n.* —**ex'ceptionably** *adv.*

exceptional (ik'sepʃənəl) *adj.* 1. forming an exception; not ordinary. 2. having much more than average intelligence, ability, or skill.

excerpt *n.* ('eksɜ:pt). 1. a part or passage taken from a book, speech, etc.; extract. ~*vb.* ('eksɜ:pt). 2. (*tr.*) to take (a part or passage) from a book, speech, etc. —**ex'cerpter** or **ex'cerptor** *n.* —**ex'cerptible** *adj.* —**ex'cerption** *n.*

excess *n.* (ik'ses, 'eksəs). 1. the state or act of going beyond normal, sufficient, or permitted limits. 2. an immoderate or abnormal amount. 3. the amount, number, etc. by which one thing exceeds another. 4. overindulgence or intemperance. 5. *Insurance.* chiefly *Brit.* a specified contribution towards the cost of a claim, payable by the policyholder. 6. **in excess of.** of more than; over. 7. **to excess.** to an inordinate extent; immoderately. ~*adj.* ('eksəs, ik'səs). (usually *prenominal*) 8. more than normal, necessary, or permitted; surplus; excess weight. 9. payable as a result of previous underpayment: **excess postage.** —**ex'cessive** *adj.*

excess luggage or baggage *n.* luggage that is more in weight or number of pieces than an airline, etc. will carry free.

exchange (iks'tʃeɪndʒ) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to give up or transfer (one thing) for an equivalent. 2. (*tr.*) to give and receive (information, ideas, etc.); interchange. 3. (*tr.*) to replace (one thing) with another, esp. to replace unsatisfactory goods. 4. to hand over (goods) in return for the equivalent value in kind; barter; trade. ~*n.* 5. the act or process of exchanging. 6. a. anything given or received as an equivalent or substitute for something else. b. (as *modifier*): an **exchange student.** 7. an argument or quarrel. 8. Also called: **telephone exchange.** a switching centre in which telephone lines are interconnected. 9. a place where securities or commodities are sold, bought, or traded, esp. by brokers or merchants. 10. a. the system by which commercial debts are settled by commercial documents, esp. bills of exchange, instead of by direct payment of money. b. the percentage or fee charged for accepting payment in this manner. 11. a transfer or interchange of sums of money of equivalent value, as between different currencies. 12. **win (or lose) the exchange.** *Chess.* to win (or lose) a rook in return for a bishop or knight. ~See also **bill of exchange, exchange rate, labour exchange.** —**ex'changeable** *adj.*

—**ex,changea'bility** *n.* —**ex'changeably** *adv.* —**ex'changer** *n.*

exchange rate *n.* the rate at which the currency unit of one country may be exchanged for that of another.

exchequer (iks'tʃekə) *n.* 1. (often *cap.*) *Government.* (in Britain and certain other countries) the accounting department of the Treasury. 2. *Inf.* personal funds; finances.

excise *n.* ('eksəz, ek'səz). 1. Also called: **excise tax.** a tax on goods, such as spirits, produced for the home market. 2. a tax paid for a licence to carry out various trades, sports, etc. 3. *Brit.* that section of the government service responsible for the collection of excise, now the Board of Customs and Excise. ~*vb.* (ik'səz). 4. (*tr.*) Rare. to compel (a person) to pay excise. —**ex-cision** (ek'siʒən) *n.*

excise (ik'səz) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to delete (a passage, sentence, etc.). 2. to remove (an organ or part) surgically.

exciseman ('eksəz,mæn) *n., pl. -men.* *Brit.* (formerly) a government agent whose function was to collect excise and prevent smuggling.

excitable (ik'saɪəbəl) *adj.* 1. easily excited; volatile. 2. (*esp.* of a nerve) ready to respond to a stimulus. —**ex-cit-a'bility or ex'citableness** *n.*

excite (ik'saɪt) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to arouse (a person), esp. to pleasurable anticipation or nervous agitation. 2. to arouse or elicit (an emotion, response, etc.); evoke. 3. to cause or bring about; stir up. 4. to arouse sexually. 5. *Physiol.* to cause a response in or increase the activity of (an organ, tissue, or part); stimulate. 6. to raise (an atom, molecule, etc.) from the ground state to a higher energy level. 7. to supply electricity to (the coils of a generator or motor) in order to create a magnetic field. —**ex'citant** *n.* —**ex'citation** *n.* —**ex'citative or ex'citatory** *adj.* —**ex'citer or ex'citor** *n.*

excited (ik'saɪtəd) *adj.* 1. emotionally aroused, esp. to pleasure or agitation. 2. characterized by excitement. 3. sexually aroused. 4. (of an atom, molecule, etc.) having an energy level above the ground state. —**ex'cit-edness** *n.*

excitement (ik'saɪtmənt) *n.* 1. the state of being excited. 2. a person or thing that excites.

exciting (ik'saɪtɪŋ) *adj.* causing excitement; stirring; stimulating. —**ex'citingly** *adv.*

exclaim (ik'skleɪm) *vb.* to cry out or speak suddenly or excitedly, as from surprise, delight, horror, etc. —**ex-claim'er** *n.*

exclamation (,eksklə'meɪʃən) *n.* 1. an abrupt or excited cry or utterance; ejaculation. 2. the act of exclaiming. —**excla'mational** *adj.* —**ex'clamatory** *adj.*

exclamation mark or U.S. point *n.* 1. the punctuation mark ! used after exclamations and vehement commands. 2. this mark used for any other purpose, as to draw attention to an obvious mistake, in road warning signs, etc.

exclude (ik'sklu:d) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to keep out; prevent from entering. 2. to reject or not consider; leave out. 3. to expel forcibly; eject. —**ex'cludable** or **ex'cludible** *adj.* —**ex'cluder** *n.*

exclusion (ik'sklu:ʒən) *n.* the act or an instance of excluding or the state of being excluded. —**ex'clusion-ary** *adj.*

exclusive (ik'sklu:sɪv) *adj.* 1. excluding all else; rejecting other considerations, events, etc. 2. belonging to a particular individual or group and to no other; not shared. 3. belonging to or catering for a privileged minority, esp. a fashionable clique. 4. (*postpositive*; foll. by *to*) limited (to); found only (in). 5. single; unique; only. 6. separate and incompatible. 7. (*immediately postpositive*) not including the numbers, dates, letters, etc., mentioned. 8. (*postpositive*; foll. by *of*) except (for); not taking account (of). 9. *Logic.* (of a disjunction) true if only one rather than both of its component propositions is true. ~*n.* 10. an exclusive story; a story reported in only one newspaper. —**ex'clusiveness or exclusivity** (,eksklu:'sɪvɪti) *n.*

excommunicate *R.C. Church.* *vb.* (,ekska'mju:nɪ,keɪt). 1. (*tr.*) to sentence (a member of the Church) to exclusion from the communion of believers and from the privileges and public prayers of the Church. ~*adj.* (,ekska'mju:nɪkɪt, -keɪt). 2. having incurred such a sentence. ~*n.* (,ekska'mju:nɪkɪt, -keɪt). 3. an excommunicated person. —**excom,muni'cation** *n.* —**excom-municative** or **excom,municatory** *adj.* —**excom-municator** *n.*

excoriate (ik'skɔ:ri,eɪt) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to strip (the skin) from (a person or animal). 2. to denounce vehemently. —**ex,cori'ation** *n.*

excrement (ˈɛkskrɪmənt) *n.* waste matter discharged from the body, esp. faeces; excreta. —**excremental** (ˈɛkskrɪməntl) or **excrementitious** (ˈɛkskrɪməntɪʃəs) *adj.* —**excrementally** *adv.*

excrecence (ɪkˈskresns) *n.* a projection or protuberance, esp. an outgrowth from an organ or part of the body. —**excrecent** *adj.* —**excremential** (ˈɛkskrɪˈsɛnʃəl) *adj.*

excreta (ɪkˈskri:tə) *pl. n.* waste matter, such as urine, faeces, or sweat, discharged from the body. —**excretal** *adj.*

excrete (ɪkˈskri:t) *vb.* 1. to discharge (waste matter, such as urine, sweat, or faeces) from the body. 2. (of plants) to eliminate (waste matter) through the leaves, roots, etc. —**excreter** *n.* —**excretion** *n.* —**excretive** or **excretory** *adj.*

excruciating (ɪkˈskruːʃi,etɪŋ) *adj.* 1. unbearably painful; agonizing. 2. intense; extreme. 3. *Inf.* irritating; trying.

exculpate (ˈɛkskəlpeɪt, ɪkˈskəlpeɪt) *vb.* (tr.) to free from blame or guilt; vindicate or exonerate. —**exculpable** (ɪkˈskəlpeəbəl) *adj.* —**exculpation** *n.* —**exculpatory** *adj.*

excursion (ɪkˈskɜːʃən, -ʒən) *n.* 1. a short outward and return journey, esp. for sightseeing, etc.; outing. 2. a group going on such a journey. 3. (*modifier*) of or relating to reduced rates offered on certain journeys by rail: an *excursion ticket*. 4. a digression or deviation; diversion. 5. (formerly) a raid or attack. —**excursionist** *n.*

excursive (ɪkˈskɜːsɪv) *adj.* 1. tending to digress. 2. involving detours; rambling. —**excursively** *adv.* —**excursiveness** *n.*

excuse *vb.* (ɪkˈskjuːz). (tr.) 1. to pardon or forgive. 2. to seek pardon or exemption for (a person, esp. oneself). 3. to make allowances for: to *excuse someone's ignorance*. 4. to serve as an apology or explanation for; justify: *her age excuses her*. 5. to exempt from a task, obligation, etc. 6. to dismiss or allow to leave. 7. to seek permission for (someone, esp. oneself) to leave. 8. *be excused*. *Euphemistic*. to go to the lavatory. 9. **excuse me!** an expression used to catch someone's attention or to apologize for an interruption, disagreement, etc. ~n. (ɪkˈskjuːs). 10. an explanation offered in defence of some fault or as a reason for not fulfilling an obligation, etc. 11. *Inf.* an inferior example of something; makeshift substitute: *she is a poor excuse for a hostess*. 12. the act of excusing. —**excusable** *adj.* —**excusableness** *n.* —**excusably** *adv.*

ex-directory *adj.* *Chiefly Brit.* not listed in a telephone directory, by request, and not disclosed to enquirers.

exeat (ˈɛksɪət) *n. Brit.* 1. leave of absence from school or some other institution. 2. a bishop's permission for a priest to leave his diocese in order to take up an appointment elsewhere.

exec. *abbrev. for:* 1. executive. 2. executor.

execrable (ˈɛkskrəbəl) *adj.* 1. deserving to be execrated; abhorrent. 2. of very poor quality. —**execrable** *n.* —**execrably** *adv.*

execrate (ˈɛkskrɪkreɪt) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to loathe; detest; abhor. 2. (tr.) to denounce; deplore. 3. to curse (a person or thing); damn. —**execration** *n.* —**execrative** or **execratory** *adj.* —**execratively** *adv.*

execute (ˈɛksɪkjʊ:t) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to put (a condemned person) to death; inflict capital punishment upon. 2. to carry out; complete. 3. to perform; accomplish; effect. 4. to make or produce: to *execute a drawing*. 5. to carry into effect (a judicial sentence, the law, etc.). 6. *Law*. to render (a deed, etc.) effective, as by signing, sealing, and delivering. 7. to carry out the terms of (a contract, will, etc.). —**executable** *adj.* —**executant** *n.* —**executer** *n.*

execution (ˈɛksɪˈkjuːʃən) *n.* 1. the act or process of executing. 2. the carrying out or undergoing of a sentence of death. 3. the style or manner in which something is accomplished or performed; technique. 4. a. the enforcement of the judgment of a court of law. b. the writ ordering such enforcement.

executioner (ˈɛksɪˈkjuːʃənə) *n.* an official charged with carrying out the death sentence passed upon a condemned person.

executive (ɪgˈzekjʊtɪv) *n.* 1. a person or group responsible for the administration of a project, activity, or business. 2. a. the branch of government responsible for carrying out laws, decrees, etc. b. any administration. ~adj. 3. having the function of carrying plans, orders, laws, etc., into effect. —**executively** *adv.*

executor (ɪgˈzekjʊtə) *n.* 1. *Law*. a person appointed by a testator to carry out his will. 2. a person who executes. —**executorial** *adj.* —**executory** *adj.* —**ecutor, ship** *n.* —**executrix** *fem. n.*

exegesis (ˈɛksɪˈdʒɪsɪs) *n., pl. -ses* (-sɪz). explanation or critical interpretation of a text, esp. of the Bible. —**exegetic** (ˈɛksɪˈdʒetɪk) *adj.* —**exegetics** *n.*

exemplar (ɪgˈzɛmplə, -plə) *n.* 1. a person or thing to be copied or imitated; model. 2. a typical specimen or instance; example.

exemplary (ɪgˈzɛmpləri) *adj.* 1. fit for imitation; model. 2. serving as a warning; admonitory. 3. representative; typical. —**exemplarily** *adv.* —**exemplariness** *n.*

exemplify (ɪgˈzɛmplɪ, faɪ) *vb.* -fying, -fied. (tr.) 1. to show by example. 2. to serve as an example of. 3. *Law*. to make an official copy of (a document) under seal. —**exemplifiable** *adj.* —**exemplification** *n.* —**exemplificative** *adj.* —**exemplifier** *n.*

exempt (ɪgˈzɛmpt) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to release from an obligation, tax, etc.; excuse. ~adj. (*postpositive*) 2. freed from or not subject to an obligation, tax, etc.; excused. ~n. 3. a person who is exempt. —**exemptible** *adj.* —**exemption** *n.*

exequies (ˈɛksɪkwɪz) *pl. n., sing. -quy.* the rites and ceremonies used at funerals.

exercise (ˈɛksəsaɪz) *vb.* (*mainly tr.*) 1. to put into use; employ. 2. (*intr.*) to take exercise or perform exercises. 3. to practise using in order to develop or train. 4. to perform or make use of: to *exercise one's rights*. 5. to bring to bear: to *exercise one's influence*. 6. (*often passive*) to occupy the attentions of, esp. so as to worry or vex: to *be exercised about a decision*. 7. *Mil.* to carry out or cause to carry out practice, manoeuvres, drill, etc. ~n. 8. physical exertion, esp. for development, training, or keeping fit. 9. mental or other activity or practice, esp. to develop a skill. 10. a set of movements, tasks, etc., designed to train, improve, or test one's ability: *piano exercises*. 11. a performance or work of art done as practice or to demonstrate a technique. 12. the performance of a function: the *exercise of one's rights*. 13. (*usually pl.*) *Mil.* practice, manoeuvres, or drill. 14. *Gymnastics*. a particular event, such as the horizontal bar. —**exercisable** *adj.* —**exerciser** *n.*

exert (ɪgˈzɜːt) *vb.* (tr.) to apply (oneself) diligently; make a strenuous effort. —**exertion** *n.* —**exertive** *adj.*

exeunt (ˈɛksɪˌant) *vb. Latin.* they go out: used as a stage direction.

exeunt omnes (ˈɒmneɪz) *Latin.* they all go out: used as a stage direction.

ex gratia (ɪgˈreɪʃə) *adj.* given as a favour or gratuitously where no legal obligation exists: an *ex gratia* payment.

exhale (ɛksˈheɪl, ɪgˈzeɪl) *vb.* 1. to expel (breath, smoke, etc.) from the lungs; breathe out. 2. to give off (air, fumes, etc.) or (of air, etc.) to be given off. —**exhalable** *adj.* —**exhalation** *n.*

exhaust (ɪgˈzɔːst) *vb.* (*mainly tr.*) 1. to drain the energy of; tire out. 2. to deprive of resources, etc. 3. to deplete totally; consume. 4. to empty (a container) by drawing off or pumping out (the contents). 5. to develop or discuss thoroughly so that no further interest remains. 6. to remove gas from (a vessel, etc.) in order to reduce pressure or create a vacuum. 7. (*intr.*) (of steam or other gases) to be emitted or to escape from an engine after being expanded. ~n. 8. gases ejected from an engine as waste products. 9. the expulsion of expanded gas or steam from an engine. 10. a. the parts of an engine through which exhausted gases or steam pass. b. (*as modifier*): *exhaust pipe*. —**exhauster** *n.* —**exhaustible** *adj.* —**exhaustibility** *n.*

exhaustion (ɪgˈzɔːstʃən) *n.* 1. extreme tiredness. 2. the condition of being used up. 3. the act of exhausting or the state of being exhausted.

exhaustive (ɪgˈzɔːstɪv) *adj.* 1. comprehensive; thorough. 2. tending to exhaust. —**exhaustively** *adv.* —**exhaustiveness** *n.*

exhibit (ɪgˈzɪbɪt) *vb.* (*mainly tr.*) 1. (*also intr.*) to display (something) to the public. 2. to manifest; display; show. 3. *Law*. to produce (a document or object) in court as evidence. ~n. 4. an object or collection exhibited to the public. 5. *Law*. a document or object produced in court as evidence. —**exhibitor** *n.* —**exhibitory** *adj.*

exhibition (ˈɛksɪˈbɪʃən) *n.* 1. a public display of art, skills, etc. 2. the act of exhibiting or the state of being exhibited. 3. *make an exhibition of oneself*. to behave so foolishly that one excites notice or ridicule. 4. *Brit.* an allowance or scholarship awarded to a student at a university or school.

exhibitioner (ˌɛksɪˈbɪʃənə) *n.* *Brit.* a student who has been awarded an exhibition.

exhibitionism (ˌɛksɪˈbɪʃənɪzəm) *n.* 1. a compulsive desire to attract attention to oneself, esp. by exaggerated behaviour. 2. a compulsive desire to expose one's genital organs publicly. —**exhibitor** *n.* —**exhibitionist** *n.* —**exhibitionistic** *adj.*

exhilarate (ɪɡˈzɪləreɪt) *vb.* (tr.) to make lively and cheerful; elate. —**exhilaratingly** *adv.* —**exhilaration** *n.* —**exhilarative** or **exhilaratory** *adj.* —**exhilarator** *n.*

exhort (ɪɡˈzɔ:t) *vb.* to urge or persuade (someone) earnestly; advise strongly. —**exhortative** (ɪɡˈzɔ:tətɪv) or **exhortatory** *adj.* —**exhortation** *n.* —**exhorter** *n.*

exhume (eksˈhju:m) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to dig up (something buried, esp. a corpse); disinter. 2. to reveal; disclose. —**exhumation** (ˌɛkshjuˈmeɪʃən) *n.* —**exhumist** *n.*

ex hypothesis (eks ˈhaɪˈpɒθəsɪ) *adv.* in accordance with the hypothesis stated.

exigency (ˈɛksɪdʒənsɪ, ɪɡˈzɪdʒənsɪ) or **exigence** (ˈɛksɪdʒəns) *n.*, *pl.* **-gencies** or **-gences**. 1. urgency. 2. (often pl.) an urgent demand; pressing requirement. 3. an emergency. —**exigent** *adj.*

exiguous (ɪɡˈzɪɡju:s, ɪkˈsɪg-) *adj.* scanty or slender; meagre. —**exiguity** (ˌɛksɪˈɡju:ti) or **exiguity** *n.*

exile (ˈɛgzəl, ˈɛksəl) *n.* 1. a prolonged, usually enforced absence from one's home or country. 2. the official expulsion of a person from his native land. 3. a person banished or living away from his home or country; expatriate. ~*vb.* 4. to expel from home or country, esp. by official decree; banish. —**exilic** (ɛɡˈzɪlɪk, ɛkˈsɪlɪk) or **exilian** *adj.*

exist (ɪɡˈzɪst) *vb.* (intr.) 1. to have being or reality; be. 2. to eke out a living; stay alive. 3. to be living; live. 4. to be present under specified conditions or in a specified place.

existence (ɪɡˈzɪstəns) *n.* 1. the fact or state of existing; being. 2. the continuance or maintenance of life; living, esp. in adverse circumstances. 3. something that exists; a being or entity. 4. everything that exists. —**existent** *adj.*

existential (ˌɛgzɪˈstɛnʃəl) *adj.* 1. of or relating to existence, esp. human existence. 2. *Philosophy.* based on personal experience. 3. of a formula or proposition asserting the existence of at least one object fulfilling a given condition. 4. of or relating to existentialism.

existentialism (ˌɛgzɪˈstɛnʃəlɪzəm) *n.* a modern philosophical movement stressing personal experience and responsibility and their demands on the individual, who is seen as a free agent in a deterministic and seemingly meaningless universe. —**existentialist** *adj.*, *n.*

exit (ˈɛgzɪt, ˈɛksɪt) *n.* 1. a way out. 2. the act or an instance of going out. 3. a. the act of leaving or right to leave a particular place. b. (as modifier): *an exit visa*. 4. departure from life; death. 5. *Theatre.* the act of going offstage. ~*vb.* (intr.) 6. to go away or out; depart. 7. *Theatre.* to go offstage: used as a stage direction: *exit Hamlet*.

ex libris (eks ˈlɪbrɪs) *adj.* 1. from the collection or library of. ~*n.* **ex-libris**. 2. a bookplate bearing the owner's name, coat of arms, etc.

exo- combining form. external, outside, or beyond: *exothermal*.

exocrine (ˈɛksouˌkraɪn) *adj.* 1. of or relating to exocrine glands or their secretions. ~*n.* 2. an exocrine gland.

Exod. *Bible.* abbrev. for Exodus.

exodus (ˈɛksədəs) *n.* the act or an instance of going out.

Exodus (ˈɛksədəs) *n.* 1. the departure of the Israelites from Egypt. 2. the second book of the Old Testament, recounting the events connected with this.

ex officio (ˈɛks əˈfɪʃɪo, əˈfɪʃɪo) *adv.*, *adj.* by right of position or office.

exonerate (ɪɡˈzɒnəreɪt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to absolve from blame or a criminal charge. 2. to relieve from an obligation. —**exoneration** *n.* —**exonerative** *adj.* —**exonerator** *n.*

exorbitant (ɪɡˈzɔ:bɪˈtənt) *adj.* (of prices, demands, etc.) excessive; extravagant; immoderate. —**exorbitance** *n.* —**exorbitantly** *adv.*

exorcise or **-ize** (ˈɛksɔ:səɪz) *vb.* (tr.) to expel (evil spirits) from (a person or place), by adjurations and religious rites. —**exorciser** or **-izer** *n.* —**exorcism** *n.* —**exorcist** *n.*

exordium (ekˈsɔ:dɪəm) *n.*, *pl.* **-diums** or **-dia** (-dɪə). an introductory part or beginning, esp. of an oration or discourse. —**exordial** *adj.*

exotic (ɪɡˈzɒtɪk) *adj.* 1. originating in a foreign country, esp. one in the tropics; not native: *an exotic plant*. 2. *N.Z.* (of trees, esp. pine trees) native to the northern hemisphere but cultivated in New Zealand: *an exotic forest*. 3. having a strange or bizarre allure, beauty, or quality. ~*n.* 4. an exotic person or thing. —**exotically** *adv.* —**exoticism** *n.* —**exoticness** *n.*

exotica (ɪɡˈzɒtɪkə) *pl. n.* exotic objects, esp. when forming a collection.

expand (ɪkˈspænd) *vb.* 1. to make or become greater in extent, volume, size, or scope. 2. to spread out; unfold; stretch out. 3. (intr.; often foll. by *on*) to enlarge or expatiate on (a story, topic, etc.). 4. (intr.) to become increasingly relaxed, friendly, or talkative. 5. *Maths.* to express (a function or expression) as the sum or product of terms. —**expandable** or **expandible** *adj.* —**expander** *n.*

expanse (ɪkˈspæns) *n.* 1. an uninterrupted surface of something that extends, esp. over a wide area; stretch. 2. expansion or extension.

expandable (ɪkˈspændəbəl) *adj.* able to expand or be expanded. —**expandability** *n.*

expansion (ɪkˈspænzən) *n.* 1. the act of expanding or the state of being expanded. 2. something expanded. 3. the degree or amount by which something expands. 4. an increase or development, esp. in the activities of a company. 5. the increase in the dimensions of a body or substance when subjected to an increase in temperature, internal pressure, etc. —**expansory** *adj.*

expansionism (ɪkˈspænzənɪzəm) *n.* the doctrine or practice of expanding the economy or territory of a country. —**expansionist** *n.*, *adj.* —**expansionistic** *adj.*

expansive (ɪkˈspænsɪv) *adj.* 1. able or tending to expand or characterized by expansion. 2. wide; extensive. 3. friendly, open, or talkative. 4. grand or extravagant. —**expansiveness** or **expansivity** (ˌɛkspænsɪvɪti) *n.*

expatriate (ɪkˈspetʃɪeɪt) *vb.* (intr.) 1. (foll. by *on* or *upon*) to enlarge (on a theme, topic, etc.); elaborate (on). 2. *Rare.* to wander about. —**expatriation** *n.* —**expatriator** *n.*

expatriate *adj.* (eksˈpætɪrɪt, -eɪt). 1. exiled or banished from one's native country. ~*n.* (eksˈpætɪrɪt, -eɪt). 2. an exile; expatriate person. ~*vb.* (eksˈpætɪrɪt, -eɪt). (tr.) 3. to exile (oneself) from one's native country or cause (another) to go into exile. —**expatriation** *n.*

expect (ɪkˈspekt) *vb.* (tr.; may take a clause as object or an infinitive) 1. to regard as likely; anticipate. 2. to look forward to or be waiting for. 3. to decide that (something) is necessary; require: *the teacher expects us to work late*. —**expectable** *adj.*

expectancy (ɪkˈspektəns) or **expectance** *n.* 1. something expected, esp. on the basis of a norm or average: *his life expectancy was 30 years*. 2. anticipation; expectation. 3. the prospect of a future interest or possession.

expectant (ɪkˈspektənt) *adj.* 1. expecting, anticipating, or hopeful. 2. having expectations, esp. of possession of something. 3. pregnant. ~*n.* 4. a person who expects something.

expectation (ˌɛkspɛkˈteɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act or state of expecting or the state of being expected. 2. (usually pl.) something looked forward to, whether feared or hoped for. 3. an attitude of expectancy or hope. 4. *Statistics.* the numerical probability that an event will occur. —**expectative** (ɪkˈspektətɪv) *adj.*

expectorant (ɪkˈspektərənt) *Med. adj.* 1. promoting the secretion, liquefaction, or expulsion of sputum from the respiratory passages. ~*n.* 2. an expectorant drug or agent.

expectorate (ɪkˈspektəreɪt) *vb.* to cough up and spit out (sputum from the respiratory passages). —**expectoration** *n.* —**expectorator** *n.*

expediency (ɪkˈspɪdɪənsɪ) or **expedience** *n.*, *pl.* **-encies** or **-ences**. 1. appropriateness; suitability. 2. the use of or inclination towards methods that are advantageous rather than fair or just. 3. another word for expedient (sense 3).

expedient (ɪkˈspɪdɪənt) *adj.* 1. suitable to the circumstances; appropriate. 2. inclined towards methods that are advantageous rather than fair or just. ~*n.* also **expediency**. 3. something suitable or appropriate, esp. during an urgent situation.

expedite (ˌɛkspɪˈdeɪt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to facilitate the progress of; hasten or assist. 2. to do or process with speed and efficiency. —**expediter** or **expeditor** *n.*

expedition (ˌɛkspɪˈdɪʃən) *n.* 1. an organized journey or voyage, esp. for exploration or for a scientific or military purpose. 2. the people and equipment comprising an

expedition 3. promptness; dispatch. —**expe'dition-ary** *adj.*

expeditious (ˌeksprɪ'diʃəs) *adj.* characterized by or done with speed and efficiency; prompt; quick. —**expe'ditiously** *adv.* —**expe'ditiousness** *n.*

expel (ɪk'spel) *vb.* **-pelling, -pelled.** (tr.) 1. to eject or drive out with force. 2. to deprive of participation in or membership of a school, club, etc. —**ex'pellable** *adj.* —**expellee** (ˌekspe'liː) *n.* —**ex'peller** *n.*

expend (ɪk'spend) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to spend; disburse. 2. to consume or use up. —**ex'pender** *n.*

expendable (ɪk'spendəbəl) *adj.* 1. that may be expended or used up. 2. able to be sacrificed to achieve an objective, esp. a military one. ~*n.* 3. something expendable. —**ex'penda'bility** *n.*

expenditure (ɪk'spendɪtʃə) *n.* 1. something expended, esp. money. 2. the act of expending.

expense (ɪk'spens) *n.* 1. a particular payment of money; expenditure. 2. money needed for individual purchases; cost; charge. 3. (pl.) money spent in the performance of a job, etc., usually reimbursed by an employer or allowable against tax. 4. something requiring money for its purchase or upkeep. 5. at the expense of, to the detriment of.

expense account *n.* 1. an arrangement by which an employee's expenses are refunded by his employer or deducted from his income for tax purposes. 2. a record of such expenses.

expensive (ɪk'spensɪv) *adj.* high-priced; costly; dear. —**ex'pensive** *n.*

experience (ɪk'spiəriəns) *n.* 1. direct personal participation or observation. 2. a particular incident, feeling, etc., that a person has undergone. 3. accumulated knowledge, esp. of practical matters. ~*vb.* (tr.) 4. to participate in or undergo. 5. to be moved by; feel. —**ex'perienceable** *adj.*

experienced (ɪk'spiəriənst) *adj.* having become skilful or knowledgeable from extensive participation or observation.

experiential (ɪk'spiəri'ɛnʃəl) *adj.* relating to or derived from experience; empirical.

experiment *n.* (ɪk'sperɪmənt) 1. a test or investigation, esp. one planned to provide evidence for or against a hypothesis. 2. the act of conducting such an investigation or test; research. 3. an attempt at something new or original. ~*vb.* (ɪk'sperɪ,ment) 4. (intr.) to make an experiment or experiments. —**ex'perimen'tation** *n.* —**ex'peri,menter** *n.*

experimental (ɪk'sperɪ'mentl) *adj.* 1. relating to, based on, or having the nature of experiment. 2. based on or derived from experience; empirical. 3. tending to experiment. 4. tentative or provisional. —**ex'peri'mentalism** *n.*

expert (ˈɛkspɜ:t) *n.* 1. a person who has extensive skill or knowledge in a particular field. ~*adj.* 2. skilful or knowledgeable. 3. of, involving, or done by an expert: *an expert job.* —**ex'pertly** *adv.* —**expertness** *n.*

expertise (ˌɛkspɜ:'ti:z) *n.* special skill, knowledge, or judgment; expertness.

expiate (ˈɛkspiət) *vb.* (tr.) to atone for (sin or wrongdoing); make amends for. —**ex'piator** *n.* —**ex'piable** *adj.* —**ex'piation** *n.*

expiatory (ˈɛkspɪətəri, -tri) *adj.* 1. capable of making expiation. 2. offered in expiation.

expiration (ˌɛkspɪ'reɪʃən) *n.* 1. the finish of something; expiry. 2. the act, process, or sound of breathing out. —**ex'piratory** *adj.*

expire (ɪk'spaɪə) *vb.* 1. (intr.) to finish or run out; come to an end. 2. to breathe out (air). 3. (intr.) to die. —**ex'pirer** *n.*

expiry (ɪk'spaɪəri) *n.*, *pl.* **-ries.** 1. a. a coming to an end, esp. of a contract period; termination. b. (as modifier): *the expiry date.* 2. death.

explain (ɪk'spleɪn) *vb.* 1. (when *tr.*, may take a clause as object) to make (something) comprehensible, esp. by giving a clear and detailed account of it. 2. (tr.) to justify or attempt to justify (oneself) by reasons for one's actions. —**ex'plainable** *adj.* —**ex'plainer** *n.*

explanation (ˌɛksplo'neɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act or process of explaining. 2. something that explains. 3. a clarification of disputed points.

explanatory (ɪk'splænətəri, -tri) or **explanative** *adj.* serving or intended to serve as an explanation. —**ex'planatorily** *adv.*

expletive (ɪk'splɪtɪv) *n.* 1. an exclamation or swear-word; an oath or sound expressing emotion rather than meaning. 2. any syllable, word, or phrase conveying no

independent meaning, esp. one inserted in verse for the sake of metre. ~*adj.* also **expletory** (ɪk'splɪtəri). 3. without particular meaning, esp. when filling out a line of verse.

explicable (ˈɛkspɪkəbəl, ɪk'splɪk-) *adj.* capable of being explained.

explicate (ˈɛksplɪ,kent) *vb.* (tr.) *Formal.* 1. to make clear or explicit; explain. 2. to formulate or develop (a theory, hypothesis, etc.). —**explicative** (ɪk'splɪkətɪv) or **explicatory** (ɪk'splɪkətəri, -tri) *adj.* —**ex'plɪ'cation** *n.* —**ex'pli,cator** *n.*

explicit (ɪk'splɪsɪt) *adj.* 1. precisely and clearly expressed, leaving nothing to implication; fully stated. 2. openly expressed without reservations; unreserved. —**ex'plicitly** *adv.* —**ex'plicitness** *n.*

explode (ɪk'spləʊd) *vb.* 1. to burst or cause to burst with great violence, esp. through detonation of an explosive; blow up. 2. to destroy or be destroyed in this manner. 3. (of a gas) to undergo or cause (a gas) to undergo a sudden violent expansion, as a result of a fast exothermic chemical or nuclear reaction. 4. (intr.) to react suddenly or violently with emotion, etc. 5. (intr.) (esp. of a population) to increase rapidly. 6. (tr.) to show (a theory, etc.) to be baseless. —**ex'ploder** *n.*

exploit *n.* (ˈɛksploɪt). 1. a notable deed or feat, esp. one that is heroic. ~*vb.* (ɪk'splɔɪt). (tr.) 2. to take advantage of (a person, situation, etc.) for one's own ends. 3. to make the best use of. —**ex'ploitable** *adj.* —**explo'itation** *n.* —**ex'ploitive** or **ex'ploitative** *adj.*

explore (ɪk'splɔː) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to examine or investigate, esp. systematically. 2. to travel into (unfamiliar regions), esp. for scientific purposes. 3. (tr.) *Med.* to examine (an organ or part) for diagnostic purposes. —**explo'ration** *n.* —**ex'plorer** *n.*

explosion (ɪk'spləʊʒən) *n.* 1. the act or an instance of exploding. 2. a violent release of energy resulting from a rapid chemical or nuclear reaction. 3. a sudden or violent outburst of activity, noise, emotion, etc. 4. a rapid increase, esp. in a population.

explosive (ɪk'spləʊsɪv) *adj.* 1. of, involving, or characterized by explosion. 2. capable of exploding or tending to explode. 3. potentially violent or hazardous: *an explosive situation.* ~*n.* 4. a substance capable of exploding or tending to explode. —**ex'plosiveness** *n.*

expo (ˈɛkspəʊ) *n.*, *pl.* **-pos.** *Inf.* short for **exposition** (sense 3).

exponent (ɪk'spəʊnənt) *n.* 1. (usually foll. by *of*) a person or thing that acts as an advocate (of an idea, cause, etc.). 2. a person or thing that explains or interprets. 3. a performer or artist. 4. Also called: **power, index.** *Maths.* a number or variable placed as a superscript to another number or quantity indicating the number of times the number or quantity is to be multiplied by itself. ~*adj.* 5. offering a declaration, explanation, or interpretation. —**ex'po'ntial** *adj.*

export *n.* (ˈɛkspɔ:t). 1. (often *pl.*) a. goods (visible exports) or services (invisible exports) sold to a foreign country or countries. b. (as modifier): *an export licence.* ~*vb.* (ɪk'spɔ:t, ˈɛkspɔ:t). 2. to sell (goods or services) or ship (goods) to a foreign country. 3. (tr.) to transmit or spread (an idea, institution, etc.) abroad. —**ex'portable** *adj.* —**ex'porta'bility** *n.* —**ex'porter** *n.*

expose (ɪk'spəʊz) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to display for viewing; exhibit. 2. to bring to public notice; disclose. 3. to divulge the identity of; unmask. 4. (foll. by *to*) to make subject or susceptible (to attack, criticism, etc.). 5. to abandon (a child, animal, etc.) in the open to die. 6. (foll. by *to*) to introduce (to) or acquaint (with). 7. *Photog.* to subject (a film or plate) to light, x-rays, etc. 8. **expose oneself.** to display one's sexual organs in public. —**ex'posable** *adj.* —**ex'posal** *n.* —**ex'poser** *n.*

exposé (ɛks'pəʊzeɪ) *n.* the act or an instance of bringing a scandal, crime, etc., to public notice.

exposed (ɪk'spəʊzd) *adj.* 1. not concealed; displayed for viewing. 2. without shelter from the elements. 3. susceptible to attack or criticism; vulnerable. —**exposedness** (ɪk'spəʊzdɪnis) *n.*

exposition (ˌɛkspə'zɪʃən) *n.* 1. a systematic, usually written statement about or explanation of a subject. 2. the act of expounding or setting forth information or a viewpoint. 3. a large public exhibition, esp. of industrial products or arts and crafts. 4. the act of exposing or the state of being exposed. 5. *Music.* the first statement of the subjects or themes of a movement in sonata form or a fugue. 6. *R.C. Church.* the exhibiting of the consecrated Eucharistic Host or a relic for public veneration. —**ex'po'sitional** *adj.*

expository (ɪk'spəʊzəri, -tri) or **expositive** *adj.* of or

involving exposition; explanatory. —**ex'positorily** or **ex'positively** *adv.*

ex post facto (eks 'pəust 'fæktəʊ) *adj.* having retrospective effect.

expostulate (ik'spɒstjʊ,leɪt) *vb.* (*intr.*; usually foll. by *with*) to argue or reason (with), esp. in order to dissuade. —**ex,postu'lation** *n.* —**ex'postu,lator** *n.* —**ex'postulatory** or **ex'postulative** *adj.*

exposure (ik'spəʊʒə) *n.* 1. the act of exposing or the condition of being exposed. 2. the position or outlook of a house, building, etc.: a *southern exposure*. 3. lack of shelter from the weather, esp. the cold. 4. a surface that is exposed. 5. *Photog.* a. the act of exposing a film or plate to light, x-rays, etc. b. an area on a film or plate that has been exposed. 6. *Photog.* a. the intensity of light falling on a film or plate multiplied by the time for which it is exposed. b. a combination of lens aperture and shutter speed used in taking a photograph. 7. appearance before the public, as in a theatre, on television, etc.

exposure meter *n.* *Photog.* an instrument for measuring the intensity of light so that suitable camera settings can be determined. Also called: **light meter**.

expound (ik'spaʊnd) *vb.* (when *intr.*, foll. by *on* or *about*) to explain or set forth (an argument, theory, etc.) in detail. —**ex'pounder** *n.*

express (ik'spres) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to transform (ideas) into words; utter; verbalize. 2. to show or reveal. 3. to communicate (emotion, etc.) without words, as through music, painting, etc. 4. to indicate through a symbol, formula, etc. 5. to squeeze out: *to express the juice from an orange*. 6. **express oneself**, to communicate one's thoughts or ideas. ~*adj.* (*prenominal*) 7. clearly indicated; explicitly stated. 8. done or planned for a definite reason; particular. 9. of or designed for rapid transportation of people, mail, money, etc.: *express delivery*. ~*n.* 10. a. a system for sending mail, money, etc., rapidly. b. mail, etc., conveyed by such a system. c. *Chiefly U.S.* an enterprise operating such a system. 11. Also called: **express train**, a fast train stopping at no or only a few stations between its termini. ~*adv.* 12. by means of express delivery. —**ex'presser** *n.* —**ex'pressible** *adj.*

expression (ik'spreʃən) *n.* 1. the act or an instance of transforming ideas into words. 2. a manifestation of an emotion, feeling, etc., without words. 3. communication of emotion through music, painting, etc. 4. a look on the face that indicates mood or emotion. 5. the choice of words, intonation, etc., in communicating. 6. a particular phrase used conventionally to express something. 7. the act or process of squeezing out a liquid. 8. *Maths.* a variable, function, or some combination of these. —**ex'pressional** *adj.* —**ex'pressionless** *adj.*

expressionism (ik'spreʃə,nɪzəm) *n.* (*sometimes cap.*) an artistic and literary movement originating in the early 20th century, which sought to express emotions rather than to represent external reality: characterized by symbolism and distortion. —**ex'pressionist** *n.*, *adj.* —**ex,pression'istic** *adj.*

expressive (ik'spresɪv) *adj.* 1. of, involving, or full of expression. 2. (*postpositive*; foll. by *of*) indicative or suggestive (*of*). 3. having a particular meaning or force; significant. —**ex'pressiveness** *n.*

expressly (ik'spresli) *adv.* 1. for an express purpose. 2. plainly, exactly, or unmistakably.

espresso (ik'spresəʊ) *n.* variant of **espresso**.

expressway (ik'spres,wei) *n.* *Chiefly U.S.* an urban motorway.

expropriate (eks'prəʊpri,eɪt) *vb.* (*tr.*) to deprive (an owner) of (property), esp. by taking it for public use. —**ex,prop'riation** *n.* —**ex'propriator** *n.*

expulsion (ik'spʌlʃən) *n.* the act of expelling or the fact or condition of being expelled. —**ex'pulsive** *adj.*

expunge (ik'spʌndʒ) *vb.* (*tr.*) to delete or erase; blot out; obliterate. —**expunction** (ik'spʌŋkʃən) *n.* —**ex'pung'er** *n.*

expurgate ('ekspə,geɪt) *vb.* (*tr.*) to amend (a book, text, etc.) by removing (offensive sections). —**expur'gation** *n.* —**expur,gator** *n.* —**expurgatory** (eks'pɜ:gə'tɔ:ri) or **expurgatorial** (eks'pɜ:gə'tɔ:riəl) *adj.*

exquisite (ik'skwɪzɪt, 'ekskwɪzɪt) *adj.* 1. possessing qualities of unusual delicacy and craftsmanship. 2. extremely beautiful. 3. outstanding or excellent. 4. sensitive; discriminating. 5. fastidious and refined. 6. intense or sharp in feeling. ~*n.* 7. *Obs.* a dandy. —**ex'quisite-ness** *n.*

ex-serviceman *n.*, *pl. -men.* a man who has served in the army, navy, or air force.

extant (ek'stənt, 'ɛkstənt) *adj.* still in existence; surviving.

▷ **Usage.** Careful writers distinguish between *extant* and *existent*. Both are used of that which exists at the present time, but *extant* has a further connotation of survival.

extemporaneous (ik'stempə'reɪniəs) or **extemporary** (ik'stempərəri) *adj.* 1. spoken, performed, etc., without preparation; extempore. 2. done in a temporary manner; improvised. —**ex,tempo'raniously** or **ex'temporarily** *adv.* —**ex,tempo'ranousness** or **ex'temporariness** *n.*

extempore (ik'stempəri) *adv.*, *adj.* without planning or preparation.

extemporize or **-ise** (ik'stempə,raɪz) *vb.* 1. to perform, speak, or compose (an act, speech, music, etc.) without preparation. 2. to use a temporary solution; improvise. —**ex,tempori'zation** or **-i'sation** *n.* —**ex'tempo,rizer** or **-iser** *n.*

extend (ik'stend) *vb.* 1. to draw out or be drawn out; stretch. 2. to last for a certain time. 3. (*intr.*) to reach a certain point in time or distance. 4. (*intr.*) to exist or occur. 5. (*tr.*) to increase (a building, etc.) in size; add to or enlarge. 6. (*tr.*) to broaden the meaning or scope of: *the law was extended*. 7. (*tr.*) to present or offer. 8. to stretch forth (an arm, etc.). 9. (*tr.*) to lay out (a body) at full length. 10. (*tr.*) to strain or exert (a person or animal) to the maximum. 11. (*tr.*) to prolong (the time) for payment of (a debt or loan), completion of (a task), etc. —**ex'tendible** or **ex'tendable** *adj.* —**ex,tendi'bility** or **ex,tenda'bility** *n.*

extended family *n.* *Sociol., anthropol.* the nuclear family together with blood relatives, often spanning three or more generations.

extensible (ik'stensəb'l) or **extensile** (ik'stensail) *adj.* capable of being extended. —**ex,tensi'bility** or **ex'tensibleness** *n.*

extension (ik'stɛnʃən) *n.* 1. the act of extending or the condition of being extended. 2. something that can be extended or that extends another object. 3. the length, range, etc., over which something is extended. 4. an additional telephone set connected to the same telephone line as another set. 5. a room or rooms added to an existing building. 6. a delay in the date originally set for payment of a debt or completion of a contract. 7. the property of matter by which it occupies space. 8. a. the act of straightening or extending an arm or leg. b. its position after being straightened or extended. 9. a. a service by which the facilities of an educational establishment, library, etc., are offered to outsiders. b. (*as modifier*): a *university extension course*. 10. *Logic.* another term for *denotation*. —**ex'tensional** *adj.* —**ex'tension'al-ity** or **ex'tensional,ism** *n.*

extensive (ik'stensɪv) *adj.* 1. having a large extent, area, degree, etc. 2. widespread. 3. *Agriculture.* involving or farmed with minimum expenditure of capital or labour, esp. depending on a large extent of land. Cf. **intensive** (sense 3). 4. of or relating to logical extension. —**ex'tensiveness** *n.*

extensor (ik'stensə, -sɔ:) *n.* any muscle that stretches or extends an arm, leg, or other bodily part.

extent (ik'stɛnt) *n.* 1. the range over which something extends; scope. 2. an area or volume.

extenuate (ik'stenju,eɪt) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to represent (an offence, fault, etc.) as being less serious than it appears, as by showing mitigating circumstances. 2. to cause to be or appear less serious; mitigate. 3. *Arch.* a. to emaciate or weaken. b. to dilute or thin out. —**ex'tenu,atingly** *adv.* —**ex,tenu'ation** *n.* —**ex'tenu,ator** *n.* —**ex'tenuatory** *adj.*

exterior (ik'stɪəriə) *n.* 1. a part, surface, or region that is on the outside. 2. the outward behaviour or appearance of a person. 3. a film or scene shot outside a studio. ~*adj.* 4. of, situated on, or suitable for the outside. 5. coming or acting from without. —**ex'teriorly** *adv.*

exterior angle *n.* 1. an angle of a polygon contained between one side extended and the adjacent side. 2. any of the four angles made by a transversal that are outside the region between the two intersected lines.

exterminate (ik'stɜ:mɪ,neɪt) *vb.* (*tr.*) to destroy (living things, esp. pests or vermin) completely; annihilate; eliminate. —**ex'terminable** *adj.* —**ex,termi'nation** *n.* —**ex'terminative** or **ex'terminatory** *adj.* —**ex'termi,nator** *n.*

external (ik'stɜ:nl) *adj.* 1. of, situated on, or suitable for the outside; outer. 2. coming or acting from without. 3. of or involving foreign nations. 4. of, relating to, or designating a medicine that is applied to the outside of

the body. 5. *Anat.* situated on or near the outside of the body. 6. *Philosophy.* (of objects, etc.) taken to exist independently of a perceiving mind. ~*n.* 7. (*often pl.*) an external circumstance or aspect, esp. one that is superficial. —*externality n.*

externalize (ik'strɜːnəlaɪz), **externalize** (ik'strɜːrəlaɪz) or **-ise** *vb.* (tr.) 1. to make external; give outward shape to. 2. *Psychol.* to attribute (one's feelings) to one's surroundings. —*externalization, externalization or -isation n.*

extinct (ik'stɪŋkt) *adj.* 1. (of an animal or plant species) having died out. 2. quenched or extinguished. 3. (of a volcano) no longer liable to erupt; inactive.

extinction (ik'stɪŋkʃən) *n.* 1. the act of making extinct or the state of being extinct. 2. the act of extinguishing or the state of being extinguished. 3. complete destruction; annihilation. 4. *Physics.* reduction of the intensity of radiation as a result of absorption or scattering by matter.

extinguish (ik'stɪŋɡwɪʃ) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to put out or quench (a light, flames, etc.). 2. to remove or destroy entirely; annihilate. 3. *Arch.* to eclipse or obscure. —*extinguishable adj.* —*extinguisher n.* —*extinguishment n.*

extirpate ('ekstɜːpeɪt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to remove or destroy completely. 2. to pull up or out; uproot. —*extirpation n.* —*extirpative adj.* —*extirpator n.*

extol or **U.S. extoll** (ik'stɔːl) *vb.* —*tolling, -tollled.* (tr.) to praise lavishly; exalt. —*extoller n.* —*extolment n.*

extort (ik'stɔːt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to secure (money, favours, etc.) by intimidation, violence, or the misuse of authority. 2. to obtain by importunate demands. —*extortion n.* —*extortionate adj.* —*extortioner, extortor, extortor n.* —*extortive adj.*

extra ('ekstrə) *adj.* 1. being more than what is usual or expected; additional. ~*n.* 2. a person or thing that is additional. 3. something for which an additional charge is made. 4. an additional edition of a newspaper, esp. to report a new development. 5. *Films.* a person temporarily engaged, usually for crowd scenes. 6. *Cricket.* a run not scored from the bat, such as a wide, no-ball, or bye. ~*adv.* 7. unusually; exceptionally: *an extra fast car.*

extra- *prefix.* outside or beyond an area or scope: *extrasensory; extraterritorial.*

extract *vb.* (ik'strækt). (tr.) 1. to pull out or uproot by force. 2. to remove or separate. 3. to derive (pleasure, information, etc.) from some source. 4. to deduce or develop (a doctrine, policy, etc.). 5. *Inf.* to extort (money, etc.). 6. to obtain (a substance) from a mixture or material by a process, such as digestion, distillation, mechanical separation, etc. 7. to cut out or copy out (an article, passage, etc.) from a publication. 8. to determine the value of (the root of a number). ~*n.* ('ekstrækt). 9. something extracted, such as a passage from a book, etc. 10. a preparation containing the active principle or concentrated essence of a material. —*extractability n.* —*extractable adj.* —*extraction n.* —*extractive adj.* —*extractor n.*

extradite ('ekstrədaɪt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to surrender (an alleged offender) for trial to a foreign state. 2. to procure the extradition of. —*extraditable adj.* —*extradition n.*

extramarital (,ekstrə'mærɪtəl) *adj.* (esp. of sexual relations) occurring outside marriage.

extramural (,ekstrə'mjuərəl) *adj.* 1. connected with but outside the normal courses of a university, college, etc. 2. beyond the boundaries or walls of a city, castle, etc.

extraneous (ik'streɪniəs) *adj.* 1. not essential. 2. not pertinent; irrelevant. 3. coming from without. 4. not belonging. —*extraneousness n.*

extraordinary (ik'strɔːdnəri) *adj.* 1. very unusual or surprising. 2. not in an established manner or order. 3. employed for particular purposes. 4. (*usually postpositive*) (of an official, etc.) additional or subordinate. —*extraordinarily adv.* —*extraordinariness n.*

extrapolate (ik'strəpəleɪt) *vb.* 1. *Maths.* to estimate (a value of a function etc.) beyond the known values, by the extension of a curve. Cf. *interpolate* (sense 4). 2. to infer (something) by using but not strictly deducing from known facts. —*extrapolation n.* —*extrapolative or extrapolatory adj.* —*extrapolator n.*

extrasensory (,ekstrə'sensəri) *adj.* of or relating to extrasensory perception.

extrasensory perception *n.* the supposed ability of certain individuals to obtain information about the environment without the use of normal sensory channels.

extravagant (ik'strævəɡənt) *adj.* 1. spending money excessively or immoderately. 2. going beyond usual bounds; unrestrained. 3. ostentatious; showy. 4. exorbitant in price; overpriced. —*extravagance n.*

extravaganza (ik'strævə'ɡænzə) *n.* 1. an elaborately staged light entertainment. 2. any lavish or fanciful display, literary composition, etc.

extreme (ik'stri:m) *adj.* 1. being of a high or of the highest degree or intensity. 2. exceeding what is usual or reasonable; immoderate. 3. very strict or severe; drastic. 4. (*prenominal*) farthest or outermost. ~*n.* 5. the highest or furthest degree (often in the extreme, go to extremes). 6. (*often pl.*) either of the two limits or ends of a scale or range. 7. *Maths.* the first or last term of a series or a proportion. —*extremeness n.* —*extremely adv.* —*extremist n.* —*extremity (-'streim-) n.*

extreme unction *n.* *R.C. Church.* a sacrament in which a person who is seriously ill or dying is anointed by a priest.

extricate ('ekstri:kert) *vb.* (tr.) to remove or free from complication, hindrance, or difficulty; disentangle. —*extricable adj.* —*extrication n.*

extrinsic (ek'strɪnsɪk) *adj.* 1. not contained or included within; extraneous. 2. originating or acting from outside. —*extrinsically adv.*

extrovert or extravert ('ekstrəvɜːt) *Psychol. n.* 1. a person concerned more with external reality than inner feelings. ~*adj.* 2. of or characterized by extroversion. —*extroversion or, extraversion n.* —*extroverted or, extraverted adj.*

extrude (ik'strud) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to squeeze or force out. 2. (tr.) to produce (moulded sections of plastic, metal, etc.) by ejection from a shaped nozzle or die. —*extrusion n.*

exuberant (ig'zju:bərənt) *adj.* 1. abounding in vigour and high spirits. 2. lavish or effusive; excessively elaborate. 3. growing luxuriantly or in profusion. —*exuberance n.*

exude (ig'zju:d) *vb.* 1. to release or be released through pores, incisions, etc., as sweat or sap. 2. (tr.) to make apparent by mood or behaviour. —*exudation n.*

exult (ig'zʌlt) *vb.* (intr.) 1. to be joyful or jubilant, esp. because of triumph or success. 2. (often foll. by over) to triumph (over). —*exultant adj.* —*exultation (,egzʌl'teɪʃən) n.* —*exultingly adv.*

-ey *suffix.* variant of -y¹ and -y².

eye (aɪ) *n.* 1. the organ of sight of animals. Related adjs.: *ocular, ophthalmic.* 2. (*often pl.*) the ability to see; sense of vision. 3. the external part of an eye, often including the area around it. 4. a look, glance, expression, or gaze. 5. a sexually inviting or provocative look (esp. in give (someone) the (glad) eye; make eyes at). 6. attention or observation (often in catch someone's eye; keep an eye on; cast an eye over). 7. ability to recognize, judge, or appreciate. 8. (*often pl.*) opinion, judgment, point of view, or authority: *in the eyes of the law.* 9. a structure or marking resembling an eye, such as the bud on a potato tuber or a spot on a butterfly wing. 10. a small loop or hole, as at one end of a needle. 11. a small area of low pressure and calm in the centre of a tornado. 12. *Inf.* See *private eye.* 13. all eyes. *Inf.* acutely vigilant or observant. 14. (all) my eye. *Inf.* rubbish; nonsense. 15. an eye for an eye. retributive or vengeful justice; retaliation. 16. get one's eye in. *Chiefly sports.* to become accustomed to the conditions, light, etc., with a consequent improvement in one's performance. 17. half an eye. a modicum of perceptiveness. 18. have eyes for. to be interested in. 19. in one's mind's eye. pictured within the mind; imagined or remembered vividly. 20. in the public eye. exposed to public curiosity or publicity. 21. keep an eye open or out (for). to watch with special attention (for). 22. keep one's eyes skinned. to watch vigilantly. 23. lay, clap, or set eyes on. (*usually with a negative*) to see. 24. look (someone) in the eye. to look openly and without shame or embarrassment at. 25. make sheep's eyes (at). *Arch.* to ogle amorously. 26. more than meets the eye. hidden motives, meaning, or facts. 27. see eye to eye (with). to agree (with). 28. shut one's eyes to or turn a blind eye to. to overlook or ignore deliberately. 29. up to one's eyes (in). extremely busy (with). 30. with or having an eye to. (*prep.*) a. regarding, with reference to. b. with the intention or purpose of. 31. with one's eyes open. in the full knowledge of all relevant facts. 32. with one's eyes shut. a. with great ease, esp. as a result of thorough familiarity. b. without being aware of all the facts. ~*vb.* eyeing or eying, eyed. (tr.) 33. to look at carefully

or warily. **34.** to look at in a manner indicating sexual interest; ogle. — **'eyeless** *adj.* — **'eye, like** *adj.*

eyeball ('aɪ,boɪl) *n.* 1. the entire ball-shaped part of the eye. 2. **eyeball to eyeball.** in close confrontation.

eyebrow ('aɪ,braʊ) *n.* 1. the transverse bony ridge over each eye. 2. the arch of hair that covers this ridge.

eye-catching *adj.* tending to attract attention; striking. — **'eye-catcher** *n.*

eyed (aɪd) *adj.* a. having an eye or eyes (as specified). b. (in combination): **brown-eyed.**

eye dog *n.* N.Z. a dog trained to control sheep by staring fixedly at them. Also called: **strong-eye dog.**

eyeful ('aɪ,ful) *n. Inf.* 1. a view, glance, or gaze. 2. a beautiful or attractive sight, esp. a woman.

eyeglass ('aɪ,glɑ:s) *n.* 1. a lens for aiding or correcting defective vision, esp. a monocle. 2. another word for **eyepiece.**

eyeglasses ('aɪ,glɑ:sɪz) *pl. n.* Now chiefly U.S. another word for **spectacles.**

eyehole ('aɪ,həʊl) *n.* 1. a hole through which a rope, hook, etc. is passed. 2. *Inf.* the cavity that contains the eyeball.

eyelash ('aɪ,læʃ) *n.* 1. any one of the short curved hairs that grow from the edge of the eyelids. 2. a row or fringe of these hairs.

eyelet ('aɪlɪt) *n.* 1. a small hole for a lace, cord, or hook to be passed through. 2. a small metal ring or tube reinforcing an eyehole in fabric. 3. a small opening, such as a peephole in a wall. 4. **Embroidery.** a small hole with finely stitched edges. 5. a small eye or eyelike marking. ~*vb.* 6. (*tr.*) to supply with an eyelet or eyelets.

eyelevel ('aɪ,lɛvəl) *adj.* level with a person's eyes when looking straight ahead: *an eyelevel grill.*

eyelid ('aɪ,lɪd) *n.* either of the two muscular folds of skin that can be moved to cover the exposed portion of the eyeball.

eyeliner ('aɪ,lɪnə) *n.* a cosmetic used to outline the eyes.

eye-opener *n. Inf.* 1. something startling or revealing. 2. U.S. an alcoholic drink taken early in the morning.

eyepiece ('aɪ,pɪs) *n.* the lens or lenses in an optical instrument nearest the eye of the observer.

eye rhyme *n.* a rhyme involving words that are similar in spelling but not in sound, such as *stone* and *none.*

eye shadow *n.* a coloured cosmetic put around the eyes.

eyeshot ('aɪ,ʃɒt) *n.* range of vision; view.

eyesight ('aɪ,sart) *n.* the ability to see; faculty of sight.

eyesore ('aɪ,sɔː) *n.* something very ugly.

eyespot ('aɪ,spɒt) *n.* 1. a small area of light-sensitive pigment in some simple organisms. 2. an eyelike marking, as on a butterfly wing.

eyestrain ('aɪ,streɪn) *n.* fatigue or irritation of the eyes, resulting from excessive use or uncorrected defects of vision.

Eyetie ('aɪtaɪ) *n., adj. Brit. sl., offensive.* Italian.

eyetooth ('aɪ,tuːθ) *n., pl. -teeth.* 1. either of the two canine teeth in the upper jaw. 2. **give one's eyeteeth for.** *Inf.* to go to any lengths to achieve or obtain (something).

eyewash ('aɪ,wɒʃ) *n.* 1. a lotion for the eyes. 2. *Inf.* nonsense; rubbish.

eyewitness ('aɪ,wɪtnɪs) *n.* a person present at an event who can describe what happened.

eyrie ('ɔɪrɪ, 'ɛəri, 'aʊrɪ) or **aerie** *n.* 1. the nest of an eagle or other bird of prey, built in a high inaccessible place. 2. any high isolated position or place.

eyrir ('eɪrɪə) *n., pl. aurar* ('ɔɪrɑː). an Icelandic monetary unit worth one hundredth of a krona.

F

f or **F** (ef) *n.* **pl.** **f's**, **F's**, or **Fs**. 1. the sixth letter of the English alphabet. 2. a speech sound represented by this letter, as in *fat*.

f *symbol for:* 1. *Music.* forte: an instruction to play loudly. 2. *Physics.* frequency. 3. *Maths.* function (of). 4. *Physics.* femto-.

f, **f/**, or **f:** *symbol for* f number.

f. or **F.** *abbrev. for:* 1. female. 2. *Grammar.* feminine. 3. (*pl.* **ff.** or **FF**) folio. 4. (*pl.* **ff.**) following (page). 5. franc(s). 6. furlong.

F *symbol for:* 1. *Music.* a. the fourth note of the scale of C major. b. the major or minor key having this note as its tonic. 2. Fahrenheit. 3. *Chem.* fluorine. 4. *Physics.* force. 5. farad(s). 6. *Genetics.* a generation of filial offspring, **F₁** being the first generation of offspring.

fa or **fah** (fɑː) *Music.* 1. (in the fixed system of solmization) the note **F**. 2. (in tonic sol-fa) the fourth degree of any major scale.

FA (in Britain) *abbrev. for* Football Association.

f.a. or **F.A.** *abbrev. for* fanny adams.

Fabian ('feɪbiən) *adj.* 1. of or resembling the delaying tactics of Q. Fabius Maximus, Roman general who wore out the strength of Hannibal while avoiding a pitched battle; cautious. ~*n.* 2. a member of or sympathizer with the Fabian Society. — '**Fabianism** *n.*

fable ('feɪbəl) *n.* 1. a short moral story, esp. one with animals as characters. 2. a false, fictitious, or improbable account. 3. a story or legend about supernatural or mythical characters or events. 4. legends or myths collectively. ~*vb.* 5. to relate or tell (fables). 6. (*intr.*) to tell lies. 7. (*tr.*) to talk about or describe in the manner of a fable. — '**fabler** *n.*

fabled ('feɪbld) *adj.* 1. made famous in fable. 2. fictitious.

fabric ('fæbrɪk) *n.* 1. any cloth made from yarn or fibres by weaving, knitting, felting, etc. 2. the texture of a cloth. 3. a structure or framework: *the fabric of society*. 4. a style or method of construction. 5. *Rare.* a building.

fabricate ('fæbrɪ,keɪt) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to make, build, or construct. 2. to devise or concoct (a story, etc.). 3. to fake or forge. — '**fabrication** *n.* — '**fabricator** *n.*

fabulous ('fæbjʊləs) *adj.* 1. almost unbelievable; astounding; legendary: *fabulous wealth*. 2. *Inf.* extremely good: *a fabulous time at the party*. 3. of, relating to, or based upon fable: *a fabulous beast*. — '**fabulously** *adv.* — '**fabulousness** *n.*

façade or **facade** (fə'sɑːd, fæ-) *n.* 1. the face of a building, esp. the main front. 2. a front or outer appearance, esp. a deceptive one.

face (feɪs) *n.* 1. a. the front of the head from the forehead to the lower jaw. b. (*as modifier:*) *face flannel*. 2. a. the expression of the countenance: *a sad face*. b. a distorted expression, esp. to indicate disgust. 3. *Inf.* make-up (esp. in **put one's face on**). 4. outward appearance: *the face of the countryside is changing*. 5. appearance or pretence (esp. in **put a bold, good, bad, etc., face on**). 6. dignity (esp. in **lose or save face**). 7. *Inf.* impudence or effrontery. 8. the main side of an object, building, etc., or the front: *a cliff face*. 9. the marked surface of an instrument, esp. the dial of a timepiece. 10. the functional or working side of an object, as of a tool or playing card. 11. a. the exposed area of a mine from which coal, ore, etc., may be mined. b. (*as modifier:*) *face worker*. 12. the uppermost part or surface: *the face of the earth*. 13. Also called: **side**, any one of the plane surfaces of a crystal or other solid figure. 14. Also called: **typeface**. *Printing.* a. the printing surface of any type character. b. the style or design of the character on the type. 15. *N.Z.* the exposed slope of a hill. 16. **face to face**, in confrontation. 17. in (**the**) **face** of, despite. 18. on the face of it, to all appearances. 19. set one's face against, to oppose with determination. 20. show one's face, to make an appearance. 21. to someone's face, in someone's presence: *I told him the truth to his face*. ~*vb.* 22. (*when intr.*, often foll. by *to*, *towards*, or *on*) to look or be situated or placed (in a specified direction): *the house faces onto the square*. 23. to be opposite: *facing page 9*. 24. (*tr.*) to be confronted

by: *he faces many problems*. 25. (*tr.*) to provide with a surface of a different material. 26. to dress the surface of (stone or other material). 27. (*tr.*) to expose (a card) with the face uppermost. 28. *Mil.* to order (a formation) to turn in a certain direction or (of a formation) to turn as required: *right face!*

face card *n.* the usual U.S. term for **court card**.

faceless ('feɪlsɪs) *adj.* 1. without a face. 2. without identity; anonymous. — '**facelessness** *n.*

face-lift *n.* 1. cosmetic surgery for tightening sagging skin and smoothing wrinkles on the face. 2. any improvement or renovation.

facer ('feɪsə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that faces. 2. *Brit. inf.* a difficulty or problem.

face-saving *adj.* maintaining dignity or prestige.

facet ('fæst) *n.* 1. any of the surfaces of a cut gemstone. 2. an aspect or phase, as of a subject or personality. ~*vb.* -*eting*, -*eted* or -*etting*, -*etted*. 3. (*tr.*) to cut facets in (a gemstone).

facetious ('feɪʃiəs) *adj.* 1. characterized by love of joking. 2. jocular or amusing, esp. at inappropriate times: *facetious remarks*. — '**facetiously** *adv.* — '**facetiousness** *n.*

face value *n.* 1. the value written or stamped on the face of a commercial paper or coin. 2. apparent worth or value.

fascia ('feɪʃiə) *n.* a variant spelling of **fascia**.

facial ('feɪʃəl) *adj.* 1. of or relating to the face. ~*n.* 2. a beauty treatment for the face, involving massage and cosmetic packs. — '**facially** *adv.*

-facient *suffix forming adjectives and nouns*, indicating a state or quality: *absorbefacient*.

facile ('fæsaɪl) *adj.* 1. easy to perform or achieve. 2. working or moving easily or smoothly. 3. superficial: *a facile solution*. — '**facilely** *adv.* — '**facileness** *n.*

facilitate (fə'sɪlɪ,teɪt) *vb.* (*tr.*) to assist the progress of. — '**facilitation** *n.*

facility (fə'sɪlɪti) *n.* **pl.** -*ties*. 1. ease of action or performance. 2. ready skill or ease deriving from practice or familiarity. 3. (*often pl.*) the means or equipment facilitating the performance of an action. 4. *Rare.* easy-going disposition. 5. (*usually pl.*) a euphemistic word for **lavatory**.

facing ('feɪsɪŋ) *n.* 1. a piece of material used esp. to conceal the seam of a garment and prevent fraying. 2. (*usually pl.*) the collar, cuffs, etc., of the jacket of a military uniform. 3. an outer layer or coat of material applied to the surface of a wall.

facsimile (fæk'sɪmɪli) *n.* 1. an exact copy or reproduction. 2. a telegraphic system in which a written or pictorial document is scanned photoelectrically, the resulting signals being transmitted and reproduced photographically. ~*vb.* -*leing*, -*led*. 3. (*tr.*) to make an exact copy of.

fact (fækt) *n.* 1. an event or thing known to have happened or existed. 2. a truth verifiable from experience or observation. 3. a piece of information: *get me all the facts of this case*. 4. *Law.* (*often pl.*) an actual event, happening, etc., as distinguished from its legal consequences. 5. *after (or before) the fact*, *Criminal law.* after (or before) the commission of the offence. 6. as a matter of fact, in fact, in point of fact, in reality or actuality. 7. **fact of life**, an inescapable truth, esp. an unpleasant one. See also **facts of life**.

faction ('fækʃən) *n.* 1. a group of people forming a minority within a larger body, esp. a dissentious group. 2. strife or dissension within a group. — '**factional** *adj.*

factious ('fækʃəs) *adj.* given to, producing, or characterized by faction. — '**factiously** *adv.*

factitious (fæk'tɪʃəs) *adj.* 1. artificial rather than natural. 2. not genuine; sham: *factitious enthusiasm*. — '**factitiously** *adv.* — '**factitiousness** *n.*

factor ('fæktə) *n.* 1. an element or cause that contributes to a result. 2. *Maths.* one of two or more integers or polynomials whose product is a given integer or polynomial: 2 and 3 are factors of 6. 3. a person who acts on another's behalf, esp. one who transacts business for another. 4. former name for a **gene**. 5. *Commercial law.* a person to whom goods are consigned for sale and

who is paid a factorage. **6.** (in Scotland) the manager of an estate. ~vb. **7.** (intr.) to engage in the business of a factor. — **'factorable** adj. — **'factor,ship** n.

factorial (fæk'tɔ:riəl) *Maths.* ~n. **1.** the product of all the positive integers from one up to and including a given integer: *factorial four* is $1 \times 2 \times 3 \times 4$. ~adj. **2.** of or involving factorials or factors. — **'factorially** adv.

factory ('fæktəri) *n., pl. -ries.* **a.** a building or group of buildings containing a plant assembly for the manufacture of goods. **b.** (as modifier): *a factory worker*. — **'factory,-like** adj.

factory farm *n.* a farm in which animals are intensively reared using modern industrial methods. — **'factory farming** *n.*

factory ship *n.* a vessel that processes fish supplied by a fleet.

factotum (fæk'təutəm) *n.* a person employed to do all kinds of work.

facts of life *pl. n. the.* the details of sexual behaviour and reproduction. See also **fact** (sense 7).

factual ('fæktʃʊəl) *adj.* **1.** of, relating to, or characterized by facts. **2.** real; actual. — **'factually** adv. — **'factuality** *n.*

faculty ('fækʃlti) *n., pl. -ties.* **1.** one of the inherent powers of the mind or body, such as memory, sight, or hearing. **2.** any ability or power, whether acquired or inherent. **3.** a conferred power or right. **4. a.** a department within a university or college devoted to a particular branch of knowledge. **b.** the staff of such a department. **c.** Chiefly U.S. all administrative and teaching staff at a university, school, etc. **5.** all members of a learned profession.

fad (fæd) *n. inf.* **1.** an intense but short-lived fashion. **2.** a personal idiosyncrasy. — **'faddish** or **'faddy** adj.

fade (feɪd) *vb.* **1.** to lose or cause to lose brightness, colour, or clarity. **2.** (intr.) to lose vigour or youth. **3.** (intr.; usually foll. by *away* or *out*) to vanish slowly. **4.** to decrease the brightness or volume of (a television or radio programme) or (of a television programme, etc.) to decrease in this way. **5.** (intr.) (of the brakes of a vehicle) to lose power. **6.** to cause (a golf ball) to veer from a straight line or (of a golf ball) to veer from a straight flight. ~n. **7.** the act or an instance of fading. — **'fadeless** adj. — **'fadedness** *n.*

fade-in *n.* **1.** Films. an optical effect in which a shot appears gradually out of darkness. ~vb. **fade in** (adv.). **2.** to increase or cause to increase gradually, as vision or sound in a film or broadcast.

fade-out *n.* **1.** Films. an optical effect in which a shot slowly disappears into darkness. **2.** a gradual and temporary loss of a radio or television signal. **3.** a slow or gradual disappearance. ~vb. **fade out** (adv.). **4.** to decrease or cause to decrease gradually, as vision or sound in a film or broadcast.

faeces or esp. U.S. **feces** ('fɪsi:z) *pl. n.* bodily waste matter discharged through the anus. — **faecal** or esp. U.S. **fecal** ('fɪkəl) adj.

faerie or **faery** ('feəri, 'fɛəri) *n., pl. -ries.* Arch. or poetic. **1.** the land of fairies. ~adj. **n.** **2.** a variant spelling of **fairy**.

Faeroese or **Faroese** (,fɛərəʊ'ɪz) *adj.* **1.** of or characteristic of the Faeroes, islands in the N Atlantic, their inhabitants, or their language. ~n. **2.** the language of the Faeroes, closely related to Icelandic. **3.** (pl. -ese) a native or inhabitant of the Faeroes.

faff (fæf) *vb. (intr.; often foll. by about)* Brit. inf. to dither or fuss.

fag (fæg) *n.* **1.** Inf. a boring or wearisome task. **2.** Brit. (esp. formerly) a young public school boy who performs menial chores for an older boy or prefect. ~vb. **fagging, fagged.** **3.** (when tr., often foll. by *out*) Inf. to become or cause to become exhausted by hard work **4.** (usually intr.) Brit. to do or cause to do menial chores in a public school.

fag² (fæg) *n.* Brit. sl. a cigarette.

fag³ (fæg) *n.* Sl., chiefly U.S. short for **faggot¹**.

fag end *n.* **1.** the last and worst part. **2.** Brit. inf. the stub of a cigarette.

faggot¹ or esp. U.S. **fagot** ('fæɡət) *n.* **1.** a bundle of sticks or twigs, esp. when used as fuel. **2.** a bundle of iron bars, esp. to be forged into wrought iron. **3.** a ball of chopped meat bound with herbs and bread and eaten fried. ~vb. (tr.) **4.** to collect into a bundle or bundles. **5.** Needlework. to do fagging on (a garment, etc.).

faggot² ('fæɡət) *n.* Sl., chiefly U.S. a male homosexual.

Fah. or **Fahr.** abbrev. for Fahrenheit.

Fahrenheit ('færən,hart) *adj.* of or measured according to the Fahrenheit scale of temperature. Symbol: **F**

Fahrenheit scale *n.* a scale of temperatures in which 32° represents the melting point of ice and 212° represents the boiling point of pure water under standard atmospheric pressure. Cf. **Celsius scale**.

faïence (fai'ɒns, feɪ-) *n.* tin-glazed earthenware, usually that of French, German, Italian, or Scandinavian origin.

fail (feɪl) *vb.* **1.** to be unsuccessful in an attempt (at something or to do something). **2.** (intr.) to stop operating or working properly: *the steering failed suddenly*. **3.** to judge or be judged as being below the officially accepted standard required in (a course, examination, etc.). **4.** (tr.) to prove disappointing or useless to (someone). **5.** (tr.) to neglect or be unable (to do something). **6.** (intr.) to prove insufficient in quantity or extent. **7.** (intr.) to weaken. **8.** (intr.) to go bankrupt. ~n. **9.** a failure to attain the required standard. **10.** without fail. definitely.

failing ('feɪlɪŋ) *n.* **1.** a weak point. ~prep. **2.** (used to express a condition) in default of: *failing a solution, the problem will have to wait until Monday*.

fail-safe *adj.* **1.** designed to return to a safe condition in the event of a failure or malfunction. **2.** safe from failure; foolproof.

failure ('feɪljə) *n.* **1.** the act or an instance of failing. **2.** a person or thing that is unsuccessful or disappointing. **3.** nonperformance of something required or expected: *failure to attend will be punished*. **4.** cessation of normal operation: *a power failure*. **5.** an insufficiency: *a crop failure*. **6.** a decline or loss, as in health. **7.** the fact of not reaching the required standard in an examination, test, etc. **8.** bankruptcy.

fain (feɪn) *adv.* **1.** (usually with *would*) Arch. gladly: *she would fain be dead*. ~adj. **2.** Obs. a. willing. b. compelled.

faint (feɪnt) *adj.* **1.** lacking clarity, brightness, volume, etc. **2.** lacking conviction or force: *faint praise*. **3.** feeling dizzy or weak as if about to lose consciousness. **4.** timid (esp. in **faint-hearted**). ~vb. (intr.) **5.** to lose consciousness, as through weakness. **6.** Arch. or poetic. to become weak, esp. in courage. ~n. **7.** a sudden spontaneous loss of consciousness caused by an insufficient supply of blood to the brain. — **'faintish** adj. — **'faintly** adv. — **'faintness** *n.*

fair¹ (feə) *adj.* **1.** free from discrimination, dishonesty, etc. **2.** in conformity with rules or standards: *a fair fight*. **3.** (of the hair or complexion) light in colour. **4.** beautiful to look at. **5.** quite good: *a fair piece of work*. **6.** unblemished; untainted. **7.** (of the tide or wind) favourable to the passage of a vessel. **8.** fine or cloudless. **9.** pleasant or courteous. **10.** apparently good or valuable: *fair words*. **11.** **fair and square**, in a correct or just way. **12.** **fair to middling**, about average. ~adv. **13.** in a fair way: *act fair, now!* **14.** absolutely or squarely; quite. ~vb. **15.** (intr.) Dialect. (of the weather) to become fine. ~n. **16.** Arch. a person or thing that is beautiful or valuable. — **'fairish** adj. — **'fairness** *n.*

fair² (feə) *n.* **1.** a travelling entertainment with side-shows, rides, etc. **2.** a gathering of producers of and dealers in a given class of products to facilitate business: *a world fair*. **3.** a regular assembly at a specific place for the sale of goods, esp. livestock.

fairground ('feə,graʊnd) *n.* an open space used for a fair or exhibition.

fairing ('feəriŋ) *n.* an external metal structure fitted around parts of an aircraft, car, etc., to reduce drag.

Fair Isle *n.* an intricate multicoloured pattern knitted with Shetland wool into various garments, such as sweaters.

fairly ('feəli) *adv.* **1.** (not used with a negative) moderately. **2.** as deserved; justly. **3.** (not used with a negative) positively: *the hall fairly rang with applause*.

fair play *n.* **1.** an established standard of decency, etc. **2.** abidance by this standard.

fair sex *n.* the women collectively.

fairway ('feə,wei) *n.* **1.** (on a golf course) the avenue approaching a green bordered by rough. **2.** Naut. the navigable part of a river, harbour, etc.

fair-weather *adj.* **1.** suitable for use in fair weather only. **2.** not reliable in situations of difficulty: *fair-weather friend*.

fairy ('feəri) *n., pl. fairies.* **1.** an imaginary supernatural being, usually represented in diminutive human form and characterized as having magical powers. **2.** Sl. a male homosexual. ~adj. (prenominal) **3.** of a fairy or fairies. **4.** resembling a fairy or fairies. — **'fairy,-like** adj.

fairy cycle *n.* a child's bicycle.

fairy godmother *n.* a benefactress, esp. an unknown one.

fairyland ('fɔəri,lænd) *n.* 1. the imaginary domain of the fairies. 2. a fantasy world, esp. one resulting from a person's wild imaginings.

fairy lights *pl. n.* small coloured electric bulbs strung together and used as decoration, esp. on a Christmas tree.

fairy ring *n.* a ring of dark luxuriant vegetation in grassy ground corresponding to the outer edge of an underground fungal mycelium.

fairy tale or story *n.* 1. a story about fairies or other mythical or magical beings. 2. a highly improbable account.

fait accompli French. (fe takʒ'pli) *n., pl. faits accomplis* (fe takʒ'pli). something already done and beyond alteration.

faith (feθ) *n.* 1. strong or unshakeable belief in something, esp. without proof. 2. a specific system of religious beliefs: *the Jewish faith*. 3. *Christianity*. trust in God and in his actions and promises. 4. a conviction of the truth of certain doctrines of religion. 5. complete confidence or trust in a person, remedy, etc. 6. loyalty, as to a person or cause (esp. in **keep faith, break faith**). 7. **bad faith**. dishonesty. 8. **good faith**. honesty. 9. (*modifier*) using or relating to the supposed ability to cure bodily ailments by means of religious faith: *a faith healer*. ~*interj.* 10. *Arch.* indeed.

faithful ('feɪθfəl) *adj.* 1. remaining true or loyal. 2. maintaining sexual loyalty to one's lover or spouse. 3. consistently reliable: *a faithful worker*. 4. reliable or truthful. 5. accurate in detail: *a faithful translation*. ~*n.* 6. **the faithful**. a. the believers in a religious faith, esp. *Christianity*. b. any group of loyal and steadfast followers. —'faithfully *adv.* —'faithfulness *n.*

faithless ('feɪθlɪs) *adj.* 1. unreliable or treacherous. 2. dishonest or disloyal. 3. lacking religious faith. —'faithlessness *n.*

fake (feɪk) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to cause (something inferior or not genuine) to appear more valuable or real by fraud or pretence. 2. to pretend to have (an illness, emotion, etc.). ~*n.* 3. an object, person, or act that is not genuine; sham. ~*adj.* 4. not genuine. —'faker *n.*

fakir ('fɑ:kɪ, 'feɪkə) *n.* 1. a member of any religious order of Islam. 2. a Hindu ascetic mendicant.

Falange ('fælændʒ) *n.* the Fascist movement founded in Spain in 1933. —'Fa'langist *n., adj.*

falcon ('fɔ:lkən, 'fɔ:kən) *n.* 1. a diurnal bird of prey such as the gyrfalcon, peregrine falcon, etc., having pointed wings and a long tail. 2. a. any of these or related birds, trained to hunt small game. b. the female of such a bird (cf. **tercel**).

falconry ('fɔ:lkənri, 'fɔ:kən-) *n.* the art of keeping falcons and training them to return from flight to a lure or to hunt quarry. —'falconer *n.*

falderal ('fældɪ,ræl) or **folderol** ('fɔldɪ,rɒl) *n.* 1. a showy but worthless trifle. 2. foolish nonsense. 3. a nonsensical refrain in old songs.

fall (fɔ:l) *vb.* **falling, fell, fallen.** (*mainly intr.*) 1. to descend by the force of gravity from a higher to a lower place. 2. to drop suddenly from an erect position. 3. to collapse to the ground, esp. in pieces. 4. to become less or lower in number, quality, etc.: *prices fell*. 5. to become lower in pitch. 6. to extend downwards: *her hair fell to her waist*. 7. to be badly wounded or killed. 8. to slope in a downward direction. 9. to yield to temptation or sin. 10. to diminish in status, estimation, etc. 11. to yield to attack: *the city fell under the assault*. 12. to lose power: *the government fell after the riots*. 13. to pass into or take on a specified condition: *to fall asleep*. 14. to adopt a despondent expression: *her face fell*. 15. to be averted: *her gaze fell*. 16. to come by chance or presumption: *suspicion fell on the butler*. 17. to occur; take place: *night fell*. 18. (foll. by *back, behind, etc.*) to move in a specified direction. 19. to occur at a specified place: *the accent falls on the last syllable*. 20. (foll. by *to*) to be inherited (by): *the estate falls to the eldest son*. 21. (often foll. by *into, under, etc.*) to be classified: *the subject falls into two main areas*. 22. to issue forth: *a curse fell from her lips*. 23. *Cricket*. (of a batsman's wicket) to be taken by the bowling side: *the sixth wicket fell for 96*. 24. **fall flat**. to fail to achieve a desired effect. 25. **fall foul of**. a. *Naut.* to come into collision with. b. to come into conflict with. 26. **fall short**. a. to prove inadequate. b. (often foll. by *of*) to fail to reach or measure up to (a standard). ~*n.* 27. an act or instance of falling. 28. something that falls: *a fall of*

snow. 29. *Chiefly U.S.* autumn. 30. the distance that something falls: *a hundred-foot fall*. 31. a sudden drop from an upright position. 32. (often *pl.*) a. a waterfall or cataract. b. (*cap. when part of a name*): *Niagara Falls*. 33. a downward slope or decline. 34. a decrease in value, number, etc. 35. a decline in status or importance. 36. a capture or overthrow: *the fall of the city*. 37. *Machinery, naut.* the end of a tackle to which power is applied to hoist it. 38. Also called: **pinfall**. *Wrestling*. a scoring move, pinning both shoulders of one's opponent to the floor for a specified period. 39. a. the birth of an animal. b. the animals produced at a single birth. ~See also **fall about, fall away, etc.**

Fall (fɔ:l) *n. the.* *Theol.* Adam's sin of disobedience and the state of innate sinfulness ensuing from this for himself and all mankind.

fall about *vb. (intr., adv.)* to behave in an uncontrolled manner: *we fell about laughing*.

fallacious ('fɔ:leɪʃəs) *adj.* 1. containing or involving a fallacy. 2. tending to mislead; delusive or disappointing. —'fal'laciously *adv.*

fallacy ('fæləsi) *n., pl. -cies*. 1. an incorrect or misleading notion or opinion based on inaccurate facts or invalid reasoning. 2. unsound reasoning. 3. the tendency to mislead. 4. *Logic*. an error in reasoning that renders an argument logically invalid.

fall away *vb. (intr., adv.)* 1. (of friendship, etc.) to be withdrawn. 2. to slope down.

fall back *vb. (intr., adv.)* 1. to recede or retreat. 2. (foll. by *on or upon*) to have recourse (to). ~*n.* **fall-back**. 3. a retreat. 4. a reserve, esp. money, that can be called upon in need.

fall behind *vb. (intr., adv.)* 1. to drop back; fail to keep up. 2. to be in arrears, as with a payment.

fall down *vb. (intr., adv.)* 1. to drop suddenly or collapse. 2. (often foll. by *on*) *Inf.* to fail.

fallen ('fɔ:lən) *vb.* 1. the past participle of **fall**. ~*adj.* 2. having sunk in reputation or honour: *a fallen woman*. 3. killed in battle with glory.

fall for *vb. (intr., prep.)* 1. to become infatuated with (a person). 2. to allow oneself to be deceived by (a lie, trick, etc.).

fall guy *n. Inf., chiefly U.S.* a person who is the victim of a confidence trick.

fallible ('fælɪbəl) *adj.* 1. capable of being mistaken. 2. liable to mislead. —'falli'bility *n.*

fall in *vb. (intr., adv.)* 1. to collapse. 2. to adopt a military formation, esp. as a soldier taking his place in a line. 3. (of a lease) to expire. 4. (often foll. by *with*) a. to meet and join. b. to agree with or support a person, suggestion, etc.

falling sickness or evil *n.* a former name (nontechnical) for **epilepsy**.

falling star *n.* an informal name for **meteor**.

fall off *vb. (intr.)* 1. to drop unintentionally to the ground from (a high object, bicycle, etc.), esp. after losing one's balance. 2. (*adv.*) to diminish in size, intensity, etc.

fall on *vb. (intr., prep.)* 1. Also: **fall upon**. to attack or snatch (an army, booty, etc.). 2. **fall flat on one's face**. to fail, esp. in a ridiculous manner. 3. **fall on one's feet**. to emerge unexpectedly well from a difficult situation.

Fallopian tube ('fælə'piən) *n.* either of a pair of slender tubes through which ova pass from the ovaries to the uterus in female mammals.

fallout ('fɔ:l,aut) *n.* 1. the descent of radioactive material following a nuclear explosion. 2. any particles that so descend. ~*vb.* **fall out** (*intr., adv.*) 3. *Inf.* to disagree. 4. (*intr.*) to occur. 5. *Mil.* to leave a disciplinary formation.

fallow¹ ('fæləʊ) *adj.* 1. (of land) left unseeded after being ploughed to regain fertility for a crop. 2. (of an idea, etc.) undeveloped, but potentially useful. ~*n.* 3. land treated in this way. ~*vb.* 4. (*tr.*) to leave (land) unseeded after ploughing it. —'fallowness *n.*

fallow² ('fæləʊ) *adj.* of a light yellowish-brown colour.

fallow deer *n.* either of two species of deer, one of which is native to the Mediterranean region and the other to Persia. The summer coat is reddish with white spots.

fall through *vb. (intr., adv.)* to fail.

fall to *vb. (intr.)* 1. (*adv.*) to begin some activity, as eating, working, or fighting. 2. (*prep.*) to devolve (on a person): *the task fell to me*.

false (fɔ:ɪs) *adj.* 1. not in accordance with the truth or facts. 2. irregular or invalid: *a false argument*. 3. untruthful or lying: *a false account*. 4. artificial; fake:

false eyelashes. 5. being or intended to be misleading or deceptive: *a false alarm*. 6. treacherous: *a false friend*. 7. based on mistaken or irrelevant ideas or facts: *a false hope*. 8. (*prenominal*) (esp. of plants) superficially resembling the species specified: *false hellebore*. 9. serving to supplement or replace, often temporarily: *a false keel*. 10. *Music*. (of a note, interval, etc.) out of tune. ~adv. 11. in a false or dishonest manner (esp. in play (someone) false). —'falsely adv. —'falseness n.

falsehood ('fɔ:ls;hʊd) *n.* 1. the quality of being untrue. 2. an untrue statement; lie. 3. the act of deceiving or lying.

false pretences *pl. n.* a misrepresentation used to obtain anything, such as trust or affection (esp. in *under false pretences*).

falsestto (fɔ:l'setəʊ) *n., pl. -tos*. a form of vocal production used by male singers to extend their range upwards by limiting the vibration of the vocal cords.

falsies ('fɔ:lsiz) *pl. n.* *Inf.* pads of soft material, such as foam rubber, worn to exaggerate the size of a woman's breasts.

falsify ('fɔ:lsɪ,fai) *vb. -fying, -fied*. 1. (*tr.*) to make (a report, evidence, etc.) false or inaccurate by alteration. 2. to render (the truth or facts) false or inaccurate in order to deceive. 3. (*tr.*) to prove false. —'falsi, fiable adj. —'falsification (,fɔ:lsɪfɪ'keɪʃən) *n.*

falsity ('fɔ:lsɪti) *n., pl. -ties*. 1. the state of being false or untrue. 2. a lie or deception.

falter ('fɔ:lta) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to be hesitant, weak, or unsure. 2. (*tr.*) to move unsteadily or hesitantly. 3. to utter haltingly or hesitantly. ~*n.* 4. hesitancy in speech or action. 5. a quavering sound. —'faltered *n.* —'falteringly *adv.*

fame (feɪm) *n.* 1. the state of being widely known or recognized. 2. *Arch.* rumour or public report. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*; now usually passive) to make famous: *he was famed for his ruthlessness*.

familial (fə'mɪliəl) *adj.* 1. of or relating to the family. 2. transmitted between individuals of a family: *a familial disease*.

familiar (fə'mɪlə) *adj.* 1. well-known: *a familiar figure*. 2. frequent or customary: *a familiar excuse*. 3. (*post-positive*; foll. by *with*) acquainted. 4. friendly; informal. 5. close; intimate. 6. more intimate than is acceptable; presumptuous. ~*n.* 7. Also called: **familiar spirit**, a supernatural spirit supposed to attend and aid a witch, wizard, etc. 8. a person attached to the household of the pope or a bishop, who renders service in return for support. 9. a friend. —fa,mil'iarity *n.* —fa'miliarily *adv.* —fa'miliarness *n.*

familiarize or -rise (fə'mɪljə,raɪz) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to make (oneself or someone else) familiar, as with a particular subject. 2. to make (something) generally known. —fa'miliarization or -ri'sation *n.*

family ('fæmɪl, 'fæmli) *n., pl. -lies*. 1. *a.* a primary social group consisting of parents and their offspring. *b.* (*as modifier*): *a family unit*. 2. one's wife or husband and one's children. 3. one's children, as distinguished from one's husband or wife. 4. a group descended from a common ancestor. 5. all the persons living together in one household. 6. any group of related things or beings, esp. when scientifically categorized. 7. *Biol.* any of the taxonomic groups into which an order is divided and which contains one or more genera. 8. a group of historically related languages assumed to derive from one original language. 9. *Maths.* a group of curves or surfaces whose equations differ from a given equation only in the values assigned to one or more constants. 10. *in the family way.* *Inf.* pregnant.

Family Allowance *n.* 1. (in Britain) a former name for *child benefit*. 2. (in Canada) an allowance paid by the Federal Government to the parents of dependent children.

family man *n.* a man who is married and has children, esp. one who is devoted to his family.

family name *n.* a surname, esp. when regarded as representing the family honour.

family planning *n.* the control of the number of children in a family and of the intervals between them, esp. by the use of contraceptives.

family tree *n.* a chart showing the genealogical relationships and lines of descent of a family. Also called: *genealogical tree*.

famine ('fæmɪn) *n.* 1. a severe shortage of food, as through crop failure or overpopulation. 2. acute shortage of anything. 3. violent hunger.

famish ('fæmɪʃ) *vb. (now usually passive)* to be or make very hungry or weak.

famous ('feɪməs) *adj.* 1. known to or recognized by many people. 2. *Inf.* excellent; splendid. —'famously *adv.* —'famousness *n.*

fan¹ (fæn) *n.* 1. any device for creating a current of air by movement of a surface or number of surfaces, esp. a rotating device consisting of a number of blades attached to a central hub. 2. any of various hand-agitated devices for cooling oneself, esp. a collapsible semicircular series of flat segments of paper, ivory, etc. 3. something shaped like such a fan, such as the tail of certain birds. 4. *Agriculture*. a kind of basket formerly used for winnowing grain. ~*vb.* **fanning, fanned.** (*mainly tr.*) 5. to cause a current of air to blow upon, as by means of a fan: *to fan one's face*. 6. to agitate or move (air, etc.) with or as if with a fan. 7. to make fiercer, more ardent, etc.: *fan one's passion*. 8. (*also intr.*; often foll. by *out*) to spread out or cause to spread out in the shape of a fan. 9. to winnow (grain) by blowing the chaff away from it. —'fanlike *adj.* —'fanner *n.*

fan² (fæn) *n.* 1. an ardent admirer of a pop star, football team, etc. 2. a devotee of a sport, hobby, etc.

Fanagalo ('fænəgələʊ) or **Fanakalo** *n.* a pidgin language widely used in southern Africa, having English, Afrikaans, and Zulu components.

fanatic (fə'nætɪk) *n.* 1. a person whose enthusiasm or zeal for something is extreme or beyond normal limits. 2. *Inf.* a person devoted to a particular hobby or pastime. ~*adj.* —fa'natical *adj.* —fa'nati,cism *n.*

fan belt *n.* the belt that drives a cooling fan in a car engine.

fancier ('fænsɪə) *n.* 1. a person with a special interest in something. 2. a person who breeds special varieties of plants or animals: *a pigeon fancier*.

fanciful ('fænsɪfʊl) *adj.* 1. not based on fact: *fanciful notions*. 2. made or designed in a curious, intricate, or imaginative way. 3. indulging in or influenced by fancy. —'fancifully *adv.* —'fancifulness *n.*

fancy ('fænsɪ) *adj. -cier, -ciest*. 1. ornamented or decorative: *fancy clothes*. 2. requiring skill to perform: *a fancy dance routine*. 3. capricious or illusory. 4. (often used ironically) superior in quality. 5. higher than expected: *fancy prices*. 6. (of a domestic animal) bred for particular qualities. ~*n., pl. -cies*. 7. a sudden capricious idea. 8. a sudden or irrational liking for a person or thing. 9. the power to conceive and represent decorative and novel imagery, esp. in poetry. 10. an idea or thing produced by this. 11. a mental image. 12. *Music*. a composition for solo lute, keyboard, etc. current during the 16th and 17th centuries. 13. *the fancy.* *Arch.* those who follow a particular sport, esp. prize fighting. ~*vb. -cying, -cied.* (*tr.*) 14. to picture in the imagination. 15. to imagine: *I fancy it will rain*. 16. (*often used with a negative*) to like: *I don't fancy your chances!* 17. (*reflexive*) to have a high or ill-founded opinion of oneself. 18. *Inf.* to have a wish for: *she fancied some chocolate*. 19. *Brit. inf.* to be physically attracted to (another person). 20. to breed (animals) for particular characteristics. ~*interj.* 21. Also: **fancy that!** an exclamation of surprise. —'fancily *adv.* —'fanciness *n.*

fancy dress *n.* a costume worn at masquerades, etc., representing an historical figure, etc. *b.* (*as modifier*): *a fancy-dress ball*.

fancy-free *adj.* having no commitments.

fancy goods *pl. n.* small decorative gifts.

fancy man *n. Sl.* 1. a woman's lover. 2. a pimp.

fancy woman *n. Sl.* a mistress or prostitute.

fancywork ('fænsɪ,wɜ:k) *n.* any ornamental needlework, such as embroidery or crochet.

fandango (fæn'dæŋgəʊ) *n., pl. -gos*. 1. an old Spanish courtship dance in triple time. 2. a piece of music composed for or in the rhythm of this dance.

fanfare ('fænfə) *n.* 1. a flourish or short tune played on brass instruments. 2. an ostentatious flourish or display.

fang (fæŋ) *n.* 1. the long pointed hollow or grooved tooth of a venomous snake through which venom is injected. 2. any large pointed tooth, esp. the canine tooth of a carnivorous mammal. 3. the root of a tooth. 4. (*usually pl.*) *Brit. inf.* a tooth. —fanged *adj.* —'fangless *adj.*

fanjet ('fæn,dʒɛt) *n.* another name for *turbofan*.

fanlight ('fæn,lait) *n.* 1. a semicircular window over a door or window, often having sash bars like the ribs of a fan. 2. a small rectangular window over a door. *US* name: *transom*.

fanny ('fæni) *n., pl. -nies. Sl.* 1. *Taboo, Brit.* the female pudendum. 2. *Chiefly U.S.* the buttocks.

fanny adams *n. Brit. sl.* 1. (usually preceded by *sweet*) absolutely nothing at all. 2. *Chiefly naut.* (formerly) tinned meat.

fantail ('fæn,teɪl) *n.* 1. a breed of domestic pigeon having a large tail that can be opened like a fan. 2. an Old World flycatcher of Australia, New Zealand, and SE Asia, having a broad fan-shaped tail. 3. a tail shaped like an outspread fan. 4. an auxiliary sail on the upper portion of a windmill. 5. *U.S.* a part of the deck projecting aft of the sternpost of a ship. —*fan-tailed adj.*

fantasia ('fæn'teɪziə) *n.* 1. any musical composition of a free or improvisatory nature. 2. a potpourri of popular tunes woven loosely together.

fantasize or -sise ('fæntə,səɪz) *vb.* 1. (when *tr.*, takes a clause as object) to conceive extravagant or whimsical ideas, images, etc. 2. (*intr.*) to conceive pleasant mental images.

fantastic ('fæn'tæstɪk) *adj.* also **fantastical**. 1. strange or fanciful in appearance, conception, etc. 2. created in the mind; illusory. 3. unrealistic: *fantastic plans*. 4. incredible or preposterous: *a fantastic verdict*. 5. *Inf.* very large or extreme: *a fantastic fortune*. 6. *Inf.* very good; excellent. 7. of or characterized by fantasy. 8. capricious; fitful. —*fantasti'cality or fan'tasticalness n.* —*fan'tastically adv.*

fantasy or phantasy ('fæntəsi) *n., pl. -sies*. 1. a. imagination unrestricted by reality. *b.* (as *modifier*): *a fantasy world*. 2. a creation of the imagination, esp. a weird or bizarre one. 3. *Psychol.* a series of pleasing mental images, usually serving to fulfil a need not gratified in reality. 4. a whimsical or far-fetched notion. 5. an illusion or phantom. 6. a highly elaborate imaginative design or creation. 7. *Music.* another word for *fantasia*. 8. literature having a large fantasy content. —*vb. -ying, -sied*. 9. a less common word for *fantasize*.

fan vaulting *n.* *Archit.* vaulting having ribs that radiate like those of a fan and spring from the top of a capital. Also called: **palm vaulting**.

FAO *abbrev.* for Food and Agriculture Organization (of the United Nations).

far (fɑː) *adv., adj.* **farther or further, farthest or furthest**. *adv.* 1. at, to, or from a great distance. 2. at or to a remote time: *far in the future*. 3. to a considerable degree: *a far better plan*. 4. as far as. *a.* to the degree or extent that. *b.* to the distance or place of. 5. by far. by a considerable margin. 6. far and away. by a very great margin. 7. far and wide. everywhere. 8. far be it from me. on no account: *far be it from me to tell you what to do*. 9. few and far between. infrequent. 10. go far. *a.* to be successful: *your son will go far*. *b.* to be sufficient or last long: *the wine didn't go far*. 11. go too far. to exceed reasonable limits. 12. so far. *a.* up to the present moment. *b.* up to a certain point, extent, degree, etc. —*adj. (prenominal)* 13. remote in space or time: *in the far past*. 14. extending a great distance. 15. more distant: *the far end of the room*. 16. a far cry. very different. 17. far from. in a degree, state, etc. remote from: *he is far from happy*. —*far'ness n.*

farad ('færəd) *n.* *Physics.* the derived SI unit of electric capacitance; the capacitance of a capacitor between the plates of which a potential of 1 volt is created by a charge of 1 coulomb. Symbol: F

faraway ('færə,wei) *adj.* (*far away* when *postpositive*). 1. very distant. 2. absent-minded.

farce (fɑːs) *n.* 1. a broadly humorous play based on the exploitation of improbable situations. 2. the genre of comedy represented by works of this kind. 3. a ludicrous situation or action. 4. another name for **farce**. —*far'cical adj.*

fare (fɛə) *n.* 1. the sum charged or paid for conveyance in a bus, train, etc. 2. a paying passenger, esp. when carried by taxi. 3. a range of food and drink. —*vb. (intr.)* 4. to get on (as specified): *he fared well*. 5. (with it as a subject) to happen as specified: *it fared badly with him*. 6. *Arch.* to eat: *we fared sumptuously*. 7. (often foll. by *forth*) *Arch.* to travel. —*far'er n.*

fare stage *n.* 1. a section of a bus journey for which a set charge is made. 2. the bus stop marking the end of such a section.

farewell ('færə,wel) *sentence substitute*. 1. goodbye; adieu. —*n.* 2. a parting salutation. 3. an act of departure. 4. (*modifier*) expressing leave-taking: *a farewell speech*.

far-fetched *adj.* unlikely.

far-flung *adj.* 1. widely distributed. 2. far distant; remote.

farina ('fɑːrɪnə) *n.* 1. flour or meal made from any kind of cereal grain. 2. *Chiefly Brit.* starch.

farinaceous ('færɪneɪʃəs) *adj.* 1. consisting or made of starch. 2. having a mealy texture or appearance. 3. containing starch: *farinaceous seeds*.

farm (fɑːm) *n.* 1. *a.* a tract of land, usually with house and buildings, cultivated as a unit or used to rear livestock. *b.* (as *modifier*): *farm produce*. *c.* (in combination): *farmland*. 2. a unit of land or water devoted to the growing or rearing of some particular type of vegetable, fruit, animal, or fish: *a fish farm*. 3. an installation for storage or disposal: *a sewage farm*. —*vb.* 4. (*tr.*) *a.* to cultivate (land). *b.* to rear (stock, etc.) on a farm. 5. (*intr.*) to engage in agricultural work, esp. as a way of life. 6. (*tr.*) to look after a child for a fixed sum. 7. to collect the moneys due and retain the profits from (a tax district, business, etc.) for a specified period. —*See also farm out*. —*farmable adj.*

farmer ('fɑːmə) *n.* 1. a person who operates or manages a farm. 2. a person who obtains the right to collect and retain a tax, rent, etc., on payment of a fee. 3. a person who looks after a child for a fixed sum.

farm hand *n.* a person who is hired to work on a farm.

farmhouse ('fɑːm,haʊs) *n.* a house attached to a farm, esp. the dwelling from which the farm is managed.

farming ('fɑːmɪŋ) *n.* *a.* the business or skill of agriculture. *b.* (as *modifier*): *farming methods*.

farm out *vb. (tr., adv.)* 1. to send (work) to be done by another person, firm, etc. 2. to put (a child, etc.) into the care of a private individual. 3. to lease to another for a fee the right to collect (taxes).

farmstead ('fɑːm,sted) *n.* a farm or the part of a farm comprising its main buildings together with adjacent grounds.

farmyard ('fɑːm,jɑːd) *n.* an area surrounded by or adjacent to farm buildings.

Far North *n. the.* the Arctic and sub-Arctic regions of the world.

faro ('færəʊ) *n.* a gambling game in which players bet against the dealer on what cards he will turn up.

far-off *adj.* (*far off* when *postpositive*). remote in space or time; distant.

far-out *Sl. -adj.* (*far out* when *postpositive*) 1. bizarre or avant-garde. 2. wonderful. —*interj.* **far out**. 3. an expression of amazement or delight.

far-reaching *adj.* extensive in influence, effect, or range.

farrier ('færɪə) *n.* *Chiefly Brit.* 1. a person who shoes horses. 2. another name for **veterinary surgeon**. —*far'riery n.*

farrow ('færəʊ) *n.* 1. a litter of piglets. —*vb.* 2. (of a sow) to give birth to (a litter).

far-seeing *adj.* having shrewd judgment.

far-sighted *adj.* 1. possessing prudence and foresight. 2. *Med.* of or suffering from hyperopia. 3. another word for **long-sighted**. —*far-'sightedly adv.* —*far-'sightedness n.*

fart (fɑːt) *Taboo.* —*n.* 1. an emission of intestinal gas from the anus. 2. *Sl.* a contemptible person. —*vb. (intr.)* 3. to break wind. 4. **fart about or around**. *Sl.* *a.* to behave foolishly. *b.* to waste time.

farther ('fɑːðə) *adv.* 1. to or at a greater distance in space or time. 2. in addition. —*adj.* 3. more distant or remote in space or time. 4. additional.

▷ **Usage.** In careful usage, *farther* and *farthest* are preferred when referring to literal distance: *the farthest planet*. *Further* and *furthest* are regarded as more correct for figurative senses denoting greater amount, time, etc.: *nothing could be further from the truth*.

farthermost ('fɑːðə,məʊst) *adj.* most distant or remote.

farthest ('fɑːðst) *adv.* 1. to or at the greatest distance in space or time. —*adj.* 2. most distant in space or time. 3. most extended.

farthing ('fɑːɪŋ) *n.* 1. a former British bronze coin worth a quarter of an old penny; withdrawn in 1961. 2. something of negligible value; jot.

farthingale ('fɑːɪŋ,geɪl) *n.* a hoop or framework worn under skirts, esp. in the Elizabethan period, to shape and spread them.

fascēs ('fæsiːz) *pl. n., sing. -cis (-sis)*. 1. (in ancient Rome) one or more bundles of rods containing an axe with its blade protruding; a symbol of a magistrate's power. 2. (in modern Italy) such an object used as the symbol of Fascism.

fascia or facia ('feɪʃiə) *n., pl. -ciae (-ʃiːi)*. 1. the flat surface above a shop window. 2. *Archit.* a flat band or surface, esp. a part of an architrave. 3. ('fæʃiə) fibrous connective tissue occurring in sheets between muscles.

4. *Biol.* a distinctive band of colour, as on an insect or plant. 5. *Brit.* the outer panel which covers the dashboard of a motor vehicle. — **fascial** or **facial** *adj.*

fascicle ('fæskɪl) *n.* 1. a bundle of branches, leaves, etc. 2. Also called: **fasciculus**. *Anat.* a small bundle of fibres, esp. nerve fibres. — **fascicled** *adj.* — **fascicular** (fə'sikjələ) or **fasciculate** (fə'sikjuːleɪt) *adj.* — **fasciculation** *n.*

fascinate ('fæsiːneɪt) *vb.* (*mainly tr.*) 1. to attract and delight by arousing interest: *his stories fascinated me for hours.* 2. to render motionless, as by arousing terror or awe. 3. *Arch.* to put under a spell. — **fascinating** *adj.* — **fascination** *n.*

Fascism ('fæʒɪzəm) *n.* 1. the authoritarian nationalistic political movement led by Benito Mussolini in Italy (1922–43). 2. (*sometimes not cap.*) any ideology or movement modelled on or inspired by this. 3. *Inf.* (*often not cap.*) any doctrine or system regarded as opposed to democracy and liberalism. — **Fascist** *n.*

fashion ('fæʃən) *n.* 1. a style in clothes, behaviour, etc., esp. the latest style. *b.* (*as modifier*): a fashion magazine. 2. a manner of performance: *in a striking fashion.* *b.* (*in combination*): *crab-fashion.* 3. a way of life that revolves around the activities, dress, interests, etc., that are most fashionable. 4. shape or form. 5. sort; kind. 6. *after* or *in a fashion.* in some manner, but not very well: *I mended it, after a fashion.* 7. of *fashion.* of high social standing. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 8. to give a particular form to. 9. to make suitable or fitting. 10. *Obs.* to contrive. — **fashioner** *n.*

fashionable ('fæʃənəbəl) *adj.* 1. conforming to fashion; in vogue. 2. of or patronized by people of fashion: a fashionable café. 3. (usually foll. by *with*) patronized (by). — **fashionableness** *n.* — **fashionably** *adv.*

fast¹ ('fæst) *adj.* 1. acting or moving or capable of acting or moving quickly. 2. accomplished in or lasting a short time: a fast visit. 3. (*prenominal*) adapted to or facilitating rapid movement: *the fast lane of a motorway.* 4. (of a clock, etc.) indicating a time in advance of the correct time. 5. given to an active dissipated life. 6. of or characteristic of such activity: a fast life. 7. not easily moved; firmly fixed; secure. 8. firmly fastened or shut. 9. steadfast; constant (*esp. in fast friends*). 10. *Sport.* (of a playing surface, running track, etc.) conducive to rapid speed, as of a ball used on it or of competitors racing on it. 11. that will not fade or change colour readily. 12. proof against fading. 13. *Photog.* a. requiring a relatively short time of exposure to produce a given density: a fast film. *b.* permitting a short exposure time: a fast shutter. 14. a fast one. *Inf.* a deceptive or unscrupulous trick (*esp. in pull a fast one*). 15. fast worker. a person who achieves results quickly, esp. in seductions. ~*adv.* 16. quickly; rapidly. 17. soundly; deeply: *fast asleep.* 18. firmly; tightly. 19. in quick succession. 20. in advance of the correct time: *my watch is running fast.* 21. in a reckless or dissipated way. 22. *fast by* or *beside*, *Arch.* close by. 23. *play fast and loose.* *Inf.* to behave in an insincere or unreliable manner.

fast² ('fæst) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to abstain from eating all or certain foods or meals, esp. as a religious observance. ~*n.* 2. a. an act or period of fasting. *b.* (*as modifier*): a fast day. — **fastener** *n.*

fastback ('fæst,bæk) *n.* a car having a back that forms one continuous slope from roof to rear.

fast-breeder reactor *n.* a nuclear reactor that uses little or no moderator and produces more fissionable material than it consumes.

fasten ('fæsn) *vb.* 1. to make or become fast or secure. 2. to make or become attached or joined. 3. to close or become closed by fixing firmly in place, locking, etc. 4. (*tr.*; foll. by *in* or *up*) to enclose or imprison. 5. (*tr.*; usually foll. by *on*) to cause (blame, a nickname, etc.) to be attached (to). 6. (usually foll. by *on* or *upon*) to direct or be directed in a concentrated way. 7. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *on*) to take a firm hold (of). — **fastener** *n.*

fastening ('fæsnɪŋ) *n.* something that fastens, such as a clasp or lock.

fast food *n.* a. food, esp. hamburgers, fried chicken, etc., that is prepared and served very quickly. *b.* (*as modifier*): a fast-food restaurant.

fastidious ('fæstɪdiəs) *adj.* 1. hard to please. 2. excessively particular about details. 3. exceedingly delicate. — **fastidiously** *adv.* — **fastidiousness** *n.*

fat (fæt) *n.* 1. any of a class of naturally occurring soft greasy solids that are present in some plants and animals, and are used in making soap and paint and in the food industry. 2. vegetable or animal tissue containing

fat. 3. corpulence, obesity, or plumpness. 4. the best or richest part of something. 5. *chew the fat.* *Sl.* to chat. 6. the fat is in the fire, an irrevocable action has been taken from which dire consequences are expected. 7. the fat of the land, the best that is obtainable. ~*adj.* **fatter**, **fattest**. 8. having much or too much flesh or fat. 9. consisting of or containing fat; greasy. 10. profitable; lucrative. 11. affording great opportunities: a fat part in the play. 12. fertile or productive: a fat land. 13. thick, broad, or extended: a fat log of wood. 14. *Sl.* very little or none (in a fat chance, a fat lot of good, etc.). ~*vb.* **fattening**, **fatted**. 15. to make or become fat; fatten. — **fatless** *adj.* — **fatly** *adv.* — **fatness** *n.* — **fattish** *adj.*

fatal ('feɪtəl) *adj.* 1. resulting in death: a fatal accident. 2. bringing ruin. 3. decisively important. 4. inevitable. — **fatally** *adv.*

fatalism ('feɪtə,lɪzəm) *n.* 1. the philosophical doctrine that all events are predetermined so that man is powerless to alter his destiny. 2. the acceptance of and submission to this doctrine. — **fatalist** *n.* — **fatalistic** *adj.*

fatality (fə'tæləti) *n.*, *pl.* -ties. 1. an accident or disaster resulting in death. 2. a person killed in an accident or disaster. 3. the power of causing death or disaster. 4. the quality or condition of being fated. 5. something caused by fate.

fate (feɪt) *n.* 1. the ultimate agency that predetermines the course of events. 2. the inevitable fortune that befalls a person or thing. 3. the end or final result. 4. death, destruction, or downfall. ~*vb.* 5. (*tr.*; usually passive) to predetermine: *he was fated to lose.*

fated ('feɪtɪd) *adj.* 1. destined. 2. doomed to death or destruction.

fateful ('feɪtful) *adj.* 1. having important consequences. 2. bringing death or disaster. 3. controlled by or as if by fate. 4. prophetic. — **fatefully** *adv.* — **fatefulness** *n.*

fathead ('fæt,hed) *n.* *Inf.* a stupid person; fool. — **fat-headed** *adj.*

father ('fɑːðə) *n.* 1. a male parent. 2. a person who founds a line or family; forefather. 3. any male acting in a paternal capacity. 4. (*often cap.*) a respectful term of address for an old man. 5. a male who originates something: *the father of modern psychology.* 6. a leader of an association, council, etc.: a city father. 7. *Brit.* the eldest or most senior member in a union, profession, etc. 8. (*often pl.*) a senator in ancient Rome. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 9. to procreate or generate (offspring). 10. to create, found, etc. 11. to act as a father to. 12. to acknowledge oneself as father or originator of. 13. (foll. by *on* or *upon*) to impose or foist upon. — **fatherhood** *n.* — **fatherless** *adj.*

Father ('fɑːðə) *n.* 1. God, esp. when considered as the first person of the Christian Trinity. 2. any of the early writers on Christian doctrine. 3. a title used for Christian priests.

father-in-law *n.*, *pl.* **fathers-in-law**. the father of one's wife or husband.

fatherland ('fɑːðə,lænd) *n.* 1. a person's native country. 2. the country of a person's ancestors.

fatherly ('fɑːðəli) *adj.* of, resembling, or suitable to a father. — **fatherliness** *n.*

Father's Day *n.* the third Sunday in June, observed as a day in honour of fathers.

fathom ('fæðəm) *n.* 1. a unit of length equal to six feet, used to measure depths of water. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 2. to measure the depth of, esp. with a sounding line. 3. to penetrate (a mystery, problem, etc.). — **fathomable** *adj.* — **fathomless** *adj.*

fatigue (fə'tiːɡ) *n.* 1. physical or mental exhaustion due to exertion. 2. a tiring activity or effort. 3. *Physiol.* the temporary inability of an organ or part to respond to a stimulus because of overactivity. 4. the weakening of a material subjected to alternating stresses, esp. vibrations. 5. any of the mainly domestic duties performed by military personnel, esp. as a punishment. 6. (*pl.*) special clothing worn by military personnel to carry out such duties. ~*vb.* **-tigu**ing, **-tighed**. 7. to make or become weary or exhausted. — **fatigable** or **fatiguable** ('fætɪɡəbəl) *adj.*

fat stock *n.* livestock fattened and ready for market.

fatten ('fætən) *vb.* 1. to grow or cause to grow fat or fatter. 2. (*tr.*) to cause (an animal or fowl) to become fat by feeding it. 3. (*tr.*) to make fuller or richer. 4. (*tr.*) to enrich (soil).

fatty ('fætu) *adj.* -tier, -tiest. 1. containing or derived from fat. 2. greasy; oily. 3. (esp. of tissues, organs, etc.) characterized by the excessive accumulation of fat.

~n., pl. -ties. 4. *Inf.* a fat person. —'fattily adv. —'fattiness n.

fatty acid *n.* any of a class of aliphatic carboxylic acids, such as palmitic acid, stearic acid, and oleic acid.

fatuity (fə'tju:ti) *n.* pl. -ties. 1. inanity. 2. a fatuous remark, act, sentiment, etc. —'fa'tuitous adj.

fatuous ('fætjuəs) *adj.* complacently or inanely foolish. —'fatuously adv. —'fatuousness n.

faucet ('fɔ:sɪt) *n.* the U.S. name for a tap.

fault (fɔ:lt) *n.* 1. a failing or defect; flaw. 2. a mistake or error. 3. a misdeed. 4. responsibility for a mistake or misdeed. 5. *Electronics.* a defect in a circuit, component, or line, such as a short circuit. 6. *Geol.* a fracture in the earth's crust resulting in the relative displacement of the rocks on either side of it. 7. *Tennis, squash, etc.* an invalid serve. 8. (in showjumping) a penalty mark given for failing to clear, or refusing, a fence, etc. 9. *at fault.* guilty of error; culpable. 10. *find fault (with).* to seek out minor imperfections or errors (in). 11. *to a fault.* excessively. ~vb. 12. *Geol.* to undergo or cause to undergo a fault. 13. (tr.) to criticize or blame. 14. (intr.) to commit a fault. —'faultless adj.

fault-finding *n.* 1. continual criticism. ~adj. 2. given to finding fault. —'fault-,finder *n.*

faulty ('fɔ:lti) *adj.* faultier, faultiest, defective or imperfect. —'faultily adv. —'faultiness n.

faun (fɔ:n) *n.* (in Roman legend) a rural deity represented as a man with a goat's ears, horns, tail, and hind legs. —'faun,like adj.

fauna ('fɔ:nə) *n.* pl. -nas or -nae (-ni:). 1. all the animal life of a given place or time. 2. a descriptive list of such animals. —'faunal adj.

faux pas (fəu'pɑ:z) *n.* pl. faux pas (fəu'pɑ:z). a social blunder.

favour or *U.S. favor* ('feivə) *n.* 1. an approving attitude; good will. 2. an act performed out of good will or mercy. 3. prejudice and partiality. 4. a condition of being regarded with approval (esp. in *in favour, out of favour*). 5. a token of love, good will, etc. 6. a small gift or toy given to a guest at a party. 7. *History.* a badge or ribbon worn or given to indicate loyalty. 8. *find favour with.* to be approved of by someone. 9. *in favour of.* a. approving. b. to the benefit of. c. (of a cheque, etc.) made out to. d. in order to show preference for. ~vb. (tr.) 10. to regard with especial kindness. 11. to treat with partiality. 12. to support; advocate. 13. to oblige. 14. to help; facilitate. 15. *Inf.* to resemble: *he favours his father.* 16. to wear habitually: *she favours red.* 17. to treat gingerly: *a footballer favouring an injured leg.* —'favourer or *U.S. favor* *n.*

favourable or *U.S. favorable* ('feivərəb'l) *adj.* 1. advantageous, encouraging or promising. 2. giving consent. —'favourably or *U.S. favorably* adv.

-favoured *adj.* (in combination) having an appearance (as specified): *ill-favoured.*

favourite or *U.S. favorite* ('feivərɪt) *adj.* 1. (*prenominal*) most liked. ~n. 2. a person or thing regarded with especial preference or liking. 3. *Sport.* a competitor thought likely to win.

favouritism or *U.S. favoritism* ('feivərɪ,tɪzəm) *n.* the practice of giving special treatment to a person or group.

fawn ('fɔ:n) *n.* 1. a young deer of either sex aged under one year. 2. a. a light greyish-brown colour. b. (*as adj.*): *a fawn raincoat.* ~vb. 3. (tr.) (of deer) to bear young. —'fawn,like adj.

fawn ('fɔ:n) *vb.* (intr.; often foll. by *on* or *upon*) 1. to seek attention and admiration (from) by cringing and flattering. 2. (of animals, esp. dogs) to try to please by a show of extreme friendliness. —'fawner *n.* —'fawning adj.

fay (fei) *n.* a fairy or sprite.

F.B.I. (in the U.S.) *abbrev.* for Federal Bureau of Investigation; an agency responsible for investigating violations of Federal laws.

F.D. *abbrev.* for Fidei Defensor.

Fe the chemical symbol for iron.

fealty ('fi:lti) *n.* pl. -ties. (in feudal society) the loyalty sworn to one's lord on becoming his vassal.

fear (fiə) *n.* 1. a feeling of distress, apprehension, or alarm caused by impending danger, pain, etc. 2. a cause of this feeling. 3. awe; reverence: *fear of God.* 4. concern; anxiety. 5. possibility; chance. 6. *for fear of, that or lest.* to forestall or avoid. 7. *no fear.* certainly not. ~vb. 8. to be afraid (to do something) or (of a person or thing). 9. (tr.) to revere; respect. 10. (tr.; *takes a clause as object*) to be sorry: *I fear that you have*

not won. 11. (intr.; foll. by *for*) to feel anxiety about something. —'fearless adj. —'fearlessly adv. —'fearlessness *n.*

fearful ('fi:fʊl) *adj.* 1. afraid. 2. causing fear. 3. *Inf.* very unpleasant: *a fearful cold.* —'fearfully adv. —'fearfulness *n.*

fearsome ('fiəsəm) *adj.* 1. frightening. 2. timorous; afraid. —'fearsomely adv.

feasible ('fi:zəb'l) *adj.* 1. able to be done or put into effect; possible. 2. likely; probable. —'feasibility *n.* —'feasibly adv.

feast (fi:st) *n.* 1. a large and sumptuous meal. 2. a periodic religious celebration. 3. something extremely pleasing: *a feast for the eyes.* 4. *moveable feast.* a festival of variable date. ~vb. 5. (intr.) a. to eat a feast. b. (usually foll. by *on*) to enjoy the eating (of): *to feast on cakes.* 6. (tr.) to give a feast to. 7. (intr.; foll. by *on*) to take great delight (in): *to feast on beautiful paintings.* 8. (tr.) to regale or delight: *to feast one's eyes.* —'feaster *n.*

feat (fi:t) *n.* a remarkable, skilful, or daring action.

feather ('fedə) *n.* 1. any of the flat light waterproof structures forming the plumage of birds, each consisting of a hollow shaft having a vane of barbs on either side. 2. something resembling a feather, such as a tuft of hair or grass. 3. *Archery.* a. a bird's feather or artificial substitute fitted to an arrow to direct its flight. b. the feathered end of an arrow. 4. *Rowing.* the position of an oar turned parallel to the water between strokes. 5. condition of spirits; fettle: *in fine feather.* 6. something of negligible value: *I don't care a feather.* 7. *birds of a feather.* people of the same type or interests. 8. *feather in one's cap.* a cause for pleasure at one's achievements. 9. *white feather.* a sign of cowardice. ~vb. 10. (tr.) to fit, cover, or supply with feathers. 11. *Rowing.* to turn (an oar) parallel to the water during recovery between strokes, in order to lessen wind resistance. 12. to change the pitch of (an aircraft propeller) so that the chord lines of the blades are in line with the airflow. 13. (intr.) (of a bird) to grow feathers. 14. *feather one's nest.* to provide oneself with comforts. —'feathering *n.* —'feather-,like adj. —'feathery adj.

feather bed *n.* 1. a mattress filled with feathers or down. ~vb. featherbed, -bedding, -bedded. 2. (tr.) to pamper; spoil.

featherbrain ('fedə,breɪn) or **featherhead** *n.* a frivolous or forgetful person. —'feather,brained or 'feather,headed adj.

featherweight ('fedə,weɪt) *n.* 1. a. something very light or of little importance. b. (*as modifier*): *featherweight considerations.* 2. a. a professional boxer weighing 118-126 pounds (53.5-57 kg). b. an amateur boxer weighing 54-57 kg (119-126 pounds). 3. a wrestler weighing usually 126-139 pounds (57-63 kg).

feature ('fi:tʃə) *n.* 1. any one of the parts of the face, such as the nose, chin, or mouth. 2. a prominent or distinctive part, as of a landscape, book, etc. 3. the principal film in a programme at a cinema. 4. an item or article appearing at intervals in a newspaper, magazine, etc.: *a gardening feature.* 5. Also called: *feature story.* a prominent story in a newspaper, etc.: *a feature on prison reform.* 6. a programme given special prominence on radio or television. 7. *Arch.* general form. ~vb. 8. (tr.) to have as a feature or make a feature of. 9. to give prominence to (an actor, famous event, etc.) in a film or (of an actor, etc.) to have prominence in a film. 10. (tr.) to draw the main features or parts of. —'featureless adj.

Feb. *abbrev.* for February.

febrile -combining form. indicating fever: *febrifuge.*

febrile ('fi:briəl) *adj.* of or relating to fever; feverish. —'febrility ('fi:bri:lɪti) *n.*

February ('februəri) *n.* pl. -aries. the second month of the year, consisting of 28 or (in a leap year) 29 days.

feckless ('fekls) *adj.* feeble; weak; ineffectual. —'fecklessly adv. —'fecklessness *n.*

fecund ('fi:kʌnd, 'fek-) *adj.* 1. fertile. 2. intellectually productive. —'fecundity ('fi:kʌndɪti) *n.*

fecundate ('fi:kʌnd,deɪt, 'fek-) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to make fruitful. 2. to fertilize. —'fecundation *n.*

fed (fed) *vb.* 1. the past tense or past participle of *feed*. 2. *fed to death* or *fed (up) to the (back) teeth.* *Inf.* bored or annoyed.

Fed. or **fed.** *abbrev.* for: 1. Federal. 2. Federation. 3. Federated.

federal ('fedərəl) *adj.* 1. of or relating to a form of government or a country in which power is divided between one central and several regional governments. 2. of or relating to the central government of a

federation. — **'federalism** *n.* — **'federalist** *n., adj.* — **'federally** *adv.*

Federal ('federal) *adj.* 1. characteristic of or supporting the Union government during the American Civil War. ~*n.* 2. a supporter of the Union government during the American Civil War.

Federal Government *n.* the national government of a federated state, such as the Canadian national government located in Ottawa.

federalize or -lize ('federalaɪz) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to unite in a federal union. 2. to subject to federal control. — **'federalization or -lization** *n.*

federate *vb. ('fedaɪt)* 1. to unite or cause to unite in a federal union. ~*adj. ('federal)* 2. federal; federated. — **'federative** *adj.*

federation ('fedaɪrɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of federating. 2. the union of several provinces, states, etc., to form a federal union. 3. a political unit formed in such a way. 4. any league, alliance, or confederacy.

fed up *adj. (usually postpositive)* annoyed or bored: *I'm fed up with your conduct.*

fee (fi:) *n.* 1. a payment asked by professional people or public servants for their services: *school fees.* 2. a charge made for a privilege: *an entrance fee.* 3. *Property law.* an interest in land capable of being inherited. The interest can be with unrestricted rights of disposal (*fee simple*) or with restricted rights to one class of heirs (*fee tail*). 4. (in feudal Europe) the land granted by a lord to his vassal. 5. *in fee. Law.* (of land) in absolute ownership. ~*vb. feeling, feed.* 6. *Rare.* to give a fee to. 7. *Chiefly Scot.* to hire for a fee.

feeble ('fi:bl) *adj.* 1. lacking in physical or mental strength. 2. unconvincing: *feeble excuses.* 3. easily influenced. — **'feebleness** *n.* — **'feebly** *adv.*

feeble-minded *adj.* 1. lacking in intelligence. 2. mentally defective.

feed (fi:d) *vb. feeding, fed. (mainly tr.)* 1. to give food to: *to feed the cat.* 2. to give as food: *to feed meat to the cat.* 3. (*intr.*) to eat food: *the horses feed at noon.* 4. to provide food for. 5. to gratify; satisfy. 6. (*also intr.*) to supply (a machine, furnace, etc.) with (the necessary materials or fuel) for its operation, or (of such materials) to flow or move forwards into a machine, etc. 7. *Theatre, inf.* to cue (an actor, esp. a comedian) with lines. 8. *Sport.* to pass a ball to (a teammate). 9. (*also intr.*; foll. by *on* or *upon*) to eat or cause to eat. ~*n.* 10. the act or an instance of feeding. 11. food, esp. that of animals or babies. 12. the process of supplying a machine or furnace with a material or fuel. 13. the quantity of material or fuel so supplied. 14. *Theatre, inf.* a performer, esp. a straight man, who provides cues. 15. *Inf.* a meal. — **'feedable** *adj.*

feedback ('fi:d,bæk) *n.* 1. a. the return of part of the output of an electronic circuit, device, or mechanical system to its input. In **negative feedback** a rise in output energy reduces the input energy; in **positive feedback** an increase in output energy reinforces the input energy. b. that part of the output signal fed back into the input. 2. the return of part of the sound output by a loudspeaker to the microphone, so that a high-pitched whistle is produced. 3. the whistling noise so produced. 4. the effect of a product or action in a cyclic biological reaction on another stage in the same reaction. 5. information in response to an enquiry, experiment, etc.

feeder ('fi:da) *n.* 1. a person or thing that feeds or is fed. 2. a child's feeding bottle or bib. 3. a person or device that feeds the working material into a system or machine. 4. a tributary channel. 5. a road, service, etc., that links secondary areas to the main traffic network. 6. a power line for transmitting electrical power from a generating station to a distribution network.

feel (fi:l) *vb. feeling, felt.* 1. to perceive (something) by touching. 2. to have a physical or emotional sensation of (something): *to feel anger.* 3. (*tr.*) to examine (something) by touch. 4. (*tr.*) to find (one's way) by testing or cautious exploration. 5. (*copula*) to seem in respect of the sensation given: *it feels warm.* 6. to sense (esp. in **feel (it) in one's bones**). 7. to consider; believe; think. 8. (*intr.*, foll. by *for*) to show sympathy or compassion (towards): *I feel for you in your sorrow.* 9. (*tr.*) *Sl.* to pass one's hands over the sexual organs of. 10. **feel like.** to have an inclination (for something or doing something): *I don't feel like going to the pictures.* 11. **feel up to.** (*usually used with a negative or in a question*) to be fit enough for (something or doing something): *I don't feel up to going out.* ~*n.* 12. the act or an instance of feeling. 13. the quality of or an impression from some-

thing perceived through feeling: *a homely feel.* 14. the sense of touch.

▷ **Usage.** The verbs *feel*, *look*, and *smell* can be followed by an adverb or an adjective according to the sense in which they are used. Where a quality of the subject is involved, an adjective is used: *I feel sick; he looks strong.* For other senses an adverb would be used: *she feels strongly about that; I must look closely at his record.*

feeler ('fi:lə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that feels. 2. an organ in certain animals, such as an antenna, that is sensitive to touch. 3. a remark designed to probe the reactions or intentions of others.

feeling ('fi:lɪŋ) *n.* 1. the sense of touch. 2. a. the ability to experience physical sensations, such as heat, etc. b. the sensation so experienced. 3. a state of mind. 4. a physical or mental impression: *a feeling of warmth.* 5. fondness; sympathy: *to have a great deal of feeling for someone.* 6. a sentiment: *a feeling that the project is feasible.* 7. an emotional disturbance, esp. anger or dislike: *a lot of bad feeling.* 8. intuitive appreciation and understanding: *a feeling for words.* 9. sensibility in the performance of something. 10. (*pl.*) emotional or moral sensitivity (esp. in **hurt or injure the feelings of**). ~*adj.* 11. sentient; sensitive. 12. expressing or containing emotion. — **'feelingly** *adv.*

feet (fi:t) *n.* 1. the plural of foot. 2. at (someone's) feet, as someone's disciple. 3. be run or rushed off one's feet, to be very busy. 4. carry or sweep off one's feet, to fill with enthusiasm. 5. feet of clay, a weakness that is not widely known. 6. have (or keep) one's feet on the ground, to be practical and reliable. 7. on one's or its feet, a. standing up. b. in good health. 8. to stand on one's own feet, to be independent.

feign (feɪn) *vb.* 1. to pretend: *to feign innocence.* 2. (*tr.*) to invent: *to feign an excuse.* 3. (*tr.*) to copy; imitate. — **'feigningly** *adv.*

feint¹ (feɪnt) *n.* 1. a mock attack or movement designed to distract an adversary, as in boxing, fencing, etc. 2. a misleading action or appearance. ~*vb.* 3. (*intr.*) to make a feint.

feint² (feɪnt) *n.* Printing, the narrowest rule used in the production of ruled paper.

feldspar ('feld,spɑ:, 'fel,spɑ:) or **felspar** *n.* any of a group of hard rock-forming minerals consisting of aluminium silicates of potassium, sodium, calcium, or barium: the principal constituents of igneous rocks. — **'feldspathic** ('feld'spæθɪk, 'fel'spæθ-) or **'felspathic** *adj.*

felicitate ('felɪsɪteɪt) *vb.* to congratulate. — **'felici-tation** *n.* — **'felicitator** *n.*

felicity ('felɪsɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. happiness. 2. a cause of happiness. 3. an appropriate expression or style. 4. the display of such expressions or style. — **'felicitous** *adj.*

feline ('felɪn) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or belonging to a family of predatory mammals, including cats, lions, leopards, and cheetahs, having a round head and retractile claws. 2. resembling or suggestive of a cat, esp. in stealth or grace. ~*n.* 3. any member of the cat family; a cat. — **'felinely** *adv.* — **'felinity** ('felɪnɪti) *n.*

fell¹ (fel) *vb.* the past tense of fall.

fell² (fel) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to cut or knock down: *to fell a tree.* 2. *Needlework.* to fold the edges of a seam under and sew them flat. ~*n.* 3. *U.S.* the timber felled in one season. 4. a seam finished by felling. — **'feller** *n.*

fell³ (fel) *adj.* 1. *Arch.* cruel or fierce. 2. *Arch.* destructive or deadly. 3. **one fell swoop,** a single hasty action or occurrence.

fell⁴ (fel) *n.* an animal skin or hide.

fell⁵ (fel) *n. (often pl.)* *Northern Brit. a.* a mountain, hill, or moor. b. (*in combination*): *fell-walking.*

fellatio ('felɪʃɪəʊ) *n.* a sexual activity in which the penis is stimulated by the mouth.

felloe ('feləʊ) or **felly** *n., pl. -loes or -lies.* a segment or the whole rim of a wooden wheel to which the spokes are attached.

fellow ('feləʊ) *n.* 1. a man or boy. 2. an informal word for boyfriend. 3. *Inf.* one or oneself: *a fellow has to eat.* 4. a person considered to be of little worth. 5. a. (*often pl.*) a companion; associate. b. (*as modifier*): *fellow travellers.* 6. a member of the governing body at any of various universities or colleges. 7. a postgraduate student employed, esp. for a fixed period, to undertake research. 8. a person in the same group, class, or condition: *the surgeon asked his fellows.* b. (*as modifier*): *a fellow sufferer.* 9. one of a pair; counterpart; mate.

Fellow ('feləʊ) *n.* a member of any of various learned societies: *Fellow of the British Academy.*

fellow feeling *n.* 1. mutual sympathy or friendship. 2. an opinion held in common.

fellowship ('feləʊ,ʃɪp) *n.* 1. the state of sharing mutual interests, activities, etc. 2. a society of people sharing mutual interests, activities, etc. 3. companionship; friendship. 4. the state or relationship of being a fellow. 5. *Education.* a. a financed research post providing study facilities, privileges, etc., often in return for teaching services. b. an honorary title carrying certain privileges awarded to a postgraduate student.

fellow traveller *n.* 1. a companion on a journey. 2. a non-Communist who sympathizes with Communism.

felon ('felən) *n.* 1. *Criminal law.* (formerly) a person who has committed a felony. ~adj. 2. Arch. evil.

felony ('feləni) *n., pl. -nies.* *Criminal law.* (formerly) a serious crime, such as murder or arson. —felonious (-'ləʊn-) adj.

felspar ('fel,spɑː) *n.* a variant spelling (esp. Brit.) of **feldspar**. —felspathic ('fel'spæθɪk) adj.

felt ('felt) *vb.* the past tense or past participle of **feel**.

felt ('felt) *n.* 1. a matted fabric of wool, hair, etc., made by working the fibres together under pressure or by heat or chemical action. 2. any material, such as asbestos, made by a similar process of matting. ~vb. 3. (*tr.*) to make into or cover with felt. 4. (*intr.*) to become matted.

felt-tip pen *n.* a pen whose writing point is made from pressed fibres. Also called: **ibre-tip pen**.

fem. *abbrev. for:* 1. female. 2. feminine.

female ('fi:meɪl) adj. 1. of, relating to, or designating the sex producing gametes (ova) that can be fertilized by male gametes (spermatozoa). 2. of or characteristic of a woman. 3. for or composed of women or girls: a female choir. 4. (of reproductive organs such as the ovary and carpel) capable of producing female gametes. 5. (of flowers) lacking, or having nonfunctional, stamens. 6. having an internal cavity into which a projecting male counterpart can be fitted: a female thread. ~n. 7. a female animal or plant. —femaleness *n.*

feminine ('femɪnɪn) adj. 1. suitable to or characteristic of a woman. 2. possessing qualities or characteristics considered typical or appropriate to a woman. 3. effeminate; womanish. 4. *Grammar.* a. denoting or belonging to a gender of nouns that includes all kinds of referents as well as some female animate referents. b. (as *n.*): *German Zeit "time" and Ehe "marriage" are feminines.* —femininely adv. —femini'nity or femini'ness *n.*

feminism ('femɪnɪzəm) *n.* a doctrine or movement that advocates equal rights for women. —feminist *n., adj.*

femur ('fi:mə) *n., pl. femurs or femora* ('femərə). 1. the longest thickest bone of the human skeleton, with the pelvis above and the knee below. Nontechnical name: **thighbone**. 2. the corresponding bone in other vertebrates or the corresponding segment of an insect's leg. —femoral adj.

fen (fen) *n.* low-lying flat land that is marshy or artificially drained. —fenny adj.

fence (fens) *n.* 1. a structure that serves to enclose an area such as a garden or field, usually made of posts of timber, concrete, or metal connected by wire netting, rails, or boards. 2. *Sl.* a dealer in stolen property. 3. an obstacle for a horse to jump in steeplechasing or show-jumping. 4. *Machinery.* a guard or guide, esp. in a circular saw or plane. 5. (*sit*) on the fence. (to be) unable or unwilling to commit oneself. ~vb. 6. (*tr.*) to construct a fence on or around (a piece of land, etc.). 7. (*tr.*; foll. by *in* or *off*) to close (in) or separate (off) with or as if with a fence: he fenced in the livestock. 8. (*intr.*) to fight using swords or foils. 9. (*intr.*) to evade a question or argument. 10. (*intr.*) *Sl.* to receive stolen property. —fenceless adj. —fencer *n.*

fencing ('fensɪŋ) *n.* 1. the practice, art, or sport of fighting with foils, épées, sabres, etc. 2. a. wire, stakes, etc., used as fences. b. fences collectively.

fend (fend) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*; foll. by *for*) to give support (to someone, esp. oneself). 2. (*tr.*; usually foll. by *off*) to ward off or turn aside (blows, questions, etc.). ~n. 3. *Scot. & N English dialect.* a shift or effort.

fender ('fendə) *n.* 1. a low metal frame which confines falling coals to the hearth. 2. a metal frame fitted to the front of locomotives to absorb shock, etc. 3. a cushion-like device, such as a car tyre hung over the side of a vessel to reduce damage resulting from collision. 4. the U.S. name for the wing of a car.

fenestration (,fens'treɪʃən) *n.* 1. the arrangement of windows in a building. 2. an operation to restore hear-

ing by making an artificial opening into the labyrinth of the ear.

Fenian ('fi:niən, 'fi:njən) *n.* 1. (formerly) a member of an Irish revolutionary organization founded in the U.S. in the 19th century to fight for an independent Ireland. ~adj. 2. of or relating to the Fenians. —Fenianism *n.*

fennel ('fenl) *n.* a strong-smelling yellow-flowered umbelliferous plant whose seeds and feathery leaves are used to season and flavour food.

fenugreek ('fenju:ɡri:k) *n.* an annual heavily scented Mediterranean leguminous plant, with hairy stems and white flowers.

feoff (fi:f) *History.* ~n. 1. a variant spelling of **fief**. ~vb. 2. (*tr.*) to invest with a benefice or fief. —feoffee *n.* —feoffment *n.* —feoffor or feoffee *n.*

-fer *n. combining form.* indicating a person or thing that bears something specified: *crucifer*; *conifer*.

feral ('fiərəl) adj. 1. (of animals and plants) existing in a wild or uncultivated state. 2. savage; brutal.

fermata ('fə:mɑ:tə) *n., pl. -tas* or *-te* (-ti). *Music.* another word for **pause**.

ferment *n.* ('fə:ment). 1. any agent or substance, such as a bacterium, mould, yeast, or enzyme, that causes fermentation. 2. another word for **fermentation**. 3. commotion; unrest. ~vb. ('fə:ment). 4. to undergo or cause to undergo fermentation. 5. to stir up or seethe with excitement. —fermentable adj.

fermentation (,fə:men'teɪʃən) *n.* a chemical reaction in which an organic molecule splits into simpler substances, esp. the conversion of sugar to ethyl alcohol by yeast. —fermentative adj.

fermium ('fɜ:mɪəm) *n.* a transuranic element artificially produced by neutron bombardment of plutonium. Symbol: *Fm*; atomic no.: 100; half-life of most stable isotope, ²⁵⁷Fm: 80 days (approx.).

fern (fɜ:n) *n.* 1. a plant having roots, stems, and fronds and reproducing by spores formed in structures (sori) on the fronds. 2. any of certain similar but unrelated plants, such as the sweet fern. —ferny adj.

ferocious ('fə:rəʃəs) adj. savagely fierce or cruel: a ferocious tiger. —ferocity ('fə:rəʊsɪti) *n.*

-ferous adj. combining form. bearing or producing: *coniferous*.

ferret ('ferɪt) *n.* 1. a domesticated albino variety of the polecat bred for hunting rats, rabbits, etc. ~vb. 2. to hunt (rabbits, rats, etc.) with ferrets. 3. (*tr.*; usually foll. by *out*) to drive from hiding: to ferret out snipers. 4. (*tr.*; usually foll. by *out*) to find by persistent investigation. 5. (*intr.*) to search around. —ferreter *n.* —ferrety adj.

ferri- combining form. indicating the presence of iron, esp. in the trivalent state: *ferricyanide*; *ferriferous*. Cf. **ferro-**.

Ferris wheel ('ferɪs) *n.* a fairground wheel having seats freely suspended from its rim.

ferro- combining form. 1. indicating a property of iron or the presence of iron: *ferromagnetism*. 2. indicating the presence of iron in the divalent state: *ferrocyanide*. Cf. **ferri-**.

ferroconcrete (,fɜ:rə'kɒŋkri:t) *n.* another name for **reinforced concrete**.

ferrous sulphate *n.* an iron salt, usually obtained as greenish crystals; used in inks, tanning, etc. Also called: **copperas**.

ferruginous ('fɜ:rɪdʒɪnəs) adj. 1. (of minerals, rocks, etc.) containing iron: a ferruginous clay. 2. rust-coloured.

ferrule ('feru:l) *n.* 1. a metal ring, tube, or cap placed over the end of a stick or post for added strength or to increase wear. 2. a small length of tube, etc., esp. one used for making a joint.

ferry ('ferɪ) *n., pl. -ries.* 1. Also called: **ferryboat**. a vessel for transporting passengers and usually vehicles across a body of water, esp. as a regular service. 2. a. such a service. b. (*in combination*): a ferryman. 3. the delivering of aircraft by flying them to their destination. ~vb. -rying, -ried. 4. to transport or go by ferry. 5. to deliver (an aircraft) by flying it to its destination. 6. (*tr.*) to convey (passengers, goods, etc.).

fertile ('fɜ:taɪl) adj. 1. capable of producing offspring. 2. a. (of land) capable of sustaining an abundant growth of plants. b. (of farm animals) capable of breeding stock. 3. *Biol.* capable of undergoing growth and development: *fertile seeds*; *fertile eggs*. 4. producing many offspring; prolific. 5. highly productive: a fertile brain. 6. *Physics.* (of a substance) able to be transformed into fissile or fissionable material. —fertilely adv. —fertility *n.* —fertileness *n.* —fer'tility *n.*

fertilize or **-lize** ('fɜ:tɪlaɪz) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to provide (an animal, plant, etc.) with sperm or pollen to bring about fertilization. 2. to supply (soil or water) with nutrients to aid the growth of plants. 3. to make fertile. — **fertilization** or **-li'sation** *n.*

fertilizer or **-liser** ('fɜ:tɪlaɪzə) *n.* 1. any substance, such as manure, added to soil or water to increase its productivity. 2. an object or organism that fertilizes an animal or plant.

ferule ('feru:l) *n.* 1. a flat piece of wood, such as a ruler, used in some schools to cane children on the hand. ~*vb.* 2. (tr.) to punish with a ferule.

fervent ('fɜ:vənt) or **fervid** ('fɜ:vɪd) *adj.* 1. intensely passionate; ardent. 2. *Arch.* or *poetic.* burning or glowing. — **fervency** *n.* — **fervently** or **fervidly** *adv.*

feravour or *U.S.* **fervor** ('fɜ:və) *n.* 1. great intensity of feeling or belief. 2. *Rare.* intense heat.

festal ('festl) *adj.* another word for **festive**. — **festally** *adv.*

fester ('festa) *vb.* 1. to form or cause to form pus. 2. (*intr.*) to become rotten; decay. 3. to become or cause to become bitter, irritated, etc., esp. over a long period of time. ~*n.* 4. a small ulcer or sore containing pus.

festival ('festɪvəl) *n.* 1. a day or period set aside for celebration or feasting, esp. one of religious significance. 2. any occasion for celebration. 3. an organized series of special events and performances: a *festival of drama*. 4. *Arch.* a time of revelry. 5. (*modifier*) relating to or characteristic of a festival.

festive ('festɪv) *adj.* appropriate to or characteristic of a holiday, etc. — **festively** *adv.*

festivity ('festɪvɪti) *n.*, *pl.* **-ties**. 1. merriment characteristic of a festival, etc. 2. any festival or other celebration. 3. (*pl.*) celebrations.

festoon ('fe:stun) *n.* 1. a decorative chain of flowers, ribbons, etc., suspended in loops. 2. a carved or painted representation of this, as in architecture, furniture, or pottery. ~*vb.* (tr.) 3. to decorate or join together with festoons. 4. to form into festoons.

feta ('feta) *n.* a white sheep or goat cheese popular in Greece.

fetch ('fetʃ) *vb.* (*mainly tr.*) 1. to go after and bring back: *to fetch help*. 2. to cause to come; bring or draw forth. 3. (*also intr.*) to cost or sell for (a certain price): *the table fetched six hundred pounds*. 4. to utter (a sigh, groan, etc.). 5. *Inf.* to deal (a blow, slap, etc.). 6. (used esp. as a command to dogs) to retrieve (an object thrown, etc.). 7. **fetch and carry**, to perform menial tasks or run errands. ~*n.* 8. the reach, stretch, etc., of a mechanism. 9. a trick or stratagem. — **fetcher** *n.*

fetchy ('fetʃ) *n.* the ghost or apparition of a living person.

fetching ('fetʃɪŋ) *adj.* *Inf.* 1. attractively befitting. 2. charming.

fête or **fete** ('fet) *n.* 1. a gala, bazaar, or similar entertainment, esp. one held outdoors in aid of charity. 2. a feast day or holiday, esp. one of religious significance. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to honour or entertain with or as if with a fête: *the author was fêted*.

fetid or **foetid** ('fetɪd, 'fi-) *adj.* having a stale nauseating smell, as of decay. — **fetidly** or **foetidly** *adv.* — **fetidness** or **foetidness** *n.*

fetish or **fetich** ('fetɪʃ, 'fɪtɪʃ) *n.* 1. something, esp. an inanimate object, that is believed to have magical powers. 2. *a.* a form of behaviour involving fetishism. *b.* any object that is involved in fetishism. 3. any object, activity, etc., to which one is excessively devoted. — **fetishism** *n.*

fetlock ('fet,lɒk) *n.* 1. a projection behind and above a horse's hoof. 2. Also called: **fetlock joint**, the joint at this part of the leg. 3. the tuft of hair growing from this part.

fetter ('feta) *n.* 1. (*often pl.*) a chain or bond fastened round the ankle. 2. (*usually pl.*) a check or restraint: *in fetters*. ~*vb.* (tr.) 3. to restrict or confine. 4. to bind in fetters.

fettle ('fetl) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to line or repair (the walls of a furnace). 2. *Brit. dialect.* *a.* to prepare or arrange (a thing, oneself, etc.). *b.* to repair or mend (something). ~*n.* 3. state of health, spirits, etc. (esp. in *in fine fettle*).

fetus ('fi:təs) *n.* a variant spelling of **foetus**. — **fetal** *adj.*

feu ('fju:) *n.* 1. *Scot. legal history.* *a.* a feudal tenure of land for which rent was paid in money or grain instead of by the performance of military service. *b.* the land so held. 2. *Scot Law.* a right to the use of land in return for a fixed annual payment (**feu duty**).

feud ('fju:d) *n.* 1. long and bitter hostility between two families, clans, or individuals. 2. a quarrel or dispute.

~*vb.* 3. (*intr.*) to take part in or carry on a feud. — **feudist** *n.*

feudal ('fju:dəl) *adj.* 1. of or characteristic of feudalism or its institutions. 2. of or relating to a fief. 3. *Disparaging.* old-fashioned.

feudal ('fju:dəl) *adj.* of or relating to a feud.

feudalism ('fju:də,lɪzəm) *n.* the legal and social system that evolved in W Europe in the 8th and 9th centuries, in which vassals were protected and maintained by their lords, usually through the granting of fiefs, and were required to serve under them in war. Also called: **feudal system**. — **feudalist** *n.* — **feudalistic** *adj.*

fever ('fi:və) *n.* 1. an abnormally high body temperature, accompanied by a fast pulse rate, dry skin, etc. Related *adj.*: **febrile**. 2. any of various diseases, such as yellow fever or scarlet fever, characterized by a high temperature. 3. intense nervous excitement. ~*vb.* 4. (*tr.*) to affect with or as if with fever. — **fevered** *adj.*

feverfew ('fi:və,fju:) *n.* a bushy European strong-scented perennial plant with white flower heads, formerly used medicinally.

feverish ('fi:vərɪʃ) or **feverous** *adj.* 1. suffering from fever. 2. in a state of restless excitement. 3. of, caused by, or causing fever. — **feverishly** or **feverously** *adv.*

fever pitch *n.* a state of intense excitement.

few (fju:) *determiner.* 1. *a.* hardly any: *few men are so cruel*. *b.* (as pronoun; functioning as *pl.*): *many are called but few are chosen*. 2. (preceded by *a*) *a.* a small number of: *a few drinks*. *b.* (as pronoun; functioning as *pl.*): *a few of you*. 3. *a good few.* *Inf.* several. 4. *few and far between.* *a.* widely spaced. *b.* scarce. 5. *not or quite a few.* *Inf.* several. ~*n.* 6. **the few**, a small number of people considered as a class: *the few who fell at Thermopylae*. — **fewness** *n.*

▷ **Usage.** See at *less*.

fey (fer) *adj.* 1. interested in or believing in the supernatural. 2. clairvoyant; visionary. 3. *Chiefly Scot.* fated to die; doomed. 4. *Chiefly Scot.* in a state of high spirits. — **feyness** *n.*

fez ('fez) *n.*, *pl.* **fezzes**, an originally Turkish brimless felt or wool cap, shaped like a truncated cone.

ff *Music.* symbol for fortissimo. See *f*

ff. 1. *abbrev.* for folios. 2. *symbol* for and the following (pages, lines, etc.).

fiancé or (*fem.*) **fiancée** (fi'ɒnseɪ) *n.* a person who is engaged to be married.

fiasco (fi'æskəʊ) *n.*, *pl.* **-cos** or **-coes**, a complete failure, esp. one that is ignominious or humiliating.

fiat ('fiæt) *n.* 1. official sanction. 2. an arbitrary order or decree.

fib (fɪb) *n.* 1. a trivial and harmless lie. ~*vb.* **fibbing**, **fibbed**. 2. (*intr.*) to tell such a lie. — **fibber** *n.*

fibre or *U.S.* **fiber** ('faɪbə) *n.* 1. a natural or synthetic filament that may be spun into yarn, such as cotton or nylon. 2. cloth or other material made from such yarn. 3. a long fine continuous thread or filament. 4. the texture of any material or substance. 5. essential substance or nature. 6. strength of character (esp. in *moral fibre*). 7. *Bot.* *a.* a narrow elongated thick-walled cell. *b.* a very small root or twig. 8. a fibrous substance, such as bran, as part of someone's diet: *dietary fibre*. — **fibred** or *U.S.* **fibered** *adj.*

fibreboard or *U.S.* **fiberboard** ('faɪbə,bɔ:d) *n.* a building material made of compressed wood or other plant fibres.

fibreglass ('faɪbə,glɑ:s) *n.* 1. material consisting of matted fine glass fibres, used as insulation in buildings, etc. 2. a light strong material made by bonding fibreglass with a synthetic resin; used for car bodies, etc.

fibre optics *n.* (*functioning as sing.*) the use of bundles of long transparent glass fibres in transmitting light.

fibril ('faɪbrɪl) or **fibrilla** (faɪ'brɪlə) *n.*, *pl.* **-brills** or **-brillae** ('brɪli). 1. a small fibre or part of a fibre. 2. *Biol.* a root hair. — **fi'brillar** or **fi'brillose** *adj.*

fibrillation ('faɪbrɪ'leɪʃən, 'fɪb-) *n.* 1. a local and uncontrollable twitching of muscle fibres. 2. irregular twitchings of the muscular wall of the heart.

fibrin ('fɪbrɪn) *n.* a white insoluble elastic protein formed from fibrinogen when blood clots: forms a network that traps red cells and platelets.

fibro- *combining form.* 1. indicating fibrous tissue: *fibrosis*. 2. indicating fibre: *fibrocement*.

fibroid ('faɪbrɔɪd) *adj.* 1. *Anat.* (of structures or tissues) containing or resembling fibres. ~*n.* 2. Also called: **fibroma**, a benign tumor derived from fibrous connective tissue.

fibrosis (faɪˈbrəʊsɪs) *n.* the formation of an abnormal amount of fibrous tissue in an organ or part.

fibrositis (ˌfaɪbrəˈsaɪtɪs) *n.* inflammation of white fibrous tissue, esp. that of muscle sheaths.

fibrous (ˈfaɪbrəs) *adj.* consisting of or resembling fibres: *fibrous tissue*. — **fibrosily** *adv.*

fibula (ˈfɪbjʊlə) *n.*, *pl.* -lae (-li:) or -las. 1. the outer and thinner of the two bones between the knee and ankle of the human leg. Cf. **tibia**. 2. the corresponding bone in other vertebrates. 3. a metal brooch resembling a safety pin. — **fibular** *adj.*

-fic *suffix forming adjectives*, making or producing: *honorific*.

fiche (fiːʃ) *n.* See **microfiche**.

fickle (ˈfɪkəl) *adj.* changeable in purpose, affections, etc. — **fickleness** *n.*

fiction (ˈfɪkʃən) *n.* 1. literary works invented by the imagination, such as novels or short stories. 2. an invented story or explanation. 3. the act of inventing a story. 4. *Law*, something assumed to be true for the sake of convenience, though probably false. — **fictional** *adj.* — **fictionally** *adv.* — **fictive** *adj.*

fictionalize or **-lize** (ˈfɪkʃənəlaɪz) *vb.* (tr.) to make into fiction. — **fictionalization** or **-lization** *n.*

fictitious (fɪkˈtɪʃəs) *adj.* 1. not genuine or authentic: *to give a fictitious address*. 2. of, related to, or characteristic of fiction. — **fictitiously** *adv.* — **fictitiousness** *n.*

fiddle (ˈfɪdl) *n.* 1. *Inf.* or *disparaging*, the violin. 2. *Naut.* a small railing around the top of a table to prevent objects from falling off it. 3. *Brit. inf.* an illegal transaction or arrangement. 4. a manually delicate or tricky operation. 5. fit as a fiddle. *Inf.* in very good health. 6. **play second fiddle**. *Inf.* to play a minor part. ~*vb.* 7. to play (a tune) on the fiddle. 8. (*intr.*; often foll. by *with*) to make aimless movements with the hands. 9. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *about* or *around*) *Inf.* to waste (time). 10. (often foll. by *with*) *Inf.* to interfere (with). 11. *Inf.* to contrive to do (something) by illicit means or deception. 12. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to falsify (accounts, etc.).

fiddle-faddle (ˈfɪdl̩, fædl̩) *n.*, *interj.* 1. trivial matter. ~*vb.* 2. (*intr.*) to fuss or waste time. — **fiddle-faddler** *n.*

fiddler (ˈfɪdlə) *n.* 1. a person who plays the fiddle. 2. *Inf.* a petty rogue.

fiddlestick (ˈfɪdl̩, stɪk) *n.* 1. *Inf.* a violin bow. 2. any trifle. 3. (*pl.*) *interj.* used to express annoyance or disagreement.

fiddling (ˈfɪdlɪŋ) *adj.* 1. trifling or insignificant. 2. another word for **fiddly**.

fiddly (ˈfɪdlɪ) *adj.* -dlier, -dliest. small and awkward to do or handle.

Fidei Defensor *Latin*. (ˈfaɪdɪ, aɪ dɪˈfensɔː) *n.* defender of the faith; a title given to Henry VIII by Pope Leo X, and appearing on British coins as FID DEF (before decimalization) or FD (after decimalization).

fideli (fɪˈdelɪtɪ) *n.*, *pl.* -ties. 1. devotion to duties, obligations, etc. 2. loyalty or devotion, as to a person or cause. 3. faithfulness to one's spouse, lover, etc. 4. accuracy in reporting detail. 5. *Electronics*, the degree to which an amplifier or radio accurately reproduces the characteristics of the input signal.

fidet (ˈfɪdɪt) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to move about restlessly. 2. (*intr.*; often foll. by *with*) to make restless or uneasy movements (with something). 3. (*tr.*) to cause to fidet. ~*n.* 4. (*often pl.*) a state of restlessness or unease: *he's got the fidgets*. 5. a person who fidgets. — **fidgety** *adj.*

fiduciary (fɪˈduːʃɪəri) *Law*. ~*n.* 1. a person bound to act for another's benefit, as a trustee. ~*adj.* 2. a. having the nature of a trust. b. of or relating to a trust or trustee.

fie (faɪ) *interj.* *Obs.* or *facetious*, an exclamation of distaste or mock dismay.

fief or **feoff** (fiːf) *n.* (in feudal Europe) the property or fee granted to a vassal for his maintenance by his lord in return for service.

field (fiːld) *n.* 1. an open tract of uncultivated grassland; meadow. 2. a piece of land cleared of trees and undergrowth used for pasture or growing crops: *a field of barley*. 3. a limited or marked off area on which any of various sports, athletic competitions, etc., are held: *a soccer field*. 4. an area that is rich in minerals or other natural resources: *a coalfield*. 5. short for **battlefield** and **airfield**. 6. the mounted followers that hunt with a pack of hounds. 7. *Horse racing*, a. all the runners in a particular race. b. the runners in a race excluding the favourite. 8. *Cricket*, the fielders collectively, esp. with regard to their positions. 9. a wide or open expanse: a

field of snow. 10. a. an area of human activity: *the field of human knowledge*. b. a sphere or division of knowledge, etc.: *his field is physics*. 11. a place away from the laboratory, office, library, etc., where practical work is done. 12. the surface or background, as of a flag, coin, or heraldic shield, on which a design is displayed. 13. Also called: **field of view**, the area within which an object may be observed with a telescope, etc. 14. *Maths*, a set of entities, such as numbers, subject to two binary operations, addition and multiplication, such that the set is a commutative group under addition and the set, minus the zero, is a commutative group under multiplication. 15. *Computers*, a set of one or more characters comprising a unit of information. 16. **take the field**, to begin or carry on activity, esp. in sport or military operations. 17. **play the field**. *Inf.* to disperse one's interests or attentions among a number of activities, people, or objects. 18. (*modifier*) *Mil.* of or relating to equipment, personnel, etc., specifically trained for operations in the field: *a field gun*. ~*vb.* 19. (*tr.*) *Sport*, to stop, catch, or return (the ball) as a fielder. 20. (*tr.*) *Sport*, to send (a player or team) onto the field to play. 21. (*intr.*) *Sport*, (of a player or team) to act or take turn as a fielder or fielders. 22. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to deal with or handle: *to field a question*.

field day *n.* 1. a day spent in some special outdoor activity, such as nature study. 2. *Mil.* a day devoted to manoeuvres or exercises, esp. before an audience. 3. *Inf.* a day or time of exciting activity: *the children had a field day with their new toys*.

fielder (ˈfiːldə) *n.* *Cricket*, etc. a. a player in the field. b. a member of the fielding side.

field event *n.* a competition, such as the discus, etc., that takes place on a field or similar area as opposed to those on the running track.

fieldfare (ˈfiːld, feɪ) *n.* a large Old World thrush having a pale grey head, brown wings and back, and a blackish tail.

field hockey *n.* *U.S. & Canad.* hockey played on a field, as distinguished from ice hockey.

field marshal *n.* an officer holding the highest rank in certain armies.

field officer *n.* an officer holding the rank of major, lieutenant colonel, or colonel.

fieldsman (ˈfiːldzsmən) *n.*, *pl.* -men. *Cricket*, another name for **fielder**.

field sports *pl. n.* sports carried on in the countryside, such as hunting or fishing.

fieldwork (ˈfiːld, wɜːk) *n.* *Mil.* a temporary structure used in fortifying a place or position.

field work *n.* an investigation or search for material, data, etc., made in the field as opposed to the classroom or laboratory. — **field worker** *n.*

fiend (fiːnd) *n.* 1. an evil spirit. 2. a cruel, brutal, or spiteful person. 3. *Inf.* a. a person who is intensely interested in or fond of something: *a fresh-air fiend*. b. an addict: *a drug fiend*. — **fiendish** *adj.*

Fiend (fiːnd) *n.* the devil; Satan.

fierce (fiəs) *adj.* 1. having a violent and unrestrained nature: *a fierce dog*. 2. wild or turbulent in force, action, or intensity: *a fierce storm*. 3. intense or strong: *fierce competition*. 4. *Inf.* very unpleasant. — **fiercely** *adv.* — **fierceness** *n.*

fiery (ˈfaɪəri) *adj.* 1. of, containing, or composed of fire. 2. resembling fire in heat, colour, ardour, etc.: *a fiery speaker*. 3. easily angered or aroused: *a fiery temper*. 4. (of food) producing a burning sensation: *a fiery curry*. 5. (of the skin or a sore) inflamed. 6. flammable.

fiesta (ˈfiesta) *n.* (esp. in Spain and Latin America) 1. a religious festival or celebration. 2. a holiday or carnival.

FIFA (ˈfiːfə) *n.* acronym for Fédération Internationale de Football Association.

fife (faɪf) *n.* 1. a small high-pitched flute similar to the piccolo, used esp. in military bands. ~*vb.* 2. to play (music) on a fife. — **fifer** *n.*

fifteen (ˈfɪfˈtiːn) *n.* 1. the cardinal number that is the sum of ten and five. 2. a numeral 15, XV, etc., representing this number. 3. something represented by, representing, or consisting of 15 units. 4. a rugby football team. ~*determiner*. 5. a. amounting to fifteen: *fifteen jokes*. b. (as pronoun): *fifteen of us danced*. — **fifteenth** *adj.*

fifth column *n.* 1. (originally) a group of Falangist sympathizers in Madrid during the Spanish Civil War who were prepared to join the insurgents marching on the city. 2. any group of hostile infiltrators. — **fifth columnist** *n.*

fifty ('fɪftɪ) *n.*, *pl.* -ties. 1. the cardinal number that is the product of ten and five. 2. a numeral 50, L, etc., representing this number. 3. something represented by, representing, or consisting of 50 units. ~*determiner*. 4. *a.* amounting to fifty: *fifty people*. *b.* (as pronoun): *fifty should be sufficient*. —'fiftieth *adj.*

fifty-fifty *adj.*, *adv.* *Inf.* in equal parts.

fig (fɪg) *n.* 1. a tree or shrub that produces a closed pear-shaped receptacle which becomes fleshy and edible when mature. 2. the receptacle of any of these trees, having sweet flesh containing numerous seedlike fruits. 3. (used with a negative) something of negligible value: *I don't care a fig for your opinion*.

fig. *abbrev. for:* 1. figurative(ly). 2. figure.

fight (faɪt) *vb.* **fighting**, **fought**. 1. to oppose or struggle against (an enemy) in battle. 2. to oppose or struggle against (a person, cause, etc.) in any manner. 3. (tr.) to engage in or carry on (a battle, contest, etc.). 4. (when intr., often foll. by *for*) to uphold or maintain (a cause, etc.) by fighting or struggling: *to fight for freedom*. 5. (tr.) to make or achieve (a way) by fighting. 6. to engage (another or others) in combat. 7. **fight it out**, to contend until a decisive result is obtained. 8. **fight shy**, to keep aloof from. ~*n.* 9. a battle, struggle, or physical combat. 10. a quarrel, dispute, or contest. 11. resistance (esp. in **to put up a fight**). 12. a boxing match.

fighter ('faɪtə) *n.* 1. a person who fights, esp. a professional boxer. 2. a person who has determination. 3. *Mil.* an armed aircraft designed for destroying other aircraft.

fighting chance *n.* a slight chance of success dependent on a struggle.

fight off *vb.* (tr., *adv.*) to struggle to avoid or repress: *to fight off a cold*.

fig leaf *n.* 1. a leaf from a fig tree. 2. a representation of a fig leaf used in sculpture, etc. to cover the genitals of nude figures. 3. a device to conceal something regarded as shameful.

figment ('fɪgmənt) *n.* a fantastic notion or fabrication: *a figment of the imagination*.

figuration ('fɪgə'reɪʃən) *n.* 1. *Music.* *a.* the employment of characteristic patterns of notes, esp. in variations on a theme. *b.* florid ornamentation. 2. an instance of representing figuratively, as by means of allegory. 3. a figurative representation. 4. the act of decorating with a design.

figurative ('fɪɡərətɪv) *adj.* 1. involving a figure of speech; not literal; metaphorical. 2. using or filled with figures of speech. 3. representing by means of an emblem, likeness, etc. —'figuratively *adv.* —'figurativeness *n.*

figure ('fɪɡə) *n.* 1. any written symbol other than a letter, esp. a whole number. 2. another name for **digit** (sense 2). 3. an amount expressed numerically: *a figure of £1800 was suggested*. 4. (pl.) calculations with numbers: *he's good at figures*. 5. visible shape or form; outline. 6. the human form: *a girl with a slender figure*. 7. a slim bodily shape (esp. in **keep or lose one's figure**). 8. a character or personage: *a figure in politics*. 9. the impression created by a person through behaviour (esp. in **to cut a fine, bold, etc., figure**). 10. *a.* a person as impressed on the mind. *b.* (in combination): *father-figure*. 11. a representation in painting or sculpture, esp. of the human form. 12. a representative object or symbol. 13. a pattern or design, as in wood. 14. a predetermined set of movements in dancing or skating. 15. *Geom.* any combination of points, lines, curves, or planes. 16. *Logic.* one of four possible arrangements of the terms in the major and minor premisses of a syllogism that give the same conclusion. 17. *Music.* *a.* a numeral written above or below a note in a part. *b.* a characteristic short pattern of notes. ~*vb.* 18. (when tr., often foll. by *up*) to calculate or compute (sums, amounts, etc.). 19. (tr.; usually takes a clause as object) *Inf.*, *U.S.* & *N.Z.* to consider. 20. (tr.) to represent by a diagram or illustration. 21. (tr.) to pattern or mark with a design. 22. (tr.) to depict or portray in a painting, etc. 23. (tr.) to imagine. 24. (tr.) *Music.* to decorate (a melody line or part) with ornamentation. 25. (intr.; usually foll. by *in*) to be included: *his name figures in the article*. 26. (intr.) *Inf.* to accord with expectation: *it figures that he wouldn't come*. —'figurer *n.*

figured ('fɪɡəd) *adj.* 1. depicted as a figure in painting or sculpture. 2. decorated with a design. 3. having a form. 4. *Music.* *a.* ornamental. *b.* (of a bass part) provided with numerals indicating accompanying harmonies.

figurehead ('fɪɡə,hed) *n.* 1. a person nominally having a prominent position, but no real authority. 2. a carved bust on the bow of some sailing vessels.

figure of speech *n.* an expression of language, such as metaphor, by which the literal meaning of a word is not employed.

figure skating *n.* ice skating in which the skater traces outlines of selected patterns. —'figure skater *n.*

figurine ('fɪɡə'rɪn) *n.* a small carved or moulded figure; statuette.

figwort ('fɪɡ,wɜ:t) *n.* a plant related to the foxglove having square stems and small greenish flowers.

filament ('fɪləmənt) *n.* 1. the thin wire, usually tungsten, inside a light bulb that emits light when heated to incandescence by an electric current. 2. *Electronics.* a high-resistance wire forming the cathode in some valves. 3. a single strand of a natural or synthetic fibre. 4. *Bot.* the stalk of a stamen. 5. any slender structure or part. —'filamentary ('fɪlə'mentəri) or 'fila'mentous *adj.*

filbert ('fɪlbət) *n.* 1. any of several *N* temperate shrubs that have edible rounded brown nuts. 2. Also called: **hazelnut**, **cobnut**, the nut of any of these shrubs.

filch (fɪltʃ) *vb.* (tr.) to steal or take in small amounts. —'filcher *n.*

file ('faɪl) *n.* 1. a folder, box, etc., used to keep documents or other items in order. 2. the documents, etc., kept in this way. 3. documents or information about a specific subject, person, etc. 4. a line of people in marching formation, one behind another. 5. any of the eight vertical rows of squares on a chessboard. 6. Also called: **data set**, **Computers**, a block of data that can be accessed by means of its unique address from a storage device. 7. **on file**, recorded or catalogued for reference, as in a file. ~*vb.* 8. to place (a document, etc.) in a file. 9. (tr.) to place (a legal document) on public or official record. 10. (tr.) to bring (a suit, esp. a divorce suit) in a court of law. 11. (tr.) to submit (copy) to a newspaper. 12. (intr.) to march or walk in a file or files: *the ants filed down the hill*. —'filer *n.*

file ('faɪl) *n.* 1. a hand tool consisting of a steel blade with small cutting teeth on some or all of its faces. It is used for shaping or smoothing. ~*vb.* 2. (tr.) to shape or smooth (a surface) with a file. —'filer *n.*

filial ('fɪljəl) *adj.* 1. of, resembling, or suitable to a son or daughter: *filial affection*. 2. *Genetics*, designating any of the generations following the parental generation. —'filially *adv.*

filibuster ('fɪlɪ,bastə) *n.* 1. *Chiefly U.S.* the process of obstructing legislation by means of delaying tactics. 2. Also called: **filibusterer**, *Chiefly U.S.* a legislator who engages in such obstruction. 3. a freebooter or military adventurer, esp. in a foreign country. ~*vb.* 4. *Chiefly U.S.* to obstruct (legislation) with delaying tactics. 5. (intr.) to engage in unlawful military action. —'filibusterer *n.*

filigree ('fɪlɪ,ɡri:) or **filagree** *n.* 1. delicate ornamental work of twisted gold, silver, or other wire. 2. any fanciful delicate ornamentation. ~*adj.* 3. made of or as if with filigree. —'filigreed *adj.*

filings ('fɪlɪŋz) *pl. n.* shavings or particles removed by a file: *iron filings*.

Filipino ('fɪlɪ'pi:nəʊ) *n.*, *pl.* -nos. 1. a native or inhabitant of the Philippines. 2. another name for **Tagalog**. ~*adj.* 3. of or relating to the Philippines or their inhabitants.

fill (fɪl) *vb.* (mainly tr.; often foll. by *up*) 1. (also intr.) to make or become full: *to fill up a bottle*. 2. to occupy the whole of: *the party filled the house*. 3. to plug (a gap, crevice, etc.). 4. to meet (a requirement or need) satisfactorily. 5. to cover (a page or blank space) with writing, drawing, etc. 6. to hold and perform the duties of (an office or position). 7. to appoint or elect an occupant to (an office or position). 8. (also intr.) to swell or cause to swell with wind, as in manœuvring the sails of a sailing vessel. 9. *Chiefly U.S.* to put together the necessary materials for (a prescription or order). 10. **fill the bill**, *Inf.* to serve or perform adequately. ~*n.* 11. material such as gravel, stones, etc., used to bring an area of ground up to a required level. 12. **one's fill**, the quantity needed to satisfy one. ~See also **fill in**, **fill out**, **fill up**.

filler ('fɪlə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that fills. 2. an object or substance used to add weight or size to something or to fill in a gap. 3. a paste, used for filling in cracks, holes, etc., in a surface before painting. 4. the inner portion of a cigar. 5. *Journalism*, articles, photo-

graphs, etc., to fill space between more important articles in a newspaper or magazine.

fillet ('filit) *n.* 1. **a.** Also called: **fillet steak.** a strip of boneless meat. **b.** the boned side of a fish. **2.** a narrow strip of any material. **3.** a thin strip of ribbon, lace, etc., worn in the hair or around the neck. **4.** a narrow flat moulding, esp. one between other mouldings. **5.** a narrow band between flutings on the shaft of a column. **6.** *Heraldry.* a horizontal division of a shield. **7.** a narrow decorative line, impressed on the cover of a book. **~vb.** (*tr.*) **8.** to cut or prepare (meat or fish) as a fillet. **9.** to cut fillets from (meat or fish). **10.** to bind or decorate with or as if with a fillet. **~Also** (for senses 1-3): **filet.**

fill in *vb.* (*adv.*) **1.** (*tr.*) to complete (a form, drawing, etc.). **2.** (*intr.*) to act as a substitute. **3.** (*tr.*) to put material into (a hole or cavity), esp. so as to make it level with a surface. **4.** (*tr.*) *Inf.* to inform with facts or news. **~n.** **fill-in.** **5.** a substitute.

filling ('filing) *n.* **1.** the substance or thing used to fill a space or container: *pie filling.* **2.** *Dentistry.* any of various substances (metal, plastic, etc.) for inserting into the prepared cavity of a tooth. **3.** the wool in weaving.

filling station *n.* a place where petrol and other supplies for motorists are sold.

fillip ('filip) *n.* **1.** something that adds stimulation or enjoyment. **2.** the action of holding a finger towards the palm with the thumb and suddenly releasing it outwards to produce a snapping sound. **3.** a quick blow or tap made by this. **~vb.** **4.** (*tr.*) to stimulate or excite. **5.** (*tr.*) to strike or project sharply with a fillip. **6.** (*intr.*) to make a fillip.

fill out *vb.* (*adv.*) **1.** to make or become fuller, thicker, or rounder. **2.** to make more substantial. **3.** (*tr.*) *U.S.* to fill in (a form, etc.).

fill up *vb.* (*adv.*) **1.** (*tr.*) to complete (a form, application, etc.). **2.** to make or become full. **~n.** **fill-up.** **3.** the act of filling something completely, esp. the petrol tank of a car.

filly ('fili) *n.* *pl.* **-lies.** a female horse or pony under the age of four.

film (film) *n.* **1. a.** a sequence of images of moving objects photographed by a camera and providing the optical illusion of continuous movement when projected onto a screen. **b.** a form of entertainment, etc., composed of such a sequence of images. **c.** (*as modifier*): *film techniques.* **2.** a thin flexible strip of cellulose coated with a photographic emulsion, used to make negatives and transparencies. **3.** a thin coating or layer. **4.** a thin sheet of any material, as of plastic for packaging. **5.** a fine haze, mist, or blur. **6.** a gauzy web of filaments or fine threads. **~vb.** **7. a.** to photograph with a cine camera. **b.** to make a film of (a screenplay, event, etc.). **8.** to cover or become covered or coated with a film. **~'filmic adj.**

filmset ('film, set) *vb.* (*tr.*) **-setting, -set** *Brit.* to set (type matter) by filmsetting. **~'film, setter n.**

filmsetting ('film, set) *n.* *Brit., printing.* typesetting by exposing type characters onto photographic film from which printing plates are made.

film strip *n.* a strip of film composed of different images projected separately as slides.

filmy ('filmi) *adj.* **filmier, filmiest.** **1.** transparent or gauzy. **2.** hazy; blurred. **~'filmy adv.** **~'filminess n.**

filter ('filita) *n.* **1.** a porous substance, such as paper or sand, that allows fluid to pass but retains suspended solid particles. **2.** any device containing such a porous substance for separating suspensions from fluids. **3.** any of various porous substances built into the mouth end of a cigarette or cigar for absorbing impurities such as tar. **4.** any electronic, optical, or acoustic device that blocks signals or radiations of certain frequencies while allowing others to pass. **5.** any transparent disc of gelatin or glass used to eliminate or reduce the intensity of given frequencies from the light leaving a lamp, entering a camera, etc. **6.** *Brit.* a traffic signal at a road junction which permits vehicles to turn either left or right when the main signals are red. **~vb.** **7.** (often foll. by *out*) to remove or separate (suspended particles, etc.) from (a liquid, gas, etc.) by the action of a filter. **8.** (*tr.*) to obtain by filtering. **9.** (*intr.*; foll. by *through*) to pass (through a filter or something like a filter). **10.** (*intr.*) to flow slowly; trickle. **~See** also **filter out.**

filter out or **through** *vb.* (*intr., adv.*) to become known gradually; leak.

filter paper *n.* a porous paper used for filtering liquids.

filter tip *n.* **1.** an attachment to the mouth end of a cigarette for trapping impurities such as tar during

smoking. **2.** a cigarette having such an attachment. **~'filter-, tipped adj.**

filth (filð) *n.* **1.** foul or disgusting dirt; refuse. **2.** extreme physical or moral uncleanness. **3.** vulgarity or obscenity. **~'filthy adj.**

filtrate ('filitret) *n.* **1.** a liquid or gas that has been filtered. **~vb.** **2.** to filter. **~'filtration n.**

fin (fin) *n.* **1.** any of the firm appendages that are the organs of locomotion and balance in fishes and some other aquatic animals. **2.** a part or appendage that resembles a fin. **3. a.** *Brit.* a vertical surface to which the rudder is attached at the rear of an aeroplane. **b.** an aerofoil fixed to a rocket or missile to give stability. **4.** *Naut.* a fixed or adjustable blade projecting under water from the hull of a vessel to give it stability or control. **5.** a projecting rib to dissipate heat from the surface of an engine cylinder or radiator. **~vb.** **finning, finned.** **6.** (*tr.*) to provide with fins. **~'finless adj.** **~finned adj.**

fin. *abbrev. for:* **1.** finance. **2.** financial.

Fin. *abbrev. for:* **1.** Finland. **2.** Finnish.

finagle ('fi'neigl) *vb.* *Inf.* **1.** (*tr.*) to get or achieve by craftiness or persuasion. **2.** to use trickery on (a person). **~'finagler n.**

final ('fainl) *adj.* **1.** of or occurring at the end; last. **2.** having no possibility of further discussion, action, or change: *a final decree of judgment.* **3.** relating to or constituting an end or purpose: *a final clause may be introduced by "in order to".* **4.** *Music.* another word for **perfect** (sense 9b.). **~n.** **5.** a last thing; end. **6.** a deciding contest between the winners of previous rounds in a competition. **~'finality n.** **~'finally adv.**

finale (fi'na:l) *n.* **1.** the concluding part of any performance or presentation. **2.** the closing section or movement of a musical composition.

finalist ('fainlist) *n.* a contestant who has reached the last stage of a competition.

finalize or -lize ('fainə, laiz) *vb.* **1.** (*tr.*) to put into final form; settle: *to finalize plans for the merger.* **2.** to reach agreement on a transaction. **~'finali'zation or -li'sation n.**

▷ **Usage.** Although *finalize* has been in widespread use for some time, it carries strong associations of bureaucratic or commercial jargon for many careful speakers and writers, who usually prefer *complete, conclude, or make final*, esp. in formal contexts.

finals ('fainlz) *pl. n.* **1.** the deciding part of a competition. **2.** *Education.* the last examinations in an academic or professional course.

finance (fi'neəns, 'fainəns) *n.* **1.** the system of money, credit, etc., esp. with respect to government revenues and expenditures. **2.** funds or the provision of funds. **3.** (*pl.*) financial condition. **~vb.** **4.** (*tr.*) to provide or obtain funds or credit for.

financial (fi'nænʃəl, 'fai-) *adj.* **1.** of or relating to finance or finances. **2.** of or relating to persons who manage money, capital, or credit. **3.** *Austral. & N.Z. inf.* having money; in funds. **4.** *Austral. & N.Z.* (of a club member) fully paid-up. **~'financially adv.**

financial year *n.* *Brit.* **1.** any annual period at the end of which a firm's accounts are made up. **2.** the annual period ending April 5, over which Budget estimates are made by the British Government. **~U.S. equivalent:** **fiscal year.**

financier (fi'nænsiə, 'fa-) *n.* a person who is engaged in large-scale financial operations.

finch (fint) *n.* any of various songbirds having a short stout bill for feeding on seeds, such as the goldfinch, bullfinch, chaffinch, siskin, and canary.

find (faɪnd) *vb.* **finding, found.** (*mainly tr.*) **1.** to meet with or discover by chance. **2.** to discover or obtain, esp. by search or effort: *to find happiness.* **3.** (*may take a clause as object*) to realize: *he found that nobody knew.* **4.** (*may take a clause as object*) to consider: *I find this wine a little sour.* **5.** to look for and point out (something to be criticized). **6.** (*also intr.*) *Law.* to determine an issue and pronounce a verdict (upon): *the court found the accused guilty.* **7.** to regain (something lost or not functioning): *to find one's tongue.* **8.** to reach (a target): *the bullet found its mark.* **9.** to provide, esp. with difficulty: *we'll find room for you too.* **10.** to be able to pay: *I can't find that amount of money.* **11.** **find oneself.** to accept and make use of one's personality and interests. **12.** **find one's feet.** to become capable or confident. **~n.** **13.** a person, thing, etc., that is found, esp. a valuable discovery.

finder ('faɪndə) *n.* **1.** a person or thing that finds. **2.** *Physics.* a small telescope fitted to a more powerful larger telescope. **3.** *Photog.* short for **viewfinder.** **4.**

finders keepers. *Inf.* whoever finds something has the right to keep it.

finding ('faɪndɪŋ) *n.* 1. a thing that is found or discovered. 2. *Law.* the conclusion reached after a judicial inquiry; verdict.

find out *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. to gain knowledge of (something); learn. 2. to detect the crime, deception, etc., of (someone).

fine ('faɪn) *adj.* 1. very good of its kind: a *fine speech*. 2. superior in skill or accomplishment: a *fine violinist*. 3. (of weather) clear and dry. 4. enjoyable or satisfying: a *fine time*. 5. (*postpositive*) *Inf.* quite well: *I feel fine*. 6. of delicate composition or careful workmanship: *fine crystal*. 7. (of precious metals) pure or having a high degree of purity: *fine silver*. 8. discriminating: a *fine eye for antique brasses*. 9. abstruse or subtle: a *fine point*. 10. very thin or slender: *fine hair*. 11. very small: *fine print*. 12. (of edges, blades, etc.) sharp; keen. 13. ornate, showy, or smart. 14. good-looking: a *fine young woman*. 15. polished, elegant, or refined: a *fine gentleman*. 16. *Cricket.* (of a fielding position) oblique to and behind the wicket: *fine leg*. 17. (*prenominal*) *Inf.* disappointing or terrible: a *fine mess*. ~*adv.* 18. *Inf.* all right: *that suits me fine*. 19. finely. 20. *cut it fine*, to allow little margin of time, space, etc. ~*vb.* 21. to make or become finer; refine. 22. (often foll. by *down* or *away*) to make or become smaller. —'finely *adv.* —'finess *n.*

fine ('faɪn) *n.* 1. a certain amount of money exacted as a penalty: a *parking fine*. 2. a payment made by a tenant at the start of his tenancy to reduce his subsequent rent; premium. 3. *in fine*, a. in short. b. in conclusion. ~*vb.* 4. (*tr.*) to impose a fine on.

fine art *n.* 1. art produced chiefly for its aesthetic value. 2. (often *pl.*) any of the fields in which such art is produced, such as painting, sculpture, and engraving.

fine-drawn *adj.* 1. (of arguments, distinctions, etc.) precise or subtle. 2. (of wire, etc.) drawn out until very fine.

finery ('faɪnəri) *n.* elaborate or showy decoration, esp. clothing and jewellery.

finest herbes (*French* fin 'zerb) *pl. n.* a mixture of finely chopped herbs, used to flavour omelettes, salads, etc.

finespun ('faɪn'spʌn) *adj.* 1. spun or drawn out to a fine thread. 2. excessively subtle or refined.

finesse ('fi:nes) *n.* 1. elegant skill in style or performance. 2. subtlety and tact in handling difficult situations. 3. *Bridge, whist.* an attempt to win a trick when opponents hold a high card in the suit led by playing a lower card. 4. a trick, artifice, or strategy. ~*vb.* 5. to bring about with finesse. 6. to play (a card) as a finesse.

fine-tooth comb or **fine-toothed comb** *n.* 1. a comb with fine teeth set closely together. 2. *go over or through with a fine-tooth(ed) comb*, to examine very thoroughly.

finger ('fɪŋɡə) *n.* 1. a. any of the digits of the hand, often excluding the thumb. b. (*as modifier*): a *finger bowl*. c. (*in combination*): a *finger nail*. Related *adj.*: *digital*. 2. the part of a glove made to cover a finger. 3. something that resembles a finger in shape or function: a *finger of land*. 4. the length or width of a finger used as a unit of measurement. 5. a quantity of liquid in a glass, etc., as deep as a finger is wide. 6. *get or pull one's finger out*, *Brit. Inf.* to begin or speed up activity, esp. after initial delay. 7. *have a (or one's) finger in the pie*, a. to have an interest in or take part in some activity. b. to meddle or interfere. 8. *lay or put one's finger on*, to indicate or locate accurately. 9. *not lift (or raise) a finger*, (*foll. by an infinitive*) not to make any effort (to do something). 10. *twist or wrap around one's little finger*, to have easy and complete control or influence over. 11. *put the finger on*, *Inf., U.S. & N.Z.* to inform on or identify, esp. for the police. ~*vb.* 12. (*tr.*) to touch or manipulate with the fingers; handle. 13. to use one's fingers in playing (an instrument, such as a piano or clarinet). 14. to indicate on (a composition or part) the fingering required by a pianist, harpsichordist, etc. —'fingerless *adj.*

fingerboard ('fɪŋɡə,bɔ:d) *n.* the long strip of hard wood on a violin, guitar, etc. upon which the strings are stopped by the fingers.

finger bowl *n.* a small bowl filled with water for rinsing the fingers at the table after a meal.

fingering ('fɪŋɡərɪŋ) *n.* 1. the technique or art of using one's fingers in playing a musical instrument, esp. the piano. 2. the numerals in a musical part indicating this.

finger nail ('fɪŋɡə,neɪl) *n.* a thin horny translucent plate

covering part of the dorsal surface of the end joint of each finger.

fingerprint ('fɪŋɡə,prɪnt) *n.* 1. an impression of the pattern of ridges on the surface of the end joint of each finger and thumb. 2. any identifying characteristic. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to take an inked impression of the fingerprints of (a person).

fingerstall ('fɪŋɡə,stɔ:l) *n.* a protective covering for a finger. Also called: *cot*.

finger tip ('fɪŋɡə,tɪp) *n.* 1. the end joint or tip of a finger. 2. at one's fingertips, readily available.

finicky ('fɪnɪki) or **finicking** *adj.* 1. excessively particular; fussy. 2. overelaborate.

finis ('fɪnɪs) *n.* the end; finish; used at the end of books, films, etc.

finish ('fɪnɪʃ) *vb.* (*mainly tr.*) 1. to bring to an end; conclude or stop. 2. (*intr.*; sometimes foll. by *up*) to be at or come to the end. 3. to bring to a desired or complete condition. 4. to put a particular surface texture on (wood, cloth, etc.). 5. (often foll. by *off*) to destroy or defeat completely. 6. to train (a person) in social graces and talents. 7. (*intr.*; foll. by *with*) to end a relationship or association. ~*n.* 8. the final or last stage or part; end. 9. the death or absolute defeat of a person or one side in a conflict: a *fight to the finish*. 10. the surface texture or appearance of wood, cloth, etc.: a *rough finish*. 11. a thing, event, etc., that completes. 12. completeness and high quality of workmanship. 13. *Sport.* ability to sprint at the end of a race. —'finished *adj.* —'finisher *n.*

finishing school *n.* a private school for girls that teaches social graces.

finite ('faɪnaɪt) *adj.* 1. bounded in magnitude or spatial or temporal extent. 2. *Maths.* having a limited or countable number of digits, terms, etc. 3. limited or restricted in nature: *human existence is finite*. 4. denoting any form of a verb inflected for grammatical features such as person, number, and tense. —'finitely *adv.* —'finiteness or *finitude* ('faɪnɪ,tju:d) *n.*

Finn (fɪn) *n.* a native, inhabitant, or citizen of Finland.

Finnish ('fɪnɪʃ) *adj.* 1. of or characteristic of Finland, the Finns, or their language. ~*n.* 2. the official language of Finland, belonging to the Finno-Ugric family.

fino ('fɪnaʊ) *n.* a very dry sherry.

fiord (fjɔ:d) *n.* a variant spelling of *fjord*.

fipple flute *n.* an end-blown flute provided with a fipple, such as the recorder or flageolet.

fir (fɜ:) *n.* 1. any of a genus of pyramidal coniferous trees having single needle-like leaves and erect cones. 2. any of various other related trees, such as the Douglas fir. 3. the wood of any of these trees.

fire (faɪə) *n.* 1. the state of combustion in which inflammable material burns, producing heat, flames, and often smoke. 2. a. a mass of burning coal, wood, etc., used esp. in a hearth to heat a room. b. (*in combination*): *firelighter*. 3. a destructive conflagration, as of a forest, building, etc. 4. a device for heating a room, etc. 5. something resembling a fire in light or brilliance: a *diamond's fire*. 6. the act of discharging weapons, artillery, etc. 7. a burst or rapid volley: a *fire of questions*. 8. intense passion; ardour. 9. liveliness, as of imagination, etc. 10. fever and inflammation. 11. a severe trial or torment (esp. *in go through fire and water*). 12. between two fires, under attack from two sides. 13. catch fire, to ignite. 14. hang fire, to delay or be delayed. 15. on fire, a. in a state of ignition. b. ardent or eager. 16. open fire, to start firing a gun, artillery, etc. 17. play with fire, to be involved in something risky. 18. set fire to or set on fire, a. to ignite. b. to arouse or excite. 19. under fire, being attacked, as by weapons or by harsh criticism. 20. (*modifier*) *Astrol.* of or relating to a group of three signs of the zodiac, Aries, Leo, and Sagittarius. ~*vb.* 21. to discharge (a firearm or projectile), or (of a firearm, etc.) to be discharged. 22. to detonate (an explosive charge or device), or (of such a charge or device) to be detonated. 23. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to dismiss from employment. 24. (*tr.*) *Ceramics.* to bake in a kiln to harden the clay, etc. 25. to kindle or be kindled. 26. (*tr.*) to provide with fuel: *oil fires the heating system*. 27. (*tr.*) to subject to heat. 28. (*tr.*) to heat slowly so as to dry. 29. (*tr.*) to arouse to strong emotion. 30. to glow or cause to glow. ~*interj.* 31. a cry to warn others of a fire. —'firer *n.*

fire alarm *n.* a device to give warning of fire, esp. a bell, siren, or hooter.

firearm ('faɪə,ɑ:m) *n.* a weapon from which a projectile can be discharged by an explosion caused by igniting gunpowder, etc.

fireball ('faiə,bɔ:l) *n.* 1. a ball-shaped discharge of lightning. 2. the region of hot ionized gas at the centre of a nuclear explosion. 3. *Astron.* a large bright meteor. 4. *Sl.* an energetic person.

firebomb ('faiə,bɒm) *n.* another name for **incendiary** (sense 6).

firebox ('faiə,bɒks) *n.* the furnace chamber of a boiler in a steam locomotive.

firebrand ('faiə,bænd) *n.* 1. a piece of burning wood. 2. a person who causes unrest.

firebreak ('faiə,breik) *n.* a strip of open land in forest or prairie, serving to arrest the advance of a fire.

firebrick ('faiə,brik) *n.* a refractory brick made of fire clay, used for lining furnaces, flues, etc.

fire brigade *n.* *Chiefly Brit.* an organized body of firemen.

fire clay *n.* a heat-resistant clay used in the making of firebricks, furnace linings, etc.

firecracker ('faiə,kɹækə) *n.* a small cardboard container filled with explosive powder.

firecrest ('faiə,krest) *n.* a small European warbler having a crown striped with yellow, black, and white.

firedamp ('faiə,dæmp) *n.* a mixture of hydrocarbons, chiefly methane, formed in coal mines. See also **afterdamp**.

firedog ('faiə,dɒg) *n.* either of a pair of metal stands used to support logs in an open fire.

fire-eater *n.* 1. a performer who simulates the swallowing of fire. 2. a belligerent person.

fire engine *n.* a vehicle that carries firemen and fire-fighting equipment to a fire.

fire escape *n.* a means of evacuating persons from a building in the event of fire.

fire-extinguisher *n.* a portable device for extinguishing fires, usually consisting of a canister with a directional nozzle used to direct a spray of water, etc., onto the fire.

firefly ('faiə,flai) *n., pl. -flies.* a nocturnal beetle common in warm and tropical regions, having luminescent abdominal organs.

fireguard ('faiə,gæd) *n.* a meshed frame put before an open fire to protect against falling logs, sparks, etc.

fire hall *n.* *Canad.* a fire station.

fire irons *pl. n.* metal fireside implements, such as poker, shovel, and tongs.

fireman ('faiə,mən) *n., pl. -men.* 1. a person who fights fires, usually a trained volunteer or public employee. 2. *a.* (on steam locomotives) the man who stokes the fire. *b.* (on diesel and electric locomotives) the driver's assistant. 3. a man who tends furnaces; stoker.

fireplace ('faiə,pleis) *n.* an open recess at the base of a chimney, etc., for a fire; hearth.

fire power *n.* *Mil.* the capability of delivering fire.

fire raiser *n.* a person who deliberately sets fire to property, etc. —**fire raising** *n.*

fire ship *n.* a vessel loaded with explosives and used, esp. formerly, as a bomb by igniting it and directing it to drift against an enemy's warships.

fireside ('faiə,said) *n.* 1. the hearth. 2. family life; the home.

fire station *n.* a building where fire-fighting vehicles and equipment are stationed. Also called (U.S.): **firehouse, station house.**

firetrap ('faiə,træp) *n.* a building that would burn easily or one without fire escapes.

firewater ('faiə,wɔ:tə) *n.* any strong spirit, esp. whisky.

fireworks ('faiə,wɜ:kz) *pl. n.* 1. devices in which combustible materials are ignited and produce coloured flames, sparks, and smoke. 2. a show in which large numbers of fireworks are let off. 3. *Inf.* an exciting exhibition, as of musical virtuosity or wit. 4. *Inf.* a burst of temper.

firing ('faiəɪŋ) *n.* 1. the process of baking ceramics, etc., in a kiln. 2. the act of stoking a fire or furnace. 3. a discharge of a firearm. 4. something used as fuel, such as coal or wood.

firing line *n.* 1. *Mil.* the positions from which fire is delivered. 2. the leading or most advanced position in an activity.

firm¹ ('fɜ:m) *adj.* 1. not soft or yielding to a touch or pressure. 2. securely in position; stable or stationary. 3. decided; settled. 4. enduring or steady. 5. having determination or strength. 6. (of prices, markets, etc.) tending to rise. —*adv.* 7. in a secure or unyielding manner: *he stood firm.* —*vb.* 8. (sometimes foll. by *up*) to make or become firm. —**'firmly** *adv.* —**'firmness** *n.*

firm² ('fɜ:m) *n.* 1. a commercial enterprise. 2. a team of doctors and their assistants.

firmament ('fɜ:məmənt) *n.* the expanse of the sky; heavens.

first ('fɜ:st) *adj. (usually prenominal)* 1. *a.* coming before all others. *b. (as n.):* *I was the first to arrive.* 2. preceding all others in numbering or counting order; the ordinal number of *one*. Often written: 1st. 3. rated, graded, or ranked above all other levels. 4. denoting the lowest forward ratio of a gearbox in a motor vehicle. 5. *Music.* *a.* denoting the highest part assigned to one of the voice parts in a chorus or one of the sections of an orchestra: *the first violins.* *b.* denoting the principal player in a specific orchestral section: *he plays first horn.* 6. **first thing**, as the first action of the day: *I'll see you first thing tomorrow.* —*n.* 7. the beginning; outset: *I couldn't see at first because of the mist.* 8. *Education, chiefly Brit.* an honours degree of the highest class. Full term: **first-class honours degree.** 9. the lowest forward ratio of a gearbox in a motor vehicle. —*adv.* 10. Also: **firstly**, before anything else in order, time, importance, etc.: *do this first.* 11. **first and last**, on the whole. 12. **from first to last**, throughout. 13. for the first time: *I've loved you since I first saw you.* 14. (*sentence modifier*) in the first place or beginning of a series of actions.

first aid *n.* *a.* immediate medical assistance given in an emergency. *b. (as modifier):* **first-aid box.**

first-born *adj.* 1. eldest of the children in a family. —*n.* 2. the eldest child in a family.

first class *n.* 1. the class or grade of the best or highest value, quality, etc. —*adj. (first-class when prenominal).* 2. of the best or highest class or grade: *a first-class citizen.* 3. excellent. 4. of or denoting the most comfortable class of accommodation in a hotel, aircraft, train, etc. 5. (in Britain) of letters that are handled faster than second-class letters. —*adv.* **first-class.** 6. by first-class mail, means of transportation, etc.

first-day cover *n.* *Philately.* an envelope postmarked on the first day of the issue of its stamps.

first-degree burn *n.* *Pathol.* the least severe type of burn, in which the skin surface is red and painful.

first-foot *Chiefly Scot.* —*n.* also **first-footer**. 1. the first person to enter a household in the New Year. —*vb.* 2. to enter (a house) as first-foot. —**'first-footing** *n.*

first fruits *pl. n.* 1. the first results or profits of an undertaking. 2. fruit that ripens first.

first-hand *adj., adv.* 1. from the original source: *he got the news first-hand.* 2. at **first hand**, directly.

first lady *n. (often caps.)* U.S. the wife or official hostess of a state governor or a president.

firstly ('fɜ:stli) *adv.* another word for **first**.

first mate *n.* an officer second in command to the captain of a merchant ship.

first night *n. a.* the first public performance of a play, etc. *b. (as modifier):* **first-night nerves.** —**'first-nighter** *n.*

first offender *n.* a person convicted of a criminal offence for the first time.

first officer *n.* 1. another name for **first mate**. 2. the member of an aircraft crew who is second in command to the captain.

first person *n.* a grammatical category of pronouns and verbs used by the speaker to refer to or talk about himself.

first-rate *adj.* 1. of the best or highest rated class or quality. 2. *Inf.* very good; excellent.

first water *n.* 1. the finest quality of diamond or other precious stone. 2. the highest grade or best quality.

firth ('fɜ:θ) or **frith** *n.* a narrow inlet of the sea, esp. in Scotland.

fiscal ('fɪskl) *adj.* 1. of or relating to government finances, esp. tax revenues. 2. of or involving financial matters. —*n.* 3. *a.* (in some countries) a public prosecutor. *b. Scot.* short for **procurator fiscal**. —**'fiscally** *adv.*

fiscal year *n.* the U.S. term for **financial year**.

fish (fɪʃ) *n., pl. fish or fishes.* 1. *a.* any of a large group of cold-blooded aquatic vertebrates having jaws, gills, and usually fins and a skin covered in scales: includes the sharks, rays, teleosts, lungfish, etc. *b. (in combination):* **fishpond**. Related *adj.* **piscine**. 2. any of various similar but jawless vertebrates, such as the hagfish and lamprey. 3. (*not in technical use*) any of various aquatic invertebrates, such as the cuttlefish and crayfish. 4. the flesh of fish used as food. 5. *Inf.* a person of little emotion or intelligence: *a poor fish.* 6. **drink like a fish.**

to drink to excess. **7.** have other fish to fry. to have other activities to do, esp. more important ones. **8.** like a fish out of water. out of one's usual place. **9.** neither fish, flesh, nor fowl. neither this nor that. **10.** (*intr.*) to attempt to catch fish, as with a line and hook or with nets, traps, etc. **11.** (*tr.*) to fish in (a particular area of water). **12.** to search (a body of water) for something or to search for something, esp. in a body of water. **13.** (*intr.*; foll. by *for*) to seek something indirectly: to fish for compliments. ~See also fish out. —'fish, like adj.

fish cake *n.* a fried flattened ball of flaked fish mixed with mashed potatoes.

fisher ('fɪʃə) *n.* **1.** a fisherman. **2.** Also called: **pekan.** a large North American marten having dark brown fur. **b.** the fur of this animal.

fisherman ('fɪʃmən) *n.*, *pl.* -men. **1.** a person who fishes as a profession or for sport. **2.** a vessel used for fishing.

fishery ('fɪʃəri) *n.*, *pl.* -eries. **1.** a. the industry of catching, processing, and selling fish. **b.** a place where this is carried on. **2.** a place where fish are reared. **3.** a fishing ground.

fish-eye lens *n.* *Photog.* a lens of small focal length, having a highly curved protruding front element, that covers almost 180°.

fishfinger ('fɪʃ'fɪŋɡə) or *U.S.* **fish stick** *n.* an oblong piece of filleted or minced fish coated in breadcrumbs.

fishing ('fɪʃɪŋ) *n.* a. the occupation of catching fish. **b.** (*as modifier*): a fishing match.

fishing rod *n.* a long tapered flexible pole for use with a fishing line and, usually, a reel.

fish meal *n.* ground dried fish used as feed for farm animals, as a fertilizer, etc.

fishmonger ('fɪʃ'mʌŋɡə) *n.* *Chiefly Brit.* a retailer of fish.

fishnet ('fɪʃ'net) *n.* a. an open mesh fabric resembling netting. **b.** (*as modifier*): fishnet tights.

fish out *vb.* (*tr.*, *adv.*) to find or extract (something): to fish keys out of a pocket.

fishplate ('fɪʃ'pleɪt) *n.* a flat piece of metal joining one rail or beam to the next, esp. on railway tracks.

fish tail ('fɪʃ'teɪl) *n.* **1.** an aeroplane manoeuvre in which the tail is moved from side to side to reduce speed. **2.** a nozzle having a long narrow slot at the top, placed over a Bunsen burner to produce a thin fanlike flame.

fishwife ('fɪʃ'waɪf) *n.*, *pl.* -wives. **1.** a woman who sells fish. **2.** a coarse scolding woman.

fishy ('fɪʃi) *adj.* **fishier, fishiest.** **1.** of, involving, or suggestive of fish. **2.** abounding in fish. **3.** *Inf.* suspicious, doubtful, or questionable. **4.** dull and lifeless: a fishy look. —'fishily *adv.*

fissile ('fɪsaɪl) *adj.* **1.** *Brit.* capable of undergoing nuclear fission. **2.** fissionable. **3.** tending to split or capable of being split.

fission ('fɪʃən) *n.* **1.** the act or process of splitting or breaking into parts. **2.** *Biol.* a form of asexual reproduction involving a division into two or more equal parts. **3.** short for **nuclear fission**. —'fissionable *adj.*

fissure ('fɪʃə) *n.* **1.** any long narrow cleft or crack, esp. in a rock. **2.** a weakness or flaw. **3.** *Anat.* a narrow split or groove that divides an organ such as the brain, lung, or liver into lobes. ~*vb.* **4.** to crack or split apart.

fist (fɪst) *n.* **1.** a hand with the fingers clenched into the palm, as for hitting. **2.** Also called: **fistful**, the quantity that can be held in a fist or hand. **3.** *Inf.* handwriting. **4.** an informal word for **index** (sense 9). ~*vb.* **5.** (*tr.*) to hit with the fist.

fisticuffs ('fɪstɪ'kʌfs) *pl.* *n.* combat with the fists.

fistula ('fɪstjʊlə) *n.*, *pl.* -las or -lae (-li). *Pathol.* an abnormal opening between one hollow organ and another or between a hollow organ and the surface of the skin, caused by ulceration, malformation, etc. —'fistulous or 'fistular *adj.*

fit (fɪt) *vb.* **fitting, fitted.** **1.** to be appropriate or suitable for (a situation, etc.). **2.** to be of the correct size or shape for (a container, etc.). **3.** (*tr.*) to adjust in order to render appropriate. **4.** (*tr.*) to supply with that which is needed. **5.** (*tr.*) to try clothes on (someone) in order to make adjustments if necessary. **6.** (*tr.*) to make competent or ready. **7.** (*tr.*) to locate with care. **8.** (*intr.*) to correspond with the facts or circumstances. ~*adj.* **fitter, fittest.** **9.** appropriate. **10.** having the right qualifications; qualifying. **11.** in good health. **12.** worthy or deserving. **13.** (*foll.* by an infinitive) *Inf.* ready (to); strongly disposed (to): she was fit to scream. ~*n.* **14.** the manner in which something fits. **15.** the act or

process of fitting. ~See also fit in, fit out. —'fitly *adv.* —'fitness *n.* —'fittable *adj.*

fit (fɪt) *n.* **1.** *Pathol.* a sudden attack or convulsion, such as an epileptic seizure. **2.** a sudden spell of emotion: a fit of anger. **3.** an impulsive period of activity or lack of activity. **4.** by fits (and starts), in spasmodic spells. **5.** have or throw a fit. *Inf.* to become very angry.

fitful ('fɪtful) *adj.* characterized by or occurring in irregular spells. —'fitfully *adv.*

fit in *vb.* **1.** (*tr.*) to give a place or time to. **2.** (*intr.*, *adv.*) to belong or conform, esp. after adjustment: he didn't fit in with their plans.

fitment ('fɪtmənt) *n.* **1.** *Machinery.* an accessory attached to an assembly of parts. **2.** *Chiefly Brit.* a detachable part of the furnishings of a room.

fit out *vb.* (*tr.*, *adv.*) to equip.

fitted ('fɪtɪd) *adj.* **1.** designed for excellent fit: a fitted suit. **2.** (of a carpet) cut or sewn to cover a floor completely. **3.** (of furniture) built to fit a particular space: a fitted cupboard.

fitter ('fɪtə) *n.* **1.** a person who fits a garment, esp. when it is made for a particular person. **2.** a person who is skilled in the assembly and adjustment of machinery, esp. of a specified sort.

fitting ('fɪtɪŋ) *adj.* **1.** appropriate or proper. ~*n.* **2.** an accessory or part: an electrical fitting. **3.** (*pl.*) furnishings or accessories in a building. **4.** work carried out by a fitter. **5.** the act of trying on clothes so that they can be adjusted to fit. —'fittingly *adv.*

five (faɪv) *n.* **1.** the cardinal number that is the sum of four and one. **2.** a numeral, 5, V, etc., representing this number. **3.** the amount or quantity that is one greater than four. **4.** something representing, represented by, or consisting of five units, such as a playing card with five symbols on it. **5.** five o'clock, five hours after noon or midnight. ~*determiner.* **6.** a. amounting to five: five nights. **b.** (*as pronoun*): choose any five you like. —'fifth *adj.*

fivefold ('faɪv'fəʊld) *adj.* **1.** equal to or having five times as many or as much. **2.** composed of five parts. ~*adv.* **3.** by or up to five times as many or as much.

fivepins ('faɪv'pɪnz) *n.* (*functioning as sing.*) a bowling game using five pins, played esp. in Canada. —'five-pin *adj.*

fiver ('faɪvə) *n.* *Inf. Brit.* a five-pound note.

fives ('faɪvz) *n.* (*functioning as sing.*) a ball game similar to squash but played with bats or the hands.

Five-Year Plan *n.* (*in socialist economies*) a government plan for economic development over a period of five years.

fix (fiks) *vb.* (*mainly tr.*) **1.** (*also intr.*) to make or become firm, stable, or secure. **2.** to attach or place permanently. **3.** (often foll. by *up*) to settle definitely; decide. **4.** to hold or direct (eyes, etc.) steadily: he fixed his gaze on the woman. **5.** to call to attention or rivet. **6.** to make rigid: to fix one's jaw. **7.** to place or ascribe: to fix the blame. **8.** to mend or repair. **9. *Inf.* to provide or be provided with: how are you fixed for supplies? **10. *Inf.* to influence (a person, etc.) unfairly, as by bribery. **11. *Sl.* to take revenge on. **12. *Inf.* to give (someone) his just deserts: that'll fix him. **13. *Inf.*, *chiefly U.S.* to prepare: to fix a meal. **14. *Dialect or inf.* to spay or castrate (an animal). **15. *Photog.* to treat (a film, plate, or paper) with fixer to make permanent the image rendered visible by developer. **16. to convert (atmospheric nitrogen) into nitrogen compounds, as in the manufacture of fertilizers or the action of bacteria in the soil. **17. to reduce (a substance) to a solid state or a less volatile state. **18. (*intr.*) *Sl.* to inject a narcotic drug. ~*n.* **19. *Inf.* a predicament; dilemma. **20. the ascertaining of the navigational position, as of a ship, by radar, etc. **21. *Sl.* an intravenous injection of a narcotic such as heroin. —'fixable *adj.***************************

fixation ('fɪk'seɪʃən) *n.* **1.** the act of fixing or the state of being fixed. **2.** a preoccupation or obsession. **3. *Psychol.* a. the situation of being set in a certain way of thinking or acting. **b. a strong attachment of a person to another person or an object in early life. **4. *Chem.* the conversion of nitrogen in the air into a compound, esp. a fertilizer. **5. the reduction of a substance to a nonvolatile or solid form.********

fixative ('fɪksətɪv) *adj.* **1. serving or tending to fix. ~*n.* **2.** a fluid sprayed over drawings to prevent smudging or one that fixes tissues and cells for microscopic study. **3.** a substance added to a liquid, such as a perfume, to make it less volatile.**

fixed (fɪkst) *adj.* **1.** attached or placed so as to be immovable. **2.** stable: fixed prices. **3.** steadily directed:

a fixed expression. 4. established as to relative position: a fixed point. 5. always at the same time: a fixed holiday. 6. (of ideas, etc.) firmly maintained. 7. (of an element) held in chemical combination: fixed nitrogen. 8. (of a substance) nonvolatile. 9. arranged. 10. *Inf.* equipped or provided for, as with money, possessions, etc. 11. *Inf.* illegally arranged: a fixed trial. —fixedly ('fiksɪdli) *adv.* —fixedness *n.*

fixed star *n.* an extremely distant star whose position appears to be almost stationary over a long period of time.

fixer ('fiksə) *n.* 1. *Photog.* a solution used to dissolve unexposed silver halides after developing. 2. *Sl.* a person who makes arrangements, esp. by underhand or illegal means.

fixity ('fiksɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. the state or quality of being fixed. 2. a fixture.

fixture ('fiksɪtə) *n.* 1. an object firmly fixed in place, esp. a household appliance. 2. a person or thing regarded as fixed in a particular place or position. 3. *Property law.* an article attached to land and regarded as part of it. 4. *Chiefly Brit. a.* a sports match or social occasion. b. the date of such an event.

fizz (fɪz) *vb. (intr.)* 1. to make a hissing or bubbling sound. 2. (of a drink) to produce bubbles of carbon dioxide. ~*n.* 3. a hissing or bubbling sound. 4. the bubbly quality of a drink; effervescence. 5. any effervescent drink. —fizzy *adj.* —fizziness *n.*

fizzle ('fɪzl) *vb. (intr.)* 1. to make a hissing or bubbling sound. 2. (often foll. by out) *Inf.* to fail or die out, esp. after a promising start. ~*n.* 3. a hissing or bubbling sound. 4. *Inf.* a failure.

fjord or fiord (fjɔ:d) *n.* a long narrow inlet of the sea between high steep cliffs, common in Norway.

fl. *abbrev. for:* 1. floor. 2. floruit. 3. fluid.

flab (flæb) *n.* unsightly or unwanted fat on the body.

flabbergast ('flæb,gəst) *vb. (tr.; usually passive) Inf.* to amaze utterly; astound.

flabby ('flæbi) *adj. -bier, -biest.* 1. loose or yielding: flabby muscles. 2. having flabby flesh, esp. through being overweight. 3. lacking vitality; weak. —flabbiness *n.*

flaccid ('flæksɪd) *adj.* lacking firmness; soft and limp. —flaccidity *n.*

flag (flæg) *n.* 1. a piece of cloth, esp. bunting, often attached to a pole or staff, decorated with a design and used as an emblem, symbol, or standard or as a means of signalling. 2. a small piece of paper, etc., sold on flag days. 3. the conspicuously marked or shaped tail of a deer or of certain dogs. 4. *Brit., Austral.* the part of a taximeter that is raised when a taxi is for hire. 5. *show the flag, a.* to assert a claim by military presence. b. *Inf.* to make an appearance. ~*vb. flagging, flagged. (tr.)* 6. to decorate or mark with a flag or flags. 7. (often foll. by down) to warn or signal (a vehicle) to stop. 8. to send or communicate (messages, information, etc.) by flag. —flagger *n.*

flag ('flæg) *n.* 1. any of various plants that have long swordlike leaves, esp. an iris (yellow flag). 2. the leaf of any such plant.

flag ('flæg) *vb. flagging, flagged. (intr.)* 1. to hang down; droop. 2. to become weak or tired.

flag ('flæg) *n.* 1. short for flagstone. ~*vb. flagging, flagged. 2. (tr.)* to furnish (a floor, etc.) with flagstones.

flag day *n.* a day on which money is collected by a charity and small flags or emblems are given to contributors.

flagellant ('flædʒɪlənt, flə'dʒɪlənt) or **flagellator** ('flædʒɪlətə) *n.* a person who whips himself or others either as part of a religious penance or for sexual gratification.

flagellate *vb. ('flædʒɪlət).* 1. (tr.) to whip; flog. ~*adj. ('flædʒɪlət), also flagellated.* 2. possessing one or more flagella. 3. whiplike. ~*n. ('flædʒɪlət).* 4. a flagellate organism. —flagellation *n.*

flagellum (flə'dʒɪləm) *n., pl. -la (-lə) or -lums.* 1. *Biol.* a long whiplike outgrowth from a cell that acts as an organ of locomotion: occurs in some protozoans, gametes, etc. 2. *Bot.* a long thin shoot or runner. —flagellar *adj.*

flageolet ('flædʒə'let) *n.* a high-pitched musical instrument of the recorder family.

flag of convenience *n.* a national flag flown by a ship registered in that country to gain financial or legal advantage.

flag of truce *n.* a white flag indicating an invitation to an enemy to negotiate.

flagon ('flægən) *n.* 1. a large bottle of wine, cider, etc. 2. a vessel having a handle, spout, and narrow neck.

flagpole ('flæg,pəʊl) or **flagstaff** ('flæg,stɑ:f) *n., pl. -poles, -stuffs, or -staves (-steɪvz).* a pole or staff on which a flag is hoisted and displayed.

flagrant ('fleɪɡrənt) *adj.* blatant; outrageous. —flagrancy *n.* —flagrantly *adv.*

flagship ('flægʃɪp) *n.* 1. a ship, esp. in a fleet, aboard which the commander of the fleet is quartered. 2. the most important ship belonging to a shipping company.

flagstone ('flæg,stəʊn) *n.* 1. a hard fine-textured rock that can be split up into slabs for paving. 2. a slab of such a rock.

flag-waving *n. Inf.* an emotional appeal intended to arouse patriotic feeling. —flag-,waver *n.*

flail (fleɪl) *n.* 1. an implement used for threshing grain, consisting of a wooden handle with a free-swinging metal or wooden bar attached to it. ~*vb. 2. (tr.)* to beat with or as if with a flail. 3. to thresh about: with arms flailing.

flair (fleɪ) *n.* 1. natural ability; talent. 2. perceptiveness. 3. *Inf.* stylishness or elegance: to dress with flair.

flak or flack (flæk) *n.* 1. anti-aircraft fire or artillery. 2. *Inf.* adverse criticism.

flake (fleɪk) *n.* 1. a small thin piece or layer chipped off or detached from an object or substance. 2. a small piece or particle: a flake of snow. 3. *Archaeol.* a fragment removed by chipping from a larger stone used as a tool or weapon. ~*vb. 4. to peel or cause to peel off in flakes. 5. to cover or become covered with or as with flakes. 6. (tr.)* to form into flakes. —flaky *adj.*

flake out *vb. (intr., adv.) Inf.* to become unconscious as through extreme exhaustion.

flambé ('flɑ:mbeɪ) *adj.* (of food, such as steak or pancakes) served in flaming brandy, etc.

flamboyant ('flæm'bɔɪənt) *adj.* 1. elaborate or extravagant; showy. 2. rich or brilliant in colour. 3. exuberant or ostentatious. 4. of the French Gothic style of architecture characterized by flamelike tracery and elaborate carving. —flamboyance or flamboyancy *n.* —flamboyantly *adv.*

flame (fleɪm) *n.* 1. a hot usually luminous body of burning gas emanating in flickering streams from burning material or produced by a jet of ignited gas. 2. (often pl.) the state or condition of burning with flames: to burst into flames. 3. a brilliant light. 4. a strong reddish-orange colour. 5. intense passion or ardour. 6. *Inf.* a lover or sweetheart (esp. in an old flame). ~*vb. 7. to burn or cause to burn brightly. 8. (intr.)* to become red or fiery: his face flamed with anger. 9. (intr.) to become angry or excited. 10. (tr.) to apply a flame to (something). —flame,like *adj.* —flamy *adj.*

flamenco ('flæmjenkəʊ) *n., pl. -cos.* 1. a type of dance music for vocal soloist and guitar, characterized by sad mood. 2. the dance performed to such music.

flame-thrower *n.* a weapon that ejects a stream or spray of burning fluid.

flaming ('fleɪmɪŋ) *adj.* 1. burning with or emitting flames. 2. glowing brightly. 3. intense or ardent: a flaming temper. 4. *Inf. (intensifier):* you flaming idiot.

flamingo ('flæmɪŋɡəʊ) *n., pl. -gos or -goes.* a large wading bird having a pink-and-red plumage and downward-bent bill and inhabiting brackish lakes.

flammable ('flæməbəl) *adj.* readily combustible; inflammable. —flammability *n.*

▷ **Usage.** Flammable and inflammable are interchangeable when used of the properties of materials. Flammable is, however, often preferred for warning labels as there is less likelihood of misunderstanding (inflammable being sometimes taken to mean not flammable). The word that does mean not flammable is nonflammable.

flan (flæn) *n.* 1. an open pastry or sponge tart filled with fruit or a savoury mixture. 2. a piece of metal ready to receive the die or stamp in the production of coins.

flange (flændʒ) *n.* 1. a radially projecting collar or rim on an object for strengthening it or for attaching it to another object. 2. a flat outer face of a rolled-steel joist. ~*vb. 3. (tr.)* to provide (a component) with a flange. —flangeless *adj.*

flank (flæŋk) *n.* 1. the side of a man or animal between the ribs and the hip. 2. a cut of beef from the flank. 3. the side of anything, such as a mountain or building. 4. the side of a naval or military formation. ~*vb. 5. (when intr., often foll. by on or upon)* to be located at the

side of (an object, etc.). **6. Mil.** to position or guard on or beside the flank of (a formation, etc.)

flannel ('flænʃl) *n.* **1.** a soft light woollen fabric with a slight nap, used for clothing, etc. **2. (pl.)** trousers or other garments made of flannel. **3. Brit.** a small piece of cloth used to wash the face and hands; face flannel. U.S. equivalent: **washcloth**. **4. Brit. inf.** indirect or evasive talk. **~vb.** **-nelling, -nelled** or **U.S. -neling, -neled.** (tr.) **5.** to cover or wrap with flannel. **6.** to rub or polish with flannel. **7. Brit. inf.** to flatter. — **'flannelly** *adj.*

flannelette (,flænʃlɪt) *n.* a cotton imitation of flannel.

flap (flæp) *vb.* **flapping, flapped.** **1.** to move (wings or arms) up and down, esp. in or as if in flying, or (of wings or arms) to move in this way. **2.** to move or cause to move noisily back and forth or up and down: *the curtains flapped in the breeze*. **3. (intr.) Inf.** to become agitated or flustered. **4.** to deal (a person or thing) a blow with a broad flexible object. **~n.** **5.** the action, motion, or noise made by flapping: *with one flap of its wings the bird was off*. **6.** a piece of material, etc., attached at one edge and usually used to cover an opening, as on a tent, envelope, or pocket. **7.** a blow dealt with a flat object. **8.** a movable surface fixed to an aircraft wing that increases lift during takeoff and drag during landing. **9. Inf.** a state of panic or agitation.

flapdoodle ('flæp,dʊdʌl) *n.* **Sl.** foolish talk; nonsense.

flapjack ('flæp,dʒæk) *n.* **1.** a chewy biscuit made with rolled oats. **2. Chiefly U.S.** another word for **pancake**.

flapper ('flæpə) *n.* (in the 1920s) a young woman, esp. one flaunting her unconventional behaviour.

flare (fleə) *vb.* **1.** to burn or cause to burn with an unsteady or sudden bright flame. **2.** to burn off excess gas or oil. **3.** to spread or cause to spread outwards from a narrow to a wider shape. **~n.** **4.** an unsteady flame. **5.** a sudden burst of flame. **6. a.** a blaze of light or fire used to illuminate, identify, alert, etc. **b.** the device producing such a blaze. **7.** a spreading shape or anything with a spreading shape: *a skirt with a flare*.

flare-up *n.* **1.** a sudden burst of fire or light. **2. Inf.** a sudden burst of emotion or violence. **~vb.** **flare up.** (intr., adv.). **3.** to burst suddenly into fire or light. **4. Inf.** to burst into anger.

flash (flæʃ) *n.* **1.** a sudden short blaze of intense light or flame: *a flash of sunlight*. **2.** a sudden occurrence or display, esp. one suggestive of brilliance: *a flash of understanding*. **3.** a very brief space of time: *over in a flash*. **4.** Also called: **news flash**, a short news announcement concerning a new event. **5. Chiefly Brit.** an insignia or emblem worn on a uniform, vehicle, etc., to identify its military formation. **6.** a sudden rush of water down a river or watercourse. **7. Photog., inf.** short for **flashlight** (sense 2). **8. (modifier)** involving, using, or produced by a flash of heat, light, etc.: *flash distillation*. **9. flash in the pan.** a project, person, etc., that enjoys only short-lived success. **~adj.** **10. Inf.** ostentatious or vulgar. **11.** sham or counterfeit. **12. Inf.** relating to or characteristic of the criminal underworld. **~vb.** **13.** to burst or cause to burst suddenly or intermittently into flame. **14.** to emit or reflect or cause to emit or reflect light suddenly or intermittently. **15. (intr.)** to move very fast: *he flashed by on his bicycle*. **16. (intr.)** to come rapidly (into the mind or vision). **17. (intr.; foll. by out or up)** to appear like a sudden light. **18. a.** to signal or communicate very fast: *to flash a message*. **b.** to signal by use of a light, such as car headlights. **19. (tr.) Inf.** to display ostentatiously: *to flash money around*. **20. (tr.) Inf.** to show suddenly and briefly. **21. (intr.) Brit. sl.** to expose oneself indecently. **22.** to send a sudden rush of water down (a river, etc.), or to carry (a vessel) down by this method. — **'flasher** *n.*

flashback ('flæʃ,bæk) *n.* a transition in a novel, film, etc., to an earlier scene or event.

flashbulb ('flæʃ,bʌlb) *n.* **Photog.** a small expendable glass light bulb that is triggered, usually electrically, to produce a bright flash of light.

flashcube ('flæʃ,kju:b) *n.* a boxlike camera attachment, holding four flashbulbs, that turns so that each flashbulb can be used.

flash flood *n.* a sudden short-lived torrent, usually caused by a heavy storm, esp. in desert regions.

flash gun *n.* a device, sometimes incorporated in a camera, for holding and electrically firing a flashbulb as the shutter opens.

flashing ('flæʃɪŋ) *n.* a weatherproof material, esp. thin sheet metal, used to cover the valleys between the slopes of a roof, the junction between a chimney and a roof, etc.

flashlight ('flæʃ,lait) *n.* **1.** another word (esp. U.S.) for

torch. **2. Photog.** the brief bright light emitted by a flashbulb or electronic flash. Often shortened to **flash**.

flash point *n.* **1.** the lowest temperature at which the vapour above a liquid can be ignited in air. **2.** a critical moment beyond which a situation will inevitably erupt into violence.

flashy ('flæʃi) *adj.* **flashier, flashiest.** **1.** brilliant and dazzling, esp. for a short time or in a superficial way. **2.** cheap and ostentatious. — **'flashily** *adv.* — **'flashiness** *n.*

flask (flæsk) *n.* **1.** a bottle with a narrow neck, esp. used in a laboratory or for wine, oil, etc. **2.** Also called: **hip flask**, a small flattened container of glass or metal designed to be carried in a pocket, esp. for liquor. **3.** See **vacuum flask**.

flat (flæt) *adj.* **flatter, flattest.** **1.** horizontal; level: *a flat roof*. **2.** even or smooth, without projections or depressions: *a flat surface*. **3.** lying stretched out at full length: *he lay flat on the ground*. **4.** having little depth or thickness: *a flat dish*. **5. (postpositive);** often foll. by **against** having a surface or side in complete contact with another surface: *flat against the wall*. **6. (of a tyre)** deflated. **7. (of shoes)** having an unraised heel. **8. Chiefly Brit. a.** (of races, racetracks, or racecourses) not having obstacles to be jumped. **b.** of, relating to, or connected with flat racing as opposed to steeplechasing and hurdling. **9.** without qualification; total: *a flat denial*. **10.** fixed: *a flat rate*. **11. (prenominal or immediately postpositive)** neither more nor less; exact: *he did the journey in thirty minutes flat*. **12.** unexciting: *a flat joke*. **13.** without variation or resonance; monotonous: *a flat voice*. **14. (of beer, sparkling wines, etc.)** having lost effervescence, as by exposure to air. **15. (of trade, business, etc.)** commercially inactive. **16. (of a battery)** fully discharged. **17. (of a print, photograph, or painting)** lacking contrast. **18. (of paint)** without gloss or lustre. **19. Music. a.** (immediately postpositive) denoting a note of a given letter name (or the sound it represents) that has been lowered in pitch by one chromatic semitone: *B flat*. **b.** (of an instrument, voice, etc.) out of tune by being too low in pitch. Cf. **sharp** (sense 12). **20. Phonetics.** **flat a.** the vowel sound of a as in the usual U.S. or S. Brit. pronunciation of *hand, cat*. **~adv.** **21.** in or into a prostrate, level, or flat state or position: *he held his hand out flat*. **22.** completely or utterly; absolutely. **23. Music. a.** lower than a standard pitch. **b.** too low in pitch: *she sings flat*. Cf. **sharp** (sense 15). **24. fall flat.** to prove a failure, not amusing, etc. **25. flat out.** *Inf. a.* with the maximum speed or effort. **b.** totally exhausted. **~n.** **26.** a flat object, surface, or part. **27.** a low-lying tract of land, esp. a marsh or swamp. **28.** a mud bank exposed at low tide. **29. Music. a.** an accidental that lowers the pitch of the following note by one chromatic semitone. Usual symbol: **b**. **b.** a note affected by this accidental. Cf. **sharp** (sense 16). **30. Theatre.** a wooden frame covered with painted canvas, etc., used to form part of a stage setting. **31.** a punctured car tyre. **32. (often cap.; preceded by the)** **Chiefly Brit. a.** flat racing, esp. as opposed to steeplechasing and hurdling. **b.** the season of flat racing. **~vb.** **flattening, flattened.** **33.** to make or become flat. — **'flatly** *adv.* — **'flatness** *n.* — **'flatish** *adj.*

flat² (flæt) *n.* a set of rooms comprising a residence entirely on one floor of a building. Usual U.S. name: **apartment**.

flatboat ('flæt,bəʊt) *n.* any boat with a flat bottom, usually for transporting goods on a canal.

flatfish ('flæt,fɪʃ) *n., pl. -fish or -fishes.* any of an order of marine spiny-finned fish including the halibut, plaice, turbot, and sole, all of which have a flat body which has both eyes on the uppermost side.

flatfoot ('flæt,fʊt) *n.* **1.** a condition in which the instep arch of the foot is flattened. **2. (pl. -foots or -feet.)** a slang word (usually derogatory) for a **policeman**.

flat-footed ('flæt,fʊtəd) *adj.* **1.** having flatfoot. **2. Brit. inf. a.** awkward. **b.** downright. **3. Inf.** off guard (often in catch flat-footed). — **'flat-footedly** *adv.* — **'flat-footedness** *n.*

flatiron ('flæt,aɪrən) *n. (formerly) an iron for pressing clothes that was heated by being placed on a stove, etc.*

flatlet ('flætɪlt) *n.* a flat having only a few rooms.

flat racing *n. a.* the racing of horses on racecourses without jumps. **b. (as modifier):** *the flat-racing season*.

flats (flæts) *pl. n.* shoes with a flat heel or no heel.

flat spin *n.* **1.** an aircraft spin in which the longitudinal axis is more nearly horizontal than vertical. **2. Inf. a.** state of confusion; dither.

flatten ('flætʃn) *vb.* **1.** (sometimes foll. by out) to make or become flat or flatter. **2. (tr.) Inf. a.** to knock down or

injure. **b.** to crush or subdue. **3. (tr.)** *Music.* to lower the pitch of (a note) by one chromatic semitone. — '**flattener** *n.*

flatter ('flætə) *vb.* **1.** to praise insincerely, esp. in order to win favour or reward. **2.** to show to advantage: *that dress flatters her.* **3. (tr.)** to make to appear more attractive, etc., than in reality. **4.** to gratify the vanity of (a person). **5. (tr.)** to encourage, esp. falsely. **6. (tr.)** to deceive (oneself): *I flatter myself that I am the best.* — '**flatterable** *adj.* — '**flatterer** *n.*

flatlery ('flætəri) *n., pl. -teries.* **1.** the act of flattering. **2.** excessive or insincere praise.

flatulent ('flætjuələnt) *adj.* **1.** suffering from or caused by an excessive amount of gas in the alimentary canal. **2.** generating excessive gas in the alimentary canal. **3.** pretentious. — '**flatulence** or '**flatulency** *n.* — '**flatulently** *adv.*

flatworm ('flæt,wɜ:m) *n.* any parasitic or free-living invertebrate of the phylum *Platyhelminthes*, including flukes and tapeworms, having a flattened body.

flaunt ('flɔ:nt) *vb.* **1.** to display (possessions, oneself, etc.) ostentatiously. **2.** to wave or cause to wave freely. ~*n.* **3.** the act of flaunting.

flautist ('flɔ:tist) or U.S. **flutist** ('flu:tist) *n.* a player of the flute.

flavour or U.S. **flavor** ('fleivə) *n.* **1.** taste perceived in food or liquid in the mouth. **2.** a substance added to food, etc., to impart a specific taste. **3.** a distinctive quality or atmosphere. ~*vb.* **4. (tr.)** to impart a flavour or quality to. — '**flavourless** or U.S. '**flavorless** *adj.* — '**flavourful** or U.S. '**flavorful** *adj.*

flavouring or U.S. **flavoring** ('fleivəriŋ) *n.* a substance used to impart a particular flavour to food: *rum flavouring.*

flaw ('flɔ:) *n.* **1.** an imperfection or blemish. **2.** a crack or rift. **3. Law.** an invalidating defect in a document or proceeding. ~*vb.* **4.** to make or become blemished or imperfect. — '**flawless** *adj.*

flaw ('flɔ:) *n.* a sudden short gust of wind; squall.

flax ('flæks) *n.* **1.** a herbaceous plant or shrub that has blue flowers and is cultivated for its seeds (flaxseed) and for the fibres of its stems. **2.** the fibre of this plant, made into thread and woven into linen fabrics. **3.** any of various similar plants. **4.** N.Z. a swamp plant producing a fibre that is used by Maoris for decorative work, baskets, etc.

flaxen ('flæksən) *adj.* **1.** of or resembling flax. **2.** of a soft yellow colour: *flaxen hair.*

flay ('fleɪ) *vb. (tr.)* **1.** to strip off the skin or outer covering of, esp. by whipping. **2.** to attack with savage criticism. — '**flayer** *n.*

flea ('fli:) *n.* **1.** a small wingless parasitic blood-sucking jumping insect living on the skin of mammals and birds. **2. flea in one's ear.** *Inf.* a sharp rebuke.

fleabite ('fli:,baɪt) *n.* **1.** the bite of a flea. **2.** a slight or trifling annoyance or discomfort.

flea-bitten *adj.* **1.** bitten by or infested with fleas. **2. Inf.** shabby or decrepit.

flea market *n.* an open-air market selling cheap and often second-hand goods.

fleapit ('fli:,pɪt) *n. Inf.* a shabby cinema or theatre.

fleck ('flek) *n.* **1.** a small marking or streak. **2.** a speck: *a flock of dust.* ~*vb.* **3. (tr.)** Also: **flecker.** to speckle.

fled ('fled) *vb.* the past tense or past participle of **flee**.

fledge ('fledʒ) *vb.* **1. (tr.)** to feed and care for (a young bird) until it is able to fly. **2. (tr.)** Also called: **fletch.** to fit (something, esp. an arrow) with a feather or feathers. **3. (tr.)** to cover or adorn with or as if with feathers.

fledgling or **fledgeling** ('fledʒlɪŋ) *n.* **1.** a young bird that has grown feathers. **2.** a young and inexperienced person.

flee ('fli:) *vb.* **fleeing, fled.** **1.** to run away from (a place, danger, etc.). **2. (intr.)** to run or move quickly. — '**flee-** *n.*

fleece ('fli:s) *n.* **1.** the coat of wool that covers the body of a sheep or similar animal. **2.** the wool removed from a single sheep. **3.** something resembling a fleece. **4.** sheepskin or a fabric with soft pile, used as a lining for coats, etc. ~*vb. (tr.)* **5.** to defraud or charge exorbitantly. **6.** another term for **shear** (sense 1). — '**fleecy** *adj.*

fleet ('fli:t) *n.* **1.** a number of warships organized as a tactical unit. **2.** all the warships of a nation. **3.** a number of aircraft, ships, buses, etc., operating together or under the same ownership.

fleet ('fli:t) *adj.* **1.** rapid in movement; swift. **2. Poetic.** **fleeing.** ~*vb.* **3. (intr.)** to move rapidly. **4. (tr.)** *Obs.* to

cause (time) to pass rapidly. — '**fleety** *adv.* — '**fleet-** *ness* *n.*

fleet chief petty officer *n.* a noncommissioned officer in the Royal Navy comparable in rank to a warrant officer in the army or the Royal Air Force.

fleeing ('fli:tɪŋ) *adj.* rapid and transient: *a fleeting glimpse of the sea.* — '**fleeingly** *adv.*

Fleming ('flemɪŋ) *n.* a native or inhabitant of Flanders, a medieval principality in the Low Countries, or of Flemish-speaking Belgium.

Flemish ('flemɪʃ) *n.* **1.** one of the two official languages of Belgium. **2. the. (functioning as pl.)** the Flemings collectively. ~*adj.* **3.** of or characteristic of Flanders, the Flemings, or their language.

flesh ('fleʃ) *n.* **1.** the soft part of the body of an animal or human, esp. muscular tissue, as distinct from bone and viscera. **2. Inf.** excess weight; fat. **3. Arch.** the edible tissue of animals as opposed to that of fish or, sometimes, fowl. **4.** the thick soft part of a fruit or vegetable. **5.** the human body and its physical or sensual nature as opposed to the soul or spirit. Related *adj.*: **carnal.** **6.** mankind in general. **7.** animate creatures in general. **8.** one's own family; kin (esp. in **one's own flesh and blood**). **9.** a yellowish-pink colour. **10. in the flesh,** in person; actually present. ~*vb.* **11. (tr.)** *Hunting.* to stimulate the hunting instinct of (hounds or falcons) by giving them small quantities of raw flesh. **12. Arch. or poetic.** to accustom or incite to bloodshed or battle by initial experience. **13.** to fatten; fill out.

fleshy ('fleʃi) *adj. -lier, -liest.* **1.** relating to the body; carnal: *fleshy desire.* **2.** worldly as opposed to spiritual. **3. fat.** — '**fleshiness** *n.*

fleshpots ('fleʃ,pɒts) *pl. n.* *Often facetious.* **1.** luxurious living. **2.** places where bodily desires are gratified.

flesh wound ('wu:nd) *n.* a wound affecting superficial tissues.

fleshy ('fleʃi) *adj.* **fleshier, fleshiest.** **1.** plump. **2.** related to or resembling flesh. **3. Bot.** (of some fruits, etc.) thick and pulpy. — '**fleshiness** *n.*

fleur-de-lis or **fleur-de-llys** ('flɜ:də'li:) *n., pl. fleurs-de-lis* or *fleurs-de-llys* ('flɜ:də'li:z). **1. Heraldry.** a charge representing a lily with three distinct petals. **2.** another name for **iris** (sense 2).

flew ('flu:) *vb.* the past tense of **fly**¹.

flews ('flu:z) *pl. n.* the fleshy hanging upper lip of a bloodhound or similar dog.

flex ('fleks) *n.* **1. Brit.** a flexible insulated electric cable, used esp. to connect appliances to mains. U.S. name: **cord.** ~*vb.* **2.** to bend or be bent: *he flexed his arm.* **3.** to contract (a muscle) or (of a muscle) to contract.

flexible ('fleksəbəl) *adj.* **1.** Also **flexile** ('fleksail). able to be bent easily without breaking. **2.** adaptable or variable: *flexible working hours.* **3.** able to be persuaded easily. — '**flexi**' *ability* *n.* — '**flexibly** *adv.*

flexitime ('fleksɪ,taim) *n.* a system permitting flexibility of working hours at the beginning or end of each day, provided an agreed number of hours (**core time**) are spent at work. Also called: **flexitime.**

flibbertigibbet ('flɪbəti,dʒɪbɪt) *n.* an irresponsible, silly, or gossipy person.

flick¹ ('flik) *vb.* **1. (tr.)** to touch with or as if with the finger or hand in a quick jerky movement. **2. (tr.)** to propel or remove by a quick jerky movement, usually of the fingers or hand. **3.** to move or cause to move quickly or jerkily. **4. (intr.; foll. by through)** to read or look at (a book, etc.) quickly or idly. ~*n.* **5.** a tap or quick stroke with the fingers, a whip, etc. **6.** the sound made by such a stroke. **7.** a flick or particle.

flick² ('flik) *n. Sl.* **1.** a cinema film. **2. (pl.) the.** the cinema: *what's on at the flicks tonight?*

flicker ('flikə) *vb.* **1. (intr.)** to shine with an unsteady or intermittent light. **2. (intr.)** to move quickly to and fro. **3. (tr.)** to cause to flicker. ~*n.* **4.** an unsteady or brief light or flame. **5.** a swift quivering or fluttering movement.

flick knife *n.* a knife with a retractable blade that springs out when a button is pressed.

flier or **flyer** ('flaɪə) *n.* **1.** a person or thing that flies or moves very fast. **2.** an aviator or pilot. **3. Inf.** a long flying leap. **4.** a rectangular step in a straight flight of stairs. **5. Athletics.** *inf.* a flying start.

flight¹ ('flaɪt) *n.* **1.** the act, skill, or manner of flying. **2.** a journey made by a flying animal or object. **3.** a group of flying birds or aircraft: *a flight of swallows.* **4.** the basic tactical unit of a military air force. **5.** a journey through space, esp. of a spacecraft. **6.** an aircraft flying on a scheduled journey. **7.** a soaring mental journey

above or beyond the normal everyday world: a *flight of fancy*. 8. a single line of hurdles across a track in a race. 9. a feather or plastic attachment fitted to an arrow or dart to give it stability in flight. 10. a set of steps or stairs between one landing or floor and the next. ~vb. 11. (tr.) Sport. to cause (a ball, dart, etc.) to float slowly towards its target. 12. (tr.) to shoot (a bird) in flight. 13. (tr.) to fledge (an arrow or dart).

flight ('flaɪt) *n.* 1. the act of fleeing or running away, as from danger. 2. **put to flight**. to cause to run away. 3. **take (to) flight**. to run away; flee.

flight deck *n.* 1. the crew compartment in an airliner. 2. the upper deck of an aircraft carrier from which aircraft take off.

flightless ('flaɪlɪs) *adj.* (of certain birds and insects) unable to fly.

flight lieutenant *n.* an officer holding a commissioned rank senior to a flying officer and junior to a squadron leader in the Royal Air Force.

flight recorder *n.* an electronic device fitted to an aircraft for collecting and storing information concerning its performance in flight. It is often used to determine the cause of a crash. Also called: **black box**.

flight sergeant *n.* a noncommissioned officer in the Royal Air Force, junior in rank to that of master aircrew.

flighty ('flaɪti) *adj.* **flightier, flightiest**. 1. frivolous and irresponsible. 2. mentally erratic or wandering. —'flightiness *n.*

flimsy ('flɪmzi) *adj.* **-sier, -siest**. 1. not strong or substantial: a *flimsy building*. 2. light and thin: a *flimsy dress*. 3. unconvincing; weak: a *flimsy excuse*. ~n. 4. thin paper used for making carbon copies of a letter, etc. 5. a copy made on such paper. —'flimsiness *n.*

flinch ('flɪntʃ) *vb.* (intr.) 1. to draw back suddenly, as from pain, shock, etc.; wince. 2. (often foll. by *from*) to avoid contact (with): *he never flinched from his duty*. —'flinchingly *adv.*

fling ('flɪŋ) *vb.* **flinging, flung**. (mainly tr.) 1. to throw, esp. with force or abandon. 2. to put or send without warning or preparation: *to fling someone into jail*. 3. (also intr.) to move (oneself or a part of the body) with abandon or speed. 4. (usually foll. by *into*) to apply (oneself) diligently and with vigour (to). 5. to cast aside: *she flung away her scruples*. ~n. 6. the act or an instance of flinging. 7. a period or occasion of unrestrained or extravagant behaviour. 8. any of various vigorous Scottish reels full of leaps and turns, such as the Highland fling. 9. a trial; try: *to have a fling at something different*. —'flinger *n.*

flint ('flɪnt) *n.* 1. an impure greyish-black form of quartz that occurs in chalk. It produces sparks when struck with steel and is used in the manufacture of pottery and road-construction materials. Formula: SiO_2 . 2. any piece of flint, esp. one used as a primitive tool or for striking fire. 3. a small cylindrical piece of an iron alloy, used in cigarette lighters. 4. Also called: **flint glass**. colourless glass other than plate glass. —'flinty *adj.*

flintlock ('flɪnt,lɒk) *n.* 1. an obsolete gunlock in which the charge is ignited by a spark produced by a flint in the hammer. 2. a firearm having such a lock.

flip ('flɪp) *vb.* **flipping, flipped**. 1. to throw (something light or small) carelessly or briskly. 2. to throw or flick (an object such as a coin) so that it turns or spins in the air. 3. to flick: *to flip a crumb across the room*. 4. (foll. by *through*) to read or look at (a book, etc.) quickly, idly, or incompletely. 5. (intr.) to make a snapping movement or noise with the finger and thumb. 6. (intr.) *Sl.*, chiefly U.S. to fly into a rage or an emotional outburst (also in **flip one's lid**, **flip one's top**). ~n. 7. a snap or tap, usually with the fingers. 8. a rapid jerk. 9. any alcoholic drink containing beaten egg. ~adj. 10. U.S. inf. flippant or pert.

flip-flop *n.* 1. a backward handspring. 2. an electronic device or circuit that can assume either of two stable states by the application of a suitable pulse. 3. a complete change of opinion, policy, etc. 4. a repeated flapping noise. 5. Also called (esp. U.S.): **thong**. a rubber-soled sandal attached to the foot by a thong between the big toe and the next toe. ~vb. **-flogging, -flopped**. 6. (intr.) to move with repeated flaps.

flippant ('flɪpənt) *adj.* 1. marked by inappropriate levity; frivolous. 2. impertinent; saucy. —'flippancy *n.* —'flippantly *adv.*

flipper ('flɪpə) *n.* 1. the flat broad limb of seals, whales, etc., specialized for swimming. 2. (often pl.) either of a pair of rubber paddle-like devices worn on the feet as an aid in swimming.

flip side *n.* the less important side of a pop record.

flirt ('flɜ:t) *vb.* 1. (intr.) to behave or act amorously without emotional commitment. 2. (intr.; usually foll. by *with*) to deal playfully or carelessly (with something dangerous or serious): *the motorcyclist flirted with death*. 3. (intr.; usually foll. by *with*) to toy (with): *to flirt with the idea of leaving*. 4. (intr.) to dart; flit. 5. (tr.) to flick or toss. ~n. 6. a person who acts flirtatiously. —'flirter *n.*

flirtation ('flɜ:t'eɪʃən) *n.* 1. behaviour intended to arouse sexual feelings or advances without emotional commitment. 2. any casual involvement.

flirtatious ('flɜ:t'eɪʃəs) *adj.* 1. given to flirtation. 2. expressive of playful sexual invitation: a *flirtatious glance*. —'flirtatiously *adv.*

flit ('flɪt) *vb.* **flitting, flitted**. (intr.) 1. to move along rapidly and lightly. 2. to fly rapidly and lightly. 3. to pass quickly: *a memory flitted into his mind*. 4. *Scot. & N. English dialect*. to move house. 5. *Brit. inf.* to depart hurriedly and stealthily in order to avoid obligations. ~n. 6. the act or an instance of flitting. 7. *Brit. inf.* a hurried and stealthy departure in order to avoid obligations. —'flitter *n.*

flitch ('flɪtʃ) *n.* 1. a side of pork salted and cured. 2. a piece of timber cut lengthways from a tree trunk.

flitter ('flɪtə) *vb.* a less common word for **flutter**.

flittermouse ('flɪtə,maʊs) *n.*, pl. **-mice**. a dialect name for bat.

float ('fləʊt) *vb.* 1. to rest or cause to rest on the surface of a fluid or in a fluid or space without sinking: *oil floats on water*. 2. to move or cause to move buoyantly, lightly, or freely across a surface or through air, water, etc. 3. to move about aimlessly, esp. in the mind: *thoughts floated before him*. 4. (tr.) a. to launch or establish (a commercial enterprise, etc.). b. to offer for sale (stock or bond issues, etc.) on the stock market. 5. (tr.) Finance. to allow (a currency) to fluctuate against other currencies in accordance with market forces. 6. (tr.) to flood, inundate, or irrigate (land). ~n. 7. something that floats. 8. **Angling**. an indicator attached to a baited line that sits on the water and moves when a fish bites. 9. a small hand tool with a rectangular blade used for smoothing plaster, etc. 10. Also called: **paddle**. a blade of a paddle wheel. 11. *Brit.* a buoyant garment or device to aid a person in staying afloat. 12. a structure fitted to the underside of an aircraft to allow it to land on water. 13. a motor vehicle used to carry a tableau or exhibit in a parade, esp. a civic parade. 14. a small delivery vehicle, esp. one powered by batteries: a *milk float*. 15. *Austral. & N.Z.* a vehicle for transporting horses. 16. a sum of money used by shopkeepers to provide change at the start of the day's business. 17. the hollow floating ball of a ballcock. —'floatable *adj.* —'floatability *n.* —'floaty *adj.*

floatation ('fləʊ'teɪʃən) *n.* a variant spelling of **flotation**.

floating ('fləʊtɪŋ) *adj.* 1. having little or no attachment. 2. (of an organ or part) displaced from the normal position or abnormally movable: a *floating kidney*. 3. uncommitted or unfixed: *floating voters*. 4. Finance. a. (of capital) available for current use. b. (of debt) short-term and unfunded, usually raised to meet current expenses. c. (of a currency) free to fluctuate against other currencies in accordance with market forces. —'floatingly *adv.*

floats ('fləʊts) *pl. n.* Theatre. another word for **footlights**.

flocculent ('flɒkjələnt) *adj.* 1. like wool; fleecy. 2. Chem. aggregated in woolly cloudlike masses: a *flocculent precipitate*. 3. Biol. covered with tufts or flakes. —'flocculence *n.*

flock¹ ('flɒk) *n.* (sometimes functioning as pl.) 1. a group of animals of one kind, esp. sheep or birds. 2. a large number of people. 3. a body of Christians regarded as the pastoral charge of a priest, bishop, etc. ~vb. (intr.) 4. to gather together or move in a flock. 5. to go in large numbers: *people flocked to the church*.

flock² ('flɒk) *n.* 1. a tuft, as of wool, hair, cotton, etc. 2. waste from fabrics such as cotton or wool used for stuffing mattresses, etc. 3. Also called: **flocking**. very small tufts of wool applied to fabrics, wallpaper, etc., to give a raised pattern. —'flocky *adj.*

floe ('fləʊ) *n.* See ice **floe**.

flog ('flɒg) *vb.* **flogging, flogged**. 1. (tr.) to beat harshly, esp. with a whip, strap, etc. 2. *Brit. sl.* to sell. 3. (intr.) to make progress by painful work. 4. **flog a dead horse**. to pursue a line of attack or argument from which no results can come. —'flogger *n.*

flood ('flʌd) *n.* 1. a. the inundation of land that is normally dry through the overflowing of a body of water,

esp. a river. **b.** the state of a river that is at an abnormally high level. Related adj.: **diluvial**. **2. a** great outpouring or flow; **a flood of words**. **3. a.** the rising of the tide from low to high water. **b.** (as modifier): *the flood tide*. Cf. **ebb** (sense 3). **4.** Theatre. short for **floodlight**. ~vb. **5.** (of water) to inundate or submerge (land) or (of land) to be inundated or submerged. **6.** to fill or be filled to overflowing, as with a flood. **7.** (intr.) to flow; surge: *relief flooded through him*. **8.** to supply an excessive quantity of petrol to (a carburettor or petrol engine) or (of a carburettor, etc.) to be supplied with such an excess. **9.** (intr.) to overflow. **10.** (intr.) to bleed profusely from the uterus, as following childbirth.

Flood (flʌd) *n.* **Old Testament**. the flood from which Noah and his family and livestock were saved in the ark (Genesis 7-8).

floodgate ('flʌd,geɪt) *n.* **1.** Also called: **head gate**, **water gate**, a gate in a sluice that is used to control the flow of water. **2.** (often pl.) a control or barrier against an outpouring or flow.

floodlight ('flʌd,lait) *n.* **1.** a broad intense beam of artificial light, esp. as used in the theatre or to illuminate the exterior of buildings. **2.** the lamp producing such light. ~vb. **-lighting**, **-lit**. **3.** (tr.) to illuminate as by floodlight.

floor (flɔː) *n.* **1.** Also called: **flooring**, the inner lower surface of a room. **2.** a storey of a building: *the second floor*. **3.** a flat bottom surface in or on any structure: *a dance floor*. **4.** the bottom surface of a tunnel, cave, sea, etc. **5.** that part of a legislative hall in which debate and other business is conducted. **6.** the right to speak in a legislative body (esp. in **get, have, or be given the floor**). **7.** the room in a stock exchange where trading takes place. **8.** the earth; ground. **9.** a minimum price charged or paid. **10.** **take the floor**, to begin dancing on a dance floor. ~vb. **11.** to cover with or construct a floor. **12.** (tr.) to knock to the floor or ground. **13.** (tr.) *Inf.* to disconcert, confound, or defeat.

floorboard ('flɔː,bɔːd) *n.* one of the boards forming a floor.

flooring ('flɔːrɪŋ) *n.* **1.** the material used in making a floor. **2.** another word for **floor** (sense 1).

floor plan *n.* a drawing to scale of the arrangement of rooms on one floor of a building.

floor show *n.* a series of entertainments, such as singing and dancing, performed in a nightclub.

floozy, floozie, or floosie ('fluːzi) *n.*, pl. **-zies or -sies**. *Sl.* a disreputable woman.

flop (flɒp) *vb.* **flopping, flopped**. **1.** (intr.) to bend, fall, or collapse loosely or carelessly: *his head flopped backwards*. **2.** (when intr., often foll. by *into, onto, etc.*) to fall, cause to fall, or move with a sudden noise. **3.** (intr.) *Inf.* to fail: *the scheme flopped*. **4.** (intr.) to fall flat onto the surface of water. **5.** (intr.; often foll. by *out*) *Sl.* to go to sleep. ~n. **6.** the act of flopping. **7.** *Inf.* a complete failure. —'floppy adj.

floppy disk *n.* a flexible magnetic disk that stores information and can be used to store data in the memory of a digital computer.

flora ('flɔːrə) *n.*, pl. **-ras or -rae** (-riː). **1.** all the plant life of a given place or time. **2.** a descriptive list of such plants, often including a key for identification.

floral ('flɔːrəl) *adj.* **1.** decorated with or consisting of flowers or patterns of flowers. **2.** of or associated with flowers. —'florally adv.

Florentine ('flɒrən,tain) *adj.* **1.** of or relating to Florence, in Italy. ~n. **2.** a native or inhabitant of Florence.

floret ('flɒrɪt) *n.* a small flower, esp. one of many making up the head of a composite flower.

floribunda ('flɔːrɪ'bʌndə) *n.* any of several varieties of cultivated hybrid roses whose flowers grow in large sprays.

florid ('flɒrɪd) *adj.* **1.** having a red or flushed complexion. **2.** excessively ornate; flowery: *florid architecture*. —'floridity *n.* —'floridly adv.

florin ('flɒrɪn) *n.* **1.** a former British coin, originally silver, equivalent to ten (new) pence. **2.** (formerly) another name for **guilder** (sense 1).

florist ('flɒrɪst) *n.* a person who grows or deals in flowers.

floss (flɒs) *n.* **1.** the mass of fine silky fibres obtained from cotton and similar plants. **2.** any similar fine silky material. **3.** untwisted silk thread used in embroidery, etc. **4.** Also called: **dental floss**, a waxed thread used to remove food particles from between teeth. —'flossy *adj.*

flotation or floatation (fləʊ'teɪʃən) *n.* **1. a.** the launching or financing of a commercial enterprise by bond or share issues. **b.** the raising of a loan or new capital by bond or share issues. **2.** power or ability to float. **3.** Also called: **froth flotation**, a process to concentrate the valuable ore in low-grade ores by using induced differences in surface tension to carry the valuable fraction to the surface.

flotilla (flə'tɪlə) *n.* a small fleet or a fleet of small vessels.

flotsam ('flɒtsəm) *n.* **1.** wreckage from a ship found floating. Cf. **jetsam**. **2.** odds and ends (esp. in **flotsam and jetsam**). **3.** vagrants.

flounce¹ ('flaʊns) *vb.* **1.** (intr.; often foll. by *about, away, out, etc.*) to move or go with emphatic movements. ~n. **2.** the act of flouncing.

flounce² ('flaʊns) *n.* an ornamental gathered ruffle sewn to a garment by its top edge.

flounder¹ ('flaʊndə) *vb.* (intr.) **1.** to move with difficulty, as in mud. **2.** to make mistakes. ~n. **3.** the act of floundering.

flounder² ('flaʊndə) *n.*, pl. **-der or -ders**, a European flatfish having a greyish-brown body covered with prickly scales: an important food fish.

flour ('flaʊə) *n.* **1.** a powder, which may be either fine or coarse, prepared by grinding the meal of a grass, esp. wheat. **2.** any finely powdered substance. ~vb. **3.** (tr.) to make (grain, etc.) into flour. **4.** (tr.) to dredge or sprinkle (food or utensils) with flour. —'floury *adj.*

flourish ('flaʊrɪ) *vb.* **1.** (intr.) to thrive; prosper. **2.** (intr.) to be at the peak of condition. **3.** (intr.) to be healthy: *plants flourish in the light*. **4.** to wave or cause to wave in the air with sweeping strokes. **5.** to display or make a display. **6.** to play (a fanfare, etc.) on a musical instrument. ~n. **7.** the act of waving or brandishing. **8.** a showy gesture: *he entered with a flourish*. **9.** an ornamental embellishment in writing. **10.** a display of ornamental language or speech. **11.** a grandiose passage of music. —'flourisher *n.*

flout (flaʊt) *vb.* (when intr., usually foll. by *at*) to show contempt (for). —'floutingly *adv.*

flow (fləʊ) *vb.* (mainly intr.) **1.** (of liquids) to move or be conveyed as in a stream. **2.** (of blood) to circulate around the body. **3.** to move or progress freely as if in a stream: *the crowd flowed into the building*. **4.** to be produced continuously and effortlessly: *ideas flowed from her pen*. **5.** to be marked by smooth or easy movement. **6.** to hang freely or loosely: *her hair flowed down her back*. **7.** to be present in abundance: *wine flows at their parties*. **8.** (of tide water) to advance or rise. Cf. **ebb** (sense 1). **9.** (of rocks such as slate) to yield to pressure so that the structure and arrangement of the constituent minerals are altered. ~n. **10.** the act, rate, or manner of flowing: *a fast flow*. **11.** a continuous stream or discharge. **12.** continuous progression. **13.** the advancing of the tide. **14.** *Scot.* a marsh or swamp. **b.** an inlet or basin of the sea. **c.** (cap. when part of a name): *Scapa Flow*.

flow chart or sheet *n.* a diagrammatic representation of the sequence of operations in an industrial process, computer program, etc.

flower ('flaʊə) *n.* **1. a.** a bloom or blossom on a plant. **b.** a plant that bears blooms or blossoms. **2.** the reproductive structure of angiosperm plants, consisting of stamens and carpels surrounded by petals and sepals. In some plants it is brightly coloured and attracts insects for pollination. Related adj.: **floral**. **3.** any similar reproductive structure in other plants. **4.** the prime; peak: *in the flower of his youth*. **5.** the choice or finest product, part, or representative. **6.** a decoration or embellishment. **7.** (pl.) fine powder, usually produced by sublimation: *flowers of sulphur*. ~vb. **8.** (intr.) to produce flowers; bloom. **9.** (intr.) to reach full growth or maturity. **10.** (tr.) to deck or decorate with flowers or floral designs. —'flowerless *adj.* —'flower-like *adj.*

flowered ('flaʊəd) *adj.* **1.** having flowers. **2.** decorated with flowers or a floral design.

flowerpot ('flaʊə,pɒt) *n.* a pot in which plants are grown.

flowery ('flaʊəri) *adj.* **1.** abounding in flowers. **2.** decorated with flowers or floral patterns. **3.** like or suggestive of flowers. **4.** (of language or style) elaborate. —'floweriness *n.*

flown (fləʊn) *vb.* the past participle of **fly¹**.

fl. oz. *abbrev.* for fluid ounce.

flu (fluː) *n.* *Inf.* **1.** (often preceded by *the*) short for **influenza**. **2.** any of various viral infections, esp. a respiratory or intestinal infection.

fluctuate ('flʌktju,eɪt) *vb.* 1. to change or cause to change position constantly. 2. (*intr.*) to rise and fall like a wave. — **'fluctuant** *adj.* — **'fluctuation** *n.*

flue (flu:) *n.* a shaft, tube, or pipe, esp. as used in a chimney, to carry off smoke, gas, etc.

fluent ('flu:ənt) *adj.* 1. able to speak or write a specified foreign language with facility. 2. spoken or written with facility. 3. graceful in motion or shape. 4. flowing or able to flow freely. — **'fluency** *n.* — **'fluently** *adv.*

fluff (flʌf) *n.* 1. soft light particles, such as the down or nap of cotton or wool. 2. any light downy substance. 3. *Inf.* a mistake, esp. in speaking or reading lines or performing music. 4. *Inf.* a young woman (esp. in a bit of fluff). ~*vb.* 5. to make or become soft and puffy. 6. *Inf.* to make a mistake in performing (an action, music, etc.). — **'fluffy** *adj.*

fluid ('fluɪd) *n.* 1. a substance, such as a liquid or gas, that can flow, has no fixed shape, and offers little resistance to an external stress. ~*adj.* 2. capable of flowing and easily changing shape. 3. of or using a fluid or fluids. 4. constantly changing or apt to change. 5. flowing. — **'fluidal** *adj.* — **'fluidity** or **'fluidness** *n.*

fluid ounce *n.* 1. *Brit.* a unit of capacity equal to one twentieth of an Imperial pint. 2. *U.S.* a unit of capacity equal to one sixteenth of a U.S. pint.

flake¹ ('flu:k) *n.* 1. a flat bladelike projection at the end of the arm of an anchor. 2. either of the two lobes of the tail of a whale. 3. the barb of a harpoon, arrow, etc.

flake² ('flu:k) *n.* 1. an accidental stroke of luck. 2. any chance happening. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to gain, make, or hit by a fluke. — **'fluky** *adj.*

flake³ ('flu:k) *n.* any parasitic flatworm, such as the blood fluke and liver fluke.

flummery ('flʌməri) *n.*, *pl.* -*meries*. 1. *Inf.* meaningless flattery. 2. *Chiefly Brit.* a cold pudding of oatmeal, etc.

flummox ('flʌmɒks) *vb.* (*tr.*) to perplex or bewilder.

flung (flʌŋ) *vb.* the past tense or past participle of **fling**.

flunk (flʌŋk) *Inf.*, *U.S.* & *N.Z.* ~*vb.* 1. to fail or cause to fail to reach the required standard in (an examination, course, etc.). 2. (*intr.*; foll. by *out*) to be dismissed from a school.

flunky or flunkey ('flʌŋki) *n.*, *pl.* *flunkies* or *flunkies*. 1. a servile person. 2. a person who performs menial tasks. 3. *Usually derog.* a manservant in livery.

fluor ('flu:ə) *n.* another name for **fluorspar**.

fluoresce ('fluə:res) *vb.* (*intr.*) to exhibit fluorescence.

fluorescence ('fluə:resəns) *n.* 1. *Physics.* a. the emission of light or other radiation from atoms or molecules that are bombarded by particles, such as electrons, or by radiation from a separate source. b. such an emission of photons that ceases as soon as the bombarding radiation is discontinued. 2. the radiation emitted as a result of fluorescence. Cf. **phosphorescence**. — **'fluorescent** *adj.*

fluorescent lamp *n.* a type of lamp in which ultraviolet radiation from an electrical gas discharge causes a thin layer of phosphor on a tube's inside surface to fluoresce.

fluoridate ('fluəri:deɪt) *vb.* to subject (water) to fluoridation. — **'fluoridation** *n.*

fluoride ('fluə:raɪd) *n.* 1. any salt of hydrofluoric acid, containing the fluoride ion, F⁻. 2. any compound containing fluorine, such as methyl fluoride.

fluorinate ('fluəri:neɪt) *vb.* to treat or combine with fluorine. — **'fluorination** *n.*

fluorine ('fluəri:n) *n.* a toxic pungent pale yellow gas of the halogen group that is the most electronegative and reactive of all the elements: used in the production of uranium, fluorocarbons, and other chemicals. Symbol: F; atomic no. 9; atomic wt. 18.998.

fluorite ('fluəraɪt) *n.* the U.S. name for **fluorspar**.

fluorspar ('fluə:spɑ:, **fluor**, or *U.S.* **fluorite**) *n.* a soft often fluorescent mineral consisting of calcium fluoride in crystalline form: the chief source of fluorine and its compounds.

flurry ('flʌtri) *n.*, *pl.* -*ries*. 1. a sudden commotion. 2. a light gust of wind or rain or fall of snow. ~*vb.* -*rying*, -*ried*. 3. to confuse or bewilder or be confused or bewildered.

flush¹ (flʌʃ) *vb.* 1. to blush or cause to blush. 2. to flow or flood or cause to flow or flood with or as if with water. 3. to glow or shine or cause to glow or shine with a rosy colour. 4. to send a volume of water quickly through (a pipe, etc.) or into (a toilet) for the purpose of cleansing, etc. 5. (*tr.*; usually *passive*) to excite or elate. ~*n.* 6. a rosy colour, esp. in the cheeks. 7. a sudden flow or gush, as of water. 8. a feeling of excitement or elation: the

flush of success. 9. freshness: *the flush of youth*. 10. redness of the skin, as from the effects of a fever, alcohol, etc. — **'flusher** *n.*

flush² (flʌʃ) *adj.* (usually *postpositive*) 1. level or even with another surface. 2. directly adjacent; continuous. 3. *Inf.* having plenty of money. 4. *Inf.* abundant or plentiful, as money. 5. full to the brim. ~*adv.* 6. so as to be level or even. 7. directly or squarely. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 8. to cause (surfaces) to be on the same level or in the same plane. ~*n.* 9. a period of fresh growth of leaves, shoots, etc. — **'flushness** *n.*

flush³ (flʌʃ) *vb.* (*tr.*) to rouse (game, etc.) and put to flight.

flush⁴ (flʌʃ) *n.* (in poker and similar games) a hand containing only one suit.

fluster ('flʌstə) *vb.* 1. to make or become nervous or upset. ~*n.* 2. a state of confusion or agitation.

flute (flu:t) *n.* 1. a wind instrument consisting of an open cylindrical tube of wood or metal having holes in the side stopped either by the fingers or by pads controlled by keys. The breath is directed across a mouth hole cut in the side. 2. *Archit.* a rounded shallow concave groove on the shaft of a column, pilaster, etc. ~*vb.* 3. to produce or utter (sounds) in the manner or tone of a flute. 4. (*tr.*) to make grooves or furrows in. — **'flute,like** *adj.* — **'fluty** *adj.*

fluting ('flu:tɪŋ) *n.* a design or decoration of flutes on a column, pilaster, etc.

flutter ('flʌtə) *vb.* 1. to wave or cause to wave rapidly. 2. (*intr.*) (of birds, butterflies, etc.) to flap the wings. 3. (*intr.*) to move, esp. downwards, with an irregular motion. 4. (*intr.*) *Pathol.* (of the heart) to beat abnormally rapidly, esp. in a regular rhythm. 5. to be or make nervous or restless. 6. (*intr.*) to move about restlessly. ~*n.* 7. a quick flapping or vibrating motion. 8. a state of nervous excitement or confusion. 9. excited interest; stir. 10. *Brit. inf.* a modest bet or wager. 11. *Pathol.* an abnormally rapid beating of the heart, esp. in a regular rhythm. 12. *Electronics.* a slow variation in pitch in a sound-reproducing system, similar to wow but occurring at higher frequencies. 13. a potentially dangerous oscillation of an aircraft, or part of an aircraft. 14. Also called: **flutter tonguing**. *Music.* a method of sounding a wind instrument, esp. the flute, with a rolling movement of the tongue. — **'flutterer** *n.* — **'fluttery** *adj.*

fluvial ('flu:vɪəl) *adj.* of or occurring in a river: *fluvial deposits*.

flux (flʌks) *n.* 1. a flow or discharge. 2. continuous change; instability. 3. a substance, such as borax or salt, that gives a low melting-point mixture with a metal oxide to assist in fusion. 4. *Metallurgy.* a chemical used to increase the fluidity of refining slags. 5. *Physics.* a. the rate of flow of particles, energy, or a fluid, such as that of neutrons (**neutron flux**) or of light energy (**luminous flux**). b. the strength of a field in a given area: *magnetic flux*. 6. *Pathol.* an excessive discharge of fluid from the body, such as watery faeces in diarrhoea. ~*vb.* 7. to make or become fluid. 8. (*tr.*) to apply flux to (a metal, soldered joint, etc.).

fly¹ (flaɪ) *vb.* **flying**, **flew**, **flown**. 1. (*intr.*) (of birds, aircraft, etc.) to move through the air in a controlled manner using aerodynamic forces. 2. to travel over (an area of land or sea) in an aircraft. 3. to operate (an aircraft or spacecraft). 4. to float, flutter, or be displayed in the air or cause to float, etc., in this way: *they flew the flag*. 5. to transport or be transported by or through the air by aircraft, wind, etc. 6. (*intr.*) to move or be moved very quickly, or suddenly: *the door flew open*. 7. (*intr.*) to pass swiftly: *time flies*. 8. to escape from (an enemy, place, etc.); flee. 9. (*intr.*; may be foll. by *at* or *upon*) to attack a person. 10. **fly a kite**. a. to procure money by an accommodation bill. b. to experiment with something. 11. **fly high**. *Inf.* a. to have a high aim. b. to prosper or flourish. 12. **fly off the handle**. *Inf.* to lose one's temper. 13. **let fly**. *Inf.* a. to lose one's temper (with a person): *she really let fly at him*. b. to shoot or throw (an object). ~*n.*, *pl.* **flies**. 14. (*often pl.*) Also called: **fly front**. a closure that conceals a zip, buttons, or other fastening, by having one side overlapping, as on trousers. 15. a. a flap forming the entrance to a tent. b. a piece of canvas drawn over the ridgepole of a tent to form an outer roof. 16. short for **flywheel**. 17. a. the outer edge of a flag. b. the distance from the outer edge of a flag to the staff. 18. *Brit.* a light one-horse covered carriage formerly let out on hire. 19. (*pl.*) *Theatre.* the space above the stage out of view of the audience, used for storing scenery, etc. 20. *Rare.* the act of flying. — **'flyable** *adj.*

fly² ('flai) *n.*, *pl.* **flies**. 1. any dipterous insect, esp. the housefly, characterized by active flight. 2. any of various similar but unrelated insects, such as the caddis fly, firefly, and dragonfly. 3. **Angling**, a lure made from a fish-hook dressed with feathers, tinsel, etc., to resemble any of various flies or nymphs: used in fly-fishing. 4. **fly in the ointment**. *Inf.* a slight flaw that detracts from value or enjoyment. 5. there are no flies on him, her, etc. *Inf.* he, she, etc., is no fool. — **flyless** *adj.*

fly³ ('flai) *adj.* *Sl.*, chiefly *Brit.* knowing and sharp; smart.

fiyaway ('flaiə,wei) *adj.* 1. (of hair or clothing) loose and fluttering. 2. frivolous or flighty; giddy.

flyblown ('flai,bləʊn) *adj.* 1. covered with the eggs or larvae of the blowfly. 2. contaminated; tainted.

fly-by-night *Inf.* ~*adj.* 1. unreliable or untrustworthy, esp. in finance. ~*n.* 2. an untrustworthy person, esp. one who departs secretly or by night to avoid paying debts.

flycatcher ('flai,kætʃə) *n.* 1. a small insectivorous songbird of the Old World having a small slender bill fringed with bristles. 2. an American passerine bird.

flyer ('flaiə) *n.* a variant spelling of **flier**.

fly-fish *vb.* (*intr.*) **Angling**. to fish using artificial flies as lures. — **fly-fishing** *n.*

flying ('flaɪn) *adj.* 1. (*prenominal*) hurried; fleeting: a flying visit. 2. (*prenominal*) designed for fast action. 3. hanging, waving, or floating freely: flying hair. ~*n.* 4. the act of piloting, navigating, or travelling in an aircraft. 5. (*modifier*) relating to, accustomed to, or adapted for flight: a flying machine. 6. (*modifier*) moving or passing quickly on or as if on wings: flying hours.

flying boat *n.* a seaplane in which the fuselage consists of a hull that provides buoyancy.

flying buttress *n.* a buttress supporting a wall or other structure by an arch that transmits the thrust outwards and downwards.

flying colours *pl. n.* conspicuous success; triumph: he passed his test with flying colours.

flying doctor *n.* (in areas of sparse or scattered population) a doctor who visits patients by aircraft.

flying fish *n.* a fish common in warm and tropical seas, having enlarged winglike pectoral fins used for gliding above the surface of the water.

flying fox *n.* 1. any large fruit bat of tropical Africa and Asia. 2. *Austral.* a cable mechanism used for transportation across a river, gorge, etc.

flying officer *n.* an officer holding commissioned rank senior to a pilot officer but junior to a flight lieutenant in the British and certain other air forces.

flying saucer *n.* any unidentified disc-shaped flying object alleged to come from outer space.

flying squad *n.* a small group of police, soldiers, etc., ready to move into action quickly.

flying start *n.* 1. (in sprinting) a start by a competitor anticipating the starting signal. 2. a start to a race in which the competitor is already travelling at speed as he passes the starting line. 3. any promising beginning. 4. an initial advantage.

flying wing *n.* 1. an aircraft consisting mainly of one large wing and no fuselage. 2. in Canadian football, the twelfth player, who has a variable position behind the scrimmage line.

flyleaf ('flai,li:f) *n.*, *pl.* **-leaves**. the inner leaf of the endpaper of a book, pasted to the first leaf.

flover ('flai,vəʊə) *n.* 1. *Brit.* an intersection of two roads at which one is carried over the other by a bridge. 2. the U.S. name for a **fly-past**.

flypaper ('flai,peɪpə) *n.* paper with a sticky and poisonous coating, usually hung from the ceiling to trap flies.

fly-past *n.* a ceremonial flight of aircraft over a given area.

fly sheet *n.* 1. another term for **fly**¹ (sense 15). 2. a short handbill.

fly spray *n.* a liquid used to destroy flies and other insects, sprayed from an aerosol.

flytrap ('flai,træp) *n.* 1. any of various insectivorous plants. 2. a device for catching flies.

flyweight ('flai,wet) *n.* 1. a. a professional boxer weighing not more than 112 pounds (51 kg). b. an amateur boxer weighing 48-51 kg (106-112 pounds). 2. (in Olympic wrestling) a wrestler not more than 115 pounds (52 kg).

flywheel ('flai,wheel) *n.* a heavy wheel that stores kinetic energy and smoothes the operation of a reciprocating engine by maintaining a constant speed of rotation over the whole cycle.

Fm the chemical symbol for fermium.

FM abbrev. for frequency modulation.

fm. abbrev. for: 1. Also: **fm** fathom. 2. from.

F.M. abbrev. for Field Marshal.

f-number or **f number** *n.* *Photog.* the numerical value of the relative aperture. If the relative aperture is $f/8$, 8 is the f-number.

fo. abbrev. for folio.

F.O. abbrev. for: 1. *Army.* Field Officer. 2. *Air Force.* Flying Officer. 3. *Foreign Office.*

foal ('fəʊl) *n.* 1. the young of a horse or related animal. ~*vb.* 2. to give birth to (a foal).

foam ('fəʊm) *n.* 1. a mass of small bubbles of gas formed on the surface of a liquid, such as the froth produced by a solution of soap or detergent in water. 2. frothy saliva sometimes formed in and expelled from the mouth, as in rabies. 3. the frothy sweat of a horse or similar animal. 4. a. any of a number of light cellular solids made by creating bubbles of gas in the liquid material: used as insulation and packaging. b. (*as modifier*): foam rubber; foam plastic. ~*vb.* 5. to produce or cause to produce foam; froth. 6. (*intr.*) to be very angry (esp. in foam at the mouth). — **foamless** *adj.* — **foamy** *adj.*

fob¹ ('fɒb) *n.* 1. a chain or ribbon by which a pocket watch is attached to a waistcoat. 2. any ornament hung on such a chain. 3. a small pocket in a man's waistcoat, etc., for holding a watch.

fob² ('fɒb) *vb.* **fobbing, fobbed.** (*tr.*) *Arch.* cheat.

f.o.b. or **F.O.B.** *Commerce.* abbrev. for free on board.

fob off *vb.* (*tr.*, *adv.*) 1. to trick (a person) with lies or excuses. 2. to dispose of (goods) by trickery.

focal ('fəʊkəl) *adj.* 1. of or relating to a focus. 2. situated at or measured from the focus.

focal length or **distance** *n.* the distance from the focal point of a lens or mirror to the reflecting surface of the mirror or the centre point of the lens.

fo'c's'le or **fo'c's'le** ('fəʊk's'l) *n.* a variant spelling of **forecastle**.

focus ('fəʊkəs) *n.*, *pl.* **-cuses** or **-ci** (-sai). 1. a point of convergence of light or sound waves, etc., or a point from which they appear to diverge. 2. *Optics.* the state of an optical image when it is distinct and clearly defined or the state of an instrument producing this image: the telescope is out of focus. 3. a point upon which attention, activity, etc., is concentrated. 4. *Geom.* a fixed reference point on the concave side of a conic section, used when defining its eccentricity. 5. the point beneath the earth's surface at which an earthquake originates. 6. *Pathol.* the main site of an infection. ~*vb.* **-cusing, -cused.** 7. to bring or come to a focus or into focus. 8. (*tr.*; often foll. by *on*) to concentrate. — **focuser** *n.*

fodder ('fɒdə) *n.* 1. bulk feed for livestock, esp. hay, straw, etc. ~*vb.* 2. (*tr.*) to supply (livestock) with fodder.

foe ('fəʊ) *n.* *Formal* or *literary.* another word for **enemy**.

foetid ('fetɪd, 'fi:tɪd) *adj.* a variant spelling of **fetid**. — **foetidly** *adv.* — **foetidness** *n.*

foetus or **fetus** ('fɪtəs) *n.*, *pl.* **-tuses**. the embryo of a mammal in the later stages of development, esp. a human embryo from the end of the second month of pregnancy until birth. — **foetal** *adj.*

fog ('fɒg) *n.* 1. a mass of droplets of condensed water vapour suspended in the air, often greatly reducing visibility. 2. a cloud of any substance in the atmosphere reducing visibility. 3. a state of mental uncertainty. 4. *Photog.* a blurred area on a developed negative, print, or transparency. ~*vb.* **fogging, fogged.** 5. to envelop or become enveloped with or as if with fog. 6. to confuse or become confused. 7. *Photog.* to produce fog on (a negative, print, or transparency) or (of a negative, print, or transparency) to be affected by fog. — **'foggy** *adj.*

fog bank *n.* a distinct mass of fog, esp. at sea.

fogbound ('fɒg,baʊnd) *adj.* prevented from operation by fog: the airport was fogbound.

foghorn ('fɒg,hɔ:n) *n.* 1. a mechanical instrument sounded at intervals to serve as a warning to vessels in fog. 2. *Inf.* a loud deep resounding voice.

fogy or **fogey** ('fəʊgi) *n.*, *pl.* **-gies** or **-geys**. an extremely fussy or conservative person (esp. in old fogy). — **'fogyish** or **'fogeish** *adj.*

foible ('fɔɪbl) *n.* 1. a slight peculiarity or minor weakness; idiosyncrasy. 2. the most vulnerable part of a sword's blade, from the middle to the tip.

foil¹ ('fɔɪl) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to baffle or frustrate (a person, attempt, etc.). 2. *Hunting.* (of hounds, hunters, etc.) to obliterate the scent left by a hunted animal or (of a

hunted animal) to run back over its own trail. ~*n.* 3. Arch. a setback or defeat. —**foillable** *adj.*

foil¹ (fɔɪl) *n.* 1. metal in the form of very thin sheets: *tin foil*. 2. the thin metallic sheet forming the backing of a mirror. 3. a thin leaf of shiny metal set under a gemstone to add brightness or colour. 4. a person or thing that gives contrast to another. 5. Archit. a small arc between cusps. 6. short for **hydrofoil**. ~*vb.* (tr.) 7. Also: **foliate**. Archit. to ornament (windows, etc.) with foils.

foil² (fɔɪl) *n.* a light slender flexible sword tipped by a button.

foist (fɔɪst) *vb.* (tr.) 1. (often foll. by *off* or *on*) to sell or pass off (something, esp. an inferior article) as genuine, valuable, etc. 2. (usually foll. by *in* or *into*) to insert surreptitiously or wrongfully.

fold¹ (fəʊld) *vb.* 1. to bend or be bent double so that one part covers another. 2. (tr.) to bring together and intertwine (the arms, legs, etc.). 3. (tr.) (of birds, insects, etc.) to close (the wings) together from an extended position. 4. (tr.; often foll. by *up* or *in*) to enclose in or as if in a surrounding material. 5. (tr.; foll. by *in*) to clasp (a person) in the arms. 6. (tr.; usually foll. by *round*, *about*, etc.) to wind (around); entwine. 7. Also: **fold in**. (tr.) to mix (a whisked mixture) with other ingredients by gently turning one part over the other with a spoon. 8. (intr.; often foll. by *up*) *Inf.* to collapse; fail: *the business folded*. ~*n.* 9. a piece or section that has been folded: *a fold of cloth*. 10. a mark, crease, or hollow made by folding. 11. a hollow in undulating terrain. 12. a bend in stratified rocks that results from movements within the earth's crust. 13. a coil, as in a rope, etc. —**foldable** *adj.*

fold² (fəʊld) *n.* 1. a. a small enclosure or pen for sheep or other livestock, where they can be gathered. b. a flock of sheep. 2. a church or the members of it. ~*vb.* 3. (tr.) to gather or confine (sheep, etc.) in a fold.

-fold *suffix forming adjectives and adverbs.* having so many parts or being so many times as much or as many: *three-hundredfold*.

foldaway (ˈfəʊldəweɪ) *adj.* (*prenominal*) (of a bed, etc.) able to be folded away when not in use.

folder (ˈfəʊldə) *n.* 1. a binder or file for holding loose papers, etc. 2. a folded circular. 3. a person or thing that folds.

folderol (ˈfəʊldə, rɒl) *n.* a variant spelling of **falderal**.

folding door *n.* a door in the form of two or more vertical hinged leaves that can be folded one against another.

foliaceous (ˌfəʊliˈeɪʃəs) *adj.* 1. having the appearance of the leaf of a plant. 2. bearing leaves or leaflike structures. 3. Geol. consisting of thin layers.

foliage (ˈfəʊliɪdʒ) *n.* 1. the green leaves of a plant. 2. sprays of leaves used for decoration. 3. an ornamental leaf-like design.

foliation (ˌfəʊliˈeɪʃən) *n.* 1. Bot. a. the process of producing leaves. b. the state of being in leaf. c. the arrangement of leaves in a leaf bud. 2. Archit. ornamentation consisting of cusps and foils. 3. the consecutive numbering of the leaves of a book. 4. Geol. the arrangement of the constituents of a rock in leaflike layers, as in schists.

folio (ˈfəʊliəʊ) *n.*, *pl.* **-lios**. 1. a sheet of paper folded in half to make two leaves for a book. 2. a book of the largest common size made up of such sheets. 3. a. a leaf of paper numbered on the front side only. b. the page number of a book. 4. Law. a unit of measurement of the length of legal documents, determined by the number of words, generally 72 or 90 in Britain and 100 in the U.S. ~*adj.* 5. relating to or having the format of a folio: *a folio edition*.

folk (fɔːk) *n.*, *pl.* **folk** or **folks**. 1. (*functioning as pl.*; often *pl. in form*) people in general, esp. those of a particular group or class: *country folk*. 2. (*functioning as pl.*; usually *pl. in form*) *Inf.* members of a family. 3. (*functioning as sing.*) *Inf.* short for **folk music**. 4. a people or tribe. 5. (*modifier*) originating from or traditional to the common people of a country: *a folk song*. —**folkish** *adj.*

folk dance *n.* 1. any of various traditional rustic dances. 2. a piece of music composed for such a dance. —**folk dancing** *n.*

folk etymology *n.* the gradual change in the form of a word through the influence of a more familiar word or phrase with which it becomes associated, as for example *sparrow-grass* for *asparagus*.

folklore (ˈfɔːklɔː) *n.* 1. the unwritten literature of a

people as expressed in folk tales, songs, etc. 2. study of such materials. —**folkloric** *adj.* —**folklorist** *n.*, *adj.*

folk music *n.* 1. music that is passed on from generation to generation. 2. any music composed in this idiom.

folk song *n.* 1. a song which has been handed down among the common people. 2. a modern song which reflects the folk idiom.

folksy (ˈfɔːksɪ) *adj.* **-sier**, **-siest**. *Inf.*, chiefly U.S. 1. of or like ordinary people. 2. friendly; affable.

follicle (ˈfɒlɪkəl) *n.* 1. any small sac or cavity in the body having an excretory, secretory, or protective function: *a hair follicle*. 2. Bot. a dry fruit that splits along one side only to release its seeds. —**follicular** (ˈfɒlɪkjələ), **folliculate** (fɒˈlɪkjʊˌleɪt), or **folˈlicuˌlated** *adj.*

follow (ˈfɒləʊ) *vb.* 1. to go or come after in the same direction. 2. (tr.) to accompany: *she followed her sister everywhere*. 3. to come after as a logical or natural consequence. 4. (tr.) to keep to the course or track of: *she followed the towpath*. 5. (tr.) to act in accordance with: *to follow instructions*. 6. (tr.) to accept the ideas or beliefs of (a previous authority, etc.): *he followed Donne in most of his teachings*. 7. to understand (an explanation, etc.): *the lesson was difficult to follow*. 8. to watch closely or continuously: *she followed his progress*. 9. (tr.) to have a keen interest in: *to follow athletics*. 10. (tr.) to help in the cause of: *the men who followed Napoleon*. 11. **follow suit**. *a.* Cards. to play a card of the suit led. *b.* to do the same as someone else.

follower (ˈfɒləʊə) *n.* 1. a person who accepts the teachings of another: *a follower of Marx*. 2. an attendant. 3. a supporter, as of a sport or team. 4. (esp. formerly) a male admirer.

following (ˈfɒləʊɪŋ) *adj.* 1. *a.* (*prenominal*) about to be mentioned, specified, etc.: *the following items*. *b.* (*as n.*): *will the following please raise their hands?* 2. (of winds, currents, etc.) moving in the same direction as a vessel. ~*n.* 3. a group of supporters or enthusiasts: *he attracted a large following*.

follow-on *Cricket.* ~*n.* 1. an immediate second innings forced on a team scoring a prescribed number of runs fewer than its opponents in the first innings. ~*vb.*

follow on. 2. (*intr.*, *adv.*) (of a team) to play a follow-on.

follow up *vb.* (tr., *adv.*) 1. to pursue or investigate (a person, etc.) closely. 2. to continue (action) after a beginning, esp. to increase its effect. ~*n.* **follow-up**. 3. *a.* something done to reinforce an initial action. *b.* (*as modifier*): *a follow-up letter*. 4. Med. an examination of a patient at intervals after treatment.

folly (ˈfɒli) *n.*, *pl.* **-lies**. 1. the state or quality of being foolish. 2. a foolish action, idea, etc. 3. a building in the form of a castle, temple, etc., built to satisfy a fancy or conceit. 4. (*pl.*) Theatre. an elaborately costumed review.

foment (fəˈment) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to encourage or instigate (trouble, discord, etc.). 2. Med. to apply heat and moisture to (a part of the body) to relieve pain. —**fomentation** (ˌfəʊməntˈeɪʃən) *n.* —**fomenter** *n.*

fond (fɒnd) *adj.* 1. (*postpositive*; foll. by *of*) having a liking (for). 2. loving; tender. 3. indulgent: *a fond mother*. 4. Arch. or dialect. *a.* foolish. *b.* credulous. —**fondly** *adv.* —**fondness** *n.*

fondant (ˈfɒndənt) *n.* 1. a thick flavoured paste of sugar and water, used in sweets and icings. 2. a sweet made of this mixture.

fondle (ˈfɒndl) *vb.* (tr.) to touch or stroke tenderly. —**fondler** *n.*

fondue (ˈfɒndjuː; French fɔ̃ˈdy) *n.* a Swiss dish, consisting of melted cheese into which small pieces of bread are dipped.

font (fɒnt) *n.* 1. a large bowl for baptismal water. 2. the reservoir for oil in an oil lamp. 3. Arch. or poetic. a fountain or well.

fontanelle or **fontanel** (ˌfɒntəˈnɛl) *n.* Anat. any of the soft membranous gaps between the bones of the skull in a foetus or infant.

food (fuːd) *n.* 1. any substance that can be ingested by a living organism and metabolized into energy and body tissue. Related *adj.*: **alimentary**. 2. nourishment in more or less solid form: *food and drink*. 3. anything that provides mental nourishment or stimulus.

food poisoning *n.* an acute illness caused by food that is either naturally poisonous or contaminated by bacteria.

foodstuff (ˈfuːdstʌf) *n.* any material, substance, etc., that can be used as food.

fool¹ (fuːl) *n.* 1. a person who lacks sense or judgement.

2. a person who is made to appear ridiculous. **3.** (formerly) a professional jester living in a royal or noble household. **4.** *Obs.* an idiot or imbecile: *the village fool*. **5.** act or play the fool. to deliberately act foolishly. ~vb. **6.** (tr.) to deceive (someone), esp. in order to make him look ridiculous. **7.** (intr.; foll. by *with, around with, or about with*) *Inf.* to act or play (with) irresponsibly or aimlessly. **8.** (intr.) to speak or act in a playful or jesting manner. **9.** (tr.; foll. by *away*) to squander; fritter. ~adj. **10.** *U.S. Inf.* short for **foolish**.

fool¹ (fu:l) *n.* **Chiefly Brit.** a dessert made from a purée of fruit with cream.

foolery (fu:ləri) *n.*, pl. -eries. **1.** foolish behaviour. **2.** an instance of this.

foolhardy (fu:l,hɑ:di) *adj.* -hardier, -hardiest. heedlessly rash or adventurous. —'fool,hardily *adv.* —'fool,-hardiness *n.*

foolish (fu:liʃ) *adj.* **1.** unwise; silly. **2.** resulting from folly or stupidity. **3.** ridiculous or absurd. **4.** weak-minded; simple. —'foolishly *adv.* —'foolishness *n.*

foolproof (fu:l,pru:f) *adj. Inf.* **1.** proof against failure. **2.** (esp. of machines, etc.) proof against human misuse, error, etc.

foolscap (fu:lz,kæp) *n.* **Chiefly Brit.** a size of writing or printing paper, 13½ by 17 inches.

fool's errand *n.* a fruitless undertaking.

fool's paradise *n.* illusory happiness.

fool's-parsley *n.* an evil-smelling Eurasian umbelliferous plant with small white flowers.

foot (fʊt) *n.*, pl. **feet** (fi:t). **1.** the part of the vertebrate leg below the ankle joint that is in contact with the ground during standing and walking. Related *adj.* **pedal**. **2.** the part of a garment covering a foot. **3.** any of various organs of locomotion or attachment in invertebrates, including molluscs. **4.** *Bot.* the lower part of some plants or plant structures. **5.** a unit of length equal to one third of a yard or 12 inches. 1 foot is equivalent to 0.3048 metre. **6.** any part resembling a foot in form or function: *the foot of a chair*. **7.** the lower part of something; bottom: *the foot of a hill*. **8.** the end of a series or group: *the foot of the list*. **9.** manner of walking or moving: *a heavy foot*. **10.** a. infantry, esp. in the British army. *b.* (as *modifier*): *a foot soldier*. **11.** any of various attachments on a sewing machine that hold the fabric in position. **12.** *Prosody*. a group of two or more syllables in which one syllable has the major stress, forming the basic unit of poetic rhythm. **13.** *my foot* an expression of disbelief, often of the speaker's own preceding statement. **14.** of **foot**. *Arch.* in manner of movement: *fleet of foot*. **15.** on **foot**. a. walking or running. *b.* *astir*; *afoot*. **16.** one foot in the grave. *Inf.* near to death. **17.** put a foot wrong, to make a mistake. **18.** put one's best foot forward. *Inf.* a. to try to do one's best, esp. in order to give a good impression. *b.* to hurry. **19.** put one's foot down. *Inf.* to act firmly. **20.** put one's foot in it. *Inf.* to blunder. **21.** under foot. on the ground; beneath one's feet. ~vb. **22.** to dance to music (esp. in **foot it**). **23.** (tr.) to walk over or set foot on (esp. in **foot it**). **24.** (tr.) to pay the entire cost of (esp. in **foot the bill**). —'footless *adj.*

footage (fu:tɪdʒ) *n.* **1.** a length or distance measured in feet. **2.** the extent of film material shot and exposed.

foot-and-mouth disease *n.* an acute highly infectious viral disease of cattle, pigs, sheep, and goats, characterized by the formation of vesicular eruptions in the mouth and on the feet.

football (fu:t,bɔ:l) *n.* **1.** a. any of various games played with a round or oval ball and usually based on two teams competing to kick, butt, carry, or otherwise propel the ball into each other's goal, territory, etc. *b.* (as *modifier*): *a football supporter*. **2.** the ball used in any of these games or their variants. **3.** a problem, issue, etc., that is passed from one group or person to another. —'foot,-baller *n.*

footboard (fu:t,bɔ:d) *n.* **1.** a treadle or foot-operated lever on a machine. **2.** a vertical board at the foot of a bed.

footbridge (fu:t,bri:dʒ) *n.* a narrow bridge for the use of pedestrians.

footfall (fu:t,fɔ:l) *n.* the sound of a footstep.

foothill (fu:t,hil) *n.* (often *pl.*) a relatively low hill at the foot of a mountain.

foothold (fu:t,həʊld) *n.* **1.** a ledge or other place affording a secure grip, as during climbing. **2.** a secure position from which further progress may be made.

footing (fu:tɪŋ) *n.* **1.** the basis or foundation on which something is established: *the business was on a secure footing*. **2.** the relationship or status existing between

two persons, groups, etc. **3.** a secure grip by or for the feet. **4.** the lower part of a foundation of a column, wall, building, etc.

footle (fu:tli) *vb. Inf.* (intr.; often foll. by *around or about*) to loiter aimlessly. —'footling *adj.*

footlights (fu:t,lait) *pl. n.* *Theatre*. lights set in a row along the front of the stage floor.

footloose (fu:t,lʊ:s) *adj.* **1.** free to go or do as one wishes. **2.** restless: *to feel footloose*.

footman (fu:t,mən) *n.*, pl. -men. **1.** a male servant, esp. one in livery. **2.** (formerly) a foot soldier.

footnote (fu:t,nəʊt) *n.* **1.** a note printed at the bottom of a page, to which attention is drawn by means of a mark in the text. ~vb. **2.** (tr.) to supply (a page, etc.) with footnotes.

footpad (fu:t,pæd) *n.* *Arch.* a robber or highwayman, on foot rather than horseback.

footpath (fu:t,pæθ) *n.* a narrow path for walkers only.

footplate (fu:t,pleɪt) *n.* **Chiefly Brit.** a platform in the cab of a locomotive on which the crew stand to operate the controls.

foot-pound *n.* an fps unit of work equal to the work done when a force of 1 pound moves through a distance of 1 foot. Abbrev.: **ft-lb**.

footprint (fu:t,prɪnt) *n.* an indentation or outline of the foot of a person or animal on a surface.

footrest (fu:t,rest) *n.* something that provides a support for the feet, such as a low stool, rail, etc.

footsie (fu:tsi) *n. Inf.* flirtation involving the touching together of feet, etc.

footsore (fu:t,sɔ:) *adj.* having sore or tired feet, esp. from much walking. —'foot,soreness *n.*

footstep (fu:t,step) *n.* **1.** the action of taking a step in walking. **2.** the sound made by walking. **3.** the distance covered with a step. **4.** a footmark. **5.** a single stair. **6.** follow in someone's footsteps. to continue the example of another.

footstool (fu:t,stu:l) *n.* a low stool used for supporting or resting the feet of a seated person.

footwear (fu:t,wɛə) *n.* anything worn to cover the feet.

footwork (fu:t,wɜ:k) *n.* skilful use of the feet, as in sports, dancing, etc.

fop (fɒp) *n.* a man who is excessively concerned with fashion and elegance. —'foppery *n.* —'foppish *adj.*

for (fɔː; unstressed fə) *prep.* **1.** directed or belonging to: *there's a phone call for you*. **2.** to the advantage of: *I only did it for you*. **3.** in the direction of: *heading for the border*. **4.** over a span of (time or distance): *working for six days*. **5.** in favour of: *vote for me*. **6.** in order to get or achieve: *I do it for money*. **7.** designed to meet the needs of: *these kennels are for puppies*. **8.** at a cost of: *I got it for hardly any money*. **9.** such as explains or results in: *his reason for changing his job was not given*. **10.** in place of: *a substitute for the injured player*. **11.** because of: *she wept for pure relief*. **12.** with regard or consideration to the usual characteristics of: *it's cool for this time of year*. **13.** concerning: *desire for money*. **14.** as being: *I know that for a fact*. **15.** at a specified time: *a date for the next evening*. **16.** to do or partake of: *an appointment for supper*. **17.** in the duty or task of: *that's for him to say*. **18.** to allow of: *too big a job for us to handle*. **19.** despite: *she's a good wife, for all her nagging*. **20.** in order to preserve, retain, etc.: *to fight for survival*. **21.** as a direct equivalent to: *word for word*. **22.** in order to become or enter: *to train for the priesthood*. **23.** in recompense for: *I paid for it last week*. **24.** for it. *Brit. Inf.* liable for punishment or blame: *you'll be for it if she catches you*. ~conj. **25.** (coordinating) because; seeing that: *I couldn't stay, for the area was violent*.

for- *prefix.* **1.** indicating rejection or prohibition: *forbid*. **2.** indicating falsity: *forswear*. **3.** used to give intensive force: *forlorn*.

forage (fɔrɪdʒ) *n.* **1.** feed for horses or cattle, esp. hay or straw. **2.** the act of searching for food or provisions. ~vb. **3.** to search (the countryside or a town) for food, etc. **4.** (intr.) *Mil.* to carry out a raid. **5.** (tr.) to obtain by searching about. **6.** (tr.) to give food or other provisions to. **7.** (tr.) to feed (cattle or horses) with such food. —'forager *n.*

forage cap *n.* a soldier's undress cap.

foramen (fɔ'reɪmən) *n.*, pl. -ramina (-'ræmɪnə) or -ramens. a natural hole, esp. one in a bone.

foray (fɔ'reɪ) *n.* **1.** a short raid or incursion. ~vb. **2.** to raid or ravage (a town, district, etc.).

forbade (fɔ'bæd, -'beɪd) or **forbad** (fɔ'bæd) *vb.* the past tense of **forbid**.

forbear ('fɔːbeə) *vb.* **-bearing, -bore, -borne.** 1. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *from* or an infinitive) to cease or refrain (from doing something). 2. *Arch.* to tolerate (misbehaviour, etc.). —**forbearance** *n.*

forbear ('fɔːbeə) *n.* a variant spelling of **forebear**.

forbid ('fɔːbɪd) *vb.* **-bidding, -bade or -bad, -bidden or -bid.** (*tr.*) 1. to prohibit (a person) in a forceful or authoritative manner (from doing or having something). 2. to make impossible. 3. to shut out or exclude. —**forbidden** *adj.* —**forbidding** *n.*

forbidding ('fɔːbɪdɪŋ) *adj.* 1. hostile or unfriendly. 2. dangerous or ominous.

forbore ('fɔːbɔː) *vb.* the past tense of **forbear**.

forborne ('fɔːbɔːn) *vb.* the past participle of **forbear**.

force ('fɔːs) *n.* 1. strength or energy; power: *the force of the blow*. 2. exertion or the use of exertion against a person or thing that resists. 3. *Physics.* a. a dynamic influence that changes a body from a state of rest to one of motion or changes its rate of motion. b. a static influence that produces a strain in a body or system. Symbol: *F* 4. a. intellectual, political, or moral influence or strength: *the force of his argument*. b. a person or thing with such influence: *he was a force in the land*. 5. a group of persons organized for military or police functions: *armed forces*. 6. (*sometimes cap.*, preceded by *the*) *Inf.* the police force. 7. a group of persons organized for particular duties or tasks: *a work force*. 8. *Criminal law.* violence unlawfully committed or threatened. 9. *in force.* a. (of a law) having legal validity. b. in great strength or numbers. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 10. to compel or cause (a person, group, etc.) to do something through effort, superior strength, etc. 11. to acquire or produce through effort, superior strength, etc.: *to force a confession*. 12. to propel or drive despite resistance. 13. to break down or open (a lock, door, etc.). 14. to impose or inflict: *he forced his views on them*. 15. to cause (plants or farm animals) to grow or fatten artificially at an increased rate. 16. to strain to the utmost: *to force the voice*. 17. to rape. 18. *Cards.* a. to compel a player by the lead of a particular suit to play (a certain card). b. (in bridge) to induce (a bid) from one's partner. —**forceable** *adj.* —**forceless** *adj.* —**forcer** *n.*

force ('fɔːs) *n.* *N Brit.* a waterfall.

forced ('fɔːst) *adj.* 1. done because of force: *forced labour*. 2. false or unnatural: *a forced smile*. 3. due to an emergency or necessity: *a forced landing*.

force-feed *vb.* **-feeding, -fed.** (*tr.*) to force (a person or animal) to eat or swallow (food).

forceful ('fɔːsfʊl) *adj.* 1. powerful. 2. persuasive or effective. —**forcefully** *adv.* —**forcefulness** *n.*

forcemeat ('fɔːsmɪt) *n.* a mixture of chopped ingredients used for stuffing. Also called: **farce**.

forceps ('fɔːsɪps) *n.* *pl.* **-ceps.** 1. a. a surgical instrument in the form of a pair of pincers, used esp. in the delivery of babies. b. (*as modifier*): *a forceps baby*. 2. any part of an organism shaped like a forceps.

forcible ('fɔːsəbəl) *adj.* 1. done by, involving, or having force. 2. convincing or effective: *a forcible argument*. —**forcibly** *adv.*

ford ('fɔːd) *n.* 1. a shallow area in a river that can be crossed by car, horseback, etc. ~*vb.* 2. (*tr.*) to cross (a river, brook, etc.) over a shallow area. —**fordable** *adj.*

fore ('fɔː) *adj.* 1. (*usually in combination*) located at, in, or towards the front: *the forelegs of a horse*. ~*n.* 2. the front part. 3. something located at, or towards the front. 4. **fore and aft.** located at both ends of a vessel: *a fore-and-aft rig*. 5. **to the fore.** to the front or conspicuous position. ~*adv.* 6. at or towards a ship's bow. 7. *Obs.* before. ~*prep.*, *conj.* 8. a less common word for **before**.

fore ('fɔː) *interj.* (in golf) a warning shout made by a player about to make a shot.

fore- *prefix.* 1. before in time or rank: *forefather*. 2. at or near the front: *forecourt*.

forearm ('fɔːr,ɑːm) *n.* the part of the arm from the elbow to the wrist.

forearm ('fɔːr,ɑːm) *vb.* (*tr.*) to prepare or arm (someone) in advance.

forebear or forbear ('fɔːbeə) *n.* an ancestor.

forebode ('fɔːbəʊd) *vb.* 1. to warn of or indicate (an event, result, etc.) in advance. 2. to have a premonition of (an event). —**foreboding** *n.*, *adj.*

forecast ('fɔːkɑːst) *vb.* **-casting, -cast or -casted.** 1. to predict or calculate (weather, events, etc.), in advance. 2. (*tr.*) to serve as an early indication of. ~*n.* 3. a statement of probable future weather calculated from

meteorological data. 4. a prediction. 5. the practice or power of forecasting. —**forecaster** *n.*

forecastle, fo'c's'le, or fo'c's'le ('fɔːkɪksl̩) *n.* the part of a vessel at the bow where the crew is quartered.

foreclose ('fɔːkləʊz) *vb.* 1. *Law.* to deprive (a mortgagor, etc.) of the right to redeem (a mortgage or pledge). 2. (*tr.*) to shut out; bar. 3. (*tr.*) to prevent or hinder. —**foreclosable** *adj.* —**foreclosure** ('fɔːkləʊzə) *n.*

forecourt ('fɔːkɔːt) *n.* 1. a courtyard in front of a building, as one in a filling station. 2. the section of the court in tennis, badminton, etc., between the service line and the net.

forefather ('fɔːfɑːðə) *n.* an ancestor, esp. a male. —**forefatherly** *adj.*

forefinger ('fɔːfɪŋɡə) *n.* the finger next to the thumb. Also called: **index finger**.

forefoot ('fɔːfʊt) *n.*, *pl.* **-feet.** either of the front feet of a quadruped.

forefront ('fɔːfrʌnt) *n.* 1. the extreme front. 2. the position of most prominence or action.

foregather ('fɔːgæðə) *vb.* a variant spelling of **forgather**.

forego ('fɔːgəʊ) *vb.* **-going, -went, -gone.** to precede in time, place, etc.

forego ('fɔːgəʊ) *vb.* **-going, -went, -gone.** (*tr.*) a variant spelling of **forgo**.

foregoing ('fɔːgəʊɪŋ) *adj.* (*prenominal*) (esp. of writing or speech) going before; preceding.

foregone ('fɔːɡɒn, 'fɔːɡɒn) *adj.* gone or completed; past. —**foregoneness** *n.*

foregone conclusion *n.* an inevitable result or conclusion.

foreground ('fɔːgraʊnd) *n.* 1. the part of a scene situated towards the front or nearest to the viewer. 2. a conspicuous position.

forehand ('fɔːhænd) *adj.* (*prenominal*) 1. *Tennis, squash, etc.* (of a stroke) made with the palm of the hand facing the direction of the stroke. ~*n.* 2. *Tennis, squash, etc.* a. a forehand stroke. b. the side on which such strokes are made. 3. the part of a horse in front of the saddle.

forehead ('fɔːrɪd) *n.* the part of the face between the natural hair line and the eyes. Related *adj.*: **frontal**.

foreign ('fɔːrɪn) *adj.* 1. of, located in, or coming from another country, area, people, etc.: *a foreign resident*. 2. dealing or concerned with another country, area, people, etc.: *a foreign office*. 3. not pertinent or related: *a matter foreign to the discussion*. 4. not familiar; strange. 5. in an abnormal place or position: *foreign matter*. —**foreignness** *n.*

foreigner ('fɔːrɪnə) *n.* 1. a person from a foreign country. 2. an outsider. 3. something from a foreign country, such as a ship or product.

foreign minister or secretary *n.* (*often caps.*) a cabinet minister who is responsible for a country's dealings with other countries. U.S. equivalent: **secretary of state**.

foreign office *n.* the ministry of a country or state that is concerned with dealings with other states. U.S. equivalent: **state department**.

foreknow ('fɔːnəʊ) *vb.* **-knowing, -knew, -known.** (*tr.*) to know in advance. —**foreknowable** *adj.* —**foreknowledge** *n.*

foreland ('fɔːlənd) *n.* 1. a headland, cape, or promontory. 2. land lying in front of something, such as water.

foreleg ('fɔːleg) *n.* either of the front legs of a horse, sheep, or other quadruped.

forelimb ('fɔːlɪm) *n.* either of the front or anterior limbs of a four-limbed vertebrate.

forelock ('fɔːlɒk) *n.* a lock of hair growing or falling over the forehead.

foreman ('fɔːmən) *n.*, *pl.* **-men.** 1. a person, often experienced, who supervises other workmen. 2. *Law.* the principal juror, who presides at the deliberations of a jury.

foremast ('fɔːməst; *Naut.* 'fɔːmɒst) *n.* the mast nearest the bow on vessels with two or more masts.

foremost ('fɔːməʊst) *adj.*, *adv.* first in time, place, rank, etc.

forenoon ('fɔːnuːn) *n.* the daylight hours before or just before noon.

forensic ('fɔːrɛnsɪk) *adj.* used in, or connected with a court of law: *forensic science*. —**forensically** *adv.*

forensic medicine *n.* the use of medical knowledge, esp. pathology, to the purposes of the law, as in determining the cause of death. Also called: **medical jurisprudence**.

forensics (fə'rensiks) *n.* (*functioning as sing. or pl.*) the art or study of formal debating.

foreordain (,fɔ:ɔ:'deɪn) *vb.* (*tr.*; *may take a clause as object*) to determine (events, etc.) in the future. —**foreordination** (,fɔ:ɔ:'di:neɪʃən) *n.*

forepaw ('fɔ:,pɔ:) *n.* either of the front feet of most land mammals that do not have hoofs.

forerunner ('fɔ:,rʌnə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that precedes another. 2. a person or thing coming in advance to herald the arrival of someone or something. 3. an omen; portent.

foresail ('fɔ:,seɪ; Naut. 'fɔ:səl) *n.* Naut. 1. the aftermost headsail of a fore-and-aft rigged vessel. 2. the lowest sail set on the foremast of a square-rigged vessel.

foresee ('fɔ:,si:) *vb.* —**seeing**, —**saw**, —**seen**. (*tr.*; *may take a clause as object*) to see or know beforehand: *he did not foresee that*. —**foreseeable** *adj.* —**foreseer** *n.*

foreshadow ('fɔ:,ʃædɔ:) *vb.* (*tr.*) to show, indicate, or suggest in advance; presage.

foreshore ('fɔ:,ʃɔ:) *n.* the part of the shore that lies between the limits for high and low tides.

foreshorten ('fɔ:,ʃɔ:t'n) *vb.* (*tr.*) to represent (a line, form, object, etc.) as shorter than actual length in order to give an illusion of recession or projection.

foresight ('fɔ:,saɪt) *n.* 1. provision for or insight into future problems, needs, etc. 2. the act or ability of foreseeing. 3. the act of looking forward. 4. *Surveying*. a reading taken looking forwards. 5. a sight on a firearm's muzzle. —**fore-sighted** *adj.* —**fore-sightedly** *adv.* —**fore-sightedness** *n.*

foreskin ('fɔ:,skɪn) *n.* Anat. the nontechnical name for prepuce.

forest ('fɒrɪst) *n.* 1. a large wooded area having a thick growth of trees and plants. 2. the trees of such an area. 3. N.Z. an area planted with pines or similar trees, not native trees. Cf. **bush** (sense 4). 4. something resembling a large wooded area, esp. in density: *a forest of telegraph poles*. 5. Law. (formerly) an area of woodland, esp. one owned by the sovereign and set apart as a hunting ground. 6. (*modifier*) of, involving, or living in a forest or forests: *a forest glade*. ~*vb.* 7. (*tr.*) to create a forest. —**forested** *adj.*

forestall ('fɔ:'stɔ:l) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to delay, stop, or guard against beforehand. 2. to anticipate. 3. to buy up merchandise for profitable resale. —**fore'staller** *n.* —**fore'stallment** *n.*

forestation (,fɒr:'steɪʃən) *n.* the planting of trees over a wide area.

forester ('fɒrɪstə) *n.* 1. a person skilled in forestry or in charge of a forest. 2. a person or animal that lives in a forest. 3. (*cap.*) a member of the Ancient Order of Foresters, a friendly society.

forestry ('fɒrɪstri) *n.* 1. the science of planting and caring for trees. 2. the planting and management of forests. 3. Rare. forest land.

foretaste ('fɔ:,teɪst) *n.* an early but limited experience of something to come.

foretell ('fɔ:,tel) *vb.* —**telling**, —**told**. (*tr.*; *may take a clause as object*) to tell or indicate (an event, result, etc.) beforehand.

forethought ('fɔ:,θɔ:t) *n.* 1. advance consideration or deliberation. 2. thoughtful anticipation of future events.

foretoken *n.* ('fɔ:,ləʊkən). 1. a sign of a future event. ~*vb.* ('fɔ:,ləʊkən). 2. (*tr.*) to foreshadow.

foretop ('fɔ:,tɒp; Naut. 'fɔ:tɒp) *n.* Naut. a platform at the top of the foremast.

for ever or forever ('fɔ:r'evə, fə-) *adv.* 1. without end; everlastingly. 2. at all times. 3. *Inf.* for a very long time: *he went on speaking for ever*. ~*n.* **forever**. 4. (*as object*) *Inf.* a very long time: *it took him forever to reply*.

forewarn ('fɔ:wɜ:n) *vb.* (*tr.*) to warn beforehand. —**fore-warner** *n.*

foreword ('fɔ:wɜ:d) *n.* an introductory statement to a book.

forfeit ('fɔ:ft) *n.* 1. something lost or given up as a penalty for a fault, mistake, etc. 2. the act of losing or surrendering something in this manner. 3. Law. something confiscated as a penalty for an offence, etc. 4. (*sometimes pl.*) a. a game in which a player has to give up an object, perform a specified action, etc., if he commits a fault. b. an object so given up. ~*vb.* 5. (*tr.*) to lose or be liable to lose in consequence of a mistake, fault, etc. 6. (*tr.*) Law. to confiscate as punishment. ~*adj.* 7. surrendered or liable to be surrendered as a penalty. —**forfeiter** *n.*

forfeiture ('fɔ:ftʃə) *n.* 1. something forfeited. 2. the act of forfeiting or paying a penalty.

forgather or foregather ('fɔ:'gæðə) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. to gather together. 2. (*coll.* by *with*) to socialize.

forgave ('fɔ:'gerv) *vb.* the past tense of **forgive**.

forge ('fɔ:dʒ) *n.* 1. a place in which metal is worked by heating and hammering: smithy. 2. a hearth or furnace used for heating metal. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to shape (metal) by heating and hammering. 4. (*tr.*) to form, make, or fashion (objects, etc.). 5. (*tr.*) to invent or devise (an agreement, etc.). 6. to make a fraudulent imitation of (a signature, etc.) or to commit forgery. —**forger** *n.*

forge ('fɔ:dʒ) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. to move at a steady pace. 2. **forge ahead**. to increase speed.

forgery ('fɔ:dʒəri) *n.*, *pl.* —**geries**. 1. the act of reproducing something for a fraudulent purpose. 2. something forged, such as an antique. 3. Criminal law. a. the false making or altering of a document, such as a cheque, etc., with intent to defraud. b. something forged.

forget ('fɔ:'get) *vb.* —**getting**, —**got**, —**gotten** or —**got**. 1. (*when tr.*, *may take a clause as object or an infinitive*) to fail to recall (someone or something once known). 2. (*tr.*; *may take a clause as object or an infinitive*) to neglect, either as the result of an unintentional error or intentionally. 3. (*tr.*) to leave behind by mistake. 4. **forget oneself**. a. to act in an improper manner. b. to be unselfish. c. to be deep in thought. —**for'gettable** *adj.* —**for'getter** *n.*

forgetful ('fɔ:'getfʊl) *adj.* 1. tending to forget. 2. (*often postpositive*; *coll.* by *of*) inattentive (to) or neglectful (of). —**forgetfully** *adv.*

forget-me-not *n.* a temperate low-growing plant having clusters of small blue flowers.

forgive ('fɔ:'grɪv) *vb.* —**giving**, —**gave**, —**given**. 1. to cease to blame (someone or something). 2. to grant pardon for (a mistake, etc.). 3. (*tr.*) to free (someone) from penalty. 4. (*tr.*) to free from the obligation of (a debt, etc.). —**for'givable** *adj.* —**for'giver** *n.*

forgiveness ('fɔ:'grɪvnɪs) *n.* 1. the act of forgiving or the state of being forgiven. 2. willingness to forgive.

forgiving ('fɔ:'grɪvɪŋ) *adj.* willing to forgive.

forgo or forego ('fɔ:'gəʊ) *vb.* —**going**, —**went**, —**gone**. (*tr.*) to give up or do without.

forget ('fɔ:'get) *vb.* 1. the past tense of **forget**. 2. Arch. or dialect. a past participle of **forget**.

forgotten ('fɔ:'gɒt'n) *vb.* the past participle of **forget**.

fork ('fɔ:k) *n.* 1. a small usually metal implement consisting of two, three, or four long thin prongs on the end of a handle, used for lifting food to the mouth, etc. 2. a similar-shaped agricultural tool, used for lifting, digging, etc. 3. a pronged part of any machine, device, etc. 4. (of a road, river, etc.) a. a division into two or more branches. b. the point where the division begins. c. such a branch. 5. Chiefly U.S. the main tributary of a river. ~*vb.* 6. (*tr.*) to pick up, dig, etc., with a fork. 7. (*tr.*) Chess. to place (two enemy pieces) under attack with one of one's own pieces. 8. (*intr.*) to be divided into two or more branches. 9. to take one or other branch at a fork in a road, etc.

forked ('fɔ:k't) *adj.* 1. a. having a fork or forklike parts. b. (*in combination*); *two-forked*. 2. zigzag: *forked lightning*. —**forkedly** ('fɔ:kɪdli) *adv.*

fork-lift truck *n.* a vehicle having two power-operated horizontal prongs that can be raised and lowered for transporting, and unloading goods.

fork out, over, or up *vb.* (*adv.*) Sl. to pay (money, goods, etc.), esp. with reluctance.

forlorn ('fɔ:lɒn) *adj.* 1. miserable or cheerless. 2. forsaken. 3. (*postpositive*; *coll.* by *of*) bereft: *forlorn of hope*. 4. desperate: *the last forlorn attempt*. —**for'loriness** *n.*

forlorn hope *n.* 1. a hopeless enterprise. 2. a faint hope. 3. Obs. a group of soldiers assigned to an extremely dangerous duty.

form ('fɔ:m) *n.* 1. the shape or configuration of something as distinct from its colour, texture, etc. 2. the particular mode, appearance, etc., in which a thing or person manifests itself: *water in the form of ice*. 3. a type or kind: *imprisonment is a form of punishment*. 4. a printed document, esp. one with spaces in which to insert facts or answers: *an application form*. 5. physical or mental condition, esp. good condition, with reference to ability to perform: *off form*. 6. the previous record of a horse, athlete, etc., esp. with regard to fitness. 7. a fixed mode of artistic expression or representation in literary, musical, or other artistic works: *sonata form*. 8. a mould, frame, etc., that gives shape to something. 9. Education, chiefly Brit. a group of children who are taught together. 10. behaviour or procedure, esp. as

governed by custom or etiquette: *good form*. 11. formality or ceremony. 12. a prescribed set or order of words, terms, etc., as in a religious ceremony or legal document. 13. *Philosophy*. the essence of something, esp. as distinguished from *matter*. 14. *Logic*. the pattern of an argument by which the reasoning can be shown to be logically valid or invalid. 15. *Brit.* a bench, esp. one that is long, low, and backless. 16. any of the various ways in which a word may be spelt or inflected. ~vb. 17. to give shape or form to or to take shape or form, esp. a particular shape. 18. to come or bring into existence: *a scum formed*. 19. to make or construct or be made or constructed. 20. to construct or develop in the mind: *to form an opinion*. 21. (tr.) to train or mould by instruction or example. 22. (tr.) to acquire or develop: *to form a habit*. 23. (tr.) to be an element of or constitute: *this plank will form a bridge*. 24. (tr.) to organize: *to form a club*.

-form *adj.* combining form. having the shape or form of or resembling: *cruciform*; *vermiform*.

formal (ˈfɔ:məl) *adj.* 1. of or following established forms, conventions, etc.: *a formal document*. 2. characterized by observation of conventional forms of ceremony, behaviour, etc.: *a formal dinner*. 3. methodical or stiff. 4. suitable for occasions organized according to conventional ceremony: *formal dress*. 5. denoting idiom, vocabulary, etc., used by educated speakers and writers of a language. 6. acquired by study in academic institutions. 7. symmetrical in form: *a formal garden*. 8. of or relating to the appearance, form, etc., of something as distinguished from its substance. 9. logically deductive: *formal proof*. 10. denoting a second-person pronoun in some languages: *in French the pronoun "vous" is formal, while "tu" is informal*. —'formally *adv.* —'formalness *n.*

formaldehyde (ˈfɔ:mældɪˌhaɪd) *n.* a colourless poisonous irritating gas with a pungent characteristic odour, used as formalin and in the manufacture of synthetic resins.

formalism (ˈfɔ:məˌlɪzəm) *n.* 1. scrupulous or excessive adherence to outward form at the expense of content. 2. the mathematical or logical structure of a scientific argument as distinguished from its subject matter. 3. *Theatre*. a stylised mode of production. 4. (in Marxist criticism, etc.) excessive concern with artistic technique at the expense of social values, etc. —'formalist *n.* —'formalistic *adj.*

formality (ˈfɔ:məlɪti) *n.* *pl.* -ties. 1. a requirement of custom, etiquette, etc. 2. the quality of being formal or conventional. 3. strict or excessive observance of ceremony, etc.

formalize or **-lise** (ˈfɔ:məˌlaɪz) *vb.* 1. to be or make formal. 2. (tr.) to make official or valid. 3. (tr.) to give a definite shape or form to. —'formalization or -lisation *n.*

format (ˈfɔ:mæt) *n.* 1. the general appearance of a publication, including type style, paper, binding, etc. 2. style, plan, or arrangement, as of a television programme. 3. *Computers*. the arrangement of data on magnetic tape, etc., to comply with a computer's input device. ~vb. -matting, -matted. (tr.) 4. to arrange (a book, page, etc.) into a specified format.

formation (ˈfɔ:mɪjən) *n.* 1. the act of giving or taking form or existence. 2. something that is formed. 3. the manner in which something is arranged. 4. a formal arrangement of a number of persons or things acting as a unit, such as a troop of soldiers or a football team. 5. a series of rocks with certain characteristics in common.

formative (ˈfɔ:mətɪv) *adj.* 1. of or relating to formation, development, or growth: *formative years*. 2. shaping; moulding: *a formative experience*. 3. functioning in the formation of derived, inflected, or compound words. ~n. 4. an inflectional or derivational affix. —'formatively *adv.* —'formativeness *n.*

former (ˈfɔ:mə) *adj.* (*pronominal*) 1. belonging to or occurring in an earlier time: *former glory*. 2. having been at a previous time: *a former colleague*. 3. denoting the first or first mentioned of two. ~n. 4. the former, the first or first mentioned of two: distinguished from *latter*.

formerly (ˈfɔ:məli) *adv.* at or in a former time; in the past.

formic (ˈfɔ:mɪk) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or derived from ants. 2. of, containing, or derived from formic acid.

Formica (fɔ:'maɪkə) *n.* *Trademark*. any of various laminated plastic sheets used esp. for heat-resistant surfaces.

formidable (ˈfɔ:mɪdəbəl) *adj.* 1. arousing or likely to inspire fear or dread. 2. extremely difficult to defeat,

overcome, manage, etc. 3. tending to inspire awe or admiration because of great size, excellence, etc. —'formidably *adv.*

formless (ˈfɔ:mlɪs) *adj.* without a definite shape or form; amorphous. —'formlessly *adv.*

formula (ˈfɔ:mju:lə) *n.* *pl.* -las or -lae (-li:). 1. an established form or set of words, as used in religious ceremonies, legal proceedings, etc. 2. *Maths., physics*. a general relationship, principle, or rule stated, often as an equation, in the form of symbols. 3. *Chem.* a representation of molecules, radicals, ions, etc., expressed in the symbols of the atoms of their constituent elements. 4. a method or rule for doing or producing something, often one proved to be successful. 5. *U.S.* a prescription for making up a medicine, baby's food, etc. 6. *Motor racing*. the category in which a type of car competes, judged according to engine size, weight, and fuel capacity. —'formulaic (ˈfɔ:mjuːleɪk) *adj.*

formulary (ˈfɔ:mjʊləri) *n.* *pl.* -laries. 1. a book of prescribed formulas, esp. relating to religious procedure or doctrine. 2. a formula. 3. *Pharmacol.* a book containing a list of pharmaceutical products with their formulas. ~adj. 4. of or relating to a formula.

formulate (ˈfɔ:mjuˌleɪt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to put into or express in systematic terms; express in or as if in a formula. 2. to devise. —'formulation *n.*

fornicate (ˈfɔ:nɪˌkeɪt) *vb.* (*intr.*) to commit fornication. —'fornicator *n.*

fornication (ˈfɔ:nɪˌkeɪʃən) *n.* 1. voluntary sexual intercourse outside marriage. 2. *Bible*. sexual immorality in general, esp. adultery.

forsake (fɔ:'seɪk) *vb.* -saking, -sook, -saken. (tr.) 1. to abandon. 2. to give up (something valued or enjoyed). —'forsaken *adj.* —'forsaker *n.*

forthsooth (fɔ:'su:ð) *adv.* *Arch.* in truth; indeed.

forswear (fɔ:'swea) *vb.* -swearing, -swore, -sworn. 1. (tr.) to reject or renounce with determination or as upon oath. 2. (tr.) to deny or disavow absolutely or upon oath. 3. to perjure (oneself). —'forswearer *n.*

forsythia (fɔ:'sɪθiə) *n.* a shrub, native to China, Japan, and SE Europe but widely cultivated for its showy yellow bell-shaped flowers, which appear in spring before the foliage.

fort (fɔ:t) *n.* 1. a fortified enclosure, building, or position able to be defended against an enemy. 2. *hold the fort*. *Inf.* to guard something temporarily.

forte (fɔ:t, fɔ:'ter) *n.* 1. something at which a person excels: *cooking is my forte*. 2. *Fencing*. the stronger section of a sword, between the hilt and the middle.

forte! (ˈfɔ:ti) *Music.* ~adj., *adv.* 1. loud or loudly. ~n. 2. a loud passage in music. Symbol: *f*

forth (fɔ:θ) *adv.* 1. forward in place, time, order, or degree. 2. out, as from concealment or inaction. 3. away, as from a place or country. 4. and so forth. and so on. ~prep. 5. *Arch.* out of.

forthcoming (ˈfɔ:θˌkʌmɪŋ) *adj.* 1. approaching in time: *the forthcoming debate*. 2. about to appear: *his forthcoming book*. 3. available or ready. 4. open or sociable.

forthright *adj.* (ˈfɔ:θˌraɪt). 1. direct and outspoken. ~adv. (ˈfɔ:θˌraɪt, ˈfɔ:θˌraɪt), also **forthrightly**. 2. in a direct manner; frankly. 3. at once. —'forthrightness *n.*

forthwith (ˈfɔ:θˌwɪð) *adv.* at once.

fortification (ˈfɔ:tiˌfɪkəʃən) *n.* 1. the act, art, or science of fortifying or strengthening. 2. a. a wall, mound, etc., used to fortify a place. b. such works collectively.

fortify (ˈfɔ:tiˌfaɪ) *vb.* -fying, -fied. (*mainly tr.*) 1. (*also intr.*) to make (a place) defensible, as by building walls, etc. 2. to strengthen physically, mentally, or morally. 3. to add alcohol to (wine), in order to produce sherry, port, etc. 4. to increase the nutritious value of (a food), as by adding vitamins. 5. to confirm: *to fortify an argument*. —'fortifi, fiable *adj.* —'fortifier *n.*

fortissimo (fɔ:'tsɪˌməʊ) *Music.* ~adj., *adv.* 1. very loud. ~n. 2. a very loud passage in music. Symbol: *ff*

fortitude (ˈfɔ:tiˌtju:d) *n.* strength and firmness of mind.

fortnight (ˈfɔ:tˌnaɪt) *n.* a period of 14 consecutive days; two weeks.

fortnightly (ˈfɔ:tˌnaɪli) *Chiefly Brit.* ~adj. 1. occurring or appearing once each fortnight. ~adv. 2. once a fortnight. ~n., *pl.* -lies. 3. a publication issued at intervals of two weeks.

FORTRAN (ˈfɔ:træn) *n.* a high-level computer programming language for mathematical and scientific purposes.

fortress (ˈfɔ:trɪs) *n.* 1. a large fort or fortified town. 2.

a place or source of refuge or support. ~vb. 3. (tr.) to protect.

fortuitous (fɔ:'tju:təs) *adj.* happening by chance, esp. by a lucky chance. —**fortuitously** *adv.*

fortuity (fɔ:'tju:ti) *n., pl. -ties*. 1. a chance or accidental occurrence. 2. chance or accident.

fortunate (fɔ:'tʃʌnit) *adj.* 1. having good luck. 2. occurring by or bringing good fortune or luck. —**fortunately** *adv.*

fortune (fɔ:'tʃʌn) *n.* 1. an amount of wealth or material prosperity, esp. a great amount. 2. **small fortune**, a large sum of money. 3. a power or force, often personalized, regarded as being responsible for human affairs. 4. luck, esp. when favourable. 5. (often *pl.*) a person's destiny. ~vb. 6. *Arch. (intr.)* to happen by chance.

fortune-teller *n.* a person who makes predictions about the future as by looking into a crystal ball, etc. —**fortune-telling** *adj., n.*

forty ('fɔ:ti) *n., pl. -ties*. 1. the cardinal number that is the product of ten and four. 2. a numeral, 40, XL, etc., representing this number. 3. something representing, represented by, or consisting of 40 units. ~**determiner**. 4. a. amounting to forty: *forty thieves*. b. (as *pronoun*): *there were forty in the herd*. —**fortieth** *adj.*

forty winks *n.* (functioning as *sing.* or *pl.*) *Inf.* a short light sleep; nap.

forum ('fɔ:rəm) *n., pl. -rums or -ra (-rə)*. 1. a meeting for the open discussion of subjects of public interest. 2. a medium for open discussion, such as a magazine. 3. a public meeting place for open discussion. 4. a court; tribunal. 5. (in ancient Italy) an open space serving as a city's marketplace and centre of public business.

Forum or Forum Romanum (rəu'mænəm) *n.* the main forum of ancient Rome.

forward ('fɔ:wəd) *adj.* 1. directed or moving ahead. 2. lying or situated in or near the front part of something. 3. presumptuous, pert, or impudent. 4. well developed or advanced, esp. in physical or intellectual development. 5. (often *postpositive*) ready, eager, or willing. 6. a. of or relating to the future or favouring change. b. (in combination): *forward-looking*. 7. *Commerce*, relating to fulfilment at a future date. ~*n.* 8. an attacking player in any of various sports, such as soccer. ~*adv.* 9. a variant of **forwards**. 10. ('fɔ:wəd; Naut. 'fɔrəd) towards the front or bow of an aircraft or ship. 11. into a position of being subject to public scrutiny: *the witness came forward*. ~vb. (tr.) 12. to send forward or pass on to an ultimate destination: *the letter was forwarded*. 13. to advance or promote: *to forward one's career*. —**forwarder** *n.* —**forwardly** *adv.* —**forwardness** *n.*

forwards ('fɔ:wədz) or **forward** *adv.* 1. towards or at a place ahead or in advance, esp. in space but also in time. 2. towards the front.

fosse or foss (fɒs) *n.* a ditch or moat, esp. one dug as a fortification.

fossil ('fɒsl) *n.* 1. a. a relic or representation of a plant or animal that existed in a past geological age, occurring in the form of mineralized bones, shells, etc. b. (as *modifier*): *fossil insects*. 2. *Inf., derog.* a person, idea, thing, etc., that is outdated or incapable of change. 3. *Linguistics*, a form once current but now appearing only in one or two special contexts.

fossilize or -lise ('fɒsɪlaɪz) *vb.* 1. to convert or be converted into a fossil. 2. to become or cause to become antiquated or inflexible. —**fossilization or -li'sation** *n.*

foster ('fɒstə) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to promote the growth or development of. 2. to bring up (a child, etc.). 3. to cherish (a plan, hope, etc.) in one's mind. 4. *Chiefly Brit.* a. to place (a child) in the care of foster parents. b. to bring up under fosterage. ~*adj.* 5. (in combination) of or involved in the rearing of a child by persons other than his natural parents: *foster home*. —**fosterer** *n.*

fought (fɔ:t) *vb.* the past tense or past participle of **fight**. **foul** (faʊl) *adj.* 1. offensive to the senses; revolting. 2. stinking. 3. charged with or full of dirt or offensive matter. 4. (of food) putrid; rotten. 5. morally or spiritually offensive. 6. obscene; vulgar: *foul language*. 7. unfair: *to resort to foul means*. 8. (esp. of weather) unpleasant or adverse. 9. blocked or obstructed with dirt or foreign matter: *a foul drain*. 10. (of the bottom of a vessel) covered with barnacles that slow forward motion. 11. *Inf.* unsatisfactory; bad: *a foul book*. ~*n.* 12. *Sport*, a. a violation of the rules. b. (as *modifier*): *a foul blow*. 13. an entanglement or collision, esp. in sailing or fishing. ~vb. 14. to make or become polluted. 15. to become or cause to become entangled. 16. (tr.) to disgrace. 17. to become or cause to become clogged. 18. (tr.) *Naut.* (of underwater growth) to cling

to (the bottom of a vessel) so as to slow its motion. 19. (tr.) *Sport*, to commit a foul against (an opponent). 20. (intr.) *Sport*, to infringe the rules. 21. to collide (with a boat, etc.). ~*adv.* 22. in a foul manner. 23. **fall foul** of. a. to get into trouble with. b. (of ships) to collide with. —**foully** *adv.* —**foulness** *n.*

foulard (fu:'lɔ:d) *n.* a soft light fabric of plain-weave or twill-weave silk or rayon, usually with a printed design.

foul play *n.* 1. unfair conduct esp. with violence. 2. a violation of the rules in a game or sport.

foul up ~vb. (adv.) 1. (tr.) to bungle. 2. (tr.) to contaminate. 3. to be or cause to be blocked, choked, or entangled.

found¹ (faʊnd) *vb.* 1. the past tense or past participle of **find**. ~*adj.* 2. furnished, or fitted out. 3. *Brit.* with meals, heating, etc., provided without extra charge.

found² (faʊnd) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to bring into being or establish (something, such as an institution, etc.). 2. (tr.) to build or establish the foundation of. 3. (also *intr.*; foll. by *on* or *upon*) to have a basis (in).

found³ (faʊnd) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to cast (a material, such as metal or glass) by melting and pouring into a mould. 2. to make (articles) in this way.

foundation (faʊn'deɪʃən) *n.* 1. that on which something is founded. 2. (often *pl.*) a construction below the ground that distributes the load of a building, wall, etc. 3. the base on which something stands. 4. the act of founding or establishing or the state of being founded or established. 5. an endowment for the support of an institution such as a school. 6. an institution supported by an endowment, often one that provides funds for charities, research, etc. 7. a cosmetic used as a base for make-up. —**foundational** *adj.*

founder¹ ('faʊndə) *n.* a person who establishes an institution, society, etc.

founder² ('faʊndə) *vb. (intr.)* 1. (of a ship, etc.) to sink. 2. to break down or fail: *the project founded*. 3. to sink into or become stuck in soft ground. 4. to collapse. 5. (of a horse) to stumble or go lame.

founder³ ('faʊndə) *n.* a. a person who makes metal castings. b. (in combination): *an iron founder*.

founding ('faʊndɪŋ) *n.* an abandoned infant whose parents are not known.

foundry ('faʊndri) *n., pl. -ries*, a place in which metal castings are produced.

fount¹ (faʊnt) *n.* 1. *Poetic*, a spring or fountain. 2. source.

fount² (faʊnt, font) *n.* *Printing*, a complete set of type of one style and size. Also called (esp. U.S.): **font**.

fountain ('faʊntɪn) *n.* 1. a jet or spray of water or some other liquid. 2. a structure from which such a jet or a number of such jets spurt. 3. a natural spring of water, esp. the source of a stream. 4. a stream, jet, or cascade of sparks, lava, etc. 5. a principal source. 6. a reservoir, as for oil in a lamp. —**fountained** *adj.*

fountainhead ('faʊntɪn,hed) *n.* 1. a spring that is the source of a stream. 2. a principal or original source.

fountain pen *n.* a pen the nib of which is supplied with ink from a cartridge or a reservoir in its barrel.

four (fɔ:) *n.* 1. the cardinal number that is the sum of three and one. 2. a numeral, 4, IV, etc., representing this number. 3. something representing, represented by, or consisting of four units, such as a playing card with four symbols on it. 4. Also called: **four o'clock**, four hours after noon or midnight. 5. *Cricket*, a. a shot that crosses the boundary after hitting the ground. b. the four runs scored for such a shot. 6. *Rowing*, a. a racing shell propelled by four oarsmen. b. the crew of such a shell. ~*determiner*. 7. a. amounting to four: *four times*. b. (as *pronoun*): *four are ready*. —**fourth** *adj.*

fourfold ('fɔ:fold) *adj.* 1. equal to or having four times as many or as much. 2. composed of four parts. ~*adv.* 3. by or up to four times as many or as much.

four-in-hand *n.* 1. a road vehicle drawn by four horses and driven by one driver. 2. a four-horse team. 3. U.S. a long narrow tie tied in a flat slipknot with the ends dangling.

four-leaf clover or four-leaved clover *n.* a clover with four leaves rather than three, supposed to bring good luck.

four-letter word *n.* any of several short English words referring to sex or excrement; regarded generally as offensive or obscene.

four-poster *n.* a bed with posts at each corner supporting a canopy and curtains.

fourscore (fɔ:'skɔ:) *determiner*, an archaic word for eighty.

foursome ('fɔ:səm) *n.* 1. a set or company of four. 2. Also called: **fourball**. *Sport.* a game between two pairs of players, esp. in golf.

foursquare (,fɔ:'skwɛə) *adv.* 1. squarely; firmly. ~*adj.* 2. solid and strong. 3. forthright. 4. a rare word for square.

four-stroke *adj.* designating an internal-combustion engine in which the piston makes four strokes for every explosion.

fourteen ('fɔ:'ti:n) *n.* 1. the cardinal number that is the sum of ten and four. 2. a numeral, 14, XIV, etc., representing this number. 3. something represented by or consisting of 14 units. ~*determiner.* 4. a. amounting to fourteen: *fourteen cats.* b. (as pronoun): *the fourteen who remained.* —'four'teenth *adj.*

fourth dimension *n.* 1. the dimension of time, which in addition to three spatial dimensions specifies the position of a point or particle. 2. the concept in science fiction of a dimension in addition to three spatial dimensions. —'fourth-di'mensional *adj.*

fourth estate *n.* (sometimes caps.) journalists or their profession; the press.

fowl (faʊl) *n.* 1. Also called: **domestic fowl**. a domesticated gallinaceous bird occurring in many varieties. 2. any other bird that is used as food or hunted as game. 3. the flesh or meat of fowl, esp. of chicken. 4. an archaic word for any bird. ~*vb.* 5. (*intr.*) to hunt or snare wildfowl. —'fowler *n.* —'fowling *n., adj.*

fox (fɒks) *n., pl. foxes or fox.* 1. any canine mammal of the genus *Vulpes* and related genera. They are mostly predators and have a pointed muzzle and a bushy tail. 2. the fur of any of these animals, usually reddish-brown or grey in colour. 3. a person who is cunning and sly. ~*vb.* 4. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to perplex: *to fox a person with a problem.* 5. to cause (paper, wood, etc.) to become discoloured with spots, or (of paper, etc.) to become discoloured. 6. (*tr.*) to trick; deceive. 7. (*intr.*) to act deceitfully or craftily. —'fox,like *adj.*

foxglove ('fɒks,glʌv) *n.* a plant having spikes of purple or white thimble-like flowers. The soft wrinkled leaves are a source of digitalis.

foxhole ('fɒks,haʊl) *n.* *Mil.* a small pit dug to provide shelter against hostile fire.

foxhound ('fɒks,haʊnd) *n.* a breed of short-haired hound, usually kept for hunting foxes.

fox hunt *n.* 1. a. the hunting of foxes with hounds. b. an instance of this. 2. an organization for fox hunting within a particular area. —'fox-,hunter *n.* —'fox-,hunting *n.*

fox terrier *n.* either of two breeds of small black-and-white terrier, the wire-haired and the smooth.

foxtrot ('fɒks,trot) *n.* 1. a ballroom dance in quadruple time, combining short and long steps in various sequences. ~*vb.* -trotting, -trotted. 2. (*intr.*) to perform this dance.

foxy ('fɒksɪ) *adj.* **foxier, foxiest.** 1. of or resembling a fox, esp. in craftiness. 2. of a reddish-brown colour. 3. (of paper, etc.) spotted, esp. by mildew. —'foxily *adv.* —'foxiness *n.*

foyer ('fɔɪ, 'fɔɪə) *n.* a hall, lobby, or anteroom, as in a hotel, theatre, cinema, etc.

f.p. or fp *abbrev.* for freezing point.

F.P. or f.p. *abbrev. for:* 1. Also: **fp** freezing point. 2. fully paid.

F.P.A. *abbrev.* for Family Planning Association.

f.p.s. *abbrev. for:* 1. feet per second. 2. foot-pound-second. 3. *Photog.* frames per second.

Fr *the chemical symbol for francium.*

fr. *abbrev. for:* 1. fragment. 2. franc. 3. from.

Fr. *abbrev. for:* 1. Christianity. a. Father. b. Frater. 2. France. 3. French.

Fra (fra:) *n.* brother: a title given to an Italian monk or friar.

fracas ('frækə:) *n.* a noisy quarrel; brawl.

fraction ('frækʃən) *n.* 1. *Maths.* a ratio of two expressions or numbers other than zero. 2. any part or subdivision. 3. a small piece; fragment. 4. *Chem.* a component of a mixture separated by fractional distillation. 5. *Christianity.* the formal breaking of the bread in Communion. —'fractional *adj.* —'fraction,ize or -ise *vb.*

fractious ('frækʃəs) *adj.* 1. irritable. 2. unruly. —'fractiously *adv.* —'fractiousness *n.*

fracture ('fræktʃə) *n.* 1. the act of breaking or the state of being broken. 2. a. the breaking or cracking of a bone or the tearing of a cartilage. b. the resulting condition. 3. a division, split, or breach. 4. *Mineralogy.*

a. the characteristic appearance of the surface of a freshly broken mineral or rock. b. the way in which a mineral or rock naturally breaks. ~*vb.* 5. to break or cause to break. 6. to break or crack (a bone) or (of a bone) to become broken or cracked. —'fractural *adj.*

frae (freɪ) *prep.* a Scot. word for from.

fragile ('frædʒail) *adj.* 1. able to be broken easily. 2. in a weakened physical state. 3. delicate; light: *a fragile touch.* 4. slight; tenuous. —'fragilely *adv.* —'fragility (fræ'dʒɪlɪti) *n.*

fragment *n.* ('frægmənt). 1. a piece broken off or detached. 2. an incomplete piece: *fragments of a novel.* 3. a scrap; bit. ~*vb.* (fræg'ment). 4. to break or cause to break into fragments. —,fragment'ation *n.*

fragmentary ('frægməntəri) *adj.* made up of fragments; disconnected. Also: **fragmental.**

fragrance ('freɪgrəns) or **fragrancy** *n., pl. -grances or -grancies.* 1. a pleasant or sweet odour. 2. the state of being fragrant.

fragrant ('freɪgrənt) *adj.* having a pleasant or sweet smell. —'fragrantly *adv.*

frail (frei) *adj.* 1. physically weak and delicate. 2. fragile: *a frail craft.* 3. easily corrupted or tempted.

frailty ('freiɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. physical or moral weakness. 2. (often *pl.*) a fault symptomatic of moral weakness.

frame (freɪm) *n.* 1. an open structure that gives shape and support to something, such as the ribs of a ship's hull or an aircraft's fuselage or the beams of a building. 2. an enclosing case or border into which something is fitted: *the frame of a picture.* 3. the system around which something is built up: *the frame of government.* 4. the structure of the human body. 5. a condition; state (esp. in *frame of mind*). 6. a. one of a series of exposures on film used in making motion pictures. b. an exposure on a film used in still photography. 7. a television picture scanned by one or more electron beams at a particular frequency. 8. *Snooker, etc.* a. the wooden triangle used to set up the balls. b. the balls when set up. c. a single game finished when all the balls have been potted. 9. short for **cold frame**. 10. one of the sections of which a beehive is composed, esp. one designed to hold a honeycomb. 11. *Sl.* another word for **frame-up**. 12. *Obs.* shape; form. ~*vb.* (mainly *tr.*) 13. to construct by fitting parts together. 14. to draw up the plans or basic details for: *to frame a policy.* 15. to compose or conceive: *to frame a reply.* 16. to provide, support, or enclose with a frame: *to frame a picture.* 17. to form (words) with the lips, esp. silently. 18. *Sl.* to conspire to incriminate (someone) on a false charge. —'frameless *adj.* —'framer *n.*

frame of reference *n.* 1. *Sociol.* a set of standards that determines and sanctions behaviour. 2. any set of planes or curves, such as the three coordinate axes, used to locate a point in space.

frame-up *n.* *Sl.* 1. a conspiracy to incriminate someone on a false charge. 2. a plot to bring about a dishonest result, as in a contest.

framework ('freɪm,wɜ:k) *n.* 1. a structural plan or basis of a project. 2. a structure or frame supporting or containing something.

franc (fræŋk; French frā) *n.* 1. the standard monetary unit of France, French dependencies, and Monaco, divided into 100 centimes. 2. the standard monetary and currency unit, comprising 100 centimes, of various countries including Belgium, the Central African Republic, Gabon, Guinea, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mauritania, Niger, the Republic of Congo, Senegal, Switzerland, Togo, etc. 3. a Moroccan monetary unit worth one hundredth of a dirham.

franchise ('fræntʃaɪz) *n.* 1. (usually preceded by *the*) the right to vote, esp. for representatives in a legislative body. 2. any exemption, privilege, or right granted to an individual or group by a public authority. 3. *Commerce.* authorization granted by a manufacturing enterprise to a distributor to market the manufacturer's products. 4. the full rights of citizenship. ~*vb.* 5. (*tr.*) *Commerce, chiefly U.S.* to grant (a person, firm, etc.) a franchise. —franchisement ('fræntʃɪzmənt) *n.*

Franciscan ('frænsɪskən) *n.* a member of a Christian religious order of friars or nuns tracing their origins back to Saint Francis of Assisi.

francium ('frænsɪəm) *n.* an unstable radioactive element of the alkali-metal group, occurring in minute amounts in uranium ores. Symbol: Fr; atomic no.: 87; half-life of most stable isotope, ²²³Fr: 22 minutes.

Franco- ('fræŋkəʊ-) *combining form.* indicating France or French: *Franco-Prussian.*

frank (fræŋk) *adj.* 1. honest and straightforward in speech or attitude: *a frank person*. 2. outspoken or blunt. 3. open and avowed: *frank interest*. ~*vb.* 4. *Chiefly Brit.* to put a mark on (a letter, etc.), either cancelling the postage stamp or in place of a stamp, ensuring free carriage. 5. to mark (a letter, etc.) with an official mark or signature, indicating the right of free delivery. 6. (*tr.*) to facilitate or assist (a person) to enter easily. 7. (*tr.*) to obtain immunity for (a person). ~*n.* 8. an official mark or signature affixed to a letter, etc., ensuring free delivery or delivery without stamps. —'frankable *adj.* —'franker *n.* —'frankly *adv.* —'frankness *n.*

Frank (fræŋk) *n.* a member of a group of West Germanic peoples who spread from the east in the late 4th century A.D., gradually conquering most of Gaul and Germany.

Frankenstein ('fræŋkɪn, stəɪn) *n.* a thing that destroys its creator. Also called: **Frankenstein's monster**.

frankfurter ('fræŋk, fɜ:tə) *n.* a smoked sausage, made of finely minced pork or beef.

frankincense ('fræŋkɪn, sɛns) *n.* an aromatic gum resin obtained from trees of the genus *Boswellia*, which occur in Asia and Africa.

Frankish ('fræŋkɪʃ) *n.* 1. the ancient West Germanic language of the Franks. ~*adj.* 2. of or relating to the Franks or their language.

frantic ('fræntɪk) *adj.* 1. distracted with fear, pain, joy, etc. 2. marked by or showing frenzy: *frantic efforts*. —'frantically or 'frantically *adv.*

frappé ('fræpeɪ) *n.* 1. a drink consisting of a liqueur, etc., poured over crushed ice. ~*adj.* 2. (*postpositive*) (*esp.* of drinks) chilled.

fraternal (frə'tɜ:nəl) *adj.* 1. of or suitable to a brother; brotherly. 2. of a fraternity. 3. designating twins of the same or opposite sex that developed from two separate fertilized ova. Cf. **identical** (sense 3). —'fraternalism *n.*

fraternity (frə'tɜ:nɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. a body of people united in interests, aims, etc.: *the teaching fraternity*. 2. brotherhood. 3. *U.S.* a secret society joined by male students, functioning as a social club.

fraternize or -nise ('frætə, naɪz) *vb. (intr.; often foll. by with)* to associate on friendly terms. —'fraternization or -nisation *n.* —'frater, nizer or -niser *n.*

fratricide ('frætɪrɪ, saɪd, 'freɪ-) *n.* 1. the act of killing one's brother. 2. a person who kills his brother. —'fratricidal *adj.*

Frau (frau) *n., pl. Frauen* ('frəʊən) or **Fraus**. a married German woman: usually used as a title equivalent to *Mrs.*

fraud (frɔ:d) *n.* 1. deliberate deception, trickery, or cheating intended to gain an advantage. 2. an act or instance of such deception. 3. *Inf.* a person who acts in a false or deceitful way.

fraudulent ('frɔ:dʒələnt) *adj.* 1. acting with or having the intent to deceive. 2. relating to or proceeding from fraud. —'fraudulence *n.* —'fraudulently *adv.*

fraught (frɔ:t) *adj. (usually postpositive and foll. by with)* filled or charged: *a venture fraught with peril*.

Fräulein (German 'frɔɪləɪn) *n., pl. -leins* or *English -leins*. an unmarried German woman: often used as a title equivalent to *Miss*.

fray¹ (freɪ) *n.* 1. a noisy quarrel. 2. a fight or brawl.

fray² (freɪ) *vb.* 1. to wear or cause to wear away into loose threads, *esp.* at an edge or end. 2. to make or become strained or irritated. 3. to rub or chafe (another object).

frazil ('freɪzɪl) *n.* spikes of ice that form in water moving turbulently enough to prevent the formation of a sheet of ice.

frazzle ('fræzəl) *Inf.* ~*vb.* 1. to make or become exhausted or weary. ~*n.* 2. the state of being frazzled or exhausted. 3. to a frazzle. completely (*esp.* in **burnt to a frazzle**).

freak (fri:k) *n.* 1. a person, animal, or plant that is abnormal or deformed. 2. a. an object, event, etc., that is abnormal. b. (*as modifier*): *a freak storm*. 3. a personal whim or caprice. 4. *Sl.* a person who acts or dresses in a markedly unconventional way. ~*vb.* 5. See **freak out**. —'freakish *adj.* —'freaky *adj.*

freak out *Inf.* ~*vb. (adv.)* 1. to experience or cause to experience radically altered perception *esp.* under the influence of drugs. 2. to be or cause to be in a heightened emotional state. 3. (*intr.*) to adopt an unconventional way of life. ~*n.* **freakout**. 4. a wild experience, *esp.* one induced by hallucinogenic drugs.

freckle ('frekəl) *n.* 1. a small brownish spot on the skin developed by exposure to sunlight. Technical name: **lentigo**. 2. any small area of discoloration. ~*vb.* 3. to mark or become marked with freckles or spots. —'freckled or 'freckly *adj.*

free (fri:) *adj. freer, freest.* 1. able to act at will; not under compulsion or restraint. 2. a. not enslaved or confined. b. (*as n.*): *land of the free*. 3. (*often postpositive and foll. by from*) not subject (to) or restricted (by some regulation, constraint, etc.): *free from pain*. 4. (of a country, etc.) autonomous or independent. 5. exempt from external direction: *free will*. 6. not subject to conventional constraints: *free verse*. 7. not exact or literal: *a free translation*. 8. provided without charge: *free entertainment*. 9. Law. (of property) a. not subject to payment of rent or performance of services; freehold. b. not subject to any burden or charge; unencumbered. 10. (*postpositive*; often foll. by of or with) ready or generous in using or giving: *free with advice*. 11. not occupied or in use; available: *a free cubicle*. 12. (of a person) not busy. 13. open or available to all. 14. without charge to the subscriber or user: *freephone*. 15. not fixed or joined; loose: *the free end of a chain*. 16. without obstruction or impediment: *free passage*. 17. Chem. chemically uncombined: *free nitrogen*. 18. Logic. denoting an occurrence of a variable not bound by a quantifier. Cf. **bound**¹ (sense 7). 19. **free and easy**, casual or tolerant; easy-going. 20. **for free**. *Nonstandard.* without charge or cost. ~*adv.* 21. in a free manner; freely. 22. without charge or cost. 23. *Naut.* with the wind blowing from the quarter. 24. **make free with**, to behave too familiarly towards. ~*vb. freeing, freed.* (*tr.*) 25. to set at liberty; release. 26. to remove obstructions or impediments from. 27. (often foll. by of or from) to relieve or rid (of obstacles, pain, etc.). —'freely *adv.* —'freeness *n.*

-**free** (-fri:) *adj. combining form.* free from: *trouble-free; lead-free petrol*.

freeboard ('fri:bɔ:d) *n.* the space or distance between the deck of a vessel and the waterline.

freebooter ('fri:bʊ:tə) *n.* a person, such as a pirate, living from plunder. —'freeboot *vb. (intr.)*.

freeborn ('fri:bɔ:n) *adj.* 1. not born in slavery. 2. of or suitable for people not born in slavery.

Free Church *n.* *Chiefly Brit.* any Protestant Church, *esp.* the Presbyterian, other than the Established Church.

freedman ('fri:d,mæn) *n., pl. -men.* a man who has been freed from slavery.

freedom ('fri:dəm) *n.* 1. personal liberty, as from slavery, serfdom, etc. 2. liberation, as from confinement or bondage. 3. the quality or state of being free, *esp.* to enjoy political and civil liberties. 4. (usually foll. by *from*) exemption or immunity: *freedom from taxation*. 5. the right or privilege of unrestricted use or access: *the freedom of a city*. 6. autonomy, self-government, or independence. 7. the power or liberty to order one's own actions. 8. *Philosophy.* the quality, *esp.* of the will or the individual, of being unrestrained. 9. ease or frankness of manner: *she talked with complete freedom*. 10. excessive familiarity of manner. 11. ease and grace, as of movement.

free enterprise *n.* an economic system in which commercial organizations compete for profit with little state control.

free fall *n.* 1. free descent of a body in which the gravitational force is the only force acting on it. 2. the part of a parachute descent before the parachute opens.

free flight *n.* the flight of a rocket, missile, etc., when its engine has ceased to produce thrust.

free-for-all *n.* *Inf.* a disorganized brawl or argument, usually involving all those present.

free hand *n.* 1. unrestricted freedom to act (*esp.* in **give (someone) a free hand**). ~*adj., adv. freehand.* 2. (done) by hand without the use of guiding instruments: *a freehand drawing*.

free-handed *adj.* generous or liberal; unstinting. —'free-'handedly *adv.*

freehold ('fri:həʊld) *Property law.* ~*n.* 1. a tenure by which land is held in fee simple, fee tail, or for life. b. an estate held by such tenure. ~*adj.* 2. relating to or having the nature of freehold. —'free, holder *n.*

free house *n.* *Brit.* a public house not bound to sell only one brewer's products.

free kick *n.* *Soccer.* a place kick awarded for a foul or infringement.

freelance ('fri:lɑ:ns) *n.* 1. a. Also called: **freelancer**. a self-employed person, *esp.* a writer or artist, who is

hired to do specific assignments. **b.** (as modifier): a *freelance journalist*. **2.** (in medieval Europe) a mercenary soldier or adventurer. ~vb. **3.** to work as a freelance on (an assignment, etc.). ~adv. **4.** as a freelance.

free-living *adj.* **1.** given to ready indulgence of the appetites. **2.** (of animals and plants) not parasitic. —, free-*'liver* *n.*

freelander ('fri:ləndə) *n.* U.S. *sl.* a person who habitually depends on others for food, shelter, etc.

free love *n.* the practice of sexual relationships without fidelity to a single partner.

freeman ('fri:mən) *n.*, *pl.* **-men.** **1.** a person who is not a slave. **2.** a person who enjoys political and civil liberties. **3.** a person who enjoys a privilege, such as the freedom of a city.

Freemason ('fri:meis'n) *n.* a member of the widespread secret order, founded in London in 1717, of **Free and Accepted Masons**, pledged to brotherliness and mutual aid. — **'Free-masonry** *n.*

free-range *adj.* *Chiefly Brit.* kept or produced in natural conditions: *free-range eggs*.

freesia ('fri:ziə) *n.* a plant of Southern Africa, cultivated for its white, yellow, or pink tubular fragrant flowers.

free-spoken *adj.* speaking frankly or without restraint. —, free-*'spokenly* *adv.*

freestanding ('fri:stændɪŋ) *adj.* not attached to or supported by another object.

freestyle ('fri:stail) *n.* **1.** a competition or race, as in swimming, in which each participant may use a style of his or her choice instead of a specified style. **2. a. International freestyle**, an amateur style of wrestling with an agreed set of rules. **b.** Also called: **all-in wrestling**, a style of professional wrestling with no internationally agreed set of rules.

freethinker ('fri:θɪŋkə) *n.* a person who forms his ideas and opinions independently of authority or accepted views, esp. in matters of religion. — **free thought** *n.*

free trade *n.* **1.** international trade that is free of such government interference as protective tariffs. **2.** *Arch.* smuggling.

free verse *n.* unrhymed verse without a metrical pattern.

freeway ('fri:wei) *n.* U.S. **1.** an expressway. **2.** a major road that can be used without paying a toll.

freewheel ('fri:wɪl) *n.* **1.** a ratchet device in the rear hub of a bicycle wheel that permits the wheel to rotate freely while the pedals are stationary. ~vb. **2.** (*intr.*) to coast on a bicycle using the freewheel.

free will *n.* **1. a.** the apparent human ability to make choices that are not externally determined. **b.** the doctrine that human beings have such freedom of choice. Cf. **determinism**. **2.** the ability to make a choice without outside coercion: *he left of his own free will*.

Free World *n.* the. the non-Communist countries collectively.

freeze (fri:z) *vb.* **freezing, froze, frozen.** **1.** to change (a liquid) into a solid as a result of a reduction in temperature, or (of a liquid) to solidify in this way. **2.** (when *intr.*, sometimes foll. by *over* or *up*) to cover, clog, or harden with ice, or become so covered, clogged, or hardened. **3.** to fix fast or become fixed (to something) because of the action of frost. **4.** (*tr.*) to preserve (food) by subjection to extreme cold, as in a freezer. **5.** to feel or cause to feel the sensation or effects of extreme cold. **6.** to die or cause to die of extreme cold. **7.** to become or cause to become paralysed, fixed, or motionless, esp. through fear, shock, etc. **8.** (*tr.*) to cause (moving film) to stop at a particular frame. **9.** to make or become formal, haughty, etc., in manner. **10.** (*tr.*) to fix (prices, incomes, etc.) at a particular level. **11.** (*tr.*) to forbid by law the exchange, liquidation, or collection of (loans, assets, etc.). **12.** (*tr.*) to stop (a process) at a particular stage of development. **13.** (*intr.*; foll. by *onto*) *Inf.*, *chiefly U.S.* to cling. ~*n.* **14.** the act of freezing or state of being frozen. **15.** *Meteorol.* a spell of temperatures below freezing point, usually over a wide area. **16.** the fixing of incomes, prices, etc., by legislation. — **'freeze-able** *adj.*

freeze-dry *vb.* **-drying, -dried.** (*tr.*) to preserve (a substance) by rapid freezing and subsequently drying in a vacuum.

freezer ('fri:zə) *n.* Also called: **deepfreeze**, an insulated cold-storage cabinet for long-term storage of perishable foodstuffs.

freezing point *n.* the temperature below which a liquid turns into a solid.

freight (fret) *n.* **1. a.** commercial transport that is slower and cheaper than express. **b.** the price charged for such transport. **c.** goods transported by this means. **d.** (as modifier): *freight transport*. **2.** *Chiefly Brit.* a ship's cargo or part of it. ~vb. (*tr.*) **3.** to load with goods for transport.

freighter ('freɪtə) *n.* **1.** a ship or aircraft designed for transporting cargo. **2.** a person concerned with the loading of a ship.

French (frentʃ) *n.* **1.** the official language of France; also an official language of Switzerland, Belgium, Canada, and certain other countries. Historically, French is an Indo-European language belonging to the Romance group. **2.** (preceded by *the*; functioning as *pl.*) the natives, citizens, or inhabitants of France collectively. ~adj. **3.** relating to, denoting, or characteristic of France, the French, or their language. **4.** (in Canada) of French Canadians. — **'Frenchness** *n.*

French bread *n.* white bread in a long slender loaf that has a crisp brown crust.

French Canadian *n.* **1.** a Canadian citizen whose native language is French. ~adj. **French-Canadian.** **2.** of or relating to French Canadians or their language.

French chalk *n.* a variety of talc used to mark cloth or remove grease stains.

French dressing *n.* a salad dressing made from oil and vinegar with seasonings.

French fried potatoes *pl. n.* potato chips. Also called (U.S.): **French fries**.

French horn *n.* *Music.* a valved brass instrument with a funnel-shaped mouthpiece and a tube of conical bore coiled into a spiral.

Frenchify ('frentʃɪfaɪ) *vb.* **-fying, -fied.** *Inf.* to make or become French in appearance, etc.

French leave *n.* an unauthorized absence or departure.

French letter *n.* *Brit.* a slang term for **condom**.

French-polish *vb.* to treat with French polish or give a French polish (to).

French polish *n.* **1.** a varnish for wood consisting of shellac dissolved in alcohol. **2.** the gloss finish produced by this polish.

French windows *pl. n.* (*sometimes sing.*) *Brit.* a pair of casement windows extending to floor level and opening onto a balcony, garden, etc.

frenetic (fri'netɪk) *adj.* distracted or frantic. — **fre-'netically** *adv.*

frenzy ('frenzi) *n.*, *pl.* **-zies.** **1.** violent mental derangement. **2.** wild excitement or agitation. ~vb. **-yzing, -zied.** **3.** (*tr.*) to drive into a frenzy. — **'frenzied** *adj.*

frequency ('frikwənsi) *n.*, *pl.* **-cies.** **1.** the state of being frequent. **2.** the number of times that an event occurs within a given period. **3. Physics.** the number of times that a periodic function or vibration repeats itself in a specified time, often 1 second. It is usually measured in hertz. **4. Statistics.** **a.** the number of individuals in a class (**absolute frequency**). **b.** the ratio of this number to the total number of individuals under survey (**relative frequency**).

frequency modulation *n.* a method of transmitting information using a radio-frequency carrier wave. The frequency of the carrier wave is varied in accordance with the amplitude of the input signal, the amplitude of the carrier remaining unchanged. Cf. **amplitude modulation**.

frequent *adj.* ('frikwənt). **1.** recurring at short intervals. **2.** habitual. ~vb. ('frikwənt). **3.** (*tr.*) to visit repeatedly or habitually. — **'frequentation** *n.* — **fre-'quenter** *n.* — **'frequently** *adv.*

frequentative ('frikwəntətɪv) *Grammar.* ~adj. **1.** denoting an aspect of verbs in some languages used to express repeated or habitual action. **2.** (in English) denoting a verb or an affix meaning repeated action, such as the verb *wrestle*, from *wrest*. ~*n.* **3.** a frequentative verb or affix.

fresco ('freskəʊ) *n.*, *pl.* **-coes** or **-cos.** **1.** a very durable method of wall-painting using watercolours on wet plaster. **2.** a painting done in this way.

fresh (frefʃ) *adj.* **1.** newly made, harvested, etc.: *fresh bread*; *fresh strawberries*. **2.** newly acquired, found, etc.: *fresh publications*. **3.** novel; original: *a fresh outlook*. **4.** most recent: *fresh developments*. **5.** further; additional: *fresh supplies*. **6.** not canned, frozen, or otherwise preserved: *fresh fruit*. **7.** (of water) not salt. **8.** bright or clear: *a fresh morning*. **9.** chilly or invigorating: *a fresh*

breeze 10. not tired; alert. 11. not worn or faded: *fresh colours*. 12. having a healthy or ruddy appearance. 13. newly or just arrived: *fresh from the presses*. 14. youthful or inexperienced. 15. *Inf.* presumptuous or disrespectful; forward. ~*n.* 16. the fresh part or time of something. 17. another name for **freshet**. ~*adv.* 18. in a fresh manner. —'freshly *adv.* —'freshness *n.*

freshen ('frefʃən) *vb.* 1. to make or become fresh or fresher. 2. (often foll. by *up*) to refresh (oneself), esp. by washing. 3. (*intr.*) (of the wind) to increase.

fresher ('frefʃə) or **freshman** ('frefʃmən) *n., pl. -ers or -men.* a first-year student at college or university.

freshet ('frefʃɪt) *n.* 1. the sudden overflowing of a river caused by heavy rain or melting snow. 2. a stream of fresh water emptying into the sea.

freshwater ('frefʃ,wɔ:tə) *n. (modifier)* 1. of or living in fresh water. 2. (esp. of a sailor who has not sailed on the sea) inexperienced. 3. *U.S.* little known: a *freshwater school*.

fret ('fret) *vb.* **fretting, fretted.** 1. to distress or be distressed. 2. to rub or wear away. 3. to feel or give annoyance or vexation. 4. to eat away or be eaten away, as by chemical action. 5. (*tr.*) to make by wearing away; erode. ~*n.* 6. a state of irritation or anxiety.

fret² ('fret) *n.* 1. a repetitive geometrical figure, esp. one used as an ornamental border. 2. such a pattern made in relief; fretwork. ~*vb.* **fretting, fretted.** 3. (*tr.*) to ornament with fret or fretwork. —'fretless *adj.*

fret³ ('fret) *n.* any of several small metal bars set across the fingerboard of a musical instrument of the lute, guitar, or viol family at various points along its length so as to produce the desired notes. —'fretless *adj.*

fretful ('fretfʊl) *adj.* peevish, irritable, or upset. —'fretfully *adv.* —'fretfulness *n.*

fret saw *n.* a fine-toothed saw with a long thin narrow blade, used for cutting designs in thin wood or metal.

fretwork ('fret,wɜ:k) *n.* decorative geometrical carving or openwork.

Freudian ('froidiən) *adj.* 1. of or relating to Sigmund Freud (1856-1939), Austrian psychiatrist, or his ideas. ~*n.* 2. a person who follows or believes in the basic ideas of Sigmund Freud. —'Freudianism *n.*

Freudian slip *n.* any action, such as a slip of the tongue, that may reveal an unconscious thought.

Fri. *abbrev.* for Friday.

friable ('fraɪəb'l) *adj.* easily broken up; crumbly. —'friability or 'friableness *n.*

friar ('fraɪə) *n.* a member of any of various chiefly mendicant religious orders of the Roman Catholic Church.

friar's balsam *n.* a compound containing benzoin, mixed with hot water and used as an inhalant to relieve colds and sore throats.

friary ('fraɪəri) *n., pl. -aries.* Christianity. a convent or house of friars.

fricassee ('frikə'si:, 'frikəsi) *n.* 1. stewed meat, esp. chicken or veal, served in a thick white sauce. ~*vb.* **-seeing, -seed.** 2. (*tr.*) to prepare (meat, etc.) as a fricassee.

fricative ('frikətɪv) *n.* 1. a consonant produced by partial occlusion of the airstream, such as (f) or (z). ~*adj.* 2. relating to or denoting a fricative.

friction ('frikʃən) *n.* 1. a resistance encountered when one body moves relative to another body with which it is in contact. 2. the act, effect, or an instance of rubbing one object against another. 3. disagreement or conflict. —'frictional *adj.* —'frictionless *adj.*

Friday ('fraɪdɪ) *n.* 1. the sixth day of the week; fifth day of the working week. 2. See **man Friday**.

fridge (frɪdʒ) *n.* *Inf.* short for refrigerator.

fried (fraɪd) *vb.* the past tense or past participle of **fry**¹.

friend (frend) *n.* 1. a person known well to another and regarded with liking, affection, and loyalty. 2. an acquaintance or associate. 3. an ally in a fight or cause. 4. a fellow member of a party, society, etc. 5. a patron or supporter. 6. **be friends (with).** to be friendly (with). 7. **make friends (with).** to become friendly (with). ~*vb.* 8. (*tr.*) an archaic word for **befriend**. —'friendless *adj.* —'friendship *n.*

Friend (frend) *n.* a member of the Society of Friends; Quaker.

friendly ('frendli) *adj. -lier, -liest.* 1. showing or expressing liking, goodwill, or trust. 2. tending or disposed to help or support: a *friendly breeze helped them escape*. ~*n., pl. -lies.* 3. Also called: **friendly match.** *Sport.* a match played for its own sake. —'friendlyly *adv.* —'friendliness *n.*

friendly society *n.* *Brit.* an association of people who pay regular dues or other sums in return for old-age pensions, sickness benefits, etc.

frier ('fraɪə) *n.* a variant spelling of **fryer**. See **fry**¹.

frieze (fri:z) *n.* 1. *Archit.* a. the horizontal band between the architrave and cornice of a classical entablature. b. the upper part of the wall of a room, below the cornice. 2. any ornamental band on a wall.

frigate ('fɹɪɡɪt) *n.* 1. a medium-sized square-rigged warship of the 18th and 19th centuries. 2. a. *Brit.* a warship smaller than a destroyer. b. *U.S.* a warship larger than a destroyer.

fright (fraɪt) *n.* 1. sudden fear or alarm. 2. a sudden alarming shock. 3. *Inf.* a horrifying or ludicrous person or thing: *she looks a fright*. 4. **take fright.** to become frightened. ~*vb.* 5. (*tr.*) a poetic word for **frighten**.

frighten ('fraɪt'n) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to terrify; scare. 2. to drive or force to go (away, off, out, in, etc.) by making afraid. —'frightener *n.* —'frighteningly *adv.*

frightful ('fraɪtful) *adj.* 1. very alarming or horrifying. 2. unpleasant, annoying, or extreme: a *frightful hurry*. —'frightfully *adv.* —'frightfulness *n.*

frigid ('frɪdʒɪd) *adj.* 1. formal or stiff in behaviour or temperament. 2. (esp. of women) lacking sexual responsiveness. 3. characterized by physical coldness: a *frigid zone*. —'frigidity or 'frigidness *n.* —'frigidly *adv.*

Frigid Zone *n.* the cold region inside the Arctic or Antarctic Circle where the sun's rays are very oblique.

frill (frɪl) *n.* 1. a gathered, ruched, or pleated strip of cloth sewn on at one edge only, as on garments, as ornament, or to give extra body. 2. a ruff of hair or feathers around the neck of a dog or bird or a fold of skin around the neck of a reptile or amphibian. 3. (*often pl.*) *Inf.* a superfluous or pretentious thing or manner; affectation: *he made a plain speech with no frills*. ~*vb.* 4. (*tr.*) to adorn or fit with a frill or frills. 5. to form into a frill or frills. —'frilliness *n.* —'frilly *adv.*

fringe (frɪndʒ) *n.* 1. an edging consisting of hanging threads, tassels, etc. 2. a. an outer edge; periphery. b. (*as modifier*): a *fringe area*. 3. (*modifier*) unofficial; not conventional in form: *fringe theatre*. 4. *Chiefly Brit.* a section of the front hair cut short over the forehead. 5. an ornamental border. 6. *Physics.* any of the light and dark bands produced by diffraction or interference of light. ~*vb. (tr.)* 7. to adorn with a fringe or fringes. 8. to be a fringe for. —'fringeless *adj.*

fringe benefit *n.* an additional advantage, esp. a benefit provided by an employer to supplement an employee's regular pay.

frillery ('fɹɪpəri) *n., pl. -peries.* 1. ornate or showy clothing or adornment. 2. ostentation. 3. trifles; trivia.

Frisbee ('fɹɪzbi:) *n.* *Trademark.* a light plastic disc thrown with a spinning motion for recreation or in competition.

Frisian ('fɹɪʒən) or **Friesian** *n.* 1. a language spoken in the NW Netherlands and adjacent islands. 2. a speaker of this language. ~*adj.* 3. of or relating to this language or its speakers.

frisk (frɪsk) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to leap, move about, or act in a playful manner. 2. (*tr.*) (esp. of animals) to whisk or wave briskly: *the dog frisked its tail*. 3. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to search (someone) by feeling for concealed weapons, etc. ~*n.* 4. a playful antic or movement. 5. *Inf.* an instance of frisking a person. —'frisker *n.*

frisky ('frɪski) *adj.* **friskier, friskiest.** lively, high-spirited, or playful. —'friskily *adv.*

fritter¹ ('fɹɪtə) *vb. (tr.)* 1. (usually foll. by *away*) to waste: *to fritter away time*. 2. to break into small pieces.

fritter² ('fɹɪtə) *n.* a piece of food, such as apple, that is dipped in batter and fried in deep fat.

frivolous ('fɹɪvələs) *adj.* 1. not serious or sensible in content, attitude, or behaviour. 2. unworthy of serious or sensible treatment: *frivolous details*. —'frivolously *adv.* —'frivolousness or 'frivolity (*fɹɪ'vɒlɪtɪ*) *n.*

frizz (frɪz) *vb.* 1. (of the hair, nap, etc.) to form or cause (the hair, etc.) to form tight curls or crisp tufts. ~*n.* 2. hair that has been frizzed. 3. the state of being frizzed. —'frizzy *adj.*

frizzle¹ ('fɹɪzəl) *vb.* 1. to form (the hair) into tight crisp curls. ~*n.* 2. a tight curl.

frizzle² ('fɹɪzəl) *vb.* 1. to scorch or be scorched, esp. with a sizzling noise. 2. (*tr.*) to fry (bacon, etc.) until crisp.

fro (frou) *adv.* back or from.

frock (frɒk) *n.* 1. a girl's or woman's dress. 2. a loose

garment of several types, such as a peasant's smock. 3. a wide-sleeved outer garment worn by members of some religious orders. ~vb. 4. (tr.) to invest (a person) with the office of a cleric.

frock coat *n.* a man's single- or double-breasted skirted coat, as worn in the 19th century.

frog¹ ('fɹɒg) *n.* 1. an insectivorous amphibian, having a short squat tailless body with a moist smooth skin and very long hind legs specialized for hopping. 2. any of various similar amphibians, such as the tree frog. 3. any spiked object used to support plant stems in a flower arrangement. 4. a frog in one's throat, phlegm on the vocal cords that affects one's speech. —'froggy *adj.*

frog² ('fɹɒg) *n.* 1. (often pl.) a decorative fastening of looped braid or cord, as on a military uniform. 2. an attachment on a belt to hold the scabbard of a sword, etc. —'frogged *adj.* —'frogging *n.*

frog³ ('fɹɒg) *n.* a tough elastic horny material in the centre of the sole of a horse's foot.

frog⁴ ('fɹɒg) *n.* a plate of iron or steel to guide train wheels over an intersection of railway lines.

Frog ('fɹɒg) or **Froggy** ('fɹɒgi) *n., pl. Frogs or Froggies.* *Brit. sl.* a derogatory word for a French person.

frogman ('fɹɒgmən) *n., pl. -men.* a swimmer equipped with a rubber suit, flippers, and breathing equipment for working underwater.

frogmarch ('fɹɒgmɑːtʃ) *Chiefly Brit.* ~n. 1. a method of carrying a resisting person in which each limb is held and the victim is carried horizontally and face downwards. 2. any method of making a person move against his will. ~vb. 3. (tr.) to carry in a frogmarch or cause to move forward unwillingly.

frolic ('fɹɒlɪk) *n.* 1. a light-hearted entertainment or occasion. 2. light-hearted activity; gaiety. ~vb. -icking, -icked. 3. (intr.) to caper about. ~adj. 4. *Arch.* full of fun; gay. —'frolicker *n.*

frolicsome ('fɹɒlɪksəm) *adj.* merry and playful. —'frolicsomely *adv.*

from (frɒm; unstressed frəm) *prep.* 1. used to indicate the original location, situation, etc.: *from behind the bushes.* 2. in a period of time starting at: *he lived from 1910 to 1970.* 3. used to indicate the distance between two things or places: *a hundred miles from here.* 4. used to indicate a lower amount: *from five to fifty pounds.* 5. showing the model of: *painted from life.* 6. used with the gerund to mark prohibition, etc.: *nothing prevents him from leaving.* 7. because of: *exhausted from his walk.*

▷ **Usage.** See at off.

frond (frɒnd) *n.* 1. the compound leaf of a fern. 2. the leaf of a palm.

front (frʌnt) *n.* 1. that part or side that is forward, or most often seen or used. 2. a position or place directly before or ahead: *a fountain stood at the front of the building.* 3. the beginning, opening, or first part. 4. the position of leadership: *in the front of scientific knowledge.* 5. land bordering a lake, street, etc. 6. land along a seashore or large lake, esp. a promenade. 7. *Mil.* a. the total area in which opposing armies face each other. b. the space in which a military unit is operating: *to advance on a broad front.* 8. *Meteorol.* the dividing line or plane between two air masses of different origins. 9. outward aspect or bearing, as when dealing with a situation: *a bold front.* 10. *Inf.* a business or other activity serving as a respectable cover for another, usually criminal, organization. 11. Also called: **front man**, a nominal leader of an organization etc.; figurehead. 12. *Inf.* outward appearance of rank or wealth. 13. a particular field of activity: *on the wages front.* 14. a group of people with a common goal: *a national liberation front.* 15. a false fill-in for a jacket; a dickey. 16. *Arch.* the forehead or the face. ~adj. (prenominal) 17. of, at, or in the front: *a front seat.* 18. *Phonetics.* of or denoting a vowel articulated with the tongue brought forward, as for the sound of *ee* in English *see* or a in English *hat.* ~vb. 19. (when intr., foll. by *on* or *onto*) to face (onto): *this house fronts the river.* 20. (tr.) to be a front of or for. 21. (tr.) to appear as a presenter in a television show. 22. (tr.) to confront. 23. to supply a front for. 24. (intr.; often foll. by *up*) *Austral. inf.* to appear (at): *to front up at the police station.* —'front-**less** *adj.*

frontage ('frʌntɪdʒ) *n.* 1. the façade of a building or the front of a plot of ground. 2. the extent of the front of a shop, plot of land, etc. 3. the direction in which a building faces.

frontal ('frʌntl) *adj.* 1. of, at, or in the front. 2. of or relating to the forehead: *frontal artery.* ~n. 3. a

decorative hanging for the front of an altar. —'frontal-ly *adv.*

front bench *n.* 1. *Brit. a.* the foremost bench of either the Government or Opposition in the House of Commons. b. the leadership (**frontbenchers**) of either group, who occupy this bench. 2. the leadership of the government or opposition in various legislative assemblies.

frontier ('frʌntɪə, frʌn'tɪə) *n.* 1. a. the region of a country bordering on another or a line, barrier, etc., marking such a boundary. b. (as modifier): *a frontier post.* 2. *U.S.* the edge of the settled area of a country. 3. (often pl.) the limit of knowledge in a particular field: *the frontiers of physics have been pushed back.*

frontispiece ('frʌntɪspɪs) *n.* 1. an illustration facing the title page of a book. 2. the principal façade of a building. 3. a pediment over a door, window, etc.

frontrunner ('frʌnt,rʌnə) *n. Inf.* the leader or a favoured contestant in a race, election, etc.

frost (frɒst) *n.* 1. a white deposit of ice particles, esp. one formed on objects out of doors at night. 2. an atmospheric temperature of below freezing point, characterized by the production of this deposit. 3. **degrees of frost.** degrees below freezing point. 4. *Inf.* something given a cold reception; failure. 5. *Inf.* coolness of manner. 6. the act of freezing. ~vb. 7. to cover or be covered with frost. 8. (tr.) to give a frostlike appearance to (glass, etc.), as by means of a fine-grained surface. 9. (tr.) *Chiefly U.S.* to decorate (cakes, etc.) with icing or frosting. 10. (tr.) to kill or damage (crops, etc.) with frost.

frostbite ('frɒst,bɪt) *n.* destruction of tissues, esp. those of the fingers, ears, toes, and nose, by freezing. —'frost,bitten *adj.*

frosting ('frɒstɪŋ) *n.* 1. another word (esp. *U.S.*) for icing. 2. a rough or matt finish on glass, silver, etc.

frosty ('frɒsti) *adj.* **frostier, frostiest.** 1. characterized by frost: *a frosty night.* 2. covered by or decorated with frost. 3. lacking warmth or enthusiasm: *the new plan had a frosty reception.* —'frostily *adv.* —'frostiness *n.*

froth (frɒθ) *n.* 1. a mass of small bubbles of air or a gas in a liquid, produced by fermentation, etc. 2. a mixture of saliva and air bubbles formed at the lips in certain diseases, such as rabies. 3. trivial ideas or entertainment. ~vb. 4. to produce or cause to produce froth. 5. (tr.) to give out in the form of froth. —'frothy *adj.* —'frothily *adv.*

froward ('frəʊəd) *adj.* obstinate; contrary. —'frowardly *adv.* —'frowardness *n.*

frown (fraʊn) *vb.* 1. (intr.) to draw the brows together and wrinkle the forehead, esp. in worry, anger, or concentration. 2. (intr.; foll. by *on* or *upon*) to look disapprovingly (upon). 3. (tr.) to express (worry, etc.) by frowning. ~n. 4. the act of frowning. 5. a show of dislike or displeasure. —'frowner *n.* —'frowningly *adv.*

frowsty ('fraʊsti) *adj.* ill-smelling; stale; musty.

frowzy or **frowsy** ('fraʊzi) *adj.* **frowzier, frowziest, or frowsier, frowsiest.** 1. untidy or unkempt in appearance. 2. ill-smelling; frowsty. —'frowziness or 'frowsiness *n.*

froze (frəʊz) *vb.* the past tense of freeze.

frozen ('frəʊzən) *vb.* 1. the past participle of freeze. ~adj. 2. turned into or covered with ice. 3. killed or stiffened by extreme cold. 4. (of a region or climate) icy or snowy. 5. (of food) preserved by a freezing process. 6. a. (of prices, wages, etc.) arbitrarily pegged at a certain level. b. (of business assets) not convertible into cash. 7. frigid or disdainful in manner. 8. motionless or unyielding: *he was frozen with horror.* —'frozenly *adv.*

F.R.S. (in Britain) *abbrev. for* Fellow of the Royal Society.

fructify ('frʌktɪfaɪ) *vb.* -fying, -fied. 1. to bear or cause to bear fruit. 2. to make or become fruitful. —'fructification *n.* —'fructiferous *adj.* —'fructifier *n.*

fructose ('frʌktʊs) *n.* a white crystalline sugar occurring in many fruits. Formula: $C_6H_{12}O_6$.

frugal ('frʊgəl) *adj.* 1. practising economy; thrifty. 2. not costly; meagre. —'frugality *n.* —'frugally *adv.*

fruit (fruɪt) *n.* 1. *Bot.* the ripened ovary of a flowering plant, containing one or more seeds. It may be dry, as in the poppy, or fleshy, as in the peach. 2. any fleshy part of a plant that supports the seeds and is edible, such as the strawberry. 3. any plant product useful to man, including grain, vegetables, etc. 4. (often pl.) the result or consequence of an action or effort. 5. *Arch.* offspring of man or animals. ~vb. 6. to bear or cause to bear fruit. —'fruit,like *adj.*

fruiterer ('frutɪərə) *n.* chiefly Brit. a fruit dealer or seller.

fruitful ('fru:tʃʊl) *adj.* 1. bearing fruit in abundance. 2. productive or prolific. 3. producing results or profits: a fruitful discussion. —'fruitfully *adv.* —'fruitfulness *n.*

fruition ('fru:ʃjən) *n.* 1. the attainment of something worked for or desired. 2. enjoyment of this. 3. the act or condition of bearing fruit.

fruitless ('fru:tʃlɪs) *adj.* 1. yielding nothing or nothing of value; unproductive. 2. without fruit. —'fruitlessly *adv.* —'fruitlessness *n.*

fruit machine *n.* Brit. a gambling machine that pays out when certain combinations of diagrams, usually of fruit, appear on a dial.

fruit sugar *n.* another name for fructose.

fruity ('fru:tɪ) *adj.* fruitier, fruitiest. 1. of or resembling fruit. 2. (of a voice) mellow or rich. 3. *Inf.* chiefly Brit. erotically stimulating; salacious. —'fruitiness *n.*

frump (frʌmp) *n.* a woman who is dowdy, drab, or unattractive. —'frumpish or 'frumpy *adj.*

frustrate ('frʌstreɪt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to hinder or prevent (the efforts, plans, or desires) of. 2. to upset, agitate, or tire. ~adj. 3. Arch. frustrated or thwarted. —'frustration *n.*

frustum ('frʌstəm) *n., pl. -tums or -ta* (-tə). *Geom.* a. the part of a solid, such as a cone or pyramid, contained between the base and a plane parallel to the base that intersects the solid. b. the part of such a solid contained between two parallel planes intersecting the solid.

fry¹ (fraɪ) *vb.* frying, fried. 1. (when tr., sometimes foll. by up) to cook or be cooked in fat, oil, etc., usually over direct heat. 2. *Sl.*, chiefly U.S. to kill or be killed by electrocution. ~n., pl. fries. 3. a dish of something fried, esp. the offal of a specified animal: pig's fry. 4. fry-up. Brit. *inf.* the act of preparing a mixed fried dish or the dish itself. —'fryer or 'frier *n.*

fry² (fraɪ) *pl. n.* 1. the young of various species of fish. 2. the young of certain other animals, such as frogs.

frying pan *n.* 1. a long-handled shallow pan used for frying. 2. out of the frying pan into the fire. from a bad situation to a worse one.

f-stop ('ef,stop) *n.* any of the settings for the f-number of a camera.

ft. abbrev. for: 1. foot or feet. 2. fort.

fth. or **fthm.** abbrev. for fathom.

fuchsia ('fju:ʃə) *n.* 1. a shrub widely cultivated for its showy drooping purple, red, or white flowers. 2. a reddish-purple to purplish-pink colour.

fuck (fʌk) *Taboo.* ~vb. 1. to have sexual intercourse with (someone). ~n. 2. an act of sexual intercourse. 3. *Sl.* a partner in sexual intercourse. 4. not care or give a fuck. not to care at all. ~interj. 5. *Offens.* an expression of strong disgust or anger.

fuddle ('fʌdl) *vb.* 1. (tr.; often passive) to cause to be confused or intoxicated. ~n. 2. a muddled or confused state.

fuddy-duddy ('fʌdɪ,dʌdɪ) *n., pl. -dies.* *Inf.* a person, esp. an elderly one, who is extremely conservative or dull.

fudge¹ ('fʌdʒ) *n.* a soft variously flavoured sweet made from sugar, butter, etc.

fudge² ('fʌdʒ) *n.* 1. foolishness; nonsense. ~interj. 2. a mild exclamation of annoyance.

fuel (fjuəl) *n.* 1. any substance burned as a source of heat or power, such as coal or petrol. 2. the material, containing a fissionable substance such as uranium-235, that produces energy in a nuclear reactor. 3. something that nourishes or builds up emotion, action, etc. ~vb. fueling, fuelled or U.S. fueling, fueled. 4. to supply with or receive fuel.

fuel cell *n.* a cell in which chemical energy is converted directly into electrical energy.

fug (fʌg) *n.* chiefly Brit. a hot, stale, or suffocating atmosphere. —'fuggy *adj.*

fugitive ('fju:dʒɪtv) *n.* 1. a person who flees. 2. a thing that is elusive or fleeting. ~adj. 3. fleeing, esp. from arrest or pursuit. 4. not permanent; fleeting. —'fugitively *adv.*

fugue (fju:ɡ) *n.* 1. a musical form consisting of a theme repeated a fifth above or a fourth below the continuing first statement. 2. *Psychiatry.* a dreamlike altered state of consciousness, during which a person may wander away. —'fugal *adj.*

Führer or **Fuehrer** German. ('fy:rər) *n.* a leader: applied esp. to Adolf Hitler while he was Chancellor.

-ful suffix. 1. (forming adjectives) full of or characterized by: painful; restful. 2. (forming adjectives) able or

tending to: useful. 3. (forming nouns) indicating as much as will fill the thing specified: mouthful.

▷ **Usage.** Where the amount held by a spoon, etc., is used as a rough unit of measurement, the correct form is spoonful, etc.: take a spoonful of this medicine every day. The plural of a word like spoonful is spoonfuls and not spoonsful.

fulcrum ('fʊlkɾəm, 'fʌl-) *n., pl. -crums or -cra* (-krə). 1. the pivot about which a lever turns. 2. something that supports or sustains; prop.

fulfil or **U.S. fulfill** ('fʊl'fɪl) *vb.* -filling, -filled. (tr.) 1. to bring about the completion or achievement of (a desire, promise, etc.). 2. to carry out or execute (a request, etc.). 3. to conform with or satisfy (regulations, etc.). 4. to finish or reach the end of. 5. fulfil oneself. to achieve one's potentials or desires. —'fulfilment or U.S. fulfillment *n.*

full¹ ('fʊl) *adj.* 1. holding or containing as much as possible. 2. abundant in supply, quantity, number, etc.: full of energy. 3. having consumed enough food or drink. 4. (esp. of the face or figure) rounded or plump. 5. (prenominal) complete: a full dozen. 6. (prenominal) with all privileges, rights, etc.: a full member. 7. (prenominal) having the same parents: a full brother. 8. filled with emotion or sentiment: a full heart. 9. (post-positive; foll. by of) occupied or engrossed (with): full of his own projects. 10. Music. a. powerful or rich in volume and sound. b. completing a piece or section; concluding: a full close. 11. (of a garment, esp. a skirt) containing a large amount of fabric. 12. (of sails, etc.) distended by wind. 13. (of wine, such as a burgundy) having a heavy body. 14. (of a colour) rich; saturated. 15. Austral. *inf.* drunk. 16. full of oneself. full of pride or conceit. 17. full up. filled to capacity. 18. in full cry. (of a pack of hounds) in full pursuit of quarry. 19. in full swing. at the height of activity: the party was in full swing. ~adv. 20. a. completely; entirely. b. (in combination): full-fledged. 21. directly; right: he hit him full in the stomach. 22. very; extremely (esp. in full well). ~n. 23. the greatest degree, extent, etc. 24. in full. without omitting or shortening: we paid in full for our mistake. 25. to the full. thoroughly; fully. ~vb. 26. (tr.) Needlework. to gather or tuck. 27. (intr.) (of the moon) to be fully illuminated. —'fullness or esp. U.S. 'fulness *n.*

full² ('fʊl) *vb.* (of cloth, yarn, etc.) to become or to make (cloth, yarn, etc.) more compact during manufacture through shrinking and pressing. —'fuller *n.*

fullback ('fʊl,bæk) *n.* Soccer, hockey, rugby. a. a defensive player. b. the position held by this player.

full-blooded *adj.* 1. (esp. of horses) of unmixed ancestry. 2. having great vigour or health; hearty. —'full-bloodedness *n.*

full-blown *adj.* 1. characterized by the fullest, strongest, or best development. 2. in full bloom.

full-bodied *adj.* having a full rich flavour or quality.

fuller's earth *n.* a natural absorbent clay used, after heating, for clarifying oils and fats, fulling cloth, etc.

full house *n.* 1. Poker. a hand with three cards of the same value and another pair. 2. a theatre, etc., filled to capacity. 3. (in bingo, etc.) the set of numbers needed to win.

full-length *n.* (modifier) 1. showing the complete length. 2. not abridged

full moon *n.* one of the four phases of the moon when the moon is visible as a fully illuminated disc.

full pitch or **full toss** *n.* Cricket. a bowled ball that reaches the batsman without bouncing.

full-scale *n.* (modifier) 1. (of a plan, etc.) of actual size. 2. using all resources; all-out.

full stop or **full point** *n.* the punctuation mark (.) used at the end of a sentence that is not a question or exclamation, after abbreviations, etc. U.S. term: period.

full time *n.* the end of a football or other match.

full-time *adj.* 1. for the entire time appropriate to an activity: a full-time job. ~adv. full time. 2. on a full-time basis: he works full time. ~Cf. part-time.

fully ('fʊli) *adv.* 1. to the greatest degree or extent. 2. amply; adequately: they were fully fed. 3. at least: it was fully an hour before she came.

fully fashioned *adj.* (of stockings, seams, knitwear, etc.) shaped so as to fit closely.

fulmar ('fʊlmə) *n.* a heavily built short-tailed oceanic bird of polar regions.

fulminate ('fʊlmi,neɪt) *vb.* 1. (intr.; often foll. by against) to make severe criticisms or denunciations; rail. 2. to explode with noise and violence. ~n. 3. any salt or

ester of **fulminic acid**, an isomer of cyanic acid, which is used as a detonator. — **fulminant** *adj.* — **fulminant** *n.* — **fulmi**, **natory** *adj.*

fulsome (ˈfʊlsəm) *adj.* excessive or insincere, esp. in an offensive or distasteful way: *fulsome compliments.* — **fulsomely** *adv.* — **fulness** *n.*

fumble (ˈfʌmbəl) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*; often foll. by *for* or *with*) to grope about clumsily or blindly, esp. in searching. 2. (*intr.*; foll. by *at* or *with*) to finger or play with, esp. in an absent-minded way. 3. to say or do awkwardly: *he fumbled the introduction badly.* 4. to fail to catch or grasp (a ball, etc.) cleanly. ~*n.* 5. the act of fumbling. — **fumbler** *n.* — **fumbly** *adv.*

fume (fju:m) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to be overcome with anger or fury. 2. to give off (fumes) or (of fumes) to be given off, esp. during a chemical reaction. 3. (*tr.*) to fumigate. ~*n.* 4. (*often pl.*) a pungent or toxic vapour, gas, or smoke. 5. a sharp or pungent odour. — **fumeless** *adj.* — **fumingly** *adv.* — **fummy** *adj.*

fumigate (ˈfju:mɪgeɪt) *vb.* to treat (something contaminated or infected) with fumes or smoke. — **fumigation** *n.* — **fumi**, **gator** *n.*

fun (fʌn) *n.* 1. a source of enjoyment, amusement, diversion, etc. 2. pleasure, gaiety, or merriment. 3. jest or sport (esp. in *in or for fun*). 4. **fun and games.** *Ironical or facetious, frivolous or hetic activity.* 5. **make fun of** or **poke fun at.** to ridicule or deride. 6. (*modifier*) full of amusement, diversion, gaiety, etc.: *a fun sport.*

function (ˈfʌŋkʃən) *n.* 1. the natural action or intended purpose of a person or thing in a specific role: *the function of a hammer is to hit nails into wood.* 2. an official or formal social gathering or ceremony. 3. a factor dependent upon another or other factors. 4. *Maths.* a. a variable or expression whose value depends upon that of an independent variable or variables: *y is a function of x, written y = f(x).* b. Also called: **map**, **mapping**, a relation between two sets such that a member of one set (the range) can be associated with a member of the other (the domain). ~*vb.* (*intr.*) 5. to operate or perform as specified. 6. (foll. by *as*) to perform the action or role (of something or someone else): *a coin may function as a screwdriver.*

functional (ˈfʌŋkʃənəl) *adj.* 1. of, involving, or containing a function or functions. 2. practical rather than decorative; utilitarian. 3. capable of functioning; working. 4. *Med.* affecting a function of an organ without structural change. — **functionally** *adv.*

functionalism (ˈfʌŋkʃənəlɪzəm) *n.* 1. the theory of design that the form of a thing should be determined by its use. 2. any doctrine that stresses purpose. — **functionalist** *n.*, *adj.*

functionary (ˈfʌŋkʃənəri) *n.*, *pl.* **-aries.** a person acting in an official capacity, as for a government; an official.

fund (fʌnd) *n.* 1. a reserve of money, etc., set aside for a certain purpose. 2. a supply or store of something; stock: *it exhausted his fund of wisdom.* ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 3. to furnish money to in the form of a fund. 4. to place or store up in a fund. 5. to convert (short-term floating debt) into long-term debt bearing fixed interest and represented by bonds. 6. to accumulate a fund for the discharge of (a recurrent liability): *to fund a pension plan.*

fundamental (ˌfʌndəˈmentl) *adj.* 1. of, involving, or comprising a foundation; basic. 2. of, involving, or comprising a source; primary. 3. *Music.* denoting or relating to the principal or lowest note of a harmonic series. ~*n.* 4. a principle, law, etc., that serves as the basis of an idea or system. 5. a. the principal or lowest note of a harmonic series. b. the bass note of a chord in root position. — **fundamental** *ity* *n.* — **fundamental** *ly* *adv.*

fundamentalism (ˌfʌndəˈmentlɪzəm) *n.* Christianity. the view that the Bible is divinely inspired and is therefore literally true. — **fundamentalist** *n.*, *adj.*

fundamental particle *n.* another name for **elementary particle**.

funds (fʌnz) *pl. n.* 1. money that is readily available. 2. British government securities representing national debt.

funeral (ˈfju:nərəl) *n.* 1. a. a ceremony at which a dead person is buried or cremated. b. (*as modifier*): *a funeral service.* 2. a procession of people escorting a corpse to burial. 3. *Inf.* concern; affair: *that's your funeral.* — **funerary** *adj.*

funeral director *n.* an undertaker.

funereal (ˈfju:nərəl) *adj.* suggestive of a funeral; gloomy or mournful. Also: **funebrial**. — **funerally** *adv.*

funfair (ˈfʌn,fɛə) *n.* *Brit.* an amusement park or fair-ground.

fungicide (ˈfʌndʒɪ,sɪd) *n.* a substance or agent that destroys or is capable of destroying fungi. — **fungicidal** *adj.* — **fungicidally** *adv.*

fungoid (ˈfʌŋɡɔɪd) *adj.* resembling a fungus or fungi: *a fungoid growth.*

fungous (ˈfʌŋɡəs) *adj.* appearing suddenly and spreading quickly like a fungus.

fungus (ˈfʌŋɡəs) *n.*, *pl.* **fungi** (ˈfʌndʒaɪ, ˈfʌŋɡaɪ) or **funguses**. 1. any plant of the division *Fungi*, lacking chlorophyll, leaves, true stems, and roots, and reproducing by spores. The group includes moulds, yeasts, and mushrooms. 2. something resembling a fungus, esp. in suddenly growing. 3. *Pathol.* any soft tumorous growth. — **fungal** *adj.*

funicular (fju:ˈnɪkjʊlə) *n.* 1. Also called: **funicular railway**, a railway up the side of a mountain, consisting of two cars at either end of a cable passing round a driving wheel at the summit. ~*adj.* 2. relating to or operated by a rope, etc.

funk (fʌŋk) *Inf.*, chiefly *Brit.* ~*n.* 1. Also called: **blue funk**, a state of nervousness, fear, or depression. 2. a coward. ~*vb.* 3. to flinch from (responsibility, etc.) through fear. 4. (*tr.*; usually *passive*) to make afraid.

funnel (ˈfʌnəl) *n.* 1. a hollow utensil with a wide mouth tapering to a small hole, used for pouring liquids, powders, etc., into a narrow-necked vessel. 2. something resembling this in shape or function. 3. a smokestack for smoke and exhaust gases, as on a steam locomotive. ~*vb.* **-nelling**, **-nelled** or *U.S.* **-neling**, **-neled**. 4. to move or cause to move or pour through or as if through a funnel. — **funnel-like** *adj.*

funny (ˈfʌni) *adj.* **-nier**, **-niest**. 1. causing amusement or laughter; humorous. 2. peculiar; odd. 3. suspicious or dubious (esp. in **funny business**). 4. *Inf.* faint or ill. ~*n.*, *pl.* **-nies**. 5. *Inf.* a joke or witticism. — **funnily** *adv.* — **funniness** *n.*

funny bone *n.* the area near the elbow where the ulnar nerve is close to the surface of the skin: when it is struck, a sharp tingling sensation is experienced.

fur (fɜ:) *n.* 1. the dense coat of fine silky hairs on such mammals as the cat, seal, and mink. 2. a. the dressed skin of certain fur-bearing animals, with the hair left on. b. (*as modifier*): *a fur coat.* 3. a garment made of fur, such as a stole. 4. a pile fabric made in imitation of animal fur. 5. *Heraldry.* any of various stylized representations of animal pelts used in coats of arms. 6. **make the fur fly.** to cause a scene or disturbance. 7. *Inf.* a whitish coating on the tongue, caused by excessive smoking, an upset stomach, etc. 8. *Brit.* a whitish-grey deposit precipitated from hard water onto the insides of pipes, boilers, and kettles. ~*vb.* **furring**, **furred**. 9. (*tr.*) to line or trim a garment, etc., with fur. 10. (often foll. by *up*) to cover or become covered with a furlike lining or deposit. — **furless** *adj.*

fur, *abbrev.* for **furlong**.

furberlow (ˈfɜ:bɪ,ləʊ) *n.* 1. a flounce, ruffle, or other ornamental trim. 2. (*often pl.*) showy ornamentation. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to put a furberlow on (a garment, etc.).

furberish (ˈfɜ:bɪʃ) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to make bright by polishing. 2. (often foll. by *up*) to renovate; restore. — **furberish** *n.*

furcate *vb.* (ˈfɜ:kɛɪt). 1. to divide into two parts. ~*adj.* (ˈfɜ:kɛɪt). 2. forked: *furcate branches.* — **furcation** *n.*

Furies (ˈfjuəri:z) *pl. n.*, *sing.* **Fury**. *Classical myth.* the snake-haired goddesses of vengeance, usually three in number, who pursued unpunished criminals. Also called: **Erinyes**, **Eumenides**.

furious (ˈfjuəriəs) *adj.* 1. extremely angry or annoyed. 2. violent or unrestrained, as in speed, energy, etc. — **furiously** *adv.* — **furi**, **ousness** *n.*

furl (fɜ:l) *vb.* 1. to roll up (an umbrella, flag, etc.) neatly and securely or (of an umbrella, flag, etc.) to be rolled up in this way. ~*n.* 2. the act or an instance of furling. 3. a single rolled-up section. — **furlable** *adj.*

fur (fɜ:l) *n.* a unit of length equal to 220 yards (201.168 metres).

furlough (ˈfɜ:ləʊ) *n.* 1. leave of absence from military duty. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 2. to grant a furlough to.

furnace (ˈfɜ:nɪs) *n.* 1. an enclosed chamber in which heat is produced to destroy refuse, smelt or refine ores, etc. 2. a very hot place.

furnish (ˈfɜ:nɪʃ) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to provide (a house, room, etc.) with furniture, etc. 2. to equip with what is necessary. 3. to supply: *the records furnished the information.* — **furnisher** *n.*

furnishings ('fʌ:nɪʃɪŋz) *pl. n.* furniture, carpets, etc., with which a room or house is furnished.

furniture ('fʌ:nɪtʃə) *n.* 1. the movable articles that equip a room, house, etc. 2. the equipment necessary for a ship, factory, etc. 3. *Printing.* lengths of wood, plastic, or metal, used in assembling formes to surround the type. 4. Also called: **door furniture.** locks, handles, etc., designed for use on doors.

furor (fjʊ'ɒ:rɪ) or *esp. U.S. furor* ('fjʊə:rɪ) *n.* 1. a public outburst; uproar. 2. a sudden widespread enthusiasm; craze. 3. frenzy; rage.

furrier ('fʌrɪə) *n.* a person whose occupation is selling, making, or repairing fur garments. —'furriery *n.*

furrow ('fʌrʊ) *n.* 1. a long narrow trench made in the ground by a plough. 2. any long deep groove, esp. a deep wrinkle on the forehead. ~*vb.* 3. to develop or cause to develop furrows or wrinkles. 4. to make a furrow or furrows in (land). —'furrower *n.* —'furrowless *adj.* —'furrowy *adj.*

furry ('fʌrɪ) *adj.* -rier, -riest. 1. covered with fur or something furrylike. 2. of, relating to, or resembling fur. 3. Also: **furred.** (of the tongue) coated with whitish cellular debris. —'furrily *adv.* —'furriness *n.*

further ('fʌðə) *adv.* 1. in addition; furthermore. 2. to a greater degree or extent. 3. to or at a more advanced point. 4. to or at a greater distance in time or space. ~*adj.* 5. additional; more. 6. more distant or remote in time or space. ~*vb.* 7. (*tr.*) to assist the progress of. ~See also **far, furthest.**

▷ Usage. See at **farther.**

furtherance ('fʌðə:ns) *n.* 1. the act of furthering. 2. something that furthers.

further education *n.* (in Britain) formal education beyond school other than at a university or polytechnic.

furthermore ('fʌðə,mɔ:) *adv.* in addition; moreover.

furthest ('fʌðɪst) *adv.* 1. to the greatest degree or extent. 2. to or at the greatest distance in time or space; farthest. ~*adj.* 3. most distant or remote in time or space; farthest.

furtive ('fʌ:tɪv) *adj.* characterized by stealth; sly and secretive. —'furtively *adv.* —'furtiveness *n.*

fury ('fjʊəri) *n.* -ries. 1. violent or uncontrolled anger. 2. an outburst of such anger. 3. a person, esp. a woman, with a violent temper. 4. See **Furies.** 5. like **fury.** *Inf.* violently; furiously.

furze (fɜ:z) *n.* another name for **gorse.** —'furzy *adj.*

fuscous ('fʌskʊs) *adj.* of a brownish-grey colour.

fuse¹ or *U.S. fuze* (fju:z) *n.* 1. a lead of combustible black powder (**safety fuse**), or a lead containing an explosive (**detonating fuse**), used to fire an explosive charge. 2. any device by which an explosive charge is ignited. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to equip with such a fuse. —'fuseless *adj.*

fuse² (fju:z) *vb.* 1. to unite or become united by melting, esp. by the action of heat. 2. to become or cause to become liquid, esp. by the action of heat. 3. to join or become combined. 4. (*tr.*) to equip (a plug, etc.) with a fuse. 5. *Brit.* to fail or cause to fail as a result of the blowing of a fuse: *the lights fused.* ~*n.* 6. a. a protective device for safeguarding electric circuits, etc., containing a wire that melts and breaks the circuit when the current exceeds a certain value. b. any device performing a similar function.

fuselage ('fju:zɪ,lɑ:ʒ) *n.* the main body of an aircraft.

fusible ('fju:zəbəl) *adj.* capable of being fused or melted. —'fusibility *n.* —'fusibly *adv.*

fusilier ('fju:zɪliə) *n.* 1. (formerly) an infantryman armed with a light musket. 2. Also: **fusileer.** a. a soldier, esp. a private, serving in any of certain British or other infantry regiments. b. (*pl.*; *cap.* when part of a name): *the Royal Welsh Fusiliers.*

fusillade (fju:zɪ'leɪd) *n.* 1. a rapid continual discharge

of firearms. 2. a sudden outburst, as of criticism. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to attack with a fusillade.

fusion ('fju:ʒən) *n.* 1. the act or process of fusing or melting together. 2. the state of being fused. 3. something produced by fusing. 4. See **nuclear fusion.** 5. a coalition of political parties.

fuss (fʌs) *n.* 1. nervous activity or agitation, esp. when unnecessary. 2. complaint or objection: *he made a fuss over the bill.* 3. an exhibition of affection or admiration: *they made a great fuss over the new baby.* 4. a quarrel. ~*vb.* 5. (*intr.*) to worry unnecessarily. 6. (*intr.*) to be excessively concerned over trifles. 7. (when *intr.*, usually foll. by *over*) to show great or excessive concern, affection, etc. (*for*). 8. (*tr.*) to bother (a person). —'fusser *n.*

fusspot ('fʌs,pɒt) *n.* *Brit. inf.* a person who fusses unnecessarily.

fussy ('fʌsi) *adj.* fussier, fussiest. 1. inclined to fuss over minor points. 2. very particular about detail. 3. characterized by overelaborate detail. —'fussily *adv.* —'fussiness *n.*

fustian ('fʌʃən) *n.* 1. a. a hard-wearing fabric of cotton mixed with flax or wool. b. (*as modifier*): *a fustian jacket.* 2. pompous talk or writing. ~*adj.* 3. cheap; worthless. 4. bombastic.

fusty ('fʌsti) *adj.* -tier, -tiest. 1. smelling of damp or mould. 2. old-fashioned in attitude. —'fustily *adv.* —'fustiness *n.*

futile ('fju:tail) *adj.* 1. having no effective result; unsuccessful. 2. pointless; trifling. 3. inane or foolish. —'futilely *adv.* —'futility (fju:'tɪlɪti) *n.*

future ('fju:tʃə) *n.* 1. the time yet to come. 2. undetermined events that will occur in that time. 3. the condition of a person or thing at a later date: *the future of the school is undecided.* 4. likelihood of later improvement: *he has a future as a singer.* 5. *Grammar.* a. a tense of verbs used when the action or event described is to occur after the time of utterance. b. a verb in this tense. 6. *in future.* from now on. ~*adj.* 7. that is yet to come or be. 8. of or expressing time yet to come. 9. (*pre-nominal*) destined to become. 10. *Grammar.* in or denoting the future as a tense of verbs. —'futureless *adj.*

future perfect *Grammar.* ~*adj.* 1. denoting a tense of verbs describing an action that will have been performed by a certain time. ~*n.* 2. a. the future perfect tense. b. a verb in this tense.

futures ('fju:tʃəz) *pl. n.* commodities bought or sold at an agreed price for delivery at a specified future date.

futurism ('fju:tʃə,rɪzəm) *n.* an artistic movement that arose in Italy in 1909 to replace traditional aesthetic values with the characteristics of the machine age. —'futurist *n.*, *adj.*

futuristic ('fju:tʃə'rɪstɪk) *adj.* 1. denoting or relating to design, etc., that is thought likely to be fashionable at some future time. 2. of or relating to futurism. —'futuristically *adv.*

futurity (fju:'tʃʊərɪti) *n.*, *pl.* -ties. 1. a less common word for **future.** 2. the quality of being in the future. 3. a future event.

futurology ('fju:tʃə'rɒlədʒɪ) *n.* the study or prediction of the future of mankind. —'futurologist *n.*

fuzz¹ (fʌz) *n.* 1. a mass or covering of fine or curly hairs, fibres, etc. 2. a blur. ~*vb.* 3. to make or become fuzzy. 4. to make or become indistinct.

fuzz² (fʌz) *n.* a slang word for **police** or **policeman.**

fuzzy ('fʌzi) *adj.* fuzzier, fuzziest. 1. of, resembling, or covered with fuzz. 2. unclear or distorted. 3. (of the hair) tightly curled or very wavy. —'fuzzily *adv.* —'fuzziness *n.*

fwd. abbrev. for **forward.**

-fy suffix forming verbs. to make or become: *beautify.*

G

g or **G** (dʒiː) *n.*, *pl.* **g's**, **G's**, or **Gs**. 1. the seventh letter of the English alphabet. 2. a speech sound represented by this letter, usually either as in *grass*, or as in *page*.

g *symbol for*: 1. gallon(s). 2. gram(s). 3. acceleration of free fall (due to gravity).

G *symbol for*: 1. *Music*. a. the fifth note of the scale of C major. b. the major or minor key having this note as its tonic. 2. gravitational constant. 3. *Physics*. conductance. 4. German. 5. giga. 6. good. 7. *Sl.*, chiefly U.S. grand (a thousand dollars or pounds).

G. or **g.** *abbrev. for*: 1. gauges. 2. gauss. 3. gelding. 4. Gulf. 5. guilder(s). 6. guinea(s).

Ga *the chemical symbol for gallium*.

gab (gæb) *Inf.* ~*vb.* **gabbing**, **gabbled**. 1. (*intr.*) to talk excessively or idly; gossip; chatter. ~*n.* 2. idle or trivial talk. 3. **gift of the gab**, the ability to speak glibly or persuasively. —**gabbler** *n.*

gabble ('gæbl) *vb.* 1. to utter (words, etc.) rapidly and indistinctly; jabber. 2. (*intr.*) (of geese, etc.) to utter rapid cackling noises. ~*n.* 3. rapid and indistinct speech or noises. —**gabbler** *n.*

gaberdine ('gæbəˌdiːn, 'gæbəˌdiːn) *n.* 1. a twill-weave worsted, cotton, or spun-rayon fabric. 2. Also called: **gabardine**, an ankle-length loose coat or frock worn by men, esp. by Jews, in the Middle Ages. 3. any of various other garments made of gaberdine, esp. a child's raincoat.

gable ('gæbl) *n.* 1. Also called: **gable end**, the triangular upper part of a wall between the sloping ends of a pitched roof (**gable roof**). 2. a triangular ornamental feature, esp. as used over a door or window. —**gabled** *adj.*

gad (gæd) *vb.* **gadding**, **gaddled**. 1. (*intr.*; often foll. by *about* or *around*) to go out in search of pleasure; gallivant. ~*n.* 2. carefree adventure (esp. in *on the gad*). —**gadder** *n.*

gadabout ('gædəˌbaʊt) *n.* *Inf.* a person who restlessly seeks amusement, etc.

gadfly ('gædˌflaɪ) *n.*, *pl.* **-flies**. 1. any of various large dipterous flies, esp. the horsefly, that annoy livestock by sucking their blood. 2. a constantly irritating person.

gadget ('gædʒɪt) *n.* 1. a small mechanical device or appliance. 2. any object that is interesting for its ingenuity.

gadoid ('gædɔɪd) *adj.* 1. of or belonging to an order of marine soft-finned fishes typically having the pectoral and pelvic fins close together and small cycloid scales. The group includes cod and hake. ~*n.* 2. any gadoid fish.

gadolinium ('gædəˌlɪniəm) *n.* a ductile malleable silvery-white ferromagnetic element of the lanthanide series of metals. Symbol: Gd; atomic no.: 64; atomic wt.: 157.25.

gadwall ('gædˌwɔːl) *n.*, *pl.* **-walls** or **-wall**. a duck related to the mallard. The male has a grey body and black tail.

gadzooks ('gædˌzuːks) *interj.* *Arch.* a mild oath.

Gael (geɪl) *n.* a person who speaks a Gaelic language, esp. a Highland Scot or a southern Irishman. —**Gaeldom** *n.*

Gaelic ('geɪlɪk) *n.* 1. any of the closely related languages of the Celts in Ireland, Scotland, or the Isle of Man. ~*adj.* 2. of, denoting, or relating to the Celtic people of Ireland, Scotland, or the Isle of Man or their language or customs.

gaff ('gæf) *n.* 1. *Angling*, a stiff pole with a stout prong or hook attached for landing large fish. 2. *Naut.* a boom hoisted aft of a mast to support a fore-and-aft sail. 3. a metal spur fixed to the leg of a gamecock. ~*vb.* 4. (*tr.*) *Angling*, to hook or land (a fish) with a gaff.

gaff ('gæf) *n.* 1. *Sl.* nonsense. 2. **blow the gaff**, *Brit. sl.* to divulge a secret.

gaffe ('gæf) *n.* a social blunder, esp. a tactless remark.

gaffer ('gæfə) *n.* 1. an old man; often used affectionately or patronizingly. 2. *Inf.*, chiefly *Brit.* a boss, foreman, or owner of a factory, etc. 3. *Inf.* the senior electrician on a television or film set.

gag ('gæg) *vb.* **gagging**, **gagged**. 1. (*tr.*) to stop up (a person's mouth), esp. with a piece of cloth, etc., to

prevent him from speaking or crying out. 2. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to suppress or censor (free expression, information, etc.). 3. *Sl.* to retch or cause to retch. 4. (*intr.*) *Sl.* to struggle for breath; choke. ~*n.* 5. a piece of cloth, rope, etc., stuffed into or tied across the mouth. 6. *Inf.* any restraint on or suppression of information, free speech, etc. 7. *Parliamentary procedure*, another word for *closure* (sense 4).

gag¹ ('gæg) *Sl.* ~*n.* 1. a joke or humorous story, esp. one told by a professional comedian. 2. a hoax, practical joke, etc. ~*vb.* **gagging**, **gagged**. 3. (*intr.*) to tell jokes or funny stories, as comedians in nightclubs, etc.

gaga ('gɑːgɑː) *adj.* *Sl.* 1. senile; doting. 2. slightly crazy.

gage¹ ('geɪdʒ) *n.* 1. something deposited as security against the fulfilment of an obligation; pledge. 2. (formerly) a glove or other object thrown down to indicate a challenge to combat. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) *Arch.* to stake, pledge, or wager.

gage² ('geɪdʒ) *n.* short for **greengage**.

gage³ ('geɪdʒ) *n.*, *vb.* U.S. a variant spelling (esp. in technical senses) of **gauge**.

gaggle ('gægl) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) (of geese) to cackle. ~*n.* 2. a flock of geese. 3. *Inf.* a disorderly group of people.

gaiety ('geɪti) *n.*, *pl.* **-ties**. 1. the state or condition of being gay. 2. festivity; merrymaking. 3. colourful bright appearance.

gaily ('geɪli) *adv.* 1. in a gay manner; merrily. 2. with bright colours; showily.

gain (geɪn) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to acquire (something desirable); obtain. 2. (*tr.*) to win in competition: *to gain the victory*.

3. to increase, improve, or advance: *the car gained speed*. 4. (*tr.*) to earn (a wage, living, etc.). 5. (*intr.*;

usually foll. by *on* or *upon*) a. to get nearer (to) or catch up (on). b. to get farther away (from). 6. (*tr.*) (esp. of ships) to get to; reach: *the steamer gained port*. 7. (of a timepiece) to operate too fast, so as to indicate a time ahead of the true time. ~*n.* 8. something won, acquired, earned, etc.; profit; advantage. 9. an increase in size, amount, etc. 10. the act of gaining; attainment; acquisition. 11. Also called: **amplification**. *Electronics*. the ratio of the output power of an amplifier to the power fed into it, usually measured in decibels.

gainful ('geɪnfʊl) *adj.* profitable; lucrative. —**gainfully** *adv.* —**gainfulness** *n.*

gainsay (geɪnˈseɪ) *vb.* **-saying**, **-said**. (*tr.*) *Arch.* or *literary*. to deny (an allegation, statement, etc.); contradict. —**gain'sayer** *n.*

gait (geɪt) *n.* 1. manner of walking or running, esp. a horse's walk, trot, canter, etc. ~*vb.* 2. (*tr.*) to teach (a horse) a particular gait.

gaiter ('geɪtə) *n.* (*often pl.*) 1. a cloth or leather covering for the leg or ankle. 2. Also called: **spat**, a similar covering extending from the ankle to the instep.

gal (gæl) *n.* *Sl.* a girl.

gal or **gal.** *abbrev. for* gallon.

Gal. *abbrev. for* Galatians.

gala ('gɑːlə, 'geɪlə) *n.* 1. a. a celebration; festive occasion. b. (*as modifier*): *a gala occasion*. 2. *Chiefly Brit.* a sporting occasion involving competitions in several events: *a swimming gala*.

galactic ('gæləktɪk) *adj.* 1. *Astron.* of or relating to a galaxy, esp. the Galaxy. 2. **galactic plane**, the plane passing through the spiral arms of the Galaxy, contained by the great circle of the celestial sphere (**galactic equator**) and perpendicular to an imaginary line joining opposite points (**galactic poles**) on the celestial sphere. 3. *Med.* of or relating to milk.

galantine ('gælənˌtiːn) *n.* a cold dish of meat or poultry, which is boned, cooked, then pressed and glazed.

galaxy ('gæləksɪ) *n.*, *pl.* **-axies**. 1, any of a vast number of star systems held together by gravitational attraction. 2. a splendid gathering, esp. one of famous or distinguished people.

Galaxy ('gæləksɪ) *n.* the spiral galaxy that contains the solar system about three fifths of the distance from its centre. Also called: **the Milky Way System**.

gale (geɪl) *n.* 1. a strong wind, specifically one of force 8 on the Beaufort scale or from 39-46 m.p.h. 2. (*often pl.*)

gal a loud outburst, esp. of laughter. **3.** Arch. & poetic. a gentle breeze.

galena (gə'li:nə) or **galenite** (gə'li:nait) *n.* a soft heavy bluish-grey or black mineral consisting of lead sulphide; the chief source of lead. Formula: PbS.

gall (gɔ:l) *n.* **1.** Inf. impudence. **2.** bitterness; rancour. **3.** something bitter or disagreeable. **4.** Physiol. an obsolete term for bile. See also **gall bladder**.

gall (gɔ:l) *n.* **1.** a sore on the skin caused by chafing. **2.** something that causes vexation or annoyance. **3.** irritation; exasperation. ~vb. **4.** to abrade (the skin, etc.) as by rubbing. **5.** (tr.) to irritate or annoy; vex.

gall (gɔ:l) *n.* an abnormal outgrowth in plant tissue caused by certain parasitic insects, fungi, or bacteria.

gall. abbrev. for **gallon**.

gallant adj. ('gælənt). **1.** brave and high-spirited; courageous and honourable: a *gallant warrior*. **2.** ('gælənt, 'gælənt). (of a man) attentive to women; chivalrous. **3.** imposing; dignified; stately: a *gallant ship*. **4.** Arch. showy in dress. ~n. ('gælənt, gə'lənt). **5.** a woman's lover or suitor. **6.** a dashing or fashionable young man, esp. one who pursues women. **7.** a brave, high-spirited, or adventurous man. ~vb. (gə'lənt, 'gælənt). Rare. **8.** (when intr., usually foll. by *with*) to court or flirt (with). —'gallantly adv.

gallantry ('gæləntri) *n.* pl. -ries. **1.** conspicuous courage, esp. in war. **2.** polite attentiveness to women. **3.** a gallant action, speech, etc.

gall bladder *n.* a muscular sac, attached to the right lobe of the liver, that stores bile.

galleon ('gælən) *n.* a large sailing ship having three or more masts, used as a warship or trader from the 15th to the 18th centuries.

gallery ('gæləri) *n.* pl. -leries. **1.** a covered passage-way open on one side or on both sides. **2.** a balcony running along or around the inside wall of a church, hall, etc. **3.** Theatre. a. an upper floor that projects from the rear and contains the cheapest seats. b. the seats there. c. the audience seated there. **4.** a long narrow room, esp. one used for a specific purpose: a *shooting gallery*. **5.** a room or building for exhibiting works of art. **6.** an underground passage, as in a mine, etc. **7.** a small ornamental railing, esp. one surrounding the top of a desk, table, etc. **8.** any group of spectators, as at a golf match. **9.** play to the gallery. to try to gain popular favour, esp. by crude appeals. —'galleried adj.

galley ('gæli) *n.* **1.** any of various kinds of ship propelled by oars or sails used in ancient or medieval times. **2.** the kitchen of a ship, boat, or aircraft. **3.** any of various long rowing boats. **4.** Printing. a. a tray for holding composed type. b. short for **galley proof**.

galley proof *n.* a printer's proof, esp. one taken from type in a galley, used to make corrections before the matter has been split into pages. Often shortened to **galley**.

galley slave *n.* **1.** a criminal or slave condemned to row in a galley. **2.** Inf. a drudge.

galliard ('gæljəd) *n.* **1.** a spirited dance in triple time for two persons, popular in the 16th and 17th centuries. **2.** a piece of music for this dance.

Galic ('gælik) adj. **1.** of or relating to France. **2.** of or relating to ancient Gaul or the Gauls.

Galicism ('gæli,sizəm) *n.* a word or idiom borrowed from French.

gallinaceous ('gæli'neifəs) adj. of, relating to, or belonging to an order of birds, including domestic fowl, pheasants, grouse, etc., having a heavy rounded body, short bill, and strong legs.

galling ('gɔ:liŋ) adj. irritating, exasperating, or bitterly humiliating. —'gallingly adv.

gallium ('gæləm) *n.* a silvery metallic element that is liquid for a wide temperature range. It is used in high-temperature thermometers, semiconductors, and low-melting alloys. Symbol: Ga; atomic no.: 31; atomic wt.: 69.72.

gallivant ('gæli,vənt) vb. (intr.) to go about in search of pleasure, etc.; gad about.

gallnut ('gɔ:lnʌt) or **gall-apple** *n.* a type of plant gall that resembles a nut.

Gallo- ('gæləu-) combining form. denoting Gaul or France: *Gallo-Roman*.

gallon ('gælən) *n.* **1.** Also called: **imperial gallon**. Brit. a unit of capacity equal to 277.42 cubic inches. **1** Brit. gallon is equivalent to 1.20 U.S. gallons or 4.55 litres. **2.** U.S. a unit of capacity equal to 231 cubic inches. **1** U.S. gallon is equivalent to 0.83 imperial gallon or 3.79 litres. **3.** (pl.) Inf. great quantities.

gallop ('gælɒp) vb. **1.** (of a horse or other quadruped) to run fast with a two-beat stride in which all four legs are off the ground at once. **2.** to ride (a horse, etc.) at a gallop. **3.** (intr.) Inf. to move, read, progress, etc., rapidly. ~n. **4.** the fast two-beat gait of horses. **5.** an instance of galloping. —'galloper *n.*

gallows ('gæləuz) *n.* pl. -lowses or -lows. **1.** a wooden structure usually consisting of two upright posts with a crossbeam, used for hanging criminals. **2.** any timber structure resembling this. **3.** the gallows. execution by hanging.

gallstone ('gɔ:l,stəʊn) *n.* a small hard concretion formed in the gall bladder or its ducts.

Gallup Poll ('gælɒp) *n.* a sampling of the views of a representative cross-section of the population, used esp. as a means of forecasting voting.

galop ('gælɒp) *n.* **1.** a 19th-century dance in quick duple time. **2.** a piece of music for this dance.

galore (gə'lo:ə) determiner. (immediately postpositive) Inf. in great numbers or quantity: *there were daffodils galore in the park*.

galoshes or **goloshes** (gə'loʃiz) pl. *n.* (sometimes sing.) a pair of waterproof overshoes.

galumph (gə'lamf, -lʌmf) vb. (intr.) Inf. to leap or move about clumsily or joggly.

galvanic (gæl'vænik) adj. **1.** of, producing, or concerned with an electric current, esp. a direct current produced chemically. **2.** Inf. resembling the effect of an electric shock; convulsive, startling, or energetic. —galvanically adv.

galvanism ('gælvə,nɪzəm) *n.* **1.** Obs. electricity, esp. when produced by chemical means as in a cell or battery. **2.** Med. treatment involving the application of electric currents to tissues.

galvanize or **-ise** ('gælvə,nəɪz) vb. (tr.) **1.** to stimulate to action; excite; startle. **2.** to cover (iron, steel, etc.) with a protective zinc coating. **3.** to stimulate by application of an electric current. —galvanization or -isation *n.*

galvanometer (gæl'və'nɒmɪtə) *n.* any sensitive instrument for detecting or measuring small electric currents. —galvanometric (gæl'və'nɒ'metrik, gæl'vænə-) adj. —galvanometry *n.*

gambit ('gæmbɪt) *n.* **1.** Chess. an opening move in which a chessman, usually a pawn, is sacrificed to secure an advantageous position. **2.** an opening comment, manoeuvre, etc., intended to secure an advantage.

gamble ('gæmbəl) vb. **1.** (intr.) to play games of chance to win money, etc. **2.** to risk or bet (money, etc.) on the outcome of an event, sport, etc. **3.** (intr.; often foll. by *on*) to act with the expectation of: *to gamble on its being a sunny day*. **4.** (often foll. by *away*) to lose by or as if by betting; squander. ~n. **5.** a risky act or venture. **6.** a bet or wager. —'gambler *n.* —'gambling *n.*

gamboge (gæm'bɒdʒ, -'bu:ʒ) *n.* **1.** a. a gum resin used as the source of a yellow pigment and as a purgative. b. the pigment made from this resin. **2.** gamboge tree. any of several tropical Asian trees that yield this resin.

gambol ('gæmbəl) vb. -bolling, -balled or U.S. -baling, -boled. **1.** (intr.) to skip or jump about in a playful manner; frolic. ~n. **2.** a playful antic; frolic.

game (geɪm) *n.* **1.** an amusement or pastime; diversion. **2.** a contest with rules, the result being determined by skill, strength, or chance. **3.** a single period of play in such a contest, sport, etc. **4.** the score needed to win a contest. **5.** a single contest in a series; match. **6.** equipment needed for playing certain games. **7.** style or ability in playing a game. **8.** a scheme, proceeding, etc., practised like a game: *the game of politics*. **9.** an activity undertaken in a spirit of levity; joke: *marriage is just a game to him*. **10.** a. wild animals, including birds and fish, hunted for sport, food, or profit. b. (as modifier) *game laws*. **11.** the flesh of such animals, used as food. **12.** an object of pursuit; quarry; prey (esp. in **fair game**). **13.** Inf. work or occupation. **14.** Inf. a trick, strategy, or device: *I can see through your little game*. **15.** Sl., chiefly Brit. prostitution (esp. in **on the game**). **16.** give the game away. to reveal one's intentions or a secret. **17.** make (a) game of. to make fun of; ridicule; mock. **18.** play the game. Inf. to behave fairly or in accordance with the rules. **19.** the game is up. there is no longer a chance of success. ~adj. **20.** Inf. full of fighting spirit; plucky; brave. **21.** (usually foll. by *for*) Inf. prepared or ready; willing: *I'm game for a try*. ~vb. **22.** (intr.) to play games of chance for money, stakes, etc.; gamble. —'gamely adv. —'gameness *n.*

game (geɪm) adj. a less common word for lame (esp. in **game leg**).

gamecock ('geim,kɒk) *n.* a cock bred and trained for fighting. Also called: **fighting cock**.

gamekeeper ('geim,kɪpə) *n.* a person employed to take care of game, as on an estate.

game laws *pl. n.* laws governing the hunting and preservation of game.

gamesmanship ('geɪmzməʃn,ʃɪp) *n.* *Inf.* the art of winning games or defeating opponents by cunning practices without actually cheating.

gamesome ('geɪmsəm) *adj.* full of merriment; sportive. — **'gamesomeness** *n.*

gamester ('geɪmstə) *n.* a person who habitually plays games for money; gambler.

gamete ('gæmɪt, gə'mɪt) *n.* a haploid reproductive cell that can undergo fertilization. — **gametic** (gə'met-ɪk) *adj.*

gameto- or sometimes before a vowel **gamet-** combining form. gamete: gametophyte.

gamin ('gæmɪn) *n.* a street urchin.

gamine ('gæmɪn) *n.* a slim and boyish girl or young woman; an elfish tomboy.

gaming ('geɪmɪŋ) *n.* a. gambling on games of chance. *b.* (as modifier): gaming house.

gamma ('gæmə) *n.* 1. the third letter in the Greek alphabet (Γ, γ). 2. the third in a group or series.

gamma rays *pl. n.* streams of gamma radiation, electromagnetic radiation of shorter wavelength and higher energy than x-rays.

gammer ('gæmə) *n.* *Rare, chiefly Brit.* a dialect word for an old woman: now chiefly humorous or contemptuous.

gammon¹ ('gæmən) *n.* 1. a cured or smoked ham. 2. the hindquarter of a side of bacon, cooked either whole or in rashers.

gammon² ('gæmən) *Brit. inf.* ~*n.* 1. deceitful nonsense; humbug. ~*vb.* 2. to deceive (a person).

gammy ('gæmi) *adj.* ~*mier, -miest.* *Brit. sl.* (esp. of the leg) malfunctioning, injured, or lame; game.

gamp (gæmp) *n.* *Brit. inf.* an umbrella.

gamut ('gæmʊt) *n.* 1. entire range or scale, as of emotions. 2. *Music.* a. a scale, esp. (in medieval theory) one starting on the G on the bottom line of the bass staff. *b.* the whole range of notes.

gamy or gamey ('geɪmi) *adj.* **gamier, gamiest.** 1. having the smell or flavour of game, esp. high game. 2. *Inf.* spirited; plucky; brave. — **'gamily** *adv.* — **'gaminess** *n.*

-gamy *n.* combining form. denoting marriage or sexual union: bigamy. — **gamous** *adj.* combining form.

gander ('gændə) *n.* 1. a male goose. 2. *Inf.* a quick look (esp. in take (or have) a gander). 3. *Inf.* a simpleton.

gang¹ (gæŋ) *n.* 1. a group of people who associate together or act as an organized body, esp. for criminal or illegal purposes. 2. an organized group of workmen. 3. a series of similar tools arranged to work simultaneously in parallel. ~*vb.* 4. to form into, become part of, or act as a gang. ~See also **gang up**.

gang² (gæŋ) *n.* a variant spelling of **ganguer**.

gang³ (gæŋ) *vb.* (*intr.*) *Scot.* to go or walk.

gangland ('gæŋ,lænd, -lənd) *n.* *Inf.* the criminal underworld.

gangling ('gæŋɡlɪŋ) or **gangly** *adj.* tall, lanky, and awkward in movement.

ganglion ('gæŋɡlɪən) *n., pl. -glia (-glɪə) or -glions.* 1. an encapsulated collection of nerve-cell bodies, usually located outside the brain and spinal cord. 2. any concentration or centre of energy, activity, or strength. 3. a cystic tumour on a tendon sheath. — **'gangliar** *adj.* — **'gangli¹onic** or **'gangli¹ated** *adj.*

gangplank ('gæŋ,plæŋk) or **gangway** *n.* *Naut.* a portable bridge for boarding and leaving a vessel at docksides.

gangrene ('gæŋɡriːn) *n.* death and decay of tissue as the result of interrupted blood supply, disease, or injury. — **gangrenous** ('gæŋɡrɪnəs) *adj.*

gangster ('gæŋgstə) *n.* a member of an organized gang of criminals.

ganguer or gang (gæŋ) *n.* valueless and undesirable material in an ore.

gang up *vb.* (often foll. by *on* or *against*) *Inf.* to combine in a group (against).

gangway ('gæŋ,wei) *n.* 1. another word for **gangplank**. 2. *Brit.* an aisle between rows of seats. 3. temporary planks over mud or earth, as on a building site. ~*interj.* 4. clear a path!

gannet ('gænit) *n.* any of several heavily built marine birds having a long stout bill and typically white plumage with dark markings.

ganoid ('gænoɪd) *adj.* 1. (of the scales of certain fishes) consisting of an inner bony layer and an outer layer of an enamel-like substance (ganoin). 2. denoting fishes, including the sturgeon and bowfin, having such scales. ~*n.* 3. a ganoid fish.

gantry ('gæntri) or **gauntry** *n., pl. -tries.* 1. a bridgelike framework used to support a travelling crane, signals over a railway track, etc. 2. Also called: **gantry scaffold**, the framework tower used to attend to a large rocket on its launching pad. 3. a supporting framework for a barrel.

gaol (dʒeɪl) *n., vb.* *Brit.* a variant spelling of **jail**. — **'gaol-er** *n.*

gap (gæp) *n.* 1. a break or opening in a wall, fence, etc. 2. a break in continuity; interruption; hiatus. 3. a break in a line of hills or mountains affording a route through. 4. *Chiefly U.S.* a gorge or ravine. 5. a divergence or difference; disparity: the generation gap. 6. *Electronics.* a break in a magnetic circuit that increases the inductance and saturation point of the circuit. 7. **bridge, close, fill, or stop a gap**, to remedy a deficiency. ~*vb.* **gapping, gapped.** 8. (*tr.*) to make a breach or opening in.

gape (geɪp) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. to stare in wonder, esp. with the mouth open. 2. to open the mouth wide, esp. involuntarily, as in yawning. 3. to be or become wide open: the crater gaped under his feet. ~*n.* 4. the act of gaping. 5. a wide opening. 6. the width of the widely opened mouth of a vertebrate. 7. a stare of astonishment. — **'gaper** *n.* — **'gapingly** *adv.*

garage ('gærɑːʒ, -rɪdʒ) *n.* 1. a building used to house a motor vehicle. 2. a commercial establishment in which motor vehicles are repaired, serviced, bought, and sold, and which usually also sells motor fuels. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to put into or keep in a garage.

garb (gɑːb) *n.* 1. clothes, esp. the distinctive attire of an occupation: clerical garb. 2. style of dress; fashion. 3. external appearance, covering, or attire. ~*vb.* 4. (*tr.*) to clothe; attire.

garbage ('gɑːbɪdʒ) *n.* 1. worthless, useless, or unwanted matter. 2. another word (esp. U.S.) for **rubbish**.

garble ('gɑːbl) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to jumble (a story, quotation, etc.), esp. unintentionally. 2. to distort the meaning of (an account, text, etc.), as by making misleading omissions; corrupt. ~*n.* 3. a. the act of garbling. *b.* garbled matter. — **'garbler** *n.*

garçon (French gar'sɔ̃) *n.* a waiter or male servant, esp. if French.

garden ('gɑːdn) *n.* 1. *Brit.* a. an area of land, usually planted with grass, trees, flowerbeds, etc., adjoining a house. *U.S. word:* yard. *b.* (as modifier): a garden chair. 2. a. an area of land used for the cultivation of ornamental plants, herbs, fruit, vegetables, trees, etc. *b.* (as modifier): garden tools. Related *adj.*: **horticultural**. 3. (*often pl.*) such an area of land that is open to the public, sometimes part of a park: botanical gardens. 4. a fertile and beautiful region. 5. lead (a person) up the garden path. *Inf.* to mislead or deceive. 6. common or garden. *Inf.* ordinary or commonplace. ~*vb.* 7. to work in, cultivate, or take care of (a garden, plot of land, etc.). — **'gardener** *n.*

garden centre *n.* a place where gardening tools and equipment, plants, seeds, etc., are sold.

garden city *n.* *Brit.* a planned town of limited size surrounded by a rural belt.

gardenia (gɑː'dɪniə) *n.* 1. any evergreen shrub or tree of the Old World tropical genus *Gardenia*, cultivated for their large fragrant waxlike typically white flowers. 2. the flower of any of these shrubs.

gargantuan (gɑː'gæntʃʊən) *adj.* (*sometimes cap.*) huge; enormous.

gargle ('gɑːɡl) *vb.* 1. to rinse the mouth and throat with (a liquid, esp. a medicinal fluid) by slowly breathing through the liquid. ~*n.* 2. the liquid used for gargling. 3. the sound produced by gargling.

gargoyle ('gɑːɡoɪl) *n.* 1. a waterspout carved in the form of a grotesque face or creature and projecting from a roof gutter. 2. a person with a grotesque appearance.

garish ('gærɪʃ) *adj.* gay or colourful in a crude manner; gaudy. — **'garishly** *adv.* — **'garishness** *n.*

garland ('gɑːlənd) *n.* 1. a wreath of flowers, leaves, etc., worn round the head or neck or hung up. 2. a collection of short literary pieces, such as poems; anthology. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to adorn with a garland or garlands.

garlic ('gʌlɪk) *n.* 1. a hardy widely cultivated Asian alliaceous plant having whitish flowers. 2. the bulb of this plant, made up of small segments (cloves) that have a strong odour and pungent taste and are used in cooking. — **'garlicky** *adj.*

garment ('gɑːmənt) *n.* 1. (often *pl.*) an article of clothing. 2. outer covering. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*; usually *passive*) to cover or clothe.

garner ('gɑːnə) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to gather or store as in a granary. ~*n.* 2. an archaic word for **granary**. 3. a place for storage.

garnet ('gɑːnɪt) *n.* any of a group of hard glassy red, yellow, or green minerals consisting of silicates in cubic crystalline form: used as a gemstone and abrasive.

garnish ('gɑːnɪʃ) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to decorate; trim. 2. to add something to (food) in order to improve its appearance or flavour. 3. *Law*. a. to serve with notice of proceedings; warn. b. to attach (a debt). ~*n.* 4. a decoration; trimming. 5. something, such as parsley, added to a dish for its flavour or decorative effect. — **'garnisher** *n.*

garret ('gærɪt) *n.* another word for **attic** (sense 1).

garrison ('gærɪsn̩) *n.* 1. the troops who maintain and guard a base or fortified place. 2. the place itself. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to station (troops) in (a fort, etc.).

garrotte or **garotte** ('gɑːrɒt) *n.* 1. a Spanish method of execution by strangulation. 2. the device, usually an iron collar, used in such executions. 3. *Obs.* strangulation of one's victim while committing robbery. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 4. to execute by means of the garrotte. 5. to strangle, esp. in order to commit robbery. — **'garrotter** or **ga'rotter** *n.*

garrulous ('gærələs) *adj.* 1. given to constant chatter; talkative. 2. wordy or diffuse. — **'garrulously** *adv.* — **'garrulosity** or **garrulity** ('gær:ru:lɪtɪ) *n.*

garter ('gɑːtə) *n.* 1. a band, usually of elastic, worn round the leg to hold up a sock or stocking. 2. the U.S. word for **suspender**. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to fasten or secure as with a garter.

Garter ('gɑːtə) *n.* the. 1. **Order of the Garter**, the highest order of British knighthood. 2. (sometimes *not cap.*) a. the badge of this Order. b. membership of this Order.

garter stitch *n.* knitting in which all the rows are knitted in plain stitch.

garth (gɑːθ) *n.* 1. a courtyard surrounded by a cloister. 2. *Arch.* a yard or garden.

gas (gæs) *n., pl. gases or gasses.* 1. a substance in the physical state in which the attractive forces between its constituent atoms or molecules are not sufficiently strong to have a marked effect on their positions or mobility. 2. any substance that is gaseous at room temperature and atmospheric pressure. 3. any gaseous substance that is above its critical temperature and therefore not liquefiable by pressure alone. Cf. **vapour** (sense 2). 4. a. a fossil fuel in the form of a gas, used as a source of domestic and industrial heat. b. (as *modifier*): a **gas cooker**; **gas fire**. 5. a gaseous anaesthetic, such as nitrous oxide. 6. *Mining.* firedamp or the explosive mixture of firedamp and air. 7. the usual U.S., Austral., & N.Z. word for **petrol**. 8. **step on the gas**. *Inf.* a. to accelerate a motor vehicle. b. to hurry. 9. a toxic, etc., substance in suspension in air used against an enemy, etc. 10. *Sl.* a. idle talk or boasting. b. *Chiefly U.S.* a delightful or successful person or thing: *his latest record is a gas*. ~*vb.* **gases** or **gasses**, **gassing**, **gassed**. 11. (*tr.*) to provide or fill with gas. 12. (*tr.*) to subject to gas fumes, esp. so as to asphyxiate or render unconscious. 13. (*intr.*; foll. by *to*) *Inf.* to talk in an idle or boastful way (to a person).

gasbag ('gæs,bæg) *n.* *Sl.* a person who talks in a vapid or empty way.

gas chamber or **oven** *n.* an airtight room into which poison gas is introduced to kill people or animals.

gas chromatography *n.* a technique for analysing a mixture of volatile substances in which the mixture is carried by an inert gas through a column packed with a selective adsorbent and a detector records on a moving strip the conductivity of the gas leaving the tube.

gaseous ('gæsiəs, -fəs, -fɪəs, 'geɪ) *adj.* of, concerned with, or having the characteristics of a gas. — **'gaseousness** *n.*

gas equation *n.* an equation of the product of the pressure and the volume of an ideal gas to the product of its thermodynamic temperature and the constant.

gas gangrene *n.* gangrene resulting from infection of a wound by anaerobic bacteria that cause gas bubbles in the surrounding tissues.

gash (gæʃ) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to make a long deep cut in; slash. ~*n.* 2. a long deep cut.

gasholder ('gæs,həʊldə) *n.* 1. Also called: **gasometer**. a large tank for storing coal gas or natural gas prior to distribution to users. 2. any vessel for storing or measuring a gas.

gasify ('gæsi,fai) *vb.* -*fy*ing, -*fied*. to make into or become a gas. — **'gasification** *n.*

gasket ('gæskɪt) *n.* 1. a compressible packing piece of paper, rubber, asbestos, etc., sandwiched between the metal faces of a joint to provide a seal. 2. *Naut.* a piece of line used as a sail stop.

gaslight ('gæs,lait) *n.* 1. a type of lamp in which the illumination is produced by an incandescent mantle heated by a jet of gas. 2. the light produced by such a lamp.

gasman ('gæs,mæn) *n., pl. -men.* a man employed to read household gas meters, supervise gas fittings, etc.

gas mask *n.* a mask fitted with a chemical filter to enable the wearer to breathe air free of poisonous or corrosive gases.

gas meter *n.* an apparatus for measuring and recording the amount of gas passed through it.

gasoline or **gasolene** ('gæso:lɪn) *n.* the U.S. name for **petrol**.

gasometer ('gæs'ɒmɪtə) *n.* a nontechnical name for **gasholder**.

gasp ('gæsp) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to draw in the breath sharply or with effort, esp. in expressing awe, horror, etc. 2. (*intr.*; foll. by *after* or *for*) to crave. 3. (*tr.*; often foll. by *out*) to utter breathlessly. ~*n.* 4. a short convulsive intake of breath. 5. at the last **gasp**, *a.* at the point of death. b. at the last moment.

Gaspesian ('gæspeɪzn̩) *n.* 1. a native or inhabitant of the Gaspé Peninsula in E Canada. ~*adj.* 2. of or relating to the Gaspé Peninsula or Gaspesians.

gas ring *n.* a circular assembly of gas jets, used esp. for cooking.

gassy ('gæsi) *adj.* -*sier*, -*siest*. 1. filled with, containing, or resembling gas. 2. *Sl.* full of idle or vapid talk. — **'gassiness** *n.*

gastric ('gæstri:k) *adj.* of, relating to, near, or involving the stomach.

gastric juice *n.* a digestive fluid secreted by the stomach, containing hydrochloric acid, pepsin, rennin, etc.

gastric ulcer *n.* an ulcer of the mucous membrane lining the stomach.

gastritis ('gæs'traɪtɪs) *n.* inflammation of the stomach.

gastro- or **often before a vowel gastr-** combining *form.* stomach: **gastroenteritis**; **gastritis**.

gastroenteritis ('gæstrəʊ,entə'traɪtɪs) *n.* inflammation of the stomach and intestines.

gastrointestinal ('gæstrəʊɪn'testɪn'l) *adj.* of or relating to the stomach and intestinal tract.

gastronomy ('gæs'trɒnəmɪ) *n.* the art of good eating. — **'gastronomic** ('gæstrəʊnɒmɪk) or **'gastronomical** *adj.* — **'gastronomically** *adv.*

gastropod ('gæstrə,pɒd) or **gasteropod** ('gæstrə,pɒd) *n.* any of a class of molluscs typically having a flattened muscular foot for locomotion and a head that bears stalked eyes. The class includes the snails, whelks, limpets, and slugs. — **'gastropodous** *adj.*

gasworks ('gæs,wɜːks) *n.* (functioning *as sing.*) a plant in which gas, esp. coal gas, is made.

gate (geɪt) *n.* 1. a movable barrier, usually hinged, for closing an opening in a wall, fence, etc. 2. an opening to allow passage into or out of an enclosed place. 3. any means of entrance or access. 4. a mountain pass or gap, esp. one providing entry into another country or region. 5. a valve with a sliding or swinging component that regulates the flow of a liquid or gas in a pipe, etc. 6. a. the number of people admitted to a sporting event or entertainment. b. the total entrance money received from them. 7. *Electronics*, a logic circuit having one or more input terminals and one output terminal, the output being switched between two voltage levels determined by the combination of input signals. 8. a component in a motion-picture camera or projector that holds each frame flat and momentarily stationary behind the lens. 9. a slotted metal frame that controls the positions of the gear lever in a motor vehicle. ~*vb.* 10. (*tr.*) *Brit.* to restrict (a student) to the school or college grounds as a punishment.

gâteau ('gætəʊ) *n., pl. -teaux* (-təʊz). any of various elaborate and rich cakes.

gate-crash *vb.* *Inf.* to gain entry to (a party, etc.) without invitation. — **'gate-crasher** *n.*

gatehouse ('geit,haus) *n.* a house built at or over a gateway, used as a fortification, etc.

gate-leg table or **gate-legged table** *n.* a table with one or two leaves supported by a hinged leg swung out from the frame.

gateway ('geit,wei) *n.* 1. an entrance that may be closed by or as by a gate. 2. a means of entry or access: *Bombay, gateway to India.*

gather ('gæðə) *vb.* 1. to assemble or cause to assemble. 2. to collect or be collected gradually; muster. 3. (*tr.*) to learn from information given; conclude or assume. 4. (*tr.*) to pick or harvest (flowers, fruit, etc.). 5. (*tr.*) to bring close (to). 6. to increase or cause to increase gradually, as in force, speed, intensity, etc. 7. to contract (the brow) or (of the brow) to become contracted into wrinkles; knit. 8. (*tr.*) to assemble (sections of a book) in the correct sequence for binding. 9. (*tr.*) to prepare or make ready: *to gather one's wits.* 10. to draw (material) into a series of small tucks or folds. 11. (*intr.*) *Inf.* (of a boil or other sore) to come to a head; form pus. ~*n.* 12. a. the act of gathering. b. the amount gathered. 13. a small fold in material, as made by a tightly pulled stitch; tuck. — **'gatherer** *n.*

gathering ('gæðərɪŋ) *n.* 1. a group of people, things, etc., that are gathered together; assembly. 2. *Sewing.* a series of gathers in material. 3. *Inf.* a. the formation of pus in a boil. b. the pus so formed. 4. *Printing.* an informal name for **section** (sense 15).

GATT (gæt) *n.* acronym for General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade: a multilateral international treaty signed in 1947 to promote trade.

gauche (gəʊf) *adj.* lacking ease of manner; tactless. — **'gauchely** *adv.* — **'gaucheness** *n.* — **'gaucherie** (,gəʊʃ'eri, ,gəʊʃəri) *n.*

gaucho ('gautʃu) *n., pl. -chos.* a cowboy of the South American pampas, usually one of mixed Spanish and Indian descent.

gaud (gɔ:d) *n.* an article of cheap finery.

gaudy ('gɔ:di) *adj.* **gaudier**, **gaudiest.** bright or colourful in a crude or vulgar manner. — **'gaudily** *adv.* — **'gaudiness** *n.*

gaudy ('gɔ:di) *n., pl. gaudies.* *Brit.* a celebratory feast held at some schools and colleges.

gauge or **gage** (geɪdʒ) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to measure or determine the amount, quantity, size, condition, etc., of. 2. to estimate or appraise; judge. 3. to check for conformity or bring into conformity with a standard measurement, etc. ~*n.* 4. a standard measurement, dimension, capacity, or quantity. 5. any of various instruments for measuring a quantity: a *pressure gauge*. 6. any of various devices used to check for conformity with a standard measurement. 7. a standard or means for assessing; test; criterion. 8. scope, capacity, or extent. 9. the diameter of the barrel of a gun, esp. a shotgun. 10. the thickness of sheet metal or the diameter of wire. 11. the distance between the rails of a railway track. 12. the distance between two wheels on the same axle of a vehicle, truck, etc. 13. *Naut.* the position of a vessel in relation to the wind and another vessel. 14. a measure of the fineness of woven or knitted fabric. ~*adj.* 15. (of a pressure measurement) measured on a pressure gauge that registers zero at atmospheric pressure. — **'gaugeable** or **'gageable** *adj.*

Gaul (gɔ:l) *n.* 1. a native of ancient Gaul, a region in Roman times stretching from what is now N Italy to the S Netherlands. 2. a Frenchman.

gaunt (gɔ:nt) *adj.* 1. bony and emaciated in appearance. 2. (of places) bleak or desolate. — **'gauntly** *adv.* — **'gauntiness** *n.*

gauntlet ('gɔ:ntli) *n.* 1. a medieval armoured leather glove. 2. a heavy glove with a long cuff. 3. **take up** (or **throw down**) the gauntlet. to accept (or offer) a challenge.

gauntlet ('gɔ:ntli) *n.* 1. a punishment in which the victim is forced to run between two rows of men who strike at him as he passes: formerly a military punishment. 2. **run the gauntlet.** a. to suffer this punishment. b. to endure an onslaught, as of criticism. 3. a testing ordeal.

gauntry ('gɔ:ntri) *n., pl. -tries.* a variant spelling of **gantry**.

gauss (gaʊs) *n., pl. gauss.* the cgs unit of magnetic flux density. 1 gauss is equivalent to 10^{-4} tesla.

gauze (gɔ:z) *n.* 1. a transparent cloth of loose weave. 2. a surgical dressing of muslin or similar material. 3.

any thin open-work material, such as wire. 4. a fine mist or haze. — **'gauzy** *adj.*

gave (geɪv) *vb.* the past tense of **give**.

gavel ('gævəl) *n.* a small hammer used by a chairman, auctioneer, etc., to call for order or attention.

gavotte or **gavot** (gə'vɒt) *n.* 1. an old formal dance in quadruple time. 2. a piece of music composed for or in the rhythm of this dance.

gawk (gɔ:k) *n.* 1. a clumsy stupid person; lout. ~*vb.* 2. (*intr.*) to stare in a stupid way; gape.

gawky ('gɔ:ki) or **gawkish** *adj.* **gawkier**, **gawkiest.** clumsy or ungainly; awkward. — **'gawkily** or **'gawkishly** *adv.* — **'gawkiness** or **'gawkishness** *n.*

gawp or **gaup** (gɔ:p) *vb. (intr.; often foll. by at)* *Brit. sl.* to stare stupidly; gape.

gay (geɪ) *adj.* 1. carefree and merry: a *gay temperament*. 2. brightly coloured; brilliant: a *gay hat*. 3. given to pleasure, esp. in social entertainment: a *gay life*. 4. rakish or dissolute; licentious: a *gay old dog*. 5. a. *Inf.* homosexual (used esp. by homosexuals of themselves). b. (as *n.*): a group of gays. — **'gayness** *n.*

gaze (geɪz) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to look long and fixedly, esp. in wonder. ~*n.* 2. a fixed look. — **'gazer** *n.*

gazebo (gə'zi:bəʊ) *n., pl. -bos or -boes.* a summerhouse, garden pavilion, or belvedere, sited to command a view.

gazelle (gə'zel) *n., pl. -zelles or -zelle.* any small graceful usually fawn-coloured antelope of Africa and Asia.

gazette (gə'zet) *n.* 1. a newspaper or official journal. 2. *Brit.* an official document containing public notices, appointments, etc. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) *Brit.* to announce or report (facts or an event) in a gazette.

gazetteer (,gæzɪ'tɪə) *n.* 1. a book or section of a book that lists and describes places. 2. *Arch.* a writer for a gazette.

gazump (gə'zʌmp) *Brit. ~vb.* 1. to raise the price of something, esp. a house, after agreeing a price verbally with (an intending buyer). 2. (*tr.*) to swindle or overcharge. ~*n.* 3. an act or instance of gazumping. — **'ga-zumper** *n.*

G.B. *abbrev. for* Great Britain.

G.B.E. *abbrev. for* (Knight or Dame) Grand Cross of the British Empire (a *Brit.* title).

g.b.h. *abbrev. for* grievous bodily harm.

G.C. *abbrev. for* George Cross (a *Brit.* award for bravery).

G.C.B. *abbrev. for* (Knight) Grand Cross of the Bath (a *Brit.* title).

G.C.E. or **GCE** 1. (in Britain) *abbrev. for* General Certificate of Education: either of two public examinations in specified subjects taken as school-leaving qualifications or as qualifying examinations for entry into a university. See also **O level**, **A level**. ~*n.* 2. *Inf.* any subject taken for one of these examinations.

G.C.M.G. *abbrev. for* (Knight or Dame) Grand Cross of the Order of St. Michael and St. George (a *Brit.* title).

G.C.V.O. or **GCVO** *abbrev. for* (Knight or Dame) Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order (a *Brit.* title).

Gd the chemical symbol for gadolinium.

Gdns. *abbrev. for* Gardens.

Ge the chemical symbol for germanium.

gear (gɪə) *n.* 1. a toothed wheel that engages with another toothed wheel or with a rack in order to change the speed or direction of transmitted motion. 2. a mechanism for transmitting motion by gears. 3. the engagement or specific ratio of a system of gears: *in gear*; *high gear*. 4. equipment and supplies for a particular operation, sport, etc. 5. *Naut.* all equipment or appurtenances belonging to a certain vessel, sailor, etc. 6. short for **landing gear**. 7. *Sl.* up-to-date clothes and accessories. 8. a less common word for **harness** (sense 1). 9. **out of gear.** out of order; not functioning properly. ~*vb.* 10. (*tr.*) to adjust or adapt (one thing) so as to fit in or work with another: *to gear our output to current demand*. 11. (*tr.*) to equip with or connect by gears. 12. (*intr.*) to be or come into gear. 13. (*tr.*) to equip with harness.

gearbox ('gɪə,bɒks) *n.* 1. the metal casing within which a train of gears is sealed. 2. this metal casing and its contents, esp. in a motor vehicle.

gearing ('gɪərɪŋ) *n.* 1. an assembly of gears designed to transmit motion. 2. the act or technique of providing gears to transmit motion. 3. *Accounting, Brit.* the ratio of a company's debt capital to its equity capital.

gear lever or **U.S. gearshift** ('gɪə,lɪft) *n.* a lever used to move gear wheels relative to each other, esp. in a motor vehicle.

gearwheel ('gɪə,wɪl) *n.* another name for **gear** (sense 1).

gecko ('gɛkəʊ) *n.*, *pl.* -os or -oes. a small insectivorous terrestrial lizard of warm regions.

gee¹ ('dʒi:) *interj.* 1. Also: **gee up!** an exclamation, as to a horse or draught animal, to encourage it to turn to the right, go on, or go faster. ~*vb.* **geeing**, **geed**. 2. (usually foll. by *up*) to move (an animal, esp. a horse) ahead; urge on.

gee² ('dʒi:) *interj.* *U.S. inf.* a mild exclamation. Also: **gee whiz**.

geelbek ('xi:l,bɛk) *n.* *S. African.* an edible marine fish with yellow jaws.

geese (gi:s) *n.* the plural of **goose**¹.

geezer ('gi:zə) *n.* *Inf.* a man, esp. an old one regarded as eccentric.

Geiger counter ('gɪgə) or **Geiger-Müller counter** ('mʊlə) *n.* an instrument for detecting and measuring the intensity of high-energy radiation.

geisha ('geiʃə) *n.*, *pl.* -sha or -shas. a professional female companion for men in Japan, trained in music, dancing, and the art of conversation.

gel (dʒɛl) *n.* 1. a semirigid jelly-like colloid in which a liquid is dispersed in a solid: *nondrip paint is a gel*. ~*vb.* **gelling**, **gelled**. 2. to become or cause to become a gel. 3. a variant spelling of **jell**.

gelatin ('dʒɛlətɪn) or **gelatine** ('dʒɛlə,tɪn) *n.* 1. a colourless or yellowish water-soluble protein prepared by boiling animal hides and bones: used in foods, glue, photographic emulsions, etc. 2. an edible jelly made of this substance.

gelatinize or **-ise** (dʒɪ'leɪtɪnaɪz) *vb.* 1. to make or become gelatinous. 2. (*tr.*) *Photog.* to coat (glass, paper, etc.) with gelatin. —*ge,latin,i,zation* or *-i,sation n.*

gelatinous (dʒɪ'leɪtɪnəs) *adj.* 1. consisting of or resembling jelly; viscous. 2. of, containing, or resembling gelatin. —*ge'latinously adv.* —*ge'latinousness n.*

geld (gɛld) *vb.* **gelding**, **gelded** or **gelt**. (*tr.*) 1. to castrate (a horse or other animal). 2. to deprive of virility or vitality; emasculate; weaken.

gelding ('gɛldɪŋ) *n.* a castrated male horse.

gelignite ('dʒɛlɪg,nait) *n.* a type of dynamite in which the nitrogelatin is absorbed in a base of wood pulp and potassium or sodium nitrate. Also called (*informal*): **gelly**.

gem (dʒɛm) *n.* 1. a precious or semiprecious stone used in jewellery as a decoration; jewel. 2. a person or thing held to be a perfect example; treasure. ~*vb.* **gemming**, **gemmed**. 3. (*tr.*) to set or ornament with gems. —*'gem-,like adj.* —*'gemmy adj.*

geminate *adj.* ('dʒɛmɪt, -neɪt) also **geminated**. 1. combined in pairs; doubled: a **geminate leaf**. ~*vb.* ('dʒɛmɪ,neɪt). 2. to arrange or be arranged in pairs: the "t"s in Italian "gatto" are geminated. —*'gemminately adv.* —*'gemmination n.*

Gemini ('dʒɛmɪ,nai, -'ni:) *n.* 1. *Astron.* a zodiacal constellation in the N hemisphere containing the stars Castor and Pollux. 2. *Astrol.* Also called: the **Twins**, the third sign of the zodiac. The sun is in this sign between about May 21 and June 20.

gemsbok or **gemsbuck** ('gɛmz,bʌk) *n.*, *pl.* -bok, -boks or -buck, -bucks. an oryx of southern Africa, marked with a broad black band along its flanks.

gen (dʒɛn) *n.* *Brit. inf.* information: *give me the gen on your latest project*. See also **gen up**.

gen. *abbrev. for:* 1. gender. 2. general(ly). 3. generator. 4. generic. 5. genitive. 6. genus.

Gen. *abbrev. for:* 1. General. 2. Bible. Genesis.

-gen *suffix forming nouns.* 1. producing or that which produces: **hydrogen**. 2. something produced: **antigen**.

gendarme ('ʒɒndɑ:m) *n.* 1. a member of the police force in France or in countries influenced or controlled by France. 2. a slang word for a **policeman**. 3. a sharp pinnacle of rock on a mountain ridge.

gender ('dʒɛndə) *n.* 1. a set of two or more grammatical categories into which the nouns of certain languages are divided. 2. any of the categories, such as masculine, feminine, neuter, or common, within such a set. 3. *Inf.* the state of being male, female, or neuter. 4. *Inf.* all the members of one sex: *the female gender*.

gene (dʒi:n) *n.* a unit of heredity, capable of replication and mutation, occupying a fixed position on a chromosome and transmitted from parent to offspring during reproduction.

-gene *suffix forming nouns.* variant of **-gen**.

genealogy (ˌdʒi:nɪ'ælədʒɪ) *n.*, *pl.* -gies. 1. the direct descent of an individual or group from an ancestor. 2.

the study of the evolutionary development of animals and plants from earlier forms. 3. a chart showing the relationships and descent of an individual, group, etc. —**genealogical** (ˌdʒi:nɪ'ælədʒɪkəl) *adj.* —**genea'logically adv.** —**gene'alogist n.**

general ('dʒɛnərəl, 'dʒɛnrəl) *adj.* 1. common; widespread. 2. of, applying to, or participated in by all or most of the members of a group, category, or community. 3. relating to various branches of an activity, profession, etc.; not specialized: *general office work*. 4. including various or miscellaneous items: *general knowledge*; a *general store*. 5. not specific as to detail; overall: a *general description*. 6. not definite; vague: *the general idea*. 7. applicable or true in most cases; usual. 8. (*prenominal* or *immediately postpositive*) having superior or extended authority or rank: *general manager*; *consul general*. ~*n.* 9. an officer of a rank senior to lieutenant general, esp. one who commands a large military formation. 10. any person who applies strategy or tactics. 11. a general condition or principle: *opposed to particular*. 12. a title for the head of a religious order, congregation, etc. 13. *Arch.* the people; public. 14. in **general**, **generally**; mostly or usually. —*'generalness n.*

general anaesthetic *n.* See **anaesthesia**.

general election *n.* 1. an election in which representatives are chosen in all constituencies of a state. 2. *U.S.* a final election from which successful candidates are sent to a legislative body. 3. *U.S. & Canad.* a national, state, or provincial election.

generalissimo (ˌdʒɛnərə'lisɪ,məʊ, ˌdʒɛnrə-) *n.*, *pl.* -mos. a supreme commander of combined military, naval, and air forces.

generality (ˌdʒɛnə'ræltɪ) *n.*, *pl.* -ties. 1. a principle or observation having general application. 2. the state or quality of being general. 3. *Arch.* the majority.

generalization or **-isation** (ˌdʒɛnrəlaɪ'zeɪʃən) *n.* 1. a principle, theory, etc., with general application. 2. the act or an instance of generalizing. 3. *Logic.* a proposition asserting the truth of something either for all members of a class or for one or more particular members of a class.

generalize or **-ise** ('dʒɛnrəlaɪz) *vb.* 1. to form (general principles or conclusions) from (detailed facts, experience, etc.); infer. 2. (*intr.*) to think or speak in generalities, esp. in a prejudiced way. 3. (*tr.*; usually *passive*) to cause to become widely used or known.

generally ('dʒɛnrəli) *adv.* 1. usually; as a rule. 2. commonly or widely. 3. without reference to specific details or facts; broadly.

general practitioner *n.* a physician who does not specialize but has a medical practice (**general practice**) in which he treats all illnesses. *Informal name:* **family doctor**. *Abbrev.:* G.P.

general staff *n.* officers assigned to advise senior officers in the planning and execution of military policy.

general strike *n.* a strike by all or most of the workers of a country, province, city, etc.

generate ('dʒɛnə'reɪt) *vb.* (*mainly tr.*) 1. to produce or bring into being; create. 2. (*also intr.*) to produce (electricity). 3. to produce (a substance) by a chemical process. 4. *Maths, linguistics.* to provide a precise criterion for membership in (a set): *these rules will generate all the noun phrases in English*. 5. *Geom.* to trace or form by moving a point, line, or plane in a specific way: *circular motion of a line generates a cylinder*. —*'generable* ('dʒɛnərəbəl) *adj.*

generation (ˌdʒɛnə'reɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act or process of bringing into being; production or reproduction, esp. of offspring. 2. a successive stage in natural descent of people or animals or the individuals produced at each stage. 3. the average time between two such generations of a species: about 35 years for humans. 4. all the people of approximately the same age, esp. when considered as sharing certain attitudes, etc. 5. production of electricity, heat, etc. 6. (*modifier, in combination*) a. belonging to a generation specified as having been born in or as having parents, grandparents, etc., born in a given country: a *third-generation American*. b. belonging to a specified stage of development in manufacture: a *second-generation computer*.

generation gap *n.* the years separating one generation from the next, esp. when regarded as representing the difference in outlook and the lack of understanding between them.

generative ('dʒɛnərətɪv) *adj.* 1. of or relating to the production of offspring, parts, etc. 2. capable of producing or originating.

generator ('dʒɛnə'reɪtə) *n.* 1. *Physics.* a. any device

for converting mechanical energy into electrical energy. **b.** a device for producing a voltage electrostatically. **2.** an apparatus for producing a gas. **3.** a person or thing that generates.

generic (dʒɪˈnɛrɪk) *adj.* **1.** applicable or referring to a whole class or group; general. **2.** *Biol.* of, relating to, or belonging to a genus: the *generic* name. **3.** (of a drug) not having a trademark. —*generically* *adv.*

generosity (dʒɛnəˈrɒsɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* **1.** willingness and liberality in giving away one's money, time, etc.; magnanimity. **2.** freedom from pettiness in character and mind. **3.** a generous act. **4.** abundance; plenty.

generous (dʒɛnərəs, ˈdʒɛnrəs) *adj.* **1.** willing and liberal in giving away one's money, time, etc.; munificent. **2.** free from pettiness in character and mind. **3.** full or plentiful: a *generous* portion. **4.** (of wine) rich in alcohol. —*generously* *adv.* —*generousness* *n.*

genesis (ˈdʒɛnɪsɪs) *n., pl. -ses* (-sɪz). a beginning or origin of anything.

Genesis (ˈdʒɛnɪsɪs) *n.* the first book of the Old Testament recounting the Creation of the world.

-genesis *n. combining form.* indicating genesis, development, or generation: *biogenesis*; *parthenogenesis*. —*genetic* or *-genic* *adj. combining form.*

genetic (dʒɪˈnetɪk) or **genetical** *adj.* of or relating to genetics, genes, or the origin of something. —*genetically* *adv.*

genetic code *n.* *Biochem.* the order in which the four nitrogenous bases of DNA are arranged in the molecule, which determines the type and amount of protein synthesized in the cell.

genetics (dʒɪˈnetɪks) *n.* **1.** (*functioning as sing.*) the study of heredity and variation in organisms. **2.** the genetic features and constitution of a single organism, species, or group. —*geneticist* *n.*

Geneva Convention *n.* the international agreement, first formulated in 1864 at Geneva, establishing a code for wartime treatment of the sick or wounded; revised and extended to cover maritime warfare and prisoners of war.

genial (dʒɪˈniəl, -niəl) *adj.* **1.** cheerful, easygoing, and warm in manner. **2.** pleasantly warm, so as to give life, growth, or health. —*geniality* (dʒɪˈniːəliːti) *n.* —*genially* *adv.*

genie (dʒɪˈni) *n.* **1.** (in fairy tales and stories) a servant who appears by magic and fulfils a person's wishes. **2.** another word for *jinni*.

genital (ˈdʒɛnɪtəl) *adj.* **1.** of or relating to the sexual organs or to reproduction. **2.** *Psychoanal.* relating to the mature stage of psychosexual development.

genitals (ˈdʒɛnɪˈtɪz) or **genitalia** (ˈdʒɛnɪˈteɪlɪə, -ˈteɪljə) *pl. n.* the external sexual organs.

genitive (ˈdʒɛnɪtɪv) *Grammar.* —*adj.* **1.** denoting a case of nouns, pronouns, and adjectives in inflected languages used to indicate a relation of ownership or association. —*n.* **2.** *a.* the genitive case. *b.* a word or speech element in this case. —*genitival* (ˈdʒɛnɪˈtɪvəl) *adj.* —*genitively* *adv.*

genius (ˈdʒɪniəs, -njəs) *n., pl. -uses* or *for defs. 5, 6 geni* (ˈdʒɪni, aɪ). **1.** a person with exceptional ability, esp. of a highly original kind. **2.** such ability. **3.** the distinctive spirit of a nation, era, language, etc. **4.** a person considered as exerting influence of a certain sort: *an evil genius*. **5.** *Roman myth.* a. the guiding spirit who attends a person from birth to death. *b.* the guardian spirit of a place. **6.** *Arabic myth. (usually pl.)* a demon; jinn.

genocide (ˈdʒɛnəʊsɪd) *n.* the policy of deliberately killing a nationality or ethnic group. —*genocidal* *adj.*

-genous *adj. combining form.* **1.** yielding or generating: *erogenous*. **2.** generated by or issuing from: *endogenous*.

genre (ˈʒɑːnrə) *n.* **1.** kind, category, or sort, esp. of literary or artistic work. **2.** *a.* a category of painting in which incidents from everyday life are depicted. *b.* (as modifier): *genre* painting.

gent (dʒɛnt) *n.* *Inf.* short for *gentleman*.

genteel (dʒɛnˈtiːl) *adj.* **1.** respectable, polite, and well-bred. **2.** appropriate to polite or fashionable society. **3.** affectedly proper or refined; excessively polite. —*genteelly* *adv.* —*genteelness* *n.*

gentian (ˈdʒɛnʃən) *n.* **1.** any plant of the genus *Gentiana*, having blue, yellow, white, or red showy flowers. **2.** the bitter-tasting roots of the yellow gentian, which can be used as a tonic.

gentian violet *n.* a greenish crystalline substance that forms a violet solution in water, used as an indicator, antiseptic, and in the treatment of burns.

Gentile (ˈdʒɛntəl) *n.* **1.** a person, esp. a Christian, who is not a Jew. **2.** a Christian, as contrasted with a Jew. **3.** a person who is not a member of one's own church: used esp. by Mormons. **4.** a heathen or pagan. —*adj.* **5.** of or relating to a race or religion that is not Jewish. **6.** Christian, as contrasted with Jewish. **7.** not being a member of one's own church: used esp. by Mormons. **8.** pagan or heathen.

gentility (dʒɛnˈtɪlɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* **1.** respectability and polite good breeding. **2.** affected politeness. **3.** noble birth or ancestry. **4.** people of noble birth.

gentle (ˈdʒɛntl) *adj.* **1.** having a mild or kindly nature or character. **2.** soft or temperate; mild; moderate. **3.** gradual: a *gentle* slope. **4.** easily controlled; tame. **5.** *Arch.* of good breeding; noble: *gentle* blood. **6.** *Arch.* gallant; chivalrous. —*vb.* (tr.) **7.** to tame or subdue (a horse, etc.). **8.** to appease or mollify. —*n.* **9.** a maggot, esp. when used as bait in fishing. —*gentleness* *n.* —*gently* *adv.*

gentlefolk (ˈdʒɛntlˈfɒk) or **gentlefolks** *pl. n.* persons regarded as being of good breeding.

gentleman (ˈdʒɛntlmən) *n., pl. -men.* **1.** a man regarded as having qualities of refinement associated with a good family. **2.** a man who is cultured, courteous, and well-educated. **3.** a polite name for a man. **4.** the personal servant of a gentleman (esp. in *gentleman's gentleman*). —*gentlemanly* *adj.* —*gentlemanliness* *n.*

gentry (ˈdʒɛntri) *n.* **1.** Brit. persons just below the nobility in social rank. **2.** people of a particular class, esp. one considered to be inferior.

gents (dʒɛnts) *n. (functioning as sing.)* *Brit. inf.* a men's public lavatory.

genuect (ˈdʒɛnjuˌfɛkt) *vb. (intr.)* **1.** to act in a servile or deferential manner. **2.** *R.C. Church.* to bend one or both knees as a sign of reverence. —*genuection* or (esp. *Brit.*) *genueflexion* *n.* —*genueflector* *n.*

genuine (ˈdʒɛnjuəm) *adj.* **1.** not fake or counterfeit; original; real; authentic. **2.** not pretending; frank; sincere. **3.** being of authentic or original stock. —*genuinely* *adv.* —*genuineness* *n.*

gen up *vb.* *gunning up, genned up.* (tr.; *adv.*; *often passive*) *Brit. inf.* to brief (someone) in detail; give full information to.

genus (ˈdʒɪniəs) *n., pl. genera* (ˈdʒɛnərə) or *genuses*. **1.** *Biol.* any of the taxonomic groups into which a family is divided and which contains one or more species. **2.** *Logic.* a class of objects or individuals that can be divided into two or more groups or species. **3.** a class, group, etc., with common characteristics.

geo- *combining form.* indicating earth: *geomorphology*.

geocentric (dʒɪˈɒːsɛntrɪk) *adj.* **1.** having the earth at its centre. **2.** measured as from the centre of the earth. —*geocentrically* *adv.*

geode (ˈdʒɪːɒd) *n.* a cavity, usually lined with crystals, within a rock mass or nodule. —*geodic* (dʒɪˈɒdɪk) *adj.*

geodesic (dʒɪˈɒːdesɪk, -ˈdi-) *adj.* **1.** Also: *geodetic.* relating to the geometry of curved surfaces. —*n.* **2.** Also called: *geodesic line.* the shortest line between two points on a curved surface.

geodesy (dʒɪˈɒdɪsi) *n.* the branch of science concerned with determining the exact position of geographical points and the shape and size of the earth. —*geodest* *n.*

geog. *abbrev. for:* **1.** geographer. **2.** geographic(al). **3.** geography.

geographical mile *n.* another name for *nautical mile*.

geography (dʒɪˈɒɡrəfi) *n., pl. -phies.* **1.** the study of the natural features of the earth's surface, including topography, climate, soil, vegetation, etc., and man's response to them. **2.** the natural features of a region. —*geographer* *n.* —*geographical* (dʒɪˈɒːgræfɪkəl) or *geo'graphic* *adj.* —*geographically* *adv.*

geoid (ˈdʒɪːɒd) *n.* **1.** a hypothetical surface that corresponds to mean sea level and extends under the continents. **2.** the shape of the earth.

geol. *abbrev. for:* **1.** geologic(al). **2.** geologist. **3.** geology.

geology (dʒɪˈɒlədʒɪ) *n.* **1.** the scientific study of the origin, structure, and composition of the earth. **2.** the geological features of a district or country. —*geological* (dʒɪˈɒlədʒɪkəl) or *geo'logic* *adj.* —*geologically* *adv.* —*geologist* *n.*

geomagnetism (dʒɪˈɒːmæɡnɪˈtɪzəm) *n.* **1.** the magnetic field of the earth. **2.** the branch of physics concerned with this. —*geomagnetic* (dʒɪˈɒːmæɡˈnetɪk) *adj.*

geometric (ˌdʒiə'metrik) or **geometrical** *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or following the methods and principles of geometry. 2. consisting of, formed by, or characterized by points, lines, curves, or surfaces. 3. (of design or ornamentation) composed predominantly of simple geometric forms, such as circles, rectangles, triangles, etc. —**geo'metrically** *adv.*

geometric mean *n.* the average value of a set of *n* integers, terms, or quantities, expressed as the *n*th root of their product.

geometric progression *n.* 1. a sequence of numbers, each of which differs from the succeeding one by a constant ratio, as 1, 2, 4, 8, ... Cf. **arithmetic progression**. 2. **geometric series**, such numbers written as a sum.

geometry (dʒi'ɒmɪtri) *n.* 1. the branch of mathematics concerned with the properties, relationships, and measurement of points, lines, curves, and surfaces. 2. a shape, configuration, or arrangement. —**ge'ome'trician** *n.*

geomorphology (ˌdʒi:ə'mɔ:ˈfɒlədʒi) *n.* the branch of geology that is concerned with the structure, origin, and development of the topographical features of the earth's crust. —**geomorphological** (ˌdʒi:ə'mɔ:ˈfɒlədʒɪkəl) or **geo,morph'ologic** *adj.*

geophysics (ˌdʒi:əʊ'fɪzɪks) *n.* (*functioning as sing.*) the branch of geology that uses physics to examine the properties of the earth. It includes seismology, meteorology, and oceanography. —**geo'physical** *adj.* —**geo'physicist** *n.*

geopolitics (ˌdʒi:əʊ'pɒlɪtiks) *n.* 1. (*functioning as sing.*) the study of the effect of geographical factors on politics. 2. (*functioning as pl.*) the combination of geographical and political factors affecting a country or area. 3. (*functioning as pl.*) politics as they affect the whole world; global politics. —**geopolitical** (ˌdʒi:əʊpə'ltɪkəl) *adj.* —**geo,poli'tician** *n.*

George Cross (dʒɔ:ˈdʒ) *n.* a British award for bravery. Abbrev.: G.C.

georgette or **georgette crepe** (dʒɔ:ˈdʒet) *n.* a thin silk or cotton crepe fabric.

Georgian (ˈdʒɔ:ˌdʒən) *adj.* 1. of or relating to any or all of the four kings who ruled Great Britain from 1714 to 1830, or to their reigns: *Georgian architecture*. 2. of or relating to George V of Great Britain or his reign (1910–36): *the Georgian poets*. 3. of or relating to the Georgian SSR, its people, or their language. 4. of or relating to the American State of Georgia or its inhabitants. 5. (of furniture, furnishings, etc.) in or imitative of the style prevalent in England during the 18th century. ~*n.* 6. the official language of the Georgian SSR, belonging to the South Caucasian family. 7. a native or inhabitant of the Georgian SSR. 8. a native or inhabitant of the American State of Georgia.

geotropism (dʒi'ɒtrəˈpɪzəm) *n.* the response of a plant part to the stimulus of gravity. Plant stems, which grow upwards irrespective of the position in which they are placed, show **negative geotropism**. —**geotropic** (ˌdʒi:əʊ'trɒpɪk) *adj.*

Ger. *abbrev. for:* 1. German. 2. Germany.

geranium (dʒi'remɪəm) *n.* 1. a cultivated plant having scarlet, pink, or white showy flowers. See also **pelargonium**. 2. any plant such as cranesbill and herb Robert, having divided leaves and pink or purplish flowers.

gerbil or **gerbille** (ˈdʒɜ:bɪl) *n.* a burrowing rodent inhabiting hot dry regions of Asia and Africa and having soft pale fur.

gerfalcon (ˈdʒɜ:fɔ:lkən, -fɔ:kən) *n.* a variant spelling of **gyrfalcon**.

geriatrics (ˌdʒɛrɪ'ætrɪks) *n.* (*functioning as sing.*) the branch of medical science concerned with the diagnosis and treatment of diseases affecting elderly people. —**geria'tric** *adj.* —**geria'trician** *n.*

germ (dʒɜ:m) *n.* 1. a microorganism, esp. one that produces disease. 2. (*often pl.*) the rudimentary or initial form of something: *the germs of revolution*. 3. a simple structure that is capable of developing into a complete organism.

german (ˈdʒɜ:mən) *adj.* 1. (used in combination) a. having the same parents as oneself: *a brother-german*. b. having a parent that is a brother or sister of either of one's own parents: *cousin-german*. 2. a less common word for **germane**.

German (ˈdʒɜ:mən) *n.* 1. the official language of East and West Germany and Austria and one of the official languages of Switzerland. 2. a native, inhabitant, or citizen of East or West Germany. 3. a person whose native language is German. ~*adj.* 4. denoting, relating

to, or using the German language. 5. relating to, denoting, or characteristic of any German state or its people.

germander (dʒɜ:'mændə) *n.* any of several plants of Europe, having two-lipped flowers with a very small upper lip.

germane (dʒɜ:'meɪn) *adj.* (*postpositive*; usually foll. by *to*) related (to the topic being considered); akin; relevant. —**ger'manely** *adv.* —**ger'maneness** *n.*

Germanic (dʒɜ:'mænik) *n.* 1. a branch of the Indo-European family of languages that includes English, Dutch, German, the Scandinavian languages, and Gothic. Abbrev.: **Gmc.** 2. Also called: **Proto-Germanic**. the unrecorded language from which all of these languages developed. ~*adj.* 3. of, denoting, or relating to this group of languages. 4. of, relating to, or characteristic of Germany, the German language, or any people that speaks a Germanic language.

germanium (dʒɜ:'meɪniəm) *n.* a brittle crystalline grey element that is a semiconducting metalloid; used in transistors, and to strengthen alloys. Symbol: Ge; atomic no.: 32; atomic wt.: 72.59.

German measles *n.* a nontechnical name for **rubella**.

German silver *n.* another name for **nickel silver**.

germ cell *n.* a sexual reproductive cell.

germicide (ˈdʒɜ:miˌsaɪd) *n.* any substance that kills germs. —**germi'cidal** *adj.*

germinal (ˈdʒɜ:mnəl) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or like germs or a germ cell. 2. of, or in the earliest stage of development. —**germinally** *adv.*

germinate (ˈdʒɜ:miˌneɪt) *vb.* 1. to cause (seeds or spores) to sprout or (of seeds or spores) to sprout. 2. to grow or cause to grow; develop. 3. to come or bring into existence; originate: *the idea germinated with me*. —**germinative** *adj.* —**germi'nation** *n.* —**germi,nator** *n.*

germ warfare *n.* the use of bacteria against an enemy.

gerontology (ˌdʒɛrən'ɒlədʒi) *n.* the scientific study of ageing and the problems associated with elderly people. —**gerontological** (ˌdʒɛrɒnɒˈlədʒɪkəl) *adj.* —**geron'tologist** *n.*

-gerous *adj.* combining form. bearing or producing: *armigerous*.

gerrymander (ˈdʒɛrɪ,mændə) *vb.* 1. to divide the constituencies of (a voting area) so as to give one party an unfair advantage. 2. to manipulate or adapt to one's advantage. ~*n.* 3. an act or result of gerrymandering.

gerund (ˈdʒɛrənd) *n.* a noun formed from a verb, ending in -ing, denoting an action or state: *the living is easy*. —**gerundial** (dʒɪ'rændiəl) *adj.*

gerundive (dʒɪ'rændɪv) *n.* 1. (in Latin grammar) an adjective formed from a verb, expressing the desirability, etc., of the activity denoted by the verb. ~*adj.* 2. of or relating to the gerund or gerundive. —**gerundival** (ˌdʒɛrən'daɪvəl) *adj.*

gesso (ˈdʒɛsəʊ) *n.* 1. a white ground of plaster and size, used to prepare panels or canvas for painting or gilding. 2. any white substance, esp. plaster of Paris, that forms a ground when mixed with water.

Gestapo (ge'stə:pəʊ) *n.* the secret state police in Nazi Germany.

gestate (ˈdʒɛsteɪt) *vb.* to carry (developing young) in the uterus during pregnancy. —**ges'tation** *n.*

gesticulate (dʒɛ'stɪkjʊˌleɪt) *vb.* to express by or make gestures. —**ges,ticu'lation** *n.* —**ges'ticulative** *adj.* —**ges'ticulator** *n.*

gesture (ˈdʒɛstʃə) *n.* 1. a motion of the hands, head, or body to express or emphasize an idea or emotion. 2. something said or done as a formality or as an indication of intention. ~*vb.* 3. to express by or make gestures; gesticulate. --**gestural** *adj.* —**gesturer** *n.*

get (get) *vb.* **getting, got.** (*mainly tr.*) 1. to come into possession of; receive or earn. 2. to bring or fetch. 3. to contract or be affected by: *he got a chill*. 4. to capture or seize: *the police got him*. 5. (*also intr.*) to become or cause to become or act as specified: *to get one's hair cut*; *get wet*. 6. (*intr.*; foll. by a preposition or adverbial particle) to succeed in going, coming, leaving, etc.: *get off the bus*. 7. (*takes an infinitive*) to manage or contrive: *how did you get to be captain?* 8. to make ready or prepare: *to get a meal*. 9. to hear, notice, or understand: *I didn't get your meaning*. 10. to learn or master by study. 11. (*intr.*; often foll. by *to*) to come (to) or arrive (at): *we got home safely*; *to get to London*. 12. to catch or enter: *to get a train*. 13. to induce or persuade: *get him to leave*. 14. to reach by calculation:

add 2 and 2 and you will get 4. 15. to receive (a broadcast signal). 16. to communicate with (a person or place), as by telephone. 17. (also *intr.*; foll. by *to*) *Inf.* to have an emotional effect (on): *that music really gets me.* 18. *Inf.* to annoy or irritate: *her voice gets me.* 19. *Inf.* to bring a person into a difficult position from which he cannot escape. 20. *Inf.* to hit: *the blow got him in the back.* 21. *Inf.* to be revenged on, esp. by killing. 22. *Inf.* to have the better of: *your extravagant habits will get you in the end.* 23. (*intr.*; foll. by present participle) *Inf.* to begin: *get moving.* 24. (used as a command) *Inf.* go! leave now! 25. *Arch.* to beget or conceive. 26. **get even with.** *Inf.* to settle an account with; pay back. 27. **get with child.** *Arch.* to make pregnant. ~*n.* 28. *Rare.* the act of begetting. 29. *Rare.* something begotten; offspring. 30. *Brit. sl.* a variant of *git*. ~See also **get about**, **get across**, etc. —'getable or 'gettable *adj.* —'getter *n.*

get about or around *vb.* (*intr.*, *adv.*) 1. to move around, as when recovering from an illness. 2. to be socially active. 3. (of news, rumour, etc.) to become known; spread.

get across *vb.* 1. to cross or cause to cross. 2. (*adv.*) to be or cause to be understood.

get at *vb.* (*intr.*, *prep.*) 1. to gain access to. 2. to mean or intend: *what are you getting at?* 3. to irritate or annoy persistently; criticize: *she is always getting at him.* 4. to influence or seek to influence, esp. illegally by bribery, intimidation, etc.: *someone had got at the witness before the trial.*

get away *vb.* (*adv.*, *mainly intr.*) 1. to make an escape; leave. 2. to make a start. 3. **get away with.** *a.* to steal and escape (with money, goods, etc.). *b.* to do (something wrong, illegal, etc.) without being discovered or punished. ~*interj.* 4. an exclamation indicating mild disbelief. ~*n.* **getaway.** 5. the act of escaping, esp. by criminals. 6. a start or acceleration. 7. (*modifier*) used for escaping: *a getaway car.*

get back *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. (*tr.*) to recover or retrieve. 2. (*intr.*; often foll. by *to*) to return, esp. to a former position or activity. 3. (*intr.*; foll. by *at*) to retaliate (against); wreak vengeance (on). 4. **get one's own back.** *Inf.* to obtain one's revenge.

get by *vb.* 1. to pass; go past or overtake. 2. (*intr.*, *adv.*) *Inf.* to manage, esp. in spite of difficulties. 3. (*intr.*) to be accepted or permitted: *that book will never get by the authorities.*

get in *vb.* (*mainly adv.*) 1. (*intr.*) to enter a car, train, etc. 2. (*intr.*) to arrive, esp. at one's home or place of work. 3. (*tr.*) to bring in or inside: *get the milk in.* 4. (*tr.*) to insert or slip in: *he got his suggestion in before anyone else.* 5. (*tr.*) to gather or collect (crops, debts, etc.). 6. to be elected or cause to be elected. 7. (*intr.*) to obtain a place at university, college, etc. 8. (*foll. by on*) to join or cause to join (an activity or organization).

get off *vb.* 1. (*intr.*, *adv.*) to escape the consequences of an action: *he got off very lightly.* 2. (*adv.*) to be or cause to be acquitted: *a good lawyer got him off.* 3. (*adv.*) to depart or cause to depart: *to get the children off to school.* 4. (*intr.*) to descend (from a bus, train, etc.); dismount: *she got off at the terminus.* 5. to move or cause to move to a distance (from): *get off the field.* 6. (*tr.*) to remove; take off: *get your coat off.* 7. (*adv.*) to go or send to sleep. 8. (*adv.*) to send (letters) or (of letters) to be sent. 9. **get off with.** *Brit. inf.* to establish a sexual relationship (with).

get on *vb.* (*mainly adv.*) 1. Also (when *prep.*): **get onto.** to board or cause or help to board (a bus, train, etc.). 2. (*tr.*) to dress in (clothes as specified). 3. (*intr.*) to grow late or (of time) to elapse: *it's getting on and I must go.* 4. (*intr.*) (of a person) to grow old. 5. (*intr.*; foll. by *for*) to approach (a time, age, amount, etc.): *she is getting on for seventy.* 6. (*intr.*) to make progress, manage, or fare: *how did you get on in your exam?* 7. (*intr.*; often foll. by *with*) to establish a friendly relationship: *he gets on well with other people.* 8. (*intr.*; foll. by *with*) to continue to do: *get on with your homework!*

get out *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. to leave or escape or cause to leave or escape: used in the imperative when dismissing a person. 2. to make or become known; publish or be published. 3. (*tr.*) to express with difficulty. 4. (*tr.*; often foll. by *of*) to extract (information or money) (from a person): *to get a confession out of a criminal.* 5. (*tr.*) to gain or receive something, esp. something of significance or value. 6. (*foll. by of*) to avoid or cause to avoid: *she always gets out of swimming.* 7. *Cricket.* to dismiss or be dismissed.

get over *vb.* 1. to cross or surmount (something). 2.

(*intr.*, *prep.*) to recover from (an illness, shock, etc.). 3. (*intr.*, *prep.*) to overcome or master (a problem). 4. (*intr.*, *prep.*) to appreciate fully: *I just can't get over seeing you again.* 5. (*tr.*, *adv.*) to communicate effectively. 6. (*tr.*, *adv.*; sometimes foll. by *with*) to bring (something necessary but unpleasant) to an end: *let's get this job over with quickly.*

get round or around *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. (*prep.*) to circumvent or overcome. 2. (*prep.*) *Inf.* to have one's way with; cajole: *that girl can get round anyone.* 3. (*prep.*) to evade (a law or rules). 4. (*adv.*; foll. by *to*) to reach or come to at length: *I'll get round to that job in an hour.*

get through *vb.* 1. to succeed or cause or help to succeed in an examination, test, etc. 2. to bring or come to a destination, esp. after overcoming problems: *we got through the blizzards to the survivors.* 3. (*adv.*) to contact or cause to contact, as by telephone. 4. (*intr.*, *prep.*) to use, spend, or consume (money, supplies, etc.). 5. to complete or cause to complete (a task, process, etc.): *to get a bill through Parliament.* 6. (*adv.*; foll. by *to*) to reach the awareness and understanding (of a person): *I just can't get the message through to him.*

get-together *Inf.* ~*n.* 1. a small informal meeting or social gathering. ~*vb.* **get together.** (*adv.*) 2. (*tr.*) to gather or collect. 3. (*intr.*) (of people) to meet socially. 4. (*intr.*) to discuss, esp. in order to reach an agreement.

get up *vb.* (*mainly adv.*) 1. to wake and rise from one's bed or cause to wake and rise from bed. 2. (*intr.*) to rise to one's feet; stand up. 3. (*also prep.*) to ascend or cause to ascend. 4. to increase or cause to increase in strength: *the wind got up at noon.* 5. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to dress (oneself) in a particular way, esp. elaborately. 6. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to devise or create: *to get up an entertainment for Christmas.* 7. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to study or improve one's knowledge of: *I must get up my history.* 8. (*intr.*; foll. by *to*) *Inf.* to be involved in: *he's always getting up to mischief.* ~*n.* **get-up.** 9. *Inf.* a costume or outfit. 10. *Inf.* the arrangement or production of a book, etc.

get-up-and-go *n.* *Inf.* energy, drive, or ambition.

geum ('dʒi:əm) *n.* any herbaceous plant of the rose type, having compound leaves and red, orange, yellow, or white flowers.

geyser ('gi:zə; U.S. 'gaizə) *n.* 1. a spring that discharges steam and hot water. 2. *Brit.* a domestic gas water heater.

ghastly ('gə:stli) *adj.* -lier, -liest. 1. *Inf.* very bad or unpleasant. 2. deathly pale; wan. 3. *Inf.* extremely unwell; ill. 4. terrifying; horrible. ~*adv.* 5. unhealthily; sickly: *ghastly pale.* —'ghastliness *n.*

ghat (gət) *n.* (in India) 1. stairs or a passage leading down to a river. 2. a place for bathing on the bank of a river. 3. a mountain pass.

ghee (gi:) *n.* a clarified butter used in Indian cookery.

gherkin ('gɜ:kɪn) *n.* 1. the small immature fruit of any of various cucumbers, used for pickling. 2. *a.* a tropical American climbing plant. *b.* its small spiny edible fruit.

ghetto ('getəʊ) *n.*, *pl.* -tos or -toes. 1. a densely populated slum area of a city inhabited by a socially and economically deprived minority. 2. an area in a European city in which Jews were formerly required to live.

ghost (gəʊst) *n.* 1. the disembodied spirit of a dead person, supposed to haunt the living as a pale or shadowy vision; phantom. Related *adj.*: **spectral.** 2. a haunting memory: *the ghost of his former life rose up before him.* 3. a faint trace or possibility of something; glimmer: *a ghost of a smile.* 4. the spirit; soul (archaic, except in the **Holy Ghost**). 5. *Physics.* *a.* a faint secondary image produced by an optical system. *b.* a similar image on a television screen. 6. **give up the ghost.** to die. ~*vb.* 7. (*tr.*) to haunt. —'ghost, like *adj.* —'ghostly *adj.*

ghost town *n.* a deserted town, esp. one in the western U.S. that was formerly a boom town.

ghost word *n.* a word that has entered the language through the perpetuation, in dictionaries, etc., of an error.

ghoul (gu:l) *n.* 1. a malevolent spirit or ghost. 2. a person interested in morbid or disgusting things. 3. a person who robs graves. 4. (in Muslim legend) an evil demon thought to eat corpses. —'ghoulish *adj.* —'ghoulishly *adv.* —'ghouliness *n.*

G.H.Q. *Mil. abbrev.* for General Headquarters.

ghyll (gɪl) *n.* a variant spelling of *gill*¹.

gi *abbrev.* for *gill* (unit of measure).

GI *n.* U.S. *inf.* 1. (*pl.* **GIs** or **GI's**) a soldier in the U.S. Army, esp. an enlisted man. ~*adj.* 2. conforming to U.S. Army regulations.

G.I. or g.i. *abbrev.* for gastrointestinal.

giant ('dʒaɪənt) *n.* 1. Also (fem.): **giantess** ('dʒaɪəntɪs). a mythical figure of superhuman size and strength, esp. in folklore or fairy tales. 2. a person or thing of exceptional size, reputation, etc. ~*adj.* 3. remarkably or supernaturally large.

giant panda *n.* See **panda**.

giaour ('dʒaʊə) *n.* a derogatory term for a non-Muslim, esp. a Christian.

Gib (dʒɪb) *n.* an informal name for Gibraltar.

gibber ('dʒɪbə) *vb.* 1. to utter rapidly and unintelligibly; prattle. 2. (*intr.*) (of monkeys and related animals) to make characteristic chattering sounds.

gibber ('dʒɪbə) *n. Austral.* 1. a stone or boulder. 2. (*modifier*) of or relating to a dry flat area of land covered with wind-polished stones: **gibber plains**.

gibberish ('dʒɪbərɪʃ) *n.* 1. rapid chatter. 2. incomprehensible talk; nonsense.

gibbet ('dʒɪbɪt) *n.* 1. a wooden structure resembling a gallows, from which the bodies of executed criminals were formerly hung to public view. *b.* a gallows. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 2. to put to death by hanging on a gibbet. 3. to hang (a corpse) on a gibbet. 4. to expose to public ridicule.

gibbon ('gɪb'n) *n.* a small agile arboreal anthropoid ape inhabiting forests in S Asia.

gibbous ('gɪbəʊ) or **gibbose** ('gɪbəʊs) *adj.* 1. (of the moon or a planet) more than half but less than fully illuminated. 2. hunchbacked. 3. bulging. ~**'gibbously** *adv.* ~**'gibbousness** or **gibbosity** (gɪ'bɒsɪtɪ) *n.*

gibe or **jibe** (dʒaɪb) *vb.* 1. to make jeering or scoffing remarks at; taunt. ~*n.* 2. a derisive or provoking remark. —**'giber** or **'jiber** *n.*

gibe ('dʒaɪb) *vb., n. Naut.* a variant spelling of **gybe**.

giblets ('dʒɪblɪts) *pl. n. (sometimes sing.)* the gizzard, liver, heart, and neck of a fowl.

giddy ('gɪdɪ) *adj. -dier, -diest.* 1. affected with a reeling sensation and feeling as if about to fall; dizzy. 2. causing or tending to cause vertigo. 3. impulsive; scatter-brained. ~*vb.* **giddying, giddled.** 4. to make or become giddy. ~**'giddily** *adv.* —**'giddiness** *n.*

gie (gi:) *vb.* a Scot. word for give.

gift (gɪft) *n.* 1. something given; a present. 2. a special aptitude, ability, or power; talent. 3. the power or right to give or bestow (esp. in **in the gift of, in (someone's) gift**). 4. the act or process of giving. 5. **look a gift-horse in the mouth.** (*usually negative*) to find fault with a free gift or chance benefit. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 6. to present (something) as a gift to (a person).

gifted ('gɪftɪd) *adj.* having or showing natural talent or aptitude: *a gifted musician.* —**'giftedly** *adv.* —**'giftedness** *n.*

giftwrap ('gɪft,ræp) *vb. -wrapping, -wrapped.* to wrap (a gift) attractively.

gig (gɪg) *n.* 1. a light two-wheeled one-horse carriage without a hood. 2. *Naut.* a light tender for a vessel. 3. a long light rowing boat, used esp. for racing. ~*vb.* **gigging, giggered.** 4. (*intr.*) to travel in a gig.

gig (gɪg) *n. Inf.* 1. a job, esp. a single booking for jazz or pop musicians. 2. the performance itself. ~*vb.* **gigging, giggered.** 3. (*intr.*) to perform a gig.

giga- ('gɪɡə, 'gaɪɡə) *prefix.* denoting 10⁹: **gigavolt.** Symbol: G

gigantic (dʒaɪ'gæntɪk) *adj.* 1. very large; enormous. 2. Also: **gigantesque** (dʒaɪgænt'sk). of or suitable for giants. —**'gigantically** *adv.*

giggle ('gɪɡl) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to laugh nervously or foolishly. ~*n.* 2. such a laugh. —**'giggler** *n.* —**'gigglingly** *adv.* —**'giggly** *adj.*

gigolo ('ɪɡɒləʊ) *n., pl. -los.* 1. a man who is kept by a woman, esp. an older woman. 2. a man who is paid to dance with or escort women.

gigot ('dʒɪɡɒt) *n.* 1. a leg of lamb or mutton. 2. a leg-of-mutton sleeve.

gild (gɪld) *vb. gilding, gilded* or **gilt.** (*tr.*) 1. to cover with or as if with gold. 2. **gild the lily.** *a.* to adorn unnecessarily something already beautiful. *b.* to praise someone inordinately. 3. to give a falsely attractive or valuable appearance to. —**'gilder** *n.*

gild (gɪld) *n.* a variant spelling of **guild**.

gill (gɪl) *n.* 1. the respiratory organ in many aquatic animals. 2. any of the radiating leaflike spore-producing structures on the undersurface of the cap of a mushroom. —**'gilled** *adj.*

gill (dʒɪl) *n.* a unit of liquid measure equal to one quarter of a pint.

gill or **ghyll** (gɪl) *n. Brit. dialect.* 1. a narrow stream; rivulet. 2. a wooded ravine.

gillie, ghillie, or gilly ('gɪli) *n., pl. -lies.* *Scot.* 1. an attendant or guide for hunting or fishing. 2. (formerly) a Highland chieftain's male attendant.

gills (gɪlz) *pl. n.* 1. (*sometimes sing.*) the wattle of birds such as domestic fowl. 2. the cheeks and jowls of a person. 3. **green about the gills.** *Inf.* looking or feeling nauseated.

gilt (gɪlt) *vb.* 1. a past tense or past participle of **gild**. ~*n.* 2. gold or a substance simulating it, applied in gilding. 3. superficial or false appearance of excellence. 4. a gilt-edged security. ~*adj.* 5. covered with or as if with gold or gilt; gilded.

gilt (gɪlt) *n.* a young female pig, esp. one that has not had a litter.

gilt-edged *adj.* 1. (of securities) dated over a short, medium, or long term, and characterized by minimum risk and usually issued by the Government. 2. (of books, papers, etc.) having gilded edges.

gimbals ('dʒɪmb'ɪz, 'ɡɪm-) *pl. n.* a device, consisting of two or three pivoted rings at right angles to each other, that provides free suspension in all planes for a compass, chronometer, etc. Also called: **gimbal ring.**

gimcrack ('dʒɪm,kɹæk) *adj.* 1. cheap; shoddy. ~*n.* 2. a cheap showy trifle or gadget. —**'gim,crackery** *n.*

gimlet ('ɡɪmlɪt) *n.* 1. a small hand tool consisting of a pointed spiral tip attached at right angles to a handle, used for boring small holes in wood. 2. *U.S.* a cocktail consisting of half gin or vodka and half lime juice. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to make holes in (wood) using a gimlet. ~*adj.* 4. penetrating; piercing (esp. in **gimlet-eyed**).

gimmick ('ɡɪmɪk) *Inf.* ~*n.* 1. something designed to attract extra attention, interest, or publicity. 2. any clever device, gadget, or stratagem, esp. one used to deceive. —**'gimmickry** *n.* —**'gimmicky** *adj.*

gimp or **guimpe** (ɡɪmp) *n.* a tapelike trimming.

gin (dʒɪn) *n.* an alcoholic drink obtained by distillation of the grain of malted barley, rye, or maize, flavoured with juniper berries.

gin ('dʒɪn) *n.* 1. a primitive engine in which a vertical shaft is turned by horses driving a horizontal beam in a circle. 2. Also called: **cotton gin.** a machine of this type used for separating seeds from raw cotton. 3. a trap for catching small mammals, consisting of a noose of thin strong wire. ~*vb.* **ginning, ginned.** (*tr.*) 4. to free (cotton) of seeds with a gin. 5. to trap or snare (game) with a gin. —**'ginner** *n.*

gin (ɡɪn) *vb. ginning, gan, gun.* an archaic word for begin.

gin ('dʒɪn) *n. Austral. derog. sl.* an Aboriginal woman.

ginger ('dʒɪndʒə) *n.* 1. any of several plants of the East Indies, cultivated throughout the tropics for their spicy hot-tasting underground stems. 2. the underground stem of this plant, which is powdered and used as a seasoning or sugared and eaten as a sweetmeat. 3. *a.* a reddish-brown or yellowish-brown colour. *b.* (*as adj.*): **ginger hair.** 4. *Inf.* liveliness; vigour. —**'gingery** *adj.*

ginger ale *n.* a sweetened effervescent nonalcoholic drink flavoured with ginger extract.

ginger beer *n.* a slightly alcoholic drink made by fermenting a mixture of syrup and root ginger.

gingerbread ('dʒɪndʒə,bred) *n.* 1. a moist brown cake, flavoured with ginger and treacle. 2. *a.* a biscuit, similarly flavoured, cut into various shapes. *b.* (*as modifier*): **gingerbread man.** 3. an elaborate but unsubstantial ornamentation.

ginger group *n. Chiefly Brit.* a group within a party, association, etc., that enlivens or radicalizes its parent body.

gingerly ('dʒɪndʒəlɪ) *adv.* 1. in a cautious, reluctant, or timid manner. ~*adj.* 2. cautious, reluctant, or timid.

ginger snap or **nut** *n.* a crisp biscuit flavoured with ginger.

gingham ('ɡɪŋəʊm) *n.* a cotton fabric, usually woven of two coloured yarns in a checked or striped design.

gingivitis (dʒɪndʒɪ'vaɪtɪs) *n.* inflammation of the gums.

ginkgo ('ɡɪŋkɡəʊ) or **ginkgo** ('ɡɪŋkəʊ) *n., pl. -goes* or **-koes.** a widely planted ornamental Chinese tree with fan-shaped deciduous leaves and fleshy yellow fruit. Also called: **maidenhair tree.**

gin palace (dʒɪn) *n.* (formerly) a gaudy drinking-house.

gin rummy (dʒɪn) *n.* a version of rummy in which a player may go out if the odd cards outside his sequences total less than ten points.

ginseng ('dʒɪnsɛŋ) *n.* 1. either of two plants of China or of North America, whose forked aromatic roots are used

medically in China. 2. the root of either of these plants or a substance obtained from the roots.

gip (dʒɪp) *vb.* **gipping, gipped.** 1. a variant spelling of **gyp**. ~*n.* 2. a variant spelling of **gyp**.

Gipsy ('dʒɪpsɪ) *n., pl. -sies.* (sometimes not cap.) a variant spelling of **Gypsy**.

giraffe (dʒɪˈrɑːf, -ˈræf) *n., pl. -raffes or -raffe.* a large ruminant mammal inhabiting savannahs of tropical Africa: the tallest mammal, with very long legs and neck.

gird ('gɜːd) *vb.* **girding, girded or girt.** (tr.) 1. to put a belt, girdle, etc., around (the waist or hips). 2. to bind or secure with or as if with a belt: *to gird on one's armour*. 3. to surround; encircle. 4. to prepare (oneself) for action (esp. in **gird** (up) **one's loins**).

gird ('gɜːd) *N Brit. dialect.* ~*vb.* 1. (when *intr.*, foll. by *at*) to jeer (at someone); mock. ~*n.* 2. a taunt; gibe.

girdler ('gɜːdlə) *n.* a large beam, esp. one made of steel, used in the construction of bridges, buildings, etc.

girdle ('gɜːdl) *n.* 1. a woman's elastic corset covering the waist to the thigh. 2. anything that surrounds or encircles. 3. a belt or sash. 4. **Jewellery**, the outer edge of a gem. 5. **Anat.** any encircling structure or part. 6. the mark left on a tree trunk after the removal of a ring of bark. ~*vb.* (tr.) 7. to put a girdle on or around. 8. to surround or encircle. 9. to remove a ring of bark from (a tree). —**'girdle-like adj.**

girdle ('gɜːdl) *n.* a less common word for **griddle**.

girl (gɜːl) *n.* 1. a female child from birth to young womanhood. 2. a young unmarried woman; lass; maid. 3. *Inf.* a sweetheart or girlfriend. 4. *Inf.* a woman of any age. 5. a female employee, esp. a female servant. 6. *S. African derog.* a Black female servant. —**'girl, hood n.** —**'girlish adj.**

girlfriend ('gɜːl, frend) *n.* 1. a female friend with whom a man or boy is romantically or sexually involved. 2. any female friend.

Girl Guide *n.* See **Guide**.

girlie ('gɜːli) *n.* (modifier) *Inf.* featuring nude or scantily dressed women: a **girlie magazine**.

giro ('dʒaɪrəʊ) *n., pl. -ros.* the settlement of debts or other payments by transfers between accounts or by giro cheque, operated by post offices or banks.

girt ('gɜːt) *vb.* the past tense or past participle of **gird**.

girt ('gɜːt) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to bind or encircle; gird. 2. to measure the girth of (something).

girth (gɜːθ) *n.* 1. the distance around something; circumference. 2. a band around a horse's belly to keep the saddle in position. ~*vb.* 3. (usually foll. by *up*) to fasten a girth on (a horse). 4. (tr.) to encircle or surround.

gist (dʒɪst) *n.* the point or substance of an argument, speech, etc.

git (ɡɪt) *n. Brit. sl.* 1. a contemptible person, often a fool. 2. a bastard.

give (ɡɪv) *vb.* **giving, gave, given.** (mainly *tr.*) 1. (also *intr.*) to present or deliver voluntarily (something that is one's own) to another. 2. (often foll. by *for*) to transfer (something that is one's own, esp. money) to the possession of another as part of an exchange: *to give fifty pounds for a painting*. 3. to place in the temporary possession of another: *I gave him my watch while I went swimming*. 4. (when *intr.*, foll. by *of*) to grant, provide, or bestow: *give me some advice*. 5. to administer: *to give a reprimand*. 6. to award or attribute: *to give blame, praise, etc.* 7. to be a source of: *he gives no trouble*. 8. to impart or communicate: *to give news*. 9. to utter or emit: *to give a shout*. 10. to perform, make, or do: *the car gave a jolt*. 11. to sacrifice or devote: *he gave his life for his country*. 12. to surrender: *to give place to others*. 13. to concede or yield: *I will give you this game*. 14. *Inf.* to happen: *what gives?* 15. (often foll. by *to*) to cause; lead: *she gave me to believe that she would come*. 16. to perform or present as an entertainment: *to give a play*. 17. to act as a host of (a party, etc.). 18. (*intr.*) to yield or break under force or pressure: *this surface will give if you sit on it*. 19. **give as good as one gets**, to respond to verbal or bodily blows to at least an equal extent as those received. 20. **give or take**, plus or minus: *three thousand people came, give or take a few hundred*. ~*n.* 21. *Inf.* tendency to yield under pressure; resilience. ~See also **give away, give in**, etc. —**'givable or 'giveable adj.** —**'giver n.**

give-and-take *n.* 1. mutual concessions, shared benefits, and cooperation. 2. a smoothly flowing exchange of ideas and talk. ~*vb.* **give and take**. 3. to make mutual concessions.

give away *vb.* (tr., adv.) 1. to donate or bestow as a

gift, prize, etc. 2. to sell very cheaply. 3. to reveal or betray. 4. to fail to use (an opportunity) through folly or neglect. 5. to present (a bride) formally to her husband in a marriage ceremony. ~*n.* **giveaway**. 6. a betrayal or disclosure esp. when unintentional. 7. (modifier) very cheap (esp. in **giveaway prices**).

give in *vb.* (adv.) 1. (*intr.*) to yield; admit defeat. 2. (tr.) to submit or deliver (a document).

given ('ɡɪvən) *vb.* 1. the past participle of **give**. ~*adj.* 2. (postpositive; foll. by *to*) tending (to); inclined or addicted (to). 3. specific or previously stated. 4. assumed as a premiss. 5. **Maths.** known or determined independently: *a given volume*. 6. (on official documents) issued or executed, as on a stated date.

give off *vb.* (tr., adv.) to emit or discharge: *the mothballs gave off an acrid odour*.

give out *vb.* (adv.) 1. (tr.) to emit or discharge. 2. (tr.) to publish or make known: *the chairman gave out that he would resign*. 3. (tr.) to hand out or distribute: *they gave out free chewing gum*. 4. (*intr.*) to become exhausted; fail: *the supply of candles gave out*.

give over *vb.* (adv.) 1. (tr.) to transfer, esp. to the care or custody of another. 2. (tr.) to assign or resign to a specific purpose or function: *the day was given over to pleasure*. 3. *Inf.* to cease (an activity): *give over fighting, will you!*

give up *vb.* (adv.) 1. to abandon hope (for). 2. (tr.) to renounce (an activity, belief, etc.): *I have given up smoking*. 3. to relinquish or resign from: *he gave up the presidency*. 4. (tr.; usually reflexive) to surrender: *the escaped convict gave himself up*. 5. (*intr.*) to admit one's defeat or inability to do something. 6. (tr.; often passive or reflexive) to devote completely (to): *she gave herself up to caring for the sick*.

gizzard ('ɡɪzəd) *n.* 1. the thick-walled part of a bird's stomach, in which hard food is broken up. 2. *Inf.* the stomach and entrails generally.

glacé ('glæsi) *adj.* 1. crystallized or candied: *glacé cherries*. 2. covered in icing. 3. (of leather, silk, etc.) having a glossy finish. ~*vb.* -**céing, -céed**. 4. (tr.) to ice or candy (cakes, fruits, etc.).

glacial ('gleɪʃəl, -ʃəl) *adj.* 1. characterized by the presence of masses of ice. 2. relating to, caused by, or deposited by a glacier. 3. extremely cold; icy. 4. cold or hostile in manner. 5. (of a chemical compound) of or tending to form crystals that resemble ice. 6. very slow in progress: *a glacial pace*. —**'glacially adv.**

glaciate ('gleɪs, eɪt) *vb.* 1. to cover or become covered with glaciers or masses of ice. 2. (tr.) to subject to the effects of glaciers, such as denudation and erosion. —**'glaciation n.**

glacier ('glæsiə, 'gleɪs-) *n.* a slowly moving mass of ice originating from an accumulation of snow.

glad (glæd) *adj.* **gladder, gladdest.** 1. happy and pleased; contented. 2. causing happiness or contentment. 3. (postpositive; foll. by *to*) very willing: *he was glad to help*. ~*vb.* 4. (tr.) an archaic word for **gladden**. —**'gladly adv.** —**'gladness n.**

glad (glæd) *n.* *Inf.* short for **gladiolus**.

gladden ('glædən) *vb.* to make or become glad and joyful. —**'gladdener n.**

glade (gleɪd) *n.* an open place in a forest; clearing.

glad eye *n.* *Inf.* an inviting or seductive glance (esp. in **give** (someone) **the glad eye**).

gladiator ('glædi, eɪtə) *n.* 1. (in ancient Rome) a man trained to fight in arenas to provide entertainment. 2. a person who supports and fights publicly for a cause. —**'gladiatorial** ('glædiə'tɔːrɪəl) *adj.*

gladiolus ('glædiəʊləs) *n., pl. -lus, -li (-lai), or -luses.* any plant of a widely cultivated genus having sword-shaped leaves and spikes of funnel-shaped brightly coloured flowers. Also called: **gladiola**.

gladrags ('glæd, rægz) *pl. n.* *Sl.* best clothes or clothes used on special occasions.

gladsome ('glædsəm) *adj.* an archaic word for **glad**. —**'gladsomely adv.** —**'gladsomeness n.**

glair (gleɪ) *n.* 1. white of egg, esp. when used as a size, glaze, or adhesive. 2. any substance resembling this. ~*vb.* 3. (tr.) to apply glair to (something). —**'glairy or 'glaireous adj.**

glamour or *U.S.* (sometimes) **glamor** ('glæmə) *n.* 1. charm and allure; fascination. 2. a. fascinating or voluptuous beauty. b. (as modifier): *a glamour girl*. 3. *Arch.* a magic spell; charm. —**'glamorous adj.**

glance ('glæns) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to look hastily or briefly. 2. (*intr.*; foll. by *over*, *through*, etc.) to look over briefly: *to glance through a report*. 3. (*intr.*) to reflect, glint, or

gleam: *the sun glanced on the water.* 4. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *off*) to depart (from an object struck) at an oblique angle: *the arrow glanced off the tree.* ~*n.* 5. a hasty or brief look; peep. 6. a flash or glint of light; gleam. 7. the act or an instance of an object glancing off another. 8. a brief allusion or reference. —'glancingly adv.

glance (glɑːns) *n.* any mineral having a metallic lustre.

gland (glænd) *n.* 1. a cell or organ in man and other animals that synthesizes chemical substances and secretes them for the body to use or eliminate, either through a duct (exocrine gland) or directly into the bloodstream (endocrine gland). 2. a structure, such as a lymph node, that resembles a gland in form. 3. a cell or organ in plants that synthesizes and secretes a particular substance.

gland (glænd) *n.* a device that prevents leakage of fluid from a point at which a rotating shaft emerges. It often consists of a flanged metal sleeve bedding into a stuffing box.

glanders ('glændəz) *n.* a highly infectious bacterial disease of horses, sometimes communicated to man, characterized by inflammation and ulceration of the mucous membranes of the air passages, skin and lymph glands.

glandular ('glændjələ) or **glandulous** ('glændjələs) *adj.* of, relating to, containing, functioning as, or affecting a gland. —'glandularly or 'glandulously adv.

glandular fever *n.* another name for **infectious mononucleosis**.

glare (gleɪ) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to stare angrily; glower. 2. (*tr.*) to express by glowering. 3. (*intr.*) (of light, colour, etc.) to be very bright and intense. 4. (*intr.*) to be dazzlingly ornamented or garish. ~*n.* 5. an angry stare. 6. a dazzling light or brilliance. 7. garish ornamentation or appearance. —'glary *adj.*

glaring ('gleəriŋ) *adj.* 1. conspicuous: *a glaring omission.* 2. dazzling or garish. —'glaringly adv. —'glaringness *n.*

glass (glɑːs) *n.* 1. a hard brittle transparent or translucent noncrystalline solid, consisting of metal silicates or similar compounds. They are made from a fused mixture of oxides, such as lime, silicon dioxide, phosphorus pentoxide, etc. b. (as modifier): *a glass bottle.* Related *adj.*: **vitreous**. 2. something made of glass, esp. a drinking vessel, a barometer, or a mirror. 3. Also called: **glassful**, the amount or volume contained in a drinking glass: *he drank a glass of wine.* 4. glassware collectively. 5. See **fibreglass**. ~*vb.* 6. (*tr.*) to cover with, enclose in, or fit with glass. —'glassless *adj.* —'glass, like *adj.*

glass-blowing *n.* the process of shaping a mass of molten glass by blowing air into it through a tube. —'glass-, blower *n.*

glasses ('glɑːsɪz) *pl. n.* a pair of lenses for correcting faulty vision, in a frame that rests on the bridge of the nose and hooks behind the ears. Also called: **spectacles**, **eyeglasses**.

glasshouse ('glɑːs, haʊs) *n.* 1. *Brit.* a glass building, esp. a greenhouse, used for growing plants in protected or controlled conditions. 2. *Inf., chiefly Brit.* a military detention centre.

glass wool *n.* fine spun glass massed into a wool-like bulk, used in insulation, filtering, etc.

glassy ('glɑːsi) *adj.* -ier, -iest. 1. resembling glass, esp. in smoothness or transparency. 2. void of expression, life, or warmth: *a glassy stare.* —'glassily adv. —'glassiness *n.*

Glaswegian (glæz'wiːdʒən) *adj.* 1. of or relating to Glasgow, a city in Scotland, or its inhabitants. ~*n.* 2. a native or inhabitant of Glasgow.

glaucoma (glɔː'kəʊmə) *n.* a disease of the eye in which increased pressure within the eyeball causes impaired vision, sometimes progressing to blindness. —'glau'comatous *adj.*

glaucous ('glɔːkəs) *adj.* 1. *Bot.* covered with a waxy or powdery bloom. 2. bluish-green.

glaze (gleɪz) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to fit or cover with glass. 2. (*tr.*) *Ceramics.* to cover with a vitreous solution, rendering impervious to liquid. 3. (*tr.*) to cover (foods) with a shiny coating by applying beaten egg, sugar, etc. 4. (*tr.*) to make glossy or shiny. 5. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *over*) to become or cause to become glassy: *his eyes were glazing over.* ~*n.* 6. *Ceramics.* a vitreous coating. b. the substance used to produce such a coating. 7. a smooth lustrous finish on a fabric produced by applying various chemicals. 8. something used to give a glossy surface to foods: *a syrup glaze.* —'glazer *n.*

glazier ('gleɪziə) *n.* a person who fits windows, etc., with glass. —'glazery *n.*

G.L.C. *abbrev.* for Greater London Council.

gleam (glim) *n.* 1. a small beam or glow of light, esp. reflected light. 2. a brief or dim indication: *a gleam of hope.* ~*vb.* (*intr.*) 3. to send forth or reflect a beam of light. 4. to appear, esp. briefly. —'gleamingly adv. —'gleamy *adj.*

glean (gliːn) *vb.* 1. to gather (something) slowly and carefully in small pieces: *to glean information.* 2. to gather (the useful remnants of a crop) from the field after harvesting. —'gleaner *n.*

gleanings ('gliːnɪŋz) *pl. n.* the useful remnants of a crop that can be gathered from the field after harvesting.

glebe (gliːb) *n.* 1. *Brit.* land granted to a clergyman as part of his benefice. 2. *Poetic.* land, esp. for growing things.

glee (gliː) *n.* 1. great merriment; joy. 2. a type of song originating in 18th-century England, sung by three or more unaccompanied voices.

gleeful ('gliːfʊl) *adj.* full of glee; merry. —'gleefully adv. —'gleefulness *n.*

gleeman ('gliːmən) *n., pl. -men.* *Obs.* a minstrel.

glen (glɛn) *n.* a narrow and deep mountain valley, esp. in Scotland or Ireland.

glengarry (glɛn'gəri) *n., pl. -ries.* a brimless Scottish cap with a crease down the crown, often with ribbons at the back. Also called: **glengarry bonnet**.

glib (gliːb) *adj.* **glibber**, **glibbest**. fluent and easy, often in an insincere or deceptive way. —'glibly adv. —'glibness *n.*

glide (glaid) *vb.* 1. to move or cause to move easily without jerks or hesitations. 2. (*intr.*) to pass slowly or without perceptible change: *to glide into sleep.* 3. to cause (an aircraft) to come into land without engine power, or (of an aircraft) to land in this way. 4. (*intr.*) to fly a glider. 5. *Music.* to execute a portamento from one note to another. 6. (*intr.*) *Phonetics.* to produce a glide. ~*n.* 7. a smooth easy movement. 8. a. any of various dances featuring gliding steps. b. a step in such a dance. 9. a manoeuvre in which an aircraft makes a gentle descent without engine power. 10. the act or process of gliding. 11. *Music.* a portamento or slur. 12. *Phonetics.* a transitional sound as the speech organs pass from the articulatory position of one speech sound to that of the next. —'glidingly adv.

glider ('glaidə) *n.* 1. an aircraft capable of gliding and soaring in air currents without the use of an engine. 2. a person or thing that glides.

glimmer ('glimə) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. (of a light) to glow faintly or flickeringly. 2. to be indicated faintly: *hope glimmered in his face.* ~*n.* 3. a glow or twinkle of light. 4. a faint indication. —'glimmeringly adv.

glimpse (glɪmps) *n.* 1. a brief or incomplete view: *to catch a glimpse of the sea.* 2. a vague indication. 3. *Arch.* a glimmer of light. ~*vb.* 4. (when *intr.*, usually foll. by *at*) to catch sight (of) momentarily. —'glimpser *n.*

glint (glɪnt) *vb.* 1. to gleam or cause to gleam brightly. ~*n.* 2. a bright gleam or flash. 3. brightness or gloss. 4. a brief indication.

glissade (gli'sæd, -seɪd) *n.* 1. a gliding step in ballet. 2. a controlled descent over snow or ice. ~*vb.* 3. (*intr.*) to perform a glissade.

glisten ('glɪs'n) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. (of a wet or glossy surface, etc.) to gleam by reflecting light. 2. (of light) to reflect with brightness: *the sunlight glistens on wet leaves.* ~*n.* 3. *Rare.* a gleam or gloss.

glister ('glɪstə) *vb., n.* an archaic word for **glitter**.

glitter ('glɪtə) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. (of a hard, wet, or polished surface) to reflect light in bright flashes. 2. (of light) to be reflected in bright flashes. 3. (usually foll. by *with*) to be decorated or enhanced by the glamour (of): *the show glitters with famous actors.* ~*n.* 4. sparkle or brilliance. 5. show and glamour. 6. tiny pieces of shiny decorative material. —'glitteringly adv. —'glittery *adj.*

glitter ice *n.* *Canad.* ice formed from freezing rain. Also called: **silver thaw**.

gloaming ('gləʊmɪŋ) *n.* *Scot.* or *poetic.* twilight or dusk.

gloat (gləʊt) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*; often foll. by *over*) to dwell (on) with malevolent smugness or exultation. ~*n.* 2. the act of gloating. —'gloater *n.*

glob (glɒb) *n.* *Inf.* a rounded mass of some thick fluid substance.

global ('glɒbəl) *adj.* 1. covering or relating to the whole world. 2. comprehensive. —'globally adv.

globe (gləʊb) *n.* 1. a sphere on which a map of the world is drawn. 2. the globe, the world; the earth. 3. a planet or some other astronomical body. 4. an object shaped like a sphere, such as a glass lampshade or fish bowl. 5. an orb, usually of gold, symbolic of sovereignty. ~*vb.* 6. to form or cause to form into a globe. —'globe-like *adj.*

globehawer ('gləʊb,flaʊə) *n.* a plant having pale yellow, white, or orange globe-shaped flowers.

globo-trotter ('gləʊb,trɒtə) *n.* a habitual worldwide traveller, esp. a tourist. —'globe,trotting *n., adj.*

globular ('glɒbjʊlə) or **globulous** *adj.* 1. shaped like a globe or globule. 2. having or consisting of globules. —'globularly *adv.*

globule ('glɒbjʊ:l) *n.* a small globe, esp. a drop of liquid.

globulin ('glɒbjʊlɪn) *n.* any of a group of simple proteins that are generally insoluble in water but soluble in salt solutions.

glockenspiel ('glɒkən,spi:l, -[pɪ:l]) *n.* a percussion instrument consisting of a set of tuned metal plates played with a pair of small hammers.

glomerate ('glɒməɪt) *adj.* 1. gathered into a compact rounded mass. 2. *Anat.* (esp. of glands) conglomerate in structure. —'glomer'ation *n.*

gloom (glu:m) *n.* 1. partial or total darkness. 2. a state of depression or melancholy. 3. an appearance or expression of despondency or melancholy. 4. *Poetic.* a dim or dark place. ~*vb.* 5. (*intr.*) to look sullen or depressed. 6. to make or become dark or gloomy.

gloomy ('glu:mi) *adj.* **gloomier, gloomiest.** 1. dark or dismal. 2. causing depression, dejection, or gloom: *gloomy news*. 3. despairing; sad. —'gloomily *adv.* —'gloominess *n.*

glorify ('glɒrɪ,fai) *vb.* -fying, -fied. (*tr.*) 1. to make glorious. 2. to make more splendid; adorn. 3. to worship, exalt, or adore. 4. to extol. 5. to cause to seem more splendid or imposing than reality. —'glorifi'cation *n.* —'glorifier *n.*

glorious ('glɒrɪəs) *adj.* 1. having or full of glory; illustrious. 2. conferring glory or renown: *a glorious victory*. 3. brilliantly beautiful. 4. *Inf.* delightful or enjoyable. —'gloriously *adv.* —'gloriosness *n.*

glory ('glɒrɪ) *n., pl. -ries.* 1. exaltation, praise, or honour. 2. something that brings or is worthy of praise (esp. in **crowning glory**). 3. thanksgiving, adoration, or worship: *glory be to God*. 4. pomp; splendour: *the glory of the king's reign*. 5. radiant beauty; resplendence: *the glory of the sunset*. 6. the beauty and bliss of heaven. 7. a state of extreme happiness or prosperity. 8. another word for **halo** or **nimbus**. ~*vb.* -rying, -ried. 9. (*intr.*; often foll. by *in*) to triumph or exalt. ~*interj.* 10. *Inf.* a mild interjection to express pleasure or surprise (often **glory bel**).

glory hole *n.* 1. a cupboard or storeroom, esp. one which is very untidy. 2. *Naut.* a storeroom or a small locker.

Glos. *abbrev. for Gloucestershire.*

gloss ('glɒs) *n.* 1. *a.* lustre or sheen, as of a smooth surface. *b.* (as *modifier*): *gloss paint*. 2. a superficially attractive appearance. 3. a cosmetic used to give a sheen. ~*vb.* 4. to give a gloss to or obtain a gloss. 5. (*tr.*; often foll. by *over*) to hide under a deceptively attractive surface or appearance. —'glosser *n.*

gloss ('glɒs) *n.* 1. a short or expanded explanation or interpretation of a word, expression, or foreign phrase in the margin or text of a manuscript, etc. 2. an intentionally misleading explanation. 3. short for **glossary**. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 4. to add glosses to. 5. (often foll. by *over*) to give a false or misleading interpretation of. —'glosser *n.*

glossary ('glɒsəri) *n., pl. -ries.* an alphabetical list of terms peculiar to a field of knowledge with explanations. —'glossarial ('glɒ'seəriəl) *adj.* —'glossarist *n.*

glossy ('glɒsi) *adj.* **glossier, glossiest.** 1. smooth and shiny; lustrous. 2. superficially attractive; plausible. 3. (of a magazine) lavishly produced on shiny paper. ~*n., pl. glossies.* 4. Also called (U.S.): **slick**, an expensively produced magazine, printed on shiny paper and containing high quality colour photography. 5. a photograph printed on paper that has a smooth shiny surface. —'glossily *adv.* —'glossiness *n.*

glottal stop *n.* a plosive speech sound produced by tightly closing the glottis and allowing the air pressure to build up before opening the glottis, causing the air to escape with force.

glottis ('glɒtɪs) *n., pl. -tises or -tides* (-tɪ,dɪz), the vocal apparatus of the larynx, consisting of the two true vocal cords and the opening between them. —'glottal *adj.*

glove (gləʊv) *n.* 1. (*often pl.*) a shaped covering for the hand with individual sheaths for the fingers and thumb, made of leather, fabric, etc. 2. any of various large protective hand covers worn in sports, such as a boxing glove. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to cover or provide with or as if with gloves.

glover ('gləʊvə) *n.* a person who makes or sells gloves.

glow (gləʊ) *n.* 1. light emitted by a substance or object at a high temperature. 2. a steady even light without flames. 3. brilliance of colour. 4. brightness of complexion. 5. a feeling of well-being or satisfaction. 6. intensity of emotion. ~*vb.* (*intr.*) 7. to emit a steady even light without flames. 8. to shine intensely, as if from great heat. 9. to be exuberant, as from excellent health or intense emotion. 10. to experience a feeling of well-being or satisfaction: *to glow with pride*. 11. (esp. of the complexion) to show a strong bright colour, esp. red. 12. to be very hot.

glower ('gləʊə) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to stare hard and angrily. ~*n.* 2. a sullen or angry stare. —'gloweringly *adv.*

glow-worm *n.* a European beetle, the females and larvae of which bear luminescent organs producing a soft greenish light.

gloxinia (glɒk'sɪniə) *n.* any of several tropical plants cultivated for their large white, red, or purple bell-shaped flowers.

glucose ('glu:kəʊz, -kəʊs) *n.* 1. a white crystalline sugar, the most abundant form being dextrose. Formula: C₆H₁₂O₆. 2. a yellowish syrup obtained by incomplete hydrolysis of starch: used in confectionery, fermentation, etc.

glue (glu:) *n.* 1. any natural or synthetic adhesive, esp. a sticky gelatinous substance prepared by boiling animal products such as bones, skin, and horns. 2. any other sticky or adhesive substance. ~*vb.* **gluing** or **glueing, glued.** 3. (*tr.*) to join or stick together as with glue. —'glue,like *adj.* —'gluer *n.* —'gluey *adj.*

glum (gləm) *adj.* **glummer, glummiest.** silent or sullen, as from gloom. —'glumly *adv.* —'glumness *n.*

glut (glæt) *n.* 1. an excessive amount, as in the production of a crop. 2. the act of glutting or state of being glutted. ~*vb.* **glutting, glutted.** (*tr.*) 3. to feed or supply beyond capacity. 4. to supply (a market, etc.) with a commodity in excess of the demand for it.

gluten ('glu:tɪn) *n.* a protein present in cereal grains, esp. wheat. —'glutenous *adj.*

glutinous ('glu:tɪnəs) *adj.* resembling glue in texture; sticky. —'glutiously *adv.*

glutton ('glætʌn) *n.* 1. a person devoted to eating and drinking to excess; greedy person. 2. a person who has or appears to have a voracious appetite for something: *a glutton for punishment*. —'gluttonous *adj.* —'gluttonously *adv.*

glutton ('glætʌn) *n.* another name for **wolverine**.

gluttony ('glætʌni) *n., pl. -tonies.* the act or practice of eating to excess.

glyceride ('glɪsə,raɪd) *n.* any fatty-acid ester of glycerol.

glycerin ('glɪsərɪn) or **glycerine** ('glɪsərɪn, 'glɪsə'rɪn) *n.* another name (not in technical usage) for **glycerol**.

glycerol ('glɪsə,rɒl) *n.* a colourless odourless syrupy liquid: a by-product of soap manufacture, used as a solvent, antifreeze, plasticizer, and sweetener.

glyco- or before a vowel **glyc-** *combining form.* sugar: *glycogen*.

glycogen ('glɪkəʊdʒən) *n.* a polysaccharide consisting of glucose units: the form in which carbohydrate is stored in animals. —'glycogenic ('glɪkəʊdʒənɪk) *adj.* —'glyco'genesis *n.*

G.M. *abbrev. for:* 1. general manager. 2. (in Britain) George Medal. 3. Grand Master.

G-man *n., pl. G-men.* 1. *U.S. sl.* an FBI agent. 2. *Irish.* a political detective.

GMT *abbrev. for Greenwich Mean Time.*

gnarled (nɑ:ld) or **gnarly** *adj.* 1. having gnarls: *the gnarled trunk of the old tree*. 2. (esp. of hands) rough, twisted, and weather-beaten.

gnash (næʃ) *vb.* 1. to grind (the teeth) together, as in pain or anger. 2. (*tr.*) to bite or chew as by grinding the teeth. ~*n.* 3. the act of gnashing the teeth.

gnat (næt) *n.* any of various small fragile biting two-winged insects.

gnaw (nɔ:) *vb.* **gnawing, gnawed; gnawed or gnawn.** 1. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *at* or *upon*) to bite (at) or chew (upon) constantly so as to wear away little by little. 2. (*tr.*) to form by gnawing: *to gnaw a hole*. 3. to cause erosion of (something). 4. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *at*)

to cause constant distress or anxiety (to). ~*n.* 5. the act or an instance of gnawing.

gneiss (nais) *n.* any coarse-grained metamorphic rock that is banded or foliated. —'gneissic, 'gneissoid, or 'gneissose *adj.*

gnome (nɒm) *n.* 1. one of a species of legendary creatures, usually resembling small misshapen old men, said to live in the depths of the earth and guard buried treasure. 2. the statue of a gnome, esp. in a garden. 3. a very small or ugly person. 4. *Facetious or derog.* an international banker or financier (esp. in *gnomes of Zurich*). —'gnomish *adj.*

gnomic ('nɒmɪk, nɒm-) *adj.* of or relating to aphorisms; pithy. —'gnomically *adv.*

gnomon ('nɒmɒn) *n.* 1. the stationary arm that projects the shadow on a sundial. 2. a geometric figure remaining after a parallelogram has been removed from one corner of a larger parallelogram. —'gnomonic *adj.*

gnostic ('nɒstɪk) *adj.* of, relating to, or possessing knowledge, esp. spiritual knowledge.

Gnostic ('nɒstɪk) *n.* 1. an adherent of Gnosticism. ~*adj.* 2. of or relating to Gnostics or to Gnosticism.

Gnosticism ('nɒstɪsɪzəm) *n.* a religious movement characterized by a belief in intuitive spiritual knowledge: regarded as a heresy by the Christian Church.

G.N.P. *abbrev.* for gross national product.

gnu (nu:) *n., pl. gnus or gnus.* either of two sturdy antelopes inhabiting the savannas of Africa, having an oxlike head and a long tufted tail. Also called: **wildebeest**.

go (gəʊ) *vb.* **going, went, gone.** (*mainly intr.*) 1. to move or proceed, esp. to or from a point or in a certain direction: *to go home*. 2. (*tr.*) *takes an infinitive, often with to omitted or replaced by and* to proceed towards a particular person or place with some specified purpose: *I must go and get that book*. 3. to depart: *we'll have to go at eleven*. 4. to start, as in a race: often used in commands. 5. to make regular journeys: *this train service goes to the East coast*. 6. to operate or function effectively: *the radio won't go*. 7. (*copula*) to become: *his face went red*. 8. to make a noise as specified: *the gun went bang*. 9. to enter into a specified state or condition: *to go into hysterics*. 10. to be or continue to be in a specified state or condition: *to go in rags; to go in poverty*. 11. to lead, extend, or afford access: *this route goes to the North*. 12. to proceed towards an activity: *to go to sleep*. 13. (*tr.*) *takes an infinitive* to serve or contribute: *this letter goes to prove my point*. 14. to follow a course as specified; fare: *the lecture went badly*. 15. to be applied or allotted to a particular purpose or recipient: *his money went on drink*. 16. to be sold: *the necklace went for three thousand pounds*. 17. to be ranked; compare: *this meal is good as my meals go*. 18. to blend or harmonize: *these chairs won't go with the rest of your furniture*. 19. (*coll.* by *by* or *under*) to be known (by a name or disguise). 20. to have a usual or proper place: *those books go on this shelf*. 21. (*of music, poetry, etc.*) to be sounded; expressed, etc.: *how does that song go?* 22. to fail or give way: *my eyesight is going*. 23. to break down or collapse abruptly: *the ladder went at the critical moment*. 24. to die: *the old man went at 2 a.m.* 25. (*often foll. by by*) a. (*of time, etc.*) to elapse: *the hours go by so slowly*. b. to travel past: *the train goes by her house*. c. to be guided (by). 26. to occur: *happiness does not always go with riches*. 27. to be eliminated, abolished, or given up: *this entry must go to save space*. 28. to be spent or finished: *all his money has gone*. 29. to attend: *go to school*. 30. to join a stated profession: *go on the stage*. 31. (*coll. by to*) to have recourse (to); turn: *to go to arbitration*. 32. (*coll. by to*) to subject or put oneself (to): *she goes to great pains to please him*. 33. to proceed, esp. up to or beyond certain limits: *you will go too far one day and then you will be punished*. 34. to be acceptable or tolerated: *anything goes*. 35. to carry the weight of final authority: *what the boss says goes*. 36. (*coll. by into*) to be contained in: *four goes into twelve three times*. 37. (*often foll. by for*) to endure or last out: *we can't go for much longer without water*. 38. (*tr.*) *Cards.* to bet or bid: *I go two hearts*. 39. *go and.* *Inf.* to be so foolish or unlucky as to: *then she had to go and lose her hat*. 40. *be going.* to intend or be about to start (to do or be doing something): often used as an alternative future construction: *what's going to happen to us?* 41. *go bail.* to act as surety. 42. *go it.* *Sl.* to do something or move energetically. 43. *go it alone.* *Inf.* to act or proceed without allies or help. 44. *go one better.* *Inf.* to surpass or outdo (someone). 45. *let go.* a. to relax one's hold (on);

release. b. to discuss or consider no further. 46. *let oneself go.* a. to act in an uninhibited manner. b. to lose interest in one's appearance, manners, etc. 47. *to go.* remaining. ~*n., pl. goes.* 48. the act of going. 49. a. an attempt or try: *he had a go at the stamp business*. b. an attempt at stopping a person suspected of a crime: *the police are not always in favour of the public having a go*. 50. a turn: *it's my go next*. 51. *Inf.* the quality of being active and energetic: *she has much more go than I*. 52. *Inf.* hard or energetic work: *it's all go*. 53. *Inf.* a successful venture or achievement: *he made a go of it*. 54. *Inf.* a bargain or agreement. 55. *from the word go.* *Inf.* from the very beginning. 56. *no go.* *Inf.* impossible; abortive or futile: *it's no go, I'm afraid*. 57. *on the go.* *Inf.* active and energetic. ~*adj.* 58. (*postpositive*) *Inf.* functioning properly and ready for action: esp. used in astronautics: *all systems are go*. ~See also **go about, go against**, etc.

go about *vb. (intr., prep.)* 1. (*prep.*) to busy oneself with: *to go about one's duties*. 2. (*prep.*) to tackle (a problem or task). 3. to circulate (in): *there's a lot of flu going about*. 4. (*adv.*) (*of a sailing ship*) to change from one tack to another.

goad (gəʊd) *n.* 1. a sharp pointed stick for urging on cattle, etc. 2. anything that acts as a spur or incitement. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to drive as if with a goad; spur; incite.

go against *vb. (intr., prep.)* 1. to be contrary to (principles or beliefs). 2. to be unfavourable to (a person): *the case went against him*.

go-ahead *n.* 1. (usually preceded by *the*) *Inf.* permission to proceed. ~*adj.* 2. enterprising or ambitious.

goal (gəʊl) *n.* 1. the aim or object towards which an endeavour is directed. 2. the terminal point of a journey or race. 3. (*in various sports*) the net, basket, etc. into or over which players try to propel the ball, puck, etc., to score. 4. *Sport.* a. a successful attempt at scoring. b. the score so made. 5. (*in soccer, hockey, etc.*) the position of goalkeeper. —'goalless *adj.*

goalkeeper ('gəʊl,kɪpə) *n.* *Sport.* a player in the goal whose duty is to prevent the ball, puck, etc., from entering or crossing it.

goal line *n.* *Sport.* the line marking each end of the pitch, on which the goals stand.

goat (gəʊt) *n.* 1. any sure-footed agile ruminant mammal with hollow horns, naturally inhabiting rough stony ground in Europe, Asia, and N Africa. 2. *Inf.* a lecherous man. 3. a foolish person. 4. *get (someone's) goat.* *Sl.* to cause annoyance to (someone). —'goatish *adj.*

Goat (gəʊt) *n.* the constellation Capricorn, the tenth sign of the zodiac.

go at *vb. (intr., prep.)* 1. to make an energetic attempt at (something). 2. to attack vehemently.

goatee (gəʊ'ti:) *n.* a pointed tuftlike beard growing on the chin.

goatherd ('gəʊt,hɜ:d) *n.* a person employed to tend or herd goats.

goatsbeard or **goat's-beard** ('gəʊts,bɪəd) *n.* 1. Also called: **Jack-go-to-bed-at-noon.** a Eurasian plant of the composite family, with woolly stems and large heads of yellow rayed flowers. 2. an American plant with long spikes of small white flowers.

goatskin ('gəʊt,skɪn) *n.* 1. the hide of a goat. 2. something made from the hide of a goat, such as leather or a container for wine.

goatsucker ('gəʊt,sʌkə) *n.* the U.S. name for **nightjar**.

gob ('gɒb) *n.* 1. a lump or chunk, esp. of a soft substance. 2. (*often pl.*) *Inf.* a great quantity or amount. 3. *Inf.* a globule of spittle or saliva. ~*vb.* **gobbing, gobbled.** 4. (*intr.*) *Brit. inf.* to spit.

gob ('gɒb) *n.* a slang word (esp. *Brit.*) for the mouth.

go back *vb. (intr., adv.)* 1. to return. 2. (*often foll. by to*) to originate (in): *the links with France go back to the Norman Conquest*. 3. (*foll. by on*) to change one's mind about; repudiate (esp. in **go back on one's word**).

gobbet ('gɒbɪt) *n.* a chunk, lump, or fragment, esp. of raw meat.

gobble ('gɒbl) *vb.* 1. (*when tr.*, *often foll. by up*) to eat or swallow (food) hastily and in large mouthfuls. 2. (*tr.*; *often foll. by up*) *Inf.* to snatch.

gobble ('gɒbl) *n.* 1. the loud rapid gurgling sound made by male turkeys. ~*vb.* 2. (*intr.*) (*of a turkey*) to make this sound.

gobbledgook or **gobbledygook** ('gɒblɪd,gu:k) *n.* *Inf.* pretentious language, esp. as characterized by obscure phraseology.

gobbler ('gɒblə) *n.* *Inf.* a male turkey.

Gobelin ('gəʊbəlɪn; *French* gɔ'blɛ̃) *adj.* 1. of or resem-

bling tapestry made at the Gobelins' factory in Paris, having vivid pictorial scenes. ~*n.* 2. a tapestry of this kind.

go-between *n.* a person who acts as agent or intermediary for two people or groups in a transaction or dealing.

goblet ('gɒblɪt) *n.* 1. a vessel for drinking, with a base and stem but without handles. 2. *Arch.* a large drinking cup.

goblin ('gɒblɪn) *n.* (in folklore) a small grotesque supernatural creature, regarded as malevolent towards human beings.

goby ('gɒbi) *n.*, *pl.* -by or -bies. a small spiny-finned fish of coastal or brackish waters, having a large head, an elongated tapering body, and the ventral fins modified as a sucker.

go-by *n.* *Sl.* a deliberate snub or slight (esp. in **give (a person) the go-by**).

go by *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. to pass: *as the years go by*. 2. (*prep.*) to be guided by: *in the darkness we could only go by the stars*. 3. (*prep.*) to use as a basis for forming an opinion or judgement: *it's wise not to go only by appearances*.

go-cart *n.* *Motor racing.* See **kart**.

god (gɒd) *n.* 1. a supernatural being, who is worshipped as the controller of some part of the universe or some aspect of life in the world or is the personification of some force. 2. an image, idol, or symbolic representation of such a deity. 3. any person or thing to which excessive attention is given: *money was his god*. 4. a man who has qualities regarded as making him superior to other men. 5. (*in pl.*) the gallery of a theatre. —'goddess *fem. n.* —'god, like *adj.*

God (gɒd) *n.* 1. the sole Supreme Being, eternal, spiritual, and transcendent, who is the Creator and ruler of all and is infinite in all attributes; the object of worship in monotheistic religions. ~*interj.* 2. an oath or exclamation used to indicate surprise, annoyance, etc. (and in such expressions as **My God!** or **God Almighty!**).

godchild ('gɒd,tʃaɪld) *n.*, *pl.* -children. a person who is sponsored by adults at baptism.

goddaughter ('gɒd,dɔ:tə) *n.* a female godchild.

godetia (gɒ'di:tə) *n.* any plant of the American genus *Godetia*, esp. one grown as a showy-flowered annual garden plant.

godfather ('gɒd,fɑ:ðə) *n.* a male godparent.

god-fearing *adj.* pious; devout.

godforsaken ('gɒdfɔ:səkn) *adj.* 1. (*usually prenominal*) desolate; dreary; forlorn. 2. wicked.

Godhead ('gɒd,hed) *n.* (*sometimes not cap.*) 1. the essential nature and condition of being God. 2. **the Godhead**. God.

godless ('gɒdlɪs) *adj.* 1. wicked or unprincipled. 2. lacking a god. 3. refusing to acknowledge God. —'godlessly *adv.* —'godlessness *n.*

godly ('gɒdli) *adj.* -lier, -liest. having a religious character; pious; devout. —'godliness *n.*

godmother ('gɒd,mʌðə) *n.* a female godparent.

go down *vb.* (*intr.*, *mainly adv.*) 1. (*also prep.*) to move or lead to or as if to a lower place or level; sink, decline, decrease, etc. 2. to be defeated; lose. 3. to be remembered or recorded (esp. in **go down in history**). 4. to be received: *his speech went down well*. 5. (of food) to be swallowed. 6. *Brit.* to leave (a college or university) at the end of a term. 7. (*usually foll. by with*) *Brit.* to fall ill; be infected. 8. (of a celestial body) to sink or set.

godparent ('gɒd,pɛərənt) *n.* a person who stands sponsor to another at baptism.

godsend ('gɒd,send) *n.* a person or thing that comes unexpectedly but is particularly welcome.

godson ('gɒd,sʌn) *n.* a male godchild.

Godspeed ('gɒd'spi:d) *interj.*, *n.* an expression of good wishes for a person's success and safety.

godwit ('gɒdwɪt) *n.* a large shore bird of the sandpiper family having long legs and a long upturned bill.

goer ('gəʊə) *n.* 1. a. a person who attends something regularly. *b.* (*in combination*): *filmgoer*. 2. a person or thing that goes, esp. one that goes very fast. 3. *Austral. inf.* an acceptable or feasible idea, proposal, etc. 4. *Austral. & N.Z.* an energetic person.

goffer ('gɒfə) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to press pleats into (a frill). 2. (*tr.*) to decorate (the edges of a book). ~*n.* 3. an ornamental frill made by pressing pleats. 4. the decoration formed by goffering books. 5. the iron or tool used in making goffers.

go for *vb.* (*intr.*, *prep.*) 1. to go somewhere in order to

have or fetch: *he went for a drink*. 2. to seek to obtain: *I'd go for that job if I were you*. 3. to prefer or choose; like: *I really go for that new idea of yours*. 4. to make a physical or verbal attack on. 5. to be considered to be of a stated importance or value: *his twenty years went for nothing when he was made redundant*.

go-getter *n.* *Inf.* an ambitious enterprising person.

goggle ('gɒɡl) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to stare fixedly, as in astonishment. 2. to cause (the eyes) to roll or bulge or (of the eyes) to roll or bulge. ~*n.* 3. a bulging stare. 4. (*pl.*) spectacles, often of coloured glass or covered with gauze: used to protect the eyes. —'goggle-eyed *adj.*

gogglebox ('gɒɡl,bɒks) *n.* *Brit. sl.* a television set.

go-go dancer *n.* a dancer, usually scantily dressed, who performs rhythmic and often erotic modern dance routines, esp. in a nightclub.

Goidelic (gɔɪ'delɪk) *n.* 1. the N group of Celtic languages, consisting of Irish Gaelic, Scottish Gaelic, and Manx. ~*adj.* 2. of, relating to, or characteristic of this group of languages.

go in *vb.* (*intr.*, *adv.*) 1. to enter. 2. (*prep.*) See **go into**. 3. (of the sun, etc.) to become hidden behind a cloud. 4. **go in for**. a. to enter as a competitor or contestant. *b.* to adopt as an activity, interest, or guiding principle: *she went in for nursing*.

going ('gəʊɪŋ) *n.* 1. a departure or farewell. 2. the condition of a surface such as a road or field with regard to walking, riding, etc.: *muddy going*. 3. *Inf.* speed, progress, etc.: *we made good going on the trip*. ~*adj.* 4. thriving (esp. in a **going concern**). 5. current or accepted: *the going rate*. 6. (*postpositive*) available: *the best going*.

going-over *n.*, *pl.* **goings-over**. *Inf.* 1. a check, examination, or investigation. 2. a castigation or thrashing.

goings-on *pl. n.* *Inf.* 1. actions or conduct, esp. when regarded with disapproval. 2. happenings or events, esp. when mysterious or suspicious.

go into *vb.* (*intr.*, *prep.*) 1. to enter. 2. to start a career in: *to go into publishing*. 3. to investigate or examine. 4. to be admitted to, esp. temporarily: *she went into hospital*. 5. to enter a specified state: *she went into fits of laughter*.

goitre or **U.S. goiter** ('gɔɪtə) *n.* *Pathol.* a swelling of the thyroid gland, in some cases nearly doubling the size of the neck. —'goitred or *U.S.* 'goitered *adj.* —'goitrous *adj.*

gold (ɡəʊld) *n.* 1. a. a dense inert bright yellow element that is the most malleable and ductile metal, occurring in rocks and alluvial deposits; used as a monetary standard and in jewellery, dentistry, and plating. Symbol: Au; atomic no.: 79; atomic wt.: 196.97. Related *adj.*: *auric*. *b.* (*as modifier*): *a gold mine*. 2. a coin or coins made of this metal. 3. money; wealth. 4. something precious, beautiful, etc., such as a noble nature (esp. in **heart of gold**). 5. a. a deep yellow colour, sometimes with a brownish tint. *b.* (*as adj.*): *a gold carpet*. 6. short for **gold medal**.

goldcrest ('ɡəʊld,krest) *n.* a small Old World warbler having a greenish plumage and a bright yellow-and-black crown.

gold-digger *n.* 1. a person who prospects or digs for gold. 2. *Inf.* a woman who uses her sexual attractions to accumulate gifts and wealth.

gold dust *n.* gold in the form of small particles or powder.

golden ('ɡəʊldən) *adj.* 1. of the yellowish colour of gold: *golden hair*. 2. made from or largely consisting of gold: *a golden statue*. 3. happy or prosperous: *golden days*. 4. (*sometimes cap.*) (of anniversaries) the 50th in a series: *Golden Jubilee*; *golden wedding*. 5. *Inf.* very successful or destined for success: *the golden girl of tennis*. 6. extremely valuable or advantageous: *a golden opportunity*. —'goldenly *adv.* —'goldenness *n.*

golden age *n.* 1. *Classical myth.* the first and best age of mankind, when existence was happy, prosperous, and innocent. 2. the most flourishing and outstanding period, esp. in the history of an art or nation: *the golden age of poetry*.

golden eagle *n.* a large eagle of mountainous regions of the N hemisphere, having a plumage that is golden brown on the back.

Golden Fleece *n.* *Greek myth.* the fleece of a winged ram stolen by Jason and the Argonauts.

golden handshake *n.* *Inf.* a sum of money given to an employee, either on retirement or as compensation for loss of employment.

golden mean *n.* the middle course between extremes.
golden retriever *n.* a variety of retriever with a long silky wavy coat of a golden colour.

goldenrod ('gəʊldən'rd) *n.* a plant of the composite family of North America, Europe, and Asia, having spikes of small yellow flowers.

golden rule *n.* 1. the rule of conduct formulated by Christ: *Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them* (Matthew 7:12). 2. any important principle: *a golden rule of sailing is to wear a life jacket*.

golden syrup *n.* *Brit.* a light golden coloured treacle produced by the evaporation of cane sugar juice, used to flavour cakes, puddings, etc.

goldfinch ('gəʊld,fɪntʃ) *n.* a common European finch, the male of which has a red-and-white face and yellow-and-black wings.

goldfish ('gəʊld,fɪʃ) *n., pl. -fish or -fishes.* a freshwater fish of E Europe and Asia, esp. China, widely introduced as a pond or aquarium fish. It resembles the carp and has a typically golden or orange-red coloration.

gold foil *n.* thin gold sheet that is thicker than gold leaf.

gold leaf *n.* very thin gold sheet produced by rolling or hammering gold and used for gilding woodwork, etc.

gold medal *n.* a medal of gold, awarded to the winner of a competition or race.

gold plate *n.* 1. a thin coating of gold, usually produced by electroplating. 2. vessels or utensils made of gold. — **gold-plate** *vb.* (tr.)

gold rush *n.* a large-scale migration of people to a territory where gold has been found.

goldsmith ('gəʊld,smɪθ) *n. a.* a dealer in articles made of gold. *b.* an artisan who makes such articles.

gold standard *n.* a monetary system in which the unit of currency is defined with reference to gold.

golf (gɒlf) *n.* 1. a game played on a large open course, the object of which is to hit a ball using clubs, with as few strokes as possible, into each of usually 18 holes. ~ *vb.* 2. (*intr.*) to play golf. — **golfer** *n.*

golf club *n.* 1. any of various long-shafted clubs with wood or metal heads used to strike a golf ball. 2. *a.* an association of golf players, usually having its own course and facilities. *b.* the premises of such an association.

golf course or links *n.* a large area of open land on which golf is played.

Goliath (gə'laɪəθ) *n. Bible.* a Philistine giant who was killed by David with a stone from his sling (I Samuel 17).

golliwog ('gɒli,wɒɡ) *n.* a soft doll with a black face, usually made of cloth or rags.

golly ('gɒli) *interj.* an exclamation of mild surprise.

goloshes ('gɒlɒʃɪz) *pl. n.* a less common spelling of *galoshes*.

-gon *n. combining form.* indicating a figure having a specified number of angles: *pentagon*.

gonad ('gɒnəd) *n.* an animal organ in which gametes are produced, such as a testis or an ovary. — **gonadal**, **gonadial** (gɒ'neɪdɪəl) *adj.*

gondola ('ɡɒndələ) *n.* 1. a long narrow flat-bottomed boat with a high ornamented stem: traditionally used on the canals of Venice. 2. *a.* a car or cabin suspended from an airship or balloon. *b.* a moving cabin suspended from a cable across a valley, etc. 3. a flat-bottomed barge used on canals and rivers of the U.S. 4. *U.S.* a low, open, and flat-bottomed railway goods wagon. 5. a set of island shelves in a self-service shop: used for displaying goods.

gondolier (,ɡɒndə'liə) *n.* a man who propels a gondola.

gone (ɡɒn) *vb.* 1. the past participle of *go*. ~ *adj.* (*usually postpositive*) 2. ended; past. 3. lost; ruined. 4. dead. 5. spent; consumed; used up. 6. *Inf.* faint or weak. 7. *Inf.* having been pregnant (for a specified time): *six months gone*. 8. (*usually foll. by on*) *Sl.* in love (with).

goner ('ɡɒnə) *n.* *Sl.* a person or thing beyond help or recovery, esp. a person who is about to die.

gonfalon ('ɡɒnfələn) *n.* 1. a banner hanging from a crossbar, used esp. by certain medieval Italian republics. 2. a battle flag suspended crosswise on a staff, usually having a serrated edge.

gong (ɡɒŋ) *n.* 1. a percussion instrument consisting of a metal platelike disc struck with a soft-headed drumstick. 2. a rimmed metal disc, hollow metal hemisphere, or metal strip, tube, or wire that produces a note when struck. 3. a fixed saucer-shaped bell, as on an alarm clock, struck by a mechanically operated hammer. 4. *Brit. sl.* a medal, esp. a military one. ~ *vb.* 5. (*intr.*) to sound a gong. 6. (*tr.*) (of traffic police) to summon (a driver) to stop by sounding a gong.

gonorrhoea or esp. *U.S. gonorrhea* (,ɡɒnə'riə) *n.* an infectious venereal disease characterized by a discharge of mucus and pus from the urethra or vagina. — **gonor-rhoeal** or esp. *U.S. gonorrheal* *adj.*

-gony *n. combining form.* genesis, origin, or production: *cosmogony*.

goo (gu:) *n. Inf.* 1. a sticky substance. 2. coy or sentimental language or ideas.

good (ɡʊd) *adj. better, best.* 1. having admirable, pleasing, superior, or positive qualities; not negative, bad, or mediocre: *a good teacher*. 2. *a.* morally excellent or admirable; virtuous; righteous: *a good man*. *b.* (as collective *n.* preceded by *the*): *the good*. 3. suitable or efficient for a purpose: *a good winter coat*. 4. beneficial or advantageous: *vegetables are good for you*. 5. not ruined or decayed: *the meat is still good*. 6. kindly or approving: *you are good to him*. 7. valid or genuine: *I would not do this without good reason*. 8. honourable or held in high esteem: *a good family*. 9. financially secure, sound, or safe: *a good investment*. 10. (of a draft, etc.) drawn for a stated sum. 11. (of debts) expected to be fully paid. 12. clever, competent, or talented: *he's good at science*. 13. obedient or well-behaved: *a good dog*. 14. reliable, safe, or recommended: *a good make of clothes*. 15. affording material pleasure: *the good life*. 16. having a well-proportioned or generally fine appearance: *a good figure*. 17. complete; full: *I took a good ten minutes to reach the house*. 18. propitious; opportune: *a good time to ask for a rise*. 19. satisfying or gratifying: *a good rest*. 20. comfortable: *did you have a good night?* 21. newest or of the best quality: *keep the good plates for guests*. 22. fairly large, extensive, or long: *a good distance away*. 23. sufficient; ample: *we have a good supply of food*. 24. *a good one.* *a.* an unbelievable assertion. *b.* a very funny joke. 25. as good as. *virtually*; practically: *it's as good as finished*. 26. **good and**. *Inf.* (intensifier): *good and mad*. ~ *interj.* 27. an exclamation of approval, agreement, pleasure, etc. ~ *n.* 28. moral or material advantage or use; benefit or profit: *for the good of our workers*; *what is the good of worrying?* 29. positive moral qualities; goodness; virtue; righteousness; piety. 30. (*sometimes cap.*) the force that controls or effects positive moral qualities or virtue: *Good at work in the world*. 31. a good thing. 32. **for good** (and all), forever; permanently: *I have left them for good*. 33. **make good.** *a.* to recompense or repair damage or injury. *b.* to be successful. *c.* to prove the truth of (a statement or accusation). *d.* to secure and retain (a position). *e.* to effect or fulfil (something intended or promised). 34. **good on you.** *Austral. & N.Z.* well done, well said, etc.: a term of congratulation. ~ See also **goods**. — **'goodish** *adj.*

▷ **Usage.** Careful speakers and writers of English do not use *good* and *bad* as adverbs: *she dances well* (not *good*); *he sings really badly* (not *really bad*).

Good Book *n.* a name for the Bible.

goodbye (,ɡʊd'baɪ) *sentence substitute.* 1. farewell: a conventional expression used at leave-taking or parting with people. ~ *n.* 2. a leave-taking; parting: *they prolonged their goodbyes*. 3. a farewell: *they said goodbyes to each other*.

good day *sentence substitute.* a conventional expression of greeting or farewell used during the day.

good-for-nothing *n.* 1. an irresponsible or worthless person. ~ *adj.* 2. irresponsible; worthless.

Good Friday *n.* the Friday before Easter, observed as a commemoration of the Crucifixion of Jesus.

goodies ('ɡʊdɪz) *pl. n.* 1. any food or foods considered a special delight. 2. a choice selection of an item or collection.

goodly ('ɡʊdli) *adj. -lier, -liest.* 1. considerable: *a goodly amount of money*. 2. attractive, pleasing, or fine. — **'goodliness** *n.*

good morning *sentence substitute.* a conventional expression of greeting or farewell used in the morning.

goodness ('ɡʊdnɪs) *n.* 1. the state or quality of being good. 2. generosity; kindness. 3. moral excellence; piety; virtue. 4. what is good in something; essence. ~ *interj.* 5. a euphemism for **God**: used as an exclamation of surprise.

good night *sentence substitute.* a conventional expression of farewell, used in the evening or at night, esp. when departing to bed.

goods (ɡʊdz) *pl. n.* 1. possessions and personal property. 2. (*sometimes sing.*) *Econ.* commodities that are tangible, usually movable, and generally not consumed at the same time as they are produced. 3. articles of commerce; merchandise. 4. *Chiefly Brit.* *a.* merchant-

dise when transported, esp. by rail; freight. **b.** (as modifier): *a goods train*. **5.** *Sl.* that which is expected: *to deliver the goods*. **6.** *the goods.* *Sl.* the real thing. **7.** *U.S.* *sl.* incriminating evidence (esp. in *have the goods on someone*).

Good Samaritan *n.* **1.** *New Testament.* a figure in one of Christ's parables (Luke 10:30-37) who is an example of compassion towards those in distress. **2.** a kindly person who helps another in difficulty or distress.

Good Shepherd *n.* *New Testament.* a title given to Jesus Christ in John 10:11-12.

good-tempered *adj.* of a kindly and generous disposition.

good turn *n.* a helpful and friendly act; good deed; favour.

good will *n.* **1.** benevolence; kindness. **2.** willingness or acquiescence. **3.** an intangible asset of an enterprise reflecting its commercial reputation, customer connections, etc.

goody ('gʊdi) *interj.* **1.** a child's exclamation of pleasure. *~n., pl. goodies.* **2.** short for *goody-goody*. **3.** *Inf.* the hero in a film, book, etc.

goody² ('gʊdi) *n., pl. goodies.* *Arch., literary.* a married woman of low rank: used as a title: *Goody Two-Shoes*.

goody-goody *n., pl. -goodies.* **1.** *Inf.* a smugly virtuous or sanctimonious person. *~adj.* **2.** smug and sanctimonious.

goosey ('gu:ɪ) *adj.* **goosier, gooseiest.** *Inf.* **1.** sticky, soft, and often sweet. **2.** oversweet and sentimental.

goof (gu:f) *Inf.* *~n.* **1.** a foolish error. **2.** a stupid person. *~vb.* **3.** to bungle (something); botch. **4.** (*intr.*; often foll. by *about* or *around*) to fool (around); mess (about).

go off *vb. (intr.)* **1.** (*adv.*) (of power, a water supply, etc.) to cease to be available or functioning: *the lights suddenly went off*. **2.** (*adv.*) to explode. **3.** (*adv.*) to occur as specified: *the meeting went off well*. **4.** to leave (a place): *the actors went off stage*. **5.** (*adv.*) (of a sensation) to gradually cease to be felt. **6.** (*adv.*) to fall asleep. **7.** (*adv.*) (of concrete, mortar, etc.) to harden. **8.** (*adv.*) *Brit. inf.* (of food, etc.) to become stale or rotten. **9.** (*prep.*) *Brit. inf.* to cease to like.

goofy ('gu:f) *adj.* **goofier, goofiest.** *Inf.* foolish; silly. *~goofily* *adv.* *~goofiness* *n.*

googly ('gu:gli) *n., pl. -lies.* *Cricket.* an off break bowled with a leg break action.

goon (gu:n) *n.* **1.** a stupid or deliberately foolish person. **2.** *U.S. inf.* a thug hired to commit acts of violence or intimidation, esp. in an industrial dispute.

go on *vb. (intr., mostly adv.)* **1.** to continue or proceed. **2.** to happen or take place: *there's something peculiar going on here*. **3.** (*prep.*) to ride on, esp. as a treat: *children love to go on donkeys at the seaside*. **4.** *Theatre.* to make an entrance on stage. **5.** to talk excessively; chatter. **6.** to continue talking, esp. after a short pause. **7.** to criticize or nag: *stop going on at me all the time!* *~interj.* **8.** I don't believe what you're saying.

goosander (gu:'sændə) *n.* a common merganser (a duck) of Europe and North America, having a dark head and white body in the male.

goose¹ ('gu:s) *n., pl. geese.* **1.** any of various web-footed long-necked birds typically larger and less aquatic than ducks. They are gregarious and migratory. **2.** the female of such a bird, as opposed to the male (gander). **3.** *Inf.* a silly person. **4.** (*pl. geese*) a pressing iron with a long curving handle, used esp. by tailors. **5.** the flesh of the goose, used as food. **6.** *cook one's goose.* *Inf.* to spoil one's chances or plans completely.

goose² ('gu:s) *U.S. sl.* *~vb.* **1.** (*tr.*) to prod (a person) playfully in the behind. *~n., pl. geese.* **2.** such a prod.

gooseberry ('gu:zbəri, -bri) *n., pl. -ries.* **1.** a Eurasian shrub having ovoid yellow-green or red-purple berries. **2.** a. the berry of this plant. **b.** (as modifier): *gooseberry jam*. **3.** *Brit. inf.* an unwanted single person, esp. a third person with a couple (often in *play gooseberry*).

goose flesh *n.* the bumpy condition of the skin induced by cold, fear, etc., caused by contraction of the muscles at the base of the hair follicles with consequent erection of papillae. Also called: *goose bumps, goose pimples, goose skin*.

goosegog ('gu:zgɒg) *n.* *Brit.* a dialect word for gooseberry.

goose step *n.* **1.** a military march step in which the leg is swung rigidly to an exaggerated height. *~vb.* *goose-step, -stepping, -stepped.* **2.** (*intr.*) to march in goose step.

go out *vb. (intr., adv.)* **1.** to depart from a room, house, country, etc. **2.** to cease to illuminate, burn, or function: *the fire has gone out*. **3.** to cease to be fashionable or popular: *that style went out ages ago!* **4.** (of a broadcast) to be transmitted. **5.** to go to entertainments, social functions, etc. **6.** (usually foll. by *with* or *together*) to associate (with a person of the opposite sex) regularly; date. **7.** (of workers) to begin to strike. **8.** *Card games, etc.* to get rid of the last card, token, etc., in one's hand.

go over *vb. (intr.)* **1.** to be received in a specified manner: *the concert went over very well*. **2.** (*prep.*) Also: *go through.* to examine and revise as necessary: *he went over the accounts*. **3.** (*prep.*) to check and repair: *can you go over my car please?* **4.** (*prep.*) Also: *go through.* to rehearse: *I'll go over my lines before the play*.

gopher ('gɒfə) *n.* **1.** Also called: *pocket gopher.* a burrowing rodent of North and Central America, having a thickset body, short legs, and cheek pouches. **2.** a burrowing tortoise of SE North America.

Gordian knot ('gɔ:diən) *n.* **1.** (in Greek legend) a complicated knot, tied by King Gordius of Phrygia, that Alexander the Great cut with a sword. **2.** a complicated and intricate problem (esp. in *cut the Gordian knot*).

gore¹ (gɔ:) *n.* **1.** blood shed from a wound, esp. when coagulated. **2.** *Inf.* killing, fighting, etc.

gore² (gɔ:) *vb. (tr.)* (of an animal, such as a bull) to pierce or stab (a person or another animal) with a horn or tusk.

gore³ (gɔ:) *n.* **1.** a tapering or triangular piece of material used in making a shaped skirt, umbrella, etc. *~vb.* **2.** (*tr.*) to make into or with a gore or gores.

gorge (gɔ:dʒ) *n.* **1.** a deep ravine, esp. one through which a river runs. **2.** the contents of the stomach. **3.** feelings of disgust or resentment (esp. in *one's gorge rises*). **4.** an obstructing mass: *an ice gorge*. **5.** *Fortifications,* a narrow passage at the back of an outwork. **6.** *Arch.* the throat or gullet. *~vb.* **7.** to swallow (food) ravenously. **8.** (*tr.*) to stuff (oneself) with food.

gorgeous ('gɔ:dʒəs) *adj.* **1.** strikingly beautiful or magnificent: *gorgeous array; a gorgeous girl*. **2.** *Inf.* extremely pleasing, fine, or good: *gorgeous weather*. *~gorgeously* *adv.* *~gorgeousness* *n.*

Gorgon ('gɔ:ɡɒn) *n.* **1.** Greek myth. any of three winged monstrous sisters who had live snakes for hair, huge teeth, and brazen claws. **2.** (often not cap.) *Inf.* a fierce or unpleasant woman.

Gorgonzola (ˌgɔ:ɡɒn'zɔ:lə) *n.* a semihard blue-veined cheese of sharp flavour, made from pressed milk.

gorilla ('gɔ:rɪlə) *n.* **1.** the largest anthropoid ape, inhabiting the forests of central W Africa. It is stocky with a short muzzle and coarse dark hair. **2.** *Inf.* a large, strong, and brutal-looking man.

gormless ('gɔ:mɪs) *adj.* *Brit. inf.* stupid; dull.

go round *vb. (intr.)* **1.** (*adv.*) to be sufficient: *are there enough sweets to go round?* **2.** to circulate (in): *measles is going round the school*. **3.** to be long enough to encircle: *will that belt go round you?*

gorse (gɔ:s) *n.* an evergreen shrub which has yellow flowers and thick green spines instead of leaves. Also called: *furze, whin*. *~gorsy* *adj.*

gory ('gɔ:rɪ) *adj.* **gorier, goriest.** **1.** horrific or blood-thirsty: *a gory story*. **2.** involving bloodshed and killing: *a gory battle*. **3.** covered in gore. *~gorily* *adv.* *~goriness* *n.*

gosh (gɒʃ) *interj.* an exclamation of mild surprise or wonder.

goshawk ('gɒs,hɔ:k) *n.* a large hawk of Europe, Asia, and North America, having a bluish-grey back and wings and paler underparts: used in falconry.

gosling ('gɔ:zlɪŋ) *n.* **1.** a young goose. **2.** an inexperienced or youthful person.

go-slow *n.* **1.** *Brit.* a deliberate slackening of the rate of production by organized labour as a tactic in industrial conflict. *U.S. equivalent: slowdown.* *~vb.* *go slow.* **2.** (*intr.*) to work deliberately slowly as a tactic in industrial conflict.

gospel ('gɒspəl) *n.* **1.** Also called: *gospel truth.* an unquestionable truth: *to take someone's word as gospel*. **2.** a doctrine maintained to be of great importance. **3.** Black religious music originating in the churches of the Southern states of the United States. **4.** the message or doctrine of a religious teacher. **5.** a. the story of Christ's life and teachings as narrated in the Gospels. *b.* the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ. *c.* (as modifier): *the gospel story*.

Gospel ('gɒspəl) *n.* **1.** any of the first four books of the

New Testament, namely Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. 2. a reading from one of these in a religious service.

gossamer ('gosəmə) *n.* 1. a gauze or silk fabric of the very finest texture. 2. a filmy cobweb often seen on foliage or floating in the air. 3. anything resembling gossamer in fineness or flimsiness.

gossip ('gɒsp) *n.* 1. casual and idle chat. 2. a conversation involving malicious chatter or rumours about other people. 3. Also called: **gossipmonger**, a person who habitually talks about others, esp. maliciously. 4. light easy communication: to write a letter full of gossip. 5. Arch. a close woman friend. ~vb. 6. (intr.; often foll. by *about*) to talk casually or maliciously (about other people). —'gossiper *n.* —'gossipy *adj.*

got (gɒt) *vb.* 1. the past tense or past participle of **get**. 2. have got. a. to possess. b. (takes an infinitive) used as an auxiliary to express compulsion: I've got to get a new coat.

Goth (gɒθ) *n.* 1. a member of an East Germanic people from Scandinavia who invaded many parts of the Roman Empire from the 3rd to the 5th century. 2. a rude or barbaric person.

Gothic ('gɒθɪk) *adj.* 1. denoting, relating to, or resembling the style of architecture that was used in W Europe from the 12th to the 16th centuries, characterized by the lancet arch, the ribbed vault, and the flying buttress. 2. (sometimes not cap.) of or relating to a literary style characterized by gloom, the grotesque, and the supernatural, popular esp. in the late 18th century. 3. of, relating to, or characteristic of the Goths or their language. 4. (sometimes not cap.) primitive and barbarous in style, behaviour, etc. 5. of or relating to the Middle Ages. ~n. 6. Gothic architecture or art. 7. the extinct language of the ancient Goths; East Germanic. 8. Also called (esp. Brit): **black letter**, the family of heavy script typefaces in use from about the 15th to 18th centuries. —'Gothically *adv.* —'Gothicism *n.*

go through *vb.* (intr.) 1. (adv.) to be approved or accepted: the amendment went through. 2. (prep.) to consume; exhaust: we went through our supplies in a day. 3. (prep.) Also: **go over**. to examine: he went through the figures. 4. (prep.) to suffer: she went through tremendous pain. 5. (prep.) Also: **go over**. to rehearse: let's just go through the details again. 6. (prep.) to search: she went through the cupboards. 7. (adv.; foll. by *with*) to bring to a successful conclusion, often by persistence.

go together *vb.* (intr., adv.) 1. to be mutually suited; harmonize: the colours go well together. 2. Inf. (of two people of opposite sex) to associate frequently with each other: they had been going together for two years.

gotten ('gɒtən) *vb.* U.S. the past participle of **get**.

gouache (gu:'ɑ:ʃ) *n.* 1. Also called: **body colour**, a painting technique using opaque watercolour in which the pigments are bound with glue. 2. the paint used in this technique. 3. a painting done by this method.

Gouda ('gaʊdə) *n.* a large flat round Dutch cheese, orig. made in the town of Gouda, mild and similar in taste to Edam.

gouge (gaʊdʒ) *vb.* (mainly tr.) 1. (usually foll. by *out*) to scoop or force (something) out of its position. 2. (sometimes foll. by *out*) to cut (a hole or groove) in (something) with a sharp instrument or tool. 3. U.S. inf. to extort from. 4. (intr.) Austral. to dig for (opal). ~n. 5. a type of chisel with a blade that has a concavo-convex section. 6. a mark or groove made as with a gouge. 7. U.S. inf. extortion; swindling. —'gouger *n.*

goulash ('gu:læʃ) *n.* 1. Also called: **Hungarian goulash**, a rich stew, originating in Hungary, made of beef, lamb, or veal highly seasoned with paprika. 2. Bridge. a method of dealing in threes and fours without first shuffling the cards, to produce freak hands.

go up *vb.* (intr., mainly adv.) 1. (also prep.) to move or lead as to a higher place or level; rise; increase: prices are always going up. 2. to be destroyed: the house went up in flames. 3. Brit. to go or return (to college or university).

gourd (gaʊd) *n.* 1. the fruit of any of various plants of the cucumber family, esp. the bottle gourd and some squashes, whose dried shells are used for ornament, drinking cups, etc. 2. any plant that bears this fruit. 3. a bottle or flask made from the dried shell of the bottle gourd.

gourmand ('gʊəmənd) or **gormand** *n.* a person devoted to eating and drinking, esp. to excess. —'gourmandism *n.*

gourmandise or -dize (ˌgɔ:mən'di:z) *n.* a love of and taste for good food.

gourmet ('gʊmeɪ) *n.* a person who cultivates a discriminating palate for the enjoyment of good food and drink.

gout (gaʊt) *n.* 1. a metabolic disease characterized by painful inflammation of certain joints, esp. of the big toe, caused by deposits of sodium urate. 2. Arch. a drop or splash, esp. of blood. —'gouty *adj.* —'goutily *adv.* —'goutiness *n.*

Gov. or gov. *abbrev. for:* 1. government. 2. governor.

govern ('gav'n) *vb.* (mainly tr.) 1. (also intr.) to direct and control the actions, affairs, policies, functions, etc., of (an organization, nation, etc.); rule. 2. to exercise restraint over; regulate or direct: to govern one's temper. 3. to decide or determine (something): his injury governed his decision to avoid sports. 4. to control the speed of an (engine, machine, etc.) using a governor. 5. (of a word) to determine the inflection of (another word): Latin nouns govern adjectives that modify them. —'governable *adj.*

governance ('gavənsəns) *n.* 1. government, control, or authority. 2. the action, manner, or system of governing.

governess ('gavənɪs) *n.* a woman teacher employed in a private household to teach and train the children.

government ('gavənmənt) *n.* 1. the exercise of political authority over the actions, affairs, etc., of a political unit, people, etc.; the action of governing; political rule and administration. 2. the system or form by which a community, etc., is ruled: tyrannical government. 3. a. the executive policy-making body of a political unit, community, etc.; ministry or administration. b. (cap. when of a specific country): the British Government. 4. a. the state and its administration: blame it on the government. b. (as modifier): a government agency. 5. regulation; direction. 6. Grammar. the determination of the form of one word by another word. —'governmental (ˌgavən'məntl) *adj.* —'governmentally *adv.*

governor ('gavənə) *n.* 1. a person who governs. 2. the ruler or chief magistrate of a colony, province, etc. 3. the representative of the Crown in a British colony. 4. Brit. the senior administrator of a society, prison, etc. 5. the chief executive of any state in the U.S. 6. a device that controls the speed of an engine, esp. by regulating the supply of fuel. 7. Brit. inf. a name or title of respect to a father, employer, etc. —'governorship *n.*

governor general *n., pl. governors general or governor generals.* 1. the representative of the Crown in a dominion of the Commonwealth or a British colony; viceroy. 2. Brit. a governor with jurisdiction or precedence over other governors. —'governor-generalship *n.*

Govt. or govt. *abbrev. for* government.

go with *vb.* (intr., prep.) 1. to accompany. 2. to blend or harmonize: that new wallpaper goes well with the furniture. 3. to be a normal part of: three acres of land go with the house. 4. (of two people of the opposite sex) to associate frequently with each other.

go without *vb.* (intr.) Chiefly Brit. to be denied or deprived of (something, esp. food): if you don't like your tea you can go without.

gown (gaʊn) *n.* 1. any of various outer garments, such as a woman's elegant or formal dress, a dressing robe, or a protective garment, esp. one worn by surgeons during operations. 2. a loose wide garment indicating status, such as worn by academics. 3. the members of a university as opposed to the other residents of the university town. ~vb. 4. (tr.) to supply with or dress in a gown.

goy (goɪ) *n., pl. goyim* ('gɔɪm) or **goys.** Sl. a derogatory word used by Jews for a non-Jew. —'goyish *adj.*

G.P. *abbrev. for:* 1. general practitioner. 2. Gallup poll. 3. (in Britain) graduated pension. 4. Grand Prix. 5. Music. general pause.

G.P.O. *abbrev. for* general post office.

Gr. *abbrev. for:* 1. Grecian. 2. Greece. 3. Greek.

grab (græb) *vb.* **grabbing, grabbed.** 1. to seize hold of (something). 2. (tr.) to seize illegally or unscrupulously. 3. (tr.) to arrest; catch. 4. (tr.) Inf. to catch the attention or interest of; impress. ~n. 5. the act or an instance of grabbing. 6. a mechanical device for gripping objects, esp. the hinged jaws of a mechanical excavator. 7. something that is grabbed. —'grabber *n.*

grace (greɪs) *n.* 1. elegance and beauty of movement, form, expression, or proportion. 2. a pleasing or charming quality. 3. goodwill or favour. 4. a delay granted for

the completion of a task or payment of a debt. **5.** a sense of propriety and consideration for others. **6. (pl.) a.** affectation of manner (esp. in *airs and graces*). **b. in (someone's) good graces.** regarded favourably and with kindness by (someone). **7.** mercy; clemency. **8. Christian theol. a.** the free and unmerited favour of God shown towards man. **b.** the divine assistance given to man in spiritual rebirth. **c.** the condition of being favoured or sanctified by God. **d.** an unmerited gift, favour, etc., granted by God. **9.** a short prayer recited before or after a meal to give thanks for it. **10. Music.** a melodic ornament or decoration. **11. with (a) bad grace.** unwillingly or grudgingly. **12. with (a) good grace.** willingly or cheerfully. **~vb.** **13. (tr.)** to add elegance and beauty to: *flowers graced the room*. **14. (tr.)** to honour or favour: *to grace a party with one's presence*. **15.** to ornament or decorate (a melody, part, etc.) with nonessential notes. — **'graceless adj.**

Grace (greis) *n.* (preceded by *your, his, or her*) a title used to address or refer to a duke, duchess, or archbishop.

grace-and-favour *n.* (*modifier*) Brit. (of a house, flat, etc.) owned by the sovereign and granted free of rent to a person to whom the sovereign wishes to express gratitude.

graceful ('greisful) *adj.* characterized by beauty of movement, style, form, etc. — **'gracefully adv.** — **'gracefulness n.**

grace note *n.* *Music.* a note printed in small type to indicate that it is melodically and harmonically nonessential.

Graces ('greisiz) *pl. n.* *Greek myth.* three sister goddesses, givers of charm and beauty.

gracious ('greifəs) *adj.* 1. characterized by or showing kindness and courtesy. 2. condescendingly courteous, benevolent, or indulgent. 3. characterized by or suitable for a life of elegance, ease, and indulgence: *gracious living*. 4. merciful or compassionate. **~interj.** 5. an expression of mild surprise or wonder. — **'graciously adv.** — **'graciousness n.**

gradation (grə'deifən) *n.* 1. a series of systematic stages; gradual progression. 2. (*often pl.*) a stage or degree in such a series or progression. 3. the act or process of arranging or forming in stages, grades, etc., or of progressing evenly. 4. (in painting, drawing, or sculpture) transition from one colour, tone, or surface to another through a series of very slight changes. 5. *Linguistics.* any change in the quality or length of a vowel within a word indicating certain distinctions, such as inflectional or tense differentiations. See **ablaut**. — **gradiational adj.** — **gradationally adv.**

grade (greid) *n.* 1. a position or degree in a scale, as of quality, rank, size, or progression: *high-grade timber*. 2. a group of people or things of the same category. 3. *Chiefly U.S.* a military or other rank. 4. a stage in a course of progression. 5. a mark or rating indicating achievement or the worth of work done, as at school. 6. *U.S.* a unit of pupils of similar age or ability taught together at school. 7. **make the grade.** *Inf. a.* to reach the required standard. **b.** to succeed. **~vb.** 8. (*tr.*) to arrange according to quality, rank, etc. 9. (*tr.*) to determine the grade of or assign a grade to. 10. (*intr.*) to achieve or deserve a grade or rank. 11. to change or blend (something) gradually; merge. 12. (*tr.*) to level (ground, a road, etc.) to a suitable gradient.

-grade adj. combining form. indicating a kind or manner of movement or progression: *plantigrade*; *retrograde*.

gradient ('greidiənt) *n.* 1. Also called (esp. U.S.): **grade.** a part of a railway, road, etc., that slopes upwards or downwards; inclination. 2. Also called (esp. U.S.): **grade.** a measure of such a slope, esp. the ratio of the vertical distance between two points on the slope to the horizontal distance between them. 3. *Physics.* a measure of the change of some physical quantity, such as temperature or electric potential, over a specified distance. 4. *Maths.* (of a curve) the slope of the tangent at any point on a curve with respect to the horizontal axis. **~adj.** 5. sloping uniformly.

gradual ('grædjʊəl) *adj.* 1. occurring, developing, moving, etc., in small stages: *a gradual improvement in health*. 2. not steep or abrupt: *a gradual slope*. **~n.** 3. (*often cap.*) *Christianity.* a. an antiphon usually from the Psalms, sung or recited immediately after the epistle at Mass. **b.** a book of plainsong containing the words and music of the parts of the Mass that are sung by the cantors and choir. — **'gradually adv.** — **'gradualness n.**

gradualism ('grædjʊə,lizəm) *n.* 1. the policy of seek-

ing to change something gradually, esp. in politics. 2. the theory that explains major changes in fossils, rock strata, etc., in terms of gradual evolutionary processes rather than sudden violent catastrophes. — **'gradualist n., adj.** — **'gradualistic adj.**

graduate n. ('grædjʊnt) 1. a person who has been awarded a first degree from a university or college. 2. *U.S.* a student who has completed a course of studies at a high school and received a diploma. **~vb.** ('grædjʊ,et) 3. to receive or cause to receive a degree or diploma. 4. *Chiefly U.S.* to confer a degree, diploma, etc. upon. 5. (*tr.*) to mark (a thermometer, flask, etc.) with units of measurement; calibrate. 6. (*tr.*) to arrange or sort into groups according to type, quality, etc. 7. (*intr.*; often foll. by *to*) to change by degrees (from something to something else). — **'gradu,ator n.**

graduation ('grædjʊ'eifən) *n.* 1. the act of graduating or the state of being graduated. 2. the ceremony at which school or college degrees and diplomas are conferred. 3. a mark or division or all the marks or divisions that indicate measure on an instrument or vessel.

Graeco- or esp. **U.S. Greco-** ('gri:kəʊ, 'grekəʊ) combining form. Greek: *Graeco-Roman*.

Graeco-Roman or esp. **U.S. Greco-Roman** *adj.* of, characteristic of, or relating to Greek and Roman influences.

graffiti (græ'fi:təʊ) *n., pl. -ti (-ti:).* 1. *Archaeol.* any inscription or drawing scratched onto a surface, esp. rock or pottery. 2. (*pl.*) drawings, messages, etc., often obscene, scribed on the walls of public lavatories, advertising posters, etc.

graft ('graft) *n.* 1. *Horticulture.* a. a small piece of plant tissue (the scion) that is made to unite with an established plant (the stock), which supports and nourishes it. **b.** the plant resulting from the union of scion and stock. **c.** the point of union between the scion and the stock. 2. *Surgery.* a piece of tissue transplanted from a donor or from the patient's own body to an area of the body in need of the tissue. 3. the act of joining one thing to another as by grafting. **~vb.** 4. *Horticulture.* a. to induce (a plant or part of a plant) to unite with another part or (of a plant or part of a plant) to unite in this way. **b.** to produce (fruit, flowers, etc.) by this means or (of fruit, etc.) to grow by this means. 5. to transplant (tissue) or (of tissue) to be transplanted. 6. to attach or incorporate or become attached or incorporated: *to graft a happy ending onto a sad tale*. — **'grafter n.** — **'grafting n.**

graft ('graft) *n.* 1. *Inf.* work (esp. in hard graft). 2. a. the acquisition of money, power, etc., by dishonest or unfair means, esp. by taking advantage of a position of trust. **b.** something gained in this way. **c.** a payment made to a person profiting by such a practice. **~vb.** 3. (*intr.*) *Inf.* to work, esp. hard. 4. to acquire by or practise graft. — **'grafter n.**

Grail (greil) *n.* see **Holy Grail**.

grain (grein) *n.* 1. the small hard seedlike fruit of a grass, esp. a cereal plant. 2. a mass of such fruits, esp. when gathered for food. 3. the plants, collectively, from which such fruits are harvested. 4. a small hard particle: *a grain of sand*. 5. a. the general direction or arrangement of the fibres, layers, or particles in wood, leather, stone, etc. **b.** the pattern or texture resulting from such an arrangement. 6. the relative size of the particles of a substance: *sugar of fine grain*. 7. the granular texture of a rock, mineral, etc. 8. the outer layer of a hide or skin from which the hair or wool has been removed. 9. the smallest unit of weight in the avoirdupois, Troy, and apothecaries' systems: equal to 0.0648 gram. 10. the threads or direction of threads in a woven fabric. 11. *Photog.* any of a large number of particles in a photographic emulsion. 12. cleavage lines in crystalline material. 13. *Chem.* any of a large number of small crystals forming a solid. 14. a very small amount: *a grain of truth*. 15. natural disposition, inclination, or character (esp. in *go against the grain*). 16. *Astronautics.* a homogenous mass of solid propellant in a form designed to give the required combustion characteristics for a particular rocket. 17. (*not in technical usage*) kermes or a red dye made from this insect. **~vb.** (*mainly tr.*) 18. (*also intr.*) to form grains or cause to form into grains; granulate; crystallize. 19. to give a granular or roughened appearance or texture to. 20. to paint, stain, etc., in imitation of the grain of wood or leather. 21. a. to remove the hair or wool from (a hide or skin) before tanning. **b.** to raise the grain pattern on (leather).

grallatorial (ˌgrælə'tɔ:riəl) *adj.* of or relating to long-legged wading birds.

gram or **gramme** (græm) *n.* a metric unit of mass equal to one thousandth of a kilogram. Abbrev.: g

gram (græm) *n.* 1. any of several leguminous plants whose seeds are used as food in India. 2. the seed of any of these plants.

gram, *abbrev.* for: 1. grammar. 2. grammatical.

-gram *n.* combining form, indicating a drawing or something written or recorded: *hexagram*; *telegram*.

gramineous (grə'mi:niəs) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or belonging to the grass family. 2. resembling a grass; grasslike. ~Also: **graminaceous** (ˌgræmi'neiʃəs).

graminivorous (ˌgræmi'nivərəs) *adj.* (of animals) feeding on grass.

grammar ('græmə) *n.* 1. the branch of linguistics that deals with syntax and morphology, sometimes also phonology and semantics. 2. the abstract system of rules in terms of which a person's mastery of his native language can be explained. 3. a systematic description of the grammatical facts of a language. 4. a book containing an account of the grammatical facts of a language or recommendations as to rules for the proper use of a language. 5. the use of language with regard to its correctness or social propriety, esp. in syntax: *the teacher told him to watch his grammar*.

grammarians (grə'mæəriən) *n.* 1. a person whose occupation is the study of grammar. 2. the author of a grammar.

grammar school *n.* 1. *Brit.* a state-maintained secondary school providing an education with an academic bias. 2. *U.S.* another term for **elementary school**. 3. *Austral.* a private school, esp. one controlled by a church. 4. *N.Z.* a secondary school forming part of the public education system.

grammatical (grə'mætɪkəl) *adj.* 1. of or relating to grammar. 2. (of a sentence) well formed; regarded as correct. —**gram'matically** *adv.* —**gram'maticallness** *n.*

gramme (græm) *n.* a variant spelling of **gram**.

gramophone ('græmə,fəʊn) *n.* a. Also called: **record-player**, a device for reproducing the sounds stored on a record. A stylus vibrates in accordance with the undulations of the walls of the groove in the record as it rotates. *U.S.* word: **phonograph**. b. (as modifier): a *gramophone record*.

grampus ('græmpəs) *n.*, *pl.* **-puses**. 1. a widely distributed slaty-grey dolphin with a blunt snout. 2. another name for **killer whale**.

granary ('grænəri; *U.S.* 'greinəri) *n.*, *pl.* **-ries**. 1. a building for storing threshed grain. 2. a region that produces a large amount of grain.

grand (grænd) *adj.* 1. large or impressive in size, extent, or consequence: *grand mountain scenery*. 2. characterized by or attended with magnificence or display; sumptuous: a *grand feast*. 3. of great distinction or pretension; dignified or haughty. 4. designed to impress: *grand gestures*. 5. very good; wonderful. 6. comprehensive; complete: a *grand total*. 7. worthy of respect; fine: a *grand old man*. 8. large or impressive in conception or execution: *grand ideas*. 9. most important; chief: *the grand arena*. ~n. 10. See **grand piano**. 11. (*pl.* **grands**) *Sl.*, chiefly *U.S.* a thousand pounds or dollars. —'grandly *adv.* —'grandness *n.*

grand- *prefix.* (in designations of kinship) one generation removed in ascent or descent: *grandson*; *grandfather*.

grandam ('grændəm, -dəm) or **grandame** ('grændeim, -dəm) *n.* an archaic word for **grandmother**.

grandaunt ('grænd,aunt) *n.* another name for **great-aunt**.

grandchild ('græn,tʃaɪd) *n.*, *pl.* **-children**. the son or daughter of one's child.

granddad ('græn,dæd) or **granddaddy** *n.*, *pl.* **-dads** or **-daddies**. informal words for **grandfather**.

grandaughter ('græn,dɔ:tə) *n.* a daughter of one's son or daughter.

grand duke *n.* 1. a prince or nobleman who rules a territory, state, or principality. 2. a son or a male descendant in the male line of a Russian tsar. 3. a medieval Russian prince who ruled over other princes. —**grand duchess** *fem n.* —**grand duchy** *n.*

grande dame *French.* (grɑ'də'm) *n.* a woman regarded as the most experienced, prominent, or venerable member of her profession, etc.

grandee (græn'di:) *n.* a Spanish prince or nobleman of the highest rank.

grandeur ('grændʒə) *n.* 1. personal greatness, esp.

when based on dignity, character, or accomplishments. 2. magnificence; splendour. 3. pretentious or bombastic behaviour.

grandfather ('græn,fɑ:ðə, 'grænd-) *n.* 1. the father of one's father or mother. 2. (*often pl.*) a male ancestor. 3. (*often cap.*) a familiar term of address for an old man.

grandfather clock *n.* any of various types of long-pendulum clocks in tall standing wooden cases.

grandiloquent (græn'diləkwənt) *adj.* inflated, pompous, or bombastic in style or expression. —**gran'diloquence** *n.* —**gran'diloquently** *adv.*

grandiose ('grændi:əs) *adj.* 1. pretentiously grand or stately. 2. imposing in conception or execution. —'grandiosely *adv.* —**grandiosity** (ˌgrændi'bsiti) *n.*

grand jury *n.* *Law.* (esp. in the U.S.) a jury summoned to enquire into accusations of crime and ascertain whether the evidence is adequate to found an indictment. Abolished in England in 1948.

grandma, ('græn,mɑ:) **grandmama**, or **grand-mamma** ('grænmə,mɑ:) *n.* informal words for **grand-mother**.

grand mal ('grɒn 'mæl) *n.* a form of epilepsy characterized by loss of consciousness for up to five minutes and violent convulsions. Cf. **petit mal**.

grandmother ('græn,mʌðə, 'grænd-) *n.* 1. the mother of one's father or mother. 2. (*often pl.*) a female ancestor.

Grand National *n.* the. an annual steeplechase run at Aintree, Liverpool, since 1839.

grandnephew ('græn,nevju:, -nefju:, 'grænd-) *n.* another name for **great-nephew**.

grandniece ('græn,nis, 'grænd-) *n.* another name for **great-niece**.

grand opera *n.* an opera with a serious plot and fully composed text.

grandpa ('græn,pɑ:) or **grandpapa** ('grænpə,pɑ:) *n.* informal words for **grandfather**.

grandparent ('græn,pæərənt, 'grænd-) *n.* the father or mother of either of one's parents.

grand piano *n.* a form of piano in which the strings are arranged horizontally.

Grand Prix (*French* grɑ 'pri) *n.* any of a series of formula motor races to determine the annual Driver's World Championship.

grandsire ('græn,səə, 'grænd-) *n.* an archaic word for **grandfather**.

grandson ('grænsən, 'grænd-) *n.* a son of one's son or daughter.

grandstand ('græn,stænd, 'grænd-) *n.* 1. a terraced block of seats commanding the best view at racecourses, football pitches, etc. 2. the spectators in a grandstand.

grand tour *n.* 1. (formerly) an extended tour through the major cities of Europe, esp. one undertaken by a rich or aristocratic Englishman to complete his education. 2. *Inf.* an extended sightseeing trip, tour of inspection, etc.

granduncle ('grænd,ʌŋkl) *n.* another name for **great-uncle**.

grange (greɪndʒ) *n.* 1. Chiefly *Brit.* a farm, esp. a farmhouse or country house with its various outbuildings. 2. *Arch.* a granary or barn.

granite ('grænit) *n.* 1. a light-coloured coarse-grained acid plutonic igneous rock consisting of quartz and feldspars: widely used for building. 2. great hardness, endurance, or resolution. —**granitic** (grə'tɪnɪk) *adj.*

granivorous (græ'nivərəs) *adj.* (of animals) feeding on seeds and grain. —**granivore** ('græni,vɔ:) *n.*

granny or **grannie** ('græni) *n.*, *pl.* **-nies**. 1. informal words for **grandmother**. Often shortened to **gran**. 2. *Inf.* an irritatingly fussy person. 3. See **granny knot**.

granny flat *n.* a flat built onto or constructed inside a house to accommodate an elderly parent.

granny knot or **granny's knot** *n.* a reef knot with the ends crossed the wrong way, making it liable to slip or jam.

grant (grɑ:nt) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to consent to perform or fulfil: *to grant a wish*. 2. (*may take a clause as object*) to permit as a favour, indulgence, etc.: *to grant an interview*. 3. (*may take a clause as object*) to acknowledge the validity of; concede: *I grant what you say is true*. 4. to bestow, esp. in a formal manner. 5. to transfer (property) to another, esp. by deed; convey. 6. **take for granted**. a. to accept (something) as true and not requiring verification. b. to take advantage of the benefits of (something) without due appreciation. ~n. 7. a sum of money provided by a government or public fund to finance educational study, overseas aid, etc. 8. a privi-

lege, right, etc., that has been granted. **9.** the act of granting. **10.** a transfer of property by deed; conveyance. — '**grantable** *adj.* — '**gran'tee** *n.* — '**grant-er** or (*Law*) '**grantor** *n.*

Granth (*grænt*) *n.* the sacred scripture of the Sikhs.

grant-in-aid *n.*, *pl.* **grants-in-aid**. a sum of money granted by one government to a lower level of government for a programme, etc.

granular (*'grænjulə*) *adj.* **1.** of, like, or containing granules. **2.** having a grainy surface. — '**granularity** (*'grænju:lærɪtɪ*) *n.* — '**granularly** *adv.*

granulate (*'grænju:leɪt*) *vb.* **1.** to make into grains: **granulated** *sugar*. **2.** to make or become roughened in surface texture. — '**granu'lation** *n.* — '**granulative** *adj.* — '**granu,lator** or '**granu,later** *n.*

granule (*'grænju:l*) *n.* a small grain.

grape (*greɪp*) *n.* **1.** the fruit of the grapevine, which has a purple or green skin and sweet flesh: eaten raw, dried to make raisins, currants, or sultanas, or used for making wine. **2.** See **grapevine** (sense 1). **3.** the **grape**. slang for wine. **4.** See **grapeshot**. — '**grapey** or '**grapy** *adj.*

grapefruit (*'greɪp,fru:t*) *n.*, *pl.* **-fruit** or **-fruits**. **1.** a tropical or subtropical evergreen tree. **2.** the large round edible fruit of this tree, which has yellow rind and juicy slightly bitter pulp.

grape hyacinth *n.* any of various Eurasian bulbous plants of the lily family with clusters of rounded blue flowers resembling tiny grapes.

grapeshot (*'greɪp,ʃɒt*) *n.* ammunition for cannons consisting of a number of or cluster of small projectiles.

grapevine (*'greɪp,vain*) *n.* **1.** any of several vines of E Asia, widely cultivated for its fruit (grapes). **2.** *Inf.* an unofficial means of relaying information, esp. from person to person.

graph (*grɑ:f, græf*) *n.* **1.** Also called: **chart**. a drawing depicting the relation between certain sets of numbers or quantities by means of a series of dots, lines, etc., plotted with reference to a set of axes. **2.** *Maths.* a drawing depicting a functional relation between two or three variables by means of a curve or surface containing only those points whose coordinates satisfy the relation. **3.** *Linguistics.* a symbol in a writing system not further subdivisible into other such symbols. ~*vb.* **4.** (*tr.*) to draw or represent in a graph.

-graph *n.* combining form. **1.** an instrument that writes or records: **telegraph**. **2.** a writing, record, or drawing: **autograph**; **lithograph**. — '**graphic** or — '**graphical** *adj.* combining form. — '**graphically** *adv.* combining form.

-grapher *n.* combining form. **1.** indicating a person skilled in a subject: **geographer**; **photographer**. **2.** indicating a person who writes or draws in a specified way: **stenographer**; **lithographer**.

graphic (*'græfɪk*) or **graphical** *adj.* **1.** vividly or clearly described: a **graphic account** of the disaster. **2.** of or relating to writing: **graphic symbols**. **3.** *Maths.* using, relating to, or determined by a graph: a **graphic representation of the figures**. **4.** of or relating to the graphic arts. **5.** *Geol.* having or denoting a texture resembling writing: **graphic granite**. — '**graphically** or '**graphically** *adv.* — '**graphicalness** *n.*

graphic arts *pl. n.* any of the fine or applied visual arts based on drawing or the use of line, esp. illustration and print-making of all kinds.

graphics (*'græfɪks*) *n.* **1.** (*functioning as sing.*) the process or art of drawing in accordance with mathematical principles. **2.** (*functioning as sing.*) the study of writing systems. **3.** (*functioning as pl.*) the drawings, photographs, etc., in the layout of a magazine or book.

graphite (*'græfɪt*) *n.* a blackish soft form of carbon used in pencils, crucibles, and electrodes, as a lubricant, and as a moderator in nuclear reactors. — '**graphitic** (*grə'fɪtɪk*) *adj.*

graphology (*græ'fɒlədʒɪ*) *n.* **1.** the study of handwriting, esp. to analyse the writer's character. **2.** *Linguistics.* the study of writing systems. — '**grapho'logical** *adj.* — '**graph'ologist** *n.*

graph paper *n.* paper printed with intersecting lines for drawing graphs, diagrams, etc.

-graphy *n.* combining form. **1.** indicating a form of writing, representing, etc.: **calligraphy**; **photography**. **2.** indicating an art or descriptive science: **choreography**; **oceanography**.

grapnel (*'græpnəl*) *n.* **1.** a device with a multiple hook at one end and attached to a rope, which is thrown or hooked over a firm mooring to secure an object attached

to the other end of the rope. **2.** a light anchor for small boats.

grapple (*'græpəl*) *vb.* **1.** to come to grips with (one or more persons), esp. to struggle in hand-to-hand combat. **2.** (*intr.*; *fol.* by *with*) to cope or contend: **to grapple with a financial problem**. **3.** (*tr.*) to secure with a grapple. ~*n.* **4.** any form of hook or metal instrument by which something is secured, such as a grapnel. **5.** *a.* the act of gripping or seizing, as in wrestling. *b.* a grip or hold. — '**grappler** *n.*

grappling iron or **hook** (*'græplɪŋ*) *n.* a grapnel, esp. one used for securing ships.

grasp (*græsp*) *vb.* **1.** to grip (something) firmly as with the hands. **2.** (when *intr.*, often *fol.* by *at*) to struggle, snatch, or grope (for). **3.** (*tr.*) to understand, esp. with effort. ~*n.* **4.** the act of grasping. **5.** a grip or clasp, as of a hand. **6.** total rule or possession. **7.** understanding; comprehension. — '**graspable** *adj.* — '**grasper** *n.*

grasping (*'græspɪŋ*) *adj.* greedy; avaricious. — '**graspingly** *adv.* — '**graspingness** *n.*

grass (*græs*) *n.* **1.** any of a family of plants having jointed stems sheathed by long narrow leaves, flowers in spikes, and seedlike fruits. The family includes cereals, bamboo, etc. **2.** such plants collectively, in a lawn, meadow, etc. Related *adj.*: **verdant**. **3.** ground on which such plants grow; a lawn, field, etc. **4.** ground on which animals are grazed; pasture. **5.** a slang word for **marijuana**. **6.** *Brit. sl.* a person who informs, esp. on criminals. **7.** let the grass grow under one's feet. to squander time or opportunity. ~*vb.* **8.** to cover or become covered with grass. **9.** to feed or be fed with grass. **10.** (*tr.*) to spread (cloth, etc.) out on grass for drying or bleaching in the sun. **11.** (when *intr.*, usually *fol.* by *on*) *Brit. sl.* to inform, esp. to the police. — '**grass-like** *adj.* — '**grassy** *adj.*

grass hockey *n.* in W Canada, field hockey, as contrasted with ice hockey.

grasshopper (*'græs,hɒpə*) *n.* an insect having hind legs adapted for leaping: typically terrestrial, feeding on plants, and producing a ticking sound by rubbing the hind legs against the leathery forewings.

grassland (*'græs,lænd*) *n.* **1.** land, such as a prairie, on which grass predominates. **2.** land reserved for natural grass pasture.

grass roots *pl. n.* **1.** the essentials. **2.** people considered to represent fundamental and practical values, esp. in politics.

grass snake *n.* **1.** a harmless nonvenomous European snake having a brownish-green body with variable markings. **2.** any of several similar related European snakes.

grass widow or (*masculine*) **grass widower** *n.* a person whose spouse is regularly away for a short period.

grate (*greɪt*) *vb.* **1.** (*tr.*) to reduce to small shreds by rubbing against a rough or sharp perforated surface: **to grate carrots**. **2.** to scrape (an object) against or (objects) together, producing a harsh rasping sound, or (of objects) to scrape with such a sound. **3.** (when *intr.*, *fol.* by *on* or *upon*) to annoy. — '**grater** *n.*

grate (*greɪt*) *n.* **1.** a framework of metal bars for holding fuel in a fireplace, stove, or furnace. **2.** a less common word for **fireplace** (sense 1). **3.** another name for **grating**¹. ~*vb.* **4.** (*tr.*) to provide with a grate or grates.

grateful (*'greɪtful*) *adj.* **1.** thankful for gifts, favours, etc.; appreciative. **2.** showing gratitude: a **grateful letter**. **3.** favourable or pleasant: a **grateful rest**. — '**gratefully** *adv.* — '**gratefulness** *n.*

gratify (*'græti,fai*) *vb.* **-fying, -fied.** (*tr.*) **1.** to satisfy or please. **2.** to yield to or indulge (a desire, whim, etc.). — '**gratification** *n.* — '**grati,fier** *n.* — '**grati,fying** *adj.* — '**grati,fyingly** *adv.*

grating¹ (*'greɪtɪŋ*) *n.* Also called: **grate**. a framework of metal bars in the form of a grille set into a wall, pavement, etc., serving as a cover or guard but admitting air and sometimes light.

grating² (*'greɪtɪŋ*) *adj.* **1.** (of sounds) harsh and rasping. **2.** annoying; irritating. ~*n.* **3.** (often *pl.*) something produced by grating. — '**gratingly** *adv.*

gratis (*'greɪtɪs, 'græts, 'grætsɪs*) *adv.*, *adj.* (*postpositive*) without payment; free of charge.

gratitude (*'græti,tju:d*) *n.* a feeling of thankfulness, as for gifts or favours.

gratuitous (*grə'tju:ɪtəs*) *adj.* **1.** given or received without payment or obligation. **2.** without cause; unjustified. — '**gratuitously** *adv.* — '**gratuitousness** *n.*

gratuity (grə'tju:ti) *n.*, *pl.* **-ties**. 1. a gift or reward, usually of money, for services rendered; tip. 2. *Mil.* a financial award granted for long or meritorious service.

grav (græv) *n.* a unit of acceleration equal to the standard acceleration of free fall. 1 grav is equivalent to 9.806 65 metres per second per second. Symbol: G

gravamen (grə'veimən) *n.*, *pl.* **-amina** (-'væminə). 1. *Law.* that part of an accusation weighing most heavily against an accused. 2. *Law.* the substance or material grounds of a complaint. 3. a rare word for **grievance**.

grave¹ (greiv) *n.* 1. a place for the burial of a corpse, esp. beneath the ground and usually marked by a tombstone. Related adj.: **sepulchral**. 2. something resembling a grave or resting place: *the ship went to its grave*. 3. (often preceded by *the*) a poetic term for **death**. 4. to **make (someone) turn in his grave**. to do something that would have shocked or distressed a person now dead.

grave² *adj.* (greiv). 1. serious and solemn: *a grave look*. 2. full of or suggesting danger: *a grave situation*. 3. important; crucial: *grave matters of state*. 4. (of colours) sober or dull. 5. (grav). *Phonetics.* of or relating to an accent (') over vowels, denoting a pronunciation with lower or falling musical pitch (as in ancient Greek), with certain special quality (as in French), or in a manner that gives the vowel status as a syllable (as in English *aged*). ~*n.* (græv). 6. a grave accent. —**gravely** *adv.* —**graveness** *n.*

grave³ (greiv) *vb.* **graving, graved; graven or graven.** (tr.) *Arch.* 1. to carve, sculpt, or engrave. 2. to fix firmly in the mind.

gravel ('grævl) *n.* 1. a mixture of rock fragments and pebbles that is coarser than sand. 2. *Pathol.* small rough calculi in the kidneys or bladder. ~*vb.* **-elling, -elled or U.S. -eling, -eled.** (tr.) 3. to cover with gravel. 4. to confound or confuse. 5. *U.S. inf.* to annoy or disturb.

gravely ('grævəh) *adj.* 1. consisting of or abounding in gravel. 2. of or like gravel. 3. (esp. of a voice) harsh and grating.

graven ('greivn) *vb.* 1. a past participle of **grave**³. ~*adj.* 2. strongly fixed.

graven image *n.* *Chiefly Bible.* a carved image used as an idol.

Graves (græv) *n.* 1. (*sometimes not cap.*) a white or red wine from the district around Bordeaux, France. 2. a dry or medium sweet white wine from any country: *Spanish Graves*.

gravestone ('greiv,stəʊn) *n.* a stone marking a grave.

graveyard ('greiv,jɑ:d) *n.* a place for graves; a burial ground, esp. a small one or one in a churchyard.

gravid ('grævid) *adj.* the technical word for **pregnant**.

gravimeter (græ'vimɪtə) *n.* 1. an instrument for measuring the earth's gravitational field at points on its surface. 2. an instrument for measuring relative density. —**gra'vimetry** *n.*

gravitate ('grævi,tet) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. *Physics.* to move under the influence of gravity. 2. (usually foll. by *to* or *towards*) to be influenced or drawn, as by strong impulses. 3. to sink or settle. —**gravi,tater** *n.* —**gravi,tative** *adj.*

gravitation ('grævi'teɪʃn) *n.* 1. the force of attraction that bodies exert on one another as a result of their mass. 2. any process or result caused by this interaction. ~Also called: **gravity**. —**gravi'tational** *adj.* —**gravi'tationally** *adv.*

gravity ('grævɪti) *n.*, *pl.* **-ties**. 1. the force of attraction that moves or tends to move bodies towards the centre of a celestial body, such as the earth or moon. 2. the property of being heavy or having weight. 3. another name for **gravitation**. 4. seriousness or importance, esp. as a consequence of an action or opinion. 5. manner or conduct that is solemn or dignified. 6. lowness in pitch. 7. (*modifier*) of or relating to gravity or gravitation or their effects: *gravity feed*.

gravy ('greivi) *n.*, *pl.* **-vies**. 1. a. the juices that exude from meat during cooking. b. the sauce made by thickening and flavouring such juices. 2. *Sl.* chiefly *U.S.* money or gain acquired with little effort, esp. above that needed for ordinary living.

gravy boat *n.* a small often boat-shaped vessel for serving gravy or other sauces.

gray¹ (grei) *adj.*, *n.*, *vb.* a variant spelling (now esp. *U.S.*) of **grey**.

gray² (grei) *n.* the derived SI unit of the absorbed dose of ionizing radiation: equal to 1 joule per kilogram. Symbol: Gy

grayling ('greɪlɪŋ) *n.*, *pl.* **-ling or -lings**. 1. a freshwater food fish of the salmon family of the N hemisphere,

having a long spiny dorsal fin, a silvery back, and greyish-green sides. 2. any of various European butterflies having grey or greyish-brown wings.

graze¹ (greiz) *vb.* 1. to allow (animals) to consume the vegetation on (an area of land), or (of animals) to feed thus. 2. (tr.) to tend (livestock) while at pasture.

graze² (greiz) *vb.* 1. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *against* or *along*) to brush or scrape (against) gently, esp. in passing. 2. (tr.) to break the skin of (a part of the body) by scraping. ~*n.* 3. the act of grazing. 4. a scrape or abrasion made by grazing.

grazier ('greɪziə) *n.* a rancher or farmer who rears or fattens cattle or sheep on grazing land.

grazing ('greɪzɪŋ) *n.* 1. the vegetation on ranges or pastures that is available for livestock to feed upon. 2. the land on which this is growing.

grease *n.* (grɪs). 1. animal fat in a soft or melted condition. 2. any thick fatty oil, esp. one used as a lubricant for machinery, etc. ~*vb.* (grɪs, grɪz). (tr.) 3. to soil, coat, or lubricate with grease. 4. **grease the palm (or hand) of**. *Sl.* to bribe; influence by giving money to. —**greaser** *n.* —**greaseless** *adj.*

greasepaint ('grɪs,pent) *n.* 1. a waxy or greasy substance used as make-up by actors. 2. theatrical make-up.

greasy ('grɪsi, -zi) *adj.* **greasier, greasiest**. 1. coated or soiled with or as if with grease. 2. composed of or full of grease. 3. resembling grease. 4. unctuous or oily in manner. —**greasily** *adv.* —**greasiness** *n.*

great (greɪt) *adj.* 1. relatively large in size or extent; big. 2. relatively large in number; having many parts or members: *a great assembly*. 3. of relatively long duration: *a great wait*. 4. of larger size or more importance than others of its kind: *the great auk*. 5. extreme or more than usual: *great worry*. 6. of significant importance or consequence: *a great decision*. 7. a. of exceptional talents or achievements; remarkable: *a great writer*. b. (as *n.*): *the great; one of the great*s. 8. arising from or possessing idealism in thought, action, etc.; heroic: *great deeds*. 9. illustrious or eminent: *a great history*. 10. impressive or striking: *a great show of wealth*. 11. active or enthusiastic: *a great walker*. 12. (often foll. by *at*) skilful or adroit: *a great carpenter; you are great at singing*. 13. *Inf.* excellent; fantastic. ~*n.* 14. Also called: **great organ**. the principal manual on an organ. —**greatly** *adv.* —**greatness** *n.*

great- *prefix*. 1. being the parent of a person's grandparent (in the combinations **great-grandfather, great-grandmother, great-grandparent**). 2. being the child of a person's grandchild (in the combinations **great-grandson, great-granddaughter, great-grandchild**).

great auk *n.* a large flightless auk, extinct since the middle of the 19th century.

great-aunt or grandaunt *n.* an aunt of one's father or mother; sister of one's grandfather or grandmother.

Great Bear *n.* the. the English name for *Ursa Major*.

great circle *n.* a circular section of a sphere that has a radius equal to that of the sphere.

greatcoat ('greɪt,kəʊt) *n.* a heavy overcoat.

Great Dane *n.* one of a very large rangy breed of dog with a short coat.

great-nephew or grandnephew *n.* a son of one's nephew or niece; grandson of one's brother or sister. —**great-niece or grandniece** *n.* (*fem.*).

Great Russian *n.* 1. *Linguistics.* the technical name for **Russian**. 2. a member of the chief East Slavonic people of Russia. ~*adj.* 3. of or relating to this people or their language.

Greats (greɪts) *pl. n.* (at Oxford University) 1. the Honour School of Literae Humaniores, involving the study of Greek and Roman history and literature and philosophy. 2. the final examinations at the end of this course.

great seal *n.* (*often caps.*) the principal seal of a nation, sovereign, etc., used to authenticate documents of the highest importance.

great tit *n.* a Eurasian tit with yellow-and-black underparts and a black-and-white head.

great-uncle or granduncle *n.* an uncle of one's father or mother; brother of one's grandfather or grandmother.

Great War *n.* another name for **World War I**.

grebe (gri:b) *n.* an aquatic bird, such as the great crested grebe and little grebe, similar to the divers but with lobate rather than webbed toes and a vestigial tail.

Grecian ('grɪʃən) *adj.* 1. (esp. of beauty or architect-

ture) conforming to Greek ideals. ~*n.* 2. a scholar of Greek. ~*adj.*, *n.* 3. another word for **Greek**.

Greco- ('gri:kəʊ, 'gre:kəʊ) combining form. a variant (esp. U.S.) of **Græco-**.

greed (grid) *n.* 1. excessive consumption of or desire for food. 2. excessive desire, as for wealth or power.

greedy ('gri:di) *adj.* **greedier**, **greediest**. 1. excessively desirous of food or wealth, esp. in large amounts; voracious. 2. (postpositive; foll. by *for*) eager (for): *a man greedy for success*. — '**greedily** *adv.* — '**greediness** *n.*

Greek (gri:k) *n.* 1. the official language of Greece, constituting the Hellenic branch of the Indo-European family of languages. 2. a native or inhabitant of Greece or a descendant of such a native. 3. a member of the Greek Orthodox Church. 4. *Inf.* anything incomprehensible (esp. in *it's (all) Greek to me*). ~*adj.* 5. denoting, relating to, or characteristic of Greece, the Greeks, or the Greek language; Hellenic. 6. of, relating to, or designating the Greek Orthodox Church. — '**Greekness** *n.*

Greek cross *n.* a cross with each of the four arms of the same length.

Greek fire *n.* a Byzantine weapon consisting of a mixture that caught fire when wetted.

green (grin) *n.* 1. any of a group of colours, such as that of fresh grass, that lie between yellow and blue in the visible spectrum. Related *adj.*: **verdant**. 2. a dye or pigment of or producing these colours. 3. something of the colour green. 4. a small area of grassland, esp. in the centre of a village. 5. an area of smooth turf kept for a special purpose: *a putting green*. 6. (*pl.*) *a.* the edible leaves and stems of certain plants, eaten as a vegetable. *b.* freshly cut branches of ornamental trees, shrubs, etc., used as a decoration. ~*adj.* 7. of the colour green. 8. greenish in colour or having parts or marks that are greenish. 9. vigorous; not faded: *a green old age*. 10. envious or jealous. 11. immature, unsophisticated, or glib. 12. characterized by foliage or green plants: *a green wood*; *a green salad*. 13. fresh, raw, or unripe: *green bananas*. 14. unhealthily pale in appearance: *he was green after his boat trip*. 15. (of meat) not smoked or cured: *green bacon*. 16. (of timber) freshly felled; not dried or seasoned. ~*vb.* 17. to make or become green. — '**greenish** *adj.* — '**greenly** *adv.* — '**greenness** *n.* — '**greeny** *adj.*

green bean *n.* any bean plant, such as the French bean, having narrow green edible pods.

green belt *n.* a zone of farmland, parks, and open country surrounding a town or city.

Green Cross Code *n.* *Brit.* a code for children giving rules for road safety.

greenery ('grinəri) *n.*, *pl.* **-eries**. green foliage, esp. when used for decoration.

green-eyed *adj.* 1. jealous or envious. 2. the **green-eyed monster**. jealousy or envy.

greenfinch ('grin,fintʃ) *n.* a common European finch, the male of which has a dull green plumage with yellow patches on the wings and tail.

green fingers *pl. n.* considerable talent or ability to grow plants.

greenfly ('grin,flai) *n.*, *pl.* **-flies**. a greenish aphid commonly occurring as a pest on garden and crop plants.

greengage ('grin,geidʒ) *n.* 1. a cultivated variety of plum tree with edible green plumlike fruits. 2. the fruit of this tree.

greengrocer ('grin,grəʊsə) *n.* *Chiefly Brit.* a retail trader in fruit and vegetables. — '**green, grocery** *n.*

greenhorn ('grin,hɔ:n) *n.* *Inf.* 1. an inexperienced person, esp. one who is extremely glib. 2. a newcomer or novice.

greenhouse ('grin,haʊs) *n.* a building with glass walls and roof for the cultivation of plants under controlled conditions.

greenkeeper ('grin,ki:pə) *n.* a person responsible for maintaining a golf course or bowling green.

green light *n.* 1. a signal to go, esp. a green traffic light. 2. permission to proceed with a project, etc.

green paper *n.* (*often caps.*) (in Britain) a government document containing policy proposals to be discussed, esp. by Parliament.

green pepper *n.* the green unripe fruit of the sweet pepper, eaten raw or cooked.

green pound *n.* a unit of account used in calculating Britain's contributions to and payments from the Community Agricultural Fund of the EEC.

greenroom ('grin,rum, -rum) *n.* (esp. formerly) a

backstage room in a theatre where performers may rest or receive visitors.

greenshank ('grin,ʃæŋk) *n.* a large European sandpiper with greenish legs and a slightly upturned bill.

greenstick fracture ('grin,stk) *n.* a fracture in children in which the bone is partly bent and splinters only on the convex side of the bend.

greensward ('grin,swɔ:d) *n.* *Arch. or literary.* fresh green turf or an area of such turf.

green tea *n.* a sharp tea made from tea leaves that have been dried quickly without fermenting.

greet ('gri:t) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to meet or receive with expressions of gladness or welcome. 2. to send a message of friendship to. 3. to receive in a specified manner: *her remarks were greeted by silence*. 4. to become apparent to: *the smell of bread greeted him*. — '**greeter** *n.*

greet ('gri:t) *Arch. or dialect.* ~*vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to weep; lament. ~*n.* 2. weeping; lamentation.

greeting ('gri:tɪŋ) *n.* 1. the act or an instance of welcoming or saluting on meeting. 2. (*often pl.*) *a.* an expression of friendly salutation. *b.* (*as modifier*): *a greetings card*.

gregarious (grɪ'geəriəs) *adj.* 1. enjoying the company of others. 2. (of animals) living together in herds or flocks. 3. (of plants) growing close together. 4. of, relating to, or characteristic of crowds or communities. — '**gre'gariouly** *adv.* — '**gre'garioussness** *n.*

Gregorian calendar (grɪ'gɔ:riən) *n.* the revision of the Julian calendar introduced in 1582 by Pope Gregory XIII and still in force, whereby the ordinary year is made to consist of 365 days.

Gregorian chant *n.* another name for **plainsong**.

gremlin ('gremlin) *n.* 1. an imaginary being jokingly said to be responsible for mechanical troubles in aircraft, esp. in World War II. 2. any mischievous troublemaker.

grenade (grɪ'neɪd) *n.* 1. a small container filled with explosive thrown by hand or fired from a rifle. 2. a sealed glass vessel that is thrown and shatters to release chemicals, such as tear gas.

grenadier (,grɛnə'diə) *n.* 1. *Mil. a.* (in the British Army) a member of the senior regiment of infantry in the Household Brigade. *b.* (formerly) a member of a special formation, usually selected for strength and height. *c.* (formerly) a soldier trained to throw grenades. 2. any of various deep-sea fish, typically having a large head and a long tapering tail.

grew (gru:) *vb.* the past tense of **grow**.

grey or **U.S. gray** (greɪ) *adj.* 1. of a neutral tone, intermediate between black and white, that has no hue and reflects and transmits only a little light. 2. greyish in colour or having greyish marks. 3. dismal or dark, esp. from lack of light; gloomy. 4. neutral or dull, esp. in character or opinion. 5. having grey hair. 6. of or characteristic of old age; wise. 7. ancient; venerable. ~*n.* 8. any of a group of grey tones. 9. grey cloth or clothing. 10. an animal, esp. a horse, that is grey or whitish. ~*vb.* 11. to become or make grey. — '**greyish** or **U.S. 'grayish** *adj.* — '**greyly** or **U.S. 'grayly** *adv.* — '**greyness** or **U.S. 'grayness** *n.*

Grey Cup *n.* the annual championship game of the Canadian Football league or the trophy awarded to the winner.

Grey Friar *n.* a Franciscan friar.

greyhound ('greɪ,haʊnd) *n.* a tall slender fast-moving breed of hound.

greylag or **greylag goose** ('greɪ,læg) *n.* a large grey Eurasian goose: the ancestor of many domestic breeds of goose. *U.S. spelling:* **graylag**.

grey matter *n.* 1. the greyish tissue of the brain and spinal cord, containing nerve cell bodies and fibres. 2. *Inf.* brains or intellect.

grey squirrel *n.* a grey-furred squirrel, native to E North America but now widely established.

grid (grid) *n.* 1. See **gridiron**. 2. a network of horizontal and vertical lines superimposed over a map, building plan, etc., for locating points. 3. the **grid**, the national network of transmission lines, pipes, etc., by which electricity, gas, or water is distributed. 4. Also called: **control grid**. *Electronics.* an electrode usually consisting of a cylindrical mesh of wires, that controls the flow of electrons between the cathode and anode of a valve. 5. any interconnecting system of links: *the bus service formed a grid across the country*.

griddle ('gridl) *n.* 1. Also called: **girdle**. *Brit.* a thick round iron plate with a half hoop handle over the top, for making scones, etc. 2. any flat heated surface, esp. on

the top of a stove, for cooking food. ~vb. 3. (tr.) to cook (food) on a griddle.

gridiron ('grɪd,aɪən) *n.* 1. a utensil of parallel metal bars, used to grill meat, fish, etc. 2. any framework resembling this utensil. 3. a framework above the stage in a theatre from which suspended scenery, lights, etc., are manipulated. 4. the field of play in American football. ~Often shortened to **grid**.

grief (grɪf) *n.* 1. deep or intense sorrow, esp. at the death of someone. 2. something that causes keen distress. 3. come to grief. *Inf.* to end unsuccessfully or disastrously.

grievance ('grɪvəns) *n.* 1. a real or imaginary wrong causing resentment and regarded as grounds for complaint. 2. a feeling of resentment or injustice at having been unfairly treated.

grieve (grɪv) *vb.* to feel or cause to feel great sorrow or distress, esp. at the death of someone. —'griever *n.*

grievous ('grɪvəs) *adj.* 1. very severe or painful: a grievous injury. 2. very serious; heinous: a grievous sin. 3. showing or marked by grief. 4. causing great pain or suffering. —'grievously *adv.* —'grievousness *n.*

grievous bodily harm *n.* Criminal law. serious injury caused by one person to another.

griffin ('grɪfn), **griffon**, or **gryphon** *n.* a winged monster with an eagle-like head and the body of a lion.

griffon ('grɪfn) *n.* 1. any of various small wire-haired breeds of dog, originally from Belgium. 2. a large vulture of Africa, S Europe, and SW Asia, having a pale plumage with black wings.

grill (grɪl) *vb.* 1. to cook (meat, etc.) by direct heat, as under a grill or over a hot fire, or (of meat, etc.) to be cooked in this way. Usual U.S. word: **broil**. 2. (tr., usually passive) to torment with or as if with extreme heat: the travellers were grilled by the scorching sun. 3. (tr.) *Inf.* to subject to insistent or prolonged questioning. ~n. 4. a device with parallel bars of thin metal on which meat, etc., may be cooked by a fire; gridiron. 5. a device on a cooker that radiates heat downwards for grilling meat, etc. 6. food cooked by grilling. 7. See **grillroom**. —'grilled *adj.* —'griller *n.*

grille or grill (grɪl) *n.* 1. a framework, esp. of metal bars arranged to form an ornamental pattern, used as a screen or partition. 2. Also called: **radiator grille**. a grating that admits cooling air to the radiator of a motor vehicle. 3. a metal or wooden openwork grating used as a screen or divider. 4. a protective screen, usually plastic or metal, in front of the loudspeaker in a radio, record player, etc.

grillroom ('grɪl,rʊ:m, -rʊm) *n.* a restaurant where grilled steaks and other meat are served.

grilse (grɪls) *n., pl. grilses or grilse*. a salmon at the stage when it returns for the first time from the sea to fresh water.

grim (grɪm) *adj.* **grimmer, grimmest**. 1. stern; resolute: grim determination. 2. harsh or formidable in manner or appearance. 3. harshly ironic or sinister: grim laughter. 4. cruel, severe, or ghastly: a grim accident. 5. Arch. or poetic. fierce: a grim warrior. 6. *Inf.* unpleasant; disagreeable. —'grimly *adv.* —'grimness *n.*

grimace (grɪ'meɪs) *n.* 1. an ugly or distorted facial expression, as of wry humour, disgust, etc. ~vb. 2. (intr.) to contort the face. —'grimacer *n.*

grimalkin (grɪ'mælkɪn, -'mɔ:l-) *n.* 1. an old cat, esp. an old female cat. 2. a crotchety or shrewish old woman.

grime (graɪm) *n.* 1. dirt, soot, or filth, esp. when ingrained. ~vb. 2. (tr.) to make dirty or coat with filth. —'grimy *adj.*

grin (grɪn) *vb.* **grinning, grinned**. 1. to smile with the lips drawn back revealing the teeth or express (something) by such a smile: to grin a welcome. 2. (intr.) to draw back the lips revealing the teeth, as in a snarl or grimace. 3. grin and bear it. *Inf.* to suffer trouble or hardship without complaint. ~n. 4. a broad smile. 5. a snarl or grimace. —'grinner *n.* —'grinningly *adv.*

grind (graɪnd) *vb.* **grinding, ground**. 1. to reduce or be reduced to small particles by pounding or abrading: to grind corn. 2. (tr.) to smooth, sharpen, or polish by friction or abrasion: to grind a knife. 3. to scrape or grate together (two things, esp. the teeth) with a harsh rasping sound or (of such objects) to be scraped together. 4. (tr.; foll. by out) to speak or say something in a rough voice. 5. (tr.; often foll. by down) to hold down; oppress; tyrannize. 6. (tr.) to operate (a machine) by turning a handle. 7. (tr.; foll. by out) to produce in a routine or uninspired manner: he ground out his weekly article for the paper. 8. (intr.) *Inf.* to study or work laboriously. ~n. 9. *Inf.* laborious or routine work or

study. 10. a specific grade of pulverization, as of coffee beans: coarse grind. 11. the act or sound of grinding. —'grindingly *adv.*

grinder ('granda) *n.* 1. a person who grinds, esp. one who grinds cutting tools. 2. a machine for grinding. 3. a molar tooth.

grindstone ('graɪnd,stəʊn) *n.* 1. a. a machine having a circular block of stone rotated for sharpening tools or grinding metal. b. the stone used in this machine. c. any stone used for sharpening; whetstone. 2. keep or have one's nose to the grindstone. to work hard and perseveringly.

grip (grɪp) *n.* 1. the act or an instance of grasping and holding firmly: he lost his grip on the slope. 2. Also called: **handgrip**. the strength or pressure of such a grasp, as in a handshake. 3. the style or manner of grasping an object, such as a tennis racket. 4. understanding, control, or mastery of a subject, problem, etc. 5. come or get to grips. (often foll. by with) a. to deal with (a problem or subject). b. to tackle (an assailant). 6. Also called: **handgrip**. a part by which an object is grasped; handle. 7. Also called: **handgrip**. a travelling bag or holdall. 8. See **hairgrip**. 9. any device that holds by friction, such as certain types of brake. ~vb. **griping, gripped or gript**. 10. to take hold of firmly or tightly, as by a clutch. 11. to hold the interest or attention of: to grip an audience. —'gripper *n.* —'gripingly *adv.*

gripe (graɪp) *vb.* 1. (intr.) *Inf.* to complain, esp. in a persistent nagging manner. 2. to cause sudden intense pain in the intestines of (a person) or (of a person) to experience this pain. 3. Arch. to clutch; grasp. 4. (tr.) Arch. to afflict. ~n. 5. (usually pl.) a sudden intense pain in the intestines; colic. 6. *Inf.* a complaint or grievance. 7. Now rare. a. the act of gripping. b. a firm grip. c. a device that grips. —'griper *n.* —'gripingly *adv.*

grippe or grip (grɪp) *n.* a former name for influenza.

grisly ('grɪzli) *adj.* -lier, -liest. causing horror or dread; gruesome. —'grisliness *n.*

grist (grɪst) *n.* 1. a grain intended to be or that has been ground. b. the quantity of such grain processed in one grinding. 2. Brewing. malt grains that have been cleaned and cracked. 3. grist to (or for) the (or one's) mill. anything that can be turned to profit or advantage.

gristle ('grɪsl) *n.* cartilage, esp. when in meat. —'gristly *adj.* —'gristliness *n.*

grit (grɪt) *n.* 1. small hard particles of sand, earth, stone, etc. 2. Also called: **gritstone**. any coarse sandstone that can be used as a grindstone or millstone. 3. indomitable courage, toughness, or resolution. ~vb. **gritting, gritted**. 4. to clench or grind together (two objects, esp. the teeth). 5. to cover (a surface, such as icy roads) with grit. —'gritter *n.* —'gritty *adj.*

Grit (grɪt) *n., adj.* *Canad.* an informal word for Liberal.

grits (grɪts) *pl. n.* hulled or coarsely ground grain.

grizzle¹ ('grɪzl) *vb.* 1. to make or become grey. ~n. 2. a grey colour. 3. grey hair.

grizzle² ('grɪzl) *vb.* (intr.) *Inf., chiefly Brit.* (esp. of a child) to fret; whine. —'grizzler *n.*

grizzled ('grɪzld) *adj.* 1. streaked or mixed with grey; grizzly. 2. having grey hair.

grizzly ('grɪzli) *adj.* -zlier, -zliest. 1. somewhat grey; grizzled. ~n., pl. -zlies. 2. See **grizzly bear**.

grizzly bear *n.* a greyish-brown variety of the brown bear, formerly widespread in W North America. Often shortened to **grizzly**.

groan (grəʊn) *n.* 1. a prolonged stressed dull cry expressive of agony, pain, or disapproval. 2. a loud harsh creaking sound, as of a tree bending in the wind. 3. *Inf.* a grumble or complaint, esp. a persistent one. ~vb. 4. to utter (low inarticulate sounds) expressive of pain, grief, disapproval, etc. 5. (intr.) to make a sound like a groan. 6. (intr., usually foll. by beneath or under) to be weighed down (by) or suffer greatly (under). 7. (intr.) *Inf.* to complain or grumble. —'groaner *n.* —'groaningly *adv.*

groat (grəʊt) *n.* an obsolete English silver coin worth four pennies.

groats (grəʊts) *pl. n.* the hulled and crushed grain of oats, wheat, or certain other cereals.

grocer ('grəʊsə) *n.* a dealer in foodstuffs and other household supplies.

groceries ('grəʊsɪz) *pl. n.* merchandise, esp. foodstuffs, sold by a grocer.

grocery ('grəʊsəri) *n., pl. -ceries*. the business or premises of a grocer.

grog (grog) *n.* 1. diluted spirit, usually rum, as an alcoholic drink. 2. *Austral. & N.Z. inf.* alcoholic drink in general, esp. spirits.

groggy ('grog) *adj.* -gier, -giest. *Inf.* 1. dazed or staggering, as from exhaustion, blows, or drunkenness. 2. faint or weak. —'groggily *adv.* —'grogginess *n.*

groggram ('grogɹəm) *n.* a coarse fabric of silk, wool, or silk mixed with wool or mohair, often stiffened with gum, formerly used for clothing.

groin (grɔɪn) *n.* 1. the depression or fold where the legs join the abdomen. 2. *Euphemistic.* the genitals, esp. the testicles. 3. a variant spelling (esp. U.S.) of **groyne**. 4. *Archit.* a curved arris formed where two intersecting vaults meet. ~vb. 5. (*tr.*) *Archit.* to provide or construct with groins.

grommet ('gromɪt) or **grummet** *n.* a ring of rubber or plastic or a metal eyelet designed to line a hole to prevent a cable or pipe passing through it from chafing.

groom (gru:m, grum) *n.* 1. a person employed to clean and look after horses. 2. See **bridegroom**. 3. any of various officers of a royal or noble household. 4. *Arch.* a male servant. ~vb. (*tr.*) 5. to make or keep (clothes, appearance, etc.) clean and tidy. 6. to rub down, clean, and smarten (a horse, dog, etc.). 7. to train or prepare for a particular task, occupation, etc.: to groom someone for the Presidency.

groomsman ('gru:zmən, 'groomz-) *n., pl. -men.* a man who attends the bridegroom at a wedding, usually the best man.

groove (gru:v) *n.* 1. a long narrow channel or furrow, esp. one cut into wood by a tool. 2. the spiral channel in a gramophone record. 3. a settled existence, routine, etc., to which one is suited or accustomed. 4. *Sl.* an experience, event, etc., that is groovy. 5. in the groove. *a.* Jazz. playing well and apparently effortlessly, with a good beat, etc. *b.* U.S. fashionable. ~vb. 6. (*tr.*) to form or cut a groove in. 7. (*intr.*) *Sl.* to enjoy oneself or feel in rapport with one's surroundings. 8. (*tr.*) *Sl.* to excite. 9. (*intr.*) *Sl.* to progress or develop. 10. (*intr.*) Jazz. to play well, with a good beat, etc.

groovy ('gru:v) *adj.* groovier, grooviest. *Sl.* attractive, fashionable, or exciting.

grope (grəʊp) *vb.* 1. (*intr.* usually foll. by *for*) to feel or search about uncertainly (for something) with the hands. 2. (usually foll. by *for* or *after*) to search uncertainly or with difficulty (for a solution, answer, etc.). ~n. 3. the act of groping. —'gropingly *adv.*

grosbeak ('grəʊsbɪk, 'grɒs-) *n.* any of various finches that have a massive powerful bill.

grosgrain ('grəʊ,greɪn) *n.* a heavy ribbed silk or rayon fabric or tape for trimming clothes, etc.

gros point (grəʊ) *n.* 1. a needlepoint stitch covering two horizontal and two vertical threads. 2. work done in this stitch.

gross (grəʊs) *adj.* 1. repellently or excessively fat or bulky. 2. with no deductions for expenses, tax, etc.; total: gross sales. Cf. **net**. 3. (of personal qualities, tastes, etc.) conspicuously coarse or vulgar. 4. obviously or exceptionally culpable or wrong; flagrant: gross inefficiency. 5. lacking in perception, sensitivity, or discrimination: gross judgments. 6. (esp. of vegetation) dense; thick; luxuriant. ~n. 7. *pl.* gross. a unit of quantity equal to 12 dozen. 8. *pl.* grosses. *a.* the entire amount. *b.* the great majority. ~vb. (*tr.*) 9. to earn as total revenue, before deductions for expenses, tax, etc. —'grossly *adv.* —'grossness *n.*

gross domestic product *n.* the total value of all goods and services produced domestically by a nation during a year. It is equivalent to gross national product minus net investment incomes from foreign nations. Abbrev.: GDP

gross national product *n.* the total value of all final goods and services produced annually by a nation. Abbrev.: GNP

gross profit *n.* Accounting. the difference between total revenue from sales and the total cost of purchases or materials, with an adjustment for stock.

grotesque (grəʊ'tesk) *adj.* 1. strangely or fantastically distorted; bizarre. 2. of or characteristic of the grotesque in art. 3. absurdly incongruous; in a ludicrous context. ~n. 4. a 16th-century decorative style in which parts of human, animal, and plant forms are distorted and mixed. 5. a decorative device, as in painting or sculpture, in this style. 6. *Printing.* the family of 19th-century sans serif display types. 7. any grotesque person or thing. —'gro'tesquely *adv.* —'gro'tesqueness *n.* —'gro'tesquely or 'gro'tesquerie *n.*

grotto ('grɒtəʊ) *n., pl. -toes or -tos.* 1. a small cave, esp.

one with attractive features. 2. a construction in the form of a cave, esp. as in landscaped gardens during the 18th century.

grotty ('grɒti) *adj.* -tier, -tiest. *Brit. sl.* unpleasant, nasty, or unattractive.

grouch (graʊt) *Inf.* ~vb. 1. to complain; grumble. ~n. 2. a complaint, esp. a persistent one. 3. a person who is always grumbling. —'grouchy *adj.* —'grouchily *adv.* —'grouchiness *n.*

ground¹ ('graʊnd) *n.* 1. the land surface. 2. earth or soil. 3. (*pl.*) the land around a dwelling house or other building. 4. (*sometimes pl.*) an area of land given over to a purpose: football ground. 5. land having a particular characteristic: high ground. 6. matter for consideration or debate; field of research or enquiry: the report covered a lot of ground. 7. a position or viewpoint, as in an argument or controversy (esp. in give ground, hold, stand, or shift one's ground). 8. position or advantage, as in a subject or competition (esp. in gain ground, lose ground, etc.). 9. (*often pl.*) reason; justification: grounds for complaint. 10. Arts. *a.* the prepared surface applied to a wall, canvas, etc., to prevent it reacting with or absorbing the paint. *b.* the background of a painting against which the other parts of a work of art appear superimposed. 11. *a.* the first coat of paint applied to a surface. *b.* (as modifier): ground colour. 12. the bottom of a river or the sea. 13. (*pl.*) sediment or dregs, esp. from coffee. 14. *Chiefly Brit.* the floor of a room. 15. *Cricket.* the area from the popping crease back past the stumps, in which a batsman may legally stand. 16. *Electrical.* the usual U.S. word for earth (sense 8). 17. break new ground. to do something that has not been done before. 18. common ground. a subject about which there is agreement or similar thinking. 19. cut the ground from under someone's feet. to anticipate someone's action and thus make it irrelevant or meaningless. 20. (down) to the ground. *Brit. inf.* completely; absolutely: it suited him down to the ground. 21. home ground. a familiar area or topic. 22. into the ground. beyond what is requisite or can be endured; to exhaustion. 23. (modifier) on or concerned with the ground: ground frost; ground forces. ~vb. 24. (*tr.*) to put or place on the ground. 25. (*tr.*) to instruct in fundamentals. 26. (*tr.*) to provide a basis or foundation for; establish. 27. (*tr.*) to confine (an aircraft, pilot, etc.) to the ground. 28. the usual U.S. word for earth (sense 13). 29. (*tr.*) *Naut.* to run (a vessel) aground. 30. (*intr.*) to hit or reach the ground.

ground² ('graʊnd) *vb.* 1. the past tense or past participle of grind. ~adj. 2. having the surface finished, thickness reduced, or an edge sharpened by grinding. 3. reduced to fine particles by grinding.

ground bass (beɪs) *n. Music.* a short melodic bass line that is repeated over and over again.

ground control *n.* 1. the personnel, radar, computers, etc., on the ground that monitor the progress of aircraft or spacecraft. 2. a system for feeding continuous radio messages to an aircraft pilot to enable him to make a blind landing.

ground cover *n.* the mass of dense low herbaceous plants and shrubs that grow over the surface of the ground.

ground floor *n.* 1. the floor of a building level or almost level with the ground. 2. get in on the ground floor. *Inf.* to be in a project, undertaking, etc., from its inception.

grounding ('graʊndɪŋ) *n.* a foundation, esp. the basic general knowledge of a subject.

ground ivy *n.* a creeping or trailing Eurasian aromatic herbaceous plant with scalloped leaves and purplish-blue flowers.

groundless ('graʊndlɪs) *adj.* without reason or justification: his suspicions were groundless. —'groundlessly *adv.* —'groundlessness *n.*

groundnut ('graʊnd,nʌt) *n.* 1. a North American climbing leguminous plant with small edible underground tubers. 2. the tuber of this plant. 3. *Brit.* another name for peanut.

groundsel ('graʊnsəl) *n.* any of certain plants of the composite family, esp. a Eurasian weed with heads of small yellow flowers.

groundsheet ('graʊnd,ʃi:t) *n.* a waterproof rubber, plastic, or polythene sheet placed on the ground in a tent, etc., to keep out damp.

groundsman ('graʊndzmən) *n., pl. -men.* a person employed to maintain a sports ground, park, etc.

ground swell *n.* 1. a considerable swell of the sea,

often caused by a distant storm or earthquake. 2. a rapidly developing general feeling or opinion.

groundwork ('graʊnd,wɜ:k) *n.* 1. preliminary work as a foundation or basis. 2. the ground or background of a painting, etc.

group (gru:p) *n.* 1. a number of persons or things considered as a collective unit. 2. *a.* a number of persons bound together by common social standards, interests, etc. *b.* (as modifier): *group behaviour*. 3. a small band of players or singers, esp. of pop music. 4. a number of animals or plants considered as a unit because of common characteristics, habits, etc. 5. an association of companies under a single ownership and control. 6. two or more figures or objects forming a design in a painting or sculpture. 7. a military formation comprising complementary arms and services: a *brigade group*. 8. an air force organization of higher level than a squadron. 9. Also called: *radical*. *Chem.* two or more atoms that are bound together in a molecule and behave as a single unit: a *methyl group* -CH₃. 10. a vertical column of elements in the periodic table that all have similar electronic structures, properties, and valencies: *the halogen group*. 11. *Maths.* a set under an operation involving any two members of the set such that the set is closed, associative, and contains both an identity and the inverse of each member. 12. See **blood group**. ~*vb.* 13. to arrange or place (things, people, etc.) in or into a group, or (of things, etc.) to form into a group.

group captain *n.* an officer holding commissioned rank senior to a wing commander but junior to an air commodore in the British R.A.F. and certain other air forces.

group therapy *n.* *Psychiatry.* the simultaneous treatment of a number of individuals who are brought together to share their problems in group discussion.

grouse¹ (graʊs) *n., pl. grouse or grouses*, a game bird occurring mainly in the N hemisphere, having a stocky body and feathered legs and feet.

grouse² (graʊs) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to grumble; complain. ~*n.* 2. a persistent complaint. —'grouser *n.*

grout (graʊt) *n.* 1. a thin mortar for filling joints between tiles, masonry, etc. 2. a fine plaster used as a finishing coat. 3. (*pl.*) sediment or dregs. ~*vb.* 4. (*tr.*) to fill (joints) or finish (walls, etc.) with grout. —'grouter *n.*

grove (grəʊv) *n.* 1. a small wooded area or plantation. 2. a road lined with houses and often trees, esp. in a suburban area.

grovel ('grɒvəl) *vb.* -elling, -elled or U.S. -eling, -eled. (*intr.*) 1. to humble or abase oneself, as in making apologies or showing respect. 2. to lie or crawl face downwards, as in fear or humility. 3. (often foll. by *in*) to indulge or take pleasure (in sensuality or vice). —'groveler *n.*

grow (grəʊ) *vb.* *growing, grew, grown.* 1. (of an organism or part of an organism) to increase in size or develop (hair, leaves, or other structures). 2. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *out of* or *from*) to originate, as from an initial cause or source: *the federation grew out of the Empire*. 3. (*intr.*) to increase in size, number, degree, etc.: *the population is growing rapidly*. 4. (*intr.*) to change in length or amount in a specified direction: *some plants grow downwards*. 5. (*copula*); *may take an infinitive* (esp. of emotions, physical states, etc.) to develop or come into existence or being gradually: *to grow cold*; *he grew to like her*. 6. (*intr.*; foll. by *together*) to be joined gradually by or as by growth: *the branches on the tree grew together*. 7. (when *intr.*, foll. by *with*) to become covered with a growth: *the path grew with weeds*. 8. to produce (plants) by controlling or encouraging their growth, esp. for home consumption or on a commercial basis. ~ See also **grow into**, **grow on**, etc. —'growable *adj.* —'grower *n.*

growing pains *pl. n.* 1. pains in muscles or joints sometimes experienced by growing children. 2. difficulties besetting a new enterprise in its early stages.

grow into *vb.* (*intr., prep.*) to become big or mature enough for: *his clothes were always big enough for him to grow into*.

growl (graʊl) *vb.* 1. (of animals, esp. when hostile) to utter (sounds) in a low inarticulate manner: *the dog growled*. 2. to utter (words) in a gruff or angry manner. 3. (*intr.*) to make sounds suggestive of an animal growling: *the thunder growled*. ~*n.* 4. the act or sound of growling. —'growler *n.* —'growlingly *adv.*

grown (grəʊn) *adj.* *a.* developed or advanced: *fully grown*. *b.* (in combination): *half-grown*.

grown-up *adj.* 1. having reached maturity; adult. 2. suitable for or characteristic of an adult. ~*n.* 3. an adult.

grow on *vb.* (*intr., prep.*) to become progressively more acceptable or pleasant to.

grow out of *vb.* (*intr., adv. + prep.*) to become too big or mature for: *she soon grew out of her girlish ways*.

growth (grəʊθ) *n.* 1. the process or act of growing. 2. an increase in size, number, significance, etc. 3. something grown or growing: *a new growth of hair*. 4. a stage of development: *a full growth*. 5. any abnormal tissue, such as a tumour. 6. (*modifier*) of, relating to, or characterized by growth: *a growth industry*.

grow up *vb.* (*intr., adv.*) 1. to reach maturity; become adult. 2. to come into existence; develop.

groynes or *esp. U.S. groin* (grɔɪn) *n.* a wall or jetty built out from a riverbank or seashore to control erosion. Also called: *spur, breakwater*.

grub (grʌb) *vb.* *grubbing, grubbed.* 1. (when *tr.*, often foll. by *up* or *out*) to search for and pull up (roots, stumps, etc.) by digging in the ground. 2. to dig up the surface of (ground, soil, etc.), esp. to clear away roots, stumps, etc. 3. (*intr.*; often foll. by *in* or *among*) to search carefully. 4. (*intr.*) to work unceasingly, esp. at a dull task. ~*n.* 5. the short legless larva of certain insects, esp. beetles. 6. *Sl.* food; victuals. 7. a person who works hard, esp. in a dull plodding way. —'grubber *n.*

grubby ('grʌbi) *adj.* -bier, -biest. 1. dirty; slovenly. 2. mean; beggarly. 3. infested with grubs. —'grubbily *adv.* —'grubbiness *n.*

grudge (grʌdʒ) *n.* 1. a persistent feeling of resentment, esp. one due to an insult or injury. ~*vb.* 2. (*tr.*) to give unwillingly. 3. to feel resentful or envious about (someone else's success, possessions, etc.). —'grudger *n.* —'grudgingly *adv.*

gruel ('gru:əl) *n.* a drink or thin porridge made by boiling meal, esp. oatmeal, in water or milk.

gruelling or *U.S. grueling* ('gru:əlɪŋ) *adj.* 1. extremely severe or tiring. ~*n.* 2. *Inf.* a severe or tiring experience, esp. punishment.

gruesome ('gru:əsəm) *adj.* inspiring repugnance and horror; ghastly. —'gruesomely *adv.* —'gruesomeness *n.*

gruff (grʌf) *adj.* 1. rough or surly in manner, speech, etc. 2. (of a voice, bark, etc.) low and throaty. —'gruffly *adv.* —'gruffness *n.*

grumble ('grʌmbəl) *vb.* 1. to utter (complaints) in a nagging way. 2. (*intr.*) to make low dull rumbling sounds. ~*n.* 3. a complaint; grouse. 4. a low rumbling sound. —'grumbler *n.* —'grumblingly *adv.* —'grumbly *adj.*

grumpy ('grʌmpi) or **grumpish** *adj.* *grumpier, grumpiest.* peevish; sulky. —'grumpily or 'grumpishly *adv.* —'grumpiness or 'grumpishness *n.*

Grundy ('grʌndi) *n.* a narrow-minded person who keeps critical watch on the propriety of others.

grunt (grʌnt) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) (esp. of pigs and some other animals) to emit a low short gruff noise. 2. (when *tr.*, may take a clause as object) to express something gruffly: *he grunted his answer*. ~*n.* 3. the characteristic low short gruff noise of pigs, etc., or a similar sound, as of disgust. 4. any of various mainly tropical marine fishes that utter a grunting sound when caught. —'grunter *n.*

Gruyère or **Gruyère cheese** ('gru:jeə) *n.* a hard flat whole-milk cheese, pale yellow in colour and with holes.

grypion ('grɪf'n) *n.* a variant spelling of **griffin**.

G.S. *abbrev. for:* 1. General Secretary. 2. General Staff.

G-string *n.* 1. a piece of cloth worn by striptease artistes covering the pubic area only and attached to a very narrow waistband. 2. a strip of cloth attached to the front and back of a waistband and covering the loins. 3. *Music.* a string tuned to G.

G-suit *n.* a close-fitting garment that is worn by the crew of high-speed aircraft and can be pressurized to prevent blackout during certain manoeuvres.

GT *abbrev. for* gran turismo: a touring car; usually a fast sports car with a hard fixed roof.

guanaco (gwɑ:'nækəʊ) *n., pl. -cos.* a cud-chewing South American mammal closely related to the domesticated llama.

guano ('gwɑ:nəʊ) *n., pl. -nos.* 1. the dried excrement of fish-eating sea birds, deposited in rocky coastal regions of South America: used as a fertilizer. 2. any similar but artificially produced fertilizer.

guarantee (ˈgærən'tiː) *n.* 1. a formal assurance, esp. in writing, that a product, service, etc., will meet certain standards or specifications. 2. *Law.* a promise, esp. a collateral agreement, to answer for the debt, default, or miscarriage of another. 3. *a.* a person, company, etc., to whom a guarantee is made. *b.* a person, company, etc., who gives a guarantee. 4. a person who acts as a guarantor. 5. something that makes a specified condition or outcome certain. 6. a variant spelling of **guaranty**. ~*vb.* -**teeling**, -**teed**. (*mainly tr.*) 7. (*also intr.*) to take responsibility for (someone else's debts, obligations, etc.). 8. to serve as a guarantee for. 9. to secure or furnish security for: *a small deposit will guarantee any dress*. 10. (usually foll. by *from* or *against*) to undertake to protect or keep secure, as against injury, loss, etc. 11. to ensure: *good planning will guarantee success*. 12. (*may take a clause as object or an infinitive*) to promise or make certain.

guarantor (ˈgærən'tɔː) *n.* a person who gives or is bound by a guarantee or guaranty; surety.

guaranty (ˈgærənti) *n.*, *pl.* -**ties**. 1. a pledge of responsibility for fulfilling another person's obligations in case of that person's default. 2. a thing given or taken as security for a guaranty. 3. the act of providing security. 4. a person who acts as a guarantor. ~*vb.* -**tying**, -**tied**. 5. a variant spelling of **guarantee**.

guard (gɑːd) *vb.* 1. to watch over or shield (a person or thing) from danger or harm; protect. 2. to keep watch over (a prisoner or other potentially dangerous person or thing), as to prevent escape. 3. (*tr.*) to control: *to guard one's tongue*. 4. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *against*) to take precautions. 5. to control entrance and exit through (a gate, door, etc.). 6. (*tr.*) to provide (machinery, etc.) with a device to protect the operator. 7. (*tr.*) *a.* *Chess*, *cards*. to protect or cover (a chess man or card) with another. *b.* *Curling*, *bowling*. to protect or cover (a stone or bowl) by placing one's own stone or bowl between it and another player. ~*n.* 8. a person or group who keeps a protecting, supervising, or restraining watch or control over people, such as prisoners, things, etc. Related *adj.*: **custodial**. 9. a person or group of people, such as soldiers, who form a ceremonial escort. 10. *Brit.* the official in charge of a train. 11. *a.* the act or duty of protecting, restraining, or supervising. *b.* (*as modifier*): *guard duty*. 12. a device, part, or attachment on an object, such as a weapon or machine tool, designed to protect the user against injury. 13. anything that provides or is intended to provide protection: *a guard against infection*. 14. *Sport*. an article of light tough material worn to protect any of various parts of the body. 15. the posture of defence or readiness in fencing, boxing, cricket, etc. 16. *off* (one's) **guard**. having one's defences down; unprepared. 17. *on* (one's) **guard**. prepared to face danger, difficulties, etc. 18. *stand guard*. (of a military sentry, etc.) to keep watch. 19. *mount guard*. *Chiefly mil.* (of a sentry, etc.) to begin to keep watch. —'guarder *n.*

guarded (ˈgɑːdɪd) *adj.* 1. protected or kept under surveillance. 2. prudent, restrained, or noncommittal: *a guarded reply*. —'guardedly *adv.* —'guardedness *n.*

guardhouse (ˈgɑːdˌhaʊs) *n.* *Mil.* a building serving as headquarters for military police and in which military prisoners are detained.

guardian (ˈgɑːdiən) *n.* 1. one who looks after, protects, or defends: *the guardian of public morals*. 2. *Law*. someone legally appointed to manage the affairs of a person incapable of acting for himself, as an infant or person of unsound mind. ~*adj.* 3. protecting or safeguarding. —'guardian, *ship n.*

guardsman (ˈgɑːdzmən) *n.*, *pl.* -**men**. 1. (in Britain) a member of a Guards battalion or regiment. 2. (in the U.S.) a member of the National Guard. 3. a guard.

guard's van *n.* *Railways, Brit. & N.Z.* the van in which the guard travels, usually attached to the rear of a train. U.S. equivalent: **caboose**.

guava (ˈgwɑːvə) *n.* 1. any of various tropical American trees, grown esp. for their edible fruit. 2. the fruit of such a tree, having yellow skin and pink pulp.

gubbins (ˈgʌbɪnz) *n.* 1. an object of little value. 2. a small gadget. 3. *Inf.* a silly person.

gubernatorial (ˌɡjuːbəˈnɔːtɪrɪəl, ˌɡuː-) *adj.* *Chiefly U.S.* of or relating to a governor.

gudgeon (ˈɡʌdʒən) *n.* 1. a small slender European freshwater fish with a barbel on each side of the mouth: used as bait by anglers. 2. any of various other fishes, such as the goby. 3. *Sl.* a person who is easy to trick or cheat. ~*vb.* 4. (*tr.*) *Sl.* to trick or cheat.

gudgeon (ˈɡʌdʒən) *n.* 1. the female or socket portion

of a pinned hinge. 2. *Naut.* one of two or more looplike sockets, fixed to the transom of a boat, into which the pintles of a rudder are fitted.

guelder-rose (ˈɡeldəˌrəʊz) *n.* a Eurasian shrub with clusters of white flowers and small red fruits.

Guernsey (ˈɡɜːnzɪ) *n.* 1. an island in the English Channel: the second largest of the Channel Islands. 2. a breed of dairy cattle producing rich creamy milk, originating from the island of Guernsey. 3. (*sometimes not cap.*) a seaman's knitted woollen sweater. 4. (*not cap.*) *Austral.* a sleeveless woollen shirt or jumper worn by a football player. 5. *get a guernsey*. *Austral.* to be selected for a team or gain recognition for something.

guerrilla or **guerilla** (ɡəˈrɪlə) *n.* *a.* a member of an irregular usually politically motivated armed force that combats stronger regular forces. *b.* (*as modifier*): *guerrilla warfare*.

guess (ɡes) *vb.* (*when tr., may take a clause as object*) 1. (*when intr., often foll. by at or about*) to form or express an uncertain estimate or conclusion (about something), based on insufficient information: *guess what we're having for dinner*. 2. to arrive at a correct estimate of (something) by guessing: *he guessed my age*. 3. *Inf.*, *chiefly U.S.* to believe, think, or suppose (something): *I guess I'll go now*. ~*n.* 4. an estimate or conclusion arrived at by guessing: *a bad guess*. 5. the act of guessing. —'guesser *n.*

guesswork (ˈɡesˌwɜːk) *n.* 1. a set of conclusions, estimates, etc., arrived at by guessing. 2. the process of making guesses.

guest (ɡest) *n.* 1. a person who is entertained, taken out to eat, etc., and paid for by another. 2. *a.* a person who receives hospitality at the home of another. *b.* (*as modifier*): *the guest room*. 3. *a.* a person who receives the hospitality of a government, establishment, or organization. *b.* (*as modifier*): *a guest speaker*. 4. *a.* an actor, contestant, entertainer, etc., taking part as a visitor in a programme in which there are also regular participants. *b.* (*as modifier*): *a guest appearance*. 5. a patron of a hotel, boarding house, restaurant, etc. ~*vb.* 6. (*intr.*) *Inf.* (in theatre and broadcasting) to be a guest: *to guest on a show*.

guesthouse (ˈɡestˌhaʊs) *n.* a private home or boarding house offering accommodation.

guff (ɡʌf) *n.* *Sl.* ridiculous or insolent talk.

guffaw (ɡʌˈfɔː) *n.* 1. a crude and boisterous laugh. ~*vb.* 2. to laugh or express (something) in this way.

guidance (ˈɡaɪdəns) *n.* 1. leadership, instruction, or direction. 2. *a.* counselling or advice on educational, vocational, or psychological matters. *b.* (*as modifier*): *the marriage-guidance counsellor*. 3. something that guides. 4. any process by which the flight path of a missile is controlled in flight.

guide (ɡaɪd) *vb.* 1. to lead the way for (a person). 2. to control the movement or course of (an animal, vehicle, etc.) by physical action; steer. 3. to supervise or instruct (a person). 4. (*tr.*) to direct the affairs of (a person, company, nation, etc.). 5. (*tr.*) to advise or influence (a person) in his standards or opinions: *let truth guide you*. ~*n.* 6. *a.* a person, animal, or thing that guides. *b.* (*as modifier*): *a guide dog*. 7. a person, usually paid, who conducts tour expeditions, etc. 8. a model or criterion, as in moral standards or accuracy. 9. Also called: **guidebook**. a handbook with information for visitors to a place. 10. a book that instructs or explains the fundamentals of a subject or skill. 11. any device that directs the motion of a tool or machine part. 12. a mark, sign, etc., that points the way. 13. *a.* *Naval*. a ship in a formation used as a reference for manoeuvres. *b.* *Mil.* a soldier stationed to one side of a column or line to regulate alignment, show the way, etc. —'guidable *adj.* —'guide *n.*

Guide (ɡaɪd) *n.* (*sometimes not cap.*) a member of the organization for girls equivalent to the Scouts. U.S. equivalent: **Girl Scout**.

guided missile *n.* a missile, esp. one that is rocket-propelled, having a flight path controlled either by radio signals or by internal preset or self-actuating homing devices.

guideline (ˈɡaɪdˌlaɪn) *n.* a principle put forward to set standards or determine a course of action.

guidepost (ˈɡaɪdˌpəʊst) *n.* 1. a sign on a post by a road indicating directions. 2. a principle or guideline.

guidon (ˈɡaɪdɒn) *n.* 1. a small pennant, used as a marker or standard, esp. by cavalry regiments. 2. the man or vehicle that carries this.

guild or gild (ɡɪld) *n.* 1. an organization, club, or fellowship. 2. (*esp. in medieval Europe*) an association

of men sharing the same interests, such as merchants or artisans: formed for mutual aid and protection and to maintain craft standards. — **'guildsman**, **'gildsman** or **(fem.) 'gildswoman**, **'gildswoman** *n.*

guilder ('gildo) or **gulden** *n.*, *pl.* **-ders**, **-der** or **-dens**, **-den**. 1. Also: **gilder**, the standard monetary unit of the Netherlands, divided into 100 cents. 2. any of various former gold or silver coins of Germany, Austria, or the Netherlands.

guildhall ('gild,hɔ:l) *n.* *Brit.* a. the hall of a guild or corporation. b. a town hall.

guile (gail) *n.* clever or crafty character or behaviour. — **'guileful** *adj.* — **'guilefully** *adv.* — **'guilefulness** *n.* — **'guileless** *adj.* — **'guilelessly** *adv.* — **'guilelessness** *n.*

guillemot ('gɪl,mɒt) *n.* a northern oceanic diving bird having a black-and-white plumage and long narrow bill.

guillotine *n.* ('gɪlə,tɪn). 1. a. a device for beheading persons, consisting of a weighted blade set between two upright posts. b. the **guillotine**, execution by this instrument. 2. a device for cutting or trimming sheet material, such as paper or sheet metal, consisting of a long rigid blade that descends onto the sheet. 3. a surgical instrument for removing tonsils, growths in the throat, etc. 4. (in Parliament, etc.) a form of closure under which a bill is divided into compartments, groups of which must be completely dealt with each day. ~*vb.* ('gɪlə,tɪn). (tr.) 5. to behead (a person) by guillotine. 6. (in Parliament, etc.) to limit debate on (a bill, motion, etc.) by the guillotine. — **guillo'tiner** *n.*

guilt (gɪlt) *n.* 1. the fact or state of having done wrong or committed an offence. 2. responsibility for a criminal or moral offence deserving punishment or a penalty. 3. remorse or self-reproach caused by feeling that one is responsible for a wrong or offence. 4. *Arch.* sin or crime.

guiltless ('gɪlθs) *adj.* free of all responsibility for wrongdoing or crime; innocent. — **'guiltlessly** *adv.* — **'guiltlessness** *n.*

guilty ('gɪlti) *adj.* **guiltier**, **guiltiest**. 1. responsible for an offence or misdeed. 2. *Law.* having committed an offence or adjudged to have done so: *the accused was found guilty*. 3. of, showing, or characterized by guilt. — **'guiltily** *adv.* — **'guiltiness** *n.*

guinea ('gɪni) *n.* 1. a. a British gold coin taken out of circulation in 1813, worth 21 shillings. b. the sum of 21 shillings (£1.05), still used in quoting professional fees. 2. See **guinea fowl**.

guinea fowl or **guinea** *n.* a domestic fowl of Africa and SW Asia, having a dark plumage mottled with white, a naked head and neck, and a heavy rounded body.

guinea pig *n.* 1. a domesticated cavy, commonly kept as a pet and used in scientific experiments. 2. *Inf.* a person or thing used for experimentation.

guipure (gɪ'pjʊə) *n.* 1. Also called: **guipure lace**. any of many types of heavy lace that have their pattern connected by threads, rather than supported on a net mesh. 2. a heavy corded trimming; gimp.

guise (gaɪz) *n.* 1. semblance or pretence: *under the guise of friendship*. 2. external appearance in general. 3. *Arch.* manner or style of dress.

guitar (gɪ'taɪ) *n.* a plucked stringed instrument originating in Spain, usually having six strings, a flat sounding board with a circular sound hole in the centre, a flat back, and a fretted fingerboard. — **'guitarist** *n.*

Gulag ('gu:læg) *n.* the central administrative department of the Soviet security service, responsible for maintaining prisons and labour camps.

gulch (gʌltʃ) *n.* *U.S.* a narrow ravine cut by a fast stream.

gulf (gʌlf) *n.* 1. a large deep bay. 2. a deep chasm. 3. something that divides or separates, such as a lack of understanding. 4. something that engulfs, such as a whirlpool. ~*vb.* 5. (tr.) to swallow up; engulf.

Gulf Stream *n.* a relatively warm ocean current flowing northeastwards from the Gulf of Mexico towards NW Europe. Also called: **North Atlantic Drift**.

gulweed ('gʌlf,wɪd) *n.* a brown seaweed having air bladders and forming dense floating masses in tropical Atlantic waters, esp. the Gulf Stream. Also called: **sargasso**, **sargasso weed**.

gull ('gʌl) *n.* an aquatic bird such as the common gull or mew having long pointed wings, short legs, and a mostly white plumage.

gull ('gʌl) *Arch.* ~*n.* 1. a person who is easily fooled or cheated. ~*vb.* 2. (tr.) to fool, cheat, or hoax.

gullet ('gʌlɪt) *n.* 1. a less formal name for the **oesophagus**. 2. the throat or pharynx.

gullible ('gʌlbəl) *adj.* easily taken in or tricked. — **'gullibility** *n.* — **'gullibly** *adv.*

gully ('gʌli) *n.*, *pl.* **-lies**. 1. a channel or small valley, esp. one cut by heavy rainwater. 2. *N.Z.* a bush-clad small valley. 3. *Cricket.* a. a fielding position between the slips and point. b. a fielder in this position. ~*vb.* **-lying**, **-lied**. 4. (tr.) to make (channels) in (the ground, sand, etc.).

gulp (gʌlp) *vb.* 1. (tr.; often foll. by *down*) to swallow rapidly, esp. in large mouthfuls. 2. (tr.; often foll. by *back*) to stifle or choke: *to gulp back sobs*. 3. (intr.) to swallow air convulsively because of nervousness, surprise, etc. 4. (intr.) to make a noise, as when swallowing too quickly. ~*n.* 5. the act of gulping. 6. the quantity taken in a gulp. — **'gulper** *n.* — **'gulpingly** *adv.* — **'gulpy** *adj.*

gum¹ ('gʌm) *n.* 1. any of various sticky substances that exude from certain plants, hardening on exposure to air and dissolving or forming viscous masses in water. 2. any of various products, such as adhesives, that are made from such substances. 3. any sticky substance used as an adhesive; mucilage; glue. 4. See **chewing gum**, **bubble gum**, and **gumtree**. 5. Chiefly *Brit.* a gumdrop. ~*vb.* **gumming**, **gummed**. 6. to cover or become covered, clogged, or stiffened as with gum. 7. (tr.) to stick together or in place with gum. 8. (intr.) to emit or form gum. ~See also **gum up**.

gum² ('gʌm) *n.* the fleshy tissue that covers the jaw bones around the bases of the teeth.

gum arabic *n.* a gum exuded by certain acacia trees, used in the manufacture of ink, food thickeners, pills, emulsifiers, etc.

gumboil ('gʌm,bɔɪl) *n.* an abscess on the gums.

gumboots ('gʌm,bu:ts) *pl.* *n.* knee-length or calf-length rubber boots, worn esp. in wet conditions. Also called (esp. *Brit.*): **Wellington boots**.

gummy¹ ('gʌmi) *adj.* **-mier**, **-miest**. 1. sticky or tacky. 2. consisting of, coated with, or clogged by gum or a similar substance. 3. producing gum. — **'gumminess** *n.*

gummy² ('gʌmi) *adj.* **-mier**, **-miest**. 1. toothless. ~*n.*, *pl.* **-mies**. 2. *Austral.* Also called: **gummy shark**, a small crustacean-eating shark with flat crushing teeth.

gumption ('gʌmpjən) *n.* *Inf.* 1. *Brit.* common sense or resourcefulness. 2. initiative or courage.

gum resin *n.* a mixture of resin and gum obtained from various plants and trees.

gumtree ('gʌm,tri:) *n.* 1. any of various trees that yield gum, such as the eucalyptus, sweet gum, and sour gum. Sometimes shortened to **gum**. 2. **up a gumtree**. *Sl.* in a very awkward position; in difficulties.

gum up *vb.* (tr., *adv.*) 1. to cover, dab, or stiffen with gum. 2. *Inf.* to make a mess of; bungle (often in **gum up the works**).

gun (gʌn) *n.* 1. a. a weapon with a metallic tube or barrel from which a missile is discharged, usually by force of an explosion. It may be portable or mounted. b. (as modifier): *a gun barrel*. 2. the firing of a gun as a salute or signal, as in military ceremonial. 3. a member of or a place in a shooting party or syndicate. 4. any device used to project something under pressure: *a spray gun*. 5. *U.S. sl.* an armed criminal; gunman. 6. *Austral. sl.* a. an expert. b. (as modifier): *a gun shearer*. 7. **give it the gun**. *Sl.* to increase speed, effort, etc., to a considerable or maximum degree. 8. **go great guns**. *Sl.* to act or function with great speed, intensity, etc. 9. **jump or beat the gun**. a. (of a runner, etc.) to set off before the starting signal is given. b. *Inf.* to act prematurely. 10. **stick to one's guns**. *Inf.* to maintain one's opinions or intentions in spite of opposition. ~*vb.* **gunning**, **gunned**. 11. (when tr., often foll. by *down*) to shoot (someone) with a gun. 12. (tr.) to press hard on the accelerator of (an engine): *to gun the engine of a car*. 13. (intr.) to hunt with a gun. ~See also **gun for**.

gunboat ('gʌn,bəʊt) *n.* a small shallow-draft vessel carrying mounted guns and used by coastal patrols, etc.

gunboat diplomacy *n.* diplomacy conducted by threats of military intervention.

gun cotton ('gʌn,kɒt'n) *n.* cellulose nitrate containing a relatively large amount of nitrogen: used as an explosive.

gun dog *n.* 1. a dog trained to work with a hunter or gamekeeper, esp. in retrieving, pointing at, or flushing game. 2. a dog belonging to any breed adapted to these activities.

gunfire ('gʌn,fʌɪə) *n.* 1. the firing of one or more guns, esp. when done repeatedly. 2. the use of firearms, as contrasted with other military tactics.

gun for *vb.* (intr., prep.) 1. to search for in order to reprimand, punish, or kill. 2. to try earnestly for: *he was gunning for promotion.*

gunge (gʌndʒ) *Inf.* ~*n.* 1. sticky, rubbery, or congealed matter. ~*vb.* 2. (tr.; usually passive; foll. by up) to block or encrust with gunge; clog. — **gungey** *adj.*

gunk (gʌŋk) *n.* *Inf.* slimy, oily, or filthy matter.

gunman ('gʌnmən) *n., pl. -men.* 1. a man who is armed with a gun, esp. unlawfully. 2. a man who is skilled with a gun.

gunmetal ('gʌn,mɛtʃl) *n.* 1. a type of bronze containing copper, tin, and zinc. 2. a dark grey colour.

gunnel ('gʌnʃl) *n.* any eel-like fish occurring in coastal regions of northern seas.

gunnel ('gʌnʃl) *n.* a variant spelling of **gunwale**.

gunner ('gʌnə) *n.* 1. a serviceman who works with, uses, or specializes in guns. 2. *Naval.* (formerly) a warrant officer responsible for the training of gun crews, their performance in action, and accounting for ammunition. 3. (in the British Army) an artilleryman, esp. a private. 4. a person who hunts with a rifle or shotgun.

gunnery ('gʌnəri) *n.* 1. the art and science of the efficient design and use of ordnance, esp. artillery. 2. guns collectively. 3. the use and firing of guns.

gunny ('gʌni) *n., pl. -nies.* Chiefly U.S. 1. a coarse hard-wearing fabric usually made from jute and used for sacks, etc. 2. Also called: **gunny sack**. a sack made from this fabric.

gunpoint ('gʌn,pɔɪnt) *n.* 1. the muzzle of a gun. 2. at gunpoint, being under or using the threat of being shot.

gunpowder ('gʌn,pəʊdə) *n.* an explosive mixture of potassium nitrate, charcoal, and sulphur: used in time fuses and in fireworks.

gunrunning ('gʌn,rʌnɪŋ) *n.* the smuggling of guns and ammunition or other weapons of war into a country. — **gunrunner** *n.*

gunshot ('gʌn,ʃɒt) *n.* 1. a shot fired from a gun. b. (as modifier): *gunshot wounds.* 2. the range of a gun. 3. the shooting of a gun.

gunslinger ('gʌn,slɪŋə) *n.* U.S. *sl.* a gunfighter or gunman, esp. in the Old West.

gunstock ('gʌn,stɒk) *n.* the wooden handle or support to which is attached the barrel of a rifle.

gunwale or **gunnel** ('gʌnʃl) *n.* *Naut.* the top of the side of a boat or ship.

guppy ('gʌpi) *n., pl. -pies.* a small brightly coloured freshwater fish of N South America and the West Indies: a popular aquarium fish.

gurgle ('gɜːɡl) *vb.* 1. (intr.) (of liquids, esp. of streams, etc.) to make low bubbling noises when flowing. 2. to utter low throaty bubbling noises, esp. as a sign of contentment: *the baby gurgled with delight.* ~*n.* 3. the act or sound of gurgling.

gurnard ('gɜːnəd) or **gurnet** ('gɜːnɪt) *n., pl. -nards, -nards or -nets.* a European marine fish having a heavily armoured head and finger-like pectoral fins.

guru ('ɡʊːrʊ, 'ɡʊːrʊː) *n.* 1. a Hindu or Sikh religious teacher or leader, giving personal spiritual guidance to his disciples. 2. *Often derog.* a leader or chief theoretician of a movement, esp. a spiritual or religious cult.

gush (ɡʌʃ) *vb.* 1. to pour out or cause to pour out suddenly and profusely, usually with a rushing sound. 2. to act or utter in an overeffusive, affected, or sentimental manner. ~*n.* 3. a sudden copious flow or emission, esp. of liquid. 4. something that flows out or is emitted. 5. an extravagant and insincere expression of admiration, sentiment, etc. — **'gushingly** *adv.*

gusher ('ɡʌʃə) *n.* 1. a person who gushes, as in being effusive or sentimental. 2. something, such as a spurting oil well, that gushes.

gusset ('ɡʌsɪt) *n.* 1. an inset piece of material used esp. to strengthen or enlarge a garment. 2. a triangular metal plate for strengthening a corner joist. ~*vb.* 3. (tr.) to put a gusset in (a garment).

gust (ɡʌst) *n.* 1. a sudden blast of wind. 2. a sudden rush of smoke, sound, etc. 3. an outburst of emotion. ~*vb.* 4. (intr.) to blow in gusts. — **'gusty** *adj.*

gusto ('ɡʌstʊ) *n.* vigorous enjoyment, zest, or relish: *the aria was sung with great gusto.*

gut (ɡʌt) *n.* 1. a. the lower part of the alimentary canal; intestine. b. the entire alimentary canal. Related *adj.*: **visceral**. 2. (often *pl.*) the bowels or entrails, esp. of an animal. 3. See **catgut**. 4. a silky fibrous substance extracted from silkworms, used in the manufacture of fishing tackle. 5. a narrow channel or passage. 6. (*pl.*) *Inf.* courage, willpower, or daring; forcefulness. 7. (*pl.*) *Inf.* the essential part: *the guts of a problem.* ~*vb.*

gutting, gutted. (tr.) 8. to remove the entrails from (fish, etc.). 9. (esp. of fire) to destroy the inside of (a building). 10. to take out the central points (of an article, etc.), esp. in summary form. ~*adj.* 11. *Inf.* arising from or characterized by what is basic, essential, or natural: *a gut problem; a gut reaction.*

gutless ('ɡʌtlɪs) *adj.* *Inf.* lacking courage or determination.

gutsy ('ɡʌtsɪ) *adj.* **gutsier, gutsiest.** *Sl.* 1. gluttonous; greedy. 2. full of courage or boldness. 3. passionate; lusty.

gutta-percha ('ɡʌtə'pɜːtʃə) *n.* 1. any of several tropical trees with leathery leaves. 2. a whitish rubber substance derived from the coagulated milky latex of any of these trees: used in electrical insulation, waterproofing and dentistry.

gutter ('ɡʌtə) *n.* 1. a channel along the eaves or on the roof of a building, used to collect and carry away rainwater. 2. a channel running along the kerb or the centre of a road to collect and carry away rainwater. 3. either of the two channels running parallel to a tenpin bowling lane. 4. *Printing.* the white space between the facing pages of an open book. 5. *Surfing.* a dangerous deep channel formed by currents and waves. 6. **the gutter.** *Inf.* a poverty-stricken, degraded, or criminal environment. ~*vb.* 7. (tr.) to make gutters in. 8. (intr.) to flow in a stream or rivulet. — **'guttering** *n.*

gutter press *n.* the section of the popular press that seeks sensationalism in its coverage.

guttersnipe ('ɡʌtə,snaɪp) *n.* a child who spends most of his time in the streets, esp. in a slum area.

guttural ('ɡʌtərl) *adj.* 1. *Anat.* of or relating to the throat. 2. *Phonetics.* pronounced in the throat or the back of the mouth. 3. raucous. ~*n.* 4. *Phonetics.* a guttural consonant. — **'gutturally** *adv.*

guy ('ɡaɪ) *n.* 1. *Inf.* a man or youth. 2. *Brit.* a crude effigy of Guy Fawkes, usually made of old clothes stuffed with straw or rags, that is burnt on top of a bonfire on Guy Fawkes Day (November 5). 3. *Brit.* a person in shabby or ludicrously odd clothes. ~*vb.* 4. (tr.) to make fun of; ridicule.

guy ('ɡaɪ) *n.* 1. a rope, chain, wire, etc., for anchoring an object in position or for steadying or guiding it. ~*vb.* 2. (tr.) to anchor, steady, or guide with a guy or guys.

guzzle ('ɡʌzl) *vb.* to consume (food or drink) excessively or greedily. — **'guzzler** *n.*

gybe or jibe (dʒaɪb) *Naut.* ~*vb.* 1. (intr.) (of a fore-and-aft sail) to shift suddenly from one side of the vessel to the other when running before the wind. 2. to cause (a sailing vessel) to gybe or (of a sailing vessel) to undergo gybing. ~*n.* 3. an instance of gybing.

gym (dʒɪm) *n.* short for **gymnasium, gymnastics.**

gymkhana (dʒɪm'kʌnə) *n.* Chiefly *Brit.* 1. an event in which horses and riders display skill and aptitude in various races and contests. 2. the place where this event is held.

gymnasium (dʒɪm'neɪzɪəm) *n., pl. -siums or -sia* (-zɪə). 1. a large room or hall equipped with bars, weights, ropes, etc., for physical training. 2. (in various European countries) a secondary school that prepares pupils for university.

gymnast ('dʒɪmnæst) *n.* a person who is skilled or trained in gymnastics. — **'gym'nastic** *adj.*

gymnastics (dʒɪm'næstɪks) *n.* 1. (functioning as *sing.*) practice or training in exercises that develop physical strength and agility or mental capacity. 2. (functioning as *pl.*) gymnastic exercises.

gymnosperm ('dʒɪmnɒs,pɜːm, 'ɡɪm-) *n.* any seed-bearing plant in which the ovules are borne naked on open scales, which are often arranged in cones; any conifer or related plant. Cf. **angiosperm**. — **'gymno-'spermous** *adj.*

gym shoe *n.* another name for **plimsoll**.

gymslip ('dʒɪm,sɪp) *n.* a tunic or pinafore dress worn by schoolgirls, often part of a school uniform.

gyn- combining form. variant of **gyno-** before a vowel.

gynaeco- or **U.S. gyneco-** combining form. relating to women; female: **gynaecology**.

gynaecology or **U.S. gynecology** (ˌɡaɪni'kɒlədʒɪ) *n.* the branch of medicine concerned with diseases in women. — **'gynaecological** (ˌɡaɪni'kɒlədʒɪkəl), **'gynaeco-'logic** or **U.S. 'gyneco-'logical**, **'gyneco-'logic** *adj.* — **'gynaecologist** or **U.S. 'gynecologist** *n.*

gyno- or before a vowel **gyn-** combining form. 1. relating to women; female: **gynophore**. 2. denoting a female reproductive organ: **gynopharynx**.

gyp ('dʒɪp) *Sl.* ~*vb.* **gypping, gypped.** 1. (tr.) to swin-

dle, cheat, or defraud. ~*n.* **2.** an act of cheating. **3.** a person who gyps.

gyp¹ (dʒɪp) *n.* Brit. & N.Z. *sl.* severe pain; torture: *his arthritis gave him gyp.*

gypsum ('dʒɪpsəm) *n.* a mineral consisting of hydrated calcium sulphate that occurs in sedimentary rocks and clay and is used principally in making plasters and cements, esp. plaster of Paris. Formula: CaSO₄·2H₂O. —**gypseous** ('dʒɪpsɪəs) *adj.*

Gypsy or **Gipsy** ('dʒɪpsɪ) *n., pl. -sies.* (*sometimes not cap.*) **1. a.** a member of a people scattered throughout Europe and North America, who maintain a nomadic way of life in industrialized societies. They migrated from NW India about the 9th century onwards. **b. (as modifier):** a *Gypsy fortune-teller*. **2.** the language of the Gypsies; Romany. **3.** a person who looks or behaves like a Gypsy. —**'Gypsyish** or **'Gipsyish** *adj.*

gyrate *vb.* (dʒaɪ'reɪt). **1. (intr.)** to rotate or spiral, esp. about a fixed point or axis. ~*adj.* ('dʒaɪrɪt) **2. Biol.** curved or coiled into a circle. —**'gy'ration** *n.* —**gy'ra-tor** *n.* —**gyratory** ('dʒaɪrətəri) *adj.*

gyrfalcon or **gerfalcon** ('dʒɜːfɔːlkən, -fɔːkən) *n.* a very large rare falcon of northern and arctic regions.

gyro ('dʒaɪrəʊ) *n., pl. -ros.* **1.** See **gyrocompass**. **2.** See **gyroscope**.

gyro- or **before a vowel gyr-** *combining form.* **1.** indicating rotating or gyrating motion: *gyroscope*. **2.** indicating a gyroscope: *gyrocompass*.

gyrocompass ('dʒaɪrəʊ,kæmpəs) *n.* a nonmagnetic compass that uses a motor-driven gyroscope to indicate true north.

gyroscope ('dʒaɪrəʊ,skəʊp) *n.* a device containing a disc rotating on an axis that can turn freely in any direction so that the disc maintains the same orientation irrespective of the movement of the surrounding structure. —**gyroscopic** ('dʒaɪrə'skɒpɪk) *adj.* —**gyro'scopically** *adv.*

gyrostabilizer or **-liser** ('dʒaɪrəʊ'steɪbɪ,ləɪzə) *n.* a gyroscopic device used to stabilize the rolling motion of a ship.

gyve (dʒaɪv) *Arch.* ~*vb.* **1. (tr.)** to shackle or fetter. ~*n.* **2. (usually pl.)** fetters.

H

h or **H** (etf) *n.*, *pl.* **h's**, **H's**, or **Hs**. 1. the eighth letter of the English alphabet. 2. a speech sound represented by this letter. 3. **a.** something shaped like an H. **b.** (in combination) an H-beam.

h symbol for: 1. *Physics*. Planck constant. 2. hecto- 3. hour.

H symbol for: 1. *Chem.* hydrogen. 2. *Physics*. magnetic field strength. 3. *Electronics*. henry. 4. (on Brit. pencils, signifying degree of hardness of lead) hard.

h. or **H.** abbrev. for: 1. harbour. 2. height. 3. high. 4. hour. 5. hundred. 6. husband.

ha or **hah** (hɑː) *interj.* 1. an exclamation expressing derision, triumph, surprise, etc. 2. (reiterated) a representation of the sound of laughter.

ha abbrev. for hectare.

habeas corpus ('heɪbiəs 'kɔːpəs) *n.* *Law*. a writ ordering a person to be brought before a court or judge, esp. so that the court may ascertain whether his detention is lawful.

haberdasher ('hæbə,dæʃə) *n.* 1. *Brit.* a dealer in small articles for sewing, such as buttons, zips, and ribbons. 2. *U.S.* a men's outfitter.

habilitment (hə'bilmənt) *n.* (often *pl.*) dress or attire.

habit ('hæbit) *n.* 1. a tendency or disposition to act in a particular way. 2. established custom, usual practice, etc. 3. *Psychol.* a learned behavioural response to a particular situation. 4. mental disposition or attitude: a good working habit of mind. 5. **a.** a practice or substance to which a person is addicted: *drink has become a habit with him.* **b.** the state of being dependent on something, esp. a drug. 6. *Bot., zool.* method of growth, type of existence, or general appearance: a burrowing habit. 7. the customary apparel of a particular occupation, rank, etc., now esp. the costume of a nun or monk. 8. Also called: **riding habit**. a woman's riding dress. ~*vb.* (tr.) 9. to clothe. 10. an archaic word for **inhabit**.

habitable ('hæbitəbəl) *adj.* able to be lived in. —**habitability** or **habitableness** *n.* —**habitably** *adv.*

habitant ('hæbitənt) *n.* 1. a less common word for **inhabitant**. 2. **a.** one of the original French settlers in Canada or Louisiana. **b.** a descendant of these settlers, esp. a farmer.

habitat ('hæbɪ,tæt) *n.* 1. the natural home of an animal or plant. 2. the place in which a person, group, class, etc., is normally found.

habitation ('hæbɪ'teɪʃən) *n.* 1. a dwelling place. 2. occupation of a dwelling place.

habit-forming *adj.* tending to become a habit or addiction.

habitual (hə'bitʃuəl) *adj.* 1. (usually *prenominal*) done or experienced regularly and repeatedly: the habitual Sunday walk. 2. (usually *prenominal*) by habit: a habitual drinker. 3. customary; usual. —**habitually** *adv.* —**habituality** *n.*

habituate (hə'bitʃu,ert) *vb.* 1. to accustom; make used to. 2. *U.S. inf.* to frequent. —**habituation** *n.*

habitué (hə'bitʃu,er) *n.* a frequent visitor to a place.

hachure (hæ'ʃʃʊə) *n.* shading of short lines drawn on a relief map to indicate gradients.

hacienda ('hæsi'enda) *n.* 1. (in Spain or Spanish-speaking countries) **a.** a ranch or large estate. **b.** any substantial manufacturing establishment in the country. 2. the main house on such a ranch or establishment.

hack¹ ('hæk) *vb.* 1. (when *intr.*, usually *fol.* by *at* or *away*) to chop (at) roughly or violently. 2. to cut and clear (a way), as through undergrowth. 3. (in sport, esp. rugby) to foul (an opposing player) by kicking his shins. 4. *Basketball*. to commit the foul of striking (an opposing player) on the arm. 5. (*intr.*) *inf.* to cough in short dry bursts. 6. (tr.) to cut (a story, article, etc.) in a damaging way. ~*n.* 7. a cut or gash. 8. any tool used for shallow digging, such as a mattock or pick. 9. a chopping blow. 10. *inf.* a dry spasmodic cough. 11. a kick on the shins, as in rugby.

hack² ('hæk) *n.* 1. a horse kept for riding. 2. an old or overworked horse. 3. a horse kept for hire. 4. *Brit.* a country ride on horseback. 5. a drudge. 6. a person who produces mediocre literary work. 7. *U.S. inf.* **a.** a cabdriver. **b.** a taxi. ~*vb.* 8. *Brit.* to ride (a horse)

cross-country for pleasure. 9. (tr.) *inf.* to write (an article, etc.) in the manner of a hack. ~*adj.* (*prenominal*) 10. banal, mediocre, or unoriginal: *hack writing*.

hackle ('hækəl) *n.* 1. any of the long slender feathers on the neck of the turkey, pheasant, etc. 2. *Angling*. parts of an artificial fly made from hackle feathers, representing the legs of a real fly. 3. a steel flax comb. ~*vb.* (tr.) 4. to comb (flax) using a hackle.

hackles ('hæk'lz) *pl. n.* 1. the hairs on the back of the neck and the back of a dog, cat, etc., which rise when the animal is angry or afraid. 2. anger or resentment: to make one's hackles rise.

hackney ('hæknɪ) *n.* 1. a compact breed of harness horse with a high-stepping trot. 2. a coach or carriage that is for hire. 3. a popular term for **hack**¹ (sense 1). ~*vb.* 4. (tr.; usually *passive*) to make commonplace and banal by too frequent use.

hackneyed ('hæknɪd) *adj.* used so often as to be trite, dull, and stereotyped.

hack saw ('hæk,sɔː) *n.* a handsaw for cutting metal, with a blade in a frame under tension.

had (hæd) *vb.* the past tense or past participle of **have**.

haddock ('hædɒk) *n.*, *pl.* **-docks** or **-dock**. a North Atlantic gadoid food fish similar to but smaller than the cod.

hadedah ('hædɪ,dɑː) *n.* a large grey-green S. African ibis.

Hades ('heidɪz) *n.* 1. *Greek myth.* **a.** the underworld abode of the souls of the dead. **b.** Pluto, the god of the underworld, brother of Zeus and husband of Persephone. 2. (often *not cap.*) hell.

hadj (hædʒ) *n.*, *pl.* **hadjes**. a variant spelling of **hajj**.

hadj¹ ('hædʒ) *n.*, *pl.* **hadjis**. a variant spelling of **hajj**.

haem- combining form. a variant of **haemo-** before a vowel. Also (esp. *U.S.*): **hem-**

haemal or *U.S.* **hemal** ('hi:məl) *adj.* 1. of the blood. 2. denoting or relating to the region of the body containing the heart.

haematic or *U.S.* **hematic** (hi'mætɪk) *adj.* Also: **haemic**. relating to, acting on, having the colour of, or containing blood.

haematite or *U.S.* **hematite** ('hi:mə'taɪt, 'hem-) *n.* a red or reddish-black mineral consisting of ferric oxide in hexagonal crystalline form: the principal ore of iron.

haemato- or before a vowel **haemat-** combining form. indicating blood: *haematology*. Also: **haemo-** or (*U.S.*): **hemato-**, **hemat-**.

haematology or *U.S.* **hematology** (hi'mə'tɒlədʒɪ) *n.* the branch of medical science concerned with diseases of the blood. —**haematologic** ('hi:mə'tɒlədʒɪk), **haemato**¹ *logical* or *U.S.* **hemato**¹ *logic*, **hemato**¹ *logical* *adj.*

haemo-, **haema-**, or before a vowel **haem-** combining form. denoting blood. Also: (*U.S.*) **hemo-**, **hema-** or **hem-**.

haemoglobin or *U.S.* **hemoglobin** (hi'məu'gləʊbɪn) *n.* a protein that gives red blood cells their characteristic colour. It combines reversibly with oxygen and is thus very important in the transportation of oxygen to tissues.

haemophilia or *U.S.* **hemophilia** (hi'məu'fɪliə) *n.* an inheritable disease, usually affecting only males, characterized by loss or impairment of the normal clotting ability of blood. —**haemo**¹ *philic* or *U.S.* **hemo**¹ *philic* *adj.* —**haemo**¹ *philic* or *U.S.* **hemo**¹ *philic* *adj.*

haemoptysis or *U.S.* **hemoptysis** (hi'məu'tɪsɪs) *n.*, *pl.* **-ses** (-sɪz). spitting or coughing up of blood, as in tuberculosis.

haemorrhage or *U.S.* **hemorrhage** ('hemərɪdʒ) *n.* 1. profuse bleeding from ruptured blood vessels. ~*vb.* 2. (*intr.*) to bleed profusely.

haemorrhoids or *U.S.* **hemorrhoids** ('hemə'rɔɪdʒ) *pl. n.* *Pathol.* swollen and twisted veins in the region of the anus. Nontechnical name: **piles**. —**haemor**¹ *rhoidal* or *U.S.* **hemor**¹ *rhoidal* *adj.*

hafnium ('hæfnɪəm) *n.* a bright metallic element found in zirconium ores. Symbol: **Hf**; atomic no.: 72; atomic wt.: 178.49.

haft (hɑːft) *n.* 1. the handle of an axe, knife, etc. ~*vb.* 2. (tr.) to provide with a haft.

hag (hæg) *n.* 1. an unpleasant or ugly old woman. 2. a witch. — **'haggish** *adj.*

Hag. *Bible.* abbrev. for Haggai.

haggard ('hæɡəd) *adj.* 1. careworn or gaunt, as from anxiety or starvation. 2. wild or unruly. 3. (of a hawk) having reached maturity in the wild before being caught. ~*n.* 4. *Falconry.* a haggard hawk. — **'haggardly** *adv.* — **'haggardness** *n.*

haggis ('hæɡɪs) *n.* a Scottish dish made from sheep's or calf's offal, oatmeal, suet, and seasonings boiled in a skin made from the animal's stomach.

haggle ('hæɡl) *vb.* (*intr.*, often foll. by *over*) to bargain or wrangle (over a price, terms of an agreement, etc.); barter. — **'haggler** *n.*

hagio- or before a vowel **hagi-** combining form indicating a saint, saints, or holiness: *hagiography*.

hagiography ('hæɡi'ɒɡrəfi) *n.*, *pl.* **-phies**, the writing of the lives of the saints. — **'hagi'ographer** *n.* — **'hagiographic** ('hæɡi'ɒɡrəfik) or **'hagio'graphical** *adj.*

hagiology ('hæɡi'blɒdʒi) *n.*, *pl.* **-gies**, literature concerned with the lives and legends of saints. — **'hagiological** ('hæɡi'ɒlədʒɪkəl) *adj.* — **'hagi'ologist** *n.*

hag-ridden *adj.* tormented or worried, as if by a witch.

hah (hɑː) *interj.* a variant spelling of **ha**.

ha-ha! ('hɑː 'hɑː) or **haw-haw** *interj.* 1. a representation of the sound of laughter. 2. an exclamation expressing derision, mockery, etc.

ha-ha! ('hɑːhɑː) or **haw-haw** *n.* a sunken fence bordering a garden or park, that allows uninterrupted views from within.

haiku ('haikuː) or **hokku** *n.*, *pl.* **-ku**, an epigrammatic Japanese verse form in 17 syllables.

hail! ('heil) *n.* 1. small pellets of ice falling from cumulonimbus clouds when there are strong rising air currents. 2. a storm of such pellets. 3. words, ideas, missiles, etc., directed with force and in great quantity: *a hail of abuse*. ~*vb.* 4. (*intr.*; with *it* as subject) to be the case that hail is falling. 5. (often with *it* as subject) to fall or cause to fall as or like hail.

hail! ('heil) *vb.* (*mainly tr.*) 1. to greet, esp. enthusiastically: *the crowd hailed the actress with joy*. 2. to acclaim or acknowledge: *they hailed him as their hero*. 3. to attract the attention of by shouting or gesturing: *to hail a taxi*. 4. (*intr.*; foll. by *from*) to be a native of: *she hails from India*. ~*n.* 5. the act or an instance of hailing. 6. a distance across which one can attract attention (esp. in **within hail**). ~*interj.* 7. Poetic. an exclamation of greeting. — **'halier** *n.*

Hail Mary *n.* another term for the **Ave Maria**.

hailstone ('heil,stəʊn) *n.* a pellet of hail.

hailstorm ('heil,stɔːm) *n.* a storm during which hail falls.

hair ('heə) *n.* 1. any of the threadlike structures that grow from follicles beneath the skin of mammals. 2. a growth of such structures, as on an animal's body, which helps prevent heat loss. 3. *Bot.* any threadlike outgrowth, such as a root hair. 4. *a.* a fabric made from the hair of some animals. *b.* (as modifier): *a hair shirt*. 5. another word for **hair's-breadth**: *to lose by a hair*. 6. *get in someone's hair.* *Inf.* to annoy someone persistently. 7. *hair of the dog* (that bit one), an alcoholic drink taken as an antidote to a hangover. 8. *keep your hair on!* *Brit. inf.* keep calm. 9. *let one's hair down.* to behave without reserve. 10. *not turn a hair.* to show no surprise, anger, fear, etc. 11. *split hairs.* to make petty and unnecessary distinctions. — **'hairless** *adj.* — **'hair,like** *adj.*

haircloth ('heə,kloth) *n.* a cloth woven from horsehair, used (esp. formerly) in upholstery, etc.

hairdo ('heə,dʊː) *n.*, *pl.* **-dos**, the arrangement of a woman's hair, esp. after styling and setting.

hairdresser ('heə,dresə) *n.* 1. a person whose business is cutting, colouring and arranging hair. 2. a hairdresser's establishment. ~*Related adj.*: **tonsorial**. — **'hair,dressing** *n.*

-haired *adj.* having hair as specified: *long-haired*.

hairgrip ('heə,grip) *n.* Chiefly *Brit.* a small tightly bent metal hair clip. Also called (esp. U.S.): **bobby pin**.

hairline ('heə,lain) *n.* 1. the natural margin formed by hair on the head. 2. *a.* a very narrow line. *b.* (as modifier): *a hairline crack*.

hairpiece ('heə,pis) *n.* 1. a wig or toupee. 2. a section of extra hair attached to a woman's real hair to give it greater bulk or length.

hairpin ('heə,pin) *n.* 1. a thin double-pronged pin used to fasten the hair. 2. (modifier) (esp. of a bend in a road) curving very sharply.

hair-raising *adj.* inspiring horror; terrifying: *a hair-raising drop of 600 feet*.

hair's-breadth *n.* *a.* a very short or imperceptible margin or distance. *b.* (as modifier): *a hair's-breadth escape*.

hair slide *n.* a hinged clip with a tortoiseshell, bone, or similar back, used to fasten a girl's hair.

hairsplitting ('heə,splɪtɪŋ) *n.* 1. the making of petty distinctions. ~*adj.* 2. occupied with or based on petty distinctions. — **'hair,splitter** *n.*

hairspring ('heə,sprɪŋ) *n.* a fine spiral spring in a timepiece, used to regulate the balance wheel.

hair trigger *n.* 1. a trigger of a firearm that responds to very slight pressure. 2. *Inf.* any mechanism, reaction, etc., set in operation by slight provocation.

hairly ('heəri) *adj.* **hairier**, **hairiest**. 1. covered with hair. 2. *Sl.* *a.* difficult or problematic. *b.* dangerous or exciting. — **'hairiness** *n.*

hajj or **hadj** ('hædʒ) *n.*, *pl.* **hajjes** or **hadjes**, the pilgrimage to Mecca that every Muslim is required to make at least once in his life.

hajji, **hadji**, or **haji** ('hædʒi) *n.*, *pl.* **hajjis**, **hadjis**, or **hajis**. 1. a Muslim who has made a pilgrimage to Mecca; also used as a title. 2. a Christian who has visited Jerusalem.

hake ('heɪk) *n.*, *pl.* **hake** or **hakes**. 1. a gadoid food fish of the N hemisphere, having an elongated body with a large head and two dorsal fins. 2. a similar North American fish.

halberd ('hælbəd) or **halbert** *n.* a spear fitted with an axe head, used in 15th- and 16th-century warfare. — **'halber'dier** *n.*

halcyon ('hælsjən) *adj.* 1. peaceful, gentle, and calm. ~*n.* 2. *Greek myth.* a fabulous bird associated with the winter solstice. 3. a poetic name for the **kingfisher**. 4. **halcyon days.** *a.* a fortnight of calm weather during the winter solstice. *b.* a period of peace and happiness.

hale! ('heil) *adj.* healthy and robust (esp. in **hale and hearty**). — **'haleness** *n.*

hale! ('heil) *vb.* (*tr.*) to pull or drag. — **'haler** *n.*

half ('ha:f) *n.*, *pl.* **halves** ('hɑ:vz). 1. *a.* either of two equal or corresponding parts that together comprise a whole. *b.* a quantity equaling such a part: *half a dozen*. 2. half a pint, esp. of beer. 3. *Scot.* a small drink of spirits, esp. whisky. 4. *Football, hockey, etc.* the half of the pitch regarded as belonging to one team. 5. *Golf.* an equal score with an opponent. 6. (in various games) either of two periods of play separated by an interval. 7. a half-price ticket on a bus, etc. 8. short for **half-hour**. 9. *Sport.* short for **halfback**. 10. *Obs.* a half-year period. 11. *by halves.* (used with a negative) without being thorough: *we don't do things by halves*. 12. *go halves.* (often foll. by *on, in, etc.*) *a.* to share expenses. *b.* to share the whole amount (of something): *to go halves on an orange*. ~*determiner*. 13. *a.* being a half or approximately a half: *half the kingdom*. *b.* (as pronoun; functioning as sing. or pl.): *half of them came*. ~*adj.* 14. not perfect or complete: *he only did a half job on it*. ~*adv.* 15. to the amount or extent of a half. 16. to a great amount or extent. 17. partially; to an extent. 18. *by half.* to an excessive degree: *he's too arrogant by half*. 19. *half two, etc.* *Inf.* 30 minutes after two o'clock, etc. 20. *have half a mind to.* to have a vague intention to. 21. *not half.* *Inf.* *a.* not in any way: *he's not half clever enough*. *b.* *Brit.* very; indeed: *he isn't half stupid*. *c.* *sentence substitute.* yes, indeed.

half-and-half *n.* 1. a mixture of half one thing and half another thing. 2. a drink consisting of equal parts of beer (or ale) and porter.

halfback ('ha:f,bæk) *n.* 1. *Soccer.* any of three players positioned behind the line of forwards and in front of the fullbacks. 2. *Rugby.* either the scrum half or the stand-off half. 3. any of certain similar players in other team sports.

half-baked *adj.* 1. insufficiently baked. 2. *Inf.* foolish; stupid. 3. *Inf.* poorly planned.

half-binding *n.* a type of bookbinding in which the backs are bound in one material and the sides in another.

half-blood *n.* 1. *a.* the relationship between individuals having only one parent in common. *b.* an individual

having such a relationship. **2.** a less common name for a **half-breed**. — **half-blooded** *adj.*

half board *n.* the daily provision by a hotel of bed, breakfast, and one main meal. Also called: **demi-pension**.

half-breed *n.* **1.** a person whose parents are of different races, esp. the offspring of a White person and an American Indian. ~*adj.* also **half-bred**. **2.** of, relating to, or designating offspring of people or animals of different races or breeds.

half-brother *n.* the son of either of one's parents by another partner.

half-caste *n.* **1.** a person having parents of different races, esp. the offspring of a European and an Indian. ~*adj.* **2.** of, relating to, or designating such a person.

half-cock *n.* **1.** the halfway position of a firearm's hammer when the trigger is cocked by the hammer and the hammer cannot reach the primer to fire the weapon. **2. go off at half-cock or half-cocked.** to fail as a result of inadequate preparation or premature starting.

half-crown *n.* a former British coin worth 12½ (new) pence. Also called: **half-a-crown**.

half-hearted *adj.* without enthusiasm or determination. — **half-heartedly** *adv.*

half-hitch *n.* a knot made by passing the end of a piece of rope around itself and through the loop thus made.

half-hour *n.* **1.** a period of 30 minutes. **2.** the point of time 30 minutes after the beginning of an hour. — **half-hourly** *adv.*

half-life *n.* the time taken for half of the atoms in a radioactive material to undergo decay.

half-mast *n.* the halfway position to which a flag is lowered on a mast to mourn the dead

half-moon *n.* **1.** the moon at first or last quarter when half its face is illuminated. **2.** the time at which a half-moon occurs. **3.** something shaped like a half-moon.

halfpenny ('heɪpni) *n.* **1.** (*pl.* -**pennies**.) a small British coin worth half a new penny. **2.** (*pl.* -**pennies**.) an old British coin worth half an old penny. **3.** (*pl.* -**pence**.) something of negligible value. — **halfpennyworth** or **ha'p'orth** ('heɪpəθ) *n.*

half-sister *n.* the daughter of either of one's parents by another partner.

half-size *n.* any size, esp. in clothing, that is halfway between two sizes.

half term *n.* *Brit. education.* a short holiday midway through an academic term.

half-timbered or half-timber *adj.* (of a building) having an exposed timber framework filled with brick, stone, or plastered laths, as in Tudor architecture. — **half-timbering** *n.*

halftime *n.* *Sport.* a. a rest period between the two halves of a game. b. (*as modifier*): the **half-time score**.

half-title *n.* **1.** the short title of a book as printed on the right-hand page preceding the title page. **2.** a title on a separate page preceding a section of a book.

halftone ('hæf,tʌn) *n.* **1.** a process used to reproduce an illustration by photographing it through a fine screen to break it up into dots. **2.** the print obtained.

half-track *n.* a vehicle with caterpillar tracks on the wheels that supply motive power only.

half-truth *n.* a partially true statement intended to mislead. — **half-true** *adj.*

halfway ('hæf'wei) *adv.*, *adj.* **1.** at or to half the distance. **2.** in or of an incomplete manner. **3. meet halfway.** to compromise with.

halfway house *n.* **1.** a place to rest midway on a journey. **2.** the halfway point in any progression. **3.** a centre or hostel designed to facilitate the readjustment to private life of released prisoners, mental patients, etc.

halfwit ('hæf,wɪt) *n.* **1.** a feeble-minded person. **2.** a foolish or insane person. — **half-witted** *adj.*

halibut ('hælbət) *n.*, *pl.* -**buts** or -**but**. **1.** the largest flatfish: a dark green North Atlantic species that is a

very important food fish. **2.** any of several similar and related flatfishes such as the **Greenland halibut**.

halitosis ('hæli'təʊsɪs) *n.* the state or condition of having bad breath.

hall (hɔ:l) *n.* **1.** a room serving as an entry area. **2.** (*sometimes cap.*) a building for public meetings. **3.** (*often cap.*) the great house of an estate; manor. **4.** a large building or room used for assemblies, dances, etc. **5.** a residential building in a university. **6.** a. a large room, esp. for dining, in a college or university. b. a meal eaten in this room. **7.** the large room of a house, castle, etc. **8.** *U.S.* a corridor into which rooms open. **9.** (*often pl.*) *Inf.* short for **music hall**.

hallelujah, halleluia ('hæli'lʊjə), or **alleluia** ('æli'lʊjə) *interj.* **1.** an exclamation of praise to God. ~*n.* **2.** an exclamation of "Hallelujah". **3.** a musical composition that uses the word **Hallelujah** as its text.

halliard ('hæljəd) *n.* a variant spelling of **halyard**.

hallmark ('hɔ:l,mɑ:k) *n.* **1.** *Brit.* an official series of marks stamped by the London Guild of Goldsmiths on gold, silver, or platinum articles to guarantee purity, date of manufacture, etc. **2.** a mark of authenticity or excellence. **3.** an outstanding feature. ~*vb.* **4.** (*tr.*) to stamp with or as if with a hallmark.

hallo ('hə'ləʊ) *interj.*, *n.* **1.** a variant spelling of **hello**. ~*interj.*, *n.*, *vb.* **2.** a variant spelling of **halloo**.

halloo ('hə'lʊ:,) **hallo, or halloo** ('hə'ləʊ) *sentence substitute.* **1.** a shout to attract attention, esp. to call hounds at a hunt. ~*n.*, *pl.* -**loos**, -**los**, or -**loas**. **2.** a shout of "halloo". ~*vb.* -**loeing**, -**loed**; -**loing**, -**loed**, or -**loaing**, -**loed**. **3.** to shout. **4.** (*tr.*) to urge on (dogs) with shouts.

hallow ('hæləʊ) *vb.* (*tr.*) **1.** to consecrate or set apart as being holy. **2.** to venerate as being holy. — **hallow** *n.*

Hallowe'en or Halloween ('hæləʊ'i:n) *n.* the eve of All Saints' Day celebrated on Oct. 31; Allhallows Eve.

hallucinate ('hælʊsɪneɪt) *vb.* (*intr.*) to experience hallucinations. — **hal'lucinator** *n.*

hallucination ('hælʊsɪ'neɪʃən) *n.* the alleged perception of an object when no object is present, occurring under hypnosis, in some mental disorders, etc. — **hal'lucinatory** *adj.*

hallucinogen ('hælʊsɪnə,dʒən) *n.* any drug that induces hallucinations. — **hallucinogenic** ('hælʊsɪnə'dʒenɪk) *adj.*

hallway ('hɔ:l,wei) *n.* a hall or corridor.

halm (hɔ:m) *n.* a variant spelling of **haulm**.

halo ('heɪləʊ) *n.*, *pl.* -**loes** or -**los**. **1.** a disc or ring of light around the head of an angel, saint, etc., as in painting. **2.** the aura surrounding a famous or admired person, thing, or event. **3.** a circle of light around the sun or moon, caused by the refraction of light by particles of ice. ~*vb.* -**loes** or -**los**, -**loing**, -**loed**. **4.** to surround with or form a halo.

halogen ('hælə,dʒən) *n.* any of the chemical elements fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine, and astatine. They are all monovalent and readily form negative ions. — **halogenous** ('hælədʒɪnəs) *adj.*

halt ('hɔ:lt) *n.* **1.** an interruption or end to movement or progress. **2.** *Chiefly Brit.* a minor railway station, without permanent buildings. **3. call a halt (to).** to put an end (to); stop. ~*n.*, *interj.* **4.** a command to halt, esp. as an order when marching. ~*vb.* **5.** to come or bring to a halt.

halt' ('hɔ:lt) *vb.* (*intr.*) **1.** (esp. of verse) to falter or be defective. **2.** to be unsure. **3. Arch.** to be lame. ~*adj.* **4. Arch.** lame. ~*n.* **5. the halt.** *Arch.* lame persons collectively.

halter ('hæltə) *n.* **1.** headgear for a horse, usually with a rope for leading. **2.** a style of woman's top fastened behind the neck and waist, leaving the back and arms bare. **3.** a rope having a noose for hanging a person. **4.** death by hanging. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) **5.** to put on a halter. **6.** to hang (someone).

halting ('hɔ:ltɪŋ) *adj.* **1.** hesitant: **halting speech**. **2.** lame. — **haltingly** *adv.*

half-century *n.*
half-clothed *adj.*
half-completed *adj.*
half-conscious *adj.*
half-cooked *adj.*
half-crazy *adj.*
half-day *n.*
half-done *adj.*
half-drowned *adj.*

half-drunk *adj.*
half-eaten *adj.*
half-filled *adj.*
half-finished *adj.*
half-frozen *adj.*
half-full *adj.*
half-grown *adj.*
half-inclined *adj.*
half-naked *adj.*

half-open *adj.*
half-raw *adj.*
half-remembered *adj.*
half-shut *adj.*
half-starved *adj.*
half-submerged *adj.*
half-understood *adj.*
half-used *adj.*

halve (hæv) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to divide into two approximately equal parts. 2. to share equally. 3. to reduce by half, as by cutting. 4. *Golf.* to take the same number of strokes on (a hole or round) as one's opponent.

halyard or **haliard** ('hæljəd) *n.* *Naut.* a line for hoisting or lowering a sail, flag, or spar.

ham¹ (hæm) *n.* 1. the part of the hindquarters of a pig between the hock and the hip. 2. the meat of this part. 3. *Inf.* the back of the leg above the knee.

ham² (hæm) *n.* 1. *Theatre, inf. a.* an actor who overacts or relies on stock gestures. *b.* overacting or clumsy acting. *c. (as modifier):* a *ham actor*. 2. *Inf.* a licensed amateur radio operator. ~*vb.* **hamming, hammed**. 3. *Inf.* to overact.

hamadryad ('hæmə'draɪəd) *n.* 1. *Classical myth.* a nymph which inhabits a tree and dies with it. 2. a venomous snake of tropical Asia.

hamburger ('hæm,bɜ:gə) *n.* a cake of minced beef, often served in a bread roll. Also called: **beefburger**.

Hamitic ('hæ'mɪtɪk, hə-) *n.* 1. a group of N African languages related to Semitic. ~*adj.* 2. denoting or belonging to this group of languages. 3. denoting or characteristic of the Hamites, a group of peoples of N Africa, including the ancient Egyptians, supposedly descended from Noah's son Ham.

hamlet ('hæmlɪt) *n.* a small village, esp. (in Britain) one without its own church.

hammer ('hæmə) *n.* 1. a hand tool consisting of a heavy usually steel head held transversely on the end of a handle, used for driving in nails, etc. 2. any tool or device with a similar function, such as the striking head on a bell. 3. a power-driven striking tool, esp. one used in forging. 4. a part of a gunlock that strikes the primer or percussion cap when the trigger is pulled. 5. *Field sports.* a. a heavy metal ball attached to a flexible wire: thrown in competitions. *b.* the sport of throwing the hammer. 6. an auctioneer's gavel. 7. a device on a piano that is made to strike a string or group of strings causing them to vibrate. 8. *Anat.* the nontechnical name for malleus. 9. *go under the hammer.* to be offered for sale by an auctioneer. 10. **hammer and tongs.** with great effort or energy. 11. *on someone's hammer.* *Austral. & N.Z. sl.* in hot pursuit of someone. ~*vb.* 12. to strike or beat with or as if with a hammer. 13. (*tr.*) to shape with or as if with a hammer. 14. (*when intr., foll. by away*) to force (facts, ideas, etc.) into (someone) through constant repetition. 15. (*intr.*) to feel or sound like hammering. 16. (*intr., often foll. by away*) to work at constantly. 17. (*tr.*) *Brit.* to criticize severely. 18. *Inf.* to defeat. 19. (*tr.*) *Stock Exchange.* a. to announce the default of (a member). *b.* to cause prices of (securities, the market, etc.) to fall by bearish selling. —'hammer-like *adj.*

hammer and sickle *n.* the emblem on the flag of the Soviet Union, representing the industrial workers and the peasants respectively.

hammerhead ('hæmə,hed) *n.* 1. a ferocious shark having a flattened hammer-shaped head. 2. a tropical African wading bird having a dark plumage and a long backward-pointing crest. 3. a large African fruit bat with a hammer-shaped muzzle. —'hammer-headed *adj.*

hammer out *vb. (tr., adv.)* 1. to shape or remove with or as if with a hammer. 2. to settle or reconcile (differences, problems, etc.).

hammertoe ('hæmə,təʊ) *n.* a deformity making the toe to be bent in a clawlike arch.

hammock ('hæmək) *n.* a length of canvas, net, etc., suspended at the ends and used as a bed.

hammy ('hæmi) *adj. -mier, -miest. Inf.* 1. (of an actor) tending to overact. 2. (of a play, performance, etc.) overacted or exaggerated.

hamper¹ ('hæmpə) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to prevent the progress or free movement of. ~*n.* 2. *Naut.* gear aboard a vessel that, though essential, is often in the way.

hamper² ('hæmpə) *n.* 1. a large basket, usually with a cover. 2. *Brit.* a selection of food and drink packed in a hamper or other container.

hamster ('hæmstə) *n.* a Eurasian burrowing rodent having a stocky body, short tail, and cheek pouches: a popular pet.

hamstring ('hæm,striŋ) *n.* 1. one of the tendons at the back of the knee. 2. the large tendon at the back of the hind leg of a horse, etc. ~*vb.* -**stringing, -strung**. 3. to cripple by cutting the hamstring of. 4. to thwart.

hand (hænd) *n.* 1. the prehensile part of the body at the end of the arm, consisting of a thumb, four fingers, and a palm. Related *adj.*: **manual**. 2. the corresponding part in animals. 3. something resembling this in shape or

function. 4. *a.* the cards dealt in one round of a card game. *b.* a player holding such cards. *c.* one round of a card game. 5. agency or influence: *the hand of God*. 6. a part in something done: *he had a hand in the victory*. 7. assistance: *to give someone a hand*. 8. a pointer on a dial, indicator, or gauge, esp. on a clock. 9. acceptance or pledge of partnership, as in marriage. 10. a position indicated by its location to the side of an object or the observer: *on the right hand*. 11. a contrastive aspect, condition, etc.: *on the other hand*. 12. source or origin: *a story heard at third hand*. 13. a person, esp. one who creates something: *a good hand at painting*. 14. a manual worker. 15. a member of a ship's crew: *all hands on deck*. 16. a person's handwriting: *the letter was in his own hand*. 17. a round of applause: *give him a hand*. 18. a characteristic way of doing something: *the hand of a master*. 19. a unit of length equaling four inches, used for measuring the height of horses. 20. a cluster of bananas. 21. **a free hand.** freedom to do as desired. 22. **a heavy hand.** tyranny or oppression: *he ruled with a heavy hand*. 23. **a high hand.** a dictatorial manner. 24. (*near*) **at hand.** very close, esp. in time. 25. **by hand.** a. by manual rather than mechanical means. *b.* by messenger or personally: *the letter was delivered by hand*. 26. **force someone's hand.** to force someone to act. 27. **from hand to mouth.** a. in poverty: *living from hand to mouth*. *b.* without preparation or planning. 28. **hand and foot.** in all ways possible; completely: *they waited on him hand and foot*. 29. **hand in glove.** in close association. 30. **hand over fist.** a. in an easy manner. *b.* in large amounts: *he squanders money hand over fist*. 31. **hold one's hand.** to stop or postpone a planned action or punishment. 32. **hold someone's hand.** to support, help, or guide someone, esp. by giving sympathy. 33. **in hand.** a. under control. *b.* receiving attention. *c.* available in reserve. *d.* with deferred payment: *he works a week in hand*. 34. **keep one's hand in.** to continue or practise. 35. **on hand.** close by; present. 36. **out of hand.** a. beyond control. *b.* without reservation or deeper examination: *he condemned him out of hand*. 37. **show one's hand.** to reveal one's stand, opinion, or plans. 38. **take in hand.** to discipline; control. 39. **throw one's hand in.** to give up a venture, game, etc. 40. **to hand.** accessible. 41. **try one's hand.** to attempt to do something. 42. (*modifier*) a. of or involving the hand: *a hand grenade*. *b.* carried in or worn on the hand: *hand luggage*. *c.* operated by hand: *a hand drill*. 43. (*in combination*) made by hand rather than machine: *hand-sewn*. ~*vb. (tr.)* 44. to transmit or offer by the hand or hands. 45. to help or lead with the hand. 46. *Naut.* to furl (a sail). 47. **hand it to someone.** to give credit to someone. ~See also **hand down, hand in**, etc. —'hand-less *adj.*

handbag ('hænd,bæg) *n.* 1. Also called: **bag, purse** (U.S.), **pocketbook** (U.S.). a woman's small bag carried to contain personal articles. 2. a small suitcase that can be carried by hand.

handball ('hænd,bɔ:l) *n.* 1. a game in which two or four people strike a ball against a wall with the hand. 2. the small hard rubber ball used. ~*vb. (tr.)* 3. *Australian Rules football.* to pass (the ball) with a blow of the fist.

handbill ('hænd,bɪl) *n.* a small printed notice for distribution by hand.

handbook ('hænd,bʊk) *n.* a reference book listing brief facts on a subject or place or directions for maintenance or repair, as of a car.

handbrake ('hænd,breɪk) *n.* 1. a brake operated by a hand lever. 2. the lever that operates the handbrake.

handbreadth ('hænd,bredθ, -bredθ) or **hand's-breadth** *n.* the width of a hand used as an indication of length.

handcart ('hænd,kɑ:t) *n.* a simple cart, usually with one or two wheels, pushed or drawn by hand.

handcraft ('hænd,kra:ft) *n.* 1. another word for **handicraft**. ~*vb.* 2. (*tr.*) to make by handicraft.

handcuff ('hænd,kʌf) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to put handcuffs on (a person); manacle. ~*n.* 2. (*pl.*) a pair of locking metal rings joined by a short bar or chain for securing prisoners, etc.

hand down *vb. (tr., adv.)* 1. to bequeath. 2. to pass (an outgrown garment) on from one member of a family to a younger one. 3. *U.S. law.* to announce (a verdict).

-handed *adj.* having a hand or hands as specified: *a four-handed game of cards*.

handful ('hænd,fʊl) *n., pl. -fuls.* 1. the amount or number that can be held in the hand. 2. a small number

or quantity. **3. Inf.** a person or thing difficult to manage or control.

handicap ('hændɪkæp) *n.* **1.** something that hampers or hinders. **2.** a contest, esp. a race, in which competitors are given advantages or disadvantages of weight, distance, etc., in an attempt to equalize their chances. **3.** the advantage or disadvantage prescribed. **4. Golf.** the average number of strokes by which a player exceeds par. **5.** any disability, esp. one affecting the normal ability to move. **~vb.** **-capping, -capped.** (tr.) **6.** to be a hindrance or disadvantage to. **7.** to assign a handicap to. **8.** to organize (a contest) by handicapping. —'handi-capper *n.*

handicapped ('hændɪkæpt) *adj.* **1.** physically or mentally disabled. **2.** (of a competitor) assigned a handicap. **~n.** **3.** (often preceded by **the**) people with an appreciable and lasting physical or mental disability.

handicraft ('hændɪkrɑ:ft) *n.* **1.** skill in working with the hands. **2.** a particular skill performed with the hands, such as weaving. **3.** the work so produced. **~Also called:** **handcraft.**

hand in *vb.* (tr., adv.) to return or submit (something, such as an examination paper).

handiwork ('hændɪwɜ:k) *n.* **1.** work produced by hand. **2.** the result of the action or endeavours of a person or thing.

handkerchief ('hæŋkətʃɪf, -tʃɪf) *n.* a small square of soft absorbent material carried and used to wipe the nose, etc.

handle ('hændl) *n.* **1.** the part of a utensil, drawer, etc., designed to be held in order to move, use, or pick up the object. **2. N.Z.** a glass beer mug with a handle. **3. Sl.** a title put before a person's name. **4.** an excuse for doing something: *his background served as a handle for their mockery.* **5.** the quality, as of textiles, perceived by feeling. **6. fly off the handle.** *Inf.* to become suddenly extremely angry. **~vb.** (mainly tr.) **7.** to hold, move, or touch with the hands. **8.** to operate using the hands: *the boy handled the reins well.* **9.** to control: *my wife handles my investments.* **10.** to manage successfully: *a secretary must be able to handle clients.* **11.** to discuss (a theme, subject, etc.). **12.** to deal with in a specified way: *I was handled with great tact.* **13.** to trade or deal in (specified merchandise). **14. (intr.)** to react in a specified way to operation: *the car handles well on bends.* —'handled *adj.* —'handling *n.*

handlebars ('hændl̩bɜ:z) *pl. n.* (sometimes sing.) a metal bar having its ends curved to form handles, used for steering a bicycle, etc.

handler ('hændlɜ) *n.* **1.** a person who trains and controls an animal, esp. a police dog. **2.** a person who holds or incites a dog, gamecock, etc., in a contest. **3.** the trainer or second of a boxer.

handmade ('hændmeɪd) *adj.* made by hand, not by machine, esp. with care or craftsmanship.

handmaiden ('hændmeɪdn) or **handmaid** *n.* **1.** a person or thing that serves a useful but subordinate purpose. **2. Arch.** a female servant.

hand-me-down *n. Inf.* **1.** something, esp. an outgrown garment, passed down from one person to another. **2.** anything that has already been used by another.

hand on *vb.* (tr., adv.) to pass to the next in a succession.

hand-out *n.* **1.** clothing, food, or money given to a needy person. **2.** a leaflet, free sample, etc., given out to publicize something. **3.** a statement distributed to the press to confirm or replace an oral presentation. **~vb.** **hand out.** (tr., adv.) to distribute.

hand over *vb.* (tr., adv.) to surrender possession of; transfer.

hand-pick *vb.* (tr.) to select with great care, as for a special job. —'hand-picked *adj.*

handrail ('hændreɪl) *n.* a rail alongside a stairway, etc., to provide support.

hands (hændz) *n.* **1.** power or keeping: *your welfare is in his hands.* **2.** Also called: **handing.** Soccer. the infringement of touching the ball with the hand or arm. **3. change hands.** to pass from the possession of one person to another. **4. hands down.** without effort; easily. **5. have one's hands full.** a. to be completely occupied. b. to be beset with problems. **6. have one's hands tied.** to be unable to act. **7. lay hands on or upon.** a. to get possession of. b. to beat up; assault. **c.** to find. **d. Christianity.** to confirm or ordain by the imposition of hands. **8. off one's hands.** for which one is no longer responsible. **9. on one's hands.** a. for which one is responsible: *I've got too much on my hands to help.* b.

to spare: *time on my hands.* **10. wash one's hands of.** to have nothing more to do with.

handset ('hændset) *n.* a telephone mouthpiece and earpiece mounted as a single unit.

handshake ('hændʃeɪk) *n.* the act of grasping and shaking a person's hand, as when being introduced or agreeing on a deal.

handsome ('hændsəm) *adj.* **1.** (of a man) good-looking. **2.** (of a woman) fine-looking in a dignified way. **3.** well-proportioned; stately: *a handsome room.* **4.** liberal: *a handsome allowance.* **5.** gracious or generous: *a handsome action.* —'handsomely *adv.* —'handsomeness *n.*

handspring ('hændsprɪŋ) *n.* a gymnastic feat in which a person starts from a standing position and leaps forwards or backwards into a handstand and then onto his feet.

handstand ('hændstænd) *n.* the act of supporting the body on the hands in an upside-down position.

hand-to-hand *adj., adv.* at close quarters.

hand-to-mouth *adj., adv.* with barely enough money or food to satisfy immediate needs.

handwork ('hændwɜ:k) *n.* work done by hand rather than by machine. —'hand, worked *adj.*

handwriting ('hændraɪtɪŋ) *n.* **1.** writing by hand rather than by typing or printing. **2.** a person's characteristic writing style: *that is in my handwriting.* —'hand-, written *adj.*

handy ('hændɪ) *adj.* **handier, handiest.** **1.** conveniently within reach. **2.** easy to handle or use. **3.** skilful with one's hands. —'handily *adv.* —'handiness *n.*

handyman ('hændɪmæn) *n., pl. -men.* a man employed to do or skilled in odd jobs, etc.

hang (hæŋ) *vb.* **hanging, hung.** **1.** to fasten or be fastened from above, esp. by a cord, chain, etc. **2.** to place or be placed in position as by a hinge so as to allow free movement: *to hang a door.* **3. (intr.; sometimes foll. by over)** to be suspended; hover: *a pall of smoke hung over the city.* **4. (intr.; sometimes foll. by over)** to threaten. **5. (intr.)** to be or remain doubtful (esp. in **hang in the balance**). **6. (p.t. & p.p. hanged)** to suspend or be suspended by the neck until dead. **7. (tr.)** to decorate, furnish, or cover with something suspended. **8. (tr.)** to fasten to a wall: *to hang wallpaper.* **9.** to exhibit or be exhibited in an art gallery, etc. **10.** to droop or allow to droop: *to hang one's head.* **11. (of cloth, clothing, etc.)** to drape, fall, or flow: *her skirt hangs well.* **12. (tr.)** to suspend (game such as pheasant) so that it becomes slightly decomposed and therefore more tasty. **13. (of a jury)** to prevent or be prevented from reaching a verdict. **14. (p.t. & p.p. hanged) Sl.** to damn or be damned: used in mild curses or interjections. **15. (intr.)** to pass slowly (esp. in **time hangs heavily**). **16. hang fire.** to procrastinate or delay. **~n.** **17.** the way in which something hangs. **18. (usually used with a negative) Sl.** a damn: *I don't care a hang.* **19. get the hang of.** *Inf.* a. to understand the technique of doing something. b. to perceive the meaning of. **~See also** **hang about, hang back, etc.**

hang about or around *vb. (intr.)* **1.** to waste time; loiter. **2. (adv., foll. by with)** to frequent the company (of someone).

hangar ('hæŋgə) *n.* a large building for storing and maintaining aircraft.

hang back *vb. (intr., adv.; often foll. by from)* to be reluctant to go forward or carry on.

hangdog ('hæŋdɒg) *adj.* downcast, furtive, or guilty in appearance or manner.

hanger ('hæŋgə) *n.* **1. a.** any support, such as a peg or loop, on or by which something may be hung. **b.** Also called: **coat hanger.** a curved piece of wood, wire, etc., with a hook, used to hang up clothes. **2. a.** a person who hangs something. **b. (in combination):** *paperhanger.* **3.** a type of dagger worn on a sword belt. **4. Brit.** a wood on a steep hillside.

hanger-on *n., pl. hangers-on.* a sycophantic follower or dependant.

hang-glider *n.* an unpowered aircraft consisting of a large cloth wing stretched over a light framework from which the pilot hangs in a harness. —'hang-gliding *n.*

hanging ('hæŋŋɪŋ) *n.* **1. a.** the putting of a person to death by suspending the body by the neck. **b. (as modifier):** *a hanging offence.* **2. (often pl.)** a decorative drapery hung on a wall or over a window. **~adj.** **3.** not supported from below; suspended. **4.** undecided; still under discussion. **5.** projecting downwards; overhanging. **6.** situated on a steep slope. **7. (prenominal)** given to issuing death sentences: *a hanging judge.*

hangman ('hæŋmən) *n.*, *pl.* **-men.** an official who carries out a sentence of hanging.

hangnail ('hæŋneɪl) *n.* a piece of skin torn away from, but still attached to, the base or side of a fingernail.

hang on *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. (*adv.*) to continue or persist, esp. with effort or difficulty. 2. (*adv.*) to grasp or hold. 3. (*prep.*) to depend on: *everything hangs on this deal.* 4. (*prep.*) Also: **hang onto**, **hang upon**. to listen attentively to. 5. (*adv.*) *Inf.* to wait: *hang on for a few minutes.*

hang out *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. to suspend, be suspended, or lean. 2. (*intr.*) *Inf.* to frequent a place. 3. **let it all hang out.** *Inf.*, chiefly *U.S.* a. to relax completely in an unassuming way. b. to act or speak freely. ~*n.* **hang-out.** 4. *Inf.* a place that one frequents.

hangover ('hæŋəʊvə) *n.* 1. the delayed aftereffects of drinking too much alcohol. 2. a person or thing left over from or influenced by a past age.

hang together *vb.* (*intr.*, *adv.*) 1. to be cohesive or united. 2. to be consistent: *your statements don't quite hang together.*

hang up *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. (*tr.*) to put on a hook, hanger, etc. 2. to replace (a telephone receiver) on its cradle at the end of a conversation. 3. (*tr.*; *usually passive*; *usually foll.* by *on*) *Inf.* to cause to have an emotional or psychological preoccupation or problem: *he's really hung up on his mother.* ~*n.* **hang-up.** *Inf.* 4. an emotional or psychological preoccupation or problem. 5. a persistent cause of annoyance.

hank (hæŋk) *n.* 1. a loop, coil, or skein, as of rope. 2. *Naut.* a ringlike fitting that can be opened to admit a stay for attaching the luff of a sail. 3. a unit of measurement of cloth, yarn, etc., such as a length of 840 yards (767 m) of cotton or 560 yards (512 m) of worsted yarn.

hanker ('hæŋkə) *vb.* (*foll.* by *for*, *after*, or an infinitive) to have a yearning. —'hankerer *n.*

hanky or hankie ('hæŋki) *n.*, *pl.* **hankies.** *Inf.* short for **handkerchief**.

hanky-panky ('hæŋki'pæŋki) *n.* *Inf.* 1. dubious or foolish behaviour. 2. illicit sexual relations.

Hansard ('hænsəd) *n.* 1. the official verbatim report of the proceedings of the British Parliament. 2. a similar report kept by the Canadian House of Commons and other legislative bodies.

Hanseatic League *n.* a commercial organization of towns in N Germany formed in the mid-14th century to protect and control trade.

hansom ('hænsəm) *n.* (*sometimes cap.*) a two-wheeled one-horse carriage with a fixed hood. The driver sits on a high outside seat at the rear. Also called: **hansom cab**.

Hants. (hænts) *abbrev.* for **Hampshire**.

hap (hæp) *Arch. n.* 1. luck; chance. 2. an occurrence. ~*vb.* **happing, happed.** 3. (*intr.*) to happen.

ha'penny ('heɪpni) *n.*, *pl.* **-nies.** *Brit.* a variant spelling of **halfpenny**.

haphazard (hæp'hæzəd) *adv.*, *adj.* 1. at random. ~*adj.* 2. careless; slipshod. —**hap'hazardly** *adv.* —**hap'hazardness** *n.*

hapless ('hæplɪs) *adj.* unfortunate; wretched. —'haplessly *adv.* —'haplessness *n.*

happen ('hæpən) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to take place; occur. 2. (*intr.*; *foll.* by *to*) (of some unforeseen event, esp. death), to fall to the lot (of): *if anything happens to me it'll be your fault.* 3. (*tr.*) to chance (to be or do something): *I happen to know him.* 4. (*tr.*; *takes a clause as object*) to be the case, esp. by chance: *it happens that I know him.* ~*adv.*, *sentence substitute.* *N English dialect.* 5. another word for **perhaps**.

▷ **Usage.** See at **occur**.

happening ('hæpənɪŋ, 'hæpɪnɪŋ) *n.* 1. an event. 2. an improvised or spontaneous performance consisting of bizarre events.

happy ('hæpi) *adj.* **-pier, -piest.** 1. feeling or expressing joy; pleased. 2. causing joy or gladness. 3. fortunate: *the happy position of not having to work.* 4. aptly expressed; appropriate: *a happy turn of phrase.* 5. (*postpositive*) *Inf.* slightly intoxicated. 6. **happy event.** *Inf.* the birth of a child. 7. **happy medium.** a course or state that avoids extremes. —'happily *adv.* —'happiness *n.*

happy-go-lucky *adj.* carefree or easygoing.

harakiri (,hærə'kɪri) or **harikiri** (,hæri'kɑ:ri) *n.* (formerly, in Japan) ritual suicide by disembowelment when disgraced or under sentence of death.

harangue (hə'reɪŋ) *vb.* 1. to address (a person or crowd) in an angry, vehement, or forcefully persuasive way. ~*n.* 2. a loud, forceful, or angry speech. —**haranguer** *n.*

harass ('hærəs) *vb.* (*tr.*) to trouble, torment, or confuse by continual persistent attacks, questions, etc. —'harasser *n.* —'harassment *n.*

harbinger ('hɑ:bindʒə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that announces or indicates the approach of something; forerunner. ~*vb.* 2. (*tr.*) to announce the approach or arrival of.

harbour or U.S. harbor ('hɑ:bə) *n.* 1. a sheltered port. 2. a place of refuge or safety. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to give shelter to: *to harbour a criminal.* 4. (*tr.*) to maintain secretly: *to harbour a grudge.* 5. to shelter (a vessel) in a harbour or (of a vessel) to seek shelter.

harbour master *n.* an official in charge of a harbour.

hard (hɑ:d) *adj.* 1. firm or rigid. 2. toughened; not soft or smooth: *hard skin.* 3. difficult to do or accomplish: *a hard task.* 4. difficult to understand: *a hard question.* 5. showing or requiring considerable effort or application: *hard work.* 6. demanding: *a hard master.* 7. harsh; cruel: *a hard fate.* 8. inflicting pain, sorrow, or hardship: *hard times.* 9. tough or adamant: *a hard man.* 10. violent: *a hard knock.* 11. cool or uncompromising: *we took a long hard look at our profit factor.* 12. indisputable; real: *hard facts.* 13. *Chem.* (of water) impairing the formation of a lather by soap. 14. practical, shrewd, or calculating: *he is a hard man in business.* 15. harsh: *hard light.* 16. a. (of currency) high and stable in exchange value. b. (of credit) difficult to obtain; tight. 17. (of alcoholic drink) being a spirit rather than a wine, beer, etc. 18. (of a drug) highly addictive. 19. *Physics.* (of radiation) having high energy and the ability to penetrate solids. 20. *Chiefly U.S.* (of goods) durable. 21. short for **hard-core**. 22. *Phonetics.* (not in technical usage) denoting the consonants *c* and *g* when they are pronounced as in *cat* and *got*. 23. a. heavily fortified. b. (of nuclear armament) located underground. 24. *Brit. inf.* incorrigible or disreputable (esp. in a **hard case**). 25. a **hard nut to crack.** a. a person not easily won over. b. a thing not easily understood. 26. **hard by.** close by. 27. **hard of hearing.** slightly deaf. 28. **hard up.** *Inf.* a. in need of money. b. (foll. by *for*) in great need (of): *hard up for suggestions.* ~*adv.* 29. with great energy, force, or vigour: *the team always played hard.* 30. as far as possible: *hard left.* 31. earnestly or intently: *she thought hard about the formula.* 32. with great intensity: *his son's death hit him hard.* 33. (foll. by *on*, *upon*, *by*, or *after*) close; near: *hard on his heels.* 34. (foll. by *at*) assiduously; devotedly. 35. a. with effort or difficulty: *their victory was hard won.* b. (in combination): *hard-earned.* 36. slowly: *prejudice dies hard.* 37. **go hard with.** to cause pain or difficulty to (someone). 38. **hard put (to it).** scarcely having the capacity (to do something). ~*n.* 39. *Brit.* a roadway across a foreshore. 40. *Sl.* hard labour. 41. *Taboo sl.* an erection of the penis (esp. in *get or have a hard on*). —'hardness *n.*

hardback ('hɑ:d,bæk) *n.* 1. a book with covers of cloth, cardboard, or leather. ~*adj.* 2. Also: **casebound, hardbound, hardcover.** of or denoting a hardback or the publication of hardbacks.

hard-bitten *adj.* *Inf.* tough and realistic.

hardboard ('hɑ:d,bɔ:d) *n.* a thin stiff sheet made of compressed sawdust and woodchips bound together under heat and pressure.

hard-boiled *adj.* 1. (of an egg) boiled until solid. 2. *Inf.* a. tough, realistic. b. cynical.

hard cash *n.* money or payment in money, as opposed to payment by cheque, credit, etc.

hard copy *n.* computer output that can be read by the eye, as contrasted with machine-readable output such as magnetic tape.

hard core *n.* 1. the members of a group who form an intransigent nucleus resisting change. 2. material, such as broken stones, used to form a foundation for a road, etc. ~*adj.* **hard-core.** 3. (of pornography) describing or depicting sexual acts in explicit detail. 4. completely established in a belief, etc.: *hard-core Communists.*

hard disk *n.* another name for **Winchester disk**.

harden ('hɑ:dən) *vb.* 1. to make or become hard or harder; freeze, stiffen, or set. 2. to make or become tough or unfeeling. 3. to make or become stronger or firmer. 4. (*intr.*) *Commerce.* a. (of prices, a market, etc.) to cease to fluctuate. b. (of price) to rise higher. —'hardener *n.*

hardened ('hɑ:d'nd) *adj.* 1. rigidly set, as in a mode of behaviour. 2. toughened; seasoned.

hard hat *n.* 1. a hat made of a hard material for protection, worn esp. by construction workers. 2. *Inf.*, chiefly *U.S.* a construction worker.

hard-headed *adj.* tough, realistic, or shrewd; not moved by sentiment.

hardhearted (ˈhɑːdˈhɑːtɪd) *adj.* unkind or intolerant. —, **hardheartedness** *n.*

hard labour *n.* *Criminal law.* (formerly) the penalty of compulsory physical labour imposed in addition to a sentence of imprisonment.

hard line *n.* an uncompromising course or policy. —, **hardliner** *n.*

hardly (ˈhɑːdli) *adv.* 1. scarcely; barely: we *hardly* knew the family. 2. only just: he could *hardly* hold the cup. 3. Often used ironically. not at all: he will *hardly* incriminate himself. 4. with difficulty. 5. Rare. harshly or cruelly.

▷ **Usage.** Since *hardly*, *scarcely*, and *barely* already have negative force, it is redundant to use another negative in the same clause: *he had hardly had (not he hadn't hardly had) time to think.*

hard pad *n.* an old-fashioned name for **canine distemper**. See **distemper**.

hard palate *n.* the anterior bony portion of the roof of the mouth.

hard-pressed *adj.* 1. in difficulties. 2. subject to severe competition or attack. 3. closely pursued.

hard sell *n.* an aggressive insistent technique of selling or advertising.

hardship (ˈhɑːdʃɪp) *n.* 1. conditions of life difficult to endure. 2. something that causes suffering or privation.

hard shoulder *n.* *Brit.* a surfaced verge running along the edge of a motorway for emergency stops.

hardtack (ˈhɑːdˌtæk) *n.* a kind of hard saltless biscuit, formerly eaten esp. by sailors as a staple aboard ship. Also called: **ship's biscuit**, **sea biscuit**.

hardware (ˈhɑːdˌweə) *n.* 1. metal tools, implements, etc., esp. cutlery or cooking utensils. 2. *Computers.* the physical equipment used in a computer system, such as the central processing unit, peripheral devices, and memory. Cf. **software**. 3. mechanical equipment, components, etc. 4. heavy military equipment, such as tanks and missiles. 5. *Inf.* a gun.

hardwood (ˈhɑːdˌwʊd) *n.* 1. the wood of any of numerous broad-leaved trees, such as oak, beech, ash, etc., as distinguished from the wood of a conifer. 2. any tree from which this wood is obtained.

hardy (ˈhɑːdi) *adj.* -**dier**, -**diest**. 1. having or demanding a tough constitution; robust. 2. bold; courageous. 3. foolhardy; rash. 4. (of plants) able to live out of doors throughout the winter. —**hardily** *adv.* —**hardiness** *n.*

hare (heə) *n.*, *pl.* **hares** or **hare**. 1. a solitary mammal which is larger than a rabbit, has longer ears and legs, and lives in a shallow nest (form). 2. **start a hare**, to raise a topic for conversation. 3. **run with the hare and hunt with the hounds**, to be on good terms with both sides. ~*vb.* 4. (*intr.*; often foll. by *off*, *after*, etc.) *Brit. inf.* to run fast or wildly. —**harelike** *adj.*

hare and hounds *n.* (*functioning as sing.*) a game in which certain players (**hares**) run across country scattering pieces of paper that the other players (**hounds**) follow in an attempt to catch the hares.

harebell (ˈheəˌbel) *n.* a *N* temperate plant having slender stems and leaves, and bell-shaped blue flowers.

harebrained or **hairbrained** (ˈheəˌbreɪnd) *adj.* rash, foolish, or badly thought out.

harelip (ˈheəˌlɪp) *n.* a congenital cleft or fissure in the midline of the upper lip, often occurring with cleft palate. —**hare, lipped** *adj.*

harem (ˈheərəm, hɑːˈrɪm) or **hareem** (hɑːˈrɪm) *n.* 1. the part of an Oriental house reserved strictly for wives, concubines, etc. 2. a Muslim's wives and concubines collectively. 3. a group of female animals that are the mates of a single male.

haricot (ˈhærɪkəʊ) *n.* a variety of French bean with light-coloured edible seeds, which can be dried and stored.

harikari (ˈhæriˈkɑːri) *n.* a variant spelling of **harakiri**.

hark (hɑːk) *vb.* (*intr.*; usually *imperative*) to listen; pay attention.

hark back *vb.* (*intr.*, *adv.*) to return to an earlier subject in speech or thought.

harlequin (ˈhɑːlɪkwɪn) *n.* 1. (*sometimes cap.*) *Theatre.* a stock comic character originating in the commedia dell'arte; the foppish lover of Columbine in the English harlequinade. He is usually represented in diamond-patterned multicoloured tights, wearing a black mask. 2. a clown or buffoon. ~*adj.* 3. varied in colour or decoration.

harlequinade (ˈhɑːlɪkwɪˈneɪd) *n.* 1. (*sometimes cap.*)

Theatre. a play in which harlequin has a leading role. 2. buffoonery.

Harley Street (ˈhɑːli) *n.* a street in central London famous for its large number of medical specialists' consulting rooms.

harlot (ˈhɑːlət) *n.* a prostitute. —**harlotry** *n.*

harm (hɑːm) *n.* 1. physical or mental injury. 2. moral wrongdoing. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to injure physically, morally, or mentally.

harmful (ˈhɑːmfʊl) *adj.* causing or tending to cause harm; injurious. —**harmfully** *adv.*

harmless (ˈhɑːmlɪs) *adj.* not causing or tending to cause harm. —**harmlessly** *adv.*

harmonic (hɑːˈmɒnɪk) *adj.* 1. of, producing, or characterized by harmony; harmonious. 2. *Musíc.* of or belonging to harmony. 3. *Maths.* a. capable of expression in the form of sine and cosine functions. b. of or relating to numbers whose reciprocals form an arithmetic progression. 4. *Physics.* of or concerned with a harmonic or harmonics. ~*n.* 5. *Physics, music.* a component of a periodic quantity, such as a musical tone, with a frequency that is an integral multiple of the fundamental frequency. 6. *Musíc.* (*not in technical use*) overtone. —**harmonically** *adv.*

harmonica (hɑːˈmɒnɪkə) *n.* a small wind instrument in which reeds of graduated lengths set into a metal plate enclosed in a narrow oblong box are made to vibrate by blowing and suction.

harmonics (hɑːˈmɒnɪks) *n.* 1. (*functioning as sing.*) the science of musical sounds and their acoustic properties. 2. (*functioning as pl.*) the overtones of a fundamental note, as produced by lightly touching the string of a stringed instrument at one of its node points while playing.

harmonious (hɑːˈmɒniəs) *adj.* 1. (esp. of colours or sounds) fitting together well. 2. having agreement. 3. tuneful or melodious.

harmonium (hɑːˈmɒniəm) *n.* a musical keyboard instrument in which air from pedal-operated bellows causes the reeds to vibrate.

harmonize or **-nise** (hɑːməˈnaɪz) *vb.* 1. to make or become harmonious. 2. (*tr.*) *Musíc.* to provide a harmony for (a tune, etc.). 3. (*intr.*) to sing in harmony, as with other singers. 4. to collate parallel narratives. —**harmonization** or **-nisation** *n.*

harmony (ˈhɑːməni) *n.*, *pl.* **-nies**. 1. agreement in action, opinion, feeling, etc. 2. order or congruity of parts to their whole or to one another. 3. agreeable sounds. 4. *Musíc.* a. any combination of notes sounded simultaneously. b. the vertically represented structure of a piece of music. Cf. **melody** (sense 1b). c. the art or science concerned with combinations of chords. 5. a collation of parallel narratives, esp. of the four Gospels.

harness (ˈhɑːns) *n.* 1. an arrangement of straps fitted to a draught animal in order that the animal can be attached to and pull a cart. 2. something resembling this, esp. for attaching something to the body: a parachute harness. 3. Weaving, the part of a loom that raises and lowers the warp threads. 4. *Arch.* armour. 5. in harness, at one's routine work. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 6. to put harness on (a horse). 7. (usually foll. by *to*) to attach (a draught animal) to (a cart, etc.). 8. to control so as to employ the energy or potential power of: to harness the atom. 9. to equip with armour. —**harnesser** *n.*

harp (hɑːp) *n.* 1. a large triangular plucked stringed instrument consisting of a soundboard connected to an upright pillar by means of a curved crossbar from which the strings extend downwards. ~*vb.* 2. (*intr.*) to play the harp. 3. (*intr.*; foll. by *on* or *upon*) to speak or write in a persistent and tedious manner. —**harper** or **harpist** *n.*

harpoon (hɑːˈpuːn) *n.* 1. a. a barbed missile attached to a long cord and hurled or fired from a gun when hunting whales, etc. b. (*as modifier*): a harpoon gun. ~*vb.* 2. (*tr.*) to spear with or as if with a harpoon. —**harpooner** or **harpoon'eer** *n.*

harp seal *n.* a brownish-grey North Atlantic and Arctic seal, having a dark mark on its back.

harpsichord (ˈhɑːpsɪˌkɔːd) *n.* a horizontally strung stringed keyboard instrument, triangular in shape, with strings plucked by plectra mounted on pivoted jacks. —**harpsichordist** *n.*

harpy (ˈhɑːpi) *n.*, *pl.* **-pies**. a cruel grasping person.

Harpy (ˈhɑːpi) *n.*, *pl.* **-pies**. *Greek myth.* a ravenous creature with a woman's head and trunk and a bird's wings and claws.

harquebus (ˈhɑːkwɪbʊs) *n.*, *pl.* **-buses**. a variant spelling of **arquebus**. —**harquebu'sler** *n.*

harridan ('hærid'n) *n.* a scolding old woman; nag.
harrier¹ ('hæriə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that harries. 2. a diurnal bird of prey having broad wings and long legs and tail.
harrier² ('hæriə) *n.* 1. a smallish breed of hound used originally for hare-hunting. 2. a cross-country runner.
harrow ('hærəʊ) *n.* 1. any of various implements used to level the ground, stir the soil, break up clods, destroy weeds, etc., in soil. ~*vb.* (tr.) 2. to draw a harrow over (land). 3. to distress; vex. —'harrows *n.* —'harrowing *adj.* —'harrowingly *adv.*
harry ('hæri) *vb.* -rying, -ried. 1. (tr.) to harass; worry. 2. to ravage (a town, etc.), esp. in war.
harsh (hɑ:ʃ) *adj.* 1. rough or grating to the senses. 2. stern, severe, or cruel. —'harshly *adv.* —'harshness *n.*
hart (hɑ:t) *n., pl.* harts or hart. the male of the deer, esp. the red deer aged five years or more.
hartal (hɑ:'tɑ:l) *n.* (in India) the act of closing shops or suspending work, esp. in political protest.
hartebeest ('hɑ:t,bist) or **hartbeest** ('hɑ:t,bist) *n.* 1. either of two large African antelopes having an elongated muzzle, lyre-shaped horns, and a fawn-coloured coat. 2. any similar and related animal, such as Hunter's hartebeest.
hartshorn ('hɑ:ts,hɔ:n) *n.* an obsolete name for **sail volatile** (sense 2).
harum-scarum ('hæərəm'skæərəm) *adj., adv.* 1. in a reckless way or of a reckless nature. ~*n.* 2. a person who is impetuous or rash.
harvest ('hævist) *n.* 1. the gathering of a ripened crop. 2. the crop itself. 3. the season for gathering crops. 4. the product of an effort, action, etc.: a harvest of love. ~*vb.* 5. to gather (a ripened crop) from (the place where it has been growing). 6. (tr.) to receive (consequences). —'harvesting *n.*
harvester ('hæ:vistə) *n.* 1. a person who harvests. 2. a harvesting machine, esp. a combine harvester.
harvest home *n.* 1. the bringing in of the harvest. 2. *Chiefly Brit.* a harvest supper.
harvest moon *n.* the full moon occurring nearest to the autumnal equinox.
harvest mouse *n.* a very small reddish-brown Eurasian mouse inhabiting cornfields, hedgerows, etc.
has (hæz) *vb.* (used with *he, she, it*, or a singular noun) a form of the present tense (indicative mood) of **have**.
has-been *n. Inf.* a person or thing that is no longer popular, successful, effective, etc.
hash¹ (hæʃ) *n.* 1. a dish of diced cooked meat, vegetables, etc., reheated in a sauce. 2. a reuse or rework of old material. 3. **make a hash of.** *Inf.* to mess up or destroy. 4. **settle someone's hash.** *Inf.* to subdue or get even with someone. ~*vb.* (tr.) 5. to chop into small pieces. 6. to mess up.
hash² (hæʃ) *n.* *Sl.* short for **hashish**.
hashish ('hæʃiʃ, -ʃ) or **hasheesh** *n.* a resinous extract of the dried flower tops of the female hemp plant, used as a hallucinogenic. See also **cannabis**.
haslet ('hæzlit) or **harslet** *n.* a loaf of cooked minced pig's offal, eaten cold.
hasp (hæsp) *n.* 1. a metal fastening consisting of a hinged strap with a slot that fits over a staple and is secured by a pin, bolt, or padlock. ~*vb.* 2. (tr.) to secure (a door, window, etc.) with a hasp.
hassle ('hæsəl) *Inf.* ~*n.* 1. a quarrel or fight. 2. a great deal of trouble. ~*vb.* 3. to quarrel or struggle with (someone). 4. to cause annoyance or trouble to (someone); harass.
hassock ('hæsək) *n.* 1. a firm upholstered cushion used for kneeling on, esp. in church. 2. a thick clump of grass.
haste (heist) *n.* 1. speed, esp. in an action. 2. the act of hurrying in a careless manner. 3. a necessity for hurrying; urgency. 4. **make haste.** to hurry; rush. ~*vb.* 5. a poetic word for **hasten**.
hasten ('heisn) *vb.* 1. (*may take an infinitive*) to hurry or cause to hurry; rush. 2. (tr.) to be anxious (to say something). —'hastener *n.*
hasty ('heisti) *adj.* -tier, -tiest. 1. rapid; swift; quick. 2. excessively or rashly quick. 3. short-tempered. 4. showing irritation or anger: *hasty words*. —'hastily *adv.* —'hastiness *n.*
hat (hæt) *n.* 1. a head covering, esp. one with a brim and a shaped crown. 2. *Inf.* a role or capacity. 3. **at the drop of a hat.** immediately. 4. **eat one's hat.** *Sl.* to be shocked or proved wrong if a certain event or result happens. 5. **keep (something) under one's hat.** to keep (something) secret. 6. **old hat.** something stale or old-

fashioned. 7. **pass (or send) the hat round.** to collect money, as for a cause. 8. **take off one's hat to.** to admire or congratulate. 9. **talk through one's hat.** a. to talk foolishly. b. to deceive or bluff. ~*vb.* **hatting, hatted.** 10. (tr.) to supply (a person, etc.) with a hat or put a hat on (someone). —'hatless *adj.*
hatband ('hæt,bænd) *n.* a band or ribbon around the base of the crown of a hat.
hatch¹ (hætʃ) *vb.* 1. to cause (the young of various animals, esp. birds) to emerge from the egg or (of young birds, etc.) to emerge from the egg. 2. to cause (eggs) to break and release the fully developed young or (of eggs) to break and release the young animal within. 3. (tr.) to contrive or devise (a scheme, plot, etc.). ~*n.* 4. the act or process of hatching. 5. a group of newly hatched animals.
hatch² (hætʃ) *n.* 1. a covering for a hatchway. 2. a. short for **hatchway**. b. a door in an aircraft or spacecraft. 3. Also called: **serving hatch.** an opening in a wall separating a kitchen from a dining area. 4. the lower half of a divided door. 5. a sluice in a dam, dyke, or weir. 6. **down the hatch.** *Sl.* (used as a toast) drink up! 7. **under hatches.** a. below decks. b. out of sight. c. dead.
hatch³ (hætʃ) *vb.* Drawing, engraving, etc. to mark (a figure, etc.) with fine parallel or crossed lines to indicate shading. —'hatching *n.*
hatchback ('hætʃ,bæk) *n.* 1. a sloping rear end of a car having a single door that is lifted to open. 2. a car having such a rear end.
hatchet ('hætʃit) *n.* 1. a short axe used for chopping wood, etc. 2. a tomahawk. 3. (*modifier*) of narrow dimensions and sharp features: a hatchet face. 4. **bury the hatchet.** to make peace.
hatchet man *n. Inf.* 1. a person carrying out unpleasant assignments for an employer or superior. 2. a severe or malicious critic.
hatchway ('hætʃ,wei) *n.* 1. an opening in the deck of a vessel to provide access below. 2. a similar opening in a wall, floor, ceiling, or roof.
hate (heit) *vb.* 1. to dislike (something) intensely; detest. 2. (*intr.*) to be unwilling (to be or do something). ~*n.* 3. intense dislike. 4. *Inf.* a person or thing that is hated (esp. in **pet hate**). —'hateable or 'hatable *adj.*
hateful ('heitfʊl) *adj.* 1. causing or deserving hate; loathsome; detestable. 2. *Arch.* full of hate. —'hatefully *adv.* —'hatefulness *n.*
hatred ('heitrid) *n.* intense dislike; enmity.
hatter ('hæts) *n.* 1. a person who makes and sells hats. 2. *mad as a hatter.* eccentric.
hat trick *n.* 1. *Cricket.* the achievement of a bowler in taking three wickets with three successive balls. 2. any achievement of three successive points, victories, etc.
hauberik ('hɔ:bɜ:k) *n.* a long coat of mail, often sleeveless.
haughty ('hɔ:ti) *adj.* -tier, -tiest. having or showing arrogance. —'haughtily *adv.* —'haughtiness *n.*
haul (hɔ:l) *vb.* 1. to drag (something) with effort. 2. (tr.) to transport, as in a lorry. 3. *Naut.* to alter the course of (a vessel), esp. so as to sail closer to the wind. 4. (*intr.*) *Naut.* (of the wind) to blow from a direction nearer the bow. ~*n.* 5. the act of dragging with effort. 6. (esp. of fish) the amount caught at a single time. 7. something that is hauled. 8. a distance of hauling or travelling. —'hauler *n.*
haulage ('hɔ:lɪdʒ) *n.* 1. the act or labour of hauling. 2. a rate or charge levied for the transportation of goods, esp. by rail.
haulier ('hɔ:lɪə) *n.* 1. *Brit.* a person or firm that transports goods by road. 2. a mine worker who conveys coal from the workings to the foot of the shaft.
hault or **halm** (hɔ:m) *n.* 1. the stalks of beans, peas, potatoes, grasses, etc., collectively. 2. a single stem of such a plant.
haunch (hɔ:ntʃ) *n.* 1. the human hip or fleshy hind-quarter of an animal. 2. the leg and loin of an animal, used for food. 3. Also called: **hance.** *Archit.* the part of an arch between the impost and the apex.
haunt (hɔ:nt) *vb.* 1. to visit (a person or place) in the form of a ghost. 2. (tr.) to recur to (the memory, thoughts, etc.): *he was haunted by the fear of insanity*. 3. to visit (a place) frequently. 4. to associate with (someone) frequently. ~*n.* 5. (*often pl.*) a place visited frequently. 6. a place to which animals habitually resort for food, drink, shelter, etc.

haunted ('hɔ:ntɪd) *adj.* 1. frequented or visited by ghosts. 2. (postpositive) obsessed or worried.

haunting ('hɔ:ntɪŋ) *adj.* 1. (of memories) poignant or persistent. 2. poignantly sentimental; eerily evocative. — **hauntingly** *adv.*

hautboy ('həʊbɔɪ) *n.* 1. a strawberry with large fruit. 2. an archaic word for **oboe**.

haute couture French. (ot ku'ty:r) *n.* high fashion.

hauतेur ('hɔ:tɜ:z) *n.* pride; haughtiness.

have (hæv) *vb.* **has, having, had.** (*mainly tr.*) 1. to be in possession of; own: *he has two cars.* 2. to possess as a quality or attribute: *he has dark hair.* 3. to receive, take, or obtain: *she had a present; have a look.* 4. to hold in the mind: *to have an idea.* 5. to possess a knowledge of: *I have no German.* 6. to experience: *to have a shock.* 7. to suffer from: *to have a cold.* 8. to gain control of or advantage over: *you have me on that point.* 9. (usually passive) *Sl.* to cheat or outwit: *he was had by that dishonest salesman.* 10. (foll. by *on*) to exhibit (mercy, etc., towards). 11. to take part in: *to have a conversation.* 12. to arrange or hold: *to have a party.* 13. to cause, compel, or require to (be, do, or be done): *have my shoes mended.* 14. (takes an infinitive with *to*) used as an auxiliary to express compulsion or necessity: *I had to run quickly to escape him.* 15. to eat, drink, or partake of. 16. *Taboo sl.* to have sexual intercourse with. 17. (used with a negative) to tolerate or allow: *I won't have all this noise.* 18. to state or assert: *rumour has it that they will marry.* 19. to place: *I'll have the sofa in this room.* 20. to receive as a guest: *to have people to stay.* 21. to beget or bear (offspring). 22. (takes a past participle) used as an auxiliary to form compound tenses expressing completed action: *I have gone; I had gone.* 23. **had better or best.** ought to: *you had better go.* 24. **had rather or sooner.** to consider preferable that: *I had rather you left at once.* 25. **have had it.** *Inf.* a. to be exhausted, defeated, or killed. b. to have lost one's last chance. c. to become unfashionable. 26. **have it away (or off).** *Taboo, Brit. sl.* to have sexual intercourse. 27. **have it coming.** *Inf.* to be about to receive or to merit retribution. 28. **have it in for.** *Inf.* to wish or intend harm towards. 29. **have it so good.** to have so many material benefits. 30. **have to do with.** a. to have dealings with. b. to be of relevance to. 31. **let (someone) have it.** *Sl.* to launch an attack on (someone). ~*n.* 32. (usually *pl.*) *Inf.* a person or group in possession of wealth, security, etc.: *the haves and the have-nots.*

haven ('heɪvən) *n.* 1. a harbour or other sheltered place for shipping. 2. a place of safety; shelter. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to shelter as in a haven.

have on *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. (usually *adv.*) to wear. 2. (usually *adv.*) to have a commitment: *what does your boss have on this afternoon?* 3. (*adv.*) to trick or tease (a person). 4. (*prep.*) to have available (information, esp. when incriminating) about (a person).

have out *vb.* (*tr., adv.*) 1. to settle (a matter) or come to (a final decision), esp. by fighting or by frank discussion (often in **have it out**). 2. to have extracted or removed.

haver ('heɪvə) *vb.* (*intr.*) *Brit.* 1. *Scot. & N English dialect.* to babble; talk nonsense. 2. to dither. ~*n.* 3. (usually *pl.*) *Scot.* nonsense.

haversack ('hævəsæk) *n.* a canvas bag for provisions or equipment, carried on the back or shoulder.

have up *vb.* (*tr., adv.; usually passive*) to cause to appear for trial: *he was had up for breaking and entering.*

havoc ('hævək) *n.* 1. destruction; devastation; ruin. 2. *Inf.* confusion; chaos. 3. **cry havoc.** *Arch.* to give the signal for pillage and destruction. 4. **play havoc.** (often foll. by *with*) to cause a great deal of damage, distress, or confusion (to).

haw¹ (hɔ:) *n.* 1. the fruit of the hawthorn. 2. another name for **hawthorn**.

haw² (hɔ:) *n., interj.* 1. an inarticulate utterance, as of hesitation, embarrassment, etc.; hem. ~*vb.* 2. (*intr.*) to make this sound. 3. **hem (or hum) and haw.** See **hem**² (sense 3).

hawfinch ('hɔ:fɪntʃ) *n.* an uncommon European finch having a very stout bill.

hawk¹ (hɔ:k) *n.* 1. any of various diurnal birds of prey of the family Accipitridae, typically having short rounded wings and a long tail. 2. a person who advocates or supports war or warlike policies. 3. a ruthless or rapacious person. ~*vb.* 4. (*intr.*) to hunt with falcons, hawks, etc. 5. (*intr.*) (of falcons or hawks) to fly in quest of prey. 6. to pursue or attack on the wing, as a hawk. — **hawking** *n.* — **hawkish** *adj.* — **hawk, like** *adj.*

hawk² (hɔ:k) *vb.* 1. to offer (goods) for sale, as in the street. 2. (*tr.*; often foll. by *about*) to spread (news, gossip, etc.).

hawk³ (hɔ:k) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to clear (the throat) noisily. 2. (*tr.*) to force (phlegm, etc.) up from the throat.

hawker¹ ('hɔ:kə) *n.* a person who travels from place to place selling goods.

hawker² ('hɔ:kə) *n.* a person who hunts with hawks, falcons, etc.

hawk-eyed *adj.* 1. having extremely keen sight. 2. vigilant, watchful, or observant.

hawk moth *n.* any of various moths having long narrow wings and powerful flight, with the ability to hover over flowers when feeding from the nectar.

haws (hɔ:z) *Naut. n.* 1. the part of the bows of a vessel where the hawseholes are. 2. in full: **hawsehole.** one of the holes in the upper part of the bows of a vessel through which the anchor rope passes. 3. the distance from the bow of an anchored vessel to the anchor. 4. the arrangement of port and starboard anchor ropes when a vessel is riding on both anchors.

hawser ('hɔ:zə) *n.* *Naut.* a large heavy rope.

hawthorn ('hɔ:θɔ:n) *n.* any of various thorny trees or shrubs of a *N* temperate genus, having white or pink flowers and reddish fruits (haws). Also called (in Britain): **may, may tree, mayflower.**

hay (heɪ) *n.* 1. a grass, clover, etc., cut and dried as fodder. *b. (in combination):* a hayfield. 2. **hit the hay.** *Sl.* to go to bed. 3. **make hay of.** to throw into confusion. 4. **make hay while the sun shines.** *Inf.* to take full advantage of an opportunity. 5. **roll in the hay.** *Inf.* sexual intercourse or heavy petting. ~*vb.* 6. to cut, dry, and store (grass, etc.) as fodder.

haybox ('heɪ,bɒks) *n.* an airtight box full of hay used for cooking by retained heat.

hay fever *n.* an allergic reaction to pollen, dust, etc., characterized by sneezing, runny nose, and watery eyes due to inflammation of the mucous membranes of the eyes and nose.

haymaker ('heɪ,mekə) *n.* 1. a person who helps to cut, turn, or carry hay. 2. either of two machines, one designed to crush stems of hay, the other to break and bend them, in order to cause more rapid and even drying. 3. **Boxing sl.** a wild swinging punch. — **hay-making** *adj., n.*

haystack ('heɪ,stæk) or **hayrick** *n.* a large pile of hay, esp. one built in the open air and covered with thatch.

haywire ('heɪ,wəɪə) *adj.* (*postpositive*) *Inf.* 1. (of things) not functioning properly. 2. (of people) erratic or crazy.

hazard ('hæzəd) *n.* 1. exposure or vulnerability to injury, loss, etc. 2. **at hazard.** at risk; in danger. 3. a thing likely to cause injury, etc. 4. *Golf.* an obstacle such as a bunker, a sand pit, etc. 5. chance; accident. 6. a gambling game played with two dice. 7. *Real tennis.* a. the receiver's side of the court. b. one of the winning openings. 8. *Billiards.* a scoring stroke made either when a ball other than the striker's is pocketed (**winning hazard**) or the striker's cue ball itself (**losing hazard**). ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 9. to risk. 10. to venture (an opinion, guess, etc.). 11. to expose to danger.

hazardous ('hæzədəs) *adj.* 1. involving great risk. 2. depending on chance. — **hazardously** *adv.* — **hazardousness** *n.*

haze (heɪz) *n.* 1. *Meteorol.* reduced visibility in the air as a result of condensed water vapour, dust, etc., in the atmosphere. 2. obscurity of perception, feeling, etc. ~*vb.* 3. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *over*) to make or become hazy.

hazel ('heɪzəl) *n.* 1. Also called: **cob.** any of several shrubs of a *N* temperate genus, having edible rounded nuts. 2. the wood of any of these trees. 3. short for **hazelnut**. 4. a. a light yellowish-brown colour. b. (as *adj.*): **hazel eyes.**

hazelnut ('heɪzəl,nʌt) *n.* the nut of a hazel shrub, having a smooth shiny hard shell. Also called: **filbert** or (in Britain) **cobnut, cob.**

hazy ('heɪzɪ) *adj.* -*zier*, -*ziest*. misty; indistinct; vague. — **hazily** *adv.* — **haziness** *n.*

Hb symbol for haemoglobin.

HB (on Brit. pencils) symbol for hard-black: denoting a medium-hard lead.

H.B.C. abbrev. for Hudson's Bay Company.

H-bomb *n.* short for **hydrogen bomb**.

H.C. abbrev. for: 1. Holy Communion. 2. (in Britain) House of Commons.

H.C.F.

H.C.F. or h.c.f. abbrev. for highest common factor.

he (hi; unstressed i) *pron. (subjective)* 1. refers to a male person or animal. 2. refers to an indefinite antecedent such as *whoever* or *anybody*: *everybody can do as he likes*. 3. refers to a person or animal of unknown or unspecified sex: *a member may vote as he sees fit*. ~n. 4. a. a male person or animal. b. (in combination): *he-goat*.

He the chemical symbol for helium.

HE or H.E. abbrev. for: 1. high explosive. 2. His Eminence. 3. His (or Her) Excellency.

head (hed) *n.* 1. the upper or front part of the body in vertebrates, including man, that contains and protects the brain, eyes, mouth, and nose and ears. Related adj.: **cephalic**. 2. the corresponding part of an invertebrate animal. 3. something resembling a head in form or function, such as the top of a tool. 4. a. the person commanding most authority within a group, organization, etc. b. (as modifier): *head buyer*. c. (in combination): *headwaiter*. 5. the position of leadership or command. 6. the most forward part of a thing; front: *the head of a queue*. 7. the highest part of a thing; upper end: *the head of the pass*. 8. the froth on the top of a glass of beer. 9. aptitude, intelligence, and emotions (esp. in *over one's head*, *lose one's head*, etc.): *she has a good head for figures*. 10. (pl. *head*) a person or animal considered as a unit: *the show was two pounds per head*; *six hundred head of cattle*. 11. the head considered as a measure: *he's a head taller than his mother*. 12. Bot. a. a dense inflorescence such as that of the daisy. b. any other compact terminal part of a plant, such as the leaves of a cabbage. 13. a culmination or crisis (esp. in *bring or come to a head*). 14. the pus-filled tip or central part of a pimple, boil, etc. 15. the source of a river or stream. 16. (cap. when part of name) a headland or promontory. 17. the obverse of a coin, usually bearing a portrait of the head of a monarch, etc. 18. a main point of an argument, discourse, etc. 19. (often pl.) a headline or heading. 20. Naut. (often pl.) a lavatory. 21. the taut membrane of a drum, tambourine, etc. 22. a. the height of the surface of liquid above a specific point, esp. as a measure of the pressure at that point: *a head of four feet*. b. any pressure: *a head of steam in the boiler*. 23. Sl. a. a person who regularly takes drugs, esp. LSD or cannabis. b. (in combination): *an acid-head*. 24. Mining. a road driven into the coal face. 25. a. the terminal point of a route. b. (in combination): *railhead*. 26. a device on a turning or boring machine equipped with one or more cutting tools held to the work by this device. 27. **cylinder head**. See **cylinder** (sense 4). 28. an electromagnet that can read, write, or erase information on a magnetic medium, used in computers, tape recorders, etc. 29. Inf. short for **headmaster**. 30. a narrow margin of victory (esp. in *win*) by a head. 31. Inf. short for **headache**. 32. *bite or snap someone's head off*. Inf. to speak sharply to someone. 33. *give someone (or something) his head*. a. to allow a person greater freedom or responsibility. b. to allow a horse to gallop by lengthening the reins. 34. *go to one's head*. a. to make one dizzy or confused, as might an alcoholic drink. b. to make one conceited: *his success has gone to his head*. 35. **head and shoulders** above, greatly superior to. 36. **head over heels**. a. turning a complete somersault. b. completely; utterly (esp. in *head over heels in love*). 37. **hold up one's head**. to be unashamed. 38. **keep one's head**. to remain calm. 39. **keep one's head above water**. to manage to survive a difficult experience. 40. **not make head nor tail of**. Inf. to fail to understand (a problem, etc.). 41. *off (or out of) one's head*. Sl. insane or delirious. 42. *off the top of one's head*. without previous thought; impromptu. 43. *on one's (own) head*. at a person's (own) risk or responsibility. 44. **over someone's head**. a. without a person in the obvious position being considered: *the graduate was promoted over the heads of several of his seniors*. b. without consulting a person in the obvious position but referring to a higher authority: *he went straight to the director, over the head of his immediate boss*. c. beyond a person's comprehension. 45. *put (our, their, etc.) heads together*. Inf. to consult together. 46. *take it into one's head*. to conceive a notion (to do something). 47. **turn someone's head**. to make someone vain, conceited, etc. ~vb. 48. (tr.) to be at the front or top of: *to head the field*. 49. (tr.; often foll. by *up*) to be in the commanding or most important position. 50. (often foll. by *for*) to go or cause to go (towards): *where are you heading?* 51. to turn or steer (a vessel) as specified: *to head into the wind*. 52. Soccer. to propel (the ball) by striking it with the head. 53. (tr.) to provide with a head or heading. 54. (tr.) to cut the

head off (something): *to head celery*. 55. (intr.) to form a head, as a plant. 56. (intr.; often foll. by *in*) (of streams, rivers, etc.) to originate or rise in. ~See also **head off**, **heads**. —**headless adj.** —**head, like adj.**

headache ('hed,eik) *n.* 1. a continuous pain in the head. 2. Inf. any cause of worry, difficulty, or annoyance. —**head, achy adj.**

headboard ('hed,bɔ:d) *n.* a vertical board or terminal at the head of a bed.

headdress ('hed,dres) *n.* any head covering, esp. an ornate one or one denoting a rank.

headed ('hedd) *adj.* 1. a. having a head or heads. b. (in combination): *two-headed*; *bullet-headed*. 2. having a heading: *headed notepaper*.

header ('hedə) *n.* 1. a machine that trims the heads from castings, forgings, etc., or one that forms heads, as in wire, to make nails. 2. a person who operates such a machine. 3. Also called: **header tank**. a reservoir that maintains a gravity feed or a static fluid pressure in an apparatus. 4. a brick or stone laid across a wall so that its end is flush with the outer surface. 5. the action of striking a ball with the head. 6. Inf. a headlong fall or dive.

headfirst ('hed'fɜ:st) *adj., adv.* 1. with the head foremost; headlong. ~adv. 2. rashly.

headgear ('hed,gɜ:) *n.* 1. a hat. 2. any part of a horse's harness that is worn on the head. 3. the hoisting mechanism at the pithead of a mine.

head-hunting *n.* 1. the practice among certain peoples of removing the heads of slain enemies and preserving them as trophies. 2. U.S. sl. the destruction or neutralization of political opponents. 3. (of a company or corporation) the recruitment of, or a drive to recruit, new high-level personnel, esp. in management or in specialist fields. —**head, hunter n.**

heading ('hedɪŋ) *n.* 1. a title for a page, chapter, etc. 2. a main division, as of a speech. 3. Mining. a. a horizontal tunnel. b. the end of such a tunnel. 4. the angle between the direction of an aircraft and a specified meridian, often due north. 5. the compass direction parallel to the keel of a vessel. 6. the act of heading.

headland *n.* 1. ('hedlænd) a narrow area of land jutting out into a sea, lake, etc. 2. ('hed,lænd) a strip of land along the edge of an arable field left unploughed to allow space for machines.

headlight ('hed,lat) or **headlamp** *n.* a powerful light, equipped with a reflector and attached to the front of a motor vehicle, etc.

headline ('hed,lam) *n.* 1. a. a phrase at the top of a newspaper or magazine article indicating the subject of the article, usually in larger and heavier type. b. a line at the top of a page indicating the title, page number, etc. 2. **hit the headlines**. to become prominent in the news. 3. (usually pl.) the main points of a television or radio news broadcast, read out before the full broadcast.

headlong ('hed,lɒŋ) *adv., adj.* 1. with the head foremost; headfirst. 2. with great haste. ~adj. 3. Arch. (of slopes, etc.) very steep; precipitous.

headmaster ('hed'mɑ:stə) or (fem.) **headmistress** *n.* the principal of a school.

headmost ('hed,məʊst) *adj.* foremost.

head off *vb. (tr., adv.)* 1. to intercept and force to change direction: *to head off the stampede*. 2. to prevent or forestall.

head-on *adv., adj.* 1. front foremost: *a head-on collision*. 2. with directness or without compromise: *in his usual head-on fashion*.

headphones ('hed,fəʊnz) *pl. n.* an electrical device consisting of two earphones held in position by a flexible metallic strap passing over the head. Informal name: **cans**.

headquarters ('hed'kwɔ:təz) *pl. n. (sometimes functioning as sing.)* 1. any centre from which operations are directed, as in the police. 2. a military formation comprising the commander and his staff. ~Abbrev.: HQ, H.Q., h.q.

headroom ('hed,rʊm, -ru:m) or **headway** *n.* the height of a bridge, room, etc.; clearance.

heads (hedz) *interj., adv. Inf.* with the obverse side of a coin uppermost, esp. if it has a head on it: used as a call before tossing a coin.

headship ('hed,ʃɪp) *n.* 1. the position or state of being a leader; command. 2. Brit. the position of headmaster or headmistress of a school.

headshrinker ('hed,ʃrɪŋkə) *n.* 1. Sl. a psychiatrist. Often shortened to **shrink**. 2. a headhunter who shrinks the heads of his victims.

headstall ('hed,stɔ:l) *n.* the part of a bridle that fits round a horse's head.

head start *n.* an initial advantage in a competitive situation.

headstone ('hed,stəʊn) *n.* 1. a memorial stone at the head of a grave. 2. *Archit.* another name for **keystone**.

headstrong ('hed,strɒŋ) *adj.* 1. self-willed; obstinate. 2. (of an action) heedless; rash.

headwaters ('hed,wɔ:təz) *pl. n.* the tributary streams of a river in the area in which it rises.

headway ('hed,wei) *n.* 1. motion forward: *the vessel made no headway*. 2. progress: *he made no headway with the problem*. 3. another name for **headroom**. 4. the interval between consecutive trains, buses, etc., on the same route.

headwind ('hed,wɪnd) *n.* a wind blowing directly against the course of an aircraft or ship.

headword ('hed,wɜ:d) *n.* a key word placed at the beginning of a line, paragraph, etc., as in a dictionary entry.

heady ('hedɪ) *adj.* **headier**, **headiest**. 1. (of alcoholic drink) intoxicating. 2. strongly affecting the senses; extremely exciting. 3. rash; impetuous. —'headily *adv.* —'headiness *n.*

heal (hi:l) *vb.* 1. to restore or be restored to health. 2. (*intr.*; often foll. by *over* or *up*) (of a wound) to repair by natural processes, as by scar formation. 3. (*tr.*) to cure (a disease or disorder). 4. to restore or be restored to friendly relations, harmony, etc. —'healer *n.*

health (helθ) *n.* 1. the state of being bodily and mentally vigorous and free from disease. 2. the general condition of body and mind: *in poor health*. 3. the condition of any unit, society, etc.: *the economic health of a nation*. 4. a toast to a person. 5. (*modifier*) of or relating to food or other goods reputed to be beneficial to the health: *health food*. 6. (*modifier*) of or relating to health: *health resort*; *health service*.

health centre *n.* the surgery and offices of a group medical practice.

healthful ('helθfʊl) *adj.* a less common word for **healthy** (senses 1–3).

health visitor *n.* *Brit.* a nurse who visits and helps the old and the sick in their homes.

healthy ('helθɪ) *adj.* **healthier**, **healthiest**. 1. enjoying good health. 2. sound: *the company's finances are not very healthy*. 3. conducive to health. 4. indicating soundness of body or mind: *a healthy appetite*. 5. *Inf.* considerable: *a healthy sum*. —'healthily *adv.* —'healthiness *n.*

heap (hip) *n.* 1. a collection of articles or mass of material gathered in a pile. 2. (*often pl.*; usually foll. by *of*) *Inf.* a large number or quantity. 3. *Inf.* a thing that is very old, unreliable, etc.: *the car was a heap*. ~*adv.* 4. **heaps** (*intensifier*): *he was heaps better*. ~*vb.* 5. (*often foll. by up or together*) to collect or be collected into or as if into a pile. 6. (*tr.*; often foll. by *with*, *on* or *upon*) to load (with) abundantly: *to heap with riches*.

hear (hɪə) *vb.* **hearing**, **heard**. 1. (*tr.*) to perceive (a sound) with the sense of hearing. 2. (*tr.*; may take a *clause* as object) to listen to: *did you hear what I said?* 3. (*when intr.*, sometimes foll. by *of* or *about*; when *tr.*, may take a *clause* as object) to be informed (of); receive information (about). 4. Law, to give a hearing to (a case). 5. (*when intr.*, usually foll. by *of* and used with a negative) to listen (to) with favour, assent, etc.: *she wouldn't hear of it*. 6. (*intr.*; foll. by *from*) to receive a letter (from). 7. **hear!** **hear!** (*interj.*) an exclamation of approval. 8. **hear tell** (*of*). *Dialect.* to be told (about). —'hearer *n.*

hearing ('hɪərɪŋ) *n.* 1. the sense by which sound is perceived. 2. an opportunity to be listened to. 3. the range within which sound can be heard; earshot. 4. the investigation of a matter by a court of law, esp. the preliminary inquiry into an indictable crime by magistrates.

hearing aid *n.* a device for assisting the hearing of partially deaf persons, typically a small battery-powered amplifier worn in or behind the ear.

hearken or *U.S. (sometimes) harken* ('hɑ:kən) *vb.* *Arch.* to listen to (something).

hear out *vb.* (*tr.*, *adv.*) to listen in regard to every detail and give a proper or full hearing to.

hearsay ('hɪə,sei) *n.* gossip; rumour.

hearsay evidence *n.* Law. evidence based on what has been reported to a witness by others rather than what he has himself observed.

hearse (hɜ:s) *n.* a vehicle, such as a car or carriage, used to carry a coffin to the grave.

heart (hɑ:t) *n.* 1. the hollow muscular organ in vertebrates whose contractions propel the blood through the circulatory system. Related *adj.*: **cardiac**. 2. the corresponding organ in invertebrates. 3. this organ considered as the seat of emotions, esp. love. 4. emotional mood: *a change of heart*. 5. tenderness or pity: *you have no heart*. 6. courage or spirit. 7. the most central part: *the heart of the city*. 8. the most important part: *the heart of the matter*. 9. (of vegetables, such as cabbage) the inner compact part. 10. the breast: *she held him to her heart*. 11. a dearly loved person: *dearest heart*. 12. a conventionalized representation of the heart, having two rounded lobes at the top meeting in a point at the bottom. 13. a. a red heart-shaped symbol on a playing card. b. a card with one or more of these symbols or (*when pl.*) the suit of cards so marked. 14. a fertile condition in land (esp. in *in good heart*). 15. *after one's own heart*. appealing to one's own disposition or taste. 16. *break one's (or someone's) heart*. to grieve (or cause to grieve) very deeply, esp. through love. 17. *by heart*. by committing to memory. 18. *eat one's heart out*. to grieve inconsolably. 19. *from (the bottom of) one's heart*. very sincerely or deeply. 20. *have one's heart in one's mouth (or throat)*. to be full of apprehension, excitement, or fear. 21. *have one's heart in the right place*. to be kind, thoughtful, or generous. 22. *have the heart (usually used with a negative)* to have the necessary will, callousness, etc., (to do something): *I didn't have the heart to tell him*. 23. *heart of hearts*. the depths of one's conscience or emotions. 24. *heart of oak*. a brave person. 25. *lose heart*. to become despondent or disillusioned (over something). 26. *lose one's heart to*. to fall in love with. 27. *set one's heart on*. to have as one's ambition to obtain; covet. 28. *take heart*. to become encouraged. 29. *take to heart*. to take seriously or be upset about. 30. *wear one's heart on one's sleeve*. to show one's feelings openly. 31. *with all one's heart*. very willingly. ~*vb.* (*intr.*) 32. (of vegetables) to form a heart.

heartache ('hɑ:t,ek) *n.* intense anguish or mental suffering.

heart attack *n.* any sudden severe instance of abnormal heart functioning, esp. coronary thrombosis.

heartbeat ('hɑ:t,bɪt) *n.* one complete pulsation of the heart.

heartbreak ('hɑ:t,breɪk) *n.* intense and overwhelming grief, esp. through disappointment in love. —'heart-breaker *n.* —'heart-breaking *adj.*

heartburn ('hɑ:t,bɜ:n) *n.* a burning sensation beneath the breastbone caused by irritation of the oesophagus. Technical names: **cardialgia**, **pyrosis**.

-hearted *adj.* having a heart or disposition as specified: *cold-hearted*; *heavy-hearted*.

hearten ('hɑ:tɪn) *vb.* to make or become cheerful. —'hearteningly *adv.*

heart failure *n.* 1. a condition in which the heart is unable to pump an adequate amount of blood to the tissues. 2. sudden cessation of the heartbeat, resulting in death.

heartfelt ('hɑ:t,felt) *adj.* sincerely and strongly felt.

hearth (hɑ:θ) *n.* 1. a. the floor of a fireplace, esp. one that extends outwards into the room. b. (*as modifier*): *hearth rug*. 2. this as a symbol of the home, etc. 3. the bottom part of a metallurgical furnace in which the molten metal is produced or contained.

heartless ('hɑ:t,lɪs) *adj.* unkind or cruel. —'heartlessly *adv.* —'heartlessness *n.*

heart-rending *adj.* causing great mental pain and sorrow. —'heart-rendingly *adv.*

hearts (hɑ:ts) *n.* (*functioning as sing.*) a card game in which players must avoid winning tricks containing hearts or the queen of spades. Also called: **Black Maria**.

heart-searching *n.* examination of one's feelings or conscience.

heartstrings ('hɑ:t,striŋz) *pl. n.* *Often facetious.* deep emotions.

heart-throb *n.* 1. *Brit.* an object of infatuation. 2. a heart beat.

heart-to-heart *adj.* 1. (esp. of a conversation) concerned with personal problems or intimate feelings. ~*n.* 2. an intimate conversation.

heart-warming *adj.* 1. pleasing; gratifying. 2. emotionally moving.

heartwood ('hɑ:t,wʊd) *n.* the central core of dark hard wood in tree trunks, consisting of nonfunctioning xylem

tissue that has become blocked with resins, tannins, and oils.

heart ('hɑ:t) *adj.* **heartier, heartiest.** 1. warm and unreserved in manner. 2. vigorous and heartfelt: *heartly dislike*. 3. healthy and strong (esp. in **hale and hearty**). 4. substantial and nourishing. ~*n.* **Inf.** 5. a comrade, esp. a sailor. 6. a vigorous sporting man: *a rugby hearty*. —'heartily *adv.* —'heartiness *n.*

heat ('hi:t) *n.* 1. a form of energy that is transferred by a difference in temperature: it is equal to the total kinetic energy of the atoms or molecules of a system. Related *adjs.*: **thermal, calorific.** 2. the sensation caused by heat energy; warmth. 3. the state of being hot. 4. hot weather: *the heat of summer*. 5. intensity of feeling: *the heat of rage*. 6. the most intense part: *the heat of the battle*. 7. a period of sexual excitement in female mammals that occurs at oestrus. 8. **Sport.** a. a preliminary eliminating contest in a competition. b. a single section of a contest. 9. *Sl.* police activity after a crime: *the heat is off*. 10. in the **heat of the moment**, without pausing to think. ~*vb.* 11. to make or become hot or warm. 12. to make or become excited or intense.

heated ('hi:tɪd) *adj.* 1. made hot. 2. impassioned or highly emotional. —'heatedly *adv.*

heater ('hi:tə) *n.* 1. any device for supplying heat, such as a convector. 2. *U.S. sl.* a pistol. 3. **Electronics.** a conductor carrying a current that indirectly heats the cathode in some types of valve.

heath ('hi:θ) *n.* 1. **Brit.** a large open area, usually with sandy soil and scrubby vegetation, esp. heather. 2. Also called: **heather.** a low-growing evergreen shrub having small bell-shaped typically pink or purple flowers. 3. any of several heathlike plants, such as sea heath. —'heath, like *adj.* —'heathy *adj.*

heathen ('hi:ðən) *n., pl. -thens or -then.* 1. a person who does not acknowledge the God of Christianity, Judaism, or Islam; pagan. 2. an uncivilized or barbaric person. ~*adj.* 3. irreligious; pagan. 4. uncivilized; barbaric. 5. of or relating to heathen peoples or their customs and beliefs. —'heathendom *n.* —'heathenism or 'heathenry *n.*

heather ('hi:ðə) *n.* 1. Also called: **ling, heath.** a low-growing evergreen Eurasian shrub that grows in dense masses on open ground and has clusters of small bell-shaped typically pinkish-purple flowers. 2. a purplish to pinkish-purple colour. ~*adj.* 3. of a heather colour. 4. of or relating to interwoven yarns of mixed colours: *heather mixture*. —'heathery *adj.*

Heath Robinson ('hi:θ 'rɒbɪnz'n) *adj.* (of a mechanical device) absurdly complicated in design and having a simple function.

heatstroke ('hi:t, strʊk) *n.* a condition resulting from prolonged exposure to intense heat, characterized by high fever.

heat wave *n.* 1. a continuous spell of abnormally hot weather. 2. an extensive slow-moving air mass at a relatively high temperature.

heave ('hi:v) *vb.* **heaving, heaved or hove.** 1. (*tr.*) to lift or move with a great effort. 2. (*tr.*) to throw (something heavy) with effort. 3. to utter (sounds) noisily or unhappily: *to heave a sigh*. 4. to rise and fall or cause to rise and fall heavily. 5. (*p.t. & p.p. hove*) **Naut.** a. to move or cause to move in a specified direction: *to heave in sight*. b. (*intr.*) (of a vessel) to pitch or roll. 6. (*tr.*) to displace (rock strata, etc.) in a horizontal direction. 7. (*intr.*) toretch. ~*n.* 8. the act of heaving. 9. a horizontal displacement of rock strata at a fault. —'heaver *n.*

heaven ('hev'n) *n.* 1. (sometimes *cap.*) **Christianity.** a. the abode of God and the angels. b. a state of communion with God after death. 2. (usually *pl.*) the firmament surrounding the earth. 3. (in various mythologies) a place, such as Elysium or Valhalla, to which those who have died in the gods' favour are brought to dwell in happiness. 4. a place or state of happiness. 5. (*sing. or pl.; sometimes cap.*) God or the gods, used in exclamatory phrases: *for heaven's sake*. 6. in **seventh heaven**, ecstatically happy. 7. **move heaven and earth**, to do everything possible (to achieve something).

heavenly ('hev'nli) *adj.* 1. **Inf.** wonderful. 2. of or occurring in space: *a heavenly body*. 3. holy. —'heavenliness *n.*

heave to *vb. (adv.)* to stop (a vessel) or (of a vessel) to stop, as by trimming the sails, etc.

heavy ('hevi) *adj.* **heavier, heaviest.** 1. of comparatively great weight. 2. having a relatively high density: *lead is a heavy metal*. 3. great in yield, quality, or quantity: *heavy traffic*. 4. considerable: *heavy emphasis*. 5. hard to bear or fulfil: *heavy demands*. 6. sad or dejected:

heavy at heart. 7. coarse or broad: *heavy features*. 8. (of soil) having a high clay content; cloggy. 9. solid or fat: *heavy legs*. 10. (of an industry) engaged in the large-scale complex manufacture of capital goods or extraction of raw materials. 11. serious; grave. 12. **Mil.** a. equipped with large weapons, armour, etc. b. (of guns, etc.) of a large and powerful type. 13. (of a syllable) having stress or accentuation. 14. dull and uninteresting: *a heavy style*. 15. prodigious: *a heavy drinker*. 16. (of cakes, etc.) insufficiently leavened. 17. deep and loud: *a heavy thud*. 18. (of music, literature, etc.). a. dramatic and powerful. b. not immediately comprehensible or appealing. 19. *Sl.* (of rock music) having a powerful beat; hard. 20. burdened: *heavy with child*. 21. **heavy on.** *Inf.* using large quantities of: *this car is very heavy on petrol*. 22. clumsy and slow: *heavy going*. 23. cloudy or overcast: *heavy skies*. 24. not easily digestible: *a heavy meal*. 25. (of an element or compound) being or containing an isotope with greater atomic weight than that of the naturally occurring element: *heavy water*. 26. (of the going on a racecourse) soft and muddy. 27. *Sl.* using, or prepared to use, violence or brutality. ~*n., pl. heavies.* 28. a. a villainous role. b. an actor who plays such a part. 29. **Mil.** a. a large fleet unit, esp. an aircraft carrier or battleship. b. a large piece of artillery. 30. *Inf.* a heavyweight boxer, wrestler, etc. —'heavily *adv.* —'heaviness *n.*

heavy-duty *n. (modifier)* made to withstand hard wear, bad weather, etc.

heavy-handed *adj.* 1. clumsy. 2. harsh and oppressive. —'heavy-handedly *adv.*

heavy-hearted *adj.* sad; melancholy.

heavy hydrogen *n.* another name for **deuterium**.

heavy water *n.* water whose molecules contain deuterium atoms rather than hydrogen atoms. Also called: **deuterium oxide**.

heavyweight ('hevi, weɪt) *n.* 1. a person or thing that is heavier than average. 2. a. a professional boxer weighing more than 175 pounds (79 kg). b. an amateur boxer weighing more than 81 kg (179 pounds). 3. a wrestler weighing usually over 214 pounds (97 kg). 4. *Inf.* an important or highly influential person.

Heb. or Hebr. *abbrev. for:* 1. Hebrew (language). 2. **Bible.** Hebrews.

hebdomadal ('heb'dɒmə'dəl) *adj.* weekly.

Hebraic ('hi:'breɪk) or **Hebraical** *adj.* of, relating to, or characteristic of the Hebrews or their language or culture. —'Hebraically *adv.*

Hebrew ('hi:bru:) *n.* 1. a member of an ancient Semitic people claiming descent from Abraham; an Israelite. 2. the ancient language of the Hebrews, revived as the official language of Israel. ~*adj.* 3. of or relating to the Hebrews or their language.

heck ('hek) *interj.* a mild exclamation of surprise, irritation, etc.

heckle ('hek'l) *vb.* 1. to interrupt (a public speaker, etc.) by comments, questions, or taunts. 2. (*tr.*) Also: **hackle, hatchel.** to comb (hemp or flax). ~*n.* 3. an instrument for combing flax or hemp. —'heckler *n.*

hectare ('hekta:) *n.* one hundred ares (10 000 square metres or 2.471 acres). Symbol: ha

hectic ('hek'tɪk) *adj.* 1. characterized by extreme activity or excitement. 2. associated with or symptomatic of tuberculosis (esp. in **hectic fever, hectic flush**). ~*n.* 3. a hectic fever or flush. 4. **Rare.** a person who is consumptive. —'hectically *adv.*

hecto- or before a vowel **hect-** *prefix.* denoting 100: **hectogram.** Symbol: h

hectog *abbrev. for* hectogram.

hector ('hek'tə) *vb.* 1. to bully or torment by teasing. ~*n.* 2. a blustering bully.

he'd ('hi:d; unstressed i:d, hi:d, i:d) *contraction of* he had or he would.

heddle ('hed'l) *n.* one of a set of frames of vertical wires on a loom, each wire having an eye through which a warp thread can be passed.

hedge ('hedʒ) *n.* 1. a row of shrubs or bushes forming a boundary. 2. a barrier or protection against something. 3. the act or a method of reducing the risk of loss on an investment, etc. 4. a cautious or evasive statement. 5. (*as modifier*) low, inferior, or illiterate: *hedge priest*. ~*vb.* 6. (*tr.*) to enclose or separate with or as if with a hedge. 7. (*intr.*) to trim or prune a hedge. 8. (*tr.*) to hinder or restrict. 9. (*intr.*) to evade decision, esp. by making noncommittal statements. 10. (*tr.*) to guard against the risk of loss in (a bet, etc.), esp. by laying bets with other bookmakers. 11. (*intr.*) to protect against

loss through future price fluctuations, as by investing in futures. — **hedger** *n.*

hedgehog ('hedʒ,hɒg) *n.* 1. a small nocturnal Old World mammal having a protective covering of spines on the back. 2. *U.S.* any of various other spiny animals, esp. the porcupine.

hedgehop ('hedʒ,hɒp) *vb.* -hopping, -hopped. (*intr.*) (of an aircraft) to fly close to the ground, as in crop spraying. — **hedge, hopping** *n., adj.*

hedgerow ('hedʒ,rəʊ) *n.* a hedge of shrubs or low trees, esp. one bordering a field.

hedge sparrow *n.* a small brownish European songbird. Also called: **duncock**.

hedonism ('hɪd,nɪzəm, 'hed-) *n.* 1. *Ethics.* the doctrine that the pursuit of pleasure is the highest good. 2. indulgence in sensual pleasures. — **hedonistic** *adj.* — **hedonist** *n.*

-hedron *n.* combining form. indicating a solid having a specified number of surfaces: **tetrahedron**. — **hedral** *adj.* combining form.

heebie-jeebies ('hɪbɪ'dʒi:bɪz) *pl. n.* the. *Sl.* apprehension and nervousness.

heed (hi:d) *n.* 1. careful attention; notice: to take heed. ~*vb.* 2. to pay close attention to. — **heedful** *adj.* — **heedfully** *adv.* — **heedfulness** *n.*

heedless ('hi:dlɪs) *adj.* taking no notice; careless or thoughtless. — **heedlessly** *adv.* — **heedlessness** *n.*

heehaw ('hi:hɔ:) *interj.* an imitation or representation of the braying sound of a donkey.

heel¹ ('hi:l) *n.* 1. the back part of the human foot. 2. the corresponding part in other vertebrates. 3. the part of a stocking, etc., designed to fit the heel. 4. the outer part of a shoe underneath the heel. 5. the end or back section of something: the heel of a loaf. 6. *Horticulture.* the small part of the parent plant that remains attached to a young shoot cut for propagation. 7. the back part of a golf club head where it bends to join the shaft. 8. *Sl.* a contemptible person. 9. at (or on) one's heels. following closely. 10. cool (or kick) one's heels. to be kept waiting, esp. deliberately. 11. down at heel. a shabby or worn. b. slovenly. 12. take to one's heels. to run off. 13. to heel. under control, as a dog walking by a person's heel. ~*vb.* 14. (tr.) to repair or replace the heel of (shoes, etc.). 15. (tr.) *Golf.* to strike (the ball) with the heel of the club. 16. to follow at the heels of (a person). — **heelless** *adj.*

heel² ('hi:l) *vb.* 1. (of a vessel) to lean over; list. ~*n.* 2. inclined position from the vertical.

heelball ('hi:l,bɔ:l) *n.* a. a mixture of beeswax and lampblack used by shoemakers to blacken the edges of heels and soles. b. a similar substance used to take rubbings, esp. brass rubbings.

heeled ('hi:ld) *adj.* 1. a. having a heel or heels. b. (*in combination*): high-heeled. 2. well-heeled. wealthy.

hefty ('heftɪ) *adj.* heftier, heftiest. *Inf.* 1. big and strong. 2. characterized by vigour or force: a hefty blow. 3. bulky or heavy. — **heftily** *adv.*

hegemony ('hi:geməni) *n., pl. -nies.* ascendancy or domination of one power or state within a league, confederation, etc. — **hegemonic** ('hegə'mɒnɪk) *adj.*

Hegira or **Hejira** ('hedʒɪrə) *n.* 1. the flight of Mohammed from Mecca to Medina in 622 A.D.; the starting point of the Muslim era. 2. the Muslim era itself. 3. (*often not cap.*) an escape or flight.

heifer ('heɪfə) *n.* a young cow.

height ('haɪt) *n.* 1. the vertical distance from the bottom of something to the top. 2. the vertical distance of a place above sea level. 3. relatively great altitude. 4. the topmost point; summit. 5. *Astron.* the angular distance of a celestial body above the horizon. 6. the period of greatest intensity: the height of the battle. 7. an extreme example: the height of rudeness. 8. (*often pl.*) an area of high ground.

heighten ('haɪt'n) *vb.* to make or become higher or more intense.

height of land *n.* *U.S. & Canad.* a watershed.

heinous ('heɪnəs, 'hi:-) *adj.* evil; atrocious. — **heinously** *adv.*

heir (eə) *n.* 1. the person legally succeeding to all property of a deceased person. 2. any person or thing that carries on some tradition, circumstance, etc., from a forerunner. — **heirdom** or **heirship** *n.* — **heirless** *ferm. n.*

heir apparent *n., pl. heirs apparent.* a person whose right to succeed to certain property cannot be defeated, provided such person survives his ancestor.

heirloom ('eə,lʊ:m) *n.* 1. an object that has been in a

family for generations. 2. an item of personal property inherited in accordance with the terms of a will.

heir presumptive *n.* *Property law.* a person who expects to succeed to an estate but whose right may be defeated by the birth of one nearer in blood to the ancestor.

Hejira ('hedʒɪrə) *n.* a variant spelling of **Hegira**.

held (held) *vb.* the past tense or past participle of **hold**¹.

helical ('helɪkəl) *adj.* of or like a helix; spiral.

helicopter ('helɪ,kɒptə) *n.* an aircraft without wings that is capable of moving vertically and hovering, obtaining its lift from the rotation of overhead blades.

heli- or before a vowel **heli-** combining form. indicating the sun: **heliocentric**.

heliocentric ('hi:lɪə'sentrik) *adj.* 1. having the sun at its centre. 2. measured from or in relation to the sun. — **heliocentrically** *adv.*

heliograph ('hi:lɪə,grəf) *n.* 1. an instrument for sending messages (**heliograms**) by means of flashes of light. 2. a device used to photograph the sun. — **heliography** *n.*

heliotrope ('hi:lɪə,troʊp, 'helɪə-) *n.* 1. any plant of the genus *Heliotropium*, esp. the South American variety, cultivated for its small fragrant purple flowers. 2. a bluish-violet to purple colour. 3. another name for **bloodstone**.

heliotropism ('hi:lɪ'bɪtrə,pɪzəm) *n.* the growth of a plant in response to the stimulus of sunlight. — **heliotropic** ('hi:lɪ'bɪtrɒpɪk) *adj.*

heliport ('helɪ,pɔ:t) *n.* an airport for helicopters.

helium ('hi:lɪəm) *n.* a very light nonflammable colourless odourless element that is an inert gas, occurring in certain natural gases. Symbol: He; atomic no.: 2; atomic wt.: 4.0026.

helix ('helɪks) *n., pl. helices* ('helɪ,sɪz) or **helixes**. 1. a spiral. 2. the incurving fold that forms the margin of the external ear. 3. another name for **volute** (sense 2). 4. any terrestrial mollusc of the genus *Helix*, which includes the garden snail.

hell (hel) *n.* 1. *Christianity.* (*sometimes cap.*) a. the place or state of eternal punishment of the wicked after death. b. forces of evil regarded as residing there. 2. (*sometimes cap.*) (in various religions and cultures) the abode of the spirits of the dead. 3. pain, extreme difficulty, etc. 4. *Inf.* a cause of such suffering: war is hell. 5. *U.S.* high spirits or mischievousness. 6. *Now rare.* a gambling house. 7. for the hell of it. *Inf.* for the fun of it. 8. give someone hell. *Inf.* a. to give someone a severe reprimand or punishment. b. to be a source of torment to someone. 9. hell for leather. at great speed. 10. (come) hell or high water. *Inf.* whatever difficulties may arise. 11. hell to pay. *Inf.* serious consequences, as of a foolish action. 12. raise hell. *Inf.* a. to create a noisy disturbance. b. to react strongly and unfavourably. 13. the hell. *Inf.* a. (intensifier): used in such phrases as what the hell, etc. b. an expression of strong disagreement: the hell I will. ~*interj.* 14. *Inf.* an exclamation of anger, surprise, etc.

hell¹ ('hi:l; unstressed ɪl, hɪl, ɪl) contraction of he will or he shall.

hellbent ('hel'bent) *adj.* (*postpositive* and foll. by *on*) *Inf.* strongly or rashly intent.

hellebore ('helɪ,bɔ:) *n.* 1. any plant of the Eurasian genus *Helleborus*, typically having showy flowers and poisonous parts. See also **Christmas rose**. 2. any of various plants which yield alkaloids used in the treatment of heart disease.

Hellene ('helɪn) or **Hellenian** ('he'lɪniən) *n.* another name for a **Greek**.

Hellenism ('helɪ,nɪzəm) *n.* 1. the principles, ideals, and pursuits associated with classical Greek civilization. 2. the spirit or national character of the Greeks. 3. imitation of or devotion to the culture of ancient Greece. — **Hellenist** *n.*

Hellenistic ('helɪ'nɪstɪk) or **Hellenistical** *adj.* characteristic of or relating to Greek civilization in the Mediterranean world, esp. from the death of Alexander the Great (323 B.C.) to the defeat of Antony and Cleopatra (30 B.C.). — **Hellenistically** *adv.*

hellfire ('hel,fɪə) *n.* 1. the torment of hell, envisaged as eternal fire. 2. (*modifier*) characterizing sermons that emphasize this.

hellish ('helɪʃ) *adj.* 1. of or resembling hell. 2. wicked; cruel. 3. *Inf.* very unpleasant. ~*adv.* 4. *Brit. inf.* (intensifier): a hellish good idea.

hello, halo, or hullo ('he'ləʊ, hɔ:, 'heləʊ) *sentence substitute.* 1. an expression of greeting. 2. a call used to

attract attention. **3.** an expression of surprise. ~*n.*, *pl.* -*los*. **4.** the act of saying or calling "hello."

Hell's Angel *n.* a member of a motorcycle gang who typically dress in Nazi-style paraphernalia and are noted for their lawless behaviour.

helm¹ ('helm) *n.* **1.** *Naut.* a. the wheel or entire apparatus by which a vessel is steered. **b.** the position of the helm: that is, on the side of the keel opposite from that of the rudder. **2.** a position of leadership or control (esp. in at the helm). ~*vb.* **3.** (*tr.*) to steer. —'helmsman *n.*

helm² ('helm) *n.* an archaic or poetic word for helmet.

helmet ('helmt) *n.* **1.** a piece of protective or defensive armour for the head worn by soldiers, policemen, firemen, divers, etc. **2.** *Biol.* a part or structure resembling a helmet, esp. the upper part of the calyx of certain flowers. —'helmeted *adj.*

helminth ('helminθ) *n.* any parasitic worm, esp. a nematode or fluke. —'helminthic or helminthoid ('helmin,θɔɪd, hel'mɪnθɔɪd) *adj.*

help (help) *vb.* **1.** to assist (someone to do something), esp. by sharing the work, cost, or burden of something. **2.** to alleviate the burden of (someone else) by giving assistance. **3.** (*tr.*) to assist (a person) to go in a specified direction: *help the old lady up*. **4.** to contribute to: *help the relief operations*. **5.** to improve (a situation, etc.): *crying won't help*. **6.** (*tr.*; preceded by *can*, *could*, etc.; usually used with a negative) **a.** to refrain from: *we can't help wondering who he is*. **b.** (usually foll. by *it*) to be responsible for: *I can't help it if it rains*. **7.** to alleviate (an illness, etc.). **8.** (*tr.*) to serve (a customer). **9.** (*tr.*; foll. by *to*) **a.** to serve (someone with food, etc.) (usually in **help oneself**). **b.** to provide (oneself with) without permission. **10.** cannot help but. to be unable to do anything else except: *I cannot help but laugh*. **11.** **so help me.** **a.** on my honour. **b.** no matter what: *so help me, I'll get revenge*. ~*n.* **12.** the act of helping, or being helped, or a person or thing that helps. **13.** **a.** a person hired for a job, esp. a farm worker or domestic servant. **b.** (functioning as *sing.*) several employees collectively. **14.** a remedy: *there's no help for it*. —*interj.* **15.** used to ask for assistance. —'helper *n.*

helpful ('helpfʊl) *adj.* giving help. —'helpfully *adv.* —'helpfulness *n.*

helping ('helpɪŋ) *n.* a single portion of food.

helpless ('helpɪs) *adj.* **1.** unable to manage independently. **2.** made weak: *they were helpless from giggling*. —'helplessly *adv.* —'helplessness *n.*

helpmate ('help,meɪt) *n.* a companion and helper, esp. a wife.

helpmeet ('help,mi:t) *n.* a less common word for helpmate.

help out *vb.* (*adv.*) to assist, esp. by sharing the burden or cost of something with (another person).

helter-skelter ('helts'skelts) *adj.* **1.** haphazard or careless. ~*adv.* **2.** in a helter-skelter manner. ~*n.* **3.** *Brit.* a high spiral slide, as at a fairground. **4.** disorder.

helve (helv) *n.* the handle of a hand tool such as an axe or pick.

hem¹ ('hem) *n.* **1.** an edge to a piece of cloth, made by folding the raw edge under and stitching it down. **2.** short for **hemline**. ~*vb.* **hemming, hemmed.** (*tr.*) **3.** to provide with a hem. **4.** (usually foll. by *in*, *around*, or *about*) to enclose or confine. —'hemmer *n.*

hem² ('hem) *n.*, *interj.* **1.** a representation of the sound of clearing the throat, used to gain attention, etc. ~*vb.* **hemming, hemmed.** **2.** (*intr.*) to utter this sound. **3.** **hem (or hum) and haw.** to hesitate in speaking.

he-man *n.*, *pl.* -*men*. *Inf.* a strongly built muscular man.

hemato- or before a vowel **hemat-** combining form. U.S. variants of **haemato-**.

hemi- prefix. half: **hemicycle**; **hemisphere**.

hemia *n.* combining form. U.S. variant of **aemia**.

hemiplegia ('hemɪ'plɪdʒɪə) *n.* paralysis of one side of the body. —'hemi'plegic *adj.*

hemisphere ('hemɪ'sfɪə) *n.* **1.** one half of a sphere. **2.** **a.** half of the terrestrial globe, divided into northern and southern hemispheres by the equator or into eastern and western hemispheres by some meridians, usually 0° and 180°. **b.** a map or projection of one of the hemispheres. **3.** *Anat.* short for **cerebral hemisphere**, a half of the cerebrum. —'hemispheric ('hemɪ'sfɛrɪk) or 'hemi'spherical *adj.*

hemline ('hem,lain) *n.* the level to which the hem of a skirt or dress hangs.

hemlock ('hem,lɒk) *n.* **1.** an umbelliferous poisonous Eurasian plant having finely divided leaves, spotted

stems, and small white flowers. **2.** a poisonous drug derived from this plant. **3.** Also called: **hemlock spruce**, a coniferous tree of North America and Asia.

hemp (hemp) *n.* **1.** Also called: **cannabis, marijuana**, an Asian plant having tough fibres, deeply lobed leaves, and small greenish flowers. See also **Indian hemp**. **2.** the fibre of this plant, used to make canvas, rope, etc. **3.** any of several narcotic drugs obtained from some varieties of this plant, esp. from Indian hemp. —'hempen or 'hemp,like *adj.*

hemstitch ('hem,stɪtʃ) *n.* **1.** a decorative edging stitch, usually for a hem, in which the cross threads are stitched in groups. ~*vb.* **2.** to decorate (a hem, etc.) with hemstitches.

hen (hen) *n.* **1.** the female of any bird, esp. of the domestic fowl. **2.** the female of certain other animals, such as the lobster. **3.** *Scot. dialect.* a term of affectionate address, used to women.

henbane ('hen,beɪn) *n.* a poisonous Mediterranean plant with sticky hairy leaves: yields the drug hyoscyamine.

hence (hens) *1.* sentence connector. for this reason; therefore. ~*adv.* **2.** from this time: *a year hence*. **3. *Arch.* from here; away. ~*interj.* **4. *Arch.* begone!, away!****

henceforth ('hens'fɔ:θ), **henceforwards**, or **henceforward** *adv.* from now on.

henchman ('hentʃmən) *n.*, *pl.* -*men*. **1.** a faithful attendant or supporter. **2.** *Arch.* a squire; page.

henge (hendʒ) *n.* a circular monument, often containing a circle of stones, dating from the Neolithic and Bronze Ages.

hen harrier *n.* a common harrier that nests in marshes and open land. U.S. names: **marsh hawk, marsh harrier**.

henna ('hena) *n.* **1.** a shrub or tree of Asia and N Africa. **2.** a reddish dye obtained from the powdered leaves of this plant, used as a cosmetic and industrial dye. **3.** a reddish-brown colour. ~*vb.* **4.** (*tr.*) to dye with henna.

henpeck ('hen,pɛk) *vb.* (*tr.*) (of a woman) to harass or torment (a man, esp. her husband) by persistent nagging. —'hen,pecked *adj.*

henry ('henri) *n.*, *pl.* -*ry*, -*ries*, or -*rys*. the derived SI unit of electric inductance; the inductance of a closed circuit in which an emf of 1 volt is produced when the current varies uniformly at the rate of 1 ampere per second. Symbol: H

hep (hep) *adj.* **hepper, heppest.** *Sl.* an earlier word for **hip**¹.

hepatic ('hɪ'pætɪk) *adj.* **1.** of the liver. **2.** having the colour of liver. ~*n.* **3.** any of various drugs for use in treating diseases of the liver.

hepatitis ('hepə'taɪtɪs) *n.* inflammation of the liver.

hepta- or before a vowel **hept-** combining form. seven: **heptameter**.

heptagon ('heptəgən) *n.* a polygon having seven sides. —'heptagonal ('hep'tægənəl) *adj.*

her (hɜ:; unstressed hə, ə) *pron.* (*objective*) **1.** refers to a female person or animal: *he loves her*. **2.** refers to things personified as feminine or traditionally to ships and nations. ~*determiner*. **3.** of, belonging to, or associated with her: *her hair*.

▷ **Usage.** See at **me**.

herald ('herəld) *n.* **1.** a person who announces important news. **2.** Often *literary.* a forerunner; harbinger. **3.** the intermediate rank of heraldic officer, between king-of-arms and pursuivant. **4.** (in the Middle Ages) an official at a tournament. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) **5.** to announce publicly. **6.** to precede or usher in. —'heraldic *adj.*

heraldry ('herəldrɪ) *n.*, *pl.* -*ries*. **1.** the study concerned with the classification of armorial bearings, the tracing of genealogies, etc. **2.** armorial bearings, insignia, etc. **3.** the show and ceremony of heraldry. —'heraldist *n.*

herb (hɜ:b; U.S. 3:rb) *n.* **1.** a plant whose aerial parts do not persist above ground at the end of the growing season; herbaceous plant. **2.** any of various usually aromatic plants, such as parsley and rosemary, that are used in cookery and medicine. —'herb,like *adj.* —'herby *adj.*

herbaceous ('hɜ:'beɪʃəs) *adj.* **1.** designating or relating to plants that are fleshy as opposed to woody: *a herbaceous plant*. **2.** (of petals and sepals) green and leaflike.

herbaceous border *n.* a flower bed that contains perennials rather than annuals.

herbage ('hɜ:bɪdʒ) *n.* **1.** herbaceous plants collectively,

esp. the edible parts on which cattle, sheep, etc., graze. 2. the vegetation of pasture land; pasturage.

herbal ('hɜːbəl) *adj.* 1. of herbs. ~*n.* 2. a book describing the properties of plants.

herbalist ('hɜːbəlɪst) *n.* 1. a person who grows or specializes in the use of herbs, esp. medicinal herbs. 2. (formerly) a descriptive botanist.

herbicide ('hɜːbɪsaɪd) *n.* a chemical that destroys plants, esp. one used to control weeds.

herbivore ('hɜːbɪvɔː) *n.* an animal that feeds on grass and other plants. —**herbivorous** ('hɜːbɪvərəs) *adj.*

herculean ('hɜːkjʊˈliːən) *adj.* 1. requiring tremendous effort, strength, etc. 2. (sometimes *cap.*) resembling Hercules, hero of classical myth, in strength, courage, etc.

herd (hɜːd) *n.* 1. a large group of mammals living and feeding together, esp. cattle. 2. Often disparaging. a large group of people. 3. *a. Arch. or dialect.* a man who tends livestock. *b. (in combination):* swineherd. ~*vb.* 4. to collect or be collected into or as if into a herd. 5. (*tr.*) to drive forward in a large group. 6. (*tr.*) to look after (livestock). —**herder** *n.*

herd instinct *n.* *Psychol.* the inborn tendency to associate with others and follow the group's behaviour.

herdsman ('hɜːdzmən) *n., pl. -men.* Chiefly *Brit.* a person who breeds or cares for cattle or (rarely) other livestock. U.S. equivalent: **herder**.

here (hɪə) *adv.* 1. in, at, or to this place, point, case, or respect: *we come here every summer; here comes Roy.* 2. **here and there**, at several places in or throughout an area. 3. **here's to**, a formula used in proposing a toast to someone or something. 4. **neither here nor there**, of no relevance or importance.

hereabouts ('hɪərəʊbaʊts) or **hereabout** *adv.* in this region or neighbourhood.

hereafter ('hɪərəʊftə) *adv.* 1. *Formal or law.* in a subsequent part of this document, matter, case, etc. 2. a less common word for **henceforth**. 3. at some time in the future. 4. in a future life after death. ~*n.* (usually preceded by *the*) 5. life after death. 6. the future.

herely ('hɪəbaɪ) *adv.* (used in official statements, etc.) by means of or as a result of this.

hereditable ('hɪrɪdɪtəbəl) *adj.* a less common word for **heritable**. —**hereditability** *n.*

hereditary ('hɪrɪdɪtəri, -tri) *adj.* 1. of or denoting factors that can be transmitted genetically from one generation to another. 2. *Law.* a. descending to succeeding generations by inheritance. *b.* transmitted according to established rules of descent. 3. derived from one's ancestors; traditional: *hereditary feuds.* —**hereditarily** *adv.* —**hereditariness** *n.*

heredity ('hɪrɪdɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. the transmission from one generation to another of genetic factors that determine individual characteristics. 2. the sum total of the inherited factors in an organism.

herein ('hɪərɪn) *adv.* 1. *Formal or law.* in or into this place, thing, document, etc. 2. *Rare.* in this respect, circumstance, etc.

hereinafter ('hɪərɪnəʊftə) *adv.* *Formal or law.* from this point on in this document, etc.

hereof ('hɪərɪv) *adv.* *Formal or law.* of or concerning this.

heresy ('herəsi) *n., pl. -sies.* 1. a. an opinion contrary to the orthodox tenets of a religious body. *b.* the act of maintaining such an opinion. 2. any belief that is or is thought to be contrary to official or established theory. 3. adherence to unorthodox opinion.

heretic ('herətɪk) *n.* 1. Now chiefly *R.C. Church.* a person who maintains beliefs contrary to the established teachings of his Church. 2. a person who holds unorthodox opinions in any field. —**heretical** ('hɪrətɪkəl) *adj.* —**heretically** *adv.*

hereto ('hɪətu) *adv.* *Formal or law.* to this place, thing, matter, document, etc.

heretofore ('hɪətʊfɔː) *adv.* *Formal or law.* until now; before this time.

hereupon ('hɪərəʊpən) *adv.* 1. following immediately after this; at this stage. 2. *Formal or law.* upon this thing, point, subject, etc.

herewith ('hɪəwɪð, -wɪθ) *adv.* *Rare or formal.* together with this: *we send you herewith your statement of account.*

heritable ('herɪtəbəl) *adj.* 1. capable of being inherited; inheritable. 2. Chiefly *law.* capable of inheriting. —**heritability** *n.* —**heritably** *adv.*

heritage ('herɪtɪdʒ) *n.* 1. something inherited at birth. 2. anything that has been transmitted from the past or

handed down by tradition. 3. *Law.* any property, esp. land, that by law has descended or may descend to an heir.

hermaphrodite ('hɜːmæfrəˈdaɪt) *n.* 1. *Biol.* an animal or flower that has both male and female reproductive organs. 2. a person having both male and female sexual characteristics. 3. a person or thing in which two opposite qualities are combined. ~*adj.* 4. having the characteristics of a hermaphrodite. —**hermaphroditic** or **hermaphroditical** *adj.* —**hermaphroditism** *n.*

hermetic ('hɜːmetɪk) or **hermetical** *adj.* sealed so as to be airtight. —**hermetically** *adv.*

hermit ('hɜːmɪt) *n.* 1. one of the early Christian recluses. 2. any person living in solitude. —**hermitic** or **hermitical** *adj.*

hermitage ('hɜːmɪtɪdʒ) *n.* 1. the abode of a hermit. 2. any retreat.

hermit crab *n.* a small soft-bodied crustacean living in and carrying about the empty shells of whelks or similar molluscs.

hernia ('hɜːniə) *n., pl. -nias or -niae* (-niː), the projection of an organ or part through the lining of the cavity in which it is normally situated, esp. the intestine through the front wall of the abdominal cavity. Also called: **rupture**. —**hernial** *adj.* —**herniated** *adj.*

hero ('hɪərəʊ) *n., pl. -roes.* 1. a man distinguished by exceptional courage, nobility, etc. 2. a man who is idealized for possessing superior qualities in any field. 3. *Classical myth.* a being of extraordinary strength and courage, often the offspring of a mortal and a god. 4. the principal male character in a novel, play, etc.

heroic ('hɪrəʊk) or **heroical** *adj.* 1. of, like, or befitting a hero. 2. courageous but desperate. 3. treating of heroes and their deeds. 4. of or resembling the heroes of classical mythology. 5. (of language, manner, etc.) extravagant. 6. *Prosody.* of or resembling heroic verse. 7. (of the arts, esp. sculpture) larger than life-size; smaller than colossal. —**heroically** *adv.*

heroics ('hɪrəʊks) *pl. n.* 1. *Prosody.* short for **heroic verse**. 2. extravagant or melodramatic language, behaviour, etc.

heroic verse *n.* *Prosody.* a type of verse suitable for epic or heroic subjects, such as the classical hexameter or the French Alexandrine.

heroin ('herəʊn) *n.* a white bitter-tasting crystalline powder derived from morphine: a highly addictive narcotic.

heroine ('herəʊn) *n.* 1. a woman possessing heroic qualities. 2. a woman idealized for possessing superior qualities. 3. the main female character in a novel, play, film, etc.

heroism ('herəʊɪzəm) *n.* the state or quality of being a hero.

heron ('herən) *n.* any of various wading birds having a long neck, slim body, and a plumage that is commonly grey or white.

heronry ('herənri) *n., pl. -ries.* a colony of breeding herons.

hero worship *n.* 1. admiration for heroes or idealized persons. 2. worship by the ancient Greeks and Romans of heroes. ~*vb.* **hero-worship, -shipping, -shipped** or *U.S. -shipping, -shipped.* 3. (*tr.*) to feel admiration or adulation for. —**hero-worshipper** *n.*

herpes ('hɜːpiːz) *n.* any of several inflammatory diseases of the skin, esp. herpes simplex. —**herpetic** ('hɜːpetɪk) *adj.*

herpes simplex ('sɪmpleks) *n.* an acute viral disease characterized by formation of clusters of watery blisters.

herpes zoster ('zɒstə) *n.* a technical name for shingles.

herring ('herɪŋ) *n., pl. -rings or -ring.* an important food fish of northern seas, having an elongated body covered with large silvery scales.

herringbone ('herɪŋbəʊn) *n.* 1. *a.* a pattern consisting of two or more rows of short parallel strokes slanting in alternate directions to form a series of zigzags. *b. (as modifier):* a herringbone pattern. 2. *Skiing.* a method of ascending a slope by walking with the skis pointing outwards and one's weight on the inside edges. ~*vb.* 3. to decorate (textiles, brickwork, etc.) with herringbone. 4. (*intr.*) *Skiing.* to ascend a slope in herringbone fashion.

herring gull *n.* a common gull that has a white plumage with black-tipped wings.

hers (hɜːz) *pron.* 1. something or someone belonging to her: *hers is the nicest dress; that cat is hers.* 2. of hers. belonging to her.

herself (hə'self) *pron.* 1. a. the reflexive form of *she* or *her*. b. (intensifier): *the queen herself signed*. 2. (preceded by a copula) her normal self: *she looks herself again after the operation*.

▷ **Usage.** See at **myself**.

hertz (hɜ:ts) *n., pl. hertz.* the derived SI unit of frequency; the frequency of a periodic phenomenon that has a periodic time of 1 second; 1 cycle per second. Symbol: Hz

he's (hi:z) *contraction* of *he is* or *he has*.

hesitant ('hezɪ'tənt) *adj.* wavering, hesitating, or irresolute. —'hesitantly *adv.*

hesitate ('hezɪ'teɪt) *vb. (intr.)* 1. to be slow in acting; be uncertain. 2. to be reluctant (to do something). 3. to stammer or pause in speaking. —'hesitancy ('hezɪ'tənsɪ) or 'hesi'tation *n.* —'hesi,tatingly *adv.*

Hesperus ('hespərəs) *n.* an evening star, esp. Venus.

hessian ('hesiən) *n.* a coarse jute fabric similar to sacking.

hest (hest) *n.* an archaic word for **behest**.

hetero- *combining form.* other, another, or different: *heterosexual*.

heterocyclic (,hetərəu'saiklik, -'sɪk) *adj.* (of an organic compound) containing a closed ring of atoms, at least one of which is not a carbon atom.

heterodox ('hetərəu,dɒks) *adj.* 1. at variance with established or accepted doctrines or beliefs. 2. holding unorthodox opinions. —'hetero,doxly *n.*

heterodyne ('hetərəu,dam) *vb.* 1. *Electronics.* to mix (two alternating signals) to produce two signals having frequencies corresponding to the sum and the difference of the original frequencies. ~*adj.* 2. produced by, operating by, or involved in heterodyning two signals.

heteroecious (,hetə'ri:fəs) *adj.* (of parasites) undergoing different stages of the life cycle on different host species. —'heter'oecism *n.*

heterogamete (,hetərəʊgæ'mi:t) *n.* a gamete that differs in size and form from the one with which it unites in fertilization.

heterogamy (,hetə'rgæmi) *n.* 1. a type of sexual reproduction in which the gametes differ in both size and form. 2. a condition in which different types of reproduction occur in successive generations of an organism. 3. the presence of both male and female flowers in one inflorescence. —'heter'ogamous *adj.*

heterogeneous (,hetərəu'dʒi:məs) *adj.* 1. composed of unrelated parts. 2. not of the same type. —'heterogeneity (,hetərəu'dʒi'nɪti) or 'heter'o'geneousness *n.*

heteromorphic (,hetərəu'mɔ:fik) or **heteromorphous** *adj. Biol.* 1. differing from the normal form. 2. (esp. of insects) having different forms at different stages of the life cycle. —'heter'o'morphism *n.*

heteronomous (,hetə'ronɪməs) *adj.* 1. subject to an external law. 2. (of the parts of an organism) differing in the manner of growth, development, or specialization. —'heter'onomy *n.*

heteronym ('hetərəu,nɪm) *n.* one of two or more words pronounced differently but spelt alike: *the two English words spelt "bow" are heteronyms*. Cf. **homograph**.

heterosexual (,hetərəu'seksʃuəl) *n.* 1. a person who is sexually attracted to the opposite sex. ~*adj.* 2. of or relating to heterosexuality. —'hetero,sexu'alit'y *n.*

het up *adj. Inf.* angry; excited: *don't get het up*.

heuristic (hjə'rɪstɪk) *adj.* 1. helping to learn; guiding in investigation. 2. (of a method of teaching) allowing pupils to learn things for themselves. 3. *Maths, science.* using or obtained by reasoning from past experience since no algorithm exists. ~*n.* 4. (pl.) the science of heuristic procedure. —'heu'ristically *adv.*

hew (hju:) *vb.* **hewing, hewed, hewed or hewn.** 1. to strike (something, esp. wood) with cutting blows, as with an axe. 2. (tr.; often foll. by *out*) to carve from a substance. 3. (tr.; often foll. by *away, off, etc.*) to sever from a larger portion. 4. (intr.; often foll. by *to*) U.S. to conform. —'hewer *n.*

hexa- or before a vowel **hex-** *combining form.* six: *hexachord; hexameter*.

hexagon ('heksəgən) *n.* a polygon having six sides. —'hex'agonal *adj.*

hexagram ('heksəgrəm) *n.* a star-shaped figure formed by extending the sides of a regular hexagon to meet at six points.

hexameter (hek'sæmɪtə) *n. Prosody.* 1. a verse line consisting of six metrical feet. 2. (in Greek and Latin epic poetry) a verse line of six metrical feet, of which the first four are usually dactyls or spondees, the fifth a

dactyl, and the sixth a spondee or trochee. —'hexametric (,heksə'metrɪk) or 'hexa'metrical *adj.*

hexapod ('heksə,pɒd) *n.* an insect.

hey (hei) *interj.* 1. an expression indicating surprise, dismay, discovery, etc. 2. **hey presto.** an exclamation used by conjurors to herald the climax of a trick.

heyday ('hei,dei) *n.* the time of most power, popularity, vigour, etc.

Hf *the chemical symbol for hafnium.*

HF, H.F., hf, or h.f. *abbrev.* for high frequency.

Hg *the chemical symbol for mercury.*

HGV (in Britain) *abbrev.* for heavy goods vehicle.

H.H. *abbrev. for:* 1. His (or Her) Highness. 2. His Holiness (title of the Pope).

HH (on pencils) *abbrev.* for double hard.

hi (hai) *sentence substitute.* Chiefly U.S. an informal word for **hello**.

hiatus (ha'iətəs) *n., pl. -tuses or -tus.* 1. (esp. in manuscripts) a break or interruption in continuity. 2. a break between adjacent vowels in the pronunciation of a word.

hiatus hernia *n.* protrusion of part of the stomach through the diaphragm at the oesophageal opening.

hibernate ('haɪbə,neɪt) *vb. (intr.)* 1. (of some animals) to pass the winter in a dormant condition with metabolism greatly slowed down. 2. to cease from activity. —'hiber'nation *n.* —'hiber,nator *n.*

Hibernia (haɪ'bɜ:nɪə) *n.* the Roman name for Ireland: used poetically in later times. —'Hɪ'bernian *adj., n.*

hibiscus ('hɪbɪskəs) *n., pl. -cuses.* any plant of the chiefly tropical and subtropical genus *Hibiscus*, cultivated for its large brightly coloured flowers.

hiccup ('hɪkəp) *n.* 1. a spasm of the diaphragm producing a sudden breathing in of air resulting in a characteristic sharp sound. 2. the state of having such spasms. 3. *Inf.* a minor difficulty. ~*vb.* -cuping, -cuped or -cuping, -cupped. 4. (intr.) to make a hiccup or hiccups. 5. (tr.) to utter with a hiccup. ~Also: **hiccough**.

hick (hɪk) *n. Inf.* chiefly U.S. a country bumpkin.

hickory ('hɪkəri) *n., pl. -ries.* 1. a tree of a chiefly North American genus, having nuts with edible kernels and hard smooth shells. 2. the hard tough wood of any of these trees.

hidalgo (hɪ'dælɡəʊ) *n., pl. -gos.* a member of the lower nobility in Spain.

hidden ('hɪdɪn) *vb.* 1. the past participle of **hide**. ~*adj.* 2. concealed or obscured: *a hidden cave; a hidden meaning*.

hide ('haɪd) *vb.* **hiding, hid, hidden or hid.** 1. to conceal (oneself or an object) from view or discovery: *to hide a pencil; to hide from the police*. 2. (tr.) to obscure: *clouds hid the sun*. 3. (tr.) to keep secret. 4. (tr.) to turn (one's eyes, etc.) away. ~*n.* 5. *Brit.* a place of concealment, usually disguised to appear as part of the natural environment, used by hunters, birdwatchers, etc. U.S. equivalent: **blind**. —'hider *n.*

hide ('haɪd) *n.* 1. the skin of an animal, either tanned or raw. 2. *Inf.* the human skin. ~*vb.* **hiding, hided.** 3. (tr.) *Inf.* to flog. —'hideless *adj.*

hide-and-seek or U.S. **hide-and-go-seek** *n.* a game in which one player covers his eyes while the others hide, and then tries to find them.

hideaway ('haɪdə,wei) *n.* a hiding place or secluded spot.

hidebound ('haɪd,baʊnd) *adj.* 1. restricted by petty rules, a conservative attitude, etc. 2. (of cattle, etc.) having the skin closely attached to the flesh as a result of poor feeding.

hideous ('hɪdiəs) *adj.* 1. extremely ugly; repulsive. 2. terrifying and horrific. —'hideously *adv.* —'hideousness *n.*

hide-out *n.* a hiding place, esp. a remote place used by outlaws, etc.; **hideaway**.

hiding ('haɪdɪŋ) *n.* 1. the state of concealment: *in hiding*. 2. **hiding place.** a place of concealment.

hiding ('haɪdɪŋ) *n. Inf.* a flogging; beating.

hie (hai) *vb.* **hieing or hying, hied.** *Arch. or poetic.* to hurry; speed.

hierarchy ('haɪə,rɜ:kɪ) *n., pl. -chies.* 1. a system of persons or things arranged in a graded order. 2. a body of persons in holy orders organized into graded ranks. 3. the collective body of those so organized. 4. a series of ordered groupings within a system, such as the arrangement of plants into classes, orders, etc. 5. government by a priesthood. —'hier'archical or 'hier'archic *adj.* —'hier,archism *n.*

hieratic (,haɪə'ræɪk) *adj.* 1. of priests. 2. of a cursive

form of hieroglyphics used by priests in ancient Egypt. 3. of styles in art that adhere to certain fixed types, as in ancient Egypt. ~*n.* 4. the hieratic script of ancient Egypt. — **hier'atically** *adv.*

hiero- or before a vowel **hier-** combining form. holy or divine; hierarchy.

hieroglyphic (ˌhaɪə'rɒɡlɪfɪk) *adj.* also **hieroglyphical**. 1. of or relating to a form of writing using picture symbols, esp. as used in ancient Egypt. 2. difficult to decipher. ~*n.* also **hieroglyph**. 3. a picture or symbol representing an object, concept, or sound. 4. a symbol that is difficult to decipher. — **hiero'glyphically** *adv.*

hieroglyphics (ˌhaɪə'rɒɡlɪfɪks) *n.* (functioning as *sing.*) 1. a form of writing, esp. as used in ancient Egypt, in which pictures or symbols are used to represent objects, concepts, or sounds. 2. difficult or undecipherable writing.

hi-fi ('haɪfaɪ) *n.* *Inf.* 1. a. short for **high fidelity**. b. (as modifier): *hi-fi equipment*. 2. a set of high-quality sound-reproducing equipment.

higgledy-piggledy ('hɪɡ'dɪ'pɪɡ'dɪ) *Inf.* ~*adj.*, *adv.* 1. in a jumble. ~*n.* 2. a muddle.

high (haɪ) *adj.* 1. being a relatively great distance from top to bottom; tall: *a high building*. 2. situated at a relatively great distance above sea level: *a high plateau*. 3. (postpositive) being a specified distance from top to bottom: *three feet high*. 4. extending from or performed at an elevation: *a high dive*. 5. (in combination) coming up to a specified level: *knee-high*. 6. being at its peak: *high noon*. 7. of greater than average height: *a high collar*. 8. greater than normal in intensity or amount: *a high wind*; *high mileage*. 9. (of sound) acute in pitch. 10. (of latitudes) relatively far north or south from the equator. 11. (of meat) slightly decomposed, regarded as enhancing the flavour of game. 12. very important: *the high priestess*. 13. exalted in style or character: *high drama*. 14. expressing contempt or arrogance: *high words*. 15. elated; cheerful: *high spirits*. 16. *Inf.* being in a state of altered consciousness induced by alcohol, narcotics, etc. 17. luxurious or extravagant: *high life*. 18. advanced in complexity: *high finance*. 19. (of a gear) providing a relatively great forward speed for a given engine speed. 20. *Phonetics*, denoting a vowel whose articulation is produced by raising the tongue, such as for the *ee* in *see* or *oo* in *moon*. 21. (*cap.* when part of name) formal and elaborate: *High Mass*. 22. (usually *cap.*) relating to the High Church. 23. *Cards*, having a relatively great value in a suit. 24. **high and dry**, stranded; destitute. 25. **high and mighty**, *Inf.* arrogant. 26. **high opinion**, a favourable opinion. ~*adv.* 27. at or to a height: *he jumped high*. 28. in a high manner. 29. *Naut.* close to the wind with sails full. ~*n.* 30. a high place or level. 31. *Inf.* a state of altered consciousness induced by alcohol, narcotics, etc. 32. another word for **anticyclone**. 33. on **high**, a. at a height. b. in heaven.

highball ('haɪ,bɔ:l) *n.* U.S. a long iced drink consisting of a spirit base with soda water, etc.

highbrow ('haɪ,braʊ) *Often disparaging.* ~*n.* 1. a person of scholarly and erudite tastes. ~*adj.* also **highbrowed**, 2. appealing to highbrows.

highchair ('haɪ,tʃeə) *n.* a long-legged chair for a child, esp. one with a table-like tray.

High Church *n.* 1. the party or movement within the Church of England stressing continuity with Catholic Christendom, the authority of bishops, and the importance of sacraments. ~*adj.* **High-Church**. 2. of or relating to this party or movement. — **'High-'Churchman** *n.*

high commissioner *n.* the senior diplomatic representative sent by one Commonwealth country to another instead of an ambassador.

High Court *n.* 1. (in England) Also called: **High Court of Justice**, the supreme court dealing with civil law cases. 2. (in Scotland) Also called: **High Court of Justiciary**, the supreme court dealing with criminal law cases. 3. (in Australia) the highest court of appeal, deciding esp. constitutional issues. 4. (in New Zealand) Formerly called: **Supreme Court**, a court of law that is superior to a District Court.

higher education *n.* education and training at colleges, universities, polytechnics, etc.

higher-up *n.* *Inf.* a person of higher rank or in a superior position.

highest common factor *n.* the largest number or quantity that is a factor of each member of a group of numbers or quantities.

high explosive *n.* an extremely powerful chemical explosive, such as TNT or gelignite.

highfalutin (ˌhaɪfə'lʊtɪn) or **highfaluting** *adj.* *Inf.* pompous or pretentious.

high fidelity *n.* a. the reproduction of sound using electronic equipment that gives faithful reproduction with little or no distortion. b. (as modifier): *a high-fidelity amplifier*. Often shortened to **hi-fi**.

high-flier or high-flyer *n.* 1. a person who is extreme in aims, ambition, etc. 2. a person of great ability, esp. in a career. — **'high-,flying** *n.*

high-flown *adj.* extravagant or pretentious in conception or intention: *high-flown ideas*.

high frequency *n.* a radio-frequency lying between 30 and 3 megahertz. Abbrev.: **HF**

high-handed *adj.* tactlessly overbearing and inconsiderate. — **'high-'handedness** *n.*

highjack ('haɪ,dʒæk) *vb.* a less common spelling of **hijack**. — **'highjacker** *n.*

high jump *n.* 1. (usually preceded by *the*) an athletic event in which a competitor has to jump over a high bar. 2. **the high jump**, *Brit. inf.* a severe reprimand or punishment. — **high jumper** *n.* — **high jumping** *n.*

highland ('haɪlænd) *n.* 1. relatively high ground. 2. (modifier) of or relating to a highland. — **'highlander** *n.*

Highland ('haɪlænd) *n.* (modifier) of or denoting the Highlands of Scotland. — **'Highlander** *n.*

Highland cattle *n.* a breed of cattle with shaggy reddish-brown hair and long horns.

Highland fling *n.* a vigorous Scottish solo dance.

high-level language *n.* a computer programming language that is closer to human language or mathematical notation than to machine language.

highlight ('haɪlaɪt) *n.* 1. an area of the lightest tone in a painting, photograph, etc. 2. Also called: **high spot**, the most exciting or memorable part or time. 3. (*pl.*) a lightened or brightened effect produced in the hair by bleaching selected strands. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 4. *Painting, photog.*, etc. to mark with light tone. 5. to bring emphasis to. 6. to produce highlights in (the hair).

highliner ('haɪ,lamər) *n.* *Canad.* in the Maritime Provinces, the fishing boat or fisherman bringing in the most fish.

highly ('haɪlɪ) *adv.* 1. (intensifier): *highly disappointed*. 2. with great approbation: *we spoke highly of it*. 3. in a high position: *placed highly in class*. 4. at or for a high cost.

highly strung or U.S. high-strung *adj.* tense and easily upset; excitable; nervous.

High Mass *n.* a solemn and elaborate sung Mass.

high-minded *adj.* 1. having or characterized by high moral principles. 2. *Arch.* arrogant; haughty. — **'high-'mindedness** *n.*

highness ('hæmɪs) *n.* the condition of being high.

Highness ('hæmɪs) *n.* (preceded by *Your, His, or Her*) a title used to address or refer to a royal person.

high-octane *adj.* (of petrol) having a high octane number.

high-pitched *adj.* 1. pitched high in tone. 2. (of a roof) having steeply sloping sides. 3. (of an argument, style, etc.) lofty or intense.

high-powered *adj.* 1. (of an optical instrument or lens) having a high magnification. 2. dynamic and energetic; highly capable.

high-pressure *adj.* 1. having, using, or designed to withstand pressure above normal. 2. *Inf.* (of selling) persuasive in an aggressive and persistent manner.

high priest *n.* 1. *Judaism*, the priest of highest rank who alone was permitted to enter the holy of holies of the Temple. 2. the head of a cult. — **high priesthood** *n.*

high-rise *adj.* (*prenominal*) of or relating to a building that has many storeys, esp. one used for flats or offices: *a high-rise block*.

highroad ('haɪ,rəʊd) *n.* 1. a main road; highway. 2. (usually preceded by *the*) the sure way: *the highroad to fame*.

high school *n.* 1. *Brit.* another term for **grammar school**. 2. *U.S. & N.Z.* a secondary school.

high seas *pl. n.* (*sometimes sing.*) the open seas, outside the jurisdiction of any one nation.

high season *n.* the most popular time of year at a holiday resort, etc.

high-sounding *adj.* another term for **high-flown**.

high-spirited *adj.* vivacious, bold, or lively. — **'high-'spiritedness** *n.*

high table *n.* (*sometimes cap.*) the table in the dining hall of a school, college, etc., at which the principal teachers, fellows, etc., sit.

high tea *n.* *Brit.* a substantial early evening meal consisting of a cooked dish, cakes, etc., and usually accompanied by tea.

high-tension *n.* (*modifier*) carrying or operating at a relatively high voltage.

high tide *n.* 1. the tide at its highest level. 2. a culminating point.

high time *Inf.* ~*adv.* 1. the latest possible time: *it's high time you mended this shelf.* ~*n.* 2. Also: **high old time**, an enjoyable and exciting time.

high treason *n.* an act of treason directly affecting a sovereign or state.

highveld ('hai,velt) *n.* the high grassland region of the Transvaal, South Africa.

high-water mark *n.* 1. the level reached by sea water at high tide or by other stretches of water in flood. 2. the highest point.

highway ('hai,wei) *n.* 1. Now chiefly U.S. except in legal contexts, a main road, esp. one that connects towns. 2. a direct path or course.

highwayman ('haiweimən) *n.*, *pl.* -**men**. (formerly) a robber, usually on horseback, who held up travellers on public roads.

hijack or **highjack** ('hai,dʒæk) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to seize, divert, or appropriate (a vehicle or the goods it carries) while in transit: *to hijack an aircraft.* ~*n.* 2. the act or an instance of hijacking. —'hi,jacker or 'high,jacker *n.*

hike (haik) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to walk a long way, usually for pleasure, esp. in the country. 2. (usually foll. by *up*) *a.* to pull or be pulled; hitch. *b.* to raise (prices). ~*n.* 3. a long walk. 4. a rise in price. —'hiker *n.*

hilarious ('hi'lɛəriəs) *adj.* very funny. —'hi'lariouly *adv.* —'hi'lariousness or **hilarity** ('hi'lærɪti) *n.*

Hilary term ('hɪləri) *n.* the spring term at Oxford University and some other educational establishments.

hill (hil) *n.* 1. *a.* a natural elevation of the earth's surface, less high or craggy than a mountain. *b.* (*in combination*): *a hillside.* 2. *a.* a heap or mound. *b.* (*in combination*): *a dunghill.* 3. an incline; slope. 4. **hill and dale**. (of gramophone records) having vertical groove undulations. 5. **over the hill**. *Sl.* *a.* beyond one's prime. *b.* *Mil.* absent without leave or deserting. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 6. to form into a hill. 7. to cover or surround with a heap of earth. —'hilly *adj.*

hillbilly ('hɪl,bɪli) *n.*, *pl.* -**ies**. 1. Usually disparaging, an unsophisticated person, esp. from the mountainous areas in the southeastern U.S. 2. another name for **country-and-western**.

hillock ('hɪlək) *n.* a small hill or mound. —'hillocked or 'hillocky *adj.*

hills (hɪlz) *pl. n.* 1. the, a hilly and often remote region. 2. as **old as the hills**. very old.

hilt (hɪlt) *n.* 1. the handle or shaft of a sword, dagger, etc. 2. to the hilt, to the full. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to supply with a hilt.

hilum ('haɪləm) *n.*, *pl.* -**la** (-lə). *Bot.* a scar on a seed marking its point of attachment to the seed stalk.

him (hɪm; unstressed ɪm) *pron.* (*objective*) refers to a male person or animal: *they needed him; she baked him a cake; not him again!*

➤ **Usage.** See at **me**.

himself (hɪm'self; medially often ɪm'self) *pron.* 1. *a.* the reflexive form of *he* or *him*. *b.* (*intensifier*): *the king himself waved to me.* 2. (*preceded by a copula*) his normal self: *he seems himself once more.*

➤ **Usage.** See at **myself**.

hind¹ ('haɪnd) *adj.* **hinder**, **hindmost** or **hindermost**. (*pre-nominal*) (esp. of parts of the body) situated at the back: *a hind leg.*

hind² ('haɪnd) *n.*, *pl.* **hinds** or **hind**. 1. the female of the deer, esp. the red deer when aged three years or more. 2. any of several marine fishes related to the grouper.

hinder¹ ('hɪndə) *vb.* 1. to be or get in the way of (someone or something); hamper. 2. (*tr.*) to prevent.

hinder² ('haɪndə) *adj.* (*pre-nominal*) situated at or further towards the back; posterior.

Hindi ('hɪndi) *n.* 1. a language or group of dialects of N central India. See also **Hindustani**. 2. a formal literary dialect of this language, the official language of India. 3. a person whose native language is Hindi.

hindmost ('haɪnd,məʊst) or **hindermost** ('hɪndə,məʊst) *adj.* furthest back; last.

hindrance ('hɪndrəns) *n.* 1. an obstruction or snag; impediment. 2. the act of hindering.

hindsight ('haɪnd,sɑɪt) *n.* 1. the ability to understand, after something has happened, what should have been done. 2. a firearm's rear sight.

Hindu or **Hindoo** ('hɪndu; hɪn'duː) *n.*, *pl.* -**dus** or -**doos**. 1. a person who adheres to Hinduism. 2. an inhabitant or native of Hindustan or India. ~*adj.* 3. relating to Hinduism, Hindus, or India.

Hinduism or **Hindooism** ('hɪndu,ɪzəm) *n.* the complex of beliefs and customs comprising the dominant religion of India, characterized by the worship of many gods, a caste system, belief in reincarnation, etc.

Hindustani, **Hindoostani** ('hɪndu'stɑːni), or **Hindustani** *n.* 1. the dialect of Hindi spoken in Delhi: used as a lingua franca throughout India. 2. all the spoken forms of Hindi and Urdu considered together. ~*adj.* 3. of or relating to these languages or Hindustan.

hinge (hɪndʒ) *n.* 1. a device for holding together two parts such that one can swing relative to the other. 2. a natural joint, such as the knee joint, that functions in only one plane. 3. something on which events, opinions, etc., turn. 4. Also called: **mount**. *Philately*, a small transparent strip of gummed paper for affixing a stamp to a page. ~*vb.* 5. (*tr.*) to fit a hinge to (something). 6. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *on* or *upon*) to depend (on). 7. (*intr.*) to hang or turn on or as if on a hinge. —**hinged** *adj.*

hinny¹ ('hɪni) *n.*, *pl.* -**nies**. the sterile hybrid offspring of a male horse and a female donkey.

hinny² ('hɪni) *n.* *N English dialect*, a term of endearment, esp. for a woman.

hint (hɪnt) *n.* 1. a suggestion given in an indirect or subtle manner. 2. a helpful piece of advice. 3. a small amount; trace. ~*vb.* 4. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *at*; when *tr.*, *takes a clause as object*) to suggest indirectly.

hinterland ('hɪntə,lænd) *n.* 1. land lying behind something, esp. a coast or the shore of a river. 2. remote or undeveloped areas. 3. an area near and dependent on a large city, esp. a port.

hip¹ (hɪp) *n.* 1. (*often pl.*) either side of the body below the waist and above the thigh. 2. another name for **pelvis** (sense 1). 3. short for **hip joint**. 4. the angle formed where two sloping sides of a roof meet. —'hip-less *adj.*

hip² (hɪp) *n.* the berry-like brightly coloured fruit of a rose plant. Also called: **rosehip**.

hip³ (hɪp) *interj.* an exclamation used to introduce cheers (in **hip, hip, hurrah**).

hip⁴ (hɪp) *adj.* **hipper**, **hippest** *Sl.* 1. aware of or following the latest trends. 2. (*often postpositive*; foll. by *to*) informed (about).

hip bath *n.* a portable bath in which the bather sits.

hipbone ('hɪp,bəʊn) *n.* the nontechnical name for **innominate bone**.

hip joint *n.* the ball-and-socket joint that connects each leg to the trunk of the body.

hipped (hɪpt) *adj.* 1. *a.* having a hip or hips. *b.* (*in combination*): *broad-hipped.* 2. (esp. of cows, sheep, etc.) having an injury to the hip, such as a dislocation. 3. *Archit.* having a hip or hips: *hipped roof*.

hippie or **hippy** ('hɪpi) *n.*, *pl.* -**pies**. (esp. during the 1960s) a person whose behaviour, dress, use of drugs, etc., implied a rejection of conventional values.

hippo ('hɪpə) *n.*, *pl.* -**pos**. *Inf.* short for **hippopotamus**.

Hippocratic oath ('hɪpə'krætɪk) *n.* an oath taken by a doctor to observe a code of medical ethics derived from that of Hippocrates, (?460–?377 B.C.), Greek physician.

hippodrome ('hɪpə,drəʊm) *n.* 1. a music hall, variety theatre, or circus. 2. (in ancient Greece or Rome) an open-air course for horse and chariot races.

hippopotamus ('hɪpə'pɒtəməs) *n.*, *pl.* -**muses** or -**mi** (-maɪ), a very large gregarious mammal living in or around the rivers of tropical Africa.

hippy¹ ('hɪpi) *adj.* -**pier**, -**piest**. *Inf.* (esp. of a woman) having large hips.

hippy² ('hɪpi) *n.*, *pl.* -**pies**. a variant spelling of **hippie**.

hip roof *n.* a roof having sloping ends and sides.

hipster ('hɪpstə) *n.* 1. *Sl.* an outmoded word for **hippie**. 2. (*modifier*) (of trousers) cut so that the top encircles the hips.

hipsters ('hɪpstəz) *pl. n.* *Brit.* trousers cut so that the top encircles the hips. Usual U.S. word: **hip-huggers**.

hire ('haɪə) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to acquire the temporary use of (a thing) or the services of (a person) in exchange for payment. 2. (often foll. by *out*) to provide (something) or the services of (oneself or others) for payment, usually for an agreed period. 3. (*tr.*; foll. by *out*) Chiefly *Brit.* to pay independent contractors for (work to be done). ~*n.* 4. *a.* the act of hiring or the state of being hired. *b.* (*as modifier*): *a hire car.* 5. the price for a

person's services or the temporary use of something. **6.** for or on hire, available for hire. —**'hirable** or **'hire-able** *adj.* —**'hirer** *n.*

hireling ('haɪlɪŋ) *n.* *Derog.* a person who works only for money.

hire-purchase *n.* *Brit.* a system in which a buyer takes possession of merchandise on payment of a deposit and completes the purchase by paying a series of instalments while the seller retains ownership until the final instalment is paid. *Abbrev.: H.P., h.p.* U.S. equivalent: **instalment buying**.

hirsute ('hɜːsjuːt) *adj.* **1.** covered with hair. **2.** (of plants) covered with long but not stiff hairs. —**'hirsuteness** *n.*

his (hɪz; *unstressed* ɪz) *determiner*. **1.** a. of, belonging to, or associated with him: *his knee; I don't like his being out so late.* b. (as pronoun): *his is on the left; that book is his.* **2.** his and hers, for a man and woman respectively. ~*pron.* **3.** of his, belonging to him.

Hispanic (hɪ'spænɪk) *adj.* of or derived from Spain or the Spanish. —**Hispanicism** *n.*

hiss (hɪs) *n.* **1.** a sound like that of a prolonged s. **2.** such a sound as an exclamation of derision, contempt, etc. ~*vb.* **3.** (*intr.*) to produce or utter a hiss. **4.** (*tr.*) to express with a hiss. **5.** (*tr.*) to show derision or anger towards (a speaker, performer, etc.) by hissing. —**'hiss-er** *n.*

hist (hɪst) *interj.* an exclamation used to attract attention or as a warning to be silent.

histamine ('hɪstə,mɪn) *n.* an amine released by the body tissues in allergic reactions, causing irritation. *Formula: C₅H₉N₃.* —**histaminic** ('hɪstə'mɪnɪk) *adj.*

histo- or before a vowel **hist-** *combining form.* indicating animal or plant tissue: *histology; histamine.*

histogram ('hɪstə,grəm) *n.* a figure that represents a frequency distribution, consisting of contiguous rectangles whose width is in proportion to the class interval under consideration and whose height is the associated frequency.

histology (hɪ'stɒlədʒɪ) *n.* the study of the tissues of an animal or plant. —**histological** ('hɪstə'lɒdʒɪkəl) or **'histo-'logic** *adj.*

historian (hɪ'stɔːrɪən) *n.* a person who writes or studies history, esp. one who is an authority on it.

historic (hɪ'stɔːrɪk) *adj.* **1.** famous in history; significant. **2.** *Linguistics.* (of Latin, Greek, or Sanskrit verb tenses) referring to past time.

▷ **Usage.** A distinction is made between *historic* (important, significant) and *historical* (pertaining to history): *a historic decision; a historical perspective.*

historical ('hɪstɔːrɪkəl) *adj.* **1.** belonging to or typical of the study of history: *historical methods.* **2.** concerned with events of the past: *historical accounts.* **3.** based on or constituting factual material as distinct from legend or supposition. **4.** based on history: *a historical novel.* **5.** occurring in history. —**his'torically** *adv.*

▷ **Usage.** See at **historic.**

historicism (hɪ'stɔːrɪsɪzəm) *n.* **1.** the belief that natural laws govern historical events. **2.** the theory that each period in history has its own values, inapplicable to other periods. **3.** excessive emphasis on history, past styles, etc. —**his'toricist** *n., adj.*

historicity ('hɪstə'rɪsɪtɪ) *n.* historical authenticity.

historiographer (hɪ'stɔːrɪ'ɒgrəfə) *n.* **1.** a historian, esp. one concerned with historical method. **2.** a historian employed to write the history of a group or public institution. —**hi'stori'ography** *n.*

history ('hɪstəri) *n., pl. -ries.* **1.** a record or account of past events, developments, etc. **2.** all that is preserved of the past, esp. in written form. **3.** the discipline of recording and interpreting past events. **4.** past events, esp. when considered as an aggregate. **5.** an event in the past, esp. one that has been reduced in importance: *their quarrel was just history.* **6.** the past, previous experiences, etc., of a thing or person: *the house had a strange history.* **7.** a play that depicts historical events. **8.** a narrative relating the events of a character's life: *the history of Joseph Andrews.*

histrionic ('hɪstri'ɒnɪk) *adj.* **1.** excessively dramatic or artificial: *histrionic gestures.* **2.** Now rare. dramatic. ~*n.* **3.** (*pl.*) melodramatic displays of temperament. **4.** *Rare.* (*pl., functioning as sing.*) dramatics. —**histri'onically** *adv.*

hit (hɪt) *vb.* **hitting, hit.** (*mainly tr.*) **1.** (*also intr.*) to deal (a blow) to (a person or thing); strike. **2.** to come into violent contact with: *the car hit the tree.* **3.** to strike with a missile: *to hit a target.* **4.** to knock or bump: *I hit my arm on the table.* **5.** to propel by striking: *to hit a*

ball. **6.** *Cricket.* to score (runs). **7.** to affect (a person, place, or thing), esp. suddenly or adversely: *his illness hit his wife very hard.* **8.** to reach: *unemployment hit a new high.* **9.** to experience: *I've hit a slight snag here.* **10.** U.S. *sl.* to murder (a rival criminal) in fulfilment of an underworld vendetta. **11.** *Inf.* to set out on: *let's hit the road.* **12.** *Inf.* to arrive: *he will hit town tomorrow.* **13.** *Inf., chiefly U.S.* to demand or request from: *he hit me for a pound.* **14.** *hit the bottle.* *Sl.* to drink an excessive amount of alcohol. **15.** *hit the sack (or hay).* *Sl.* to go to bed. ~*n.* **16.** an impact or collision. **17.** a. a shot, blow, etc., that reaches its object. b. (*as modifier*): *a hit list; a hit squad.* **18.** an apt, witty, or telling remark. **19.** *Inf.* a. a person or thing that gains wide appeal: *she's a hit with everyone.* b. (*as modifier*): *a hit record.* **20.** *Inf.* a stroke of luck. **21.** U.S. *sl.* a murder carried out as the result of an underworld vendetta. **22.** *make a hit with.* *Inf.* to make a favourable impression on. ~*See also* **hit off, hit on, hit out.** —**'hitter** *n.*

hit-and-run *adj. (prenominal)* **1.** denoting a motor-vehicle accident in which the driver leaves the scene without stopping to give assistance, inform the police, etc. **2.** (of an attack, raid, etc.) relying on surprise allied to a rapid departure from the scene of operations: *hit-and-run tactics.*

hitch (hɪtʃ) *vb.* **1.** to fasten or become fastened with a knot or tie. **2.** (*tr.*; often foll. by *up*) to pull up (the trousers, etc.) with a quick jerk. **3.** (*intr.*) *Chiefly U.S.* to move in a halting manner. **4.** (*tr.*; passive) *Inf.* to marry (esp. in *get hitched*). **5.** *Inf.* to obtain (a ride) by hitchhiking. ~*n.* **6.** an impediment or obstacle, esp. one that is temporary or minor. **7.** a knot that can be undone by pulling against the direction of the strain that holds it. **8.** a sudden jerk: *he gave it a hitch and it came loose.* **9.** *Inf.* a ride obtained by hitchhiking. —**'hitch-er** *n.*

hitchhike ('hɪtʃ,həɪk) *vb. (intr.)* to travel by obtaining free lifts in motor vehicles. —**'hitch,hiker** *n.*

hither ('hɪðə) *adv.* **1.** to or towards this place (esp. in *come hither*). **2.** *hither and thither.* this way and that, as in confusion. ~*adj.* **3.** *Arch. or dialect.* (of a side or part) nearer; closer.

hitherto ('hɪðə'tuː) *adv.* until this time: *hitherto, there have been no problems.*

hit man *n.* a hired assassin.

hit off *vb. 1. (tr., adv.)* to represent or mimic accurately. **2.** *hit it off.* *Inf.* to have a good relationship with.

hit on *vb. (intr., prep.)* to discover unexpectedly or guess correctly. *Also: hit upon.*

hit or miss *adj. (hit-or-miss when prenominal)* *Inf.* random; casual; haphazard. *Also: hit and miss.*

hit out *vb. (intr., adv.; often foll. by at)* **1.** to direct blows forcefully and vigorously. **2.** to make a verbal attack (upon someone).

Hittite ('hɪtɪt) *n.* **1.** a member of an ancient people of Anatolia, who built a great empire in N Syria and Asia Minor in the second millennium B.C. **2.** the extinct language of this people. ~*adj.* **3.** of or relating to this people, their civilization, or their language.

hive (haɪv) *n.* **1.** a structure in which social bees live. **2.** a colony of social bees. **3.** a place showing signs of great industry (esp. in *a hive of activity*). **4.** a teeming multitude. ~*vb.* **5.** to cause (bees) to collect or (of bees) to collect inside a hive. **6.** to live or cause to live in or as if in a hive. **7.** (*tr.*; often foll. by *up* or *away*) to store, esp. for future use. —**'hive,like** *adj.*

hive off *vb. (adv.)* **1.** to transfer or be transferred from a larger group or unit. **2.** (*usually tr.*) to transfer (profitable activities of a nationalized industry) back to private ownership.

H.L. (in Britain) *abbrev.* for House of Lords.

H.M. *abbrev. for:* **1.** His (or Her) Majesty. **2.** headmaster; headmistress.

H.M.A.S. *abbrev. for* His (or Her) Majesty's Australian Ship.

H.M.C.S. *abbrev. for* His (or Her) Majesty's Canadian Ship.

H.M.I. (in Britain) *abbrev. for* Her Majesty's Inspector; a government official who examines and supervises schools.

H.M.S. *abbrev. for:* **1.** His (or Her) Majesty's Service. **2.** His (or Her) Majesty's Ship.

H.M.S.O. (in Britain) *abbrev. for* His (or Her) Majesty's Stationery Office.

H.N.C. (in Britain) *abbrev. for* Higher National Certificate; a qualification recognized by many national technical and professional institutions.

H.N.D. (in Britain) *abbrev. for Higher National Diploma*; a qualification in technical subjects equivalent to an ordinary degree.

ho (həʊ) *interj.* 1. Also: **ho-ho**, an imitation or representation of the sound of a deep laugh. 2. an exclamation used to attract attention, etc.

Ho the chemical symbol for holmium.

hoar (hɔː) *n.* 1. short for **hoarfrost**. ~*adj.* 2. Rare. covered with hoarfrost. 3. *Arch.* a poetic variant of **hoary**.

hoard (hɔːd) *n.* 1. an accumulated store hidden away for future use. 2. a cache of ancient coins, treasure, etc. ~*vb.* 3. to gather or accumulate (a hoard). —'hoarder *n.*

hoarding ('hɔːdɪŋ) *n.* 1. Also called (esp. U.S.): **billboard**, a large board used for displaying advertising posters, as by a road. 2. a temporary wooden fence erected around an area while construction or repairs are in progress.

hoarfrost ('hɔːfrɒst) *n.* a deposit of needle-like ice crystals formed on the ground by direct condensation at temperatures below freezing point. Also called: **white frost**.

hoarse (hɔːs) *adj.* 1. gratingly harsh in tone. 2. having a husky voice, as through illness, shouting, etc. —'hoarsely *adv.* —'hoarseness *n.*

hoary ('hɔːri) *adj.* **hoarier, hoariest.** 1. having grey or white hair. 2. white or whitish-grey in colour. 3. ancient or venerable. —'hoariness *n.*

hoax (həʊks) *n.* 1. a deception, esp. a practical joke. ~*vb.* 2. (tr.) to deceive or play a joke on (someone). —'hoaxer *n.*

hob¹ (hɒb) *n.* 1. the flat top part of a cooking stove, or a separate flat surface, containing hotplates or burners. 2. a shelf beside an open fire, for keeping kettles, etc., hot. 3. a steel pattern used in forming a mould or die in cold metal.

hob² (hɒb) *n.* 1. a hobgoblin or elf. 2. *raise or play hob*. *U.S. inf.* to cause mischief.

hobble ('hɒbəl) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to walk with a lame awkward movement. 2. (tr.) to fetter the legs of (a horse) in order to restrict movement. 3. to progress with difficulty. ~*n.* 4. a strap, rope, etc., used to hobble a horse. 5. a limping gait. ~Also (for senses 2, 4): **hobble**. —'hobbler *n.*

hobby ('hɒbi) *n.*, *pl.* -bies. 1. an activity pursued in spare time for pleasure or relaxation. 2. *Arch.* a small horse. 3. short for **hobbyhorse** (sense 1). 4. an early form of bicycle, without pedals. —'hobbyist *n.*

hobbyhorse ('hɒbi,hɔːs) *n.* 1. a toy consisting of a stick with a figure of a horse's head at one end. 2. a rocking horse. 3. a figure of a horse attached to a performer's waist in a morris dance, etc. 4. a favourite topic (esp. in **on one's hobbyhorse**).

hobgoblin ('hɒb'gɒblɪn) *n.* 1. a mischievous goblin. 2. *bogy*.

hobnail ('hɒb,neɪl) *n.* a. a short nail with a large head for protecting the soles of heavy footwear. b. (as modifier): **hobnail boots**. —'hob,nailed *adj.*

hobnob ('hɒb,nɒb) *vb.* -nobbing, -nobbed. (*intr.*; often foll. by *with*) 1. to socialize or talk informally. 2. *Obs.* to drink (with).

hobo ('həʊbəʊ) *n.*, *pl.* -bos or -boes. Chiefly U.S. 1. a tramp; vagrant. 2. a migratory worker. —'hoboism *n.*

Hobson's choice ('hɒbs'nz) *n.* the choice of taking what is offered or nothing at all.

hock¹ (hɒk) *n.* 1. the joint at the tarsus of a horse or similar animal, corresponding to the human ankle. ~*vb.* 2. another word for **hamstring**.

hock² (hɒk) *n.* any of several white wines from the German Rhine.

hock³ (hɒk) *Inf.* chiefly U.S. ~*vb.* 1. (tr.) to pawn or pledge. ~*n.* 2. the state of being in pawn. 3. in **hock**. a. in prison. b. in debt. c. in pawn. —'hocker *n.*

hockey ('hɒki) *n.* 1. Also called (esp. U.S. & Canad.): **field hockey**, a game played on a field by two opposing teams of 11 players each, who try to hit a ball into their opponents' goal using long sticks curved at the end. 2. See **ice hockey**.

hocus-pocus ('həʊkəs'pəʊkəs) *n.* 1. trickery or chicanery. 2. an incantation used by conjurers or magicians. 3. conjuring skill. ~*vb.* -cusing, -cused or -cussing, -cussed. 4. to deceive or trick (someone).

hod (hɒd) *n.* 1. an open wooden box attached to a pole, for carrying bricks, mortar, etc. 2. a tall narrow coal scuttle.

hodgepodge ('hɒdʒ,pɒdʒ) *n.* a variant spelling (esp. U.S.) of **hotchpotch**.

Hodgkin's disease ('hɒdʒkɪnz) *n.* a malignant disease characterized by enlargement of the lymph nodes, spleen, and liver.

hodometer ('hɒ'dɒmɪtə) *n.* another name for **odometer**. —'hodomety *n.*

hoe (həʊ) *n.* 1. any of several kinds of long-handled hand implement used to till the soil, weed, etc. ~*vb.* **hoeing, hoed.** 2. to dig, scrape, weed, or till (surface soil) with or as if with a hoe. —'hoer *n.*

hog (hɒg) *n.* 1. a domesticated pig, esp. a castrated male. 2. U.S. any mammal of the family *Suidae*; pig. 3. Also: **hogget** ('hɒɡɪt), **hogg**. *Brit. dialect.* a young sheep that has yet to be sheared. 4. *Inf.* a greedy person. 5. **go the whole hog**. *Sl.* to do something thoroughly or unreservedly. ~*vb.* **hogging, hogged.** 6. *Sl.* to take more than one's share of. 7. (tr.) to arch (the back) like a hog. 8. (tr.) to cut (the mane) of (a horse) very short. —'hogger *n.* —'hog,like *adj.*

hogback ('hɒg,bæk) *n.* 1. Also called: **hog's back**, a narrow ridge with steep sides. 2. *Archaeol.* a tomb with sloping sides.

Hogmanay ('hɒgmə'nei) *n.* (sometimes not cap.) New Year's Eve in Scotland.

hogshead ('hɒgz,hed) *n.* 1. a unit of capacity, used esp. for alcoholic beverages. It has several values. 2. a large cask.

hogwash ('hɒg,wɒʃ) *n.* 1. nonsense. 2. pigs' milk.

hoick (hɔɪk) *vb.* to rise or raise abruptly and sharply.

hoi polloi ('hɔɪ pə'lɔɪ) *n.* the. Often derog. the masses; common people.

hoist ('hɔɪst) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to raise or lift up, esp. by mechanical means. 2. **hoist with one's own petard**. See **petard**. ~*n.* 3. any apparatus or device for hoisting. 4. the act of hoisting. 5. *Austral.* a rotary apparatus on which clothes can be hung to dry. 6. *Naut.* a group of signal flags. 7. the inner edge of a flag next to the staff. —'hoister *n.*

hoity-toity ('hɔɪtɪ'tɔɪtɪ) *adj.* *Inf.* arrogant or haughty.

hokum ('həʊkəm) *n.* U.S. *sl.* 1. claptrap; bunk. 2. obvious or hackneyed material of a sentimental nature in a play, film, etc.

hold¹ ('həʊld) *vb.* **holding, held.** 1. to have or keep (an object) with or within the hands, arms, etc.; clasp. 2. (tr.) to support: to **hold a drowning man's head above water**. 3. to maintain or be maintained in a specified state: to **hold firm**. 4. (tr.) to set aside or reserve: they will **hold our tickets until tomorrow**. 5. (when *intr.*, usually used in commands) to restrain or be restrained from motion, action, departure, etc.: **hold that man until the police come**. 6. (*intr.*) to remain fast or unbroken: **that cable won't hold much longer**. 7. (*intr.*) (of the weather) to remain dry and bright. 8. (tr.) to keep the attention of. 9. (tr.) to engage in or carry on: to **hold a meeting**. 10. (tr.) to have the ownership, possession, etc., of: **he holds a law degree; who's holding the ace?** 11. (tr.) to have the use of or responsibility for: to **hold office**. 12. (tr.) to have the capacity for: **the carton will hold eight books**. 13. (tr.) to be able to control the outward effects of drinking beer, spirits, etc. 14. (often foll. by *to* or *by*) to remain or cause to remain committed to: **hold him to his promise**. 15. (tr.; takes a clause as object) to claim: **he holds that the theory is incorrect**. 16. (*intr.*) to remain relevant, valid, or true: **the old philosophies don't hold nowadays**. 17. (tr.) to consider in a specified manner: **I hold him very dear**. 18. (tr.) to defend successfully: **hold the fort against the attack**. 19. (sometimes foll. by *on*) *Music.* to sustain the sound of (a note) throughout its specified duration. 20. (tr.) *Computers.* to retain (data) in a storage device after copying onto another storage device or location. 21. **hold (good) for.** to apply or be relevant to: **the same rules hold for everyone**. 22. **hold one's own.** a. to maintain one's position. b. to be sufficiently competent: **she can't hold her own in the top class**. 23. **hold one's peace or tongue.** *Inf.* to be silent. 24. **hold water.** to stand up to examination. 25. **there is no holding him.** he is so spirited that he cannot be restrained. ~*n.* 26. the act or method of holding fast or grasping. 27. something to hold onto, as for support or control. 28. an object or device that holds fast or grips something else. 29. controlling influence: **she has a hold on him**. 30. a short pause. 31. a prison or a cell in a prison. 32. *Wrestling.* a way of seizing one's opponent. 33. *Music.* a pause or fermata. 34. a. a tenure, esp. of land. b. (*in combination*): **freehold**. 35. *Arch.* a fortified place. 36. **no holds barred.** all limita-

tions removed. ~See also **hold back**, **hold down**, etc. —**holdable** *adj.* —**holder** *n.*

hold (həʊld) *n.* the space in a ship or aircraft for storing cargo.

holdall ('həʊld,ɔ:l) *n.* *Brit.* a large strong bag or basket. Usual U.S. name: **carryall**.

hold back *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. to restrain or be restrained. 2. (*tr.*) to withhold: *he held back part of the payment.*

hold down *vb.* (*tr., adv.*) 1. to restrain or control. 2. *Inf.* to manage to retain or keep possession of: *to hold down two jobs at once.*

holdfast ('həʊld,fæst) *n.* 1. the act of gripping strongly. 2. any device used to secure an object, such as a hook, clamp, etc. 3. the organ of attachment of a seaweed or related plant.

hold forth *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. (*intr.*) to speak for a long time or in public. 2. (*tr.*) to offer (an attraction or enticement).

hold in *vb.* (*tr., adv.*) 1. to curb, control, or keep in check. 2. to conceal (feelings).

holding ('həʊldɪŋ) *n.* 1. land held under a lease. 2. (*often pl.*) property to which the holder has legal title, such as land, stocks, shares, and other investments. 3. *Sport.* the obstruction of an opponent with the hands or arms, esp. in boxing.

holding company *n.* a company with controlling shareholdings in one or more other companies.

hold off *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. (*tr.*) to keep apart or at a distance. 2. (*intr.*; *often foll. by from*) to refrain (from doing something).

hold on *vb.* (*intr., adv.*) 1. to maintain a firm grasp. 2. to continue or persist. 3. (*foll. by to*) to keep or retain: *hold on to those stamps as they'll soon be valuable.* 4. *Inf.* to keep a telephone line open. ~*interj.* 5. *Inf.* stop! wait!

hold out *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. (*tr.*) to offer. 2. (*intr.*) to last or endure. 3. (*intr.*) to continue to stand firm, as a person refusing to succumb to persuasion. 4. *Chiefly U.S.* to withhold (something due). 5. **hold out for.** *Inf.* to wait patiently for (the fulfilment of one's demands). 6. **hold out on.** *Inf.* to keep from telling (a person) some important information.

hold over *vb.* (*tr., mainly adv.*) 1. to defer or postpone. 2. (*prep.*) to intimidate (a person) with (a threat).

hold-up *n.* 1. a robbery, esp. an armed one. 2. a delay; stoppage. ~*vb.* **hold up.** (*adv.*) 3. (*tr.*) to delay; hinder. 4. (*tr.*) to support. 5. (*tr.*) to waylay in order to rob, esp. using a weapon. 6. (*tr.*) to exhibit or present.

hold with *vb.* (*intr., prep.*) to support; approve of.

hole (həʊl) *n.* 1. an area hollowed out in a solid. 2. an opening in or through something. 3. an animal's burrow. 4. *Inf.* an unattractive place, such as a town. 5. a fault: *he picked holes in my argument.* 6. *Sl.* a difficult and embarrassing situation. 7. the cavity in various games into which the ball must be thrust. 8. (on a golf course) a. each of the divisions of a course (usually 18) represented by the distance between the tee and a green. b. the score made in striking the ball from the tee into the hole. 9. *Physics.* a vacancy in a normally filled band of electron energies that behaves as a carrier of charge and is mathematically equivalent to a positron. 10. **hole in the wall.** *Inf.* a small dingy place, esp. one difficult to find. 11. **make a hole in.** to consume or use a great amount of (food, drink, money, etc.). ~*vb.* 12. to make a hole or holes in (something). 13. (when *intr.*, *often foll. by out*) *Golf.* to hit (the ball) into the hole. —**holey** *adj.*

hole-and-corner *adj.* (*usually prenominal*) *Inf.* furtive or secretive.

hole up *vb.* (*intr., adv.*) *Chiefly U.S.* 1. (of an animal) to hibernate. 2. to hide or remain secluded.

holiday ('həʊlɪdeɪ) *n.* 1. (*often pl.*) *Chiefly Brit.* a period in which a break is taken from work or studies for rest, travel, or recreation. U.S. word: **vacation**. 2. a day on which work is suspended by law or custom, such as a religious festival, bank holiday, etc. Related *adj.*: **ferial**. ~*vb.* 3. (*intr.*) *Chiefly Brit.* to spend a holiday.

holiness ('həʊlɪnɪs) *n.* the state or quality of being holy.

Holiness ('həʊlɪnɪs) *n.* (preceded by *his* or *your*) a title reserved for the pope.

holism ('həʊlɪzəm) *n.* *Philosophy.* the idea that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. —**holistic** *adj.*

hoiland ('həʊlənd) *n.* a coarse linen cloth.

hollandaise sauce (,həʊlənd'deɪz, 'həʊlənd,deɪz) *n.* a rich sauce of egg yolks, butter, vinegar, etc.

Hollands ('həʊləndz) *n.* Dutch gin, often sold in stone bottles.

holler ('həʊlə) *Inf.* ~*vb.* 1. to shout or yell (something). ~*n.* 2. a shout; call.

hollo ('həʊləʊ) or **holla** ('həʊlə) *n., pl. -los or -las. interj.* 1. a cry for attention, or of encouragement. ~*vb.* 2. (*intr.*) to shout.

hollow ('həʊləʊ) *adj.* 1. having a hole or space within; not solid. 2. having a sunken area; concave. 3. deeply set: *hollow cheeks.* 4. (of sounds) as if resounding in a hollow place. 5. without substance or validity. 6. hungry or empty. 7. insincere; cynical. 8. **beat (someone) hollow.** *Brit. inf.* to defeat thoroughly. ~*n.* 9. a cavity, opening, or space in or within something. 10. a depression in the land. ~*vb.* (often *foll. by out*, usually when *tr.*) 11. to make or become hollow. 12. to form (a hole, cavity, etc.) or (of a hole, etc.) to be formed. —**hollowly** *adv.* —**hollowness** *n.*

holly ('hɒli) *n., pl. -lies.* 1. a tree or shrub having bright red berries and shiny evergreen leaves with prickly edges. 2. its branches, used for Christmas decorations. 3. **holly oak.** another name for **holm oak**.

hollyhock ('hɒli,hɒk) *n.* a tall plant with stout hairy stems and spikes of white, yellow, red, or purple flowers. Also called (U.S.): **rose mallow**.

holmium ('hɒlmɪəm) *n.* a malleable silver-white metallic element of the lanthanide series. Symbol: Ho; atomic no.: 67; atomic wt.: 164.93.

holm oak (həʊm) *n.* an evergreen Mediterranean oak tree with prickly leaves resembling holly. Also called: **holm**, **holly oak**, **ilex**.

holo- or before a vowel **hol-** combining form. whole or wholly: **holograph**.

holocaust ('hɒlə,kɒst) *n.* 1. great destruction or loss of life or the source of such destruction, esp. fire. 2. (*usually cap.*) **the.** the mass murder of Jews in Nazi Germany.

holograph ('hɒlə,græf, -græ:f) *n.* a book or document handwritten by its author; original manuscript; autograph.

holography ('hɒlə'grəfi) *n.* the science of producing a photographic record (**hologram**) by illuminating the object with coherent light and exposing a film to light reflected from this object and to a direct beam of the coherent light. When interference patterns on the film are illuminated by the coherent light a three-dimensional image is produced. —**holographic** (,hɒlə'græfɪk) *adj.* —**holographically** *adv.*

hols (hɒlz) *pl. n.* *Brit. school sl.* holidays.

holster ('həʊlstə) *n.* a sheathlike leather case for a pistol, attached to a belt or saddle.

holy ('həʊli) *adj.* **-lier, -liest.** 1. of or associated with God or a deity; sacred. 2. endowed or invested with extreme purity. 3. devout or virtuous. 4. **holier-than-thou.** offensively sanctimonious or self-righteous. ~*n., pl. -lies.* 5. a sacred place.

Holy Communion *n.* 1. the celebration of the Eucharist. 2. the consecrated elements.

Holy Ghost or Spirit *n.* *Christianity.* the third person of the Trinity.

Holy Grail *n.* (in medieval legend) the bowl used by Jesus at the Last Supper. It was brought to Britain by Joseph of Arimathea, where it became the quest of many knights. Also called: **Graill**, **Sangraal**.

Holy Land *n.* the. another name for Palestine.

holy of holies *n.* 1. any place of special sanctity. 2. the innermost compartment of the Jewish tabernacle, where the Ark was enshrined.

holy orders *n.* 1. the sacrament whereby a person is admitted to the Christian ministry. 2. the grades of the Christian ministry. 3. the status of an ordained Christian minister.

Holy See *n.* *R.C. Church.* 1. the see of the pope as bishop of Rome. 2. the Roman curia.

Holy Spirit *n.* another name for the **Holy Ghost**.

Holy Week *n.* the week preceding Easter Sunday.

homage ('hɒmɪdʒ) *n.* 1. a public show of respect or honour towards someone or something (esp. in **pay or do homage to**). 2. (in feudal society) the act of respect and allegiance made by a vassal to his lord.

homburg ('hɒmbɜ:g) *n.* a man's hat of soft felt with a dented crown and a stiff upturned brim.

home (həʊm) *n.* 1. the place where one lives. 2. a house or other dwelling. 3. a family or other group living in a house. 4. a person's country, city, etc., esp. viewed as a birthplace or a place dear to one. 5. the habitat of an animal. 6. the place where something is invented, founded, or developed. 7. a building or organization set up to care for people in a certain category,

such as orphans, the aged, etc. **8. Sport.** one's own ground: *the match is at home*. **9. a.** the objective towards which a player strives in certain sports. **b.** an area where a player is safe from attack. **10. a home from home.** a place other than one's own home where one can be at ease. **11. at home.** **a.** in one's own home or country. **b.** at ease. **c.** giving an informal party at one's own home. **d. Brit.** such a party. **12. at home in, on, or with.** familiar with. **13. home and dry.** *Brit. sl.* definitely safe or successful. *Austral. & N.Z.* equivalent: *home and hosed*. **14. near home.** concerning one deeply. *~adj.* (usually *prenominal*) **15.** of one's home, country, etc.; domestic. **16. Sport.** relating to one's own ground: *a home game*. **17. U.S.** central, principal: *the company's home office*. *~adv.* **18.** to or at home: *I'll be home tomorrow*. **19.** to or on the point. **20.** to the fullest extent: *hammer the nail home*. **21. bring home to.** **a.** to make clear to. **b.** to place the blame on. **22. to write home about.** to be of particular interest: *the film was nothing to write home about*. *~vb.* **23. (intr.)** (of birds and other animals) to return home accurately from a distance. **24.** (often foll. by *in on* or *onto*) to direct or be directed onto a point or target, esp. by automatic navigational aids. **25.** to send or go home. **26.** to furnish with a home. **27. (intr.)** often foll. by *in* or *on* to be directed towards a goal, target, etc. — *'homeless adj.*, *n.* — *'homelessness n.*

home-brew *n.* **1.** a beer or other alcoholic drink brewed at home rather than commercially. **2. Canad. inf.** a professional football player who was born in Canada and is not an import. — *'home-'brewed adj.*

Home Counties *pl. n.* the counties surrounding London.

home economics *n.* the study of diet, budgeting, child care, and other subjects concerned with running a home.

home farm *n. Brit.* (esp. formerly) a farm attached to and providing food for a large country house.

Home Guard *n.* a volunteer part-time military force recruited for the defence of the United Kingdom in World War II.

home help *n. Brit.* a woman employed, esp. by a local authority, to do housework in a person's home.

homeland ('həʊmlænd) *n.* **1.** the country in which one lives or was born. **2.** the official name for a *Bantustan*.

homely ('həʊmli) *adj. -lier, -liest.* **1.** characteristic of or suited to the ordinary home; unpretentious. **2.** (of a person) **a.** *Brit.* warm and domesticated. **b.** *Chiefly U.S.* plain. — *'homeliness n.*

home-made *adj.* **1.** (esp. of foods) made at home or on the premises, esp. of high-quality ingredients. **2.** crudely fashioned.

homeo-, homoeo-, or homoi- *combining form.* like or similar: *homeomorphism*.

Home Office *n. Brit. government.* the department responsible for the maintenance of law and order, and all other domestic affairs not specifically assigned to another department.

homeopathy or homoeopathy ('həʊmi'ɒpəθi) *n.* a method of treating disease by the use of small amounts of a drug that, in healthy persons, produces symptoms similar to those of the disease being treated. — *'homeopathic or homoeopathic* ('həʊmi'ɒpəθɪk) *adj.* — *'homeopathist or homoeopathist* ('həʊmi'ɒpəθɪst) *n.*

homeostasis or homoeostasis ('həʊmiə'steɪsɪs) *n.* **1.** the maintenance of metabolic equilibrium within an animal by a tendency to compensate for disrupting changes. **2.** the maintenance of equilibrium within a social group, person, etc.

Homeric ('həʊ'merɪk) *adj.* **1.** of, relating to, or resembling Homer, Greek poet (circa 800 B.C.), to whom are attributed the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*, or his poems. **2.** imposing or heroic. — *'Ho-'merically adv.*

home rule *n.* **1.** self-government, esp. in domestic affairs. **2.** the partial autonomy sometimes granted to a national minority or a colony.

Home Secretary *n. Brit. government.* the head of the Home Office.

homesick ('həʊm,sɪk) *adj.* depressed or melancholy at being away from home and family. — *'home,sickness n.*

homespun ('həʊm,spʌn) *adj.* **1.** having plain or unsophisticated character. **2.** woven or spun at home. *~n.* **3.** cloth made at home or made of yarn spun at home.

homestead ('həʊm,sted,-stɪd) *n.* **1.** a house or estate and the adjoining land, buildings, etc., esp. a farm. **2.** (in the U.S. & Canada) a house and adjoining land designated by the owner as his fixed residence and exempt under the homestead laws from seizure and forced sale for

debts. **3. Austral. & N.Z.** (on a sheep or cattle station) the owner's or manager's residence; in New Zealand, the term includes all outbuildings.

homesteader ('həʊm,stedə) *n.* *U.S. and Canada.* a person holding land under a homestead law.

homestead law *n.* (in the U.S. & Canada) any of various laws conferring privileges on homesteaders.

homeward ('həʊmwəd) *adj.* **1.** going home. **2.** (of a voyage, etc.) returning to the home port. *~adv.* **also homewards.** **3.** towards home.

homework ('həʊm,wɜ:k) *n.* **1.** school work done at home. **2.** any preparatory study.

homicide ('hɒmɪ,said) *n.* **1.** the killing of a human being by another person. **2.** a person who kills another. — *'homi-'cidal adj.*

homily ('hɒmɪli) *n., pl. -lies.* **1.** a sermon. **2.** moralizing talk or writing. — *'homi-'letic adj.* — *'homilist n.*

homing ('həʊmɪŋ) *n. (modifier)* **1.** Zool. relating to the ability to return home after travelling great distances. **2.** (of an aircraft, missile, etc.) capable of guiding itself onto a target.

homing pigeon *n.* any breed of pigeon developed for its homing instinct, used for racing. Also called: *homer*.

hominid ('hɒmɪnɪd) *n.* **1.** any primate of the family *Hominidae*, which includes modern man (*Homo sapiens*) and the extinct precursors of man. *~adj.* **2.** of or belonging to the *Hominidae*.

hominoid ('hɒmɪ,nɔɪd) *adj.* **1.** of or like man; manlike. **2.** of or belonging to the primate family, which includes the anthropoid apes and man. *~n.* **3.** a hominoid animal.

homo ('həʊməʊ) *n., pl. -mos.* *Inf.* short for *homosexual*.

Homo ('həʊməʊ) *n.* any primate of the hominid genus *Homo*, including modern man (see *Homo sapiens*).

homo- *combining form.* same or like: *homologous; homosexual*.

homogeneous ('həʊmə'dʒi:nɪəs, 'hɒm-) *adj.* **1.** composed of similar or identical parts or elements. **2.** of uniform nature. **3.** similar in kind or nature. **4. Maths.** containing terms of the same degree with respect to all the variables, as in $x^2 + 2xy + y^2$. — *'homogeneity* ('həʊmədʒɪ'nɪti, 'hɒm-) *n.* — *'homogeneity n.*

homogenize or -nise ('hɒ'mɒdʒɪnaɪz) *vb.* **1.** (tr.) to break up the fat globules in (milk or cream) so that they are evenly distributed. **2.** to make or become homogeneous. — *'homogenization or -nisation n.*

homograph ('hɒmə'grɑ:f) *n.* one of a group of words spelt in the same way but having different meanings.

homologous ('həʊ'mɒləgəs, 'hɒ-) *homological* ('həʊmə'lɒdʒɪkəl, 'hɒm-) *adj.* **1.** having a related or similar position, structure, etc. **2. Biol.** (of organs and parts) having the same evolutionary origin but different functions: *the wing of a bat and the paddle of a whale are homologous*. — *'homologically adv.* — *'homo,logue n.*

homology ('həʊ'mɒlədʒɪ) *n., pl. -gies.* the condition of being homologous.

homonym ('hɒmənim) *n.* **1.** one of a group of words pronounced or spelt in the same way but having different meanings. Cf. *homograph*. **2. Biol.** a specific or generic name that has been used for two or more different organisms. — *'homonymic or ho'monymous adj.*

Homo sapiens ('sæpi,enz) *n.* the specific name of modern man; the only extant species of the genus *Homo*. This species also includes extinct types of primitive man such as *Cro-Magnon* man.

homosexual ('həʊmə'seksʃuəl, 'hɒm-) *n.* **1.** a person who is sexually attracted to members of the same sex. *~adj.* **2.** of or relating to homosexuals or homosexuality. **3.** of or relating to the same sex. — *'homo,sexuality n.*

homy or esp. U.S. homey ('həʊmi) *adj.* *homier, homiest.* like a home; cosy. — *'hominess or esp. U.S. 'homeyness n.*

hon or hon. *abbrev. for:* **1.** honorary. **2.** honourable.

Hon or Hon. *abbrev. for* Honourable (title).

hone ('hʌʊn) *n.* **1.** a fine whetstone for sharpening. *~vb.* **2.** (tr.) to sharpen or polish with or as if with a hone.

honest ('ɒnɪst) *adj.* **1.** not given to lying, cheating, stealing, etc.; trustworthy. **2.** not false or misleading; genuine. **3.** just or fair: *honest wages*. **4.** characterized by sincerity: *an honest appraisal*. **5.** without pretensions: *honest farmers*. **6. Arch.** (of a woman) respectable. **7. honest broker.** a mediator in disputes, esp. international ones. **8.** make an honest woman of. to

marry (a woman, esp. one who is pregnant) to prevent scandal.

honestly ('ɒnɪstli) *adv.* 1. in an honest manner. 2. (intensifier): *I honestly don't believe it.*

honesty ('ɒnɪsti) *n.*, *pl.* **-ties**. 1. the condition of being honest. 2. *Arch.* virtue or respect. 3. a purple-flowered European plant cultivated for its flattened silvery pods, which are used for indoor decoration. Also called: **moonwort**, **satinpod**.

honey ('hʌni) *n.* 1. a sweet viscid substance made by bees from nectar and stored in their nests or hives as food. 2. anything that is sweet or delightful. 3. (*often cap.*) *Chiefly U.S.* a term of endearment. 4. *inf.* *chiefly U.S.* something very good of its kind. ~*vb.* **honeying**, **honeyed** or **honied**. 5. (*tr.*) to sweeten with or as if with honey. 6. (*often foll. by up*) to talk to (someone) in a flattering way. — **'honey-like adj.**

honeybee ('hʌni,bɪ) *n.* any of various social bees widely domesticated as a source of honey and beeswax. Also called: **hive bee**.

honeycomb ('hʌni,kəʊm) *n.* 1. a waxy structure, constructed by bees in a hive, that consists of adjacent hexagonal cells in which honey is stored, eggs are laid, and larvae develop. 2. something resembling this in structure. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 3. to pierce with holes, cavities, etc. 4. to permeate: *honeycombed with spies.*

honeydew ('hʌni,dju:) *n.* 1. a sugary substance excreted by aphids and similar insects. 2. a similar substance exuded by certain plants.

honeyed or **honied** ('hʌnid) *adj.* *Poetic.* 1. flattering or soothing. 2. made sweet or agreeable: *honeyed words*. 3. full of honey.

honeymoon ('hʌni,mu:n) *n.* 1. a holiday taken by a newly married couple. 2. a holiday considered to resemble a honeymoon: *a second honeymoon*. 3. the early, usually calm period of a relationship or enterprise. ~*vb.* 4. (*intr.*) to take a honeymoon. — **'honey, mooner n.**

honeysuckle ('hʌni,sʌk'l) *n.* 1. a temperate shrub or vine with fragrant white, yellow, or pink tubular flowers. 2. any of various Australian trees or shrubs of the genus *Banksia*, having flowers in dense spikes.

honied ('hʌnid) *adj.* a variant spelling of **honeyed**. — **'honedly adv.**

honk (hɒŋk) *n.* 1. a representation of the sound made by a goose. 2. any sound resembling this. ~*vb.* 3. to make or cause (something) to make such a sound. 4. (*intr.*) *Brit. sl.* to vomit.

honky-tonk ('hɒŋki,tɒŋk) *n.* 1. *U.S. sl.* a cheap disreputable nightclub, bar, etc. 2. *a.* a style of ragtime piano-playing, esp. on a tinny-sounding piano. *b.* (*as modifier*): *honky-tonk music*.

honorarium ('ɒnə'reəriəm) *n.*, *pl.* **-iums** or **-ia** (-iə). a fee paid for a nominally free service.

honorary ('ɒnərəri) *adj.* (*usually prenominal*) 1. *a.* held or given only as an honour, without the normal privileges or duties: *an honorary degree*. *b.* (of a secretary, treasurer, etc.) unpaid. 2. having such a position or title. 3. depending on honour rather than legal agreement.

honorific ('ɒnə'rifɪk) *adj.* 1. showing respect. 2. *a.* (of a pronoun, verb inflection, etc.) indicating the speaker's respect for the addressee. *b.* (*as n.*): *a Japanese honorific*. — **'honor'ifically adv.**

honour or **U.S. honor** ('ɒnə) *n.* 1. personal integrity; allegiance to moral principles. 2. *a.* fame or glory. *b.* a person who wins this for his country, school, etc. 3. (*often pl.*) great respect, esteem, etc., or an outward sign of this. 4. (*often pl.*) high or noble rank. 5. a privilege or pleasure: *it is an honour to serve you*. 6. a woman's chastity. 7. *a.* *Bridge*, etc. any of the top five cards in a suit or any of the four aces at no trumps. *b.* *Whist*, any of the top four cards. 8. *Golf*. the right to tee off first. 9. *do the honours*, *a.* to serve as host or hostess. *b.* to perform a social act, such as carving meat, etc. 10. *in honour bound*, under a moral obligation. 11. *in honour of*, out of respect for. 12. *on one's honour*, on the pledge of one's word or good name. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 13. to hold in respect. 14. to show courteous behaviour towards. 15. to worship. 16. to confer a distinction upon. 17. to accept and then pay when due (a cheque, draft, etc.). 18. to bow or curtsy to (one's dancing partner).

Honour ('ɒnə) *n.* (preceded by *Your, His, or Her*) a title used to or of certain judges.

honourable or **U.S. honorable** ('ɒnərəb'l) *adj.* 1. possessing or characterized by high principles. 2. worthy of honour or esteem. 3. consistent with or bestowing honour. — **'honourably** or **U.S. 'honorablely adv.**

Honourable or **U.S. Honorable** ('ɒnərəb'l) *adj.* (*pre-*

nominal) **the**, a title of respect placed before a name: used of various officials in the English-speaking world; as a courtesy title in Britain for the children of certain peers, and in Parliament by one member speaking of another. Abbrev: **Hon.**

honours or **U.S. honors** ('ɒnəz) *pl. n.* 1. observances of respect. 2. (*often cap.*) *Brit. a.* (in a university degree course) a rank of the highest academic standard. *b.* (*as modifier*): *an honours degree*. Abbrev: **Hons**. 3. a high mark awarded for an examination; distinction. 4. **last** (or **funeral**) **honours**, observances of respect at a funeral. 5. **military honours**, marks of respect paid by or to soldiers, etc.

hooch or **hootch** (hu:tʃ) *n.* *U.S. sl.* alcoholic drink, esp. illicitly distilled spirits.

hood¹ ('hud) *n.* 1. a loose head covering either attached to a cloak or coat or made as a separate garment. 2. something resembling this in shape or use. 3. the U.S. name for **bonnet** (of a car). 4. the folding roof of a convertible car. 5. a hoodlike garment worn over an academic gown, indicating its wearer's degree and university. 6. *Biol.* a hoodlike structure, such as the fold of skin on the head of a cobra. ~*vb.* 7. (*tr.*) to cover with or as if with a hood. — **'hooded adj.** — **'hood, like adj.**

hood² ('hud) *n.* *U.S. sl.* short for **hoodlum**.

-hood *suffix forming nouns*. 1. indicating state or condition: *manhood*. 2. indicating a body of persons: *knighthood*; *priesthood*.

hooded crow *n.* a crow that has a grey body and black head, wings, and tail. Also called (*Scot.*): **hoodie** ('hudi), **hoodie crow**.

hoodlum ('hʊdləm) *n.* 1. a petty gangster. 2. a lawless youth.

hoodoo ('hu:du:) *n.*, *pl.* **-dooos**. 1. a variant of **vodoo**. 2. *Inf.* a person or thing that brings bad luck. 3. *Inf.* bad luck. ~*vb.* **-dooing**, **-dooed**. 4. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to bring bad luck to.

hoodwink ('hud,wɪŋk) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to dupe; trick. 2. *Obs.* to cover or hide.

hokey ('hu:ki) *n.*, (*interj.*) *Sl.* nonsense.

hoof (hu:f) *n.*, *pl.* **hooves** or **hoofs**. 1. *a.* the horny covering of the end of the foot in the horse, deer, and all other ungulate mammals. *b.* (*in combination*): *a hoofbeat*. Related *adj.*: **ungular**. 2. the foot of an ungulate mammal. 3. a hoofed animal. 4. *Facetious*, a person's foot. 5. *on the hoof*, (of livestock) alive. ~*vb.* 6. **hoof it**. *Sl.* *a.* to walk. *b.* (*intr.*) to dance. — **'hoofed adj.**

hoo-ha ('hu:,hɑ:) *n.* a noisy commotion or fuss.

hook (hʊk) *n.* 1. a curved piece of material, usually metal, used to suspend, hold, or pull something. 2. Also called: **fish-hook**, a sharp hook used in angling, esp. one with a barb. 3. a trap or snare. 4. something resembling a hook in design or use. 5. *a.* a sharp bend, esp. in a river. *b.* a sharply curved spit of land. 6. **Boxing**, a short swinging blow delivered with the elbow bent. 7. **Cricket**, a shot in which the ball is hit square on the leg side with the bat held horizontally. 8. **Golf**, a shot that causes the ball to go to the player's left. 9. a hook-shaped stroke used in writing, such as a part of a letter extending above or below the line. 10. **Music**, a stroke added to the stem of a note to indicate time values shorter than a crotchet. 11. a sickle. 12. *Naut.* an anchor. 13. *by hook or (by) crook*, by any means. 14. **hook, line, and sinker**. *Inf.* completely: *he fell for it hook, line, and sinker*. 15. **off the hook**. *Sl.* free from obligation or guilt. 16. **sling one's hook**. *Brit. sl.* to leave. ~*vb.* 17. (*often foll. by up*) to fasten or be fastened with or as if with a hook or hooks. 18. (*tr.*) to catch (something, such as a fish) on a hook. 19. to curve like or into the shape of a hook. 20. (*tr.*) to make (a rug) by hooking yarn through a stiff fabric backing with a special instrument. 21. **Boxing**, to hit (an opponent) with a hook. 22. **Cricket**, etc. to play (a ball) with a hook. 23. **Rugby**, to obtain and pass (the ball) backwards from a scrum, using the feet. 24. (*tr.*) *Sl.* to steal. ~See also **hook-up**. — **'hook-, like adj.**

hookah or **hooka** ('hʊkə) *n.* an oriental pipe for smoking marijuana, tobacco, etc., consisting of one or more long flexible stems connected to a container of water or other liquid through which smoke is drawn and cooled. Also called: **hubble-bubble**, **water pipe**.

hooked (hʊkt) *adj.* 1. bent like a hook. 2. having a hook or hooks. 3. caught or trapped. 4. a slang word for **married**. 5. *Sl.* addicted to a drug. 6. (*often foll. by on*) obsessed (with).

hooker ('hʊkə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that hooks. 2.

U.S. sl. a prostitute. **3. Rugby.** the central forward in the front row of a scrum whose main job is to hook the ball.

hook-up *n.* 1. the contact of an aircraft in flight with the refuelling hose of a tanker aircraft. 2. an alliance or relationship. 3. the linking of broadcasting equipment or stations to transmit a special programme. ~*vb.* **hook up** (*adv.*). 4. to connect (two or more people or things).

hookworm ('huk,wɜ:m) *n.* any of various parasitic blood-sucking worms which cause disease. They have hooked mouthparts and enter their hosts by boring through the skin.

hooligan ('hu:lɪɡən) *n. Sl.* a rough lawless young person. —'hooliganism *n.*

hoop ('hu:p) *n.* 1. a rigid circular band of metal or wood. 2. something resembling this. 3. a band of iron that holds the staves of a barrel together. 4. a child's toy shaped like a hoop and rolled on the ground or whirled around the body. 5. *Croquet.* any of the iron arches through which the ball is driven. 6. a. a light curved frame to spread out a skirt. b. (*as modifier*): a *hoop skirt*. 7. *Basketball.* the round metal frame to which the net is attached to form the basket. 8. a large ring with paper stretched over it through which performers or animals jump. 9. *go through the hoop.* to be subjected to an ordeal. ~*vb.* 10. (*tr.*) to surround with or as if with a hoop. —*hooped adj.*

hoopla ('hu:plə) *n.* 1. *Brit.* a fairground game in which a player tries to throw a hoop over an object and so win it. 2. *U.S. sl.* a. noise; bustle. b. nonsense; ballyhoo.

hoopoe ('hu:pu:) *n.* an Old World bird having a pinkish-brown plumage with black-and-white wings and an erectile crest.

hooray (hu:'rei) or **hoorah** (hu:'ra:) *interj., n., vb.* 1. variant spellings of *hurrah*. ~*interj.* 2. Also: **hooroo** (hu:'ru:). *Austral. & N.Z. cheerio.*

hoot ('hu:t) *n.* 1. the mournful wavering cry of some owls. 2. a similar sound, such as that of a train whistle. 3. a jeer of derision. 4. *Inf.* an amusing person or thing. ~*vb.* 5. (often foll. by *at*) to jeer or yell (something) contemptuously (at someone). 6. (*tr.*) to drive (speakers, actors on stage, etc.) off by hooting. 7. (*intr.*) to make a hoot. 8. (*intr.*) *Brit.* to blow a horn.

hooter ('hu:tə) *n.* Chiefly *Brit.* 1. a person or thing that hoots, esp. a car horn. 2. *Sl.* a nose.

Hoover ('hu:və) *n.* 1. *Trademark.* a type of vacuum cleaner. ~*vb.* (usually not *cap.*) 2. to vacuum-clean (a carpet, etc.).

hooves (hu:vz) *n.* a plural of *hoof*.

hop¹ ('hɒp) *vb.* **hopping, hopped.** 1. (*intr.*) to jump forwards or upwards on one foot. 2. (*intr.*) (esp. of frogs, birds, etc.) to move forwards in short jumps. 3. (*tr.*) to jump over. 4. (*intr.*) *Inf.* to move quickly (in, on, out, etc.): *hop on a bus*. 5. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to cross (an ocean) in an aircraft. 6. (*tr.*) *U.S. inf.* to travel by means of: *he hopped a train to Chicago*. 7. (*intr.*) another word for *limp*¹. 8. **hop it** (or *off*). *Brit. sl.* to go away. ~*n.* 9. the act or an instance of hopping. 10. *Inf.* an informal dance. 11. *Inf.* a trip, esp. in an aircraft. 12. *on the hop.* *Inf.* a. active or busy. b. *Brit.* unawares or unprepared.

hop² ('hɒp) *n.* 1. a climbing plant which has green conelike female flowers and clusters of small male flowers. See also **hops**. 2. **hop garden.** a field of hops. 3. *Sl.* opium or any other narcotic drug. —'hop-picker *n.*

hope ('həʊp) *n.* 1. (*sometimes pl.*) a feeling of desire for something and confidence in the possibility of its fulfilment: *his hope for peace was justified*. 2. a reasonable ground for this feeling: *there is still hope*. 3. a person or thing that gives cause for hope. 4. a thing, situation, or event that is desired: *my hope is that prices will fall*. 5. **not a hope or some hope.** used ironically to express little confidence that expectations will be fulfilled. ~*vb.* 6. (*tr.*; *takes a clause as object or an infinitive*) to desire (something) with some possibility of fulfilment: *I hope to tell you*. 7. (*intr.*; often foll. by *for*) to have a wish. 8. (*tr.*; *takes a clause as object*) to trust or believe: *we hope that this is satisfactory*. —'hopeful *n.*

hopeful ('həʊpfʊl) *adj.* 1. having or expressing hope. 2. inspiring hope; promising. ~*n.* 3. a person considered to be on the brink of success (esp. in a **young hopeful**). —'hopefulness *n.*

hopefully ('həʊpfʊli) *adv.* 1. in a hopeful manner. 2. *Inf.* it is hoped: *hopefully they will be married soon*.

▷ **Usage.** The use of *hopefully* to mean 'it is hoped that' is not universally accepted as standard. It does, however, represent a construction well-established in colloquial English, as in the use of *happily* in the two vehicles crashed, but happily no one was injured.

hopeless ('həʊplɪs) *adj.* 1. having or offering no hope. 2. impossible to solve. 3. unable to learn, function, etc. 4. *Inf.* without skill or ability. —'hopelessly *adv.* —'hopelessness *n.*

hopper ('hɒpə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that hops. 2. a funnel-shaped reservoir from which solid materials can be discharged into a receptacle below, esp. for feeding fuel to a furnace, loading a truck, etc. 3. a machine used for picking hops; a hop-picker. 4. any of various long-legged hopping insects. 5. an open-topped railway truck for loose minerals, etc., unloaded through doors on the underside. 6. *S. African.* another name for **cocopan**. 7. *Computers.* a device for holding punched cards and feeding them to a card reader.

hops ('hɒps) *pl. n.* the dried flowers of the hop plant, used to give a bitter taste to beer.

hopscootch ('hɒp,skɒtʃ) *n.* a children's game in which a player throws a small stone or other object to land in one of a pattern of squares marked on the ground and then hops over to it to pick it up.

horde ('hɔ:d) *n.* 1. a vast crowd; throng; mob. 2. a nomadic group of people, esp. an Asiatic group. 3. a large moving mass of animals, esp. insects.

hoarhound or **hoarhound** ('hɔ:,haʊnd) *n.* a downy herbaceous Old World plant with small white flowers that contain a bitter juice formerly used as a cough medicine and flavouring.

horizon ('hɔ:raɪzən) *n.* 1. Also called: **visible horizon**, **apparent horizon**, the apparent line that divides the earth and the sky. 2. *Astron. a.* Also called: **sensible horizon**, the circular intersection with the celestial sphere of the plane tangential to the earth at the position of the observer. b. Also called: **celestial horizon**, the great circle on the celestial sphere, the plane of which passes through the centre of the earth and is parallel to the sensible horizon. 3. the range or limit of scope, interest, knowledge, etc. 4. a layer of rock within a stratum that has a particular composition by which the stratum may be dated.

horizontal ('hɒrɪzəntl) *adj.* 1. parallel to the plane of the horizon; level; flat. 2. of or relating to the horizon. 3. in a plane parallel to that of the horizon. 4. applied uniformly to all members of a group. 5. *Econ.* relating to identical stages of commercial activity: *horizontal integration*. ~*n.* 6. a horizontal plane, position, line, etc. —'horizontality *n.* —'horizontally *adv.*

hormone ('hɔ:məʊn) *n.* 1. a chemical substance produced in an endocrine gland and transported in the blood to a certain tissue, on which it exerts a specific effect. 2. an organic compound produced by a plant that is essential for growth. 3. any synthetic substance having the same effects. —'hormonal *adj.*

horn ('hɔ:n) *n.* 1. either of a pair of permanent bony outgrowths on the heads of cattle, antelopes, etc. Related *adj.*: **corneous**. 2. the outgrowth from the nasal bone of a rhinoceros, consisting of a mass of fused hairs. 3. any hornlike projection, such as the eyestalk of a snail. 4. the antler of a deer. 5. a. the constituent substance, mainly keratin, of horns, hoofs, etc. b. (*in combination*): **horn-rimmed spectacles**. 6. a container or device made from this substance or an artificial substitute: a *drinking horn*. 7. an object resembling a horn in shape, such as a cornucopia. 8. a primitive musical wind instrument made from horn. 9. any musical instrument consisting of a pipe or tube of brass fitted with a mouthpiece. See **French horn**, **cor anglais**. 10. *Jazz sl.* any wind instrument. 11. a. a device for producing a warning or signalling noise. b. (*in combination*): a *foghorn*. 12. (*usually pl.*) the imaginary hornlike parts formerly supposed to appear on the forehead of a cuckoo. 13. a. a hollow conical device coupled to a gramophone to control the direction and quality of the sound. b. a similar device attached to an electrical loudspeaker, esp. in a public address system. 14. a stretch of land or water shaped like a horn. 15. *Brit. taboo sl.* an erection of the penis. 16. *on the horns of a dilemma.* involving a choice between equally unpalatable alternatives. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 17. to provide with a horn or horns. 18. to gore or butt with a horn. 19. (*tr.*) to remove or shorten the horns of (cattle, etc.). —'horned *adj.* —'hornless *adj.* —'hornlike *adj.*

hornbeam ('hɔ:n,bɪm) *n.* 1. a tree of Europe and Asia having smooth grey bark and hard white wood. 2. its wood. ~Also called: **ironwood**.

hornbill ('hɔ:n,bɪl) *n.* a bird of tropical Africa and Asia, having a very large bill with a basal bony protuberance.

hornblende ('hɔ:n,blend) *n.* a mineral of the amphibole group consisting of the aluminium silicates of cal-

cium, sodium, magnesium, and iron: varies in colour from green to black.

hornbook ('hɒn,bʊk) *n.* a page bearing a religious text or the alphabet, held in a frame with a thin window of horn over it.

hornet ('hɒnɪt) *n.* 1. any of various large social wasps that can inflict a severe sting. 2. **hornet's nest**, a strongly unfavourable reaction (often in **stir up a hornet's nest**).

horn of plenty *n.* another term for **cornucopia**.

hornpipe ('hɒn,paip) *n.* 1. an obsolete reed instrument with a mouthpiece made of horn. 2. an old British solo dance to a hornpipe accompaniment, traditionally performed by sailors. 3. a piece of music for such a dance.

horny ('hɒ:n) *adj.* **hornier**, **horniest**. 1. of, like, or hard as horn. 2. having a horn or horns. 3. *Sl.* aroused sexually. — **horniness** *n.*

horology ('hɒ'rɒlədʒi) *n.* the art or science of making timepieces or of measuring time. — **horologic** ('hɒrə-'lɒdʒɪk) or **horological** *adj.*

horoscope ('hɒrə'skəʊp) *n.* 1. the prediction of a person's future based on zodiacal data for the time of birth. 2. the configuration of the planets, sun, and moon in the sky at a particular moment. 3. a diagram showing the positions of the planets, sun, moon, etc., at a particular time and place. — **horoscopic** ('hɒrə'skɒpɪk) *adj.* — **horoscopy** ('hɒ'rɒskəpi) *n.*

horrendous ('hɒ'rendəs) *adj.* another word for **horrific**. — **horrendously** *adv.*

horrible ('hɒrəb'l) *adj.* 1. causing horror; dreadful. 2. disagreeable. 3. *Inf.* cruel or unkind. — **horribleness** *n.* — **horribly** *adv.*

horrid ('hɒrɪd) *adj.* 1. disagreeable; unpleasant: a **horrid meal**. 2. repulsive or frightening. 3. *Inf.* unkind. — **horridly** *adv.* — **horridness** *n.*

horrific ('hɒ'rɪfɪk, hæ-) *adj.* provoking horror; horrible. — **horrifically** *adv.*

horrify ('hɒrɪ,fai) *vb.* **-fying**, **-fied**. (tr.) 1. to cause feelings of horror; terrify. 2. to shock greatly. — **horri'fication** *n.* — **horri,fyingly** *adv.*

horror ('hɒrə) *n.* 1. extreme fear; terror; dread. 2. intense hatred. 3. (*often pl.*) a thing or person causing fear, loathing, etc. 4. (*modifier*) having a frightening subject: a **horror film**.

horrors ('hɒrəz) *pl. n.* 1. *Sl.* a fit of depression or anxiety. 2. *Inf.* See **delirium tremens**. — *interj.* 3. an expression of dismay, sometimes facetious.

hors d'oeuvre (ɔ: 'dʒ:vɜ) *n., pl. hors d'oeuvre or hors d'oeuvres ('dʒ:vɜ) an appetizer, usually served before the main meal.*

horse ('hɒ:s) *n.* 1. a solid-hoofed, herbivorous, domesticated mammal used for draught work and riding. Related *adj.* **equine**. 2. the adult male of this species; stallion. 3. **Przewalski's horse**, a rare species of wild horse. 4. (*functioning as pl.*) **horsemen**, esp. cavalry: *a regiment of horse*. 5. Also called: **buck**. **Gymnastics**, a padded apparatus on legs, used for vaulting, etc. 6. a narrow board supported by a pair of legs at each end, used as a frame for sawing or as a trestle, barrier, etc. 7. a contrivance on which a person may ride and exercise. 8. a slang word for **heroin**. 9. **Mining**, a mass of rock within a vein of ore. 10. **Naut.** a rod, rope, or cable, fixed at the ends, along which something may slide; traveller. 11. *Inf.* short for **horsepower**. 12. (*modifier*) drawn by a horse or horses: *a horse cart*. 13. **be (or get) on one's high horse**, *Inf.* to act disdainfully aloof. 14. **flog a dead horse**, *Chiefly Brit.* a. to harp on some long discarded subject. b. to pursue the solution of a problem long realized to be insoluble. 15. **hold one's horses**, to restrain oneself. 16. *a horse of another or a different colour*, a completely different topic, argument, etc. 17. **the horse's mouth**, the most reliable source. ~vb. 18. (tr.) to provide with a horse or horses. 19. to put or be put on horseback. — **horse,like** *adj.*

horseback ('hɒ:s,bæk) *n. a.* a horse's back (esp. in **on horseback**). *b.* *Chiefly U.S. (as modifier): horseback riding.*

horsebox ('hɒ:s,bɒks) *n.* *Brit.* a van or trailer used for carrying horses.

horse brass *n.* a decorative brass ornament, originally attached to a horse's harness.

horse chestnut *n.* 1. a tree having palmate leaves, erect clusters of white, pink, or red flowers, and brown shiny inedible nuts enclosed in a spiky bur. 2. Also called: **conker**, the nut of this tree.

horseflesh ('hɒ:s,fleʃ) *n.* 1. horses collectively. 2. the flesh of a horse, esp. edible horse meat.

horsefly ('hɒ:s,flai) *n., pl. -flies*, a large stout-bodied dipterous fly, the female of which sucks the blood of mammals, esp. horses, cattle, and man. Also called: **gadfly**, **cleg**.

horsehair ('hɒ:s,heə) *n.* hair taken chiefly from the tail or mane of a horse, used in upholstery and for fabric, etc.

horse laugh *n.* a coarse or raucous laugh.

horsemán ('hɒ:smən) *n., pl. -men*. 1. a person skilled in riding. 2. a person who rides a horse. — **horsemán-ship** *n.* — **horse,woman** *fem. n.*

horseplay ('hɒ:s,pleɪ) *n.* rough or rowdy play.

horsepower ('hɒ:s,pəʊə) *n.* an fps unit of power, equal to 550 foot-pounds per second (equivalent to 745.7 watts). ~Abbrevs.: **HP**, **H.P.**, **h.p.**, **hp**.

horseradish ('hɒ:s,rædɪʃ) *n.* a coarse Eurasian plant cultivated for its thick white pungent root, which is ground and combined with vinegar, etc., to make a sauce.

horse sense *n.* another term for **common sense**.

horseshoe ('hɒ:s,ʃu:) *n.* 1. a piece of iron shaped like a U nailed to the underside of the hoof of a horse to protect the soft part of the foot: commonly thought to be a token of good luck. 2. an object of similar shape.

horsetail ('hɒ:s,teɪl) *n.* 1. a plant having jointed stems with whorls of small dark toothlike leaves. 2. a stylized horse's tail formerly used as the emblem of a pasha.

horsewhip ('hɒ:s,wɪp) *n.* 1. a whip, usually with a long thong, used for managing horses. ~vb. **-whipping**, **-whipped**. 2. (tr.) to flog with such a whip. — **horse-whipper** *n.*

horsy or horsey ('hɒ:sɪ) *adj.* **horsier**, **horsiest**. 1. of or relating to horses: a **horsy smell**. 2. dealing with or devoted to horses. 3. like a horse: *a horsy face*. — **horsily** *adv.* — **horsiness** *n.*

hortatory ('hɒ:tətəri) or **hortative** ('hɒ:tətɪv) *adj.* tending to exhort; encouraging. — **hort'ation** *n.* — **hortatorily or hortatively** *adv.*

horticulture ('hɒ:tɪ,kaltʃə) *n.* the art or science of cultivating gardens. — **horti'cultural** *adj.* — **horti'culturist** *n.*

Hos. *Bible.* abbrev. for **Hosea**.

hosanna ('həʊzænə) *interj.* an exclamation of praise, esp. one to God.

hose¹ ('həʊz) *n.* 1. a flexible pipe, for conveying a liquid or gas. ~vb. 2. (sometimes foll. by **down**) to wash, water, or sprinkle (a person or thing) with or as if with a hose.

hose² ('həʊz) *n., pl. hose or hosen*. 1. stockings, socks, and tights collectively. 2. **History**, a man's garment covering the legs and reaching up to the waist. 3. **half-hose**, socks.

hosier ('həʊziə) *n.* a person who sells stockings, etc.

hosier ('həʊziən) *n.* stockings, socks, and knitted underclothing collectively.

hospice ('hɒspɪs) *n., pl. hospices*. 1. *Arch.* a place of shelter for travellers, esp. one kept by a monastic order. 2. *Brit.* a home for the care of people in need, esp. the terminally ill.

hospitable ('hɒspɪtəb'l, hɒ'spɪt-) *adj.* 1. welcoming to guests or strangers. 2. fond of entertaining. — **hospitableness** *n.* — **hospitably** *adv.*

hospital ('hɒspɪt'l) *n.* 1. an institution for the medical or psychiatric care and treatment of patients. 2. (*modifier*) having the function of a hospital: *a hospital ship*. 3. a repair shop for something specified: *a dolls' hospital*. 4. *Arch.* a charitable home, hospice, or school.

hospitality ('hɒspɪ'tælɪtɪ) *n., pl. -ties*, kindness in welcoming strangers or guests.

hospitalize or -lize ('hɒspɪtə,ləɪz) *vb. (tr.)* to admit or send (a person) into a hospital. — **hospitali'zation or -li'sation** *n.*

hospitaller or U.S. hospitaler ('hɒspɪtələ) *n.* a person, esp. a member of certain religious orders, dedicated to hospital work, ambulance services, etc.

host¹ ('həʊst) *n.* 1. a person who receives or entertains guests, esp. in his own home. 2. the compere of a show or television programme. 3. *Biol.* a. an animal or plant that supports a parasite. b. an animal into which tissue is experimentally grafted. 4. the owner or manager of an inn. ~vb. 5. to be the host of (a party, programme, etc.): *to host one's own show*.

host² ('həʊst) *n.* 1. a great number; multitude. 2. an archaic word for **army**.

Host (həʊst) *n.* **Christianity.** the wafer of unleavened bread consecrated in the Eucharist.

hostage ('hɒstɪdʒ) *n.* 1. a person given to or held by another as a security or pledge. 2. the state of being held as a hostage. 3. any security or pledge.

hostel ('hɒstl) *n.* 1. a building providing overnight accommodation, as for homeless people. 2. See **youth hostel**. 3. *Brit.* a supervised lodging house for nurses, workers, etc. — **'hosteller** or *U.S.* **'hosteler** *n.* — **'hostelling** or *U.S.* **'hosteling** *n.*

hostess ('hɒstɪs) *n.* 1. a woman acting as host. 2. a woman who receives and entertains patrons of a club, restaurant, etc. 3. See **air hostess**.

hostile ('hɒstail) *adj.* 1. antagonistic; opposed. 2. of or relating to an enemy. 3. unfriendly. — **'hostilely** *adv.*

hostility ('hɒstɪlɪti) *n.* *pl.* -ties. 1. enmity. 2. an act expressing enmity. 3. *pl.* fighting; warfare.

hot (hɒt) *adj.* **hotter, hottest.** 1. having a relatively high temperature. 2. having a temperature higher than desirable. 3. causing a sensation of bodily heat. 4. causing a burning sensation on the tongue: a *hot curry*. 5. expressing or feeling intense emotion, such as anger or lust. 6. intense or vehement. 7. recent; new: *hot from the press*. 8. *Ball games.* (of a ball) thrown or struck hard, and so difficult to respond to. 9. much favoured: a *hot favourite*. 10. *Inf.* having a dangerously high level of radioactivity. 11. *Sl.* stolen or otherwise illegally obtained. 12. *Sl.* (of people) being sought by the police. 13. (of a colour) intense; striking: *hot pink*. 14. following closely: *hot on the scent*. 15. *Inf.* at a dangerously high electric potential. 16. *Sl.* good (esp. in **not so hot**). 17. *Jazz sl.* arousing great excitement by inspired improvisation, strong rhythms, etc. 18. *Inf.* dangerous or unpleasant (esp. in **make it hot for someone**). 19. (in various games) very near the answer. 20. *Metalurgy.* (of a process) at a sufficiently high temperature for metal to be in a soft workable state. 21. *Austral. & N.Z. inf.* (of a price, etc.) excessive. 22. **hot under the collar.** *Inf.* aroused with anger, annoyance, etc. 23. **in hot water.** *Inf.* in trouble. — *adv.* 24. in a hot manner; hotly. — **'hotish** *adj.* — **'hotly** *adv.* — **'hotness** *n.*

hot air *n.* *Inf.* empty and usually boastful talk.

hotbed ('hɒt,bed) *n.* 1. a glass-covered bed of soil, usually heated, for propagating plants, forcing early vegetables, etc. 2. a place offering ideal conditions for the growth of an idea, activity, etc., esp. one considered bad.

hot-blooded *adj.* 1. passionate or excitable. 2. (of a horse) being of thoroughbred stock.

hotchpotch ('hɒtʃ,pɒtʃ) or *esp. U.S.* **hodgepodge** *n.* 1. a jumbled mixture. 2. a thick soup or stew.

hot cross bun *n.* a yeast bun marked with a cross and traditionally eaten on Good Friday.

hot dog *n.* a sausage, esp. a frankfurter, usually served hot in a long roll split lengthways.

hotel ('həʊtel) *n.* 1. a commercially run establishment providing lodging and usually meals for guests. 2. *Austral. & N.Z.* a public house.

hotelier ('hɒteliə) *n.* an owner or manager of one or more hotels.

hotfoot ('hɒt,fʊt) *adj.* with all possible speed.

hot-headed *adv.* impetuous, rash, or hot-tempered. — **'hot-headedness** *n.*

hothouse ('hɒt,haʊs) *n.* 1. a. a greenhouse in which the temperature is maintained at a fixed level. b. (as modifier): a *hothouse plant*. 2. (modifier) *Inf.*, often disparaging, sensitive or delicate.

hot line *n.* a direct telephone, teletype, or other communications link between heads of government, etc., for emergency use.

hot money *n.* capital that is transferred from one commercial centre to another seeking the best opportunity for short-term gain.

hotplate ('hɒt,pleɪt) *n.* 1. an electrically heated plate on a cooker or one set into a working surface. 2. a portable device on which food can be kept warm.

hotpot ('hɒt,pɒt) *n.* *Brit.* a casserole covered with a layer of potatoes.

hot rod *n.* a car with an engine that has been radically modified to produce increased power.

hot seat *n.* 1. *Inf.* a difficult or dangerous position. 2. *U.S.* a slang term for **electric chair**.

hot stuff *n.* *Inf.* 1. a person, object, etc., considered important, attractive, etc. 2. a pornographic or erotic book, play, film, etc.

Hottentot ('hɒt'n,tɒt) *n.* 1. (*pl.* -tots or -tots) a member of a race of people of southern Africa, who formerly

occupied the region near the Cape of Good Hope and are now almost extinct. 2. any of the languages of this people. 3. *S. African derog.* a non-White person.

hot up *vb.* (*adv.*) *Inf.* 1. to make or become more exciting, active, or intense. 2. (*tr.*) another term for **soup up**.

hot-water bottle *n.* a receptacle, esp. one made of rubber, designed to be filled with hot water, used for warming a bed.

hound (haʊnd) *n.* 1. a. any of several breeds of dog used for hunting. b. (*in combination*): a *deerhound*. 2. the **hounds**, a pack of foxhounds, etc. 3. a dog, esp. one regarded as annoying. 4. a despicable person. 5. (*in* hare and hounds) a runner who pursues a hare. 6. *Sl.*, chiefly *U.S.* an enthusiast: an *autograph hound*. 7. **ride to hounds** or **follow the hounds**, to take part in a fox hunt. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 8. to pursue relentlessly. 9. to urge on. — **'hounder** *n.*

hour (aʊə) *n.* 1. a period of time equal to 3600 seconds; 1/24th of a calendar day. Related *adj.*: **horary**. 2. any of the points on the face of a timepiece that indicate intervals of 60 minutes. 3. **the hour**, an exact number of complete hours: *the bus leaves on the hour*. 4. the time. 5. the time allowed for or used for something: *the lunch hour*. 6. a special moment: *our finest hour*. 7. the distance covered in an hour: *we live an hour from the city*. 8. *Astron.* an angular measurement of right ascension equal to 15° or a 24th part of the celestial equator. 9. **one's last hour**, the time of one's death.

hourglass ('aʊə,glɑːs) *n.* 1. a device consisting of two transparent chambers linked by a narrow channel, containing a quantity of sand that takes a specified time to trickle from one chamber to the other. 2. (modifier) well-proportioned with a small waist: an *hourglass figure*.

hourly ('huəri) *n.* *pl.* -ries. 1. (in Muslim belief) any of the nymphs of Paradise. 2. any alluring woman.

hourly ('aʊəli) *adj.* 1. of, occurring, or done every hour. 2. done in or measured by the hour: *an hourly rate*. 3. continual or frequent. ~*adv.* 4. every hour. 5. at any moment.

hours (aʊəz) *pl. n.* 1. a period regularly appointed for work, etc. 2. one's times of rising and going to bed: *he keeps late hours*. 3. **the small hours**, the hours just after midnight. 4. **till all hours**, until very late. 5. an indefinite time. 6. Also called (in the Roman Catholic Church): **canonical hours**, a. the seven times of the day laid down for the recitation of the prayers of the divine office. b. the prayers recited at these times.

house *n.* (haus), *pl.* **houses** ('haʊzɪz). 1. a. a building used as a home; dwelling. b. (as modifier): *house dog*. 2. the people present in a house. 3. a. a building for some specific purpose. b. (*in combination*): a *school-house*. 4. (*often cap.*) a family or dynasty: *the House of York*. 5. a. a commercial company: a *publishing house*. b. (as modifier): a *house journal*. 6. a legislative body. 7. a quorum in such a body (esp. in **make a house**). 8. a dwelling for a religious community. 9. *Astrol.* any of the 12 divisions of the zodiac. 10. any of several divisions of a large school. 11. a hotel, restaurant, club, etc., or the management of such an establishment: *drinks on the house*. 12. the audience in a theatre or cinema. 13. an informal word for **brothel**. 14. a hall in which a legislative body meets. 15. See **full house**. 16. *Naut.* any structure or shelter on the weather deck of a vessel. 17. **bring the house down.** *Theatre.* to win great applause. 18. **like a house on fire.** *Inf.* very well. 19. **open house**, free or general hospitality. 20. **put one's house in order**, to settle or organize one's affairs. 21. **safe as houses.** *Brit.* very secure. ~*vb.* (hausz). 22. (*tr.*) to provide with or serve as accommodation. 23. to give or receive lodging. 24. (*tr.*) to contain or cover; protect. 25. (*tr.*) to fit (a piece of wood) into a mortise, joint, etc. — **'houseless** *adj.*

house arrest *n.* confinement to one's own home rather than in prison.

houseboat ('haʊs,bəʊt) *n.* a stationary boat or barge used as a home.

housebound ('haʊs,baʊnd) *adj.* unable to leave one's house because of illness, injury, etc.

housebreaking ('haʊs,breɪkɪŋ) *n.* *Criminal law.* the act of entering a building as a trespasser for an unlawful purpose. Assimilated with burglary, 1968. — **'housebreaker** *n.*

housecoat ('haʊs,kəʊt) *n.* a woman's loose robe-like informal garment.

housefly ('haʊs,flaɪ) *n.*, *pl.* -flies. a common dipterous

fly that frequents human habitations, spreads disease, and lays its eggs in carrion, decaying vegetables, etc.

household ('haus,həʊld) *n.* 1. the people living together in one house. 2. (*modifier*) relating to the running of a household: *household management*.

householder ('haus,həʊldə) *n.* a person who owns or rents a house. —'house,holder,ship *n.*

household name or word *n.* a person or thing that is very well known.

housekeeper ('haus,kɪpə) *n.* a person, esp. a woman, employed to run a household.

housekeeping ('haus,kɪpɪŋ) *n.* 1. the running of a household. 2. money allotted for this.

housemaid ('haus,meɪd) *n.* a girl or woman employed to do housework, esp. one who is resident in the household.

housemaid's knee *n.* inflammation and swelling of the bursa in front of the kneecap, caused esp. by constant kneeling on a hard surface. Technical name: *prepatellar bursitis*.

houseman ('hausmən) *n., pl. -men.* *Med.* a junior doctor who is a member of the medical staff of a hospital. U.S. equivalent: *intern*.

house martin *n.* a Eurasian swallow with a slightly forked tail.

House of Commons *n.* (in Britain, Canada, etc.) the lower chamber of Parliament.

House of Keys *n.* the lower chamber of the legislature of the Isle of Man.

House of Lords *n.* (in Britain) the upper chamber of Parliament, composed of the peers of the realm.

house party *n.* 1. a party, usually in a country house, at which guests are invited to stay for several days. 2. the guests who are invited.

house-proud *adj.* proud of the appearance, cleanliness, etc., of one's house, sometimes excessively so.

housetop ('haus,tɒp) *n.* 1. the roof of a house. 2. *proclaim* from the *housetops*, to announce (something) publicly.

house-warming *n.* a party given after moving into a new home.

housewife *n., pl. -wives.* 1. ('haus,wɪf) a woman who keeps house. 2. ('hʊzɪf) Also called: *hussy, huswife*. Chiefly *Brit.* a small sewing kit. —*housewifery* ('haus,wɪfəri) *n.* —'housewifely *adj.*

housework ('haus,wɜ:k) *n.* the work of running a home, such as cleaning, cooking, etc.

housing¹ ('haʊzɪŋ) *n.* 1. *a.* houses collectively. *b.* (*as modifier*): a *housing problem*. 2. the act of providing with accommodation. 3. a hole or slot made in one wooden member to receive another. 4. a part designed to contain or support a component or mechanism: *a wheel housing*.

housing² ('haʊzɪŋ) *n.* (*often pl.*) *Arch.* another word for *trappings* (sense 2).

hove (həʊv) *vb.* Chiefly *naut.* a past tense or past participle of *heave*.

hovel ('hɒvəl) *n.* 1. a ramshackle dwelling place. 2. an open shed for livestock, carts, etc. 3. the conical building enclosing a kiln.

hover ('hɒvə) *vb. (intr.)* 1. to remain suspended in one place. 2. (of certain birds, esp. hawks) to remain in one place in the air by rapidly beating the wings. 3. to linger uncertainly. 4. to be in a state of indecision. ~*n.* 5. the act of hovering. —'hoverer *n.*

hovercraft ('hɒvə,kra:ft) *n.* a vehicle that is able to travel across both land and water on a cushion of air.

how (hau) *adv.* 1. in what way? by what means?: *how did it happen?* Also used in indirect questions: *tell me how he did it.* 2. to what extent?: *how tall is he?* 3. how good? how well? what...like?: *how did she sing?* *how was the holiday?* 4. *how about?* used to suggest something: *how about a cup of tea?* 5. *how are you?* what is your state of health? 6. *how come?* *Inf.* what is the reason (that)?: *how come you told him?* 7. *how's that?* *a.* what is your opinion? *b.* *Cricket.* (an appeal to the umpire) is the batsman out? 8. *how now?* or *how so?* *Arch.* what is the meaning of this? 9. in whatever way: *do it how you wish.* 10. *and how!* (*intensifier*) very much so! ~*n.* 11. the way a thing is done: *the how of it.*

howbeit ('hau'bit) *Arch.* ~ 1. *sentence connector.* however. ~*conj.* 2. (*subordinating*) though; although.

howdah ('haʊdə) *n.* a seat for riding on an elephant's back, esp. one with a canopy.

however ('hau'evə) 1. *sentence connector.* still; nevertheless. 2. *sentence connector.* on the other hand; yet. ~*adv.* 3. by whatever means. 4. (*used with adjectives*

of quantity or degree) no matter how: *however long it takes, finish it.* 5. an emphatic form of *how* (sense 1).

howitzer ('haʊtɪsə) *n.* a cannon having a short barrel with a low muzzle velocity and a steep angle of fire.

howl (hau) *n.* 1. a long plaintive cry characteristic of a wolf or hound. 2. a similar cry of pain or sorrow. 3. a prolonged outburst of laughter. 4. *Electronics.* an unwanted high-pitched sound produced by a sound-producing system as a result of feedback. ~*vb.* 5. to express in a howl or utter such cries. 6. (*intr.*) (of the wind, etc.) to make a wailing noise. 7. (*intr.*) *Inf.* to shout or laugh.

howl down *vb. (tr., adv.)* to prevent (a speaker) from being heard by shouting disapprovingly.

howler ('haʊlə) *n.* 1. Also called: *howler monkey.* a large New World monkey inhabiting tropical forests in South America and having a loud howling cry. 2. *Inf.* a glaring mistake. 3. a person or thing that howls.

howling ('haʊlɪŋ) *adj. (prenominal) Inf.* (*intensifier*): *a howling success; a howling error.*

howsoever ('haʊsʊ'evə) *sentence connector, adv.* a less common word for *however*.

hoy (hɔɪ) *interj.* a cry used to attract attention or drive animals.

hoyden or **holden** ('hɔɪd'n) *n.* a wild boisterous girl; tomboy. —'hoydenish or 'holdenish *adj.*

H.P. *abbrev. for:* 1. *Brit.* hire purchase. 2. Also: *hp* horsepower. 3. high pressure. 4. (in Britain) Houses of Parliament. ~Also (for senses 1-3): *h.p.*

H.Q. or h.q. *abbrev. for* headquarters.

hr. or hr *abbrev. for* hour.

H.R.H. *abbrev. for* His (or Her) Royal Highness.

HT *Physics. abbrev. for* high tension.

hub (hʌb) *n.* 1. the central portion of a wheel, propeller, fan, etc., through which the axle passes. 2. the focal point.

hubble-bubble ('hʌbəl'babl) *n.* 1. another name for *hookah*. 2. turmoil. 3. a gargling sound.

hubbub ('hʌbʌb) *n.* 1. a confused noise of many voices. 2. tumult; uproar.

hubby ('hʌbi) *n., pl. -bies.* an informal word for *husband*.

hubris ('hju:brɪs) or **hybris** ('haɪbrɪs) *n.* 1. pride or arrogance. 2. (in Greek tragedy) an excess of ambition, pride, etc., ultimately causing the transgressor's ruin. —'hu'bristic or 'hy'bristic *adj.*

huckaback ('hʌkə,bæk) *n.* a coarse absorbent linen or cotton fabric used for towels, etc. Also: *huck* (hʌk).

huckster ('hʌkstə) *n.* 1. a person who uses aggressive or questionable methods of selling. 2. *Now rare.* a person who sells small articles or fruit in the street. 3. *U.S.* a person who writes for radio or television advertisements. ~*vb.* 4. (*tr.*) to peddle. 5. (*tr.*) to sell or advertise aggressively or questionably. 6. to haggle over.

huddle ('hʌdəl) *n.* 1. a heaped or crowded mass of people or things. 2. *Inf.* a private or impromptu conference (esp. in *go into a huddle*). ~*vb.* 3. to crowd or nestle closely together. 4. (often foll. by *up*) to hunch (oneself), as through cold. 5. (*intr.*) *Inf.* to confer privately. 6. (*tr.*) Chiefly *Brit.* to do (something) in a careless way. 7. (*tr.*) *Rare.* to put on (clothes) hurriedly. —'huddler *n.*

hue (hju:) *n.* 1. the attribute of colour that enables an observer to classify it as red, blue, etc., and excludes white, black, and grey. 2. a shade of a colour. 3. aspect: *a different hue on matters.* —'hued *adj.*

hue and cry *n.* 1. (formerly) the pursuit of a suspected criminal with loud cries in order to raise the alarm. 2. any loud public outcry.

huff (hʌf) *n.* 1. a passing mood of anger or pique (esp. in *in a huff*). ~*vb.* 2. to make or become angry or resentful. 3. (*intr.*) to blow or puff heavily. 4. Also: *blow.* *Draughts.* to remove (an opponent's draught) from the board for failure to make a capture. 5. (*tr.*) *Obs.* to bully. —'huffish or 'huffy *adj.*

hug (hʌg) *vb. hugging, hugged.* (*mainly tr.*) 1. (*also intr.*) to clasp tightly, usually with affection; embrace. 2. to keep close to a shore, kerb, etc. 3. to cling to (beliefs, etc.); cherish. 4. to congratulate (oneself). ~*n.* 5. a tight or fond embrace. —'huggable *adj.*

huge (hju:dʒ) *adj.* extremely large. —'hugely *adv.* —'hugeness *n.*

huggermugger ('hʌgə,mʌgə) *n.* 1. confusion. 2. *Rare.* secrecy. ~*adj., adv.* *Arch.* 3. with secrecy. 4. in confusion. ~*vb.* *Obs.* 5. (*tr.*) to keep secret. 6. (*intr.*) to act secretly.

Huguenot ('hju:ɡə,nəʊ, -nɒt) *n.* 1. a French Calvinist, esp. of the 16th or 17th centuries. ~*adj.* 2. designating the French Protestant church.

huh (*spelling pron. ha*) *interj.* an exclamation of derision, bewilderment, enquiry, etc.

hula ('hulə) or **hula-hula** *n.* a Hawaiian dance performed by a woman.

hulk (hɜ:k) *n.* 1. the body of an abandoned vessel. 2. *Disparaging.* a large or unwieldy vessel. 3. *Disparaging.* a large ungainly person or thing. 4. (*often pl.*) the hull of a ship, used as a storehouse, etc., or (esp. in 19th-century Britain) as a prison.

hulking ('hɜ:kiŋ) *adj.* big and ungainly.

hull (hʌl) *n.* 1. the main body of a vessel, tank, etc. 2. the calyx at the base of a strawberry, raspberry, or similar fruit. 3. the outer casing of a missile, rocket, etc. ~*vb.* 4. to remove the hulls from (fruit). 5. (*tr.*) to pierce the hull of (a vessel, tank, etc.). —**huller** *n.*

hullabaloo or **hullabaloo** (ˌhʌləbəˈlu:z) *n., pl. -loos.* loud confused noise; commotion.

hullo (həˈlʊ) *sentence substitute, n.* a variant spelling of hello.

hum (hʌm) *vb.* **humming, hummed.** 1. (*intr.*) to make a low continuous vibrating sound. 2. (*intr.*) (of a person) to sing with the lips closed. 3. (*intr.*) to utter an indistinct sound, as in hesitation; hem. 4. (*intr.*) *Sl.* to be in a state of feverish activity. 5. (*intr.*) *Sl.* to smell unpleasant. 6. **hum and haw.** See **hem** (sense 3). ~*n.* 7. a low continuous murmuring sound. 8. *Electronics.* an undesired low-frequency noise in the output of an amplifier or receiver. ~*interj., n.* 9. an indistinct sound of hesitation, embarrassment, etc.; hem. —**hummer** *n.*

human ('hju:mən) *adj.* 1. of or relating to mankind: *human nature.* 2. consisting of people: a *human chain.* 3. having the attributes of man as opposed to animals, divine beings, or machines: *human failings.* 4. a kind or considerate. *b. natural.* ~*n.* 5. a human being; person. —**humanness** *n.*

human being *n.* a member of any of the races of *Homo sapiens*; person; man, woman, or child.

humane (hju:'mem) *adj.* 1. characterized by kindness, sympathy, etc. 2. inflicting as little pain as possible: *a humane killing.* 3. civilizing or liberal: *humane studies.* —**humanely** *adv.* —**humaneness** *n.*

humanism ('hju:mə,nɪzəm) *n.* 1. a school of philosophy that believes in human effort and ingenuity rather than religion. 2. (*often cap.*) a cultural movement of the Renaissance, based on classical studies. 3. interest in the welfare of people. —**humanist** *n.* —**humanistic** *adj.*

humanitarian (hju:mənɪ'teəriən) *adj.* 1. having the interests of mankind at heart. ~*n.* 2. a philanthropist. —**humanitarianism** *n.*

humanity (hju:'mænɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. the human race. 2. the quality of being human. 3. kindness or mercy. 4. (*pl.*) (usually preceded by *the*) the study of literature, philosophy, and the arts, esp. study of Ancient Greece and Rome.

humanize or **-nise** ('hju:mə,nəɪz) *vb.* 1. to make or become human. 2. to make or become humane. —**humanization** or **-nisation** *n.*

humankind (hju:mən'kaɪnd) *n.* the human race; humanity.

humanly ('hju:mənli) *adv.* 1. by human powers or means. 2. in a human or humane manner.

humanoid ('hju:mə,nɔɪd) *adj.* 1. like a human being in appearance. ~*n.* 2. a being with human rather than anthropoid characteristics. 3. (in science fiction) a robot or creature resembling a human being.

human rights *pl. n.* the rights of individuals to liberty, justice, etc.

humble ('hʌmbəl) *adj.* 1. conscious of one's failings. 2. unpretentious; lowly: *a humble cottage; my humble opinion.* 3. deferential or servile. ~*vb. (tr.)* 4. to cause to become humble; humiliate. 5. to lower in status. —**humbleness** *n.* —**humbly** *adv.*

humble pie *n.* 1. (formerly) a pie made from the heart, entrails, etc., of a deer. 2. **eat humble pie.** to be forced to behave humbly; be humiliated.

humbug ('hʌm,bʌɡ) *n.* 1. a person or thing that deceives. 2. nonsense. 3. *Brit.* a hard boiled sweet, usually having a striped pattern. ~*vb.* **-bugging, -bugged.** 4. to cheat or deceive (someone). —**humbugger** *n.* —**humbuggery** *n.*

humdinger ('hʌm,dɪŋə) *n. Sl.* an excellent person or thing.

humdrum ('hʌm,dʒrʌm) *adj.* 1. ordinary; dull. ~*n.* 2. a monotonous routine, task, or person.

humerus ('hju:mərəs) *n., pl. -meri* (-mə,raɪ). 1. the bone that extends from the shoulder to the elbow in man. 2. the corresponding bone in other vertebrates. —**humeral** *adj.*

humid ('hju:mɪd) *adj.* moist; damp. —**humidly** *adv.* —**humidness** *n.*

humidex ('hju:mɪdɛks) *n. Canad.* an index of discomfort showing the combined effect of humidity and temperature.

humidify (hju:'mɪdɪ,fai) *vb. -fying, -fied.* (*tr.*) to make (air, etc.) humid or damp. —**humidification** *n.* —**humidifier** *n.*

humidity (hju:'mɪdɪti) *n.* 1. dampness. 2. a measure of the amount of moisture in the air.

humiliate (hju:'mɪli,et) *vb. (tr.)* to lower or hurt the dignity or pride of. —**humiliatingly** *adv.* —**humiliation** *n.* —**humiliator** *n.*

humility (hju:'mɪlti) *n., pl. -ties.* the state or quality of being humble.

hummingbird ('hʌmɪŋ,bɜ:d) *n.* a very small American bird having a brilliant iridescent plumage, long slender bill, and wings specialized for very powerful vibrating flight.

hummock ('hʌmək) *n.* 1. a hillock; knoll. 2. a ridge or mound of ice in an ice field. 3. *Chiefly southern U.S.* a wooded area lying above the level of an adjacent marsh. —**hummocky** *adj.*

humoresque (hju:mə'resk) *n.* a short lively piece of music.

humorist ('hju:mərist) *n.* a person who acts, speaks, or writes in a humorous way.

humorous ('hju:mərəs) *adj.* 1. funny; comical; amusing. 2. displaying or creating humour. —**humorously** *adv.* —**humorousness** *n.*

humour or **U.S. humor** ('hju:mə) *n.* 1. the quality of being funny. 2. Also called: **sense of humour.** the ability to appreciate or express that which is humorous. 3. situations, speech, or writings that are humorous. 4. a. a state of mind; mood. *b. (in combination): good humour.* 5. temperament or disposition. 6. a caprice or whim. 7. any of various fluids in the body: *aqueous humour.* 8. *Arch.* Also called: **cardinal humour.** any of the four bodily fluids (blood, phlegm, choler or yellow bile, melancholy or black bile) formerly thought to determine emotional and physical disposition. 9. **out of humour.** in a bad mood. ~*vb. (tr.)* 10. to gratify; indulge: *he humoured the boy's whims.* 11. to adapt oneself to: *to humour someone's fantasies.* —**humourless** or **U.S. humorless** *adj.*

hump (hʌmp) *n.* 1. a rounded protuberance or projection. 2. a rounded deformity of the back, consisting of a spinal curvature. 3. a rounded protuberance on the back of a camel or related animal. 4. **the hump, Brit. inf.** a fit of sulking. ~*vb.* 5. to form or become a hump; hunch; arch. 6. (*tr. Sl.*) to carry or heave. 7. *Taboo sl.* to have sexual intercourse with (someone). —**hump, like** *adj.* —**humpy** *adj.*

humpback ('hʌmp,bæk) *n.* 1. another word for **hunchback**. 2. Also called: **humpback whale.** a large whalebone whale with a humped back and long flippers. 3. a Pacific salmon, the male of which has a humped back. 4. Also: **humpback bridge, Brit.** a road bridge having a sharp incline and decline and usually a narrow roadway. —**hump, backed** *adj.*

humph (*spelling pron. hamf*) *interj.* an exclamation of annoyance, indecision, etc.

humus ('hju:məs) *n.* a dark brown or black colloidal mass of partially decomposed organic matter in the soil. It improves the fertility and water retention of the soil.

Hun (hʌn) *n.* 1. a member of any of several Asiatic nomadic peoples who dominated much of Asia and E. Europe from before 300 B.C., invading the Roman Empire in the 4th and 5th centuries A.D. 2. *Inf.* a derogatory name for a German. 3. *Inf.* a vandal. —**Hunnish** *adj.* —**Hun, like** *adj.*

hunch (hʌntʃ) *n.* 1. an intuitive guess or feeling. 2. another word for **hump**. 3. a lump or large piece. ~*vb.* 4. to draw (oneself or a part of the body) up or together. 5. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *up*) to sit in a hunched position.

hunchback ('hʌntʃ,bæk) *n.* 1. a person having an abnormal curvature of the spine. 2. such a curvature. —**Also called: humpback.** —**hunch, backed** *adj.*

hundred ('hʌndrəd) *n., pl. -dreds or -dred.* 1. the cardinal number that is the product of ten and ten; five score. 2. a numeral, 100, C, etc., representing this

number. **3.** (*often pl.*) a large but unspecified number, amount, or quantity. **4.** (*pl.*) the 100 years of a specified century: *in the sixteen hundreds.* **5.** something representing, represented by, or consisting of 100 units. **6.** *Maths.* the position containing a digit representing that number followed by two zeros: *in 4376, 3 is in the hundred's place.* **7.** an ancient division of a county. *~determiner.* **8.** amounting to or approximately a hundred: *a hundred reasons for that.* —¹**hundredth** *adj.*

hundreds and thousands *pl. n.* tiny beads of coloured sugar, used in decorating cakes, etc.

hundredweight (¹*hʌndrəd, weɪt*) *n., pl. -weights or -weight.* **1.** Also called: **long hundredweight.** *Brit.* a unit of weight equal to 112 pounds (50.802 kg). **2.** Also called: **short hundredweight.** *U.S.* a unit of weight equal to 100 pounds (45.359 kg). **3.** Also called: **metric hundredweight.** a metric unit of weight equal to 50 kilograms. *~Abbrev.* (for senses 1, 2): **cwt**

hung (*hʌŋ*) *vb.* **1.** the past tense or past participle of **hang** (except in the sense of *to execute*). *~adj.* **2.** (of a political party, jury, etc.) not having a majority: *a hung parliament.* **3.** **hung over.** *Inf.* suffering from the effects of a hangover. **4.** **hung up.** *Sl.* a. impeded by some difficulty or delay. b. emotionally disturbed. **5.** **hung up on.** *Sl., chiefly U.S.* obsessively or exclusively interested in.

Hungarian (*hʌŋ'ɡeəriən*) *n.* **1.** the official language of Hungary, also spoken in Rumania and elsewhere, belonging to the Finno-Ugric family. **2.** a native, inhabitant, or citizen of Hungary. *~adj.* **3.** of or relating to Hungary, its people, or their language. *~Cf. Magyar.*

hunger (¹*hʌŋɡə*) *n.* **1.** a feeling of emptiness or weakness induced by lack of food. **2.** desire or craving: *hunger for a woman.* *~vb.* **3.** (*intr.*) usually foll. by *for* or *after* to have a great appetite or desire (for).

hunger strike *n.* a voluntary fast undertaken, usually by a prisoner, as a means of protest. —**hunger striker** *n.*

hungry (¹*hʌŋɡri*) *adj.* **-grier, -griest.** **1.** desiring food. **2.** (*postpositive*; foll. by *for*) having a craving, desire, or need (for). **3.** expressing or appearing to express greed, craving, or desire. **4.** lacking fertility; poor. **5.** *Austral. & N.Z.* greedy; mean. **6.** *N.Z.* (of timber) dry and bare. —¹**hungrily** *adv.* —¹**hungriness** *n.*

hunk (*hʌŋk*) *n.* **1.** a large piece. **2.** *Sl., chiefly U.S.* a sexually attractive man.

hunkers (¹*hʌŋkəz*) *pl. n.* *Scot. & N. English dialect.* haunches.

hunt (*hʌnt*) *vb.* **1.** to seek out and kill (animals) for food or sport. **2.** (*intr.*; often foll. by *for*) to search (for): *to hunt for a book.* **3.** (*tr.*) to use (hounds, horses, etc.) in the pursuit of wild animals, game, etc.: *to hunt a pack of hounds.* **4.** (*tr.*) to search (country) to hunt game, etc.: *to hunt the parkland.* **5.** (*tr.*; often foll. by *down*) to track diligently so as to capture: *to hunt down a criminal.* **6.** (*tr.*; usually *passive*) to persecute; hound. **7.** (*intr.*) (of a gauge indicator, etc.) to oscillate about a mean value or position. **8.** (*intr.*) (of an aircraft, rocket, etc.) to oscillate about a flight path. *~n.* **9.** the act or an instance of hunting. **10.** chase or search, esp. of animals. **11.** the area of a hunt. **12.** a party or institution organized for the pursuit of wild animals, esp. for sport. **13.** the members of such a party or institution.

hunter (¹*hʌntə*) *n.* **1.** a person or animal that seeks out and kills or captures game. *Fem.:* **huntness** (¹*hʌntɪs*). **2.** a. a person who looks diligently for something. b. (*in combination*): *a fortune-hunter.* **3.** a specially bred horse used in hunting, characterized by strength and stamina. **4.** a watch with a hinged metal lid or case (**hunting case**) to protect the crystal.

hunter's moon *n.* the full moon following the harvest moon.

huntsman (¹*hʌntsmən*) *n., pl. -men.* **1.** a person who hunts. **2.** a person who trains hounds, beagles, etc., and manages them during a hunt.

hurdle (¹*hʌzdl*) *n.* **1.** *Athletics.* one of a number of light barriers over which runners leap in certain events. **2.** a low barrier used in certain horse races. **3.** an obstacle: *the next hurdle in his career.* **4.** a light framework of interlaced osiers, etc., used as a temporary fence. **5.** a sledge on which criminals were dragged to their executions. *~vb.* **5.** to jump (a hurdle). **6.** (*tr.*) to surround with hurdles. **7.** (*tr.*) to overcome. —¹**hurdler** *n.*

hurdy-gurdy (¹*hʌzdl'gɜ:di*) *n., pl. -dies.* any mechanical musical instrument, such as a barrel organ.

hurl (*hɜ:l*) *vb.* **1.** (*tr.*) to throw with great force. **2.** (*tr.*)

to utter with force; yell: *to hurl insults.* *~n.* **3.** the act of hurling.

hurling (¹*hɜ:lɪŋ*) or **hurley** *n.* a traditional Irish game resembling hockey, played with sticks and a ball between two teams of 15 players.

hurly-burly (¹*hɜ:lɪ'bɜ:li*) *n., pl. hurly-burlies.* confusion or commotion.

hurrah (¹*hʊ'reɪ*), **hooray** (¹*hʊ'rei*), or **hoorah** (¹*hʊ'rei*) *interj., n.* **1.** a cheer of joy, victory, etc. *~vb.* **2.** to shout "hurrah".

hurricane (¹*hʊ'reɪkən*) *n.* **1.** a severe, often destructive storm, esp. a tropical cyclone. **2.** a wind of force 12 on the Beaufort scale, with speeds over 72 m.p.h.

hurricane deck *n.* a ship's deck that is covered by a light deck as a sunshade.

hurricane lamp *n.* a paraffin lamp with a glass covering. Also called: **storm lantern.**

hurried (¹*hʊ'riɪd*) *adj.* performed with great or excessive haste. —¹**hurriedly** *adv.* —¹**hurriedness** *n.*

hurry (¹*hʊ'ri*) *vb.* **-rying, -ried.** **1.** (*intr.*; often foll. by *up*) to hasten; rush. **2.** (*tr.*; often foll. by *along*) to speed up the completion, progress, etc., of. *~n., pl. -ries.* **3.** haste. **4.** urgency or eagerness. **5.** *in a hurry.* *Inf. a.* easily: *you won't beat him in a hurry.* b. willingly: *we won't go there again in a hurry.*

hurst (*hɜ:st*) *n. Arch.* **1.** a wood. **2.** a sandbank.

hurt (*hɜ:t*) *vb.* **hurting, hurt.** **1.** to cause physical or mental injury to. **2.** to produce a painful sensation: *the bruise hurts.* **3.** (*intr.*) *Inf.* to feel pain. *~n.* **4.** physical or mental pain or suffering. **5.** a wound, cut, or sore. **6.** damage or injury; harm. —¹**hurter** *n.* —¹**hurtful** *adj.*

hurtle (¹*hɜ:tʃl*) *vb.* to project or be projected very quickly, noisily, or violently.

husband (¹*hʌzbənd*) *n.* **1.** a woman's partner in marriage. **2.** *Arch.* a manager of an estate. *~vb.* **3.** to manage or use (resources, finances, etc.) thriftily. **4.** *Arch. (tr.)* to find a husband for. **5.** (*tr.*) *Obs.* to till (the soil). —¹**husbander** *n.*

husbandry (¹*hʌzbəndri*) *n.* **1.** farming, esp. when regarded as a science, skill, or art. **2.** management of affairs and resources.

hush (*hʌʃ*) *vb.* **1.** to make or become silent; quieten; soothe. *~n.* **2.** stillness; silence. *~interj.* **3.** a plea or demand for silence.

hush-hush *adj. Inf.* (esp. of official work, documents, etc.) secret; confidential.

hush money *n. Sl.* money given to a person to ensure that something is kept secret.

hush up *vb. (tr., adv.)* to suppress information or rumours about.

husk (*hʌsk*) *n.* **1.** the external green or membranous covering of certain fruits and seeds. **2.** any worthless outer covering. *~vb.* **3.** (*tr.*) to remove the husk from.

husky (¹*hʌski*) *adj.* **huskier, huskiest.** **1.** (of a voice, utterance, etc.) slightly hoarse or rasping. **2.** of or containing husks. **3.** *Inf.* big and strong. —¹**huskily** *adv.* —¹**huskiness** *n.*

husky (¹*hʌski*) *n., pl. huskies.* **1.** a breed of Arctic sled dog with a thick dense coat, pricked ears, and a curled tail. **2.** *Canad. sl. a.* a member of the Inuit people. b. their language.

hussar (¹*hʊ'zɑ:*) *n.* **1.** a member of any of various light cavalry regiments, renowned for their elegant dress. **2.** a Hungarian horseman of the 15th century.

hussy (¹*hʌsi, -zi*) *n., pl. -sies.* *Contemptuous,* a shameless or promiscuous woman.

hustings (¹*hʌstɪŋz*) *n. (functioning as pl. or sing.)* **1.** *Brit.* (before 1872) the platform on which candidates were nominated for Parliament and from which they addressed the electors. **2.** the proceedings at a parliamentary election.

hustle (¹*hʌsʃl*) *vb.* **1.** to shove or crowd (someone) roughly. **2.** to move hurriedly or furtively: *he hustled her out of sight.* **3.** (*tr.*) to deal with hurriedly: *to hustle legislation through.* **4.** (*intr.*) *Sl.* to obtain (something) forcefully. **5.** *U.S. sl.* (of procurers and prostitutes) to solicit. *~n.* **6.** an instance of hustling. —¹**hustler** *n.*

hut (*hʌt*) *n.* **1.** a small house or shelter. *~vb.* **2.** to furnish with or live in a hut. —¹**hut, like** *adj.*

hutch (*hʌtʃ*) *n.* **1.** a cage, usually of wood and wire mesh, for small animals. **2.** *Inf., derog.* a small house. **3.** a cart for carrying ore.

huzzah (¹*hʊ'zɑ:*) *interj., n., vb.* an archaic word for **hurrah**.

hyacinth (¹*hə'siɪnθ*) *n.* **1.** any plant of the Mediterranean genus *Hyacinthus*, esp. a cultivated variety having a thick flower stalk bearing bell-shaped fragrant flowers.

2. the flower or bulb of such a plant. 3. any similar plant, such as the grape hyacinth. 4. Also called: **jacinth**. a reddish transparent variety of the mineral zircon, used as a gemstone. 5. a purplish-blue colour. —**hyacinthine** (ˌhaɪəˈsɪnθaɪn) *adj.*

hybrid (ˈhaɪbrɪd) *n.* 1. an animal or plant resulting from a cross between genetically unlike individuals; usually sterile. 2. anything of mixed ancestry. 3. a word, part of which is derived from one language and part from another, such as *monolingual*. —*adj.* 4. denoting or being a hybrid; of mixed origin. —**hybridism** *n.* —**hybridity** *n.*

hybridize or **-ise** (ˈhaɪbrɪˌdaɪz) *vb.* to produce or cause to produce hybrids; crossbreed. —**hybridization** or **-isation** *n.*

hydra (ˈhaɪdrə) *n., pl. -dras* or **-drae** (ˈdriː). 1. a freshwater coelenterate in which the body is a slender polyp with tentacles around the mouth. 2. a persistent trouble or evil.

hydrangea (ˈhaɪdreɪndʒə) *n.* a shrub or tree of an Asian and American genus cultivated for their large clusters of white, pink, or blue flowers.

hydrant (ˈhaɪdrənt) *n.* an outlet from a water main, usually an upright pipe with a valve attached, from which water can be tapped for fighting fires, etc.

hydrate (ˈhaɪdreɪt) *n.* 1. a chemical compound containing water that is chemically combined with a substance and can usually be expelled without changing the constitution of the substance. 2. a chemical compound that can dissociate reversibly into water and another compound. —*vb.* 3. to undergo or cause to undergo treatment or impregnation with water. —**hydration** *n.* —**hydrator** *n.*

hydraulic (ˈhaɪdrɒlɪk) *adj.* 1. operated by pressure transmitted through a pipe by a liquid, such as water or oil. 2. of or employing liquids in motion. 3. of hydraulics. 4. hardening under water: *hydraulic cement*. —**hydraulically** *adv.*

hydraulics (ˈhaɪdrɒlɪks) *n.* (*functioning as sing.*) the study of the mechanical and flow properties of fluids, esp. as they apply to practical engineering. Also called: **fluid mechanics**.

hydride (ˈhaɪdraɪd) *n.* any compound of hydrogen with another element.

hydro (ˈhaɪdrəʊ) *n., pl. -dros*. *Brit.* a hotel or resort, often near a spa, offering facilities for hydropathic treatment.

Hydro (ˈhaɪdrəʊ) *n.* (esp. in Canada) a hydroelectric power company or board.

hydro- or before a vowel **hydr-** *combining form.* 1. indicating water or fluid: *hydrodynamics*. 2. indicating hydrogen in a chemical compound: *hydrochloric acid*. 3. indicating a hydroid: *hydrozoan*.

hydrocarbon (ˌhaɪdrəʊˈkɑːbɒn) *n.* any organic compound containing only carbon and hydrogen.

hydrocephalus (ˌhaɪdrəʊˈsefələs) or **hydrocephaly** (ˌhaɪdrəʊˈsefəli) *n.* accumulation of cerebrospinal fluid within the ventricles of the brain because its normal outlet has been blocked by congenital malformation or disease. Nontechnical name: **water on the brain**. —**hydrocephalic** (ˌhaɪdrəʊˈsefəlik) or **hydrocephalous** *adj.*

hydrochloric acid (ˌhaɪdrəˈklɒrɪk) *n.* the aqueous solution of hydrogen chloride: a strong acid used in many industrial and laboratory processes.

hydrodynamics (ˌhaɪdrəʊˈdaɪˈnæmɪks, -dr-) *n.* (*functioning as sing.*) the branch of science concerned with the mechanical properties of fluids, esp. liquids. Also called: **hydromechanics**.

hydroelectric (ˌhaɪdrəʊˈlektrɪk) *adj.* 1. generated by the pressure of falling water: *hydroelectric power*. 2. of the generation of electricity by water pressure: a *hydroelectric scheme*. —**hydroelectricity** (ˌhaɪdrəʊˈlekˈtrɪsɪti) *n.*

hydrofoil (ˈhaɪdrəˌfɔɪl) *n.* 1. a fast light vessel the hull of which is raised out of the water on one or more pairs of fixed vanes. 2. any of these vanes.

hydrogen (ˈhaɪdrɪdʒən) *n. a.* a flammable colourless gas that is the lightest and most abundant element in the universe. It occurs in water and in most organic compounds. Symbol: H; atomic no.: 1; atomic wt.: 1.007 97. *b.* (as *modifier*): *hydrogen bomb*. —**hydrogenous** (hɪˈdrɒdʒɪnəs) *adj.*

hydrogenate (ˈhaɪdrədʒɪˌneɪt, haɪˈdrɒdʒɪˌneɪt) *vb.* to undergo or cause to undergo a reaction with hydrogen: *to hydrogenate ethylene*. —**hydrogenation** *n.*

hydrogen bomb *n.* a type of bomb in which energy is

released by fusion of hydrogen nuclei to give helium nuclei. The energy required to initiate the fusion is provided by an atom bomb, which is surrounded by a hydrogen-containing substance. Also called: **H-bomb**.

hydrogen peroxide *n.* a colourless oily unstable liquid used as a bleach and as an oxidizer in rocket fuels. Formula: H₂O₂.

hydrography (ˌhaɪˈdrɒɡrəfi) *n.* the study, surveying, and mapping of the oceans, seas, and rivers. —**hydrographer** *n.* —**hydrographic** (ˌhaɪˈdrɒɡrəfɪk) *adj.*

hydrology (ˌhaɪˈdrɒlədʒɪ) *n.* the study of the distribution, conservation, use, etc., of the water of the earth and its atmosphere. —**hydrologic** (ˌhaɪdrəˈlɒdʒɪk) *adj.* —**hydrologist** *n.*

hydrolysis (ˌhaɪˈdrɒlɪsɪs) *n.* a chemical reaction in which a compound reacts with water to produce other compounds. —**hydrolytic** (ˌhaɪdrəˈlɪtɪk) *adj.*

hydrometer (ˌhaɪˈdrɒmɪtə) *n.* an instrument for measuring the relative density of a liquid. —**hydrometric** (ˌhaɪdrəʊˈmetrɪk) or **hydrometrical** *adj.*

hydropathy (ˌhaɪˈdrɒpəði) *n.* a pseudoscientific method of treating disease by the use of large quantities of water both internally and externally. —**hydropathic** (ˌhaɪdrəʊˈpæθɪk) *adj.*

hydrophilic (ˌhaɪdrəʊˈfɪlɪk) *adj.* *Chem.* tending to dissolve in, mix with, or be wetted by water: a *hydrophilic colloid*. —**hydrophile** *n.*

hydrophobia (ˌhaɪdrəˈfəʊbiə) *n.* 1. another name for **rabies**. 2. a fear of drinking fluids, esp. that of a person with rabies, because of painful spasms when trying to swallow. —**hydrophobic** *adj.*

hydroplane (ˈhaɪdrəˌpleɪn) *n.* 1. a motorboat equipped with hydrofoils or with a shaped bottom that raises its hull out of the water at high speeds. 2. an attachment to an aircraft to enable it to glide along the surface of the water. 3. another name for a **seaplane**. 4. a horizontal vane on the hull of a submarine for controlling its vertical motion. —*vb.* 5. (*intr.*) (of a boat) to rise out of the water in the manner of a hydroplane.

hydroponics (ˌhaɪdrəʊˈpɒnɪks) *n.* (*functioning as sing.*) a method of cultivating plants by growing them in gravel, etc., through which water containing dissolved inorganic nutrient salts is pumped. —**hydroponic** *adj.* —**hydroponically** *adv.*

hydrosphere (ˈhaɪdrəˌsfɪə) *n.* the watery part of the earth's surface, including oceans, lakes, water vapour in the atmosphere, etc.

hydrostatics (ˌhaɪdrəʊˈstætɪks) *n.* (*functioning as sing.*) the branch of science concerned with the mechanical properties and behaviour of fluids that are not in motion. —**hydrostatic** *adj.*

hydrotherapy (ˌhaɪdrəʊˈθerəpi) *n.* *Med.* the treatment of certain diseases by the external application of water, as for mobilizing stiff joints or strengthening weakened muscles. —**hydrotherapeutic** (ˌhaɪdrəʊˈθerəpɪk) *adj.* —**hydrotherapist** *n.*

hydrotropism (ˌhaɪˈdrɒtrəˌpɪzəm) *n.* the directional growth of plants in response to the stimulus of water.

hydrous (ˈhaɪdrəs) *adj.* containing water.

hydroxide (ˌhaɪˈdrɒksaɪd) *n.* 1. a base or alkali containing the ion OH⁻. 2. any compound containing an -OH group.

hydroxyl (ˌhaɪˈdrɒksɪl) *n.* (*modifier*) of, consisting of, or containing the monovalent group -OH or the ion OH⁻: a *hydroxyl group* or *radical*.

hydrozoan (ˌhaɪdrəʊˈzəʊən) *n.* 1. any coelenterate of the class *Hydrozoa*, which includes the hydra and the Portuguese man-of-war. —*adj.* 2. of the *Hydrozoa*.

hyena or **hyaena** (haɪˈiːnə) *n.* any of several long-legged carnivorous doglike mammals such as the spotted or laughing hyena, of Africa and S Asia. —**hyenic** or **hyænic** *adj.*

hygiene (ˈhaɪdʒiːn) *n.* 1. Also called: **hygienics**. the science concerned with the maintenance of health. 2. clean or healthy practices or thinking: *personal hygiene*. —**hygienic** *adj.* —**hygienist** *n.*

hygro- or before a vowel **hygr-** *combining form.* indicating moisture: *hygrometer*.

hygrometer (ˌhaɪˈɡrɒmɪtə) *n.* any of various instruments for measuring humidity. —**hygrometric** (ˌhaɪɡrəˈmetrɪk) *adj.*

hygroscope (ˌhaɪɡrəˈskɒp) *n.* any device that indicates the humidity of the air without necessarily measuring it.

hygroscopic (ˌhaɪɡrəˈskɒpɪk) *adj.* (of a substance)

tending to absorb water from the air. —, **hygro'scopical** *adv.*

hying ('haɪŋ) *vb.* the present participle of **hie**.

hymen ('haɪmən) *n. Anat.* a fold of mucous membrane that partly covers the entrance to the vagina and is usually ruptured when sexual intercourse takes place for the first time. — **hymenal** *adj.*

hymenopteran ('haɪmɪ'nɒptərən) or **hymenopter-on** *n., pl. -terans, -tera* (-tərə), or **-terons**. any of a large order of insects including wasps, bees, ants, etc., which have four membranous wings.

hymn (hɪm) *n.* 1. a Christian song of praise sung to God or a saint. 2. a similar song praising other gods, a nation, etc. ~*vb.* 3. to express (praises, thanks, etc.) by singing hymns. — **hymnic** ('hɪmɪk) *adj.*

hymnal ('hɪmnəl) *n.* 1. Also: **hymn book**, a book of hymns. ~*adj.* 2. of, relating to, or characteristic of hymns.

hymnody ('hɪmnədi) *n.* 1. the composition or singing of hymns. 2. hymns collectively. ~Also called: **hymnology**.

hymnology (hɪm'nɒlədʒi) *n.* 1. the study of hymn composition. 2. another word for **hymnody**. — **hym'nologist** *n.*

hyoscyamine ('haɪə'saɪə,mɪn) *n.* a poisonous alkaloid occurring in henbane and related plants: used in medicine.

hype (haɪp) *Sl. ~n.* 1. a deception or racket. 2. an intensive or exaggerated publicity or sales promotion. ~*vb.* 3. (tr.) to market or promote (a product) using exaggerated or intensive publicity.

hyped up *adj. Sl.* stimulated or excited by or as if by the effect of a stimulating drug.

hyper- *prefix.* 1. above, over, or in excess: **hypercritical**. 2. denoting an abnormal excess: **hyperacidity**. 3. indicating that a chemical compound contains a greater than usual amount of an element: **hyperoxide**.

hyperactive ('haɪpər'æktɪv) *adj.* abnormally active. —, **hyperac'tivity** *n.*

hyperbola ('haɪpə'bələ) *n., pl. -las* or *-le* (-li:). a conic section formed by a plane that cuts a cone at a steeper angle to its base than its side.

hyperbole ('haɪpə'bəli) *n.* a deliberate exaggeration used for effect: *he embraced her a thousand times*. — **hyperbolism** *n.*

hyperbolic ('haɪpə'bɒlɪk) or **hyperbolical** *adj.* 1. of a hyperbola. 2. *Rhetoric.* of a hyperbole. —, **hyper'bolically** *adv.*

Hyperborean ('haɪpə'bɔ:riən) *n.* 1. *Greek myth.* one of a people believed to have lived beyond the North Wind in a sunny land. 2. an inhabitant of the extreme north. ~*adj.* 3. (sometimes *not cap.*) of or relating to the extreme north.

hypercritical ('haɪpə'krɪtɪkəl) *adj.* excessively or severely critical. —, **hyper'critically** *adv.*

hyperglycaemia or *U.S. hyperglycemia* ('haɪpə'glai'si:miə) *n. Pathol.* an abnormally large amount of sugar in the blood. —, **hypergly'caemic** or *U.S. hypergly'cemic* *adj.*

hypermarket ('haɪpə'mɑ:kɪt) *n. Brit.* a huge self-service store, usually built on the outskirts of a town.

hyperon ('haɪpə,rɒn) *n. Physics.* any baryon that is not a nucleon.

hypersensitive ('haɪpə'sensɪtɪv) *adj.* 1. having unduly vulnerable feelings. 2. abnormally sensitive to an allergen, a drug, or other agent. —, **hyper'sensitiveness** or **hyper,sensi'tivity** *n.*

hypersonic ('haɪpə'sɒnɪk) *adj.* concerned with or having a velocity of at least five times that of sound in the same medium under the same conditions. —, **hyper'sonics** *n.*

hypertension ('haɪpə'tenʃən) *n. Pathol.* abnormally high blood pressure. — **hypertensive** ('haɪpə'tensɪv) *adj. n.*

hypertrophy ('haɪpə'trɒfi) *n., pl. -phies.* 1. enlargement of an organ or part resulting from an increase in the size of the cells. ~*vb.* **-phyng, -phied.** 2. to undergo or cause to undergo this condition.

hyperventilation ('haɪpə'ventɪ'leɪʃən) *n.* an increase in the rate of breathing, sometimes resulting in cramp and dizziness.

hyphen ('haɪfən) *n.* 1. the punctuation mark (-), used to separate parts of compound words, to link the words of a phrase, and between syllables of a word split between two consecutive lines. ~*vb.* 2. (tr.) another word for **hyphenate**.

hyphenate ('haɪfən,neɪt) *vb. (tr.)* to separate (words, etc.) with a hyphen. —, **hyphen'ation** *n.*

hypno- or before a vowel **hypn-** *combining form.* 1. indicating sleep: **hypnopaedia**. 2. relating to hypnosis: **hypnotherapy**.

hypnosis (hɪp'nɒsɪs) *n., pl. -ses* (-sɪz). an artificially induced state of semiconsciousness characterized by an increased suggestibility to the words of the hypnotist.

hypnotherapy ('hɪpnə'θerəpi) *n.* the use of hypnosis in the treatment of physical or mental disorders.

hypnotic (hɪp'nɒtɪk) *adj.* 1. of or producing hypnosis or sleep. 2. (of a person) susceptible to hypnotism. ~*n.* 3. a drug that induces sleep. 4. a person susceptible to hypnosis. — **hyp'notically** *adv.*

hypnotism ('hɪpnə,tɪzəm) *n.* 1. the scientific study and practice of hypnosis. 2. the process of inducing hypnosis. — **hypnotist** *n.*

hypnotize or **-tise** ('hɪpnə,təɪz) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to induce hypnosis in (a person). 2. to charm or beguile; fascinate. —, **hypnoti'zation** or **-ti'sation** *n.* — **hypno,tizer** or **-tiser** *n.*

hypo ('haɪpə) *n., pl. -pos. Inf.* short for **hypodermic syringe**.

hypo- or before a vowel **hyp-** *prefix.* 1. beneath or below: **hypodermic**. 2. lower: **hypogastrium**. 3. less than; denoting a deficiency: **hypothyroid**. 4. indicating that a chemical compound contains an element in a lower oxidation state than usual: **hypochlorous acid**.

hypocaust ('haɪpə,kɔ:st) *n.* an ancient Roman heating system in which hot air circulated under the floor and between double walls.

hypochondria ('haɪpə'kɒndrɪə) *n.* chronic abnormal anxiety concerning the state of one's health. Also called: **hypochondriasis** ('haɪpə'kɒn'draɪsɪs).

hypochondriac ('haɪpə'kɒndrɪ,æk) *n.* 1. a person suffering from hypochondria. ~*adj.* also **hypochondriacal** ('haɪpə'kɒn'draɪkəl). 2. relating to or suffering from hypochondria.

hypocrisy ('hɪpəkrəsi) *n., pl. -sies.* 1. the practice of professing standards, beliefs, etc., contrary to one's real character or actual behaviour. 2. an act or instance of this.

hypocrite ('hɪpəkrɪt) *n.* a person who pretends to be what he is not. —, **hypo'critical** *adj.* —, **hypo'critically** *adv.*

hypocycloid ('haɪpə'saɪklɔɪd) *n.* a curve described by a point on the circumference of a circle as the circle rolls around the inside of a fixed coplanar circle. —, **hypocy-'cloidal** *adj.*

hypodermic ('haɪpə'dɜ:mɪk) *adj.* 1. of or relating to the region of the skin beneath the epidermis. 2. injected beneath the skin. ~*n.* 3. a hypodermic syringe or needle. 4. a hypodermic injection. —, **hypo'dermical-ly** *adv.*

hypodermic syringe *n. Med.* a type of syringe consisting of a hollow cylinder, usually of glass or plastic, a tightly fitting piston, and a hollow needle (**hypodermic needle**), used for withdrawing blood samples, etc.

hypostasis ('haɪpə'stæsɪs) *n., pl. -ses* (-sɪz). 1. *Meta-physics.* the essential nature of anything. 2. *Christianity.* a. any of the three persons of the Godhead. b. the one person of Christ in which the divine and human natures are united. 3. the accumulation of blood in an organ or part as the result of poor circulation. — **hypostatic** ('haɪpə'stætɪk) or **hypo'statical** *adj.*

hypotension ('haɪpə'tenʃən) *n. Pathol.* abnormally low blood pressure. — **hypotensive** ('haɪpə'tensɪv) *adj.*

hypotenuse ('haɪpə'tɪnju:s) *n.* the side in a right-angled triangle that is opposite the right angle. Abbrev.: **hyp.**

hypothecate ('haɪpə'thekət) *vb. (tr.)* *Law.* to pledge (personal property or a ship) as security for a debt without transferring possession or title. — **hy,pothe'ca-tion** *n.* — **hy'pothe,cator** *n.*

hypothermia ('haɪpə'θɜ:mɪə) *n.* 1. *Pathol.* an abnormally low body temperature, as induced in the elderly by exposure to cold weather. 2. *Med.* the intentional reduction of normal body temperature to reduce the patient's metabolic rate.

hypothesis ('haɪpə'θɪsɪs) *n., pl. -ses* (-sɪz). 1. a suggested explanation for a group of facts or phenomena, either accepted as a basis for further verification (**working hypothesis**) or accepted as likely to be true. 2. an assumption used in an argument; supposition. — **hy'pothesist** *n.*

hypothesize or **-ise** ('haɪpə'thə,səɪz) *vb.* to form or assume as a hypothesis. — **hy'pothe,sizer** or **-iser** *n.*

hypothetical ('haɪpə'tetɪkəl) or **hypothetic** *adj.* 1.

having the nature of a hypothesis. **2.** assumed or thought to exist. **3.** *Logic.* another word for **conditional** (sense 4). —, **hypo'thetically** *adv.*

hypso- or before a vowel **hyps-** combining form. indicating height: *hypso*metry.

hyrax ('hairæks) *n.* any of various rodent-like herbivorous mammals of Africa and SW Asia.

hyssop ('hisəp) *n.* **1.** a widely cultivated Asian plant with spikes of small blue flowers and aromatic leaves, used as a condiment and in perfumery and folk medicine. **2.** a Biblical plant, used for sprinkling in the ritual practices of the Hebrews.

hysterectomy (,hɪstə'rektəmi) *n., pl. -mies.* surgical removal of the uterus.

hysteresis (,hɪstə'ri:sis) *n.* *Physics.* the lag in a variable property of a system with respect to the effect producing it as this effect varies, esp. the phenomenon in which the magnetic induction of a ferromagnetic ma-

terial lags behind the changing external field. —**hysteretic** (,hɪstə'retɪk) *adj.*

hysteria (hɪ'stɪəriə) *n.* **1.** a mental disorder characterized by emotional outbursts and, often, physical symptoms such as paralysis. **2.** any frenzied emotional state, esp. of laughter or crying.

hysterical (hɪ'stɪərɪk) *n.* **1.** a hysterical person. ~*adj.* **2.** hysterical.

hysterical (hɪ'stɪərɪkəl) *adj.* **1.** suggesting hysteria: *hysterical* cries. **2.** suffering from hysteria. **3.** *Inf.* wildly funny. —**hys'terically** *adv.*

hysterics (hɪ'stɪərɪks) *n.* **1.** an attack of hysteria. **2.** *Inf.* wild uncontrollable bursts of laughter.

hystero- or before a vowel **hyster-** combining form. the uterus: *hysterectomy*.

Hz abbrev. for hertz.

I

i or **I** (ai) *n.*, *pl.* **i's**, **I's**, or **Is**. 1. the ninth letter and third vowel of the English alphabet. 2. any of several speech sounds represented by this letter. 3. **a.** something shaped like an **i**. **b.** (in combination): an **i-beam**. 4. **dot one's i's and cross one's t's.** to pay attention to detail.

I (ai) *pron.* (subjective) refers to the speaker or writer.
I symbol for: 1. Chem. iodine. 2. Physics. current. 3. Physics. isospin. ~ 4. the Roman numeral for one. See **Roman numerals**.

I. abbrev. for: 1. Independence. 2. Independent. 3. Institute. 4. International. 5. Island; Isle.

-ia suffix forming nouns. 1. in place names: *Columbia*. 2. in names of diseases: *pneumonia*. 3. in words denoting condition or quality: *utopia*. 4. in names of botanical genera and zoological classes: *Reptilia*. 5. in collective nouns borrowed from Latin: *regalia*.

IAEA abbrev. for International Atomic Energy Agency.

-ial suffix forming adjectives. of or relating to: *managerial*.

iamb ('aiæm, 'aiæmb) or **iambus** (ai'æmbəs) *n.*, *pl.* **iamb**s, **iambi** (ai'æmbai), or **iambuses**. *Prosody*. 1. a metrical foot of two syllables, a short one followed by a long one. 2. a line of verse of such feet.

iambic (ai'æmbik) *Prosody*. ~adj. 1. of, relating to, or using an iamb. 2. (in Greek literature) denoting a satirical verse written in iambs. ~*n.* 3. a metrical foot, line, or stanza consisting of iambs. 4. an ancient Greek satirical verse written in iambs.

-ian suffix. variant of **-an**: *Etonian*.

-iasis or **-asis** *n.* combining form. (in medicine) indicating a diseased condition: *psoriasis*. Cf. **-osis** (sense 2).

-iatrics *n.* combining form. indicating medical care or treatment: *paediatrics*.

iatrogenic (ai,ætrəʊ'dʒenik) *adj.* *Med.* (of an illness) induced in a patient as the result of a physician's action. —**iatrogenicity** (ai,ætrəʊdʒɪ'nisiti) *n.*

-iatry *n.* combining form. indicating healing or medical treatment: *psychiatry*. Cf. **-iatrics**. —**iatric** *adj.* combining form.

I.B.A. (in Britain) abbrev. for Independent Broadcasting Authority.

Iberian (ai'biəriən) *n.* 1. a member of a group of ancient Caucasoid peoples who inhabited the Iberian Peninsula, in SW Europe in classical times. 2. a native or inhabitant of the Iberian Peninsula; a Spaniard or Portuguese. 3. a native or inhabitant of ancient Iberia. ~adj. 4. relating to the pre-Roman peoples of the Iberian Peninsula or of Caucasian Iberia. 5. of or relating to the Iberian Peninsula, its inhabitants, or any of their languages.

ibex ('aibeks) *n.*, *pl.* **ibexes**, **ibices** ('tʃiːsɪz, 'aɪ-), or **ibex**. any of three species of wild goat of mountainous regions of Europe, Asia, and North Africa, having large backward-curving horns.

ibid. or **ib.** (referring to a book, etc., previously cited) abbrev. for *ibidem*: in the same place.

ibis ('aibɪs) *n.*, *pl.* **ibises** or **ibis**. any of various wading birds such as the sacred ibis, that occur in warm regions and have a long thin down-curved bill.

-ible suffix forming adjectives. variant of **-able**. —**ibly** suffix forming adverbs. —**ibility** suffix forming nouns.

Ibo or **Igbo** ('i:bəʊ) *n.* 1. (*pl.* **-bos** or **-bo**) a member of a Negroid people of W Africa, living in S Nigeria. 2. their language, belonging to the Niger-Congo family.

i/c abbrev. for: 1. in charge (of). 2. internal combustion.

-ic suffix forming adjectives. 1. of, relating to, or resembling: *periodic*. See also **-ical**. 2. (in chemistry) indicating that an element is chemically combined in the higher of two possible valence states: *ferric*. Cf. **-ous** (sense 2).

I.C.A. abbrev. for: 1. (in Britain) Institute of Contemporary Arts. 2. Institute of Chartered Accountants.

-ical suffix forming adjectives. variant of **-ic**, but having a less literal application than corresponding adjectives ending in **-ic**: *economical*. —**ically** suffix forming adverbs.

ICBM abbrev. for intercontinental ballistic missile.

ice (ais) *n.* 1. water in the solid state, formed by freezing liquid water. Related adj.: **glacial**. 2. a portion of ice cream. 3. **break the ice**, **a.** to relieve shyness, etc., esp. between strangers. **b.** to be the first of a group to do something. 4. **cut no ice**. *Inf.* to fail to make an impression. 5. **on ice**, in abeyance; pending. 6. **on thin ice**, unsafe; vulnerable. ~*vb.* 7. (often foll. by *up*, *over*, etc.) to form ice; freeze. 8. (*tr.*) to mix with ice or chill (a drink, etc.). 9. (*tr.*) to cover (a cake, etc.) with icing. —**iced** *adj.*

I.C.E. (in Britain) abbrev. for Institution of Civil Engineers.

Ice. abbrev. for Iceland(ic).

ice age *n.* any period of time during which a large part of the earth's surface was covered with ice, because of the advance of glaciers. Also called: **glacial period**.

iceberg ('aɪsbɜːɡ) *n.* 1. a large mass of ice floating in the sea. 2. **tip of the iceberg**, the small visible part of something, esp. a problem, that is much larger. 3. *Sl.*, chiefly U.S. a person considered to have a cold or reserved manner. 4. *Austral. inf.* a person who swims or surfs in winter or takes cold showers.

icebound ('aɪs,baʊnd) *adj.* covered or made immobile by ice; frozen in: *an icebound ship*.

icebox ('aɪs,bɒks) *n.* 1. a compartment in a refrigerator for storing or making ice. 2. an insulated cabinet packed with ice for storing food.

icebreaker ('aɪs,breɪkə) *n.* 1. Also called: **iceboat**. a vessel with a reinforced bow for breaking up the ice in bodies of water. 2. a device for breaking ice into smaller pieces.

icecap ('aɪs,kæp) *n.* a thick mass of glacial ice that permanently covers an area, such as the polar regions or the peak of a mountain.

ice cream *n.* a sweetened frozen liquid, made from cream, milk, or a custard base, flavoured in various ways.

ice field *n.* 1. a large ice floe. 2. a large mass of ice permanently covering an extensive area of land.

ice floe *n.* a sheet of ice, of variable size, floating in the sea. See also **ice field** (sense 1).

ice hockey *n.* a game played on ice by two teams wearing skates, who try to propel a flat puck into their opponents' goal with long sticks.

Icelandic (aɪs'lændɪk) *adj.* 1. of or relating to Iceland, its people, or their language. ~*n.* 2. the official language of Iceland.

ice lolly *n.* *Brit. inf.* a water ice or an ice cream on a stick. Also called: **lolly**.

ice pack *n.* 1. a bag or folded cloth containing ice, applied to a part of the body to reduce swelling, etc. 2. another name for **pack ice**. 3. a sachet containing a gel that retains its temperature for an extended period of time, used esp. in cool bags.

ice skate *n.* 1. a boot having a steel blade fitted to the sole to enable the wearer to glide over ice. 2. the steel blade on such a boot. ~*vb.* **ice-skate**. 3. (*intr.*) to glide over ice on ice skates. —**ice-skater** *n.*

I.Chem.E. abbrev. for Institution of Chemical Engineers.

ichor ('aɪkɔː) *n.* 1. Greek myth. the fluid said to flow in the veins of the gods. 2. *Pathol.* a foul-smelling watery discharge from a wound or ulcer. —**ichorous** *adj.*

ichthyo- or before a vowel **ichthy-** combining form. indicating or relating to fishes: *ichthyology*.

ichthyology (,ɪkθɪ'ɒlədʒɪ) *n.* the study of fishes. —**ichthyologic** (,ɪkθɪ'ɒlədʒɪk) or **ichthyological** *adj.* —**ichthyologist** *n.*

I.C.I. abbrev. for Imperial Chemical Industries.

-ician suffix forming nouns. indicating a person skilled or involved in a subject or activity: *physician*; *beautician*.

icicle ('aɪsɪkl̩) *n.* a hanging spike of ice formed by the freezing of dripping water.

icing ('aɪsɪŋ) *n.* 1. Also called (esp. U.S.): **frosting**. a sugar preparation, variously flavoured and coloured, for coating and decorating cakes, etc. 2. the formation of ice, as on a ship, due to the freezing of moisture in the atmosphere.

icing sugar *n.* *Brit.* a very finely ground sugar used for icings, confections, etc. *U.S. term:* **confectioners' sugar**.

icon or ikon ('aikon) *n.* 1. a representation of Christ or a saint, esp. one painted in oil on a wooden panel in a traditional Byzantine style and venerated in the Eastern Church. 2. an image, picture, etc. 3. a symbol resembling or analogous to the thing it represents.

icono- or *before a vowel icon-* combining form. indicating an image or likeness: *iconology*.

iconoclast (ai'konə,kleɪst) *n.* 1. a person who attacks established or traditional concepts, principles, etc. 2. a. a destroyer of religious images or objects. b. an adherent of a heretical iconoclastic movement within the Greek Orthodox Church from 725 to 842 A.D. —*icono-'clastic adj.* —*icono-'clastically adv.* —*icono-,clasm n.*

icosahedron (aɪkə'sə'hɪdrən) *n., pl. -drons or -dra* (-dra), a solid figure having 20 faces. —*icosa'hedral adj.*

-ics *suffix forming nouns; functioning as sing.* 1. indicating a science, art, or matters relating to a particular subject: *politics*. 2. indicating certain activities: *acrobatics*.

icy ('aɪsɪ) *adj.* **icier, iciest.** 1. made of, covered with, or containing ice. 2. resembling ice. 3. freezing or very cold. 4. cold or reserved in manner; aloof. —*icily adv.* —*iciness n.*

id (ɪd) *n.* *Psychoanal.* the primitive instincts and energies in the unconscious mind that, modified by the ego and the superego, underlie all psychic activity.

ID *abbrev. for identification.*

id. *abbrev. for idem.*

I'd (aɪd) *contraction of I had or I would.*

-id' *suffix forming nouns and adjectives.* indicating members of a zoological family: *cyprinid*.

-id' *suffix forming nouns.* variant of **-ide**.

-idae *suffix forming nouns.* indicating names of zoological families: *Felidae*.

-ide or **-id** *suffix forming nouns.* 1. (added to the combining form of the nonmetallic or electronegative elements) indicating a binary compound: *sodium chloride*. 2. indicating an organic compound derived from another: *acetanilide*. 3. indicating one of a class of compounds or elements: *peptide*.

idea (aɪ'diə) *n.* 1. the product of mental activity whereby the mind consciously conceives a thought; conception. 2. an impression established in the mind by something perceived; notion. 3. a belief; opinion. 4. a scheme, intention, plan, etc. 5. a vague notion; inkling: *he had no idea of the truth*. 6. significance or purpose: *the idea of the game is to discover the murderer*. 7. *Philosophy.* a. an immediate object of thought or perception. b. (sometimes *cap.*) (in Plato) the universal essence or archetype of any class of things or concepts. 8. *get ideas.* to become ambitious, restless, etc. 9. *not one's idea of.* not what one regards as (hard work, a holiday, etc.). 10. *that's an idea.* that is worth considering. 11. *the very idea!* that is preposterous, unreasonable, etc.

ideal (aɪ'diəl) *n.* 1. a conception of something that is perfect. 2. a person or thing considered to represent perfection. 3. something existing only as an idea. 4. a pattern or model, esp. of ethical behaviour. ~*adj.* 5. conforming to an ideal. 6. of, involving, or existing in the form of an idea. 7. *Philosophy.* a. of or relating to a highly desirable and possible state of affairs. b. of or relating to idealism. —*ideally adv.* —*idealness n.*

idealism (aɪ'diəl,ɪzəm) *n.* 1. belief in or pursuit of ideals. 2. the tendency to represent things in their ideal forms, rather than as they are. 3. *Philosophy.* the doctrine that thought or the mind is the only reality and that external objects consist merely of ideas. —*idealist n.* —*ideally adv.* —*idealistically adv.*

idealize or **-ise** (aɪ'diəl,ɪzəz) *vb.* 1. to consider or represent (something) as ideal. 2. (*tr.*) to portray as ideal; glorify. 3. (*intr.*) to form an ideal or ideals. —*idealization or -isation n.* —*idealizer or -iser n.*

idée fixe *French.* (ide 'fiks) *n., pl. idées fixes* (ide 'fiks), a fixed idea; obsession.

idem *Latin.* ('aɪdɪm, 'ɪdɪm) *pron., adj.* the same: used to refer to an article, chapter, etc., previously cited.

identical (aɪ'dentɪkəl) *adj.* 1. being the same. 2. exactly alike or equal. 3. designating either or both of a pair of twins of the same sex who developed from a single fertilized ovum that split into two. Cf. **fraternal** (sense 3). —*identically adv.* —*identicalness n.*

identification (aɪ'dentɪfɪ'keɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of identi-

fying or the state of being identified. 2. a. something that identifies a person or thing. b. (as *modifier*): *an identification card*. 3. *Psychol.* a. the process of recognizing specific objects as the result of remembering. b. the process by which one incorporates aspects of another person's personality. c. the transferring of a response from one situation to another because the two bear similar features.

identification parade *n.* a group of persons assembled for the purpose of discovering whether a witness can identify the suspect.

identify (aɪ'dentɪ,fai) *vb. -fying, -fied.* (mainly *tr.*) 1. to prove or recognize as being a certain person or thing; determine the identity of. 2. to consider as the same or equivalent. 3. (also *intr.*; often foll. by *with*) to consider (oneself) as similar to another. 4. to determine the taxonomic classification of (a plant or animal). 5. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *with*) *Psychol.* to engage in identification. —*identifiable adj.* —*identifier n.*

Identikit (aɪ'dentɪ,kɪt) *n.* *Trademark.* a. a set of transparencies of typical facial characteristics that can be superimposed on one another to build up a picture of a person sought by the police. b. (as *modifier*): *an Identikit picture*.

identity (aɪ'dentɪtɪ) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. a. the state of having unique identifying characteristics. b. (as *modifier*): *an identity card*. 2. the individual characteristics by which a person or thing is recognized. 3. the state of being the same in nature, quality, etc.: *linked by the identity of their tastes*. 4. *Maths.* a. an equation that is valid for all values of its variables, as in $(x-y)(x+y) = x^2 - y^2$. Often denoted by the symbol =. b. Also called: **identity element.** a member of a set that when operating on another member, *x*, produces that member *x*: the identity for multiplication of numbers is 1 since $x.1 = 1.x = x$. 5. *Logic.* the relationship between an object and itself. 6. *Austral. inf.* a well-known local person; figure: *a Barwidgee identity*. 7. *Austral. & N.Z. inf.* an eccentric; character: *an old identity in the town*.

ideo- combining form. of or indicating idea or ideas: *ideology*.

ideogram ('aɪdɪə,grəm) or **ideograph** ('aɪdɪə,grɑ:f) *n.* 1. a sign or symbol, used in a writing system such as that of China, that directly represents a concept or thing, rather than a word for it. 2. any graphic sign or symbol, such as %, &, etc.

ideology (aɪ'dɪblədʒɪ) *n., pl. -gies.* 1. a body of ideas that reflects the beliefs of a nation, political system, etc. 2. *Philosophy.* an idea that is false or held for the wrong reasons but is believed with such conviction as to be irrefutable. 3. speculation that is imaginary or visionary. 4. the study of the nature and origin of ideas. —*ideological* (aɪ'dɪə'lɒdʒɪkəl) or *ideo-'logic adj.* —*ideologically adv.* —*ideologist n.*

ides (aɪdz) *n.* (functioning as *sing.*) (in the Roman calendar) the 15th day in March, May, July, and October and the 13th day of each other month.

id est *Latin.* (ɪd 'est) the full form of *i.e.*

idiocy ('aɪdɪəsi) *n., pl. -cies.* 1. (not in *technical usage*) severe mental retardation. 2. foolishness; stupidity. 3. a foolish act or remark.

idiom ('aɪdɪəm) *n.* 1. a group of words whose meaning cannot be predicted from the constituent words: (*It was raining*) *cats and dogs*. 2. linguistic usage that is grammatical and natural to native speakers. 3. the characteristic vocabulary or usage of a specific human group or subject. 4. the characteristic artistic style of an individual, school, etc. —*idiomatic* (aɪ'dɪə'mætɪk) *adj.* —*idiomatically adv.*

idiosyncrasy (aɪ'dɪə'sɪŋkrəsi) *n., pl. -sies.* 1. a tendency, type of behaviour, etc., of a person; quirk. 2. the composite physical or psychological make-up of a person. 3. an abnormal reaction of an individual to specific foods, drugs, or other agents. —*idiosyncratic* (aɪ'dɪə'sɪŋ'krætɪk) *adj.* —*idiosyncratically adv.*

idiot ('aɪdɪt) *n.* 1. a person with severe mental retardation. 2. a foolish or senseless person.

idiotic (aɪ'dɪtɪk) *adj.* of or resembling an idiot; foolish; senseless. —*idiotically adv.*

idle ('aɪdl) *adj.* 1. unemployed or unoccupied; inactive. 2. not operating or being used. 3. not wanting to work; lazy. 4. (usually *prenominal*) frivolous or trivial: *idle pleasures*. 5. ineffective or powerless; vain. 6. without basis; unfounded. ~*vb.* 7. (when *tr.*, often foll. by *away*) to waste or pass (time) fruitlessly or inactively. 8. (*intr.*) (of a shaft, etc.) to turn without doing useful work. 9. (*intr.*) (of an engine) to run at low speed with the transmission disengaged. —*idleness n.* —*idly adv.*

idler ('aɪdlə) *n.* a person who idles.

idol ('aɪdl) *n.* 1. a material object that is worshipped as a god. 2. *Christianity, Judaism*, any being (other than the one God) to which divine honour is paid. 3. a person who is revered, admired, or highly loved.

idolatry (aɪ'dɒlətri) *n.* 1. the worship of idols. 2. great devotion or reverence. —**idolater** *n.* or **idolatrix** *fem. n.* —**idolatrous** *adj.*

idolize or **-ise** ('aɪdɒlaɪz) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to admire or revere greatly. 2. (*tr.*) to worship as an idol. 3. (*intr.*) to worship idols. —**idolism**, **idolization** or **-isation** *n.* —**idolist**, **idolizer** or **-iser** *n.*

IDP *abbrev. for* integrated data processing.

idyll or *U.S. (sometimes)* **idyl** ('ɪdl) *n.* 1. a poem or prose work describing an idealized rural life, pastoral scenes, etc. 2. a charming or picturesque scene or event. 3. a piece of music with a pastoral character. —**idyllic** *adj.* —**idyllically** *adv.*

i.e. *abbrev. for* id est: that is.

-ie *suffix forming nouns.* variant of **-y**: used to form informal words (esp. in Australia): *surfie*.

I.E.E. *abbrev. for* Institution of Electrical Engineers.

-ier *suffix forming nouns.* variant of **-eer**: *brigadier*.

if (ɪf) *conj. (subordinating)* 1. in case that, or on condition that: *if you try hard it might work*. 2. used to introduce an indirect question. In this sense, if approaches the meaning of *whether*. 3. even though: *an attractive if awkward girl*. 4. a. used to introduce expressions of desire, with only: *if I had only known*. b. used to introduce exclamations of surprise, dismay, etc.: *if this doesn't top everything!* 5. as if, as it would be if; as though: *he treats me as if I were stupid*. ~n. 6. an uncertainty or doubt: *the big if is whether our plan will work*. 7. a condition or stipulation: *I won't have any ifs or buts*.

-ify *suffix forming verbs.* variant of **-fy**: *intensify*. —**ification** *suffix forming nouns.*

igloo or **iglu** ('ɪɡluː) *n., pl. -loos or -lus*. 1. a dome-shaped Eskimo house, built of blocks of solid snow. 2. a hollow made by a seal in the snow over its breathing hole in the ice.

igneous ('ɪɡniəs) *adj.* 1. (of rocks) derived from magma or lava that has solidified on or below the earth's surface. 2. of or relating to fire.

ignis fatuus ('ɪɡnis 'fætjuəs) *n., pl. ignes fatui* ('ɪɡnɪz 'fætjuːaɪ). another name for **will-o'-the-wisp**.

ignite (ɪɡ'neɪt) *vb.* 1. to catch fire or set fire to; burn or cause to burn. 2. (*tr.*) *Chem.* to heat strongly. —**ignitable** or **ignitible** *adj.* —**ignitability** or **ignitibility** *n.* —**igniter** *n.*

ignition (ɪɡ'niʃən) *n.* 1. the act or process of initiating combustion. 2. the process of igniting the fuel in an internal-combustion engine. 3. (preceded by *the*) the devices used to ignite the fuel in an internal-combustion engine.

ignoble (ɪɡ'nəʊbəl) *adj.* 1. dishonourable; base; despicable. 2. of low birth or origins; humble; common. 3. of low quality; inferior. —**ignobility** or **ignobleness** *n.* —**ignobly** *adv.*

ignominy ('ɪɡnə'mɪni) *n., pl. -minies*. 1. disgrace or public shame; dishonour. 2. a cause of disgrace; a shameful act. —**ignominious** *adj.* —**ignominiously** *adv.* —**ignominiousness** *n.*

ignoramus (ɪɡnə'reɪməs) *n., pl. -muses*. an ignorant person; fool.

ignorance ('ɪɡnərəns) *n.* lack of knowledge, information, or education; the state of being ignorant.

ignorant ('ɪɡnərənt) *adj.* 1. lacking in knowledge or education; unenlightened. 2. (*postpositive*; often foll. by *of*) lacking in awareness or knowledge (*of*): *ignorant of the law*. 3. resulting from or showing lack of knowledge or awareness: *an ignorant remark*. —**ignorantly** *adv.*

ignore (ɪɡ'noː) *vb. (tr.)* to fail or refuse to notice; disregard. —**ignorer** *n.*

iguana (ɪ'gwɑːnə) *n.* either of two large tropical American arboreal herbivorous lizards, esp. the common iguana, having a greyish-green body with a row of spines along the back. —**iguanian** *n., adj.*

IHS the first three letters of the name Jesus in Greek (ΙΗΣΟΥΣ), often used as a Christian emblem.

ikebana (ɪ'keɪbəːnə) *n.* the Japanese decorative art of flower arrangement.

ikon ('aɪkən) *n.* a variant spelling of **icon**.

il- *prefix.* variant of **in-** and **in-** before *l*.

-il *suffix forming nouns.* variant of **-ile**.

-ile or **-il** *suffix forming adjectives and nouns.* indicat-

ing capability, liability, or a relationship with something: *agile*; *juvenile*. —**ility** *suffix forming nouns.*

ileum ('ɪləm) *n.* the part of the small intestine between the jejunum and the caecum. —**ileac** *adj.*

ilex ('aɪləks) *n.* 1. any of a genus of trees or shrubs such as the holly and inkberry. 2. another name for the **holm oak**.

ilium ('ɪləm) *n., pl. -ia* (-ɪə). the uppermost and widest of the three sections of the hipbone.

ilk (ɪlk) *n.* 1. a type; class; sort (esp. in *of that, his*, etc., *ilk*): *people of that ilk should not be allowed here*. 2. *of that ilk*. *Scot.* of the place of the same name; to indicate that the person is laird of the place named: *Moncrieff of that ilk*.

▷ **Usage.** Although the use of *ilk* in sense 1 is often condemned as being the result of a misunderstanding of the original Scottish expression, it is nevertheless well established and generally acceptable.

ill (ɪl) *adj. worse, worst*. 1. (*usually postpositive*) not in good health; sick. 2. characterized by or intending harm, etc.; hostile: *ill deeds*. 3. causing pain, harm, adversity, etc. 4. ascribing or imputing evil to something referred to: *ill repute*. 5. promising an unfavourable outcome; unpropitious: *an ill omen*. 6. harsh; lacking kindness: *ill will*. 7. not up to an acceptable standard; faulty: *ill manners*. 8. **ill at ease**. unable to relax; uncomfortable. ~n. 9. evil or harm; misfortune; trouble. 10. a mild disease. ~adv. 11. badly: *the title ill befits him*. 12. with difficulty; hardly: *he can ill afford the money*.

ill. *abbrev. for:* 1. illustrated. 2. illustration.

I'll (aɪl) *contraction of* I will or I shall.

ill-advised *adj.* 1. acting without reasonable care or thought: *you would be ill-advised to sell your house now*. 2. badly thought out; not or insufficiently considered: *an ill-advised plan of action*. —**ill-advisedly** *adv.*

ill-bred *adj.* badly brought up; lacking good manners. —**ill-breeding** *n.*

ill-considered *adj.* done without due consideration; not thought out: *an ill-considered decision*.

ill-disposed *adj.* (often foll. by *towards*) not kindly disposed.

illegal ('ɪlɪɡl) *adj.* 1. forbidden by law; unlawful; illicit. 2. unauthorized or prohibited by a code of official or accepted rules. —**illegally** *adv.* —**illegality** *n.*

illegible ('ɪlɪdʒɪbəl) *adj.* unable to be read or deciphered. —**illegibility** or **illegibleness** *n.* —**illegibly** *adv.*

illegitimate (ɪ'lɪdʒɪtɪmət) *adj.* 1. born of parents who were not married to each other at the time of birth; bastard. 2. illegal; unlawful. 3. contrary to logic; incorrectly reasoned. —**illegitimacy** or **illegitimateness** *n.* —**illegitimately** *adv.*

ill-fated *adj.* doomed or unlucky.

ill-favoured *adj.* 1. unattractive or repulsive in appearance; ugly. 2. offensive, disagreeable, or objectionable. —**ill-favourably** *adv.* —**ill-favouredness** *n.*

ill-founded *adj.* not founded on true or reliable premises; unsubstantiated.

ill-gotten *adj.* obtained dishonestly or illegally (esp. in *ill-gotten gains*).

ill humour *n.* a disagreeable or sullen mood; bad temper. —**ill-humoured** *adj.* —**ill-humouredly** *adv.*

illiberal (ɪ'lɪbərl) *adj.* 1. narrow-minded; prejudiced; intolerant. 2. not generous; mean. 3. lacking in culture or refinement. —**illiberality** *n.* —**illiberally** *adv.*

illicit ('ɪlɪsɪt) *adj.* 1. another word for **illegal**. 2. not allowed or approved by common custom, rule, or standard: *illicit sexual relations*. —**illicitly** *adv.* —**illicitness** *n.*

illiterate ('ɪlɪtərɪt) *adj.* 1. unable to read and write. 2. violating accepted standards in reading and writing: *an illiterate scrawl*. 3. uneducated, ignorant, or uncultured: *scientifically illiterate*. ~n. 4. an illiterate person. —**illiteracy** or **illiterateness** *n.* —**illiterately** *adv.*

ill-mannered *adj.* having bad manners; rude; impolite. —**ill-manneredly** *adv.*

illness ('ɪlnɪs) *n.* 1. a disease or indisposition; sickness. 2. a state of ill health.

illogical ('ɪlədʒɪkəl) *adj.* 1. characterized by lack of logic; senseless or unreasonable. 2. disregarding logical principles. —**illogically** (ɪlədʒɪ'kælətɪ) or **illogicalness** *n.* —**illogically** *adv.*

ill-starred *adj.* unlucky; unfortunate; ill-fated.

ill-timed *adj.* occurring at or planned for an unsuitable time.

ill-treat *vb.* (tr.) to behave cruelly or harshly towards; misuse; maltreat. — **ill-treatment** *n.*

illuminant (i'l'u:mɪnənt) *n.* 1. something that provides or gives off light. ~adj. 2. giving off light; illuminating.

illuminate *vb.* (i'l'u:mɪneɪt). 1. (tr.) to throw light in or into; light up. 2. (tr.) to make easily understood; clarify. 3. to adorn, decorate, or be decorated with lights. 4. (tr.) to decorate (a letter, etc.) by the application of colours, gold, or silver. 5. (intr.) to become lighted up. ~adj. (i'l'u:mɪnɪt, -net). 6. Arch. made clear or bright with light. ~n. (i'l'u:mɪnɪt, -net). 7. a person who claims to have special enlightenment. — **ill-luminatingly** *adv.* — **ill-luminative** *adj.* — **ill-luminator** *n.*

illumination (i'l'u:mɪneɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of illuminating or the state of being illuminated. 2. a source of light. 3. (often pl.) Chiefly Brit. a light or lights used as decoration in streets, parks, etc. 4. spiritual or intellectual enlightenment; insight or understanding. 5. the act of making understood; clarification. 6. decoration in colours, gold, or silver used on some manuscripts. 7. Physics. another name (not in technical usage) for **illumination**.

illumine (i'l'u:mɪn) *vb.* a literary word for **illuminate**. — **illuminable** *adj.*

ill-use *vb.* (i'l'ju:z). 1. to use badly or cruelly; abuse; maltreat. ~n. (i'l'ju:s), also **ill-usage**. 2. harsh or cruel treatment; abuse.

illusion (i'l'u:ʒən) *n.* 1. a false appearance or deceptive impression of reality: the mirror gives an **illusion** of depth. 2. a false or misleading perception or belief; delusion. 3. Psychol. a perception that is not true to reality, having been altered subjectively in the mind of the perceiver. See also **hallucination**. — **ill-lusory** or **ill-lusional** *adj.* — **ill-lusioned** *adj.* — **illusory** (i'l'ju:s) or **ill-lusive** *adj.* — **ill-lusoriness** *n.*

illusionist (i'l'u:ʒənɪst) *n.* 1. a person given to illusions; visionary; dreamer. 2. Philosophy. a person who believes in illusionism. 3. an artist who practises illusionism. 4. a conjuror; magician. — **ill-lusionalistic** *adj.*

illustrate (i'l'leɪstreɪt) *vb.* 1. to clarify or explain by use of examples, analogy, etc. 2. (tr.) to be an example of. 3. (tr.) to explain or decorate (a book, text, etc.) with pictures. — **illustrative** *adj.* — **illustrator** *n.*

illustration (i'l'leɪstreɪʃən) *n.* 1. pictorial matter used to explain or decorate a text. 2. an example: an **illustration** of his ability. 3. the act of illustrating or the state of being illustrated. — **illustrational** *adj.*

illustrious (i'l'laɪstriəs) *adj.* 1. of great renown; famous and distinguished. 2. glorious or great: **illustrious** deeds. — **illustriously** *adv.* — **illustriousness** *n.*

ill will *n.* hostile feeling; enmity; antagonism.

I.L.O. *abbrev.* for International Labour Organization.

I'm (aɪm) *n.* contraction of I am.

im- *prefix.* variant of **in-** and **im-** before *b*, *m*, and *p*.

image (i'mɪdʒ) *n.* 1. a representation or likeness of a person or thing, esp. in sculpture. 2. an optically formed reproduction of an object, such as one formed by a lens or mirror. 3. a person or thing that resembles another closely; double or copy. 4. a mental picture; idea produced by the imagination. 5. the personality presented to the public by a person: a politician's **image**. 6. the pattern of light that is focused onto the retina. 7. Psychol. the mental experience of something that is not immediately present to the senses, often involving memory. See also **imagery**. 8. a personification of a specified quality; epitome: the **image** of good breeding. 9. a mental picture or association of ideas evoked in a literary work. ~*vb.* (tr.) Rare. 10. to picture in the mind; imagine. 11. to make or reflect an image of. 12. to portray or describe. 13. to be an example or epitome of; typify. — **imageable** *adj.* — **imageless** *adj.*

imagery (i'mɪdʒəri, -dʒəri) *n.*, *pl.* -ries. 1. descriptive language in a literary work, esp. that appealing to the senses. 2. images collectively. 3. Psychol. a. the materials or general processes of the imagination. b. the characteristic kind of mental images formed by a particular individual. See also **image** (sense 7), **imagination** (sense 1).

imaginary (i'mædʒɪnəri, -dʒɪnəri) *adj.* 1. existing in the imagination; unreal; illusory. 2. Maths. involving or containing imaginary numbers. — **imaginarily** *adv.* — **imaginariness** *n.*

imagination (i'mædʒɪneɪʃən) *n.* 1. the faculty or action of producing mental images of what is not present or has not been experienced. 2. mental creative ability. 3. the ability to deal resourcefully with unexpected or unusual problems, circumstances, etc.

imaginative (i'mædʒɪnətɪv) *adj.* 1. produced by or

indicative of a creative imagination. 2. having a vivid imagination. — **imaginatively** *adv.* — **imaginativeness** *n.*

imagine (i'mædʒɪn) *vb.* 1. (when *tr.*, may take a clause as object) to form a mental image of. 2. (when *tr.*, may take a clause as object) to think, believe, or guess. 3. (tr.; takes a clause as object) to suppose; assume: I **imagine** he'll come. — **imaginable** *adj.* — **imaginably** *adv.* — **imagine** *n.*

imago (i'meɪgəʊ) *n.*, *pl.* **imagoes** or **imagines** (i'mædʒə-ni:z). 1. an adult sexually mature insect. 2. Psychoanal. an idealized image of another person, usually a parent, carried in the unconscious.

imam (i'mɑ:m) or **imaum** (i'mɑ:m, i'mɔ:m) *n.* **Islam**. 1. a leader of congregational prayer in a mosque. 2. a caliph, as leader of a Muslim community.

imbalance (ɪm'bæləns) *n.* a lack of balance, as in emphasis, proportion, etc.: the **political imbalance** of the programme.

imbecile (ɪm'bɪsɪl, -sail) *n.* 1. Psychol. a person of very low intelligence (I.Q. of 25 to 50). 2. Inf. an extremely stupid person; dolt. ~*adj.* also **imbecilic** (ɪm'bɪsɪlɪk). 3. of or like an imbecile; mentally deficient; feeble-minded. 4. stupid or senseless: an **imbecile** thing to do. — **imbecilely** or **imbecilically** *adv.* — **imbecility** *n.*

imbed (ɪm'bed) *vb.* -bedding, -bedded. a less common spelling of **embed**.

imbibe (ɪm'baɪb) *vb.* 1. to drink (esp. alcoholic drinks). 2. Literary. to take in or assimilate (ideas, etc.): to **imbibe** the spirit of the Renaissance. 3. (tr.) to take in as if by drinking: to **imbibe** fresh air. 4. to absorb or cause to absorb liquid or moisture; assimilate or saturate. — **imbiber** *n.*

imbroglio (ɪm'brəʊlɪəʊ) *n.*, *pl.* -glios. 1. a confused or perplexing political or interpersonal situation. 2. Obs. a confused heap; jumble.

imbue (ɪm'bjʊ:ɪ) *vb.* -buing, -bued. (tr.; usually foll. by *with*) 1. to instil or inspire (with ideals, principles, etc.). 2. Rare. to soak, esp. with dye, etc. — **imbuement** *n.*

I. Mech. E. *abbrev.* for Institution of Mechanical Engineers.

IMF *abbrev.* for International Monetary Fund.

imitate (i'mɪteɪt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to try to follow the manner, style, etc., of or take as a model: many writers **imitated** the language of Shakespeare. 2. to pretend to be or to impersonate, esp. for humour; mimic. 3. to make a copy or reproduction of; duplicate. — **imitable** (i'mɪtəbəl) *adj.* — **imitability** *n.* — **imitator** *n.*

imitation (i'mɪteɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act or practice of imitating; mimicry. 2. an instance or product of imitating, such as a copy of the manner of a person; impression. 3. a. a copy of a genuine article; counterfeit. b. (as modifier): imitation jewellery. 4. Music. the repetition of a phrase or figure in one part after its appearance in another, as in a fugue. — **imitational** *adj.*

imitative (i'mɪteɪtɪv) *adj.* 1. imitating or tending to copy. 2. characterized by imitation. 3. copying or reproducing an original, esp. in an inferior manner: **imitative** painting. 4. another word for **onomatopoeic**. — **imitatively** *adv.* — **imitativeness** *n.*

immaculate (i'mækjʊlət) *adj.* 1. completely clean; extremely tidy: his clothes were **immaculate**. 2. completely flawless, etc.: an **immaculate** rendering of the symphony. 3. morally pure; free from sin or corruption. 4. Biol. with no spots or markings. — **immaculacy** or **immaculateness** *n.* — **immaculately** *adv.*

immanent (ɪm'mənt) *adj.* 1. existing, operating, or remaining within; inherent. 2. Philosophy. (of a mental act) occurring entirely within the mind. 3. (of God) present throughout the universe. — **immanence** or **immanency** *n.* — **immanently** *adv.* — **immanenism** *n.*

immaterial (ɪm'mə'tɪəriəl) *adj.* 1. of no real importance; inconsequential. 2. not formed of matter; incorporeal; spiritual. — **immateriality** *n.* — **immaterially** *adv.*

immature (ɪm'mə'tʃʊə, -tʃʊə) *adj.* 1. not fully grown or developed. 2. deficient in maturity; lacking wisdom, insight, emotional stability, etc. — **immaturity** or **immatureness** *n.* — **immaturely** *adv.*

immeasurable (i'meɪʒərəbəl) *adj.* incapable of being measured, esp. by virtue of great size; limitless. — **immeasurability** or **immeasurableness** *n.* — **immeasurably** *adv.*

immediate (i'mɪdiət) *adj.* (usually *prenominal*) 1. taking place or accomplished without delay: an **immediate** reaction. 2. closest or most direct in effect or relationship: the **immediate** cause of his downfall. 3. having no intervening medium; direct in effect: an **im-**

mediate influence. 4. contiguous in space, time, or relationship: *our immediate neighbour.* 5. *Philosophy.* of or relating to a concept that is directly known or intuited. — *im'mediacy* or *im'mediateness* *n.*

immemorial (ˌɪmɪ'mɔːriəl) *adj.* originating in the distant past; ancient (postpositive in *time immemorial*). — *im'memorially* *adv.*

immense (ɪ'mens) *adj.* 1. unusually large; huge; vast. 2. without limits; immeasurable. 3. *Inf.* very good; excellent. — *im'mensely* *adv.* — *im'menseness* *n.*

immerse (ɪ'mɜːs) *vb.* (tr.) 1. (often foll. by *in*) to plunge or dip into liquid. 2. (often passive; often foll. by *in*) to involve deeply; engross: *to immerse oneself in a problem.* 3. to baptize by dipping the whole body into water. — *im'mersible* *adj.* — *im'mersion* *n.*

immersion heater (ɪ'mɜːʃən) *n.* an electrical device, usually thermostatically controlled, for heating the liquid in which it is immersed.

immigrant (ˌɪmɪgrənt) *n.* 1. a. a person who immigrates. b. (as modifier): *an immigrant community.* 2. *Brit.* a person who has been settled in a country of which he is not a native for less than ten years.

immigrate (ˌɪmɪgreɪt) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to come to a place or country of which one is not a native in order to settle there. 2. (tr.) to introduce or bring in as an immigrant. — *immi'gration* *n.* — *immi'gratory* *adj.* — *immi'grator* *n.*

imminent (ɪ'mɪnənt) *adj.* 1. liable to happen soon; impending. 2. *Obs.* overhanging. — *im'minence* *n.* — *im'minently* *adv.*

immiscible (ɪ'mɪsbəl) *adj.* (of liquids) incapable of being mixed: *oil and water are immiscible.* — *im'miscibility* *n.* — *im'miscibly* *adv.*

immobile (ɪ'məʊbəl) *adj.* 1. not moving; motionless. 2. not able to move or be moved; fixed. — *immobility* (ɪ'məʊbəlɪti) *n.*

immobilize or **-ise** (ɪ'məʊbaɪz) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to make immobile: *to immobilize a car.* 2. *Finance.* to convert (circulating capital) into fixed capital. — *im'mobilization* or *-i'sation* *n.* — *im'mobilizer* or *-i,liser* *n.*

immoderate (ɪ'mɒdərɪt, ɪ'mɒdrɪt) *adj.* lacking in moderation; excessive: *immoderate demands.* — *im'moderately* *adv.* — *im'moderation* or *im'moderateness* *n.*

immodest (ɪ'mɒdɪst) *adj.* 1. indecent, esp. with regard to sexual propriety; improper. 2. bold, impudent, or shameless. — *im'moderately* *adv.* — *im'modesty* *n.*

immolate (ɪ'məʊleɪt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to kill or offer as a sacrifice. 2. *Literary.* to sacrifice (something highly valued). — *im'molation* *n.* — *im'molator* *n.*

immoral (ɪ'mɒrəl) *adj.* 1. transgressing accepted moral rules; corrupt. 2. sexually dissolute; profligate or promiscuous. 3. unscrupulous or unethical: *immoral trading.* 4. tending to corrupt or resulting from corruption: *immoral earnings.* — *immo'rality* *n.* — *im'morally* *adv.*

▷ Usage. See at *amoral.*

immortal (ɪ'mɔːtl) *adj.* 1. not subject to death or decay; having perpetual life. 2. having everlasting fame; remembered throughout time. 3. everlasting; perpetual; constant. 4. of or relating to immortal beings or concepts. ~n. 5. an immortal being. 6. (often pl.) a person who is remembered enduringly, esp. an author. — *immo'rality* *n.* — *im'mortality* *adv.*

immortalize or **-ise** (ɪ'mɔːtaɪz) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to give everlasting fame to, as by treating in a literary work: *Macbeth was immortalized by Shakespeare.* 2. to give immortality to. — *im'mortalization* or *-i'sation* *n.* — *im'mortalizer* or *-iser* *n.*

immovable or **immoveable** (ɪ'mu:vəbəl) *adj.* 1. unable to move or be moved; immobile. 2. unable to be diverted from one's intentions; steadfast. 3. unaffected by feeling; impassive. 4. unchanging; unalterable. 5. (of feasts, etc.) on the same date every year. 6. *Law.* a. (of property) not liable to be removed; fixed. b. of or relating to immovable property. — *im'movability*, *im'moveability* or *im'moveableness*, *im'moveableness* *n.* — *im'movably* or *im'moveably* *adv.*

immune (ɪ'mju:n) *adj.* 1. protected against a specific disease by inoculation or as the result of innate or acquired resistance. 2. relating to or conferring immunity: *an immune body (see antibody).* 3. (usually postpositive; foll. by *to*) unsusceptible (to) or secure (against): *immune to inflation.* 4. exempt from obligation, penalty, etc. ~n. 5. an immune person or animal.

immunity (ɪ'mju:nɪti) *n.*, pl. **-ties**. 1. the ability of an organism to resist disease, as by producing its own antibodies or as a result of inoculation. 2. freedom from

obligation or duty, esp. exemption from tax, legal liability, etc.

immunize or **-nise** (ˌɪmjuːnaɪz) *vb.* (tr.) to make immune, esp. by inoculation. — *im'munization* or *-nisation* *n.* — *immu'nizer* or *-niser* *n.*

immuno- or before a vowel **immun-** combining form. indicating immunity or immune; *immunology.*

immunology (ˌɪmjuːnɒlədʒɪ) *n.* the branch of biological science concerned with the study of immunity. — **immunologic** (ˌɪmjuːnɒlədʒɪk) or **immunological** *adj.* — **immunologically** *adv.* — **immunologist** *n.*

immure (ɪ'mjʊə) *vb.* (tr.) 1. *Arch. or literary.* to enclose within or as if within walls; imprison. 2. to shut (oneself) away from society. — **im'murement** *n.*

immutable (ɪ'mjuːtəbəl) *adj.* unchanging through time; unalterable; ageless: *immutable laws.* — **im'mutability** or **im'mutableness** *n.*

imp (ɪmp) *n.* 1. a small demon or devil; mischievous sprite. 2. a mischievous child. ~vb. 3. (tr.) *Falconry.* to insert (new feathers) in order to repair the wing of a falcon.

imp. *abbrev. for:* 1. imperative. 2. imperfect. 3. imperial. 4. impersonal. 5. import. 6. importer.

impact *n.* (ɪmpækt). 1. the act of one body, etc., striking another; collision. 2. the force with which one thing hits another. 3. the impression made by an idea, social group, etc. ~vb. (ɪmpækt). 4. to drive or press (an object) firmly into (another object, thing, etc.) or (of two objects) to be driven or pressed firmly together. — **im'paction** *n.*

impacted (ɪmpæktɪd) *adj.* 1. (of a tooth) unable to erupt, esp. because of being wedged against another tooth below the gum. 2. (of a fracture) having the jagged broken ends wedged into each other.

impair (ɪm'peə) *vb.* (tr.) to reduce or weaken in strength, quality, etc.: *his hearing was impaired by an accident.* — **im'pairable** *adj.* — **im'paiser** *n.* — **im'pairment** *n.*

impala (ɪm'pələ) *n.*, pl. **-las** or **-la.** an antelope of southern and eastern Africa, having lyre-shaped horns and able to move with enormous leaps.

impale or **empale** (ɪm'peɪl) *vb.* (tr.) 1. (often foll. by *on*, *upon*, or *with*) to pierce with a sharp instrument: *they impaled his severed head on a spear.* 2. *Heraldry.* to charge (a shield) with two coats of arms placed side by side. — **im'palement** or **em'palement** *n.*

impalpable (ɪm'pælpəbəl) *adj.* 1. imperceptible, esp. to the touch: *impalpable shadows.* 2. difficult to understand; abstruse. — **im'palpability** *n.* — **im'palpably** *adv.*

impanel (ɪm'pænəl) *vb.* **-eling**, **-elled** or *U.S.* **-eling**, **-eled**, a variant spelling (esp. U.S.) of *empanel*. — **im'panelment** *n.*

impart (ɪm'pɑːt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to communicate (information, etc.); relate. 2. to give or bestow (an abstract quality): *to impart wisdom.* — **im'partable** *adj.* — **im'par'tation** or **im'partment** *n.*

impartial (ɪm'pɑːʃəl) *adj.* not prejudiced towards or against any particular side; fair; unbiased. — **im'partiality** or **im'partialness** *n.* — **im'partially** *adv.*

impassable (ɪm'pɑːsəbəl) *adj.* (of terrain, roads, etc.) not able to be travelled through or over. — **im'passability** or **im'passableness** *n.* — **im'passably** *adv.*

impasse (ɪm'pɑːs, æm'pɑːs) *n.* a situation in which progress is blocked; an insurmountable difficulty; stalemate; deadlock.

impassible (ɪm'pæsəbəl) *adj.* *Rare.* 1. not susceptible to pain or injury. 2. impassive or unmoved. — **im'passibility** or **im'passibleness** *n.* — **im'passibly** *adv.*

impassioned (ɪm'pæʃənd) *adj.* filled with passion; fiery; inflamed: *an impassioned appeal.* — **im'passionedly** *adv.* — **im'passionedness** *n.*

impassive (ɪm'pæsɪv) *adj.* 1. not revealing or affected by emotion; reserved. 2. calm; serene; imperturbable. — **im'passively** *adv.* — **im'passiveness** or **impassivity** (ɪm'pæsɪvɪti) *n.*

impasto (ɪm'pæstəʊ) *n.* 1. paint applied thickly, so that brush marks are evident. 2. the technique of painting in this way.

impatience (ɪm'peɪʃəns) *n.* 1. lack of patience; intolerance or irritability with anything that impedes or delays. 2. restless desire for change and excitement.

impatient (ɪm'peɪʃənt) *adj.* 1. lacking patience; easily irritated at delay, etc. 2. exhibiting lack of patience. 3. (postpositive; foll. by *of*) intolerant (of) or indignant (at): *impatient of indecision.* 4. (postpositive; often foll. by *for*) restlessly eager (for or to do something). — **im'patiently** *adv.*

impeach (im'pi:tʃ) *vb.* (tr.) 1. *Criminal law.* to bring a charge or accusation against. 2. *Brit. criminal law.* to accuse of a crime against the state. 3. *Chiefly U.S.* to charge (a public official) with an offence committed in office. 4. to challenge or question (a person's honesty, integrity, etc.). —**im'peachable** *adj.* —**im'peachment** *n.*

impeccable (im'pekəb'l) *adj.* 1. without flaw or error; faultless: *an impeccable record.* 2. *Rare.* incapable of sinning. —**im'peccability** *n.* —**im'peccably** *adv.*

impecunious (im'pɛkju:niəs) *adj.* without money; penniless. —**im'pecuniously** *adv.* —**im'pecuniousness** or **impecuniosity** (im'pɛkju:ni'ɒsiti) *n.*

impedance (im'pi:dəns) *n.* 1. a measure of the opposition to the flow of an alternating current equal to the square root of the sum of the squares of the resistance and the reactance, expressed in ohms. 2. the ratio of the sound pressure in a medium to the rate of alternating flow through a specified surface due to the sound wave. 3. the ratio of the mechanical force to the velocity of the resulting vibration.

impede (im'pid) *vb.* (tr.) to restrict or retard in action, progress, etc.; obstruct. —**im'peder** *n.* —**im'pedingly** *adv.*

impediment (im'pedimənt) *n.* 1. a hindrance or obstruction. 2. a physical defect, esp. one of speech, such as a stammer. 3. (*pl.* -ments or -menta (-'mentə)) *Law.* an obstruction to the making of a contract, esp. one of marriage. —**im'pedi'mental** or **im'pedi'mentary** *adj.*

impedimenta (im'pedi'menta) *pl. n.* 1. any objects that impede progress, esp. the baggage and equipment carried by an army. 2. a plural of **impediment** (sense 3).

impel (im'pel) *vb.* -pelling, -pelled. (tr.) 1. to urge or force (a person) to an action; constrain or motivate. 2. to push, drive, or force into motion. —**im'pellent** *n., adj.*

impend (im'pend) *vb.* (intr.) 1. (esp. of something threatening) to be imminent. 2. (*fol.* by *over*) *Rare.* to be suspended; hang. —**im'pendence** or **im'pendency** *n.* —**im'pending** *adj.*

impenetrable (im'penitrəb'l) *adj.* 1. incapable of being pierced through or penetrated: *an impenetrable forest.* 2. incapable of being understood; incomprehensible. 3. incapable of being seen through: *impenetrable gloom.* 4. not susceptible to ideas, influence, etc.: *impenetrable ignorance.* 5. *Physics.* (of a body) incapable of occupying the same space as another body. —**im'penetrability** *n.* —**im'penetrableness** *n.* —**im'penetrably** *adv.*

impenitent (im'penitənt) *adj.* not sorry or penitent; unrepentant. —**im'penitence**, **im'penitency**, or **im'penitentness** *n.* —**im'penitently** *adv.*

imper. *abbrev.* for *imperative*.

imperative (im'perətiv) *adj.* 1. extremely urgent or important; essential. 2. peremptory or authoritative: *an imperative tone of voice.* 3. Also: **imperatival** (im'perə'taivl). *Grammar.* denoting a mood of verbs used in giving orders, making requests, etc. ~*n.* 4. something that is urgent or essential. 5. an order or command. 6. *Grammar.* a. the imperative mood. b. a verb in this mood. —**im'peratively** *adv.* —**im'perativeness** *n.*

imperator (im'pɛrə:tɔ:) *n.* (in ancient Rome) a title bestowed upon generals and, later, emperors. —**imperatorial** (im'perə'tɔ:riəl) *adj.* —**im'perator,ship** *n.*

imperceptible (im'pɛrsəptəb'l) *adj.* too slight, subtle, gradual, etc., to be perceived. —**im'perceptibility** or **im'perceptibleness** *n.* —**im'perceptibly** *adv.*

imperf. *abbrev.* for: 1. imperfect. 2. (of stamps) imperforate.

imperfect (im'pɛ:fɪkt) *adj.* 1. exhibiting or characterized by faults, mistakes, etc.; defective. 2. not complete or finished; deficient. 3. *Grammar.* denoting a tense of verbs used most commonly in describing continuous or repeated past actions or events. 4. *Law.* legally unenforceable. 5. *Music.* a. proceeding to the dominant from the tonic, subdominant, or any chord other than the dominant. b. of or relating to all intervals other than the fourth, fifth, and octave. Cf. **perfect** (sense 9). ~*n.* 6. *Grammar.* a. the imperfect tense. b. a verb in this tense. —**im'perfectly** *adv.* —**im'perfectness** *n.*

imperfection (im'pɛ:fɪkʃən) *n.* 1. the condition or quality of being imperfect. 2. a fault or defect.

imperial (im'piəriəl) *adj.* 1. of or relating to an empire, emperor, or empress. 2. characteristic of an emperor; majestic; commanding. 3. exercising supreme authority; imperious. 4. (esp. of products) of a superior size or quality. 5. (*usually prenominal*) (of weights, measures, etc.) conforming to standards legally established in Great Britain. ~*n.* 6. a book size, esp. 7½ by 11 inches or 11 by 15 inches. 7. a size of writing paper, 23 by 31

inches (U.S.) or 22 by 30 inches (Brit.). 8. *U.S.A.* the top of a carriage. b. a luggage case carried there. 9. a small tufted beard popularized by the French emperor Napoleon III. —**im'perially** *adv.* —**im'perialness** *n.*

imperialism (im'piəriə'lizəm) *n.* 1. the policy or practice of extending a state's rule over other territories. 2. the extension or attempted extension of authority, influence, power, etc., by any person, country, institution, etc.: *cultural imperialism.* 3. a system of imperial government or rule by an emperor. 4. the spirit, character, authority, etc., of an empire. —**im'perialist** *adj., n.* —**im'perial'istic** *adj.* —**im'perial'istically** *adv.*

imperial (im'periəl) *vb.* (tr.) to place in danger or jeopardy; endanger. —**im'perilment** *n.*

imperious (im'piəriəs) *adj.* 1. domineering; arrogant; overbearing. 2. *Rare.* urgent; imperative. —**im'periously** *adv.* —**im'periousness** *n.*

impermanent (im'pɛ:mənənt) *adj.* not permanent; fleeting; transitory. —**im'permanence** or **im'permanency** *n.* —**im'permanently** *adv.*

impermeable (im'pɛ:məb'l) *adj.* (of a substance) not allowing the passage of a fluid through interstices; not permeable. —**im'permeability** or **im'permeableness** *n.* —**im'permeably** *adv.*

impermissible (im'pɛ:mɪsəb'l) *adj.* not permissible; not allowed. —**im'permissibility** *n.*

impersonal (im'pɛ:rsənəl) *adj.* 1. without reference to any individual person; objective: *an impersonal assessment.* 2. devoid of human warmth or sympathy; cold: *an impersonal manner.* 3. not having human characteristics: *an impersonal God.* 4. *Grammar.* (of a verb) having no logical subject: *it is raining.* 5. *Grammar.* (of a pronoun) not denoting a person. —**im'personality** *n.* —**im'personally** *adv.*

impersonate (im'pɛ:sə,net) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to pretend to be (another person). 2. to imitate the character, mannerisms, etc., of (another person). 3. *Rare.* to play the part or character of. 4. an archaic word for *personify*. —**im'personation** *n.* —**im'personator** *n.*

impertinent (im'pɛ:tɪnənt) *adj.* 1. rude; insolent; impudent. 2. irrelevant or inappropriate. —**im'pertinence** *n.* —**im'pertinently** *adv.*

imperturbable (im'pɛ:tɜ:bəl) *adj.* not easily perturbed; calm; unruffled. —**im'perturbability** or **im'perturbableness** *n.* —**im'perturbably** *adv.*

impervious (im'pɛ:vɪəs) or **imperviable** *adj.* 1. not able to be penetrated, as by water, light, etc.; impermeable. 2. (*often postpositive*; *fol.* by *to*) not able to be influenced (by) or not receptive (to): *impervious to argument.* —**im'perviously** *adv.* —**im'perviousness** *n.*

impetigo (im'pɛti'gəʊ) *n.* a contagious pustular skin disease. —**impetiginous** (im'pɛti'dʒɪnəs) *adj.*

impetuous (im'petʃuəs) *adj.* 1. liable to act without consideration; rash; impulsive. 2. resulting from or characterized by rashness or haste. 3. *Poetic.* moving with great force or violence; rushing: *the impetuous stream hurtled down the valley.* —**im'petuously** *adv.* —**im'petuousness** or **impetuosity** (im'petʃu'ɒsiti) *n.*

impetus (im'pɪtəs) *n., pl.* -tuses. 1. an impelling movement or force; incentive or impulse; stimulus. 2. *Physics.* the force that sets a body in motion or that tends to resist changes in a body's motion.

impi (im'pi) *n., pl.* -pi or -pies. a group of Bantu warriors.

impiety (im'piəti) *n., pl.* -ties. 1. lack of reverence or proper respect for a god. 2. any lack of proper respect. 3. an impious act.

impinge (im'pɪndʒ) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*; usually *fol.* by *on* or *upon*) to encroach or infringe; trespass: *to impinge on someone's time.* 2. (*intr.*; usually *fol.* by *on*, *against*, or *upon*) to collide (with); strike. —**im'p ingement** *n.* —**im'pinger** *n.*

impious (im'piəs) *adj.* 1. lacking piety or reverence for a god. 2. lacking respect; undutiful. —**im'piously** *adv.* —**im'piousness** *n.*

impish (im'piʃ) *adj.* of or like an imp; mischievous. —**im'pishly** *adv.* —**im'pishness** *n.*

implacable (im'pləkəb'l) *adj.* 1. incapable of being placated or pacified; unappeasable. 2. inflexible; intractable. —**im'placability** *n.* —**im'placably** *adv.*

implant vb. (im'plɑ:nt). (tr.) 1. to inculcate; instil: *to implant sound moral principles.* 2. to plant or embed; infix; entrench. 3. *Surgery.* to graft or insert (a tissue, hormone, etc.) into the body. ~*n.* (im'plɑ:nt). 4. anything implanted, esp. surgically, such as a tissue graft. —**im'plan'tation** *n.*

implausible (im'plɔ:zəb'l) *adj.* not plausible; provoking

disbelief; unlikely. —**im'plausi'bility** or **im'plausibleness** *n.* —**im'plausibly** *adv.*

implement *n.* (ˈɪmplɪmənt). 1. a piece of equipment; tool or utensil: *gardening implements*. 2. a means to achieve a purpose; agent. ~*vb.* (ˈɪmplɪment). (tr.) 3. to carry out; put into action: *to implement a plan*. 4. Rare. to supply with tools. —**imple'mental** *adj.* —**implemen'tation** *n.*

implicate (ˈɪmplɪkət) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to show to be involved, esp. in a crime. 2. to imply: *his protest implicated censure by the authorities*. 3. Rare. to entangle. —**impli'cation** *n.* —**implicative** (ɪmˈplɪkətɪv) *adj.* —**im'plicatively** *adv.*

implicit (ɪmˈplɪsɪt) *adj.* 1. not explicit; implied; indirect. 2. absolute and unreserved; unquestioning: *implicit trust*. 3. (when *postpositive*, foll. by *in*) contained or inherent: *to bring out the anger implicit in the argument*. —**im'plicitly** *adv.* —**im'plicitness** *n.*

implied (ɪmˈplaɪd) *adj.* hinted at or suggested; not directly expressed: *an implied criticism*.

implode (ɪmˈpləʊd) *vb.* to collapse inwards. Cf. **explode**.

implore (ɪmˈplɔː) *vb.* (tr.) to beg or ask (someone) earnestly (to do something); plead with; beseech; supplicate. —**implo'ration** *n.* —**im'ploratory** *adj.* —**im'ploringly** *adv.*

imply (ɪmˈplaɪ) *vb.* -**plying**, -**plied**. (tr.; may take a clause as object) 1. to express or indicate by a hint; suggest. 2. to suggest or involve as a necessary consequence or connotation.

▷ **Usage.** See at **infer**.

impolite (ˌɪmpəˈlaɪt) *adj.* discourteous; rude; uncivil. —**im'politely** *adv.* —**im'politeness** *n.*

impolitic (ɪmˈpɒlɪtɪk) *adj.* not politic or expedient; unwise. —**im'politically** *adv.*

imponderable (ɪmˈpɒndərəbəl, -drəbəl) *adj.* 1. unable to be weighed or assessed. ~*n.* 2. something difficult or impossible to assess. —**im,pondera'bility** or **im'ponderableness** *n.* —**im'ponderably** *adv.*

import *vb.* (ɪmˈpɔːt, ˈɪmpɔːt). 1. to buy or bring in (goods or services) from a foreign country. 2. (tr.) to bring in from an outside source: *to import foreign words into the language*. 3. Rare. to signify; mean: *to import doom*. ~*n.* (ˈɪmpɔːt). 4. (often pl.) a. goods or services that are bought from foreign countries. b. (as modifier): *an import licence*. 5. importance: *a man of great import*. 6. meaning. 7. *Canad. sl.* a sportsman who is not native to the area where he plays. —**im'portable** *adj.* —**im'porter** *n.*

importance (ɪmˈpɔːtəns) *n.* 1. the state of being important; significance. 2. social status; standing; esteem: *a man of importance*. 3. Obs. a. meaning or signification. b. an important matter. c. importunity.

important (ɪmˈpɔːtənt) *adj.* 1. of great significance or value; outstanding. 2. of social significance; notable; eminent; esteemed: *an important man in the town*. 3. (when *postpositive*, usually foll. by *to*) of great concern (to); valued highly (by): *your wishes are important to me*. —**im'portantly** *adv.*

▷ **Usage.** In a sentence such as *he changed the financial structure of the parent company and, more important, he altered its social policy*, careful writers often prefer *more important to more importantly*, since the *-ly* ending of the adverb is unnecessary in parenthetical constructions. This is also true of *first, second, last*, etc., which are often preferred to *firstly, secondly, lastly*, etc.; *first, he introduced the sonnet to his homeland; second, he initiated influential poetic experiments; last and most important, he was able to create an atmosphere of sincerity in his poetry*.

importation (ˌɪmpɔːˈteɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act, business, or process of importing goods or services. 2. an imported product or service.

importunate (ɪmˈpɔːtjʊnɪt) *adj.* 1. persistent or demanding; insistent. 2. Rare. troublesome; annoying. —**im'portunately** *adv.* —**im'portunateness** *n.*

importune (ɪmˈpɔːtjʊn) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to harass with persistent requests; demand of (someone) insistently. 2. to beg for persistently; request with insistence. —**im'portunately** *adv.* —**im'portuner** *n.* —**impor'tunity** or **im'portunacy** *n.*

impose (ɪmˈpəʊz) *vb.* (usually foll. by *on* or *upon*) 1. (tr.) to establish as something to be obeyed or complied with; enforce. 2. to force (oneself, one's presence, etc.) on others; obtrude. 3. (intr.) to take advantage, as of a person or quality: *to impose on someone's kindness*. 4. (tr.) *Printing*. to arrange (pages, type, etc.) in a chase so that the pages will be in the correct order. 5. (tr.) to

pass off deceptively; foist. —**im'posable** *adj.* —**im'pos'er** *n.*

imposing (ɪmˈpəʊzɪŋ) *adj.* grand or impressive: *an imposing building*. —**im'posingly** *adv.* —**im'posingness** *n.*

imposition (ˌɪmpəʊˈzɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of imposing. 2. something imposed unfairly on someone. 3. a task set as a school punishment. 4. the arrangement of pages for printing.

impossibility (ɪmˈpɒsəˈbɪlɪtɪ, ˌɪmpɒs-) *n., pl. -ties*. 1. the state or quality of being impossible. 2. something that is impossible.

impossible (ɪmˈpɒsəbəl) *adj.* 1. incapable of being done, undertaken, or experienced. 2. incapable of occurring or happening. 3. absurd or inconceivable; unreasonable. 4. *Inf.* intolerable; outrageous: *those children are impossible*. —**im'possibleness** *n.* —**im'possibly** *adv.*

impost (ˈɪmpəʊst) *n.* 1. a tax, esp. a customs duty. 2. the weight that a horse must carry in a handicap race. ~*vb.* 3. (tr.) *U.S.* to classify (imported goods) according to the duty payable on them. —**imposter** *n.*

impost (ˈɪmpəʊst) *n.* *Archit.* a member at the top of a column that supports an arch.

impostor or imposter (ɪmˈpɒstə) *n.* a person who deceives others, esp. by assuming a false identity; charlatan.

imposture (ɪmˈpɒstʃə) *n.* the act or an instance of deceiving others, esp. by assuming a false identity. —**imposturous** (ɪmˈpɒstʃəs), **impostorous** (ɪmˈpɒstəʃəs) *adj.*

impotent (ˈɪmpətənt) *adj.* 1. (when *postpositive*, often takes an infinitive) lacking sufficient strength; powerless. 2. (esp. of males) unable to perform sexual intercourse. —**impotence** or **impotency** *n.* —**impotently** *adv.*

impound (ɪmˈpaʊnd) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to confine (animals, etc.) in a pound. 2. to take legal possession of (a document, evidence, etc.). 3. to collect (water) in a reservoir or dam. —**im'poundable** *adj.* —**im'poundage** or **im'poundment** *n.* —**im'pounder** *n.*

impoverish or empowerish (ɪmˈpɒvərɪʃ) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to make poor or diminish the quality of: *to impoverish society by cutting the grant to the arts*. 2. to deprive (soil, etc.) of fertility. —**im'poverishment** or **em'poverishment** *n.*

impracticable (ɪmˈpræktɪkəbəl) *adj.* 1. incapable of being put into practice or accomplished; not feasible. 2. unsuitable for a desired use; unfit. —**im,practica'bility** or **im'practicableness** *n.* —**im'practically** *adv.*

impractical (ɪmˈpræktɪkəl) *adj.* 1. not practical or workable: *an impractical solution*. 2. not given to practical matters or gifted with practical skills. —**im,practi'cality** or **im'practicalness** *n.* —**im'practically** *adv.*

imprecate (ˌɪmˈpriːkət) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to swear or curse. 2. (tr.) to invoke or bring down (evil, a curse, etc.). —**im'pre,catory** *adj.* —**im'pre'cation** *n.*

imprecise (ˌɪmˈpriːsɪs) *adj.* not precise; inexact or inaccurate. —**im'pre,cisely** *adv.* —**imprecision** (ˌɪmˈpriːsɪʒən) or **im'pre'ciseness** *n.*

impregnable (ɪmˈpregnəbəl) *adj.* 1. unable to be broken into or taken by force: *an impregnable castle*. 2. unshakable: *impregnable self-confidence*. 3. incapable of being refuted: *an impregnable argument*. —**im,pregna'bility** *n.* —**im'pregnably** *adv.*

impregnate *vb.* (ˈɪmpreg,neɪt). (tr.) 1. to saturate, soak, or infuse. 2. to imbue or permeate; pervade. 3. to cause to conceive; make pregnant; fertilize. 4. to make (land, soil, etc.) fruitful. ~*adj.* (ɪmˈpregnit, -nɛt). 5. pregnant or fertilized. —**im'preg'nation** *n.* —**im'preg'nator** *n.*

impresario (ˌɪmpɹəˈsɔːrɪ, ɔː) *n., pl. -sarios*. the director or manager of an opera, ballet, etc.

impress *vb.* (ɪmˈpres). (tr.) 1. to make an impression on; have a strong, lasting, or favourable effect on: *I am impressed by your work*. 2. to produce (an imprint, etc.) by pressure in or on (something): *to impress a seal in wax*. 3. (often foll. by *on*) to stress (something to a person); urge; emphasize. 4. to exert pressure on; press. ~*n.* (ˈɪmpres). 5. the act or an instance of impressing. 6. a mark, imprint, or effect produced by impressing. —**im'presser** *n.* —**im'pressible** *adj.*

impress *vb.* (ɪmˈpres). 1. to commandeer or coerce (men or things) into government service; press-gang. ~*n.* (ˈɪmpres). 2. the act of commandeering or coercing into government service.

impression (ɪmˈpreʃən) *n.* 1. an effect produced in the

mind by a stimulus; sensation: *he gave the impression of wanting to help.* 2. an imprint or mark produced by pressing. 3. a vague idea, consciousness, or belief: *I had the impression we had met before.* 4. a strong, favourable, or remarkable effect. 5. the act of impressing or the state of being impressed. 6. *Printing.* a. the act, process, or result of printing from type, plates, etc. b. the total number of copies of a publication printed at one time. 7. an imprint of the teeth and gums for preparing crowns, dentures, etc. 8. an imitation or impersonation. —*im'pressional adj.* —*im'pressionally adv.*

impressible (im'presəbəl, -'presnə-) *adj.* easily influenced or characterized by susceptibility to influence: *an impressionable age.* —*im'pressional'bility* or *im'pressibility n.*

impressionism (im'presjənizəm) *n.* (often *cap.*) a 19th-century movement in French painting, having the aim of objectively recording experience by a system of fleeting impressions, esp. of natural light effects. —*im'pressionist n.*

impressive (im'presiv) *adj.* capable of impressing, esp. by size, magnificence, etc.; awe-inspiring; commanding. —*im'pressively adv.* —*im'pressiveness n.*

imprimatur (im'pri'metə, -'ma:-) *n.* 1. sanction or approval for something to be printed. 2. *R.C. Church.* a licence certifying the Church's approval.

imprint *n.* ('imprint). 1. a mark or impression produced by pressure, printing, or stamping. 2. a characteristic mark or indication; stamp: *the imprint of great sadness on his face.* 3. the publisher's or printer's name and address in a book, etc. ~*vb.* (im'print). 4. to produce (a mark, impression, etc.) on (a surface) by pressure, printing, or stamping: *to imprint a seal on wax.* 5. to establish firmly; impress: *to imprint the details on one's mind.*

imprison (im'prizən) *vb.* (tr.) to confine in or as if in prison. —*im'prisonment n.*

improbable (im'prəbəbəl) *adj.* not likely or probable; doubtful; unlikely. —*im'probability* or *im'probableness n.* —*im'probably adv.*

improbability (im'prəbəbəl) *n.*, *pl.* -ties. dishonesty, wickedness, or unscrupulousness.

impromptu (im'prɒmptju:) *adj.* 1. unrehearsed; spontaneous; extempore. 2. produced or done without care or planning; improvised. ~*adv.* 3. in a spontaneous or improvised way: *he spoke impromptu.* ~*n.* 4. something that is impromptu. 5. a short piece of instrumental music, sometimes improvisatory in character.

improper (im'prɒpə) *adj.* 1. lacking propriety; not seemly or fitting. 2. unsuitable for a certain use or occasion; inappropriate. 3. irregular or abnormal. —*im'properly adv.* —*im'properness n.*

improper fraction *n.* a fraction in which the numerator is greater than the denominator, as 7/6.

improprietate *vb.* (im'prəʊpri,et). 1. (tr.) to transfer (property, rights, etc.) from the Church into lay hands. ~*adj.* (im'prəʊpri,et). 2. transferred in this way. —*im'propriation n.* —*im'propriator n.*

impropriety (im'prəʊpraɪti) *n.*, *pl.* -ties. 1. lack of propriety; indecency; indecorum. 2. an improper act or use. 3. the state of being improper.

improve (im'pru:v) *vb.* 1. to make or become better in quality; ameliorate. 2. (tr.) to make (buildings, land, etc.) more valuable by additions or betterment. 3. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *on* or *upon*) to achieve a better standard or quality in comparison (with): *to improve on last year's crop.* —*im'provable adj.* —*im'prova'bility* or *im'provableness n.* —*im'prover n.*

improvement (im'pru:vmənt) *n.* 1. the act of improving or the state of being improved. 2. something that improves, esp. an addition or alteration. 3. *Austral. & N.Z.* a building on a piece of land, adding to its value.

improvident (im'prɒvɪdənt) *adj.* 1. not provident; thriftless, imprudent, or prodigal. 2. heedless or incautious; rash. —*im'providence n.* —*im'providently adv.*

improvise (im'prɒvaɪz) *vb.* 1. to perform or make quickly from materials and sources available, without previous planning. 2. to perform (a poem, play, piece of music, etc.), composing as one goes along. —*im'proviser n.* —*im'provisational n.* —*improvisatory* (im'prə'vaɪzətəri, -'vɪz, im'prəvaɪz'etəri) *adj.*

imprudent (im'pru:dənt) *adj.* not prudent; rash, heedless, or indiscreet. —*im'prudence n.* —*im'prudently adv.*

impudent (im'pjudent) *adj.* 1. mischievous, impertinent, or disrespectful. 2. an obsolete word for *immodest*. —*impudence n.* —*impudently adv.* —*impudent-ness n.*

impugn (im'pju:n) *vb.* (tr.) to challenge or attack as false; criticize. —*im'pugnable adj.* —*im'pugment n.* —*im'pugner n.*

impulse ('impals) *n.* 1. an impelling force or motion; thrust; impetus. 2. a sudden desire, whim, or inclination. 3. an instinctive drive; urge. 4. tendency; current; trend. 5. *Physics.* a. the product of the average magnitude of a force acting on a body and the time for which it acts. b. the change in the momentum of a body as a result of a force acting upon it. 6. *on impulse.* spontaneously or impulsively.

impulsive (im'palsiv) *adj.* 1. characterized by actions based on sudden desires, whims, or inclinations: *an impulsive man.* 2. based on emotional impulses or whims; spontaneous. 3. forceful, inciting, or impelling. 4. (of physical forces) acting for a short time; not continuous. —*impulsively adv.* —*impulsiveness n.*

impunity (im'pjuniti) *n.*, *pl.* -ties. 1. exemption or immunity from punishment, recrimination, or other unpleasant consequences. 2. with *impunity.* with no care or heed for such consequences.

impure (im'pjʊə) *adj.* 1. not pure; combined with something else; tainted or sullied. 2. (in certain religions) ritually unclean. 3. (of a colour) mixed with another colour. 4. of more than one origin or style, as of architecture. —*im'purely adv.* —*im'pureness n.*

impurity (im'pjʊərɪti) *n.*, *pl.* -ties. 1. the quality of being impure. 2. an impure thing, constituent, or element: *impurities in the water.* 3. *Electronics.* a small quantity of an element added to a pure semiconductor crystal to control its electrical conductivity.

impute (im'pjut) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to attribute or ascribe (something dishonest or dishonourable) to a person. 2. to attribute to a source or cause: *I impute your success to nepotism.* —*impu'tation n.* —*im'putative adj.* —*im'puter n.* —*im'putable adj.*

I.Mun.E. abbrev. for Institution of Municipal Engineers.

in (ɪn) *prep.* 1. inside; within: *no smoking in the auditorium.* 2. at a place where there is: *in the shade; in the rain.* 3. indicating a state, situation, or condition: *in silence.* 4. when (a period of time) has elapsed: *come back in one year.* 5. using: *written in code.* 6. concerned with, esp. as an occupation: *in journalism.* 7. while or by performing the action of: *in crossing the street he was run over.* 8. used to indicate purpose: *in honour of the president.* 9. (of certain animals) pregnant with: *in calf.* 10. a variant of *into*: *she fell in the water.* 11. *have it in one.* (often foll. by an infinitive) to have the ability (to do something). 12. *in that or in so far as.* (*conj.*) because or to the extent that: *I regret my remark in that it upset you.* 13. *nothing in it.* no difference or interval between two things. ~*adv.* (*particle*) 14. in or into a particular place; inward or indoors: *come in.* 15. so as to achieve office or power: *the Conservatives got in at the last election.* 16. so as to enclose: *block in.* 17. (in certain games) so as to take one's turn of the play: *you have to get the other side out before you go in.* 18. *Brit.* (of a fire) alight. 19. (*in combination*) indicating an activity or gathering: *teach-in; work-in.* 20. *in at.* present at (the beginning, end, etc.). 21. *in for.* about to be affected by (something, esp. something unpleasant): *you're in for a shock.* 22. *in on.* acquainted with or sharing in: *I was in on all his plans.* 23. *in with.* associated with; friendly with; regarded highly by. 24. *have (got) it in for.* to be seeking to give vent to a grievance against (someone). ~*adj.* 25. (*stressed*) fashionable; modish: *the in thing to do.* ~*n.* 26. *ins and outs.* intricacies or complications; details.

In the chemical symbol for indium.

in. abbrev. for *inch(es)*.

in-, il-, im-, or ir- prefix. a. not; non-: *incredible; illegal; imperfect; irregular.* b. lack of: *inexperience.* The lists that follow below contain words which may be easily understood if "not" or "lack of" is used with the meaning of the basic word. Cf. *un-*.

in-, il-, im-, or ir- prefix. 1. in; into; towards; within; on: *infiltrate; immigrate.* 2. having an intensive or causative function: *inflamm; imperil.*

-in suffix forming nouns. 1. indicating a neutral organic compound, including proteins, glucosides, and glycerides: *insulin; tripalmitin.* 2. indicating an enzyme in certain nonsystematic names: *pepsin.* 3. indicating a pharmaceutical substance: *penicillin; aspirin.* 4. indicating a chemical substance in certain nonsystematic names: *coumarin.*

in absentia (ˌɪn ˈæbsɪntiə) *adv.* in the absence of (someone indicated).

inaccessible (ˌɪnækˈsɛsəbəl) *adj.* not accessible; unapproachable. — **inacˈcessibility** or **inacˈcessibleness** *n.* — **inacˈcessibly** *adv.*

inaccuracy (ˌɪnækjʊrəsi) *n., pl. -cies.* 1. lack of accuracy; imprecision. 2. an error, mistake, or slip. — **inacˈcurate** *adj.*

inaction (ˌɪnˈækʃən) *n.* lack of action; idleness; inertia.

inactive (ˌɪnˈæktɪv) *adj.* 1. idle or inert; not active. 2. sluggish, passive, or indolent. 3. *Mil.* of or relating to persons or equipment not in active service. 4. *Chem.* (of a substance) having little or no reactivity. — **inacˈtively** *adv.* — **inacˈtivity** *n.*

inadequate (ˌɪnˈædɪkwɪt) *adj.* 1. not adequate; insufficient. 2. not capable or competent; lacking. — **inadˈequacy** *n.* — **inadˈequately** *adv.*

inadvertent (ˌɪnədˈvɜːtɪnt) *adj.* 1. failing to act carefully or considerably; inattentive. 2. resulting from heedless action; unintentional. — **inadˈvertence** *n.* — **inadˈvertently** *adv.*

-inae *suffix* forming plural proper nouns. occurring in names of zoological subfamilies: *Felinae*.

inalienable (ˌɪnˈeɪljənəbəl) *adj.* not able to be transferred to another; not alienable: *the inalienable rights of the citizen.* — **inˈalienability** or **inˈalienableness** *n.* — **inˈalienably** *adv.*

inamorata (ˌɪnˌæməˈrɑːtə, ˌɪnˌæmə) or (*masc.*) **inamorato** (ˌɪnˌæməˈrɑːtəʊ, ˌɪnˌæmə) *n., pl. -tas* or (*masc.*) **-tos.** a person with whom one is in love; lover.

inane (ɪˈneɪn) *adj.* 1. senseless, unimaginative, or empty; unintelligent: *inane remarks.* ~*n.* 2. *Arch.* something empty or vacant, esp. the void of space. — **inˈanely** *adv.* — **inanity** (ɪˈnæni) *n.*

inanimate (ˌɪnˈænɪmət) *adj.* 1. lacking the qualities of living beings; not animate: *inanimate objects.* 2. lacking any sign of life or consciousness; appearing dead. 3. lacking vitality; spiritless; dull. — **inˈanimately** *adv.* — **inˈanimateness** or **inanimation** (ˌɪnˌæniˈmeɪʃən) *n.*

inanimation (ˌɪnˌæniˈmeɪʃən) *n.* 1. exhaustion resulting from lack of food. 2. mental, social, or spiritual weakness or lassitude.

inappropriate (ˌɪnˈæpəzɪt) *adj.* not appropriate or pertinent; unsuitable. — **inˈappropriately** *adv.* — **inˈappropriateness** *n.*

inapt (ˌɪnˈæpt) *adj.* 1. not apt or fitting; inappropriate. 2. lacking skill; inept. — **inˈaptitude** or **inˈaptness** *n.* — **inˈaptly** *adv.*

inasmuch as (ˌɪnˌæzˈmʌtʃ) *conj.* (*subordinating*) 1. in view of the fact that; seeing that; since. 2. to the extent or degree that; insofar as.

inaugural (ˌɪnˈɔːɡjʊərəl) *adj.* 1. characterizing or relating to an inauguration. ~*n.* 2. a speech made at an inauguration, esp. by a president of the U.S.

inaugurate (ˌɪnˈɔːɡjʊˌreɪt) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to commence officially or formally; initiate. 2. to place in office formally and ceremonially; induct. 3. to open ceremonially; dedicate formally: *to inaugurate a factory.* — **inˈauguration** *n.* — **inˈaugur,ator** *n.* — **inauguratory** (ˌɪnˈɔːɡjʊrətəri, -tri) *adj.*

inboard (ˌɪnˈbɔːd) *adj.* 1. (esp. of a boat's motor or engine) situated within the hull. 2. situated between the wing tip of an aircraft and its fuselage: *an inboard engine.* ~*adv.* 3. towards the centre line of or within a vessel, aircraft, etc.

inborn (ˌɪnˈbɔːn) *adj.* existing from birth; congenital; innate.

inbred (ˌɪnˈbred) *adj.* 1. produced as a result of inbreeding. 2. deeply ingrained; innate: *inbred good manners.*

inbreed (ˌɪnˈbrɪd) *vb. -breeding, -bred.* 1. to breed from unions between closely related individuals, esp. over several generations. 2. (*tr.*) to develop within; engender. — **inˈbreeding** *n., adj.*

inc. *abbrev. for:* 1. including. 2. inclusive. 3. income. 4. increase.

Inc. (esp. U.S.) *abbrev. for* incorporated. Brit. equivalent: *Ltd.*

incalculable (ˌɪnˈkælkjʊləbəl) *adj.* beyond calculation; unable to be predicted or determined. — **inˈcalculability** *n.* — **inˈcalculably** *adv.*

incandescent (ˌɪnkænˈdesənt) *adj.* emitting light as a

result of being heated; red-hot or white-hot. — **incanˈdescently** *adv.* — **incanˈdescence** *n.*

incandescent lamp *n.* a source of light that contains a heated solid, such as an electrically heated filament.

incantation (ˌɪnkænˈteɪʃən) *n.* 1. ritual recitation of magic words or sounds. 2. the formulaic words or sounds used; a magic spell. — **incanˈtational** or **incanˈtatory** *adj.*

incapacitate (ˌɪnkəˈpæsiˌteɪt) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to deprive of power, strength, or capacity; disable. 2. to deprive of legal capacity or eligibility. — **incaˈpacitation** *n.*

incapacity (ˌɪnkəˈpæsɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. lack of power, strength, or capacity; inability. 2. *Law.* legal disqualification or ineligibility.

incarcerate (ˌɪnˈkɑːsəˌreɪt) *vb. (tr.)* to confine or imprison. — **inˈcarceration** *n.* — **inˈcarcer,ator** *n.*

incarnadine (ˌɪnˈkɑːnəˌdaɪn) *Arch. or literary.* ~*vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to tinge or stain with red. ~*adj.* 2. of a pinkish or reddish colour similar to that of flesh or blood.

incarnate (ˌɪnˈkɑːnət, -neɪt) *adj.* (*usually immediately postpositive*) 1. possessing bodily form, esp. the human form: *a devil incarnate.* 2. personified or typified: *stupidity incarnate.* ~*vb.* (ˌɪnˈkɑːneɪt). (*tr.*) 3. to give a bodily or concrete form to. 4. to be representative or typical of.

incarnation (ˌɪnkɑːˈneɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of manifesting or state of being manifested in bodily form, esp. human form. 2. a bodily form assumed by a god, etc. 3. a person or thing that typifies or represents some quality, idea, etc.

Incarnation (ˌɪnkɑːˈneɪʃən) *n.* *Christian theol.* the assuming of a human body by the Son of God.

incendiary (ˌɪnsendɪəri) *adj.* 1. of or relating to the illegal burning of property, goods, etc. 2. tending to create strife, violence, etc. 3. (of a substance) capable of catching fire or burning readily. ~*n., pl. -aries.* 4. a person who illegally sets fire to property, goods, etc.; arsonist. 5. (esp. formerly) a person who stirs up civil strife, violence, etc.; agitator. 6. Also called: **incendiary bomb.** a bomb that is designed to start fires. 7. an incendiary substance, such as phosphorus. — **inˈcendiarism** *n.*

incense¹ (ˈɪnsens) *n.* 1. any of various aromatic substances burnt for their fragrant odour, esp. in religious ceremonies. 2. the odour or smoke so produced. 3. any pleasant fragrant odour; aroma. ~*vb.* 4. to burn incense in honour of (a deity). 5. (*tr.*) to perfume or fumigate with incense.

incense² (ˈɪnsens) *vb. (tr.)* to enrage greatly. — **inˈcensement** *n.*

incentive (ˌɪnsentɪv) *n.* 1. a motivating influence; stimulus. 2. a. an additional payment made to employees to increase production. b. (*as modifier*): *an incentive scheme.* ~*adj.* 3. serving to incite to action.

inception (ˌɪnˈsepʃən) *n.* the beginning, as of a project or undertaking.

incessant (ˌɪnˈsesnt) *adj.* not ceasing; continual. — **inˈcessancy** *n.* — **inˈcessantly** *adv.*

incest (ˈɪnsɛst) *n.* sexual intercourse between two persons who are too closely related to marry. — **inˈcestuous** *adj.*

inch¹ (ɪntʃ) *n.* 1. a unit of length equal to one twelfth of a foot or 0.0254 metre. 2. *Meteorol.* a. an amount of precipitation that would cover a surface with water one inch deep. b. a unit of pressure equal to a mercury column one inch high in a barometer. 3. a very small distance, degree, or amount. 4. *every inch.* in every way; completely: *every inch an aristocrat.* 5. *inch by inch.* gradually; little by little. 6. *within an inch of one's life* almost to death ~*vb.* 7. to move or be moved very slowly or in very small steps: *the car inched forward.*

inch² (ɪntʃ) *n.* *Scot. & Irish.* a small island.

inchoate (ˌɪntʃiˌmeɪl) *adv.* gradually; inch by inch or little by little.

inchoate *adj.* (ˌɪnˈkəʊeɪt, -ˈkəʊnt). 1. just beginning; incipient. 2. undeveloped; immature; rudimentary. ~*vb.* (ˌɪnˈkəʊeɪt). (*tr.*) 3. to begin. — **inˈchoately** *adv.* — **inˈchoateness** *n.* — **inchoˈation** *n.* — **inchoative** (ˌɪnˈkəʊətv) *adj.*

incidence (ˈɪnsɪdəns) *n.* 1. degree, extent, or frequency of occurrence; amount: *a high incidence of death from*

inadmissible *adj.*
inadvisable *adj.*
inapplicable *adj.*
inappropriate *adj.*

inarticulate *adj.*
inartistic *adj.*
inattentive *adj.*
inaudible *adj.*

inauspicious *adj.*
incapable *adj.*

pneumonia. 2. the act or manner of impinging on or affecting by proximity or influence. 3. *Physics*. the arrival of a beam of light or particles at a surface. See also **angle of incidence**. 4. *Geom.* the partial coincidence of two configurations, such as a point on a circle.

incident (ˈɪnsɪdənt) *n.* 1. a definite occurrence; event. 2. a minor, subsidiary, or related event. 3. a relatively insignificant event that might have serious consequences. 4. a public disturbance. ~*adj.* 5. (*postpositive*; foll. by *to*) related (to) or dependent (on). 6. (when *postpositive*, often foll. by *to*) having a subsidiary or minor relationship (with). 7. (esp. of a beam of light or particles) arriving at or striking a surface.

incidental (ˌɪnsɪˈdentl) *adj.* 1. happening in connection with or resulting from something more important; casual or fortuitous. 2. (*postpositive*; foll. by *to*) found in connection (with); related (to). 3. (*postpositive*; foll. by *upon*) caused (by). 4. occasional or minor: *incidental expenses*. ~*n.* 5. (*often pl.*) a minor expense, event, or action. —**incidentally** *adv.* —**incidentalness** *n.*

incidental music *n.* background music for a film, etc.

incinerate (ˌɪnsɪˈneɪt) *vb.* to burn up completely; reduce to ashes. —**incineration** *n.*

incinerator (ˌɪnsɪˈneɪtə) *n.* a furnace or apparatus for incinerating something, esp. refuse.

incipient (ˌɪnsɪˈpiənt) *adj.* just starting to be or happen; beginning. —**incipience** or **incipiency** *n.* —**incipiently** *adv.*

incise (ˌɪnˈsaɪz) *vb.* (*tr.*) to produce (lines, a design, etc.) by cutting into the surface of (something) with a sharp tool.

incision (ˌɪnsɪʒən) *n.* 1. the act of incising. 2. a cut, gash, or notch. 3. a cut made with a knife during a surgical operation.

incisive (ˌɪnˈsaɪsɪv) *adj.* 1. keen, penetrating, or acute. 2. biting or sarcastic; mordant: *an incisive remark*. 3. having a sharp cutting edge: *incisive teeth*. —**incisively** *adv.* —**incisiveness** *n.*

incisor (ˌɪnˈsaɪzə) *n.* a chisel-edged tooth at the front of the mouth.

incite (ˌɪnˈsaɪt) *vb.* (*tr.*) to stir up or provoke to action. —**incitation** *n.* —**incitement** *n.* —**inciter** *n.* —**incitingly** *adv.*

incl. *abbrev. for:* 1. including. 2. inclusive.

inclement (ˌɪnˈklemənt) *adj.* 1. (of weather) stormy, severe, or tempestuous. 2. harsh, severe, or merciless. —**inclemency** *n.* —**inclemently** *adv.*

inclination (ˌɪnklɪˈneɪʃən) *n.* 1. (often foll. by *for*, *to*, *towards*, or an infinitive) a particular disposition, esp. a liking; tendency: *I've no inclination for such dull work*. 2. the degree of deviation from a particular plane, esp. a horizontal or vertical plane. 3. a sloping or slanting surface; incline. 4. the act of inclining or the state of being inclined. 5. another name for **dip** (sense 27). —**inclinationally** *adv.*

incline *vb.* (ˌɪnˈklaɪn). 1. to deviate from a particular plane, esp. a vertical or horizontal plane; slope or slant. 2. (when *tr.*, may take an infinitive) to be disposed or cause to be disposed (towards some attitude or to do something): *that does not incline me to think that you are right*. 3. to bend or lower (part of the body, esp. the head), as in a bow or in order to listen. 4. **incline one's ear**, to listen favourably (to). ~*n.* (ˈɪnklaɪn, ˌɪnˈklaɪn). 5. an inclined surface or slope; gradient. —**inclined** *adj.* —**incliner** *n.*

inclined plane *n.* a plane whose angle to the horizontal is less than a right angle.

inclose (ˌɪnˈkloʊz) *vb.* a less common spelling of **enclose**. —**inclosure** *n.*

include (ˌɪnˈkluːd) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to have as contents or part of the contents; be made up of or contain. 2. to add as part of something else; put in as part of a set, group, or category. 3. to contain as a secondary or minor ingredient or element. —**includable** or **includible** *adj.*

inclusion (ˌɪnˈkluːʒən) *n.* 1. the act of including or the state of being included. 2. something included.

inclusive (ˌɪnˈkluːsɪv) *adj.* 1. (*postpositive*; foll. by *of*) considered together (with): *capital inclusive of profit*. 2. (*postpositive*) including the limits specified: *Monday to Friday inclusive*. 3. comprehensive. 4. *Logic*. (of a disjunction) true if at least one of its component propositions is true. —**inclusively** *adv.* —**inclusiveness** *n.*

incognito (ˌɪnˈkɒɡˈnɪtəʊ) or (*fem.*) **incognita** *adv.*,

adj. (*postpositive*) 1. under an assumed name or appearance; in disguise. ~*n.*, *pl.* -**tos** or (*fem.*) -**tas**. 2. a person who is incognito. 3. the assumed name or disguise of such a person.

incognizant (ˌɪnˈkɒɡnɪzənt) *adj.* (when *postpositive*, often foll. by *of*) unaware (of). —**incognizance** *n.*

incoherent (ˌɪnˈkəʊhərənt) *adj.* 1. lacking in clarity or organization; disordered. 2. unable to express oneself clearly; inarticulate. —**incoherence** or **incoherency** *n.* —**incoherently** *adv.*

income (ˌɪnˈkʌm, ˌɪnˈkəm) *n.* 1. the amount of monetary or other returns, either earned or unearned, accruing over a given period of time. 2. receipts; revenue.

income tax *n.* a personal tax levied on annual income subject to certain deductions.

incoming (ˌɪnˈkʌmɪŋ) *adj.* 1. coming in; entering. 2. about to come into office; succeeding. 3. (of interest, dividends, etc.) being received; accruing. ~*n.* 4. the act of coming in; entrance. 5. (*usually pl.*) income or revenue.

incommensurable (ˌɪnˈkɒmənsjəˈrəbəl) *adj.* 1. incapable of being judged, measured, or considered comparatively. 2. (*postpositive*; foll. by *with*) not in accordance; incommensurate. 3. *Maths.* not having a common factor other than 1, such as 2 and $\sqrt{5}$. ~*n.* 4. something incommensurable. —**incommensurability** *n.* —**incommensurably** *adv.*

incommensurate (ˌɪnˈkɒmənsjəˈreɪt) *adj.* 1. (when *postpositive*, often foll. by *with*) not commensurate; disproportionate. 2. incommensurable. —**incommensurately** *adv.* —**incommensurateness** *n.*

incommode (ˌɪnˈkɒməd) *vb.* (*tr.*) to bother, disturb, or inconvenience.

incommodious (ˌɪnˈkɒmədiəs) *adj.* 1. insufficiently spacious; cramped. 2. troublesome or inconvenient. —**incommodiously** *adv.*

incommunicado (ˌɪnˈkɒːmjʊːnɪˈkædɔː) *adv.*, *adj.* (*postpositive*) deprived of communication with other people, as while in solitary confinement.

incomparable (ˌɪnˈkɒmpərəbəl, -prəbəl) *adj.* 1. beyond or above comparison; matchless; unequalled. 2. lacking a basis for comparison; not having qualities or features that can be compared. —**incomparability** or **incomparableness** *n.* —**incomparably** *adv.*

incompatible (ˌɪnˈkɒmpəˈtəbəl) *adj.* 1. incapable of living or existing together in harmony; conflicting or antagonistic. 2. opposed in nature or quality; inconsistent. 3. *Med.* (esp. of two drugs or two types of blood) incapable of being combined or used together; antagonistic. 4. *Logic*. (of two propositions) unable to be both true at the same time. 5. (of plants) incapable of self-fertilization. ~*n.* 6. (*often pl.*) a person or thing that is incompatible with another. —**incompatibility** or **incompatibleness** *n.* —**incompatibly** *adv.*

incompetent (ˌɪnˈkɒmpɪtənt) *adj.* 1. not possessing the necessary ability, skill, etc. to do or carry out a task; incapable. 2. marked by lack of ability, skill, etc. 3. *Law*. not legally qualified: *an incompetent witness*. ~*n.* 4. an incompetent person. —**incompetence** or **incompetency** *n.* —**incompetently** *adv.*

inconceivable (ˌɪnˈkɒnsiˈvəbəl) *adj.* incapable of being conceived, imagined, or considered. —**inconceivability** or **inconceivableness** *n.* —**inconceivably** *adv.*

incongruous (ˌɪnˈkɒŋɡruəs) or **incongruent** *adj.* 1. (when *postpositive*, foll. by *with* or *to*) incompatible with (what is suitable); inappropriate. 2. containing disparate or discordant elements or parts. —**incongruously** *adv.* —**incongruousness** or **incongruity** (ˌɪnˈkɒŋˈɡruːtɪ) *n.*

inconnu (ˌɪnˈkɒnjuː, ˌɪnˈkɒnuː) *n.* *Canad.* a whitefish of Far Northern waters.

inconsequential (ˌɪnˈkɒnsɪˈkwɛnʃəl, ˌɪnˈkɒn-) or **inconsequent** (ˌɪnˈkɒnsɪkwənt) *adj.* 1. not following logically as a consequence. 2. trivial or insignificant. 3. not in a logical sequence; haphazard. —**inconsequentiality**, **inconsequentialness**, or **inconsequence** *n.* —**inconsequently** or **inconsequentlyly** *adv.*

inconsiderable (ˌɪnˈkɒnsɪdərəbəl) *adj.* 1. relatively small. 2. not worthy of consideration; insignificant. —**inconsiderableness** *n.* —**inconsiderably** *adv.*

inconsiderate (ˌɪnˈkɒnsɪdənt) *adj.* lacking in care or thought for others; thoughtless. —**inconsiderately** *adv.* —**inconsiderateness** or **inconsideration** *n.*

inconsistent (ˌɪnˈkɒnsɪstənt) *adj.* 1. lacking in consist-

incombustible *adj.*
incomplete *adj.*

incomprehensible *adj.*
incompressible *adj.*

inconclusive *adj.*

ency, agreement, or compatibility; at variance. 2. containing contradictory elements. 3. irregular or fickle in behaviour or mood. 4. *Logic.* (of a set of axioms) leading to at least one proposition that can be shown to be true by one axiom and false by another. — *inconsistency* *n.* — *inconsistently* *adv.*

inconsolable (ˌɪnkənˈsəʊləbəl) *adj.* incapable of being consoled or comforted; disconsolate. — *inconsolability* *or* *inconsolableness* *n.* — *inconsolably* *adv.*

inconspicuous (ˌɪnkənˈspɪkjʊəs) *adj.* not easily noticed or seen; not prominent or striking. — *inconspicuously* *adv.* — *inconspicuousness* *n.*

incontinent (ɪnˈkɒntɪnənt) *adj.* 1. relating to or exhibiting involuntary urination or defecation. 2. lacking in restraint or control, esp. sexually. 3. (foll. by *of*) having little or no control (over). 4. unrestrained; uncontrolled. — *incontinence* *n.* — *incontinently* *adv.*

incontrovertible (ˌɪnkɒntroˈvɜːtəbəl, ɪnˌkɒn-) *adj.* incapable of being contradicted or disputed; undeniable. — *incontrovertibility* *n.* — *incontrovertibly* *adv.*

incorporate *vb.* (ɪnˈkɔːpəˌreɪt). 1. to include or be included as a part or member of a united whole. 2. to form a united whole or mass; merge or blend. 3. to form into a corporation or other organization with a separate legal identity. ~*adj.* (ɪnˈkɔːpəˌrɪt, -prɪt). 4. combined into a whole; incorporated. 5. formed into or constituted as a corporation. — *incorporative* *adj.* — *incorporation* *n.* — *incorporated* *adj.*

incorporeal (ˌɪnkɔːˈpɔːriəl) *adj.* 1. without material form, body, or substance. 2. spiritual or metaphysical. 3. Law. having no material existence but existing by reason of its annexation of something material: *an incorporeal hereditament*. — *incorporeally* *adv.* — *incorporeity* (ɪnˌkɔːpəˈrɪti) *or* *incorporeity* *n.*

incorrigible (ɪnˈkɒrɪdʒəbəl) *adj.* 1. beyond correction, reform, or alteration. 2. firmly rooted; ineradicable. ~*n.* 3. a person or animal that is incorrigible. — *incorrigibility* *or* *incorrigibleness* *n.* — *incorrigibly* *adv.*

incorruptible (ˌɪnkɔːˈrʌptəbəl) *adj.* 1. incapable of being corrupted; honest; just. 2. not subject to decay or decomposition. — *incorruptibility* *n.* — *incorruptibly* *adv.*

increase *vb.* (ɪnˈkriːs). 1. to make or become greater in size, degree, frequency, etc.; grow or expand. ~*n.* (ˈɪnkrɪːs). 2. the act of increasing; augmentation. 3. the amount by which something increases. 4. *on the increase.* increasing, esp. becoming more frequent. — *increasable* *adj.* — *increasedly* (ɪnˈkriːsɪdli) *or* *increasingly* *adv.* — *increaser* *n.*

incredible (ɪnˈkredəbəl) *adj.* 1. beyond belief or understanding; unbelievable. 2. *Inf.* marvellous; amazing. — *incredibility* *or* *incredibleness* *n.* — *incredibly* *adv.*

incredulity (ɪnkrɪˈdjuːlɪti) *n.* lack of belief; scepticism. **incredulous** (ɪnˈkredʒʊləs) *adj.* (often foll. by *of*) not prepared or willing to believe (something); unbelieving. — *incredulously* *adv.* — *incredulosity* *n.*

increment (ˈɪnkriːmənt) *n.* 1. an increase or addition, esp. one of a series. 2. the act of increasing; augmentation. 3. *Maths.* a small positive or negative change in a variable or function. — *incremental* (ˌɪnkriːməntl) *adj.*

incriminate (ɪnˈkrɪmɪˌneɪt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to imply or suggest the guilt or error of (someone). 2. to charge with a crime or fault. — *incrimination* *n.* — *incriminator* *n.* — *incriminatory* *adj.*

incrusted (ɪnˈkrʌst) *vb.* a variant spelling of *encrust*. — *incrusted* *n., adj.* — *incrustation* *n.*

incubate (ˈɪnkjuːbeɪt) *vb.* 1. (of birds) to supply (eggs) with heat for their development, esp. by sitting on them. 2. to cause (bacteria, etc.) to develop, esp. in an incubator or culture medium. 3. (intr.) (of embryos, etc.) to develop in favourable conditions, esp. in an incubator. 4. (intr.) (of disease germs) to remain inactive in an animal or human before causing disease. 5. to develop gradually; foment or be fomented. — *incubation* *n.* — *incubational* *adj.* — *incubative* *or* *incubatory* *adj.*

incubator (ˈɪnkjuːbeɪtə) *n.* 1. *Med.* an apparatus for housing prematurely born babies until they are strong enough to survive. 2. a container in which birds' eggs can be artificially hatched or bacterial cultures grown. 3. a person, animal, or thing that incubates.

incubus (ˈɪnkjʊbə) *n., pl. -bi* (-baɪ) *or* *-buses*. 1. a demon believed in folklore to have sexual intercourse with sleeping women. Cf. *succubus*. 2. something that

oppresses or disturbs greatly, esp. a nightmare or obsession.

inculcate (ˈɪnkʌlˌkeɪt, ɪnˈkʌlˌkeɪt) *vb.* (tr.) to instil by insistent repetition. — *inculcation* *n.* — *inculcator* *n.*

inculpate (ˈɪnkʌlˌpeɪt, ɪnˈkʌlˌpeɪt) *vb.* (tr.) to incriminate; cause blame to be imputed to. — *inculpation* *n.* — *inculpative* (ɪnˈkʌlpətɪv) *or* *inculpatory* (ɪnˈkʌlpətəri, -tri) *adj.*

incumbency (ɪnˈkʌmbənsɪ) *n., pl. -cies*. 1. the state or quality of being incumbent. 2. the office, duty, or tenure of an incumbent.

incumbent (ɪnˈkʌmbənt) *adj.* 1. *Formal.* (often *postpositive* and foll. by *on* or *upon* and an infinitive) morally binding; obligatory: *it is incumbent on me to attend*. 2. (usually *postpositive* and foll. by *on*) resting or lying (on). 3. (usually *prepositional*) occupying or holding an office. ~*n.* 4. a person who holds an office, esp. a clergyman holding a benefice.

incunabula (ˌɪnkjuːˈnæbjʊlə) *pl. n., sing. -lum* (-ləm). 1. any book printed before 1500. 2. the earliest stages of something; beginnings. — *incunabular* *adj.*

incur (ɪnˈkɜː) *vb.* -curring, -curred. (tr.) 1. to make oneself subject to (something undesirable); bring upon oneself. 2. to run into or encounter. — *incurable* *adj.*

incurable (ɪnˈkjʊərəbəl) *adj.* 1. (esp. of a disease) not curable; unresponsive to treatment. ~*n.* 2. a person having an incurable disease. — *incurability* *or* *incurableness* *n.* — *incurably* *adv.*

incursion (ɪnˈkɜːʃən) *n.* 1. a sudden invasion, attack, or raid. 2. the act of running or leaking into; penetration. — *incursive* (ɪnˈkɜːsɪv) *adj.*

ind. *abbrev. for:* 1. independence. 2. independent. 3. index. 4. indicative. 5. indirect. 6. industrial. 7. industry.

Ind. *abbrev. for:* 1. Independent. 2. India. 3. Indian. 4. Indies.

indaba (ɪnˈdɑːbə) *n.* 1. (among Bantu peoples of southern Africa) a meeting to discuss a serious topic. 2. *S. African inf.* a matter of concern or for discussion.

indebted (ɪnˈdetɪd) *adj.* (*postpositive*) 1. owing gratitude for help, favours, etc.; obligated. 2. owing money.

indebtedness (ɪnˈdetɪdnɪs) *n.* 1. the state of being indebted. 2. the total of a person's debts.

indecent (ɪnˈdisənsɪ) *n., pl. -cies*. 1. the state or quality of being indecent. 2. an indecent act, etc.

indecent (ɪnˈdisənt) *adj.* 1. offensive to standards of decency, esp. in sexual matters. 2. unseemly or improper (esp. in *indecent haste*). — *indecently* *adv.*

indecisive (ɪnˈdɪsɪsɪv) *adj.* 1. (of a person) vacillating; irresolute. 2. not decisive or conclusive. — *indecision* *or* *indecisiveness* *n.* — *indecisively* *adv.*

indeed (ɪnˈdiːd) 1. (*sentence connector*) certainly; actually: *indeed, it may never happen*. ~*adv.* 2. (*intensifier*): *that is indeed amazing*. 3. or rather; what is more: *a comfortable, indeed wealthy family*. ~*interj.* 4. an expression of doubt, surprise, etc.

indef. *abbrev. for* indefinite.

indefatigable (ˌɪndɪˈfætɪɡəbəl) *adj.* unable to be tired out; unflagging. — *indefatigability* *n.* — *indefatigably* *adv.*

indefensible (ˌɪndɪˈfensəbəl) *adj.* 1. not justifiable or excusable. 2. capable of being disagreed with; untenable. 3. incapable of defence against attack. — *indefensibility* *n.* — *indefensibly* *adv.*

indefinite (ɪnˈdɛfɪnt) *adj.* 1. not certain or determined; unsettled. 2. without exact limits; indeterminate: *an indefinite number*. 3. vague, evasive, or unclear. 4. in traditional logic, a proposition in which it is not stated whether the subject is universal or particular, as in *men are mortal*. — *indefinitely* *adv.* — *indefiniteness* *n.*

indefinite article *n.* *Grammar.* a determiner that expresses nonspecificity of reference, such as *a*, *an*, or *some*.

indelible (ɪnˈdelɪbəl) *adj.* 1. incapable of being erased or obliterated. 2. making indelible marks: *indelible ink*. — *indelibility* *or* *indelbleness* *n.* — *indelibly* *adv.*

indelicate (ɪnˈdelɪkət) *adj.* 1. coarse, crude, or rough. 2. offensive, embarrassing, or tasteless. — *indelicacy* *or* *indelicatness* *n.* — *indelically* *adv.*

indemnify (ɪnˈdemniˌfaɪ) *vb.* -fying, -fied. (tr.) 1. to secure against future loss, damage, or liability; give security for; insure. 2. to compensate for loss, etc.; reimburse. — *indemnification* *n.* — *indemnifier* *n.*

inconstant *adj.*
incontestable *adj.*

inconvenience *n., vb.*
inconvenient *adj.*

incorrect *adj.*
indefinable *adj.*

indemnity (in'demnti) *n.*, *pl.* **-ties**. 1. compensation for loss or damage; reimbursement. 2. protection or insurance against future loss or damage. 3. legal exemption from penalties incurred through one's acts or defaults. 4. *Canad.* the annual salary paid by the government to a member of Parliament or of a provincial legislature.

indent *vb.* (in'dent). (*mainly tr.*) 1. to place (written matter, etc.) in from the margin. 2. to cut (a document in duplicate) so that the irregular lines may be matched. 3. *Chiefly Brit.* (in foreign trade) to place an order for (foreign goods). 4. (when *intr.*, foll. by *for*, *on*, or *upon*) *Chiefly Brit.* to make an order on (a source or supply) or for (something). 5. to notch (an edge, border, etc.); make jagged. 6. to bind (an apprentice, etc.) by indenture. *~n.* (in'dent). 7. *Chiefly Brit.* (in foreign trade) an order for foreign merchandise. 8. *Chiefly Brit.* an official order for goods. —**in'denter** or **in'dentor** *n.*

indent *vb.* (in'dent). 1. (*tr.*) to make a dent or depression in. *~n.* (in'dent). 2. a dent or depression.

indentation (in'den'teifən) *n.* 1. a hollowed, notched, or cut place, as on an edge or on a coastline. 2. a series of hollows, notches, or cuts. 3. the act of indenting or the condition of being indented. 4. Also called: **indentation**, **indent**, the leaving of space or the amount of space left between a margin and the start of an indented line.

indentation (in'denʃən) *n.* another word for **indentation** (sense 4).

indenture (in'dentʃə) *n.* 1. any deed, contract, or sealed agreement between two or more parties. 2. (formerly) a deed drawn up in duplicate, each part having correspondingly indented edges for identification and security. 3. (*often pl.*) a contract between an apprentice and his master. 4. a less common word for **indentation**. *~vb.* 5. (*intr.*) to enter into an agreement by indenture. 6. (*tr.*) to bind (an apprentice, servant, etc.) by indenture. —**in'denture,ship** *n.*

independence (in'di'pendəns) *n.* the state or quality of being independent. Also: **independency**.

independent (in'di'pendənt) *adj.* 1. free from control in action, judgment, etc.; autonomous. 2. not dependent on anything else for function, validity, etc.; separate. 3. not reliant on the support, esp. financial support, of others. 4. capable of acting for oneself or on one's own: *a very independent little girl*. 5. providing a large unearned sum towards one's support (esp. in **independent income**, **independent means**). 6. living on an unearned income. 7. *Maths.* (of a system of equations) not all satisfied by the same set of values for the variables. 8. *Logic.* (of two or more propositions) unrelated. *~n.* 9. an independent person or thing. 10. a person who is not affiliated to or who acts independently of a political party. —**inde'pendently** *adv.*


independent clause *n.* *Grammar.* a main or coordinate clause.

independent school *n.* (in Britain) a school that is neither financed nor controlled by the government or local authorities.

indescribable (in'di'skraibəb'l) *adj.* beyond description; too intense, extreme, etc., for words. —**inde'scribability** *n.* —**inde'scribably** *adv.*

indeterminate (in'di'tɜ:mɪnt) *adj.* 1. uncertain in extent, amount, or nature. 2. not definite; inconclusive: *an indeterminate reply*. 3. unable to be predicted, calculated, or deduced. 4. *Maths.* a. having no numerical meaning, as 0/0. b. (of an equation) having more than one variable and an unlimited number of solutions. —**inde'terminacy** or **inde'terminateness** *n.* —**inde'terminately** *adv.*

index ('i:ndeks) *n.*, *pl.* **-dexes** or **-dices** (-di'si:z). 1. an alphabetical list of persons, subjects, etc., mentioned in a printed work, usually at the back, and indicating where they are referred to. 2. See **thumb index**. 3. *Library science*, a systematic list of book titles or authors' names, giving cross-references and the location of each book; catalogue. 4. an indication, sign, or token. 5. a pointer, needle, or other indicator, as on an instrument. 6. *Maths.* a. another name for **exponent** (sense 4). b. a number or variable placed as a superscript to the left of a radical sign indicating the root to be extracted, as in $\sqrt[3]{8} = 2$. 7. a numerical scale by means of which levels of the cost of living can be compared with some base number. 8. a number or ratio indicating a specific characteristic, property, etc.: *refractive index*. 9. Also

called: **fist**. a printer's mark  used to indicate notes, paragraphs, etc. *~vb.* (*tr.*) 10. to put an index in (a book). 11. to enter (a word, item, etc.) in an index. 12. to point out; indicate. —**indexer** *n.* —**in'dexical** *adj.* —**indexless** *adj.*

indexation (in'dek'seifən) or **index-linking** *n.* the act of making wages, interest rates, etc., index-linked.

index finger *n.* the finger next to the thumb. Also called: **forefinger**.

index-linked *adj.* (of wages, interest rates, etc.) directly related to the cost-of-living index and rising accordingly.

Indian (in'diəmən) *n.*, *pl.* **-men**. (formerly) a large merchant ship engaged in trade with India.

Indian (in'diən) *n.* 1. a native or inhabitant of the Republic of India, in a subcontinent of Asia. 2. an American Indian. 3. (*not in scholarly usage*) any of the languages of the American Indians. *~adj.* 4. of or relating to India, its inhabitants, or any of their languages. 5. of or relating to the American Indians or any of their languages.

Indian club *n.* a bottle-shaped club, usually used in pairs by gymnasts, jugglers, etc.

Indian corn *n.* another name for **maize** (sense 1).

Indian file *n.* another term for **single file**.

Indian hemp *n.* another name for **hemp**, esp. the variety *cannabis indica*, from which several narcotic drugs are obtained.

Indian ink or *esp.* **U.S. India ink** (in'diə) *n.* 1. a black pigment made from a mixture of lampblack and a binding agent such as gelatin or glue: usually formed into solid cakes and sticks. 2. a black liquid ink made from this pigment.

Indian list *n.* *Inf.* (in Canada) a list of persons to whom spirits may not be sold.

Indian summer *n.* a period of unusually warm weather, esp. in the autumn.

India paper *n.* a thin soft opaque printing paper made in the Orient.

Indic ('indik) *adj.* 1. denoting, belonging to, or relating to a branch of Indo-European consisting of certain languages of India, including Sanskrit, Hindi and Urdu. *~n.* 2. this group of languages. *~Also:* **Indo-Aryan**.

indicate ('indi,ket) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. (*may take a clause as object*) to be or give a sign or symptom of; imply: *cold hands indicate a warm heart*. 2. to point out or show. 3. (*may take a clause as object*) to state briefly; suggest. 4. (of instruments) to show a reading of. 5. (*usually passive*) to recommend or require: *surgery seems to be indicated for this patient*. —**indi,catable** *adj.* —**indica'tory** (in'dikətəri, -trɪ) *adj.*

indication (in'di'keifən) *n.* 1. something that serves to indicate or suggest; sign: *an indication of foul play*. 2. the degree or quantity represented on a measuring instrument or device. 3. the action of indicating. 4. something that is indicated as advisable, necessary, or expedient.

indicative (in'dikətɪv) *adj.* 1. (*usually postpositive*); foll. by *of* serving as a sign; suggestive: *indicative of trouble ahead*. 2. *Grammar.* denoting a mood of verbs used chiefly to make statements. *~n.* 3. *Grammar.* a. the indicative mood. b. a verb in the indicative mood. *~Abbrev.: indic.* —**in'dicatively** *adv.*

indicator ('indi,ketə) *n.* 1. a device to attract attention, such as the pointer of a gauge or a warning lamp. 2. an instrument that displays certain operating conditions in a machine, such as a gauge showing temperature, etc. 3. Also called: **blinkers**. a device for indicating that a motor vehicle is about to turn left or right, esp. two pairs of lights that flash. 4. a delicate measuring instrument used to determine small differences in the height of mechanical components. 5. *Chem.* a substance used to indicate the completion of a chemical reaction, usually by a change of colour.

indices ('indi,siz) *n.* a plural of **index**.

indict (in'dait) *vb.* (*tr.*) to charge (a person) with crime, esp. formally in writing; accuse. —**indict'ee** *n.* —**indict'or** or **indict'or** *n.* —**in'dictable** *adj.*

indictment (in'daitmənt) *n.* *Criminal law.* 1. a formal written charge of crime formerly referred to and presented on oath by a grand jury. 2. any formal accusation of crime. 3. the act of indicting or the state of being indicted.

indifference (in'difrəns, -fərəns) *n.* 1. the fact or state of being indifferent; lack of care or concern. 2. lack of

quality; mediocrity. **3.** lack of importance; insignificance.

indifferent (in'difrənt, -fərənt) *adj.* **1.** (often foll. by *to*) showing no care or concern; uninterested: *he was indifferent to my pleas*. **2.** unimportant; immaterial. **3. a.** of only average or moderate size, extent, quality, etc. **b.** not at all good; poor. **4.** showing or having no preferences; impartial. —**in'differently** *adv.*

indigenous (in'didʒɪnəs) *adj.* (when *postpositive*, foll. by *to*) **1.** originating or occurring naturally (in a country, etc.); native. **2.** innate (to); inherent (in). —**in'digenously** *adv.* —**in'digenouness** *n.*

indigent ('ɪndɪdʒənt) *adj.* **1.** so poor as to lack even necessities; very needy. **2.** (usually foll. by *of*) Arch. lacking (in) or destitute (of). ~*n.* **3.** an impoverished person. —**Indigence** *n.* —**Indigently** *adv.*

indigestible (,ɪndɪ'dʒestəbəl) *adj.* **1.** incapable of being digested or difficult to digest. **2.** difficult to understand or absorb mentally: *an indigestible book*. —**Indigestibility** *n.* —**Indigestibly** *adv.*

indigestion (,ɪndɪ'dʒestʃən) *n.* difficulty in digesting food, accompanied by abdominal pain, heartburn, and belching.

indignant (in'dɪgnənt) *adj.* feeling or showing indignation. —**Indignantly** *adv.*

indignation (,ɪndɪg'neɪʃən) *n.* anger or scorn aroused by something felt to be unfair, unworthy, or wrong.

indignity (in'dɪgnɪti) *n.*, *pl.* -ties. injury to one's self-esteem or dignity; humiliation.

indigo ('ɪndɪ,gəʊ) *n.*, *pl.* -gos or -goes. **1.** a blue vat dye originally obtained from plants but now made synthetically. **2.** any of various leguminous tropical plants, such as the anil, that yield this dye. **3. a.** any of a group of colours that have the same blue-violet hue; a spectral colour. **b.** (as *adj.*): *an indigo carpet*. —**Indigotic** (,ɪndɪ'gɒtɪk) *adj.*

indirect (,ɪndɪ'rekt) *adj.* **1.** deviating from a direct course or line; roundabout; circuitous. **2.** not coming as a direct effect or consequence; secondary: *indirect benefits*. **3.** not straightforward, open, or fair; devious or evasive. —**Indirectly** *adv.* —**Indirectness** *n.*

indirect lighting *n.* reflected or diffused light from a concealed source.

indirect object *n.* Grammar. a noun, pronoun, or noun phrase indicating the recipient or beneficiary of the action of a verb and its direct object, as *John* in the sentence *I bought John a newspaper*.

indirect speech or *esp. U.S. indirect discourse* *n.* the reporting of something said or written by conveying what was meant rather than repeating the exact words, as in the sentence *He asked me whether I would go* as opposed to *He asked me, "Will you go?"* Also called: **reported speech**.

indirect tax *n.* a tax levied on goods or services rather than on individuals or companies.

indiscreet (,ɪndɪ'skri:t) *adj.* not discreet; imprudent or tactless. —**Indiscreetly** *adv.* —**Indiscreetness** *n.*

indiscrete (,ɪndɪ'skri:t) *adj.* not divisible or divided into parts.

indiscretion (,ɪndɪ'skreʃən) *n.* **1.** the characteristic or state of being indiscreet. **2.** an indiscreet act, remark, etc.

indiscriminate (,ɪndɪ'skrɪmɪnət) *adj.* **1.** lacking discrimination or careful choice; random or promiscuous. **2.** jumbled; confused. —**Indiscriminately** *adv.* —**Indiscriminateness** *n.* —**Indis,criminat** *n.*

indispensable (,ɪndɪ'spensəbəl) *adj.* **1.** absolutely necessary; essential. **2.** not to be disregarded or escaped: *an indispensable role*. ~*n.* **3.** an indispensable person or thing. —**Indispensability** or **Indispensableness** *n.* —**Indispensably** *adv.*

indisposed (,ɪndɪ'spəʊzd) *adj.* **1.** sick or ill. **2.** unwilling. —**Indisposition** (,ɪndɪ'spəʊzɪʃən) *n.*

indistinct (,ɪndɪ'stɪŋkt) *adj.* incapable of being clearly distinguished, as by the eyes, ears, or mind; not distinct. —**Indistinctly** *adv.* —**Indistinctness** *n.*

indite (in'daɪt) *vb.* (tr.) Arch. to write. —**in'ditement** *n.* —**in'diter** *n.*

indium ('ɪndɪəm) *n.* a rare soft silvery metallic element associated with zinc ores; used in alloys, electronics, and electroplating. Symbol: In; atomic no.: 49; atomic wt.: 114.82.

individual (,ɪndɪ'vɪdʒuəl) *adj.* **1.** of, relating to, characteristic of, or meant for a single person or thing. **2.**

separate or distinct, esp. from others of its kind; particular: *please mark the individual pages*. **3.** characterized by unusual and striking qualities; distinctive. **4.** Obs. indivisible; inseparable. ~*n.* **5.** a single person, esp. when regarded as distinct from others. **6.** Biol. a single animal or plant, esp. as distinct from a species. —**Individually** *adv.*

▷ **Usage.** In careful speech and writing, the noun *individual* is not loosely used as a synonym of *person*, although it is appropriate in that sense when a single person is being considered in contrast to a group, as in *in mass democracy the rights of the individual must be protected*.

individualism (,ɪndɪ'vɪdʒʊəlɪzəm) *n.* **1.** the principle of asserting one's independence and individuality; egotism. **2.** an individual quirk. **3.** another word for *laissez faire* (sense 1). **4.** Philosophy, the doctrine that only individual things exist. —**Individu** *n.*

individuality (,ɪndɪ'vɪdʒʊəli'ti) *n.*, *pl.* -ties. **1.** distinctive or unique character or personality: *a work of great individuality*. **2.** the qualities that distinguish one person or thing from another; identity. **3.** the state or quality of being a separate entity; discreteness.

individualize or **-ise** (,ɪndɪ'vɪdʒʊəlaɪz) *vb.* (tr.) **1.** to make or mark as individual or distinctive in character. **2.** to consider or treat individually; particularize. **3.** to make or modify so as to meet the special requirements of a person. —**Individu** *n.* —**Individuation** or **-i'sation** *n.* —**Individually** *adv.* —**Indiv** *n.*

indivisible (,ɪndɪ'vɪzəbəl) *adj.* **1.** unable to be divided. **2.** Maths. leaving a remainder when divided by a given number. —**Indivisibility** *n.* —**Indivisibly** *adv.*

Indo- ('ɪndəʊ) *combining form.* denoting India or Indian: *Indo-European*.

indoctrinate (in'dɒktri'neɪt) *vb.* (tr.) **1.** to teach (a person or group of people) systematically to accept doctrines, esp. uncritically. **2.** Rare. to instruct. —**Indoctrination** *n.* —**Indoctrinator** *n.*

Indo-European *adj.* **1.** denoting, belonging to, or relating to a family of languages that includes English: characteristically marked by inflection showing gender, number, and case. **2.** denoting or relating to the hypothetical parent language of this family, primitive Indo-European. **3.** denoting, belonging to, or relating to any of the peoples speaking these languages. ~*n.* **4.** the Indo-European family of languages. **5.** the reconstructed hypothetical parent language of this family.

indolent ('ɪndələnt) *adj.* **1.** disliking work or effort; lazy; idle. **2.** Pathol. causing little pain: *an indolent tumour*. **3.** (esp. of a painless ulcer) slow to heal. —**Indolence** *n.* —**Indolently** *adv.*

indomitable (in'dɒmɪtəbəl) *adj.* (of courage, pride, etc.) difficult or impossible to defeat or subdue. —**Indomitability** or **Indomitableness** *n.* —**Indomitably** *adv.*

Indonesian (,ɪndəʊ'ni:ziən) *adj.* **1.** of or relating to Indonesia, a republic in SE Asia, its people, or their language. ~*n.* **2.** a native or inhabitant of Indonesia. **3.** a branch of the Malayo-Polynesian family of languages.

indoor ('ɪn,dɔ:) *adj.* (*prepositional*) of, situated in, or appropriate to the inside of a house or other building: *an indoor tennis court; indoor amusements*.

indoors (,ɪn'dɔ:z) *adv.*, *adj.* (*postpositive*) inside or into a house or other building.

indorse (in'dɔ:s) *vb.* a variant spelling of *endorse*.

indrawn (,ɪn'drɔ:n) *adj.* **1.** drawn or pulled in. **2.** inward-looking or introspective.

indubitable (in'dju:bɪtəbəl) *adj.* incapable of being doubted; unquestionable. —**Indubitably** *adv.*

induce (in'dju:s) *vb.* (tr.) **1.** (often foll. by an infinitive) to persuade or use influence on. **2.** to cause or bring about. **3.** Med. to initiate or hasten (labour), as by administering a drug to stimulate uterine contractions. **4.** Logic. to assert or establish (a general proposition, etc.) by induction. **5.** to produce (an electromotive force or electrical current) by induction. **6.** to transmit (magnetism) by induction. —**Inducer** *n.* —**Inducible** *adj.*

inducement (in'dju:smənt) *n.* **1.** the act of inducing. **2.** a means of inducing; persuasion; incentive. **3.** Law. the introductory part that leads up to and explains the matter in dispute.

induct (in'dakt) *vb.* (tr.) **1.** to bring in formally or install in an office, place, etc.; invest. **2.** (foll. by *to* or *into*) to initiate in knowledge (of). **3.** U.S. to enlist for

military service. 4. *Physics*. another word for **induce** (senses 5, 6).

inductance (in'dʌktəns) *n.* 1. the property of an electric circuit as a result of which an electromotive force is created by a change of current in the same or in a neighbouring circuit. 2. a component, such as a coil, in an electrical circuit, the main function of which is to produce inductance.

induction (in'dʌkʃən) *n.* 1. the act of inducting or state of being inducted. 2. the act of inducing. 3. *Logic*. a. a process of reasoning by which a general conclusion is drawn from a set of premises, based mainly on experience or experimental evidence. b. a conclusion reached by this process of reasoning. 4. the process by which electrical or magnetic properties are transferred, without physical contact, from one circuit or body to another. See also **inductance**. 5. *Maths*. a method of proving a proposition $P(n)$ by showing that it is true for all preceding values of n and for $n+1$. 6. a formal introduction or entry into an office or position. 7. *U.S.* the enlistment of a civilian into military service. — **inductual** *adj.*

induction coil *n.* a transformer for producing a high voltage from a low voltage. It consists of a cylindrical primary winding of few turns, a concentric secondary winding of many turns, and often a common soft-iron core.

inductive (in'dʌktɪv) *adj.* 1. relating to or operated by electrical or magnetic induction: *an inductive reactance*. 2. *Logic, maths*, of, relating to, or using induction: *inductive reasoning*. 3. serving to induce or cause. — **inductively** *adv.* — **inductiveness** *n.*

inductor (in'dʌktə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that inducts. 2. another name for an **inductance** (sense 2).

indue (in'dju:) *vb.* a variant spelling of **endue**.

indulge (in'dʌldʒ) *vb.* 1. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *in*) to yield to or gratify (a whim or desire for): *to indulge in new clothes*. 2. (*tr.*) to yield to the wishes of; pamper: *to indulge a child*. 3. (*tr.*) to allow oneself the pleasure of: *he indulged himself*. 4. (*intr.*) *Inf.* to take alcoholic drink, esp. to excess. — **indulger** *n.* — **indulgently** *adv.*

indulgence (in'dʌldʒəns) *n.* 1. the act of indulging or state of being indulgent. 2. a pleasure, habit, etc., indulged in; extravagance. 3. liberal or tolerant treatment. 4. something granted as a favour or privilege. 5. *R.C. Church*. a remission of the temporal punishment for sin after its guilt has been forgiven. 6. Also called: **Declaration of Indulgence**. a royal grant during the reigns of Charles II and James II of England giving Nonconformists and Roman Catholics a measure of religious freedom.

indulgent (in'dʌldʒənt) *adj.* showing or characterized by indulgence. — **indulgently** *adv.*

indurate *vb.* ('indju:,reit). 1. to make or become hard or callous. 2. to make or become hardy. ~*adj.* ('indjurt). 3. hardened, callous, or unfeeling. — **induration** *n.* — **indurative** *adj.*

industrial (in'dʌstriəl) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or derived from industry. 2. employed in industry: *the industrial work force*. 3. relating to or concerned with workers in industry: *industrial conditions*. 4. used in industry: *industrial chemicals*. — **industrially** *adv.*

industrial estate *n.* *Brit.* an area of land set aside for industry and business. U.S. equivalent: **industrial park**.

industrialism (in'dʌstriə,lɪzəm) *n.* an organization of society characterized by large-scale mechanized manufacturing industry rather than trade, farming, etc.

industrialist (in'dʌstriəlɪst) *n.* a person who has a substantial interest in the ownership or control of industrial enterprise.

industrialize or **-ise** (in'dʌstriə,ləɪz) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to develop industry on an extensive scale in (a country, region, etc.). 2. (*intr.*) (of a country, region, etc.) to undergo the development of industry on an extensive scale. — **industrialization** or **-isation** *n.*

industrious (in'dʌstriəs) *adj.* hard-working, diligent, or assiduous. — **industriously** *adv.* — **industriousness** *n.*

industry ('ɪndʌstri) *n., pl. -tries*. 1. organized economic activity concerned with manufacture, processing of raw materials, or construction. 2. a branch of commercial enterprise concerned with the output of a specified product: *the steel industry*. 3. a. industrial ownership and management interests collectively. b. manufactur-

ing enterprise collectively, as opposed to agriculture. 4. diligence; assiduity.

-ine¹ *suffix forming adjectives*. 1. of, relating to, or belonging to: *saturnine*. 2. consisting of or resembling: *crystalline*.

-ine² *suffix forming nouns*. 1. indicating a halogen: *chlorine*. 2. indicating a nitrogenous organic compound, including amino acids, alkaloids, and certain other bases: *nicotine*. 3. Also: **-in**. indicating a chemical substance in certain nonsystematic names: *glycerine*. 4. indicating a mixture of hydrocarbons: *benzine*. 5. indicating feminine form: *heroine*.

inebriate *vb.* (in'i:bri:et). (*tr.*) 1. to make drunk; intoxicate. 2. to arouse emotionally; make excited. ~*n.* (in'i:bri:t). 3. a person who is drunk, esp. habitually. ~*adj.* (in'i:bri:t), also **inebriated**. 4. drunk, esp. habitually. — **inebriation** *n.* — **inebriety** (in'i'brai:ti) *n.*

inedible (in'edɪbəl) *adj.* not fit to be eaten. — **inedibility** *n.*

▷ **Usage**. In careful speech and writing, **inedible** is not synonymous with **uneatable**. **Inedible** implies that something is of a sort not suitable for eating, while **uneatable** implies that it is so disgusting as to be beyond eating.

ineducable (in'edju:kəbəl) *adj.* incapable of being educated, esp. on account of mental retardation. — **ineducability** *n.*

ineffable (in'efəbəl) *adj.* 1. too great or intense to be expressed in words; unutterable. 2. too sacred to be uttered. 3. indescribable; indefinable. — **ineffability** or **ineffableness** *n.* — **ineffably** *adv.*

ineluctable (in'elʌktəbəl) *adj.* (esp. of fate) incapable of being avoided; inescapable. — **ineluctability** *n.* — **ineluctably** *adv.*

inept (in'ept) *adj.* 1. not suitable, appropriate, or fitting; out of place. 2. awkward, clumsy, or incompetent. — **ineptitude** *n.* — **ineptly** *adv.* — **ineptness** *n.*

inequable (in'ekwəbəl) *adj.* uneven; not uniform.

inequality (in'ekwɒlɪti) *n., pl. -ties*. 1. the state or quality of being unequal; disparity. 2. an instance of disparity. 3. lack of smoothness or regularity. 4. social or economic disparity. 5. *Maths*. a. a statement indicating that the value of one quantity or expression is not equal to another. b. the relation of being unequal.

inert (in'ɜ:t) *adj.* 1. having no inherent ability to move or to resist motion. 2. inactive, lazy, or sluggish. 3. having only a limited ability to react chemically; unreactive. — **inertly** *adv.* — **inertness** *n.*

inertia (in'ɜ:ʃə,-ʃiə) *n.* 1. the state of being inert; inactivity. 2. *Physics*. a. the tendency of a body to preserve its state of rest or uniform motion unless acted upon by an external force. b. an analogous property of other physical quantities that resist change: *thermal inertia*. — **inertial** *adj.*

inertia selling *n.* the practice of sending unrequested goods to householders, followed by a bill for the goods if they do not return them.

inescapable (in'eskəpəbəl) *adj.* incapable of being escaped or avoided. — **inescapably** *adv.*

inestimable (in'estɪməbəl) *adj.* 1. not able to be estimated; immeasurable. 2. of immeasurable value. — **inestimability** or **inestimableness** *n.* — **inestimably** *adv.*

inevitable (in'evɪtəbəl) *adj.* 1. unavoidable. 2. sure to happen; certain. ~*n.* 3. (often preceded by *the*) something that is unavoidable. — **inevitability** or **inevitableness** *n.* — **inevitably** *adv.*

inexorable (in'eksərəbəl) *adj.* 1. not able to be moved by entreaty or persuasion. 2. relentless. — **inexorability** *n.* — **inexorably** *adv.*

inexpiable (in'ekspɪəbəl) *adj.* 1. incapable of being expiated; unpardonable. 2. *Arch.* implacable. — **inexpiability** *n.*

in extenso *Latin.* (in ik'stensəʊ) *adv.* at full length.

in extremis *Latin.* (in ik'stri:mɪs) *adv.* 1. in extremity; in dire straits. 2. at the point of death.

inextricable (in'eks'tri:kəbəl) *adj.* 1. not able to be escaped from: *an inextricable dilemma*. 2. not able to be disentangled, etc.: *an inextricable knot*. 3. extremely involved or intricate. — **inextricability** or **inextricableness** *n.* — **inextricably** *adv.*

inefficient *adj.*
inelastic *adj.*
inelegant *adj.*
ineligible *adj., n.*

inessential *adj.*
inexact *adj.*
inexcusable *adj.*
inexpedient *adj.*

inexpensive *adj.*
inexperience *n.*
inexpert *adj.*
inexplicable *adj.*

inf. *abbrev. for:* 1. inferior. 2. infinitive. 3. information.

Inf. or inf. *abbrev. for* infantry.

infallible (in'fæləb'l) *adj.* 1. not fallible; not liable to error. 2. not liable to failure; certain; sure: *an infallible cure*. ~*n.* 3. a person or thing that is incapable of error or failure. —*infallibility* or *infallibleness* *n.* —*infallibly* *adv.*

infamous (in'fəməs) *adj.* 1. having a bad reputation; notorious. 2. causing or deserving a bad reputation; shocking: *infamous conduct*. —*infamously* *adv.* —*infamouslyness* *n.*

infamy (in'fəmi) *n., pl. -mies*. 1. the state or condition of being infamous. 2. an infamous act or event.

infancy (in'fənsi) *n., pl. -cies*. 1. the state or period of being an infant; childhood. 2. an early stage of growth or development. 3. infants collectively. 4. the period of life prior to attaining legal majority; minority nonage.

infant (in'fənt) *n.* 1. a child at the earliest stage of its life; baby. 2. *Law.* another word for **minor** (sense 9). 3. *Brit.* a young schoolchild. 4. a person who is beginning or inexperienced in an activity. 5. (*modifier*) *a.* of or relating to young children or infancy. *b.* designed or intended for young children. ~*adj.* 6. in an early stage of development; nascent: *an infant science*. 7. *Law.* of or relating to the legal status of infancy. —*infanthood* *n.*

infanta (in'fəntə) *n.* 1. (formerly) a daughter of a king of Spain or Portugal. 2. the wife of an infante.

infante (in'fənti) *n.* (formerly) a son of a king of Spain or Portugal, esp. one not heir to the throne.

infanticide (in'fənti,said) *n.* 1. the killing of an infant. 2. the practice of killing newborn infants, still prevalent in some primitive tribes. 3. a person who kills an infant. —*infant'icidal* *adj.*

infantile (in'fəntail) *adj.* 1. like a child in action or behaviour; childishly immature; puerile. 2. of, relating to, or characteristic of infants or infancy. 3. in an early stage of development. —*infantility* (in'fəntiliti) *n.*

infantile paralysis *n.* another name for **poliomyelitis**.

infantry (in'fəntri) *n., pl. -tries*. *a.* soldiers or units of soldiers who fight on foot with small arms. *b.* (*as modifier*): *an infantry unit*.

infant school *n.* *Brit.* a school for children aged between 5 and 7.

infatuate *vb.* (in'fætʃu,eit). (*tr.*) 1. to inspire or fill with foolish, shallow, or extravagant passion. 2. to cause to act foolishly. ~*n.* (in'fætʃu,t,-eit). 3. *Literary.* a person who is infatuated. —*infatu'ation* *n.*

infatuated (in'fætʃu,eitid) *adj.* (often foll. by *with*) possessed by a foolish or extravagant passion, esp. for another person.

infect (in'fekt) *vb. (mainly tr.)* 1. to cause infection in; contaminate (an organism, wound, etc.) with pathogenic microorganisms. 2. (*also intr.*) to affect or become affected with a communicable disease. 3. to taint, pollute, or contaminate. 4. to affect, esp. adversely, as if by contagion. ~*adj.* 5. *Arch.* contaminated or polluted with or as if with a disease; infected. —*in'fector* or *in'fector* *n.*

infection (in'fɛkʃən) *n.* 1. invasion of the body by pathogenic microorganisms. 2. the resulting condition in the tissues. 3. an infectious disease. 4. the act of infecting or state of being infected. 5. an agent or influence that infects. 6. persuasion or corruption, as by ideas, perverse influences, etc.

infectious (in'fɛkʃəs) *adj.* 1. (of a disease) capable of being transmitted. 2. (of a disease) caused by microorganisms, such as bacteria, viruses, or protozoa. 3. causing or transmitting infection. 4. tending or apt to spread, as from one person to another: *infectious mirth*. —*in'fectiously* *adv.* —*in'fectiousness* *n.*

infectious hepatitis *n.* an acute infectious viral disease characterized by inflammation of the liver, fever, and jaundice.

infectious mononucleosis *n.* an acute infectious disease, probably caused by a virus, characterized by fever, sore throat, swollen and painful lymph nodes, and abnormal lymphocytes in the blood. Also called: **glandular fever**.

infective (in'fɛktiv) *adj.* 1. capable of causing infection. 2. a less common word for **infectious**. —*in'fectively* *adv.* —*in'fectiveness* *n.*

infer (in'fɜ:) *vb. -ferring, -ferred.* (when *tr.*, may take a clause as object) 1. to conclude (a state of affairs, supposition, etc.) by reasoning from evidence; deduce. 2. (*tr.*) to have or lead to as a necessary or logical consequence; indicate. 3. (*tr.*) to hint or imply. —*in'ferable* or *in'ferable* *adj.* —*in'ferer* *n.*

▷ **Usage.** The use of *infer* in the sense of *imply* often occurs in both speech and writing but is avoided by all careful speakers and writers of English.

inference (in'fɜ:ns,-frəns) *n.* 1. *Logic.* a process of reasoning in which a conclusion is obtained in some way from certain facts or premisses. 2. the act or process of inferring. 3. an inferred conclusion, deduction, etc.

inferential (in'fɜ:renʃəl) *adj.* of, relating to, or derived from inference. —*in'ferentially* *adv.*

inferior (in'fɪəriə) *adj.* 1. lower in value or quality. 2. lower in rank, position, or status; subordinate. 3. not of the best; mediocre; commonplace. 4. lower in position; situated beneath. 5. (of a plant ovary) situated below the other floral parts. 6. *Astron.* a. orbiting between the sun and the earth: *an inferior planet*. *b.* lying below the horizon. 7. *Printing.* (of a character) printed at the foot of an ordinary character. ~*n.* 8. an inferior person. 9. *Printing.* an inferior character. —*inferiority* (in'fɪəri- 'ɒrɪti) *n.* —*in'feriorly* *adv.*

inferiority complex *n.* *Psychiatry.* a disorder arising from the conflict between the desire to be noticed and the fear of being humiliated, characterized by aggressiveness or withdrawal into oneself.

infernal (in'fɜ:nl) *adj.* 1. of or relating to an underworld of the dead. 2. deserving or befitting hell; diabolic; fiendish. 3. *Inf.* irritating; confounded. —*in'fer'nality* *n.* —*in'fernally* *adv.*

infernal machine *n.* *Arch.* an explosive device (usually disguised) or booby trap.

inferno (in'fɜ:nəu) *n., pl. -nos*. 1. (*sometimes cap.*; usually preceded by *the*) hell; the infernal region. 2. any place or state resembling hell, esp. a conflagration.

infest (in'fest) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to inhabit or overrun in unpleasantly large numbers. 2. (of parasites such as lice) to invade and live on or in (a host). —*in'fester* *n.*

infidel (in'fidl) *n.* 1. a person who has no religious belief; unbeliever. ~*adj.* 2. rejecting a specific religion, esp. Christianity or Islam. 3. of or relating to unbelievers or unbelief.

infidelity (in'fidəlti) *n., pl. -ties*. 1. lack of faith or constancy, esp. sexual faithfulness. 2. lack of religious faith; disbelief. 3. an act or instance of disloyalty.

infield (in'fi:ld) *n.* 1. *Cricket.* the area of the field near the pitch. 2. *Baseball.* the area of the playing field enclosed by the base lines. 3. *Agriculture.* the part of a farm nearest to the farm buildings. —*in'fielder* *n.*

infighting (in'faɪtɪŋ) *n.* 1. *Boxing.* combat at close quarters in which proper blows are inhibited. 2. intense competition, as between members of the same organization. —*in'fighter* *n.*

infiltrate (in'fil,treit) *vb.* 1. to undergo the process in which a fluid passes into the pores or interstices of a solid; permeate. 2. *Mil.* to pass undetected through (an enemy-held line or position). 3. to gain or cause to gain entrance or access surreptitiously: *they infiltrated the party structure*. ~*n.* 4. something that infiltrates. —*in'fil'tration* *n.* —*in'fil'trative* *adj.* —*in'fil'trator* *n.*

infin. *abbrev. for* infinitive.

infinite (in'fɪnɪt) *adj.* 1. *a.* having no limits or boundaries in time, space, extent, or magnitude. *b.* (*as collective* *n.* preceded by *the*): *the infinite*. 2. extremely or immeasurably great or numerous: *infinite wealth*. 3. all-embracing, absolute, or total: *God's infinite wisdom*. 4. *Maths.* having an unlimited or uncountable number of digits, factors, terms, members, etc. —*in'finitely* *adv.* —*in'finiteness* *n.*

infinitesimal (in'fɪnɪ'tesɪməl) *adj.* 1. infinitely or immeasurably small. 2. *Maths.* of, relating to, or involving a small change in the value of a variable that approaches zero as a limit. ~*n.* 3. *Maths.* an infinitesimal quantity. —*in'fini'tesimally* *adv.*

infinitive (in'fɪnɪtɪv) *n.* *Grammar.* a form of the verb not inflected for grammatical categories such as tense and person and used without an overt subject. In English, the infinitive usually consists of the word to followed by the verb. —*in'finitival* (in'fɪnɪ'taɪvl) *adj.* —*in'finitively* or *in'finitively* *adv.*

infinitude (ˈɪnɪfɪtjuːd) *n.* 1. the state or quality of being infinite. 2. an infinite extent, quantity, degree, etc.

infinity (ˈɪnɪfɪtu) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. the state or quality of being infinite. 2. endless time, space, or quantity. 3. an infinitely or indefinitely great number or amount. 4. *Maths.* a. the concept of a value greater than any finite numerical value. b. the reciprocal of zero. c. the limit of an infinite sequence of numbers.

infirm (ˈɪnfɜːm) *adj.* 1. weak in health or body, esp. from old age. 2. lacking moral certainty; indecisive or irresolute. 3. not stable, sound, or secure: *an infirm structure.* 4. *Law.* (of a law, etc.) lacking legal force; invalid. —*infirmly adv.* —*infirmness n.*

infirmity (ˈɪnfɜːmɪtu) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. the state or quality of being infirm. 2. physical weakness or debility; frailty. 3. a moral flaw or failing.

infix *vb.* (ˈɪnfɪks, ˈɪn, fɪks). 1. (*tr.*) to fix firmly in. 2. (*tr.*) to instil or inculcate. 3. *Grammar.* to insert (an affix) into the middle of a word. ~*n.* (ˈɪn, fɪks). 4. *Grammar.* an affix inserted into the middle of a word. —*infix'ation or infixion* (ˈɪnfɪkʃən) *n.*

inflare (ˈɪnfleɪm) *vb.* 1. to arouse or become aroused to violent emotion. 2. (*tr.*) to increase or intensify; aggravate. 3. to produce inflammation (in a tissue, organ, or part) or (of a tissue, etc.) to become inflamed. 4. to set or be set on fire. 5. (*tr.*) to cause to redden. —*in-flamer n.*

inflammable (ˈɪnflæməbəl) *adj.* 1. liable to catch fire; flammable. 2. readily aroused to anger or passion. ~*n.* 3. something that is liable to catch fire. —*in-flamma'bility or in-flammableness n.* —*in-flammably adv.*

▶ **Usage.** See at **flammable**.

inflammation (ˈɪnfləˈmeɪʃən) *n.* 1. the reaction of living tissue to injury or infection, characterized by heat, redness, swelling, and pain. 2. the act of inflaming or the state of being inflamed.

inflammatory (ˈɪnfləˈmeɪtɔːri) *adj.* 1. characterized by or caused by inflammation. 2. tending to arouse violence, strong emotion, etc. —*in-flammatorily adv.*

inflatable (ˈɪnfləɪbəl) *n.* 1. any of various large air-filled objects made of strong plastic or rubber. ~*adj.* 2. capable of being inflated.

inflate (ˈɪnflət) *vb.* 1. to expand or cause to expand by filling with gas or air. 2. (*tr.*) to cause to increase excessively; puff up; swell: *to inflate one's opinion of oneself.* 3. (*tr.*) to cause inflation of (prices, money, etc.). 4. (*tr.*) to raise in spirits; elate. 5. (*intr.*) to undergo economic inflation. —*in-flatedly adv.* —*in-flatedness n.* —*in-flator or in-flator n.*

inflation (ˈɪnfləɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of inflating or state of being inflated. 2. *Econ.* a progressive increase in the general level of prices brought about by an expansion in demand or the money supply or by autonomous increases in costs. 3. *Inf.* the rate of increase of prices. —*in-flationary adj.*

inflect (ˈɪnflekt) *vb.* 1. *Grammar.* to change (the form of a word) by inflection. 2. (*tr.*) to change (the voice) in tone or pitch; modulate. 3. (*tr.*) to cause to deviate from a straight or normal line or course; bend. —*in-flectedness n.* —*in-flective adj.* —*in-flector n.*

inflection or inflexion (ˈɪnflekʃən) *n.* 1. modulation of the voice. 2. *Grammar.* a change in the form of a word, signalling change in such grammatical functions as tense, person, gender, number, or case. 3. an angle or bend. 4. the act of inflecting or the state of being inflected. 5. *Maths.* a change in curvature from concave to convex or vice versa. —*in-flectional or in-flexional adj.* —*in-flectionally or in-flexionally adv.* —*in-flectionless or in-flexionless adj.*

inflict (ˈɪnflikt) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. (often foll. by *on* or *upon*) to impose (something unwelcome, such as pain, oneself, etc.). 2. to deal out (blows, lashes, etc.). —*in-flictible adj.* —*in-flicter or in-flictor n.* —*in-fliction n.*

in-flight *adj.* provided during flight in an aircraft: *in-flight meals.*

inflorescence (ˌɪnflɔːˈresəns) *n.* 1. the part of a plant that consists of the flower-bearing stalks. 2. the arrangement of the flowers on the stalks. 3. the process of flowering; blossoming. —*in-flo-rescent adj.*

inflow (ˈɪn, fləʊ) *n.* 1. something, such as a liquid or gas, that flows in. 2. Also called: **inflowing.** the act of flowing in; influx.

influence (ˈɪnfluəns) *n.* 1. an effect of one person or

thing on another. 2. the power of a person or thing to have such an effect. 3. power or sway resulting from ability, wealth, position, etc. 4. a person or thing having influence. 5. *Astrol.* an ethereal fluid regarded as emanating from the stars and affecting a person's future. 6. **under the influence.** *Inf.* drunk. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 7. to persuade or induce. 8. to have an effect upon (actions, events, etc.); affect. —*'influenceable adj.* —*'influencer n.*

influential (ˌɪnfluˈenʃəl) *adj.* having or exerting influence. —*in-flu-ent'ially adv.*

influenza (ˌɪnfluˈɛnzə) *n.* a highly contagious viral disease characterized by fever, muscular aches and pains, and inflammation of the respiratory passages. —*in-flu-enzal adj.*

influx (ˈɪn, flʌks) *n.* 1. the arrival or entry of many people or things. 2. the act of flowing in; inflow. 3. the mouth of a stream or river.

info (ˈɪnfəʊ) *n. Inf.* short for **information**.

infold (ɪnˈfəʊld) *vb.* (*tr.*) a variant spelling of **enfold**.

inform (ˈɪnfɔːm) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*; often foll. by *of* or *about*) to give information to; tell. 2. (*tr.*; often foll. by *of* or *about*) to make conversant (with). 3. (*intr.*; often foll. by *against* or *on*) to give information regarding criminals, to the police, etc. 4. (*tr.*) to give form to. 5. (*tr.*) to impart some essential or formative characteristic to. 6. (*tr.*) to animate or inspire. —*in-formable adj.*

informal (ˈɪnfɔːməl) *adj.* 1. not of a formal, official, or stiffly conventional nature. 2. appropriate to everyday life or use: *informal clothes.* 3. denoting or characterized by idiom, vocabulary, etc., appropriate to conversational language rather than to formal written language. 4. denoting a second-person pronoun in some languages used when the addressee is regarded as a friend or social inferior. —*in-formality n.* —*in-formally adv.*

informal vote *n. Austral.* an invalid vote or ballot.

informant (ˈɪnfɔːmənt) *n.* a person who gives information.

information (ˌɪnfəˈmeɪʃən) *n.* 1. knowledge acquired through experience or study. 2. knowledge of specific and timely events or situations; news. 3. the act of informing or the condition of being informed. 4. a. an office, agency, etc., providing information. b. (as modifier): *information service.* 5. a charge or complaint made before justices of the peace, usually on oath, to institute summary criminal proceedings. 6. *Computers.* a. the results derived from the processing of data according to programmed instructions. b. another word for **data** (sense 2). —*in-for-mational adj.*

information theory *n.* a collection of mathematical theories concerned with coding, transmitting, storing, retrieving, and decoding information.

informative (ˈɪnfɔːmətɪv) or **informatory** *adj.* providing information; instructive. —*in-formatively adv.* —*in-formativeness n.*

inform (ˈɪnfɔːmə) *n.* 1. a person who informs against someone, esp. a criminal. 2. a person who provides information.

infra- *prefix.* below; beneath; after: *infrasonic*.

infra dig (ˌɪnfɜːˈdɪg) *adj.* (postpositive) *Inf.* beneath one's dignity.

infrangible (ɪnˈfrændʒɪbəl) *adj.* 1. incapable of being broken. 2. not capable of being violated or infringed. —*in-frangi'bility or in-frangibleness n.* —*in-frangibly adv.*

infrared (ˌɪnfɜːˈred) *n.* 1. the part of the electromagnetic spectrum with a longer wavelength than light but a shorter wavelength than radio waves. ~*adj.* 2. of, relating to, or consisting of radiation lying within the infrared.

infrasonic (ˌɪnfɜːˈsɒnɪk) *adj.* having a frequency below that of sound.

infrastructure (ˌɪnfɜːˈstrʌktʃə) *n.* 1. the basic structure of an organization, system, etc. 2. the stock of fixed capital equipment in a country, including factories, roads, schools, etc., considered as a determinant of economic growth.

infringe (ˈɪnfɪndʒ) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to violate or break (a law, agreement, etc.). 2. (*intr.*; foll. by *on* or *upon*) to encroach or trespass. —*in-fringement n.* —*in-fringer n.*

infuriate *vb.* (ɪnˈfjuəri,et). 1. (*tr.*) to anger; annoy. ~*adj.* (ɪnˈfjuəri,t). 2. *Arch.* furious; infuriated. —*in-furi-atingly adv.* —*in-furi'ation n.*

infuse (ɪnˈfjuːz) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*; often foll. by *into*) to instil or

inculcate. 2. (*tr.*; foll. by *with*) to inspire; emotionally charge. 3. to soak or be soaked in order to extract flavour or other properties. 4. *Rare.* (foll. by *into*) to pour. —*in'fuser* *n.*

infusible (in'fju:zəb'l) *adj.* not fusible; not easily melted; having a high melting point. —*in,fusi'bility* or *in'fusibility* *n.*

infusion (in'fju:ʒən) *n.* 1. the act of infusing. 2. something infused. 3. an extract obtained by soaking. —*in'fusive* (in'fju:siv) *adj.*

-ing¹ *suffix forming nouns.* 1. (*from verbs*) the action of, process of, result of, or something connected with the verb: *meeting*; *a wedding*; *winnings*. 2. (*from other nouns*) something used in, consisting of, involving, etc.: *tubing*; *soldiering*. 3. (*from other parts of speech*): *an outing*.

-ing² *suffix.* 1. forming the present participle of verbs: *walking*; *believing*. 2. forming participial adjectives: *a growing boy*; *a sinking ship*. 3. forming adjectives not derived from verbs: *swashbuckling*.

-ing³ *suffix forming nouns.* a person or thing having a certain quality or being of a certain kind: *sweeting*; *whiting*.

ingenious (in'dʒi:njəs, -məs) *adj.* possessing or done with ingenuity; skilful or clever. —*in'geniously* *adv.* —*in'geniousness* *n.*

ingénue (,æŋzei'nju:) *n.* an artless, innocent, or inexperienced girl or young woman.

ingenuity (,ɪŋdʒi'nju:ti) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. inventive talent; cleverness. 2. an ingenious device, act, etc. 3. *Arch.* frankness; candour.

ingenuous (in'dʒenjuəs) *adj.* 1. naive, artless, or innocent. 2. candid; frank; straightforward. —*in'genuously* *adv.* —*in'genuousness* *n.*

ingest (in'dʒest) *vb. (tr.)* to take (food or liquid) into the body. —*in'gestible* *adj.* —*in'gestion* *n.* —*in'gestive* *adj.*

ingle ('ɪŋgl) *n.* *Arch. or dialect.* a fire in a room or a fireplace.

inglenook ('ɪŋgl,nʊk) *n.* *Brit.* a corner by a fireplace; chimney corner.

ingoing ('ɪn,gəʊɪŋ) *adj.* coming or going in; entering.

ingot ('ɪŋɡət) *n.* a piece of cast metal obtained from a mould in a form suitable for storage, etc.

ingraft (in'grɑ:ft) *vb.* a variant spelling of *engraft*. —*in'graftment* or *in'graf'tation* *n.*

ingrain or engrain *vb. (in'greɪn).* (*tr.*) 1. to impress deeply on the mind or nature; instil. 2. *Arch.* to dye into the fibre of (a fabric). ~*adj.* ('ɪn,greɪn). 3. (of woven or knitted articles) made of dyed yarn or of fibre that is dyed before being spun into yarn. ~*n.* ('ɪn,greɪn). 4. a carpet made from ingrained yarn.

ingrained or engrained (in'greɪnd) *adj.* 1. deeply impressed or instilled. 2. (*prenominal*) complete or inveterate; utter. 3. (esp. of dirt) worked into or through the fibre, grain, pores, etc. —*ingrainedly* or *engrainedly* (in'greɪndli) *adv.* —*in'grainedness* or *en'grainedness* *n.*

ingratiating (in'ɡreɪʃi,eɪt) *vb. (tr.*; often foll. by *with*) to place (oneself) purposely in the favour (of another). —*in'gratiating* or *in'gratiatory* *adj.* —*in'grati,atingly* *adv.* —*in,gratiation* *n.*

ingredient (in'ɡri:diənt) *n.* a component of a mixture, compound, etc., esp. in cooking.

ingress ('ɪŋɡres) *n.* 1. the act of going or coming in; an entering. 2. a way in; entrance. 3. the right or permission to enter. —*ingression* (in'ɡreʃən) *n.*

ingrowing ('ɪn,ɡrəʊɪŋ) *adj.* 1. (esp. of a toenail) growing abnormally into the flesh. 2. growing within or into. —*in,growth* *n.*

ingrown ('ɪn,ɡrəʊn, in'ɡrəʊn) *adj.* 1. (esp. of a toenail) grown abnormally into the flesh; covered by adjacent tissues. 2. grown within; native; innate.

inguinal ('ɪŋɡwɪn'l) *adj.* *Anat.* of or relating to the groin.

inhabit (in'hæbɪt) *vb. (tr.)* to live or dwell in; occupy. —*in'habitable* *adj.* —*in,habita'bility* *n.* —*in,habi'tation* *n.*

inhabitant (in'hæbɪtənt) *n.* a person or animal that is a permanent resident of a particular place or region. —*in'habitancy* or *in'habitanace* *n.*

inhalant (in'heilənt) *adj.* 1. (esp. of a medicinal preparation) inhaled for its therapeutic effect. 2. inhaling. ~*n.* 3. an inhalant medicinal preparation.

inhale (in'heil) *vb.* to draw (breath, etc.) into the lungs; breathe in. —*in'ha'lation* *n.*

inhaler (in'heɪlə) *n.* 1. a device for breathing in therapeutic vapours, esp. one for relieving nasal congestion. 2. a person who inhales.

inhere (in'hiə) *vb. (intr.*; foll. by *in*) to be an inseparable part (of).

inherent (in'hɪərənt, -'her-) *adj.* existing as an inseparable part; intrinsic. —*in'herently* *adv.*

inherit (in'herit) *vb.* 1. to receive (property, etc.) by succession or under a will. 2. (*intr.*) to succeed as heir. 3. (*tr.*) to possess (a characteristic) through genetic transmission. 4. (*tr.*) to receive (a position, etc.) from a predecessor. —*in'herited* *adj.* —*in'heritor* *n.* —*in'heritress* or *in'heritrix* *fem. n.*

inheritable (in'heritəb'l) *adj.* 1. capable of being transmitted by heredity from one generation to a later one. 2. capable of being inherited. 3. *Rare.* having the right to inherit. —*in,herita'bility* or *in'heritableness* *n.* —*in'heritably* *adv.*

inheritance (in'heritəns) *n.* 1. *Law.* a. hereditary succession to an estate, title, etc. b. the right of an heir to succeed on the death of an ancestor. c. something that may legally be transmitted to an heir. 2. the act of inheriting. 3. something inherited; heritage. 4. the derivation of characteristics of one generation from an earlier one by heredity.

inhibit (in'hɪbɪt) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to restrain or hinder (an impulse, desire, etc.). 2. to prohibit, forbid, or prevent. 3. to stop, prevent, or decrease the rate of (a chemical reaction). —*in'hibitable* *adj.* —*in'hibitor* or *in'hibitor* *n.* —*in'hibitive* or *in'hibitory* *adj.*

inhibition (,ɪn'hɪbɪʃən, in'hi-) *n.* 1. the act of inhibiting or the condition of being inhibited. 2. *Psychol.* a mental state or condition in which the varieties of expression and behaviour of an individual become restricted. 3. the process of stopping or retarding a chemical reaction. 4. *Physiol.* the suppression of the function or action of an organ or part, as by stimulation of its nerve supply.

inhuman (in'hju:mən) *adj.* 1. Also: **inhumane** (,ɪnhju:'meɪn). lacking humane feelings, such as sympathy, understanding, etc.; cruel; brutal. 2. not human. —*inhu'manely* *adv.* —*in'humanly* *adv.* —*in'humaness* *n.*

inhumanity (,ɪnhju:'mænɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. lack of humane qualities. 2. an inhumane act, decision, etc.

inhume (in'hju:m) *vb. (tr.)* to inter; bury. —*inhu'mation* *n.* —*in'humane* *n.*

inimical ('ɪnɪmɪkəl) *adj.* 1. adverse or unfavourable. 2. not friendly; hostile. —*in'imically* *adv.* —*in'imicalness* or *in,imi'cality* *n.*

inimitable ('ɪnɪmɪtəbəl) *adj.* incapable of being duplicated or imitated; unique. —*in,imita'bility* or *in'imitableness* *n.* —*in'imitably* *adv.*

iniquity ('ɪnɪkwɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. lack of justice or righteousness; wickedness; injustice. 2. a wicked act; sin. —*in'iquitous* *adj.* —*in'iquitously* *adv.* —*in'iquitousness* *n.*

initial ('ɪnɪʃəl) *adj.* 1. of, at, or concerning the beginning. ~*n.* 2. the first letter of a word, esp. a person's name. 3. *Printing.* a large letter set at the beginning of a chapter or work. 4. *Bot.* a cell from which tissues and organs develop by division and differentiation. ~*vb.* -*ialling*, -*ialled* or *U.S.* -*ialing*, -*ialed*. 5. (*tr.*) to sign with one's initials, esp. to indicate approval; endorse. —*in'itiale* or *in'italier* *n.* —*in'itially* *adv.*

initiate (in'ɪnɪʃi,eɪt) (*tr.*) 1. to begin or originate. 2. to accept (new members) into an organization such as a club, through often secret ceremonies. 3. to teach fundamentals to. ~*adj.* (in'ɪnɪʃi,t,-eɪt). 4. initiated; begun. ~*n.* (in'ɪnɪʃi,t,-eɪt). 5. a person who has been initiated, esp. recently. 6. a beginner; novice. —*in,iti'ation* *n.* —*in'iti,ator* *n.* —*in'itiatory* *adj.*

initiative ('ɪnɪʃiətv,-'ɪnɪʃiətv) *n.* 1. the first step or action of a matter; commencing move: *a peace initiative*. 2. the right or power to begin or initiate something: *he has the initiative*. 3. the ability or attitude required to begin or initiate something. 4. *Government.* the right of citizens to introduce legislation, etc., in a legislative body, as in Switzerland. 5. *on one's own initiative.* without being prompted. ~*adj.* 6. of or concerning initiation or serving to initiate; initiatory. —*in'itiatively* *adv.*

inject (in'dʒekt) *vb. (tr.)* 1. *Med.* to introduce (a fluid)

inglorious *adj.*
ingratitude *n.*

inharmonious *adj.*
inhospitable *adj.*

inhospitality *n.*

into (the body) by means of a syringe. 2. (foll. by *into*) to introduce (a new aspect or element): *to inject humour into a scene*. 3. to interject (a comment, idea, etc.). —*in'jectable* *adj.* —*in'jection* *n.* —*in'jector* *n.*

injunction (in'dʒʌŋkʃən) *n.* 1. Law. an instruction or order issued by a court to a party to an action, esp. to refrain from some act. 2. a command, admonition, etc. 3. the act of enjoining. —*in'junctive* *adj.* —*in'junctively* *adv.*

injure ('ɪndʒə) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to cause physical or mental harm or suffering to; hurt or wound. 2. to offend, esp. by an injustice. —*in'jurable* *adj.* —*injured* *adj.* —*in'jurer* *n.*

injurious (in'dʒʊəriəs) *adj.* 1. causing damage or harm; deleterious; hurtful. 2. abusive, slanderous, or libellous. —*in'juriouly* *adv.* —*in'juriousness* *n.*

injury ('ɪndʒəri) *n., pl. -ries*. 1. physical damage or hurt. 2. a specific instance of this: *a leg injury*. 3. harm done to a reputation. 4. Law. a violation or infringement of another person's rights that causes him harm and is actionable at law.

injury time *n.* Soccer. extra playing time added on to compensate for time spent attending to injured players during the match.

injustice (in'dʒʌstɪs) *n.* 1. the condition or practice of being unjust or unfair. 2. an unjust act.

ink (ɪŋk) *n.* 1. a fluid or paste used for printing, writing, and drawing. 2. a dark brown fluid ejected into the water for self-concealment by an octopus or related mollusc. ~*vb.* (tr.) 3. to mark with ink. 4. to coat (a printing surface) with ink. —*in'ker* *n.*

inkling ('ɪŋkɪŋ) *n.* a slight intimation or suggestion; suspicion.

inkosi (ɪŋ'kɔːsi) *n.* S. African. a chief; leader.

inkstand ('ɪŋk,stænd) *n.* a stand or tray on which are kept writing implements and containers for ink.

inkwell ('ɪŋk,wel) *n.* a small container for pen ink, often let into the surface of a desk.

inky ('ɪŋki) *adj.* **inkier, inkiest.** 1. resembling ink, esp. in colour; dark or black. 2. of, containing, or stained with ink. —*in'kinness* *n.*

inlaid ('ɪn,leɪd, m'leɪd) *adj.* 1. set in the surface, as a design in wood. 2. having such a design or inlay: *an inlaid table*.

inland *adj.* ('ɪnlænd). 1. of or located in the interior of a country or region away from a sea or border. 2. Chiefly Brit. operating within a country or region; domestic; not foreign. ~*n.* ('ɪn,lænd, -lənd). 3. the interior of a country or region. ~*adv.* ('ɪn,lænd, -lənd). 4. towards or into the interior of a country or region. —*in'lander* *n.*

Inland Revenue *n.* (in Britain) a government board that administers and collects major direct taxes, such as income tax.

in-law *n.* 1. a relative by marriage. ~*adj.* 2. (post-positive; in combination) related by marriage: *a father-in-law*.

inlay *vb.* (ɪn'leɪ) -*laying, -laid.* (tr.) 1. to decorate (an article, esp. of furniture) by inserting pieces of wood, ivory, etc., into slots in the surface. ~*n.* ('ɪn,leɪ). 2. Dentistry. a filling inserted into a cavity and held in position by cement. 3. decoration made by inlaying. 4. an inlaid article, surface, etc. —*in,layer* *n.*

inlet *n.* ('ɪn,let). 1. a narrow inland opening of the coastline. 2. an entrance or opening. 3. the act of letting someone or something in. 4. something let in or inserted. 5. a. a passage or valve through which a substance, esp. a fluid, enters a machine. b. (as modifier) *an inlet valve*. ~*vb.* (ɪn'let, -'letting, -let. 6. (tr.) to insert or inlay.

in loco parentis Latin. (ɪn 'lɔːkəʊ pə'rentɪs) in place of a parent: said of a person acting in a parental capacity.

inly ('ɪnli) *adv.* Poetic. inwardly; intimately.

inmate ('ɪn,meɪt) *n.* a person who is confined to an institution such as a prison or hospital.

innmost ('ɪn,məʊst) *adj.* another word for **innermost**.

inn (ɪn) *n.* a pub or small hotel providing food and accommodation. —*in'ness* *adj.*

innards ('ɪnədz) *pl. n. Inf.* 1. the internal organs of the body, esp. the viscera. 2. the interior parts or components of anything, esp. the working parts.

innate ('ɪneɪt, 'meɪt) *adj.* 1. existing from birth; con-

genital; inborn. 2. being an essential part of the character of a person or thing. 3. instinctive; not learned: *innate ideas*. —*in'nately* *adv.* —*in'nateness* *n.*

inner ('ɪnə) *adj.* (prenominal) 1. being or located further inside: *an inner room*. 2. happening or occurring inside. 3. relating to the soul, mind, spirit, etc. 4. more profound or obscure; less apparent: *the inner meaning*. 5. exclusive or private: *inner regions of the party*. ~*n.* 6. Archery. a. the red innermost ring on a target. b. a shot which hits this ring. —*in'nerly* *adv.* —*in'nerness* *n.* **inner man** *n.* or **inner woman** *fem. n.* 1. the mind or soul. 2. Jocular. the stomach or appetite.

innermost ('ɪnə,məʊst) *adj.* 1. being or located furthest within; central. 2. intimate; private.

inner tube *n.* an inflatable rubber tube that fits inside a pneumatic tyre casing.

innings ('ɪnɪz) *n.* 1. (functioning as *sing.*) Cricket, etc. a. the batting turn of a player or team. b. the runs scored during such a turn. 2. (sometimes *sing.*) a period of opportunity or action.

innkeeper ('ɪn,kɪpə) *n.* an owner or manager of an inn.

innocence ('ɪnəsəns) *n.* the quality or state of being innocent. Archaic word: **innocency** ('ɪnəsənsɪ).

innocent ('ɪnəsənt) *adj.* 1. not corrupted or tainted with evil; sinless; pure. 2. not guilty of a particular crime; blameless. 3. (postpositive; foll. by *of*) free (of); lacking: *innocent of all knowledge of history*. 4. harmless or innocuous: *an innocent game*. 5. credulous, naive, or artless. 6. simple-minded; slow-witted. ~*n.* 7. an innocent person, esp. a young child or an ingenuously adult. 8. a simple-minded person; simpleton. —*in'no-cently* *adv.*

innocuous ('ɪnɒkjʊəs) *adj.* having little or no adverse or harmful effect; harmless. —*in'nocuously* *adv.* —*in'nocuousness* or *innocuity* ('ɪnə'kjʊ:ɪtɪ) *n.*

innominate bone ('ɪnɒmɪnɪt) *n.* either of the two bones that form the sides of the pelvis, consisting of the ilium, ischium, and pubis. Nontechnical name: **hipbone**.

innovate ('ɪnə,vet) *vb.* to invent or begin to apply (methods, ideas, etc.). —*in'no,vative* or *in'no,vatory* *adj.* —*in'no,vator* *n.*

innovation ('ɪnə'veɪʃən) *n.* 1. something newly introduced, such as a new method or device. 2. the act of innovating. —*in'no,vational* *adj.* —*in'no,vationist* *n.*

innuendo ('ɪnju'endəʊ) *n., pl. -dos* or *-does*. 1. an indirect or subtle reference, esp. one made maliciously or indicating criticism or disapproval; insinuation. 2. Law. (in an action for defamation) an explanation of the construction put upon words alleged to be defamatory where this meaning is not apparent.

Innuït ('ɪnju:ɪt) *n.* a variant spelling of **Inuit**.

innumerable ('ɪnju:mərəb'l, 'ɪnju:mərəb'l) or **innu-merous** *adj.* so many as to be uncountable; extremely numerous. —*in,numera'bility* or *in'numerableness* *n.* —*in'numerably* *adv.*

innumerate ('ɪnju:mərəɪt) *adj.* 1. having neither knowledge nor understanding of mathematics or science. ~*n.* 2. an innumerate person. —*in'numera-cy* *n.*

inoculate ('ɪnɒkjʊ,leɪt) *vb.* 1. to introduce (the causative agent of a disease) into the body in order to induce immunity. 2. (tr.) to introduce (microorganisms, esp. bacteria) into (a culture medium). 3. (tr.) to cause to be influenced or imbued, as with ideas. —*in,ocu'lation* *n.* —*in'oculative* *adj.* —*in'oculator* *n.*

inoperable (ɪn'ɒpərəb'l, 'ɒprə-) *adj.* 1. incapable of being implemented or operated. 2. Surgery. not suitable for operation without risk, esp. because of metastasis. —*in,opera'bility* or *in'operableness* *n.* —*in'operably* *adv.*

inordinate (ɪn'ɔːdnɪt) *adj.* 1. exceeding normal limits; immoderate. 2. unrestrained, as in behaviour or emotion; intemperate. 3. irregular or disordered. —*in'ordi-nacy* or *in'ordinateness* *n.* —*in'ordinately* *adv.*

inorganic ('ɪnɔː'ɡenɪk) *adj.* 1. not having the structure or characteristics of living organisms; not organic. 2. relating to or denoting chemical compounds that do not contain carbon. 3. not having a system, structure, or ordered relation of parts; amorphous. 4. not resulting from or produced by growth; artificial. —*inor'ganical-ly* *adv.*

inorganic chemistry *n.* the branch of chemistry concerned with the elements and all their compounds except those containing carbon.

injudicious *adj.*
inoffensive *adj.*

inoperative *adj.*
inopportune *adj.*

inpatient (ˈɪn,peɪʃənt) *n.* a patient living in the hospital where he is being treated.

in perpetuum *Latin.* (ɪn pəˈpetjuəm) for ever.

input (ˈɪn,put) *n.* 1. the act of putting in. 2. that which is put in. 3. (often pl.) a resource required for industrial production, such as capital goods, etc. 4. *Electronics.* the signal or current fed into a component or circuit. 5. *Computers.* a. the data fed into a computer from a peripheral device. b. the devices and operations involved in transferring the data. 6. (*modifier*) of or relating to electronic, computer, or other input: *input program*. ~vb. 7. (tr.) to insert (data) into a computer.

inquest (ˈɪn,kwest) *n.* 1. an inquiry into the cause of an unexplained, sudden, or violent death, held by a jury before a coroner. 2. *Inf.* any inquiry or investigation.

inquietude (ɪnˈkwaɪ,tjuːd) *n.* restlessness, uneasiness, or anxiety. —**inquiet** (ɪnˈkwaɪət) *adj.* —**inquietly** *adv.*

inquire (ɪnˈkwaɪə) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*; often foll. by *into*) to make a search or investigation. 2. See **enquire**. —**inquirer** *n.* —**inquiry** *n.*

inquisition (ɪnˈkwɪzɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of inquiring deeply or searchingly; investigation. 2. a deep or searching inquiry, esp. a ruthless official investigation in order to suppress revolt or root out the unorthodox. 3. an official inquiry, esp. one held by a jury before an officer of the Crown. —**inquisitional** *adj.* —**inquisitionist** *n.*

Inquisition (ɪnˈkwɪzɪʃən) *n.* *History.* a judicial institution of the Roman Catholic Church (1232–1820) founded to suppress heresy.

inquisitive (ɪnˈkwɪzɪtɪv) *adj.* 1. excessively curious, esp. about the affairs of others; prying. 2. eager to learn; inquiring. —**inquisitively** *adv.* —**inquisitiveness** *n.*

inquisitor (ɪnˈkwɪzɪtə) *n.* 1. a person who inquires, esp. deeply, searchingly, or ruthlessly. 2. (often *cap.*) an official of the ecclesiastical court of the Inquisition.

inquisitorial (ɪnˈkwɪzɪˈtɔːriəl) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or resembling inquisition or an inquisitor. 2. offensively curious; prying. 3. *Law.* denoting criminal procedure in which one party is both prosecutor and judge, or in which the trial is held in secret. Cf. **accusatorial** (sense 2). —**inquisitorially** *adv.* —**inquisitorialness** *n.*

in re (ɪn ˈreɪ) in the matter of: used esp. in bankruptcy proceedings.

INRI *abbrev. for* Iesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum (the inscription placed over Christ's head during the Crucifixion).

inroad (ˈɪn,rəʊd) *n.* 1. an invasion or hostile attack; raid or incursion. 2. an encroachment or intrusion.

inrush (ˈɪn,rʌʃ) *n.* a sudden usually overwhelming inward flow or rush; influx. —**in,rushing** *n., adj.*

ins. *abbrev. for:* 1. inches. 2. insulated. 3. insurance.

insane (ɪnˈseɪn) *adj.* 1. a. mentally deranged; crazy; of unsound mind. b. (as *collective n.* preceded by *the*): *the insane*. 2. characteristic of a person of unsound mind: *an insane stare*. 3. irresponsible; very foolish; stupid. —**insanely** *adv.* —**insaneness** *n.*

insanity (ɪnˈsæntɪ) *n., pl. -ties*. 1. relatively permanent disorder of the mind; state or condition of being insane. 2. utter folly; stupidity.

insatiable (ɪnˈseɪjəbəl, -fɪə) or **insatiate** (ɪnˈseɪʃɪt) *adj.* not able to be satisfied or satiated; greedy or unappeasable. —**insatiability** or **insatiateness** *n.* —**insatiably** or **insatiately** *adv.*

inscribe (ɪnˈskraɪb) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to make, carve, or engrave (writing, letters, etc.) on (a surface such as wood, stone, or paper). 2. to enter (a name) on a list or in a register. 3. to sign one's name on (a book, etc.) before presentation to another person. 4. to draw (a geometric construction) inside another construction so that the two are in contact but do not intersect. —**inscribable** *adj.* —**inscribability** *n.* —**inscriber** *n.*

inscription (ɪnˈskripʃən) *n.* 1. something inscribed, esp. words carved or engraved on a coin, tomb, etc. 2. a signature or brief dedication in a book or on a work of art. 3. the act of inscribing. —**inscriptional** or **inscriptive** *adj.* —**inscriptively** *adv.*

inscrutable (ɪnˈskruːtəbəl) *adj.* mysterious or enigmatic; incomprehensible. —**inscrutability** or **inscrutability** *n.* —**inscrutably** *adv.*

insect (ˈɪnsekt) *n.* 1. any of a class of small air-breathing arthropods, having a body divided into head, thorax, and abdomen, three pairs of legs, and (in most species) two pairs of wings. 2. (loosely) any similar

invertebrate, such as a spider, tick, or centipede. 3. a contemptible, loathsome, or insignificant person. —**insectile** *adj.* —**insect-like** *adj.*

insecticide (ɪnˈsekti,said) *n.* a substance used to destroy insect pests. —**insecticidal** *adj.*

insectivore (ɪnˈsekti,vɔː) *n.* 1. any of an order of placental mammals, being typically small, with simple teeth, and feeding on invertebrates. The group includes shrews, moles, and hedgehogs. 2. any animal or plant that derives nourishment from insects. —**insectivorous** *adj.*

insecure (ɪnˈsɪkjʊə) *adj.* 1. anxious or afraid; not confident or certain. 2. not adequately protected: *an insecure fortress*. 3. unstable or shaky. —**insecurely** *adv.* —**insecureness** *n.* —**insecurity** *n.*

inseminate (ɪnˈsemi,neɪt) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to impregnate (a female) with semen. 2. to introduce (ideas or attitudes) into the mind of (a person or group). —**insemination** *n.* —**inseminator** *n.*

insensate (ɪnˈsenseɪt, -sɪt) *adj.* 1. lacking sensation or consciousness. 2. insensitive; unfeeling. 3. foolish; senseless. —**insensately** *adv.* —**insensateness** *n.*

insensible (ɪnˈsensəbəl) *adj.* 1. lacking sensation or consciousness. 2. (foll. by *of* or *to*) unaware (of) or indifferent (to): *insensible to suffering*. 3. thoughtless or callous. 4. a less common word for **imperceptible**. —**insensibility** or **insensibleness** *n.* —**insensibly** *adv.*

insert *vb. (ɪnˈsɜːt).* (tr.) 1. to put in or between; introduce. 2. to introduce into text, as in a newspaper; interpolate. ~n. (ˈɪnsɜːt). 3. something inserted. 4. a. a folded section placed in another for binding in with a book. b. a printed sheet, esp. one bearing advertising, placed loose between the leaves of a book, periodical, etc. —**insertable** *adj.* —**insertion** *n.*

insertion (ɪnˈsɜːʃən) *n.* 1. the act of inserting or something that is inserted. 2. a word, sentence, correction, etc., inserted into text, such as a newspaper. 3. a strip of lace, embroidery, etc., between two pieces of material. 4. *Anat.* the point or manner of attachment of a muscle to the bone that it moves. —**insertional** *adj.*

in-service *adj.* denoting training that is given in the working environment to employees: *in-service training for teachers*.

inset *vb. (ɪnˈset), -setting, -set.* 1. (tr.) to set or place in or within; insert. ~n. (ˈɪnˈset). 2. something inserted. 3. *Printing.* a. a small map or diagram set within the borders of a larger one. b. another name for **insert** (sense 4). 4. a piece of fabric inserted into a garment, as to shape it or for decoration. —**insetter** *n.*

inshore (ɪnˈʃɔː) *adj.* 1. in or on the water, but close to the shore: *inshore weather*. ~adv., *adj.* 2. towards the shore from the water: *an inshore wind; we swam inshore*.

inside *n. (ˈɪnˈsaɪd).* 1. the interior; inner or enclosed part or surface. 2. the side of a path away from the road or adjacent to a wall. 3. (also pl.) *Inf.* the internal organs of the body, esp. the stomach and bowels. 4. **inside of**, in a period of time less than; within. 5. **inside out**, with the inside facing outwards. 6. **know something inside out**, to know thoroughly or perfectly. ~prep. (ˈɪnˈsaɪd). 7. in or to the interior of; within or to within; on the inside of. ~adj. (ˈɪnˈsaɪd). 8. on or of an interior; on the inside: *an inside door*. 9. (*prepositional*) arranged or provided by someone within an organization or building, esp. illicitly: *the raid was an inside job; inside information*. ~adv. (ˈɪnˈsaɪd). 10. within or to within a thing or place; indoors. 11. *Sl.* in or into prison.

▷ **Usage.** See at **outside**.

inside job *n. Inf.* a crime committed with the assistance of someone associated with the victim.

insider (ɪnˈsaɪdə) *n.* 1. a member of a specified group. 2. a person with access to exclusive information.

insidious (ɪnˈsɪdiəs) *adj.* 1. stealthy, subtle, cunning, or treacherous. 2. working in a subtle or apparently innocuous way, but nevertheless deadly: *an insidious illness*. —**insidiously** *adv.* —**insidiousness** *n.*

insight (ɪnˈsaɪt) *n.* 1. the ability to perceive clearly or deeply; penetration. 2. a penetrating and often sudden understanding, as of a complex situation or problem. 3. *Psychol.* the capacity for understanding one's own or another's mental processes. 4. *Psychiatry.* the ability to understand one's own problems. —**insightful** *adj.*

insignia (ɪnˈsɪɡniə) *n., pl. -nias or -nia*. 1. a badge or emblem of membership, office, or dignity. 2. a distinguishing sign or mark.

insignificant (ˌɪnsɪgˈnɪfɪkənt) *adj.* 1. having little or no importance; trifling. 2. almost or relatively meaningless. 3. small or inadequate: an *insignificant* wage. 4. not distinctive in character, etc. — **insig/nificance** or **insig/nificancy** *n.* — **insig/nificantly** *adv.*

insincere (ˌɪnsɪnˈsɪə) *adj.* lacking sincerity; hypocritical. — **insin/cerely** *adv.* — **insincerity** (ˌɪnsɪnˈsɪəri) *n.*

insinuate (ˌɪnsɪnjuːˈeɪt) *vb.* 1. (may take a clause as object) to suggest by indirect allusion, hints, innuendo, etc. 2. (tr.) to introduce subtly or deviously. 3. (tr.) to cause (someone, esp. oneself) to be accepted by gradual approaches or manoeuvres. — **insin/uative** or **insinuatory** *adj.* — **insinuator** *n.*

insinuation (ˌɪnsɪnjuːˈeɪʃən) *n.* 1. an indirect or devious hint or suggestion. 2. the act or practice of insinuating.

insipid (ˌɪnˈspɪd) *adj.* 1. lacking spirit or interest; boring. 2. lacking taste; unpalatable. — **insipidity** or **insipidness** *n.* — **insipidly** *adv.*

insist (ˌɪnˈsɪst) *vb.* (when tr., takes a clause as object; when intr., usually foll. by *on* or *upon*) 1. to make a determined demand (for): he *insisted* on his rights. 2. to express a convinced belief (in) or assertion (of). — **insister** *n.* — **insistingly** *adv.*

insistent (ˌɪnˈsɪstənt) *adj.* 1. making continual and persistent demands. 2. demanding notice or attention; compelling: the *insistent* cry of a bird. — **insistence** or **insistency** *n.* — **insistently** *adv.*

in situ *Latin.* (ˌɪn ˈsɪtjuː) *adv.*, *adj.* (postpositive) in the natural, original, or appropriate position.

in so far or U.S. insofar *adv.* (usually foll. by *as* or *that*) to the degree or extent (that).

insole (ˈɪnˌsəʊl) *n.* 1. the inner sole of a shoe or boot. 2. a loose additional inner sole used to give extra warmth or to make a shoe fit.

insolent (ˌɪnsələnt) *adj.* offensive, impudent, or disrespectful. — **insolence** *n.* — **insolently** *adv.*

insoluble (ˌɪnˌsɒljʊˈl) *adj.* 1. incapable of being dissolved; incapable of forming a solution, esp. in water. 2. incapable of being solved. — **insolubility** or **insolubleness** *n.* — **insolubly** *adv.*

insolvent (ˌɪnˌsɒlvənt) *adj.* 1. having insufficient assets to meet debts and liabilities; bankrupt. 2. of or relating to bankrupts or bankruptcy. ~ *n.* 3. a person who is insolvent; bankrupt. — **insolvency** *n.*

insomnia (ˌɪnˈsɒmniə) *n.* chronic inability to fall asleep or to enjoy uninterrupted sleep. — **insomnious** *adj.* — **insomniac** *n.*, *adj.*

insomuch (ˌɪnˌsɒmətʃ) *adv.* 1. (foll. by *as* or *that*) to such an extent or degree. 2. (foll. by *as*) because of the fact (that); inasmuch (as).

insouciant (ˌɪnˌsuːʃɪənt) *adj.* carefree or unconcerned; light-hearted. — **insouciance** *n.* — **insouciantly** *adv.*

inspan (ˌɪnˈspæn) *vb.* — **spanning**, — **spanned**. (tr.) Chiefly S. African. 1. to harness (animals) to (a vehicle); yoke. 2. to press (people) into service.

inspect (ˌɪnˈspekt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to examine closely, esp. for faults or errors. 2. to scrutinize officially (a document, military personnel on ceremonial parade, etc.). — **inspectable** *adj.* — **inspection** *n.* — **inspective** *adj.*

inspector (ˌɪnˈspektə) *n.* 1. a person who inspects, esp. an official who examines for compliance with regulations, standards, etc. 2. a police officer ranking below a superintendent and above a sergeant. — **inspectorial** or **inspectorial** (ˌɪnspekˈtɔːriəl) *adj.* — **inspectorship** *n.*

inspectorate (ˌɪnˈspektərɪt) *n.* 1. the office, rank, or duties of an inspector. 2. a body of inspectors. 3. a district under an inspector.

inspiration (ˌɪnspɪˈreɪʃən) *n.* 1. stimulation or arousal of the mind, feelings, etc., to special activity or creativity. 2. the state or quality of being so stimulated or aroused. 3. someone or something that causes this state. 4. an idea or action resulting from such a state. 5. the act or process of inhaling; breathing in.

inspiratory (ˌɪnˌspaɪəˈtɔːrɪ, -trɪ) *adj.* of or relating to inhalation or the drawing in of air.

inspire (ˌɪnˈspaɪə) *vb.* 1. to exert a stimulating or beneficial effect upon (a person, etc.); animate or invigorate. 2. (tr.; foll. by *with* or *to*; may take an infinitive) to arouse (with a particular emotion or to a particular action); stir. 3. (tr.) to prompt or instigate; give rise to. 4. (tr.; often passive) to guide or arouse by divine influence or inspiration. 5. to take or draw (air, gas, etc.) into the lungs; inhale. 6. (tr.) *Arch.* to breathe into

or upon. — **inspirable** *adj.* — **inspirative** *adj.* — **inspirer** *n.* — **inspiringly** *adv.*

inst. *abbrev. for:* 1. instant (this month). 2. instantaneous. 3. instrumental.

install or **instal** (ˌɪnˈstɔːl) *vb.* — **stalling**, — **stalled**. (tr.) 1. to place (equipment) in position and connect and adjust for use. 2. to put in a position, rank, etc. 3. to settle (a person, esp. oneself) in a position or state: she *installed herself* in an armchair. — **installa/tion** *n.* — **install-** *n.*

installment plan *n.* the U.S. name for hire-purchase.

installment or **U.S. installment** (ˌɪnˈstɔːlmənt) *n.* 1. one of the portions into which a debt is divided for payment at specified intervals over a fixed period. 2. a portion of something that is issued, broadcast, or published in parts.

instance (ˈɪnstəns) *n.* 1. a case or particular example. 2. for instance. for or as an example. 3. a specified stage in proceedings; step (in the first, second, etc., instance). 4. urgent request or demand (esp. in at the instance of). ~ *vb.* (tr.) 5. to cite as an example.

instant (ˈɪnstənt) *n.* 1. a very brief time; moment. 2. a particular moment or point in time: at the same instant. 3. on the instant, immediately; without delay. ~ *adj.* 4. immediate; instantaneous. 5. urgent or imperative. 6. (esp. of foods) prepared or designed for preparation with very little time and effort: instant coffee. 7. (postpositive) of the present month: a letter of the 7th instant. *Abbrev.: inst.*

instantaneous (ˌɪnstənteməs) *adj.* 1. occurring with almost no delay; immediate. 2. happening or completed within a moment: instantaneous death. — **instantaneously** *adv.* — **instantaneousness** or **instantaneity** (ˌɪnstəntəˈnɪti) *n.*

instantly (ˈɪnstəntli) *adv.* 1. immediately; at once. 2. *Arch.* urgently or insistently.

instead (ˌɪnˈsted) *adv.* 1. as a replacement, substitute, or alternative. 2. instead of. (*prep.*) in place of or as an alternative to.

instep (ˌɪnˈstep) *n.* 1. the middle section of the human foot, forming the arch between the ankle and toes. 2. the part of a shoe, stocking, etc., covering this.

instigate (ˈɪnstɪˌgeɪt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to bring about, as by incitement or urging: to instigate rebellion. 2. to urge on to some drastic or unadvisable action. — **instigation** *n.* — **instigative** *adj.* — **instigator** *n.*

instil or (esp. U.S.) **instill** (ˌɪnˈstɪl) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to introduce gradually; implant or infuse. 2. Rare. to pour in or inject in drops. — **instiller** *n.* — **instilment**, **instillment**, or **instillation** *n.*

instinct (ˈɪnstɪŋkt) *n.* 1. the innate capacity of an animal to respond to a given stimulus in a relatively fixed way. 2. inborn intuitive power. ~ *adj.* 3. Rare. (postpositive; often foll. by *with*) a. animated or impelled (by). b. imbued or infused (with). — **instinctive** *adj.* — **instinctively** *adv.*

institute (ˈɪnstɪˌtjuːt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to organize; establish. 2. to initiate: to institute a practice. 3. to establish in a position or office; induct. ~ *n.* 4. an organization founded for particular work, such as education, promotion of the arts, or scientific research. 5. the building where such an organization is situated. 6. something instituted, esp. a rule, custom, or precedent. — **institutor** or **instituter** *n.*

institution (ˌɪnstɪˌtjuːʃən) *n.* 1. the act of instituting. 2. an organization or establishment founded for a specific purpose, such as a hospital, church, or college. 3. the building where such an organization is situated. 4. an established custom, law, or relationship in a society or community. 5. *Inf.* a constant feature or practice: Jones's drink at the bar was an institution. 6. the appointment of an incumbent to an ecclesiastical office or pastoral charge. — **institutional** *adj.*

institutional (ˌɪnstɪˌtjuːʃən) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or characteristic of institutions. 2. dull, routine, and uniform: institutional meals. 3. relating to principles or institutes, esp. of law. — **institutionally** *adv.* — **institutionalism** *n.* — **institutionalize** or **-ise** *vb.*

instruct (ˌɪnˈstrʌkt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to direct to do something; order. 2. to teach (someone) how to do (something). 3. to furnish with information; apprise. 4. *Law, chiefly Brit.* (esp. of a client to his solicitor or a solicitor to a barrister) to give relevant facts or information to. — **instructible** *adj.*

instruction (in'strʌkʃən) *n.* 1. a direction; order. 2. the process or act of imparting knowledge; teaching; education. 3. *Computers.* a part of a program consisting of coded commands to the computer to perform a specified function. —**in'struktional** *adj.*

instructions (in'strʌkʃənz) *pl. n.* 1. directions, orders, or recommended rules for guidance, use, etc. 2. *Law.* the facts and details relating to a case given by a client to his solicitor or by a solicitor to a barrister.

instructive (in'strʌktɪv) *adj.* serving to instruct or enlighten; conveying information. —**in'struktively** *adv.* —**in'struktiveness** *n.*

instructor (in'strʌktə) *n.* 1. someone who instructs; teacher. 2. *U.S.* a university teacher ranking below assistant professor. —**in'struktur,ship** *n.* —**in'struktress** (in'strʌktrɪs) *fem. n.*

instrument *n.* (in'strʌmənt). 1. a mechanical implement or tool, esp. one used for precision work. 2. *Music.* any of various contrivances or mechanisms that can be played to produce musical tones or sounds. 3. an important factor or agency in something: *her evidence was an instrument in his arrest.* 4. *Inf.* a person used by another to gain an end; dupe. 5. a measuring device, such as a pressure gauge. 6. *a.* a device or system for use in navigation or control, esp. of aircraft. *b.* (as modifier): *instrument landing.* 7. a formal legal document. ~*vb.* (in'strəmənt). (tr.) 8. another word for *orchestrate* (sense 1). 9. to equip with instruments.

instrumental (in'strə'mentl) *adj.* 1. serving as a means or influence; helpful. 2. of, relating to, or characterized by an instrument. 3. played by or composed for musical instruments. 4. *Grammar.* denoting a case of nouns, etc. indicating the instrument used in performing an action, usually using the prepositions *with* or *by means of*. ~*n.* 5. a piece of music composed for instruments rather than for voices. 6. *Grammar.* the instrumental case. —**in'strumentality** *n.* —**in'strumentally** *adv.*

instrumentalist (in'strə'mentəlist) *n.* a person who plays a musical instrument.

instrumentation (in'strə'men'teɪʃən) *n.* 1. the instruments specified in a musical score or arrangement. 2. the study of the characteristics of musical instruments. 3. the use of instruments or tools.

instrument panel or board *n.* 1. a panel on which instruments are mounted, as on a car. See also **dash-board**. 2. an array of instruments, gauges, etc., mounted to display the condition or performance of a machine.

insubordinate (in'sʊbədɪnɪt) *adj.* 1. not submissive to authority; disobedient or rebellious. 2. not in a subordinate position or rank. ~*n.* 3. an insubordinate person. —**in'sub'ordinately** *adv.* —**in'sub,ordi'nation** *n.*

insubstantial (in'sʊb'stænʃəl) *adj.* 1. not substantial; flimsy, tenuous, or slight. 2. imaginary; unreal. —**in'sub,stanti'ality** *n.* —**in'sub,stantially** *adv.*

insufferable (in'sʌfərəbəl) *adj.* intolerable; unendurable. —**in'sufferableness** *n.* —**in'sufferably** *adv.*

insufficiency (in'sʊfɪʃnsi) *n.* 1. Also: **insuf'ficiency**. the state of being insufficient. 2. *Pathol.* failure in the functioning of an organ, tissue, etc.: *cardiac insufficiency*.

insular ('ɪnsjʊlə) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or resembling an island. 2. remote, detached, or aloof. 3. illiberal or narrow-minded. 4. isolated or separated. —**insularism** or **insularity** (in'sjʊ'lærɪti) *n.* —**insularly** *adv.*

insulate ('ɪnsju,leɪt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to prevent the transmission of electricity, heat, or sound to or from (a body or device) by surrounding with a nonconducting material. 2. to isolate or detach. —**insu,lator** *n.*

insulation (in'sjʊ'leɪʃən) *n.* 1. Also called: **insulant** ('ɪnsjʊlənt). material used to insulate a body or device. 2. the act or process of insulating.

insulin ('ɪnsjuːlɪn) *n.* a protein hormone, secreted in the pancreas by the islets of Langerhans, that controls the concentration of glucose in the blood.

insult *vb.* (in'sʌlt). (tr.) 1. to treat, mention, or speak to rudely; offend; affront. ~*n.* (in'sʌlt). 2. an offensive or contemptuous remark or action; affront; slight. 3. a person or thing producing the effect of an affront: *some television is an insult to intelligence.* 4. *Med.* an injury or trauma. —**in'sulter** *n.*

insuperable (in'sʊpərəbəl, -prəbəl, -'sju:-) *adj.* incapable of being overcome; insurmountable. —**in,super'a'bility** *n.* —**in'superably** *adv.*

insupportable (in'sʊpə'təbəl) *adj.* 1. incapable of be-

ing endured; intolerable; insufferable. 2. incapable of being supported or justified; indefensible. —**in,sup'portableness** *n.* —**in,sup'portably** *adv.*

insurance (in'fʊərəns, -'fʊ:-) *n.* 1. *a.* the act, system, or business of providing financial protection against specified contingencies, such as death, loss, or damage. *b.* the state of having such protection. *c.* Also called: **insurance policy**, the policy providing such protection. *d.* the pecuniary amount of such protection. *e.* the premium payable in return for such protection. *f.* (as modifier): *insurance agent; insurance company; insurance stamp.* 2. a means of protecting or safeguarding against risk or injury.

insure (in'fʊə, -'fʊ:-) *vb.* 1. (often foll. by *against*) to guarantee or protect (against risk, loss, etc.). 2. (often foll. by *against*) to issue (a person) with an insurance policy or take out an insurance policy (on): *his house was heavily insured against fire.* 3. another word (esp. U.S.) for **ensure**. ~Also (rare) (for senses 1, 2): **ensure**. —**in'surable** *adj.* —**in,sura'bility** *n.*

insured (in'fʊəd, -'fʊ:d) *adj.* 1. covered by insurance: *an insured risk.* ~*n.* 2. the person, persons, or organization covered by an insurance policy.

insurer (in'fʊərə, -'fʊ:-) *n.* 1. a person or company offering insurance policies in return for premiums. 2. a person or thing that insures.

insurgency (in'sɜ:dʒənsi) *n.* rebellion, uprising, or riot.

insurgent (in'sɜ:dʒənt) *adj.* 1. rebellious or in revolt, as against a government in power or the civil authorities. ~*n.* 2. a person who takes part in an uprising or rebellion; insurrectionist. —**in'surgency** *n.*

insurrection (in'sʊ'rekʃən) *n.* the act or an instance of rebelling against a government in power or the civil authorities; insurgency. —**in,sur'rectional** *adj.* —**in,sur'rectionary** *n., adj.* —**in,sur'rectionist** *n., adj.*

int. *abbrev. for:* 1. interest. 2. interior. 3. internal. 4. Also: **Int.** international.

intact (in'tækt) *adj.* untouched or unimpaired; left complete or perfect. —**in'tactness** *n.*

intaglio (in'tæljʊ, -pl. -lios or -li (-li:)) 1. a seal, gem, etc., ornamented with a sunken or incised design. 2. the art or process of incised carving. 3. a design, figure, or ornamentation carved, engraved, or etched into the surface of the material used. 4. any of various printing techniques using an etched or engraved plate. 5. an incised die used to make a design in relief. —**intagliated** (in'tælj,etɪd) *adj.*

intake ('ɪntek) *n.* 1. a thing or a quantity taken in: *an intake of students.* 2. the act of taking in. 3. the opening through which fluid enters a duct or channel, esp. the air inlet of a jet engine. 4. a ventilation shaft in a mine. 5. a contraction or narrowing: *an intake in a garment.*

intangible (in'tændʒɪbəl) *adj.* 1. incapable of being perceived by touch; impalpable. 2. imprecise or unclear to the mind: *intangible ideas.* 3. (of property or a business asset) saleable though not possessing intrinsic productive value. ~*n.* 4. something that is intangible. —**in,tangi'bility** *n.* —**in'tangibly** *adv.*

integer ('ɪntɪdʒə) *n.* 1. any rational number that can be expressed as the sum or difference of a finite number of units, as 1, 2, 3, etc. 2. an individual entity or whole unit.

integral ('ɪntgrəl) *adj.* 1. (often foll. by *to*) being an essential part (of); intrinsic (to). 2. intact; entire. 3. formed of constituent parts; united. 4. *Maths.* *a.* of or involving an integral. *b.* involving or being an integer. ~*n.* 5. *Maths.* the sum of a large number of infinitesimally small quantities, summed either between stated limits (**definite integral**) or in the absence of limits (**indefinite integral**). 6. a complete thing; whole. —**integrality** (in'tɪgrəli:ti) *n.* —**integrally** *adv.*

integral calculus *n.* the branch of calculus concerned with the determination of integrals (**integration**) and their application to the solution of differential equations.

integrate *vb.* ('ɪntɪgret). 1. to make or be made into a whole; incorporate or be incorporated. 2. (tr.) to designate (a school, park, etc.) for use by all races or groups; desegregate. 3. to amalgamate or mix (a racial or religious group) with an existing community. 4. *Maths.* to determine the integral of a function or variable. ~*adj.* ('ɪntɪgrɪt). 5. made up of parts; integrated. —**integrable** ('ɪntɪgrəbəl) *adj.* —**integra'bility** *n.* —**inte'gration** *n.* —**inte,grative** *adj.*

integrated circuit *n.* a very small electronic circuit

consisting of an assembly of elements made from a chip of semiconducting material.

integrity (in'teɡrɪtɪ) *n.* 1. adherence to moral principles; honesty. 2. the quality of being unimpaired; soundness. 3. unity; wholeness.

integument (in'teɡjʊmənt) *n.* any outer protective layer or covering, such as a cuticle, seed coat, rind, or shell. —*in, tegu·mental* or *in, tegu·mentary* *adj.*

intellect (in'telɪkt) *n.* 1. the capacity for understanding, thinking, and reasoning. 2. a mind or intelligence, esp. a brilliant one: *his intellect is wasted on that job.* 3. *Inf.* a person possessing a brilliant mind; brain. —*intel·lective* *adj.* —*intel·lectively* *adv.*

intellectual (in'telɪktʃʊəl) *adj.* 1. of or relating to the intellect. 2. appealing to or characteristic of people with a developed intellect: *intellectual literature.* 3. expressing or enjoying mental activity. ~*n.* 4. a person who enjoys mental activity and has highly developed tastes in art, etc. 5. a person who uses his intellect. 6. a highly intelligent person. —*intel·lectu·ality* or *intel·lectualness* *n.* —*intel·lectually* *adv.* —*intel·lectual·ize* or *·ise* *vb.*

intelligence (in'telɪdʒəns) *n.* 1. the capacity for understanding; ability to perceive and comprehend meaning. 2. *Old-fashioned.* news; information. 3. military information about enemies, spies, etc. 4. a group or department that gathers or deals with such information. 5. (*often cap.*) an intelligent being, esp. one that is not embodied. 6. (*modifier*) of or relating to intelligence: *an intelligence network.* —*in, telli·gential* *adj.*

intelligence quotient *n.* a measure of the intelligence of an individual. The quotient is derived by dividing an individual's mental age by his actual age and multiplying the result by 100. Abbrev.: **I.Q.**

intelligent (in'telɪdʒənt) *adj.* 1. having or indicating intelligence; clever. 2. indicating high intelligence; perceptive: *an intelligent guess.* 3. (*postpositive*; foll. by *of*) *Arch.* having knowledge or information. —*in·telligent·ly* *adv.*

intellectuals (in,telɪ'dʒentsɪə) *n.* (usually preceded by *the*) the educated or intellectual people in a society or community.

intelligible (in'telɪdʒəbəl) *adj.* 1. able to be understood; comprehensible. 2. *Philosophy.* capable of being apprehended by the mind or intellect alone. —*in, telligi·bility* *n.* —*in·telligibly* *adv.*

intemperate (in'temprət, -prɪt) *adj.* 1. consuming alcoholic drink habitually or to excess; immoderate. 2. unrestrained: *intemperate rage.* 3. extreme or severe: *an intemperate climate.* —*in·temperance* or *in·temperateness* *n.* —*in·temperately* *adv.*

intend (in'tend) *vb.* 1. (*may take a clause as object*) to propose or plan (something or to do something); have in mind; mean. 2. (*tr.*; often foll. by *for*) to design or destine (for a certain purpose, person, etc.). 3. (*tr.*) to mean to express or indicate: *what do his words intend?* 4. (*intr.*) to have a purpose as specified; mean: *he intends well.* —*in·tender* *n.*

intended (in'tendɪd) *adj.* 1. planned or future. ~*n.* 2. *Inf.* a person whom one is to marry; fiancé or fiancée.

intense (in'tens) *adj.* 1. of extreme force, strength, degree, or amount: *intense heat.* 2. characterized by deep or forceful feelings: *an intense person.* —*in·tensely* *adv.* —*in·tenseness* *n.*

intensifier (in'tensi,faiə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that intensifies. 2. a word, esp. an adjective or adverb, that serves to intensify the meaning of the word or phrase that it modifies. 3. a substance, esp. one containing silver or uranium, used to increase the density of a photographic film or plate.

intensify (in'tensi,fai) *vb.* *·fying, ·fied.* 1. to make or become intense or more intense. 2. (*tr.*) to increase the density of (a photographic film or plate). —*in, tensifi·cation* *n.*

intensity (in'tensɪtɪ) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. the state or quality of being intense. 2. extreme force, degree, or amount. 3. *Physics.* a. a measure of field strength or of the energy transmitted by radiation. b. (of sound in a specified direction) the average rate of flow of sound energy for one period through unit area at right angles to the specified direction.

intensive (in'tensɪv) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or characterized by intensity: *intensive training.* 2. (*usually in combination*) using one factor of production proportion-

ately more than others, as specified: *capital-intensive; labour-intensive.* 3. *Agriculture.* involving or farmed using large amounts of capital or labour to increase production from a particular area. Cf. **extensive** (sense 3). 4. denoting or relating to a grammatical intensifier. 5. denoting or belonging to a class of pronouns used to emphasize a noun or personal pronoun. 6. of or relating to intensification. ~*n.* 7. an intensifier or intensive pronoun or grammatical construction. —*in·tensively* *adv.* —*in·tensiveness* *n.*

intensive care *n.* extensive and continual care provided for an acutely ill patient in a hospital.

intent (in'tent) *n.* 1. something that is intended; aim; purpose; design. 2. the act of intending. 3. *Law.* the will or purpose with which one does an act. 4. implicit meaning; connotation. 5. to all intents and purposes, for all practical purposes; virtually. ~*adj.* 6. firmly fixed; determined; concentrated: *an intent look.* 7. (*postpositive*; usually foll. by *on* or *upon*) having the fixed intention (of); directing one's mind or energy (to): *intent on committing a crime.* —*in·tently* *adv.* —*in·tentness* *n.*

intention (in'tenʃən) *n.* 1. a purpose or goal; aim: *it is his intention to reform.* 2. the act of intending. 3. *Med.* a natural healing process in which the edges of a wound cling together with no tissue between (**first intention**), or in which the edges adhere with tissue between (**second intention**). 4. (*usually pl.*) design or purpose with respect to a proposal of marriage (esp. in **honourable intentions**).

intentional (in'tenʃənəl) *adj.* 1. performed by or expressing intention; deliberate. 2. of or relating to intention or purpose. —*in, tention·ality* *n.* —*in·tentionally* *adv.*

inter (in'tɜː) *vb.* *·terring, ·tered.* (*tr.*) to place (a body, etc.) in the earth; bury, esp. with funeral rites.

inter- *prefix.* 1. between or among: *international.* 2. together, mutually, or reciprocally: *interdependent; interchange.*

interact (in'tərækt) *vb.* (*intr.*) to act on or in close relation with each other. —*in, ter·active* *adj.*

inter alia *Latin.* (in'tər'eɪliə) *adv.* among other things.

interbreed (in'təbrɪd) *vb.* *·breeding, ·bred.* 1. to breed within a single family or strain so as to produce particular characteristics in the offspring. 2. another term for **crossbreed** (sense 1).

intercede (in'tɜːsiːd) *vb.* (*intr.*; often foll. by *in*) to come between parties or act as mediator or advocate: *to intercede in the strike.* —*in, ter·ceder* *n.*

intercept *vb.* (in'tɜːsept). (*tr.*) 1. to stop, deflect, or seize on the way from one place to another; prevent from arriving or proceeding. 2. *Sport.* to seize or cut off (a pass) on its way from one opponent to another. 3. *Maths.* to cut off, mark off, or bound (some part of a line, curve, plane, or surface). ~*n.* (in'tɜːsept). 4. *Maths.* a. a point at which two figures intersect. b. the distance from the origin to the point at which a line, curve, or surface cuts a coordinate axis. 5. *Sport, U.S.* the act of intercepting an opponent's pass. —*in, ter·ception* *n.* —*in, ter·ceptive* *adj.* —*in, ter·ceptor* or *in, ter·ceptor* *n.*

intercession (in'tɜːseʃən) *n.* 1. the act or an instance of interceding. 2. the act of interceding or offering petitionary prayer to God on behalf of others. 3. such petitionary prayer. —*in, ter·cessional* or *in, ter·cessory* *adj.* —*in, ter·cessor* *n.* —*in, ter·cessorial* *adj.*

interchange *vb.* (in'tɜːtʃeɪndʒ). 1. to change places or cause to change places; alternate; exchange; switch. ~*n.* (in'tɜːtʃeɪndʒ). 2. the act of interchanging; exchange or alternation. 3. a motorway junction of interconnecting roads and bridges designed to prevent streams of traffic crossing one another. —*in, ter·change·able* *adj.* —*in, ter·change·ability* or *in, ter·changeable·ness* *n.* —*in, ter·changeably* *adv.*

intercom (in'tɜːkɒm) *n.* *Inf.* an internal telephone system for communicating within a building, aircraft, etc.

intercommunicate (in'tɜːkə'mjuːnɪkeɪt) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. to communicate mutually. 2. to interconnect, as two rooms, etc. —*in, ter·com·municable* *adj.* —*in, ter·com·muni·cation* *n.* —*in, ter·com·municative* *adj.*

intercommunism (in'tɜːkə'mjuːnɪzəm) *n.* association between Churches, involving esp. mutual reception of Holy Communion.

intercourse (in'tɜːkɔːs) *n.* 1. communication or ex-

intercity *adj.*
intercollegiate *adj.*

interconnect *vb.*
interconnection *n.*

intercontinental *adj.*
intercounty *adj.*

change between individuals; mutual dealings. 2. See **sexual intercourse**.

interdict *n.* (ˈɪntəˌdɪkt). 1. *R.C. Church*. the exclusion of a person in a particular place from certain sacraments, although not from communion. 2. *Civil law*. any order made by a court or official prohibiting an act. 3. *Scot. law*. an order having the effect of an injunction. ~*vb.* (ˌɪntəˈdɪkt) (tr.) 4. to place under legal or ecclesiastical sanction; prohibit; forbid. 5. *Mil.* to destroy (an enemy's lines of communication) by firepower. —, **interdictive** or **interdictory** *adj.* —, **interdictively** *adv.* —, **interdictor** *n.* —, **interdiction** *n.*

interdisciplinary (ˌɪntəˈdɪsplɪnəri) *adj.* involving two or more academic disciplines.

interest (ˈɪntrɪst, -tərɪst) *n.* 1. the sense of curiosity about or concern with something or someone. 2. the power of stimulating such a sense: to have great interest. 3. the quality of such stimulation. 4. something in which one is interested; a hobby or pursuit. 5. (often pl.) benefit; advantage: in one's own interest. 6. (often pl.) a right, share, or claim, esp. in a business or property. 7. a. a charge for the use of credit or borrowed money. b. such a charge expressed as a percentage per time unit of the sum borrowed or used. 8. (often pl.) a section of a community, etc., whose members have common aims: the landed interest. 9. declare an interest. to make known one's connection, esp. a prejudicial connection, with an affair. ~*vb.* (tr.) 10. to arouse or excite the curiosity or concern of. 11. to cause to become involved in something; concern.

interested (ˈɪntrɪstɪd, -tərɪs-) *adj.* 1. showing or having interest. 2. (usually prenominal) personally involved or implicated: the interested parties met to discuss the business. —, **interestedly** *adv.* —, **interestedness** *n.*

interesting (ˈɪntrɪstɪŋ, -tərɪs-) *adj.* inspiring interest; absorbing. —, **interestingly** *adv.* —, **interestingness** *n.*

interface (ˈɪntəˌfeɪs) *n.* 1. *Physical chem.* a surface that forms the boundary between two liquids or chemical phases. 2. a common point or boundary between two things. 3. an electrical circuit linking one device, esp. a computer, with another. —, **interfacial** (ˌɪntəˈfeɪʃəl) *adj.* —, **interfacially** *adv.*

interfacing (ˈɪntəˌfeɪsɪŋ) *n.* 1. a piece of fabric sewn beneath the facing of a garment, usually at the inside of the neck, armholes, etc., to give shape and firmness. 2. another name for **interlining**.

interfere (ˌɪntəˈfɪə) *vb.* (intr.) 1. (often foll. by *in*) to interpose, esp. meddlesomely or unwarrantedly; intervene. 2. (often foll. by *with*) to come between or into opposition; hinder. 3. (foll. by *with*) *Euphemistic*. to assault sexually. 4. to strike one against the other, as a horse's legs. 5. *Physics*. to cause or produce interference. —, **interferer** *n.* —, **interferingly** *adv.*

interference (ˌɪntəˈfɪərəns) *n.* 1. the act or an instance of interfering. 2. *Physics*. the process in which two or more waves of the same frequency and phase combine to form a resultant wave in which a series of stationary nodes or antinodes, known as **interference patterns**, are formed. 3. any undesired signal that tends to interfere with the reception of radio waves. —, **interferential** (ˌɪntəˈfɪəriəl) *adj.*

interferon (ˌɪntəˈfɪərɒn) *n.* *Biochem.* any of a family of proteins made by cells in response to virus infection that prevent the growth of the virus.

interfuse (ˌɪntəˈfjuːz) *vb.* 1. to diffuse or mix throughout or become so diffused or mixed; intermingle. 2. to blend or fuse or become blended or fused. —, **interfusion** *n.*

interim (ˈɪntərɪm) *adj.* 1. (prenominal) temporary, provisional, or intervening: interim measures to deal with the emergency. ~*n.* 2. (usually preceded by *the*) the intervening time; the meantime (esp. in *the interim*). ~*adv.* 3. *Rare*. meantime.

interior (ɪnˈtɪəriə) *n.* 1. a part, surface, or region that is inside or on the inside: the interior of Africa. 2. inner character or nature. 3. a film or scene shot inside a building, studio, etc. 4. a picture of the inside of a room or building, as in a painting or stage design. 5. the inside of a building or room, with respect to design and decoration. ~*adj.* 6. of, situated on, or suitable for the inside; inner. 7. coming or acting from within; internal. 8. of or involving a nation's domestic affairs; internal. 9. (esp.

of one's spiritual or mental life) secret or private; not observable. —, **interiorly** *adv.*

interior angle *n.* an angle of a polygon contained between two adjacent sides.

interior decoration *n.* 1. the colours, furniture, etc., of the interior of a house, etc. 2. Also called: **interior design**. the art or business of an interior decorator.

interj. *abbrev. for interjection.*

interject (ˌɪntəˈdʒekt) *vb.* (tr.) to interpose abruptly or sharply; interrupt with; throw in: she interjected clever remarks. —, **interjector** *n.*

interjection (ˌɪntəˈdʒekʃən) *n.* 1. the act of interjecting. 2. a word or phrase that is used in syntactic isolation and that expresses sudden emotion; expletive. *Abbrev.: interj.* —, **interjectional** or **interjectory** *adj.* —, **interjectionally** *adv.*

interlard (ˌɪntəˈlɑːd) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to scatter thickly in or between; intersperse: to interlard one's writing with foreign phrases. 2. to occur frequently in; be scattered in or through: foreign phrases interlard his writings.

interlay (ˌɪntəˈleɪ) *vb.* -laying, -laid. (tr.) to insert (layers) between; interpose: to interlay gold among the silver; to interlay the silver with gold.

interleaf (ˈɪntəˌliːf) *n.* pl. -leaves. a blank leaf inserted between the leaves of a book. —, **interleave** *vb.*

interline (ˌɪntəˈlaɪn) or **interlineate** (ˌɪntəˈlɪniːt) *vb.* (tr.) to write or print (matter) between the lines of (a text, book, etc.). —, **interlining** or **interlineation** *n.*

interline (ˌɪntəˈlaɪn) *vb.* (tr.) to provide (a part of a garment) with a second lining, esp. of stiffened material. —, **interliner** *n.*

interlining (ˌɪntəˈlaɪnɪŋ) *n.* the material used to interline parts of garments, now often made of reinforced paper.

interlock *vb.* (ˌɪntəˈlɒk). 1. to join or be joined firmly, as by a mutual interconnection of parts. ~*n.* (ˈɪntəˈlɒk). 2. the act of interlocking or the state of being interlocked. 3. a device, esp. one operated electromechanically, used in a logic circuit to prevent an activity being initiated unless preceded by certain events. ~*adj.* 4. closely knitted. —, **interlocker** *n.*

interlocutor (ˌɪntəˈlɒkjʊtə) *n.* 1. a person who takes part in a conversation. 2. the man in the centre of a troupe of minstrels who engages the others in talk or acts as announcer. 3. *Scot. law*. a decree by a judge. —, **interlocutress**, **interlocutrice**, or **interlocutrix** *fem. n.*

interlocutory (ˌɪntəˈlɒkjʊtəri, -tri) *adj.* 1. Law. pronounced during the course of proceedings; provisional: an interlocutory injunction. 2. interposed, as into a conversation, narrative, etc. 3. of, relating to, or characteristic of dialogue. —, **interlocutorily** *adv.*

interlude (ˈɪntəˌluːd) *n.* 1. a period of time or different activity between longer periods, processes, or events; episode or interval. 2. *Theatre*. a short dramatic piece played separately or as part of a longer entertainment, common in 16th-century England. 3. a brief piece of music, dance, etc., given between the sections of another performance.

intermarry (ˌɪntəˈmæri) *vb.* -rying, -ried. (intr.) 1. to become joined to someone from another group, race, religion, creed, etc. by marriage. 2. to marry within one's own family, clan, group, etc. —, **intermarriage** *n.*

intermediary (ˌɪntəˈmɪdiəri) *n.* pl. -aries. 1. a person who acts as a mediator or agent between parties. 2. something that acts as a medium or means. ~*adj.* 3. acting as an intermediary. 4. situated, acting, or coming between; intermediate.

intermediate *adj.* (ˌɪntəˈmɪdiət). 1. occurring or situated between two points, extremes, places, etc.; in between. ~*n.* (ˌɪntəˈmɪdiət). 2. something intermediate. 3. a substance formed during one of the stages of a chemical process before the desired product is obtained. ~*vb.* (ˌɪntəˈmɪdiːt). 4. (intr.) to act as an intermediary or mediator. —, **intermediacy** or **intermediateness** *n.* —, **intermediately** *adv.* —, **intermediation** *n.* —, **intermediator** *n.*

interment (ɪnˈtɜːmənt) *n.* burial, esp. with ceremonial rites.

intermezzo (ˌɪntəˈmetsʊ) *n.* pl. -zos or -zi (-sɪ). 1. a

interdenominational *adj.*
interdepartmental *adj.*
interdepartmentally *adv.*
interdepend *vb.*

interdependence *n.*
interdependent *adj.*
intergalactic *adj.*
interknit *vb.*

interlace *vb.*
intermesh *vb.*

short piece of instrumental music composed for performance between the acts or scenes of an opera, drama, etc. **2.** an instrumental piece either inserted between two longer movements in an extended composition or intended for independent performance.

interminable (in'tɜːmɪnəbəl) *adj.* endless or seemingly endless because of monotony or tiresome length. — **interminableness** *n.* — **interminably** *adv.*

intermission (ɪntə'mɪʃən) *n.* **1.** an interval, as between parts of a film, etc. **2.** a period between events or activities; pause. **3.** the act of intermitting or the state of being intermitted. — **intermissive** *adj.*

intermittent (ɪntə'mɪtənt) *adj.* occurring occasionally or at regular or irregular intervals; periodic. — **intermittence** or **intermittency** *n.* — **intermittently** *adv.*

intern *vb.* **1.** (in'tɜːn) (*tr.*) to detain or confine within a country or a limited area, esp. during wartime. **2.** (in'tɜːn) (*intr.*) *Chiefly U.S.* to serve or train as an intern. ~ *n.* (in'tɜːn). **3.** another word for **internee**. **4.** Also: **interné**, the approximate U.S. equivalent of a British **houseman**. — **internment** *n.* — **intern, ship** or **interné, ship** *n.*

internal (in'tɜːnəl) *adj.* **1.** of, situated on, or suitable for the inside; inner. **2.** coming or acting from within; interior. **3.** involving the spiritual or mental life; subjective. **4.** of or involving a nation's domestic as opposed to foreign affairs. **5.** situated within, affecting, or relating to the inside of the body. ~ *n.* **6.** *Euphemistic.* a medical examination of the vagina or uterus. — **internality** or **internality** *n.* — **internally** *adv.*

internal-combustion engine *n.* a heat engine in which combustion occurs within the engine rather than in an external furnace.

international (ɪntə'næʃənəl) *adj.* **1.** of, concerning, or involving two or more nations or nationalities. **2.** established by, controlling, or legislating for several nations: *an international court*. **3.** available for use by all nations: *international waters*. ~ *n.* **4.** *Sport.* a. a contest between two national teams. b. a member of a national team. — **inter, nation, ality** *n.* — **internationally** *adv.*

International (ɪntə'næʃənəl) *n.* **1.** any of several international socialist organizations. **2.** a member of any of these organizations.

internationalism (ɪntə'næʃənlɪzəm) *n.* **1.** the ideal or practice of cooperation and understanding between nations. **2.** the state or quality of being international. — **internationalist** *n.*

International Phonetic Alphabet *n.* a series of signs and letters for the representation of human speech sounds. It is based on the Roman alphabet but supplemented by modified signs or symbols from other writing systems.

internecine (ɪntə'nɪsɪn) *adj.* **1.** mutually destructive or ruinous; maiming both or all sides: *internecine war*. **2.** of or relating to slaughter or carnage; bloody. **3.** of or involving conflict within a group or organization.

internee (ɪntɜːniː) *n.* a person who is interned, esp. an enemy citizen in wartime or a terrorism suspect.

internist (ɪntɜːnɪst, in'tɜːnɪst) *n.* a physician who specializes in internal medicine.

interpenetrate (ɪntə'penɪtreɪt) *vb.* **1.** to penetrate (something) thoroughly; pervade. **2.** to penetrate each other or one another mutually. — **interpenetrable** *adj.* — **interpenetrant** *adj.* — **inter, pene, tration** *n.* — **interpenetrative** *adj.* — **interpenetratively** *adv.*

interplay (ɪntə'pleɪ) *n.* reciprocal and mutual action and reaction, as in circumstances, events, or personal relations.

Interpol (ɪntə'pɒl) *n.* *acronym* for International Criminal Police Organization, an association of over 100 national police forces, devoted chiefly to fighting international crime.

interpolate (ɪntɜːpəleɪt) *vb.* **1.** to insert or introduce (a comment, passage, etc.) into (a conversation, text, etc.). **2.** to falsify or alter (a text, manuscript, etc.) by the later addition of (material, esp. spurious passages). **3.** (*intr.*) to make additions, interruptions, or insertions. **4.** *Maths.* to estimate (a value of a function) between the values already known or determined. Cf. **extrapolate** (sense 1). — **interpol, later** or **in'terpol, later** *n.* — **interpolative** *adj.*

interpose (ɪntə'pəʊz) *vb.* **1.** to put or place between or among other things. **2.** to introduce (comments, questions, etc.) into a speech or conversation; interject. **3.** to

exert or use influence or action in order to alter or intervene in (a situation). — **interposal** *n.* — **interposer** *n.* — **interposition** *n.*

interpret (ɪn'tɜːprɪt) *vb.* **1.** to clarify or explain the meaning of; elucidate. **2.** to construe the significance or intention of. **3.** to convey or represent the spirit or meaning of (a poem, song, etc.) in performance. **4.** (*intr.*) to act as an interpreter; translate orally. — **interpretable** *adj.* — **interpretability** or **interpretableness** *n.* — **interpretably** *adv.*

interpretation (ɪn'tɜːprɪ'teɪʃən) *n.* **1.** the act or process of interpreting or explaining; elucidation. **2.** the result of interpreting; an explanation. **3.** a particular view of an artistic work, esp. as expressed by stylistic individuality in its performance. — **interpretational** *adj.*

interpreter (ɪn'tɜːprɪtə) *n.* **1.** a person who translates orally from one language into another. **2.** a person who interprets the work of others. — **interpreter, ship** *n.* — **interpreteress** *fem. n.*

interregnum (ɪntə'reɡnəm) *n.*, *pl.* **-nums** or **-na** (-nə). **1.** an interval between two reigns, governments, etc. **2.** any period in which a state lacks a ruler, government, etc. **3.** a period of absence of some control, authority, etc. **4.** a gap in a continuity. — **interregnal** *adj.*

interrelate (ɪntə'reɪlət) *vb.* to place in or come into a mutual or reciprocal relationship. — **interrelation** *n.* — **interrelation, ship** *n.*

interrogate (ɪn'terə'ɡeɪt) *vb.* to ask questions (of, esp. to question (a witness in court, spy, etc.) closely. — **interrogator** *n.* — **interrogation** *n.*

interrogation mark *n.* a less common term for **question mark**.

interrogative (ɪntə'rɒɡətɪv) *adj.* **1.** asking or having the nature of a question. **2.** denoting a form or construction used in asking a question. **3.** denoting or belonging to a class of words, such as *which* and *whom*, that serve to question which individual referent is intended. ~ *n.* **4.** an interrogative word, phrase, sentence, or construction. **5.** a question mark. — **interrogatively** *adv.*

interrogatory (ɪntə'rɒɡətəri, -trɪ) *adj.* **1.** expressing or involving a question. ~ *n.* **2.** a question or interrogation.

interrupt (ɪntə'rʌpt) *vb.* **1.** to break the continuity of (an action, event, etc.) or hinder (a person) by intrusion. **2.** (*tr.*) to cease to perform (some action). **3.** (*tr.*) to obstruct (a view, etc.). **4.** to prevent or disturb (a conversation, discussion, etc.) by questions, interjections, or comment. — **interruptible** *adj.* — **interruptive** *adj.* — **interruptively** *adv.* — **interrupted** *adj.*

interrupter or **interruptor** (ɪntə'rʌptə) *n.* **1.** a person or thing that interrupts. **2.** an electromechanical device for opening and closing an electric circuit.

interruption (ɪntə'rʌpʃən) *n.* **1.** something that interrupts, such as a comment, question, or action. **2.** an interval or intermission. **3.** the act of interrupting or the state of being interrupted.

interscholastic (ɪntə'skɒləstɪk) *adj.* **1.** (of sports events, competitions, etc.) occurring between two or more schools. **2.** representative of various schools.

intersect (ɪntə'sekt) *vb.* **1.** to divide, cut, or mark off by passing through or across. **2.** (esp. of roads) to cross (each other). **3.** *Maths.* (often foll. by *with*) to have one or more points in common (with another configuration).

intersection (ɪntə'sekʃən, 'ɪntə'sek-) *n.* **1.** a point at which things intersect, esp. a road junction. **2.** the act of intersecting or the state of being intersected. **3.** *Maths.* a. a point or set of points common to two or more geometric configurations. b. Also called: **product**, the elements that are common to two or more sets. — **intersectional** *adj.*

interspace *vb.* (ɪntə'speɪs). **1.** (*tr.*) to make or occupy a space between. ~ *n.* (ɪntə'speɪs). **2.** space between or among things. — **interspatial** (ɪntə'speɪʃəl) *adj.* — **interspatially** *adv.*

intersperse (ɪntə'spɜːs) *vb.* (*tr.*) to scatter or distribute among, between, or on. — **interspersedly** (ɪntə'spɜːsɪdli) *adv.* — **interspersed** (ɪntə'spɜːst) *adj.* — **interspersed** (ɪntə'spɜːst) *adj.* — **interspersed** (ɪntə'spɜːst) *adj.* — **interspersed** (ɪntə'spɜːst) *adj.*

interstice (ɪn'tɜːstɪs) *n.* (usually *pl.*) **1.** a minute opening or crevice between things. **2.** *Physics.* the space between adjacent atoms in a crystal lattice. — **interstitial** (ɪntə'stɪʃəl) *adj.*

interval (ɪntəvəl) *n.* **1.** the period of time between two

intermingle *vb.*
intermix *vb.*

interplanetary *adj.*
interstellar *adj.*

intertribal *adj.*
intertwine *vb.*

events, instants, etc. 2. the distance between two points, objects, etc. 3. a pause or interlude, as between periods of intense activity. 4. *Brit.* a short period between parts of a play, etc.; intermission. 5. *Music.* the difference of pitch between two notes, either sounded simultaneously or in succession as in a musical part. 6. the ratio of the frequencies of two sounds. 7. **at intervals.** a. occasionally or intermittently. b. with spaces between. —**intervallic** (ˌɪntəˈvælɪk) *adj.*

intervene (ˌɪntəˈviːn) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. (often foll. by *in*) to take a decisive or intrusive role (*in*) in order to determine events. 2. (foll. by *in* or *between*) to come or be (among or between). 3. (of a period of time) to occur between events or points in time. 4. (of an event) to disturb or hinder a course of action. 5. *Law.* to interpose and become a party to a legal action between others, esp. in order to protect one's interests. —**inter'vener** or **inter'venor** *n.*

intervention (ˌɪntəˈvenʃən) *n.* 1. an act of intervening. 2. any interference in the affairs of others, esp. by one state in the affairs of another. 3. *Econ.* the action of a central bank in supporting the international value of a currency by buying large quantities of the currency to keep the price up.

interview (ˈɪntəˌvjuː) *n.* 1. a conversation with or questioning of a person, usually conducted for television or a newspaper. 2. a formal discussion, esp. one in which an employer assesses a job applicant. ~*vb.* 3. to conduct an interview with (someone). —**interview'ee** *n.* —**inter'veuer** *n.*

intestate (ɪnˈtestɪt, -tɪt) *adj.* 1. a. (of a person) not having made a will. b. (of property) not disposed of by will. ~*n.* 2. a person who dies without having made a will. —**in'testacy** *n.*

intestine (ɪnˈtestɪn) *n.* (usually *pl.*) the part of the alimentary canal between the stomach and the anus. See **large intestine**, **small intestine**. —**intestinal** (ɪnˈtestɪnəl, -ɪntesˈtʌməl) *adj.*

intimacy (ˈɪntɪməsi) *n.*, *pl.* **-cies.** 1. close or warm friendship or understanding; personal relationship. 2. (often *pl.*) *Euphemistic.* sexual relations.

intimate¹ (ˈɪntɪmɪt) *adj.* 1. characterized by a close or warm personal relationship: *an intimate friend*. 2. deeply personal, private, or secret. 3. (often *postpositive*; foll. by *with*) *Euphemistic.* having sexual relations (with). 4. (*postpositive*; foll. by *with*) having a deep or unusual knowledge (of). 5. having a friendly, warm, or informal atmosphere: *an intimate nightclub*. 6. of or relating to the essential part or nature of something; intrinsic. —**intimately** *adv.* —**intimateness** *n.*

intimate² (ˈɪntɪˌmeɪt) *vb.* (*tr.*; may take a clause as object) 1. to hint; suggest. 2. *Rare.* to proclaim. —**intimater** *n.* —**intim'ation** *n.*

intimidate (ɪnˈtɪmɪˌdeɪt) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to make timid or frightened, as by threats; scare. 2. to discourage, restrain, or silence unscrupulously, as by threats or blackmail. —**inˈtɪmɪˌdation** *n.* —**inˈtɪmɪˌdator** *n.*

into (ˈɪntuː, *unstressed* ˈɪntə) *prep.* 1. to the interior or inner parts of; *to look into a case*. 2. to the middle or midst of so as to be surrounded by: *into the bushes*. 3. against; up against: *he drove into a wall*. 4. used to indicate the result of a change: *he changed into a monster*. 5. *Maths.* used to indicate a dividend: *three into six is two*. 6. *Inf.* interested in: *I'm really into Freud*.

intonation (ˌɪntəˈneɪʃən) *n.* 1. the sound pattern of phrases and sentences produced by pitch variation in the voice. 2. the act or manner of intoning. 3. an intoned, chanted, or monotonous utterance; incantation. 4. *Music.* the opening of a piece of plainsong, sung by a soloist. 5. *Music.* the capacity to play or sing in tune. —**intoˈnaˌtional** *adj.*

intone (ɪnˈtəʊn) or **intonate** *vb.* 1. to utter, recite, or sing (a chant, prayer, etc.) in a monotonous or incantatory tone. 2. to speak with a particular or characteristic intonation or tone. 3. to sing (the opening phrase of a psalm, etc.) in plainsong. —**inˈtoner** *n.*

in toto *Latin.* (ɪn ˈtəʊtəʊ) *adv.* totally; entirely; completely.

intoxicant (ɪnˈtɒksɪkənt) *n.* 1. anything that causes intoxication. ~*adj.* 2. causing intoxication.

intoxicate (ɪnˈtɒksɪˌkeɪt) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. (of an alcoholic drink) to produce in (a person) a state ranging from euphoria to stupor; make drunk; inebriate. 2. to stimulate, excite, or elate so as to overwhelm. 3. (of a drug,

etc.) to poison. —**inˈtoxicable** *adj.* —**inˈtoxiˌcatingly** *adv.*

intoxication (ɪnˈtɒksɪˌkeɪʃən) *n.* 1. drunkenness; inebriation. 2. great elation. 3. the act of intoxicating. 4. poisoning.

intr. *abbrev. for* *intransitive*.

intra- *prefix.* within; inside: *intramuscular*; *intrastate*; *intranvenous*.

intractable (ɪnˈtræktəbəl) *adj.* 1. difficult to influence or direct: *an intractable disposition*. 2. (of a problem, illness, etc.) difficult to solve, alleviate, or cure. —**inˈtractaˌbility** or **inˈtractableness** *n.* —**inˈtractaˌbly** *adv.*

intrados (ɪnˈtreɪdɒs) *n.*, *pl.* **-dos** or **-doses.** *Archit.* the inner curve or surface of an arch.

intramural (ˌɪntroˈmjʊərəl) *adj.* *Education.* chiefly *U.S.* operating within or involving those in a single establishment. —**intraˈmʊrally** *adv.*

intrans. *abbrev. for* *intransitive*.

intransigent (ɪnˈtrænsɪdʒənt) *adj.* 1. not willing to compromise; obstinately maintaining an attitude. ~*n.* 2. an intransigent person, esp. in politics. —**inˈtransiˌgence** or **inˈtransiˌgency** *n.* —**inˈtransiˌgently** *adv.*

intransitive (ɪnˈtrænsɪv) *adj.* 1. a. denoting a verb that does not require a direct object. b. (as *n.*) such a verb. 2. denoting an adjective or noun that does not require any particular noun phrase as a referent. 3. having the property that although one object is related to a second that bears the same relationship to a third, the first does not bear this relationship to the third: *"being the mother of" is an intransitive relationship*. ~*Cf.* **transitive**. —**inˈtransiˌtively** *adv.* —**inˈtransiˌtivity** or **inˈtransiˌteness** *n.*

intrauterine (ˌɪntroˈjuːtəɪn) *adj.* within the womb.

intrauterine device *n.* a metal or plastic device, in the shape of a loop, coil, or ring, inserted into the uterus to prevent conception. *Abbrev.* **I.U.D.**

intra venous (ˌɪntroˈvɪnəs) *adj.* *Anat.* within a vein: *an intravenous injection*. *Abbrev.* (esp. of an injection): **I.V.**, **I.v.** —**intraˈvenously** *adv.*

in-tray *n.* a tray for incoming papers, etc., requiring attention.

intrepid (ɪnˈtreɪpɪd) *adj.* fearless; daring; bold. —**intreˈpidity** *n.* —**inˈtrepidly** *adv.*

intricate (ˈɪntrɪkət) *adj.* 1. difficult to understand; obscure; complex; puzzling. 2. entangled or involved: *intricate patterns*. —**intricacy** or **intricateness** *n.* —**intricately** *adv.*

intrigue *vb.* (ɪnˈtriːg; -trɪguɪng, -trɪguəd). 1. (*tr.*) to make interested or curious. 2. (*intr.*) to make secret plots or employ underhand methods; conspire. 3. (*intr.*; often foll. by *with*) to carry on a clandestine love affair. ~*n.* (ɪnˈtriːg; ˈɪntriːg). 4. the act or an instance of secret plotting, etc. 5. a clandestine love affair. 6. the quality of arousing interest or curiosity; beguilement. —**inˈtrɪˌguer** *n.* —**inˈtrɪˌguɪŋly** *adv.*

intrinsic (ɪnˈtrɪnsɪk) or **intrinsic** *adj.* 1. of or relating to the essential nature of a thing; inherent. 2. *Anat.* situated within or peculiar to a part: *intrinsic muscles*. —**inˈtrɪnsɪkly** *adv.*

intro (ˈɪntroʊ) *n.*, *pl.* **-tros.** *Inf.* short for **introduction**.

intro- *prefix.* in, into, or inward: *introvert*.

introduce (ˌɪntroˈdjuːs) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. (often foll. by *to*) to present (someone) by name (to another person). 2. (foll. by *to*) to cause to experience for the first time: *to introduce a visitor to beer*. 3. to present for consideration or approval, esp. before a legislative body: *to introduce a bill in parliament*. 4. to bring in; establish: *to introduce decimal currency*. 5. to present (a radio or television programme, etc.) verbally. 6. (foll. by *with*) to start: *he introduced his talk with some music*. 7. (often foll. by *into*) to insert or inject: *he introduced the needle into his arm*. —**introˈducer** *n.* —**introˈducible** *adj.*

introduction (ˌɪntroˈdʌkʃən) *n.* 1. the act of introducing or fact of being introduced. 2. a presentation of one person to another or others. 3. a means of presenting a person to another person, such as a letter of introduction or reference. 4. a preliminary part, as of a book, speech, etc. 5. *Music.* an opening passage in a movement or composition that precedes the main material. 6. a basic or elementary work of instruction, reference, etc.

introductory (ˌɪntroˈdʌktɔːri, -trɪ) *adj.* serving as an introduction; preliminary; prefatory.

introit (ˈɪntroɪt) *n.* *R.C. Church, Church of England.* a short prayer said or sung as the celebrant is entering the sanctuary to celebrate Mass or Holy Communion. —**int'roit** *adj.*

introspection (ˌɪntroˈspekʃən) *n.* the examination of one's own thoughts, impressions, and feelings. —**intro'spective** *adj.* —**intro'spectively** *adv.*

introversion (ˌɪntroˈvɜːʃən) *n.* *Psychol.* the directing of interest inwards towards one's own thoughts and feelings.

introvert *n.* (ˌɪntroˈvɜːt) 1. *Psychol.* a person prone to introversion. ~*adj.* (ˌɪntroˈvɜːt) 2. Also: **introverted**. characterized by introversion. ~*vb.* (ˌɪntroˈvɜːt) 3. (tr.) *Pathol.* to turn (a hollow organ or part) inside out.

intrude (ɪnˈtruːd) *vb.* 1. (often foll. by *into*, *on*, or *upon*) to put forward or interpose (oneself, one's views, something) abruptly or without invitation. 2. *Geol.* to force or thrust (molten magma) between solid rocks. —**in'truder** *n.* —**in'trudingly** *adv.*

intrusion (ɪnˈtruːʒən) *n.* 1. the act or an instance of intruding; an unwelcome visit, etc.: *an intrusion on one's privacy.* 2. a. the movement of magma into spaces in the overlying strata to form igneous rock. b. any igneous rock formed in this way. 3. *Property law.* an unlawful entry onto land by a stranger after determination of a particular estate of freehold. —**in'trusional** or **in'trusive** *adj.*

intrust (ɪnˈtrʌst) *vb.* a less common spelling of **entrust**.
intuition (ˌɪntjuːʃən) *n.* 1. knowledge or perception not gained by reasoning and intelligence; instinctive knowledge or insight. 2. anything learned or perceived in this way. —**intu'itional** *adj.* —**intu'itionally** *adv.*

intuitive (ɪnˈtjuːtɪv) *adj.* 1. resulting from intuition: *an intuitive awareness.* 2. of, characterized by, or involving intuition. 3. *Philosophy.* (of knowledge) obtained by intuition, not empirically or discursively. —**intuitively** *adv.* —**intuitiveness** *n.*

Inuit (ˈɪnjuːt) *n., pl. -it or -its.* an Eskimo of N America or Greenland, as distinguished from one from Asia or the Aleuts.

inundate (ˈɪmʌnˌdeɪt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to cover completely with water; overflow; flood; swamp. 2. to overwhelm, as if with a flood: *to be inundated with requests.* —**inun-dant** or **in'undatory** *adj.* —**inun'dation** *n.* —**inun,dator** *n.*

inure or **enure** (ɪˈnjuə) *vb.* 1. (tr.; often *passive*; often foll. by *to*) to cause to accept or become hardened to; habituate. 2. (intr.) (esp. of a law, etc.) to come into operation; take effect. —**in'urement** or **en'urement** *n.*

in vacuo *Latin.* (in ˈvækjuː,ə) *adv.* in a vacuum.

invade (ɪnˈveɪd) *vb.* 1. to enter (a country, territory, etc.) by military force. 2. (tr.) to occupy in large numbers; overrun; infest. 3. (tr.) to trespass or encroach upon (privacy, etc.). 4. (tr.) to enter and spread throughout; esp. harmfully; pervade. —**in'vadable** *adj.* —**in'vader** *n.*

invalid (ɪnˈvælɪd, -lɪd) *n.* 1. a. a person suffering from disablement or chronic ill health. b. (as *modifier*): *an invalid chair.* ~*adj.* 2. suffering from or disabled by injury, sickness, etc. ~*vb.* (tr.) 3. to cause to become an invalid; disable. 4. (usually foll. by *out*; often *passive*) *Chiefly Brit.* to require (a member of the armed forces) to retire from active service through wounds or illness.

invalid (ɪnˈvælɪd) *adj.* 1. not valid; having no cogency or legal force. 2. *Logic.* having a conclusion that does not necessarily follow from its premisses; not valid. —**invalidity** (ɪnˈvælɪdɪti) or **in'validness** *n.* —**in'validly** *adv.*

invalidate (ɪnˈvælɪd) *vt.* (tr.) 1. to render weak or ineffective, as an argument. 2. to take away the legal force or effectiveness of; annul, as a contract. —**in, vali'dation** *n.* —**in'vali,dator** *n.*

invaluable (ɪnˈvæljuəbəl) *adj.* having great value that is impossible to calculate; priceless. —**in'valuableness** *n.* —**in'valuably** *adv.*

invariable (ɪnˈveəriəbəl) *adj.* 1. not subject to alteration; unchanging. ~*n.* 2. a mathematical quantity having an unchanging value; a constant. —**in, varia'bility** or **in'variableness** *n.* —**in'variably** *adv.*

invasion (ɪnˈveɪʒən) *n.* 1. the act of invading with armed forces. 2. any encroachment or intrusion: *an invasion of rats.* 3. the onset or advent of something harmful, esp. of a disease. —**invasive** (ɪnˈveɪsɪv) *adj.*

invective (ɪnˈvektɪv) *n.* 1. vehement accusation or denunciation, esp. of a bitterly abusive or sarcastic kind. ~*adj.* 2. characterized by or using abusive language,

bitter sarcasm, etc. —**in'vectively** *adv.* —**in'vectiveness** *n.*

inveigh (ɪnˈveɪ) *vb.* (intr.; foll. by *against*) to speak with violent or invective language; rail. —**in'veigher** *n.*

inveigle (ɪnˈviːɡl, ˈveɪ-) *vb.* (tr.; often foll. by *into* or an infinitive) to lead (someone into a situation) or persuade (to do something) by cleverness or trickery; cajole. —**in'veiglement** *n.* —**in'veigler** *n.*

invent (ɪnˈvent) *vb.* 1. to create or devise (new ideas, machines, etc.). 2. to make up (falsehoods, etc.); fabricate. —**in'ventable** *adj.* —**in'ventor** *n.*

invention (ɪnˈvenʃən) *n.* 1. the act or process of inventing. 2. something that is invented. 3. *Patent law.* the discovery or production of some new or improved process or machine. 4. creative power or ability; inventive skill. 5. *Euphemistic.* a fabrication; lie. 6. *Music.* a short piece consisting of two or three parts usually in imitative counterpoint. —**in'ventional** *adj.* —**in'ventionless** *adj.*

inventive (ɪnˈventɪv) *adj.* 1. skilled or quick at contriving; ingenious; resourceful. 2. characterized by inventive skill: *an inventive programme of work.* 3. of or relating to invention. —**in'ventively** *adv.* —**in'ventiveness** *n.*

inventory (ˈɪnvəntəri, -tri) *n.* 1. a detailed list of articles, goods, property, etc. 2. (often *pl.*) *Accounting.* chiefly U.S. a. the amount or value of a firm's current assets that consist of raw materials, work in progress, and finished goods; stock. b. such assets individually. ~*vb.* 3. (tr.) to enter (items) in an inventory; make a list of. —**inventoriable** *adj.* —**inven'torial** *adj.* —**inven'torially** *adv.*

inverse (ɪnˈvɜːs, ˈɪnvɜːs) *adj.* 1. opposite or contrary in effect, sequence, direction, etc. 2. *Maths.* a. (of a relationship) containing two variables such that an increase in one results in a decrease in the other. b. (of an element) operating on a specified member of a set to produce the identity of the set: *the additive inverse element of x is -x.* 3. (usually *prepositional*) upside down; inverted: *in an inverse position.* ~*n.* 4. *Maths.* an inverse element. —**in'versely** *adv.*

inversion (ɪnˈvɜːʃən) *n.* 1. the act of inverting or state of being inverted. 2. something inverted, esp. a reversal of order, mutual functions, etc.: *an inversion of their previous relationship.* 3. Also called: **anastrophe.** *Rhetoric.* the reversal of a normal order of words. 4. *Chem.* a. the conversion of a dextrorotatory solution of sucrose into a laevorotatory solution of glucose and fructose by hydrolysis. b. any similar reaction in which the optical properties of the reactants are opposite to those of the products. 5. *Music.* a. the process or result of transposing the notes of a chord such that the root, originally in the bass, is placed in an upper part. b. the modification of an interval in which the higher note becomes the lower or the lower one the higher. 6. *Pathol.* abnormal positioning of an organ or part, as in being upside down or turned inside out. 7. *Psychiatry.* a. the adoption of the role or characteristics of the opposite sex. b. another word for **homosexuality**. 8. *Meteorol.* an abnormal condition in which the layer of air next to the earth's surface is cooler than an overlying layer. 9. Also called: **negation.** *Computers.* an operation by which each digit of a binary number is changed to the alternative digit, as 10110 to 01001. —**in'versive** *adj.*

invert *vb.* (ɪnˈvɜːt) 1. to turn or cause to turn upside down or inside out. 2. (tr.) to reverse in effect, sequence, direction, etc. 3. (tr.) *Phonetics.* to turn (the tip of the tongue) up and back to pronounce (a speech sound). ~*n.* (ɪnˈvɜːt) 4. *Psychiatry.* a. a person who adopts the role of the opposite sex. b. another word for **homosexual**. 5. *Archit.* a. the lower inner surface of a drain, sewer, etc. b. an arch that is concave upwards, esp. one used in foundations. —**in'vertible** *adj.* —**in'vertibility** *n.*

invertebrate (ɪnˈvɜːtɪbrɪt, -breɪt) *n.* 1. any animal lacking a backbone, including all species not classified as vertebrates. ~*adj.* also **invertebral**. 2. of, relating to, or designating invertebrates.

inverted comma or **turned comma** *n.* another term for **quotation mark**.

invest (ɪnˈvest) *vb.* 1. (often foll. by *in*) to lay out (money or capital in an enterprise) with the expectation of profit. 2. (tr.; often foll. by *in*) to devote (effort, resources, etc.) to a project. 3. (tr.; often foll. by *in* or *with*) *Arch. or ceremonial.* to clothe or adorn (in some garment, esp. the robes of an office). 4. (tr.; often foll. by *in*) to install formally or ceremoniously (in an official position, rank, etc.). 5. (tr.; foll. by *in* or *with*) to place

(power, authority, etc., in) or provide (with power or authority): *to invest new rights in the monarchy*. 6. (tr.; usually passive; foll. by *in* or *with*) to provide or endow (a person with qualities, characteristics, etc.). 7. (tr.; foll. by *with*) Usually poetic. to cover or adorn, as if with a coat or garment: *when spring invests the trees with leaves*. 8. (tr.) Rare. to surround with military forces; besiege. 9. (intr.; foll. by *in*) Inf. to purchase; buy. —*in'vestible* or *in'vestible* adj. —*in'vestor* n.

investigate (in'vesti'geɪt) vb. to inquire into (a situation or problem, esp. a crime or death) thoroughly; examine systematically, esp. in order to discover the truth. —*in'vesti,gative* or *in'vestigatory* adj. —*in'vesti,gator* n.

investigation (in'vesti'geɪʃən) n. the act or process of investigating; a careful search or examination in order to discover facts, etc.

investiture (in'vestɪʃə) n. 1. the act of presenting with a title or with the robes and insignia of an office or rank. 2. (in feudal society) the formal bestowal of the possessory right to a fief. —*in'vestitive* adj.

investment (in'vestmənt) n. 1. a. the act of investing money. b. the amount invested. c. an enterprise, asset, etc., in which money is or can be invested. 2. Biol. the outer layer or covering of an organ, part, or organism. 3. a less common word for **investiture** (sense 1). 4. the act of investing or state of being invested, as with an official robe, specific quality, etc. 5. Rare. the act of besieging with military forces, works, etc.

investment trust n. a financial enterprise that invests its subscribed capital in securities for its investors' benefit.

inveterate (in'vetərɪt) adj. 1. long established, esp. so as to be deep-rooted or ingrained: *an inveterate feeling of hostility*. 2. (prenominal) settled or confirmed in a habit or practice, esp. a bad one; hardened. —*in'veteracy* n. —*in'veterately* adv.

invidious (in'vɪdiəs) adj. 1. incurring or tending to arouse resentment, unpopularity, etc.: *an invidious task*. 2. (of comparisons or distinctions) unfairly or offensively discriminating. —*in'vediously* adv. —*in'vedioussness* n.

invigilate (in'vɪdʒɪ,leɪt) vb. (intr.) 1. Brit. to watch examination candidates, esp. to prevent cheating. U.S. word: **proctor**. 2. Arch. to keep watch. —*in,vig'ilation* n. —*in'vigi,lator* n.

invigorate (in'vɪgə'reɪt) vb. (tr.) to give vitality and vigour to; animate; brace; refresh: *to be invigorated by fresh air*. —*in'vigor,atingly* adv. —*in,vigor'ation* n. —*in'vigorative* adj. —*in'vigorator* n.

invincible (in'vɪnsəbəl) adj. incapable of being defeated; unconquerable; insuperable. —*in,vinci'bility* or *in'vincibleness* n. —*in'vincibly* adv.

inviolable (in'vaɪələbəl) adj. that must not or cannot be transgressed, dishonoured, or broken; to be kept sacred: *an inviolable oath*. —*in,viol'a'bility* n. —*in'violably* adv.

involute (in'vəʊlət, -leɪt) adj. 1. free from violation, injury, disturbance, etc. 2. a less common word for **inviable**. —*in'violacy* or *in'violateness* n. —*in'violately* adv.

invisible (in'vɪzəbəl) adj. 1. not visible; not able to be perceived by the eye: *invisible rays*. 2. concealed from sight; hidden. 3. not easily seen or noticed: *invisible mending*. 4. kept hidden from public view; secret; clandestine. 5. Econ. of or relating to services, such as insurance and freight, rather than goods: *invisible earnings*. ~n. 6. Econ. an invisible item of trade; service. —*in,visi'bility* or *in'visibleness* n. —*in'visibly* adv.

invitation (in'vɪteɪʃən) n. 1. a. the act of inviting, such as an offer of entertainment or hospitality. b. (as modifier): *an invitation race*. 2. the act of enticing or attracting; allurements.

invite vb. (in'vaɪt). (tr.) 1. to ask (a person) in a friendly or polite way (to do something, attend an event, etc.). 2. to make a request for, esp. publicly or formally: *to invite applications*. 3. to bring on or provoke; give occasion for: *you invite disaster by your actions*. 4. to welcome or tempt. ~n. (in'vaɪt). 5. an informal word for **invitation**. —*in'viter* n.

inviting (in'vaɪtɪŋ) adj. tempting; alluring; attractive. —*in'vitingness* n.

invocation (in'vəʊ'keɪʃən) n. 1. the act of invoking or calling upon some agent for assistance. 2. a prayer asking God for help, forgiveness, etc. 3. an appeal for inspiration from a Muse or deity at the beginning of a poem. 4. a. the act of summoning a spirit from another world by ritual incantation or magic. b. the incantation

used in this act. —*in'vo'cational* adj. —*invocatory* (in'vəʊkətəri, -tri) adj.

invoice ('ɪnvoɪs) n. 1. a document issued by a seller to a buyer listing the goods or services supplied and stating the sum of money due. 2. Rare. a consignment of invoiced merchandise. ~vb. 3. (tr.) a. to present (a customer, etc.) with an invoice. b. to list (merchandise sold) on an invoice.

invoke (in'vəʊk) vb. (tr.) 1. to call upon (an agent, esp. God or another deity) for help, inspiration, etc. 2. to appeal to (an outside authority) for confirmation, corroboration, etc. 3. to implore or beg (help, etc.). 4. to summon (a spirit, etc.); conjure up. —*in'vocable* adj. —*in'voker* n.

involuntary (in'vɒləntəri, -tri) adj. 1. carried out without one's conscious wishes; not voluntary; unintentional. 2. Physiol. (esp. of a movement or muscle) performed or acting without conscious control. —*in'voluntarily* adv. —*in'voluntariness* n.

involute adj. ('ɪnvə,lʊt), also **involuted**. 1. complex, intricate, or involved. 2. Bot. (esp. of petals, leaves, etc., in bud) having margins that are rolled inwards. 3. (of certain shells) closely coiled so that the axis is obscured. ~n. ('ɪnvə,lʊt). 4. Geom. the curve described by the free end of a thread as it is wound around another curve, the **evolute**, such that its normals are tangential to the evolute. ~vb. ('ɪnvə,lʊt). 5. (intr.) to become involute. —*in'vo,lutely* adv. —*in'vo,lutely* adv. —*in'vo'lution* n.

involve (in'vɒlv) vb. (tr.) 1. to include or contain as a necessary part. 2. to have an effect on; spread to: *the investigation involved many innocent people*. 3. (often passive; usually foll. by *in* or *with*) to concern or associate significantly: *many people were involved in the crime*. 4. (often passive) to make complicated; tangle. 5. Rare. often poetic. to wrap or surround. 6. Maths., obs. to raise to a specified power. —*in'volvement* n. —*in'volver* n.

invulnerable (in'vʌlnərəbəl, -vʌlnərəbəl) adj. 1. incapable of being wounded, hurt, damaged, etc. 2. incapable of being damaged or captured: *an invulnerable fortress*. —*in,vulner'a'bility* or *in'vulnerableness* n. —*in'vulnerably* adv.

inward ('ɪnwəd) adj. 1. going or directed towards the middle of or into something. 2. situated within; inside. 3. of, relating to, or existing in the mind or spirit: *inward meditation*. ~adv. 4. a variant of **inwards**. ~n. 5. the inward part; inside. —*in'wardness* n.

inwardly ('ɪnwədli) adv. 1. within the private thoughts or feelings; secretly. 2. not aloud: *to laugh inwardly*. 3. with reference to the inside or inner part; internally.

inwards adv. ('ɪnwədz), also **inward**. 1. towards the interior or middle of something. 2. in, into, or towards the mind or spirit. ~pl. n. ('ɪnədz). 3. a variant of **innards**.

inwrought (in'wraʊt) adj. 1. worked or woven into material, esp. decoratively. 2. Rare. blended with other things.

Io Chem. the symbol for ionium.

iodide ('aɪə,daɪd) n. 1. a salt of hydriodic acid, containing the iodide ion, I⁻. 2. a compound containing an iodine atom, such as methyl iodide.

iodine ('aɪə,di:n) n. a bluish-black element of the halogen group that sublimates into a violet irritating gas. Its compounds are used in medicine and photography and in dyes. The radioisotope **iodine-131** is used in the treatment of thyroid disease. Symbol: I; atomic no.: 53; atomic wt.: 126.90.

iodize or **-ise** ('aɪə,daɪz) vb. (tr.) to treat or react with iodine or an iodine compound. Also: **iodate**. —*iodi'zation* or *-i'sation* n. —*io,dizer* or *-diser* n.

I.O.M. abbrev. for Isle of Man.

ion ('aɪən, -ɒn) n. an electrically charged atom or group of atoms formed by the loss or gain of one or more electrons. See also **cation**, **anion**.

-ion suffix forming nouns. indicating an action, process, or state: *creation*; *objection*. Cf. **-ation**, **-tion**.

ion exchange n. the process in which ions are exchanged between a solution and an insoluble solid, usually a resin. It is used to soften water.

Ionic (aɪ'ɒnɪk) adj. 1. of, denoting, or relating to one of the five classical orders of architecture, characterized by fluted columns and capitals with scroll-like ornaments. 2. of or relating to Ionia, on the coast of Asia Minor, its inhabitants or their dialect of Ancient Greek. ~n. 3. one of four chief dialects of Ancient Greek; the dialect spoken in Ionia.

ionize or **-ise** ('aɪə,naɪz) vb. to change or become

changed into ions. — **'ion,izable** or **-isable** *adj.* — **'ionization** or **'i-sation** *n.*

ionosphere (aɪ'ɒnəʃə) *n.* a region of the earth's atmosphere, extending from about 60 to 1000 km above the earth's surface, in which there is a high concentration of free electrons formed as a result of ionizing radiation entering the atmosphere from space. — **ionospheric** (aɪ'ɒnə'sfɛrɪk) *adj.*

iota (aɪ'əʊtə) *n.* 1. the ninth letter in the Greek alphabet (I, i), a vowel or semivowel. 2. (usually used with a negative) a very small amount; jot (esp. in **not one** or **an iota**).

IOU *n.* a written promise or reminder to pay a debt.

-ious *suffix forming adjectives from nouns.* characterized by or full of: **ambitious**; **suspicious**.

I.O.W. *abbrev. for* Isle of Wight.

IPA *abbrev. for* International Phonetic Alphabet.

ipecac (ɪ'pɪ,kæk) or **ipecacuanha** (ɪ'pɪ,kækju'ænə) *n.* 1. a low-growing South American shrub. 2. a drug prepared from the dried roots of this plant, used as a purgative and emetic.

ipso facto (ɪ'psəʊ'fæktəʊ) *adv.* by that very fact or act.

I.Q. *abbrev. for* intelligence quotient.

Ir *the chemical symbol for* iridium.

Ir. *abbrev. for:* 1. Ireland. 2. Irish.

ir- *prefix.* variant of **in-** and **in-** before *r*.

I.R.A. *abbrev. for* Irish Republican Army.

Iranian (ɪ'reɪniən) *n.* 1. a native or inhabitant of Iran, in SW Asia. 2. a branch of the Indo-European family of languages, including Persian. 3. the modern Persian language. ~*adj.* 4. relating to or characteristic of Iran, its inhabitants, or their language; Persian. 5. belonging to or relating to the Iranian branch of Indo-European.

irascible (ɪ'ræsɪbəl) *adj.* 1. easily angered; irritable. 2. showing irritability: *an irascible action*. — **irascibility** or **irascibleness** *n.* — **irascibly** *adv.*

irate (aɪ'reɪt) *adj.* 1. incensed with anger; furious. 2. marked by extreme anger: *an irate letter*. — **irately** *adv.*

ire (aɪə) *n.* Literary. anger; wrath. — **ireful** *adj.* — **irefulness** *n.*

iridaceous (ɪ'rɪ'deɪʃəs, aɪ-) *adj.* of, relating to, or belonging to the family of monocotyledonous plants, including the iris, having swordlike leaves and showy flowers.

iridescent (ɪ'rɪ'desnt) *adj.* displaying a spectrum of colours that shimmer and change due to interference and scattering as the observer's position changes. — **iridescence** *n.* — **iridescently** *adv.*

iridium (aɪ'rɪdɪəm, ɪ'rɪd-) *n.* a very hard yellowish-white transition element that is the most corrosion-resistant metal known. It occurs in platinum ores and is used as an alloy with platinum. Symbol: Ir; atomic no.: 77; atomic wt.: 192.2.

iris ('aɪrɪs) *n.* **pl. irises** or **irides** (aɪrɪ,dɪz, ɪ'rɪ-). 1. the coloured muscular diaphragm that surrounds and controls the size of the pupil. 2. Also called: **fleur-de-lis**. any iridaceous plant having brightly coloured flowers composed of three petals and three drooping sepals. 3. a poetic word for **rainbow**.

Irish ('aɪrɪʃ) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or characteristic of Ireland, its people, their Celtic language, or their dialect of English. ~*n.* 2. **the.** (functioning as *pl.*) the natives or inhabitants of Ireland. 3. another name for **Irish Gaelic**. 4. the dialect of English spoken in Ireland.

Irish bull *n.* a ludicrously illogical statement.

Irish coffee *n.* hot coffee mixed with whiskey and topped with double cream.

Irish Gaelic *n.* the Goidelic language of the Celts of Ireland, still spoken in the southwest; an official language of the Republic of Ireland since 1921.

Irish stew *n.* a stew made of mutton, lamb, or beef, with potatoes, onions, etc.

irk (ɜ:k) *vb.* (tr.) to irritate, vex, or annoy.

irksome ('ɜ:ksəm) *adj.* causing vexation, annoyance, or boredom; troublesome or tedious. — **irksomely** *adv.* — **irksomeness** *n.*

I.R.O. *abbrev. for:* 1. (in Brit.) Inland Revenue Office. 2. International Refugee Organization.

iron ('aɪən) *n.* 1. **a.** a malleable ductile silvery-white ferromagnetic metallic element. It is widely used for structural and engineering purposes. Symbol: Fe; atomic no.: 26; atomic wt.: 55.847. Related *adjs.*: **ferrie**, **ferrous**. Related *prefix*: **ferro-**. **b.** (as *modifier*): **iron railings**. 2. any of certain tools or implements made of iron or steel, esp. for use when hot: **a grappling iron**; **a soldering iron**. 3. an appliance for pressing fabrics using dry heat or steam, esp. a small electrically heated device with a handle and a weighted flat bottom. 4. any of

various golf clubs with metal heads, numbered from 2 to 10 according to the slant of the face. 5. a splintlike support for a malformed leg. 6. great hardness, strength, or resolve: *a will of iron*. 7. **strike while the iron is hot**, to act at an opportune moment. ~*adj.* 8. very hard, immovable, or implacable: *iron determination*. 9. very strong; extremely robust: *an iron constitution*. 10. cruel or unyielding: *he ruled with an iron hand*. ~*vb.* 11. to smooth (clothes or fabric) by removing (creases or wrinkles) using a heated iron; press. 12. (tr.) to furnish or clothe with iron. 13. (tr.) Rare. to place (a prisoner) in irons. — See also **iron out**, **irons**. — **'ironer** *n.* — **'ironless** *adj.* — **'iron**, **like** *adj.*

Iron Age *n.* **a.** the period following the Bronze Age characterized by the extremely rapid spread of iron tools and weapons. **b.** (modifier) of or relating to this period.

ironclad *adj.* (aɪrən'klæd). 1. covered or protected with iron: *an ironclad warship*. 2. inflexible; rigid: *an ironclad rule*. ~*n.* (aɪrən,klæd). 3. a large wooden 19th-century warship with armoured plating.

Iron Curtain *n.* 1. **a.** the guarded border between the countries of the Soviet bloc and the rest of Europe. **b.** (as *modifier*): **Iron Curtain countries**. 2. (sometimes *not caps.*) any barrier that separates communities or ideologies.

iron hand *n.* harsh or rigorous control; overbearing or autocratic force.

iron horse *n.* *Inf.*, *rare.* a steamdriven railway locomotive.

ironic (aɪ'rɒnɪk) or **ironical** *adj.* of, characterized by, or using irony. — **ironically** *adv.* — **ironicalness** *n.*

ironing board *n.* a board, usually on legs, with a suitable covering on which to iron clothes.

iron lung *n.* an airtight metal cylinder enclosing the entire body up to the neck and providing artificial respiration.

iron maiden *n.* a medieval instrument of torture, consisting of an enclosed space lined with iron spikes, into which the victim was locked.

ironmaster ('aɪən,mæstə) *n.* *Brit.* a manufacturer of iron.

ironmonger ('aɪən,mʌŋgə) *n.* *Brit.* a dealer in metal utensils, hardware, locks, etc. U.S. equivalent: **hardware dealer**. — **'iron**, **mongery** *n.*

iron out *vb.* (tr., *adv.*) 1. to smooth, using a heated iron. 2. to put right or settle (a problem or difficulty) as a result of negotiations or discussions. 3. *Austral. inf.* to knock (a person) out.

iron pyrites *n.* another name for **pyrite**.

iron rations *pl.* *n.* emergency food supplies, esp. for military personnel in need.

irons ('aɪənz) *pl. n.* 1. fetters or chains (often in **in** or **into irons**). 2. **have several irons in the fire**, to be involved in many projects, activities, etc.

ironsides ('aɪən,sɑɪdz) *n.* 1. a person with great stamina or resistance. 2. an ironclad ship. 3. (often *cap.*) (in the English Civil War) **a.** the cavalry regiment trained and commanded by Oliver Cromwell. **b.** Cromwell's entire army.

ironstone ('aɪən,stəʊn) *n.* 1. any rock consisting mainly of an iron-bearing ore. 2. a tough durable earthenware.

ironware ('aɪən,wɛə) *n.* domestic articles made of iron.

ironwood ('aɪən,wʊd) *n.* 1. any of various trees, such as hornbeam, that have very hard wood. 2. a Californian rosaceous tree with very hard wood. 3. the wood of any of these trees.

ironwork ('aɪən,wɜ:k) *n.* 1. work done in iron, esp. decorative work. 2. the craft or practice of working in iron.

ironworks ('aɪən,wɜ:ks) *n.* (sometimes *functioning as sing.*) a building in which iron is smelted, cast, or wrought.

irony ('aɪrəni) *n.*, *pl.* **-nies**. 1. the humorous or mildly sarcastic use of words to imply the opposite of what they normally mean. 2. an instance of this, used to draw attention to some incongruity or irrationality. 3. incongruity between what is expected to be and what actually is, or a situation or result showing such incongruity.

irony ('aɪəni) *adj.* of, resembling, or containing irony.

irradiate ('ɪrɪdeɪ,tɪt) *vb.* 1. (tr.) *Physics.* to subject to or treat with light or other electromagnetic radiation or with beams of particles. 2. (tr.) to make clear or bright intellectually or spiritually; illumine. 3. a less common word for **radiate** (sense 1). 4. (intr.) *Obs.* to become

radiant. —*ir'radiance* *n.* —*ir'radiative* *adj.* —*ir'radiator* *n.*

irrational (i'ræʃənl) *adj.* 1. inconsistent with reason or logic; illogical; absurd. 2. incapable of reasoning. 3. *a. Maths.* (of an equation, etc.) containing one or more variables in irreducible radical form or raised to a fractional power: $\sqrt{x^2 + 1} = x^{1/2}$. *b. (as n.):* an irrational. —*ir'rationally* *adv.* —*ir'ration'ality* *n.*

irrational number *n.* any real number that cannot be expressed as the ratio of two integers, such as π .

irreconcilable (i'rek'n'sailəb'l, i'rek'n'sai-) *adj.* 1. not able to be reconciled; uncompromisingly conflicting; incompatible. ~*n.* 2. a person or thing that is implacably hostile or uncompromisingly opposed. 3. (*usually pl.*) one of various principles, ideas, etc., that are incapable of being brought into agreement. —*ir, recon, cil'a'bility* or *ir'recon, cilableness* *n.* —*ir'recon, cilably* *adv.*

irrecoverable (i'rɪ'kʌvərəb'l, -'kʌvə-) *adj.* 1. not able to be recovered or regained. 2. not able to be remedied or rectified. —*irre, coverableness* *n.* —*irre, coverably* *adv.*

irredeemable (i'rɪ'di:məb'l) *adj.* 1. (of bonds, shares, etc.) without a date of redemption of capital; incapable of being bought back directly or paid off. 2. (of paper money) not convertible into specie. 3. (of a loss) not able to be recovered; irretrievable. 4. not able to be improved or rectified; irreparable. —*irre, deema'bility* or *irre, deemableness* *n.* —*irre, deemably* *adv.*

irredentist (i'rɪ'dentɪst) *n.* 1. (*sometimes cap.*) a person, esp. a member of a 19th-century Italian association, who favoured the acquisition of territory that had once been part of his country or was considered to have been. ~*adj.* 2. of, relating to, or advocating irredentism. —*irre, dentism* *n.*

irreducible (i'rɪ'dju:səb'l) *adj.* 1. not able to be reduced or lessened. 2. not able to be brought to a simpler or reduced form. 3. *Maths.* (of a polynomial) unable to be factorized into polynomials of lower degree, as $(x^2 + 1)$. —*irre, duci'bility* *n.* —*irre, ducibly* *adv.*

irrefutable (i'refjʊtəb'l, -'fju:təb'l) *adj.* impossible to deny or disprove; incontrovertible. —*ir, refuta'bility* *n.* —*ir, refutably* *adv.*

irreg. *abbrev.* for irregular (ly).

irregular (i'regjələ) *adj.* 1. lacking uniformity or symmetry; uneven in shape, position, arrangement, etc. 2. not occurring at expected or equal intervals: an irregular pulse. 3. differing from the normal or accepted practice or routine; unconventional. 4. (of the formation, inflections, or derivations of a word) not following the usual pattern of formation in a language. 5. of or relating to guerrillas or volunteers not belonging to regular forces: irregular troops. 6. (of flowers) having any of their petals differing in size, shape, etc. 7. *U.S.* (of merchandise) not up to the manufacturer's standards or specifications; imperfect. ~*n.* 8. a soldier not in a regular army. 9. (*often pl.*) *U.S.* imperfect or flawed merchandise. —*ir, regu'larly* *n.* —*ir, regularly* *adv.*

irrelevant (i'reləvənt) *adj.* not relating or pertinent to the matter at hand; not important. —*ir, relevance* or *ir, relevancy* *n.* —*ir, relevantly* *adv.*

irreligion (i'rɪ'lɪdʒən) *n.* 1. lack of religious faith. 2. indifference or opposition to religion. —*irre, ligionist* *n.* —*irre, ligious* *adj.* —*irre, ligiously* *adv.* —*irre, ligiousness* *n.*

irremediable (i'rɪ'mi:diəb'l) *adj.* not able to be remedied; incurable or irreparable. —*irre, mediableness* *n.* —*irre, mediably* *adv.*

irremissible (i'rɪ'mɪsəb'l) *adj.* 1. unpardonable; inexcusable. 2. that must be done, as through duty or obligation. —*irre, missi'bility* or *irre, missibleness* *n.* —*irre, missibly* *adv.*

irremovable (i'rɪ'mu:vəb'l) *adj.* not able to be removed. —*irre, mova'bility* *n.* —*irre, movably* *adv.*

irreparable (i'repərəb'l, i'reprəb'l) *adj.* not able to be repaired or remedied; beyond repair. —*ir, repara'bility* or *ir, repareableness* *n.* —*ir, reparably* *adv.*

irreplaceable (i'rɪ'pleisəb'l) *adj.* not able to be replaced: an irreplaceable antique. —*irre, placeably* *adv.*

irrepressible (i'rɪ'presəb'l) *adj.* not capable of being repressed, controlled, or restrained. —*irre, pressi'bility* or *irre, pressibleness* *n.* —*irre, pressibly* *adv.*

irreproachable (i'rɪ'prəʊtʃəb'l) *adj.* not deserving reproach; blameless. —*irre, proacha'bility* or *irre, proachableness* *n.* —*irre, proachably* *adv.*

irresistible (i'rɪ'zɪstəb'l) *adj.* 1. not able to be resisted or refused; overpowering: an irresistible impulse. 2. very fascinating or alluring: an irresistible woman. —*ir,*

re, sisti'bility or *irre, sistibleness* *n.* —*irre, sistibly* *adv.*

irresolute (i'rezə,lʊt) *adj.* lacking resolution; wavering; hesitating. —*irre, resolutely* *adv.* —*ir, reso, luteness* or *ir, reso, lution* *n.*

irrespective (i,rɪ'spektɪv) *adj.* 1. **irrespective of.** (*prep.*) without taking account of; regardless of. ~*adv.* 2. *Inf.* regardless; without due consideration: he carried on with his plan irrespective. —*irre, spectively* *adv.*

irresponsible (i,rɪ'spɒnsəb'l) *adj.* 1. not showing or done with due care for the consequences of one's actions or attitudes; reckless. 2. not capable of bearing responsibility. —*irre, sponsi'bility* or *irre, sponsibleness* *n.* —*irre, sponsibly* *adv.*

irretrievable (i,rɪ'tri:vəb'l) *adj.* not able to be retrieved, recovered, or repaired. —*irre, trieva'bility* *n.* —*irre, trievably* *adv.*

irreverence (i'revərəns, i'revrəns) *n.* 1. lack of due respect or veneration; disrespect. 2. a disrespectful remark or act. —*ir, reverent* or *ir, reve, rental* *adj.* —*ir, reverently* *adv.*

irreversible (i,rɪ'vɜ:səb'l) *adj.* 1. not able to be reversed: the irreversible flow of time. 2. not able to be revoked or repealed; irrevocable. 3. *Chem., physics.* capable of changing or producing a change in one direction only: an irreversible reaction. —*irre, vers'i'bility* or *irre, versibleness* *n.* —*irre, versibly* *adv.*

irrevocable (i'revəkəb'l) *adj.* not able to be revoked, changed, or undone; unalterable. —*ir, revoca'bility* or *ir, revocableness* *n.* —*ir, revocably* *adv.*

irrigate (i'rɪ,ɡet) *vb.* 1. to supply (land) with water by means of artificial canals, ditches, etc., esp. to promote the growth of food crops. 2. *Med.* to bathe or wash out (a bodily part, cavity, or wound). 3. (*tr.*) to make fertile, fresh, or vital by or as if by watering. —*irrigable* *adj.* —*irri, gation* *n.* —*irri, gative* *adj.* —*irri, gator* *n.*

irritable (i'rɪtəb'l) *adj.* 1. quickly irritated; easily annoyed; peevish. 2. (of all living organisms) capable of responding to such stimuli as heat, light, and touch. 3. *Pathol.* abnormally sensitive. —*irrita'bility* *n.* —*irritableness* *n.* —*irritably* *adv.*

irritant (i'rɪtənt) *adj.* 1. causing irritation; irritating. ~*n.* 2. something irritant. —*irritancy* *n.*

irritate (i'rɪ,tet) *vb.* 1. to annoy or anger (someone). 2. (*tr.*) *Biol.* to stimulate (an organism or part) to respond in a characteristic manner. 3. (*tr.*) *Pathol.* to cause (a bodily organ or part) to become excessively stimulated, resulting in inflammation, tenderness, etc. —*irri, tation* *n.* —*irri, tator* *n.*

irrupt (i'rʌpt) *vb. (intr.)* 1. to enter forcibly or suddenly. 2. (of population) to increase suddenly in numbers. —*ir, ruption* *n.* —*ir, ruptive* *adj.*

is (ɪz) *vb.* (used with *he, she, it*, and with singular nouns) a form of the present tense (indicative mood) of *be*.

Is. *abbrev. for:* 1. Also: *Isa.* Bible. Isaiah. 2. Island(s) or Isle(s).

is- *combining form.* variant of *iso-* before a vowel: *isentropic*.

I.S.B.N., ISBN *abbrev. for* International Standard Book Number.

-ise *suffix forming verbs.* a variant of *-ize*.

▷ **Usage.** See at *-ize*.

-ish *suffix forming adjectives.* 1. of or belonging to a nationality: *Scottish*. 2. *Often derog.* having the manner or qualities of; resembling: *slavish*; *boyish*. 3. somewhat; approximately: *yellowish*; *sevenish*. 4. concerned or preoccupied with: *bookish*.

isinglass ('aɪzɪŋ,ɡlɑ:s) *n.* 1. a gelatin made from the air bladders of freshwater fish, used as a clarifying agent and adhesive. 2. another name for *mica*.

Isl. *abbrev. for:* 1. Island. 2. Isle.

Islam ('ɪzlɑ:m) *n.* 1. Also called: **Islamism.** the religion of Muslims, teaching that there is only one God and that Mohammed is his prophet; Mohammedanism. 2. *a.* Muslims collectively and their civilization. *b.* the countries where the Muslim religion is predominant. —*Is-lamic* *adj.*

island ('aɪlənd) *n.* 1. a mass of land that is surrounded by water and is smaller than a continent. 2. something resembling this: a traffic island. 3. *Anat.* a part, structure, or group of cells distinct in constitution from its immediate surroundings. ~*Related adj.:* **insular.** ~*vb.* (*tr.*) *Rare.* 4. to cause to become an island. 5. to intersperse with islands. 6. to place on an island; insulate; isolate. —*'island-, like* *adj.*

islander ('aɪləndə) *n.* a native or inhabitant of an island.

isle (aɪl) *n.* Poetic except when cap. and part of place name, an island, esp. a small one.

islet ('aɪlət) *n.* a small island.

ism ('ɪzəm) *n.* Inf., often derog. an unspecified doctrine, system, or practice.

-ism suffix forming nouns. 1. indicating an action, process, or result: *criticism*. 2. indicating a state or condition: *paganism*. 3. indicating a doctrine, system, or body of principles and practices: *Leninism*; *spiritualism*. 4. indicating behaviour or a characteristic quality: *heroism*. 5. indicating a characteristic usage, esp. of a language: *Scotticism*.

iso- or before a vowel **is-** combining form. 1. equal or identical: *isomagnetic*. 2. indicating that a chemical compound is an isomer of a specified compound: *isobutane*.

isobar ('aɪsəʊ, bɑː) *n.* 1. a line on a map connecting places of equal atmospheric pressure, usually reduced to sea level for purposes of comparison, at a given time or period. 2. *Physics*. any of two or more atoms that have the same mass number but different atomic numbers. Cf. *isotope*. — **isobarism** *n.* — **iso'baric** *adj.*

isochronal (aɪ'sɒkrənəl) or **isochronous** *adj.* 1. having the same duration; equal in time. 2. occurring at equal time intervals; having a uniform period of vibration. — **isochronally** or **isochronously** *adv.* — **isochronism** *n.*

isolate *vb.* ('aɪsə, leɪt) (tr.) 1. to place apart; cause to be alone. 2. *Med.* to quarantine (a person or animal) having a contagious disease. 3. to obtain (a compound) in an uncombined form. 4. to obtain pure cultures of (bacteria, esp. those causing a particular disease). 5. *Electronics*. to prevent interaction between (circuits, components, etc.); insulate. ~*n.* ('aɪsəlaɪt). 6. an isolated person or group. — **isolable** *adj.* — **isola'bility** *n.* — **iso'lator** *n.* — **iso'lation** *n.*

isomer ('aɪsəmə) *n.* 1. *Chem.* a compound that exhibits isomerism with one or more other compounds. 2. *Physics*. a nuclide that exhibits isomerism with one or more other nuclides. — **isomerie** (aɪsə'merik) *adj.*

isometric (aɪsə'metrik) *adj.* also **isometrical**. 1. having equal dimensions or measurements. 2. *Physiol.* of or relating to muscular contraction that does not produce shortening of the muscle. 3. (of a crystal or system of crystallization) having three mutually perpendicular equal axes. 4. (of a method of projecting a drawing in three dimensions) having the three axes equally inclined and all lines drawn to scale. ~*n.* 5. Also called: **isometric drawing**. a drawing made in this way. — **iso'metrically** *adv.*

isomorphism (aɪsəʊ'mɔːfɪzəm) *n.* 1. *Biol.* similarity of form, as in different generations of the same life cycle. 2. *Chem.* the existence of two or more substances of different composition in a similar crystalline form. 3. *Maths.* a one-to-one correspondence between the elements of two or more sets, such as those of Arabic and Roman numerals. — **iso'morphic** or **iso'morphous** *adj.* — **iso'morph** *n.*

isosceles (aɪ'sɒsɪ, lɪz) *adj.* (of a triangle) having two sides of equal length.

isotherm ('aɪsəʊ, θɜːm) *n.* 1. a line on a map linking places of equal temperature. 2. *Physics*. a curve on a graph that connects points of equal temperature. ~Also called: **isothermal**, **isothermal line**.

isotope ('aɪsə, tɒp) *n.* one of two or more atoms with the same atomic number that contain different numbers of neutrons. — **isotopic** (aɪsə'tɒpɪk) *adj.* — **iso'topically** *adv.* — **isotopy** (aɪ'sɒtəpɪ) *n.*

isotropic (aɪsəʊ'trɒpɪk) or **isotropous** (aɪ'sɒtrəpəs) *adj.* 1. having uniform physical properties in all directions. 2. *Biol.* not having predetermined axes: *isotropic eggs*. — **iso'tropically** *adv.* — **isotropy** *n.*

Israel ('ɪzreɪl, -rɪəl) *n.* 1. a. a republic in SW Asia, established as the modern state of Israel. b. the ancient kingdom of the Jews in this region. 2. **Children of Israel**. the Jewish people or nation.

Israelite ('ɪzreɪl, laɪt, -rə) *n.* 1. *Bible*. a member of the ethnic group claiming descent from Jacob; a Hebrew. 2. a member of any of various Christian sects who regard themselves as God's chosen people. 3. an archaic word for a Jew.

issue ('ɪʃuː) *n.* 1. the act of sending or giving out something; supply; delivery. 2. something issued; an edition of stamps, a magazine, etc. 3. the act of emerging; outflow; discharge. 4. something flowing out, such as a river. 5. a place of outflow; outlet. 6. the descendants of a person; offspring; progeny. 7. a topic of interest or discussion. 8. an important subject requiring

a decision. 9. an outcome or consequence; result. 10. *Pathol.* discharge from a wound. 11. *Law*. the matter remaining in dispute between the parties to an action after the pleadings. 12. the yield from or profits arising out of land or other property. 13. at issue. a. under discussion. b. in disagreement. 14. **force the issue**. to compel decision on some matter. 15. **join issue**. to join in controversy. 16. **take issue**. to disagree. ~*vb.* **-suing, -sued**. 17. to come forth or emerge or cause to come forth or emerge. 18. to publish or deliver (a newspaper, magazine, etc.). 19. (tr.) to make known or announce. 20. (intr.) to originate or proceed. 21. (intr.) to be a consequence; result. 22. (intr.; foll. by in) to end or terminate. 23. (tr.) (foll. by with) to supply officially (with). — **issuer** *n.* — **issuable** *adj.*

-ist suffix. 1. (forming nouns) a person who performs a certain action or is concerned with something specified: *motorist*; *soloist*. 2. (forming nouns) a person who practises in a specific field: *physicist*. 3. (forming nouns and adjectives) a person who advocates a particular doctrine, system, etc., or relating to such a person or the doctrine advocated: *socialist*. 4. (forming nouns and adjectives) a person characterized by a specified trait, tendency, etc., or relating to such a person or trait: *purist*.

isthmian ('ɪsθmɪən) *adj.* relating to or situated in an isthmus.

isthmus ('ɪsməs) *n.*, pl. **-muses** or **-mi** (-maɪ). 1. a narrow strip of land connecting two relatively large land areas. 2. *Anat.* a. a narrow band of tissue connecting two larger parts of a structure. b. a narrow passage connecting two cavities. — **isthmian** or **isthmoid** *adj.*

-istic suffix forming adjectives. equivalent to a combination of **-ist** and **-ic** but in some words having a less specific or literal application and sometimes a mildly pejorative force, as compared with corresponding adjectives ending in **-ist**: *communistic*; *impressionistic*.

it (ɪt) *pron.* (subjective or objective) 1. refers to a nonhuman, animal, plant, or inanimate thing, or sometimes to a small baby: *it looks dangerous*; *give it a bone*. 2. refers to an unspecified or implied antecedent or to a previous or understood clause, phrase, etc.: *it is impossible*; *I knew it*. 3. used to represent human life or experience in respect of the present situation: *how's it going*; *I've had it*; *to brazen it out*. 4. used as a formal subject (or object), referring to a following clause, phrase, or word: *it helps to know the truth*; *I consider it dangerous to go on*. 5. used in the nominative as the formal grammatical subject of impersonal verbs: *it is raining*; *it hurts*. 6. (used as complement with be) *Inf.* the crucial or ultimate point: *the steering failed and I thought that was it*. ~*n.* 7. (in children's games) the player whose turn it is to try to touch another. 8. *Inf.* a. sexual intercourse. b. sex appeal.

It. *abbrev. for:* 1. Italian. 2. Italy.

i.t.a. or I.T.A. *abbrev. for* initial teaching alphabet, a partly phonetic alphabet used to teach reading.

I.T.A. (in Britain) *abbrev. for* Independent Television Authority; now superseded by the I.B.A.

ital. *abbrev. for* italic.

Ital. *abbrev. for:* 1. Italian. 2. Italy.

Italian ('ɪtəlɪən) *n.* 1. the official language of Italy and one of the official languages of Switzerland. 2. a native or inhabitant of Italy or a descendant of one. ~*adj.* 3. relating to, denoting, or characteristic of Italy, its inhabitants, or their language.

Italianate ('ɪtəlɪənt, -nɛɪt) or **Italianesque** *adj.* Italian in style or character.

italic ('ɪtəlɪk) *adj.* 1. Also: **Italian**. of, relating to, or denoting a style of handwriting with the letters slanting to the right. 2. a style of printing type modelled on this, chiefly used to indicate emphasis, a foreign word, etc. Cf. *roman*. ~*n.* 3. (often pl.) italic type or print.

italicize or **-ise** ('ɪtəlɪ, saɪz) *vb.* 1. to print (textual matter) in italic type. 2. (tr.) to underline (words, etc.) with a single line to indicate italics. — **italic'ization** or **-i'sation** *n.*

itch (ɪtʃ) *n.* 1. an irritation or tickling sensation of the skin causing a desire to scratch. 2. a restless desire. 3. any skin disorder, such as scabies, characterized by intense itching. ~*vb.* (intr.) 4. to feel or produce an irritating or tickling sensation. 5. to have a restless desire (to do something). 6. **itching palm**. a grasping nature; avarice. — **itchy** *adj.* — **itchiness** *n.*

-ite suffix forming nouns. 1. a native or inhabitant of: *Israelite*. 2. a follower or advocate of; a supporter of a group: *Luddite*; *labourite*. 3. (in biology) indicating a division of a body or organ: *neurite*; *somite*. 4. indicat-

ing a mineral or rock: *nephrite*; *peridotite*. 5. indicating a commercial product: *vulcanite*.

-ite' *suffix of nouns*. indicating a salt or ester of an acid having a name ending in *-ous*: a *nitrite* is a salt of nitrous acid.

item *n.* ('aɪtəm). 1. a thing or unit, esp. included in a list or collection. 2. *Bookkeeping*. an entry in an account. 3. a piece of information, detail, or note: a *news item*. ~*vb.* ('aɪtəm). 4. (*tr.*) an archaic word for *itemize*. ~*adv.* ('aɪtəm). 5. likewise; also.

itemize or **-ise** ('aɪtə,maɪz) *vb.* (*tr.*) to put on a list or make a list of. —*itemi'zation* or *-i'sation n.* —*'item,izer* or *-iser n.*

iterate ('ɪtə,reit) *vb.* (*tr.*) to say or do again; repeat. —*'iterant adj.* —*iter'ation n.* —*'iterative adj.*

itinerant (ɪ'tɪnərənt, aɪ-) *adj.* 1. itinerating. 2. working for a short time in various places, esp. as a casual labourer. ~*n.* 3. an itinerant worker or other person. —*i'tinerantly adv.*

itinerary (aɪ'tɪnərəri, ɪ-) *n., pl. -aries*. 1. a plan or line of travel; route. 2. a record of a journey. 3. a guidebook for travellers. ~*adj.* 4. of or relating to travel or routes of travel.

-ition *suffix forming nouns*. a variant of **-ation**: *fruition*.

-itis *suffix forming nouns*. indicating inflammation of a specified part: *tonsillitis*.

it'll ('ɪt'l) *contraction* of it will or it shall.

-itol *suffix forming nouns*. indicating that certain chemical compounds are alcohols containing two or more hydroxyl groups: *inisol*; *sorbitol*.

its (ɪts) *determiner*. a. of, belonging to, or associated in some way with it: *its left rear wheel*; *I can see its logical consequence*. b. (as pronoun): *its is over there*.

▷ **Usage**. The possessive adjective and pronoun *its* is never written with an apostrophe: *the cat has hurt its ear*. The contraction of *it is*, *it's*, always has an apostrophe: *it's a pity that the cat has hurt its ear*.

it's (ɪts) *contraction* of it is.

itself (ɪt'self) *pron.* 1. a. the reflexive form of *it*. b. (intensifier): *even the money itself won't convince me*. 2. (preceded by a copula) its normal or usual self: *my cat doesn't seem itself these days*.

▷ **Usage**. See at **myself**.

ITV (in Britain) *abbrev. for* Independent Television.

-ity *suffix forming nouns*. indicating state or condition: *technicality*.

-ium or sometimes **-um** *suffix forming nouns*. 1. indicating a metallic element: *platinum*; *barium*. 2. (in chemistry) indicating groups forming positive ions: *ammonium chloride*; *hydroxonium ion*. 3. indicating a biological structure: *syncytium*.

-ive *suffix*. 1. (*forming adjectives*) indicating a tendency, inclination, character, or quality: *divisive*; *festive*; *massive*. 2. (*forming nouns of adjectival origin*): *detective*; *expletive*.

I've (aɪv) *contraction* of I have.

ivories ('aɪvərɪz, -vrɪz) *pl. n. Sl.* 1. the keys of a piano. 2. billiard balls. 3. another word for **teeth**. 4. another word for **dice**.

ivory ('aɪvəri, -vrɪ) *n., pl. -ries*. 1. a. a hard smooth creamy white variety of dentine that makes up a major part of the tusks of elephants and walrus. b. (as modifier): *ivory ornaments*. 2. a tusk made of ivory. 3. a. a yellowish-white colour; cream. b. (as adj.): *ivory shoes*. 4. a substance resembling elephant tusk. 5. an ornament, etc., made of ivory. 6. **black ivory**. Obs. Negro slaves collectively. —*'ivory-,like adj.*

ivory tower ('taʊə) *n.* seclusion or remoteness of attitude regarding problems, everyday life, etc.

ivy ('aɪvɪ) *n., pl. ivies*. 1. a woody climbing or trailing plant having lobed evergreen leaves and black berry-like fruits. 2. any of various other climbing or creeping plants, such as poison ivy and ground ivy. —*'ivy-,like adj.*

ixia ('ksɪə) *n.* an iridaceous plant of southern Africa, having showy ornamental funnel-shaped flowers.

-ize or **-ise** *suffix forming verbs*. 1. to cause to become, resemble, or agree with: *legalize*. 2. to become; change into: *crystallize*. 3. to affect in a specified way; subject to: *hypnotize*. 4. to act according to some practice, principle, policy, etc.: *economize*.

▷ **Usage**. In the U.S. and in Britain, **-ize** is the standard ending for many verbs, but **-ise** is equally acceptable in British English. Certain words are, however, always spelt with **-ise** in both the U.S. and in Britain: *revise*.

J

j or **J** (*dʒeɪ*) *n.*, *pl.* **j's**, **J's**, or **Js**. 1. the tenth letter of the English alphabet. 2. a speech sound represented by this letter.

J *symbol for:* 1. *Cards*. jack. 2. *joule(s)*.

jab (*dʒæb*) *vb.* **jabbing**, **jabbed**. 1. to poke or thrust sharply. 2. to strike with a quick short blow or blows. ~*n.* 3. a sharp poke or stab. 4. a quick short blow. 5. *Inf.* an injection: *polio jabs*. — **Jabbingly** *adv.*

jabber (*ˈdʒæbə*) *vb.* 1. to speak or say rapidly, incoherently, and without making sense; chatter. ~*n.* 2. such talk.

jabot (*ˈʒæbɔʊ*) *n.* a frill or ruffle on the breast or throat of a garment.

jacinth (*ˈdʒæsmɪθ*) *n.* another name for **hyacinth** (sense 4).

jack (*dʒæk*) *n.* 1. a man or fellow. 2. a sailor. 3. the male of certain animals, esp. of the ass or donkey. 4. a mechanical or hydraulic device for exerting a large force, esp. to raise a heavy weight such as a motor vehicle. 5. any of several mechanical devices that replace manpower, such as a contrivance for rotating meat on a spit. 6. one of four playing cards in a pack, one for each suit; knave. 7. *Bowls*. a small usually white bowl at which the players aim with their own bowls. 8. *Electrical engineering*. a socket and plug connection in electrical equipment. 9. a flag, esp. a small flag flown at the bow of a ship indicating the ship's nationality. 10. *Austral. sl.* venereal disease. 11. a part of the action of a harpsichord, consisting of a fork-shaped device on the end of a pivoted lever on which a plectrum is mounted. 12. a. any of various tropical and subtropical fishes. b. an immature pike. 13. Also called: **jackstone**. one of the pieces used in the game of jacks. 14. *U.S.* a slang word for money. 15. **every man jack**. everyone without exception. ~*adj.* 16. *Austral. sl.* tired or fed up (esp. in **be jack of (something)**). ~*vb.* 17. (*tr.*) to lift or push (an object) with a jack. ~See also **jack in**, **jack up**.

jackal (*ˈdʒækəl*) *n.* 1. any of several African or S Asian mammals closely related to the dog, having long legs and pointed ears and muzzle; they are predators and carrion-eaters. 2. a person who does menial tasks for another.

jackanapes (*ˈdʒækəneɪps*) *n.* 1. a conceited impertinent person. 2. a mischievous child. 3. *Arch.* a monkey.

jackass (*ˈdʒækəs*) *n.* 1. a male donkey. 2. a fool.

jackboot (*ˈdʒækbuːt*) *n.* 1. an all-leather military boot, extending up to or above the knee. 2. authoritarian rule. — **Jackbooted** *adj.*

jackdaw (*ˈdʒækdoʊ*) *n.* a large common Eurasian bird, related to the crow, in which the plumage is black and dark grey; noted for its thieving habits.

jacket (*ˈdʒækt*) *n.* 1. a short coat, esp. one that is hip-length and has a front opening and sleeves. 2. something that resembles this: a *life jacket*. 3. any exterior covering or casing, such as the insulating cover of a boiler. 4. See **dust jacket**. 5. a. the skin of a baked potato. b. (as *modifier*): *jacket potatoes*. 6. *Oil Industry*. the support structure, esp. the legs, of an oil platform. ~*vb.* 7. (*tr.*) to put a jacket on (someone or something). — **Jacketed** *adj.*

Jack Frost *n.* a personification of frost.

jack in *vb.* (*tr.*, *adv.*) to abandon or leave (an attempt or enterprise).

jack-in-office *n.* a self-important petty official.

jack-in-the-box *n.*, *pl.* **jack-in-the-boxes** or **jacks-in-the-box**. a toy consisting of a figure on a tight spring in a box, which springs out when the lid is opened.

jackknife (*ˈdʒæknaɪf*) *n.*, *pl.* **knives**. 1. a knife with the blade pivoted to fold into a recess in the handle. 2. a former name for a type of dive in which the diver bends at the waist in midair; forward pike dive. ~*vb.* (*intr.*) 3. (of an articulated lorry) to go out of control in such a way that the trailer swings round at an angle to the tractor.

jack of all trades *n.*, *pl.* **jacks of all trades**. a person who undertakes many different kinds of work.

jack-o'-lantern *n.* 1. a lantern made from a hollowed pumpkin, which has holes cut in it to represent a human face. 2. a will-o'-the-wisp.

jackpot (*ˈdʒæk.pɒt*) *n.* 1. any large prize, kitty, or accumulated stake that may be won in gambling. 2. **hit the jackpot**. *Sl.* a. to win a jackpot. b. to achieve great success, esp. through luck.

jack rabbit *n.* any of various W North American hares having long hind legs and large ears.

jacks (*dʒæks*) *pl. n.* a game in which bone or metal pieces (**jackstones**) are thrown and then picked up between bounces or throws of a small ball.

Jack Tar *n.* *Now chiefly literary.* a sailor.

jack up *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. (*tr.*) to increase (prices, salaries, etc.). 2. (*tr.*) to raise an object, such as a car, with or as with a jack. 3. (*intr.*) *Austral. inf.* to refuse to comply.

Jacobean (*ˌdʒækəˈbiən*) *adj.* 1. *History*. relating to James I of England or to the period of his rule (1603-25). 2. of or relating to the style of furniture current at this time, characterized by the use of dark brown carved oak. 3. relating to or having the style of architecture used in England during this period.

Jacobin (*ˈdʒækəbɪn*) *n.* 1. a member of the most radical club founded during the French Revolution, which instituted the Reign of Terror. 2. an extreme political radical. 3. a French Dominican friar. ~*adj.* 4. of or relating to the Jacobins or their policies. — **Jacobinism** *n.* — **Jacobinical** *adj.* — **Jacobinism** *n.*

Jacobite (*ˈdʒækəˈbaɪt*) *n.* *British history*. an adherent of James II after his overthrow in 1688, or of his descendants in their attempts to regain the throne. — **Jacobitic** (*ˌdʒækəˈbɪtɪk*) *adj.*

Jacquard (*ˈdʒækɑːd*, *dʒɑːkɑːd*) *n.* 1. Also called: **Jacquard weave**. a fabric in which the design is incorporated into the weave. 2. Also called: **Jacquard loom**. the loom that produces this fabric.

Jacuzzi (*dʒəˈkuzi*) *n.* 1. *Trademark*. a device which swirls water in a bath. 2. a bath containing such a device.

jade (*dʒeɪd*) *n.* 1. a semiprecious stone which varies in colour from white to green and is used for making ornaments and jewellery. 2. the green colour of jade.

jade (*dʒeɪd*) *n.* 1. an old overworked horse. 2. *Derog.* a woman considered to be disreputable. ~*vb.* 3. to exhaust or make exhausted from work or use. — **Jadish** *adj.*

jaded (*ˈdʒeɪdɪd*) *adj.* 1. exhausted or dissipated. 2. satiated. — **Jadedly** *adv.* — **Jadedness** *n.*

Jaffa (*ˈdʒæfə*, *ˈdʒɑː-*) *n.* 1. a port in W Israel, on the Mediterranean. 2. a large variety of orange, having a thick skin.

jab (*dʒæb*) *vb.* **jabbing**, **jagged**. 1. (*tr.*) to cut unevenly. ~*n.*, *vb.* 2. an informal word for **jab**. ~*n.* 3. a jagged notch or projection.

jab (*dʒæb*) *n.* *Sl.* a. intoxication from drugs or alcohol. b. a bout of drinking or drug taking.

jagged (*ˈdʒæɡɪd*) *adj.* having sharp projecting notches. — **Jaggedly** *adv.*

jaguar (*ˈdʒæɡʒʊə*) *n.* a large feline mammal of S North America, Central America, and N South America, similar to the leopard but with larger spots on its coat.

jail or **gaol** (*dʒeɪl*) *n.* 1. a place for the confinement of persons convicted and sentenced to imprisonment or of persons awaiting trial. ~*vb.* 2. (*tr.*) to confine in prison.

jailbird or **gaolbird** (*ˈdʒeɪlbɜːd*) *n.* a person who is or has been confined to jail, esp. repeatedly; convict.

jailer, **jailor**, or **gaoler** (*ˈdʒeɪlə*) *n.* a person in charge of prisoners in a jail.

jalap or **jalop** (*ˈdʒælɒp*) *n.* 1. a Mexican climbing plant. 2. the dried and powdered root of any of these plants, used as a purgative. — **Jalapic** (*dʒəˈlæpɪk*) *adj.*

jalopy or **jalopy** (*dʒəˈlɒpi*) *n.*, *pl.* **-lopies** or **-loppies**. *Inf.* a dilapidated old car.

jealousie (*ˈʒælʊːzi*) *n.* 1. a window blind or shutter constructed from angled slats of wood, etc. 2. a window made of angled slats of glass.

jam (*dʒæm*) *vb.* **jamming**, **jammed**. 1. (*tr.*) to cram or wedge into or against something: *to jam paper into an incinerator*. 2. (*tr.*) to crowd or pack: *cars jammed the roads*. 3. to make or become stuck or locked. 4. (*tr.*; often foll. by *on*) to activate suddenly (esp. in **jam on the**

brakes. 5. (tr.) to block; congest. 6. (tr.) to crush or squeeze. 7. **Radio**. to prevent the clear reception of (radio communications) by transmitting other signals on the same frequency. 8. (intr.) *Sl.* to play in a jam session. ~n. 9. a crowd or congestion in a confined space; a traffic jam. 10. the act of jamming or the state of being jammed. 11. *Inf.* a predicament; to help a friend out of a jam. 12. See **jam session**. —**jammer** n.

jam¹ (dʒæm) n. a preserve containing fruit, which has been boiled with sugar until the mixture sets.

jamb or **jambe** (dʒæm) n. a vertical side member of a door frame, window frame, or lining.

jamboree (dʒæmbə'ri:) n. 1. a large and often international gathering of Scouts. 2. a party or spree.

jammy (dʒæmi) adj. -mier, -miest. *Brit. sl.* 1. pleasant; desirable. 2. lucky.

jam-packed adj. packed or filled to capacity.

jam session n. *Sl.* a gathering of jazz or pop musicians in which music is improvised.

Jan. abbrev. for January.

jangle (dʒæŋɡl) vb. 1. to sound or cause to sound discordantly, harshly, or unpleasantly. 2. (tr.) to produce a jarring effect on; the accident jangled his nerves. 3. *Arch.* to wrangle. —**jangler** n.

janitor (dʒænitə) n. 1. *Scot.* the caretaker of a building, esp. a school. 2. **Chiefly U.S.** a person employed to clean and maintain a building. —**janitorial** (dʒæni'tɔ:riəl) adj.

January (dʒænjuəri) n., pl. -aries. the first month of the year, consisting of 31 days.

japan (dʒə'pæn) n. 1. a glossy durable black lacquer originally from the Orient, used on wood, metal, etc. 2. work decorated and varnished in the Japanese manner. ~vb. -panning, -panned. 3. (tr.) to lacquer with japan or any similar varnish.

Japanese (dʒæpə'ni:z) adj. 1. of or characteristic of Japan, its people, or their language. ~n. 2. pl. -nese. a native or inhabitant of Japan. 3. the official language of Japan.

jape (dʒeɪp) n. 1. a jest or joke. ~vb. 2. to joke or jest (about). —**japer** n. —**japery** n.

japonica (dʒə'ponika) n. 1. Also called: **Japanese quince**. a Japanese shrub cultivated for its red flowers and yellowish fruit. 2. another name for the **camellia**.

jar¹ (dʒɑ:) n. 1. a wide-mouthed container that is usually cylindrical, made of glass or earthenware, and without handles. 2. Also: **jarful**. the contents or quantity contained in a jar. 3. *Brit. inf.* a glass of beer.

jar² (dʒɑ:) vb. **jarring, jarred**. 1. to vibrate or cause to vibrate. 2. to make or cause to make a harsh discordant sound. 3. (often foll. by *on*) to have a disturbing or painful effect (on the nerves, mind, etc.). 4. (intr.) to disagree; clash. ~n. 5. a jolt or shock. 6. a harsh discordant sound.

jar³ (dʒɑ:) n. **on a (or the) jar**. (of a door) slightly open; ajar.

jardinière (ʒɑ:di'njeə) n. 1. an ornamental pot or trough for plants. 2. a garnish of fresh vegetables for a dish of meat.

jargon (dʒɑ:gɔ:n) n. 1. specialized language concerned with a particular subject, culture, or profession. 2. language characterized by pretentious vocabulary or meaning. 3. gibberish.

jasmine (dʒæsmɪn, dʒæz-) n. 1. Also called: **jessamine**. any tropical or subtropical oleaceous shrub or climbing plant widely cultivated for their white, yellow, or red fragrant flowers. 2. any of several other shrubs with fragrant flowers, such as the Cape jasmine, yellow jasmine, and frangipani (**red jasmine**).

jasper (dʒæspə) n. 1. an opaque impure form of quartz, red, yellow, brown, or dark green in colour, used as a gemstone and for ornamental decoration. 2. Also called: **jasper ware**. a dense hard stoneware.

jaundice (dʒɔ:ndis) n. 1. Also called: **icterus**. yellowing of the skin due to the abnormal presence of bile pigments in the blood, as in hepatitis. 2. jealousy, envy, and ill humour. ~vb. 3. to distort (the judgment, etc.) adversely; *jealousy had jaundiced his mind*. 4. to affect with or as if with jaundice.

jaunt (dʒɔ:nt) n. 1. a short pleasurable excursion; outing. ~vb. 2. (intr.) to go on such an excursion.

jaunting car n. a light two-wheeled one-horse car, formerly widely used in Ireland.

jaunty (dʒɔ:nti) adj. -tier, -tiest. 1. sprightly and cheerful: a jaunty step. 2. smart; trim: a jaunty hat. —**jauntily** adv. —**jauntness** n.

Japanese (dʒɑ:və'ni:z) adj. 1. of or relating to the

island of Java, in Indonesia. ~n. 2. a native or inhabitant of Java. 3. the Malayan language of Java.

javelin ('dʒævlɪn) n. 1. a long pointed spear thrown as a weapon or in competitive field events. 2. the javelin. the event or sport of throwing the javelin.

jaw (dʒɔ:) n. 1. the part of the skull of a vertebrate that frames the mouth and holds the teeth. 2. the corresponding part of an invertebrate, esp. an insect. 3. a pair or either of a pair of hinged or sliding components of a machine or tool designed to grip an object. 4. *Sl.* a impudent talk. b. idle conversation. c. a lecture. ~vb. 5. (intr.) *Sl.* a to chat; gossip. b. to lecture.

jawbone ('dʒɔ:bəʊn) n. a nontechnical name for **mandible** or (less commonly) **maxilla**.

jaws (dʒɔ:z) pl. n. 1. the narrow opening of some confined place such as a gorge. 2. the jaws. a dangerously close position: the jaws of death.

jay (dʒeɪ) n. 1. a passerine bird related to the crow having a pinkish-brown body, blue-and-black wings, and a black-and-white crest. 2. a foolish or gullible person.

jaywalk ('dʒeɪ,wɔ:k) vb. (intr.) to cross or walk in a street recklessly or illegally. —**jaywalker** n. —**jaywalking** n.

jazz (dʒæz) n. 1. a. a kind of music of American Negro origin, characterized by syncopated rhythms, solo and group improvisation, and a variety of harmonic idioms and instrumental techniques. b. (as modifier): a jazz band. c. (in combination): a jazzman. 2. *Sl.* rigmarole: legal papers and all that jazz. ~vb. 3. (intr.) to play or dance to jazz music. —**jazzier** n. —**jazzy** adj. —**jazzily** adv. —**jazziness** n.

jazz up vb. (tr., adv.) *Inf.* 1. to imbue (a piece of music) with jazz qualities, esp. by a quicker tempo. 2. to make more lively or appealing.

jealous ('dʒeləs) adj. 1. suspicious or fearful of being displaced by a rival. 2. (often *postpositive* and foll. by *of*) resentful (of) or vindictive (towards). 3. (often *postpositive* and foll. by *of*) possessive and watchful in the protection (of): *jealous of one's reputation*. 4. characterized by or resulting from jealousy. 5. *Obsolete except in biblical use.* demanding exclusive loyalty: a jealous God. —**jealously** adv.

jealousy ('dʒeləsi) n., pl. -ousies. the state or quality of being jealous.

jean (dʒɪn) n. a tough twill-weave cotton fabric used for hard-wearing trousers, overalls, etc.

jeans (dʒɪnz) pl. n. informal trousers for casual wear, made esp. of denim or corduroy.

Jeep (dʒɪp) n. **Trademark**. a small road vehicle with four-wheel drive.

jeer (dʒɪə) vb. 1. (often foll. by *at*) to laugh or scoff (at a person or thing). ~n. 2. a remark or cry of derision.

Jehovah (dʒɪ'həʊvə) n. *Old Testament*. the personal name of God, revealed to Moses on Mount Horeb (Exodus 3).

jeune (dʒɪ'dʒu:n) adj. 1. naive; unsophisticated. 2. insipid; dull. 3. lacking nourishment. —**jejunely** adv. —**jejuneness** n.

Jekyll and Hyde ('dʒeklɪ; haɪd) n. a. a person with two distinct personalities, one good, the other evil. b. (as modifier): a Jekyll-and-Hyde personality.

jell or **gel** (dʒel) vb. **jelling, jelled** or **jelling, gelled**. 1. to make or become gelatinous; congeal. 2. to assume definite form: his ideas have jelled.

jellaba or **jellabah** ('dʒeləbə) n. a kind of loose cloak with a hood, worn esp. in North Africa.

jellyfy ('dʒeli,fai) vb. -fies, -fying, -fied. to make into or become jelly. —**jellyfication** n.

jelly¹ ('dʒeli) n., pl. -lies. 1. a fruit-flavoured clear dessert set with gelatine. 2. a preserve made from the juice of fruit boiled with sugar and used as jam. 3. a savoury food preparation set with gelatine or with a strong gelatinous stock: *calf's-foot jelly*. ~vb. -lying, -lied. 4. to jellyfy. —**jellied** adj. —**jelly-like** adj.

jelly² ('dʒeli) n. *Brit.* a slang name for **gellignite**.

jellyfish ('dʒeli,fɪʃ) n., pl. -fish or -fishes. 1. any marine coelenterate having a gelatinous umbrella-shaped body with trailing tentacles. 2. *Inf.* a weak indecisive person.

jemmy ('dʒemi) or **U.S. jimmy** n., pl. -mies. 1. a short steel crowbar used, esp. by burglars, for forcing doors and windows. ~vb. -mying, -mied. 2. (tr.) to prise (something) open with a jemmy.

jenny ('dʒeni) n., pl. -nies. 1. a machine for turning up the edge of a piece of sheet metal in preparation for making a joint. 2. the female of certain animals or

birds, esp. a donkey, ass, or wren. **3.** short for **spinning jenny**. **4.** *Billiards*, etc. an in-off.

jeopardize or **-ise** ('dʒepədaɪz) *vb.* **1.** to risk; hazard: *he jeopardized his job by being persistently unpunctual*. **2.** (tr.) to put in danger.

jeopardy ('dʒepədɪ) *n.* (usually preceded by *in*) **1.** danger of injury, loss, death, etc.: *his health was in jeopardy*. **2.** Law. danger of being convicted and punished for a criminal offence.

Jer. *Bible* abbrev. for Jeremiah.

jerbil ('dʒɜːbɪl) *n.* a variant spelling of **gerbil**.

jerboa ('dʒɜːbəʊə) *n.* any small nocturnal burrowing rodent inhabiting dry regions of Asia and N Africa, having long hind legs specialized for jumping.

jeremiad ('dʒɛrɪ'maɪəd) *n.* a long mournful lamentation or complaint.

jerk¹ ('dʒɜːk) *vb.* **1.** to move or cause to move with an irregular or spasmodic motion. **2.** to throw, twist, pull, or push (something) abruptly or spasmodically. **3.** (tr.; often foll. by *out*) to utter (words, etc.) in a spasmodic or breathless manner. ~*n.* **4.** an abrupt or spasmodic movement. **5.** an irregular jolting motion: *the car moved with a jerk*. **6.** (pl.) Also called: **physical jerks**. *Brit. inf.* physical exercises. **7.** *Sl.*, chiefly *US*: a stupid or ignorant person. —'jerk^{er} *n.*

jerk² ('dʒɜːk) *vb.* **1.** to preserve beef, etc., by cutting into thin strips and drying in the sun. ~*n.* **2.** Also called: **jerky**. jerked meat.

jerkin ('dʒɜːkɪn) *n.* **1.** a sleeveless short jacket worn by men or women. **2.** a man's sleeveless fitted jacket, often made of leather, worn in the 16th and 17th centuries.

jerky ('dʒɜːki) *adj.* **jerrier**, **jerkiest**. characterized by jerks. —'jerklily *adv.* —'jerkiness *n.*

Jerry ('dʒɛrɪ) *n.*, *pl.* **-ries**. *Brit. sl.* **1.** a German, esp. a German soldier. **2.** the Germans collectively.

jerry-build *vb.* **-building**, **-built**. (tr.) to build (houses, flats, etc.) badly using cheap materials. —'jerry-, **builder** *n.*

jerry can *n.* a flat-sided can used for storing or transporting liquids, esp. motor fuel.

jersey ('dʒɜːzi) *n.* **1.** a knitted garment covering the upper part of the body. **2.** a. a machine-knitted slightly elastic cloth of wool, silk, nylon, etc., used for clothing. *b.* (as *modifier*): a jersey suit. **3.** *N.Z.* a football strip.

Jersey ('dʒɜːzi) *n.* **1.** an island in the English Channel, the largest of the Channel Islands. **2.** a breed of dairy cattle producing milk with a high butterfat content, originating from the island of Jersey.

Jerusalem artichoke ('dʒɜːrʊsələm) *n.* **1.** a North American sunflower widely cultivated for its underground edible tubers. **2.** the tuber of this plant, which is eaten as a vegetable.

jest ('dʒɛst) *n.* **1.** something done or said for amusement; joke. **2.** playfulness; fun: *to act in jest*. **3.** a jeer or taunt. **4.** an object of derision. ~*vb.* **5.** to act or speak in an amusing or frivolous way. **6.** to make fun of (a person or thing). —'jestful *adj.*

jester ('dʒɛstə) *n.* a professional clown employed by a king or nobleman during the Middle Ages.

Jesuit ('dʒɛzjuɪt) *n.* **1.** a member of a Roman Catholic religious order (the **Society of Jesus**) founded by Ignatius Loyola in 1534 with the aim of defending Catholicism against the Reformation. **2.** (sometimes *not cap.*) *Inf.*, *offens.* a person given to subtle and equivocating arguments. —'Jesuitical *adj.*

Jesus ('dʒɛzʊs) *n.* **1.** Also called: **Jesus Christ**, **Jesus of Nazareth**. ?4 B.C.–?29 A.D. founder of Christianity, born in Galilee and brought up as a Jew. He is believed by Christians to be the Son of God. ~*interj.* also **Jesus wept**. **2.** used to express intense surprise, dismay, etc.

jet¹ ('dʒɛt) *n.* **1.** a thin stream of liquid or gas forced out of a small aperture. **2.** an outlet or nozzle for emitting such a stream. **3.** a jet-propelled aircraft. ~*vb.* **jetting**, **jetted**. **4.** to issue or cause to issue in a jet: *water jetted from the hose*. **5.** to transport or be transported by jet aircraft.

jet² ('dʒɛt) *n.* a. a hard black variety of lignite that takes a brilliant polish and is used for jewellery, etc. *b.* (as *modifier*): jet earrings.

jet black *n.* a. a deep black colour. *b.* (as *adj.*): jet-black hair.

jet engine *n.* a gas turbine, esp. one fitted to an aircraft.

jet lag *n.* a general feeling of fatigue often experienced by travellers by jet aircraft who cross several time zones in relatively few hours.

jet propulsion *n.* **1.** propulsion by means of a jet of

fluid. **2.** propulsion by means of a gas turbine, esp. when the exhaust gases provide the propulsive thrust. —'jet-propelled *adj.*

jetsam ('dʒɛtsəm) *n.* **1.** that portion of the cargo of a vessel thrown overboard to lighten her, as during a storm. *Cf.* **flotsam**. **2.** another word for **flotsam** (sense 2).

jet set *n.* a rich and fashionable social set, the members of which travel widely for pleasure. —'jet-, **setter** *n.*

jettison ('dʒɛtsɪʃn, -zɪn) *vb.* (tr.) **1.** to abandon: *to jettison old clothes*. **2.** to throw overboard. ~*n.* **3.** another word for **jetsam** (sense 1).

jetty ('dʒɛtɪ) *n.*, *pl.* **-ties**. a pier, dock, groyne, mole, or other structure extending into the water from the shore.

Jew ('dʒuː) *n.* **1.** a member of the Semitic people who are descended from the ancient Israelites. **2.** a person whose religion is Judaism. **3.** a member of the ancient tribe or nation of Judah. **4.** (*modifier*) *Offens.* Jewish: a Jew boy. **5.** (sometimes *not cap.*) *Offens.* a. a person who drives a hard bargain. *b.* a miserly person. ~*vb.* **6.** (tr.; often *not cap.*) *Offens.* to drive a hard bargain.

jewel ('dʒuːəl) *n.* **1.** a precious or semiprecious stone; gem. **2.** a person or thing resembling a jewel in preciousness, brilliance, etc. **3.** a gemstone used as a bearing in a watch. **4.** a piece of jewellery. ~*vb.* **-elling**, **-elled** or *U.S.* **-eling**, **-eled**. **5.** (tr.) to fit or decorate with a jewel or jewels.

jeweller or *U.S.* **jeweler** ('dʒuːələ) *n.* a person whose business is the cutting or setting of gemstones or the making or selling of jewellery.

jewellery or *U.S.* **jewelry** ('dʒuːəlɪ) *n.* objects that are worn for personal adornment, such as bracelets, rings, necklaces, etc., considered collectively.

Jewish ('dʒuːɪʃ) *adj.* **1.** of or characteristic of Jews. **2.** *Offens.* miserly. —'Jewishly *adv.* —'Jewishness *n.*

Jewry ('dʒuːəri) *n.*, *pl.* **-ries**. **1.** a. Jews collectively. *b.* the Jewish religion or culture. **2.** a quarter of a town inhabited by Jews.

jew's-harp *n.* a musical instrument consisting of a small lyre-shaped metal frame held between the teeth, with a steel tongue plucked with the finger.

Jezebel ('dʒɛzə,bel) *n.* **1.** *Old Testament*. the wife of Ahab, king of Israel. **2.** (sometimes *not cap.*) a shameless or scheming woman.

jib¹ ('dʒɪb) *n.* **1.** *Naut.* any triangular sail set forward of the foremast of a vessel. **2.** cut of someone's jib. someone's manner, style, etc.

jib² ('dʒɪb) *vb.* **jibbing**, **jibbed**. (*intr.*) *Chiefly Brit.* **1.** (often foll. by *at*) to be reluctant (to). **2.** (of an animal) to stop short and refuse to go forwards. **3.** *Naut.* variant of **gybe**. —'jibber *n.*

jib³ ('dʒɪb) *n.* the projecting arm of a crane or the boom of a derrick.

jib boom *n.* *Naut.* a spar forming an extension of the bowsprit.

jibe¹ ('dʒaɪb) or **jib** ('dʒɪb) *vb.*, *n.* *Naut.* variant spellings of **gybe**.

jibe² ('dʒaɪb) *vb.* a variant spelling of **gibe**¹.

jibe³ ('dʒaɪb) *vb.* (*intr.*) *Inf.* to agree; accord; harmonize.

jiffy ('dʒɪfɪ) or **jiff** ('dʒɪf) *n.*, *pl.* **jiffies** or **jiffs**. *Inf.* a very short time: wait a jiffy.

jig ('dʒɪg) *n.* **1.** any of several old rustic kicking and leaping dances. **2.** a piece of music composed for or in the rhythm of this dance. **3.** a mechanical device designed to hold and locate a component during machining. **4.** *Angling*. any of various spinning lures that wobble when drawn through the water. **5.** Also called: **jigger**. *Mining*. a device for separating ore or coal from waste material by agitation in water. ~*vb.* **gigging**, **jigged**. **6.** to dance (a jig). **7.** to jerk or cause to jerk up and down rapidly. **8.** (often foll. by *up*) to fit or be fitted in a jig. **9.** (tr.) to drill or cut (a workpiece) in a jig. **10.** *Mining*. to separate ore or coal from waste material using a jig.

jigger ('dʒɪgə) *n.* **1.** a person or thing that jigs. **2.** *Golf*. a club, an iron, usually No. 4. **3.** any of a number of mechanical devices having a vibratory motion. **4.** a light lifting tackle used on ships. **5.** a small glass, esp. for whisky. **6.** *Billiards*. another word for **bridge**¹. **7.** *N.Z.* a hand or power-propelled runabout used on railway lines.

jiggered ('dʒɪgəd) *adj.* (*postpositive*) *Inf.* damned; blowed: *I'm jiggered if he'll get away with it*.

jiggery-pokery ('dʒɪgəri'pəʊkəri) *n.* *Inf.*, chiefly *Brit.* dishonest or deceitful behaviour.

jiggle ('dʒɪɡl) *vb.* to move or cause to move up and

down or to and fro with a short jerky motion. —'jig-gly *adj.*

jigsaw ('dʒɪɡ,sɔː) *n.* 1. a mechanical saw with a fine steel blade for cutting intricate curves in sheets of material. 2. See **jigsaw puzzle**.

jigsaw puzzle *n.* a puzzle in which the player has to reassemble a picture that has been cut into a large number of irregularly shaped interlocking pieces.

jilt (dʒɪlt) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to leave or reject (a lover), esp. without previous warning. —*n.* 2. a woman who jilts a lover.

Jim crow ('dʒɪm 'krəʊ) (*often caps.*) *U.S.* ~*n.* 1. a. the policy or practice of segregating Negroes. b. (*as modifier*): *Jim-crow laws*. 2. a derogatory term for Negro. 3. an implement for bending iron bars or rails. —'Jim-'crowism *n.*

Jimjams ('dʒɪm,dʒæmz) *pl. n.* 1. *Sl.* delirium tremens. 2. a state of nervous tension or anxiety.

jingle ('dʒɪŋɡl) *vb.* 1. to ring or cause to ring lightly and repeatedly. 2. (*intr.*) to sound in a manner suggestive of jingling; a *jingling verse*. ~*n.* 3. a sound of metal jingling. 4. a rhythmical verse, etc., esp. one used in advertising. —'jingly *adj.*

jingo ('dʒɪŋɡəʊ) *n., pl. -goes.* 1. a loud and bellicose patriot. 2. jingoism. 3. by **jingo**. (*interj.*) an exclamation of surprise.

jingoism ('dʒɪŋɡəʊ,ɪzəm) *n.* the belligerent spirit or foreign policy of jingoes. —'jingoist *n., adj.* —'jingo-'istic *adj.*

jink (dʒɪŋk) *vb.* 1. to move swiftly or turn in order to dodge. ~*n.* 2. a jinking movement.

jinks (dʒɪŋks) *pl. n.* boisterous or mischievous play (esp. in high jinks).

jinn (dʒɪn) *n.* (*often functioning as sing.*) the plural of *jinni*.

jinni, jinnee or djinni (dʒɪ'niː) *n., pl. jinn or djinn* (dʒɪn). a spirit in Muslim mythology who could assume human or animal form and influence man by supernatural powers.

jinx (dʒɪŋks) *n.* 1. an unlucky force, person, or thing. ~*vb.* 2. (*tr.*) to be or put a jinx on.

jitter ('dʒɪtə) *Inf.* ~*vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to be anxious or nervous. ~*n.* 2. the jitters. nervousness and anxiety. —'jittery *adj.*

jitterbug ('dʒɪtə,bʌɡ) *n.* 1. a fast jerky American dance, usually to a jazz accompaniment, that was popular in the 1940s. 2. a person who dances the jitterbug. ~*vb.* -bugging, -bugged. 3. (*intr.*) to perform such a dance.

jiujitsu or jiu-jitsu (dʒuː'dʒɪtsuː) *n.* variant spellings of *jujitsu*.

jive (dʒaɪv) *n.* 1. a style of lively and jerky dance, popular esp. in the 1940s and 1950s. ~*vb.* 2. (*intr.*) to dance the jive. —'jiver *n.*

job (dʒɒb) *n.* 1. an individual piece of work or task. 2. an occupation. 3. an object worked on or a result produced from working. 4. a duty or responsibility: *her job was to cook the dinner*. 5. *Inf.* a difficult task or problem: *I had a job to contact him*. 6. *Inf.* a particular type of something: a *four-wheel drive job*. 7. *Inf.* a crime, esp. a robbery. 8. *Computers.* a unit of work for a computer. 9. *Inf.* a state of affairs: *make the best of a bad job*. 10. on the job. actively engaged in one's employment. 11. just the job. exactly what was required. ~*vb.* **jobbing, jobbed**. 12. (*intr.*) to work by the piece or at casual jobs. 13. to make a private profit out of (a public office, etc.). 14. (*tr.*; usually foll. by *in*) a. to buy and sell (goods or services) as a middleman: *he jobs in government surplus*. b. *Brit.* to buy and sell stocks and shares as a stockjobber. 15. *Austral. sl.* to punch. —'jobless *adj.*

jobber ('dʒɒbə) *n.* 1. *Brit.* short for **stockjobber** (sense 1). 2. a person who jobs.

jobbery ('dʒɒbəri) *n.* the practice of making private profit out of a public office.

jobbing ('dʒɒbɪŋ) *adj.* working by the piece, not regularly employed: a *jobbing gardener*.

Jobcentre ('dʒɒb,sentə) or **job centre** *n. Brit.* any of a number of government offices forming a section of the Employment Service Agency, having premises situated in the main shopping area of a town in which people seeking jobs can consult displayed advertisements in informal surroundings.

job lot *n.* 1. a miscellaneous collection of articles sold as a lot. 2. a collection of cheap or trivial items.

Job's comforter (dʒəʊbz) *n.* a person who, while

purporting to give sympathy, succeeds only in adding to distress.

jock (dʒɒk) *n. Inf.* short for **jockey** or **jockstrap**.

Jock (dʒɒk) *n.* a slang word or name for a Scot.

jockey ('dʒɒki) *n.* 1. a person who rides horses in races, esp. as a profession. ~*vb.* 2. a. (*tr.*) to ride (a horse) in a race. b. (*intr.*) to ride as a jockey. 3. (*often foll. by for*) to try to obtain an advantage by manoeuvring (esp. in **jockey for position**). 4. to trick or cheat (a person).

jockstrap ('dʒɒk,streɪp) *n.* a piece of elasticated material worn by men, esp. athletes, to support the genitals. Also called: **athletic support**.

jocose (dʒə'kəʊs) *adj.* characterized by humour. —'jo-'cosely *adv.* —'jocosity (dʒə'kɒsɪti) *n.*

jocular ('dʒɒkjʊlə) *adj.* 1. characterized by joking and good humour. 2. meant lightly or humorously. —'jocularly ('dʒɒkjʊ'lærɪti) *n.* —'jocularly *adv.*

jocund ('dʒɒkənd) *adj.* of a humorous temperament; merry. —'jocundity (dʒəʊ'kændɪti) *n.* —'jocundly *adv.*

jodhpurs ('dʒɒdpəz) *pl. n.* riding breeches, loose-fitting around the hips and tight-fitting from the thighs to the ankles.

jog (dʒɒŋ) *vb.* **jogging, jogged**. 1. (*intr.*) to run or move slowly or at a jog trot, esp. for physical exercise. 2. (*intr.*; foll. by *on or along*) to continue in a plodding way. 3. (*tr.*) to jar or nudge slightly. 4. (*tr.*) to remind: *jog my memory*. ~*n.* 5. the act of jogging. 6. a slight jar or nudge. 7. a jogging motion; trot. —'jogger *n.*

jogging ('dʒɒŋɪŋ) *n.* a slow run or trot, esp. as a keep-fit exercise.

joggle ('dʒɒɡl) *vb.* 1. to shake or move (someone or something) with a slightly jolting motion. 2. (*tr.*) to join or fasten (two pieces of building material) by means of a joggle. ~*n.* 3. the act of joggling. 4. a slight irregular shake. 5. a joint between two pieces of building material by means of a projection on one piece that fits into a notch in the other. —'joggler *n.*

jog trot *n.* 1. an easy bouncy gait, esp. of a horse, midway between a walk and a trot. 2. a regular way of living or doing something.

john (dʒɒn) *n. U.S.* a slang word for **lavatory**.

John Bull *n.* 1. a personification of England or the English people. 2. a typical Englishman.

johnny ('dʒɒni) *n., pl. -nies. Brit. inf.* (*often caps.*) a man or boy; chap.

Johnsonian (dʒɒn'səʊniən) *adj.* of, relating to, or characteristic of Samuel Johnson, 18th century English lexicographer, his works, or his style of writing.

joie de vivre *French.* (ʒwɑd 'viʒr) *n.* joy of living; enjoyment of life; ebullience.

join (dʒɔɪn) *vb.* 1. to come or bring together. 2. to become a member of (a club, etc.). 3. (*intr.*; often foll. by *with*) to become associated or allied. 4. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *in*) to take part. 5. (*tr.*) to meet (someone) as a companion. 6. (*tr.*) to become part of. 7. (*tr.*) to unite (two people) in marriage. 8. (*tr.*) *Geom.* to connect with a straight line or a curve. 9. **join battle**, to engage in conflict or competition. 10. **join hands**, a. to hold one's own hands together. b. (of two people) to hold each other's hands. c. (usually foll. by *with*) to work together in an enterprise. ~*n.* 11. a joint; seam. 12. the act of joining. ~See **join up**.

joinder ('dʒɔɪndə) *n.* 1. the act of joining, esp. in legal contexts. 2. *Law.* a. (in pleading) the stage at which the parties join issue (**joinder of issue**). b. the joining of two or more persons as co-plaintiffs or co-defendants (**joinder of parties**).

joiner ('dʒɔɪnə) *n.* 1. *Chiefly Brit.* a person skilled in making finished woodwork, such as windows and stairs. 2. a person or thing that joins. 3. *Inf.* a person who joins many clubs, etc.

joinery ('dʒɔɪnəri) *n.* 1. the skill or craft of a joiner. 2. work made by a joiner.

joint (dʒɔɪnt) *n.* 1. a junction of two or more parts or objects. 2. *Anat.* the junction between two or more bones. 3. the point of connection between movable parts in invertebrates. 4. the part of a plant stem from which a branch or leaf grows. 5. one of the parts into which a carcass of meat is cut by the butcher, esp. for roasting. 6. *Geol.* a crack in a rock along which no displacement has occurred. 7. *Sl.* a. a bar or nightclub. b. *Often facetious.* a dwelling or meeting place. 8. *Sl.* a marijuana cigarette. 9. **out of joint**, a. dislocated. b. out of order. ~*adj.* 10. shared by or belonging to two or more: *joint property*. 11. created by combined effort. 12. sharing with others or with one another: *joint rulers*.

~vb. (tr.) 13. to provide with or fasten by a joint or joints. 14. to plane the edge of (a board, etc.) into the correct shape for a joint. 15. to cut or divide (meat, etc.) into joints. —'jointed adj. —'jointly adv.

joint stock *n.* capital funds held in common and usually divided into shares.

joint-stock company *n.* 1. *Brit.* a business enterprise characterized by the sharing of ownership between shareholders, whose liability is limited. 2. *U.S.* a business enterprise whose owners are issued shares of transferable stock but do not enjoy limited liability.

jointure ('dʒɔɪntʃə) *n.* Law. a. provision made by a husband for his wife by settling property upon her at marriage for her use after his death. b. the property so settled.

join up vb. (adv.) 1. (intr.) to become a member of a military or other organization; enlist. 2. (often foll. by *with*) to unite or connect.

joist (dʒɔɪst) *n.* a beam made of timber, steel, or reinforced concrete, used in the construction of floors, roofs, etc.

joke (dʒɔʊk) *n.* 1. a humorous anecdote. 2. something that is said or done for fun. 3. a ridiculous or humorous circumstance. 4. a person or thing inspiring ridicule or amusement. 5. no joke. something very serious. ~vb. 6. (intr.) to tell jokes. 7. (intr.) to speak or act facetiously. 8. to make fun of (someone). —'jokey or 'joky adj. —'jokingly adv.

joker ('dʒɔʊkə) *n.* 1. a person who jokes, esp. in an obnoxious manner. 2. *Sl.* a man; fellow. 3. an extra playing card in a pack, which in many card games can rank above any other card.

jollify ('dʒɒlɪfaɪ) vb. -fying, -fied. to be or cause to be jolly. —'jollification *n.*

jollity ('dʒɒlɪti) *n.*, pl. -ties. the condition of being jolly.

jolly ('dʒɒli) adj. -lier, -liest. 1. full of good humour. 2. having or provoking gaiety and merrymaking. 3. pleasing. ~adv. 4. *Brit.* (intensifier): *you're jolly nice.* ~vb. -lying, -lied. (tr.) *Inf.* 5. (often foll. by *up* or *along*) to try to make or keep (someone) cheerful. 6. to make good-natured fun of. —'jolliness *n.*

Jolly Roger *n.* the traditional pirate flag, consisting of a white skull and crossbones on a black field.

jolt (dʒɔʊlt) vb. (tr.) 1. to bump against with a jarring blow. 2. to move in a jolting manner. 3. to surprise or shock. ~n. 4. a sudden jar or blow. 5. an emotional shock.

Jonah ('dʒɔʊnə) or **Jonas** ('dʒɔʊnəs) *n.* 1. *Old Testament.* a Hebrew prophet who, having been thrown overboard from a ship was swallowed by a whale and vomited onto dry land. 2. a person believed to bring bad luck to those around him.

jonquil ('dʒɒŋkwɪl) *n.* a Eurasian variety of narcissus with long fragrant yellow or white short-tubed flowers.

josh (dʒɔʃ) *U.S. sl.* ~vb. 1. to tease (someone) in a bantering way. ~n. 2. a teasing joke. —'joshier *n.*

Josh. *Bible. abbrev. for Joshua.*

joss (dʒɒs) *n.* a Chinese deity worshipped in the form of an idol.

joss stick *n.* a stick of dried perfumed paste, giving off a fragrant odour when burnt as incense.

jostle ('dʒɒsl) or **jostle** ('dʒasl) vb. 1. to bump or push (someone) roughly. 2. to come or bring into contact. 3. to force (one's way) by pushing. ~n. 4. the act of jostling. 5. a rough bump or push.

jot (dʒɒt) vb. **jotting, jotted.** 1. (tr.; usually foll. by *down*) to write a brief note of. ~n. 2. (used with a negative) a little bit (in *not care* (or *give*) a jot).

jotter ('dʒɒtə) *n.* a small notebook.

jotting ('dʒɒtɪŋ) *n.* something jotted down.

joule (dʒuːl) *n.* the derived SI unit of work or energy; the work done when the point of application of a force of 1 newton is displaced through a distance of 1 metre in the direction of the force. Symbol: J

journal ('dʒɜːnl) *n.* 1. a newspaper or periodical. 2. a book in which a daily record of happenings, etc., is kept. 3. an official record of the proceedings of a legislative body. 4. *Book-keeping.* one of several books in which transactions are initially recorded to facilitate subsequent entry in the ledger. 5. the part of a shaft or axle in contact with or enclosed by a bearing.

journalism ('dʒɜːnlɪzəm) *n.* *Derog.* a superficial style of writing regarded as typical of newspapers, etc.

journalism ('dʒɜːnlɪzəm) *n.* 1. the profession or practice of reporting about, photographing, or editing news stories for one of the mass media. 2. newspapers and magazines collectively. —'journalist *n.*

journey ('dʒɜːni) *n.* 1. a travelling from one place to another. 2. a. the distance travelled in a journey. b. the time taken to make a journey. ~vb. 3. (intr.) to make a journey. —'journeyer *n.*

journeyman ('dʒɜːnmən) *n.*, pl. -men. 1. a craftsman, artisan, etc., who is qualified to work at his trade in the employment of another. 2. a competent workman.

joust (dʒaʊst) *History.* ~n. 1. a combat between two mounted knights tilting against each other with lances. ~vb. 2. (intr.; often foll. by *against* or *with*) to encounter or engage in such a tournament: *he jousted with five opponents.* —'joustier *n.*

Jove (dʒəʊv) *n.* 1. another name for **Jupiter**¹. 2. by **Jove**, an exclamation of surprise or excitement. —'Jovian adj.

jovial ('dʒəʊvɪəl) adj. having or expressing convivial humour. —'joviality *n.* —'jovially adv.

jowl¹ (dʒaʊl) *n.* 1. the jaw, esp. the lower one. 2. (often pl.) a cheek. 3. cheek by jowl. See **cheek**. —'jowled adj.

jowl² (dʒaʊl) *n.* 1. fatty flesh hanging from the lower jaw. 2. a similar fleshy part in animals, such as the dewlap of a bull.

joy (dʒɔɪ) *n.* 1. a deep feeling or condition of happiness or contentment. 2. something causing such a feeling. 3. an outward show of pleasure or delight. 4. *Brit. inf.* success; luck: *I went for a loan, but got no joy.* ~vb. 5. (intr.) to feel joy. 6. (tr.) *Obs.* to gladden.

joyful ('dʒɔɪfʊl) adj. 1. full of joy; elated. 2. expressing or producing joy: *a joyful look; a joyful occasion.* —'joyfully adv. —'joyfulness *n.*

joyless ('dʒɔɪləs) adj. having or producing no joy or pleasure. —'joylessly adv.

joyous ('dʒɔɪəs) adj. 1. having a happy nature or mood. 2. joyful. —'joyously adv.

joy ride *Inf.* ~n. 1. an enjoyable ride taken in a car, esp. in a stolen car driven recklessly. ~vb. **joy-ride, -riding, -rode, -ridden.** 2. (intr.) to take such a ride. —'joy rider *n.*

joy stick *n. Inf.* the control stick of an aircraft.

J.P. *abbrev. for Justice of the Peace.*

Jr. or jr. *abbrev. for junior.*

joyful ('dʒɔɪfʊl) adj. feeling or expressing great joy. —'jubilance *n.* —'jubilantly adv.

jubilant ('dʒɜːbɪlənt) vb. (intr.) 1. to have or express great joy; rejoice. 2. to celebrate a jubilee. —'jubilation *n.*

jubilee ('dʒuːbɪliː) *n.* 1. a time or season for rejoicing. 2. a special anniversary, esp. a 25th or 50th one. 3. *R.C. Church.* a specially appointed period in which special indulgences are granted. 4. *Old Testament.* a year that was to be observed every 50th year, during which Hebrew slaves were to be liberated, etc.

Jud. *Bible. abbrev. for:* 1. Also: **Judg.** Judges. 2. Judith.

Judaic (dʒuː'deɪk) adj. of or relating to the Jews or Judaism. —'Judaically adv.

Judaism ('dʒuːdeɪzəm) *n.* 1. the religion of the Jews, based on the Old Testament and the Talmud and having as its central point a belief in one God. 2. the religious and cultural traditions of the Jews. 3. the Jews collectively. —'Judaist *n.* —'Juda'istic adj.

Judas ('dʒuːdəs) *n.* 1. *New Testament.* the apostle who betrayed Jesus to his enemies for 30 pieces of silver (Luke 22:3-6, 47-48). 2. a person who betrays a friend; traitor.

judder ('dʒʌdə) *Inf., chiefly Brit.* ~vb. 1. (intr.) to shake or vibrate. ~n. 2. abnormal vibration in a mechanical system. 3. a juddering motion.

judge (dʒʌdʒ) *n.* 1. a public official with authority to hear cases in a court of law and pronounce judgment upon them. 2. a person who is appointed to determine the result of contests or competitions. 3. a person qualified to comment critically: *a good judge of antiques.* 4. a leader of the peoples of Israel from Joshua's death to the accession of Saul. ~vb. 5. to hear and decide upon (a case at law). 6. (tr.) to pass judgment on. 7. (when tr., may take a clause as object or an infinitive) to decide (something) after inquiry. 8. to determine the result of (a contest or competition). 9. to appraise (something) critically. 10. (tr.; takes a clause as object) to believe something to be the case. —'judge, like adj. —'judger *n.* —'judgeship *n.*

judgment or judgement ('dʒʌdʒmənt) *n.* 1. the faculty of being able to make critical distinctions and achieve a balanced viewpoint. 2. a. the verdict pronounced by a court of law. b. an obligation arising as a result of such a verdict, such as a debt. c. (as modifier):

a *judgment debtor*. **3.** the formal decision of one or more judges at a contest or competition. **4.** a particular decision formed in a case in dispute or doubt. **5.** an estimation; a *good judgment of distance*. **6.** criticism or censure. **7.** *against one's better judgment*, contrary to a preferred course of action. **8.** *sit in judgment*, a. to preside as judge. b. to assume the position of critic. —**judgmental or judgemental** (dʒʌdʒ'mentl) *adj.*

Judgment ('dʒʌdʒmənt) *n.* **1.** the estimate by God of the ultimate worthiness or unworthiness of the individual or of all mankind. **2.** God's subsequent decision determining the final destinies of all individuals.

Judgment Day *n.* the occasion of the Last Judgment by God at the end of the world. Also called: **Day of Judgment**. See **Last Judgment**.

Judicature ('dʒʌdɪkətʃə) *n.* **1.** the administration of justice. **2.** the office, function, or power of a judge. **3.** the extent of authority of a court or judge. **4.** a body of judges; judiciary. **5.** a court of justice or such courts collectively.

Judicial (dʒu:'dɪʃəl) *adj.* **1.** of or relating to the administration of justice. **2.** of or relating to judgment in a court of law or to a judge exercising this function. **3.** allowed or enforced by a court of law; *judicial separation*. **4.** having qualities appropriate to a judge. **5.** giving or seeking judgment. —**ju'dicially** *adv.*

Judiciary (dʒu:'dɪʃəri) *adj.* **1.** of or relating to courts of law, judgment, or judges. ~*n.*, *pl.* **-aries**. **2.** the branch of the central authority in a state concerned with the administration of justice. **3.** the system of courts in a country. **4.** the judges collectively.

Judicious (dʒu:'dɪʃəs) *adj.* having or proceeding from good judgment. —**ju'diciously** *adv.* —**ju'diciousness** *n.*

Judo ('dʒu:dəʊ) *n.* a. the modern sport derived from jujitsu, in which the object is to force an opponent to submit using the minimum of physical effort. b. (as modifier): a *judo throw*. —**judoist** *n.*

Jug (dʒʌg) *n.* **1.** a vessel for holding or pouring liquids, usually having a handle and a lip. U.S. equivalent: **pitcher**. **2.** *Austral.* & *N.Z.* a container in which water is boiled, esp. an electric kettle. **3.** U.S. a large vessel with a narrow mouth. **4.** Also called: **jugful**, the amount of liquid held by a jug. **5.** *Brit. inf.* a glass of beer. **6.** *Sl. jail*. ~*vb.* **jugging, juggled**. **7.** to stew or boil (meat, esp. hare) in an earthenware container. **8.** (tr.) *Sl.* to put in jail.

juggernaut ('dʒʌgə.nɔ:t) *n.* **1.** any terrible force, esp. one that demands complete self-sacrifice. **2.** *Brit.* a very large heavy lorry.

juggins ('dʒʌgɪnz) *n.* *Brit. inf.* a silly fellow.

juggle ('dʒʌgl) *vb.* **1.** to throw and catch (several objects) continuously so that most are in the air all the time. **2.** to manipulate (facts, etc.) so as to give a false picture. **3.** (tr.) to keep (several activities) in progress, esp. with difficulty. ~*n.* **4.** an act of juggling. —**jug-gler** *n.*

jugular ('dʒʌgjələ) *adj.* **1.** of, relating to, or situated near the throat or neck. ~*n.* **2.** Also called: **jugular vein**, any of the large veins in the neck carrying blood to the heart from the head.

juice (dʒu:s) *n.* **1.** any liquid that occurs naturally in or is secreted by plant or animal tissue: *the juice of an orange*. **2.** *Inf.* a. petrol. b. electricity. c. alcoholic drink. **3.** vigour or vitality. —**'juiceless** *adj.*

juicy ('dʒu:si) *adj.* **juicier, juiciest**. **1.** full of juice. **2.** provocatively interesting; spicy: *juicy gossip*. **3.** *Chiefly U.S.* profitable: a *juicy contract*. —**'juicily** *adv.* —**'juiciness** *n.*

jujitsu, jujutsu, or jiu-jutsu (dʒu:'dʒɪtsu) *n.* the traditional Japanese system of unarmed self-defence perfected by the samurai. See also **Judo**.

juju ('dʒu:dʒu:) *n.* **1.** an object superstitiously revered by certain West African peoples and used as a charm or fetish. **2.** the power associated with a juju.

jujube ('dʒu:dʒu:b) *n.* **1.** any of several Old World spiny trees that have small yellowish flowers and dark red edible fruits. **2.** the fruit of any of these trees. **3.** a chewy sweet made of flavoured gelatine and sometimes medicated to soothe sore throats.

jukebox ('dʒu:k,bɒks) *n.* an automatic gramophone, usually in a large case, in which records may be selected by inserting coins and pressing appropriate buttons.

jukskei ('dʒʊk,skei) *n.* a S. African game in which a peg is thrown over a fixed distance at a stake driven into the ground.

Julian calendar ('dʒu:lɪən) *n.* the calendar introduced by Julius Caesar in 46 B.C., in which leap years

occurred every fourth year and in every centenary year. Cf. **Gregorian calendar**.

julienne (dʒu:lɪ'en) *adj.* **1.** (of vegetables) cut into thin shreds. ~*n.* **2.** a clear consommé to which such vegetables have been added.

July (dʒu:'laɪ) *n.*, *pl.* **-lies**. the seventh month of the year, consisting of 31 days.

jumble ('dʒʌmbəl) *vb.* **1.** to mingle (objects, etc.) in a state of disorder. **2.** (tr.; usually passive) to remember in a confused form. ~*n.* **3.** a disordered mass, state, etc. **4.** articles donated for a jumble sale. —**'jumbly** *adj.*

jumble sale *n.* a sale of miscellaneous articles, usually secondhand, in aid of charity. U.S. equivalent: **rummage sale**.

jumbo ('dʒʌmbəʊ) *n.*, *pl.* **-bos**. **1.** *Inf.* a. a very large person or thing. b. (as modifier): a *jumbo box of detergent*. **2.** See **jumbo jet**.

jumbo jet *n.* *Inf.* a type of large jet-propelled airliner.

jump (dʒʌmp) *vb.* **1.** (intr.) to leap or spring clear of the ground or other surface by using the muscles in the legs and feet. **2.** (tr.) to leap over or clear (an obstacle): *to jump a gap*. **3.** (tr.) to cause to leap over an obstacle: *to jump a horse over a hedge*. **4.** to move or proceed hastily (into, onto, out of, etc.): *she jumped into a taxi*. **5.** (tr.) *Inf.* to board so as to travel illegally on: *he jumped the train as it was leaving*. **6.** (intr.) to parachute from an aircraft. **7.** (intr.) to jerk or start, as with astonishment, surprise, etc. **8.** to rise or cause to rise suddenly or abruptly. **9.** to pass or skip over (intervening objects or matter): *she jumped a few lines and then continued reading*. **10.** (intr.) to change from one thing to another, esp. from one subject to another. **11.** *Draughts*, to capture (an opponent's piece) by moving one of one's own pieces over it to an unoccupied square. **12.** (intr.) *Bridge*, to bid in response to one's partner at a higher level than is necessary, to indicate a strong hand. **13.** (tr.) to come off (a track, etc.): *the locomotive jumped the rails*. **14.** (intr.) (of the stylus of a record player) to be jerked out of the groove. **15.** (intr.) *Sl.* to be lively: *the party was jumping*. **16.** (tr.) *Inf.* to attack without warning: *thieves jumped the old man*. **17.** (tr.) *Inf.* (of a driver or a motor vehicle) to pass through (a red traffic light) or move away from (traffic lights) before they change to green. **18.** *jump bail*, to forfeit one's bail by failing to appear in court. **19.** *jump down someone's throat*, *Inf.* to address someone sharply. **20.** *jump ship*, to desert, esp. to leave a ship in which one is legally bound to serve. **21.** *jump the queue*, *Inf.* to obtain some advantage out of turn or unfairly. **22.** *jump to it*, *Inf.* to begin something quickly and efficiently. ~*n.* **23.** an act or instance of jumping. **24.** a space, distance, or obstacle to be jumped or that has been jumped. **25.** a descent by parachute from an aircraft. **26.** *Sport*, any of several contests involving a jump: *the high jump*. **27.** a sudden rise: *the jump in prices last month*. **28.** a sudden or abrupt transition. **29.** a sudden jerk or involuntary muscular spasm, esp. as a reaction of surprise. **30.** a step or degree: *one jump ahead*. **31.** *Draughts*, a move that captures an opponent's piece by jumping over it. **32.** *Films*, a. a break in continuity in the normal sequence of shots. b. (as modifier): a *jump cut*. **33.** *on the jump*, *Inf.*, chiefly U.S. a. in a hurry. b. busy. ~See also **jump at, jump on**.

jump at *vb.* (intr., prep.) to be glad to accept: *I would jump at the chance of going*.

jumped-up *adj.* *Inf.* suddenly risen in significance, esp. when appearing arrogant.

juniper ('dʒʌmpə) *n.* *Chiefly Brit.* a sweater or pullover.

junper² ('dʒʌmpə) *n.* **1.** a boring tool that works by repeated impact, such as a steel bit in a drill used in boring rock. **2.** Also called: **junper cable, junper lead**, a short length of wire used to make a connection, usually temporarily. **3.** a person or animal that jumps.

jump jet *n.* *Inf.* a fixed-wing jet aircraft that is capable of landing and taking off vertically.

jump leads (li:dz) *pl. n.* two heavy cables fitted with crocodile clips used to start a motor vehicle with a discharged battery by connecting the battery to an external battery.

jump on *vb.* (intr., prep.) *Inf.* to berate or reprimand.

jump-start *vb.* **1.** to start the engine of (a car) by pushing or rolling it and then engaging the gears or (of a car) to start in this way. ~*n.* **2.** the act of starting a car in this way. ~Also called (in Brit.): **bump-start**.

jump suit *n.* a one-piece garment of combined trousers and jacket or shirt.

jumpy ('dʒʌmpɪ) *adj.* **jumper, jumpiest.** 1. nervous or apprehensive. 2. moving jerkily or fitfully. — '**jumpily** *adv.* — '**jumpiness** *n.*

Jun. *abbrev. for:* 1. June. 2. Also: **jun.** junior.

junction ('dʒʌŋkʃən) *n.* 1. a. a place where several routes or lines meet, link, or cross each other: a *railway junction*. b. a place where roads meet and cross: a *motorway junction*. 2. *Electronics.* a. a contact between two different metals or other materials: a *thermocouple junction*. b. a transition region in a semiconductor. 3. the act of joining or the state of being joined.

juncture ('dʒʌŋktʃə) *n.* 1. a point in time, esp. a critical one (often in **at this juncture**). 2. *Linguistics.* the set of phonological features signalling a division between words, such as those that distinguish a name from an aim. 3. a less common word for **junction**.

June (dʒu:n) *n.* the sixth month of the year, consisting of 30 days.

jungle ('dʒʌŋɡl̩) *n.* 1. an equatorial forest area with luxuriant vegetation. 2. any dense or tangled thicket or growth. 3. a place of intense or ruthless struggle for survival: *the concrete jungle*. — '**jungly** *adj.*

junior ('dʒu:njə) *adj.* 1. lower in rank or length of service; subordinate. 2. younger in years. 3. of or relating to youth or childhood. 4. *Brit.* of schoolchildren between the ages of 7 and 11 approximately. 5. *U.S.* of or designating the third year of a four-year course at college or high school. ~*n.* 6. *Law.* (in England) any barrister below the rank of Queen's Counsel. 7. a junior person. 8. *Brit.* a junior schoolchild. 9. *U.S.* a junior student.

Junior ('dʒu:njə) *adj.* *Chiefly U.S.* being the younger: usually used after a name to distinguish the son from the father: *Charles Parker, Junior*. *Abbrev.: Jnr., Jr.*

juniper ('dʒu:nɪpə) *n.* a coniferous shrub or small tree of the N hemisphere, having purple berry-like cones. The cones of the **common** or **dwarf juniper** are used as a flavouring in making gin.

junk ('dʒʌŋk) *n.* 1. discarded objects, etc., collectively. 2. *Inf.* rubbish: *the play was absolute junk*. 3. *Sl.* any narcotic drug, esp. heroin. ~*vb.* 4. (*tr.*) *Inf., chiefly U.S.* to discard as junk.

junk¹ ('dʒʌŋk) *n.* a sailing vessel used in Chinese waters and characterized by a very high poop, flat bottom, and square sails supported by battens.

Junker ('jʊŋkə) *n.* 1. *History.* any of the aristocratic landowners of Prussia who were devoted to maintaining their privileges. 2. an arrogant and tyrannical German army officer or official. 3. (formerly) a young German nobleman. — '**Junkerdom** *n.*

junket ('dʒʌŋkɪt) *n.* 1. a sweet dessert made of flavoured milk set to a curd with rennet. 2. a feast. 3. *U.S.* an excursion, esp. one made for pleasure at public expense. ~*vb.* 4. to have or entertain with a feast. 5. (*intr.*) *U.S.* (of a public official, etc.) to go on a junket. — '**junketing** *n.*

junk food *n.* food which is eaten in addition to or instead of regular meals, and which often has a low nutritional value.

junkie or junky ('dʒʌŋki) *n., pl. junkies.* an informal word for **drug addict**.

junta ('dʒʊntə) *n.* 1. a group of military officers holding the power in a country, esp. after a coup d'état. 2. Also called: **junto**, a small group of men. 3. a legislative or executive council in some parts of Latin America.

Jupiter¹ ('dʒu:pɪtə) *n.* (in Roman tradition) the king and ruler of the Olympian gods.

Jupiter² ('dʒu:pɪtə) *n.* the largest of the planets and the fifth from the sun.

Jurassic (dʒʊ'reɪsɪk) *adj.* 1. of or formed in the second period of the Mesozoic era, during which dinosaurs and ammonites flourished. ~*n.* 2. *the.* the Jurassic period or rock system.

juridical (dʒʊ'reɪdɪkəl) *adj.* of or relating to law or to the administration of justice; legal. — '**juridically** *adv.*

jurisdiction (dʒʊ'reɪsɪ'dɪkʃən) *n.* 1. the right or power to administer justice and to apply laws. 2. the exercise or extent of such right or power. 3. authority in general. — '**jurisdictional** *adj.*

jurisprudence (dʒʊ'reɪsɪ'pru:dəns) *n.* 1. the science or philosophy of law. 2. a system or body of law. 3. a branch of law: *medical jurisprudence*. — '**jurisprudential** (dʒʊ'reɪsɪ'pru:dənʃəl) *adj.*

jurist ('dʒʊ'reɪst) *n.* a person versed in the science of law, esp. Roman or civil law.

juror ('dʒʊərə) *n.* 1. a member of a jury. 2. a person who takes an oath.

jury ('dʒʊəri) *n., pl. -ries.* 1. a group of, usually, twelve people sworn to deliver a true verdict according to the evidence upon a case presented in a court of law. 2. a body of persons appointed to judge a competition and award prizes.

jury¹ ('dʒʊəri) *adj.* *Chiefly naut.* (in combination) make-shift: *jury-rigged*.

jury box *n.* an enclosure where the jury sit in court.

jury-rigged *adj.* *Chiefly naut.* set up in a makeshift manner.

just *adj.* (dʒʌst). 1. a. fair or impartial in action or judgment. b. (*as n.*): *the just*. 2. conforming to high moral standards; honest. 3. consistent with justice: *a just action*. 4. rightly applied or given: *a just reward*. 5. legally valid; lawful: *a just inheritance*. 6. well-founded: *just criticism*. 7. correct or true: *a just account*. ~*adv.* (dʒʌst; unstressed dʒʌst). 8. used with forms of *have* to indicate an action performed in the very recent past: *I have just closed the door*. 9. at this very instant: *he's just coming in to land*. 10. no more than; only: *just an ordinary car*. 11. exactly: *that's just what I mean*. 12. barely: *he just got there in time*. 13. **just about**, a. at the point of starting (to do something). b. almost: *I've just about had enough*. 14. **just a moment, second, or minute**, an expression requesting the hearer to wait or pause for a brief period of time. — '**justly** *adv.* — '**justness** *n.*

justice ('dʒʌstɪs) *n.* 1. the quality or fact of being just. 2. *Ethics.* the moral principle that determines the fairness of actions, etc. 3. the administration of law according to prescribed and accepted principles. 4. conformity to the law. 5. a judge of the Supreme Court of Judicature. 6. short for **justice of the peace**. 7. good reason (*esp. in with justice*). 8. **do justice to**, a. to show to full advantage. b. to show full appreciation of by action. c. to treat or judge fairly. 9. **do oneself justice**, to make full use of one's abilities. 10. **bring to justice**, to capture, try, and usually punish (a criminal, etc.). — '**justice-ship** *n.*

justice of the peace *n.* a lay magistrate whose function is to preserve the peace in his area and try summarily such cases as are within his jurisdiction.

justiciary (dʒʌ'stɪjəri) *adj.* 1. of or relating to the administration of justice. ~*n., pl. -aries.* 2. an officer or administrator of justice; judge.

justifiable ('dʒʌstɪfəbəl) *adj.* capable of being justified. — '**justifiability** *n.* — '**justifiably** *adv.*

justify ('dʒʌstɪfaɪ) *vb.* -fying, -fied. (*mainly tr.*) 1. (*often passive*) to prove or see to be just or valid; vindicate. 2. to show to be reasonable: *his behaviour justifies our suspicion*. 3. to declare or show to be free from blame or guilt. 4. *Law.* to show good reason in court for (some action taken). 5. (*also intr.*) *Printing.* to adjust the spaces between words in (a line of type) so that it is of the required length or (of a line of type) to fit exactly. 6. a. *Protestant theol.* to declare righteous by the imputation of Christ's merits to the sinner. b. *R.C. theol.* to change from sinfulness to righteousness by the transforming effects of grace. 7. (*also intr.*) *Law.* to prove (a person) to have sufficient means to act as surety, etc., or (of a person) to qualify to provide bail or surety. — '**justifi/cation** *n.* — '**justi,fier** *n.*

jostle ('dʒʌstl̩) *vb., n.* a less common word for **jostle**.

jut (dʒʌt) *vb.* **jutting, jutted.** 1. (*intr.*; often foll. by *out*) to stick out or overhang beyond the surface or main part. ~*n.* 2. something that juts out. — '**jutting** *adj.*

jute (dʒu:t) *n.* 1. either of two Old World tropical yellow-flowered herbaceous plants, cultivated for their strong fibre. 2. this fibre, used in making sacks, rope, etc.

juvenile ('dʒu:vɪnəl) *adj.* 1. young, youthful, or immature. 2. suitable or designed for young people: *juvenile pastimes*. ~*n.* 3. a juvenile person, animal, or plant. 4. an actor who performs youthful roles. 5. a book intended for young readers. — '**juve,nilely** *adv.*

juvenile delinquency *n.* antisocial or criminal conduct by juvenile delinquents.

juvenilia (dʒu:vɪ'nɪliə) *pl. n.* works of art, literature, or music produced in youth, before the artist, author, or composer has formed a mature style.

juxtapose (dʒʌk'stə'pəʊz) *vb.* (*tr.*) to place close together or side by side. — '**juxtapo/sition** *n.* — '**juxtapo-sitional** *adj.*

K

k or **K** (keɪ) *n.*, *pl.* **k's**, **K's**, or **Ks**. 1. the 11th letter and 8th consonant of the English alphabet. 2. a speech sound represented by this letter, usually a voiceless velar stop, as in *kitten*.

k symbol for: 1. kilo(s). 2. *Maths*. the unit vector along the z-axis.

K symbol for: 1. kelvin(s). 2. *Chess*. king. 3. *Chem*. potassium. 4. *Physics*. kaon. 5. one thousand. 6. *Computers*. a unit of 1024 words, bytes, or bits.

K. or **k.** abbrev. for: 1. (*not cap.*) karat. 2. king. 3. *Currency*. a. kopeck. b. krona. c. krone. 4. knight. 5. (*cap.*) Köchel: indicating the serial number in the catalogue of the works of Mozart made by Ludwig von Köchel, 1800–77.

Kaffir or **Kafir** ('kæfə) *n.*, *pl.* **-firs**, **-fir** or **-irs**, **-ir**. 1. *Offens.* a. (in southern Africa) any Black African. b. (*as modifier*): Kaffir farming. 2. a former name for the Xhosa language.

kaffir beer *n.* S. African. beer made from sorghum (kaffir corn) or millet.

kaffirboom ('kæfə,buəm) *n.* a S. African deciduous flowering tree.

kaffir corn *n.* a southern African variety of sorghum, cultivated in dry regions for its grain and as fodder. Sometimes shortened to **kaffir**.

Kafir ('kæfə) *n.*, *pl.* **-irs** or **-ir**. 1. a member of a people inhabiting E Afghanistan. 2. a variant spelling of **Kaffir**.

kaftan or **caftan** ('kæftən) *n.* 1. a long coatlike garment, usually with a belt, worn in the East. 2. an imitation of this, worn esp. by women, consisting of a loose dress with long wide sleeves.

Kaiser ('kaɪzə) *n.* (*sometimes not cap.*) *History*. 1. any of the three German emperors. 2. *Obs.* any Austro-Hungarian emperor.

kale or **kail** (keɪl) *n.* 1. a cultivated variety of cabbage with crinkled leaves. 2. *Scot.* a cabbage. ~Cf. *sea kale*.

kaleidoscope (kə'laɪdə'skəʊp) *n.* 1. an optical toy for producing symmetrical patterns by multiple reflections in inclined mirrors enclosed in a tube. Loose pieces of coloured glass, paper, etc., are placed in the tube between the mirrors. 2. any complex pattern of frequently changing shapes and colours. —**kaleidoscopic** (kə'laɪdə'skɒpɪk) *adj.*

kaleyard or **kailyard** ('keɪl,jɑ:d) *n.* *Scot.* a vegetable garden.

Kamasutra (kə'mə'su:trə) *n.* *the.* an ancient Hindu text on erotic pleasure.

kamikaze (kæmɪ'kæzɪ) *n.* (*often cap.*) (in World War II) a. one of a group of Japanese pilots who performed suicidal missions. b. (*as modifier*): a kamikaze attack.

kangaroo (kæŋgə'ru:) *n.*, *pl.* **-roos**. a large herbivorous marsupial of Australia and New Guinea, having large powerful hind legs used for leaping, and a long thick tail. —**kanga'roo-like** *adj.*

kangaroo closure *n.* *Parliamentary procedure*. a form of closure in which the chairman or speaker selects certain amendments for discussion and excludes others.

kangaroo court *n.* an irregular court, esp. one set up by strikers.

KANU ('kɑ:nu:) *n.* acronym for Kenya African National Union.

kaolin ('keɪlɪn) *n.* a fine white clay used for the manufacture of hard-paste porcelain and bone china and in medicine as a poultice. Also called: **china clay**. —**kao'linic** *adj.*

kapok ('keɪpɒk) *n.* a silky fibre obtained from the hairs covering the seeds of a tropical tree (**kapok tree**): used for stuffing pillows, etc.

kappa ('kæpə) *n.* the tenth letter in the Greek alphabet (Κ, κ).

kaput (kæ'pʊt) *adj.* (*postpositive*) *Inf.* ruined, broken, or not functioning.

karabiner (kərə'bɪnə) *n.* *Mountaineering*. a metal clip with a spring for attaching to a piton. Also called: **snap ring**.

karakul or **caracul** ('kærəkʊl) *n.* 1. a breed of sheep of central Asia having coarse black, grey, or brown hair:

the lambs have soft curled hair. 2. the fur prepared from these lambs. ~See also **Persian lamb**.

karate (kə'rɑ:tɪ) *n.* a traditional Japanese system of unarmed combat, employing smashes, chops, kicks, etc., with the hands, feet, elbows, or legs.

karma ('kɑ:mə) *n.* 1. *Hinduism, Buddhism*. the principle of retributive justice determining a person's state of life and the state of his reincarnations as the effect of his past deeds. 2. destiny or fate. 3. *Inf.* an aura or quality that a person, place, or thing is felt to have. —**'karmic** *adj.*

kart (kɑ:t) *n.* a light low-framed vehicle with small wheels and engine used for recreational racing (**karting**). Also called: **go-cart**, **go-kart**.

kasbah or **casbah** ('kæzbɑ:) (*sometimes cap.*) *n.* 1. the citadel of various North African cities. 2. the quarter in which a kasbah is located.

katydid ('keɪtɪ,dɪd) *n.* a green long-horned grasshopper living among the foliage of trees in North America.

kauri ('kauri) *n.*, *pl.* **-ris**. a New Zealand coniferous tree with oval leaves and round cones, cultivated for wood and resin.

kayak or **kiaik** ('kaɪæk) *n.* a canoe-like boat used by Eskimos, consisting of a frame covered with animal skins.

kayo or **KO** ('keɪəʊ) *n.*, *vb.* *Boxing, sl.* another term for **knockout** or **knock out**.

kazoo (kə'zu:) *n.*, *pl.* **-zoos**. a cigar-shaped musical instrument of metal or plastic with a membranous diaphragm of thin paper that vibrates with a nasal sound when the player hums into it.

K.B.E. abbrev. for Knight (Commander of the Order) of the British Empire.

kc abbrev. for kilocycle.

K.C. (in Britain) abbrev. for King's Counsel.

kcal abbrev. for kilocalorie.

K.C.B. abbrev. for Knight Commander of the Bath (a Brit. title).

K.C.M.G. abbrev. for Knight Commander (of the Order) of St. Michael and St. George (a Brit. title).

kea ('keə) *n.* a large New Zealand parrot with brownish-green plumage.

kebab (kə'bæb) *n.* a dish consisting of small pieces of meat, tomatoes, onions, etc., threaded onto skewers and grilled. Also called: **shish kebab**.

kedg (kedʒ) *Naut.* ~*vb.* 1. to draw (a vessel) along by hauling in on the cable of a light anchor, or (of a vessel) to be drawn in this fashion. ~*n.* 2. a light anchor, used esp. for kedging.

kedgerie (kedʒə'ri:) *n.* *Chiefly Brit.* a dish consisting of rice, cooked flaked fish, and hard-boiled eggs.

keek (ki:k) *n.*, *vb.* *Scot.* word for **peep**.

keel (ki:l) *n.* 1. one of the main longitudinal structural members of a vessel to which the frames are fastened. 2. *on an even keel*. well-balanced; steady. 3. any structure corresponding to or resembling the keel of a ship. 4. *Biol.* a ridgelike part; carina. ~*vb.* 5. See **keel over**.

keelhaul ('ki:l,hɔ:l) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to drag (a person) by a rope from one side of a vessel to the other through the water under the keel. 2. to rebuke harshly.

keel over *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. to turn upside down; capsize. 2. (*intr.*) *Inf.* to collapse suddenly.

keelson ('kelsən, 'ki:l-) or **kelson** ('kelsən) *n.* a longitudinal beam fastened to the keel of a vessel for strength and stiffness.

keen ('ki:n) *adj.* 1. eager or enthusiastic. 2. (*postpositive*; foll. by *on*) fond (of); devoted (to): *keen on golf*. 3. intellectually acute: a *keen wit*. 4. (of sight, smell, hearing, etc.) capable of recognizing fine distinctions. 5. having a sharp cutting edge or point. 6. extremely cold and penetrating: a *keen wind*. 7. intense or strong: a *keen desire*. 8. *Chiefly Brit.* extremely competitive: *keen prices*. —**'keenly** *adv.* —**'keenness** *n.*

keen ('ki:n) *vb.* 1. to lament the dead. ~*n.* 2. a dirge or lament for the dead. —**'keen** *n.*

keep (ki:p) *vb.* **keeping, kept**. 1. (*tr.*) to have or retain possession of. 2. (*tr.*) to have temporary possession or charge of: *keep my watch for me*. 3. (*tr.*) to store in a

customary place: *I keep my books in the desk.* 4. to remain or cause to remain in a specified state or condition: *keep ready.* 5. to continue or cause to continue: *keep in step.* 6. (tr.) to have or take charge or care of: *keep the shop for me till I return.* 7. (tr.) to look after or maintain for use, pleasure, etc.: *to keep chickens.* 8. (tr.) to provide for the upkeep or livelihood of. 9. (tr.) to support financially, esp. in return for sexual favours. 10. to confine or detain or be confined or detained. 11. to withhold or reserve or admit of withholding or reserving: *your news will keep.* 12. (tr.) to refrain from divulging or violating: *to keep a secret.* 13. to preserve or admit of preservation. 14. (tr.; sometimes foll. by up) to observe with due rites or ceremonies. 15. (tr.) to maintain by writing regular records in: *to keep a diary.* 16. (when intr., foll. by in, on, to, etc.) to stay in, on, or at (a place or position): *keep to the path.* 17. (tr.) to associate with (esp. in **keep bad company**). 18. (tr.) to maintain in existence: *to keep court in the palace.* 19. (tr.) Chiefly Brit. to have habitually in stock: *this shop keeps all kinds of wool.* 20. how are you keeping? how are you? 21. **keep tabs on (or track of).** Inf. to continue to be informed about. ~n. 22. living or support. 23. charge or care: *the dog is in your keep.* 24. Also called: **dungeon, donjon.** the main tower within the walls of a medieval castle or fortress. 25. **for keeps.** Inf. a. permanently. b. for the winner or possessor to keep permanently.

keep at vb. (prep.) 1. (intr.) to persist in. 2. (tr.) to constrain (a person) to continue doing (a task).

keep away vb. (adv.; often foll. by from) to refrain or prevent from coming (near).

keep back vb. (adv.; often foll. by from) 1. (tr.) to refuse to reveal or disclose. 2. to prevent or be prevented from advancing, entering, etc.

keep down vb. (adv., mainly tr.) 1. to repress. 2. to restrain or control: *he had difficulty keeping his anger down.* 3. to cause not to increase or rise. 4. (intr.) to lie low. 5. not to vomit.

keeper ('ki:pə) n. 1. a person in charge of animals, esp. in a zoo. 2. a person in charge of a museum, collection, or section of a museum. 3. a person in charge of other people, such as a warder in a jail. 4. See **goalkeeper, wicketkeeper, gamekeeper.** 5. a person who keeps something. 6. a bar placed across the poles of a permanent magnet to close the magnetic circuit when it is not in use.

keep from vb. (prep.) 1. (foll. by a gerund) to prevent or restrain (oneself or another); refrain or cause to refrain. 2. (tr.) to preserve or protect.

keeping ('ki:pɪŋ) n. 1. conformity or harmony (esp. in **in or out of keeping**). 2. charge or care: *valuables in the keeping of a bank.*

keep off vb. 1. to stay or cause to stay at a distance (from). 2. (prep.) not to eat or drink or to prevent from eating or drinking. 3. (prep.) to avoid or cause to avoid (a topic).

keep on vb. (adv.) 1. to continue or persist in (doing something): *keep on running.* 2. (tr.) to continue to wear. 3. (tr.) to continue to employ: *the firm kept on only ten men.* 4. (intr.; foll. by about) to persist in talking (about). 5. (intr.; foll. by at) to nag (a person).

keep out vb. (adv.) 1. to remain or cause to remain outside. 2. **keep out of.** a. to remain or cause to remain unexposed to. b. to avoid or cause to avoid: *keep out of his way.*

keepsake ('ki:p,seɪk) n. a gift that evokes memories of a person or event.

keep to vb. (prep.) 1. to adhere to or stand by or cause to adhere to or stand by. 2. to confine or be confined to. 3. **keep to oneself.** a. (intr.) to avoid the society of others. b. (tr.) to refrain from sharing or disclosing. 4. **keep oneself to oneself.** to avoid the society of others.

keep up vb. (adv.) 1. (tr.) to maintain (prices, one's morale) at the present level. 2. (intr.) to maintain a pace or rate set by another. 3. (intr.; often foll. by with) to remain informed: *to keep up with developments.* 4. (tr.) to maintain in good condition. 5. (tr.) to hinder (a person) from going to bed at night. 6. **keep it up.** to continue a good performance. 7. **keep up with.** to remain in contact, esp. by letter. 8. **keep up with (the Joneses).** Inf. to compete with (one's neighbours) in material possessions, etc.

keg (keg) n. 1. a small barrel with a capacity of between five and ten gallons. 2. Brit. an aluminium container in which beer is transported and stored.

kelp (kelp) n. 1. any large brown seaweed. 2. the ash of such seaweed, used as a source of iodine and potash.

kelpie¹ or **kelpy** ('kelpi) n., pl. ~pies. a breed of sheepdog with pointed ears, originally from Australia.

kelpie² ('kelpi) n. (in Scottish folklore) a water spirit in the form of a horse.

kelson ('kelsn) n. a variant spelling of **keelson**.

kelt (kelt) n. a salmon that has recently spawned.

Kelt (kelt) n. a variant spelling of **Celt**.

kelvin ('kelvɪn) n. the basic SI unit of thermodynamic temperature; the fraction 1/273.16 of the thermodynamic temperature of the triple point of water. Symbol: K

Kelvin scale n. a scale of temperature in which the degree is equal to that on the Celsius scale and the zero value is -273.15°C. Also called: **absolute scale**.

ken (ken) n. 1. range of knowledge or perception (esp. in **beyond or in one's ken**). ~vb. **kenning, kenned or kent.** 2. (tr.) Northern Brit. dialect. to know. 3. Northern Brit. dialect. to understand.

kennel ('kenl) n. 1. a hutlike shelter for a dog. U.S. name: **doghouse.** 2. (usually pl.) an establishment where dogs are bred, trained, boarded, etc. 3. a hovel. 4. a pack of hounds. ~vb. ~nelling, ~nelled or U.S. ~neling, ~neled. 5. to keep or stay in a kennel.

kepi ('kepi:) n., pl. **kepis.** a military cap with a circular top and a horizontal peak.

kept (kept) vb. 1. the past tense or past participle of **keep.** 2. **kept woman.** Censorious. a woman maintained by a man as his mistress.

kerb or U.S. **curb** (kɜ:b) n. a line of stone or concrete forming an edge between a pavement and a roadway. —'kerbing n.

kerbstone or U.S. **curbstone** ('kɜ:b,stəʊn) n. one of a series of stones that form a kerb.

kerchief ('kɜ:ʃɪf) n. a piece of cloth worn over the head. —'kerchiefed adj.

kerfuffle (kə'ɪʌfl) n. Inf., chiefly Brit. commotion; disorder.

kermes ('kɜ:mɪz) n. 1. the dried bodies of female scale insects used as a red dyestuff. 2. a small evergreen Eurasian oak tree: the host plant of kermes scale insects.

kernel ('kɜ:nəl) n. 1. the edible seed of a nut or fruit within the shell or stone. 2. the grain of a cereal, esp. wheat, consisting of the seed in a hard husk. 3. the central or essential part of something. —'kernel-less adj.

kerosene or **kerosine** ('kɜ:si:n) n. another name for **paraffin**, except when used as a fuel for jet aircraft.

kestrel ('kestɹəl) n. any of several small falcons that feed on small mammals and tend to hover against the wind.

ketch (ketʃ) n. a two-masted sailing vessel, fore-and-aft rigged, with a tall mainmast.

ketchup ('ketʃəp), **catchup**, or **catsup** n. any of various sauces containing vinegar: *tomato ketchup.*

ketone ('kitəʊn) n. any of a class of compounds with the general formula R¹COR², where R and R² are usually alkyl or aryl groups. —'ketonic (kr'tonɪk) adj.

kettle ('ketl) n. 1. a metal container with a handle and spout for boiling water. 2. any of various metal containers for heating liquids, cooking fish, etc.

kettledrum ('ketl,drʌm) n. a percussion instrument consisting of a hollow bowl-like hemisphere covered with a skin or membrane, supported on a tripod. The pitch may be adjusted by means of screws, which alter the tension of the skin. —'kettle,drummer n.

kettle of fish n. a pretty kettle of fish. an awkward situation; mess.

key¹ (ki:) n. 1. a metal instrument, usually of a specifically contoured shape, that is made to fit a lock and, when rotated, operates the lock's mechanism. 2. any instrument that is rotated to operate a valve, clock winding mechanism, etc. 3. a small metal peg or wedge inserted to prevent relative motion. 4. any of a set of levers operating a typewriter, computer, etc. 5. any of the visible parts of the lever mechanism of a musical keyboard instrument that when depressed cause the instrument to sound. 6. a. Also called: **tonality.** any of the 24 major and minor diatonic scales considered as a corpus of notes upon which a piece of music draws for its tonal framework. b. the main tonal centre in an extended composition: *a symphony in the key of F major.* 7. something that is crucial in providing an explanation or interpretation. 8. a means of achieving a desired end: *the key to happiness.* 9. a means of access or control: *Gibraltar is the key to the Mediterranean.* 10. a list of explanations of symbols, codes, etc. 11. a text that

explains or gives information about a work of literature, art, or music. 12. *Electrical engineering*, a hand-operated device for opening or closing a circuit, esp. for transmitting Morse code. 13. the grooving or scratching of a surface or the application of a rough coat of plaster, etc., to provide a bond for a subsequent finish. 14. pitch: *he spoke in a low key*. 15. a mood or style: *a poem in a melancholic key*. 16. short for *keystone* (sense 1). 17. Bot. any dry winged fruit, esp. that of the ash. 18. (modifier) of great importance: *a key issue*. ~vb. (tr.) 19. (foll. by *to*) to harmonize (with): *to key one's actions to the prevailing mood*. 20. to adjust or fasten with a key or some similar device. 21. to provide with a key or keys. 22. to include a distinguishing device in (an advertisement, etc.), so that responses to it can be identified. ~See also **key up**. —'keyless adj.

key² (kiː) *n.* a variant spelling of **cay**.

keyboard ('kiː,bɔːd) *n.* 1. a. a set of keys, usually hand-operated, as on a piano, typewriter, or typesetting machine. b. (as modifier): *a keyboard instrument*. ~vb. 2. (tr.) to set (a text) in type by using a keyboard machine.

keyhole ('kiː,həʊl) *n.* an aperture in a door or a lock case through which a key may be passed to engage the lock mechanism.

key money *n.* a fee payment required from a new tenant of a house or flat before he moves in.

keynote ('kiː,nəʊt) *n.* 1. a. a central or determining principle in a speech, literary work, etc. b. (as modifier): *a keynote speech*. 2. the note upon which a scale or key is based; tonic. ~vb. (tr.) 3. to deliver a keynote address to (a political convention, etc.).

keypad ('kiː,pæd) *n.* a small panel with a set of buttons for operating a teletext system, electronic calculator, etc.

key punch *n.* 1. Also called: **card punch**, a device having a keyboard that is operated manually to transfer data onto punched cards, paper tape, etc. ~vb. **key-punch**. 2. to transfer (data) by using a key punch.

key signature *n.* *Music*. a group of sharps or flats appearing at the beginning of each staff line to indicate the key in which a piece, section, etc., is to be performed.

keystone ('kiː,stəʊn) *n.* 1. the central stone at the top of an arch or the top stone of a dome or vault. 2. something that is necessary to connect other related things.

key up vb. (tr., adv.) to raise the intensity, excitement, tension, etc., of.

kg or kg. abbrev. for kilogram.

K.G. abbrev. for Knight of the Order of the Garter (a Brit. title).

K.G.B. abbrev. for Komitet Gosudarstvennoi Bezopasnosti: the Soviet secret police since 1954.

khaki ('kɑːki) *n.* pl. -kis. 1. a dull yellowish-brown colour. 2. a. a hard-wearing fabric of this colour, used esp. for military uniforms. b. (as modifier): *a khaki jacket*.

khan (kɑːn) *n.* 1. a. (formerly) a title borne by medieval Chinese emperors and Mongol and Turkic rulers. b. such a ruler. 2. a title of respect borne by important personages in Afghanistan and central Asia. —'khanate *n.*

khedive (kr'diːv) *n.* the viceroy of Egypt under Ottoman suzerainty (1867–1914). —'khe'dival or 'khe'divial adj.

kHz abbrev. for kilohertz.

kibbutz (kr'buːts) *n.*, pl. **kibbutzim** (kr'buːtsɪm). a collective agricultural settlement in modern Israel, owned and administered communally by its members.

kibosh ('kaɪ,bɒʃ) *n.* *Sl.* put the kibosh on. to put a stop to; prevent from continuing; halt.

kick (kɪk) vb. 1. (tr.) to drive or impel with the foot. 2. (tr.) to hit with the foot or feet. 3. (intr.) to strike out or thrash about with the feet, as in fighting or swimming. 4. (intr.) to raise a leg high, as in dancing. 5. (of a gun, etc.) to recoil or strike in recoiling when fired. 6. (tr.) Rugby. to make (a conversion or a drop goal) by means of a kick. 7. (tr.) Soccer. to score (a goal) by a kick. 8. (intr.; sometimes foll. by *against*) *Inf.* to object or resist. 9. (intr.) *Inf.* to be active and in good health (esp. in *alive and kicking*). 10. *Inf.* to change gear in a car: *he kicked into third*. 11. (tr.) *Inf.* to free oneself of (an addiction, etc.): *to kick the habit*. 12. *kick one's heels*. to be idle or be kept waiting. 13. *kick up one's heels*. *Inf.* to enjoy oneself without inhibition. ~n. 14. a thrust or blow with the foot. 15. any of certain rhythmic leg movements used in swimming. 16. the recoil of a gun or other firearm. 17. *Inf.* exciting quality or effect (esp. in *get a*

kick out of, for kicks). 18. *Inf.* the sudden stimulating effect of strong alcoholic drink or certain drugs. 19. *Inf.* power or force. 20. **kick in the teeth**. *Sl.* a humiliating rebuff. —'kickable adj.

kick about or around vb. (mainly adv.) *Inf.* 1. (tr.) to treat harshly. 2. (tr.) to discuss (ideas, etc.) informally. 3. (intr.) to wander aimlessly. 4. (intr.) to lie neglected or forgotten.

kickback ('kɪk,bæk) *n.* 1. a strong reaction. 2. U.S. part of an income paid to a person having influence over the size or payment of the income, esp. by some illegal arrangement. ~vb. **kick back**. (adv.) 3. (intr.) to have a strong reaction. 4. (intr.) (esp. of a gun) to recoil. 5. U.S. to pay a kickback to (someone).

kick off vb. (intr., adv.) 1. to start play in a game of football by kicking the ball from the centre of the field. 2. *Inf.* to commence (a discussion, job, etc.). ~n. **kick-off**. 3. a. a place kick from the centre of the field in a game of football. b. the time at which the first such kick is due to take place.

kick out vb. (tr., adv.) *Inf.* to eject or dismiss.

kickstand ('kɪk,stænd) *n.* a short metal bar attached to the frame of a motorcycle or bicycle, which when kicked into a vertical position holds the stationary vehicle upright.

kick up vb. (adv.) *Inf.* to cause (trouble, etc.).

kid (kɪd) *n.* 1. the young of a goat or of a related animal, such as an antelope. 2. soft smooth leather made from the hide of a kid. 3. *Inf.* a. a young person; child. b. (modifier) younger or being still a child: *kid brother*. ~vb. **kidding**, **kidded**. 4. (of a goat) to give birth to (young). —'kiddishness *n.* —'kid,like adj.

kid (kɪd) *Inf.* ~vb. **kidding**, **kidded**. 1. (tr.) to tease or deceive. 2. (intr.) to behave or speak deceptively for fun. —'kiddier *n.* —'kiddingly adv.

kiddy or kiddie ('kɪdi) *n.*, pl. -dies. *Inf.* an affectionate word for child.

kid glove *n.* 1. a glove made of kidskin. 2. **handle with kid gloves**. to treat with great tact or caution. ~adj. **kidglove**. 3. overdelicate. 4. diplomatic; tactful: *a kidglove approach*.

kidnap ('kɪdnæp) vb. -napping, -napped or U.S. -naping, -naped. (tr.) to carry off and hold (a person), usually for ransom. —'kidnapper *n.*

kidney ('kɪdni) *n.* 1. either of two bean-shaped organs at the back of the abdominal cavity in man. They filter waste products from the blood, which are excreted as urine. Related adj.: **renal**. 2. the corresponding organ in other animals. 3. the kidneys of certain animals used as food. 4. class, type, or disposition (esp. in *of the same or a different kidney*).

kidney bean *n.* 1. any of certain bean plants having kidney-shaped seeds, esp. the scarlet runner. 2. the seed of any of these beans.

kidney machine *n.* a machine carrying out the functions of a kidney, esp. used in haemodialysis.

kidney stone *n.* *Pathol.* a hard mass formed in the kidney, usually composed of oxalates, phosphates, and carbonates.

kill (kɪl) vb. (mainly tr.) 1. (also intr.; when tr., sometimes foll. by *off*) to cause the death of (a person or animal). 2. to put an end to: *to kill someone's interest*. 3. to make (time) pass quickly, esp. while waiting for something. 4. to deaden (sound). 5. *Inf.* to tire out: *the effort killed him*. 6. *Inf.* to cause to suffer pain or discomfort: *my shoes are killing me*. 7. *Inf.* to quash or veto: *the bill was killed in the House of Lords*. 8. *Inf.* to switch off; stop. 9. (also intr.) *Inf.* to overcome with attraction, laughter, surprise, etc.: *she was dressed to kill*. 10. *Tennis*, *squash*, etc. to hit (a ball) so hard or so accurately that the opponent cannot return it. 11. *Soccer*. to bring (a moving ball) under control. 12. **kill oneself**. *Inf.* to overexert oneself: *don't kill yourself*. 13. **kill two birds with one stone**. to achieve two results with one action. ~n. 14. the act of causing death, esp. at the end of a hunt, bullfight, etc. 15. the animal or animals killed during a hunt. 16. N.Z. a seasonal tally of the number of stock killed at a meatworks. 17. the destruction of a battleship, tank, etc. 18. **in at the kill**. present at the end of some undertaking. —'killer *n.*

killer whale *n.* a ferocious black-and-white toothed whale most common in cold seas.

killing ('kɪlɪŋ) *Inf.* ~adj. 1. very tiring: *a killing pace*. 2. extremely funny. ~n. 3. a sudden stroke of success, as in speculations on the stock market. esp. in **make a killing**.

kill-joy *n.* a person who spoils other people's pleasure.

kiln (kɪln) *n.* a large oven for burning, drying, or proces-

sing something, such as porcelain or bricks.

kilo ('kiləu) *n.*, *pl.* -**los**. short for **kilogram** or **kilometre**.

kilo- *prefix*. 1. denoting 10^3 (1000): *kilometre*. Symbol: **k**. 2. (in computers) denoting 2^{10} (1024) with reference to storage size: *kilobyte*.

kilocycle ('kiləu,saikl) *n.* short for kilocycle per second: a former unit of frequency equal to 1 kilohertz.

kilogram or **kilogramme** ('kiləu,grəm) *n.* 1. one thousand grams. 2. the basic SI unit of mass, equal to the mass of the international prototype held by the *Bureau International des Poids et Mesures*. Symbol: **kg**

kilohertz ('kiləu,hɜ:ts) *n.* one thousand hertz; one thousand cycles per second. Symbol: **kHz**

kilolitre ('kiləu,litə) *n.* one thousand litres. Symbol: **kl**

kilometre or **U.S. kilometre** ('kiləu,mɪtə, kɪ'lomɪtə) *n.* one thousand metres. Symbol: **km** —**kilometric** ('kiləu'metrik) *adj.*

kiloton ('kiləu,tən) *n.* 1. one thousand tons. 2. an explosive power, esp. of a nuclear weapon, equal to the power of 1000 tons of TNT.

kilowatt ('kiləu,wɒt) *n.* one thousand watts. Symbol: **kW**

kilowatt-hour *n.* a unit of energy equal to the work done by a power of 1000 watts in one hour. Symbol: **kWh**

kilt (kɪlt) *n.* 1. a knee-length pleated skirt, esp. one in plaid, as worn by men in the Scottish Highlands. ~*vb.* (tr.) 2. to tuck (the skirt) up around one's body. 3. to put pleats in (cloth, etc.). —**kilted** *adj.*

kimono (kɪ'mɒnəʊ) *n.*, *pl.* -**nos**. a loose sashed ankle-length garment with wide sleeves, worn in Japan. —**kimonoed** *adj.*

kin (kɪn) *n.* 1. a person's relatives collectively. 2. a class or group with similar characteristics. 3. See next of **kin**. ~*adj.* 4. (postpositive) related by blood.

—**kin** *suffix* forming nouns. small: *lambkin*.

kind¹ (kaɪnd) *adj.* 1. having a friendly nature or attitude. 2. helpful to others or to another: a *kind deed*. 3. considerate or humane. 4. cordial; courteous (esp. in *kind regards*). 5. pleasant; mild: a *kind climate*. 6. *Inf.* beneficial or not harmful.

kind² (kaɪnd) *n.* 1. a class or group having characteristics in common; sort; type: *two of a kind*. 2. an instance or example of a class or group, esp. a rudimentary one: *heating of a kind*. 3. essential nature or character: *the difference is one of kind rather than degree*. 4. *Arch.* nature; the natural order. 5. *in kind*. a. (of payment) in goods or produce rather than in money. b. with something of the same sort: *to return an insult in kind*.

▷ **Usage.** Careful users of English avoid the mixture of plural and singular constructions frequently used with *kind*, as in *those kind* (instead of *kinds*) of buildings seem badly designed.

kindergarten ('kɪnda,gɑ:t'n) *n.* a class or small school for young children, usually between the ages of four and six.

kind-hearted *adj.* sympathetic. —**kind-heartedly** *adv.* —**kind-heartedness** *n.*

kindle ('kɪndl) *vb.* 1. to set alight or start to burn. 2. to arouse or be aroused: *the project kindled his interest*. 3. to make or become bright. —**kindler** *n.*

kindling ('kɪndlɪŋ) *n.* material for starting a fire, such as dry wood, straw, etc.

kindly ('kaɪndli) *adj.* -**lier**, -**liest**. 1. having a sympathetic or warm-hearted nature. 2. motivated by warm and sympathetic feelings. 3. pleasant: a *kindly climate*. 4. *Arch.* natural; normal. ~*adv.* 5. in a considerate or humane way. 6. with tolerance: *he kindly forgave my rudeness*. 7. cordially: *he greeted us kindly*. 8. please (often used to express impatience or formality): *will you kindly behave yourself!* 9. *Arch.* appropriately. 10. *take kindly*, to react favourably. —**kindliness** *n.*

kindness ('kaɪndnis) *n.* 1. the practice or quality of being kind. 2. a kind or helpful act.

kindred ('kɪndrɪd) *adj.* 1. having similar or common qualities, origin, etc. 2. related by blood or marriage. 3. **kindred spirit**, a person with whom one has something in common. ~*n.* 4. relationship by blood. 5. similarity in character. 6. a person's relatives collectively.

kine (kaɪn) *n.* (functioning as *pl.*) an archaic word for cows or cattle.

kinematics ('kɪni'mætɪks) *n.* (functioning as *sing.*) the study of the motion of bodies without reference to mass or force. —**kine'matic** *adj.* —**kine'matically** *adv.*

kinetic (kɪ'netɪk) *adj.* relating to or caused by motion. —**kinetically** *adv.*

kinetic art *n.* art, esp. sculpture, that moves or has moving parts.

kinetics (kɪ'netɪks, kaɪ-) *n.* (functioning as *sing.*) 1. another name for **dynamics** (sense 2). 2. the branch of mechanics, including both dynamics and kinematics, concerned with the study of bodies in motion. 3. the branch of dynamics that excludes the study of bodies at rest.

kinfolk ('kɪn,fəʊk) *pl. n.* Chiefly U.S. another word for **kinsfolk**.

king (kɪŋ) *n.* 1. a male sovereign prince who is the official ruler of an independent state; monarch. Related *adjs.*: *royal, regal*. 2. a. a ruler or chief: *king of the fairies*. b. (in combination): *the pirate king*. 3. a person, animal, or thing considered as the best or most important of its kind. 4. any of four playing cards in a pack, one for each suit, bearing the picture of a king. 5. the most important chess piece. 6. *Draughts*, a piece that has moved entirely across the board and has been crowned, after which it may move backwards as well as forwards. 7. **king of kings**. a. God. b. a title of any of various oriental monarchs. ~*vb.* (tr.) 8. to make (someone) a king. 9. **king it**, to act in a superior fashion. —**king,hood** *n.* —**king,like** *adj.* —**kingly** *adj.* —**kingship** *n.*

King Charles spaniel (tʃɑ:lɪz) *n.* a toy breed of spaniel with very long ears.

kingcup ('kɪŋ,kʌp) *n.* *Brit.* any of several yellow-flowered plants, esp. the marsh marigold.

kingdom ('kɪŋdəm) *n.* 1. a territory, state, people, or community ruled or reigned over by a king or queen. 2. any of the three groups into which natural objects may be divided: the animal, plant, and mineral kingdoms. 3. *Theol.* the eternal sovereignty of God. 4. an area of activity: *the kingdom of the mind*.

kingfisher ('kɪŋ,fɪʃə) *n.* a bird which has a greenish-blue and orange plumage, a large head, short tail, and long sharp bill, and feeds on fish.

kingklip ('kɪŋ,kli:p) *n.* an edible eel-like marine fish.

king-of-arms *n.*, *pl.* **kings-of-arms**. 1. the highest rank of heraldic officer. 2. a person holding this rank.

kingpin ('kɪŋ,pɪn) *n.* 1. Also called (*Brit.*): **swivel pin**, a pivot pin that provides a steering joint in a motor vehicle by securing the stub axle to the axle beam. 2. *Tenpin bowling*, the front pin in the triangular arrangement of the ten pins. 3. *Inf.* the most important person in an organization. 4. (in *ninepins*) the central pin in the diamond pattern of the nine pins.

king-size or **king-sized** *adj.* larger or longer than a standard size.

king's post *n.* *Canad. history*. any of the fur-trading and fishing posts in Quebec.

kink (kɪŋk) *n.* 1. a sharp twist or bend in a wire, rope, hair, etc. 2. a crick in the neck or similar muscular spasm. 3. a flaw or minor difficulty in some undertaking. 4. a flaw or idiosyncrasy of personality.

kinky ('kɪŋki) *adj.* **kinkier**, **kinkiest**. 1. *Sl.* given to unusual, abnormal, or deviant sexual practices. 2. *Sl.* exhibiting unusual idiosyncrasies of personality. 3. *Sl.* attractive or provocative in a bizarre way: *kinky clothes*. 4. tightly looped, as a wire or rope. 5. tightly curled, as hair. —**kinkily** *adv.* —**kinkiness** *n.*

kinsfolk ('kɪnz,fəʊk) *pl. n.* one's family or relatives.

kinship ('kɪnʃɪp) *n.* 1. blood relationship. 2. the state of having common characteristics.

kinsman ('kɪnz,mən) *n.*, *pl.* -**men**. a blood relation or a relation by marriage. —**kins,woman** *fem. n.*

kiosk ('kɪ:ɒsk) *n.* 1. a small sometimes movable booth from which cigarettes, newspapers, sweets, etc., are sold. 2. Chiefly *Brit.* a telephone box. 3. (in Turkey, Iran, etc.) a light open-sided pavilion.

kip (kɪp) *Brit. sl.* ~*n.* 1. sleep or slumber: *to get some kip*. 2. a bed or lodging. ~*vb.* **kipping**, **kipped**. (*intr.*) 3. to sleep or take a nap. 4. (foll. by *down*) to prepare for sleep.

kipper ('kɪpə) *n.* 1. a fish, esp. a herring, that has been cleaned, salted, and smoked. 2. a male salmon during the spawning season. ~*vb.* 3. (tr.) to cure (herrings, etc.) by salting and smoking.

kirk (kɜ:k) *n.* 1. a Scottish word for **church**. 2. a Scottish church.

Kirsch (kɪʃ) or **Kirschwasser** ('kɪʃ,vɑ:sə) *n.* a brandy distilled from cherries, made chiefly in the Black Forest in Germany.

kismet ('kɪzmet, 'kɪs-) *n.* 1. *Islam*. the will of Allah. 2. fate or destiny.

kiss (kɪs) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to touch with the lips or press the

lips against as an expression of love, greeting, respect, etc. 2. (*intr.*) to join lips with another person in an act of love or desire. 3. to touch (each other) lightly. ~*n.* 4. a caress with the lips. 5. a light touch. —'kissable *adj.*

kiss curl *n.* *Brit.* a circular curl of hair pressed flat against the cheek or forehead.

kisser ('kɪsə) *n.* 1. a person who kisses, esp. in a way specified. 2. a slang word for **mouth** or **face**.

kiss of life *n.* the *Inf.* mouth-to-mouth resuscitation in which a person blows gently into the victim's mouth, allowing the lungs to deflate after each blow.

kist (kɪst) *n.* *S. African.* a large wooden chest in which linen is stored, esp. one used to store a bride's trousseau.

kit (kɪt) *n.* 1. a set of tools, supplies, etc., for use together or for a purpose: a *first-aid kit*. 2. a set of pieces of equipment sold ready to be assembled. 3. the case or container for such a set. 4. clothing and other personal effects, esp. those of a traveller or soldier: *safari kit*. ~See also **kit out**.

kitbag ('kɪt,bæg) *n.* a canvas or other bag for a serviceman's kit.

kitchen ('kɪtʃɪn) *n.* a. a room or part of a building equipped for preparing and cooking food. *b.* (*as modifier*): a *kitchen table*.

kitchen Dutch *n.* *S. African derog.* an impoverished form of Afrikaans often mixed with words from other languages, as English.

kitchenette ('kɪtʃɪnɪt) *n.* a small kitchen or part of a room equipped for use as a kitchen.

kitchen garden *n.* a garden where vegetables and sometimes also fruit are grown.

kite (kaɪt) *n.* 1. a light frame covered with a thin material flown in the wind at the end of a length of string. 2. *Brit. sl.* an aeroplane. 3. (*pl.*) *Naut.* any of various light sails set in addition to the working sails of a vessel. 4. a bird of prey having a long forked tail and long broad wings and usually preying on small mammals and insects. 5. *Arch.* a person who preys on others. 6. *Commerce.* a negotiable paper drawn without any actual transaction or assets and designed to obtain money on credit. ~*vb.* 7. to issue (fictitious papers) to obtain credit or money. 8. (*intr.*) to soar and glide.

Kite mark *n.* *Brit.* the official mark of quality and reliability, in the form of a kite, on articles approved by the British Standards Institution.

kith (kɪð) *n.* **kith** and **kin**. one's friends and relations.

kit out or up *vb.* **kitting**, **kitted**. (*tr., adv.*) *Chiefly Brit.* to provide with or acquire (a kit of personal effects and necessities).

kitsch (kɪtʃ) *n.* tawdry, vulgarized, or pretentious art, literature, etc., usually with popular appeal.

kitten ('kɪtɪn) *n.* 1. a young cat. 2. **have kittens**. *Brit. inf.* to react with disapproval, anxiety, etc.: *she had kittens when she got the bill*. ~*vb.* 3. (of cats) to give birth to (young).

kittenish ('kɪtɪnɪʃ) *adj.* 1. like a kitten; lively. 2. (of a woman) flirtatious, esp. coyly flirtatious.

kittiwake ('kɪtɪweɪk) *n.* either of two oceanic gulls having pale grey black-tipped wings and a square-cut tail.

kitty¹ ('kɪtɪ) *n., pl. -ties.* a diminutive or affectionate name for a **kitten** or **cat**.

kitty² ('kɪtɪ) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. the pool of bets in certain gambling games. 2. any shared fund of money. 3. (in bowls) the jack.

kiwi ('ki:wi) *n., pl. -wis.* 1. a nocturnal flightless New Zealand bird having a long beak, stout legs, and weakly barbed feathers. 2. *Inf.* a New Zealander. 3. *N.Z. inf.* a lottery.

kiwi fruit *n.* the fuzzy edible fruit of an Asian climbing plant. Also called: **Chinese gooseberry**.

kl. *abbrev. for* kilolitre.

klaxon ('kleksn) *n.* a type of loud horn formerly used on motor vehicles.

kleptomania (,kleptə'u'menɪə) *n.* *Psychol.* a strong impulse to steal, esp. when there is no obvious motivation. —'klepto'mani,ac *n.*

klipspringer ('klɪp,sprɪŋə) *n.* a small agile antelope inhabiting rocky regions of Africa south of the Sahara.

kloof (klu:f) *n.* a mountain pass or gorge in southern Africa.

km or km. *abbrev. for* kilometre.

knack (næk) *n.* 1. a skilful, ingenious, or resourceful way of doing something. 2. a particular talent or aptitude, esp. an intuitive one.

knacker ('nækə) *Brit. ~n.* 1. a person who buys up old horses for slaughter. 2. a person who buys up old

buildings and breaks them up for scrap. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.; usually passive*) *Sl.* to tire. —'knackery *n.*

knapsack ('næp,sæk) *n.* a canvas or leather bag carried strapped on the back or shoulder.

knapweed ('næp,wɪd) *n.* any of several plants having purplish thistle-like flowers.

knave (neɪv) *n.* 1. *Arch.* a dishonest man. 2. another word for **jack** (the playing card). 3. *Obs.* a male servant. —'knavish *adj.*

knavery ('neɪvəri) *n., pl. -eries.* 1. a deceitful or dishonest act. 2. dishonest conduct; trickery.

knead (ni:d) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to work and press (a soft substance, such as bread dough) into a uniform mixture with the hands. 2. to squeeze or press with the hands. 3. to make by kneading. —'kneader *n.*

knee (ni:) *n.* 1. the joint of the human leg connecting the tibia and fibula with the femur and protected in front by the patella. 2. *a.* the area surrounding and above this joint. *b.* (*modifier*) reaching or covering the knee: *knee socks*. 3. the upper surface of a sitting person's thigh: *the child sat on her mother's knee*. 4. a corresponding or similar part in other vertebrates. 5. the part of a garment that covers the knee. 6. anything resembling a knee in action or shape. 7. any of the hollow rounded protuberances that project upwards from the roots of the swamp cypress. 8. **bend or bow the knee**, to kneel or submit. 9. **bring someone to his knees**, to force someone into submission. ~*vb.* **kneeing**, **kneed**. 10. (*tr.*) to strike, nudge, or push with the knee.

kneecap ('ni:,kæp) *n.* 1. *Anat.* a nontechnical name for **patella**. ~*vb.* **-capping**, **-capped**. (*tr.*) 2. (esp. of certain terrorist groups) to shoot (a person) in the kneecap.

knee-deep *adj.* 1. so deep as to reach or cover the knees. 2. (*postpositive*; often foll. by *in*) *a.* sunk or covered to the knees: *knee-deep in sand*. *b.* deeply involved: *knee-deep in work*.

knee-high *adj.* another word for **knee-deep** (sense 1).

kneel (ni:l) *vb.* **kneeling**, **knelt** or **kneeled**. 1. (*intr.*) to rest, fall, or support oneself on one's knees. ~*n.* 2. the act or position of kneeling. —'kneeler *n.*

knell (nɛl) *n.* 1. the sound of a bell rung to announce a death or a funeral. 2. something that precipitates or indicates death or destruction. ~*vb.* 3. (*intr.*) to ring a knell. 4. (*tr.*) to proclaim by or as if by a tolling bell.

knelt (nɛlt) *vb.* a past tense or past participle of **kneel**.

knw (nju:) *vb.* the past tense of **know**.

knickerbockers ('nikə,bɒkəz) *pl. n.* baggy breeches fastened with a band at the knee or above the ankle. Also called: **knickers**.

knickers ('nikəz) *pl. n.* any pants for women, esp. baggy wool or silk ones held up by elastic.

knickknack ('nik,næk) *n.* 1. a cheap ornament. 2. an ornamental article of furniture, dress, etc.

knife (naɪf) *n., pl. knives* (naɪvz). 1. a cutting instrument consisting of a sharp-edged blade of metal fitted into a handle or onto a machine. 2. a similar instrument used as a weapon. 3. **have one's knife into someone**, to have a grudge against someone. 4. **under the knife**, undergoing a surgical operation. ~*vb. (tr.)* 5. to stab or kill with a knife. 6. to betray or depose in an underhand way. —'knife,like *adj.*

knife edge *n.* 1. the sharp cutting edge of a knife. 2. any sharp edge, esp. an arête. 3. a sharp-edged wedge of hard material on which the beam of a balance pivots. 4. a critical point.

knight (naɪt) *n.* 1. (in medieval Europe) *a.* (originally) a person who served his lord as a mounted and heavily armed soldier. *b.* (later) a gentleman with the military and social standing of this rank. 2. (in modern times) a person invested by a sovereign with a nonhereditary rank and dignity usually in recognition of personal services, achievements, etc. 3. a chess piece, usually shaped like a horse's head. 4. a champion of a lady or of a cause or principle. 5. a member of the Roman class below the senators. ~*vb.* 6. (*tr.*) to make (a person) a knight.

knight errant *n., pl. knights errant.* (esp. in medieval romance) a knight who wanders in search of deeds of courage, chivalry, etc. —'knight errantry *n.*

knighthood ('naɪthʊd) *n.* 1. the order, dignity, or rank of a knight. 2. the qualities of a knight.

knightly ('naɪthɪ) *adj.* of, relating to, resembling, or befitting a knight. —'knighthiness *n.*

knit (nɪt) *vb.* **knitting**, **knitted** or **knit**. 1. to make (a garment, etc.) by looping and entwining (wool) by hand by means of long eyeless needles (**knitting needles**) or by machine (**knitting machine**). 2. to join or be joined

together closely. **3.** to draw (the brows) together or (of the brows) to come together, as in frowning or concentrating. ~*n.* **4. a.** a fabric made by knitting. **b.** (*in combination*): a heavy knit. —'knitter *n.*

knitting ('nɪtɪŋ) *n.* knitted work or the process of producing it.

knitwear ('nɪt,weə) *n.* knitted clothes, esp. sweaters.

knives ('naɪvz) *n.* the plural of *knife*.

knob (nɒb) *n.* **1.** a rounded projection from a surface, such as a lump on a tree trunk. **2.** a handle of a door, drawer, etc., esp. one that is rounded. **3.** a round hill or knoll. ~*vb.* **knobbing, knobbed.** **4.** (*tr.*) to supply or ornament with knobs. **5.** (*intr.*) to bulge. —'knobbly *adj.* —'knobby *adj.* —'knob,like *adj.*

knock (nɒk) *vb.* **1.** (*tr.*) to give a blow or push to. **2.** (*intr.*) to rap sharply with the knuckles, a hard object, etc.: to knock at the door. **3.** (*tr.*) to make or force by striking: to knock a hole in the wall. **4.** (*intr.*; usually foll. by *against*) to collide (with). **5.** (*tr.*) to bring into a certain condition by hitting: to knock someone unconscious. **6.** (*tr.*) *Inf.* to criticize adversely. **7.** (*intr.*) Also **pink.** (of an internal-combustion engine) to emit a metallic noise as a result of faulty combustion. **8.** (*intr.*) (of a bearing, esp. one in an engine) to emit a regular characteristic sound as a result of wear. **9.** *Brit. sl.* to have sexual intercourse with (a person). **10.** **knock (a person) into the middle of next week.** *Inf.* to hit (a person) with a very heavy blow. **11.** **knock on the head.** *a.* to daze or kill (a person) by striking on the head. *b.* to prevent the further development of (a plan). ~*n.* **12. a.** a blow, push, or rap: he gave the table a knock. *b.* the sound so caused. **13.** the sound of knocking in an engine or bearing.

knock about or around *vb.* **1.** (*intr.*, *adv.*) to wander about aimlessly. **2.** (*intr.*, *prep.*) to travel about, esp. as resulting in varied experience: he's knocked about the world. **3.** (*intr.*, *adv.*; foll. by *with*) to associate. **4.** (*tr.*, *adv.*) to treat brutally: he knocks his wife about. **5.** (*tr.*, *adv.*) to consider or discuss informally.

knock back *vb.* (*tr.*, *adv.*) *Inf.* **1.** to drink, esp. quickly. **2.** to cost. **3.** to shock; disconcert. **4.** to reject or refuse. ~*n.* **knockback.** **5.** *Prison sl.* failure to obtain parole. **6.** *Sl.* a refusal or rejection.

knock down *vb.* (*tr.*, *adv.*) **1.** to strike to the ground with a blow, as in boxing. **2.** (in auctions) to declare (an article) sold. **3.** to demolish. **4.** to dismantle for ease of transport. **5.** *Inf.* to reduce (a price, etc.). ~*adj.* **knock-down.** (*prenominal*) **6.** powerful: a knockdown blow. **7.** Chiefly *Brit.* cheap: a knockdown price. **8.** easily dismantled: knockdown furniture.

knocker ('nɒkə) *n.* **1.** an object, usually made of metal, attached to a door by a hinge and used for knocking. **2.** (usually *pl.*) *Sl.* a female breast. **3.** a person or thing that knocks. **4.** on the knocker. *Austral. & N.Z. inf.* promptly: you pay on the knocker here.

knock-knee *n.* a condition in which the legs are bent inwards causing the knees to touch when standing. —'knock-'kneed *adj.*

knock off *vb.* (*mainly adv.*) **1.** (*intr.*, *also prep.*) *Inf.* to finish work: we knocked off an hour early. **2.** (*tr.*) *Inf.* to make or do hastily or easily: to knock off a novel in a week. **3.** (*tr.*; *also prep.*) *Inf.* to reduce the price of (an article). **4.** (*tr.*) *Sl.* to kill. **5.** (*tr.*) *Sl.* to rob or steal: to knock off a bank. **6.** (*tr.*) *Sl.* to stop doing something, used as a command: knock it off!

knock-on *Rugby.* ~*n.* **1.** the infringement of playing the ball forward with the hand or arm. ~*vb.* **knock on.** (*adv.*) **2.** to play (the ball) forward with the hand or arm.

knock-on effect *n.* the indirect result of an action: the number of redundancies was not great but there were as many again from the knock-on effect.

knockout ('nɒk,aut) *n.* **1.** the act of rendering unconscious. **2.** a blow that renders an opponent unconscious. **3. a.** a competition in which competitors are eliminated progressively. **b.** (*as modifier*): a knockout contest. **4.** *Inf.* a person or thing that is overwhelmingly impressive or attractive: she's a knockout. ~*vb.* **knock out.** (*tr.*, *adv.*) **5.** to render unconscious, esp. by a blow. **6.** *Boxing.* to defeat (an opponent) by a knockout. **7.** to destroy or injure badly. **8.** to eliminate, esp. in a knockout competition. **9.** *Inf.* to overwhelm or amaze: I was knocked out by that new song. **10.** **knock the bottom out of.** *Inf.* to invalidate (an argument).

knock up *vb.* (*adv.*, *mainly tr.*) **1.** Also: **knock together.** *Inf.* to assemble quickly: to knock up a set of shelves. **2.** *Brit. inf.* to waken; rouse: to knock someone up early. **3.** *Sl.* to make pregnant. **4.** *Brit. inf.* to exhaust. **5.**

Cricket. to score (runs). **6.** (*intr.*) *Tennis, squash, etc.* to practise, esp. before a match. ~*n.* **knock-up.** **7.** a practice session at tennis, squash, etc.

knoll (nɒl) *n.* a small rounded hill.

knot (nɒt) *n.* **1.** any of various fastenings formed by looping and tying a piece of rope, cord, etc., in upon itself or to another piece of rope. **2.** a prescribed method of tying a particular knot. **3.** a decorative bow, as of ribbon. **4.** a small closely knit group. **5.** a tie or bond: the marriage knot. **6.** a difficult problem. **7. a.** a hard mass of wood where a branch joins the trunk of a tree. *b.* a cross section of this visible on a piece of timber. **8.** *Pathol.* a lump of vessels or fibres formed in a part, as in a muscle. **9.** a unit of speed used by nautical vessels and aircraft, being one nautical mile (about 1.15 statute miles or 1.85km) per hour. **10.** another term (not in technical use) for nautical mile. **11.** at a rate of knots. very fast. **12.** **tie (someone) in knots.** to completely perplex (someone). ~*vb.* **knitting, knotted.** **13.** (*tr.*) to tie or fasten in a knot. **14.** to form or cause to form into a knot. **15.** (*tr.*) to entangle or become entangled. —'knotted *adj.* —'knottier *n.* —'knotless *adj.*

knot? (nɒt) *n.* a small northern sandpiper with a short bill and grey plumage.

knotgrass ('nɒt,grɑːs) *n.* **1.** Also called: **allseed.** a weed whose small green flowers produce numerous seeds. **2.** any of several related plants.

knothole ('nɒt,həʊl) *n.* a hole in a piece of wood where a knot has been.

knotty ('nɒti) *adj.* **knottier, knottiest.** **1.** (of wood, rope, etc.) full of or characterized by knots. **2.** extremely difficult or intricate.

know (nəʊ) *vb.* **knowing, knew, known.** (*mainly tr.*) **1.** (*also intr.*; may take a clause as object) to be or feel certain of the truth or accuracy of (a fact, etc.). **2.** to be acquainted or familiar with: she's known him five years. **3.** to have a familiarity or grasp of: he knows French. **4.** (*also intr.*; may take a clause as object) to understand or perceive (facts, etc.): he knows the answer now. **5.** (foll. by *how*) to be sure or aware of (how to be or do something). **6.** to experience, esp. deeply: to know poverty. **7.** to be intelligent, informed, or sensible enough (to do something). **8.** (*may take a clause as object*) to be able to distinguish or discriminate. **9.** *Arch.* to have sexual intercourse with. **10.** **know what's what.** to know how one thing or things in general work. **11.** **you never know.** things are uncertain. ~*n.* **12.** in the know. *Inf.* aware or informed. —'knowable *adj.* —'knower *n.*

know-how *n.* *Inf.* **1.** ingenuity, aptitude, or skill. **2.** commercial and saleable knowledge of how to do a particular thing.

knowing ('nəʊɪŋ) *adj.* **1.** suggesting secret knowledge. **2.** wise, shrewd, or clever. **3.** deliberate. ~*n.* **4.** **there is no knowing.** one cannot tell. —'knowingly *adv.* —'knowingness *n.*

knowledge ('nɒldʒ) *n.* **1.** the facts or experiences known by a person or group of people. **2.** the state of knowing. **3.** consciousness or familiarity gained by experience or learning. **4.** erudition or informed learning. **5.** specific information about a subject. **6.** to my (his, etc.) knowledge. *a.* as I understand it. *b.* as I know.

knowledgeable or knowledgeable ('nɒldʒəbəl) *adj.* possessing or indicating much knowledge. —'knowledgeably *adv.*

known (nəʊn) *vb.* **1.** the past participle of *know*. ~*adj.* **2.** identified: a known criminal.

knuckle ('nʌkəl) *n.* **1.** a joint of a finger, esp. that connecting a finger to the hand. **2.** a joint of veal, pork, etc., consisting of the part of the leg below the knee joint. **3.** near the knuckle. *Inf.* approaching indecency. ~*vb.* **4.** (*tr.*) to rub or press with the knuckles. **5.** (*intr.*) to keep the knuckles on the ground while shooting a marble. —'knuckly *adj.*

knuckle down *vb.* (*intr.*, *adv.*) *Inf.* to apply oneself diligently: to knuckle down to some work.

knuckle-duster *n.* (*often pl.*) a metal bar fitted over the knuckles, often with holes for the fingers, for inflicting injury by a blow with the fist.

knuckle under *vb.* (*intr.*, *adv.*) to give way under pressure or authority; yield.

knurl or nurl ('nɜːl) *vb.* (*tr.*) **1.** to impress with a series of fine ridges or serrations. ~*n.* **2.** a small ridge, esp. one of a series.

KO, K.O., or k.o. ('keɪ'əʊ) *vb.* **KO'ing, KO'd; K.O.'ing, K.O.'d; k.o.'ing, k.o.'d, n.** *pl.* **KO's, K.O.'s, or k.o.'s.** a slang term for knock out or knockout.

koala or koala bear (kəʊ'ɑːlə) *n.* a slow-moving Aus-

tralian arboreal marsupial, having dense greyish fur and feeding on eucalyptus leaves. Also called (in Australia): **native bear**.

kohl (kəʊl) *n.* a cosmetic powder used esp. in Muslim and Asian countries to darken the area around the eyes.

kohlrabi (kəʊl'ra:bi) *n., pl. -bies.* a cultivated variety of cabbage whose thickened stem is eaten as a vegetable. Also called: **turnip cabbage**.

kokanee (kəʊ'kæni) *n.* a landlocked salmon of lakes in W North America: a variety of sockeye.

kola ('kəʊlə) *n.* a variant spelling of **cola**.

kolinsky (kə'ɦɦɦɦ) *n., pl. -skies.* 1. any of various Asian minks. 2. the rich tawny fur of this animal.

kolkhoz (kə'ɦɦɦɦ) *n.* a Russian collective farm.

kook (ku:k) *n. U.S. inf.* an eccentric or foolish person. — **kooky** or **kookie** *adj.*

kookaburra ('kukə,bʌrə) *n.* a large Australian kingfisher with a cackling cry. Also called: **laughing jackass**.

kopeck or **copeck** ('kəʊpɛk) *n.* a Soviet monetary unit worth one hundredth of a rouble.

Koran (kə:'rɑ:n) *n.* the sacred book of Islam, believed by Muslims to be the infallible word of God dictated to Mohammed. Also: **Qur'an**. — **Ko'ranic** *adj.*

Korean (kə'ri:ən) *adj.* 1. of or relating to Korea in SE Asia, its people, or their language. ~*n.* 2. a native or inhabitant of Korea. 3. the official language of North and South Korea.

kosher ('kəʊʃə) *adj.* 1. *Judaism.* prepared according to or conforming to Jewish dietary laws. 2. *Inf. a.* genuine or authentic. *b.* legitimate. ~*n.* 3. kosher food.

kowtow ('kəʊtau) *vb. (intr.)* 1. to touch the forehead to the ground as a sign of respect or deference: a former Chinese custom. 2. (often foll. by *to*) to be servile (towards). ~*n.* 3. the act of kowtowing.

Kr *the chemical symbol for krypton.*

kraal (krɑ:l) *n. S. African.* 1. a hut village in southern Africa, esp. one surrounded by a stockade. 2. an enclosure for livestock.

kremlin ('kremlin) *n.* the citadel of any Russian city.

Kremlin ('kremlin) *n.* 1. the 12th-century citadel in Moscow, containing the offices of the Soviet government. 2. the central government of the Soviet Union.

krill (kri:l) *n., pl. krill.* any small shrimplike marine crustacean: the principal food of whalebone whales.

kris (kris) *n.* a Malayan and Indonesian stabbing or slashing knife with a scalloped edge. Also called: **crease, creese**.

krona ('krəʊnə) *n., pl. -nor (-nə).* the standard monetary unit of Sweden.

króna ('krəʊnə) *n., pl. -nur (nə).* the standard monetary unit of Iceland.

krone ('krəʊnə) *n., pl. -ner (-nə).* 1. the standard monetary unit of Denmark. 2. the standard monetary unit of Norway.

krypton ('kriptən) *n.* an inert gaseous element occurring in trace amounts in air and used in fluorescent lights and lasers. Symbol: Kr; atomic no.: 36; atomic wt.: 83.80.

Kt *Chess. abbrev. for knight.* Also: **N**

kt. *abbrev. for:* 1. karat. 2. Naut. knot.

Kt. or Knt. *abbrev. for knight.*

kudos ('kju:ðəs) *n. (functioning as sing.)* acclaim, glory, or prestige.

kudu or **koodoo** ('ku:du:) *n.* either of two spiral-horned antelopes (**greater kudu** or **lesser kudu**), which inhabit the bush of Africa.

Ku Klux Klan ('ku: 'klaks 'klæn) *n.* 1. a secret organization of white Southerners formed after the U.S. Civil War to fight Black emancipation. 2. a secret organization of White Protestant Americans, mainly in the South, who use violence against Blacks, Jews, etc. — **Ku Klux Klanner** *n.*

kukri ('kukri) *n.* a knife with a curved blade that broadens towards the point, esp. as used by Gurkhas.

kulak ('ku:læk) *n.* (in Russia after 1906) a member of the class of peasants who became proprietors of their own farms. In 1929 Stalin initiated their liquidation.

kümmel ('kuməl) *n.* a German liqueur flavoured with aniseed and cumin.

kumquat or **cumquat** ('kʌmkwɒt) *n.* 1. a small Chinese citrus tree. 2. the small round orange fruit of such a tree, with a sweet rind, used in preserves and confections.

kung fu ('kʌŋ 'fu:) *n.* a Chinese martial art combining principles of karate and judo.

kW or **kw** *abbrev. for kilowatt.*

kwashiorkor ('kwæʃi:'ɔ:kə) *n.* severe malnutrition of infants and young children, resulting from dietary deficiency of protein.

kWh, kwh, or **kw-h** *abbrev. for kilowatt-hour.*

kyle (kail) *n. Scot. (esp. in place names)* a narrow strait or channel: *Kyle of Lochalsh*.

Kyrie eleison ('ki:ri ə'leis'n) *n.* 1. a formal invocation used in the liturgies of the Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, and Anglican Churches. 2. a musical setting of this. Often shortened to **Kyrie**.

L

l or **L** (el) *n.*, *pl.* **l's**, **L's**, or **Ls**. 1. the 12th letter of the English alphabet. 2. a speech sound represented by this letter. 3. a. something shaped like an L. b. (in combination): an L-shaped room.

L symbol for: 1. lambert(s). 2. large. 3. Latin. 4. (on British motor vehicles) learner driver. 5. Physics. length. 6. Usually written: £. libra: pound. 7. longitude. 8. Electronics. inductor (in circuit diagrams). 9. Physics. a. latent heat. b. self-inductance. ~10. the Roman numeral for 50. See **Roman numerals**.

L, or **l**. abbrev. for: 1. lake. 2. latitude. 3. law. 4. leaf. 5. league. 6. left. 7. length. 8. (pl. **LL** or **ll**.) line. 9. link. 10. lire. 11. litre(s). 12. low.

la (lɑː) *n.* **Music**. an alternative spelling of **lah**.

La the chemical symbol for lanthanum.

laager (ˈlɑːɡə) *n.* 1. (in Africa) a camp, esp. one defended by a circular formation of wagons. 2. **Mil.** a place where armoured vehicles are parked. ~*vb.* 3. to form (wagons) into a laager. 4. (tr.) to park (armoured vehicles) in a laager.

lab (læb) *n.* **Inf.** short for **laboratory**.

Lab. abbrev. for: 1. **Politics**. Labour. 2. Labrador.

label (ˈleɪbəl) *n.* 1. a piece of paper, card, or other material attached to an object to identify it or give instructions or details concerning its ownership, use, nature, destination, etc.; tag. 2. a brief descriptive phrase or term given to a person, group, school of thought, etc.: the label "Romantic" is applied to many different kinds of poetry. 3. a word or phrase heading a piece of text to indicate or summarize its contents. 4. a trademark or company or brand name on certain goods, esp. on gramophone records. 5. **Computers**. a set of characters by which a file is identified by the central processing unit. 6. **Chem.** a radioactive element used in a compound to trace the mechanism of a chemical reaction. ~*vb.* -belling, -belled or **U.S.** -beling, -beled. (tr.) 7. to fasten a label to. 8. to mark with a label. 9. to describe or classify in a word or phrase: to label someone a liar. 10. to make (one or more atoms in a compound) radioactive, for use in determining the mechanism of a reaction. — **labeller** *n.*

labia (ˈleɪbiə) *n.* the plural of **labium**.

labial (ˈleɪbiəl) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or near lips or labia. 2. **Music**. producing sounds by the action of an air stream over a narrow liplike fissure, as in a flue pipe of an organ. 3. **Phonetics**. relating to a speech sound whose articulation involves movement or use of the lips. ~*n.* 4. Also called: **labial pipe**. **Music**. an organ pipe with a liplike fissure. 5. **Phonetics**. a speech sound such as English *p* or *m*, whose articulation involves movement or use of the lips. — **labially** *adv.*

labiate (ˈleɪbi,et,-ɪt) *n.* 1. any plant of the family **Labiatae**, having square stems, aromatic leaves, and a two-lipped corolla: includes mint, thyme, sage, rosemary, etc. ~*adj.* 2. of, relating to, or belonging to the family **Labiatae**.

labium (ˈleɪbiəm) *n.*, *pl.* -bia (-biə). 1. a lip or liplike structure. 2. any one of the four lip-shaped folds of the female vulva, comprising an outer pair (**labia majora**), and an inner pair (**labia minora**).

laboratory (ləˈbɒrətəri,-tri; **U.S.** ləˈbɒrə,tɔːri) *n.*, *pl.* -ries. 1. a building or room equipped for conducting scientific research or for teaching practical science. b. (as modifier): laboratory equipment. 2. a place where chemicals or medicines are manufactured. ~Often shortened to **lab**.

laborious (ləˈbɔːriəs) *adj.* 1. involving great exertion or long effort. 2. given to working hard. 3. (of literary style, etc.) not fluent. — **la'boriously** *adv.* — **la'boriousness** *n.*

labour or **U.S. labor** (ˈleɪbə) *n.* 1. productive work, esp. physical toil done for wages. 2. a. the people, class, or workers involved in this, esp. as opposed to management, capital, etc. b. (as modifier): labour relations. 3. a. difficult or arduous work or effort. b. (in combination): labour-saving. 4. a particular job or task, esp. of a difficult nature. 5. the pain or effort of childbirth or the time during which this takes place. ~*vb.* 6. (intr.) to perform labour; work. 7. (intr.; foll. by *for*, etc.) to strive

or work hard (for something). 8. (intr.; usually foll. by *under*) to be burdened (by) or be at a disadvantage (because of): to labour under a misapprehension. 9. (intr.) to make one's way with difficulty. 10. (tr.) to deal with too persistently: to labour a point. 11. (intr.) (of a woman) to be in labour. 12. (intr.) (of a ship) to pitch and toss.

Labour Day *n.* a public holiday in many countries in honour of labour, usually held on May 1.

laboured or **U.S. labored** (ˈleɪbəd) *adj.* 1. (of breathing) performed with difficulty. 2. showing effort.

labourer or **U.S. laborer** (ˈleɪbərə) *n.* a person engaged in physical work, esp. unskilled work.

labour exchange *n.* **Brit.** a former name for the **Employment Service Agency**.

Labour Party *n.* 1. a British political party, formed in 1900 as an amalgam of various trade unions and socialist groups, generally supporting the interests of organized labour. 2. any similar party in any of various other countries.

Labrador retriever (ˈlæbrə,dɔː) *n.* a variety of retriever with a short black or golden-brown coat. Often shortened to **Labrador**.

laburnum (ləˈbʊːnəm) *n.* any tree or shrub of a Eurasian genus having clusters of yellow drooping flowers: all parts of the plant are poisonous.

labyrinth (ˈlæbərɪnθ) *n.* 1. a mazelike network of tunnels, chambers, or paths, either natural or man-made. 2. any complex or confusing system of streets, passages, etc. 3. a complex or intricate situation. 4. any system of interconnecting cavities, esp. those comprising the internal ear. 5. **Electronics**. an enclosure behind a high-performance loudspeaker, consisting of a series of air chambers designed to absorb unwanted sound waves.

lac¹ (læk) *n.* a resinous substance secreted by certain insects (**lac insects**), used in the manufacture of shellac.

lac² (læk) *n.* a variant spelling of **lakh**.

lace (leɪs) *n.* 1. a delicate decorative fabric made from cotton, silk, etc., woven in an open web of different symmetrical patterns and figures. 2. a cord or string drawn through eyelets or around hooks to fasten a shoe or garment. 3. ornamental braid often used on military uniforms, etc. ~*vb.* 4. to fasten (shoes, etc.) with a lace. 5. (tr.) to draw (a cord or thread) through holes, eyes, etc., as when tying shoes. 6. (tr.) to compress the waist of (someone), as with a corset. 7. (tr.) to add a dash of spirits to (a beverage). 8. (tr.; usually passive and foll. by *with*) to streak or mark with lines or colours: the sky was laced with red. 9. (tr.) to intertwine; interlace. 10. (tr.) **Inf.** to give a sound beating to.

lacerate *vb.* (ˈlæʒə,reit). (tr.) 1. to tear (the flesh, etc.) jaggedly. 2. to hurt or harrow (the feelings, etc.). ~*adj.* (ˈlæʒə,reit,-rɪt). 3. having edges that are jagged: lacerate leaves.

lace up *vb.* 1. (tr., *adv.*) to tighten or fasten (clothes or footwear) with laces. ~*adj.* **lace-up**. 2. (of footwear) to be fastened with laces. ~*n.* 3. a lace-up shoe or boot.

lachrymal (ˈlækrɪməl) *adj.* a variant spelling of **lacrimal**.

lachrymose (ˈlækrɪ,məʊs) *adj.* 1. given to weeping; tearful. 2. mournful; sad. — **lachry,mosely** *adv.*

lacing (ˈleɪsɪŋ) *n.* 1. **Chiefly Brit.** a course of bricks, stone, etc., for strengthening a rubble or flint wall. 2. another word for **lace** (senses 2, 3). 3. **Inf.** a severe beating.

lack (læk) *n.* 1. an insufficiency, shortage, or absence of something required or desired. 2. something that is required but is absent or in short supply. ~*vb.* 3. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *in* or *for*) to be deficient (in) or have need (of).

lackadaisical (ˌlækəˈdeɪzɪkəl) *adj.* 1. lacking vitality and purpose. 2. lazy esp. in a dreamy way. — **lacka'daisically** *adv.*

lackey (ˈlækɪ) *n.* 1. a servile follower; hanger-on. 2. a liveried male servant or valet. 3. a person who is treated like a servant. ~*vb.* 4. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *for*) to act as a lackey (to).

lackluster or **U.S. lackluster** (ˈlæk,ləstə) *adj.* lacking force, brilliance, or vitality.

laconic (lə'kɒnɪk) *adj.* (of a person's speech) using few words; terse. — **laconically** *adv.*

lacquer ('lækə) *n.* 1. a hard glossy coating made by dissolving cellulose derivatives or natural resins in a volatile solvent. 2. a black resinous substance, obtained from certain trees (**lacquer trees**), used to give a hard glossy finish to wooden furniture. 3. Also called: **hair lacquer**, a mixture of shellac and alcohol for spraying onto the hair to hold a style in place. 4. *Art.* decorative objects coated with such lacquer, often inlaid. — **'lacquerer** *n.*

lacrimal, lachrymal, or lacrymal ('lækrɪməl) *adj.* of or relating to tears or to the glands that secrete tears.

lacrimation (,lækrɪ'meɪʃən) *n.* the secretion of tears.

lactate ('lækteɪt) *n.* an ester or salt of lactic acid.

lactate ('lækteɪt) *vb. (intr.)* (of mammals) to produce or secrete milk.

lactation (læk'teɪʃən) *n.* 1. the secretion of milk from the mammary glands after parturition. 2. the period during which milk is secreted.

lacteal ('læktəl) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or resembling milk. 2. (of lymphatic vessels) conveying or containing chyle. ~n. 3. any of the lymphatic vessels conveying chyle from the small intestine to the thoracic duct.

lactic ('læktɪk) *adj.* relating to or derived from milk.

lactic acid *n.* a colourless syrupy carboxylic acid found in sour milk and many fruits.

lacto- or before a vowel lact- *combining form.* indicating milk: *lactobacillus*.

lactose ('læktəʊs, -təʊz) *n.* a white crystalline sugar occurring in milk and used in pharmaceuticals and baby foods. Formula: C₁₂H₂₂O₁₁.

lacuna (lə'kjʊ:nə) *n., pl. -nae (-ni) or -nas.* 1. a gap or space, esp. in a book or manuscript. 2. *Biol.* a cavity or depression, such as any of the spaces in the matrix of bone. — **la'cunose, la'cunal, la'cunar, or la'cunary** *adj.*

lacy ('leɪsɪ) *adj.* **lacier, laciest.** made of or resembling lace. — **'laciely** *adv.* — **'laciness** *n.*

lad (læd) *n.* 1. a boy or young man. 2. *Inf.* a familiar form of address for any male. 3. *Brit.* a boy or man who looks after horses.

ladder ('lædə) *n.* 1. a portable framework of wood, metal, rope, etc., in the form of two long parallel members connected by rungs or steps fixed to them at right angles, for climbing up or down. 2. any hierarchy conceived of as having a series of ascending stages, levels, etc.: *the social ladder*. 3. Also called: **run.** *Chiefly Brit.* a line of connected stitches that have come undone in knitted material, esp. stockings. ~vb. 4. *Chiefly Brit.* to cause a line of interconnected stitches in (stockings, etc.) to undo, as by snagging, or (of a stocking) to come undone in this way.

ladder back *n.* a type of chair in which the back is constructed of horizontal slats between two uprights.

laddie ('lædi) *n.* *Chiefly Scot.* a familiar term for a male, esp. a boy; lad.

lade (leɪd) *vb.* **lading, laded, laden or laded.** 1. to put cargo or freight on board (a ship, etc.) or (of a ship, etc.) to take on cargo or freight. 2. (*tr.*; usually *passive* and *coll.* by *with*) to burden or oppress. 3. (*tr.*; usually *passive* and *coll.* by *with*) to fill or load. 4. to remove (liquid) with or as if with a ladle.

laden ('leɪdn) 1. a past participle of **lade**. ~*adj.* 2. weighed down with a load; loaded. 3. encumbered; burdened.

la-di-da, lah-di-dah, or la-de-da (,lə:di:'dɑ:) *adj.* *Inf.* affecting exaggeratedly genteel manners or speech.

ladies or ladies' room *n. (functioning as sing.)* *Inf.* a women's public lavatory.

lading ('leɪdn) *n.* a load; cargo; freight.

ladle ('leɪdl) *n.* 1. a long-handled spoon having a deep bowl for serving or transferring liquids. 2. a large bucket-shaped container for transferring molten metal. ~vb. 3. (*tr.*; often *coll.* by *out*) to serve out as with a ladle. — **'ladle,ful** *n.* — **'ladler** *n.*

lade out *vb. (tr., adv.)* *Inf.* to distribute (money, gifts, etc.) generously.

lady ('leɪdi) *n., pl. -dies.* 1. a woman regarded as having the characteristics of a good family and high social position. 2. a. a polite name for a woman. b. (*as modifier*): *a lady doctor*. 3. an informal name for wife. 4. **lady of the house**, the female head of the household. 5. *History.* a woman with proprietary rights and authority, as over a manor.

Lady ('leɪdi) *n., pl. -dies.* 1. (in Britain) a title of honour borne by various classes of women of the peerage. 2.

my lady, a term of address to holders of the title Lady. 3. **Our Lady**, a title of the Virgin Mary.

ladybird ('leɪdi,bɜ:d) *n.* any of various small brightly coloured beetles, esp. one having red elytra with black spots.

Lady Day *n.* Also called: **Annunciation Day**. March 25, the feast of the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary.

lady-in-waiting *n., pl. ladies-in-waiting.* a lady who attends a queen or princess.

lady-killer *n. Inf.* a man who believes he is irresistibly fascinating to women.

ladylike ('leɪdi,ləɪk) *adj.* like or befitting a lady.

lady's finger *n.* another name for **bhindi**.

Ladyship ('leɪdi,ʃɪp) *n.* (preceded by *your* or *her*) a title used to address or refer to any peeress except a duchess.

lady's-slipper *n.* any of various orchids having reddish or purple flowers.

laevo- or U.S. levo- *combining form.* 1. on or towards the left: *laevorotatory*. 2. (in chemistry) denoting a laevorotatory compound.

lag¹ (læɡ) *vb.* **lagging, lagged.** (*intr.*) 1. (often *coll.* by *behind*) to hang (back) or fall (behind) in movement, progress, development, etc. 2. to fall away in strength or intensity. ~n. 3. the act or state of slowing down or falling behind. 4. the interval of time between two events, esp. between an action and its effect.

lag¹ (læɡ) *Sl.* ~n. 1. a convict or ex-convict (esp. in *old lag*). 2. a term of imprisonment. ~vb. **lagging, lagged.** 3. (*tr.*) to arrest or put in prison.

lag² (læɡ) *vb.* **lagging, lagged.** 1. (*tr.*) to cover (a pipe, cylinder, etc.) with lagging to prevent loss of heat. ~n. 2. the insulating casing of a steam cylinder, boiler, etc. 3. a stove.

lager ('læɡə) *n.* a light-bodied effervescent beer, stored for varying periods before use.

laggard ('læɡəd) *n.* 1. a person who lags behind. ~*adj.* 2. *Rare.* sluggish, slow, or dawdling. — **'laggardly** *adv.* — **'laggardness** *n.*

lagging ('læɡɪŋ) *n.* 1. insulating material wrapped around pipes, boilers, etc., or laid in a roof loft, to prevent loss of heat. 2. the act or process of applying lagging.

lagoon (lə'ɡu:n) *n.* 1. a body of water cut off from the open sea by coral reefs or sand bars. 2. any small body of water, esp. one adjoining a larger one.

lah (lə) *n.* *Mus.* (in tonic sol-fa) the sixth note of any major scale; submediant.

laid (leɪd) *vb.* the past tense or past participle of **lay**¹.

laid-back *adj.* relaxed in style or character; easy-going and unhurried.

laid paper *n.* paper with a regular mesh impressed upon it.

lain (leɪn) *vb.* the past participle of **lie**².

lair (leɪ) *n.* 1. the resting place of a wild animal. 2. *Inf.* a place of seclusion or hiding. ~vb. 3. (*intr.*) (esp. of a wild animal) to retreat to or rest in a lair. 4. (*tr.*) to drive or place (an animal) in a lair.

laird ('leɪd) *n.* *Scot.* a landowner, esp. of a large estate.

laissez faire or laissez faire *French.* (,leɪse:'feɪə) *n.* 1. a. Also called: **individualism**, the doctrine of unrestricted freedom in commerce, esp. for private interests. b. (*as modifier*): *a laissez-faire economy*. 2. indifference or noninterference, esp. in the affairs of others.

laity ('leɪti) *n.* 1. laymen, as distinguished from clergymen. 2. all people not of a specific occupation.

lake¹ ('leɪk) *n.* 1. an expanse of water entirely surrounded by land and unconnected to the sea except by rivers or streams. Related *adj.*: **lacustrine**. 2. anything resembling this. 3. a surplus of a liquid commodity in the European Economic Community: *a wine lake*.

lake² ('leɪk) *n.* 1. a bright pigment produced by the combination of an organic colouring matter with an inorganic compound, usually a metallic salt, oxide, or hydroxide. 2. a red dye obtained by combining a metallic compound with cochineal.

Lake District *n.* a region of lakes and mountains in NW England, in Cumbria. Also called: **Lakeland, the Lakes**.

lake trout *n.* a yellow-spotted char of the Great Lakes region of Canada.

lakh or lac (lə:k) *n.* (in India) the number 100000, esp. referring to this sum of rupees.

lam¹ ('læm) *vb.* **lamming, lammed.** *Sl.* 1. (*tr.*) to thrash or beat. 2. (*intr.*; usually *coll.* by *into* or *out*) to make a sweeping stroke or blow.

lam² ('læm) ~n. *U.S. Sl.* 1. a sudden flight or escape, esp. to avoid arrest. 2. **on the lam**, making an escape.

Lam. *Bible. abbrev. for Lamentations.*

lama ('lɑ:mə) *n.* a priest or monk of Lamaism.

Lamaism ('lɑ:mə,ɪzəm) *n.* the Mahayana form of Buddhism of Tibet and Mongolia. —**Lamaist** *n., adj.* —**Lamaistic** *adj.*

lamb (læm) *n.* 1. the young of a sheep. 2. the meat of a young sheep. 3. a person, esp. a child, who is innocent, meek, good, etc. 4. a person easily deceived. ~*vb.* 5. (*intr.*) (of a ewe) to give birth. —**lamb,like** *adj.*

Lamb (læm) *n.* **the.** A title given to Christ in the New Testament.

lambaste or **lambast** (læm'beɪst) *vb. (tr.) Sl.* 1. to beat or whip severely. 2. to reprimand or scold.

lambda ('læmdə) *n.* the 11th letter of the Greek alphabet (Λ, λ).

lambent ('læmbənt) *adj.* 1. (esp. of a flame) flickering softly over a surface. 2. glowing with soft radiance. 3. (of wit or humour) light or brilliant. —**lambency** *n.* —**lambently** *adv.*

lambkin ('læmkɪn) *n.* 1. a small lamb. 2. a term of affection for a small endearing child.

lambskin ('læm,skɪn) *n.* 1. the skin of a lamb, esp. with the wool still on. 2. a material or garment prepared from this skin.

lame (leɪm) *adj.* 1. disabled or crippled in the legs or feet. 2. painful or weak: a *lame back*. 3. not effective or enthusiastic: a *lame try*. 4. *U.S. sl.* conventional or uninspiring. ~*vb.* 5. (*tr.*) to make lame. —**lame** *adv.* —**lamelessness** *n.*

lamé ('lɑ:meɪ) *n.* a fabric of silk, cotton, or wool interwoven with threads of metal.

lame duck *n. Inf.* 1. a person or thing that is disabled or ineffectual. 2. *Stock Exchange.* a speculator who cannot discharge his liabilities. 3. *U.S.* an elected official or body of officials remaining in office in the interval between the election and inauguration of a successor.

lament (lə'ment) *vb.* 1. to feel or express sorrow, remorse, or regret (for or over). ~*n.* 2. an expression of sorrow. 3. a poem or song in which a death is lamented. —**lamentation** *n.* —**la'menter** *n.* —**la'mentingly** *adv.*

lamentable ('læməntəbəl) *adj.* 1. wretched, deplorable, or distressing. 2. an archaic word for **mournful**. —**lamentably** *adv.*

lamented (lə'mentɪd) *adj.* grieved for or regretted (often in **late lamented**): *our late lamented employer.* —**la'mentedly** *adv.*

lamina ('læmɪnə) *n., pl. -nae (-,ni:) or -nas.* 1. a thin plate, esp. of bone or mineral. 2. *Bot.* the flat blade of a leaf. —**laminar** or **laminose** ('læmɪ,nəʊs, -,nəʊz) *adj.*

lamine *vb.* ('læmɪ,neɪt). 1. (*tr.*) to make (material in sheet form) by bonding together two or more thin sheets. 2. to split or be split into thin sheets. 3. (*tr.*) to beat, form, or press (material, esp. metal) into thin sheets. 4. (*tr.*) to cover or overlay with a thin sheet of material. ~*n.* ('læmɪ,neɪt, -nɪt). 5. a material made by bonding together two or more sheets. ~*adj.* ('læmɪ,neɪt, -nɪt). 6. having or composed of lamina; laminated. —**laminable** ('læmɪnəbəl) *adj.* —**lami'nation** *n.* —**lami'nator** *n.*

laminated ('læmɪ,neɪtɪd) *adj.* 1. composed of many layers of plastic, wood, etc., bonded together. 2. covered with a thin protective layer of plastic, etc.

Lammas ('læməs) *n.* 1. *R.C. Church.* Aug. 1, held as a feast, commemorating St. Peter's miraculous deliverance from prison. 2. Also called: **Lammas Day**, the same day formerly observed in England as a harvest festival.

lamp (læmp) *n.* 1. **a.** any of a number of devices that produce illumination: *an electric lamp; a gas lamp; an oil lamp.* **b.** (*in combination*): *lampshade.* 2. a device for holding one or more electric light bulbs: *a table lamp.* 3. a vessel in which a liquid fuel is burned to supply illumination. 4. any of a variety of devices that produce radiation, esp. for therapeutic purposes: *an ultraviolet lamp.*

lampblack ('læmp,blæk) *n.* a finely divided form of almost pure carbon produced by the incomplete combustion of organic compounds, such as natural gas, used in making carbon electrodes and dynamo brushes and as a pigment.

lamplighter ('læmp,laɪtə) *n.* 1. (formerly) a person who lit and extinguished street lamps, esp. gas ones. 2. *Chiefly U.S.* any of various devices used to light lamps.

lampoon (læm'pu:n) *n.* 1. a satire in prose or verse ridiculing a person, literary work, etc. ~*vb.* 2. (*tr.*) to

attack or satirize in a lampoon. —**lam'pooner** or **lam'poonist** *n.* —**lam'poony** *n.*

lamppost ('læmp,pəʊst) *n.* a post supporting a lamp, esp. in a street.

lamprey ('læmpri) *n.* any eel-like vertebrate having a round sucking mouth for clinging to and feeding on the blood of other animals. Also called: **lamper eel**.

Lancastrian (læŋ'kæstriən) *n.* 1. a native or resident of Lancashire or Lancaster. 2. an adherent of the house of Lancaster in the Wars of the Roses. ~*adj.* 3. of or relating to Lancashire or Lancaster. 4. of or relating to the house of Lancaster.

lance (lɑ:ns) *n.* 1. a long weapon with a pointed head used by horsemen. 2. a similar weapon used for hunting, whaling, etc. 3. *Surgery.* another name for **lancet** (sense 1). ~*vb. (tr.)* 4. to pierce (an abscess or boil) with a lancet. 5. to pierce as with a lance.

lance corporal *n.* a noncommissioned officer of the lowest rank in the British Army.

lanceolate ('lɑ:nsiə,leɪt, -lɪt) *adj.* narrow and tapering to a point at each end: *lanceolate leaves.*

lancer ('lɑ:nsə) *n.* 1. (formerly) a cavalryman armed with a lance. 2. a member of a regiment retaining such a title.

lancers ('lɑ:nsəz) *n. (functioning as sing.)* 1. a quadrille for eight or sixteen couples. 2. a piece of music composed for this dance.

lancet ('lɑ:nsɪt) *n.* 1. Also called: **lance.** a pointed surgical knife with two sharp edges. 2. short for **lancet arch** or **lancet window**.

lancet arch *n.* a narrow acutely pointed arch.

lancet window *n.* a narrow window having a lancet arch. Sometimes shortened to **lancet**.

Lancs. (læŋks) *abbrev. for* Lancashire.

land (lænd) *n.* 1. the solid part of the surface of the earth as distinct from seas, lakes, etc. Related *adj.*: **terrestrial.** 2. ground, esp. with reference to its use, quality, etc. 3. rural or agricultural areas as contrasted with urban ones. 4. farming as an occupation or way of life. 5. *Law.* any tract of ground capable of being owned as property. 6. **a.** a country, region, or area. **b.** the people of a country, etc. 7. *Econ.* the factor of production consisting of all natural resources. ~*vb.* 8. to transfer (something) or go from a ship or boat to the shore: *land the cargo.* 9. (*intr.*) to come to or touch shore. 10. (*intr.*) (in Canada), to be legally admitted to the country, as an immigrant, or **landed immigrant**. 11. to come down or bring (something) down to earth after a flight or jump. 12. to come or bring to some point, condition, or state. 13. (*tr.*) *Angling.* to retrieve (a hooked fish) from the water. 14. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to win or obtain: *to land a job.* 15. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to deliver (a blow). ~*See also* **land up.** —**landless** *adj.*

land agent *n.* 1. a person who administers a landed estate and its tenancies. 2. a person who acts as an agent for the sale of land. —**land agency** *n.*

landau ('lændəʊ) *n.* a four-wheeled horse-drawn carriage with two folding hoods over the passenger compartment.

landed ('lændɪd) *adj.* 1. owning land: *landed gentry.* 2. consisting of or including land: *a landed estate.*

landfall ('lænd,fɔ:l) *n.* 1. the act of sighting or nearing land, esp. from the sea. 2. the land sighted or neared.

landfill ('lænd,fil) *adj.* of or denoting low-lying sites or tips being filled up with alternate layers of rubbish and earth.

land girl *n.* a girl or woman who does farm work, esp. in wartime.

landgrave ('lænd,grevɪ) *n. German history.* 1. (from the 13th century to 1806) a count who ruled over a specified territory. 2. (after 1806) the title of any of various sovereign princes.

land-holder *n.* a person who owns or occupies land. —**land-,holding** *adj., n.*

landing ('lændɪŋ) *n.* 1. **a.** the act of coming to land, esp. after a sea voyage. **b.** (*as modifier*): *landing place.* 2. a place of disembarkation. 3. the floor area at the top of a flight of stairs.

landing field *n.* an area of land on which aircraft land and from which they take off.

landing gear *n.* the usual U.S. name for **undercarriage**.

landlady ('lænd,leɪdi) *n., pl. -dies.* 1. a woman who owns and leases property. 2. a woman who owns or runs a lodging house, inn, etc.

landlocked ('lænd,lɒkt) *adj.* 1. (esp. of lakes) completely surrounded by land. 2. (esp. of certain salmon)

living in fresh water that is permanently isolated from the sea.

landlord ('lænd,lɔ:d) *n.* 1. a man who owns and leases property. 2. a man who owns or runs a lodging house, inn, etc.

landlubber ('lænd,lʌbə) *n.* *Naut.* any person having no experience at sea.

landmark ('lænd,mɑ:k) *n.* 1. a prominent or well-known object in or feature of a particular landscape. 2. an important or unique decision, event, fact, discovery, etc. 3. a boundary marker.

landmass ('lænd,mæs) *n.* a large continuous area of land, as opposed to seas or islands.

land mine *n.* *Mil.* an explosive charge placed in the ground, usually detonated by stepping or driving on it.

landowner ('lænd,əʊnə) *n.* a person who owns land. — **land,owner,ship** *n.* — **land,owning** *n., adj.*

landscape ('lænd,skep) *n.* 1. an extensive area of scenery as viewed from a single aspect. 2. a painting, drawing, photograph, etc., depicting natural scenery. 3. the genre including such pictures. ~*vb.* 4. (tr.) to improve the natural features of (a garden, park, etc.), as by creating contoured features and planting trees. 5. (intr.) to work as a landscape gardener.

landscape gardening *n.* the art of laying out grounds in imitation of natural scenery. Also called: **landscape architecture**. — **landscape gardener** *n.*

landslide ('lænd,sleid) *n.* 1. Also called: **landslip**. a. the sliding of a large mass of rock material, soil, etc., down the side of a mountain or cliff. b. the material dislodged in this way. 2. an overwhelming electoral victory.

land up *vb. (adv., usually intr.)* to arrive or cause to arrive at a final point or condition.

landward ('lændwəd) *adj.* 1. lying, facing, or moving towards land. 2. in the direction of the land. ~*adv.* 3. a variant of **landwards**.

landwards ('lændwədz) or **landward** *adv.* towards land.

lane (leɪn) *n.* 1. a narrow road or way between buildings, hedges, fences, etc. 2. any narrow well-defined track or course, as for lines of traffic in a road, or for ships or aircraft. 3. one of the parallel strips into which a running track or swimming bath is divided for races. 4. the long strip of wooden flooring down which balls are bowled in a bowling alley.

lang. *abbrev. for language.*

langlauf ('lɑ:ŋ,laʊf) *n.* cross-country skiing. — **langläufer** ('lɑ:ŋ,lɔ:fə) *n.*

language ('læŋgwɪdʒ) *n.* 1. a system for the expression of thoughts, feelings, etc., by the use of spoken sounds or conventional symbols. 2. the faculty for the use of such systems, which is a distinguishing characteristic of man as compared with other animals. 3. the language of a particular nation or people. 4. any other means of communicating, such as gesture or animal sounds: *the language of love*. 5. the specialized vocabulary used by a particular group: *medical language*. 6. a particular manner or style of verbal expression: *your language is disgusting*. 7. *Computers.* See **programming language**.

language laboratory *n.* a room equipped with tape recorders, etc., for learning foreign languages.

languid ('læŋgwɪd) *adj.* 1. without energy or spirit. 2. without interest or enthusiasm. 3. sluggish; inactive. — **languidly** *adv.* — **languidness** *n.*

languish ('læŋgwɪʃ) *vb. (intr.)* 1. to lose or diminish in strength or energy. 2. (often foll. by *for*) to be listless with desire; pine. 3. to suffer deprivation, hardship, or neglect: *to languish in prison*. 4. to put on a tender, nostalgic, or melancholic expression. — **languisher** *n.* — **languishment** *n.*

languor ('læŋɡɔ) *n.* 1. physical or mental laziness or weariness. 2. a feeling of dreaminess and relaxation. 3. oppressive silence or stillness. — **languorous** *adj.*

lank (læŋk) *adj.* 1. long and limp. 2. thin or gaunt. — **lankily** *adv.* — **lankness** *n.*

lanky ('læŋki) *adj. -ier, -iest.* tall, thin, and loose-jointed. — **lankily** *adv.* — **lankiness** *n.*

lanolin ('læŋəlɪn) or **lanoline** ('læŋəlɪn, -lɪn) *n.* a yellowish viscous substance extracted from wool: used in some ointments.

lantern ('læntən) *n.* 1. a light with a transparent protective case. 2. a structure on top of a dome or roof having openings or windows to admit light or air. 3. the upper part of a lighthouse that houses the light.

lantern jaw *n.* (when *pl.*, refers to upper and lower jaw; when *sing.* usually to lower jaw) a long hollow jaw

that gives the face a drawn appearance. — **lantern-jawed** *adj.*

lanthanide series ('lændθə,naɪd) *n.* a class of 15 chemically related elements (**lanthanides**) with atomic numbers from 57 (lanthanum) to 71 (lutecium).

lanthanum ('lændθənəm) *n.* a silvery-white ductile metallic element of the lanthanide series: used in pyrophoric alloys, electronic devices, and in glass manufacture. Symbol: La; atomic no.: 57; atomic wt.: 138.91.

lanyard or **laniard** ('læŋjəd) *n.* 1. a cord, esp. one worn around the neck, to hold a whistle, knife, etc. 2. a cord used in firing certain types of cannon. 3. *Naut.* a line for extending or tightening standing rigging.

laodicean (ləʊdɪ'si:ən) *adj.* 1. lukewarm and indifferent, esp. in religious matters. ~*n.* 2. a person having a lukewarm attitude towards religious matters.

lap¹ ('læp) *n.* 1. the area formed by the upper surface of the thighs of a seated person. 2. Also called: **lapful**. the amount held in one's lap. 3. a protected place or environment: *in the lap of luxury*. 4. the part of one's clothing that covers the lap. 5. **drop in someone's lap**. give someone the responsibility of.

lap² ('læp) *n.* 1. one circuit of a racecourse or track. 2. a stage or part of a journey, race, etc. 3. a. an overlapping part or projection. b. the extent of overlap. 4. the length of material needed to go around an object. 5. a rotating disc coated with fine abrasive for polishing gemstones. ~*vb.* **lapping, lapped**. 6. (tr.) to wrap or fold (around or over): *he lapped a bandage around his wrist*. 7. (tr.) to enclose or envelop in: *he lapped his wrist in a bandage*. 8. to place or lie partly or completely over or project beyond. 9. (tr.; usually passive) to envelop or surround with comfort, love, etc.: *lapped in luxury*. 10. (intr.) to be folded. 11. (tr.) to overtake (an opponent) in a race so as to be one or more circuits ahead. 12. (tr.) to polish or cut (a workpiece, gemstone, etc.) with a fine abrasive. — **lapper** *n.*

lap³ ('læp) *vb.* **lapping, lapped**. 1. (of small waves) to wash against (a shore, boat, etc.), usually with light splashing sounds. 2. (often foll. by *up*) (esp. of animals) to scoop (a liquid) into the mouth with the tongue. ~*n.* 3. the act or sound of lapping. 4. a thin food for dogs or other animals. ~*See also* **lap up**. — **lapper** *n.*

lap dog *n.* a pet dog small and docile enough to be cuddled in the lap.

lapel (lə'pel) *n.* the continuation of the turned or folded back collar on a suit, coat, jacket, etc. — **la-pelled** *adj.*

lapidary ('læpɪdəri) *n., pl. -daries*. 1. a person whose business is to cut, polish, set, or deal in gemstones. ~*adj.* 2. of or relating to gemstones or the work of a lapidary. 3. Also **lapidarian** ('læpɪ'deəriən). engraved, cut, or inscribed in a stone or gemstone. 4. of sufficiently high quality to be engraved on a stone: *a lapidary inscription*.

lapis lazuli ('læpɪs 'læzju:lə) *n.* 1. a brilliant blue mineral used as a gemstone. 2. the deep blue colour of lapis lazuli.

lap joint *n.* a joint made by placing one member over another and fastening them together. Also called: **lapped joint**. — **lap-jointed** *adj.*

lap of honour *n.* a ceremonial circuit of a racing track, etc., by the winner of a race.

Lapp ('læp) *n.* 1. Also: **Laplanner**. a member of a nomadic people living chiefly in N Scandinavia and the Kola Peninsula of the Soviet Union. 2. the language of this people. ~*adj.* 3. of or relating to this people or their language. — **Lappish** *adj., n.*

lappet ('læpt) *n.* 1. a small hanging flap or piece of lace, etc. 2. *Zool.* a lobelike hanging structure, such as the wattle on a bird's head.

lapse ('læps) *n.* 1. a drop in standard of an isolated or temporary nature: *a lapse of justice*. 2. a break in occurrence, usage, etc.: *a lapse of five weeks between letters*. 3. a gradual decline or a drop to a lower degree, condition, or state: *a lapse from high office*. 4. a moral fall. 5. *Law.* the termination of some right, interest, or privilege, as by neglecting to exercise it or through failure of some contingency. 6. *Insurance.* the termination of coverage following a failure to pay the premiums. ~*vb. (intr.)* 7. to drop in standard or fail to maintain a norm. 8. to decline gradually or fall in status, condition, etc. 9. to be discontinued, esp. through negligence or other failure. 10. (usually foll. by *into*) to drift or slide (into a condition): *to lapse into sleep*. 11. (often foll. by *from*) to turn away (from beliefs or norms). 12. (of time) to slip away. — **lapsable** or **lapsible** *adj.* — **lapse-r** *n.*

lap up *vb. (tr., adv.) Inf.* 1. to eat or drink. 2. to relish

or delight in: *he laps up horror films*. **3.** to believe or accept uncritically: *he laps up stories*.

lapwing ('læp,wɪŋ) *n.* any of several plovers, typically having a crested head, wattles, and spurs. Also called: **green plover**, **peewit**.

lboard ('lɑ:bəd) *n., adj.* *Naut.* a former word for port.

larceny ('lɑ:snɪ) *n., pl. -nies.* *Law.* (formerly) a technical word for theft. —**larcenist** or **larcener** *n.* —**larcenous** *adj.*

larch ('lɑ:tʃ) *n.* 1. any coniferous tree having deciduous needle-like leaves and egg-shaped cones. 2. the wood of any of these trees.

lard ('lɑ:d) *n.* 1. the rendered fat from a pig, used in cooking. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 2. to prepare (lean meat, poultry, etc.) by inserting small strips of bacon or fat before cooking. 3. to cover or smear (foods) with lard. 4. to add extra material to (speech or writing); embellish. —**lardy** *adj.*

larder ('lɑ:də) *n.* a room or cupboard, used as a store for food.

lardy cake ('lɑ:di) *n.* *Brit.* a rich sweet cake made of bread dough, lard, sugar, and dried fruit.

lares and penates ('lɑ:ɪz, 'lɑ: pə'nɑ:tɪz) *pl. n.* 1. *Roman myth.* a. household gods. b. statues of these gods kept in the home. 2. the valued possessions of a household.

large ('lɑ:dʒ) *adj.* 1. having a relatively great size, quantity, extent, etc.; big. 2. of wide or broad scope, capacity, or range; comprehensive. 3. having or showing great breadth of understanding. ~*n.* 4. **at large**. a. (esp. of a dangerous criminal or wild animal) free; not confined. b. roaming freely, as in a foreign country. c. as a whole; in general. d. in full detail; exhaustively. e. *U.S.* representing or assigned to a state, district, or nation: *an ambassador at large*. —**largeness** *n.*

large intestine *n.* the part of the alimentary canal consisting of the caecum, colon, and rectum.

largely ('lɑ:dʒli) *adv.* 1. principally; to a great extent. 2. on a large scale or in a large manner.

large-scale *adj.* 1. wide-ranging or extensive. 2. (of maps and models) constructed or drawn to a big scale.

largess or **largesse** ('lɑ:dʒəs) *n.* 1. the generous bestowal of gifts, favours, or money. 2. the things so bestowed. 3. generosity of spirit or attitude.

larkish ('lɑ:dʒɪ) *adj.* fairly large.

largo ('lɑ:gəʊ) *Music.* ~*adj., adv.* 1. to be performed slowly and broadly. ~*n., pl. -gos.* 2. a piece or passage to be performed in this way.

lariat ('lɑ:riət) *n.* *U.S.* 1. another word for lasso (sense 1). 2. a rope for tethering animals.

lark ('lɑ:k) *n.* any brown bird of a predominantly Old World family of songbirds, esp. the skylark: noted for their singing.

lark ('lɑ:k) *Inf.* ~*n.* 1. a carefree adventure or frolic. 2. a harmless piece of mischief. ~*vb.* 3. (*intr.*; often foll. by *about*) to have a good time by frolicking. 4. (*intr.*) to play a prank. —**larkish** or **larky** *adj.*

larkspur ('lɑ:k,spɜ:) *n.* any of various plants related to the delphinium, with spikes of blue, pink, or white irregular spurred flowers.

larrigan ('lɑ:rɪɡən) *n.* a knee-high oiled leather moccasin boot worn by trappers, etc.

larrikin ('lɑ:rikin) *n.* *Austral. & N.Z. sl.* a. a hooligan. b. (*as modifier*): a larrikin bloke.

larva ('lɑ:və) *n., pl. -vae (-vi).* an immature free-living form of many animals that develops into a different adult form by metamorphosis. —**larval** *adj.*

laryngeal ('lɑ:rɪn'dʒiəl, 'lɑ:rɪndʒiəl) or **laryngal** ('lɑ:rɪŋɡl) *adj.* 1. of or relating to the larynx. 2. *Phonetics.* articulated at the larynx; glottal.

laryngitis ('lɑ:rɪn'dʒaɪtɪs) *n.* inflammation of the larynx. —**laryngitic** ('lɑ:rɪn'dʒɪtɪk) *adj.*

laryngo- or before a vowel **laryng-** *combining form.* indicating the larynx: *laryngoscope*.

larynx ('lɑ:rɪŋks) *n., pl. larynges* ('lɑ:rɪndʒɪz) or **larynxes**. a cartilaginous and muscular hollow organ forming part of the air passage to the lungs: in higher vertebrates it contains the vocal cords.

lasagne or **lasagna** ('lɑ:zænjə, 'læsn-) *n.* 1. a form of pasta consisting of wide flat sheets. 2. any of several dishes made from layers of lasagne and meat, cheese, etc.

lascar ('læskə) *n.* a sailor from the East Indies.

lascivious ('lɑ:sɪviəs) *adj.* 1. lustful; lecherous. 2. exciting sexual desire. —**las/civiously** *adv.* —**las/civiousness** *n.*

laser ('leɪzə) *n.* 1. Also called: **optical maser**. a device for converting light of mixed frequencies into an intense narrow monochromatic beam of coherent light. 2. any similar device for producing a beam of any electromagnetic radiation, such as infrared or microwave radiation.

lash ('læʃ) *n.* 1. a sharp cutting blow from a whip or other flexible object. 2. the flexible end or ends of a whip. 3. a cutting or hurtful blow to the feelings, as one caused by ridicule or scolding. 4. a forceful beating or impact, as of wind, rain, or waves against something. 5. **have a lash** (*at*). *Austral. & N.Z. inf.* to make an attempt at or take part in (something). 6. See **eyelash**. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 7. to hit (a person or thing) sharply with a whip, rope, etc., esp. formerly, as punishment. 8. (of wind, waves, etc.) to beat forcefully against. 9. to attack with words, ridicule, etc. 10. to flick or wave sharply to and fro: *the panther lashed his tail*. 11. to urge or drive as with a whip: *to lash the audience into a violent mood*. —**lasher** *n.*

lash ('læʃ) *vb.* (*tr.*) to bind or secure with rope, string, etc.

lashing ('læʃɪŋ) *n.* 1. a whipping; flogging. 2. a scolding. 3. (*pl.*; usually foll. by *of*) *Brit. inf.* large amounts; lots.

lashing ('læʃɪŋ) *n.* rope, cord, etc., used for binding or securing.

lash out *vb. (intr., adv.)* 1. to burst into or resort to verbal or physical attack. 2. *Inf.* to be extravagant, as in spending.

lash-up ('læʃ,ʌp) *n.* a temporary connection of equipment for experimental or emergency use.

lass ('læs) *n.* a girl or young woman.

Lassa fever ('læsə) *n.* a serious viral disease of Central West Africa, characterized by high fever and muscular pains.

lassie ('læsi) *n.* *Inf.* a little lass; girl.

lassitude ('læsi,tju:d) *n.* physical or mental weariness.

lasso ('læs:u, 'læsəʊ) *n., pl. -sos or -soes.* 1. a long rope or thong with a running noose at one end, used (esp. in America) for roping horses, cattle, etc.; lariat. ~*vb.* -*soing*, -*soed*. 2. (*tr.*) to catch as with a lasso. —**las/so-er** *n.*

last ('lɑ:st) *adj. (often prenominal)* 1. being, happening, or coming at the end or after all others: *the last horse in the race*. 2. being or occurring just before the present; most recent: *last Thursday*. 3. only remaining: *one's last cigarette*. 4. most extreme; utmost. 5. least suitable, appropriate, or likely: *he was the last person I would have chosen*. 6. (esp. relating to the end of a person's life or of the world) final or ultimate: *last rites*. ~*adv.* 7. after all others; at or in the end: *he came last*. 8. most recently: *he was last seen in the mountains*. 9. (*sentence modifier*) as the last or latest item. ~*n.* 10. **the last**. a. a person or thing that is last. b. the final moment; end. 11. one's last moments before death. 12. the final appearance, mention, or occurrence: *we've seen the last of him*. 13. **at last**, in the end; finally. 14. **at long last**, finally, after difficulty, delay, or irritation.

last ('lɑ:st) *vb.* 1. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *for*) to remain in being (for a length of time); continue: *his hatred lasted for several years*. 2. to be sufficient for the needs of (a person) for (a length of time): *it will last us until Friday*. 3. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *for*) to remain fresh, uninjured, or unaltered (for a certain time). —**laster** *n.*

last ('lɑ:st) *n.* 1. the wooden or metal form on which a shoe or boot is fashioned or repaired. ~*vb.* 2. (*tr.*) to fit (a shoe or boot) on a last. —**laster** *n.*

last-ditch *n. (modifier)* made or done as a last desperate effort in the face of opposition.

lasting ('lɑ:stɪŋ) *adj.* permanent or enduring. —**lastingly** *adv.* —**lastingness** *n.*

Last Judgment *n.* the occasion, after the resurrection of the dead at the end of the world, when, according to biblical tradition, God will decree the final destinies of all men according to the good and evil in their earthly lives. Also called: **the Last Day**, **Doomsday**, **Judgment Day**.

lastly ('lɑ:stli) *adv.* 1. at the end or at the last point. ~*sentence connector*. 2. finally.

last name *n.* another term for surname.

last out *vb. (intr., adv.)* 1. to be sufficient for one's needs: *how long will our supp/ies last out?* 2. to endure or survive: *some old people don't last out the winter*.

last post *n.* (in the British military services) 1. a bugle call that orders men to retire for sleep. 2. a similar call sounded at military funerals.

last rites *pl. n. Christianity.* religious rites prescribed for those close to death.

last straw *n. the.* the final irritation or problem that stretches one's endurance or patience beyond the limit.

lat. *abbrev. for* latitude.

Lat. *abbrev. for* Latin.

latch (lætʃ) *n.* 1. a fastening for a gate or door that consists of a bar that may be slid or lowered into a groove, hole, etc. 2. a spring-loaded door lock that can be opened by a key from outside. 3. Also called: **latch circuit.** *Electronics.* a logic circuit that transfers the input states to the output states when signalled. ~*vb.* 4. to fasten, fit, or be fitted as with a latch.

latchkey child ('lætʃkiː) *n.* a child who has to let himself in at home on returning from school, as his parents are out at work.

latch on *vb. (intr., adv.; often foll. by to)* 1. to attach oneself (to). 2. to understand.

late (leɪt) *adj.* 1. occurring or arriving after the correct or expected time: *the train was late.* 2. (*prepositional*) occurring at, scheduled for, or being at a relatively advanced time: *a late marriage.* 3. (*prepositional*) towards or near the end: *the late evening.* 4. at an advanced time in the evening or at night: *it was late.* 5. (*prepositional*) occurring or being just previous to the present time: *his late remarks on industry.* 6. (*prepositional*) having died, esp. recently: *my late grandfather.* 7. (*prepositional*) just preceding the present or existing person or thing; former: *the late manager of this firm.* 8. of late, recently; lately. ~*adv.* 9. after the correct or expected time: *he arrived late.* 10. at a relatively advanced age: *she married late.* 11. recently; lately: *as late as yesterday he was selling books.* 12. **late in the day.** a. at a late or advanced stage. b. too late. —**lateness** *n.*

lateen (lə'ti:n) *adj. Naut.* denoting a rig with a triangular sail (*lateen sail*) bent to a yard hoisted to the head of a low mast, used esp. in the Mediterranean.

Late Greek *n.* the Greek language from about the 3rd to the 8th centuries A.D.

Late Latin *n.* the form of written Latin used from the 3rd to the 7th centuries A.D.

lately ('leɪtli) *adv.* in recent times; of late.

latent ('leɪnt) *adj.* 1. potential but not obvious or explicit. 2. (of buds, spores, etc.) dormant. 3. *Pathol.* (esp. of an infectious disease) not yet revealed or manifest. —**latency** *n.* —**latently** *adv.*

later ('leɪtə) *adj., adv.* 1. the comparative of **late**. ~*adv.* 2. afterwards; subsequently.

lateral ('leɪtərəl) *adj.* 1. of or relating to the side or sides: *a lateral blow.* ~*n.* 2. a lateral object, part, passage, or movement. —**laterally** *adv.*

lateral thinking *n.* a way of solving problems by employing unorthodox and apparently illogical means.

latest ('leɪst) *adj., adv.* 1. the superlative of **late**. ~*adj.* 2. most recent, modern, or new: *the latest fashions.* ~*n.* 3. at the latest, no later than the time specified. 4. **the latest.** *Inf.* the most recent fashion or development.

latex ('leɪteks) *n., pl. latexes or latices* ('leɪtɪsɪz). 1. a whitish milky fluid containing protein, starch, alkaloids, etc., that is produced by many plants. Latex from the rubber tree is used in the manufacture of rubber. 2. a suspension of synthetic rubber or plastic in water, used in the manufacture of synthetic rubber products, etc.

lath (lɑːθ) *n., pl. laths* (lɑːθz, lɑːθs). 1. one of several thin narrow strips of wood used to provide a supporting framework for plaster, tiles, etc. 2. expanded sheet metal, wire mesh, etc., used to provide backing for plaster or rendering. 3. any thin strip of wood. ~*vb.* 4. (*tr.*) to attach laths to (a ceiling, roof, floor, etc.).

lathe (leɪð) *n.* 1. a machine for shaping or boring metal, wood, etc., in which the workpiece is turned about a horizontal axis against a fixed tool. ~*vb.* 2. (*tr.*) to shape or bore (a workpiece) on a lathe.

lather ('lɑːðə) *n.* 1. foam formed by the action of soap or a detergent in water. 2. foam formed by other liquid, such as the saliva of a horse. 3. *Inf.* a state of agitation. ~*vb.* 4. to coat or become coated with lather. 5. (*intr.*) to form a lather. 6. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to beat; flog. —**lathery** *adj.*

Latin ('læɪn) *n.* 1. the language of ancient Rome and the Roman Empire and of the educated in medieval Europe. Having originally been the language of Latium in W central Italy, belonging to the Italic branch of the Indo-European family, it later formed the basis of the Romance group. 2. a member of any of those peoples whose languages are derived from Latin. 3. an inhabit-

ant of ancient Latium. ~*adj.* 4. of or relating to the Latin language, the ancient Latins, or Latium. 5. characteristic of or relating to those peoples whose languages are derived from Latin. 6. of or relating to the Roman Catholic Church.

Latinate ('læɪtɪnɛt) *adj.* (of writing vocabulary, etc.) imitative of or derived from Latin.

latish ('leɪtɪʃ) *adj.* rather late.

latitude ('læɪtɪtjuːd) *n.* 1. a. an angular distance measured in degrees north or south of the equator (latitude 0°). b. (*often pl.*) a region considered with regard to its distance from the equator. 2. scope for freedom of action, thought, etc.; freedom from restriction: *his parents gave him a great deal of latitude.* —**lati'tudinal** *adj.* —**lati'tudinally** *adv.*

latitudinarian ('læɪtɪtjuːdɪnɛəriən) *adj.* 1. permitting or marked by freedom of attitude or behaviour, esp. in religious matters. ~*n.* 2. a person with latitudinarian views. —**lati,tudi'narianism** *n.*

latrine (lə'tri:n) *n.* a lavatory, as in a barracks, camp, etc.

-latry *n.* combining form. indicating worship of or excessive veneration of: *idolatry; Mariolatry.* —**latrous** *adj.* combining form.

latter ('lætə) *adj. (prepositional)* 1. a. denoting the second or second mentioned of two: distinguished from former. b. (as *n.*; functioning as *sing.* or *pl.*): *the latter is not important.* 2. near or nearer the end: *the latter part of a film.* 3. more advanced in time or sequence; later.

▷ **Usage.** In careful usage, **latter** is used when only two items are in question: *he gave the money to Christopher and not to John, the latter being less in need of it.* Last-named is used to refer to the last-named of three or more items.

latter-day *adj.* present-day; modern.

latterly ('lætəli) *adv.* recently; lately.

lattice ('læts) *n.* 1. Also called: **latticework.** an open framework of strips of wood, metal, etc., arranged to form an ornamental pattern. 2. a. a gate, screen, etc., formed of such a framework. b. (as *modifier*): *a lattice window.* 3. something, such as a decorative or heraldic device, resembling such a framework. 4. an array of objects or points in a periodic pattern in two or three dimensions, esp. an array of atoms, ions, etc., in a crystal or an array of points indicating their positions in space. ~*vb.* 5. to make, adorn, or supply with a lattice or lattices. —**latticed** *adj.*

laud (ləʊd) *Literary.* ~*vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to praise or glorify. ~*n.* 2. praise or glorification.

laudable ('ləʊdəbəl) *adj.* deserving or worthy of praise; admirable; commendable. —**laudableness** or **laudability** *n.* —**laudably** *adv.*

laudanum ('ləʊdɒnəm) *n.* 1. a tincture of opium. 2. (formerly) any medicine of which opium was the main ingredient.

laudatory ('ləʊdətəri, -trɪ) or **laudative** *adj.* expressing or containing praise; eulogistic.

laugh (lɑːf) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to express or manifest emotion, esp. mirth or amusement, typically by expelling air from the lungs in short bursts to produce an inarticulate voiced noise, with the mouth open. 2. (*intr.*) (esp. of certain mammals or birds) to make a noise resembling a laugh. 3. (*tr.*) to utter or express with laughter: *he laughed his derision at the play.* 4. (*tr.*) to bring or force (someone, esp. oneself) into a certain condition by laughter: *he laughed himself sick.* 5. (*intr.*; foll. by *at*) to make fun (of); jeer (at). 6. **laugh up one's sleeve.** to laugh or have grounds for amusement, self-satisfaction, etc., secretly. 7. **laugh on the other side of one's face.** to show sudden disappointment or shame after appearing cheerful or confident. ~*n.* 8. the act or an instance of laughing. 9. a manner of laughter. 10. *Inf.* a person or thing that causes laughter: *that holiday was a laugh.* 11. **the last laugh.** the final success in an argument, situation, etc., after previous defeat. —**laugher** *n.* —**laughingly** *adv.*

laughable ('lɑːfəbəl) *adj.* 1. producing scorn; ludicrous: *he offered me a laughable sum for the picture.* 2. arousing laughter. —**laughableness** *n.* —**laughably** *adv.*

laughing gas *n.* another name for **nitrous oxide**.

laughing stock *n.* an object of humiliating ridicule.

laugh off *vb. (tr., adv.)* to treat or dismiss lightly, esp. with stoicism.

laughter ('lɑːftə) *n.* 1. the action of or noise produced by laughing. 2. the experience or manifestation of mirth, amusement, scorn, or joy.

launch¹ ('lɒntʃ) *vb.* 1. to move (a vessel) into the water. 2. to move (a newly built vessel) into the water for the first time. 3. (tr.) to start off or set in motion: *to launch a scheme*. 4. (tr.) to propel with force. 5. to involve (oneself) totally and enthusiastically: *to launch oneself into work*. 6. (tr.) to set (a missile, spacecraft, etc.) into motion. 7. (intr.; foll. by *into*) to start talking or writing (about): *he launched into a story*. 8. (intr.; usually foll. by *out*) to start (out) on a fresh course. ~*n.* 9. an act or instance of launching. —'launcher *n.*

launch² ('lɒntʃ) *n.* 1. a motor driven boat used chiefly as a transport boat. 2. the largest of the boats of a man-of-war.

launching pad or **launch pad** *n.* a platform from which a spacecraft, rocket, etc., is launched.

launder ('lɒndrə) *vb.* 1. to wash and often also to iron (clothes, linen, etc.). 2. (tr.) Chiefly U.S. *sl.* to make (money illegally obtained) appear to be legally gained by passing it through foreign banks or legitimate enterprises. —'launderer *n.*

Launderette ('lɒndrə'ret, 'lɒn'dret) or U.S., *Austral.*, & N.Z. **Laudromat** ('lɒndrə'mæt) *n.* Trademark. a commercial establishment where clothes can be washed and dried, using coin-operated machines.

laundress ('lɒndris) *n.* a woman who launders clothes, sheets, etc., for a living.

laundry ('lɒndri) *n., pl. -dries.* 1. a place where clothes and linen are washed and ironed. 2. the clothes or linen washed and ironed. 3. the act of laundering.

laureate ('lɒrɪnt) *adj.* (usually immediately postpositive) 1. Literary. crowned with laurel leaves as a sign of honour. ~*n.* 2. short for poet laureate. 3. Rare. a person honoured with the laurel crown or wreath. —'laureate, ship *n.*

laurel ('lɒrəl) *n.* 1. Also called: bay, bay laurel, sweet bay, true laurel. a small Mediterranean evergreen tree with glossy aromatic leaves, used for flavouring in cooking, and small blackish berries. 2. a similar and related tree of the Canary Islands and Azores. 3. spurge laurel. a European evergreen shrub, *Daphne laureola*, with glossy leaves and small green flowers. 4. (pl.) a wreath of true laurel, worn on the head as an emblem of victory or honour in classical times. 5. (pl.) honour, distinction, or fame. 6. look to one's laurels. to be on guard against one's rivals. 7. rest on one's laurels. to be satisfied with distinction won by past achievements. ~*vb.* -reling, -relled or U.S. -reling, -reled. 8. (tr.) to crown with laurels.

Laurentian ('lɒːrɛnʃən) *adj.* 1. Also: Lawrentian. of or resembling the style of D. H. or T. E. Lawrence. 2. of, relating to, or situated near the St. Lawrence River.

Laurentian Shield *n.* another name for the Canadian Shield. Also: Laurentian Plateau.

lav ('læv) *n.* Brit. *inf.* short for lavatory.

lava ('lɒvə) *n.* 1. magma emanating from volcanoes. 2. any extrusive igneous rock formed by the solidification of lava.

lavatory ('lævətɔːri, -tri) *n., pl. -ries.* a. a sanitary installation for receiving and disposing of urine and faeces, consisting of a bowl fitted with a water-flushing device and connected to a drain. b. a room containing such an installation. Also called: toilet, water closet, W.C.

lave ('leiv) *vb.* an archaic word for wash.

lavender ('lævəndə) *n.* 1. any of various perennial shrubs or herbaceous plants of the labiate family, esp. *Lavandula vera*, cultivated for its mauve or blue flowers and as the source of a fragrant oil (oil of lavender). 2. the dried parts of *L. vera*, used to perfume clothes. 3. a pale or light bluish-purple colour. 4. perfume scented with lavender.

lavish ('lævɪʃ) *adj.* 1. prolific, abundant, or profuse. 2. generous; unstinting; liberal. 3. extravagant; prodigal; wasteful: *lavish expenditure*. ~*vb.* 4. (tr.) to give, expend, or apply abundantly, generously, or in profusion. —'lavisher *n.* —'lavishly *adv.* —'lavishness *n.*

law ('lɔː) *n.* 1. a rule or set of rules instituted by act of Parliament, custom, or practice in order to punish those who offend the conventions of society. 2. a. a rule or body of rules made by the legislature. See statute law. b. a rule or body of rules made by a municipal or other authority. See bylaw. 3. a. the condition and control enforced by such rules. b. (in combination): lawcourt. 4. law and order. a. the policy of strict enforcement of the law, esp. against crime and violence. b. (as modifier): law-and-order candidate. 5. a rule of conduct: a law of etiquette. 6. one of a set of rules governing a particular field of activity: the laws of tennis. 7. the law.

a. the legal or judicial system. b. the profession or practice of law. c. *Inf.* the police or a policeman. 8. Also called: law of nature. a generalization based on a recurring fact or event. 9. the science or knowledge of law; jurisprudence. 10. the principles originating and formerly applied only in courts of common law. Cf. equity (sense 3). 11. a general principle, formula, or rule describing a phenomenon in mathematics, science, philosophy, etc.: the laws of thermodynamics. 12. (often cap.; preceded by the) the body of laws contained in the first five books of the Old Testament. Also called: Law of Moses. 13. go to law. to resort to legal proceedings on some matter. 14. lay down the law. to speak in an authoritative or dogmatic manner. ~Related *adjs.*: judicial, juridical, legal.

law-abiding *adj.* adhering more or less strictly to the laws: a law-abiding citizen.

law agent *n.* (in Scotland) a solicitor entitled to appear for a client in any Sheriff Court.

lawbreaker ('lɔːbreɪkə) *n.* a person who breaks the law. —'law-breaking *n., adj.*

lawful ('lɔːfʊl) *adj.* allowed, recognized, or sanctioned by law; legal. —'lawfully *adv.* —'lawfulness *n.*

lawgiver ('lɔːgɪvə) *n.* 1. the giver of a code of laws. 2. Also called: lawmaker. a maker of laws. —'law-giving *n., adj.*

lawless ('lɔːls) *adj.* 1. without law. 2. disobedient to the law. 3. contrary to or heedless of the law. 4. uncontrolled; unbridled: lawless rage. —'lawlessly *adv.* —'lawlessness *n.*

lawn¹ ('lɔːn) *n.* a flat and usually level area of mown and cultivated grass. —'lawnly *adj.*

lawn² ('lɔːn) *n.* a fine linen or cotton fabric, used for clothing. —'lawnly *adj.*

lawn mower *n.* a hand-operated or power-operated machine for cutting grass on lawns.

lawn tennis *n.* 1. tennis played on a grass court. 2. the formal name for tennis.

lawrencium ('lɒːrɛnsɪəm) *n.* an element artificially produced from californium. Symbol: Lr; atomic no. 103; half-life of most stable isotope, ²⁶⁰Lr: 35 seconds.

lawsuit ('lɔːsɪt, -sjuːt) *n.* a proceeding in a court of law brought by one party against another, esp. a civil action.

law term *n.* 1. an expression or word used in law. 2. any of various periods of time appointed for the sitting of law courts.

lawyer ('lɔːjə, 'lɔːə) *n.* a member of the legal profession, esp. a solicitor.

lax ('læks) *adj.* 1. lacking firmness; not strict. 2. lacking precision or definition. 3. not taut. 4. Phonetics. (of a speech sound) pronounced with little muscular effort. —'laxly *adv.* —'laxity or 'laxness *n.*

laxative ('læksətɪv) *n.* 1. an agent stimulating evacuation of faeces. ~*adj.* 2. stimulating evacuation of faeces.

lay¹ ('leɪ) *vb.* laying, laid. (mainly tr.) 1. to put in a low or horizontal position; cause to lie: *to lay a cover on a bed*. 2. to place, put, or be in a particular state or position: *he laid his finger on his lips*. 3. (intr.) Dialect or not standard. to be in a horizontal position; lie: *he often lays in bed all the morning*. 4. (sometimes foll. by down) to establish as a basis: *to lay a foundation for discussion*. 5. to place or dispose in the proper position: *to lay a carpet*. 6. to arrange (a table) for eating a meal. 7. to prepare for lighting by placing fuel in the grate, etc.: *lay the fire*. 8. (also intr.) (of birds, esp. the domestic hen) to produce (eggs). 9. to present or put forward: *he laid his case before the magistrate*. 10. to impute or attribute: *all the blame was laid on him*. 11. to arrange, devise, or prepare: *to lay a trap*. 12. to place, set, or locate: *the scene is laid in London*. 13. to make (a bet) with (someone): *I lay you five to one on Prince*. 14. to cause to settle: *to lay the dust*. 15. to allay; suppress: *to lay a rumour*. 16. to bring down forcefully: *to lay a whip on someone's back*. 17. Taboo *sl.* to have sexual intercourse with. 18. to press down or make smooth: *to lay the nap of cloth*. 19. (intr.) Naut. to move or go, esp. into a specified position or direction: *to lay close to the wind*. 20. lay bare. to reveal or explain: *he laid bare his plans*. 21. lay hands on. See hands. 22. lay hold of. to seize or grasp. 23. lay oneself open. to make oneself vulnerable (to criticism, attack, etc.). 24. lay open. to reveal or disclose. 25. lay siege to. to besiege (a city, etc.). ~*n.* 26. the manner or position in which something lies or is placed. 27. Taboo *sl.* a. an act of sexual intercourse. b. a sexual partner. ~See also layabout, lay aside, etc.

▷ **Usage.** In careful English, the verb *lay* is used with an object and *lie* without one: *the soldier laid down his arms; the book was lying on the table.* In informal English, *lay* is frequently used for *lie*: *the book was laying on the table.*

lay¹ (leɪ) *vb.* the past tense of *lie¹*.

lay² (leɪ) *adj.* 1. of, involving, or belonging to people who are not clergymen. 2. nonprofessional; amateur.

lay³ (leɪ) *n.* 1. a ballad or short narrative poem, esp. one intended to be sung. 2. a song or melody.

layabout ('leɪə,baut) *n.* a lazy person; loafer.

lay aside *vb. (tr., adv.)* 1. to abandon or reject. 2. to store or reserve for future use.

lay-by *n.* 1. *Brit.* a place for drivers to stop at the side of a main road. 2. *Naut.* an anchorage in a narrow waterway, away from the channel. 3. a small railway siding where rolling stock may be stored or parked. 4. *Chiefly Austral. & N.Z.* a system of payment whereby a buyer pays a deposit on an article, which is reserved for him until he has paid the full price. ~*vb. lay by* (*tr., adv.*) 5. to set aside or save for future needs.

lay down *vb. (tr., adv.)* 1. to place on the ground, etc. 2. to relinquish or discard: *to lay down one's life.* 3. to formulate (a rule, principle, etc.). 4. to build or begin to build: *the railway was laid down as far as Chester.* 5. to record (plans) on paper. 6. to convert (land) into pasture. 7. to store or stock: *to lay down wine.* 8. *Inf.* to wager or bet.

layer ('leɪə) *n.* 1. a thickness of some homogeneous substance, such as a stratum or a coating on a surface. 2. a laying hen. 3. *Horticulture.* a shoot or branch rooted during layering. ~*vb.* 4. to form or make a layer of (something). 5. to take root or cause to take root by layering.

layette (leɪ'et) *n.* a complete set of articles, including clothing, bedclothes, and other accessories, for a newborn baby.

lay figure *n.* 1. an artist's jointed dummy, used in place of a live model, esp. for studying effects of drapery. 2. a person considered to be subservient or unimportant.

lay in *vb. (tr., adv.)* to accumulate and store: *we must lay in food for the party.*

lay into *vb. (intr., prep.)* 1. to attack forcefully. 2. to berate severely.

layman ('leɪmən) or (*fem.*) **laywoman** *n., pl. -men or -women.* 1. a person who is not a clergyman. 2. a person who does not have specialized or professional knowledge of a subject: *science for the layman.*

lay off *vb.* 1. (*tr., adv.*) to dismiss from employment, esp. temporarily: *the firm had to lay off 100 men.* 2. (*intr.*) *Inf.* to leave (a person, thing, or activity) alone: *lay off me, will you!* 3. (*tr., adv.*) to mark off the boundaries of. ~*n. lay-off.* 4. the act of dismissing employees. 5. a period of imposed unemployment.

lay on *vb. (tr., adv.)* 1. to provide or supply: *to lay on entertainment.* 2. *Brit.* to install: *to lay on electricity.* 3. **lay it on.** *Sl. a.* to exaggerate, esp. when flattering. *b.* to charge an exorbitant price. *c.* to punish or strike harshly.

lay out *vb. (tr., adv.)* 1. to arrange or spread out. 2. to prepare (a corpse) for burial. 3. to plan or contrive. 4. *Inf.* to spend (money), esp. lavishly. 5. *Inf.* to knock unconscious. ~*n. layout.* 6. the act of laying out. 7. something laid out. 8. the arrangement of written material, photographs, or other artwork on an advertisement or page in a book, newspaper, etc. 9. a preliminary plan indicating this. 10. a drawing showing the relative disposition of parts in a machine, etc.

lay reader *n.* 1. *Church of England.* a person licensed by a bishop to conduct religious services other than the Eucharist. 2. *R.C. Church.* a layman chosen from among the congregation to read the epistle at Mass.

lay up *vb. (tr., adv.)* 1. to store or reserve for future use. 2. (*usually passive*) *Inf.* to incapacitate or confine through illness.

laze (leɪz) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to be indolent or lazy. 2. (*tr.*; often foll. by *away*) to spend (time) in indolence. ~*n.* 3. the act or an instance of idling.

lazy ('leɪzi) *adj. -zier, -ziest.* 1. not inclined to work or exertion. 2. conducive to or causing indolence. 3. moving in a languid or sluggish manner: *a lazy river.* ~*lazily* *adv.* ~*laziness* *n.*

lazybones ('leɪzi,bəʊnz) *n. Inf.* a lazy person.

lb or lb. *abbrev. for libra: pound (weight).*

l.b.w. *Cricket. abbrev. for leg before wicket.*

l.c. *abbrev. for:* 1. left centre (of a stage, etc.). 2. loco citato: in the place cited. 3. *Printing.* lower case.

l.c.d., lcd, L.C.D., or LCD *abbrev. for* lowest common denominator.

LCD *abbrev. for* liquid crystal display.

L.C.J. (*in Britain*) *abbrev. for* Lord Chief Justice.

l.c.m. or L.C.M. *abbrev. for* lowest common multiple.

L/Cpl. *abbrev. for* lance corporal.

L.D.S. *abbrev. for:* 1. Latter-day Saints. 2. Also LDS (*in Britain*) Licentiate in Dental Surgery.

lea (li:) *n.* 1. *Poetic.* a meadow or field. 2. land that has been sown with grass seed.

LEA (*in Britain*) *abbrev. for* Local Education Authority.

leach (li:tʃ) *vb.* 1. to remove or be removed from a substance by a percolating liquid. 2. to lose or cause to lose soluble substances by the action of a percolating liquid. ~*n.* 3. the act or process of leaching. 4. a substance that is leached or the constituents removed by leaching. 5. a porous vessel for leaching. —*'leacher* *n.*

lead¹ (li:d) *vb. leading, led.* 1. to show the way to (an individual or a group) by going with or ahead: *lead the party into the garden.* 2. to guide or be guided by holding, pulling, etc.: *he led the horse by its reins.* 3. (*tr.*) to cause to act, feel, think, or behave in a certain way; induce; influence: *he led me to believe that he would go.* 4. (*when intr., foll. by to*) (of a road, route, etc.) to serve as the means of reaching a place. 5. (*tr.*) to go ahead so as to indicate (esp. *in lead the way*). 6. to guide, control, or direct: *to lead an army.* 7. (*tr.*) to direct the course of or conduct (water, a rope, or wire, etc.) along or as if along a channel. 8. to initiate the action of (something); have the principal part in (something): *to lead a discussion.* 9. to go at the head of or have the top position in (something): *he leads his class in geography.* 10. (*intr.; foll. by with*) to have as the first or principal item: *the newspaper led with the royal birth.* 11. *Music. Brit.* to play first violin in (an orchestra). 12. to direct and guide (one's partner) in a dance. 13. (*tr.*) *a.* to pass or spend: *I lead a miserable life.* *b.* to cause to pass a life of a particular kind: *to lead a person a dog's life.* 14. (*intr.; foll. by to*) to tend (to) or result (in): *this will only lead to misery.* 15. to initiate a round of cards by putting down (the first card) or to have the right to do this: *she led a diamond.* 16. (*intr.*) *Boxing.* to make an offensive blow, esp. as one's habitual attacking punch. ~*n.* 17. *a.* the first, foremost, or most prominent place. *b.* (*as modifier*): *lead singer.* 18. example, precedence, or leadership: *the class followed the teacher's lead.* 19. an advance or advantage held over others: *the runner had a lead of twenty yards.* 20. anything that guides or directs; indication; clue. 21. another name for *leash*. 22. the act or prerogative of playing the first card in a round of cards or the card so played. 23. the principal role in a play, film, etc., or the person playing such a role. 24. *a.* the principal news story in a newspaper: *the scandal was the lead in the papers.* *b.* (*as modifier*): *lead story.* 25. *Music.* an important entry assigned to one part. 26. a wire, cable, or other conductor for making an electrical connection. 27. *Boxing. a.* one's habitual attacking punch. *b.* a blow made with this. 28. a deposit of metal or ore; lode. ~*See also lead off, lead on, lead up to.*

lead² (led) *n.* 1. a heavy toxic bluish-white metallic element that is highly malleable: used in alloys, accumulators, cable sheaths, paints, and as a radiation shield. Symbol: Pb; atomic no.: 82; atomic wt.: 207.2. 2. a lead weight suspended on a line used to take soundings of the depth of water. 3. lead weights or shot, as used in cartridges, fishing lines, etc. 4. a thin grooved strip of lead for holding small panes of glass or pieces of stained glass. 5. (*pl.*) *a.* thin sheets or strips of lead used as a roof covering. *b.* a flat or low-pitched roof covered with such sheets. 6. Also called: *leading. Printing.* a thin strip of type metal used for spacing between lines. 7. *a.* graphite used for drawing. *b.* a thin stick of this material, esp. the core of a pencil. 8. (*modifier*) of, consisting of, relating to, or containing lead. ~*vb. (tr.)* 9. to fill or treat with lead. 10. to surround, cover, or secure with lead or leads. 11. *Printing.* to space (type) by use of leads.

leaden ('led'n) *adj.* 1. heavy and inert. 2. laboured or sluggish: *leaden steps.* 3. gloomy, spiritless, or lifeless. 4. made partly or wholly of lead. 5. of a dull greyish colour: *a leaden sky.* —*'leadenly* *adv.* —*'leadenness* *n.*

leader ('li:də) *n.* 1. a person who rules, guides, or inspires others; head. 2. *Music. a.* Also called (esp. U.S.): *concertmaster.* the principal first violinist of an orches-

tra, who plays solo parts, and acts as the conductor's deputy and spokesman for the orchestra. **b.** *U.S.* a conductor or director of an orchestra or chorus. **3.** the leading horse or dog in a team. **4.** *Chiefly Brit.* the leading editorial in a newspaper. *Usual U.S. term: leading article.* **5.** *Angling.* another word for *trace*² (sense 2). **6.** a strip of blank film or tape used to facilitate threading a projector, developing machine, etc. **7.** (*pl.*) *Printing.* rows of dots or hyphens used to guide the reader's eye across a page, as in a table of contents. **8.** *Bot.* any of the long slender shoots that grow from the stem or branch of a tree. **9.** *Brit.* a member of the Government having primary authority in initiating legislative business (esp. in **Leader of the House of Commons** and **Leader of the House of Lords**). —**leaderless** *adj.* —**leader**, *ship* *n.*

lead-in ('li:d,ɪn) *n.* **1.** an introduction to a subject. **2.** the connection between a radio transmitter, receiver, etc., and the aerial or transmission line.

leading ('li:diŋ) *adj.* **1.** capable of guiding, directing, or influencing. **2.** (*prenominal*) principal or primary. **3.** in the first position. —**leadingly** *adv.*

leading aircraftman ('li:diŋ) *n.* *Brit. airforce.* the rank above aircraftman. —**leading aircraftwoman** *fem. n.*

leading light ('li:diŋ) *n.* *Inf.* an important or outstanding person, esp. in an organization.

leading note ('li:diŋ) *n.* *Music.* **1.** another word for *subtonic*. **2.** (esp. in cadences) a note that tends most naturally to resolve to the note lying one semitone above it.

leading question ('li:diŋ) *n.* a question phrased in a manner that tends to suggest the desired answer, such as *What do you think of the horrible effects of pollution?*

leading rating ('li:diŋ) *n.* a rank in the Royal Navy comparable but junior to that of a corporal in the army.

lead off (li:d) *vb. (adv.)* **1.** to initiate the action of (something); begin. ~*n.* **lead-off.** **2.** an initial move or action.

lead on (li:d) *vb. (tr., adv.)* to lure or entice, esp. into trouble or wrongdoing.

lead pencil (led) *n.* a pencil containing a thin stick of a graphite compound.

lead poisoning (led) *n.* **1.** acute or chronic poisoning by lead, characterized by abdominal pain, vomiting, convulsions, and coma. **2.** *U.S. sl.* death or injury resulting from being shot with bullets.

lead time (li:d) *n.* **1.** *Manufacturing, chiefly U.S.* the time between the design of a product and its production. **2.** *Commerce.* the time from the placing of an order to the delivery of the goods.

lead up to (li:d) *vb. (intr., adv. + prep.)* **1.** to act as a preliminary or introduction to. **2.** to approach (a topic) gradually or cautiously.

leaf (li:f) *n., pl. leaves* (li:vz). **1.** the main organ of photosynthesis and transpiration in higher plants, usually consisting of a flat green blade attached to the stem directly or by a stalk. **2.** foliage collectively. **3.** in leaf. (of shrubs, trees, etc.) having a full complement of foliage leaves. **4.** one of the sheets of paper in a book. **5.** a hinged, sliding, or detachable part, such as an extension to a table. **6.** metal in the form of a very thin flexible sheet: *gold leaf*. **7.** *take a leaf out of (or from) someone's book.* to imitate someone, esp. in one particular course of action. **8.** *turn over a new leaf.* to change or resolve to improve one's behaviour. ~*vb.* **9.** (when *intr.*, usually foll. by *through*) to turn (through pages, sheets, etc.) cursorily. **10.** (*intr.*) (of plants) to produce leaves. —**leafless** *adj.* —**leaf, like** *adj.*

leafage ('li:fɪdʒ) *n.* a less common word for *foliage*.

leaflet ('li:fli:t) *n.* **1.** a printed and usually folded sheet of paper for distribution, esp. for advertising. **2.** any of the subdivisions of a compound leaf such as a fern leaf. **3.** any small leaf or leaflike part. ~*vb.* **4.** (*intr.*) to distribute leaflets.

leaf mould *n.* **1.** a nitrogen-rich material consisting of decayed leaves, etc., used as a fertilizer. **2.** any of various fungus diseases affecting the leaves of certain plants.

leafy ('li:f) *adj.* **leafier, leafiest.** **1.** covered with or having leaves. **2.** resembling a leaf or leaves. —**leafiness** *n.*

league¹ ('li:g) *n.* **1.** an association or union of persons, nations, etc., formed to promote the interests of its members. **2.** an association of sporting clubs that organizes matches between member teams. **3.** a class, category, or level: *he is not in the same league*. **4.** in league (with). working or planning together with. **5.**

(*modifier*) of, involving, or belonging to a league: *a league game; a league table.* ~*vb.* **leagu**, **leagued**. **6.** to form or be formed into a league.

league² ('li:g) *n.* an obsolete unit of distance of varying length. It is commonly equal to 3 miles.

leak (li:k) *n.* **1.** a crack, hole, etc., that allows the accidental escape or entrance of fluid, light, etc. **b.** such escaping or entering fluid, light, etc. **2.** *spring a leak.* to develop a leak. **3.** something resembling this in effect: *a leak in the defence system*. **4.** the loss of current from an electrical conductor because of faulty insulation, etc. **5.** a disclosure of secret information. **6.** the act or an instance of leaking. **7.** *Sl.* an act of urinating. ~*vb.* **8.** to enter or escape or allow to enter or escape through a crack, hole, etc. **9.** (when *intr.*, often foll. by *out*) to disclose (secret information) or (of secret information) to be disclosed. **10.** (*intr.*) *Sl.* to urinate. —**leaker** *n.* —**leaky** *adj.*

leakage ('li:kɪdʒ) *n.* **1.** the act or an instance of leaking. **2.** something that escapes or enters by a leak. **3.** *Physics.* an undesired flow of electric current, neutrons, etc.

lean¹ (li:n) *vb.* **leaning; leant or leaned.** **1.** (foll. by *against*, *on*, or *upon*) to rest or cause to rest against a support. **2.** to incline or cause to incline from a vertical position. **3.** (*intr.*; foll. by *to* or *towards*) to have or express a tendency or leaning. **4.** (*intr.*; foll. by *on* or *upon*) to depend for advice, support, etc. ~*n.* **5.** the condition of inclining from a vertical position.

lean² (li:n) *adj.* **1.** not fat or full. **2.** (of meat) having little or no fat. **3.** not rich, abundant, or satisfying. ~*n.* **4.** the part of meat that contains little or no fat. —**leanly** *adv.* —**leanness** *n.*

leaning ('li:nɪŋ) *n.* a tendency or inclination.

leant (lent) *vb.* a past tense or past participle of **lean**¹.

lean-to *n., pl. -tos.* **1.** a roof that has a single slope adjoining a wall or building. **2.** a shed or outbuilding with such a roof.

leap (li:p) *vb.* **leaping; leapt or leaped.** **1.** (*intr.*) to jump suddenly from one place to another. **2.** (*intr.*; often foll. by *at*) to move or react quickly. **3.** (*tr.*) to jump over. **4.** to come into prominence rapidly: *the thought leapt into his mind*. **5.** (*tr.*) to cause (an animal, esp. a horse) to jump a barrier. ~*n.* **6.** the act of jumping. **7.** a spot from which a leap was or may be made. **8.** an abrupt change or increase. **9.** *a leap in the dark.* an action performed without knowledge of the consequences. **10.** *by leaps and bounds.* extremely fast. —**leaper** *n.*

leapfrog ('li:p,frog) *n.* **1.** a children's game in which each player in turn leaps over the others' bent backs. ~*vb.* **-frogging, -frogged.** **2.** *a.* (*intr.*) to play leapfrog. *b.* (*tr.*) to leap in this way over (something). **3.** to advance or cause to advance by jumps or stages.

leap year *n.* a calendar year of 366 days, February 29 (*leap day*) being the additional day, that occurs every four years (those whose number is divisible by four).

learn (lɜ:n) *vb.* **learning; learnt or learned** (lɜ:nd). **1.** (when *tr.*, may take a clause as object) to gain knowledge of (something) or acquire skill in (some art or practice). **2.** (*tr.*) to commit to memory. **3.** (*tr.*) to gain by experience, example, etc. **4.** (*intr.*; often foll. by *of* or *about*) to become informed; know. **5.** *Not standard.* to teach. —**learnable** *adj.* —**learner** *n.*

▷ **Usage.** Educated writers and speakers of English do not use *learn* for *teach*: *that will teach (not learn) him a lesson*.

learned ('lɜ:nd) *adj.* **1.** having great knowledge or erudition. **2.** involving or characterized by scholarship. **3.** (*prenominal*) a title applied in referring to a member of the legal profession, esp. to a barrister: *my learned friend*. —**learnedly** *adv.* —**learnedness** *n.*

learning ('lɜ:nɪŋ) *n.* **1.** knowledge gained by study; instruction or scholarship. **2.** the act of gaining knowledge.

lease (li:s) *n.* **1.** a contract by which property is conveyed to a person for a specified period, usually for rent. **2.** the instrument by which such property is conveyed. **3.** the period of time for which it is conveyed. **4.** a prospect of renewed health, happiness, etc.: *a new lease of life*. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) **5.** to grant possession of (land, buildings, etc.) by lease. **6.** to take a lease of (property); hold under a lease. —**leasable** *adj.* —**leaser** *n.*

leasehold ('li:s,həʊld) *n.* **1.** land or property held under a lease. **2.** the tenure by which such property is held. **3.** (*modifier*) held under a lease. —**lease, holder** *n.*

leash (li:f) *n.* **1.** a line or rope used to walk or control a dog or other animal; lead. **2.** something resembling this in function: *he kept a tight leash on his emotions*. **3.**

straining at the leash. eagerly impatient to begin something. ~vb. 4. (tr.) to control or secure as by a leash.

least (li:st) *determiner*. 1. **a. the.** the superlative of *little*: you have the least talent of anyone. **b.** (as pronoun; functioning as sing.): least isn't necessarily worst. 2. **at least.** a. if nothing else: you should at least try. **b.** at the least. 3. **at the least.** Also: **at least.** at the minimum: at the least you should earn a hundred pounds. 4. **in the least.** (usually used with a negative) in the slightest degree; at all: I don't mind in the least. ~adv. 5. **the least.** superlative of *little*: they travel the least. ~adj. 6. of very little importance.

leastways ('li:st,weiz) or **U.S. leastwise** *adv.* Inf. at least; anyway; at any rate.

leather ('ledə) *n.* 1. **a.** a material consisting of the skin of an animal made smooth and flexible by tanning, removing the hair, etc. **b.** (as modifier): leather goods. 2. something, such as a garment, made of leather. ~vb. (tr.) 3. to cover with leather. 4. to whip as with a leather strap.

leatherjacket ('ledə,dʒækɪt) *n.* 1. any of various tropical fishes having a leathery skin. 2. the greyish-brown tough-skinned larva of certain craneflies, which destroy the roots of grasses, etc.

leathery ('ledəri) *adj.* having the appearance or texture of leather, esp. in toughness. —'leatheriness *n.*

leave (li:v) *vb.* **leaving, left.** (mainly tr.) 1. (also intr.) to go or depart (from a person or place). 2. to cause to remain behind, often by mistake, in a place: he often leaves his keys in his coat. 3. to cause to be or remain in a specified state: paying the bill left him penniless. 4. to renounce or abandon: to leave a political movement. 5. to refrain from consuming or doing something: the things we have left undone. 6. to result in; cause: childhood problems often leave emotional scars. 7. to entrust or commit: leave the shopping to her. 8. to pass in a specified direction: flying out of the country, we left the cliffs on our left. 9. to be survived by (members of one's family): he leaves a wife and two children. 10. to bequeath: he left his investments to his children. 11. (tr.) to have as a remainder: 37-14 leaves 23. 12. *Not standard.* to permit; let. 13. **leave (someone) alone.** a. to refrain from persecuting, bothering, etc. **b.** to permit to stay or be alone. —'leaver *n.*

▷ **Usage.** In educated usage, *leave* is not used in the sense of *let* (allow): *let him go, not leave him go.*

leave (li:v) *n.* 1. permission to do something: he was granted leave to speak. 2. **by or with your leave.** with your permission. 3. permission to be absent, as from a place of work: leave of absence. 4. the duration of such absence: ten days' leave. 5. a farewell or departure (esp. in take (one's) leave). 6. on leave. officially excused from work or duty. 7. **take leave (of).** to say farewell (to).

leave (li:v) *vb.* **leaving, leaved.** (intr.) to produce or grow leaves.

leaven ('lesən) *n. also leavening.* 1. any substance that produces fermentation in dough or batter, such as yeast, and causes it to rise. 2. a piece of such a substance kept to ferment a new batch of dough. 3. an agency or influence that produces a gradual change. ~vb. (tr.) 4. to cause fermentation in (dough or batter). 5. to pervade, causing a gradual change.

leave off *vb.* 1. (intr.) to stop; cease. 2. (tr., adv.) to stop wearing or using.

leave out *vb.* (tr., adv.) 1. to cause to remain in the open. 2. to omit or exclude.

leaves ('li:vz) *n.* the plural of *leaf*.

leave-taking *n.* the act of departing; a farewell.

leavings ('li:vɪnz) *pl. n.* something remaining, such as food on a plate, residue, refuse, etc.

lecher ('letʃə) *n.* a promiscuous or lewd man. —'lecherous *adj.* —'lechery *n.*

lecithin ('lesθɪn) *n. Biochem.* any of a group of yellow-brown compounds that are found in many plant and animal tissues, esp. egg yolk: used in making candles, cosmetics, and inks.

lectern ('lektən) *n.* 1. a reading desk in a church. 2. any similar desk or support.

lecture ('lektʃə) *n.* 1. a discourse on a particular subject given or read to an audience. 2. the text of such a discourse. 3. a method of teaching by formal discourse. 4. a lengthy reprimand or scolding. ~vb. 5. to give or read a lecture (to an audience or class). 6. (tr.) to reprimand at length. —'lecturer *n.* —'lectureship *n.*

led (led) *vb.* the past tense or past participle of *lead*.

LED *Electronics.* abbrev. for light-emitting diode.

ledge (ledʒ) *n.* 1. a narrow horizontal surface resembling a shelf and projecting from a wall, window, etc. 2. a layer of rock that contains an ore; vein. 3. a ridge of rock that lies beneath the surface of the sea. 4. a narrow shelflike projection on a cliff or mountain. —'ledgy or **ledged** *adj.*

ledger ('ledʒə) *n.* 1. *Book-keeping.* the principal book in which the commercial transactions of a company are recorded. 2. *Angling.* a wire trace that allows the weight to rest on the bottom and the bait to float freely. ~vb. 3. (intr.) *Angling.* to fish using a ledger.

ledger line *n.* *Music.* a short line placed above or below the staff to accommodate notes representing pitches above or below the staff.

lee (li:) *n.* 1. a sheltered part or side; the side away from the direction from which the wind is blowing. ~adj. 2. (prenominal) *Naut.* on, at, or towards the side or part away from the wind: on a lee shore. Cf. **weather** (sense 4).

leech (li:tʃ) *n.* 1. an annelid worm which has a sucker at each end of the body and feeds on the blood or tissues of other animals. 2. a person who clings to or preys on another person. 3. **a.** an archaic word for **physician**. **b.** (in combination): leechcraft. ~vb. (tr.) 4. to use leeches to suck the blood of (a person), as a method of medical treatment.

leek (li:k) *n.* 1. a vegetable with a slender white bulb, cylindrical stem, and broad flat overlapping leaves. 2. the national emblem of Wales.

leer (liə) *vb.* 1. (intr.) to give an oblique, sneering, or suggestive look or grin. ~n. 2. such a look. —'leeringly *adv.*

leery ('liəri) *adj.* **leerier, leeriest** 1. Now chiefly dialect. knowing or sly. 2. *Sl.* (foll. by *of*) suspicious or wary. —'leeriness *n.*

lees (li:z) *pl. n.* the sediment from an alcoholic drink.

leet (li:t) *n.* *Scot.* a list of candidates for an office.

leeward ('li:wəd; *Naut.* 'li:əd) *Chiefly naut.* ~adj. 1. of, in, or moving to the quarter towards which the wind blows. ~n. 2. the point or quarter towards which the wind blows. 3. the side towards the lee. ~adv. 4. towards the lee. —'Cf. **windward**.

leeway ('li:wei) *n.* 1. room for free movement within limits, as in action or expenditure. 2. sideways drift of a boat or aircraft.

left (left) *adj.* 1. (usually prenominal) of or designating the side of something or someone that faces west when the front is turned towards the north. 2. (usually prenominal) worn on a left hand, foot, etc. 3. (sometimes cap.) of or relating to the political left. 4. (sometimes cap.) radical or progressive. ~adv. 5. on or in the direction of the left. ~n. 6. a left side, direction, position, area, or part. 7. (often cap.) the supporters or advocates of varying degrees of social, political, or economic change, reform, or revolution. 8. **Boxing.** a. a blow with the left hand. **b.** the left hand.

left (left) *vb.* the past tense or past participle of *leave*.

left-hand *adj.* (prenominal) 1. of, relating to, located on, or moving towards the left. 2. for use by the left hand; left-handed.

left-handed *adj.* 1. using the left hand with greater ease than the right. 2. performed with the left hand. 3. designed or adapted for use by the left hand. 4. awkward or clumsy. 5. ironically ambiguous: a left-handed compliment. 6. turning from right to left; anticlockwise. ~adv. 7. with the left hand. —'left-handedly *adv.* —'left-handedness *n.* —'left-hander *n.*

leftist ('leftɪst) *adj.* 1. of, tending towards, or relating to the political left or its principles. ~n. 2. a person who supports or belongs to the political left. —'leftism *n.*

left-luggage office *n.* *Brit.* a place at a railway station, etc., where luggage may be left for a small charge. U.S. name: **checkroom**.

leftover ('left,ʌvə) *n.* 1. (often pl.) an unused portion or remnant, as of material or of cooked food. ~adj. 2. left as an unused portion.

leftward ('leftwəd) *adj.* 1. on or towards the left. ~adv. 2. a variant of **leftwards**.

leftwards ('leftwədʒ) or **leftward** *adv.* towards or on the left.

left wing *n.* 1. (often cap.) the leftist faction of an assembly, party, group, etc.; the radical or progressive wing. 2. *Sports.* a. the left-hand side of the field of play from the point of view of either team facing its opponents' goal. **b.** a player positioned in this area in certain games. ~adj. **left-winged.** 3. of, belonging to, or relating to the political left wing. —'left-winger *n.*

lefty ('lefti) *n.*, *pl.* **lefties**. *Inf.* 1. a left-winger. 2. *Chiefly U.S.* a left-handed person.

leg (leg) *n.* 1. either of the two lower limbs in humans, or any similar or analogous structure in animals that is used for locomotion or support. 2. this part of an animal, esp. the thigh, used for food: *leg of lamb*. 3. something similar to a leg in appearance or function, such as one of the four supporting members of a chair. 4. a branch, limb, or part of a forked or jointed object. 5. the part of a garment that covers the leg. 6. a section or part of a journey or course. 7. a single stage, lap, length, etc., in a relay race. 8. either the opposite or adjacent side of a right-angled triangle. 9. one of a series of games, matches, or parts of games. 10. *N.Z. & Austral.* either one of two races on which a cumulative bet has been placed. 11. *Cricket.* a. the side of the field to the left of and behind a right-handed batsman as he faces the bowler. b. (as modifier): a leg slip; leg stump. 12. **not have a leg to stand on**. *Inf.* to have no reasonable or logical basis for an opinion or argument. 13. **on his, its, etc., last legs**. (of a person or thing) worn out; exhausted. 14. **pull someone's leg**. *Inf.* to tease, fool, or make fun of someone. 15. **shake a leg**. *Sl.* to hurry up: usually used in the imperative. 16. **stretch one's legs**. to stand up or walk around, esp. after sitting for some time. ~*vb.* **legging, legged**. 17. **leg it**. *Inf.* to walk, run, or hurry. —'leggy *adj.* —'legless *adj.*

legacy ('legəsi) *n.*, *pl.* **-cies**. 1. a gift by will, esp. of money or personal property. 2. something handed down or received from an ancestor or predecessor.

legal ('li:gl) *adj.* 1. established by or founded upon law; lawful. 2. of or relating to law. 3. recognized, enforceable, or having a remedy at law rather than in equity. 4. relating to or characteristic of the profession of law. —'legally *adv.*

legal aid *n.* financial assistance available to persons unable to meet the full cost of legal proceedings.

legalese ('li:glə'li:z) *n.* the conventional language in which legal documents are written.

legalism ('li:glə'li:zəm) *n.* strict adherence to the law, esp. the letter of the law rather than its spirit. —'legalist *n.*, *adj.* —'legal'istic *adj.*

legality ('li:galiti) *n.*, *pl.* **-ties**. 1. the state or quality of being legal or lawful. 2. adherence to legal principles.

legalize or **-ise** ('li:glə'laɪz) *vb.* (tr.) to make lawful or legal. —'legali'zation or **-i'sation** *n.*

legal tender *n.* currency that a creditor must by law accept in redemption of a debt.

legate ('legit) *n.* 1. a messenger, envoy, or delegate. 2. *R.C. Church.* an emissary representing the Pope. —'legate,ship *n.*

legatee ('legə'ti:) *n.* a person to whom a legacy is bequeathed.

legation ('lei:geɪʃən) *n.* 1. a diplomatic mission headed by a minister. 2. the official residence and office of a diplomatic minister. 3. the act of sending forth a diplomatic envoy. 4. the mission of a diplomatic envoy. 5. the rank or office of a legate.

legato ('li:gə'təʊ) *Music.* ~*adj.*, *adv.* 1. to be performed smoothly and connectedly. ~*n.*, *pl.* **-tos**. 2. a. a style of playing with no perceptible gaps between notes. b. (as modifier): a legato passage.

leg before wicket *n.* *Cricket.* a manner of dismissal on the grounds that a batsman has been struck on the leg by a bowled ball that otherwise would have hit the wicket. Abbrev.: **l.b.w.**

legend ('ledʒənd) *n.* 1. a popular story handed down from earlier times whose truth has not been ascertained. 2. a group of such stories: the *Arthurian legend*. 3. a modern story that has the characteristics of a traditional tale. 4. a person whose fame or notoriety makes him a source of exaggerated or romanticized tales. 5. an inscription or title, as on a coin or beneath a coat of arms. 6. explanatory matter accompanying a table, map, chart, etc.

legendary ('ledʒəndəri, -dri) *adj.* 1. of or relating to legend. 2. celebrated or described in a legend or legends. 3. very famous or notorious.

legerdemean ('ledʒədə'meɪn) *n.* 1. another name for sleight of hand. 2. cunning deception or trickery.

leger line ('ledʒə) *n.* a variant spelling of **ledger line**.

legged ('legd, legd) *adj.* a. having a leg or legs. b. (in combination): three-legged; long-legged.

leggings ('legɪŋz) *pl. n.* an extra outer covering for the lower legs.

Leghorn *n.* 1. ('leg,hɔ:n), the English name for Livor-

no, a port in W central Italy. 2. ('le:gɔ:n), a breed of domestic fowl.

leghorn ('leg,hɔ:n) *n.* 1. a type of Italian wheat straw that is woven into hats. 2. any hat made from this straw.

legible ('ledʒəb'l) *adj.* (of handwriting, print, etc.) able to be read or deciphered. —'legi'bility *n.* —'legibly *adv.*

legion ('li:dʒən) *n.* 1. a unit in the ancient Roman army of infantry with supporting cavalry of three to six thousand men. 2. any large military force: the *French Foreign Legion*. 3. (usually cap.) an association of ex-servicemen: the *British Legion*. 4. (often pl.) any very large number. ~*adj.* 5. (usually postpositive) very numerous. —'legionary *adj.*, *n.*

legionnaire ('li:dʒə'neə) *n.* (often cap.) a member of certain military forces or associations.

Legionnaire's disease ('li:dʒə'neəz) *n.* a serious, sometimes fatal bacterial infection which has symptoms similar to those of pneumonia.

legislate ('ledʒis,leɪt) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to make or pass laws. 2. (tr.) to bring into effect by legislation. —'legis,lator *n.*

legislation ('ledʒis'leɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act or process of making laws. 2. the laws so made.

legislative ('ledʒislə'tiv) *adj.* 1. of or relating to legislation. 2. having the power or function of legislating: a *legislative assembly*. 3. of or relating to a legislature. —'legislatively *adv.*

legislative assembly *n.* (often cap.) 1. the bicameral legislature in 28 states of the U.S. 2. the unicameral legislature in most Canadian provinces. 3. the lower chamber of the bicameral state legislatures in several other Commonwealth countries, such as Australia. 4. any assembly with legislative powers.

legislature ('ledʒis,leɪtʃə) *n.* a body of persons vested with power to make and repeal laws.

legitimate *adj.* ('li:dʒiti'mit) 1. born in lawful wedlock. 2. conforming to established standards of usage, behaviour, etc. 3. based on correct or acceptable principles of reasoning. 4. authorized by or in accordance with law. 5. of, relating to, or ruling by hereditary right: a *legitimate monarch*. 6. of or relating to serious drama as distinct from films, television, vaudeville, etc. ~*vb.* ('li:dʒiti'meɪt) 7. (tr.) to make, pronounce, or show to be legitimate. —'le'gitimacy *n.* —'le'gitimately *adv.* —'le'giti'mation *n.*

legitimize, **-tise** ('li:dʒiti'məɪz, taɪz) or **legitimize**, **-mise** ('li:dʒiti'maɪz) *vb.* (tr.) to make legitimate; legalize. —'le'gitimati'zation, **-ti'sation** or **le'gitimi'zation**, **-mi'sation** *n.*

leg-pull *n.* *Brit. inf.* a practical joke or mild deception.

legroom ('leg,ru:m) *n.* room to move one's legs comfortably, as in a car.

leguan ('legu,ɑ:n) *n.* a large amphibious S African lizard.

legume ('legju:m, 'li:gju:m) *n.* 1. the long dry fruit produced by leguminous plants; a pod. 2. any of various table vegetables, esp. beans or peas. 3. any leguminous plant.

leguminous ('li:gju:mɪnəs) *adj.* of, relating to, or belonging to any family of flowering plants having pods (or legumes) as fruits and root nodules enabling storage of nitrogen-rich material.

lei (lei) *n.* (in Hawaii) a garland of flowers, worn around the neck.

Leics. *abbrev. for* Leicestershire.

leisure ('leɪʒə) *n.* 1. a time or opportunity for ease, relaxation, etc. b. (as modifier): *leisure activities*. 2. ease or leisureliness. 3. **at leisure**, a. having free time. b. not occupied or engaged. c. without hurrying. 4. **at one's leisure**, when one has free time. —'leisured *adv.*

leisurely ('leɪʒəli) *adj.* 1. unhurried; relaxed. ~*adv.* 2. without haste; in a relaxed way. —'leisureliness *n.*

leitmotiv or **leitmotif** ('laɪtməʊ'ti:f) *n.* 1. *Music.* a recurring short melodic phrase used, esp. in Wagnerian music dramas, to suggest a character, thing, etc. 2. an often repeated image or theme in a literary work.

L.E.M. (lem) *n.* *acronym for* lunar excursion module.

lemming ('lemɪŋ) *n.* any of various volelike rodents of northern and arctic regions of Europe, Asia, and North America.

lemon ('lemən) *n.* 1. a small Asian evergreen tree widely cultivated in warm and tropical regions for its edible fruits. Related *adjs.*: **citric**, **citrine**, **citrous**. 2. a. the yellow oval fruit of this tree, having juicy acidic flesh. b. (as modifier): a *lemon jelly*. 3. Also called: **lemon yellow**. a. a greenish-yellow or pale yellow colour.

b. (as *adj.*): *lemon wallpaper*. **4.** a distinctive tart flavour made from or in imitation of the lemon. **5.** *Sl.* a person or thing considered to be useless or defective. — '**lem-only** *adj.*

lemonade (ˈlɛməˈneɪd) *n.* a drink made from lemon juice, sugar, and water or from carbonated water, citric acid, etc.

lemon sole *n.* a European flatfish with a variegated brown body: highly valued as a food fish.

lemon squash *n. Brit.* a drink made from a sweetened lemon concentrate and water.

lemur (ˈlɪmə) *n.* **1.** any of a family of Madagascan prosimian primates such as the ring-tailed lemur. They are typically arboreal, having foxy faces and long tails. **2.** any similar or closely related animal, such as a lorix or indris. — '**lemuroid** (ˈlɛmjʊˌɔɪd) *n., adj.*

lend (lɛnd) *vb.* **lending, lent.** **1.** (*tr.*) to permit the use of (something) with the expectation of its return. **2.** to provide (money) temporarily, often at interest. **3.** (*intr.*) to provide loans, esp. as a profession. **4.** (*tr.*) to impart or contribute (something, esp. some abstract quality): *her presence lent beauty*. **5.** **lend an ear.** to listen. **6.** **lend oneself or itself.** to possess the right characteristics or qualities for: *the novel lends itself to serialization*. — '**lender** *n.*

▷ **Usage.** Although the use of *loan* as a verb equivalent to *lend* is widespread, it is avoided by careful speakers and writers except when referring to the formal lending of money: *the bank loaned him the money*.

length (lɛŋkθ, lɛŋθ) *n.* **1.** the linear extent or measurement of something from end to end, usually being the longest dimension. **2.** the extent of something from beginning to end, measured in some more or less regular units or intervals: *the book was 600 pages in length*. **3.** a specified distance, esp. between two positions: *the length of a race*. **4.** a period of time, as between specified limits or moments. **5.** a piece or section of something narrow and long: *a length of tubing*. **6.** the quality, state, or fact of being long rather than short. **7.** (*usually pl.*) the amount of trouble taken in pursuing or achieving something (esp. in **to great lengths**). **8.** (*often pl.*) the extreme or limit of action (esp. in **to any length(s)**). **9.** *Prosody, phonetics.* the metrical quantity or temporal duration of a vowel or syllable. **10.** the distance from one end of a rectangular swimming bath to the other. **11.** **at length.** **a.** in depth; fully. **b.** eventually.

lengthen (ˈlɛŋkθən, ˈlɛŋθən) *vb.* to make or become longer. — '**lengthener** *n.*

lengthways (ˈlɛŋkθweɪz, ˈlɛŋθ-) or **U.S. lengthwise** *adv., adj.* in, according to, or along the direction of length.

lengthy (ˈlɛŋkθi, ˈlɛŋθi) *adj.* **lengthier, lengthiest.** of relatively great or tiresome extent or duration. — '**lengthily** *adv.* — '**lengthiness** *n.*

lenient (ˈlɛniənt) *adj.* showing or characterized by mercy or tolerance. — '**leniency** or '**lenience** *n.* — '**leniently** *adv.*

lenitive (ˈlɛntɪv) *adj.* **1.** soothing or alleviating pain or distress. **~n.** **2.** a lenitive drug.

lenity (ˈlɛnɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* the state or quality of being lenient.

lens (lɛnz) *n.* **1.** a piece of glass or other transparent material, used to converge or diverge transmitted light and form optical images. **2.** Also called: **compound lens.** a combination of such lenses for forming images or concentrating a beam of light. **3.** a device that diverges or converges a beam of electromagnetic radiation, sound, or particles.

lent (lɛnt) *vb.* the past tense or past participle of **lend**.

Lent (lɛnt) *n.* *Christianity.* the period of forty weekdays lasting from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday, observed as a time of penance and fasting commemorating Jesus' fasting in the wilderness. — '**lenten** *adj.*

lentil (ˈlɛntɪl) *n.* **1.** a small annual leguminous plant of the Mediterranean region and W Asia, having edible convex seeds. **2.** any of the seeds of this plant, which are cooked and eaten in soups, etc.

lento (ˈlɛntəʊ) *Music.* **~adj., adv.** **1.** to be performed slowly. **~n., pl. -tos.** **2.** a movement or passage performed in this way.

Leo (ˈliːəʊ) *n., Latin genitive Leonis* (liːˈəʊnɪs). **1.** *Astron.* a zodiacal constellation in the N hemisphere, lying between Cancer and Virgo. **2.** *Astrol.* Also called: **the Lion.** the fifth sign of the zodiac. The sun is in this sign between about July 23 and Aug. 22.

leonine (ˈliːəˌnaɪn) *adj.* of, characteristic of, or resembling a lion.

leontopodium (liːˌɒntəˈpɒdiəm) *n.* another name for **edelweiss**.

leopard (ˈlɛpəd) *n.* **1.** Also called: **panther.** a large feline mammal of forests of Africa and Asia, usually having a tawny yellow coat with black rosette-like spots. **2.** any of several similar felines, such as the snow leopard and cheetah. **3.** *Heraldry.* a stylized leopard, painted as a lion with the face turned towards the front. — '**leopardess** *fern. n.*

leotard (ˈliːtɑːd) *n.* a tight-fitting garment covering the body from the shoulders down to the thighs and worn by acrobats, ballet dancers, etc.

leper (ˈlɛpə) *n.* **1.** a person who has leprosy. **2.** a person who is ignored or despised.

lepidopteran (ˌlɛpɪˈdɒptərən) *n., pl. -terans or -tera* (-tərə). **1.** any of a large order of insects typically having two pairs of wings covered with fragile scales: comprises the butterflies and moths. **~adj.** also **lepidopterous**. **2.** of, relating to, or belonging to this order.

lepidopterist (ˌlɛpɪˈdɒptərɪst) *n.* a person who studies or collects moths and butterflies.

leprechaun (ˈlɛprəˌkɔːn) *n.* (in Irish folklore) a mischievous elf, often believed to have a treasure hoard.

leprosy (ˈlɛprəsi) *n. Pathol.* a chronic infectious disease occurring mainly in tropical and subtropical regions characterized by the formation of painful inflamed nodules beneath the skin and disfigurement and wasting of affected parts.

leprous (ˈlɛprəs) *adj.* **1.** having leprosy. **2.** relating to or resembling leprosy.

lepton (ˈlɛptɒn) *n. Physics.* any of a group of elementary particles and their antiparticles, such as an electron, muon, or neutrino, that participate in weak interactions.

lesbian (ˈlɛzbɪən) *n.* **1.** a female homosexual. **~adj.** **2.** of or characteristic of lesbians. — '**lesbianism** *n.*

lese-majesty (ˈlɛzˈmædʒɪsti) *n.* **1.** any of various offences committed against the sovereign power in a state; treason. **2.** an attack on authority or position.

lesion (ˈliːʒən) *n.* **1.** any structural change in a bodily part resulting from injury or disease. **2.** an injury or wound.

less (lɛs) *determiner.* **1. a.** the comparative of **little** (sense 1): *less sugar; less spirit than before*. **b.** (as pronoun; functioning as *sing.* or *pl.*): *she has less than she needs; the less you eat, the less you want*. **2.** (usually preceded by *no*) lower in rank or importance: *no less a man than the president*. **3. less of.** to a smaller extent or degree: *we see less of John these days; less of a success than I'd hoped*. **~adv.** **4.** the comparative of **a little**: *she walks less than she should; less quickly; less beautiful*. **~prep.** **5.** subtracting; minus: *three weeks less a day*.

▷ **Usage.** **Less** should not be confused with **fewer**. **Less** means less in quantity: *there is less water than before*. **Fewer** means smaller in number: *there are fewer people than before*.

-less *suffix forming adjectives.* **1.** without; lacking: *speechless*. **2.** not able to (do something) or not able to be (done, performed, etc.): *countless*.

lessee (lɛˈsiː) *n.* a person to whom a lease is granted; a tenant under a lease.

lessen (ˈlɛsən) *vb.* **1.** to make or become less. **2.** (*tr.*) to make little of.

lesser (ˈlɛsə) *adj.* not as great in quantity, size, or worth.

lesson (ˈlɛsən) *n.* **1. a.** a unit, or single period of instruction in a subject; class: *an hour-long music lesson*. **b.** the content of such a unit. **2.** material assigned for individual study. **3.** something from which useful knowledge or principles can be learned; example. **4.** the principles, knowledge, etc., gained. **5.** a reprimand or punishment intended to correct. **6.** a portion of Scripture appointed to be read at divine service.

lessor (ˈlɛsə; lɛˈsɔː) *n.* a person who grants a lease of property.

lest (lɛst) *conj. (subordinating; takes a subjunctive vb.)* *Arch.* **1.** so as to prevent any possibility that: *keep down lest anyone see us*. **2.** (after *vbs.* or *phrases* expressing fear, worry, anxiety, etc.) for fear that; in case: *he was alarmed lest she should find out*.

let (lɛt) *vb.* **letting, let.** (*tr.*; usually takes an infinitive without to or an implied infinitive) **1.** to permit; allow: *she lets him roam around*. **2.** (*imperative or dependent imperative*) **a.** used as an auxiliary to express a request, proposal, or command, or to convey a warning or threat: *let's get on; just let me catch you here again!* **b.** (in mathematical or philosophical discourse) used as an auxiliary to express an assumption or hypothesis: *let "a" equal "b"*. **c.** used as an auxiliary to express resigned

acceptance of the inevitable: *let the worst happen*. **3. a.** to allow the occupation of (accommodation) in return for rent. **b.** to assign (a contract for work). **4.** to allow or cause the movement of (something) in a specified direction: *to let air out of a tyre*. **5. let alone.** (*conj.*) much less; not to mention: *I can't afford wine, let alone champagne*. **6. let alone** or **be.** to leave (something) undisturbed or unchanged: *let the poor cat alone*. **7. let go.** See **go**. **8. let loose.** to set free. ~See also **let down**, **let off**, etc.

let² (*let*) **n.** 1. an impediment or obstruction (esp. in without let or hindrance). **2. Tennis, squash, etc. a.** a minor infringement or obstruction of the ball, requiring a point to be replayed. **b.** the point so replayed. ~*vb.* **letting, letted** or **let.** **3. (tr.)** Arch. to hinder; impede.

-let *suffix forming nouns.* 1. small or lesser: *booklet*. **2.** an ornament worn on a specified part of the body: *anklet*.

let down *vb.* (*tr., mainly adv.*) **1. (also prep.)** to lower. **2.** to fail to fulfil the expectations of (a person); disappoint. **3.** to undo, shorten, and resew (the hem) so as to lengthen (a dress, skirt, etc.). **4.** to untie (long hair that is bound up) and allow to fall loose. **5.** to deflate: *to let down a tyre*. ~*n.* **letdown.** **6.** a disappointment.

lethal (*ˈli:θəl*) *adj.* **1.** able to cause or causing death. **2.** of or suggestive of death. —**lethality** (*li:θəli:ti*) *n.* —**lethally** *adv.*

lethargy (*ˈleθədʒi*) *n., pl. -gies.* 1. sluggishness, slowness, or dullness. **2.** an abnormal lack of energy. —**lethargic** (*ˈleθədʒɪk*) *adj.* —**lethargically** *adv.*

Lethe (*ˈli:θi*) *n.* **1.** Greek myth. a river in Hades that caused forgetfulness in those who drank its waters. **2.** forgetfulness. —**Lethean** (*ˈli:θi:ən*) *adj.*

let off *vb.* (*tr., mainly adv.*) **1. (also prep.)** to allow to disembark or leave. **2.** to explode or fire (a bomb, gun, etc.). **3. (also prep.)** to excuse from (work or other responsibilities): *I'll let you off for a week*. **4. Inf.** to allow to get away without the expected punishment, work, etc. **5.** to let (accommodation) in portions. **6.** to release (liquid, air, etc.).

let on *vb.* (*adv.*; when *tr.*, takes a clause as object) **1.** to allow (something, such as a secret) to be known; reveal: *he never let on that he was married*. **2. (tr.)** to pretend.

let out *vb.* (*adv., mainly tr.*) **1.** to give vent to; emit: *to let out a howl*. **2.** to allow to go or run free; release. **3. (may take a clause as object)** to reveal (a secret). **4.** to make available to tenants, hirers, or contractors. **5.** to permit to flow out: *to let air out of the tyres*. **6.** to make (a garment) larger, as by unpicking (the seams) and sewing nearer the outer edge. ~*n.* **let-out.** **7.** a chance to escape.

letter (*ˈletə*) *n.* **1.** any of a set of conventional symbols used in writing or printing a language, each symbol being associated with a group of phonetic values; character of the alphabet. **2.** a written or printed communication addressed to a person, company, etc., usually sent by post. **3. (often preceded by the)** the strict legalistic or pedantic interpretation of the meaning of an agreement, document, etc.; exact wording as distinct from actual intention (esp. in the letter of the law). **4. to the letter.** **a.** following the literal interpretation or wording exactly. **b.** attending to every detail. ~*vb.* **5.** to write or mark letters on (a sign, etc.), esp. by hand. **6. (tr.)** to set down or print using letters. —**letterer** *n.*

letter bomb *n.* an explosive device in an envelope, detonated when the envelope is opened.

letter box *n.* **Chiefly Brit. a.** a private box into which letters, etc., are delivered. **b.** a public box into which letters, etc., are put for collection.

lettered (*ˈletəd*) *adj.* **1.** well educated in literature, the arts, etc. **2.** literate. **3.** of or characterized by learning or culture. **4.** printed or marked with letters.

letterhead (*ˈletə,hed*) *n.* a sheet of writing paper printed with one's address, name, etc.

letter of credit *n.* a letter issued by a bank entitling the bearer to draw funds up to a specified maximum from that bank or its agencies.

letterpress (*ˈletə,pres*) *n.* **1. a.** a method of printing in which ink is transferred from raised surfaces to paper by pressure. **b.** matter so printed. **2.** text matter as distinct from illustrations.

letters (*ˈletəz*) *n.* **1.** literary knowledge, ability, or learning: *a man of letters*. **2.** literary culture in general. **3.** an official title, degree, etc., indicated by an abbreviation: *letters after one's name*.

letters patent *n.* See **patent** (senses 1,4).

lettuce (*ˈletɪs*) *n.* **1.** any of various plants of the

composite family cultivated in many varieties for their large edible leaves. **2.** the leaves of any of these varieties, which are eaten in salads. **3.** any of various plants that resemble true lettuce, such as lamb's lettuce.

let up *vb.* (*intr., adv.*) **1.** to diminish, slacken, or stop. **2. (foll. by on)** *Inf.* to be less harsh (towards someone). ~*n.* **let-up.** **3. Inf.** a lessening or abatement.

leuco-, leuko- or before a vowel **leuc-, leuk-** *combining form.* white or lacking colour: *leucocyte; leukaemia*.

leucotomy or esp. *U.S. leukocyte* (*ˈlu:kə,sait*) *n.* any of the various large unpigmented cells in the blood of vertebrates. Also called: **white blood cell, white (blood) corpuscle.** —**leucocytic** or esp. *U.S. leukocytic* (*ˈlu:kəˈstɪk*) *adj.*

leucotomy (*lu:kə'təmi*) *n.* the surgical operation of cutting some of the nerve fibres within the brain for treating intractable mental disorders.

leukaemia or esp. *U.S. leukemia* (*lu:'ki:mɪə*) *n.* an acute or chronic disease characterized by a gross proliferation of leucocytes, which crowd into the bone marrow, spleen, lymph nodes, etc., and suppress the blood-forming apparatus.

Lev. *Bible. abbrev. for Leviticus.*

Levant (*h'vənt*) *n. the.* a former name for the area of the E Mediterranean now occupied by Lebanon, Syria, and Israel. —**Levantine** (*ˈlevən,tain*) *adj., n.*

levanter (*h'vəntə*) *n. (sometimes cap.)* **1.** an easterly wind in the W Mediterranean area. **2.** an inhabitant of the Levant.

levee¹ (*ˈlevi*) *n.* **1.** an embankment alongside a river constructed to prevent flooding. **2.** an embankment that surrounds a field that is to be irrigated. **3.** a landing place on a river; quay.

levee² (*ˈlevi, ˈleveɪ*) *n.* **1.** a formal reception held by a sovereign just after rising from bed. **2. (in Britain)** a public court reception for men.

level (*ˈlevl*) *adj.* **1.** on a horizontal plane. **2.** having a surface of completely equal height. **3.** being of the same height as something else. **4. (of quantities to be measured, as in recipes)** even with the top of the cup, spoon, etc. **5.** equal to or even with (something or someone else). **6.** not having or showing inconsistency or irregularities. **7. Also: level-headed.** even-tempered; steady. **8. one's level best.** the best one can do. ~*vb.* —**-elling, -elled** or *U.S. -eling, -eled.* **9. (tr.; sometimes foll. by off)** to make (a surface) horizontal, level, or even. **10.** to make (two or more people or things) equal, as in position or status. **11. (tr.)** to raze to the ground. **12. (tr.)** to knock (a person) down as by a blow. **13. (tr.)** to direct (a gaze, criticism, etc.) emphatically at someone. **14. (intr.; often foll. by with)** *Inf.* to be straightforward and frank. **15. (intr.; foll. by off or out)** to manoeuvre an aircraft into a horizontal flight path after a dive, climb, or glide. **16. (often foll. by at)** to aim (a weapon) horizontally. ~*n.* **17.** a horizontal datum line or plane. **18.** a device, such as a spirit level, for determining whether a surface is horizontal. **19.** a surveying instrument used for measuring relative heights of land. **20.** position or status in a scale of values. **21.** amount or degree of progress; stage. **22.** a specified vertical position; altitude. **23.** a horizontal line or plane with respect to which measurement of elevation is based: *sea level*. **24.** a flat even surface or area of land. **25. Physics.** the ratio of the magnitude of a physical quantity to an arbitrary magnitude: *sound-pressure level*. **26. on the level.** *Inf.* sincere or genuine. —**levelle** or *U.S. 'leveler* *n.* —**levelly** *adv.* —**levelness** *n.*

level crossing *n. Brit.* a point at which a railway and a road cross, esp. one with barriers that close the road when a train is due to pass.

level-headed *adj.* even-tempered, balanced, and reliable; steady. —**level-headedly** *adv.* —**level-headedness** *n.*

lever (*ˈli:və*) *n.* **1.** a rigid bar pivoted about a fulcrum, used to transfer a force to a load and usually to provide a mechanical advantage. **2.** any of a number of mechanical devices employing this principle. **3.** a means of exerting pressure in order to accomplish something. ~*vb.* **4.** to prise or move (an object) with a lever.

leverage (*ˈli:vərɪdʒ, -vrɪdʒ*) *n.* **1.** the action of a lever. **2.** the mechanical advantage gained by employing a lever. **3.** strategic advantage.

leveret (*ˈlevərɪt, -vrɪt*) *n.* a young hare, esp. one less than one year old.

leviathan (*h'vaɪəθən*) *n.* **1. Bible.** a monstrous beast, esp. a sea monster. **2.** any huge or powerful thing.

Levis (*ˈli:vəɪz*) *pl. n. Trademark.* jeans, usually blue and

made of denim.

levitate ('levi,tet) *vb.* to rise or cause to rise and float in the air, usually attributed to supernatural intervention. — **levi'tation** *n.* — **levi,tator** *n.*

levity ('leviti) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. inappropriate lack of seriousness. 2. fickleness or instability. 3. *Arch.* lightness in weight.

levy ('levi) *vb.* **levying, levied.** (tr.) 1. to impose and collect (a tax, tariff, fine, etc.). 2. to conscript troops for service. 3. to seize or attach (property) in accordance with the judgment of a court. ~*n., pl. levies.* 4. a. the act of imposing and collecting a tax, tariff, etc. b. the money so raised. 5. a. the conscription of troops for service. b. a person conscripted in this way.

lewd (lu:d) *adj.* characterized by or intended to excite crude sexual desire; obscene. — **lewdly** *adv.* — **lewdness** *n.*

lexical ('leksik'l) *adj.* 1. of or relating to items of vocabulary in a language. 2. of or relating to a lexicon. — **lexically** *adv.*

lexicography ('leksik'kɒgrəfi) *n.* the process or profession of writing or compiling dictionaries. — **lexi'cographer** *n.* — **lexicographic** ('leksik'græfik) or **lexicographical** *adj.*

lexicon ('leksikən) *n.* 1. a dictionary, esp. one of an ancient language such as Greek or Hebrew. 2. a list of terms relating to a particular subject. 3. *Linguistics.* the set of all the morphemes of a language.

ley (lei, li:) *n.* 1. arable land temporarily under grass. 2. Also: **ley line.** a line joining two prominent points in the landscape, thought to be the line of a prehistoric track.

Leyden jar ('lei'dn) *n.* *Physics.* an early type of capacitor consisting of a glass jar with the lower part of the inside and outside coated with tinfoil.

L.F. *Radio.* abbrev. for low frequency.

L.h. or L.H. abbrev. for left hand.

Li the chemical symbol for lithium.

liabilities ('laɪə'biliti) *pl. n.* *Accounting.* business obligations not discharged and shown as balanced against assets on the balance sheet.

liability ('laɪə'biliti) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. the state of being liable. 2. a financial obligation. 3. a hindrance or disadvantage.

liable ('laɪəbl) *adj.* (postpositive) 1. legally obliged or responsible; answerable. 2. susceptible or exposed; subject. 3. probable or likely: *it's liable to happen soon.*

▷ **Usage.** Careful users of English take *liable* to mean *responsible for and subject to* in sentences such as *he was liable for his employees' accidents* and *he was liable to accidents*. The use of *liable* in the sense of *likely* is avoided: *he was likely (not liable) to have accidents*.

liaise ('li:ez) *vb.* (intr.; usually foll. by *with*) to communicate and maintain contact (with).

liaison ('li:zən) *n.* 1. communication and contact between groups or units. 2. a secretive or adulterous sexual relationship. 3. the relationship between military units necessary to ensure unity of purpose. 4. (esp. in French) the pronunciation of a normally silent consonant at the end of a word immediately before another word commencing with a vowel, in such a way that the consonant is taken over as the initial sound of the following word, as in *ils ont* (il'zɒ̃t). 5. any thickening for soups, sauces, etc., such as egg yolks or cream.

liana ('li:əno) or **liane** ('li:ən) *n.* any of various woody climbing plants of tropical forests.

liar ('li:ə) *n.* a person who tells lies.

lib (lib) *n.* *Inf.* short for **liberation** (see **liberate**).

lib. abbrev. for: 1. *liber:* book. 2. *librarian.* 3. *library.*

Lib. abbrev. for **Liberal**.

libation ('laɪ'beɪʃən) *n.* 1. a. the pouring-out of wine, etc., in honour of a deity. b. the liquid so poured out. 2. *Usually facetious.* an alcoholic drink.

libel ('libl) *n.* 1. *Law.* a. the publication of defamatory matter in permanent form, as by a written or printed statement, picture, etc. b. the act of publishing such matter. 2. any defamatory or unflattering representation or statement. ~*vb.* **-belling, -belled** or **U.S. -beling, -beled.** (tr.) 3. *Law.* to make or publish a defamatory statement or representation about (a person). 4. to misrepresent injuriously. — **libeller** or **libelist** *n.* — **libellous** or **libelous** *adj.*

liberal ('libərəl, 'lɪbrəl) *adj.* 1. relating to or having social and political views that favour progress and reform. 2. relating to or having policies or views advocating individual freedom. 3. giving and generous in temperament or behaviour. 4. tolerant of other people. 5. abundant; lavish: *a liberal helping of cream.* 6. not

strict; free: *a liberal translation.* 7. of or relating to an education that aims to develop general cultural interests and intellectual ability. ~*n.* 8. a person who has liberal ideas or opinions. — **liberally** *adv.* — **liberalness** *n.*

Liberal ('libərəl, 'lɪbrəl) *n.* 1. a member or supporter of a Liberal Party. ~*adj.* 2. of or relating to a Liberal Party.

liberality ('libərə'leɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. generosity; bounty. 2. the quality or condition of being liberal.

liberalize or **-ise** ('libərə'laɪz, 'lɪbrə-) *vb.* to make or become liberal. — **liberalization** or **-isation** *n.* — **liberalizer** or **-iser** *n.*

liberate ('libə'reɪt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to give liberty to; make free. 2. to release (something, esp. a gas) from chemical combination. 3. to release from occupation or subjugation by a foreign power. — **liberation** *n.* — **liberator** *n.*

libertine ('libə'ti:n, -'tɪn) *n.* 1. a morally dissolute person. ~*adj.* 2. morally dissolute. — **liber,tinage** or **libertinism** *n.*

liberty ('libəti) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. the power of choosing, thinking, and acting for oneself; freedom from control or restriction. 2. the right or privilege of access to a particular place; freedom. 3. (often pl.) a social action regarded as being familiar, forward, or improper. 4. (often pl.) an action that is unauthorized: *he took liberties with the translation.* 5. a. authorized leave granted to a sailor. b. (as modifier): *liberty man; liberty boat.* 6. at liberty. free, unoccupied, or unrestricted. 7. take liberties (with). to be overfamiliar or overpresumptuous.

libidinous ('lɪbɪdɪnəs) *adj.* characterized by excessive sexual desire. — **libidiously** *adv.* — **libidinousness** *n.*

libido ('lɪbɪdəu) *n., pl. -dos.* 1. *Psychoanal.* psychic energy emanating from the id. 2. sexual urge or desire. — **libidinal** ('lɪbɪdɪnəl) *adj.* — **libidinally** *adv.*

Libra ('lɪbrə) *n.* *Latin* genitive **Librae** ('lɪbrɪ:). 1. *Astron.* a small faint zodiacal constellation in the S hemisphere, lying between Virgo and Scorpius. 2. *Astrol.* also called the **Scales, the Balance.** the seventh sign of the zodiac. The sun is in this sign between about Sept. 23 and Oct. 22.

librarian ('laɪ'breɪəriən) *n.* a person in charge of a library. — **li'brarian,ship** *n.*

library ('laɪbrəri) *n., pl. -braries.* 1. a room or set of rooms where books and other literary materials are kept. 2. a collection of literary materials, films, tapes, gramophone records, etc., kept for reference or borrowing. 3. the building or institution that houses such a collection: *a public library.* 4. a set of books published as a series, often in a similar format. 5. *Computers.* a collection of standard programs and subroutines, usually stored on disk.

libretto ('lɪbrɛtəu) *n., pl. -tos or -ti (-ti:).* a text written for and set to music in an opera, etc. — **li'brettist** *n.*

lice (laɪs) *n.* the plural of **louse**.

licence or **U.S. license** ('laɪsəns) *n.* 1. a certificate, tag, document, etc., giving official permission to do something. 2. formal permission or exemption. 3. liberty of action or thought; freedom. 4. intentional disregard of conventional rules to achieve a certain effect: *poetic licence.* 5. excessive freedom.

license ('laɪsəns) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to grant or give a licence for (something, such as the sale of alcohol). 2. to give permission to or for. — **licensable** *adj.* — **licenser** or **licensor** *n.*

licensee ('laɪsən'si:) *n.* a person who holds a licence, esp. one to sell alcoholic drink.

licentiate ('laɪ'senʃɪt) *n.* 1. a person who holds a licence to practise a certain profession. 2. a higher degree awarded by certain universities. 3. a person who holds this degree. 4. *Chiefly Presbyterian Church.* a person holding a licence to preach. — **li'centiate,ship** *n.*

licentious ('laɪ'senʃəs) *adj.* 1. sexually unrestrained or promiscuous. 2. *Now rare.* showing disregard for convention. — **li'centiously** *adv.* — **li'centiousness** *n.*

lichee ('laɪ'tʃi:) *n.* a variant spelling of **litchi**.

lichen ('laɪkən, 'lɪʃən) *n.* any of various small plants which are formed by the symbiotic association of a fungus and an alga and occur as crusty patches or bushy growths on tree trunks, bare ground, etc. — **lichened** *adj.* — **lichenous** *adj.*

lich gate or **lych gate** (litʃ) *n.* a roofed gate to a churchyard, formerly used as a temporary shelter for the bier.

licit ('lɪsɪt) *adj.* a less common word for **lawful**. — **licitly** *adv.* — **licitness** *n.*

lick (lik) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to pass the tongue over, esp. in order to taste or consume. 2. to flicker or move lightly over or round (something): *the flames licked around the door.* 3. (*tr.*) *Inf. a.* to defeat or vanquish. *b.* to flog or thrash. *c.* to be or do much better than. 4. **lick into shape.** to put into a satisfactory condition. 5. **lick one's lips.** to anticipate or recall something with pleasure. 6. **lick one's wounds.** to retire after a defeat. ~*n.* 7. an instance of passing the tongue over something. 8. a small amount: *a lick of paint.* 9. short for **salt lick**. 10. *Inf. a hit; blow.* 11. an informal word for **speed**. 12. **a lick and a promise.** something hastily done, esp. a hurried wash. —'licker *n.*

lickspittle ('lik,spɪtʃl) *n.* a flattering or servile person.

licorice ('likərɪs) *n.* the usual U.S. spelling of **liquorice**.

lid (lɪd) *n.* 1. a cover, usually removable or hinged, for a receptacle: *a saucerpan lid; a desk lid.* 2. short for **eyelid**. 3. **put the lid on.** *Inf. a. Brit.* to be the final blow to. *b.* to curb, prevent, or discourage. —'lidded *adj.* —'lid-less *adj.*

lido ('lɪdəʊ) *n., pl. -dos.* *Brit.* a public place of recreation, including a swimming pool.

lie¹ (laɪ) *vb.* **lying, lied.** 1. (*intr.*) to speak untruthfully with intent to mislead or deceive. 2. (*intr.*) to convey a false impression or practise deception: *the camera does not lie.* ~*n.* 3. an untrue or deceptive statement deliberately used to mislead. 4. something that is deliberately intended to deceive. 5. **give the lie to.** *a.* to disprove. *b.* to accuse of lying.

lie² (laɪ) *vb.* **lying, lay, lain.** (*intr.*) 1. (often foll. by *down*) to place oneself or be in a prostrate position, horizontal to the ground. 2. to be situated, esp. on a horizontal surface: *the pencil is lying on the desk; India lies to the south of Russia.* 3. to be buried: *here lies Jane Brown.* 4. (*copula*) to be and remain (in a particular state or condition): *to lie dormant.* 5. to stretch or extend: *the city lies before us.* 6. (usually foll. by *on* or *upon*) to rest or weigh: *my sins lie heavily on my mind.* 7. (usually foll. by *in*) to exist or consist inherently: *strength lies in unity.* 8. (foll. by *with*) *a.* to be or rest (with): *the ultimate decision lies with you.* *b.* *Arch.* to have sexual intercourse (with). 9. (of an action, claim, appeal, etc.) to subsist; be maintainable or admissible. 10. *Arch.* to stay temporarily. ~*n.* 11. the manner, place, or style in which something is situated. 12. the hiding place or lair of an animal. 13. **lie of the land.** *a.* the topography of the land. *b.* the way in which a situation is developing. ~See also **lie down, lie in.**

▷ **Usage.** See at **lay**¹.

lied (lɪd; *German* lɪt) *n., pl. lieder ('lɪdɜ; *German* 'lɪdər). *Music.* any of various musical settings for solo voice and piano of a romantic or lyrical poem.*

lie detector *n.* *Inf.* a polygraph used esp. by a police interrogator to detect false or devious answers to questions, a sudden change in one or more involuntary physiological responses being considered a manifestation of guilt, fear, etc.

lie down *vb.* (*intr., adv.*) 1. to place oneself or be in a prostrate position in order to rest. 2. to accept without protest or opposition (esp. in **take something lying down**). ~*n.* **lie-down.** 3. a rest.

lief (li:f) *adv.* 1. Now rare, gladly; willingly: *I'd as lief go today as tomorrow.* ~*adj.* 2. *Arch. a.* ready; glad. *b.* dear; beloved.

liege (lɪdʒ) *adj.* 1. (of a lord) owed feudal allegiance (esp. in **liege lord**). 2. (of a vassal or servant) owing feudal allegiance: *a liege subject.* 3. faithful; loyal. ~*n.* 4. a liege lord. 5. a liegeman or true subject.

lie in *vb.* (*intr., adv.*) 1. to remain in bed late in the morning. 2. to be confined in childbirth. ~*n.* **lie-in.** 3. a long stay in bed in the morning.

lien (liən, 'li:ən) *n.* Law. a right to retain possession of another's property pending discharge of a debt.

lieu (lju:, lu:) *n.* stead; place (esp. in **in lieu, in lieu of**).

lieutenant (lef'tenənt; in the Navy, lə'tenənt; U.S. lu:'tenənt) *n.* 1. a military officer holding commissioned rank immediately junior to a captain. 2. a naval officer holding commissioned rank immediately junior to a lieutenant commander. 3. U.S. an officer in a police or fire department ranking immediately junior to a captain. 4. a person who holds an office in subordination to or in place of a superior. —'lieu'tenancy *n.*

lieutenant colonel *n.* an officer holding commissioned rank immediately junior to a colonel in certain armies, air forces, and marine corps.

lieutenant commander *n.* an officer holding commissioned rank in certain navies immediately junior to a commander.

lieutenant general *n.* an officer holding commissioned rank in certain armies, air forces, and marine corps immediately junior to a general.

lieutenant governor *n.* 1. a deputy governor. 2. (in the U.S.) an elected official who acts as deputy to a state governor. 3. (in Canada) the representative of the Crown in a province: appointed by the federal government.

life (laɪf) *n., pl. lives* (laɪvz). 1. the state or quality that distinguishes living beings or organisms from dead ones and from inorganic matter, characterized chiefly by metabolism, growth, and the ability to reproduce and respond to stimuli. Related *adj.*: **animate**. 2. the period between birth and death. 3. a living person or being: *to save a life.* 4. the time between birth and the present time. 5. *a.* the remainder or extent of one's life. *b.* (*as modifier*): *a life sentence; life membership; life work.* 6. the amount of time that something is active or functioning: *the life of a battery.* 7. a present condition, state, or mode of existence: *my life is very dull here.* 8. *a.* a biography. *b.* (*as modifier*): *a life story.* 9. a characteristic state or mode of existence: *town life.* 10. the sum or course of human events and activities. 11. liveliness or high spirits: *full of life.* 12. a source of strength, animation, or vitality: *he was the life of the show.* 13. all living things, taken as a whole: *there is no life on Mars; plant life.* 14. (*modifier*) *Arts.* drawn or taken from a living model: *life drawing.* 15. (in certain games) one of a number of opportunities for participation. 16. **as large as life.** *Inf.* real and living. 17. **for dear life.** *Inf.* urgently or with extreme vigour or desperation. 18. **for the life of me** (*him, her, etc.*) though trying desperately. 19. **a matter of life and death.** a matter of extreme urgency. 20. **not on your life.** *Inf.* certainly not. 21. **to the life.** (of a copy or image) resembling the original exactly. 22. **the time of one's life.** a memorably enjoyable time. 23. **true to life.** faithful to reality.

life belt *n.* a buoyant ring used to keep a person afloat when in danger of drowning.

lifeblood ('laɪf,bləd) *n.* 1. the blood, considered as vital to life. 2. the essential or animating force.

lifeboat ('laɪf,bəʊt) *n.* a boat used for rescuing people at sea, escaping from a sinking ship, etc.

life buoy *n.* any of various kinds of buoyant device for keeping people afloat in an emergency.

lifeguard ('laɪf,gɑ:d) *n.* a person at a beach or pool to guard people against the risk of drowning.

life jacket *n.* an inflatable sleeveless jacket worn to keep a person afloat when in danger of drowning.

lifeless ('laɪfləs) *adj.* 1. without life; inanimate; dead. 2. not sustaining living organisms. 3. having no vitality or animation. 4. unconscious. —'lifelessly *adv.* —'lifelessness *n.*

lifelike ('laɪf,laɪk) *adj.* closely resembling or representing life. —'life-likeness *n.*

lifeline ('laɪf,laɪn) *n.* 1. a line thrown or fired aboard a vessel for hauling in a hawser for a breeches buoy. 2. a line by which a deep-sea diver is raised or lowered. 3. a vital line of access or communication.

lifelong ('laɪf,lɒŋ) *adj.* lasting for or as if for a lifetime.

life peer *n.* *Brit.* a peer whose title lapses at his death.

life preserver *n.* 1. *Brit.* a club or bludgeon, esp. one kept for self-defence. 2. U.S. a life belt or life jacket.

lifer ('laɪfə) *n.* *Inf.* a prisoner sentenced to life imprisonment.

life raft *n.* a raft for emergency use at sea.

life-saver *n.* 1. the saver of a person's life. 2. *Austral.* an expert swimmer, esp. a member of a surf lifesaving club at a surfing beach, who rescues surfers or swimmers from drowning. 3. *Inf.* a person or thing that gives help in time of need. —'life-saving *adj., n.*

life-size or life-sized *adj.* representing actual size.

life style *n.* the particular attitudes, habits, or behaviour associated with an individual or group.

lifetime ('laɪf,taim) *n.* 1. *a.* the length of time a person or animal is alive. *b.* (*as modifier*): *a lifetime supply.* 2. the length of time that something functions, is useful, etc. 3. *Physics.* Also called: **life.** the average time of existence of an unstable or reactive entity.

lift (lɪft) *vb.* 1. to rise or cause to rise upwards from the ground or another support to a higher place: *to lift a sack.* 2. to move or cause to move upwards: *to lift one's eyes.* 3. (*tr.*) to take hold of in order to carry or remove: *to lift something down from a shelf.* 4. (*tr.*) to raise in status, spirituality, estimation, etc.: *his position lifted him from the common crowd.* 5. (*tr.*) to revoke or rescind: *to lift tax restrictions.* 6. (*tr.*) to take (plants or under-

ground crops) out of the ground for transplanting or harvesting. 7. (*intr.*) to disappear by lifting or as if by lifting: *the fog lifted*. 8. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to take unlawfully or dishonourably; steal. 9. (*tr.*) to perform a face-lift on. ~*n.* 10. the act or an instance of lifting. 11. the power or force available or used for lifting. 12. *a. Brit.* a platform, compartment, or cage raised or lowered in a vertical shaft to transport persons or goods in a building. U.S. word: *elevator*. *b.* See *chair lift*, *ski lift*. 13. the distance or degree to which something is lifted. 14. a ride in a car or other vehicle for part or all of a passenger's journey. 15. a rise in the height of the ground. 16. an elevation of the spirits or temperament. 17. the force required to lift an object. 18. a layer inserted in the heel of a shoe, etc., to give the wearer added height. 19. aid; help. 20. the component of the aerodynamic forces acting on an aerofoil, etc., at right angles to the airflow and opposing gravity. —'lifter *n.*

liftoff ('lift,ɒf) *n.* 1. the initial movement of a rocket from its launching pad. 2. the instant at which this occurs. ~*vb.* **lift off**. 3. (*intr., adv.*) (of a rocket) to leave its launching pad.

ligament ('ligəmənt) *n.* 1. *Anat.* any one of the bands of tough fibrous connective tissue that restrict movement in joints, connect various bones or cartilages, support muscles, etc. 2. any physical or abstract bond.

ligature ('ligətʃə,-tʃuə) *n.* 1. the act of binding or tying up. 2. something used to bind. 3. a link, bond, or tie. 4. *Surgery.* a thread or wire for tying around a vessel, duct, etc., as for constricting the flow of blood. 5. *Printing.* a character of two or more joined letters, such as fi, fl, ffi. 6. *Music.* a slur or the group of notes connected by it. ~*vb.* 7. (*tr.*) to bind with a ligature; ligate.

light¹ ('laɪt) *n.* 1. the medium of illumination that makes sight possible. 2. Also called: **visible radiation**. electromagnetic radiation that is capable of causing a visual sensation. 3. (*not in technical usage*) electromagnetic radiation that has a wavelength outside this range, esp. ultraviolet radiation: *ultraviolet light*. 4. the sensation experienced when electromagnetic radiation within the visible spectrum falls on the retina of the eye. 5. anything that illuminates, such as a lamp or candle. 6. See **traffic light**. 7. a particular quality or type of light: *a good light for reading*. 8. *a.* illumination from the sun during the day; daylight. *b.* the time this appears; daybreak; dawn. 9. anything that allows the entrance of light, such as a window or compartment of a window. 10. the condition of being visible or known (esp. in **bring or come to light**). 11. an aspect or view: *he saw it in a different light*. 12. mental understanding or spiritual insight. 13. a person considered to be an authority or leader. 14. brightness of countenance, esp. a sparkle in the eyes. 15. *a.* the act of igniting or kindling something, such as a cigarette. *b.* something that ignites or kindles, esp. in a specified manner, such as a spark or flame. *c.* something used for igniting or kindling, such as a match. 16. See **lighthouse**. 17. (*in the light of*, in view of; taking into account; considering. 18. **see the light (of day)**. *a.* to come into being. *b.* to come to public notice. *c.* to acquire insight. 19. **strike a light**. *a.* (*vb.*) to ignite something, esp. a match, by friction. *b.* (*interj.*) *Brit.* an exclamation of surprise. ~*adj.* 20. full of light; well-lighted. 21. (*of a colour*) reflecting or transmitting a large amount of light: *light yellow*. ~*vb.* **lighten, lighten or lit**. 22. to ignite or cause to ignite. 23. (*often foll. by up*) to illuminate or cause to illuminate. 24. to make or become cheerful or animated. 25. (*tr.*) to guide or lead by light. ~See also **light up**. —'lightish *adj.* —'lightless *adj.*

light² ('laɪt) *adj.* 1. not heavy; weighing relatively little. 2. having relatively low density: *magnesium is a light metal*. 3. lacking sufficient weight; not agreeing with standard or official weights. 4. not great in degree, intensity, or number: *light rain*. 5. without burdens, difficulties, or problems; easily borne or done: *a light heart; light work*. 6. graceful, agile, or deft: *light fingers*. 7. not bulky or clumsy. 8. not serious or profound; entertaining: *light music; light verse*. 9. without importance or consequence; insignificant: *no light matter*. 10. frivolous or capricious. 11. loose in morals. 12. dizzy or unclear: *a light head*. 13. (*of bread, cake, etc.*) spongy or well leavened. 14. easily digested: *a light meal*. 15. relatively low in alcoholic content: *a light wine*. 16. (*of a soil*) having a crumbly texture. 17. (*of a vessel, lorry, etc.*) *a.* designed to carry light loads. *b.* not loaded. 18. carrying light arms or equipment: *light infantry*. 19. (*of an industry*) engaged in the production of small consumer goods using light machinery. 20. *Phonetics, prosody.* (*of a syllable, vowel, etc.*) unaccented or weakly

stressed; short. 21. **light on**. *Austral. & N.Z. inf.* lacking a sufficient quantity of (something). 22. **make light of**. to treat as insignificant or trifling. ~*adv.* 23. with little equipment, baggage, etc.: *to travel light*. ~*vb.* **lighting, lighted or lit**. (*intr.*) 24. (*esp. of birds*) to settle or land after flight. 25. to get down from a horse, vehicle, etc. 26. (*foll. by on or upon*) to come upon unexpectedly. 27. to strike or fall on: *the choice lighted on me*. —'lightish *adj.* —'lightly *adv.* —'lightness *n.*

lighten¹ ('laɪt'n) *vb.* 1. to become or make light. 2. (*intr.*) to shine; glow. 3. (*intr.*) (*of lightning*) to flash. 4. (*tr.*) *Arch.* to cause to flash.

lighten² ('laɪt'n) *vb.* 1. to make or become less heavy. 2. to make or become less burdensome or oppressive; mitigate. 3. to make or become more cheerful or lively.

lighter¹ ('laɪtə) *n.* 1. a small portable device for providing a naked flame to light cigarettes, etc. 2. a person or thing that ignites something.

lighter² ('laɪtə) *n.* a flat-bottomed barge used for transporting cargo, esp. in loading or unloading a ship.

light-fingered *adj.* having nimble or agile fingers, esp. for thieving or picking pockets.

light flyweight *n.* an amateur boxer weighing not more than 48 kg (106 pounds).

light-footed *adj.* having a light or nimble tread. —'light-'footedly *adv.*

light-headed *adj.* 1. frivolous. 2. giddy; feeling faint or slightly delirious. —'light-'headedly *adv.* —'light-'headedness *n.*

light-hearted *adj.* cheerful or carefree in mood or disposition. —'light-'heartedly *adv.* —'light-'heartedness *n.*

light heavyweight *n.* 1. Also (*in Britain*): **cruiserweight**. *a.* a professional boxer weighing 160–175 pounds (72.5–79.5 kg). *b.* an amateur boxer weighing 75–81 kg (165–179 pounds). 2. a wrestler weighing usually 192–214 pounds (87–97 kg).

lighthouse ('laɪt,haus) *n.* a fixed structure in the form of a tower equipped with a light visible to mariners for warning them of obstructions, etc.

lighting ('laɪtɪŋ) *n.* 1. the act or quality of illumination or ignition. 2. the apparatus for supplying artificial light effects to a stage, film, or television set. 3. the distribution of light on an object or figure, as in painting, photography, etc.

lighting-up time *n.* the time when vehicles are required by law to have their lights on.

light middleweight *n.* an amateur boxer weighing 67–71 kg (148–157 pounds).

lightness ('laɪtnɪs) *n.* the attribute of an object or colour that enables an observer to judge the extent to which the object or colour reflects or transmits incident light.

lightning ('laɪtnɪŋ) *n.* 1. a flash of light in the sky, occurring during a thunderstorm and caused by a discharge of electricity, either between clouds or between a cloud and the earth. 2. (*modifier*) fast and sudden: *a lightning raid*.

lightning conductor or rod *n.* a metal strip terminating in sharp points, attached to the highest part of a building, etc., to provide a safe path to earth for lightning discharges.

light opera *n.* another term for *operetta*.

lights¹ ('laɪts) *pl.* *n.* a person's ideas, knowledge, or understanding: *he did it according to his lights*.

lights² ('laɪts) *pl.* *n.* the lungs, esp. of sheep, bullocks, and pigs, used esp. for feeding pets.

lights out *n.* 1. the time when those resident at an institution, such as soldiers in barracks or children at a boarding school, are expected to retire to bed. 2. a signal indicating this.

light up *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. to light a cigarette, pipe, etc. 2. to illuminate or cause to illuminate. 3. to make or become cheerful or animated.

lightweight ('laɪt,weɪt) *adj.* 1. of a relatively light weight. 2. not serious; trivial. ~*n.* 3. a person or animal of a relatively light weight. 4. *a.* a professional boxer weighing 130–135 pounds (59–61 kg). *b.* an amateur boxer weighing 57–60 kg (126–132 pounds). 5. a wrestler weighing usually 115–126 pounds (52–57 kg). 6. *Inf.* an incompetent and unimportant person.

light welterweight *n.* an amateur boxer weighing 60–63.5 kg (132–140 pounds).

light year *n.* a unit of distance used in astronomy, equal to the distance travelled by light in one mean solar year, i.e. 9.4607×10^{15} metres or 5.8784×10^6 miles.

ligneous ('lɪgneəs) *adj.* of or resembling wood.

lignite ('lignait) *n.* a brown carbonaceous sedimentary rock with woody texture that consists of accumulated layers of partially decomposed vegetation: used as a fuel. Also called: **brown coal**. —**lignitic** (lig'nik) *adj.*

lignum vitae ('lignəm 'vaɪt) *n.* 1. either of two tropical American trees having blue or purple flowers. 2. the heavy resinous wood of either of these trees.

like¹ ('laɪk) *adj.* 1. (*prenominal*) similar; resembling. ~*prep.* 2. similar to; similarly to; in the manner of: *acting like a maniac; he's so like his father*. 3. used correlatively to express similarity: *like mother, like daughter*. 4. such as: *there are lots of games—like draughts, for instance*. ~*adv.* 5. a dialect word for **likely**. ~*conj.* 6. Not standard, as though; as if: *you look like you've just seen a ghost*. 7. in the same way as; in the same way that: *she doesn't dance like you do*. ~*n.* 8. the like, similar things: *dogs, foxes, and the like*. 9. the likes (or like) of. people or things similar to (someone or something specified): *we don't want the likes of you around here*.

▷ **Usage.** The use of *like* as a conjunction (*he behaves like his father did*) is avoided in good usage, as, as if, or as though being preferred. Many careful writers and speakers do accept, however, the use of *like* as a preposition in constructions where no verb is expressed: *he looks like his father*.

like² ('laɪk) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to find (something) enjoyable or agreeable or find it enjoyable or agreeable (to do something): *he likes boxing; he likes to hear music*. 2. (*tr.*) to be fond of. 3. (*tr.*) to prefer or wish (to do something): *we would like you to go*. 4. (*tr.*) to feel towards; consider; regard: *how did she like it?* 5. (*intr.*) to feel disposed or inclined; choose; wish. ~*n.* 6. (*usually pl.*) a favourable feeling, desire, preference, etc. (esp. in likes and dislikes). —**likable** or **likeable** *adj.*

-like *suffix forming adjectives.* 1. resembling or similar to: *lifelike*. 2. having the characteristics of: *childlike*.

likelihood ('laɪkli,hud) or **likeliness** *n.* 1. the condition of being likely or probable; probability. 2. something that is probable.

likely ('laɪkli) *adj.* 1. (usually foll. by an infinitive) tending or inclined; apt: *likely to rain*. 2. probable: *a likely result*. 3. believable or feasible; plausible. 4. appropriate for a purpose or activity. 5. having good possibilities of success: *a likely candidate*. ~*adv.* 6. probably or presumably.

like-minded *adj.* agreeing in opinions, goals, etc. —**like-mindedly** *adv.* —**like-mindedness** *n.*

liken ('laɪkən) *vb.* (*tr.*) to see or represent as the same or similar; compare.

likeness ('laɪknɪs) *n.* 1. the condition of being alike; similarity. 2. a painted, carved, moulded, or graphic image of a person or thing. 3. an imitative appearance; semblance.

likewise ('laɪk,wəɪz) *adv.* 1. in addition; moreover; also. 2. in like manner; similarly.

liking ('laɪkɪŋ) *n.* 1. the feeling of a person who likes; fondness. 2. a preference, inclination, or pleasure.

lilac ('laɪlək) *n.* 1. any of various Eurasian shrubs or small trees of the olive family which have large sprays of purple or white fragrant flowers. 2. a light or moderate purple colour.

Lilliputian ('lɪlɪ'pjʊ:ʃən) *n.* 1. a tiny person or being. ~*adj.* 2. tiny; very small. 3. petty or trivial.

Lilo ('laɪ,ləʊ) *n., pl. -los.* **Trademark.** a type of inflatable plastic or rubber mattress.

lift (lɪft) *n.* 1. (in music) a jaunty rhythm. 2. a buoyant motion. ~*vb.* (*intr.*) 3. (of a melody) to have a lift. 4. to move in a buoyant manner.

lily ('lɪli) *n., pl. lilies.* 1. any perennial plant of a N temperate genus, such as the tiger lily, having scaly bulbs and showy typically pendulous flowers. 2. the bulb or flower of any of these plants. 3. any of various similar or related plants, such as the water lily. —**lily-like** *adj.*

lily-livered *adj.* cowardly; timid.

lily of the valley *n., pl. lilies of the valley.* a small lilaceous plant of Eurasia and North America cultivated for its spikes of fragrant white bell-shaped flowers.

lima bean ('laɪmə) *n.* 1. any of several varieties of the bean plant native to tropical America, cultivated for its flat pods containing pale green edible seeds. 2. the seed of such a plant.

limb¹ (lɪm) *n.* 1. an arm or leg, or the analogous part on an animal, such as a wing. 2. any of the main branches of a tree. 3. a branching or projecting section or member; extension. 4. a person or thing considered to

be a member, part, or agent of a larger group or thing. 5. **out on a limb.** a. in a precarious or questionable position. b. **Brit.** isolated, esp. because of unpopular opinions. —**limbless** *adj.*

limb² (lɪm) *n.* 1. the edge of the apparent disc of the sun, a moon, or a planet. 2. a graduated arc attached to instruments, such as the sextant, used for measuring angles. 3. **Bot.** the expanded part of a leaf, petal, or sepal.

limbed (lɪmd) *adj.* a. having limbs. b. (*in combination*): **short-limbed; strong-limbed.**

limber¹ ('lɪmbə) *adj.* 1. capable of being easily bent or flexed; pliant. 2. able to move or bend freely; agile. —**limberness** *n.*

limber² ('lɪmbə) *n.* 1. part of a gun carriage, consisting of an axle, pole, and two wheels. ~*vb.* 2. (usually foll. by *up*) to attach the limber (to a gun, etc.).

limber up *vb. (intr., adv.)* (esp. in sports) to exercise in order to be limber and agile.

limbo¹ ('lɪmbəʊ) *n., pl. -bos.* 1. (*often cap.*) **Christianity.** the supposed abode of infants dying without baptism and the just who died before Christ. 2. an imaginary place for lost, forgotten, or unwanted persons or things. 3. an unknown intermediate place or condition between two extremes: *in limbo*.

limbo² ('lɪmbəʊ) *n., pl. -bos.* a West Indian dance in which dancers pass, while leaning backwards, under a bar.

lime¹ (laɪm) *n.* 1. short for **quicklime, birdlime, slaked lime**. 2. **Agriculture.** any of certain calcium compounds, esp. calcium hydroxide, spread as a dressing on lime-deficient land. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 3. to spread (twigs, etc.) with birdlime. 4. to spread a calcium compound upon (land) to improve plant growth. 5. to catch (animals, esp. birds) as with birdlime. 6. to whitewash (a wall, ceiling, etc.) with a mixture of lime and water (**limewash**).

lime² (laɪm) *n.* 1. a small Asian citrus tree with stiff sharp spines and small round or oval greenish fruits. 2. a. the fruit of this tree, having acid fleshy pulp rich in vitamin C. b. (*as modifier*): *lime juice*. ~*adj.* 3. having the flavour of lime fruit.

lime³ (laɪm) *n.* a European linden tree planted in many varieties for ornament.

lime green *n. a.* a moderate greenish-yellow colour. b. (*as adj.*): *a lime-green dress*.

limekiln ('laɪm,kɪln) *n.* a kiln in which calcium carbonate is calcined to produce quicklime.

limelight ('laɪm,lait) *n.* 1. the position of public attention or notice (esp. in the **limelight**). 2. a. a type of lamp, formerly used in stage lighting, in which light is produced by heating lime to white heat. b. Also called: **calcium light.** brilliant white light produced in this way.

limerick ('lɪmərɪk) *n.* a form of comic verse consisting of five anapaestic lines.

limestone ('laɪm,stəʊn) *n.* a sedimentary rock consisting mainly of calcium carbonate: used as a building stone and in the manufacture of cement, lime, etc.

limey ('laɪmi) *U.S. sl.* ~*n.* 1. a British person. 2. a British sailor or ship. ~*adj.* 3. British.

limit ('lɪmt) *n.* 1. (*sometimes pl.*) the ultimate extent, degree, or amount of something: *the limit of endurance*. 2. (*often pl.*) the boundary or edge of a specific area: *the city limits*. 3. (*often pl.*) the area of premises within specific boundaries. 4. the largest quantity or amount allowed. 5. **Maths.** a. a value to which a function approaches as the independent variable approaches a specified value or infinity. b. a value to which a sequence a_n approaches as n approaches infinity. c. the limit of a sequence of partial sums of a convergent infinite series. 6. **Maths.** one of the two specified values between which a definite integral is evaluated. 7. **the limit.** *inf.* a person or thing that is intolerably exasperating. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 8. to restrict or confine, as to area, extent, time, etc. —**limitable** *adj.* —**limiter** *n.* —**limitless** *adj.* —**limitlessly** *adv.* —**limitlessness** *n.*

limitation ('lɪmɪ'teɪʃən) *n.* 1. something that limits a quality or achievement. 2. the act of limiting or the condition of being limited. 3. **Law.** a certain period of time, legally defined, within which an action, claim, etc., must be commenced.

limited ('lɪmɪtɪd) *adj.* 1. having a limit; restricted; confined. 2. without fullness or scope; narrow. 3. (of governing powers, sovereignty, etc.) restricted or checked, by or as if by a constitution, laws, or an assembly: **limited government**. 4. **Chiefly Brit.** (of a business enterprise) owned by shareholders whose liability for the enterprise's debts is restricted. —**limitedly** *adv.* —**limitedness** *n.*

limited liability *n.* *Brit.* liability restricted to the unpaid portion (if any) of the par value of the shares of a limited company.

limn ('lim) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to represent in drawing or painting. 2. *Arch.* to describe in words. — **limner** ('limnə) *n.*

limousine ('limə:zɪn, 'limə'zɪn) *n.* any large and luxurious car, esp. one that has a glass division between the driver and passengers.

limp¹ ('limp) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. to walk with an uneven step, esp. with a weak or injured leg. 2. to advance in a laboured or faltering manner. — *n.* 3. an uneven walk or progress. — **limper** *n.* — **limpingly** *adv.*

limp² ('limp) *adj.* 1. not firm or stiff. 2. not energetic or vital. 3. (of the binding of a book) not stiffened with boards. — **limply** *adv.* — **limpness** *n.*

limpet ('limpit) *n.* 1. any of numerous marine gastropods, such as the common limpet and keyhole limpet, that have a conical shell and are found clinging to rocks. 2. (*modifier*) relating to or denoting certain weapons that are attached to their targets by magnetic or adhesive properties and resist removal: *limpet mines*.

limpid ('limpid) *adj.* 1. clear or transparent. 2. (esp. of writings, style, etc.) free from obscurity. 3. calm; peaceful. — **limpidity** or **limpidness** *n.* — **limpidly** *adv.*

limy¹ ('laimi) *adj.* **limier, limiest.** of, like, or smeared with birdlime. — **liminess** *n.*

limy² ('laimi) *adj.* **limier, limiest.** of or tasting of lime (the fruit).

linage ('lainɪdʒ) *n.* 1. the number of lines in a piece of writing or printed matter. 2. payment for written material calculated according to the number of lines.

linchpin ('lɪntʃ,pɪn) *n.* 1. a pin placed transversely through an axle to keep a wheel in position. 2. a person or thing regarded as an essential or coordinating element: *the linchpin of the company*.

Lincs. (lɪŋks) *abbrev.* for *Lincolnshire*.

linctus ('lɪŋktəs) *n., pl. -tuses.* a syrupy medicinal preparation, taken to relieve coughs and sore throats.

linden ('lɪndən) *n.* any of various deciduous trees of a *N* temperate genus having heart-shaped leaves and small fragrant yellowish flowers: cultivated for timber and as shade trees. See also **lime**².

line¹ ('lain) *n.* 1. a narrow continuous mark, as one made by a pencil, pen, or brush across a surface. 2. such a mark cut into or raised from a surface. 3. a thin indented mark or wrinkle. 4. a straight or curved continuous trace having no breadth that is produced by a moving point. 5. *Maths.* a. any straight one-dimensional geometrical element whose identity is determined by two points. A **line segment** lies between any two points on a line. *b.* a set of points (*x*, *y*) that satisfies the equation $y = mx + c$, where *m* is the gradient and *c* is the intercept with the *y*-axis. 6. a border or boundary: *the county line*. 7. *Sport.* a. a white or coloured band indicating a boundary or division on a field, track, etc. *b.* a mark or imaginary mark at which a race begins or ends. 8. *American football.* a. Also called: **line of scrimmage**, an imaginary line, parallel to the goal lines, on which the ball is placed at the start of each play and on either side of which the teams line up. *b.* the players arranged in a row on either side of the line of scrimmage at the start of each play. 9. a specified point of change or limit: *the dividing line between sanity and madness*. 10. *a.* the edge or contour of a shape. *b.* the sum or type of such contours, characteristic of a style or design: *the line of a building*. 11. anything long, flexible, and thin, such as a wire or string: *a washing line*; *a fishing line*. 12. a telephone connection: *a direct line to New York*. 13. a conducting wire, cable, or circuit for making connections between pieces of electrical apparatus, such as a cable for electric-power transmission, telecommunications, etc. 14. a system of travel or transportation, esp. over agreed routes: *a shipping line*. 15. a company operating such a system. 16. a route between two points on a railway. 17. *Chiefly Brit.* a railway track, including the roadbed, sleepers, etc. 18. a course or direction of movement or advance: *the line of thought*. 19. a course or method of action, behaviour, etc.: *take a new line with him*. 20. a policy or prescribed course of action or way of thinking (often in **bring or come into line**). 21. a field of study, interest, occupation, trade, or profession: *this book is in your line*. 22. alignment; true (esp. in **in line, out of line**). 23. one kind of product or article: *a nice line in hats*. 24. a row of persons or things: *a line of cakes on the conveyor belt*. 25. a chronological or ancestral series, esp. of people: *a*

line of prime ministers. 26. a row of words printed or written across a page or column. 27. a unit of verse consisting of the number of feet appropriate to the metre being used and written or printed with the words in a single row. 28. a short letter; note: *just a line to say thank you*. 29. a piece of useful information or hint about something: *give me a line on his work*. 30. one of a number of narrow horizontal bands forming a television picture. 31. a narrow band in an electromagnetic spectrum, resulting from a transition in an atom of a gas. 32. *Music.* *a.* any of the five horizontal marks that make up the stave. *b.* the musical part or melody notated on one such set. *c.* a discernible shape formed by sequences of notes or musical sounds: *a meandering melodic line*. *d.* (in polyphonic music) a set of staves that are held together with a bracket or brace. 33. a defensive or fortified position, esp. one that marks the most forward position in war or a national boundary: *the front line*. 34. a formation adopted by a body or a number of military units when drawn up abreast. 35. the combatant forces of certain armies and navies, excluding supporting arms. 36. *a.* the equator (esp. in **crossing the line**). *b.* any circle or arc on the terrestrial or celestial sphere. 37. the U.S. word for **queue**. 38. **all along the line**, *a.* at every stage in a series. *b.* in every detail. 39. **draw the line (at)**, to object (to) or set a limit (on): *her father draws the line at her coming in after midnight*. 40. **get a line on**, *Inf.* to obtain information about. 41. **hold the line**, *a.* to keep a telephone line open. *b.* *Football.* to prevent the opponents from taking the ball forward. *c.* (of soldiers) to keep formation, as when under fire. 42. **in line for**, in the running for, a candidate for: *he's in line for a directorship*. 43. **in line with**, conforming to. 44. **lay or put on the line**, *a.* to pay money. *b.* to speak frankly and directly. *c.* to risk (one's career, reputation, etc.) on something. ~*vb.* 45. (*tr.*) to mark with a line or lines. 46. (*tr.*) to draw or represent with a line or lines. 47. (*tr.*) to be or put as a border to: *tulips lined the lawns*. 48. to place in or form a row, series, or alignment. ~See also **lines**, **line-up**. — **lineable** or **lineable adj.** — **lined adj.**

line² ('lan) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to attach an inside covering to (a garment, curtain, etc.), as for protection, to hide the seaming, or so that it should hang well. 2. to cover or fit the inside of: *to line the walls with books*. 3. to fill plentifully: *a purse lined with money*.

lineage ('lainɪdʒ) *n.* direct descent from an ancestor, esp. a line of descendants from one ancestor.

lineal ('lɪnəl) *adj.* 1. being in a direct line of descent from an ancestor. 2. of, involving, or derived from direct descent. 3. a less common word for **linear**. — **lineally** *adv.*

lineament ('lɪniəmənt) *n.* (*often pl.*) 1. a facial outline or feature. 2. a distinctive feature.

linear ('lɪnə) *adj.* 1. of, in, along, or relating to a line. 2. of or relating to length. 3. resembling, represented by, or consisting of a line or lines. 4. having one dimension. 5. designating a style in the arts, esp. painting, that obtains its effects through line rather than colour or light. 6. *Maths.* of or relating to the first degree: *a linear equation*. 7. narrow and having parallel edges: *a linear leaf*. 8. *Electronics.* *a.* Also: **analogue**, (of a circuit, etc.) having an output that is directly proportional to input: *linear amplifier*. *b.* having components arranged in a line. — **linearity** ('lɪniəriti) *n.* — **linearly** *adv.*

linear measure *n.* a unit or system of units for the measurement of length.

lineation ('lɪni'eɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of marking with lines. 2. an arrangement of or division into lines.

line drawing *n.* a drawing made with lines only.

linen ('lɪnn) *n.* 1. *a.* a hard-wearing fabric woven from the spun fibres of flax. *b.* (*as modifier*): *a linen tablecloth*. 2. yarn or thread spun from flax fibre. 3. clothes, sheets, tablecloths, etc., made from linen cloth or from cotton.

line of fire *n.* the flight path of a missile discharged or to be discharged from a firearm.

line printer *n.* an electromechanical device that prints a line of characters at a time: used in printing and in computer systems.

liner ('laɪnə) *n.* 1. a passenger ship or aircraft, esp. one that is part of a commercial fleet. 2. Also called: **eyeliner**, a cosmetic used to outline the eyes. 3. a person or thing that uses lines, esp. in drawing or copying.

lines ('laɪnz) *pl. n.* 1. general appearance or outline: *a car with fine lines*. 2. a plan of procedure or construc-

tion: *built on traditional lines*. **3. a.** the spoken words of a theatrical presentation. **b.** the words of a particular role: *he forgot his lines*. **4. Inf., chiefly Brit.** a marriage certificate: *marriage lines*. **5.** a defensive position, row of trenches, or other fortification: *we broke through the enemy lines*. **6.** a school punishment of writing the same sentence or phrase out a specified number of times. **7. read between the lines.** to understand or find an implicit meaning in addition to the obvious one.

linesman ('laɪnzˌmən) *n.*, *pl.* **-men**. **1.** an official who helps the referee or umpire in various sports, esp. by indicating when the ball has gone out of play. **2. Chiefly Brit.** a person who installs, maintains, or repairs telephone or electric-power lines. U.S. name: **lineman**.

line-up *n.* **1.** a row or arrangement of people or things assembled for a particular purpose: *the line-up for the football match*. **2.** the members of such a row or arrangement. *~vb.* **line up** (*adv.*) **3.** to form, put into, or organize a line-up. **4. (tr.)** to produce, organize, and assemble: *they lined up some questions*. **5. (tr.)** to align.

ling ('lɪŋ) *n.*, *pl.* **ling** or **lings**. **1.** any of several northern coastal food fishes having an elongated body with long fins. **2.** another name for **burbot** (a fish).

ling¹ ('lɪŋ) *n.* another name for **heather**.

ling² (*abbr.*) abbrev. for **linguistics**.

-ling¹ *suffix forming nouns*. **1.** Often disparaging, a person or thing belonging to or associated with the group, activity, or quality specified: *nestling*; *underling*. **2.** used as a diminutive: *duckling*.

-ling² *suffix forming adverbs*. in a specified condition, manner, or direction: *darkling*.

linger ('lɪŋɡə) *vb.* (*mainly intr.*) **1.** to delay or prolong departure. **2.** to go in a slow or leisurely manner; saunter. **3.** to remain just alive for some time prior to death. **4.** to persist or continue, esp. in the mind. **5.** to be slow to act; dither. — **lingerer** *n.* — **lingeringly** *adv.*

lingerie ('læŋʒəri) *n.* women's underwear and nightwear.

lingo ('lɪŋɡəʊ) *n.*, *pl.* **-goes**. *Inf.* any foreign or unfamiliar language, jargon, etc.

lingua franca ('lɪŋɡwə 'fræŋkə) *n.*, *pl.* **lingua francas** or **linguae francae** ('lɪŋɡwi: 'frænsi:). **1.** a language used for communication among people of different mother tongues. **2.** a hybrid language containing elements from several different languages used in this way. **3.** any system of communication providing mutual understanding.

lingual ('lɪŋɡwəl) *adj.* **1.** *Anat.* of or relating to the tongue. **2. a.** *Rare.* of or relating to language or languages. **b. (in combination):** *polylingual*. **3.** articulated with the tongue. *~n.* **4.** a lingual consonant, such as **Scots** (r). — **lingually** *adv.*

linguist ('lɪŋɡwɪst) *n.* **1.** a person who is skilled in foreign languages. **2.** a person who studies linguistics.

linguistic ('lɪŋɡwɪstɪk) *adj.* **1.** of or relating to language. **2.** of or relating to linguistics. — **linguistically** *adv.*

linguistics ('lɪŋɡwɪstiks) *n.* (*functioning as sing.*) the scientific study of language.

liniment ('lɪnɪmənt) *n.* a medicated liquid, usually containing alcohol, camphor, and an oil, applied to the skin to relieve pain, stiffness, etc.

lining ('laɪnɪŋ) *n.* **1.** material used to line a garment, curtain, etc. **2.** any material used as an interior covering.

link (lɪŋk) *n.* **1.** any of the separate rings, loops, or pieces that connect or make up a chain. **2.** something that resembles such a ring, loop, or piece. **3.** a connecting part or episode. **4.** a connecting piece in a mechanism. **5.** Also called: **radio link**, a system of transmitters and receivers that connect two locations by means of radio and television signals. **6.** a unit of length equal to one hundredth of a chain. **1 link** of a Gunter's chain is equal to 7.92 inches, and of an engineer's chain to 1 foot. *~vb.* **7.** (often foll. by *up*) to connect or be connected with or as if with links. **8. (tr.)** to connect by association, etc.

linkage ('lɪŋkɪdʒ) *n.* **1.** the act of linking or the state of being linked. **2.** a system of interconnected levers or rods for transmitting or regulating the motion of a mechanism. **3. Electronics.** the product of the total number of lines of magnetic flux and the number of turns in a coil or circuit through which they pass. **4. Genetics.** the occurrence of two genes close together on the same chromosome so that they tend to be inherited as a single unit.

linkman ('lɪŋkmən) *n.*, *pl.* **-men**. a presenter of a television or radio programme, esp. a sports transmis-

sion, consisting of a number of outside broadcasts from different locations.

links (lɪŋks) *pl. n.* **1.** short for **golf links**. See **golf course**. **2. Chiefly Scot.** undulating sandy ground near the shore.

link-up ('lɪŋkʌp) *n.* a joining or linking together of two factions, objects, etc.

linnet ('lɪnɪt) *n.* a brownish Old World finch: the male has a red breast and forehead.

lino ('laɪnəʊ) *n.* short for **linoleum**.

linocut ('laɪnəʊ,kʌt) *n.* **1.** a design cut in relief on a block of linoleum. **2.** a print made from such a block.

linoleum (lɪ'nəʊliəm) *n.* a sheet material made of hessian, jute, etc., coated with a mixture of powdered cork, linseed oil, rosin, and pigment, used as a floor covering. Often shortened to **lino**.

Linotype ('laɪnəʊ,tʌɪp) *n.* **1. Trademark.** a typesetting machine, operated by a keyboard, that casts an entire line on one solid slug of metal. **2.** type produced by such a machine.

linseed ('lɪn:si:d) *n.* the seed of flax.

linseed oil *n.* a yellow oil extracted from seeds of the flax plant. It is used in making oil paints, printer's ink, linoleum, etc.

linsey-woolsey ('lɪnzi'wʊlzi) *n.* a thin rough fabric of linen warp and coarse wool or cotton filling.

lint (lɪnt) *n.* **1.** an absorbent cotton or linen fabric with the nap raised on one side, used to dress wounds, etc. **2.** shreds of fibre, yarn, etc. — **linty** *adj.*

lintel ('lɪntl) *n.* a horizontal beam, as over a door or window.

lion ('laɪən) *n.* **1.** a large gregarious predatory feline mammal of open country in parts of Africa and India, having a tawny yellow coat and, in the male, a shaggy mane. Related *adj.*: **leonine**. **2.** a conventionalized lion, the principal beast used as an emblem in heraldry. **3.** a courageous, strong, or bellicose person. **4.** a celebrity or idol who attracts much publicity and a large following. **5. the lion's share.** the largest portion. — **lioness** *fem. n.*

lion-hearted *adj.* very brave; courageous.

lionize or **-ise** ('laɪə,nəɪz) *vb.* (*tr.*) to treat as or make into a celebrity. — **lionization** or **-isation** *n.* — **lionizer** or **-iser** *n.*

lip (lɪp) *n.* **1. Anat.** a. either of the two fleshy folds surrounding the mouth. Related *adj.*: **labial**. **b. (as modifier):** *lip salve*. **2.** the corresponding part in animals, esp. mammals. **3.** any structure resembling a lip, such as the rim of a crater, the margin of a gastropod shell, etc. **4.** a nontechnical word for **labium**. **5. Sl.** impudent talk or backchat. **6. bite one's lip.** a. to stifle one's feelings. **b.** to be annoyed or irritated. **7. keep a stiff upper lip.** to show courage or composure. **8. smack one's lips.** to anticipate or recall something with glee or relish. *~vb.* **lippping, lippped.** **9. (tr.)** to touch with the lip or lips. **10. (tr.)** to form or be a lip or lips for. **11. (tr.)** *Rare.* to murmur or whisper. **12. (intr.)** to use the lips in playing a wind instrument. — **lipless** *adj.* — **lip,like** *adj.*

lipo- or *before a vowel* **lip-** *combining form.* fat or fatty: *lipoprotein*.

-lippped *adj.* having a lip or lips as specified: *tight-lipped*.

lip-read ('lɪp,rɪd) *vb.* **-reading, -read** (-'rɛd). to interpret (words) by lip-reading.

lip-reading *n.* a method used by the deaf to comprehend spoken words by interpreting movements of the speaker's lips. Also called: **speech-reading**. — **lip-reader** *n.*

lip service *n.* insincere tribute or respect.

lipstick ('lɪp,stɪk) *n.* a cosmetic for colouring the lips, usually in the form of a stick.

liquefy or **liquify** ('lɪkwɪ,fai) *vb.* **-fying, -fied.** (esp. of a gas) to become or cause to become liquid. — **liquefaction** or **liquifaction** ('lɪkwɪ'fækʃən) *n.* — **lique, fiable** or **'liqui, fiable** *adj.* — **lique, fier** or **'liqui, fier** *n.*

liqueur ('lɪkʃʊə; French lɪ'kœ:r) *n.* **1. a.** any of several highly flavoured sweetened spirits such as kirsch or cointreau, intended to be drunk after a meal. **b. (as modifier):** *liqueur glass*. **2.** a small hollow chocolate sweet containing liqueur.

liquid ('lɪkwɪd) *n.* **1.** a substance in a physical state in which it can easily change its shape but cannot be expanded or compressed. Cf. **gas** (sense 1), **solid** (sense 1). **2.** a substance that is a liquid at room temperature and atmospheric pressure. **3. Phonetics.** a frictionless continuant, esp. (l) or (r). *~adj.* **4.** of, concerned with, or being a liquid or having the characteristic state of

liquids: *liquid wax*. 5. shining, transparent, or brilliant. 6. flowing, fluent, or smooth. 7. (of assets) in the form of money or easily convertible into money. — *li'quidity* or *'liquidness* *n.* — *'liquidly* *adv.*

liquidate ('likwi,det) *vb.* 1. to settle or pay off (a debt, claim, etc.). 2. a. to terminate the operations of (a commercial firm, bankrupt estate, etc.) by assessment of liabilities and appropriation of assets for their settlement. b. (of a commercial firm, etc.) to terminate operations in this manner. 3. (tr.) to convert (assets) into cash. 4. (tr.) to eliminate or kill. — *'liqui,dator* *n.*

liquidation ('likwi'deɪʃən) *n.* 1. a. the process of terminating the affairs of a business firm, etc., by realizing its assets to discharge its liabilities. b. the state of a business firm, etc., having its affairs so terminated (esp. in *to go into liquidation*). 2. destruction; elimination.

liquidize or **-dise** ('likwi,dəɪz) *vb.* 1. to make or become liquid; liquify. 2. (tr.) to pulverize (food) in a liquidizer so as to produce a fluid.

liquidizer or **-diser** ('likwi,dəɪzə) *n.* a kitchen appliance with blades for pureeing vegetables, blending liquids, etc. Also called: *blender*.

liquid measure *n.* a unit or system of units for measuring volumes of liquids or their containers.

liquid paraffin *n.* an oily liquid obtained by petroleum distillation and used as a laxative.

liquor ('likə) *n.* 1. any alcoholic drink, esp. spirits, or such drinks collectively. 2. any liquid substance, esp. that in which food has been cooked. 3. *Pharmacol.* a solution of a pure substance in water. 4. in *liquor*. drunk.

liquorice or *U.S. licorice* ('hikəɪs, -əɪʃ) *n.* 1. a perennial Mediterranean leguminous shrub. 2. the dried root of this plant, used as a laxative and in confectionery. 3. a sweet having a liquorice flavour.

lira ('liərə; *Italian* 'liɾa) *n., pl. lire* ('liəri; *Italian* 'lire) or *liras*. 1. the standard monetary unit of Italy. 2. Also called: *pound*, the standard monetary unit of Turkey.

lisle (laɪl) *n. a.* a strong fine cotton thread or fabric. *b.* (as modifier): *lisle stockings*.

lisp ('lɪsp) *n.* 1. the articulation of *s* and *z* like or nearly like the *th* sounds in English *thin* and *then* respectively. 2. the habit or speech defect of pronouncing *s* and *z* in this manner. 3. the sound of a lisp in pronunciation. ~*vb.* 4. to use a lisp in the pronunciation of (speech). 5. to speak or pronounce imperfectly or haltingly. — *'lisper* *n.* — *'lispingly* *adv.*

lissom or **lissome** ('lɪsəm) *adj.* 1. supple in the limbs or body; lithe; flexible. 2. agile; nimble. — *'lissomly* or *'lissomness* *adv.* — *'lissomness* or *'lissomeness* *n.*

list¹ ('lɪst) *n.* 1. an item-by-item record of names or things, usually written or printed one under the other. ~*vb.* 2. (tr.) to make a list of. 3. (tr.) to include in a list. 4. (tr.) *Stock Exchange*, to obtain an official quotation for (a security) so that it may be traded on the recognized market. 5. an archaic word for *enlist*. — *'listable* *adj.* — *'listing* *n.*

list² ('lɪst) *n.* 1. a border or edging strip, esp. of cloth. 2. a less common word for *selvage*. ~*vb.* (tr.) 3. to border with or as if with a list or lists.

list³ ('lɪst) *vb.* 1. (esp. of ships) to lean over or cause to lean over to one side. ~*n.* 2. the act or an instance of leaning to one side.

list⁴ ('lɪst) *Arch.* ~*vb.* 1. to be pleasing to (a person). 2. (tr.) to desire or choose. ~*n.* 3. a liking or desire.

list⁵ ('lɪst) *vb.* an archaic or poetic word for *listen*.

listed building *n.* (in Britain) a building officially recognized as having special historical or architectural interest and therefore protected from demolition or alteration.

listen ('lɪs'n) *vb. (intr.)* 1. to concentrate on hearing something. 2. to take heed; pay attention: *I warned you but you wouldn't listen*. — *'listener* *n.*

listen in *vb. (intr., adv.; often foll. by to)* 1. to listen to the radio. 2. to intercept radio communications. 3. to listen but not contribute (to a discussion), esp. surreptitiously.

listless ('hɪstlɪs) *adj.* having or showing no interest; lacking vigour or energy. — *'listlessly* *adv.* — *'listlessness* *n.*

list price *n.* the selling price of merchandise as quoted in a catalogue or advertisement.

lists ('lɪsts) *pl. n.* 1. *History*, a. the enclosed field of combat at a tournament. b. the barriers enclosing the field at a tournament. 2. any arena or scene of conflict, controversy, etc. 3. *enter the lists*, to engage in a conflict, controversy, etc.

lit ('lɪt) *vb.* 1. a past tense or past participle of *light*¹. 2. a past tense or past participle of *light*².

lit. *abbrev. for:* 1. literal(ly). 2. literary. 3. literature. 4. litre.

litany ('lɪtəni) *n., pl. -nies*. 1. *Christianity*, a. a form of prayer consisting of a series of invocations, each followed by an unvarying response. b. the *Litany*, the general supplication in this form in the Book of Common Prayer. 2. any tedious recital.

litchi, **lichee**, or **lychee** (,laɪ'tʃi) *n.* 1. a Chinese tree cultivated for its round edible fruits. 2. the fruit of this tree, which has whitish juicy pulp and is usually eaten dried or as a preserve. 3. *litchi nut*, the dried fruit of this tree.

-lite *n. combining form.* (in names of minerals) stone: *chrysolite*.

liter ('lɪtə) *n.* the U.S. spelling of *litre*.

literacy ('lɪtərəsi) *n.* 1. the ability to read and write. 2. the ability to use language proficiently.

literal ('lɪtərəl) *adj.* 1. in exact accordance with or limited to the primary or explicit meaning of a word or text. 2. word for word. 3. dull, factual, or prosaic. 4. consisting of, concerning, or indicated by letters. 5. true; actual. ~*n.* 6. Also called: *literal error*, a misprint or misspelling in a text. — *'literally* *adv.* — *'liter-ness* or *literality* ('lɪtə'rælti) *n.*

literalism ('lɪtərə,lɪzəm) *n.* 1. the disposition to take words and statements in their literal sense. 2. literal or realistic portrayal in art or literature. — *'literalist* *n.* — *'literal'istic* *adj.*

literary ('lɪtərəri, 'lɪtrəri) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, concerned with, or characteristic of literature or scholarly writing: *a literary style*. 2. versed in or knowledgeable about literature. 3. (of a word) formal; not colloquial. — *'literarily* *adv.* — *'literariness* *n.*

literate ('lɪtərət) *adj.* 1. able to read and write. 2. educated; learned. ~*n.* 3. a literate person. — *'literate-ly* *adv.*

literati ('lɪtə'ræti) *pl. n.* literary or scholarly people.

literature ('lɪtərɪtʃə, 'lɪtrɪ-) *n.* 1. written material such as poetry, novels, essays, etc. 2. the body of written work of a particular culture or people: *Scandinavian literature*. 3. written or printed matter of a particular type or genre: *scientific literature*. 4. the art or profession of a writer. 5. *Inf.* printed matter on any subject.

-lith *n. combining form.* indicating stone or rock: *megolith*.

lithe (laɪð) *adj.* flexible or supple. — *'lithely* *adv.* — *'litheness* *n.*

lithium ('lɪθəm) *n.* a soft silvery element of the alkali metal series: the lightest known metal, used as an alloy hardener, as a reducing agent, and in batteries. Symbol: Li; atomic no.: 3; atomic wt.: 6.941.

litho ('lɪθəʊ) *n., pl. -thos, adj., adv.* short for **lithography**, **lithograph**, **lithographic**, or **lithographically**.

litho- or *before a vowel lith-* *combining form.* stone: *lithograph*.

lithograph ('lɪθə,grəf) *n.* 1. a print made by lithography. ~*vb.* 2. (tr.) to reproduce (pictures, text, etc.) by lithography. — *'lithographic* ('lɪθə'græfɪk) *adj.* — *'litho-graphically* *adv.*

lithography ('lɪθə'grəfi) *n.* a method of printing from a metal or stone surface on which the printing areas are not raised but made ink-receptive as opposed to ink-repellent. — *'lithographer* *n.*

litigant ('lɪtɪɡənt) *n.* 1. a party to a lawsuit. ~*adj.* 2. engaged in litigation.

litigate ('lɪtɪ,ɡeɪt) *vb.* 1. to bring or contest (a claim, action, etc.) in a lawsuit. 2. (intr.) to engage in legal proceedings. — *'liti,gator* *n.*

litigation ('lɪtɪ,ɡeɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act or process of bringing or contesting a lawsuit. 2. a judicial proceeding or contest.

litmus ('lɪtməs) *n.* a soluble powder obtained from certain lichens. It turns red under acid conditions and blue under basic conditions. Absorbent paper treated with it (*litmus paper*) is used as an indicator.

litotes ('laɪtəʊ,tɪz) *n., pl. -tes*, understatement for rhetorical effect, esp. using negation with a term in place of using an antonym of that term, as in "She was not a little upset" for "She was extremely upset".

litre or *U.S. liter* ('lɪtrə) *n.* 1. one cubic decimetre. 2. (formerly), the volume occupied by 1 kilogram of pure water. This is equivalent to 1.000 028 cubic decimetres or about 1.76 pints.

Litt.D. or **Lit.D.** *abbrev. for* Doctor of Letters or Doctor of Literature.

litter ('litə) *n.* 1. a. small refuse or waste materials carelessly dropped, esp. in public places. **b.** (as modifier): *litter bin*. 2. a disordered or untidy condition or a collection of objects in this condition. 3. a group of offspring produced at one birth by a mammal such as a sow. 4. a layer of partly decomposed leaves, twigs, etc., on the ground in a wood or forest. 5. straw, hay, or similar material used as bedding, protection, etc., by animals or plants. 6. a means of conveying people, esp. sick or wounded people, consisting of a light bed or seat held between parallel sticks. ~*vb.* 7. to make (a place) untidy by strewing (refuse). 8. to scatter (objects, etc.) about or (of objects) to lie around or upon (anything) in an untidy fashion. 9. (of pigs, cats, etc.) to give birth to (offspring). 10. (*tr.*) to provide (an animal or plant) with straw or hay for bedding, protection, etc.

litter lout or **U.S. litterbug** ('litə,bʌg) *n. Sl.* a person who tends to drop refuse in public places.

little ('litl) *determiner.* 1. (often preceded by *a*) a. a small quantity, extent, or duration of: *the little hope there is left*; *very little milk*. **b.** (as pronoun): *save a little for me*. 2. not much: *little damage was done*. 3. **make little of** to regard or treat as insignificant; dismiss. 4. **not a little**. **a. very.** **b. a lot.** 5. **think little of** to have a low opinion of. ~*adj.* 6. of small or less than average size: *my young; a little boy*. 8. endearingly familiar; dear: *my husband's little ways*. 9. contemptible, mean, or disagreeable: *your filthy little mind*. ~*adv.* 10. (usually preceded by *a*) in a small amount; to a small extent or degree; not a lot: *to laugh a little*. 11. (*used preceding a verb*) not at all, or hardly: *he little realized his fate*. 12. not much or often: *we go there very little now*. 13. **little by little** by small degrees. ~See also *less, lesser, least*.

Little Bear *n. the.* the English name for *Ursa Minor*.

little people *pl. n. Folklore.* small supernatural beings, such as elves or leprechauns.

little woman *n. the. Brit., old-fashioned.* a facetious term for wife.

littoral ('litərəl) *adj.* 1. of or relating to the shore of a sea, lake, or ocean. ~*n.* 2. a coastal or shore region.

liturgy ('litədʒi) *n., pl. -gies.* 1. the forms of public services officially prescribed by a Church. 2. (*often cap.*) Also called: **Divine Liturgy**. Chiefly *Eastern Churches*. the Eucharistic celebration. 3. a particular order or form of public service laid down by a Church. ~*liturgical adj.*

livable or **liveable** ('livəbəl) *adj.* 1. (of a room, house, etc.) suitable for living in. 2. worth living; tolerable. 3. (*coll.* by *with*) pleasant to live (with). ~*livableness, 'liveableness* or *liveability, 'liveab'ility n.*

live¹ (liv) *vb. (mainly intr.)* 1. to show the characteristics of life; be alive. 2. to remain alive or in existence. 3. to exist in a specified way: *to live poorly*. 4. (usually *coll.* by *in* or *at*) to reside or dwell: *to live in London*. 5. (*often foll.* by *on*) to continue or last: *the pain still lives in her memory*. 6. (usually *foll.* by *by*) to order one's life (according to a certain philosophy, religion, etc.). 7. (*foll.* by *on, upon, or by*) to support one's style of life; subsist: *to live by writing*. 8. (*foll.* by *with*) to endure the effects (of a crime, mistake, etc.). 9. (*foll.* by *through*) to experience and survive: *he lived through the war*. 10. (*tr.*) to pass or spend (one's life, etc.). 11. to enjoy life to the full: *he knows how to live*. 12. (*tr.*) to put into practice in one's daily life; express: *he lives religion every day*. 13. **live and let live** to refrain from interfering in others' lives; be tolerant. ~See also **live down**, **live in**, etc.

live² (lav) *adj.* 1. (*prenominal*) showing the characteristics of life. 2. (usually *prenominal*) of, relating to, or abounding in life: *the live weight of an animal*. 3. (usually *prenominal*) of current interest; controversial: *a live issue*. 4. actual: *a real live cowboy*. 5. *Inf.* full of life and energy. 6. (of a coal, ember, etc.) glowing or burning. 7. (*esp.* of a volcano) not extinct. 8. loaded or capable of exploding: *a live bomb*. 9. *Radio, television, etc.* transmitted or present at the time of performance, rather than being a recording: *a live show*. 10. connected to a source of electric power: *a live circuit*. 11. being in a state of motion or transmitting power.

-lived (-lɪvd) *adj.* having or having had a life as specified: *short-lived*.

live down (liv) *vb. (tr., adv.)* to withstand the effects of (a crime, mistake, etc.) by waiting until others forget or forgive it.

live in or out (liv) *vb. (intr., adv.)* (of an employee) to dwell at (or away from) one's place of employment.

livelihood ('laɪvlɪ,hud) *n.* occupation or employment.

livelong ('liv,lɒŋ) *adj. Chiefly poetic.* 1. (of time) long or seemingly long (*esp. in all the livelong day*). 2. whole; entire.

lively ('laɪvlɪ) *adj. -lier, -liest.* 1. full of life or vigour. 2. vivacious or animated, esp. when in company. 3. busy; eventful. 4. characterized by mental or emotional intensity; vivid. 5. having a striking effect on the mind or senses. 6. refreshing or invigorating: *a lively breeze*. 7. springy or bouncy or encouraging springiness: *a lively ball*. ~*adv.* Also: **'livelily**. 8. in a brisk or lively manner: *step lively*. — **'liveliness** *n.*

liven ('laɪv'n) *vb. (usually foll. by up)* to make or become lively; enliven. — **'liverer** *n.*

liver¹ ('lɪvə) *n.* 1. a multilobed highly vascular reddish-brown glandular organ in the human abdominal cavity. Its main function is the metabolic transformation of nutrients. It also secretes bile, stores glycogen, and detoxifies certain poisons. Related *adj.*: **hepatic**. 2. the corresponding organ in animals. 3. the liver of certain animals used as food. 4. a reddish-brown colour.

liver² ('lɪvə) *n.* a person who lives in a specified way: *a fast liver*.

livered ('lɪvərd) *adj. (esp. of servants or footmen)* wearing livery.

liverish ('lɪvərɪʃ) *adj.* 1. *Inf.* having a disorder of the liver. 2. disagreeable; peevish. — **'liverishness** *n.*

liver sausage or *esp. U.S. liverwurst* ('lɪvə,wɜːst) *n.* a sausage containing liver.

liverwort ('lɪvə,wɜːt) *n.* any of a class of plants growing in wet places and resembling green seaweeds or leafy mosses.

livery ('lɪvəri) *n., pl. -eries.* 1. the identifying uniform, badge, etc., of a member of a guild or one of the servants of a feudal lord. 2. a uniform worn by some men-servants. 3. an individual or group that wears such a uniform. 4. distinctive dress or outward appearance. 5. **a.** the stabling, keeping, or hiring out of horses for money. **b.** (as modifier): *a livery horse*. 6. **at livery**, being kept in a livery stable.

lives (laɪvz) *n.* the plural of life.

livestock ('laɪv,stɒk) *n. (functioning as sing. or pl.)* cattle, horses, and similar animals kept for domestic use but not as pets, esp. on a farm.

live together (liv) *vb. (intr., adv.)* (esp. of an unmarried couple) to dwell in the same house or flat; cohabit. Also: **live with**.

live up (liv) *vb.* 1. (*intr., adv.; foll. by to*) to fulfil (an expectation, obligation, principle, etc.). 2. **live it up.** *Inf.* to enjoy oneself, esp. flamboyantly.

live wire (lav) *n.* 1. *Sl.* an energetic or enterprising person. 2. a wire carrying an electric current.

livid ('lɪvɪd) *adj.* 1. (of the skin) discoloured, as from a bruise or contusion. 2. of a greyish tinge or colour. 3. *Inf.* angry or furious. — **'lividly** *adv.* — **'lividness** or **liv'idity** *n.*

living ('lɪvɪŋ) *adj.* 1. **a.** possessing life; not dead. **b.** (as collective *n.* preceded by *the*): *the living*. 2. having the characteristics of life (*used esp. to distinguish organisms from nonliving matter*). 3. currently in use or valid: *living language*. 4. seeming to be real: *a living image*. 5. (of animals or plants) existing in the present age. 6. presented by actors before a live audience: *living theatre*. 7. (*prenominal*) (intensifier): *the living daylight*. ~*n.* 8. the condition of being alive. 9. the manner in which one conducts one's life: *fast living*. 10. the means, esp. the financial means, whereby one lives. 11. *Church of England*. another term for **benefice**. 12. (*modifier*) of, involving, or characteristic of everyday life: *living area*. 13. (*modifier*) of or involving those now alive (*esp. in living memory*).

living room *n.* a room in a private house or flat used for relaxation and entertainment.

living wage *n.* a wage adequate to maintain a person and his family in reasonable comfort.

lizard ('lɪzəd) *n.* any of a group of reptiles typically having an elongated body, four limbs, and a long tail: includes the geckos, iguanas, chameleons, monitors, and slowworms.

L.J. (in Britain) *abbrev. for* Lord Justice.

L.L. *abbrev. for:* 1. Late Latin. 2. Low Latin. 3. Lord Lieutenant.

ll. *abbrev. for* lines (of written matter).

llama ('lɑːmə) *n.* 1. a domesticated South American cud-chewing mammal of the camel family, that is used as a beast of burden and is valued for its hair, flesh, and hide. 2. the cloth made from the wool of this animal.

LL.B. *abbrev. for* Bachelor of Laws.

LL.D. *abbrev.* for Doctor of Laws.

LL.M. *abbrev.* for Master of Laws.

Lloyd's ('lɒɪdz) *n.* an association of London underwriters, set up in the late 17th century. Originally concerned with marine insurance and shipping information, it now subscribes a variety of insurance policies and publishes a daily list (**Lloyd's List**) of shipping data and news.

lo ('ləʊ) *interj.* Look! See! (now often in **lo and behold**).

loach ('ləʊtʃ) *n.* a carplike freshwater fish of Eurasia and Africa, having a long narrow body with barbels around the mouth.

load ('ləʊd) *n.* 1. something to be borne or conveyed; weight. 2. a. the usual amount borne or conveyed. **b.** (in combination): a *carload*. 3. something that weighs down, oppresses, or burdens: *that's a load off my mind*. 4. a single charge of a firearm. 5. the weight that is carried by a structure. 6. *Electrical engineering, electronics.* a. a device that receives or dissipates the power from an amplifier, oscillator, generator, or some other source of signals. **b.** the power delivered by a machine, generator, circuit, etc. 7. the resistance overcome by an engine or motor when it is driving a machine, etc. 8. an external force applied to a component or mechanism. 9. a *load of*. *Inf.* a quantity of: *a load of nonsense*. 10. *get a load of*. *Inf.* pay attention to. 11. *have a load on*. *U.S. sl.* to be intoxicated. ~*vb.* (mainly *tr.*) 12. (also *intr.*) to place or receive (cargo, goods, etc.) upon (a ship, lorry, etc.). 13. to burden or oppress. 14. to supply in abundance: *load with gifts*. 15. to cause to be prejudicial: *to load a question*. 16. (also *intr.*) to put an ammunition charge into (a firearm). 17. *Photog.* to position (a film, cartridge, or plate) in (a camera). 18. to weight or bias (a roulette wheel, dice, etc.). 19. *Insurance.* to increase (a premium) to cover expenses, etc. 20. *Computers.* to transfer (a program) to a memory. 21. *load the dice*. *a.* to add weights to dice in order to bias them. **b.** to arrange to have a favourable or unfavourable position. —**loader** *n.*

loaded ('ləʊɪdɪd) *adj.* 1. carrying a load. 2. (of dice, a roulette wheel, etc.) weighted or otherwise biased. 3. (of a question or statement) containing a hidden trap or implication. 4. charged with ammunition. 5. *Sl.* wealthy. 6. (postpositive) *Sl., chiefly U.S.* a. drunk. **b.** drugged.

loads ('ləʊdz) *Inf.* ~*pl. n.* 1. (often foll. by *of*) a lot. ~*adv.* 2. (intensifier): *loads better*.

loadstar ('ləʊd,sta:) *n.* a variant spelling of **lodestar**.

loadstone ('ləʊd,stəʊn) *n.* a variant spelling of **lodestone**.

loaf¹ ('ləʊf) *n., pl. loaves* ('ləʊvz). 1. a shaped mass of baked bread. 2. any shaped or moulded mass of food, such as sugar, cooked meat, etc. 3. *Sl.* the head; sense: *use your loaf*

loaf² ('ləʊf) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to loiter or lounge around in an idle way. 2. (*tr.*; foll. by *away*) to spend (time) idly: *he loafed away his life*.

loafer ('ləʊfə) *n.* 1. a person who avoids work; idler. 2. *Chiefly U.S.* a moccasin-like shoe.

loam ('ləʊm) *n.* 1. rich soil consisting of a mixture of sand, clay, and decaying organic material. 2. a paste of clay and sand used for making moulds in a foundry, plastering walls, etc. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to cover, treat, or fill with loam. —**loamy** *adj.* —**loaminess** *n.*

loan ('ləʊn) *n.* 1. the act of lending: *the loan of a car*. 2. property lent, esp. money lent at interest for a period of time. 3. the adoption by speakers of one language of a form current in another language. 4. **on loan**. lent out; borrowed. ~*vb.* 5. to lend (something, esp. money). —**loaner** *n.*

▷ **Usage.** See at **lend**.

loath or **loth** ('ləʊθ) *adj.* 1. (usually foll. by *to*) reluctant or unwilling. 2. **nothing loath**. willing.

loathe ('ləʊð) *vb.* (*tr.*) to feel strong hatred or disgust for. —**loather** *n.*

loathing ('ləʊðɪŋ) *n.* abhorrence; disgust.

loathsome ('ləʊðsəm) *adj.* causing loathing; abhorrent. —**loathsomely** *adv.* —**loathsomeness** *n.*

loaves ('ləʊvz) *n.* the plural of **loaf**¹.

lob ('lɒb) *Sport.* ~*n.* 1. a ball struck in a high arc. 2. *Cricket.* a ball bowled in a slow high arc. ~*vb.* **lobbing, lobbed.** 3. to hit or kick a ball in a high arc. 4. *Inf.* to throw.

lobar ('ləʊbə) *adj.* of, relating to, or affecting a lobe.

lobate ('ləʊbeɪt) *adj.* 1. having or resembling lobes. 2. (of birds) having separate toes that are each gringed with a weblike lobe. —**lobately** *adv.* —**lobation** *n.*

lobby ('lɒbi) *n., pl. -bies.* 1. a room or corridor used as an entrance hall, vestibule, etc. 2. *Chiefly Brit.* a hall in a legislative building used for meetings between the legislators and members of the public. 3. Also called: **division lobby**. *Chiefly Brit.* one of two corridors in a legislative building in which members vote. 4. a group of persons who attempt to influence legislators on behalf of a particular interest. ~*vb.* **-bying, -bied.** 5. to attempt to influence (legislators, etc.) in the formulation of policy. 6. (*intr.*) to act in the manner of a lobbyist. 7. (*tr.*) to apply pressure for the passage of (a bill, etc.). —**lobbyer** *n.*

lobbyist ('lɒbɪst) *n.* *Chiefly U.S.* a person employed by a particular interest to lobby. —**lobbyism** *n.*

lobe ('ləʊb) *n.* 1. any rounded projection forming part of a larger structure. 2. any of the subdivisions of a bodily organ or part, delineated by shape or connective tissue. 3. Also called: **ear lobe**. the fleshy lower part of the external ear. 4. any of the parts, not entirely separate from each other, into which a flattened plant part, such as a leaf, is divided.

lobelia ('ləʊ'bɪliə) *n.* any of a genus of plants having red, blue, white, or yellow five-lobed flowers with the three lower lobes forming a lip.

lobotomy ('ləʊ'bɒtəmi) *n., pl. -mies.* 1. surgical incision into a lobe of any organ. 2. Also called: **prefrontal leucotomy**. surgical interruption of one or more nerve tracts in the frontal lobe of the brain: used in the treatment of intractable mental disorders.

lobscouse ('lɒb,skaʊs) *n.* a sailor's stew of meat, vegetables, and hardtack.

lobster ('lɒbstə) *n., pl. -sters or -ster.* 1. any of several large marine decapod crustaceans occurring on rocky shores and having the first pair of limbs modified as large pincers. 2. any of several similar crustaceans, esp. the spiny lobster. 3. the flesh of any of these crustaceans, eaten as a delicacy.

local ('ləʊkəl) *adj.* 1. characteristic of or associated with a particular locality or area. 2. of, concerned with, or relating to a particular place or point in space. 3. *Med.* of, affecting, or confined to a limited area or part. 4. (of a train, bus, etc.) stopping at all stations or stops. ~*n.* 5. a train, bus, etc., that stops at all stations or stops. 6. an inhabitant of a specified locality. 7. *Brit. inf.* a pub close to one's home or place of work. 8. *Med.* short for **local anaesthetic** (see **anaesthesia**). 9. *U.S.* an item of local interest in a newspaper. —**locally** *adv.* —**localness** *n.*

local anaesthetic *n. Med.* See **anaesthesia**.

local authority *n. Brit.* the governing body of a county, district, etc. *U.S.* equivalent: **local government**.

locale ('ləʊkəl) *n.* a place or area, esp. with reference to events connected with it.

locality ('ləʊkəlɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. a neighbourhood or area. 2. the site or scene of an event. 3. the fact or condition of having a location or position in space.

localize or -ise ('ləʊkə,ləɪz) *vb.* 1. to make or become local in attitude, behaviour, etc. 2. (*tr.*) to restrict or confine (something) to a particular area or part. 3. (*tr.*) to assign or ascribe to a particular region. —**localizable** or **-isable** *adj.* —**localization** or **-i'sation** *n.* —**localizer** or **-iser** *n.*

locate ('ləʊkeɪt) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to discover the position, situation, or whereabouts of; find. 2. (*tr.*; often passive) to situate or place: *located on the edge of the city*. 3. (*intr.*) *U.S.* to become established or settled. —**locator** *n.*

location ('ləʊkeɪʃən) *n.* 1. a site or position; situation. 2. the act or process of locating or the state of being located. 3. a place outside a studio where filming is done: *shot on location*. 4. (in South Africa) **a.** a Black African or Coloured township, usually located near a small town. **b.** a Black African tribal reserve in the E Cape Province. 5. *Computers.* a position in a memory capable of holding a unit of information, such as a word, and identified by its address.

locative ('ləʊkətɪv) *Grammar.* ~*adj.* 1. (of a word or phrase) indicating place or direction. 2. denoting a case of nouns, etc., that refers to the place at which the action described by the verb occurs. ~*n.* 3. **a.** the locative case. **b.** a word or speech element in this case.

loc. cit. (in textual annotation) *abbrev. for* **loco citato**.

loch ('lɒk, lɒx) *n.* 1. a Scot. word for **lake**¹. 2. a long narrow bay or arm of the sea in Scotland.

locl ('ləʊsər) *n.* a plural of **locus**.

lock¹ ('lɒk) *n.* 1. a device fitted to a gate, door, drawer, lid, etc., to keep it firmly closed. 2. a similar device attached to a machine, vehicle, etc. 3. **a.** a section of a canal or river that may be closed off by gates to control

the water level and the raising and lowering of vessels that pass through it. **b.** (as modifier): a lock gate; a lock keeper. **4.** the jamming, fastening, or locking together of parts. **5.** *Brit.* the extent to which a vehicle's front wheels will turn: *this car has a good lock.* **6.** a mechanism that detonates the charge of a gun. **7.** **lock, stock, and barrel.** completely; entirely. **8.** any wrestling hold in which a wrestler seizes a part of his opponent's body. **9.** Also called: **lock forward.** *Rugby.* **a.** a player in the second row of the scrum. **b.** this position. **10.** a gas bubble in a hydraulic system or a liquid bubble in a pneumatic system that stops the fluid flow in a pipe, capillary, etc.: *an air lock.* ~vb. **11.** to fasten (a door, gate, etc.) or (of a door, etc.) to become fastened with a lock, bolt, etc., so as to prevent entry or exit. **12.** (tr.) to secure (a building) by locking all doors, windows, etc. **13.** to fix or become fixed together securely or inextricably. **14.** to become or cause to become rigid or immovable: *the front wheels of the car locked.* **15.** (when tr., often passive) to clasp or entangle (someone or each other) in a struggle or embrace. **16.** (tr.) to furnish (a canal) with locks. **17.** (tr.) to move (a vessel) through a system of locks. —**'lockable** adj.

lock' (lɒk) *n.* **1.** a strand, curl, or cluster of hair. **2.** a tuft or wisp of wool, cotton, etc. **3.** (pl.) *Chiefly* literary. hair, esp. when curly or fine.

locker ('lɒkə) *n.* **1.** a small compartment or drawer that may be locked, as one of several in a gymnasium, etc., for clothes and valuables. **b.** (as modifier): a locker room. **2.** a person or thing that locks.

locket ('lɒkɪt) *n.* a small ornamental case, usually on a necklace or chain, that holds a picture, keepsake, etc.

lockjaw ('lɒk,dʒɔː) *n.* *Pathol.* a nontechnical name for trismus and (often) tetanus.

lock out vb. (tr., adv.) **1.** to prevent from entering by locking a door. **2.** to prevent (employees) from working during an industrial dispute, as by closing a factory. ~n. **lockout.** **3.** the closing of a place of employment by an employer, in order to bring pressure on employees to agree to terms.

locksmith ('lɒk,smɪθ) *n.* a person who makes or repairs locks.

lock up vb. (adv.) **1.** (tr.) Also: **lock in, lock away.** to imprison or confine. **2.** to lock or secure the doors, windows, etc., of (a building). **3.** (tr.) to keep or store securely: *secrets locked up in history.* **4.** (tr.) to invest (funds) so that conversion into cash is difficult. ~n. **lockup.** **5.** the action or time of locking up. **6.** a jail or block of cells. **7.** *Brit.* a small shop with no attached quarters for the owner. **8.** *Brit.* a garage or storage place separate from the main premises. **9.** *Printing.* the pages of type held in a chase by positioning of quoins.

loco' ('lɒkəʊ) *n.* *Inf.* short for locomotive.

loco' ('lɒkəʊ) ~adj. *Sl., chiefly* U.S. **1.** insane. ~vb. (tr.) **2.** to make insane.

locomotion ('lɒkəʊ'məʊʃən) *n.* the act, fact, ability, or power of moving.

locomotive ('lɒkəʊ'məʊtɪv) *n.* **1.** **a.** Also called: **locomotive engine.** a self-propelled engine driven by steam, electricity, or diesel power and used for drawing trains along railway tracks. **b.** (as modifier): a locomotive shed; a locomotive works. ~adj. **2.** of or relating to locomotion. **3.** moving or able to move, as by self-propulsion.

locum tenens ('lɒkəm'tenənz) *n.*, pl. **loci tenentes** ('lɒkɪ'tenəntɪz). *Chiefly* *Brit.* a person who stands in temporarily for another member of the same profession, esp. for a physician, chemist, or clergyman. Often shortened to **locum.**

locus ('lɒkəs) *n.*, pl. **loci** ('lɒsaɪ). **1.** (in many legal phrases) a place or area, esp. the place where something occurred. **2.** *Maths.* a set of points or lines whose location satisfies or is determined by one or more specified conditions: *the locus of points equidistant from a given point is a circle.* **3.** *Genetics.* the position of a particular gene on a chromosome.

locust ('lɒkəst) *n.* **1.** any of numerous insects, related to the grasshopper, of warm and tropical regions of the Old World, which travel in vast swarms, stripping large areas of vegetation. **2.** Also called: **locust tree.** a North American leguminous tree having prickly branches, hanging clusters of white fragrant flowers, and reddish-brown seed pods. **3.** the yellowish durable wood of this tree. **4.** any of several similar trees, such as the honey locust and carob.

locution ('lɒʊ'kjuːʃən) *n.* **1.** a word, phrase, or expression. **2.** manner or style of speech.

lode (ləʊd) *n.* **1.** a deposit of valuable ore occurring

between definite limits in the surrounding rock; vein. **2.** a deposit of metallic ore filling a fissure in the surrounding rock.

loden ('ləʊd'n) *n.* **1.** a thick heavy waterproof woollen cloth with a short pile. **2.** a dark bluish-green colour, in which the cloth is often made.

lodestar or **loadstar** ('ləʊd,stɑː) *n.* **1.** a star, esp. the North Star, used in navigation or astronomy as a point of reference. **2.** something that serves as a guide or model.

lodestone or **loadstone** ('ləʊd,stəʊn) *n.* **1.** a magnetite that is naturally magnetic. **b.** a piece of this, which can be used as a magnet. **2.** a person or thing regarded as a focus of attraction.

lodge (lɒdʒ) *n.* **1.** *Chiefly* *Brit.* a small house at the entrance to the grounds of a country mansion, usually occupied by a gatekeeper or gardener. **2.** a house or cabin used occasionally, as for some seasonal activity. **3.** (cap. when part of a name) a large house or hotel. **4.** a room for the use of porters in a university, college, etc. **5.** a local branch or chapter of certain societies. **6.** the building used as the meeting place of such a society. **7.** the dwelling place of certain animals, esp. beavers. **8.** a hut or tent of certain North American Indian peoples. ~vb. **9.** to provide or be provided with accommodation or shelter, esp. rented accommodation. **10.** (intr.) to live temporarily, esp. in rented accommodation. **11.** to implant, embed, or fix or be implanted, embedded, or fixed. **12.** (tr.) to deposit or leave for safety, storage, etc. **13.** (tr.) to bring (a charge or accusation) against someone. **14.** (tr.; often foll. by *in* or *with*) to place (authority, power, etc.) in the control (of someone).

lodger ('lɒdʒə) *n.* a person who pays rent in return for accommodation in someone else's house.

lodging ('lɒdʒɪŋ) *n.* **1.** a temporary residence. **2.** (sometimes pl.) sleeping accommodation.

lodgment or **lodgement** ('lɒdʒmənt) *n.* **1.** the act of lodging or the state of being lodged. **2.** a blockage or accumulation. **3.** a small area gained and held in enemy territory.

loft (lɒft) *n.* **1.** the space inside a roof. **2.** a gallery, esp. one for the choir in a church. **3.** a room over a stable used to store hay. **4.** U.S. an upper storey of a warehouse or factory. **5.** a raised house or coop in which pigeons are kept. **6.** *Sport.* **a.** (in golf) the angle from the vertical made by the club face to give elevation to a ball. **b.** elevation imparted to a ball. **c.** a lofting stroke or shot. ~vb. (tr.) **7.** *Sport.* to strike or kick (a ball) high in the air. **8.** to store or place in a loft. **9.** *Golf.* to slant (the face of a golf club).

lofty ('lɒftɪ) adj. **loftier, loftiest.** **1.** of majestic or imposing height. **2.** exalted or noble in character or nature. **3.** haughty or supercilious. **4.** elevated, eminent, or superior. —**'loftily** adv. —**'loftiness** *n.*

log (lɒg) *n.* **1.** **a.** a section of the trunk or a main branch of a tree, when stripped of branches. **b.** (modifier) constructed out of logs: a log cabin. **2.** **a.** a detailed record of a voyage of a ship or aircraft. **b.** a record of the hours flown by pilots and aircrews. **c.** a book in which these records are made; logbook. **3.** a written record of information about transmissions kept by radio stations, amateur radio operators, etc. **4.** Also called: **chip log.** a device consisting of a float with an attached line, formerly used to measure the speed of a ship. **5.** like a log. without stirring or being disturbed (in sleep like a log). ~vb. **logging, logged.** **6.** (tr.) to fell the trees of a forest, area, etc.) for timber. **7.** (tr.) to saw logs from (trees). **8.** (intr.) to work at the felling of timber. **9.** (tr.) to enter (a distance, event, etc.) in a logbook or log. **10.** (tr.) to travel (a specified distance or time) or move at (a specified speed).

log' (lɒg) *n.* short for logarithm.

▷ **Usage.** In mathematical usage **log** is followed by a subscript number indicating the base. The absence of this number implies that the logarithm is a common logarithm.

—**log** combining form. U.S. variant of -logue.

loganberry ('lɒgənbəri, -bri) *n.*, pl. **-ries.** **1.** a trailing prickly hybrid plant of the rose family, cultivated for its edible fruit. **2.** the purplish-red acid fruit of this plant.

logarithm ('lɒgə'rɪðəm) *n.* the exponent indicating the power to which a fixed number, the base, must be raised to obtain a given number or variable. It is used esp. to simplify multiplication and division. Often shortened to **log.** —**logarithmic** ('lɒgə'rɪðmɪk) adj.

logbook ('lɒg,bʊk) *n.* **1.** a book containing the official record of trips made by a ship or aircraft. **2.** *Brit.* (formerly) a document listing the registration, manufacture, etc., of a motor vehicle.

logger ('lɒgə) *n.* another word for **lumberjack**.

loggerhead ('lɒgə,hed) *n.* 1. Also called: **loggerhead turtle**, a large-headed turtle occurring in most seas. 2. a tool consisting of a large metal sphere attached to a long handle, used for warming liquids, melting tar, etc. 3. *Arch. or dialect*, a blockhead; dunce. 4. at **loggerheads**, engaged in dispute or confrontation.

loggia ('lɒdʒə, 'lɒdʒɪə) *n., pl. -gias or -gie* (-dʒɛ). a covered area on the side of a building.

logging ('lɒɡɪŋ) *n.* the work of felling, trimming, and transporting timber.

logic ('lɒdʒɪk) *n.* 1. the branch of philosophy concerned with analysing the patterns of reasoning by which a conclusion is drawn from a set of premisses, without reference to meaning or context. 2. the system and principles of reasoning used in a specific field of study. 3. a particular method of argument or reasoning. 4. force or effectiveness in argument or dispute. 5. reasoned thought or argument, as distinguished from irrationality. 6. the relationship and interdependence of a series of events, facts, etc. 7. *Electronics, computers*, the principles underlying the units in a computer system that perform arithmetical and logical operations.

logical ('lɒdʒɪkəl) *adj.* 1. relating to, used in, or characteristic of logic: *logical connective*. 2. using, according to, or deduced from the principles of logic: *a logical conclusion*. 3. capable of or characterized by clear or valid reasoning. 4. reasonable or necessary because of facts, events, etc.: *the logical candidate*. 5. *Computers*, of, performed by, used in, or relating to the logic circuits in a computer. —**logically** *adv.* —**logically** *adv.* —**logically** *adv.*

logician (lɒ'dʒɪʃən) *n.* a person who specializes in or is skilled at logic.

logistics (lɒ'dʒɪstɪks) *n.* 1. (*functioning as sing. or pl.*) the science of the movement and maintenance of military forces. 2. the handling of an operation involving the movement of labour and materials, etc. —**logistical** *adj.* —**logistically** *adv.*

log jam *n.* Chiefly U.S. 1. blockage caused by the crowding together of a number of logs floating in a river. 2. a deadlock; standstill.

-logue or U.S. **-log** *n.* combining form. indicating speech or discourse of a particular kind: *travelogue*; *monologue*.

-logy *n.* combining form. 1. indicating the science or study of: *musicology*. 2. indicating writing, discourse, or body of writings: *trilogy*; *phraseology*; *martyrology*. —**logical** or **-logic** *adj.* combining form. —**logist** *n.* combining form.

loin (lɔɪn) *n.* 1. *Anat.* the lower back and sides between the pelvis and the ribs. Related *adj.* **lumbar**. 2. a cut of meat from this part of an animal.

loincloth ('lɔɪn,kləθ) *n.* a piece of cloth worn round the loins. Also called: **breechcloth**.

loins (lɔɪnz) *pl. n.* 1. the hips and the inner surface of the legs where they join the trunk of the body; crotch. 2. *Euphemistic*, the reproductive organs.

loiter ('lɔɪtə) *vb. (intr.)* to stand or act aimlessly or idly. —**loiterer** *n.*

loll (lɒl) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to lie, lean, or lounge in a lazy or relaxed manner. 2. to hang or allow to hang loosely. ~*n.* 3. an act or instance of lolling. —**loller** *n.*

Lollard ('lɒləd) *n.* English history. a follower of John Wycliffe (1330-84), English religious reformer, during the 14th, 15th, and 16th centuries. —**Lollardism** *n.*

lollipop ('lɒlɪp,pɒp) *n.* 1. a boiled sweet or toffee stuck on a small wooden stick. 2. *Brit.* another word for ice lolly.

lollipop man *n.* *Brit. inf.* a person holding a circular sign on a pole who stops traffic so that children may cross the road. Also (*fern.*): **lollipop lady**.

lollop ('lɒlɒp) *vb. (intr.)* Chiefly *Brit.* 1. to walk or run with a clumsy or relaxed bouncing movement. 2. a less common word for **lounge**.

lolly ('lɒli) *n., pl. -lies*. 1. an informal word for **lollipop**. 2. *Brit.* short for **ice lolly**. 3. *Brit.* a slang word for money. 4. *Austral. & N.Z. inf.* a sweet, esp. a boiled one. 5. do the (or one's) lolly. *Austral. inf.* to lose one's temper.

Lombard Street *n.* the British financial and banking world.

London pride ('lɒndən) *n.* a type of saxifrage plant having a basal rosette of leaves and pinkish-white flowers.

lone (ləʊn) *adj. (prenominal)* 1. unaccompanied; solitary. 2. single or isolated: *a lone house*. 3. a literary

word for **lonely**. 4. *Rare*, unmarried or widowed. —**loneness** *n.*

lonely ('ləʊnli) *adj. -lier, -liest*. 1. unhappy as a result of being without companions. 2. causing or resulting from the state of being alone. 3. isolated, unfrequented, or desolate. 4. without companions; solitary. —**loneliness** *n.*

loner ('ləʊnə) *n. inf.* a person who avoids the company of others or prefers to be alone.

lonesome ('ləʊnsəm) *adj.* 1. Chiefly U.S. another word for **lonely**. ~*n.* 2. by one's lonesome. U.S. *inf.* on one's own. —**lonesomely** *adv.* —**lonesomeness** *n.*

long (lɒŋ) *adj.* 1. having relatively great extent in space or duration in time. 2. a. (*postpositive*) of a specified number of units in extent or duration: *three hours long*. b. (*in combination*): *a two-foot-long line*. 3. having or consisting of a relatively large number of items or parts: *a long list*. 4. having greater than the average or expected range, extent, or duration: *a long match*. 5. a. (*of drinks*) containing a large quantity of nonalcoholic beverage. b. beer as opposed to spirits. 6. *Inf. (foll. by on)* plentifully supplied or endowed (with): *long on good ideas*. 7. *Phonetics*, (*of a speech sound, esp. a vowel*) a. of relatively considerable duration. b. (*in popular usage*) denoting the qualities of the five English vowels in such words as *mate, mete, mite, moat, moot, and mute*. 8. from end to end; lengthwise. 9. unlikely to win, happen, succeed, etc.: *a long chance*. 10. *Prosody*, a. denoting a vowel of relatively great duration. b. denoting a syllable containing such a vowel. c. carrying the emphasis. 11. *Finance*, having or characterized by large holdings of securities or commodities in anticipation of rising prices. 12. *Cricket*, (*of a fielding position*) near the boundary: *long leg*. 13. in the long run, ultimately; after or over a period of time. ~*adv.* 14. for a certain time or period: *how long will it last?* 15. for or during an extensive period of time: *long into the next year*. 16. at a distant time; quite a bit of time: *long before I met you; long ago*. 17. *Finance*, into a position with more security or commodity holdings than are required by sale contracts and therefore dependent on rising prices for profit: *to go long*. 18. as (*or so*) long as. a. for or during just the length of time that. b. inasmuch as; since. c. provided that; if. 19. no longer, not any more; formerly but not now. ~*n.* 20. a long time (*esp. in for long*). 21. a relatively long thing, such as a signal in Morse code. 22. *Phonetics*, a long vowel or syllable. 23. *Finance*, a person with large holdings of a security or commodity in expectation of a rise in its price; bull. 24. before long, soon. 25. the long and the short of it, the essential points or facts. —**longish** *adj.*

long* (lɒŋ) *vb. (intr.; foll. by for or an infinitive)* to have a strong desire.

long, *abbrev.* for longitude.

long- *adv. (in combination)* for or lasting a long time: *long-awaited*; *long-established*; *long-lasting*.

longbow ('lɒŋ,bəʊ) *n.* a large powerful hand-drawn bow, esp. as used in medieval England.

long-distance *n.* 1. (*modifier*) covering relatively long distances: *a long-distance driver*. 2. (*modifier*) (*of telephone calls, lines, etc.*) connecting points a relatively long way apart. 3. Chiefly U.S. a long-distance telephone call. 4. a long-distance telephone system or its operator. ~*adv.* 5. by a long-distance telephone line: *he phoned long-distance*.

longevity (lɒn'dʒɛvɪti) *n.* 1. long life. 2. relatively long duration of employment, service, etc.

longhand ('lɒŋ,hænd) *n.* a form of handwriting in which letters, words, etc., are set down in full.

long-headed *adj.* astute; shrewd; sagacious. —**long-headedly** *adv.* —**long-headedness** *n.*

longing ('lɒŋɪŋ) *n.* 1. a prolonged unfulfilled desire or need. ~*adj.* 2. having or showing desire or need: *a longing look*. —**longingly** *adv.*

longitude ('lɒndʒɪ,tju:d) *n.* distance in degrees east or west of the prime meridian at 0° measured by the angle between the plane of the prime meridian and that of the meridian through the point in question, or by the time difference.

longitudinal (lɒndʒɪ'tju:dnəl) *adj.* 1. of or relating to longitude or length. 2. placed or extended lengthways. —**longitudinally** *adv.*

long johns *pl. n. inf.* underpants with long legs.

long jump *n.* an athletic contest in which competitors try to cover the farthest distance possible with a running jump from a fixed board or mark. U.S. equivalent: **broad jump**.

long-lived *adj.* having long life, existence, or currency. — **long-livedness** *n.*

long-playing *adj.* of or relating to an LP (long player).

long-range *adj.* 1. of or extending into the future: *a long-range weather forecast*. 2. (of vehicles, aircraft, etc.) capable of covering great distances without refueling. 3. (of weapons) made to be fired at a distant target.

longs (*lɒŋz*) *pl. n.* 1. full-length trousers. 2. long-dated gilt-edged securities.

long shot *n.* 1. a competitor, as in a race, considered to be unlikely to win. 2. a bet against heavy odds. 3. an undertaking, guess, or possibility with little chance of success. 4. *Films.* a shot where the camera is or appears to be distant from the object to be photographed. 5. by a **long shot**, by any means: *he still hasn't finished by a long shot*.

long-sighted *adj.* 1. related to or suffering from hyperopia. 2. able to see distant objects in focus. 3. having foresight. — **long-sightedly** *adv.* — **long-sightedness** *n.*

long-standing *adj.* existing for a long time.

long-suffering *adj.* 1. enduring pain, unhappiness, etc., without complaint. ~ *n.* 2. long and patient endurance. — **long-sufferingly** *adv.*

long-term *adj.* 1. lasting or extending over a long time: *long-term prospects*. 2. *Finance.* maturing after a long period: *a long-term bond*.

longtime (*ˈlɒŋ,taɪm*) *adj.* of long standing.

long ton *n.* the full name for **ton**.

long wave *n.* a. a radio wave with a wavelength greater than 1000 metres. b. (as modifier): *a long-wave broadcast*.

longways (*ˈlɒŋ,weɪz*) or **U.S. longwise** *adv.* another word for **lengthways**.

long-winded *adj.* 1. tiresomely long. 2. capable of energetic activity without becoming short of breath. — **long-windedly** *adv.* — **long-windedness** *n.*

loo (*luː*) *n., pl. loos.* *Brit.* an informal word for **lavatory**.

loofah (*ˈluːfə*) *n.* the fibrous interior of the fruit of a type of gourd, which is dried and used as a bath sponge or for scrubbing. Also (esp. U.S.): **loofa**, **luffa**.

look (*lʊk*) *vb. (mainly intr.)* 1. (often foll. by *at*) to direct the eyes (towards): *to look at the sea*. 2. (often foll. by *at*) to direct one's attention (towards): *let's look at the circumstances*. 3. (often foll. by *to*) to turn one's interests or expectations (towards): *to look to the future*. 4. (*copula*) to give the impression of being by appearance to the eye or mind; seem: *that looks interesting*. 5. to face in a particular direction: *the house looks north*. 6. to expect or hope (to do something): *I look to hear from you soon*. 7. (foll. by *for*) a. to search or seek: *I looked for you everywhere*. b. to cherish the expectation (of); hope (for): *I look for success*. 8. (foll. by *to*) a. to be mindful (of): *to look to the promise one has made*. b. to have recourse (to): *look to your swords, men!* 9. (foll. by *into*) to carry out an investigation. 10. (tr.) to direct a look at (someone) in a specified way: *she looked her rival up and down*. 11. (tr.) to accord in appearance with (something): *to look one's age*. 12. **look alive** or **lively**, to hurry up; get busy. 13. **look here**, an expression used to attract someone's attention, add emphasis to a statement, etc. 14. **look sharp** or **smart**, to hurry up; make haste. ~ *n.* 15. the act or an instance of looking; a look of despair. 16. a view or sight (of something): *let's have a look*. 17. (often pl.) appearance to the eye or mind; aspect: *the look of innocence; I don't like the looks of this place*. ~ *See also look after, look back, etc.* — **'looker** *n.*

▷ **Usage.** See at **feel**.

look after *vb. (intr., prep.)* 1. to take care of; be responsible for. 2. to follow with the eyes.

look back *vb. (intr., adv.)* 1. to cast one's mind to the past. 2. (usually used with a negative) to cease to make progress: *after his first book was published, he never looked back*.

look down *vb. (intr., adv.; foll. by on or upon)* to express or show contempt or disdain (for).

look forward to *vb. (intr., adv. + prep.)* to wait or hope for, esp. with pleasure.

look-in *Inf.* ~ *n.* 1. a chance to be chosen, participate, etc. 2. a short visit. ~ *vb.* **look in.** 3. (*intr., adv.;* often foll. by *on*) to pay a short visit.

looking glass *n.* a mirror.

look on *vb. (intr.)* 1. (*adv.*) to be a spectator at an event or incident. 2. (*prep.*) Also: **look upon**, to consider

or regard: *she looked on the whole affair as a joke*. — **'looker-on** *n.*

lookout (*ˈlʊk,aut*) *n.* 1. the act of keeping watch against danger, etc. 2. a person or persons instructed or employed to keep such a watch, esp. on a ship. 3. a strategic point from which a watch is kept. 4. *Inf.* worry or concern: *that's his lookout*. 5. *Chiefly Brit.* outlook, chances, or view. ~ *vb.* **look out** (*adv., mainly intr.*) 6. to heed one's behaviour; be careful. 7. to be on the watch: *look out for my mother at the station*. 8. (tr.) to search for and find. 9. (foll. by *on* or *over*) to face in a particular direction: *the house looks out over the moor*.

look over *vb.* 1. (*intr., prep.*) to inspect by making a tour of (a factory, house, etc.). 2. (tr., *adv.*) to examine (a document, letter, etc.).

look-see *n. Sl.* a brief inspection or look.

look up *vb. (adv.)* 1. (tr.) to discover (something required to be known) by resorting to a work of reference, such as a dictionary. 2. (*intr.*) to increase, as in quality or value: *things are looking up*. 3. (*intr., foll. by to*) to have respect (for): *I've always wanted a girlfriend I could look up to*. 4. (tr.) to visit or make contact with (a person): *I'll look you up when I'm in town*.

loom (*luːm*) *n.* an apparatus, worked by hand or mechanically (**power loom**), for weaving yarn into a textile.

loom (*luːm*) *vb. (intr.)* 1. to come into view indistinctly with an enlarged and often threatening aspect. 2. (of an event) to seem ominously close. 3. (often foll. by *over*) (of large objects) to dominate or overhang. ~ *n.* 4. a rising appearance, as of something far away.

loon (*luːn*) *n.* the U.S. name for **diver** (the bird).

loony or **looney** (*ˈluːni*) *Sl.* ~ *adj.* **loonier**, **looniest**. 1. lunatic; insane. 2. foolish or ridiculous. ~ *n., pl. loonies* or **loonies**. 3. a foolish or insane person. — **'looiness** *n.*

loop (*luːp*) *n.* 1. the round or oval shape formed by a line, string, etc., that curves around to cross itself. 2. any round or oval-shaped thing that is closed or nearly closed. 3. an intrauterine contraceptive device in the shape of a loop. 4. *Electronics.* a closed electric or magnetic circuit through which a signal can circulate, as in a feedback control system. 5. a flight manoeuvre in which an aircraft flies one complete circle in the vertical plane. 6. Also called: **loop line**. *Chiefly Brit.* a railway branch line which leaves the main line and rejoins it after a short distance. 7. *Maths, physics.* a closed curve on a graph: *hysteresis loop*. 8. a continuous strip of cinematographic film. 9. *Computers.* a series of instructions in a program, performed repeatedly until some specified condition is satisfied. ~ *vb.* 10. (tr.) to make a loop in or of (a line, string, etc.). 11. (tr.) to fasten or encircle with a loop or something like a loop. 12. Also: **loop the loop**, to cause (an aircraft) to perform a loop or (of an aircraft) to perform a loop. 13. (*intr.*) to move in loops or in a path like a loop. — **'loopier** *n.*

loophole (*ˈluːp,həʊl*) *n.* 1. an ambiguity, omission, etc., as in a law, by which one can avoid a penalty or responsibility. 2. a small gap or hole in a wall, esp. one in a fortified wall. ~ *vb.* 3. (tr.) to provide with loopholes.

loopy (*ˈluːpi*) *adj.* **loopier**, **loopiest**. 1. full of loops; curly or twisted. 2. *Inf.* slightly mad, crazy.

loose (*luːs*) *adj.* 1. free or released from confinement or restraint. 2. not close, compact, or tight in structure or arrangement. 3. not fitted or fitting closely: *loose clothing is cooler*. 4. not bundled, packaged, fastened, or put in a container: *loose nails*. 5. inexact; imprecise: *a loose translation*. 6. (of funds, cash, etc.) not allocated or locked away; readily available: *loose change*. 7. a. (esp. of women) promiscuous or easy. b. (of attitudes, ways of life, etc.) immoral or dissolute. 8. a. lacking a sense of responsibility or propriety: *loose talk*. b. (*in combination*): *loose-tongued*. 9. a. (of the bowels) emptying easily, esp. excessively. b. (of a cough) accompanied by phlegm, mucus, etc. 10. *Inf., chiefly U.S.* very relaxed; easy. ~ *n.* 11. the **loose**. *Rugby.* the part of play when the forwards close round the ball in a ruck or loose scrum. 12. on the **loose**, a. free from confinement or restraint. b. *Inf.* on a spree. ~ *adv.* 13. a. in a loose manner; loosely. b. (*in combination*): *loose-fitting*. ~ *vb.* 14. (tr.) to set free or release, as from confinement, restraint, or obligation. 15. (tr.) to unfasten or untie. 16. to make or become less strict, tight, firmly attached, compact, etc. 17. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *off*) to let fly (a bullet, arrow, or other missile). — **'loosely** *adv.* — **'looseness** *n.*

loose-jointed *adj.* 1. supple and easy in movement. 2. loosely built; with ill-fitting joints. — **'loose-jointedness** *n.*

loose-leaf *adj.* (of a binder, album, etc.) capable of being opened to allow removal and addition of pages.

loosen ('lus'n) *vb.* 1. to make or become less tight, fixed, etc. 2. (often foll. by *up*) to make or become less firm, compact, or rigid. 3. (*tr.*) to untie. 4. (*tr.*) to let loose; set free. 5. (often foll. by *up*) to make or become less strict, severe, etc. 6. (*tr.*) to rid or relieve (the bowels) of constipation. — **'loosener** *n.*

loot (lu:t) *n.* 1. goods stolen during pillaging, as in wartime, during riots, etc. 2. goods, money, etc., obtained illegally. 3. *Inf.* money or wealth. ~*vb.* 4. to pillage (a city, etc.) during war or riots. 5. to steal (money or goods), esp. during pillaging. — **'looter** *n.*

lop ('lɒp) *vb.* **lopping, lopped.** (tr.; usually foll. by *off*) 1. to sever (parts) from a tree, body, etc., esp. with swift strokes. 2. to cut out or eliminate from as excessive. ~*n.* 3. a part or parts lopped off, as from a tree. — **'lopper** *n.*

lop ('lɒp) *vb.* **lopping, lopped.** 1. to hang or allow to hang loosely. 2. (*intr.*) to slouch about or move awkwardly.

lope ('lɒp) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) (of a person) to move or run with a long swinging stride. 2. (*intr.*) (of four-legged animals) to run with a regular bounding movement. 3. to cause (a horse) to canter with a long easy stride or (of a horse) to canter in this manner. ~*n.* 4. a long steady gait or stride.

lop-eared *adj.* (of animals) having ears that droop.

lopsided ('lɒpsaɪdɪd) *adj.* 1. leaning to one side. 2. greater in weight, height, or size on one side. — **'lop-sidedly** *adv.* — **'lop/sidedness** *n.*

loquacious ('lɒkwɛɪʃəs) *adj.* characterized by or showing a tendency to talk a great deal. — **lo'quaciously** *adv.* — **loquacity** ('lɒkwæstɪ) or **lo'quaciousness** *n.*

lor ('lɔ:) *interj.* *Not standard.* an exclamation of surprise or dismay.

loran ('lɔ:rən) *n.* a radio navigation system operating over long distances. Synchronized pulses are transmitted from widely spaced radio stations to aircraft or shipping, the time of arrival of the pulses being used to determine position.

lord ('lɔ:d) *n.* 1. a person who has power or authority over others, such as a monarch or master. 2. a male member of the nobility, esp. in Britain. 3. (in medieval Europe) a feudal superior, esp. the master of a manor. 4. a husband considered as head of the household (archaic except in the facetious phrase **lord and master**). 5. **my lord**, a respectful form of address used to a judge, bishop, or nobleman. ~*vb.* 6. (*tr.*) *Now rare.* to make a lord of (a person). 7. to act in a superior manner towards (esp. in **lord it over**). — **'lordless** *adj.* — **'lord-like** *adj.*

Lord ('lɔ:d) *n.* 1. a title given to God or Jesus Christ. 2. *Brit.* a. a title given to men of high birth, specifically to an earl, marquess, baron, or viscount. b. a courtesy title given to the younger sons of a duke or marquess. c. the ceremonial title of certain high officials or of a bishop or archbishop: *Lord Mayor; Lord Bishop of Durham.* ~*interj.* 3. (sometimes not cap.) an exclamation of dismay, surprise, etc.: *Good Lord!*

Lord Chief Justice *n.* the judge who is second only to the Lord Chancellor in the English legal hierarchy; president of one division of the High Court of Justice.

Lord High Chancellor *n.* another name for the Lord Chancellor.

Lord Lieutenant *n.* 1. (in Britain) the representative of the Crown in a county. 2. (formerly) the British viceroy in Ireland.

lordly ('lɔ:dlɪ) *adj.* **-lier, -liest.** 1. haughty; arrogant; proud. 2. of or befitting a lord. ~*adv.* 3. *Arch.* in the manner of a lord. — **'lordliness** *n.*

Lord Mayor *n.* the mayor in the City of London and in certain other boroughs.

Lord of Misrule *n.* (formerly, in England) a person appointed master of revels at a Christmas celebration.

Lord Privy Seal *n.* (in Britain) the senior cabinet minister without official duties.

Lords ('lɔ:dz) *n.* the short for **House of Lords**.

Lord's ('lɔ:dz) *n.* a cricket ground in N London; headquarters of the M.C.C.

Lord's Day *n.* the. the Christian Sabbath; Sunday.

lordship ('lɔ:ʃɪp) *n.* the position or authority of a lord.

Lordship ('lɔ:ʃɪp) *n.* (preceded by *Your* or *His*) *Brit.* a title used to address or refer to a bishop, a judge of the high court, or any peer except a duke.

Lord's Prayer *n.* the. the prayer taught by Jesus Christ to his disciples, as in Matthew 6:9–13, Luke 11:2–4.

Also called: **Our Father, Paternoster** (esp. Latin version).

Lords Spiritual *pl. n.* the Anglican bishops of England and Wales who are members of the House of Lords.

Lord's Supper *n.* the. another term for **Holy Communion** (1 Corinthians 11:20).

Lords Temporal *pl. n.* the. (in Britain) peers other than bishops in their capacity as members of the House of Lords.

lore ('lɔ:) *n.* 1. collective knowledge or wisdom on a particular subject, esp. of a traditional nature. 2. knowledge or learning.

lorgnette ('lɔ:njet) *n.* a pair of spectacles or opera glasses mounted on a handle.

lorry ('lɒri) *n.* **pl. -ries.** 1. a large motor vehicle designed to carry heavy loads, esp. one with a flat platform. U.S. name: **truck**. 2. any of various vehicles with a flat load-carrying surface, esp. one designed to run on rails.

lose ('lu:z) *vb.* **losing, lost.** (*mainly tr.*) 1. to part with or come to be without, as through theft, accident, negligence, etc. 2. to fail to keep or maintain: *to lose one's balance.* 3. to suffer the loss or deprivation of: *to lose a parent.* 4. to cease to have or possess. 5. to fail to get or make use of: *to lose a chance.* 6. (*also intr.*) to fail to gain or win (a contest, game, etc.): *to lose the match.* 7. to fail to see, hear, perceive, or understand: *I lost the gist of his speech.* 8. to waste: *to lose money gambling.* 9. to wander from so as to be unable to find: *to lose one's way.* 10. to cause the loss of: *his delay lost him the battle.* 11. to allow to go astray or out of sight: *we lost him in the crowd.* 12. (*usually passive*) to absorb or engross: *he was lost in contemplation.* 13. (*usually passive*) to cause the death or destruction of: *two men were lost in the crash.* 14. to outdistance or elude: *he soon lost his pursuers.* 15. (*intr.*) to decrease or depreciate in value or effectiveness: *poetry always loses in translation.* 16. (*also intr.*) (of a timepiece) to run slow (by a specified amount). 17. (of a woman) to fail to give birth to (a viable baby), esp. as the result of a miscarriage. — **'losable** *adj.*

lose out *vb.* *Inf.* 1. (*intr., adv.*) to be defeated or unsuccessful. 2. **lose out on.** to fail to secure or make use of: *we lost out on the sale.*

loser ('lu:zə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that loses. 2. *Inf.* a person or thing that seems destined to be taken advantage of, fail, etc.: *a born loser.*

losing ('lu:zɪŋ) *adj.* unprofitable; failing: *the business was a losing concern.*

loss ('lɒs) *n.* 1. the act or an instance of losing. 2. the disadvantage or deprivation resulting from losing: *a loss of reputation.* 3. the person, thing, or amount lost: *a large loss.* 4. (*pl.*) military personnel lost by death or capture. 5. (*sometimes pl.*) the amount by which the costs of a business transaction or operation exceed its revenue. 6. **Insurance.** a. an occurrence of something that has been insured against, thus giving rise to a claim by a policyholder. b. the amount of the resulting claim. 7. **at a loss.** a. unable or too perplexed (to do something). b. bewildered. c. rendered helpless (for lack of something): *at a loss for words.* 8. **dead loss.** *Sl.* a useless or contemptible person, thing, etc.

loss leader *n.* an article offered below cost to attract customers.

lost ('lɒst) *adj.* 1. unable to be found or recovered. 2. unable to find one's way or ascertain one's whereabouts. 3. confused, bewildered, or helpless: *he is lost in discussions of theory.* 4. (sometimes foll. by *on*) not utilized, noticed, or taken advantage of (by): *rational arguments are lost on her.* 5. no longer possessed or existing because of defeat, misfortune, or the passage of time: *a lost art.* 6. destroyed physically: *the lost platoon.* 7. (foll. by *to*) no longer available or open (to). 8. (foll. by *to*) insensible or impervious (to a sense of shame, justice, etc.). 9. (foll. by *in*) engrossed (in): *he was lost in his book.* 10. morally fallen: *a lost woman.* 11. damned: *a lost soul.*

lot ('lɒt) *pron.* 1. (*functioning as sing. or pl.*; preceded by *a*) a great number or quantity: *a lot to do; a lot of people.* ~*n.* 2. a collection of objects, items, or people: *a nice lot of youngsters.* 3. portion in life; destiny; fortune: *it falls to my lot to be poor.* 4. any object, such as a straw or slip of paper, drawn from others at random to make a selection or choice (esp. in **draw** or **cast lots**). 5. the use of lots in making a selection or choice (esp. in **by lot**). 6. an assigned or apportioned share. 7. an item or set of items for sale in an auction. 8. an area of land: *a parking lot.* 9. U.S. a film studio. 10. a bad lot. an

unpleasant or disreputable person. **11. cast or throw in one's lot with.** to join with voluntarily and share the fortunes of. **12. the lot,** the entire amount or number. ~adv. (preceded by a) *Inf.* **13.** to a considerable extent, degree, or amount; very much: *to delay a lot.* **14.** a great deal of the time or often: *to sing madrigals a lot.* ~vb. **lotting, lotted.** **15.** to draw lots for (something). **16.** (tr.) to divide (land, etc.) into lots. **17.** (tr.) another word for *allot*.

loth (lɒθ) *adj.* a variant spelling of *loath*.

Lothario (lɒˈθɑːrɪ,əʊ) *n., pl. -os.* (sometimes not cap.) a rake, libertine, or seducer.

lotion (lɒʃən) *n.* a liquid preparation having a soothing, cleansing, or antiseptic action, applied to the skin, eyes, etc.

lots (lɒts) *pl. n. Inf.* **1.** (often foll. by *of*) great numbers or quantities: *lots of people; to eat lots.* ~adv. **2.** a great deal. **3.** (intensifier): *the journey is lots quicker by train.*

lottery (lɒtəri) *n., pl. -teries.* **1.** a game of chance in which tickets are sold, which may later qualify the holder for a prize. **2.** an endeavour the success of which is regarded as a matter of luck.

lotto (lɒtəʊ) *n.* a children's game in which numbered discs are drawn at random and called out, while the players cover the corresponding numbers on cards, the winner being the first to cover all the numbers, a particular row, etc.

lotus or **lotos** (lɒtəs) *n.* **1.** (in Greek mythology) a fruit that induces forgetfulness and a dreamy languor in those who eat it. **2.** any of several water lilies of tropical Africa and Asia, esp. the **white lotus**, which was regarded as sacred in ancient Egypt. **3.** a related plant which is the sacred lotus of India, China, and Tibet. **4.** a representation of such a plant, common in Hindu, Buddhist, and ancient Egyptian art. **5.** any of a genus of leguminous plants of the legume family of the Old World and North America, having yellow, pink, or white pea-like flowers.

lotus-eater *n.* *Greek myth.* one of a people encountered by Odysseus in North Africa who lived in indolent forgetfulness, drugged by the fruit of the legendary lotus.

lotus position *n.* a seated cross-legged position used in yoga, meditation, etc.

loud (laʊd) *adj.* **1.** (of sound) relatively great in volume: *a loud shout.* **2.** making or able to make sounds of relatively great volume: *a loud engine.* **3.** clamorous, insistent, and emphatic: *loud protests.* **4.** (of colours, designs, etc.) offensive or obtrusive to look at. **5.** characterized by noisy, vulgar, and offensive behaviour. ~adv. **6.** in a loud manner. **7. out loud.** *Inf.* audibly, as distinct from silently. —'loudish *adj.* —'loudly *adv.* —'loudness *n.*

loudspeaker (laʊdˈspi:kə) *n.* a device for converting audio-frequency signals into sound waves. Often shortened to *speaker*.

lough (lɒk, lɒx) *n.* **1.** an Irish word for *lake*. **2.** a long narrow bay or arm of the sea in Ireland.

lounge (laʊndʒ) *vb.* **1.** (*intr.*; often foll. by *about* or *around*) to sit, lie, walk, or stand in a relaxed manner. **2.** to pass (time) lazily or idly. ~*n.* **3.** a communal room in a hotel, ship, etc., used for waiting or relaxing in. **4.** *Chiefly Brit.* a living room in a private house. **5.** Also called: **lounge bar, saloon bar.** *Brit.* a more expensive bar in a pub or hotel. **6.** a sofa or couch. **7.** the act or an instance of lounging. —'lounger *n.*

lounge suit *n.* a man's suit of matching jacket and trousers worn for the normal business day.

lour (laʊə) *vb.* a variant spelling of *lower*².

lourie (lauri) *n.* a type of African bird with bright plumage.

louse (laus) *n., pl. -lice* (lais). **1.** a wingless blood-sucking insect, such as the head louse, body louse, and crab louse, all of which infest man. **2. biting or bird louse.** a wingless insect, such as the chicken louse: external parasites of birds and mammals, with biting mouthparts. **3.** any of various similar but unrelated insects. **4. pl. louses.** *Sl.* an unpleasant or mean person. ~vb. (tr.) **5.** to remove lice from. **6.** (foll. by *up*) *Sl.* to ruin or spoil.

lousy (laʊzi) *adj.* **lousier, lousiest.** **1.** *Sl.* very mean or unpleasant. **2.** *Sl.* inferior or bad. **3.** infested with lice. **4.** (foll. by *with*) *Sl.* provided with an excessive amount (of): *he's lousy with money.* —'lously *adv.* —'lousiness *n.*

lout (laʊt) *n.* a crude or oafish person; boor. —'loutish *adj.*

louvre or **U.S. louver** (lʊˈvə) *n.* **1.** a. any of a set of

horizontal parallel slats in a door or window, sloping outwards to throw off rain and admit air. **b.** Also called: **louvre boards.** the slats and frame supporting them. **2. Archit.** a turret that allows smoke to escape. —'louvered or *U.S.* 'louvered *adj.*

lovage (lʌvɪdʒ) *n.* a European umbelliferous plant with greenish-white flowers and aromatic fruits, which are used for flavouring food.

love (lʌv) *vb.* **1.** (tr.) to have a great attachment to and affection for. **2.** (tr.) to have passionate desire, longing, and feelings for. **3.** (tr.) to like or desire (to do something) very much. **4.** (tr.) to make love to. **5.** (*intr.*) to be in love. ~*n.* **6.** a. an intense emotion of affection, warmth, fondness, and regard towards a person or thing. **b.** (as modifier): *love story.* **7.** a deep feeling of sexual attraction and desire. **8.** wholehearted liking for or pleasure in something. **9. Christianity.** God's benevolent attitude towards man. **10.** Also: **my love,** a beloved person: used esp. as an endearment. **11. Brit. inf.** a term of address, not necessarily for a person regarded as likable. **12.** (in tennis, squash, etc.) a score of zero. **13. fall in love,** to become in love. **14. for love,** without payment. **15. for love or money,** by any means. **16. for the love of,** for the sake of. **17. in love,** in a state of strong emotional attachment and usually sexual attraction. **18. make love (to).** a. to have sexual intercourse (with). **b.** Now arch. to make advances (to). —'lovable or 'loveable *adj.* —'loveless *adj.*

lovebird (lʌv,bɜ:d) *n.* any of several small African parrots often kept as cagebirds.

love child *n.* *Euphemistic.* an illegitimate child; bastard.

love-lies-bleeding *n.* any of several plants having drooping spikes of small red flowers.

lovelorn (lʌv,lɔ:n) *adj.* miserable because of unrequited love or unhappiness in love.

lovely (lʌvli) *adj.* -lier, -liest. **1.** very attractive or beautiful. **2.** highly pleasing or enjoyable: *a lovely time.* **3.** inspiring love; lovable. ~*n.* **4. Sl.** a lovely woman. —'loveliness *n.*

lovemaking (lʌv,meɪkɪŋ) *n.* **1.** sexual play and activity between lovers, esp. including sexual intercourse. **2.** an archaic word for *courtship*.

lover (lʌvə) *n.* **1.** a person, now esp. a man, who has an extramarital or premarital sexual relationship with another person. **2.** (often pl.) either of the two people involved in a love affair. **3.** a. someone who loves a specified person or thing: *a lover of music.* **b.** (in combination): *a music-lover; cat-lover.*

lovesick (lʌv,sɪk) *adj.* pining or languishing because of love. —'love,sickness *n.*

lovey-dovey *adj.* making an excessive or ostentatious display of affection.

loving (lʌvɪŋ) *adj.* feeling or showing love and affection. —'lovingly *adv.* —'lovingness *n.*

loving cup *n.* **1.** a large vessel, usually two-handled, out of which people drink in turn at a banquet. **2.** a similar cup awarded to the winner of a competition.

low (ləʊ) *adj.* **1.** having a relatively small distance from base to top; not tall or high: *a low hill; a low building.* **2.** a. situated at a relatively short distance above the ground, sea level, the horizon, or other reference position: *low cloud.* **b.** (in combination): *low-lying.* **3.** of less than usual height, depth, or degree: *low temperature.* **4.** a. (of numbers) small. **b.** (of measurements) expressed in small numbers. **5.** a. involving or containing a relatively small amount of something: *a low supply.* **b.** (in combination): *low-powered.* **6.** a. having little value or quality. **b.** (in combination): *low-grade.* **7.** coarse or vulgar: *a low conversation.* **8.** a. inferior in culture or status. **b.** (in combination): *low-class.* **9.** in a physically or mentally depressed or weakened state. **10.** low-necked: *a low dress.* **11.** with a hushed tone; quiet or soft: *a low whisper.* **12.** of relatively small price or monetary value: *low cost.* **13.** Music. relating to or characterized by a relatively low pitch. **14.** (of latitudes) situated not far north or south of the equator. **15.** having little or no money. **16.** abject or servile. **17.** unfavourable: *a low opinion.* **18.** not advanced in evolution: *a low form of plant life.* **19.** deep: *a low bow.* **20. Phonetics.** of, relating to, or denoting a vowel whose articulation is produced by moving the back of the tongue away from the soft palate, such as for the *a* in English *father.* **21.** (of a gear) providing a relatively low forward speed for a given engine speed. **22.** (usually cap.) of or relating to the Low Church. ~adv. **23.** in a low position, level, degree, intensity, etc.: *to bring someone low.* **24.** at a low pitch; deep: *to sing low.* **25.** at a low price; cheaply:

to buy low. **26. lay low.** a. to cause to fall by a blow. b. to overcome, defeat, or destroy. **27. lie low.** a. to keep or be concealed or quiet. b. to wait for a favourable opportunity. ~n. **28.** a low position, level, or degree: *an all-time low*. **29.** an area of relatively low atmospheric pressure, esp. a depression. —'lowness n.

low² (ləʊ) n. also **lowing.** 1. the sound uttered by cattle; moo. ~vb. **2.** to make or express by a low or moo.

lowborn (ləʊ'bɔ:n) or **lowbred** (ləʊ'bred) *adj.* Now rare, of ignoble or common parentage.

lowbrow (ləʊ'braʊ) *Disparaging.* ~n. 1. a person who has uncultivated or nonintellectual tastes. ~adj. also **lowbrowed.** 2. of or characteristic of such a person.

Low Church n. 1. the school of thought in the Church of England stressing evangelical beliefs and practices. ~adj. **Low-Church.** 2. of or relating to this school.

low comedy n. comedy characterized by slapstick and physical action.

low-down *Inf.* ~adj. 1. mean, underhand, or despicable. ~n. **lowdown.** 2. the information.

lower¹ ('ləʊə) *adj.* 1. being below one or more other things: *the lower shelf*. 2. reduced in amount or value: *a lower price*. 3. Maths. (of a limit or bound) less than or equal to one or more numbers or variables. 4. (sometimes *cap.*) *Geol.* denoting the early part of a period, formation, etc.: *Lower Silurian*. ~vb. 5. (tr.) to cause to become low or on a lower level; bring, put, or cause to move down. 6. (tr.) to reduce or bring down in estimation, dignity, value, etc.: *to lower oneself*. 7. to reduce or be reduced: *to lower one's confidence*. 8. (tr.) to make quieter: *to lower the radio*. 9. (tr.) to reduce the pitch of. 10. (intr.) to diminish or become less.

lower² or lour ('ləʊə) *vb.* (intr.) 1. (esp. of the sky, weather, etc.) to be overcast, dark, and menacing. 2. to scowl or frown. ~n. 3. a menacing scowl or appearance. —'loweringly or 'louringly *adv.*

Lower Canada n. (from 1791 to 1841) the official name of the S region of the present-day province of Quebec.

lower case n. 1. the bottom half of a compositor's type case, in which the small letters are kept. ~adj. **lower-case.** 2. of or relating to small letters. ~vb. **lower-case.** 3. (tr.) to print with lower-case letters.

lower class n. 1. the social stratum having the lowest position in the social hierarchy. ~adj. **lower-class.** 2. of or relating to the lower class. 3. inferior or vulgar.

lower house n. one of the houses of a bicameral legislature: usually the larger and more representative. Also called: **lower chamber.**

lowest common denominator n. the smallest integer or polynomial that is exactly divisible by each denominator of a set of fractions. Abbrev.: **l.c.d.**, **L.C.D.** Also called: **least common denominator.**

lowest common multiple n. the smallest number or quantity that is exactly divisible by each member of a set of numbers or quantities. Abbrev.: **l.c.m.**, **L.C.M.** Also called: **least common multiple.**

low frequency n. a radio-frequency band or a frequency lying between 300 and 30 kilohertz.

low-key or low-keyed *adj.* 1. having a low intensity or tone. 2. restrained or subdued.

lowland ('ləʊlənd) n. 1. relatively low ground. 2. (often *pl.*) a low generally flat region. ~adj. 3. of or relating to a lowland or lowlands. —'lowlander n.

Lowland ('ləʊlənd) *adj.* of or relating to the Lowlands of Scotland or the dialect of English spoken there.

Low Latin n. any form of Latin other than the classical, such as Medieval Latin.

lowly ('ləʊli) ~adj. -lier, -liest. 1. humble or low in position, rank, status, etc. 2. full of humility; meek. 3. simple, unpretentious, or plain. ~adv. 4. in a low or lowly manner. —'lowliness n.

Low Mass n. a Mass that has a simplified ceremonial form and is spoken rather than sung.

low-minded *adj.* having a vulgar or crude mind and character. —'low-mindedly *adv.* —'low-mindedness n.

low-pitched *adj.* 1. pitched low in tone. 2. (of a roof) having sides with a shallow slope.

low-pressure *adj.* 1. having, using, or involving a pressure below normal: *a low-pressure gas*. 2. relaxed or calm.

low profile n. a position or attitude characterized by a deliberate avoidance of prominence or publicity.

low-spirited *adj.* depressed or dejected. —'low-spiritedly *adv.* —'low-spiritedness n.

low tide n. 1. the tide when it is at its lowest level or the time at which it reaches this. 2. a lowest point.

lowveld ('ləʊ,vɛlt) n. (in South Africa) the low grasslands of the Transvaal province.

low water n. 1. another name for **low tide**. 2. the state of any stretch of water at its lowest level.

lox¹ (lɒks) n. a kind of smoked salmon.

lox² (lɒks) n. short for **liquid oxygen**, esp. when used as an oxidizer for rocket fuels.

loyal ('ləʊəl) *adj.* 1. showing allegiance. 2. faithful to one's country, government, etc. 3. of or expressing loyalty. —'loyally *adv.*

loyalist ('ləʊəlɪst) n. a patriotic supporter of his sovereign or government. —'loyalism n.

Loyalist ('ləʊəlɪst) n. 1. (in Northern Ireland) any of the Protestants wishing to retain Ulster's link with Britain. 2. (in North America) an American colonist who supported Britain during the War of American Independence. 3. (during the Spanish Civil War) a supporter of the republican government.

loyalty ('ləʊəlti) n, *pl.* -ties. 1. the state or quality of being loyal. 2. (often *pl.*) allegiance.

lozenge ('ləʊzɪndʒ) n. 1. *Med.* a medicated tablet held in the mouth until it has dissolved. 2. *Geom.* another name for **rhombus**. 3. *Heraldry.* a diamond-shaped charge. —'lozenged or 'lozengy *adj.*

LP n. a. Also called: **long player.** a long-playing gramophone record: one designed to rotate at 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ revolutions per minute. b. (as *modifier*): *an LP sleeve*.

L.P. abbrev. for: 1. Also: **LP** (in Britain) Lord Provost. 2. Also: **l.p.** low pressure.

Lr the chemical symbol for lawrencium.

LSD n. lysergic acid diethylamide; a crystalline compound prepared from lysergic acid, used in experimental medicine and taken illegally as a hallucinogenic drug. Informal name: **acid**.

L.S.D., £.s.d., or l.s.d. (in Britain, esp. formerly) abbrev. for *Latin* librae, solidi, denarii: pounds, shillings, pence.

L.S.E. abbrev. for London School of Economics.

Lt. abbrev. for Lieutenant.

Ltd. or ltd. abbrev. for limited (liability). U.S. equivalent: **Inc.**

Lu the chemical symbol for lutetium.

lubber ('lʌbə) n. 1. a big, awkward, or stupid person. 2. short for **landlubber**. —'lubberly *adj.*, *adv.* —'lubberliness n.

lubricant ('lʊbrɪkənt) n. 1. a lubricating substance, such as oil. ~adj. 2. serving to lubricate.

lubricate ('lʊbrɪkeɪt) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to cover or treat with an oily substance so as to lessen friction. 2. (tr.) to make greasy, slippery, or smooth. 3. (intr.) to act as a lubricant. —'lubri'cation n. —'lubri,cative *adj.* —'lubri,cator n.

lubricity (lʊ:'brɪsɪti) n. 1. *Formal or literary.* lewdness or salaciousness. 2. *Rare.* smoothness or slipperiness. —'lubricous ('lʊbrɪkəs) or 'lubricious (lʊ:'brɪʃəs) *adj.*

lucerne (lʊ:'sɜ:n) n. *Brit.* another name for **alfalfa**.

lucid ('lʊsɪd) *adj.* 1. readily understood; clear. 2. shining or glowing. 3. of or relating to a period of normality between periods of insane behaviour. —'lucidity or 'lucidness n. —'lucidly *adv.*

lucifer ('lʊsɪfɪs) n. a friction match: originally a trade name.

Lucifer ('lʊsɪfɪs) n. 1. the leader of the rebellion of the angels; Satan. 2. the planet Venus when it rises as the morning star.

luck (lʌk) n. 1. events that are beyond control and seem subject to chance; fortune. 2. success or good fortune. 3. something considered to bring good luck. 4. **down on one's luck.** having little or no good luck to the point of suffering hardships. 5. **no such luck.** unfortunately not. 6. **try one's luck.** to attempt something that is uncertain.

lucky ('lʌki) *adj.* -ier, -iest. 1. having or bringing good fortune. 2. happening by chance, esp. as desired. —'luckily *adv.* —'luckiness n.

lucky dip n. *Brit.* 1. a box filled with sawdust containing small prizes for which children search. 2. *Inf.* an undertaking of uncertain outcome.

lucrative ('lʊkrətɪv) *adj.* producing a profit; profitable. —'lucratively *adv.* —'lucrative'ness n.

lucre ('lʊkɜ:kə) n. *Usually facetious.* money or wealth (esp. in *filthy lucre*).

Luddite ('lʌdɪt) n. *English history.* 1. any of the textile workers opposed to mechanization who organized machine-breaking between 1811 and 1816. 2. any oppo-

nent of industrial change or innovation. ~*adj.* 3. of or relating to the Luddites.

ludicrous ('lu:dikrəs) *adj.* absurd or incongruous to the point of provoking laughter. —'ludicrously *adv.* —'ludicrousness *n.*

ludo ('lu:dəu) *n. Brit.* a simple board game in which players advance counters by throwing dice.

luff (lʌf) *n.* 1. *Naut.* the leading edge of a fore-and-aft sail. ~*vb.* 2. *Naut.* to head (a sailing vessel) into the wind so that her sails flap. 3. (*intr.*) *Naut.* (of a sail) to flap when the wind is blowing equally on both sides. 4. to move the jib of (a crane) in order to shift a load.

lug (lʌg) *vb.* **lugging, lugged.** 1. to carry or drag (something heavy) with great effort. 2. (*tr.*) to introduce (an irrelevant topic) into a conversation or discussion. ~*n.* 3. the act or an instance of lugging.

lug (lʌg) *n.* 1. a projecting piece by which something is connected, supported, or lifted. 2. a box or basket for vegetables or fruit. 3. *Brit. inf. or Scot.* another word for ear. 4. *Sl.* a man, esp. a stupid or awkward one.

luggage ('lʌgdʒ) *n.* suitcases, trunks, etc.

lugger ('lʌgə) *n. Naut.* a small working boat rigged with a lugsail.

lugsail ('lʌgsəl) *n. Naut.* a four-sided sail bent and hoisted on a yard.

lugubrious (lu'gu:brɪəs) *adj.* excessively mournful; doleful. —'lugubriously *adv.* —'lugubriousness *n.*

lugworm ('lʌg,wɜ:m) *n.* a worm living in burrows on sandy shores and having tufted gills: much used as bait. Sometimes shortened to **lug**.

lukewarm (lu:k'wɔ:m) *adj.* 1. (esp. of water) moderately warm; tepid. 2. having or expressing little enthusiasm or conviction. —'luke'warmly *adv.* —'luke'warmness *n.*

lull (lʌl) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to soothe (a person or animal) by soft sounds or motions (esp. in **lull to sleep**). 2. to calm (someone or someone's fears, suspicions, etc.), esp. by deception. ~*n.* 3. a short period of calm or diminished activity.

lullaby ('lʌlə,bai) *n., pl. -bies.* 1. a quiet song to lull a child to sleep. ~*vb.* -bying, -bied. 2. (*tr.*) to quiet or soothe as with a lullaby.

lumbago (lʌm'beɪgəu) *n.* pain in the lower back; backache.

lumbar ('lʌmbə) *adj.* of, near, or relating to the part of the body between the lowest ribs and the hipbones.

lumbar puncture *n. Med.* insertion of a hollow needle into the lower spinal cord to withdraw cerebrospinal fluid, introduce drugs, etc.

lumber¹ ('lʌmbə) *n.* 1. Chiefly *U.S. & Canad.* a. logs; sawn timber. b. (*as modifier*): the lumber trade. 2. *Brit.* a. useless household articles that are stored away. b. (*as modifier*): lumber room. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to pile together in a disorderly manner. 4. (*tr.*) to fill up or encumber with useless household articles. 5. Chiefly *U.S. & Canad.* to convert (the trees) of (a forest) into marketable timber. 6. (*tr.*) *Brit. inf.* to burden with something unpleasant, tedious, etc. —'lumberer *n.* —'lumbering *n.*

lumber² ('lʌmbə) *vb. (intr.)* 1. to move or proceed in an awkward heavy manner. 2. an obsolete word for rumble. —'lumbering *adj.*

lumberjack ('lʌmbə,dʒæk) *n.* (esp. in North America) a person whose work involves felling trees, transporting the timber, etc.

lumen ('lu:mɪn) *n., pl. -mens or -mina (-mɪnə).* 1. the derived SI unit of luminous flux; the flux emitted in a solid angle of 1 steradian by a point source having a uniform intensity of 1 candela. Symbol: lm 2. *Anat.* a passage, duct, or cavity in a tubular organ. 3. a cavity within a plant cell. —'luminal *adj.*

luminary ('lu:mɪnəri) *n., pl. -naries.* 1. a person who enlightens or influences others. 2. a famous person. 3. *Literary.* something, such as the sun or moon, that gives off light.

luminescence (,lu:mɪ'nɛsəns) *n. Physics.* the emission of light at low temperatures by any process other than incandescence. —'luminescent *adj.*

luminous ('lu:mɪnəs) *adj.* 1. radiating or reflecting light; shining; glowing: *luminous colours*. 2. (*not in technical use*) exhibiting luminescence: *luminous paint*. 3. full of light; well-lit. 4. (of a physical quantity in photometry) evaluated according to the visual sensation produced in an observer rather than by absolute energy measurements: *luminous intensity*. 5. easily understood; lucid; clear. 6. enlightening or wise. —'luminosity

(,lu:mɪ'nɒsɪtɪ) *n.* —'luminously *adv.* —'luminousness *n.*

lumme or lummy ('lʌmi) *interj. Brit.* an exclamation of surprise or dismay.

lump¹ (lʌmp) *n.* 1. a small solid mass without definite shape. 2. *Pathol.* any small swelling or tumour. 3. a collection of things; aggregate. 4. *Inf.* an awkward, heavy, or stupid person. 5. the **lump**. *Brit.* self-employed workers in the building trade considered collectively. 6. (*modifier*) in the form of a lump or lumps: *lump sugar*. 7. a **lump in one's throat**, a tight dry feeling in one's throat, usually caused by great emotion. 8. in the **lump**, collectively; en masse. ~*vb.* 9. (*tr.*; often foll. by *together*) to collect into a mass or group. 10. (*intr.*) to grow into lumps or become lumpy. 11. (*tr.*) to consider as a single group, often without justification. 12. (*tr.*) to make or cause lumps in or on. 13. (*intr.*; often foll. by *along*) to move in a heavy manner.

lump² (lʌmp) *vb. (tr.) Inf.* to tolerate or put up with; endure (in **lump** it).

lumpish ('lʌmpɪʃ) *adj.* 1. resembling a lump. 2. stupid, clumsy, or heavy. —'lumpishly *adv.* —'lumpishness *n.*

lump sum *n.* a relatively large sum of money, paid at one time, esp. in cash.

lumpy ('lʌmpi) *adj.* **lumpier, lumpiest.** 1. full of or having lumps. 2. (esp. of the sea) rough. 3. (of a person) heavy or bulky. —'lumpily *adv.* —'lumpiness *n.*

lunacy ('lu:nəsi) *n., pl. -cies.* 1. (formerly) any severe mental illness. 2. foolishness.

lunar ('lu:nə) *adj.* 1. of or relating to the moon. 2. occurring on or used on the moon: *lunar module*. 3. relating to, caused by, or measured by the position or orbital motion of the moon.

lunatic ('lu:nətik) *adj.* 1. an informal or archaic word for insane. ~*n.* 2. a person who is insane.

lunatic asylum *n.* another name, usually regarded as offensive, for an institution for the mentally ill.

lunatic fringe *n.* the members of a society who adopt views regarded as fanatical.

lunch (lʌntʃ) *n.* 1. a meal eaten during the middle of the day. ~*vb.* 2. (*intr.*) to eat lunch. 3. (*tr.*) to provide or buy lunch for. —'luncher *n.*

luncheon ('lʌntʃən) *n.* a lunch, esp. a formal one.

luncheon meat *n.* a ground mixture of meat (often pork) and cereal, usually tinned.

luncheon voucher *n.* a voucher worth a specified amount issued to employees and redeemable at a restaurant for food. Abbrev.: LV

lung (lʌŋ) *n.* 1. either one of a pair of spongy saclike respiratory organs within the thorax of higher vertebrates, which oxygenate the blood and remove its carbon dioxide. 2. at the top of one's lungs, in one's loudest voice; yelling.

lunge (lʌndʒ) *n.* 1. *Fencing.* a thrust made by advancing the front foot and straightening the back leg, extending the sword arm forwards. 2. a sudden forward motion. ~*vb.* 3. (*intr.*) *Fencing.* to make a lunge. 4. to move or cause to move with a lunge. —'lunger *n.*

lungfish ('lʌŋ,fɪʃ) *n., pl. -fish or -fishes.* a freshwater bony fish having an air-breathing lung, fleshy paired fins, and an elongated body.

lupin or U.S. lupine ('lu:pɪn) *n.* a leguminous plant of North America, Europe, and Africa, with large spikes of brightly coloured flowers and flattened pods.

lupine ('lu:pɪn) *adj.* of, relating to, or resembling a wolf.

lupus ('lu:pəs) *n.* any of various ulcerative skin diseases.

lurch¹ ('lɜ:tʃ) *vb. (intr.)* 1. to lean or pitch suddenly to one side. 2. to stagger. ~*n.* 3. the act or an instance of lurching.

lurch² ('lɜ:tʃ) *n.* 1. leave (someone) in the lurch, to desert (someone) in trouble. 2. *Cribbage.* the state of a losing player with less than 30 points at the end of a game.

lurcher ('lɜ:tʃə) *n.* 1. a person who prowls or lurks. 2. a crossbred hunting dog, esp. one trained to hunt silently.

lure (lʊə) *vb. (tr.)* 1. (sometimes foll. by *away* or *into*) to tempt or attract by the promise of some type of reward. 2. *Falconry.* to entice (a hawk or falcon) from the air to the falconer by a lure. ~*n.* 3. a person or thing that lures. 4. *Angling.* any of various types of brightly coloured artificial spinning baits. 5. *Falconry.* a feathered decoy to which small pieces of meat can be attached. —'lurer *n.*

lurid ('lu:ɪd) *adj.* 1. vivid in shocking detail; sensational. 2. horrible in savagery or violence. 3. pallid in

colour; wan. 4. glowing with an unnatural glare. —**'lurridly** *adv.* —**'luridness** *n.*

lurk (lɜ:k) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. to move stealthily or be concealed, esp. for evil purposes. 2. to be present in an unobtrusive way; be latent. ~*n.* 3. *Austral. & N.Z. sl.* a scheme for success. —**'lurker** *n.*

luscious (lʌʃəs) *adj.* 1. extremely pleasurable, esp. to the taste or smell. 2. very attractive. 3. *Arch.* cloying. —**'lusciously** *adv.* —**'lusciousness** *n.*

lush (lʌʃ) *adj.* 1. (of vegetation) abounding in lavish growth. 2. (esp. of fruits) succulent and fleshy. 3. luxurious, elaborate, or opulent. —**'lushly** *adv.* —**'lushness** *n.*

lush (lʌʃ) *U.S. sl.* ~*n.* 1. a heavy drinker, esp. an alcoholic. 2. alcoholic drink. ~*vb.* 3. to drink (alcohol) to excess.

lust (last) *n.* 1. a strong desire for sexual gratification. 2. a strong desire or drive. ~*vb.* 3. (*intr.*; often foll. by *after* or *for*) to have a lust (for). —**'lustful** *adj.* —**'lustfully** *adv.* —**'lustfulness** *n.*

lustre or *U.S. luster* ('lastə) *n.* 1. reflected light; sheen; gloss. 2. radiance or brilliance of light. 3. great splendour of accomplishment, beauty, etc. 4. a dress fabric of cotton and wool with a glossy surface. 5. a vase or chandelier from which hang cut-glass drops. 6. a drop-shaped piece of cut glass or crystal used as such a decoration. 7. a shiny metallic surface on some pottery and porcelain. 8. *Mineralogy.* the way in which light is reflected from the surface of a mineral. ~*vb.* 9. to make, be, or become lustrous. —**'lustreless** or *U.S. 'lusterless* *adj.* —**'lustrous** *adj.*

lusty ('lasti) *adj.* **lustier, lustiest.** 1. having or characterized by robust health. 2. strong or invigorating. —**'lustily** *adv.* —**'lustiness** *n.*

lute (lu:t) *n.* an ancient plucked stringed instrument, with a long fretted fingerboard and a body shaped like a sliced pear. —**'lutenist** or **'lutanist** *n.*

lute (lu:t) *n.* 1. a mixture of cement and clay used to seal the joints between pipes, etc. ~*vb.* 2. (tr.) to seal (a joint or surface) with lute.

lutetium or **lutecium** (lʊ'ti:ʃɪəm) *n.* a silvery-white metallic element of the lanthanide series. Symbol: Lu; atomic no.: 71; atomic wt.: 174.97.

Lutheran ('lu:θərən) *n.* 1. a follower of Luther (1483-1546), German leader of the Protestant Reformation, or a member of a Lutheran Church. ~*adj.* 2. of or relating to Luther or his doctrines. 3. of or relating to a Lutheran Church. —**'Lutheranism** *n.*

lux (lʌks) *n., pl. lux.* the derived SI unit of illumination equal to a luminous flux of 1 lumen per square metre.

luxe (lʌks, luks; *French* lyks) *n.* See **de luxe**.

luxuriant (lʌg'zjuəriənt) *adj.* 1. rich and abundant; lush. 2. very elaborate or ornate. 3. extremely productive or fertile. —**lux'uriance** *n.* —**lux'uriantly** *adv.*

luxuriate (lʌg'zjuəri,eit) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. (foll. by *in*) to take voluptuous pleasure; revel. 2. to flourish profusely. 3. to live in a sumptuous way. —**lux,uri'ation** *n.*

luxurious (lʌg'zjuəriəs) *adj.* 1. characterized by luxury. 2. enjoying or devoted to luxury. —**lux'uriously** *adv.* —**lux'uriousness** *n.*

luxury ('lʌkʃəri) *n., pl. -ries.* 1. indulgence in and enjoyment of rich, comfortable, and sumptuous living. 2. (sometimes *pl.*) something considered an indulgence rather than a necessity. 3. (*modifier*) relating to, indicating, or supplying luxury: a *luxury liner*.

LV *abbrev.* for luncheon voucher.

-ly *suffix forming adjectives.* 1. having the nature or

qualities of: *godly*. 2. occurring at certain intervals; every: *daily*.

-ly *suffix forming adverbs.* in a certain manner; to a certain degree: *quickly; recently; chiefly*.

lyceum (laɪ'siəm) *n.* (now chiefly in the names of buildings) 1. a public building for concerts, lectures, etc. 2. *U.S.* a cultural organization responsible for presenting concerts, lectures, etc.

lychee (,laɪ'tʃi:) *n.* a variant spelling of *litchi*.

lych gate (lit) *n.* a variant spelling of *lich gate*.

lye (lai) *n.* 1. any solution obtained by leaching, such as the caustic solution obtained by leaching wood ash. 2. a concentrated solution of sodium hydroxide or potassium hydroxide.

lying ('laɪŋ) *vb.* the present participle and gerund of *lie*.

lying ('laɪŋ) *vb.* the present participle and gerund of *lie*.

lying-in *n., pl. lyings-in.* confinement in childbirth.

lymph (limf) *n.* the almost colourless fluid, containing chiefly white blood cells, that is collected from the tissues of the body and transported in the lymphatic system.

lymphatic (lim'fætɪk) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or containing lymph. 2. of or relating to the lymphatic system. 3. sluggish or lacking vigour. ~*n.* 4. a lymphatic vessel.

lymph node *n.* any of numerous bean-shaped masses of tissue, situated along the course of lymphatic vessels, that help to protect against infection and are a source of lymphocytes.

lympho- or *before a vowel lymph-* *combining form.* indicating lymph or the lymphatic system: *lymphocyte*.

lynch (lintʃ) *vb.* (tr.) (of a mob) to kill (a person) for some supposed offence. —**'lyncher** *n.* —**'lynching** *n.*

lynx (lɪŋks) *n., pl. lynxes or lynx.* 1. a feline mammal of Europe and North America, with grey-brown mottled fur, tufted ears, and a short tail. 2. the fur of this animal. 3. *bay lynx.* another name for *bobcat*. 4. *desert lynx.* another name for *caracal*. —**'lynx,like** *adj.*

lynx-eyed *adj.* having keen sight.

Lyon King of Arms ('laɪən) *n.* the chief herald of Scotland. Also called: **Lord Lyon**.

lyre (laɪə) *n.* an ancient Greek stringed instrument consisting of a resonating tortoise shell to which a crossbar was attached by two projecting arms. It was plucked with a plectrum and used for accompanying songs.

lyrebird ('laɪə,bɜ:d) *n.* either of two pheasant-like Australian birds: during courtship displays, the male spreads its tail into the shape of a lyre.

lyric ('lɪrɪk) *adj.* 1. (of poetry) *a.* expressing the writer's personal feelings and thoughts. *b.* having the form and manner of a song. 2. of or relating to such poetry. 3. (of a singing voice) having a light quality and tone. 4. intended for singing, esp. (in classical Greece) to the accompaniment of the lyre. ~*n.* 5. a short poem of songlike quality. 6. (*pl.*) the words of a popular song. ~Also (for senses 1-3): **lyrical**. —**'lyrically** *adv.* —**'lyricality** *n.*

lyrical ('lɪrɪkəl) *adj.* 1. another word for *lyric* (senses 1-3). 2. enthusiastic; effusive.

lyricism ('lɪrɪ,sɪzəm) *n.* 1. the quality or style of lyric poetry. 2. emotional outpouring.

lyricist ('lɪrɪsɪst) *n.* 1. a person who writes the words for a song, opera, or musical play. 2. Also called: **lyrist**. a lyric poet.

M

m or **M** (em) *n.*, *pl.* **m's**, **M's**, or **Ms**. 1. the 13th letter of the English alphabet. 2. a speech sound represented by this letter, as in *mat*.

m *symbol for:* 1. metre(s). 2. mile(s). 3. milli-. 4. minute(s).

M *symbol for:* 1. mach. 2. mega-. 3. Currency. mark(s). 4. million. 5. (in Britain) motorway. 6. the Roman numeral for 1000.

m. *abbrev. for:* 1. Cricket. maiden (over). 2. male. 3. mare. 4. married. 5. masculine. 6. meridian. 7. month.

MI. *abbrev. for:* 1. Majesty. 2. Master. 3. Medieval. 4. (in titles) Member. 5. million. 6. (pl. **MM.** or **MM**) Also: **M** French. Monsieur.

M⁺ *prefix.* a variant of **Mac-**.

ma (mo:) *n.* an informal word for **mother**.

M.A. *abbrev. for:* 1. Master of Arts. 2. Military Academy.

ma'am (mæm, mɑ:m; unstressed məm) *n.* short for **madam**; used as a title of respect, esp. for female royalty.

mac or **mack** (mæk) *n.* *Inf.* short for **mackintosh**.

Mac (mæk) *n.* Chiefly U.S. an informal term of address to a man.

Mac-, Mc- or M⁺ *prefix.* (in surnames of Gaelic origin) son of: *MacDonald*.

macabre (mə'kæbə, -brə) *adj.* gruesome; ghastly; grim.

macadam (mə'kædəm) *n.* a road surface made of compressed layers of small broken stones, esp. one that is bound together with tar or asphalt. —**mac'adam,ize** or **-ise** *vb.*

macaroni or **maccaroni** (,mækə'rəʊni) *n.*, *pl.* **-nis** or **-nies**. 1. pasta tubes made from wheat flour. 2. (in 18th-century Britain) a dandy who affected foreign manners and style.

macaroon (,mækə'ru:n) *n.* a kind of sweet biscuit made of ground almonds, sugar, and egg whites.

macaw (mə'kɔ:) *n.* a large tropical American parrot having a long tail and brilliant plumage.

Macc. *abbrev. for* **Maccabees** (books of the Apocrypha).

mace¹ (meis) *n.* 1. a club, usually having a spiked metal head, used esp. in the Middle Ages. 2. a ceremonial staff of office carried by certain officials. 3. an early form of billiard cue.

mace² (meis) *n.* a spice made from the dried aril round the nutmeg seed.

macebearer (,meis,bɛəə) *n.* a person who carries a mace in processions or ceremonies.

macerate (,mæsə'reit) *vb.* 1. to soften or separate or be softened or separated as a result of soaking. 2. to become or cause to become thin. —**'macer,ator** *n.* —**'macer'ation** *n.*

Mach (mæk) *n.* short for **Mach number**.

machete (mə'ʃɛti, -'ʃɛ-) *n.* a broad heavy knife used for cutting or as a weapon, esp. in parts of Central and South America.

Machiavellian (,mækjə'veljən) *adj.* 1. of or relating to the alleged political principles of the Florentine statesman Machiavelli (1469–1527); cunning, amoral, and opportunist. ~ *n.* 2. a cunning, amoral, and opportunist person, esp. a politician. —**'Machia'vellianism** *n.*

machicolation (mə'ʃikəʊ'leɪʃən) *n.* 1. (esp. in medieval castles) a projecting gallery or parapet having openings through which missiles could be dropped. 2. any such opening.

machinate (,mæki,neit) *vb.* (usually *tr.*) to contrive, plan, or devise (schemes, plots, etc.). —**'machi'nation** *n.* —**'machi,nator** *n.*

machine (mə'ʃi:n) *n.* 1. an assembly of interconnected components arranged to transmit or modify force in order to perform useful work. 2. a device for altering the magnitude or direction of a force, esp. a lever, screw, wedge, or pulley. 3. a mechanically operated device or means of transport, such as a car, aircraft, etc. 4. any mechanical or electrical device that automatically performs tasks or assists in performing tasks. 5. any intricate structure or agency. 6. a mechanically effi-

cient, rigid, or obedient person. 7. an organized body of people that controls activities, policies, etc. ~ *vb.* 8. (*tr.*) to shape, cut, or remove (excess material) from (a workpiece) using a machine tool. 9. to use a machine to carry out a process on (something). —**ma'chinable** or **ma'chineable** *adj.* —**ma,china'bility** or **ma,chine-a'bility** *n.*

machine gun *n.* 1. a. a rapid-firing automatic gun, using small-arms ammunition. b. (as modifier): *machine-gun fire*. ~ *vb.* **machine-gun, -gunning, -gunned**. 2. (*tr.*) to shoot or fire at with a machine gun. —**machine gunner** *n.*

machine language or code *n.* instructions for a computer in binary code.

machinery (mə'ʃi:nəri) *n.*, *pl.* **-eries**. 1. machines, machine parts, or machine systems collectively. 2. a particular machine system or set of machines. 3. a system similar to a machine.

machine shop *n.* a workshop in which machine tools are operated.

machine tool *n.* a power-driven machine, such as a lathe, for cutting, shaping, and finishing metals, etc. —**ma'chine,-tooled** *adj.*

machinist (mə'ʃi:nɪst) *n.* 1. a person who operates machines to cut or process materials. 2. a maker or repairer of machines.

machismo (mæ'kɪzməʊ, -'ʃɪz-) *n.* strong or exaggerated masculinity.

Mach number *n.* (often *not cap.*) the ratio of the speed of a body in a particular medium to the speed of sound in that medium. Mach number 1 corresponds to the speed of sound.

macho (,mætʃəʊ) *n.*, *pl.* **machos**. 1. a strong virile man. ~ *adj.* 2. strongly or exaggeratedly masculine.

mack (mæk) *n.* *Brit. inf.* short for **mackintosh**.

mackerel (,mækrəl) *n.*, *pl.* **-rel** or **-rels**. 1. a spiny-finned food fish occurring in northern coastal regions of the Atlantic and in the Mediterranean. It has a deeply forked tail and a greenish-blue body marked with wavy dark bands on the back. 2. any of various related fishes.

mackintosh or **macintosh** (,mækin,təʃ) *n.* 1. a waterproof raincoat made of rubberized cloth. 2. such cloth. 3. any raincoat.

macramé (mə'kræ:mi) *n.* a type of ornamental work made by knotting and weaving coarse thread.

macro- or before a vowel **macr-** *combining form.* 1. large, long, or great in size or duration: *macroscopic*. 2. *Pathol.* indicating abnormal enlargement or overdevelopment: *macrocephaly*.

macrobotics (,mækrəʊbaɪ'ɒtɪks) *n.* (*functioning as sing.*) a dietary system which advocates whole grains and vegetables grown without chemical additives. —**'macrobi'otic** *adj.*

macrocosm (,mækrə,kɒzəm) *n.* a complex structure, such as the universe or society, regarded as an entirety. ~ *Cf.* **microcosm**. —**'macro'cosmic** *adj.* —**'macro'cosmically** *adv.*

macron (,mækrən) *n.* a diacritical mark (ˉ) placed over a letter to represent a long vowel.

macroscopic (,mækrəʊ'skɒpɪk) *adj.* 1. large enough to be visible to the naked eye. 2. comprehensive; concerned with large units. —**'macro'scopically** *adv.*

macula (,mækjʊlə) or **macule** (,mækjʊ:l) *n.*, *pl.* **-ulae** (-ju,li:) or **-ules**. *Anat.* 1. a small spot or area of distinct colour, esp. the macula lutea. 2. any small discoloured spot or blemish on the skin, such as a freckle. —**'macu-lar** *adj.* —**'macu'lation** *n.*

mad (mæd) *adj.* **madder**, **maddest**. 1. mentally deranged; insane. 2. senseless; foolish. 3. (often foll. by *at*) *Inf.* angry; resentful. 4. (foll. by *about, on, or over*; often postpositive) wildly enthusiastic (about) or fond (of). 5. extremely excited or confused; frantic: *a mad rush*. 6. wildly gay: *a mad party*. 7. temporarily overpowered by violent reactions, emotions, etc.: *mad with grief*. 8. (of animals) a. unusually ferocious: *a mad buffalo*. b. afflicted with rabies. 9. like **mad**. *Inf.* with great energy, enthusiasm, or haste. 10. **mad** as a hatter. crazy. ~ *vb.* **madding, madded**. 11. U.S. or arch. to

make or become mad; act or cause to act as if mad. —**'madness** *n.*

madam ('mædəm) *n.* 1. a polite term of address for a woman, esp. one of relatively high social status. 2. a woman who runs a brothel. 3. *Brit. inf.* a precocious or pompous little girl.

madame ('mædəm) *n., pl. mesdames* ('meɪ,dæm). a married Frenchwoman: used as a title equivalent to *Mrs.*, and sometimes extended to older unmarried women to show respect.

madcap ('mæd,kæp) *adj.* 1. impulsive, reckless, or lively. —*n.* 2. an impulsive, reckless, or lively person.

madden ('mæd'n) *vb.* to make or become mad or angry. —**'maddening** *adj.* —**'maddeningly** *adv.*

madder ('mædə) *n.* 1. a plant having small yellow flowers and a red fleshy root. 2. the root. 3. a dark reddish-purple dye formerly obtained from this root. 4. a red lake obtained from alizarin and an inorganic base; used as a pigment in inks and paints.

made (meid) *vb.* 1. the past tense and past participle of **make**. —*adj.* 2. artificially produced. 3. (*in combination*) produced or shaped as specified: **handmade**. 4. **get or have it made**. *Sl.* to be assured of success.

Madeira (mə'diə) *n.* a rich strong fortified white wine made on Madeira, a Portuguese island in the N Atlantic.

mademoiselle ('mædmwə'zel) *n., pl. mesdemoiselles* ('meɪdmwə'zel). 1. a young unmarried French girl or woman: used as a title equivalent to *Miss*. 2. a French teacher or governess.

made-up *adj.* 1. invented; fictional. 2. wearing make-up. 3. put together. 4. (of a road) surfaced with tarmac, concrete, etc.

madhouse ('mæd,haʊs) *n. Inf.* 1. a mental hospital or asylum. 2. a state of uproar or confusion.

madly ('mædi) *adv.* 1. in an insane or foolish manner. 2. with great speed and energy. 3. *Inf.* extremely or excessively: *I love you madly*.

madman ('mædmən) or (*fem.*) **madwoman** *n., pl. -men or -women.* a person who is insane.

Madonna (mə'dɒnə) *n.* 1. *Chiefly R.C. Church.* a designation of the Virgin Mary. 2. (*sometimes not cap.*) a picture or statue of the Virgin Mary.

madrigal ('mædrɪgəl) *n.* 1. *Music.* a type of 16th- or 17th-century part song for unaccompanied voices, with an amatory or pastoral text. 2. a short love poem. —**'madrigal'esque** *adj.* —**'madrigalian** ('mædrɪgə'liən, -'geɪ-) *adj.* —**'madrigalist** *n.*

maelstrom ('meɪlstrəm) *n.* 1. a large powerful whirlpool. 2. any turbulent confusion.

maenad ('mi:næd) *n.* 1. *Classical history.* a woman participant in the orgiastic rites of Dionysus, Greek god of wine. 2. a frenzied woman. —**'mae'nadic** *adj.*

maestro ('maɪstrəʊ) *n., pl. -tri (-tri) or -tros.* 1. a distinguished music teacher, conductor, or musician. 2. any master of an art: often used as a term of address.

mae west (meɪ) *n. Sl.* an inflatable life jacket, esp. as issued to the U.S. armed forces.

Mafia ('mæfiə) *n.* 1. *the.* an international secret criminal organization founded in Sicily, and carried to the U.S. by Italian immigrants. 2. any group considered to resemble the Mafia.

magazine ('mægə'zi:n) *n.* 1. a periodic paperback publication containing articles, fiction, photographs, etc. 2. *a.* a metal case holding several cartridges used in some automatic firearms. *b.* this compartment itself. 3. a building or compartment for storing weapons, explosives, military provisions, etc. 4. a stock of ammunition. 5. *Photog.* another name for **cartridge** (sense 3). 6. a rack for automatically feeding slides through a projector.

magenta (mə'dʒɛntə) *n. a.* a deep purplish red. *b. (as adj.):* a magenta filter.

maggot ('mæɡət) *n.* 1. the limbless larva of dipterous insects, esp. the housefly and blowfly. 2. *Rare.* a fancy or whim. —**'maggoty** *adj.*

magi ('meɪdʒai) *pl. n., sing. -gus (-gəs).* 1. the Zoroastrian priests of the ancient Medes and Persians. 2. *the three Magi.* the wise men from the East who came to do homage to the infant Jesus (Matthew 2:1-12). —**'magian** ('meɪdʒiən) *adj.*

magic ('mædʒɪk) *n.* 1. the art that, by use of spells, supposedly invokes supernatural powers to influence events; sorcery. 2. the practice of this art. 3. the practice of illusory tricks to entertain; conjuring. 4. any mysterious or extraordinary quality or power. 5. *like magic.* very quickly. —*adj.* also **magical**. 6. of or relating to magic. 7. possessing or considered to possess

mysterious powers. 8. unaccountably enchanting. —*vb.* -**icking, -icked.** 9. (*tr.*) to transform or produce by or as if by magic. 10. (*tr./foll. by away*) to cause to disappear as if by magic. —**'magically** *adv.*

magician (mə'dʒɪʃən) *n.* 1. another term for **conjurer**. 2. a person who practises magic. 3. a person with extraordinary skill, influence, etc.

magic lantern *n.* an early type of slide projector.

magisterial ('mædʒɪ'striəl) *adj.* 1. commanding; authoritative. 2. domineering; dictatorial. 3. of or relating to a teacher or person of similar status. 4. of or relating to a magistrate. —**'magis'terially** *adv.*

magistracy ('mædʒɪ'strəsi) or **magistrature** ('mædʒɪ'strə,tʃʊə) *n., pl. -cies or -tures.* 1. the office or function of a magistrate. 2. magistrates collectively. 3. the district under the jurisdiction of a magistrate.

magistrate ('mædʒɪ'streɪt, -strɪt) *n.* 1. a public officer concerned with the administration of law. 2. another name for **justice of the peace**. —**'magis'trateship** *n.*

magistrates' court *n.* (in England) a court held before two or more justices of the peace or a stipendiary magistrate to deal with minor crimes, certain civil actions, and preliminary hearings.

magma ('mæɡmə) *n., pl. -mas or -mata (-mətə).* 1. a paste or suspension consisting of a finely dividing solid dispersed in a liquid. 2. a hot viscous liquid within the earth's crust which solidifies to form igneous rock. —**'magmatic** ('mæɡ'mætɪk) *adj.*

Magna Carta ('mæɡnə'kɑ:tə) or **Magna Charta** *n. English history.* the charter granted by King John at Runnymede in 1215, recognizing the rights and privileges of the barons, church, and freemen.

magnanimous ('mæɡ'nænɪməs) *adj.* generous and noble. —**'magna'nimity** *n.* —**'mag'nanimously** *adv.*

magistrate ('mæɡneɪt, -nɪt) *n.* 1. a person of power and rank, esp. in industry. 2. *History.* a great nobleman. —**'magistrate, ship** *n.*

magnesia ('mæɡ'ni:ʃə) *n.* a white tasteless substance used as an antacid and laxative and in refractory materials. Formula: MgO. Also called: **magnesium oxide**. —**'mag'nesian** or **magnesian** ('mæɡ'ni:sɪk) *adj.*

magnesium ('mæɡ'nɪzɪəm) *n.* a light silvery-white metallic element of the alkaline earth series that burns with an intense white flame: used in light structural alloys, flash bulbs, flares, and fireworks. Symbol: Mg; atomic no.: 12; atomic wt.: 24.312.

magnet ('mæɡnɪt) *n.* 1. a body that can attract certain substances, such as iron or steel, as a result of a magnetic field; a piece of ferromagnetic substance. See also **electromagnet**. 2. a person or thing that exerts a great attraction.

magnetic ('mæɡ'netɪk) *adj.* 1. of, producing, or operated by means of magnetism. 2. of or concerned with a magnet. 3. of or concerned with the magnetism of the earth: *the magnetic equator*. 4. capable of being magnetized. 5. exerting a powerful attraction: *a magnetic personality*. —**'mag'netically** *adv.*

magnetic disk *n.* another name for **disk** (sense 2).

magnetic field *n.* a field of force surrounding a permanent magnet or a moving charged particle, in which another permanent magnet or moving charge experiences a force.

magnetic mine *n.* a mine designed to activate when a magnetic field such as that generated by the metal of a ship's hull is detected.

magnetic needle *n.* a slender magnetized rod used in certain instruments, such as the magnetic compass, for indicating the direction of a magnetic field.

magnetic north *n.* the direction in which a compass needle points, at an angle (the declination) from the direction of true (geographic) north.

magnetic pole *n.* 1. either of two regions in a magnet where the magnetic induction is concentrated. 2. either of two variable points on the earth's surface towards which a magnetic needle points, where the lines of force of the earth's magnetic field are vertical.

magnetic storm *n.* a sudden severe disturbance of the earth's magnetic field, caused by emission of charged particles from the sun.

magnetic tape *n.* a long narrow plastic strip coated with iron oxide, chrome dioxide, etc., used to record sound or video signals or to store information in computers.

magnetism ('mæɡnɪ,tɪzəm) *n.* 1. the property of attraction displayed by magnets. 2. any of a class of phenomena in which a field of force is caused by a moving electric charge. 3. the branch of physics con-

cerned with magnetic phenomena. 4. powerful attraction.

magnetite ('mægni,tait) *n.* a black magnetizable mineral that is an important source of iron.

magnetize or **-ise** ('mægni,təiz) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to make (a substance or object) magnetic. 2. to attract strongly. —**magnetizable** or **-isable** *adj.* —**magnetization** or **-isation** *n.* —**magnetizer** or **-iser** *n.*

magneto ('mæg'ni:təʊ) *n., pl. -tos.* a small electric generator in which the magnetic field is produced by a permanent magnet, esp. one for providing the spark in an internal-combustion engine.

magnetron ('mægni,tron) *n.* a two-electrode electronic valve used with an applied magnetic field to generate high-power microwave oscillations, esp. for use in radar.

Magnificat ('mæg'nifi,kæt) *n.* Christianity, the hymn of the Virgin Mary (Luke 1:46-55), used as a canticle.

magnification ('mæg'nifi'keiʃən) *n.* 1. the act of magnifying or the state of being magnified. 2. the degree to which something is magnified. 3. a magnified copy, photograph, drawing, etc., of something. 4. a measure of the ability of a lens or other optical instrument to magnify.

magnificent ('mæg'nifis'nt) *adj.* 1. splendid or impressive in appearance. 2. superb or very fine. 3. (esp. of ideas) noble or elevated. —**magnificence** *n.* —**magnificently** *adv.*

magnify ('mægni,fai) *vb. -fying, -fied.* 1. to increase, cause to increase, or be increased in apparent size, as through the action of a lens, microscope, etc. 2. to exaggerate or become exaggerated in importance: *don't magnify your troubles.* 3. (tr.) Arch. to glorify. —**magnifiable** *adj.* —**magnifier** *n.*

magnifying glass or **magnifier** *n.* a convex lens used to produce an enlarged image of an object.

magniloquent ('mæg'niləkwənt) *adj.* (of speech) lofty in style; grandiloquent. —**magniloquence** *n.* —**magniloquently** *adv.*

magnitude ('mægni,tju:d) *n.* 1. relative importance or significance: *a problem of the first magnitude.* 2. relative size or extent. 3. Maths. a number assigned to a quantity as a basis of comparison for the measurement of similar quantities. 4. Also called: **apparent magnitude.** Astron. the apparent brightness of a celestial body expressed on a numerical scale on which bright stars have a low value.

magnolia ('mæg'nəʊliə) *n.* 1. any tree or shrub of the genus *Magnolia* of Asia and North America: cultivated for their white, pink, purple, or yellow showy flowers. 2. the flower of any of these plants.

magnum ('mægnəm) *n., pl. -nums.* a wine bottle holding the equivalent of two normal bottles (approximately 52 fluid ounces).

magnum opus *n.* a great work of art or literature, esp. the greatest single work of an artist.

magpie ('mæg,paɪ) *n.* 1. any of various birds having a black-and-white plumage, long tail, and a chattering call. 2. any of various similar birds of Australia. 3. Brit. a person who hoards small objects. 4. a person who chatters. 5. a. the outmost ring but one on a target. b. a shot that hits this ring.

magus ('meigos) *n., pl. -gi (-dʒai).* 1. a Zoroastrian priest. 2. an astrologer, sorcerer, or magician of ancient times.

Magyar ('mægja:) *n. (pl. -yars)* a member of the predominant ethnic group of Hungary. 2. the Hungarian language. ~*adj.* 3. of or relating to the Magyars or their language. 4. Sewing, of or relating to a style of sleeve cut in one piece with the bodice.

maharajah or **maharaja** (,mə:hə'rædʒə) *n.* any of various Indian princes, esp. any of the rulers of the former native states.

maharani or **maharanee** (,mə:hə'ræni:) *n.* 1. the wife of a maharajah. 2. a woman holding the rank of maharajah.

maharishi (,mə:hə'ri:ʃi, mə'hə'ri:ʃi) *n.* Hinduism, a Hindu teacher of religious and mystical knowledge.

mahatma (mə'hə:tma) *n. (sometimes cap.)* 1. Hinduism, a Brahman sage. 2. Theosophy, an adept or sage.

mahjong or **mah-jongg** (,mə'dʒɒŋ) *n.* a game of Chinese origin, usually played by four people, using tiles bearing various designs.

mahogany (mə'hogəni) *n., pl. -nies.* 1. any of various tropical American trees valued for their hard reddish-brown wood. 2. any of several trees with similar wood, such as African mahogany and Philippine mahogany. 3.

a. the wood of any of these trees. b. (as modifier): *a mahogany table.* 4. a reddish-brown colour.

mahout (mə'haut) *n.* (in India and the East Indies) an elephant driver or keeper.

maid (meid) *n.* 1. Arch. or literary, a young unmarried girl; maiden. 2. a. a female servant. b. (in combination): *a housemaid.* 3. a spinster.

maiden ('meid'n) *n.* 1. Arch. or literary, a. a young unmarried girl, esp. a virgin. b. (as modifier): *a maiden blush.* 2. Horse racing, a. a horse that has never won a race. b. (as modifier): *a maiden race.* 3. Cricket. See **maiden over.** 4. (modifier) of or relating to an older unmarried woman: *a maiden aunt.* 5. (modifier) of or involving an initial experience or attempt: *a maiden voyage.* 6. (modifier) (of a person or thing) untried; unused. 7. (modifier) (of a place) never trodden, penetrated, or captured. —**maidenhood** *n.* —**maidenish** *adj.* —**maidenlike** *adj.* —**maidenly** *adj.*

maidenhair fern or **maidenhair** ('meid'n,hɛə) *n.* any of various ferns of tropical and warm regions, having delicate fan-shaped fronds with small pale green leaflets.

maidenhead ('meid'n,hed) *n.* 1. a nontechnical word for the hymen. 2. virginity; maidenhood.

maiden name *n.* a woman's surname before marriage.

maiden over *n.* Cricket, an over in which no runs are scored.

maid of honour *n.* 1. U.S. the principal unmarried attendant of a bride. 2. Brit. a small tart with an almond-flavoured filling. 3. an unmarried lady attending a queen or princess.

maidservant ('meid,sɜ:vənt) *n.* a female servant.

mail¹ (meil) *n.* 1. Also called (esp. Brit.): **post.** letters, packages, etc., that are transported and delivered by the post office. 2. the postal system. 3. a single collection or delivery of mail. 4. a train, ship, or aircraft that carries mail. 5. (modifier) of, involving, or used to convey mail: *a mail train.* ~*vb.* 6. (tr.) Chiefly U.S. to send by mail. —**mailable** *adj.*

mail² (meil) *n.* 1. a type of flexible armour consisting of riveted metal rings or links. 2. the hard protective shell of such animals as the turtle and lobster. ~*vb.* 3. (tr.) to clothe or arm with mail.

mailbag ('meil,bæg) or **mailsack** *n.* a large bag for transporting or delivering mail.

mailing list *n.* a register of names and addresses to which advertising matter, etc., is sent by post.

mail order *n.* 1. an order for merchandise sent by post. 2. a. a system of buying and selling merchandise through the post. b. (as modifier): *a mail-order firm.*

maim (meim) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to mutilate, cripple, or disable a part of the body of (a person or animal). 2. to make defective.

main¹ (mein) *adj. (prenominal)* 1. chief or principal. 2. sheer or utmost (esp. in by main force). 3. Naut. of, relating to, or denoting any gear, such as a stay or sail, belonging to the mainmast. ~*n.* 4. a principal pipe, conduit, duct, or line in a system used to distribute water, electricity, etc. 5. (pl.) a. the main distribution network for water, gas, or electricity. b. (as modifier): *mains voltage.* 6. the chief or most important part or consideration. 7. great strength or force (now chiefly in might and main). 8. Literary, the open ocean. 9. Arch. short for Spanish Main. 10. Arch. short for mainland. 11. in (or for) the main, on the whole; for the most part.

main² (mein) *n.* 1. a throw of the dice in dice games. 2. a cockfighting contest. 3. a match in archery, boxing, etc.

main chance *n.* self-interest (esp. in the phrase **have an eye to the main chance**).

main clause *n.* Grammar, a clause that can stand alone as a sentence.

mainframe Computers. ~*adj.* 1. denoting a high-speed general-purpose computer, usually with a large store capacity. ~*n.* 2. such a computer. 3. the central processing unit of a computer.

mainland ('meɪnlənd) *n.* the main part of a land mass as opposed to an island or peninsula. —**mainlander** *n.*

main line *n.* 1. Railways, a. the trunk route between two points, usually fed by branch lines. b. (as modifier): *a main-line station.* 2. U.S. a main road. 3. Sl. a main vein, into which a narcotic drug, esp. heroin, can be injected. ~*vb.* **mainline.** 4. (intr.) Sl. to inject a drug thus. ~*adj.* **mainline.** 5. having an important or moderate position; principal. —**mainliner** *n.*

mainly ('menli) *adv.* for the most part; to the greatest extent; principally.

mainmast ('mein,mɑ:st) *n.* *Naut.* the chief mast of a sailing vessel with two or more masts.

mainsail ('mein,seil; *Naut.* 'meins'l) *n.* *Naut.* the largest and lowermost sail on the mainmast.

mainspring ('mein,sprɪŋ) *n.* 1. the principal spring of a mechanism, esp. in a watch or clock. 2. the chief cause or motive of something.

mainstay ('mein,steɪ) *n.* 1. *Naut.* the forestay that braces the mainmast. 2. a chief support of something.

mainstream ('mein,stri:m) *n.* 1. the main current (of a river, cultural trend, etc.). ~*adj.* 2. of or relating to the style of jazz that lies between the traditional and the modern.

maintain (mein'teɪn) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to continue or retain; keep in existence. 2. to keep in proper or good condition. 3. to enable (a person) to support a style of living: *the money maintained us for a month.* 4. (takes a clause as object) to state or assert. 5. to defend against contradiction; uphold: *she maintained her innocence.* 6. to defend against physical attack. —**main'tainable** *adj.* —**main'tainer** *n.*

maintenance ('meɪntənəns) *n.* 1. the act of maintaining or the state of being maintained. 2. a means of support; livelihood. 3. (modifier) of or relating to the maintaining of buildings, machinery, etc.: *maintenance man.* 4. Law, the interference in a legal action by a person having no interest in it, as by providing funds to continue the action. 5. Law, a provision ordered to be made by way of periodical payments or a lump sum, as for a spouse after a divorce.

maisonette or **maisonnette** (meɪzə'net) *n.* self-contained living accommodation often occupying two floors of a larger house and having its own outside entrance.

maitre d'hôtel (,metrə dəu'tel) *n.*, *pl.* **maitres d'hôtel.** 1. a head waiter or steward. 2. the manager or owner of a hotel.

maize (meɪz) *n.* 1. Also called: **sweet corn**, **Indian corn**. a tall annual grass cultivated for its yellow edible grains, which develop on a spike. *b.* the grain of this plant, used for food, for fodder, and as a source of oil. 2. a yellow colour.

Maj. *abbrev.* for Major.

majesty ('mædʒɪsti) *n.* 1. great dignity of bearing; loftiness; grandeur. 2. supreme power or authority. —**ma'jestic** *adj.*

Majesty ('mædʒɪsti) *n.*, *pl.* **-ties.** (preceded by *Your, His, Her, or Their*) a title used to address or refer to a sovereign or the wife or widow of a sovereign.

majolica (mɑ'dʒɒlɪkə, mɑ'jɒl-) or **maiolica** *n.* a type of porous pottery glazed with bright metallic oxides that originated in Majolica and was extensively made in Renaissance Italy.

major ('meidʒə) *n.* 1. *Mil.* an officer immediately junior to a lieutenant colonel. 2. a person who is superior in a group or class. 3. (often preceded by *the*) *Music.* a major key, chord, mode, or scale. 4. *U.S., Austral. & N.Z.* a. the principal field of study of a student. *b.* a student who is studying a particular subject as his principal field: *a sociology major.* 5. a person who has reached the age of legal majority. 6. *Logic.* a major term or premiss. ~*adj.* 7. larger in extent, number, etc. 8. of greater importance or priority. 9. very serious or significant. 10. of, involving, or making up a majority. 11. *Music.* a. (of a scale or mode) having notes separated by a whole tone, except for the third and fourth degrees, and seventh and eighth degrees, which are separated by a semitone. *b.* relating to or employing notes from the major scale: *a major key.* *c.* (postpositive) denoting a specified key or scale as being major: *C major.* *d.* denoting a chord or triad having a major third above the root. *e.* (in jazz) denoting a major chord with a major seventh added above the root. 12. *Logic.* (of a term or premiss) having greater generality or scope than another term or proposition. 13. *Chiefly U.S. & Austral.* of or relating to a student's principal field of study at a university, etc. 14. *Brit.* the elder: used after a school-boy's surname if he has one or more younger brothers in the same school: *Price major.* 15. of full legal age. ~*vb.* 16. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *in*) *U.S., Austral., & N.Z.* to do one's principal study (in a particular subject): *to major in English literature.* —**majorship** *n.*

major-domo (,meidʒə'dəʊmɔʊ) *n.*, *pl.* **-mos.** 1. the chief steward or butler of a great household. 2. *Facetious.* a steward or butler.

major general *n.* *Mil.* an officer immediately junior

to a lieutenant general. —**major-'general, ship** or **'major-'generality** *n.*

majority (mə'dʒɒrɪti) *n.*, *pl.* **-ties.** 1. the greater number or part of something. 2. (in an election) the number of votes or seats by which the strongest party or candidate beats the combined opposition or the runner-up. 3. the largest party or group that votes together in a legislative or deliberative assembly. 4. the time of reaching or state of having reached full legal age. 5. the rank, office, or commission of major. 6. *Euphemistic.* the dead (esp. in *join the majority, go or pass over to the majority*). 7. (modifier) of, involving, or being a majority: *a majority decision.* 8. in the majority, forming or part of the greater number of something.

make (meɪk) *vb.* **making, made.** (*mainly tr.*) 1. to bring into being by shaping, changing, or combining materials, ideas, etc.; form or fashion. 2. to draw up, establish, or form: *to make one's will.* 3. to cause to exist, bring about, or produce: *don't make a noise.* 4. to cause, compel, or induce: *please make him go away.* 5. to appoint or assign: *they made him chairman.* 6. to constitute: *one swallow doesn't make a summer.* 7. (*also intr.*) to come or cause to come into a specified state or condition: *to make merry.* 8. (*copula*) to be or become through development: *he will make a good teacher.* 9. to cause or ensure the success of: *your news has made my day.* 10. to amount to: *twelve inches make a foot.* 11. to serve as or be suitable for: *that piece of cloth will make a coat.* 12. to prepare or put into a fit condition for use: *to make a bed.* 13. to be the essential element in or part of: *charm makes a good salesman.* 14. to carry out, effect, or do. 15. (*intr.*; foll. by *to*, *as if to*, or *as though to*) to act with the intention or with a show of doing something: *he made as if to hit her.* 16. to use for a specified purpose: *I will make this town my base.* 17. to deliver or pronounce: *to make a speech.* 18. to give information or an opinion: *what time do you make it?* 19. to cause to seem or represent as being. 20. to earn, acquire, or win for oneself: *to make friends.* 21. to engage in: *to make war.* 22. to traverse or cover (distance) by travelling: *we can make a hundred miles by nightfall.* 23. to arrive in time for: *he didn't make the first act of the play.* 24. *Cards.* a. to win a trick with (a specified card). *b.* to shuffle (the cards). *c.* Bridge, to fulfil (a contract) by winning the necessary number of tricks. 25. *Cricket.* to score (runs). 26. *Electronics.* to close (a circuit) permitting a flow of current. 27. (*intr.*) to increase in depth: *the water in the hold was making a foot a minute.* 28. *Inf.* to gain a place or position on or in: *to make the headlines.* 29. *Inf.*, chiefly *U.S.* to achieve the rank of. 30. *Taboo sl.* to succeed in having sexual intercourse with (a girl). 31. *make a book.* to take bets on a race or another contest. 32. *make a day, etc., of it.* to cause an activity to last a day, etc. 33. *make do.* See *do* (sense 29). 34. *make eyes at.* to flirt with or ogle. 35. *make good.* a. to repair or provide restitution for. *b.* to be successful in (a plan, activity, etc.): *he made good his intention.* 36. *make heavy weather (of).* *a. Naut.* to roll and pitch in heavy seas. *b. Inf.* to carry out with great difficulty or unnecessarily great effort. 37. *make it.* *a. Inf.* to be successful in doing something. *b.* (foll. by *with*) *Taboo sl.* to have sexual intercourse. 38. *make like.* *Sl.*, chiefly *U.S.* to imitate. 39. *make love (to).* a. to have sexual intercourse (with). *b.* to engage in courtship (with). 40. *make time.* See *time* (sense 38). 41. *make water.* a. another term for *urinate*. *b.* (of a boat, hull, etc.) to let in water. ~*n.* 42. brand, type, or style. 43. the manner or way in which something is made. 44. disposition or character; make-up. 45. the act or process of making. 46. the amount or number made. 47. *Cards.* a player's turn to shuffle. 48. *on the make.* *Sl.* a. out for profit or conquest. *b.* in search of a sexual partner. ~See also *make away, make for, etc.* —**'makable** *adj.*

make away *vb.* (*intr.*, *adv.*) 1. to depart in haste. 2. *make away with.* a. to steal or abduct. *b.* to kill, destroy, or get rid of.

make believe *vb.* 1. to pretend or enact a fantasy. ~*n.* **make-believe.** 2. a. a fantasy or pretence. *b.* (as modifier) a make-believe world.

make for *vb.* (*intr.*, *prep.*) 1. to head towards. 2. to prepare to attack. 3. to help bring about.

make of *vb.* (*tr.*, *prep.*) 1. to interpret as the meaning of. 2. to produce or construct from: *houses made of brick.* 3. *make little, much, etc. of.* a. to gain little, much, etc., benefit from. *b.* to attribute little, much, etc., significance to.

make off *vb.* 1. (*intr.*, *adv.*) to go or run away in haste. 2. *make off with.* to steal or abduct.

make out *vb. (adv.)* 1. (tr.) to discern or perceive. 2. (tr.) to understand or comprehend. 3. (tr.) to write out: *he made out a cheque*. 4. (tr.) to attempt to establish or prove: *he made me out to be a liar*. 5. (intr.) to pretend: *he made out that he could cook*. 6. (intr.) to manage or fare.

maker ('meɪkə) *n.* a person who executes a legal document, esp. one who signs a promissory note.

Maker ('meɪkə) *n.* 1. a title given to God (as Creator). 2. (go to) meet one's Maker. to die.

makeshift ('meɪkʃɪft) *adj.* 1. serving as a temporary or expedient means. ~*n.* 2. something serving in this capacity.

make-up *n.* 1. cosmetics, such as powder, lipstick, etc., applied to the face. 2. a. the cosmetics, false hair, etc., used by an actor to adapt his appearance. b. the art or result of applying such cosmetics. 3. the manner of arrangement of the parts or qualities of someone or something. 4. the arrangement of type matter and illustrations on a page or in a book. 5. mental or physical constitution. ~*vb.* **make up** (adv.) 6. (tr.) to form or constitute: *these arguments make up the case for the defence*. 7. (tr.) to devise, construct, or compose, sometimes with the intent to deceive: *to make up an excuse*. 8. (tr.) to supply what is lacking or deficient in; complete: *these extra people will make up our total*. 9. (tr.) to put in order, arrange, or prepare: *to make up a bed*. 10. (intr.; foll. by *for*) to compensate or atone (for). 11. to settle (differences) amicably (often in **make it up**). 12. to apply cosmetics to (the face, etc.) to enhance one's appearance or for a theatrical role. 13. to assemble (type and illustrations) into (columns or pages). 14. (tr.) to surface (a road) with tarmac, concrete, etc. 15. **make up one's mind**. to make a decision (about something or to do something). 16. **make up to**. *Inf.* a. to make friendly overtures to. b. to flirt with.

makeweight ('meɪkweɪt) *n.* 1. something put on a scale to make up a required weight. 2. an unimportant person or thing added to make up a lack.

making ('meɪkɪŋ) *n.* 1. a. the act of a person or thing that makes or the process of being made. b. (in combination): *watchmaking*. 2. be the making of. to cause the success of. 3. in the making. in the process of becoming or being made. 4. something made or the quantity of something made at one time.

makings ('meɪkɪŋz) *pl. n.* 1. potentials, qualities, or materials: *he had the makings of a leader*. 2. Also called: *rollings*. *U.S., Austral., & N.Z. sl.* the tobacco and cigarette paper used for rolling a cigarette. 3. profits; earnings.

Mal. *abbrev. for:* 1. Bible. Malachi. 2. Malay(an).

mal- *combining form.* bad or badly; wrong or wrongly; imperfect or defective: *maladjusted*; *malfunction*.

malachite ('mæləˌkaɪt) *n.* a green mineral consisting of hydrated basic copper carbonate: a source of copper, also used for making ornaments.

maladjustment ('mæləˌdʒʌstmənt) *n.* 1. *Psychol.* a failure to meet the demands of society, such as coping with problems and social relationships. 2. faulty or bad adjustment. — *maladjusted* *adj.*

maladminister ('mælədˌmɪnɪstə) *vb. (tr.)* to administer badly, inefficiently, or dishonestly. — *malad, ministration* *n.*

maladroit ('mæləˌdroɪt) *adj.* 1. clumsy; not dexterous. 2. tactless and insensitive. — *mala'droitly* *adv.* — *mala'droitness* *n.*

malady ('mælədi) *n., pl. -dies.* 1. any disease or illness. 2. any unhealthy, morbid, or desperate condition.

Málaga ('mæləgə) *n.* a sweet fortified dessert wine from Málaga, a port in S Spain.

malaise ('mæˌleɪz) *n.* a feeling of unease, mild sickness, or depression.

malapropism ('mæləˌprɒp,ɪzəm) or **malaprop** *n.* 1. the unintentional misuse of a word by confusion with one of similar sound, esp. when creating a ridiculous effect, as in *under the affluence of alcohol*. 2. the habit of misusing words in this manner.

malaria ('mæləˌeəriə) *n.* an infectious disease characterized by recurring attacks of chills and fever, caused by the bite of an anopheles mosquito infected with any of certain protozoans. — *ma'larial*, *ma'larian*, or *ma'lari-ous* *adj.*

malarky or **malarky** ('mælˌɑːki) *n.* *Inf.* nonsense; rubbish.

Malathion ('mæləˌθaɪən) *n.* *Trademark.* an insecticide consisting of an organic phosphate.

Malay ('məˌleɪ) *n.* 1. a member of a people living

chiefly in Malaysia and Indonesia. 2. the language of this people. ~*adj.* 3. of or relating to the Malays or their language.

malcontent ('mælkənˌtɛnt) *adj.* 1. disgusted or discontented. ~*n.* 2. a person who is malcontent.

male (meɪ) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or designating the sex producing gametes (spermatozoa) that can fertilize female gametes (ova). 2. of, relating to, or characteristic of a man. 3. for or composed of men or boys: *a male choir*. 4. (of gametes) capable of fertilizing an egg cell. 5. (of reproductive organs) capable of producing male gametes. 6. (of flowers) bearing stamens but lacking a functional pistil. 7. *Electronics, engineering.* having a projecting part or parts that fit into a female counterpart: *a male plug*. ~*n.* 8. a male person, animal, or plant. — *maleness* *n.*

male chauvinism *n.* the belief, held or alleged to be held by certain men, that men are superior to women. — *male chauvinist* *n.*

malediction ('mælɪˌdɪkʃən) *n.* 1. the utterance of a curse against someone or something. 2. a slanderous accusation or comment. — *male'dictive* or *male'dictory* *adj.*

malefactor ('mælɪˌfæktə) *n.* a criminal; wrongdoer. — *male'faction* *n.*

malevolent ('mæləˌvələnt) *adj.* wishing or appearing to wish evil to others; malicious. — *ma'levolence* *n.* — *ma'levolently* *adv.*

malfeasance ('mælˌfiːzəns) *n.* *Law.* the doing of a wrongful or illegal act, esp. by a public official. Cf. *misfeasance*. — *mal'feasant* *n., adj.*

malformation ('mælˌfɔːmeɪʃən) *n.* 1. the condition of being faulty or abnormal in form or shape. 2. *Pathol.* a deformity, esp. when congenital. — *mal'formed* *adj.*

malfunction ('mælˌfʌŋkʃən) *vb.* 1. (intr.) to function imperfectly or fail to function. ~*n.* 2. failure to function or defective functioning.

malice ('mælis) *n.* 1. the desire to do harm or mischief. 2. evil intent. 3. *Law.* the state of mind with which an act is committed and from which the intent to do wrong may be inferred. — *malicious* ('mæljʃəs) *adj.*

malign ('mæliəm) *adj.* 1. evil in influence, intention, or effect. ~*vb.* 2. (tr.) to slander or defame. — *ma'ligner* *n.* — *ma'ligly* *adv.*

malignant ('mæliɡnənt) *adj.* 1. having or showing desire to harm others. 2. tending to cause great harm; injurious. 3. *Pathol.* (of a tumour, etc.) uncontrollable or resistant to therapy. — *ma'lignancy* *n.* — *ma'ligantly* *adv.*

maliginity ('mæliɡnɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. the condition or quality of being malign or deadly. 2. (often *pl.*) a malign or malicious act or feeling.

malinger ('mæliŋɡə) *vb. (intr.)* to pretend or exaggerate illness, esp. to avoid work. — *ma'lingerer* *n.*

mall (mɔːl, məl) *n.* 1. a shaded avenue, esp. one open to the public. 2. a street or area lined with shops and closed to vehicles. 3. See *pall-mall*.

mallard ('mæləˌd) *n., pl. -lards* or *-lards*. a duck common over most of the N hemisphere, the male of which has a dark green head and reddish-brown breast: the ancestor of all domestic breeds of duck.

malleable ('mæləbəl) *adj.* 1. (esp. of metal) able to be worked, hammered, or shaped under pressure or blows without breaking. 2. able to be influenced; pliable or tractable. — *mallea'bility* or *malleableness* *n.* — *malleably* *adv.*

mallet ('mælit) *n.* 1. a tool resembling a hammer but having a large head of wood, copper, lead, leather, etc., used for driving chisels, beating sheet metal, etc. 2. a long stick with a head like a hammer used to strike the ball in croquet or polo.

mallow ('mæləʊ) *n.* 1. any of several malvaceous plants of Europe, having purple, pink, or white flowers. 2. any of various related plants, such as the marsh mallow.

malmsey ('mɑːmzi) *n.* a sweet Madeira wine.

malnutrition ('mælnjuːˌtrɪʃən) *n.* lack of adequate nutrition resulting from insufficient food, unbalanced diet, or defective assimilation.

malodorous ('mælˌəʊdəərəs) *adj.* having a bad smell.

malpractice ('mælˌpræktɪs) *n.* 1. immoral, illegal, or unethical professional conduct or neglect of professional duty. 2. any instance of improper professional conduct.

malt (mɔːlt) *n.* 1. cereal grain, such as barley, that is kiln-dried after it has germinated by soaking in water. 2. Also called: *malt liquor*. any alcoholic drink brewed

from malt. ~vb. 3. to make into or become malt. 4. to make (something, esp. liquor) with malt. —'malty adj.

Maltese (mæl'ti:z) adj. 1. of or relating to Malta, its inhabitants, or their language. ~n. 2. (pl. -tese) a native or inhabitant of Malta. 3. the official language of Malta, a form of Arabic with borrowings from Italian, etc.

Maltese cross n. a cross with triangular arms that taper towards the centre, sometimes having indented outer sides.

Malthusian (mæl'θju:zjən) adj. 1. of or relating to the theory of T. R. Malthus (1766-1834), English economist, stating that increases in population tend to exceed increases in the means of subsistence and that therefore sexual restraint should be exercised. ~n. 2. a supporter of this theory. —Mal'thusianism n.

maltese ('mɔ:ltsəʊz) n. a sugar formed by the enzymic hydrolysis of starch.

maltreat (mæl'trit) vb. (tr.) to treat badly, cruelly, or inconsiderately. —mal'treater n. —mal'treatment n.

malversation (,mælvɜ: 'seɪʃən) n. Rare. professional or public misconduct.

mam (mæm) n. Brit. dialect. another word for mother.

mama or esp. U.S. **mamma** (mɑ'mɑ:) n. Old-fashioned. an informal word for mother.

mamba ('mæmbə) n. any of various partly arboreal tropical African venomous snakes, esp. the green and black mambas.

mambo ('mæmbəʊ) n., pl. -bos. 1. a modern Latin American dance, resembling the rumba. ~vb. 2. (intr.) to perform this dance.

Mameluke or **Mamaluks** ('mæmi,lʊ:k) n. 1. a member of a military class, originally of Turkish slaves, ruling in Egypt from about 1250 to 1517 and remaining powerful until 1811. 2. (in Muslim countries) a slave.

mamilla or U.S. **mammilla** (mæ'milə) n., pl. -lae (-li:). 1. a nipple or teat. 2. any nipple-shaped prominence. —'mamillary or U.S. 'mammillary adj.

mamma ('mæmə) n., pl. -mae (-mi:). the milk-secreting organ of female mammals: the breast in women, the udder in cows, etc. —'mammary adj.

mammal ('mæməl) n. any animal of the *Mammalia*, a large class of warm-blooded vertebrates having mammary glands in the female. —'mammalian (mæ'meliən) adj., n.

mammon ('mæmən) n. riches or wealth regarded as a source of evil and corruption. —'mammonish adj. —'mammonism n. —'mammonist or 'mammonite n.

Mammon ('mæmən) n. Bible, the personification of riches and greed in the form of a false god.

mammoth ('mæməθ) n. 1. any large extinct elephant of the Pleistocene epoch, such as the woolly mammoth, having a hairy coat and long curved tusks. ~adj. 2. of gigantic size or importance.

man (mæn) n., pl. **men** (men). 1. an adult male human being, as distinguished from a woman. 2. (modifier) male; masculine: a man child. 3. a human being, considered as representative of mankind. 4. human beings collectively; mankind. 5. Also called: **modern man**. a. a member of any of the living races of *Homo sapiens*, characterized by erect bipedal posture, a highly developed brain, and powers of articulate speech, abstract reasoning, and imagination. b. any extinct member of the species *Homo sapiens*, such as Cro-Magnon man. 6. a member of any of the extinct species of the genus *Homo*, such as Java man. 7. an adult male human being with qualities associated with the male, such as courage or virility: be a man. 8. manly qualities or virtues: the man in him was outraged. 9. a. a subordinate, servant, or employee. b. (in combination) the man-days required to complete a job. 10. (usually pl.) a member of the armed forces who does not hold commissioned, warrant, or noncommissioned rank (as in officers and men). 11. a member of a group, team, etc. 12. a husband, boyfriend, etc. 13. an expression used parenthetically by hippies, etc., to indicate an informal relationship between speaker and hearer. 14. a movable piece in various games, such as draughts. 15. a vassal of a feudal lord. 16. S. African sl. any person. 17. as one man. with unanimous action or response. 18. be one's own man. to be independent or free. 19. he's your man. he's the person needed. 20. man and boy. from childhood. 21. sort out or separate the men from the boys. to separate the experienced from the inexperienced. 22. to a man. without exception. ~interj. 23. Inf. an exclamation or expletive, often indicating surprise or pleasure. ~vb. **manning**, **manned**. (tr.) 24. to provide with sufficient men for operation, defence, etc. 25. to

take one's place at or near in readiness for action. —'manhood n.

Man. abbrev. for: 1. Manila (paper). 2. Manitoba.

manacle ('mænəkl) n. 1. (usually pl.) a shackle, handcuff, or fetter, used to secure the hands of a prisoner, convict, etc. ~vb. (tr.) 2. to put manacles on. 3. to confine or constrain.

manage ('mænidʒ) vb. (mainly tr.) 1. (also intr.) to be in charge (of); administer: to manage a shop. 2. to succeed in being able (to do something); contrive. 3. to have room, time, etc., for: can you manage dinner tomorrow? 4. to exercise control or domination over. 5. (intr.) to contrive to carry on despite difficulties, esp. financial ones. 6. to wield or handle (a weapon). —'manageable adj.

management ('mænidʒmənt) n. 1. the members of the executive or administration of an organization or business. 2. managers or employers collectively. 3. the technique, practice, or science of managing or controlling. 4. the skilful or resourceful use of materials, time, etc. 5. the specific treatment of a disease, etc.

manager ('mænidʒə) n. 1. a person who directs or manages an organization, industry, shop, etc. 2. a person who controls the business affairs of an actor, entertainer, etc. 3. a person who controls the training of a sportsman or team. 4. a person who has a talent for managing efficiently. 5. (in Britain) a member of either House of Parliament appointed to arrange a matter in which both Houses are concerned. —'managerial (,mænə'dʒiəriəl) adj. —'manager, ship n.

managing ('mænidʒɪŋ) adj. having administrative control or authority: a managing director.

mañana Spanish. (mɑ'njɑ:nə) n., adv. a. tomorrow. b. some other and later time.

man-at-arms n., pl. **men-at-arms**. a soldier, esp. a heavily armed mounted soldier in medieval times.

manatee (,mæno'ti:ə) n. a sirenian mammal occurring in tropical coastal waters of America, the West Indies, and Africa, having a prehensile upper lip and a broad flattened tail.

Manchu (mæn'tʃu: n. 1. (pl. -chus or -chu) a member of a Mongoloid people of Manchuria, a region of NE China, who conquered China in the 17th century, establishing an imperial dynasty that lasted until 1912. 2. the language of this people. ~adj. 3. Also: **Ching**. of or relating to the dynasty of the Manchus.

Mancunian (mæŋ'kjʊ:njən) n. 1. a native or inhabitant of Manchester, a city in NW England. ~adj. 2. of or relating to Manchester.

~mancy n. combining form. indicating divination of a particular kind: chiromancy. —'mantic adj. combining form.

mandala ('mændələ, mæn'dələ) n. Hindu and Buddhist art. any of various designs symbolizing the universe, usually circular.

mandamus (mæn'deɪməs) n., pl. -muses. Law. (formerly) a writ, now a prerogative order, from a superior court commanding an inferior tribunal, public official, etc., to take some specified action.

mandarin ('mændərɪn) n. 1. (in the Chinese Empire) a member of a senior grade of the bureaucracy. 2. a high-ranking official whose powers are extensive and thought to be outside political control. 3. a. a small citrus tree cultivated for its edible fruit. b. the fruit, resembling the tangerine. —'mandarinate n.

Mandarin Chinese or **Mandarin** n. the official language of China since 1917.

mandate n. ('mændət, -dit). 1. an official or authoritative instruction or command. 2. Politics. the support or commission given to a government and its policies or an elected representative and his policies through an electoral victory. 3. (often cap.) Also called: **mandated territory**. (formerly) any of the territories under the trusteeship of the League of Nations administered by one of its member states. 4. a. Roman law. a contract by which one person commissions another to act for him gratuitously. b. Contract law. a contract under which a party entrusted with goods undertakes to perform gratuitously some service in respect of such goods. c. Scot. law. a contract by which a person is engaged to act in the management of the affairs of another. ~vb. ('mændət). (tr.) 5. to assign (territory) to a nation under a mandate. 6. to delegate authority to. —'mandator n.

mandatory ('mændətəri, -tri) adj. also **mandatory**. 1. having the nature or powers of a mandate. 2. obligatory; compulsory. 3. (of a state) having received a

mandate over some territory. ~*n*, *pl.* -ries. 4. a person or state holding a mandate. —'mandatorily adv.

mandible ('mændɪbəl) *n.* 1. the lower jawbone in vertebrates. 2. either of a pair of mouthparts in insects and other arthropods that are usually used for biting and crushing food. 3. *Ornithol.* either part of the bill, esp. the lower part. —**mandibular** (mæn'dɪbjʊlə) *adj.* —**mandibulate** (mæn'dɪbjʊlət, -lət) *n.*, *adj.*

mandolin or **mandoline** (,mændə'lin) *n.* a plucked stringed instrument having four pairs of strings stretched over a small light body with a fretted finger board. It is usually played with a plectrum. —, **mando-**'*linist n.*

mandrake ('mændreɪk) or **mandragora** (mæn-'dræɡərə) *n.* a Eurasian plant with purplish flowers and a forked root. It was formerly thought to have magic powers and a narcotic was prepared from its root.

mandrel or **mandril** ('mændrəl) *n.* 1. a spindle on which a workpiece is supported during machining operations. 2. a shaft or arbor on which a machining tool is mounted.

mandrill ('mændrɪl) *n.* an Old World monkey of W Africa. It has a short tail and brown hair, and the ridged muzzle, nose, and hindquarters are red and blue.

mane (meɪn) *n.* 1. the long coarse hair that grows from the crest of the neck in such mammals as the lion and horse. 2. long thick human hair. —**maned** *adj.*

manège or **manege** (mæ'neɪʒ) *n.* 1. the art of training horses and riders. 2. a riding school.

man Friday *n.* 1. a loyal male servant or assistant. 2. Also: **Girl Friday**, **Person Friday**. any factotum, esp. in an office.

manful ('mænfʊl) *adj.* resolute, strong; manly. —'manfully *adv.* —'manfulness *n.*

manganese (,mæŋɡə'ni:z) *n.* a brittle greyish-white metallic element: used in making steel and ferromagnetic alloys. Symbol: Mn; atomic no.: 25; atomic wt.: 54.938.

mange (meɪndʒ) *n.* an infectious disorder mainly affecting domestic animals, characterized by itching and loss of hair: caused by parasitic mites.

mangelwurzel ('mæŋɡl',wɜ:zəl) or **mangoldwurzel** ('mæŋɡəʊld,wɜ:zəl) *n.* a Eurasian variety of beet, cultivated as a cattle food, having a large yellowish root.

manger ('meɪndʒə) *n.* a trough or box in a stable, barn, etc., from which horses or cattle feed.

mangle ('mæŋɡl) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to mutilate, disfigure, or destroy by cutting, crushing, or tearing. 2. to ruin, spoil, or mar. —'mangler *n.*

mangle ('mæŋɡl) *n.* 1. a machine for pressing or drying textiles, clothes, etc., consisting of two heavy rollers between which the cloth is passed. 2. Chiefly *Brit.* another word for **wringer**. ~*vb.* (tr.) 3. to press or dry in a mangle.

mango ('mæŋɡəʊ) *n.*, *pl.* -goes or -gos. 1. a tropical Asian evergreen tree, cultivated in the tropics for its fruit. 2. the ovoid edible fruit of this tree, having a smooth rind and sweet juicy flesh.

mangrove ('mæŋɡrəʊv, 'mæŋ-) *n.* any of various tropical evergreen trees or shrubs, having stiltlike intertwining aerial roots and forming dense thickets along coasts.

mangy or **mangey** ('meɪndʒɪ) *adj.* -gier, -giest. 1. having or caused by mange. 2. scruffy or shabby. —'mangily *adv.* —'manginess *n.*

manhandle ('mæn,hændl, 'mæn'hændl) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to handle or push (someone) about roughly. 2. to move or do by manpower rather than by machinery.

manhole ('mæn,həʊl) *n.* 1. Also called: **inspection chamber**. a shaft with a removable cover that leads down to a sewer or drain. 2. a hole, usually with a detachable cover, through which a man can enter a boiler, tank, etc.

man-hour *n.* a unit of work in industry, equal to the work done by one man in one hour.

manhunt ('mæn,hʌnt) *n.* an organized search, usually by police, for a wanted man or fugitive.

mania ('meɪniə) *n.* 1. a mental disorder characterized by great excitement and occasionally violent behaviour. 2. obsessional enthusiasm or partiality. —'manic *adj.*

-**mania** *n.* combining form, indicating extreme desire or pleasure of a specified kind or an abnormal excitement aroused by something: *kleptomania*; *nymphomania*; *pyromania*. —'maniac *n.* and *adj.* combining form.

maniac ('meɪni,æk) *n.* 1. *Inf.* a wild disorderly person. 2. *Inf.* a person who has a great craving or enthusiasm for something. 3. *Psychiatry*, *obs.* a person afflicted

with mania. —'maniacal (mə'niakəl) or 'maniac *adj.* —'ma'niacally *adv.*

manic-depressive *Psychiatry.* ~*adj.* 1. denoting a mental disorder characterized by an alternation between extreme excitement and confidence and deep depression. ~*n.* 2. a person afflicted with this disorder.

manicure ('mæni,kjʊə) *n.* 1. care of the hands and fingernails, involving shaping the nails, removing cuticles, etc. 2. Also called: **manicurist**, a person who gives manicures, esp. as a profession. ~*vb.* 3. to care for (the hands and fingernails) in this way.

manifest ('mæni,fest) *adj.* 1. easily noticed or perceived; obvious. ~*vb.* 2. (tr.) to show plainly; reveal or display. 3. (tr.) to prove beyond doubt. 4. (*intr.*) (of a disembodied spirit) to appear in visible form. ~*n.* 5. a customs document containing particulars of a ship, its cargo, and its destination. 6. Chiefly *U.S.* a. a list of cargo, passengers, etc., on an aeroplane. b. a list of railway trucks or their cargo. —'mani,festable *adj.* —, **manifes'tation** *n.* —'mani,festly *adv.*

manifesto (,mæni'festəʊ) *n.*, *pl.* -tos or -tos. a public declaration of intent, policy, aims, etc., as issued by a political party, government, or movement.

manifold ('mæni,fəʊld) *adj.* *Formal.* 1. of several different kinds; multiple. 2. having many different forms, features, or elements. ~*n.* 3. something having many varied parts, forms, or features. 4. a chamber or pipe with a number of inlets or outlets used to collect or distribute a fluid. In an internal-combustion engine the **inlet manifold** carries the vaporized fuel from the carburettor to the inlet ports and the **exhaust manifold** carries the exhaust gases away. ~*vb.* 5. (tr.) to duplicate (a page, book, etc.). 6. to make manifold; multiply. —'mani,foldly *adv.* —'mani,foldness *n.*

manikin, **manakin**, or **mannikin** ('mænikɪn) *n.* 1. a little man; dwarf or child. 2. an anatomical model of the body or a part of the body, esp. for use in medical or art instruction. 3. variants of **mannequin**.

Manila hemp or **Manilla hemp** *n.* a fibre obtained from the plant abaca, used for rope, paper, etc.

Manila paper or **Manilla paper** *n.* a strong usually brown paper made from Manila hemp or similar fibres.

man in the street *n.* the typical or ordinary person.

manipulate (mə'nɪpjʊ,leɪt) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to handle or use, esp. with some skill. 2. to control or influence (something) cleverly or skilfully. 3. to falsify (accounts, etc.) for one's own advantage. 4. (in physiotherapy) to examine or treat manually, as in loosening a joint.

—**manipulability** (mə'nɪpjʊlə'bɪlɪtɪ) *n.* —**ma'nipu,lat-able** or **ma'nipulable** *adj.* —**ma,nipu'lation** *n.* —**ma'nipulative** *adj.* —**ma'nipu,lator** *n.* —**ma'nipulatory** *adj.*

Manitoba (,mæni'təʊbə) *adj.* 1. of or denoting Manitoba, a province of W Canada. ~*n.* 2. a native or inhabitant of Manitoba.

mankind (,mæn'kaɪnd) *n.* 1. human beings collectively; humanity. 2. men collectively, as opposed to woman-kind.

manly ('mænli) *adj.* -lier, -liest. 1. possessing qualities, such as vigour or courage, generally regarded as appropriate to or typical of a man; masculine. 2. characteristic of or befitting a man: a **manly occupation**. —'manliness *n.*

man-made *adj.* made by man; artificial.

manna ('mæna) *n.* 1. *Old Testament*. the miraculous food which sustained the Israelites in the wilderness (Exodus 16:14-36). 2. any spiritual or divine nourishment. 3. a sweet substance obtained from various plants, esp. from the **manna** or **flowering ash** of S Europe, used as a mild laxative.

manned (mænd) *adj.* 1. supplied or equipped with men, esp. soldiers. 2. (of spacecraft, etc.) having a human crew.

mannequin ('mænikɪn) *n.* 1. a woman who wears the clothes displayed at a fashion show; model. 2. a life-size dummy of the human body used to fit or display clothes.

manner ('mæna) *n.* 1. a way of doing or being. 2. a person's bearing and behaviour. 3. the style or customary way of doing or accomplishing something. 4. type or kind. 5. **mannered** style, as in art; mannerism. 6. **by all manner of means**, certainly; of course. 7. **by no manner of means**, under no circumstances. 8. **in a manner of speaking**, in a way; so to speak. 9. **to the manner born**, naturally fitted to a specified role or activity.

mannered ('mænəd) *adj.* 1. having idiosyncrasies or mannerisms; affected. 2. (*in combination*) having manners as specified: **ill-mannered**.

mannerism ('mænə,rɪzəm) *n.* 1. a distinctive and individual gesture or trait. 2. (*often cap.*) a principally Italian movement in art and architecture between the High Renaissance and Baroque periods (1520–1600), using distortion and exaggeration of human proportions, perspective, etc. 3. adherence to a distinctive or affected manner, esp. in art or literature. — **mannerist** *n.* **adj.** — **manner'istic** *adj.* — **manner'istically** *adv.*

mannerless ('mænəlɪs) *adj.* having bad manners; boorish. — **mannerlessness** *n.*

mannerly ('mænəli) *adj.* 1. well-mannered; polite. — **adv.** 2. *Now rare.* with good manners; politely. — **mannerliness** *n.*

manners ('mænəz) *pl. n.* 1. social conduct. 2. a socially acceptable way of behaving.

mannish ('mænɪʃ) *adj.* 1. (of a woman) displaying qualities regarded as typical of a man. 2. of or resembling a man. — **mannishly** *adv.* — **mannishness** *n.*

manoeuvre or *U.S. maneuver* (mə'nu:və) *n.* 1. a contrived, complicated, and possibly deceptive plan or action. 2. a movement or action requiring dexterity and skill. 3. a. a tactic or movement of a military or naval unit. b. (*pl.*) tactical exercises, usually on a large scale. 4. a planned movement of an aircraft in flight. — **vb.** 5. (*tr.*) to contrive or accomplish with skill or cunning. 6. (*intr.*) to manipulate situations, etc., in order to gain some end. 7. (*intr.*) to perform a manoeuvre or manoeuvres. 8. to move or deploy or be moved or deployed, as military units, etc. — **ma'noeuverable** or *U.S. ma'neuverable* *adj.* — **ma'noeuvera'bility** or *U.S. ma'neuvera'bility* *n.* — **ma'noeuvrer** or *U.S. ma'neuverer* *n.*

man-of-war or **man o' war** *n., pl. men-of-war, men o' war.* 1. a warship. 2. See *Portuguese man-of-war*.

manor ('mænə) *n.* 1. (in medieval Europe) the manor house of a lord and the lands attached to it. 2. a manor house. 3. a landed estate. 4. *Brit. inf.* a police district. — **manorial** (mə'nɔ:riəl) *adj.*

manor house or **seat** *n.* (esp. formerly) the house of the lord of a manor.

manpower ('mæn,pəʊə) *n.* 1. power supplied by men. 2. a unit of power based on the rate at which a man can work; approximately 75 watts. 3. the number of people needed or available for a job.

manqué *French.* ('mɒŋkeɪ) *adj.* (*postpositive*) unfilled; potential; would-be: *the manager is an actor manqué.*

mansard ('mænsɑ:d, -sɒd) *n.* Also called: **mansard roof.** a roof having two slopes on both sides and both ends, the lower slopes being steeper than the upper.

manse (mæns) *n.* (in certain religious denominations) the house provided for a minister.

manservant ('mæns,ɜ:vənt) *n., pl. menservants.* a male servant, esp. a valet.

mansion ('mænjən) *n.* 1. Also called: **mansion house,** a large and imposing house. 2. a less common word for **manor house.** 3. (*pl.*) a block of flats.

Mansion House *n.* the residence of the Lord Mayor of London.

manslaughter ('mæns,lɔ:tə) *n.* 1. Law. the unlawful killing of one human being by another without malice aforethought. Cf. **murder.** 2. (loosely) the killing of a human being.

mantel or **mantle** ('mæntl) *n.* 1. a wooden or stone frame around the opening of a fireplace, together with its decorative facing. 2. Also called: **mantel shelf.** a shelf above this frame.

mantelpiece ('mæntl,pi:s) *n.* 1. Also called: **mantel shelf, chimneypiece,** a shelf above a fireplace often forming part of the mantel. 2. another word for **mantel** (sense 1).

mantic ('mæntɪk) *adj.* 1. of or relating to divination and prophecy. 2. having divining or prophetic powers. — **mantically** *adv.*

-mantic *adj. combining form.* forming adjectives from nouns ending in **-mancy.**

mantilla (mæn'tɪlə) *n.* a woman's lace or silk scarf covering the shoulders and head, worn esp. in Spain.

mantis ('mæntɪs) *n., pl. -tises* or *-tes* (-ti:z). any carnivorous typically green insect of warm and tropical regions, having a long body and large eyes and resting with the first pair of legs raised as if in prayer. Also called: **praying mantis.**

mantissa (mæn'tɪsə) *n.* the fractional part of a common logarithm representing the digits of the associated number but not its magnitude: *the mantissa of 2.4771 is .4771.*

mantle ('mæntl) *n.* 1. *Arch.* a loose wrap or cloak. 2. anything that covers completely or envelops. 3. a small

dome-shaped or cylindrical mesh, used to increase illumination in a gas or oil lamp by becoming incandescent.

4. Zool. a protective layer of epidermis in molluscs and brachiopods that secretes a substance forming the shell.

5. Ornithol. the feathers of the folded wings and back, esp. when of a different colour from the remaining feathers.

6. Geol. the part of the earth between the crust and the core.

7. a less common spelling of mantel.

~vb. **8. (tr.)** to envelop or supply with a mantle. **9.** to spread over or become spread over. **10. (intr.)** to blush; flush.

mantra ('mæntɹə, 'mæn-) *n.* 1. *Hinduism.* any of those parts of the Vedic literature which consist of the metrical psalms of praise. 2. *Hinduism, Buddhism.* any sacred word or syllable used as an object of concentration.

manual ('mænjʊəl) *adj.* 1. of or relating to a hand or hands. 2. operated or done by hand. 3. physical, as opposed to mental or mechanical: *manual labour.* 4. by human labour rather than automatic or computer-aided means. — *n.* 5. a book, esp. of instructions or information. 6. *Music.* one of the keyboards played by hand on an organ. 7. *Mil.* the prescribed drill with small arms. — **manually** *adv.*

manufactory ('mænjʊ'fæktəri, -trɪ) *n., pl. -ries.* an obsolete word for **factory.**

manufacture ('mænjʊ'fæktʃə) *vb.* 1. to process or make (a product) from a raw material, esp. as a large-scale operation using machinery. 2. (*tr.*) to invent or concoct. — *n.* 3. the production of goods, esp. by industrial processes. 4. a manufactured product. 5. the creation or production of anything. — **manu'facturer** *n.*

manumit ('mænjʊ'mɪt) *vb. -mitting, -mitted.* (*tr.*) to free from slavery, servitude, etc.; emancipate. — **manu-mission** ('mænjʊ'mɪʃən) *n.*

manure (mə'njuə) *n.* 1. animal excreta, usually with straw, etc., used to fertilize land. 2. *Chiefly Brit.* any material, esp. chemical fertilizer, used to fertilize land. — **vb.** 3. (*tr.*) to spread manure upon (fields or soil). — **ma'nurer** *n.*

manuscript ('mænjʊ'skript) *n.* 1. a book or other document written by hand. 2. the original handwritten or typed version of a book, article, etc., as submitted by an author for publication. 3. handwriting, as opposed to printing.

Manx (mæŋks) *adj.* 1. of or relating to the Isle of Man (an island in the British Isles), its inhabitants, their former language, or their dialect of English. — *n.* 2. a former language of the Isle of Man, closely related to Scottish Gaelic.

Manx cat *n.* a short-haired tailless variety of cat, believed to originate on the Isle of Man.

many ('meni) *determiner.* 1. (sometimes preceded by *a great* or *a good*) a. a large number of: *many times.* b. (*as pronoun; functioning as pl.*): *many are seated already.* 2. (*fol.* by *a, an, or another,* and a sing. noun) each of a considerable number of: *many a man.* 3. (*preceded by as, too, that, etc.*) a. a great number of: *as many apples as you like.* b. (*as pronoun; functioning as pl.*): *I have as many as you.* — *n.* 4. **the many.** the majority of mankind, esp. the common people.

Maoism ('maʊzəm) *n.* Marxism-Leninism as interpreted by Mao Tse-tung (1893–1976), Chinese statesman: distinguished by its theory of guerrilla warfare and its emphasis on the revolutionary potential of the peasantry. — **Maoist** *n., adj.*

Maori ('maʊri, 'mɑ:ri) *n.* 1. (*pl. -ris* or *-ri*) a member of the people of Polynesian origin living in New Zealand since before the arrival of European settlers. 2. the language of this people, belonging to the Malayo-Polynesian family. — *adj.* 3. of or relating to this people or their language. — **Maori,land** *n.*

map (mæp) *n.* 1. a diagrammatic representation of the earth's surface or part of it, showing the geographical distributions, positions, etc., of features such as roads, towns, relief, rainfall, etc. 2. a diagrammatic representation of the stars or of the surface of a celestial body. 3. a maplike drawing of anything. 4. *Maths.* another name for **function** (sense 4b.). 5. a slang word for **face** (sense 1). **6. put on the map.** to make (a town, company, etc.) well-known. — **vb.** **mapping, mapped.** (*tr.*) 7. to make a map of. 8. *Maths.* to represent or transform (a function, figure, set, etc.).

maple ('meɪpl) *n.* 1. any tree or shrub of a *N* temperate genus, having winged seeds borne in pairs and lobed leaves. 2. the hard wood of any of these trees, used for furniture and flooring. 3. the flavour of the sap of the sugar maple. — *See also* **sugar maple.**

maple leaf *n.* the leaf of the maple tree, the national emblem of Canada.

maple syrup *n.* Chiefly U.S. a very sweet syrup made from the sap of the sugar maple.

map out *vb.* (*tr.*, *adv.*) to plan or design.

mapping ('mæpɪŋ) *n.* Maths. another name for **function** (sense 4b).

maquis (mɑ:'ki: *n.*, *pl.* **-quis** (-'ki:). 1. shrubby, mostly evergreen, vegetation found in coastal regions of the Mediterranean. 2. (*often cap.*) a. the French underground movement that fought against the German occupying forces in World War II. b. a member of this movement.

mar (mɑ:) *vb.* **marring**, **marred**. (*tr.*) to cause harm to; spoil or impair. — **marrer** *n.*

Mar. *abbrev.* for **March**.

marabou ('mæɾəbu:) *n.* 1. a large black-and-white African carrion-eating stork. 2. a down feather of this bird, used to trim garments.

maraca (mɑ:'rækə) *n.* a percussion instrument, usually one of a pair, consisting of a gourd or plastic shell filled with dried seeds, etc.

maraschino ('mæɾə'ski:nəʊ) *n.* a liqueur made from marasca cherries, having a taste like bitter almonds.

marathon ('mæɾəθən) *n.* 1. a race on foot of 26 miles 385 yards (42.195 kilometres). 2. a. any long or arduous task, etc. b. (*as modifier*): a **marathon effort**.

maraud ('mæɾəʊd) *vb.* to wander or raid in search of plunder. — **ma'rauder** *n.*

marble ('mæɾbəl) *n.* 1. a. a hard crystalline metamorphic rock resulting from the recrystallization of a limestone. b. (*as modifier*): a **marble bust**. 2. a block or work of art of marble. 3. a small round glass or stone ball used in playing marbles. ~*vb.* 4. (*tr.*) to mottle with variegated streaks in imitation of marble. — **marbled** *adj.*

marbles ('mæɾb'lz) *n.* 1. (*functioning as sing.*) a game in which marbles are rolled at one another, similar to bowls. 2. *Inf.* wits: to *lose one's marbles*.

marbling ('mæɾblɪŋ) *n.* 1. a mottled effect or pattern resembling marble. 2. such an effect obtained by transferring floating colours from a gum solution. 3. the streaks of fat in lean meat.

marc (mɑ:k) *n.* 1. the remains of grapes or other fruit that have been pressed for wine-making. 2. a brandy distilled from these.

marcasite ('mɑ:kə'saɪt) *n.* 1. a metallic pale yellow mineral consisting of iron pyrites in crystalline form used in jewellery. 2. a cut and polished form of steel or any white metal used for making jewellery.

march ('mɑ:tʃ) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to walk or proceed with stately or regular steps, usually in a procession or military formation. 2. (*tr.*) to make (a person or group) proceed. 3. (*tr.*) to traverse or cover by marching. ~*n.* 4. the act or an instance of marching. 5. a regular stride. 6. a long or exhausting walk. 7. advance; progression (of troops, etc.). 8. a distance or route covered by marching. 9. a piece of music, as for a march. 10. **steal a march on**. to gain an advantage over, esp. by a secret enterprise. — **marcher** *n.*

march ('mɑ:tʃ) *n.* 1. a frontier, border, or boundary or the land lying along it, often of disputed ownership. ~*vb.* 2. (*intr.*; *often foll. by upon or with*) to share a common border (with).

March ('mɑ:tʃ) *n.* the third month of the year, consisting of 31 days.

March hare *n.* a hare during its breeding season in March, noted for its wild and excitable behaviour (esp. in **mad as a March hare**).

marching orders *pl. n.* 1. military orders, esp. to infantry, giving instructions about a march, its destination, etc. 2. *Inf.* any dismissal, esp. notice of dismissal from employment.

marchioness ('mɑ:ʃənɪs, 'mɑ:ʃə'nes) *n.* 1. the wife or widow of a marquis. 2. a woman who holds the rank of marquis.

marchpane ('mɑ:tʃ,peɪn) *n.* an archaic word for **marzipan**.

Mardi Gras ('mɑ:di 'grɑ:) *n.* the festival of Shrove Tuesday, celebrated in some cities with great revelry.

mare ('mæ) *n.* the adult female of a horse or zebra.

mare' ('mæ:reɪ, -ri) *n.*, *pl.* **maria** ('mæ:riə) 1. (*cap. when part of a name*) any of a large number of huge dry plains on the surface of the moon, visible as dark markings and once thought to be seas. 2. a similar area on the surface of Mars.

mare's-nest *n.* 1. a discovery imagined to be important but proving worthless. 2. a disordered situation.

margarine ('mɑ:dʒə'ri:n, 'mɑ:g-) or **margarin** ('mɑ:dʒəm, 'mɑ:g-, 'mɑ:dʒə'ri:n, 'mɑ:g-) *n.* a substitute for butter, prepared from vegetable and animal fats with added small amounts of milk, salt, vitamins, colouring matter, etc.

marge (mɑ:dʒ) *n.* *Brit. inf.* short for **margarine**.

margin ('mɑ:dʒɪn) *n.* 1. an edge or rim, and the area immediately adjacent to it; border. 2. the blank space surrounding the text on a page. 3. a vertical line on a page delineating this space. 4. an additional amount or one beyond the minimum necessary: a **margin of error**. 5. *Austral.* a payment made in addition to a basic wage, esp. for special skill or responsibility. 6. a bound or limit. 7. the amount by which one thing differs from another. 8. *Commerce.* the profit on a transaction. 9. *Econ.* the minimum return below which an enterprise becomes unprofitable. 10. *Finance.* collateral deposited by a client with a broker as security. ~*Also* (archaic): **margent** ('mɑ:dʒənt). ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 11. to provide with a margin; border. 12. *Finance.* to deposit a margin upon.

marginal ('mɑ:dʒɪnəl) *adj.* 1. of, in, on, or constituting a margin. 2. close to a limit, esp. a lower limit: **marginal legal ability**. 3. *Econ.* relating to goods or services produced and sold at the margin of profitability: **marginal cost**. 4. *Politics, chiefly Brit.* of or designating a constituency in which elections tend to be won by small margins: a **marginal seat**. 5. designating agricultural land on the margin of cultivated zones. — **marginality** ('mɑ:dʒɪnælti) *n.* — **marginally** *adv.*

margrave ('mɑ:greɪv) *n.* a German nobleman ranking above a count. Margraves were originally counts appointed to govern frontier provinces, but all eventually became princes of the Holy Roman Empire. — **margrave** ('mɑ:greɪv) *n.*

marguerite ('mɑ:gə'ri:t) *n.* 1. a cultivated garden plant whose flower heads have white or pale yellow rays around a yellow disc. 2. any of various related plants with daisy-like flowers.

marigold ('mæri,gəʊld) *n.* 1. any of various tropical American plants cultivated for their yellow or orange flower heads and strongly scented foliage. 2. any of various similar or related plants, such as the marsh marigold.

marijuana ('mæriju:'ɑ:nə) or **marihuana** ('mæri:'hwɑ:nə) *n.* 1. the dried leaves and flowers of the hemp plant, used as a narcotic, esp. in cigarettes. See also **cannabis**. 2. U.S. another name for **hemp** (the plant).

marimba ('mærimbə) *n.* a Latin American percussion instrument consisting of a set of hardwood plates placed over tuned metal resonators, played with soft-head hammers.

marina ('mɑ:ri:nə) *n.* an elaborate docking facility for yachts and other pleasure boats.

marinade *n.* ('mæri:'neɪd). 1. a spiced liquid mixture of oil, wine, vinegar, etc., in which meat or fish is soaked before cooking. 2. meat or fish soaked in this. ~*vb.* ('mæri:'neɪd). 3. a variant of **marinate**.

marinate ('mæri:'neɪt) *vb.* to soak in marinade. — **marination** *n.*

marine ('mɑ:ri:n) *adj.* (*usually prenominal*) 1. of, found in, or relating to the sea. 2. of or relating to shipping, navigation, etc. 3. of or relating to a body of seagoing troops or a government department concerned with maritime affairs. 4. used or adapted for use at sea. ~*n.* 5. shipping and navigation in general. 6. (*cap. when part of a name*) a. a member of a marine corps or similar body. b. the branch of the army connected with the sea. 7. a picture of a ship, seascape, etc. 8. **tell it to the marines.** *Inf.* an expression of disbelief.

mariner ('mæri:nə) *n.* a formal or literary word for **seaman**.

marionette ('mæriə'net) *n.* a puppet or doll whose jointed limbs are moved by strings.

marital ('mæri:təl) *adj.* 1. of or relating to marriage. 2. of or relating to a husband. — **maritally** *adv.*

maritime ('mæri:təɪm) *adj.* 1. of or relating to navigation, shipping, etc. 2. of, relating to, near, or living near the sea. 3. (of a climate) having small temperature differences between summer and winter.

Maritime Provinces or Maritimes *pl. n.* the certain of the Canadian provinces with coasts facing the Gulf of St. Lawrence or the Atlantic: New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and sometimes Newfoundland.

Maritimer ('mæri:təɪm) *n.* a native or inhabitant of the Maritime Provinces of Canada.

marjoram ('mɑ:dʒɔrəm) *n.* 1. Also called: **sweet marjoram**, an aromatic Mediterranean plant with sweet-scented leaves, used for seasoning food and in salads. 2. Also called: **wild marjoram**, **pot marjoram**, **origan**, a similar and related European plant. See also **oregano**.

mark¹ ('mɑ:k) *n.* 1. a visible impression, stain, etc., on a surface, such as a spot or scratch. 2. a sign, symbol, or other indication that distinguishes something. 3. a cross or other symbol made instead of a signature. 4. a written or printed sign or symbol, as for punctuation. 5. a letter, number, or percentage used to grade academic work. 6. a thing that indicates position or directs; marker. 7. a desired or recognized standard: *up to the mark*. 8. an indication of some quality, feature, or prowess. 9. quality or importance: *a person of little mark*. 10. a target or goal. 11. impression or influence. 12. *Sl.* a suitable victim, esp. for swindling. 13. (*often cap.*) (in trade names) a model, brand, or type. 14. *Naut.* one of the intervals distinctively marked on a sounding lead. 15. *Rugby.* an impression on the ground made with the heel by a player on catching a forward kick, throw, or knock by an opponent, which entitles him to a free kick. 16. *Australian Rules football.* a. a catch of the ball from a kick of at least 10 yards, after which a free kick is taken. b. the spot where this occurs. 17. **the mark**. *Boxing.* the middle of the stomach. 18. (in medieval England and Germany) a piece of land held in common by the free men of a community. 19. **make one's mark**, to succeed or achieve recognition. 20. **on your mark or marks**, a command given to runners in a race to prepare themselves at the starting line. ~*vb.* 21. to make or receive (a visible impression, trace, or stain) on (a surface). 22. (*tr.*) to characterize or distinguish. 23. (*often foll. by off or out*) to set boundaries or limits (on). 24. (*tr.*) to select, designate, or doom by or as if by a mark: *to mark someone as a criminal*. 25. (*tr.*) to put identifying or designating labels, stamps, etc., on, esp. to indicate price. 26. (*tr.*) to pay heed or attention to: *mark my words*. 27. to observe; notice. 28. to grade or evaluate (scholarly work). 29. *Brit. football, etc.* to stay close to (an opponent) to hamper his play. 30. to keep (score) in some games. 31. **mark time**, a. to move the feet alternately as in marching but without advancing. b. to act in a mechanical and routine way. c. to halt progress temporarily. ~See also **markdown**, **mark-up**. —'marker *n.*

mark² ('mɑ:k) *n.* 1. See **Deutsche Mark**. 2. a former monetary unit and coin in England and Scotland worth two thirds of a pound sterling. 3. a silver coin of Germany until 1924.

markdown ('mɑ:k,daʊn) *n.* 1. a price reduction. ~*vb.* **mark down**. 2. (*tr., adv.*) to reduce in price.

marked ('mɑ:kɪd) *adj.* 1. obvious, evident, or noticeable. 2. singled out, esp. as the target of attack: *a marked man*. 3. *Linguistics.* distinguished by a specific feature, as in phonology. For example, of the two phonemes /t/ and /d/, the /d/ is marked because it exhibits the feature of voice. —'markedly (*adv.*) —'markedness *n.*

market ('mɑ:kɪt) *n.* 1. a. an event or occasion, usually held at regular intervals, at which people meet to buy and sell merchandise. b. (*as modifier*): *market day*. 2. a place at which a market is held. 3. a shop that sells a particular merchandise: *an antique market*. 4. **the market**, business or trade in a commodity as specified: *the sugar market*. 5. the trading or selling opportunities provided by a particular group of people: *the foreign market*. 6. demand for a particular product or commodity. 7. See **stock market**. 8. See **market price**, **market value**. 9. **be in the market for**, to wish to buy or acquire. 10. **on the market**, available for purchase. 11. **seller's (or buyer's) market**, a market characterized by excess demand (or supply) and thus favourable to sellers (or buyers). ~*vb.* 12. to offer or produce for sale. 13. (*intr.*) to buy or deal in a market. —'marketable *adj.* —'marketer *n.*

market garden *n.* *Chiefly Brit.* an establishment where fruit and vegetables are grown for sale. —'market gardener *n.* —'market gardening *n.*

marketing ('mɑ:kɪtɪŋ) *n.* the business of selling goods, including advertising, packaging, etc.

marketplace ('mɑ:kɪt,pleɪs) *n.* 1. a place where a public market is held. 2. any centre where ideas, opinions, etc., are exchanged. 3. the commercial world of buying and selling.

market price *n.* the prevailing price, as determined by supply and demand, at which goods, services, etc., may be bought or sold.

market research *n.* the collection and analysis of

data relating to the demand for a product, often undertaken before marketing it.

market town *n.* *Chiefly Brit.* a town that holds a market, esp. an agricultural centre.

market value *n.* the amount obtainable on the open market for the sale of property, financial assets, or goods and services.

marking ('mɑ:kɪŋ) *n.* 1. a mark or series of marks. 2. the arrangement of colours on an animal, plant, etc.

marksman ('mɑ:ksmən) *n., pl. -men*. 1. a person skilled in shooting. 2. a serviceman selected for his skill in shooting. —'marksman, *ship n.*

mark-up *n.* 1. an amount added to the cost of a commodity to provide the seller with a profit. 2. a. an increase in the price of a commodity. b. the amount of this. ~*vb.* **mark up**. (*tr., adv.*) 3. to add a percentage for profit to the cost of (a commodity). 4. to increase the price of.

marl ('mɑ:l) *n.* 1. a fine-grained sedimentary rock consisting of clay minerals, calcium carbonate, and silt: used as a fertilizer. ~*vb.* 2. (*tr.*) to fertilize (land) with marl. —'marly *adj.*

marlinespike, **marlinspike** ('mɑ:lm,spaɪk), or **marlingspike** ('mɑ:liŋ,spaɪk) *n.* *Naut.* a pointed metal tool used in separating strands of rope, etc.

marmalade ('mɑ:mə,leɪd) *n.* a preserve made by boiling the pulp and rind of citrus fruits, esp. oranges, with sugar.

marmoreal ('mɑ:mə:riəl) or **marmorean** *adj.* of, relating to, or resembling marble.

marmoset ('mɑ:mə,zet) *n.* 1. any of various small South American monkeys, having long hairy tails. 2. **pygmy marmoset**, a related form: the smallest monkey, inhabiting tropical forests of the Amazon.

marmot ('mɑ:mət) *n.* 1. any of various burrowing rodents of Europe, Asia, and North America. They are heavily built and have coarse fur. 2. **prairie marmot**, another name for **prairie dog**.

maroon¹ ('mɑ:rʊn) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to abandon ashore, esp. on an island. 2. to isolate without resources. ~*n.* 3. a descendant of a group of runaway slaves living in the remoter areas of the West Indies or Guyana.

maroon² ('mɑ:rʊn) *n.* 1. a. a dark red to purplish-red colour. b. (*as adj.*): *a maroon carpet*. 2. an exploding firework, esp. one used as a warning signal.

marque ('mɑ:k) *n.* a brand of product, esp. of a car.

marquee ('mɑ:'ki:) *n.* 1. a large tent used for entertainment, etc. 2. Also called: **marquise**. *Chiefly U.S.* a canopy over the entrance to a theatre, hotel, etc.

marquess ('mɑ:kwis) *n.* 1. (in the British Isles) a nobleman ranking between a duke and an earl. 2. See **marquis**.

marquetry or **marqueterie** ('mɑ:kɪtri) *n., pl. quetries or queteries*, a pattern of inlaid veneers of wood, brass, ivory, etc., used chiefly as ornamentation in furniture.

marquis ('mɑ:kwis, mɑ:'ki:) *n., pl. -quises or -quis*. (in various countries) a nobleman ranking above a count, corresponding to a British marquess. The title of marquis is often used in place of that of marquess.

marquise ('mɑ:'ki:z) *n.* 1. (in various countries) another word for **marquioness**. 2. a. a gemstone, esp. a diamond, cut in a pointed oval shape and usually faceted. b. a piece of jewellery, esp. a ring, set with such a stone or with an oval cluster of stones. 3. another name for **marquee** (sense 2).

marriage ('mæridʒ) *n.* 1. the state or relationship of being husband and wife. 2. a. the legal union or contract made by a man and woman to live as husband and wife. b. (*as modifier*): *marriage certificate*. 3. the ceremony formalizing this union; wedding. 4. a close or intimate union, relationship, etc.

marriageable ('mæridʒəbəl) *adj.* (esp. of women) suitable for marriage, usually with reference to age. —'marriageability *n.*

marriage guidance *n.* advice given to couples who have problems in their married life.

married ('mærid) *adj.* 1. having a husband or wife. 2. joined in marriage. 3. of or involving marriage or married persons. 4. closely or intimately united. ~*n.* 5. (*usually pl.*) a married person (esp. in young marrieds).

marrow ('mæɹəʊ) *n.* 1. the fatty network of connective tissue that fills the cavities of bones. 2. the vital part; essence. 3. *Brit.* short for **vegetable marrow**. —'marrowy *adj.*

marrowfat ('mæɹəʊ,fæt) or **marrow pea** *n.* 1. any

of several varieties of pea plant that have large seeds. 2. the seed of such a plant.

marry ('mæri) *vb.* **-rying, -ried.** 1. to take (someone as one's husband or wife) in marriage. 2. (tr.) to join or give in marriage. 3. to unite closely or intimately. 4. (tr.) *Naut.* to match up (the strands) of ropes before splicing.

marry ('mæri) *interj.* *Arch.* an exclamation of surprise, anger, etc.

marry off *vb.* (tr., adv.) to find a husband or wife for (a person, esp. one's son or daughter).

Mars (mɑːz) *n.* 1. the fourth planet from the sun. 2. the Roman god of war.

Marsala (mɑː'sɑ:lə) *n.* a dark sweet dessert wine from Marsala, a port in Sicily.

Marseillaise (,mɑːsə'leiz) *n.* the French national anthem, written in 1792 by C. J. Rouget de Lisle for the Rhine army of revolutionary France.

marsh (mɑːʃ) *n.* low poorly drained land that is sometimes flooded and often lies at the edge of lakes, etc. Cf. **swamp** (sense 1).

marshal ('mɑːʃəl) *n.* 1. (in some armies and air forces) an officer of the highest rank. 2. (in England) an officer who accompanies a judge on circuit and performs secretarial duties. 3. (in the U.S.) a. a Federal court officer assigned to a judicial district whose functions are similar to those of a sheriff. b. (in some states) the chief police or fire officer. 4. an officer who organizes or conducts ceremonies, parades, etc. 5. Also called: **knight marshal**. (formerly in England) an officer of the royal family or court, esp. one in charge of protocol. ~*vb.* **-shalling, -shalled or U.S. -shaling, -shaled.** (tr.) 6. to arrange in order: to marshal the facts. 7. to assemble and organize (troops, vehicles, etc.) prior to onward movement. 8. to guide or lead, esp. in a ceremonious way. 9. to combine (coats of arms) on one shield. —**marshalecy** or **marshalship** *n.*

marshalling yard *n.* *Railways.* a place or depot where railway wagons are shunted and made up into trains.

Marshal of the Royal Air Force *n.* a rank in the Royal Air Force comparable to that of a field marshal in the army.

marsh gas *n.* a gas largely composed of methane produced when vegetation decomposes under water.

marsh mallow *n.* a malvaceous plant, that grows in salt marshes and has pale pink flowers. The roots yield a mucilage formerly used to make marshmallows.

marshmallow (,mɑː'fæləu) *n.* 1. a spongy sweet containing gum arabic or gelatine, sugar, etc. 2. a sweetened paste or confection made from the root of the marsh mallow.

marsh marigold *n.* a yellow-flowered plant that grows in swampy places.

marsupial (mɑː'sjuːpiəl, 'suː-) *n.* 1. any mammal of an order in which the young are born in an immature state and continue development in the marsupium. The order occurs mainly in Australia and South and Central America and includes the opossums and kangaroos. ~*adj.* 2. of, relating to, or belonging to marsupials. 3. of or relating to a marsupium.

marsupium (mɑː'sjuːpiəm, 'suː-) *n., pl. -pia* (-piə). an external pouch in most female marsupials within which the newly born offspring complete their development.

mart (mɑːt) *n.* a market or trading centre.

Martello tower (mɑː'teləu) *n.* a small circular tower for coastal defence.

marten ('mɑːtɪn) *n., pl. -tens or -ten.* 1. any of several agile arboreal mammals of Europe, Asia, and North America, having bushy tails and golden brown to blackish fur. 2. the highly valued fur of these animals. ~*See also sable* (sense 1).

martial ('mɑːʃəl) *adj.* of, relating to, or characteristic of war, soldiers, or the military life. —**martialism** *n.* —**martialist** *n.* —**martially** *adv.*

martial law *n.* rule of law maintained by the military in the absence of civil law.

Martian ('mɑːʃən) *adj.* 1. of, occurring on, or relating to the planet Mars. ~*n.* 2. an inhabitant of Mars, esp. in science fiction.

martin ('mɑːtɪn) *n.* any of various birds of the swallow family, having a square or slightly forked tail. *See also house martin.*

martinet (,mɑːtɪ'net) *n.* a person who maintains strict discipline, esp. in a military force.

martingale ('mɑːtɪn,geɪl) *n.* 1. a strap from the reins to the girth of a horse, preventing it from carrying its

head too high. 2. any gambling system in which the stakes are raised, usually doubled, after each loss. 3. *Naut.* a chain or cable running from a bowsprit to the stern, and serving to counteract the strain of the headstays.

martini (mɑː'tiːni) *n., pl. -nis.* 1. (often *cap.*) *Trade-mark.* an Italian vermouth. 2. a cocktail of gin and vermouth.

Martinmas ('mɑːtɪnməs) *n.* the feast of St. Martin on Nov. 11; a quarter day in Scotland.

martyr ('mɑːtə) *n.* 1. a person who suffers death rather than renounce his religious beliefs. 2. a person who suffers greatly or dies for a cause, belief, etc. 3. a person who suffers from poor health, misfortune, etc.: a martyr to rheumatism. ~*vb.* also **'martyrize or -ise.** (tr.) 4. to kill as a martyr. 5. to make a martyr of. —**'martyrdom** *n.* —**'martyrization** or **-isation** *n.*

marvel ('mɑːvəl) *vb.* **-velling, -velled or U.S. -veling, -veled.** 1. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *at* or *about*; when *tr.*, takes a clause as object) to be filled with surprise or wonder. ~*n.* 2. something that causes wonder. 3. *Arch.* astonishment.

marvellous or U.S. marvelous ('mɑːvələs) *adj.* 1. causing great wonder, surprise, etc.; extraordinary. 2. improbable or incredible. 3. *Inf.* excellent; splendid. —**'marvellously or U.S. 'marvelously** *adv.* —**'marvellousness or U.S. 'marvelousness** *n.*

Marxism ('mɑːksɪzəm) *n.* the economic and political theory and practice originated by Karl Marx (1818-83) and Friedrich Engels (1820-95), German political philosophers. It holds that actions and human institutions are economically determined, that the class struggle is the basic agency of historical change, and that capitalism will ultimately be superseded by communism. —**'Marxist** *n., adj.*

marzipan ('mɑːzɪpæn) *n.* a paste made from ground almonds, sugar, and egg whites, used to coat fruit cakes or moulded into sweets.

-mas *n.* combining form. indicating a Christian festival: Christmas; Michaelmas.

Masai ('mɑːsai, mɑː'sai) *n.* 1. (pl. **-sais** or **-sai**) a member of a Nilotic people, formerly noted as warriors, living chiefly in Kenya and Tanzania. 2. the language of this people.

masc. *abbrev.* for masculine.

mascara (mæ'skɑːrə) *n.* a cosmetic for darkening the eyelashes.

mascot ('mæskət) *n.* a person, animal, or thing considered to bring good luck.

masculine ('mæskjulin) *adj.* 1. possessing qualities or characteristics considered typical of or appropriate to a man; manly. 2. unwomanly. 3. *Grammar.* denoting a gender of nouns that includes all kinds of referents as well as some male animate referents. 4. *Prosody.* denoting an ending consisting of a single stressed syllable. 5. *Prosody.* denoting a rhyme between pairs of single final stressed syllables. —**'masculinely** *adv.* —**'masculinity** *n.*

maser ('meɪzə) *n.* a device for amplifying microwaves, working on the same principle as a laser.

mash (mæʃ) *n.* 1. a soft pulpy mass or consistency. 2. *Agriculture.* a feed of bran, meal, or malt mixed with water and fed to horses, cattle, or poultry. 3. (esp. in brewing) a mixture of mashed malt grains and hot water, from which malt is extracted. 4. *Brit.* mashed potatoes. ~*vb.* (tr.) 5. to beat or crush into a mash. 6. to steep (malt grains) in hot water in order to extract malt. 7. *Northern Brit. dialect.* to brew (tea). —**'masher** *n.*

mashie or mashy ('mæʃi) *n., pl. mashies.* *Golf.* an iron for lofting shots, usually No. 5.

mask (mɑːsk) *n.* 1. any covering for the whole or part of the face worn for amusement, protection, disguise, etc. 2. a fact, action, etc., that conceals something. 3. another name for **masquerade**. 4. a likeness of a face or head, either sculpted or moulded, such as a death mask. 5. an image of a face worn by an actor, esp. in classical drama, in order to symbolize a character. 6. a variant spelling of **masque**. 7. *Surgery.* a sterile gauze covering for the nose and mouth worn to minimize the spread of germs. 8. *Sport.* a protective covering for the face worn for fencing, ice hockey, etc. 9. a carving in the form of a face or head, used as an ornament. 10. a device placed over the nose and mouth to facilitate or prevent inhalation of a gas. 11. *Photog.* a shield of paper, paint, etc., placed over an area of unexposed photographic surface to stop light falling on it. 12. the face or head of an animal, such as a fox. 13. *Rare.* a person wearing a

mask. ~vb. 14. to cover with or put on a mask. 15. (tr.) to conceal; disguise: to *mask an odour*. 16. (tr.) *Photog.* to shield a particular area of (an unexposed photographic surface) to prevent or reduce the action of light there. —*masked adj.* —*'masker n.*

masking tape *n.* an adhesive tape used to protect surfaces surrounding an area to be painted.

maskinonge ('mæskə,nɒndʒ) *n.* another name for muskellunge.

masochism ('mæsoʊ,kɪzəm) *n.* 1. *Psychiatry.* an abnormal condition in which pleasure, esp. sexual pleasure, is derived from pain or from humiliation, domination, etc., by another person. 2. a tendency to take pleasure from one's own suffering. Cf. *sadism*. —*'masochist n.* —*maso'chistic adj.* —*maso'chistically adv.*

mason ('meɪs'n) *n.* 1. a person skilled in building with stone. 2. a person who dresses stone. ~vb. 3. (tr.) to construct or strengthen with masonry.

Mason ('meɪs'n) *n.* short for *Freemason*.

masonic (mə'sonɪk) *adj.* 1. (often *cap.*) of or relating to Freemasons or Freemasonry. 2. of or relating to masons or masonry. —*ma'sonically adv.*

masonry ('meɪsənri) *n.* *pl. ries.* 1. the craft of a mason. 2. work that is built by a mason; stonework or brickwork. 3. (often *cap.*) Also called: *Freemasonry*. a. the institutions, rites, practices, etc., of Freemasons. b. Freemasons collectively.

masque or mask (mɑːsk) *n.* 1. a dramatic entertainment of the 16th to 17th centuries, consisting of pantomime, dancing, dialogue, and song. 2. the words and music for this. 3. short for *masquerade*.

masquerade (ˌmæskə'reɪd) *n.* 1. a party or other gathering at which the guests wear masks and costumes. 2. the disguise worn at such a function. 3. a pretence or disguise. ~vb. (intr.) 4. to participate in a masquerade; disguise oneself. 5. to dissemble. —*masquerader n.*

mass (mæs) *n.* 1. a large coherent body of matter without a definite shape. 2. a collection of the component parts of something. 3. a large amount or number, as of people. 4. the main part or majority. 5. *in the mass.* in the main; collectively. 6. the size of a body; bulk. 7. *Physics.* a physical quantity expressing the amount of matter in a body. It is a measure of a body's resistance to changes in velocity (*inertial mass*) and also of the force experienced in a gravitational field (*gravitational mass*). 8. (in painting, drawing, etc.) an area of unified colour, shade, or intensity, usually denoting a solid form or plane. ~(*modifier*) 9. done or occurring on a large scale: *mass hysteria*. 10. consisting of a mass or large number, esp. of people: a *mass meeting*. ~vb. 11. to form (people or things) or (of people or things) to join together into a mass.

Mass (mæs, mɑːs) *n.* 1. (in the Roman Catholic Church and certain Protestant Churches) the celebration of the Eucharist. See also *High Mass*, *Low Mass*. 2. a musical setting of those parts of the Eucharistic service sung by choir or congregation.

massacre ('mæskə) *n.* 1. the wanton or savage killing of large numbers of people, as in battle. 2. *Inf.* an overwhelming defeat, as in a game. ~vb. (tr.) 3. to kill indiscriminately or in large numbers. 4. *Inf.* to defeat overwhelmingly.

massage ('mæsoʊʒ, -sɑːdʒ) *n.* 1. the act of kneading, rubbing, etc., parts of the body to promote circulation, suppleness, or relaxation. ~vb. (tr.) 2. to give a massage to. 3. to treat (stiffness, etc.) by a massage.

massasauga (ˌmæsoʊ'soʊgə) *n.* a North American venomous snake that has a horny rattle at the end of the tail.

masses ('mæsɪz) *pl. n.* 1. (preceded by *the*) the body of common people. 2. (often foll. by *of*) *Inf.* chiefly *Brit.* great numbers or quantities: *masses of food*.

masseur (mæ'sɜː) or (*fem.*) **masseuse** (mæ'sɜːz) *n.* a person who gives massages, esp. as a profession.

massif ('mæsiːf) *n.* a mass of rock or a series of connected masses forming a mountain range.

massive ('mæsiːv) *adj.* 1. (of objects) large in mass; bulky, heavy, and usually solid. 2. impressive or imposing. 3. relatively intensive or large; considerable: a *massive dose*. 4. *Geol. a.* (of igneous rocks) having no stratification, cleavage, etc.; homogeneous. b. (of sedimentary rocks) arranged in thick poorly defined strata. 5. *Mineralogy.* without obvious crystalline structure. —*massively adv.* —*massiveness n.*

mass media *pl. n.* the means of communication that reach large numbers of people, such as television, newspapers, magazines, and radio.

mass noun *n.* a noun that refers to an extended substance rather than to each of a set of objects, e.g.,

water as opposed to *lake*. In English when used indefinitely they are characteristically preceded by *some* rather than *a* or *an*; they do not have plural forms. Cf. *count noun*.

mass-produce *vb.* (tr.) to manufacture (goods) to a standardized pattern on a large scale by means of extensive mechanization and division of labour. —*mass-pro'duced adj.* —*mass-pro'ducer n.* —*mass production n.*

mass spectrometer or spectroscope *n.* an instrument in which ions, produced from a sample, are separated by electric or magnetic fields according to their ratios of charge to mass. A record is produced (*mass spectrum*) of the types of ion present and their amounts.

mast ('mɑːst) *n.* 1. *Naut.* any vertical spar for supporting sails, rigging, flags, etc., above the deck of a vessel. 2. any sturdy upright pole used as a support. 3. *before the mast.* *Naut.* as an apprentice seaman. ~vb. 4. (tr.) *Naut.* to equip with a mast or masts.

mast ('mɑːst) *n.* the fruit of forest trees, such as beech, oak, etc., used as food for pigs.

mastaba or mastabah ('mæstəbə) *n.* a mudbrick superstructure above tombs in ancient Egypt.

mastectomy (mæ'stektəmi) *n.* *pl. -mies.* the surgical removal of a breast.

master ('mɑːstə) *n.* 1. the man in authority, such as the head of a household, the employer of servants, or the owner of slaves or animals. 2. a. a person with exceptional skill at a certain thing. b. (*as modifier*): a *master thief*. 3. a. a person who has complete control of a situation, etc. b. an abstract thing regarded as having power or influence: *they regarded fate as the master of their lives*. 4. a. a workman or craftsman fully qualified to practise his trade and to train others. b. (*as modifier*): *master carpenter*. 5. a. an original copy, stencil, etc., from which duplicates are made. b. (*as modifier*): *master copy*. 6. a player of a game, esp. chess or bridge, who has won a specified number of tournament games. 7. the principal of some colleges. 8. a highly regarded teacher or leader. 9. a graduate holding a master's degree. 10. the chief executive officer aboard a merchant ship. 11. a person presiding over a function, organization, or institution. 12. *Chiefly Brit.* a male teacher. 13. an officer of the Supreme Court of Judicature subordinate to a judge. 14. the superior person or side in a contest. 15. (often *cap.*) the heir apparent of a Scottish viscount or baron. ~(*modifier*) 16. overall or controlling: *master plan*. 17. designating a device or mechanism that controls others: *master switch*. 18. main; principal: *master bedroom*. ~vb. (tr.) 19. to become thoroughly proficient in. 20. to overcome; defeat. 21. to rule or control as master.

Master ('mɑːstə) *n.* 1. a title of address for a boy. 2. a term of address, esp. as used by disciples addressing or referring to a religious teacher. 3. an archaic equivalent of *Mr.*

masterful ('mɑːstəfʊl) *adj.* 1. having or showing mastery. 2. fond of playing the master; imperious. —*'masterfully adv.* —*'masterfulness n.*

master key *n.* a key that opens all the locks of a set. Also called: *passkey*.

masterly ('mɑːstəli) *adj.* of the skill befitting a master. —*'masterliness n.*

mastermind ('mɑːstəmaɪnd) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to plan and direct (a complex undertaking). ~n. 2. a person of great intelligence or executive talent, esp. one who directs an undertaking.

Master of Arts *n.* a degree, usually postgraduate and in a nonscientific subject, or the holder of this degree. Abbrev.: *M.A.*

master of ceremonies *n.* a person who presides over a public ceremony, formal dinner, or entertainment, introducing the events, performers, etc.

Master of the Rolls *n.* (in England) a judge of the court of appeal: the senior civil judge in the country and the Keeper of the Records at the Public Record Office.

masterpiece ('mɑːstəpiːs) or **masterwork** *n.* 1. an outstanding work or performance. 2. the most outstanding piece of work of a creative artist, craftsman, etc.

masterstroke ('mɑːstəstrəʊk) *n.* an outstanding piece of strategy, skill, talent, etc.

mastery ('mɑːstəri) *n.* *pl. -teries.* 1. full command or understanding of a subject. 2. outstanding skill; expertise. 3. the power of command; control. 4. victory or superiority.

masthead ('mɑːst,hed) *n.* 1. *Naut.* the head of a mast.

2. the name of a newspaper or periodical, its proprietors, staff, etc., printed at the top of the front page. ~vb. (tr.) 3. to send (a sailor) to the masthead as a punishment. 4. to raise (a sail) to the masthead.

mastic ('mæstɪk) *n.* 1. an aromatic resin obtained from the mastic tree and used as an astringent and to make varnishes and lacquers. 2. **mastic tree**, a small Mediterranean evergreen tree that yields the resin mastic. 3. any of several putty-like substances used as a filler, adhesive, or seal in wood, plaster, or masonry. 4. a liquor flavoured with mastic gum.

masticate ('mæstɪ,keɪt) *vb.* 1. to chew (food). 2. to reduce (materials such as rubber) to a pulp by crushing, grinding, or kneading. —**masti'cation** *n.* —**masti,cator** *n.*

mastiff ('mæstɪf) *n.* a breed of large powerful short-haired dog, usually fawn brown.

mastitis (mæ'staɪtɪs) *n.* inflammation of a breast or an udder.

masto- or **before a vowel mast-** combining form, indicating the breast, mammary glands, or something resembling a breast or nipple: *mastodon*; *mastoid*.

mastodon ('mæstə,dɒn) *n.* an extinct elephant-like mammal common in Pliocene times.

mastoid ('mæstɔɪd) *adj.* 1. shaped like a nipple or breast. 2. designating or relating to a nipple-like process of the temporal bone behind the ear. ~*n.* 3. the mastoid process. 4. *Inf.* mastoiditis.

mastoiditis ('mæstɔɪ'daɪtɪs) *n.* inflammation of the mastoid process.

masturbate ('mæstə,beɪt) *vb.* to stimulate the genital organs of (oneself or another) to achieve sexual pleasure. —**mastur'bation** *n.* —**mastur,bator** *n.* —**masturbatory** ('mæstə,beɪtəri) *adj.*

mat ('mæt) *n.* 1. a thick flat piece of fabric used as a floor covering, a place to wipe one's shoes, etc. 2. a smaller pad of material used to protect a surface from the heat, etc., of an object placed upon it. 3. a large piece of thick padded material put on the floor as a surface for wrestling, judo, etc. 4. any surface or mass that is densely interwoven or tangled: *a mat of weeds*. ~vb. **matting**, **matted**. 5. to tangle or weave or become tangled or woven into a dense mass. 6. (tr.) to cover with a mat or mats.

mat ('mæt) *n.* 1. a border of cardboard, cloth, etc., placed around a picture as a frame or between picture and frame. ~adj. 2. having a dull, lustreless, or roughened surface. ~vb. **matting**, **matted**. (tr.) 3. to furnish (a picture) with a mat. 4. to give (a surface) a mat finish. ~Also (for senses 2 & 4): **matt**.

matador ('mædədɔː) *n.* 1. the principal bullfighter who kills the bull. 2. (in some card games) one of the highest cards. 3. a game played with dominoes in which the dots on adjacent halves must total seven.

match ('mætʃ) *n.* 1. a formal game or sports event in which people, teams, etc., compete. 2. a person or thing able to provide competition for another: *she's met her match*. 3. a person or thing that resembles, harmonizes with, or is equivalent to another in a specified respect. 4. a person or thing that is an exact copy or equal of another. 5. a. a partnership between a man and a woman, as in marriage. b. an arrangement for such a partnership. 6. a person regarded as a possible partner, as in marriage. ~vb. (*mainly tr.*) 7. to fit (parts) together. 8. (*also intr.*; sometimes foll. by *up*) to resemble, harmonize with, correspond to, or equal (one another or something else). 9. (sometimes foll. by *with* or *against*) to compare in order to determine which is the superior. 10. (often foll. by *to* or *with*) to adapt so as to correspond with: *to match hope with reality*. 11. (often foll. by *with* or *against*) to arrange a competition between. 12. to find a match for. 13. *Electronics*. to connect (two circuits) so that their impedances are equal, to produce a maximum transfer of energy. —**matchable** *adj.*

match ('mætʃ) *n.* 1. a thin strip of wood or cardboard tipped with a chemical that ignites by friction on a rough surface or a surface coated with a suitable chemical (see **safety match**). 2. a length of cord or wick impregnated with a chemical so that it burns slowly. It is used to fire cannons, etc.

matchbox ('mætʃ,bɒks) *n.* a small box for holding matches.

matchless ('mætʃlɪs) *adj.* unequalled; incomparable; peerless. —**matchlessly** *adv.*

matchlock ('mætʃ,lɒk) *n.* 1. an obsolete type of gun-lock igniting the powder by means of a slow match. 2. a gun having such a lock.

matchmaker ('mætʃ,meɪkə) *n.* 1. a person who brings together suitable partners for marriage. 2. a person who arranges competitive matches. —**'match,making** *n., adj.*

match play *n.* *Golf*. scoring according to the number of holes won and lost —**match player** *n.*

matchstick ('mætʃ,stɪk) *n.* the wooden part of a match.

matchwood ('mætʃ,wʊd) *n.* 1. wood suitable for making matches. 2. splinters or fragments.

mate ('meɪt) *n.* 1. the sexual partner of an animal. 2. a marriage partner. 3. a. *Inf.*, chiefly *Brit.* & *Austral.* a friend, usually of the same sex; often used to any male in direct address. b. (*in combination*) an associate, colleague, fellow sharer, etc.: a classmate. 4. one of a pair of matching items. 5. *Naut.* a. short for **first mate**. b. any officer below the master on a commercial ship. 6. (in some professions) an assistant: a plumber's mate. ~vb. 7. to pair (a male and female animal) or (of animals) to pair for reproduction. 8. to marry or join in marriage. 9. (tr.) to join as a pair.

mate ('meɪt) *n., vb.* *Chess*. See **checkmate**.

matelot, matlo, or matlow ('mætləʊ) *n.* *Sl.*, chiefly *Brit.* a sailor.

mater ('meɪtə) *n.* *Brit. sl.* a word for **mother**: often used facetiously.

material ('mætrɪəl) *n.* 1. the substance of which a thing is made or composed; component or constituent matter. 2. facts, etc., that a finished work may be based on or derived from. 3. cloth or fabric. 4. a person who has qualities suitable for a given occupation, training, etc.: *that boy is university material*. ~adj. 5. of, relating to, or composed of physical substance. 6. of, relating to, or affecting economic or physical well-being: *material ease*. 7. of or concerned with physical rather than spiritual interests. 8. of great import or consequence: *material benefit*. 9. (often foll. by *to*) relevant. 10. *Philosophy*. of or relating to matter as opposed to form. —**ma,ter'i'al'ity** *n.*

materialism ('mætrɪəlɪzəm) *n.* 1. interest in and desire for money, possessions, etc., rather than spiritual or ethical values. 2. *Philosophy*. the doctrine that matter is the only reality and that the mind, the emotions, etc., are merely functions of it. Cf. **idealism**. 3. *Ethics*. the rejection of any religious or supernatural account of things. —**ma,ter'ialist** *n.* —**ma,ter'ial'istic** *adj.* —**ma,ter'ial'istically** *adv.*

materialize or **-ise** ('mætrɪəl,laɪz) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to become fact; actually happen. 2. to invest or become invested with a physical shape or form. 3. to cause (a spirit, as of a dead person) to appear in material form or (of a spirit) to appear in such form. 4. (*intr.*) to take shape; become tangible. —**ma,ter'ial'i'zation** or **-i'sation** *n.* —**ma,ter'ial,izer** or **-iser** *n.*

▷ **Usage**. Careful writers and speakers avoid using *materialize* to mean *happen* or *occur*, esp. in formal contexts: *they talked for several hours but nothing happened* (not *materialized*). The word is often used, however, in the sense of taking shape: *after many hours of discussion, the project finally began to materialize*.

materially ('mætrɪəlɪ) *adv.* 1. to a significant extent; considerably. 2. with respect to material objects. 3. *Philosophy*. with respect to substance as distinct from form.

materials ('mætrɪəlɪz) *pl. n.* the equipment necessary for a particular activity.

matériel or **matériel** (mæ'tɪrɪ'el) *n.* the materials and equipment of an organization, esp. of a military force.

maternal ('mæ'tɜːnəl) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or characteristic of a mother. 2. related through the mother's side of the family: *his maternal uncle*. —**ma,ter'n'alism** *n.* —**ma,ter'n'al'istic** *adj.* —**ma,ter'n'al'y** *adv.*

maternity ('mæ'tɜːnɪtɪ) *n.* 1. motherhood. 2. the characteristics associated with motherhood; motherliness. 3. (*modifier*) relating to pregnant women or women at the time of childbirth: a maternity ward.

matey ('meɪtɪ) *Brit. inf.* ~adj. 1. friendly or intimate. ~*n.* 2. friend or fellow: usually used in direct address. —**mateyness** or **'matiness** *n.*

math (mæθ) *n.* *U.S. inf.* short for **mathematics**. *Brit.* equivalent: **maths**

mathematical ('mæθ'mætɪkəl) or **mathematic** *adj.* 1. of, used in, or relating to mathematics. 2. characterized by or using the precision of mathematics. 3. using, determined by, or in accordance with the principles of mathematics. —**mathe'matically** *adv.*

mathematician ('mæθ'mætɪtʃən) *n.* an expert or specialist in mathematics.

mathematics (ˌmæθˈmætiks) *n.* 1. (functioning as *sing.*) a group of related sciences, including algebra, geometry, and calculus, concerned with the study of number, quantity, shape, and space and their interrelationships by using a specialized notation. 2. (functioning as *sing.* or *pl.*) mathematical operations and processes involved in the solution of a problem or study of some scientific field.

maths (mæθs) *n.* *Brit. inf.* short for **mathematics**. U.S. equivalent: **math**

matinée (ˈmætiˌnei) *n.* a daytime, esp. afternoon, performance of a play, concert, etc.

matinée coat *n.* a short coat for a baby.

matins or **matins** (ˈmætnz) *n.* (functioning as *sing.* or *pl.*) 1. a. Chiefly R.C. Church. the first of the seven canonical hours of prayer. b. the service of morning prayer in the Church of England. 2. *Literary.* a morning song, esp. of birds.

matr- combining form. mother or motherhood: **matrarchy**.

matriarch (ˈmeɪtriˌɑːk) *n.* 1. a woman who dominates an organization, community, etc. 2. the female head of a tribe or family. 3. a very old or venerable woman. — **matriarchal** or **matriarchic** *adj.*

matriarchy (ˈmeɪtriˌɑːki) *n.* *pl.* -**chies**. 1. a form of social organization in which a female is head of the family or society, and descent and kinship are traced through the female line. 2. any society dominated by women.

matricide (ˈmætriˌsaɪd, ˈmer-) *n.* 1. the act of killing one's own mother. 2. a person who kills his mother. — **matricidal** *adj.*

matriculate (məˈtrɪkjʊˌleɪt) *vb.* 1. to enrol or be enrolled in an institution, esp. a college or university. 2. (*intr.*) to attain the academic standard required for a course at such an institution. — **matriculation** *n.*

matrilineal (ˌmætriˌlɪniəl, ˌmer-) *adj.* relating to descent or kinship through the female line.

matrimony (ˈmætrɪməni) *n.* *pl.* -**nies**. 1. the state or condition of being married. 2. the ceremony of marriage. 3. a. a card game in which the king and queen together are a winning combination. b. such a combination. — **matrimonial** *adj.*

matrix (ˈmeɪtrɪks, ˌmæ-) *n.* *pl.* **matrices** (ˈmeɪtriˌsɪz, ˌmæ-) or **matrices**. 1. a substance, situation, or environment in which something has its origin, takes form, or is enclosed. 2. the intercellular substance of bone, cartilage, connective tissue, etc. 3. the rock in which fossils, pebbles, etc., are embedded. 4. *Printing.* a. a metal mould for casting type. b. a papier-mâché or plastic mould impressed from the forme and used for stereotyping. 5. a mould used in the production of gramophone records. 6. a bed of perforated material placed beneath a workpiece in a press or stamping machine against which the punch operates. 7. *Maths.* a rectangular array of elements set out in rows and columns, used to facilitate the solution of problems, such as transformation of coordinates. 8. *Obs.* the womb.

matron (ˈmeɪtrən) *n.* 1. a married woman regarded as staid or dignified. 2. a woman in charge of the domestic or medical arrangements in an institution. 3. U.S. a warden in a prison. 4. *Brit.* the administrative head of the nursing staff in a hospital. Official name: **nursing officer**. — **matronal** or **matronly** *adj.* — **matronhood** or **matronship** *n.*

matron of honour *n.* *pl.* **matrons of honour**. a married woman serving as chief attendant to a bride.

matt or **matte** (mæt) *adj.* *vb.* variant spellings of **mat** (senses 2 & 4).

Matt. *Bible.* abbrev. for **Matthew**.

matted (ˈmætd) *adj.* 1. tangled into a thick mass. 2. covered with or formed of matting.

matter (ˈmætə) *n.* 1. that which makes up something, esp. a physical object; material. 2. substance that occupies space and has mass, as distinguished from substance that is mental, spiritual, etc. 3. substance of a specified type: **vegetable matter**. 4. (sometimes foll. by *of* or *for*) thing; affair; concern; question: *a matter of taste*. 5. a quantity or amount: *a matter of a few pence*. 6. the content of written or verbal material as distinct from its style or form. 7. (used with a *negative*) importance; consequence. 8. *Philosophy.* a. (in the writings of Aristotle and the Scholastics) that which is itself formless but can receive form and become substance. b. that which is organized into chemical substances and living things. c. (in the Cartesian tradition) one of two basic modes of existence, the other being **mind**. 9. *Printing.* a. type set up. b. copy to be set in type. 10. a

secretion or discharge, such as pus. 11. *Law.* a. something to be proved. b. statements or allegations to be considered by a court. 12. *for that matter.* as regards that. 13. *no matter.* a. regardless of; irrespective of: *no matter what the excuse, you must not be late*. b. (sentence substitute) it is unimportant. 14. *the matter.* wrong; the trouble: *there's nothing the matter*. ~*vb.* (*intr.*) 15. to be of consequence or importance. 16. to form and discharge pus.

matter of fact *n.* 1. a fact that is undeniably true. 2. *Law.* a statement of facts the truth of which the court must determine on the basis of the evidence before it. 3. *as a matter of fact.* actually; in fact. ~*adj.* **matter-of-fact**. 4. unimaginative or emotionless: *he gave a matter-of-fact account of the murder*.

matting (ˈmætnɪŋ) *n.* 1. a coarsely woven fabric, usually made of a natural fibre such as straw or hemp and used as a floor covering, packing material, etc. 2. the act or process of making mats. 3. material for mats.

matins (ˈmætnɪz) *n.* a variant spelling of **matins**.

mattock (ˈmætkək) *n.* a type of large pick that has one end of its blade shaped like an adze, used for loosening soil, cutting roots, etc.

matress (ˈmætrɪs) *n.* 1. a large flat pad with a strong cover, filled with straw, foam rubber, etc., and often incorporating coiled springs, used as a bed or as part of a bed. 2. a woven mat of brushwood, poles, etc., used to protect an embankment, dyke, etc., from scour. 3. a concrete or steel raft or slab used as a foundation or footing.

matureate (ˈmætjuˌreɪt, ˈmætju-) *vb.* 1. to mature or bring to maturity. 2. a less common word for **suppuration**. — **maturation** *n.* — **maturative** (məˈtʃʊərətɪv, ˈmætju-) *adj.*

mature (məˈtʃʊə, ˈtʃʊə) *adj.* 1. relatively advanced physically, mentally, etc.; grown-up. 2. (of plans, theories, etc.) fully considered; perfected. 3. due or payable: *a mature debenture*. 4. *Biol.* a. fully developed or differentiated: *a mature cell*. b. fully grown; adult: *a mature animal*. 5. (of fruit, wine, cheese, etc.) ripe or fully aged. ~*vb.* 6. to make or become mature. 7. (*intr.*) (of notes, bonds, etc.) to become due for payment or repayment. — **ma'turely** *adv.* — **ma'tureness** or **ma'turity** *n.*

matutinal (məˈtʃuˌtaɪnəl) *adj.* of, occurring in, or during the morning.

matzo, **matzoh** (ˈmætsəʊ) or **matza**, **matzah** (ˈmætsə) *n.* *pl.* **matzos**, **matzohs**, **matzas**, **matzahs**, or **matzoth** (Hebrew mə'tsot). a large brittle very thin biscuit of unleavened bread, traditionally eaten during the Jewish Passover.

maudlin (ˈmɔːdlɪn) *adj.* foolishly tearful or sentimental, as when drunk, etc.

maul (mɔːl) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to handle clumsily; paw. 2. to batter or lacerate. ~*n.* 3. a heavy two-handed hammer. 4. *Rugby.* a loose scrum. — **mauler** *n.*

maunder (ˈmɔːndaʊ) *vb.* (*intr.*) to move, talk, or act aimlessly or idly.

Maundy money (ˈmɔːndi) *n.* specially minted coins given by the British sovereign to poor people on the Thursday before Easter (**Maundy Thursday**).

mausoleum (ˌmɔːsəˈliəm) *n.* *pl.* -**leums** or -**lea** (-liə). a large stately tomb.

mauve (mɔːv) *n.* 1. a. any of various pale to moderate pinkish-purple or bluish-purple colours. b. (as *adj.*): *a mauve flower*. 2. a reddish-purple aniline dye.

maverick (ˈmævərɪk) *n.* 1. (in the U.S.) an unbranded animal, esp. a stray calf. 2. a. a person of independent or unorthodox views. b. (as *modifier*): *a maverick politician*.

mavis (ˈmeɪvɪs) *n.* a popular name for the **song thrush**.

maw (mɔː) *n.* 1. the mouth, throat, crop, or stomach of an animal, esp. of a voracious animal. 2. *inf.* the mouth or stomach of a greedy person.

mawkish (ˈmɔːkɪʃ) *adj.* 1. falsely sentimental, esp. in a weak or maudlin way. 2. nauseating or insipid. — **mawkishly** *adv.* — **mawkishness** *n.*

max. abbrev. for **maximum**.

maxi (ˈmæksi) *adj.* 1. a. (of a garment) reaching the ankle. b. (as *n.*): *she wore a maxi*. c. (in combination): *a maxidress*. 2. large or considerable.

maxilla (mæksɪlə) *n.* *pl.* -**lae** (-liː). 1. the upper jawbone in vertebrates. 2. any member of one or two pairs of mouthparts in insects and other arthropods. — **maxillary** *adj.*

maxim (ˈmæksɪm) *n.* a brief expression of a general truth, principle, or rule of conduct.

maximize or **-ise** ('mæksɪ,maɪz) *vb.* (tr.) to make as high or great as possible; increase to a maximum. —**maximi'zation** or **-i'sation** *n.* —**'maxi,mizer** or **-iser** *n.*

maximum ('mæksɪmə) *n.*, *pl.* **-mums** or **-ma** (-mə). 1. the greatest possible amount, degree, etc. 2. the highest value of a variable quantity. ~*adj.* 3. of, being, or showing a maximum or maximums. ~*Abbrev.: max.*

maxwell ('mækswəl) *n.* the cgs unit of magnetic flux equal to the flux through one square centimetre normal to a field of one gauss. It is equivalent to 10^{-8} weber. *Abbrev.: Mx*

may¹ ('meɪ) *vb.* *past might.* (takes an infinitive without to or an implied infinitive) used as an auxiliary 1. to indicate that permission is requested by or granted to someone: *he may go.* 2. (often foll. by *well*) to indicate possibility: *the rope may break.* 3. to indicate ability or capacity, esp. in questions: *may I help you?* 4. to express a strong wish: *long may she reign.* 5. to indicate result or purpose: used only in clauses introduced by *that* or *so* that: *he writes so that the average reader may understand.* 6. to express courtesy in a question: *whose child may this little girl be?* 7. **be that as it may.** in spite of that: a sentence connector conceding the possible truth of a previous statement and introducing an adversative clause: *be that as it may, I still think he should come.* 8. **come what may.** whatever happens. 9. **that's as may be.** (foll. by a clause introduced by *but*) that may be so.

▷ **Usage.** In careful written usage, *may* is used rather than *can* when reference is made to permission rather than to capability. *He may do it*, for this reason, more appropriate than *he can do it* when the desired sense is *he is allowed to do it*. In spoken English, however, *can* is often used where the correct use of *may* results in forms that are considered to be awkward. *Can't I?* is preferred on this ground to *mayn't I?* in speech. The difference between *may* and *might* is one of emphasis: *he might be coming* usually indicates less certainty than *he may be coming*. Similarly, *might I have it?* is felt to be more hesitant than *may I have it?*

may² or **may tree** ('meɪ) *n.* a Brit. name for hawthorn.

May ('meɪ) *n.* the fifth month of the year, consisting of 31 days.

Maya ('maɪə) *n.* 1. (*pl.* **-ya** or **-yas**) Also called: **Mayan**. a member of an American Indian people of Yucatán, Belize, and N Guatemala, once having an advanced civilization. 2. the language of this people.

maybe ('meɪ,bɪ) *adv.* 1. perhaps. ~*sentence substitute.* 2. possibly; neither yes nor no.

Mayday ('meɪ,deɪ) *n.* the international radiotelephone distress signal.

May Day *n.* the first day of May, traditionally a celebration of the coming of spring: in some countries now observed as a holiday in honour of workers.

mayfly ('meɪ,flaɪ) *n.*, *pl.* **-flies**. any of an order of short-lived insects having large transparent wings.

mayhap ('meɪ,hæp) *adv.* an archaic word for **perhaps**.

mayhem or **maihe(m)** ('meɪhɛm) *n.* 1. *Law.* the wilful and unlawful infliction of injury upon a person, esp. (formerly) the injuring or removing of a limb rendering him less capable of defending himself against attack. 2. any violent destruction or confusion.

mayn't ('meɪənt, meɪnt) *contraction* of *may not*.

mayonnaise ('meɪəneɪz) *n.* a thick creamy sauce made from egg yolks, oil, and vinegar or lemon juice.

mayor ('meɪə) *n.* the chief officer of a municipal corporation in many countries. *Scot. equivalent:* **provost**. —**'mayoral** *adj.* —**'mayor,ship** *n.*

mayoralty ('meɪərəltɪ) *n.*, *pl.* **-ties**. the office or term of office of a mayor.

mayoress ('meɪəres) *n.* 1. *Chiefly Brit.* the wife of a mayor. 2. a female mayor.

maypole ('meɪ,pəʊl) *n.* a tall pole around which people dance during May-Day celebrations.

May queen *n.* a girl chosen, esp. for her beauty, to preside over May-Day celebrations.

maze ('meɪz) *n.* 1. a complex network of paths or passages, esp. one with high hedges in a garden, designed to puzzle those walking through it. 2. a similar system represented diagrammatically as a pattern of lines. 3. any confusing network of streets, etc. 4. a state of confusion. ~*vb.* 5. an archaic or dialect word for **amaze**. —**'mazement** *n.* —**'mazy** *adj.*

mazurka or **mazurka** (mɔ'zɜ:kə) *n.* 1. a Polish national dance in triple time. 2. a piece of music composed for this dance.

M.B. *abbrev.* for Bachelor of Medicine.

M.B.E. *abbrev.* for Member of the Order of the British Empire (a Brit. title).

M.C. *abbrev.* for: 1. Master of Ceremonies. 2. (in the U.S.) Member of Congress. 3. (in Britain) Military Cross.

Mc- *prefix.* a variant of **Mac-**.

M.C.C. (in Britain) *abbrev.* for Marylebone Cricket Club.

McCoy (mə'kɔɪ) *n. Sl.* the genuine person or thing (esp. in the real McCoy).

M.Ch. *abbrev.* for Master of Surgery.

Md the chemical symbol for mendelevium.

M.D. *abbrev.* for: 1. Doctor of Medicine. 2. mentally deficient. 3. Managing Director.

M.D.T. (in the U.S. and Canada) *abbrev.* for Mountain Daylight Time.

me (mi; unstressed mi) *pron. (objective)* 1. refers to the speaker or writer: *that shocks me.* ~*n.* 2. *Inf.* the personality of the speaker or writer or something that expresses it: *the real me.*

▷ **Usage.** Although the nominative case is traditionally required after the verb *to be*, even careful speakers say *it is me* (or *him, her, etc.*) rather than *it is I* in informal contexts. The use of *me, etc.*, before an *-ing* form of the verb (*he disapproved of me coming*) is common, but careful speakers and writers use the possessive form: *he disapproved of my coming.*

ME or **M.E.** *abbrev.* for Middle English.

mea culpa *Latin.* ('meɪə: 'kʊlpə:) my fault: an acknowledgment of guilt.

mead¹ ('mi:d) *n.* a wine made by fermenting a solution of honey, often with spices added.

mead² ('mi:d) *n.* an archaic or poetic word for **meadow**.

meadow ('medəʊ) *n.* 1. an area of grassland, often used for hay or for grazing of animals. 2. a low-lying piece of grassland, often boggy and near a river. —**'meadowy** *adj.*

meadowsweet ('medəʊ,swɪt) *n.* 1. a Eurasian plant with dense heads of small fragrant cream-coloured flowers. 2. any of several related North American plants.

meagre or **U.S. meager** ('mi:ɡə) *adj.* 1. deficient in amount, quality, or extent. 2. thin or emaciated. 3. lacking in richness or strength. —**'meagrely** or **U.S. 'meagerly** *adv.*

meal¹ ('mi:l) *n.* 1. **a.** any of the regular occasions, such as breakfast, lunch, dinner, etc., when food is served and eaten. **b. (in combination):** *mealtime.* 2. the food served and eaten. 3. **make a meal of.** *Inf.* to perform (a task) with unnecessarily great effort.

meal² ('mi:l) *n.* 1. the edible part of a grain or pulse (excluding wheat) ground to a coarse powder. 2. *Scot.* oatmeal. 3. *U.S.* maize flour. —**'mealy** *adj.*

mealie ('mi:lɪ) *n.* a South African word for **maize**.

mealie-meal *n.* **S. African.** meal made from finely ground maize.

meals-on-wheels *n.* (in Britain) a service taking hot meals to the elderly, infirm, etc. in their own homes.

meal ticket *n.* 1. the U.S. equivalent of **luncheon voucher**. 2. *Sl.* a person, situation, etc., providing a source of livelihood or income.

mealy-mouthed *adj.* hesitant or afraid to speak plainly; not outspoken.

mean¹ ('mi:n) *vb.* **meaning, meant.** (*mainly* tr.) 1. (*may take a clause as object or an infinitive*) to intend to convey or express. 2. (*may take a clause as object or an infinitive*) to intend: *she didn't mean to hurt it.* 3. (*may take a clause as object*) to say or do in all seriousness: *the boss means what he says.* 4. (*often* passive; often foll. by *for*) to destine or design (for a certain person or purpose): *she was meant for greater things.* 5. (*may take a clause as object*) to denote or connote; signify; represent. 6. (*may take a clause as object*) to produce; cause: *the weather will mean long traffic delays.* 7. to have the importance of: *money means nothing to him.* 8. (*intr.*) to have the intention of behaving or acting (esp. in *mean well* or *mean ill*). 9. **mean business.** to be serious about something.

mean² ('mi:n) *adj.* 1. *Chiefly Brit.* miserly, ungenerous, or petty. 2. despicable, ignoble, or callous: *a mean action.* 3. poor or shabby: *a mean abode.* 4. *Inf.* chiefly U.S. bad-tempered; vicious. 5. *Inf.* ashamed: *he felt mean.* 6. *Sl.* excellent; skilful: *he plays a mean trombone.* 7. *no mean a.* of high quality: *no mean performer.* **b.** difficult: *no mean feat.* —**'meanly** *adv.* —**'mean-ness** *n.*

mean³ ('mi:n) *n.* 1. the middle point, state, or course between limits or extremes. 2. moderation. 3. *Maths. a.*

the second and third terms of a proportion, as b and c in $a/b = c/d$. **b.** another name for **average** (sense 2). **4. Statistics.** a statistic obtained by multiplying each possible value of a variable by its probability and then taking the sum or integral over the range of the variable. **~adj.** **5.** intermediate or medium in size, quantity, etc. **6.** occurring halfway between extremes or limits; average.

meander (mɪˈændə) *vb.* (*intr.*) **1.** to follow a winding course. **2.** to wander without definite aim or direction. **~n.** **3.** (*often pl.*) a curve or bend, as in a river. **4.** (*often pl.*) a winding course or movement. **5.** an ornamental pattern, esp. as used in ancient Greek architecture.

mean deviation *n.* **Statistics.** **1.** the difference between an observed value of a variable and its mean. **2.** Also called: **mean deviation from the mean (or median), average deviation.** a measure of dispersion derived by computing the mean of the absolute values of the differences between observed values of a variable and the variable's mean.

meaning (ˈmiːnɪŋ) *n.* **1.** the sense or significance of a word, sentence, symbol, etc.; import. **2.** the purpose behind speech, action, etc. **3.** the inner, symbolic, or true interpretation, value, or message. **4.** valid content; efficacy. **~adj.** **5.** expressive of some sense, intention, criticism, etc.; a *meaning look*. **~See also well-meaning.**

meaningful (ˈmiːnɪŋfʊl) *adj.* having great meaning or validity. — **meaningfully** *adv.* — **meaningfulness** *n.*

meaningless (ˈmiːnɪŋləs) *adj.* futile or empty of meaning. — **meaninglessly** *adv.* — **meaninglessness** *n.*

means (miːnz) *n.* **1.** (*functioning as sing. or pl.*) the medium, method, or instrument used to obtain a result or achieve an end: *a means of communication*. **2.** (*functioning as pl.*) resources or income. **3.** (*functioning as pl.*) considerable wealth or income: *a man of means*. **4.** by all means, without hesitation or doubt; certainly. **5.** by means of, with the use or help of. **6.** by no manner of means, definitely not. **7.** by no (or not by any) means, on no account; in no way.

means test *n.* the checking of a person's income to determine whether he qualifies for financial or social aid from a government.

meant (ment) *vb.* the past tense or past participle of **mean**.

mean time or mean solar time *n.* the times, at a particular place, measured in terms of the passage of the mean sun, giving 24-hour days (mean solar days) throughout a year.

meantime (ˈmiːn,taim) or **meanwhile** (ˈmiːn,wail) *n.* **1.** the intervening time or period (esp. in *in the meantime*). **~adv.** **2.** during the intervening time or period. **3.** at the same time, esp. in another place.

▷ **Usage.** In formal usage, *in the meantime* is preferred to *meantime*, although *meantime* is very common in informal spoken English. The most usual one-word form of the adverb in written English is *meanwhile*: *in the meantime (or meanwhile not meantime), the king had not been idle*.

meany or meanie (ˈmiːni) *n., pl. meanies.* **Inf.** **1.** Chiefly *Brit.* a miserly or stingy person. **2.** Chiefly *U.S.* a nasty ill-tempered person.

measles (ˈmɪzəlz) *n.* **1.** a highly contagious viral disease common in children, characterized by fever, profuse nasal discharge of mucus, conjunctivitis, and a rash of small red spots. See also **German measles**. **2.** a disease of cattle, sheep, and pigs, caused by infestation with tapeworm larvae.

measly (ˈmɪzli) *adj.* **-slier, -sliest.** **1.** *Inf.* meagre in quality or quantity. **2.** (of meat) infested with tapeworm larvae. **3.** having or relating to measles.

measure (ˈmeɪʒə) *n.* **1.** the extent, quantity, amount, or degree of something, as determined by measurement or calculation. **2.** a device for measuring distance, volume, etc., such as a graduated scale or container. **3.** a system of measurement: *metric measure*. **4.** a standard used in a system of measurements. **5.** a specific or standard amount of something: *a measure of grain; full measure*. **6.** a basis or standard for comparison. **7.** reasonable or permissible limit or bounds: *within measure*. **8.** degree or extent (often in *in some measure, in a measure, etc.*): *a measure of freedom*. **9.** (*often pl.*) a particular action intended to achieve an effect. **10.** a legislative bill, act, or resolution. **11.** *Music.* another word for **bar** (sense 15). **12.** *Prosody.* poetic rhythm or cadence; metre. **13.** a metrical foot. **14.** *Poetic.* a melody or tune. **15.** the act of measuring; measurement. **16.** *Arch.* a dance. **17.**

Printing. the width of a page or column of type. **18.** for good measure, as an extra precaution or beyond requirements. **19.** made to measure. (of clothes) made to fit an individual purchaser. **~vb.** **20.** (*tr.*; often foll. by *up*) to determine the size, amount, etc., of by measurement. **21.** (*intr.*) to make a measurement. **22.** (*tr.*) to estimate or determine. **23.** (*tr.*) to function as a measurement of: *the ohm measures electrical resistance*. **24.** (*tr.*) to bring into competition or conflict with: *he measured his strength against that of his opponent*. **25.** (*intr.*) to be as specified in extent, amount, etc.: *the room measures six feet*. **26.** (*tr.*) to travel or move over as if measuring. — **measurable** *adj.* — **measureless** *adj.*

measured (ˈmeɪʒəd) *adj.* **1.** determined by measurement. **2.** slow or stately. **3.** carefully considered; deliberate. — **measuredly** *adv.*

measurement (ˈmeɪʒəmənt) *n.* **1.** the act or process of measuring. **2.** an amount, extent, or size determined by measuring. **3.** a system of measures based on a particular standard.

measures (ˈmeɪʒəz) *pl. n.* rock strata that are characterized by a particular type of sediment or deposit: *coal measures*.

measure up *vb.* **1.** (*adv.*) to determine the size, etc., (of) by measurement. **2.** **measure up to.** to fulfil (expectations, standards, etc.).

meat (mi:t) *n.* **1.** the flesh of mammals used as food. **2.** anything edible, esp. flesh with the texture of meat: *crab meat*. **3.** food, as opposed to drink. **4.** the essence or gist. **5.** an archaic word for **meal**. **6.** **meat and drink,** a source of pleasure. — **meatless** *adj.*

meatball (ˈmi:t,bɔ:l) *n.* **1.** minced beef, shaped into a ball before cooking. **2.** *U.S. sl.* a stupid or boring person.

meaty (ˈmi:tɪ) *adj.* **meatier, meatiest.** **1.** of, relating to, or full of meat. **2.** heavily built; fleshy or brawny. **3.** full of import or interest: *a meaty discussion*. — **meatily** *adv.* — **meatiness** *n.*

Mecca (ˈmekə) *n.* **1.** a city in W Saudi Arabia; birthplace of Mohammed; the holiest city of Islam. **2.** (*sometimes not cap.*) a place that attracts many visitors.

Meccano (mɪˈkæːnəʊ) *n.* **Trademark.** a construction set of miniature metal or plastic parts from which mechanical models can be made.

mech. *abbrev. for:* **1.** mechanical. **2.** mechanics. **3.** mechanism.

mechanic (mɪˈkænik) *n.* a person skilled in maintaining or operating machinery, motors, etc.

mechanical (mɪˈkænikl) *adj.* **1.** made, performed, or operated by or as if by a machine or machinery. **2.** concerned with machines or machinery. **3.** relating to or controlled or operated by physical forces. **4.** of or concerned with mechanics. **5.** (of a gesture, etc.) automatic; lacking thought, feeling, etc. **6.** *Philosophy.* accounting for phenomena by physically determining forces. — **me'chanicalism** *n.* — **me'chanically** *adv.* — **me'chanicalness** *n.*

mechanical drawing *n.* a drawing to scale of a machine, machine component, architectural plan, etc., from which dimensions can be taken.

mechanical engineering *n.* the branch of engineering concerned with the design, construction, and operation of machines.

mechanics (mɪˈkæniks) *n.* **1.** (*functioning as sing.*) the branch of science, divided into statics, dynamics, and kinematics, concerned with the equilibrium or motion of bodies in a particular frame of reference. **2.** (*functioning as sing.*) the science of designing, constructing, and operating machines. **3.** the working parts of a machine. **4.** the technical aspects of something.

mechanism (ˈmekəˌnɪzəm) *n.* **1.** a system or structure of moving parts that performs some function, esp. in a machine. **2.** something resembling a machine in the arrangement and working of its parts. **3.** any mechanical device or part of such a device. **4.** a process or technique: *the mechanism of novel writing*. **5.** *Philosophy.* the attempt to explain phenomena in mechanical terms. **6.** *Psychoanal.* a. the ways in which psychological forces interact and operate. b. a structure having an influence on the behaviour of a person, such as a defence mechanism.

mechanistic (ˌmekəˈnɪstɪk) *adj.* **1.** *Philosophy.* of or relating to the theory of mechanism. **2.** *Maths.* of or relating to mechanics. — **mechanist** *n.* — **mecha'nistically** *adv.*

mechanize or -ise (ˈmekəˌnaɪz) *vb.* (*tr.*) **1.** to equip (a factory, etc.) with machinery. **2.** to make mechanical, automatic, or monotonous. **3.** to equip (an army, etc.) with motorized or armoured vehicles.

—**mechanization** or **-i'sation** *n.* —**mecha,nizer** or **-iser** *n.*

med. *abbrev. for:* 1. medical. 2. medicine. 3. medical. 4. medium.

Med (**med**) *n. Inf.* the Mediterranean region.

M.Ed. *abbrev. for* Master of Education.

medal (**'medl**) *n.* a small flat piece of metal bearing an inscription or image, given as an award or commemoration of some outstanding event, etc. —**medallist** *n.*

medallion (**mɪ'dæljən**) *n.* 1. a large medal. 2. an oval or circular decorative device resembling a medal, usually bearing a portrait or relief moulding, used in architecture and textile design.

meddle (**'medl**) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *with*) to interfere officiously or annoyingly. 2. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *in*) to involve oneself unwarrantedly. —**meddler** *n.* —**meddlesome** *adj.*

media (**'mɪdiə**) *n.* 1. a plural of **medium**. 2. *Inf.* the mass media collectively.

mediaeval (**'mɛdi:'i:vəl**) *adj.* a variant spelling of **medieval**.

medial (**'mɪdiəl**) *adj.* 1. of or situated in the middle. 2. ordinary or average in size. 3. *Maths.* relating to an average. 4. another word for **median** (senses 1, 2). —**medially** *adv.*

median (**'mɪdiən**) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, situated in, or directed towards the middle. 2. *Statistics.* of or relating to the median. ~*n.* 3. a middle point, plane, or part. 4. *Geom.* a. a straight line joining one vertex of a triangle to the midpoint of the opposite side. b. a straight line joining the midpoints of the nonparallel sides of a trapezium. 5. *Statistics.* the middle value in a frequency distribution, below and above which lie values with equal total frequencies. 6. *Statistics.* the middle number or average of the two middle numbers in an ordered sequence of numbers. —**medianly** *adv.*

mediant (**'mɪdiənt**) *n.* *Music.* a. the third degree of a minor scale. b. (as modifier): a **mediant chord**.

mediate *vb.* (**'mɪdi,et**). 1. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *between* or *in*) to intervene (between parties or in a dispute) in order to bring about agreement. 2. to bring about (an agreement) between parties in a dispute. 3. to resolve (differences) by mediation. 4. (*intr.*) to be in an intermediate position. 5. (*tr.*) to serve as a medium for causing (a result) or transferring (objects, information, etc.). ~*adj.* (**'mɪdiət**). 6. occurring as a result of or dependent upon mediation. —**mediately** *adv.* —**medi'ation** *n.* —**medi,ator** *n.*

medic (**'mɛdɪk**) *n. Inf.* a doctor, medical orderly, or medical student.

medical (**'mɛdɪkəl**) *adj.* 1. of or relating to the science of medicine or to the treatment of patients by drugs, etc., as opposed to surgery. ~*n.* 2. *Inf.* a medical examination. —**medically** *adv.*

medical certificate *n.* 1. a document stating the result of a satisfactory medical examination. 2. a doctor's certificate giving evidence of a person's unfitness for work, etc.

medicate (**'mɛdɪ,keɪt**) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to cover or impregnate (a wound, etc.) with an ointment, etc. 2. to treat (a patient) with a medicine. 3. to add a medication to (a bandage, shampoo, etc.). —**medicative** *adj.*

medication (**'mɛdɪ'keɪʃən**) *n.* 1. treatment with drugs or remedies. 2. a drug or remedy.

medicinal (**'mɛdɪsɪnəl**) *adj.* 1. relating to or having therapeutic properties. ~*n.* 2. a medicinal substance. —**med'icinally** *adv.*

medicine (**'mɛdɪsɪn**, **'mɛdsɪn**) *n.* 1. any drug or remedy for use in treating, preventing, or alleviating the symptoms of disease. 2. the science of preventing, diagnosing, alleviating, or curing disease. 3. any nonsurgical branch of medical science. 4. the practice or profession of medicine. 5. something regarded by primitive people as having magical or remedial properties. 6. **take one's medicine**. to accept a deserved punishment. 7. **a taste (or dose) of one's own medicine**. an unpleasant experience in retaliation for a similar unkind or aggressive act.

medicine man *n.* (among certain peoples, esp. North American Indians) a person believed to have supernatural powers of healing; a magician or sorcerer.

medico (**'mɛdɪ,kəʊ**) *n.* *pl.* **-cos**. *Inf.* a doctor or medical student.

medieval or **mediaeval** (**'mɛdi:'i:vəl**) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or in the style of the Middle Ages. 2. *Inf.* old-fashioned; primitive. —**medi'evalist** or **medi'aevalist** *n.*

Medieval Greek *n.* the Greek language from the 7th

century A.D. to shortly after the sacking of Constantinople in 1204. Also called: **Medieval Greek**, **Byzantine Greek**.

Medieval Latin *n.* the Latin language as used throughout Europe in the Middle Ages.

mediocre (**'mɪdi:'əʊkə**) *adj.* *Often derog.* average or ordinary in quality. —**mediocrity** (**'bɒkrɪtɪ**) *n.*

meditate (**'mɛdɪ,tet**) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. (foll. by *on* or *upon*) to think about something deeply. 2. to reflect deeply on spiritual matters, esp. as a religious act. —**meditative** *adj.* —**meditatively** *adv.* —**medi,tator** *n.*

meditation (**'mɛdɪ'teɪʃən**) *n.* 1. the act of meditating; reflection. 2. contemplation of spiritual matters, esp. as a religious practice.

Mediterranean (**'mɛdɪtə'reɪniən**) *n.* 1. short for the **Mediterranean Sea**, the sea between S Europe, N Africa, and SW Asia. 2. a native or inhabitant of a Mediterranean country. ~*adj.* 3. of, relating to, situated or dwelling near the Mediterranean Sea. 4. denoting a postulated subdivision of the Caucasoid race, characterized by slender build and dark complexion. 5. *Meteorol.* (of a climate) characterized by hot summers and relatively warm winters when most of the annual rainfall occurs. 6. (*often not cap.*) *Obs.* situated in the middle of a land mass; inland.

medium (**'mɪdiəm**) *adj.* 1. midway between extremes; average. ~*n.*, *pl.* **-dia** (**-diə**) or **-diums**. 2. an intermediate or middle state, degree, or condition; mean: the **happy medium**. 3. an intervening substance or agency for transmitting or producing an effect; vehicle. 4. a means or agency for communicating or diffusing information, etc., to the public. 5. a person supposedly used as a spiritual intermediary between the dead and the living. 6. the substance in which specimens of animals and plants are preserved or displayed. 7. *Biol.* Also called: **culture medium**. a nutritive substance in which cultures of bacteria or fungi are grown. 8. the substance or surroundings in which an organism naturally lives or grows. 9. *Art.* a. the category of a work of art, as determined by its materials and methods of production. b. the materials used in a work of art. 10. any solvent in which pigments are mixed and thinned.

▷ **Usage.** Careful writers and speakers do not use **media** as a singular noun when referring to a medium of mass communication: *television is a valuable medium* (not *media*) *for advertising*.

medium wave *n.* a. a radio wave with a wavelength between 100 and 1000 metres. b. (as modifier): a **medium-wave broadcast**.

medlar (**'mɛdlə**) *n.* 1. a small Eurasian tree. 2. its fruit, which resembles the crab apple and is not edible until it has begun to decay.

medley (**'mɛdlɪ**) *n.* 1. a mixture of various types or elements. 2. a musical composition consisting of various tunes arranged as a continuous whole. 3. Also called: **medley relay**. a. *Swimming*. a race in which a different stroke is used for each length. b. *Athletics*. a relay race in which each leg has a different distance.

medulla (**mɪ'dalə**) *n.*, *pl.* **-las** or **-lae** (**-li:**). 1. *Anat.* the innermost part of an organ or structure. 2. *Bot.* another name for **pith** (sense 4). —**med'ullary** or **med'ullar** *adj.*

medusa (**mɪ'dju:zə**) *n.*, *pl.* **-sas** or **-sae** (**-zi:**). another name for **jellyfish**. —**me'dusoid** *adj.*, *n.*

meek (**'mɪ:k**) *adj.* 1. patient, long-suffering, or submissive; humble. 2. spineless or spiritless; compliant. —**meekly** *adv.* —**meekness** *n.*

meerkat (**'mɪə,kæt**) *n.* any of several South African mongooses, esp. the slender-tailed meerkat or suricate, which has a lemur-like face and four-toed feet.

meerscham (**'mɪəʃəm**) *n.* 1. a white, yellowish, or pink compact earthy mineral consisting of hydrated magnesium silicate: used to make tobacco pipes and as a building stone. 2. a tobacco pipe having a bowl made of this mineral.

meet (**'mi:t**) *vb.* **meeting**, **met**. 1. (sometimes foll. by *up* or *with*) to come together (with), either by design or by accident; encounter. 2. to come into or be in conjunction or contact with (something or each other). 3. (*tr.*) to come to or be at the place of arrival of: *to meet a train*. 4. to make the acquaintance of or be introduced to (someone or each other). 5. to gather in the company of (someone or each other). 6. to come into the presence of (someone or each other) as opponents. 7. (*tr.*) to cope with effectively; satisfy: *to meet someone's demands*. 8. (*tr.*) to be apparent to (esp. in **meet the eye**). 9. (*tr.*) to return or counter: *to meet a blow with another*. 10. to agree with (someone or each other): *we met him on the price he suggested*. 11. (*tr.*) to experience; suffer: *he met his death in a road accident*. 12. to

occur together: *courage and kindness met in him.* ~*n.* 13. the assembly of hounds, huntsmen, etc., prior to a hunt. 14. a meeting, esp. a sports meeting. —'meeter *n.*

meet' (mi:t) *adj.* Arch. proper, fitting, or correct. —'meetly *adv.*

meeting ('mi:tiŋ) *n.* 1. an act of coming together; encounter. 2. an assembly or gathering. 3. a conjunction or union.

mega- *combining form.* 1. denoting 10⁶: megawatt. Symbol: M. 2. (in computer technology) denoting 2³⁰ (1 048 576): megabyte. 3. large or great: megalith.

megadeath ('megə,deθ) *n.* the death of a million people, esp. in a nuclear war or attack.

megahertz ('megə,hɜ:ts) *n., pl. megahertz.* one million hertz. Former name: megacycle.

megalith ('megəliθ) *n.* a stone of great size, esp. one forming part of a prehistoric monument. —'mega'lithic *adj.*

megalo- or before a vowel **megal-** *combining form.* indicating greatness, or abnormal size: megalopolis.

megalomania ('megələu'meniə) *n.* a mental illness characterized by delusions of grandeur, power, wealth, etc. —'megalo'maniac *adj., n.* —'megalomaniacal ('megələu'mə'naiəkl) *adj.*

megalopolis ('megə'li:pəlis) *n.* an urban complex, usually comprising several large towns. —'megalopolitan ('megə'li:pə'ti:n) *adj., n.*

megaphone ('megə,fəʊn) *n.* a funnel-shaped instrument used to amplify the voice. —'megaphonic ('megə'fənik) *adj.*

megaton ('megə,tən) *n.* 1. one million tons. 2. an explosive power, esp. of a nuclear weapon, equal to the power of one million tons of TNT.

megawatt ('megə,wɒt) *n.* one million watts.

meiosis (ma'iəʊsɪs) *n., pl. -ses* (-sɪz). 1. a type of cell division in which a nucleus divides into four daughter nuclei, each containing half the chromosome number of the parent nucleus. 2. Rhetoric. another word for litotes. —'meiotic (ma'iə'tik) *adj.* —'mel'otically *adv.*

melamine ('melə,min) *n.* 1. a colourless crystalline compound used in making synthetic resins. 2. a resin produced from melamine (melamine resin) or a material made from this resin.

melancholia ('melən'kəʊliə) *n.* Psychiatry. a mental state characterized by depression and irrational fears. —'melan'choli,ac *adj., n.*

melancholy ('melənkəli) *n., pl. -cholies.* 1. a tendency to gloominess or depression. 2. a sad thoughtful state of mind. 3. Arch. a gloomy character. b. one of the four bodily humours; black bile. ~*adj.* 4. characterized by, causing, or expressing sadness, dejection, etc. —'melan'cholic *adj., n.*

Melanesian ('melə'ni:ziən) *adj.* 1. of or relating to Melanesia (a division of islands in the Pacific), its people, or their languages. ~*n.* 2. a native or inhabitant of Melanesia; generally Negroid with frizzy hair and small stature. 3. a group or branch of languages spoken in Melanesia.

mélange French. (me'lɑ:ʒ) *n.* a mixture; confusion.

melanin ('melənin) *n.* any of a group of black or dark brown pigments present in the hair, skin, and eyes of man and animals; produced in excess in certain skin diseases and in melanomas.

melano- or before a vowel **melan-** *combining form.* black or dark: melanin; melanism; melanoma.

melanoma ('melə'nəʊmə) *n., pl. -mas* or -mata (-mətə). Pathol. a tumour composed of darkly pigmented cells.

Melba toast ('melbə) *n.* very thin crisp toast.

melee or **mêlée** ('meleɪ) *n.* a noisy riotous fight or brawl; a lively debate.

meliorate ('mi:lɪə'reɪt) *vb.* a variant of ameliorate. —'mello'rative *n.* —'mellorative ('mi:lɪə'reɪtɪv) *adj., n.*

melliferous ('mi:lɪfərəs) or **mellific** ('mi:lɪfik) *adj.* forming or producing honey.

mellifluous ('mi:lɪfluəs) or **mellifluent** *adj.* (of sounds or utterances) smooth or honeyed; sweet. —'mell'ifluously *adv.* —'mell'ifluousness or 'mell'ifluence *n.*

mellow ('meləʊ) *adj.* 1. (esp. of fruits) full-flavoured; sweet; ripe. 2. (esp. of wines) well-matured. 3. (esp. of colours or sounds) soft or rich. 4. kind-hearted, esp. through maturity or old age. 5. genial, as through the effects of alcohol. 6. (of soil) soft and loamy. ~*vb.* 7. to make or become mellow. —'mellowness *n.*

melodeon or **melodion** ('mi:lə'diən) *n.* Music. 1. a type of small accordion. 2. a type of keyboard instrument similar to the harmonium.

melodic (mi'lɒdik) *adj.* 1. of or relating to melody. 2. of or relating to a part in a piece of music. 3. melodious. —'mel'odically *adv.*

melodious (mi'lə'di:əs) *adj.* 1. having a tune that is pleasant to the ear. 2. of or relating to melody; melodic. —'mel'odiously *adv.* —'mel'odiousness *n.*

melodrama ('melə,drə:mə) *n.* 1. a play, film, etc., characterized by extravagant action and emotion. 2. (formerly) a romantic drama characterized by sensational incident, music, and song. 3. overdramatic emotion or behaviour. —'melodramatic ('melədrə'mætɪk) *adj.* —'melodra'matically *adv.* —'melodra'matics *pl. n.* —'melodramatist ('melə'drəmətɪst) *n.*

melody ('melədi) *n., pl. -dies.* 1. Music. a. a succession of notes forming a distinctive sequence; tune. b. the horizontally represented aspect of the structure of a piece of music. Cf. harmony (sense 4b). 2. sounds that are pleasant because of tone or arrangement, esp. words of poetry.

melon ('melən) *n.* 1. any of several varieties of trailing plants (see muskmelon, watermelon), cultivated for their edible fruit. 2. the fruit of any of these plants, which has a hard rind and juicy flesh.

Melpomene (mel'pɒmi:n) *n.* Greek myth. the Muse of tragedy.

melt (melt) *vb.* melting, melted; melted or molten. 1. to liquefy (a solid) or (of a solid) to become liquefied, as a result of the action of heat. 2. to become or make liquid; dissolve. 3. (often foll. by away) to disappear; fade. 4. (foll. by down) to melt (metal scrap) for reuse. 5. (often foll. by into) to blend or cause to blend gradually. 6. to make or become emotional or sentimental; soften. ~*n.* 7. the act or process of melting. 8. something melted or an amount melted. —'meltable *adj.* —'melter *n.* —'meltingly *adv.*

melting point *n.* the temperature at which a solid turns into a liquid.

melting pot *n.* 1. a pot in which metals or other substances are melted, esp. in order to mix them. 2. an area in which many races, ideas, etc., are mixed.

meltwater ('melt,wɔ:tə) *n.* melted snow or ice.

mem. *abbrev. for:* 1. member. 2. memoir. 3. memorandum. 4. memorial.

member ('membə) *n.* 1. a person who belongs to a club, political party, etc. 2. any individual plant or animal in a taxonomic group. 3. any part of an animal body, such as a limb. 4. any part of a plant, such as a petal, root, etc. 5. Maths, Logic. any individual object belonging to a set or logical class. 6. a component part of a building or construction. —'memberless *adj.*

Member of Parliament *n.* a member of the House of Commons or similar legislative body, as in many Commonwealth countries.

membership ('membə,ʃɪp) *n.* 1. the members of an organization collectively. 2. the state of being a member.

membrane ('membrein) *n.* 1. any thin pliable sheet of material. 2. a pliable sheetlike usually fibrous tissue that covers, lines, or connects plant and animal organs or cells. —'membranous ('membrə'nəs) or 'membraneous ('mem'breɪnəs) *adj.*

memento (mi'mentəʊ) *n., pl. -tos* or -toes. something that reminds one of past events; a souvenir.

memento mori ('mɔ:ri) *n.* an object, such as a skull, intended to remind people of death.

memo ('meməʊ, 'mi:məʊ) *n., pl. memos.* short for memorandum.

memoir ('memwə) *n.* 1. a biography or historical account, esp. one based on personal knowledge. 2. an essay, as on a specialized topic. —'memoirist *n.*

memoirs ('memwəz) *pl. n.* 1. a collection of reminiscences about a period, series of events, etc., written from personal experience or special sources. 2. an autobiographical record. 3. a record, as of transactions of a society, etc.

memorabilia ('memərə'bɪliə) *pl. n., sing. -rable* ('ræbəl). memorable events or things.

memorable ('memərəbəl) *adj.* worth remembering or easily remembered. —'memora'bility *n.* —'memorably *adv.*

memorandum ('memərəndəm) *n., pl. -dums* or -da (-də). 1. a written statement, record, or communication. 2. a note of things to be remembered. 3. an informal diplomatic communication. 4. Law. a short written summary of the terms of a transaction. ~Often (esp. for senses 1 and 2) shortened to **memo**.

memorial (mi'mɔ:riəl) *adj.* 1. serving to preserve the

memory of the dead or a past event. 2. of or involving memory. ~*n*. 3. something serving as a remembrance. 4. a written statement of facts submitted to a government, authority, etc., in conjunction with a petition. 5. an informal diplomatic paper. —**me'morially** *adv*.

memorize or **-ise** ('memə,raɪz) *vb*. (tr.) to commit to memory; learn so as to remember.

memory ('meməri) *n*, *pl.* **-ries**. 1. the ability of the brain to store and recall past sensations, thoughts, knowledge, etc.: *he can do it from memory*. 2. the sum of everything retained by the mind. 3. a particular recollection of an event, person, etc. 4. the time over which recollection extends: *within his memory*. 5. commemoration or remembrance: *in memory of our leader*. 6. the state of being remembered, as after death. 7. Also called: **memory bank**, a part of a computer in which information is stored for immediate use by the central processing unit.

memsahib ('mem,sɑ:ɪb, -hɪb) *n*. (formerly in India) a term of respect used of a European married woman.

men (men) *n*. the plural of **man**.

menace ('menɪs) *vb*. 1. to threaten with violence, danger, etc. ~*n*. 2. *Literary*. a threat. 3. something menacing; a source of danger. 4. *Inf.* a nuisance. —**'menacingly** *adv*.

ménage (mei'na:ʒ) *n*. the persons of a household.

ménage à trois *French*. (mena:ʒ a 'trwa) *n*, *pl.* **ménages à trois** (mena:ʒ a 'trwa). a sexual arrangement involving a married couple and the lover of one of them.

menagerie (mi'nædʒəri) *n*. 1. a collection of wild animals kept for exhibition. 2. the place where such animals are housed.

mend (mend) *vb*. 1. (tr.) to repair (something broken or unserviceable). 2. to improve or undergo improvement; reform (often in **mend one's ways**). 3. (intr.) to heal or recover. 4. (of conditions) to improve; become better. ~*n*. 5. the act of repairing. 6. a mended area, esp. on a garment. 7. **on the mend**, becoming better, esp. in health. —**'mendable** *adj*. —**'mender** *n*.

mendacity (men'dæsɪti) *n*, *pl.* **-ties**. 1. the tendency to be untruthful. 2. a falsehood. —**mendacious** (men'deɪʃəs) *adj*. —**men'daciously** *adv*.

mendelevium (mend'i:li:vəm) *n*. a transuranic element artificially produced by bombardment of einsteinium. Symbol: Md; atomic no. 101; half-life of most stable isotope, ²⁸⁶Md: 60 days (approx.).

Mendel's laws ('mend'lz) *pl.* *n*. the principles of heredity proposed by Gregor Mendel (1822–84), Austrian monk and botanist. The **Law of Segregation** states that every somatic cell of an individual carries a pair of hereditary units for each character: the pairs separate during meiosis so that each gamete carries only one unit of each pair. The **Law of Independent Assortment** states that the separation of the units of each pair is not influenced by that of any other pair.

mendicant ('mendikənt) *adj*. 1. begging. 2. (of a member of a religious order) dependent on alms for sustenance. ~*n*. 3. a mendicant friar. 4. a less common word for **beggar**. —**'mendicancy** or **mendicity** (men'dɪsɪti) *n*.

menfolk ('men,fəʊk) *pl.* *n*. men collectively, esp. the men of a particular family.

menhir ('menhi:ə) *n*. a single standing stone, dating from prehistoric times.

menial ('mi:niəl) *adj*. 1. consisting of or occupied with work requiring little skill, esp. domestic duties. 2. of, involving, or befitting servants. 3. servile. ~*n*. 4. a domestic servant. 5. a servile person.

meninges (mi'nɪndʒɪ:z) *pl.* *n*, *sing.* **meninx** ('mi:nɪŋks). the three membranes (**dura mater**, **arachnoid**, **pia mater**) that envelop the brain and spinal cord. —**meningeal** (mi'nɪndʒiəl) *adj*.

meningitis (menɪn'dʒaɪtɪs) *n*. inflammation of the membranes that surround the brain or spinal cord, caused by infection. —**meningitic** (menɪn'dʒɪtɪk) *adj*.

meniscus (mi'nɪskəs) *n*, *pl.* **-nisci** ('nɪsɪ) or **-niscuses**. 1. the curved upper surface of a liquid standing in a tube, produced by the surface tension. 2. a crescent-shaped lens; a concavo-convex or convexo-concave lens. —**'meniscoid** *adj*.

meno- *combining form*. menstruation.

menopause ('menəʊ,pəʊz) *n*. the period during which a woman's menstrual cycle ceases, normally at an age of 45 to 50. —**'meno'pausal** *adj*.

menorah (mi'nɔ:rə) *n.* *Judaism*. 1. a seven-branched

candelabrum used in ceremonies. 2. a stand with nine lamps used during the Hanukkah festival.

menses ('mensɪz) *n*, *pl.* **menses**. 1. another name for **menstruation**: see **menstruate**. 2. the period of time during which one menstruation occurs. 3. the matter discharged during menstruation.

menstruate ('menstru,et) *vb*. (intr.) to undergo menstruation. —**'menstruation** *n*.

mensuration (menʃə'reɪʃən) *n*. 1. the study of the measurement of geometric magnitudes such as length. 2. the act or process of measuring. —**mensurative** ('menʃərtɪv) *adj*.

-ment *suffix forming nouns, esp. from verbs*. 1. indicating state, condition, or quality: *enjoyment*. 2. indicating the result or product of an action: *embankment*. 3. indicating process or action: *management*.

mental ('mentl) *adj*. 1. of or involving the mind. 2. occurring only in the mind: *mental arithmetic*. 3. affected by mental illness: *a mental patient*. 4. concerned with mental illness: *a mental hospital*. 5. *Sl.* insane. —**'mentally** *adv*.

mental deficiency *n.* *Psychiatry*. a condition of low intellectual development requiring special education and employment. Also called: **mental handicap**, **mental retardation**, **mental subnormality**.

mentality (men'tælɪti) *n*, *pl.* **-ties**. 1. the state or quality of mental or intellectual ability. 2. a way of thinking; mental inclination or character.

menthol ('menbəl) *n*. an organic compound found in peppermint oil and used as an antiseptic, in inhalants, and as an analgesic.

mention ('menʃən) *vb*. (tr.) 1. to refer to or speak about briefly or incidentally. 2. to acknowledge or honour. 3. **not to mention** (something). to say nothing of (something too obvious to mention). ~*n*. 4. a recognition or acknowledgment. 5. a slight reference or allusion. 6. the act of mentioning. —**'mentionable** *adj*.

mentor ('mentɔ:) *n*. a wise or trusted adviser or guide.

menu ('menju:) *n*. a list of dishes served at a meal or that can be ordered in a restaurant.

meow, **miaow**, **miaow** (mi'au, mjau), or **miaul** (mi'aul, mjaul) *vb*. 1. (intr.) (of a cat) to make a characteristic crying sound. ~*interj.* 2. an imitation of this sound.

MEP *abbrev. for* Member of the European Parliament.

Mephistopheles (me'fɪstəf,i:lɪz) or **Mephisto** (mə'fɪstəʊ) *n*. a devil in medieval mythology and the one to whom Faust sold his soul in German legend. —**Mephistophelean** or **Mephistophilian** (me'fɪstə'fɪli:ən) *adj*.

-mer *suffix forming nouns. Chem.* denoting a substance of a particular class: *monomer*; *polymer*.

mercantile ('mɜ:kəntaɪl) *adj*. 1. of, relating to, or characteristic of trade or traders; commercial. 2. of or relating to mercantilism.

mercantilism ('mɜ:kəntɪ,lɪzəm) *n.* *Econ.* a theory prevalent in Europe during the 17th and 18th centuries asserting that the wealth of a nation depends on possession of precious metals and therefore that a government must maximize foreign trade surplus and foster national commercial interests, a merchant marine, the establishment of colonies, etc. —**'mercantilist** *n*, *adj*.

Mercator projection ('mɜ:kə'teɪə) *n*. a map projection on which parallels and meridians form a rectangular grid, scale being exaggerated with increasing distance from the equator. Also called: **Mercator's projection**.

mercenary ('mɜ:sənəri, -snri) *adj*. 1. influenced by greed or gain. 2. of or relating to a mercenary or mercenaries. ~*n*, *pl.* **-naries**. 3. a man hired to fight for a foreign army, etc. 4. *Rare*. any person who works solely for pay.

mercer ('mɜ:ʒə) *n.* *Brit.* a dealer in textile fabrics and fine cloth. —**'mercery** *n*.

mercerize or **-ise** ('mɜ:ʒə,raɪz) *vb*. (tr.) to treat (cotton yarn) with an alkali to increase its strength and reception to dye and impart a lustrous silky appearance.

merchandise *n*. ('mɜ:tʃən,dæɪs, -daɪz). 1. commercial goods; commodities. ~*vb*. ('mɜ:tʃən,dæɪz). 2. to engage in the commercial purchase and sale of (goods or services); trade.

merchant ('mɜ:tʃənt) *n*. 1. a person engaged in the purchase and sale of commodities for profit; trader. 2. *U.S. & Scot.* a person engaged in retail trade. 3. (esp. in historical contexts) any trader. 4. *Derog.* a person dealing or involved in something undesirable: *a gossip merchant*. 5. (*modifier*) a. of the merchant navy: *a merchant sailor*. b. of or concerned with trade: *a*

merchant ship. ~vb. **6.** (tr.) to conduct trade in; deal in.

merchant bank *n.* *Brit.* a financial institution engaged primarily in accepting foreign bills and underwriting new security issues. —**merchant banker** *n.*

merchantman ('mɜːtʃəntmən) *n., pl. -men.* a merchant ship.

merchant navy or marine *n.* the ships or crew engaged in a nation's commercial shipping.

merciful ('mɜːsɪfʊl) *adj.* showing or giving mercy; compassionate. —'mercifully *adv.* —'mercifulness *n.*

merciless ('mɜːsɪls) *adj.* without mercy; pitiless, cruel, or heartless. —'mercilessly *adv.* —'mercilessness *n.*

mercurial (mɜː'kjʊəriəl) *adj.* 1. of, like, containing, or relating to mercury. 2. volatile; lively: a *mercurial* temperament. 3. (sometimes *cap.*) of, like, or relating to the god or the planet Mercury. ~*n.* 4. *Med.* any salt of mercury for use as a medicine. —**mer,curi,ality** *n.* —**mer,curi,ally** *adv.*

mercuric (mɜː'kjʊərɪk) *adj.* of or containing mercury in the divalent state.

mercurous ('mɜːkjʊrəs) *adj.* of or containing mercury in the monovalent state.

mercury ('mɜːkjʊri) *n., pl. -ries.* 1. Also called: **quick-silver**, a heavy silvery-white toxic liquid metallic element: used in thermometers, barometers, mercury-vapour lamps, and dental amalgams. Symbol: Hg; atomic no.: 80; atomic wt.: 200.59. 2. any plant of the genus *Mercurialis*. 3. *Arch.* a messenger or courier.

Mercury¹ ('mɜːkjʊri) *n.* *Roman myth.* the messenger of the gods.

Mercury² ('mɜːkjʊri) *n.* the smallest planet and the nearest to the sun.

mercy ('mɜːsi) *n., pl. -cies.* 1. compassionate treatment of or attitude towards an offender, adversary, etc., who is in one's power or care; clemency; pity. 2. the power to show mercy. 3. a relieving or welcome occurrence or state of affairs. 4. at the mercy of, in the power of.

mercy flight *n.* an aircraft flight to bring a seriously ill or injured person to hospital from an isolated community.

mercy killing *n.* another term for **euthanasia**.

mere¹ (mɪə) *adj.* superlative **merest**, being nothing more than something specified: *she is a mere child.* —'merely *adv.*

mere² (mɪə) *n.* 1. *Brit. dialect* or *arch.* a lake or marsh. 2. *Obs.* the sea or an inlet of it.

meretricious ('merɪ'trɪʃəs) *adj.* 1. superficially or garishly attractive. 2. insincere. 3. *Arch.* of, like, or relating to a prostitute. —'meretriciously *adv.* —'meretriciousness *n.*

merganser (mɜː'gænsə) *n., pl. -sers* or *-ser.* any of several typically crested large marine diving ducks, having a long slender hooked bill with serrated edges.

merge (mɜːdʒ) *vb.* 1. to meet and join or cause to meet and join. 2. to blend or cause to blend; fuse. —'mergence *n.*

merger ('mɜːdʒə) *n.* 1. *Commerce.* the combination of two or more companies. 2. *Law.* the absorption of an estate, interest, offence, etc., into a greater one. 3. the act of merging or the state of being merged.

meridian (mə'ridiən) *n.* 1. a. one of the imaginary lines joining the north and south poles at right angles to the equator, designated by degrees of longitude from 0° at Greenwich to 180°. b. the great circle running through both poles. 2. *Astron.* the great circle on the celestial sphere passing through the north and south celestial poles and the zenith and nadir of the observer. 3. the peak; zenith: *the meridian of his achievements.* 4. *Obs.* noon. ~*adj.* 5. along or relating to a meridian. 6. of or happening at noon. 7. relating to the peak of something.

meridional (mə'ridiənəl) *adj.* 1. along, relating to, or resembling a meridian. 2. characteristic of or located in the south, esp. of Europe. ~*n.* 3. an inhabitant of the south, esp. of France.

meringue (mə'ræŋ) *n.* 1. a stiffly beaten egg whites mixed with sugar and baked. 2. a small cake or shell of this mixture, often filled with cream.

merino (mə'ri:nəʊ) *n., pl. -nos.* 1. a breed of sheep originating in Spain. 2. the long fine wool of this sheep. 3. the yarn made from this wool, often mixed with cotton. ~*adj.* 4. made from merino wool.

merit ('merɪt) *n.* 1. worth or superior quality; excellence. 2. (often *pl.*) a deserving or commendable quality or act. 3. *Theol.* spiritual credit granted or received for

good works. 4. the fact or state of deserving; desert. ~*vb.* 5. (tr.) to be worthy of; deserve.

meritocracy (,merɪ'tɒkrəsi) *n., pl. -cies.* 1. rule by persons chosen for their superior talents or intellect. 2. the persons constituting such a group. 3. a social system formed on such a basis.

meritorious (,merɪ'tɔːriəs) *adj.* praiseworthy; showing merit. —'meri'toriously *adv.* —'meri'toriousness *n.*

merits ('merɪts) *pl. n.* 1. the actual and intrinsic rights and wrongs of an issue, esp. in a law case. 2. on its (his, her, etc.) merits, on the intrinsic qualities or virtues.

merlin ('mɜːlɪn) *n.* a small falcon that has a dark plumage with a black-barred tail.

mermaid ('mɜːmeɪd) *n.* an imaginary sea creature fabled to have a woman's head and upper body and a fish's tail.

-merous *adj.* combining form. (in biology) having a certain number or kind of parts.

merry ('merɪ) *adj. -rier, -riest.* 1. cheerful; jolly. 2. very funny; hilarious. 3. *Brit. inf.* slightly drunk. 4. **play merry hell with.** *Inf.* to disturb greatly; disrupt. —'merrily *adv.* —'merriment *n.* —'merriness *n.*

merry-andrew ('-ændruː) *n.* a joker, clown, or buffoon.

merry-go-round *n.* 1. another name for **roundabout** (sense 1). 2. a whirl of activity.

merrymaking ('merɪ,meɪkɪŋ) *n.* fun, revelry, or festivity. —'merry,maker *n.*

mesalliance (me'zæliəns) *n.* a marriage with a person of lower social status.

mescal (me'skæl) *n.* 1. Also called: **peyote**, a spineless globe-shaped cactus of Mexico and the southwestern U.S. Its button-like tubercles (**mescal buttons**) are chewed by certain Indian tribes for their hallucinogenic effects. 2. a colourless alcoholic spirit distilled from the fermented juice of certain agave plants.

mescaline or **mescalín** ('meskə,lɪn, -lɪn) *n.* a hallucinogenic drug derived from mescal buttons.

mesdames ('meɪ,dæm) *n.* the plural of **madame**.

mesdemoiselles (,meɪdmwə'zel) *n.* the plural of **mademoiselle**.

mesentery ('mesəntəri, 'mez-) *n., pl. -teries.* the double layer of peritoneum that is attached to the back wall of the abdominal cavity and supports most of the small intestine. —'mesen'teric *adj.* —'mes,ente'ritis *n.*

mesh (meʃ) *n.* 1. a network; net. 2. an open space between the strands of a network. 3. (often *pl.*) the strands surrounding these spaces. 4. anything that ensnares, or holds like a net. 5. the engagement of teeth on interacting gearwheels: *the gears are in mesh.* ~*vb.* 6. to entangle or become entangled. 7. (of gear teeth) to engage or cause to engage. 8. (*intr.*; often foll. by *with*) to coordinate (with). 9. to work or cause to work in harmony.

mesmerize or **-ise** ('mezmə,raɪz) *vb. (tr.)* 1. a former word for **hypnotize**. 2. to hold (someone) as if spellbound. —'mesmerization or '-lisation *n.* —'mesmerizer or '-iser *n.*

meso- or before a vowel **mes-** combining form. middle or intermediate: **mesomorph**.

Mesolithic (,mesəʊ'lɪk) *n.* 1. the period between the Palaeolithic and the Neolithic, in Europe from about 12 000 to 3000 B.C. ~*adj.* 2. of or relating to the Mesolithic.

mesomorph ('mesəʊ,mɔːf) *n.* a type of person having a muscular body build with a relatively prominent underlying bone structure.

mesomorphic (,mesəʊ'mɔːfɪk) *adj.* also **mesomorphous**. 1. *Chem.* existing in or concerned with an intermediate state of matter between a true liquid and a true solid. 2. relating to or being a mesomorph. —'meso'morphism *n.*

meson ('mɪzən) *n.* any of a group of elementary particles that has a rest mass between those of an electron and a proton, and an integral spin. —'me'sonic or 'mesic *adj.*

mesosphere ('mesəʊ,ʃiə) *n.* the atmospheric layer lying between the stratosphere and the thermosphere.

Mesozoic (,mesəʊ'zəʊɪk) *adj.* 1. of, denoting, or relating to an era of geological time that began 225 000 000 years ago and lasted about 155 000 000 years. ~*n.* 2. the Mesozoic era.

mess (mes) *n.* 1. a state of confusion or untidiness, esp. if dirty or unpleasant. 2. a chaotic or troublesome state of affairs; muddle. 3. *Inf.* a dirty or untidy person or thing. 4. *Arch.* a portion of food, esp. soft or semiliquid food. 5. a place where service personnel eat or take

recreation. **6.** a group of people, usually servicemen, who eat together. **7.** the meal so taken. ~vb. **8.** (tr.; often foll. by up) to muddle or dirty. **9.** (intr.) to make a mess. **10.** (intr.) (often foll. by with) to interfere; meddle. **11.** (intr.) (often foll. by with or together) Mil. to group together, esp. for eating.

mess about or around vb. (adv.) **1.** (intr.) to occupy oneself trivially; potter. **2.** (when intr., often foll. by with) to interfere or meddle (with).

message ('mesɪdʒ) *n.* **1.** a communication, usually brief, from one person or group to another. **2.** an implicit meaning, as in a work of art. **3.** a formal communiqué. **4.** an inspired communication of a prophet or religious leader. **5.** a mission; errand. **6.** get the message. *Inf.* to understand. ~vb. **7.** (tr.) to send as a message.

messages ('mesɪdʒɪz) *pl. n.* *Scot. & NE English dialect.* errands to buy food; household shopping.

messenger ('mesɪndʒə) *n.* **1.** a person who takes messages from one person or group to another. **2.** a person who runs errands. **3.** a carrier of official dispatches; courier.

Messiah (mɪ'saɪə) *n.* **1.** Judaism. the awaited king of the Jews, to be sent by God to free them. **2.** Jesus Christ, when regarded in this role. **3.** an exceptional liberator of a country or people. —**Mes'siah, ship** *n.* —**Messianic or messianic** ('mesi'ænik) *adj.*

messieurs ('mesɪəz) *n.* the plural of **monsieur**.

mess jacket *n.* a waist-length jacket, worn by officers in the mess for formal dinners.

mess kit *n.* *Mil.* **1.** *Brit.* formal evening wear for officers. **2.** Also called: **mess gear.** eating utensils used esp. in the field.

Messrs. ('mesəz) *n.* the plural of **Mr.**

messy ('mesi) *adj.* **messier, messiest.** dirty, confused, or untidy. —**messily** *adv.* —**messiness** *n.*

met (met) *vb.* the past tense or past participle of **meet**.

met. *abbrev. for:* **1.** meteorological. **2.** meteorology. **3.** metropolitan.

meta- or *sometimes before a vowel met-* *prefix.* **1.** indicating change or alternation: **metabolism; metamorphosis.** **2.** transcending or going beyond: **metapsychology.** **3.** occurring or situated behind or after: **metaphysics.** **4.** (often in *italics*) denoting that an organic compound contains a benzene ring with substituents in the 1,3-positions: **meta-cresol.** **5.** denoting an isomer, polymer, or compound related to a specified compound: **metalddehyde.** **6.** denoting an oxyacid that is the least hydrated form of the anhydride or a salt of such an acid: **metaphosphoric acid.**

metabolism (mɪ'tæbə,lɪzəm) *n.* **1.** the sum total of the chemical processes that occur in living organisms, resulting in growth, production of energy, elimination of waste material, etc. **2.** the sum total of the chemical processes affecting a particular substance in the body: **carbohydrate metabolism.** —**metabolic** ('metə'bɒlɪk) *adj.* —**metabolically** *adv.*

metacarpus ('metə'kɑ:pəs) *n.*, *pl.* -pi (-paɪ). **1.** the skeleton of the hand between the wrist and the fingers, consisting of five long bones. **2.** the corresponding bones in other vertebrates. —**metacarpal** *adj.*, *n.*

metal ('metl) *n.* **1. a.** any of a number of chemical elements, such as iron or copper, that are often lustrous ductile solids, have basic oxides, form positive ions, and are good conductors of heat and electricity. **b.** an alloy, such as brass or steel, containing one or more of these elements. **2.** the substance of glass in a molten state or as the finished product. **3.** *N.Z.* an unsealed road surface: *the car skidded off the metal.* **4.** *Heraldry.* gold or silver. **5.** the basic quality of a person or thing; stuff. **6.** (pl.) the rails of a railway. —*adj.* **7.** made of metal. ~vb. -alling, -alled or *U.S.* -aling, -aled. (tr.) **8.** to fit or cover with metal.

metal. or metall. *abbrev. for:* **1.** metallurgical. **2.** metallurgy.

metallic ('metlɪk) *adj.* **1.** of, concerned with, or consisting of metal or a metal. **2.** suggestive of a metal: *a metallic click; metallic lustre.* **3.** *Chem.* (of a metal element) existing in the free state rather than in combination: *metallic copper.*

metalliferous ('metlɪfərəs) *adj.* containing a metallic element.

metallurgy ('metlɒ'grəfi) *n.* the branch of metallurgy concerned with the composition and structure of metals and alloys. —**metallographic** (mɪ'tælə'græfɪk) *adj.*

metalloid ('metə,lɒɪd) *n.* **1.** a nonmetallic element,

such as arsenic or silicon, that has some of the properties of a metal. ~*adj.* also **metalloidal** ('metə'lɒɪdɪl). **2.** of or being a metalloid. **3.** resembling a metal.

metallurgy ('metlɒdʒɪ) *n.* the scientific study of the extraction, refining, alloying, and fabrication of metals and of their structure and properties. —**metal'lurgic or metal'lurgical** *adj.* —**metallurgist** ('metlɒdʒɪst, 'metlɒ,lɒdʒɪst) *n.*

metalwork ('metl,wɜ:k) *n.* **1.** the craft of working in metal. **2.** work in metal or articles made from metal. —**metal,worker** *n.*

metamorphic ('metə'mɔ:fɪk) or **metamorphous** *adj.* **1.** relating to or resulting from metamorphosis or metamorphism. **2.** (of rocks) altered considerably from the original structure and composition by pressure and heat.

metamorphism ('metə'mɔ:fɪzəm) *n.* **1.** the process by which metamorphic rocks are formed. **2.** a variant of **metamorphosis.**

metamorphose ('metə'mɔ:fəʊz) *vb.* to undergo or cause to undergo metamorphosis or metamorphism.

metamorphosis ('metə'mɔ:fəʊsɪs) *n.*, *pl.* -ses (-sɪz). **1.** a complete change of physical form or substance. **2.** a complete change of character, appearance, etc. **3.** a person or thing that has undergone metamorphosis. **4.** *Zool.* the rapid transformation of a larva into an adult that occurs in certain animals, for example the stage between chrysalis and butterfly.

metaphor ('metəfə,-fɔ:) *n.* a figure of speech in which a word or phrase is applied to an object or action that it does not literally denote in order to imply a resemblance, for example *he is a lion in battle*. Cf. **simile.** —**metaphoric** ('metə'fɔrɪk) or **metaphorical** *adj.* —**metaphorically** *adv.*

metaphysical ('metə'fɪzɪkəl) *adj.* **1.** of or relating to metaphysics. **2.** based on abstract reasoning. **3.** overtheoretical. **4.** incorporeal; supernatural. —**metaphysically** *adv.*

Metaphysical ('metə'fɪzɪkəl) *adj.* **1.** denoting or relating to certain 17th-century poets who combined intense feeling with elaborate imagery. ~*n.* **2.** a poet of this group.

metaphysics ('metə'fɪzɪks) *n.* (*functioning as sing.*) **1.** the branch of philosophy that deals with first principles, esp. of being and knowing. **2.** (popularly) abstract or subtle discussion or reasoning. —**metaphysician** ('metə'fɪzɪən) or **metaphysicist** ('metə'fɪzɪst) *n.*

metastasis (mɪ'tæstə'sɪs) *n.*, *pl.* -ses (-sɪz). *Pathol.* the spreading of a disease, esp. cancer cells, from one part of the body to another. —**me'tasta, size** or **-ise** *vb.* —**metastatic** ('metə'stætɪk) *adj.* —**metastatically** *adv.*

metatarsus ('metə'tɑ:səs) *n.*, *pl.* -si (-saɪ). **1.** the skeleton of the foot between the toes and the tarsus, consisting of five long bones. **2.** the corresponding skeletal part in other vertebrates. —**metatarsal** *adj.*, *n.*

metathesis (mɪ'tæθə'sɪs) *n.*, *pl.* -ses (-sɪz). the transposition of two sounds or letters in a word or of two words in a sentence. —**metathetic** ('metə'θetɪk) or **metathetical** *adj.*

metazoan ('metə'zəʊən) *n.* **1.** any animal having a body composed of many cells: includes all animals except sponges and protozoans. ~*adj.* also **metazoic.** **2.** of or relating to the metazoans.

mete (mɪ:t) *vb.* (tr.) **1.** (usually foll. by out) *Formal.* to distribute or allot (something, often unpleasant). **2.** *Poetic, dialect.* to measure.

metempsychosis ('metemsaɪ'kəʊsɪs) *n.*, *pl.* -ses (-sɪz). the migration of a soul from one body to another. —**metempsychist** *n.*

meteor ('mɪtiə) *n.* **1.** a very small meteoroid that has entered the earth's atmosphere. **2.** Also called: **shooting star, falling star.** the bright streak of light appearing in the sky due to the incandescence of such a body heated by friction at its surface.

meteoric ('mɪti'bɪrɪk) *adj.* **1.** of, formed by, or relating to meteors. **2.** like a meteor in brilliance, speed, or transience. **3.** *Rare.* of weather; meteorological. —**meteorically** *adv.*

meteorite ('mɪtiə,raɪt) *n.* a rocklike object consisting of the remains of a meteoroid that has fallen on earth. —**meteoritic** ('mɪtiə'rɪtɪk) *adj.*

meteoroid ('mɪtiə,rɔɪd) *n.* any of the small celestial bodies that are thought to orbit the sun. When they enter the earth's atmosphere, they become visible as meteors. —**meteoroidal** *adj.*

meteorol. or meteor. *abbrev. for:* **1.** meteorological. **2.** meteorology.

meteorology (,mɪtɪəˈrɒlədʒɪ) *n.* the study of the earth's atmosphere, esp. of weather-forming processes and weather forecasting. —**meteorological** (,mɪtɪəˈrɒlədʒɪkəl) *or* **meteorologic** *adj.* —**meteorologically** *adv.* —**meteorologist** *n.*

meteor shower *n.* a transient rain of meteors occurring at regular intervals and coming from a particular region in the sky.

meter¹ (ˈmɪtə) *n.* the U.S. spelling of **metre**¹.

meter² (ˈmɪtə) *n.* the U.S. spelling of **metre**².

meter³ (ˈmɪtə) *n.* 1. any device that measures and records a quantity, such as of gas, current, voltage, etc. that has passed through it during a specified period. 2. See **parking meter**. ~*vb.* (tr.) 3. to measure (a rate of flow) with a meter.

meter *n.* combining form. 1. indicating an instrument for measuring: **barometer**. 2. *Prosody*, indicating a verse having a specified number of feet: **pentameter**.

Meth. *abbrev. for* Methodist.

methadone (ˈmeθə,dəʊn) *or* **methadon** (ˈmeθə,dɒn) *n.* a narcotic analgesic drug similar to morphine but less habit-forming.

methane (ˈmi:θeɪn) *n.* a colourless odourless flammable gas, the main constituent of natural gas; used as a fuel.

methane series *n.* any of a series of saturated aliphatic hydrocarbons with the general formula C_nH_{2n+2} . Also called: **alkane series**.

methanol (ˈmeθə,nɒl) *n.* a colourless volatile poisonous liquid compound used as a solvent and fuel. Formula: CH_3OH . Also called: **methyl alcohol**, **wood alcohol**.

methinks (mɪˈθɪŋks) *vb.* *past* **methought**. (tr.) (*takes a clause as object*) *Arch.* it seems to me.

method (ˈmeθəd) *n.* 1. a way of proceeding or doing something, esp. a systematic or regular one. 2. orderliness of thought, action, etc. 3. (*often pl.*) the techniques or arrangement of work for a particular field or subject. —**methodist** *n.*

Method *n.* (*sometimes not cap.*) a. a technique of acting in which the actor bases his role on the inner motivation of the character played. b. (*as modifier*): a **Method actor**.

methodical (mɪˈθɒdɪkəl) *or* **methodic** *adj.* characterized by method or orderliness; systematic. —**methodically** *adv.*

Methodist (ˈmeθədist) *n.* 1. a member of any of the Nonconformist denominations that derive from the system of faith and practice initiated by John Wesley and his followers. ~*adj.* also **Methodistic** *or* **Methodistical**. 2. of or relating to Methodism or the Methodist Church. —**Methodism** *n.*

methodology (,meθəˈdɒlədʒɪ) *n., pl. -gies*. 1. the system of methods and principles used in a particular discipline. 2. the branch of philosophy concerned with the science of method. —**methodological** (,meθəˈdɒlədʒɪkəl) *adj.* —**methodologically** *adv.* —**methodologist** *n.*

methought (mɪˈθɔ:t) *vb.* *Arch.* the past tense of **methinks**.

meths (meθs) *n.* *Chiefly Brit.* an informal name for **methylated spirits**.

methyl (ˈmi:θəl, ˈmeθəl) *n.* 1. (*modifier*) of, consisting of, or containing the monovalent group of atoms CH_3 . 2. a compound in which methyl groups are bound directly to a metal atom. —**methylic** (məˈθɪlɪk) *adj.*

methyl acetate *n.* a colourless volatile flammable liquid ester used as a solvent, esp. in paint removers. Formula: CH_3COOCH_3 .

methyl alcohol *n.* another name for **methanol**.

methylate (ˈmeθɪ,leɪt) *vb.* (tr.) to mix with methanol.

methylated spirits *n.* alcohol that has been denatured by the addition of methanol and pyridine and a violet dye.

methyl chloride *n.* a colourless gas with an etherlike odour, used as a refrigerant and anaesthetic. Formula: CH_3Cl .

methylene (ˈmeθɪ,lɪn) *n.* (*modifier*) of, consisting of, or containing the divalent group of atoms $-CH_2-$: a **methylene group** *or* **radical**.

meticulous (mɪˈtɪkjələs) *adj.* very precise about details; painstaking. —**meticulously** *adv.* —**meticulousness** *n.*

métier (ˈmetɪer) *n.* 1. a profession or trade. 2. a person's strong point or speciality.

Métis (meˈtɪs) *n., pl. -tis* (ˈtɪs, ˈtɪz). a person of mixed parentage, esp. the offspring of a French Canadian and a North American Indian. —**Métisse** (meˈtɪs) *fern. n.*

metonymy (mɪˈtɒnɪmi) *n., pl. -mies*. the substitution of a word referring to an attribute for the thing that is

meant, e.g. *the crown*, used to refer to a monarch. Cf. **synecdoche**. —**metonymical** (,metəˈnɪmɪkəl) *or* **metonymic** *adj.*

metre¹ *or* **U.S. meter** (ˈmɪtə) *n.* 1. a metric unit of length equal to approximately 1.094 yards. 2. the basic SI unit of length; the length of the path travelled by light in free space during a time interval of $1/299\,792\,458$ of a second. Symbol: m

metre² *or* **U.S. meter** (ˈmɪtə) *n.* 1. *Prosody*, the rhythmic arrangement of syllables in verse, usually according to the number and kind of feet in a line. 2. *Music*, another word (esp. U.S.) for **time** (sense 22).

metre-kilogram-second *n.* See **mks units**.

metric (ˈmetrɪk) *adj.* of or relating to the metre or metric system.

metrical (ˈmetrɪkəl) *or* **metric** (ˈmetrɪk) *adj.* 1. of or relating to measurement. 2. of or in poetic metre. —**metrically** *adv.*

metrificate (ˈmetrɪ,kert) *vb.* to convert (a measuring system, instrument, etc.) from nonmetric to metric units. —**metrification** *n.*

metric system *n.* any decimal system of units based on the metre. For scientific purposes SI units are used.

metric ton *n.* a unit of mass equal to 1000 kilograms or 2204.6 pounds. Also called: **tonne**.

metro (ˈmetrəʊ) *or* **métro** *n., pl. -ros*. an underground railway system in certain cities, such as that in Paris.

Metro (ˈmetrəʊ) *n.* *Canad.* a metropolitan city administration, esp. Metropolitan Toronto.

metronome (ˈmetrə,nəʊm) *n.* a device which indicates the tempo of music by producing a clicking sound from a pendulum with an adjustable period of swing. —**metronomic** (,metrəˈnɒmɪk) *adj.*

metronymic (,metrəˈnɪmɪk) *or* **matronymic** *adj.* 1. (of a name) derived from the name of the mother or other female ancestor. ~*n.* 2. a metronymic name.

metropolis (ˈmetrəˌpɒlɪs) *n., pl. -lises*. 1. the main city, esp. of a country or region. 2. a centre of activity. 3. the chief see in an ecclesiastical province.

metropolitan (,metrəˈpɒlɪtən) *adj.* 1. of or characteristic of a metropolis. 2. constituting a city and its suburbs. 3. of, relating to, or designating an ecclesiastical metropolis. 4. of or belonging to the home territories of a country, as opposed to overseas territories: **metropolitan France**. ~*n.* 5. a. *Eastern Churches*, the head of an ecclesiastical province, ranking between archbishop and patriarch. b. *Church of England*, an archbishop. c. *R.C. Church*, an archbishop or bishop having authority over the dioceses in his province. —**metropolitanism** *n.*

metry *n.* combining form. indicating the process or science of measuring: **geometry**. —**metric** *adj.* combining form.

mettle (ˈmetl) *n.* 1. courage; spirit. 2. character. 3. on one's mettle, roused to making one's best efforts. —**mettled** *or* **mettlesome** *adj.*

MeV *abbrev. for* million electronvolts (10^6 electronvolts).

mew¹ (mju:) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) (esp. of a cat) to make a characteristic high-pitched cry. ~*n.* 2. such a sound.

mew² (mju:) *n.* any sea gull, esp. the common gull.

mewl (mjʊ:l) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) (esp. of a baby) to cry weakly; whimper. ~*n.* 2. such a cry.

mews (mju:z) *n.* *Chiefly Brit.* 1. a yard or street lined by buildings originally used as stables but now often converted into dwellings. 2. the buildings around a mews.

Mex. *abbrev. for:* 1. Mexican. 2. Mexico.

Mexican (ˈmeksɪkən) *adj.* 1. of or relating to Mexico, in Central America. ~*n.* 2. a native or inhabitant of Mexico.

mezcal (meˈskæl) *n.* a variant spelling of **mescal**.

mezcaline (ˈmezkə,lɪn) *n.* a variant spelling of **mescaline**.

mezzanine (ˈmezə,nɪn, ˈmetzə,nɪn) *n.* 1. Also called: **mezzanine floor**, an intermediate storey, esp. a low one between the ground and first floor of a building. 2. *Theatre, U.S.* the first balcony. 3. *Theatre, Brit.* a room or floor beneath the stage.

mezzo (ˈmetzəʊ) *adv.* *Music*. moderately; quite: **mezzo piano**.

mezzo-soprano *n., pl. -nos*. 1. a female voice intermediate between a soprano and contralto. 2. a singer with such a voice.

mezzotint (ˈmetzəʊ,tɪnt) *n.* 1. a method of engraving a copper plate by scraping and burnishing the roughened

surface. **2.** a print made from a plate so treated. ~vb. **3.** (tr.) to engrave (a copper plate) in this fashion.

mf *Music. abbrev. for mezzo forte.*

MF *abbrev. for: 1. Radio. medium frequency. 2. Middle French.*

mg or **mg.** *abbrev. for milligram.*

Mg *the chemical symbol for magnesium.*

M. Glam. *abbrev. for Mid Glamorgan.*

Mgr. *abbrev. for: 1. manager. 2. Monseigneur. 3. Monsignor.*

MHG *abbrev. for Middle High German.*

MHz *abbrev. for megahertz.*

mi or **me** (mi:) *n. Music. (in tonic sol-fa) the third degree of any major scale; a mediant.*

MI *abbrev. for Military Intelligence.*

MI5 *abbrev. for Military Intelligence, section five; a former name for the counterintelligence agency of the British Government.*

MI6 *abbrev. for Military Intelligence, section six; a former name for the intelligence and espionage agency of the British Government.*

miaou or **miaow** (mi'au, mjav) *vb., interj. variant spellings of meow.*

miasma (mi'æzmə) *n., pl. -mata (-mɔ:tə) or -mas. 1. an unwholesome or foreboding atmosphere. 2. pollution in the atmosphere, esp. noxious vapours from decomposing organic matter. —mi'asmal or miasmatic (mi:z-'mætik) adj.*

Mic. *Bible. abbrev. for Micah.*

mica ('maɪkə) *n. any of a group of minerals consisting of hydrous silicates of aluminium, potassium, etc., in monoclinic crystalline form, occurring in igneous and metamorphic rock. Because of their resistance to electricity and heat they are used as dielectrics, in heating elements, etc. Also called: isinglass. —micaceous (mai-'keɪʃəs) adj.*

mice (maɪs) *n. the plural of mouse.*

Mich. *abbrev. for: 1. Michaelmas. 2. Michigan.*

Michaelmas ('mɪkəl'məs) *n. Sept. 29, the feast of St. Michael the archangel; in England, Ireland, and Wales, one of the four quarter days.*

Michaelmas daisy *n. Brit. any of various composite plants that have small autumn-blooming purple, pink, or white flowers.*

Mick (mɪk) *n. (sometimes not cap.) 1. Also: Mickey. Derog. a slang name for an Irishman or a Roman Catholic. 2. Austral. the tails side of a coin.*

mickey or **micky** ('mɪki) *n. Inf. take the mickey or micky out of, to tease.*

Mickey Finn *n. Sl. a. a drink containing a drug to make the drinker unconscious. b. the drug itself. Often shortened to Mickey.*

mickle ('mɪkl̩) or **muckle** ('mʌkl̩) *Arch. or N Brit. dialect. —adj. 1. great or abundant. —adv. 2. much; greatly. —n. 3. a great amount, esp. in the proverb, many a little makes a mickle.*

micro- or before a vowel **micro-** *combining form. 1. small or minute: microdot. 2. indicating magnification or amplification: microscope; microphone. 3. involving the use of a microscope: microscopy. 4. indicating a method or instrument for dealing with small quantities: micrometer. 5. (in pathology) indicating abnormal smallness or underdevelopment: microcephaly. 6. denoting 10⁻⁶: microsecond. Symbol: μ*

microbe ('maɪkrəʊb) *n. any microscopic organism, esp. a disease-causing bacterium. —mi'crobial, mi'crobic, or mi'crobian adj.*

microbiology (,maɪkrəʊbaɪ'blɒdʒɪ) *n. the branch of biology involving the study of microorganisms. —microbiological (,maɪkrəʊbaɪ'ɒlədʒɪkəl) or, micro, bio-'logic adj. —micro, bio-'logically adv. —microbio-'ologist n.*

microcephaly (,maɪkrəʊ'sefəli) *n. the condition of having an abnormally small head or cranial capacity. —microcephalic (,maɪkrəʊsɪ'fæli) adj., n. —,micro-'cephalous adj.*

microchemistry (,maɪkrəʊ'kemɪstri) *n. chemical experimentation with minute quantities of material. —,micro'chemical adj.*

microchip ('maɪkrəʊ,tʃɪp) *n. another word for chip (sense 7).*

microcircuit ('maɪkrəʊ,sɜ:kɪt) *n. a miniature electronic circuit, esp. one in which a number of circuit components are contained in one small chip of semiconducting material. See integrated circuit. —,micro'circuitry n.*

microcomputer (,maɪkrəʊkəm'pjʊ:tə) *n. a computer*

in which the central processing unit is contained in one or more silicon chips.

microcosm ('maɪkrəʊ,kɒzəm) or **microcosmos** (,maɪkrəʊ'kɒzɒsm) *n. 1. a miniature representation of something. 2. man regarded as epitomizing the universe. —Cf. macrocosm. —,micro'cosmic or, micro-'cosmical adj.*

microdot ('maɪkrəʊ,dɒt) *n. a greatly reduced photographic copy (about the size of a pinhead) of a document, etc. used esp. in espionage.*

microelectronics (,maɪkrəʊɪlek'trɒniks) *n. (functioning as sing.) the branch of electronics concerned with microcircuits.*

microfiche ('maɪkrəʊ,fɪʃ) *n. a sheet of film, usually the size of a filing card, on which books, newspapers, documents, etc., can be recorded in miniaturized form.*

microfilm ('maɪkrəʊ,fɪlm) *n. 1. a strip of film on which books, documents, etc., can be recorded in miniaturized form. ~vb. 2. to photograph (a page, document, etc.) on microfilm.*

micrometer (mai'krɒmɪtə) *n. 1. any of various instruments or devices for the accurate measurement of distances or angles. 2. Also called: micrometer gauge, micrometer caliper, a type of gauge for the accurate measurement of small distances, thicknesses, etc. The gap between its measuring faces is adjusted by a fine screw (micrometer screw). —micrometric (,maɪkrəʊ'metrɪk) or, micro'metrical adj. —mi'crometry n.*

microminiaturization or **-isation** (,maɪkrəʊ'mɪnɪ'tʃəraɪ'zeɪʃən) *n. the production and application of very small components and the circuits and equipment in which they are used. —,micro'miniaturize or -ise vb.*

micron ('maɪkrən) *n. a unit of length equal to 10⁻⁶ metre. It is being replaced by the micrometre, the equivalent SI unit.*

Micronesia (,maɪkrəʊ'nɪ:zɪən) *adj. 1. of or relating to Micronesia (a division of islands in the Pacific), its inhabitants, or their languages. ~n. 2. a member of the people that inhabit Micronesia. 3. a group of languages spoken in Micronesia.*

microorganism (,maɪkrəʊ'ɔ:gə'nɪzəm) *n. any organism, such as a virus, of microscopic size.*

microphone ('maɪkrə,fəʊn) *n. a device used in sound-reproduction systems for converting sound into electrical energy. —microphonic (,maɪkrə'fɒnɪk) adj.*

microprint ('maɪkrəʊ,prɪnt) *n. a greatly reduced photographic copy of print, read by a magnifying device. It is used in order to reduce the size of large books, etc.*

microprocessor (,maɪkrəʊ'prəʊsesə) *n. Computers. a single integrated circuit performing the basic functions of the central processing unit in a small computer.*

microscope ('maɪkrə,skəʊp) *n. 1. an optical instrument that uses a lens or combination of lenses to produce a magnified image of a small, close object. 2. any instrument, such as the electron microscope, for producing a magnified visual image of a small object. —mi'croscopy n.*

microscopic (,maɪkrə'skɒpɪk) or **microscopical** *adj. 1. not large enough to be seen with the naked eye but visible under a microscope. 2. very small; minute. 3. of, concerned with, or using a microscope. —,micro-'scopically adv.*

microsecond ('maɪkrəʊ,sekənd) *n. one millionth of a second.*

microstructure ('maɪkrəʊ,striktʃə) *n. structure on a microscopic scale, esp. the structure of an alloy as observed by etching, polishing, and observation under a microscope.*

microwave ('maɪkrəʊ,weɪv) *n. a. electromagnetic radiation in the wavelength range 0.3 to 0.001 metres; used in radar, cooking, etc. b. (as modifier): microwave oven.*

micturate ('mɪktjʊ'reɪt) *vb. (intr.) a less common word for urinate. —micturation (,mɪktjʊ'reɪʃən) n.*

mid¹ (mɪd) *adj. 1. Phonetics. of, relating to, or denoting a vowel whose articulation lies approximately halfway between high and low, such as e in English bet. ~n. 2. an archaic word for middle.*

mid² or **'mid** (mɪd) *prep. a poetic word for amid.*

mid- *combining form. indicating a middle part, point, time, or position: midday; mid-April.*

midair ('mɪd'eə) *n. a. some point above ground level, in the air. b. (as modifier): a midair collision of aircraft.*

midday ('mɪd'deɪ) *n. a. the middle of the day; noon. b. (as modifier): a midday meal.*

middelskot ('mɪdl̩'skɒt) *n. (in South Africa) an inter-*

mediate payment to a farmers' cooperative for a crop or wool clip.

midden ('mɪdn̩) *n.* **a.** *Arch. or dialect.* a dunghill or pile of refuse. **b.** *Brit. dialect.* a dustbin.

middle ('mɪdl̩) *adj.* **1.** equally distant from the ends or periphery of something; central. **2.** intermediate in status, situation, etc. **3.** located between the early and late parts of a series, time sequence, etc. **4.** not extreme, esp. in size; medium. **5.** (esp. in Greek and Sanskrit grammar) denoting a voice of verbs expressing reciprocal or reflexive action. **6.** (*usually cap.*) (of a language) intermediate between the earliest and the modern forms. **~n.** **7.** an area or point equal in distance from the ends or periphery or in time between the early and late parts. **8.** an intermediate part or section, such as the waist. **9.** *Grammar.* the middle voice. **~vb.** (*tr.*) **10.** to place in the middle. **11.** *Naut.* to fold in two. **12.** *Football.* to return (the ball) from the wing to midfield. **13.** *Cricket.* to hit (the ball) with the middle of the bat.

middle age *n.* the period of life between youth and old age, usually (in man) considered to occur approximately between the ages of 40 and 60. — **middle-aged** *adj.*

Middle Ages *n. the. European history.* **1.** (broadly) the period from the deposition of the last W Roman emperor in 476 A.D. to the Italian Renaissance (or the fall of Constantinople in 1453). **2.** (narrowly) the period from about 1000 A.D. to the 15th century.

Middle America *n.* **1.** the territories between the U.S. and South America: Mexico, Central America, and the Antilles. **2.** the U.S. middle class, esp. those groups that are politically conservative. — **Middle American** *adj., n.*

middlebrow ('mɪdl̩,brəʊ) *Disparaging. ~n.* **1.** a person with conventional tastes and limited cultural appreciation. **~adj.** also **middlebrowed.** **2.** of or appealing to middlebrows.

middle C *n. Music.* the note written on the first ledger line below the treble staff or the first ledger line above the bass staff.

middle class *n.* **1.** Also called: **bourgeoisie.** a social stratum between the lower and upper classes. It consists of businessmen, professional people, etc., along with their families, and is marked by bourgeois values. **~adj.** **middle-class.** **2.** of, relating to, or characteristic of the middle class.

middle ear *n.* the sound-conducting part of the ear, containing the malleus, incus, and stapes.

Middle East *n.* **1.** (loosely) the area around the E Mediterranean, esp. Israel and the Arab countries from Turkey to North Africa and eastwards to Iran. **2.** (formerly) the area extending from the Tigris and Euphrates to Burma. — **Middle Eastern** *adj.*

Middle English *n.* the English language from about 1100 to about 1450.

Middle High German *n.* High German from about 1200 to about 1500.

Middle Low German *n.* Low German from about 1200 to about 1500.

middleman ('mɪdl̩,mæn) *n., pl. -men.* **1.** a trader engaged in the distribution of goods from producer to consumer. **2.** an intermediary.

middlemost ('mɪdl̩,məʊst) *adj., adv.* another word for **midmost**.

middle-of-the-road *adj.* not extreme, esp. in political views; moderate.

middle school *n. Brit.* a school for children aged between 8 or 9 and 12 or 13.

middleweight ('mɪdl̩,wet) *n.* **1. a.** a professional boxer weighing 154–160 pounds (70–72.5 kg). **b.** an amateur boxer weighing 71–75 kg (157–165 pounds). **2. a** wrestler weighing usually 172–192 pounds (78–87 kg).

Middle West *n.* another name for the **Midwest**. — **Middle Western** *adj.* — **Middle Westerner** *n.*

middling ('mɪdlɪŋ) *adj.* **1.** mediocre in quality, size, etc.; neither good nor bad, esp. in health (often in **fair to middling**). **~adv.** **2.** *Inf.* moderately: **middling well**. — **'middlingly** *adv.*

Middx. *abbrev.* for **Middlesex**.

midfield ('mɪd'fi:ld) *n.* **Soccer.** **a.** the general area between the two opposing defences. **b.** (*as modifier*): **a** **midfield player**.

midge (mɪdʒ) *n.* **1.** a mosquito-like dipterous insect occurring in dancing swarms, esp. near water. **2.** a small or diminutive person or animal.

midget ('mɪdʒɪt) *n.* **1.** a dwarf whose skeleton and

features are of normal proportions. **2. a.** something small of its kind. **b.** (*as modifier*): **a** **midget car**.

midi ('mɪdi) *adj. a.* (of a skirt, etc.) reaching to below the knee or midcalf. **b.** (*as n.*): **she wore her new midi**.

midiron ('mɪd,ɪərən) *n.* **Golf.** a club, a No. 2 iron, used for approach shots.

midland ('mɪdlənd) *n. a.* the central or inland part of a country. **b.** (*as modifier*): **a** **midland region**.

Midlands ('mɪdlənz) *n. the.* the central counties of England: characterized by manufacturing industries. — **'Midlander** *n.*

midmost ('mɪd,məʊst) *adj., adv.* in the middle or midst.

midnight ('mɪd,nait) *n.* **1. a.** the middle of the night; 12 o'clock at night. **b.** (*as modifier*): **the midnight hour**. **2.** **burn the midnight oil.** to work or study late into the night.

midnight sun *n.* the sun visible at midnight during the summer inside the Arctic and Antarctic circles.

mid-off *n.* **Cricket.** the fielding position on the off side closest to the bowler.

mid-on *n.* **Cricket.** the fielding position on the on side closest to the bowler.

midpoint ('mɪd,pɔɪnt) *n.* **1.** the point on a line that is at an equal distance from either end. **2.** a point in time halfway between the beginning and end of an event.

midrib ('mɪd,rib) *n.* the main vein of a leaf, running down the centre of the blade.

midriff ('mɪdrɪf) *n.* **1. a.** the middle part of the human body, esp. between waist and bust. **b.** (*as modifier*): **midriff bulge**. **2. Anat.** another name for the **diaphragm**. **3.** the part of a woman's garment covering the midriff.

midshipman ('mɪdʃɪpmən) *n., pl. -men.* a probationary rank held by young naval officers under training, or an officer holding such a rank.

midships ('mɪd,ʃɪps) *adv., adj.* *Naut.* See **amidships**.

midst (mɪdst) *n.* **1.** in the **midst** of, surrounded or enveloped by; at a point during. **2.** in our **midst**, among us.

midsummer ('mɪd'sʌmə) *n.* **1. a.** the middle or height of the summer. **b.** (*as modifier*): **a** **midsummer carnival**. **2.** another name for **summer solstice**.

Midsummer Day or Midsummer's Day *n.* June 24, the feast of St. John the Baptist; in England, Ireland, and Wales, one of the four quarter days. See also **summer solstice**.

midterm ('mɪd'tɜ:m) *n.* **1. a.** the middle of a term in a school, university, etc. **b.** (*as modifier*): **midterm exam**. **2. U.S. Politics.** **a.** the middle of a term of office, esp. of a presidential term, when congressional and local elections are held. **b.** (*as modifier*): **midterm elections**. **3. a.** the middle of the gestation period. **b.** (*as modifier*): **midterm pregnancy**. See **term** (sense 6).

midway ('mɪd,wet, or, for adv., 'mɪd,wet) *adj.* **1.** in or at the middle of the distance; halfway. **~adv.** **2.** to the middle of the distance. **~n.** **3.** *Obs.* a middle place, way, etc.

midweek ('mɪd'wi:k) *n. a.* the middle of the week. **b.** (*as modifier*): **a** **midweek holiday**.

Midwest ('mɪd'west) or **Middle West** *n.* the N central part of the U.S.; the states from Ohio westwards that border on the Great Lakes, and often the upper Mississippi and Missouri valleys. — **'Mid-western** *adj.* — **'Mid-westerner** *n.*

mid-wicket *n.* **Cricket.** the fielding position on the on side, midway between square leg and mid-on.

midwife ('mɪd,wɪf) *n., pl. -wives.* **1.** a nurse qualified to deliver babies and to care for women before, during, and after childbirth. **2.** a woman skilled in aiding in the delivery of babies. — **midwifery** ('mɪd,wɪfəri) *n.*

midwinter ('mɪd'wɪntə) *n.* **1. a.** the middle or depth of the winter. **b.** (*as modifier*): **a** **midwinter festival**. **2.** another name for **winter solstice**.

mien (mi:n) *n. Literary.* a person's manner, bearing, or appearance.

miff (mɪf) *Inf. ~vb.* **1.** to take offence or to offend. **~n.** **2.** a petulant mood. **3.** a petty quarrel.

might! (maɪt) *vb.* (takes an implied infinitive or an infinitive without *to*) used as an auxiliary: **1.** making the past tense or subjunctive mood of **may**: **he might have come**. **2.** (often foll. by *well*) expressing possibility: **he might well come**. In this sense **might** looks to the future and functions as a weak form of **may**. See **may**! (sense 2).

▷ **Usage.** See at **may**!

might² (maɪt) *n.* **1.** power, force, or vigour, esp. of a

great or supreme kind. 2. physical strength. 3. (with) **might and main**. See **main**¹ (sense 7).

mighty ('maɪtɪ) *adj.* **mightier, mightiest**. 1. a. having or indicating might; powerful or strong. b. (as collective *n.*): *the mighty*. 2. very large; vast. 3. *Inf.* very great in extent, importance, etc. ~*adv.* 4. *Inf.*, chiefly U.S. (intensifier): *mighty tired*. —'mightily *adv.* —'mightiness *n.*

► **Usage**. *Mighty* is used by many speakers, esp. in the south of the U.S. and in various dialects, as an intensifier equivalent to *very*. This use of *mighty* is nevertheless avoided outside informal speech by careful users of English.

mignonette (ˌmɪnjə'net) *n.* 1. any of various mainly Mediterranean plants, such as **garden mignonette**, that have spikes of small greenish-white flowers. 2. a type of fine pillow lace. ~*adj.* 3. of a greyish-green colour.

migraine ('mɪgreɪn, 'maɪ-) *n.* a throbbing headache usually affecting only one side of the head and commonly accompanied by nausea and visual disturbances. —'migrainous *adj.*

migrate (maɪ'greɪt) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. to go from one place to settle in another, esp. in a foreign country. 2. (of birds, fishes, etc.) to journey between different habitats at specific times of the year. —'migrant *n.*, *adj.* —'migration *n.* —'migrator *n.* —'migratory ('maɪgrətəri, -trɪ) *adj.*

mikado (mɪ'kɑːdəʊ) *n.*, *pl.* -**dos**. (often *cap.*) *Arch.* the Japanese emperor.

mike (maɪk) *n.* *Inf.* short for **microphone**.

mil (mɪl) *n.* 1. a unit of length equal to one thousandth of an inch. 2. a unit of angular measure, used in gunnery, equal to one six-thousand-four-hundredth of a circumference.

milady or miladi (mɪ'leɪdi) *n.*, *pl.* -**dies**. (formerly) a continental title used for an English gentlewoman.

mileage ('maɪlɪdʒ) *n.* a variant spelling of **mileage**.

milch (mɪltʃ) *n.* 1. (*modifier*) (esp. of cattle) yielding milk. 2. **milch cow**. *Inf.* a source of easy income, esp. a person.

mild (maɪld) *adj.* 1. (of a taste, sensation, etc.) not powerful or strong; bland. 2. gentle or temperate in character, climate, behaviour, etc. 3. not extreme; moderate. 4. feeble; unassertive. ~*n.* 5. *Brit.* draught beer, of darker colour than bitter and flavoured with fewer hops. —'mildly *adv.* —'mildness *n.*

mildew ('mɪldjuː) *n.* 1. any of various diseases of plants that affect mainly the leaves and are caused by parasitic fungi. 2. any fungus causing this. 3. another name for **mould**. ~*vb.* 4. to affect or become affected with mildew. —'mildewy *adj.*

mild steel *n.* any of a class of strong tough steels that contain a low quantity of carbon.

mile (maɪl) *n.* 1. Also called: **statute mile**. a unit of length used in English-speaking countries, equal to 1760 yards. 1 mile is equivalent to 1.609 34 kilometres. 2. See **nautical mile**. 3. the Roman mile, equivalent to 1620 yards. 4. (often *pl.*) *Inf.* a great distance; great deal: *he missed by a mile*. 5. a race extending over a mile. ~*adv.* 6. **miles**. (intensifier): *that's miles better*.

mileage or milage ('maɪlɪdʒ) *n.* 1. a distance expressed in miles. 2. the total number of miles that a motor vehicle has travelled. 3. allowance for travelling expenses, esp. as a fixed rate per mile. 4. the number of miles a motor vehicle will travel on one gallon of fuel. 5. *Inf.* use, benefit, or service provided by something.

mileometer or milometer (maɪ'lɒmɪtə) *n.* a device that records the number of miles that a bicycle or motor vehicle has travelled.

milepost ('maɪl,pəʊst) *n.* 1. *Horse racing*. a marking post on a racecourse a mile before the finishing line. 2. *Chiefly U.S.* a signpost that shows the distance in miles to or from a place.

miler ('maɪlə) *n.* an athlete, horse, etc., that runs or specializes in races of one mile.

milestone ('maɪl,stəʊn) *n.* 1. a stone pillar that shows the distance in miles to or from a place. 2. a significant event in life, history, etc.

milfoil ('mɪl,fɔɪl) *n.* another name for **yarrow**.

miliaria (ˌmɪli'æəriə) *n.* an acute itching eruption of the skin, caused by blockage of the sweat glands.

milieu ('mɪljɜː) *n.*, *pl.* **milieus** or **French milieux** (mɪ'ljø). surroundings, location, or setting.

militant ('mɪlɪtənt) *adj.* 1. aggressive or vigorous, esp. in the support of a cause. 2. warring; engaged in warfare. ~*n.* 3. a militant person. —'militancy *n.* —'militantly *adv.*

militarism ('mɪlɪtə,rɪzəm) *n.* 1. military spirit; pursuit of military ideals. 2. domination by the military, esp. on a political level. —'militarist *n.* —'militar'istic *adj.*

military ('mɪlɪtəri, -trɪ) *adj.* 1. of or relating to the armed forces, warlike matters, etc. 2. of or characteristic of soldiers. ~*n.*, *pl.* -**taries** or -**tary**. 3. (preceded by *the*) the armed services. —'militarily *adv.* —'militarization or -l'sation *n.* —'milita,rize or -ise *vb.*

military police *n.* a corps within an army that performs police and disciplinary duties. —**military policeman** *n.*

militate ('mɪlɪ,tet) *vb.* (*intr.*; usually foll. by *against* or *for*) (of facts, etc.) to have influence or effect: *the evidence militated against his release*.

militia (mɪ'lɪʃə) *n.* 1. a body of citizen (as opposed to professional) soldiers. 2. an organization containing men enlisted for service in emergency only. —'militiaman *n.*

milk (mɪlk) *n.* 1. a. a whitish fluid secreted by the mammary glands of mature female mammals and used for feeding their young until weaned. b. the milk of cows, goats, etc., used by man as a food or in the production of butter, cheese, etc. 2. any similar fluid in plants, such as the juice of a coconut. 3. a milkylike pharmaceutical preparation, such as milk of magnesia. 4. **cry over spilt milk**. to lament something that cannot be altered. ~*vb.* 5. to draw milk from the udder of (an animal). 6. (*intr.*) (of animals) to yield milk. 7. (*tr.*) to draw off or tap in small quantities: *to milk the petty cash*. 8. (*tr.*) to extract as much money, help, etc., as possible from: *to milk a situation of its news value*. 9. (*tr.*) to extract venom, sap, etc., from. —'milker *n.* —'miliness *n.* —'milking *n.* —'milky *adj.*

milk-and-water *adj.* (milk and water when *postpositive*). weak, feeble, or insipid.

milk bar *n.* a. a snack bar at which milk drinks and light refreshments are served. b. (in Australia) a shop selling, in addition to milk, basic provisions and other items.

milk chocolate *n.* chocolate that has been made with milk, having a creamy taste.

milk float *n.* *Brit.* a small motor vehicle used to deliver milk to houses.

milkmaid ('mɪlk,meɪd) *n.* a girl or woman who milks cows.

milkman ('mɪlkmən) *n.*, *pl.* -**men**. a man who delivers or sells milk.

milk of magnesia *n.* a suspension of magnesium hydroxide in water, used as an antacid and laxative.

milk pudding *n.* *Chiefly Brit.* a pudding made by boiling or baking milk with a grain, esp. rice.

milk run *n.* *Aeronautics, inf.* a routine and uneventful flight.

milk shake *n.* a cold frothy drink made of milk, flavouring, and sometimes ice cream, whisked or beaten together.

milk sop ('mɪlk,sɒp) *n.* a feeble or ineffectual man or youth.

milk tooth *n.* any of the first teeth to erupt; a deciduous tooth. Also called: **baby tooth**.

Milky Way *n.* **the**. the diffuse band of light stretching across the night sky that consists of millions of faint stars, nebulae, etc., and forms part of the Galaxy.

mill (mɪl) *n.* 1. a building fitted with machinery for processing materials, manufacturing goods, etc.; factory. 2. a machine that processes materials, manufactures goods, etc., by performing a continuous or repetitive operation, such as a machine to grind flour, pulverize solids, or press fruit. 3. a machine that tools or polishes metal. 4. a small machine for grinding solids: *a pepper mill*. 5. a system, institution, etc., that influences people or things in the manner of a factory: *the educational mill*. 6. an unpleasant experience; ordeal (esp. in *go or be put through the mill*). 7. a fist fight. 8. **run of the mill**. ordinary or routine. ~*vb.* 9. (*usually tr.*) to grind, press, or pulverize in or as if in a mill. 10. (*usually tr.*) to process or produce in or with a mill. 11. to cut or roll (metal) with or as if with a milling machine. 12. (*tr.*) to groove or flute the edge of (a coin). 13. (often foll. by *about* or *around*) to move about or cause to move about in a confused manner. 14. *Arch. sl.* to fight, esp. with the fists. —'millable *adj.* —milled *adj.*

milldam ('mɪl,dæm) *n.* a dam built in a stream to raise the water level sufficiently for it to turn a millwheel.

millefeuille *French.* (mɪl'føːʃi) *n.* *Brit.* a small iced cake made of puff pastry filled with jam and cream.

millennium (mɪ'lenɪəm) *n.*, *pl.* -**niums** or -**nia** (-nɪə). 1.

the. **Christianity**, the period of a thousand years of Christ's awaited reign upon earth. **2.** a period or cycle of one thousand years. **3.** a time of peace and happiness, esp. in the distant future. —**mil'leniall** *adj.* —**mil'lenialist** *n.*

millepede ('mili,pid) or **milleped** ('mili,ped) *n.* variant spellings of **millipede**.

miller ('mili) *n.* **1.** a person who keeps, operates, or works in a mill, esp. a corn mill. **2.** a person who operates a milling machine.

miller's thumb *n.* any of several small freshwater European fishes having a flattened body.

millesimal (mɪ'lesɪmə) *adj.* **1.** a. denoting a thousandth. **b.** (as *n.*): a **millisimal**. **2.** of, consisting of, or relating to a thousandth.

millet ('milit) *n.* **1.** a cereal grass cultivated for grain and animal fodder. **2.** a. an Indian annual grass cultivated for grain and forage, having pale round shiny seeds. **b.** the seed of this plant. **3.** any of various similar or related grasses.

milli- *prefix.* denoting 10⁻³: **millimetre**. Symbol: m
milliard ('mili,ɑ:d, 'mili:d) *n.* *Brit.* a thousand million. U.S. equivalent: **billion**.

millibar ('mili,bɑ:) *n.* a cgs unit of atmospheric pressure equal to 10³ bar, 100 newtons per square metre or 0.7500617 millimetres of mercury.

milligram or **milligramme** ('mili,græm) *n.* one thousandth of a gram.

millilitre or **U.S. milliliter** ('mili,litə) *n.* one thousandth of a litre.

millimetre or **U.S. millimeter** ('mili,mɪtə) *n.* one thousandth of a metre.

milliner ('mili,nə) *n.* a person who makes or sells women's hats. —**millinery** *n.*

milling ('miliŋ) *n.* **1.** the act or process of grinding, pressing, or crushing in a mill. **2.** the grooves or fluting on the edge of a coin, etc.

million ('miliən) *n., pl. -lions or -lion.* **1.** the cardinal number that is the product of 1000 multiplied by 1000. **2.** a numeral, 1 000 000, 10⁶, *M*, etc., representing this number. **3.** (often *pl.*) an extremely large but unspecified number or amount: *I have millions of things to do.* —**determiner**. **4.** (preceded by a or by a numeral) **a.** amounting to a million: *a million light years.* **b.** (as *pronoun*): *I can see a million.* —**'millionth** *adj.*

millionaire ('mili,jə'neɪ) *n.* a person whose assets are worth at least a million of the standard monetary units of his country. —**'million/aress** *fem. n.*

millipede, **millepede** ('mili,pid), or **milleped** ('mili,ped) *n.* any of various terrestrial herbivorous arthropods, having a cylindrical body, each segment of which bears two pairs of legs.

millisecond ('mili,sekənd) *n.* one thousandth of a second.

millpond ('mil,pɒnd) *n.* **1.** a pool formed by damming a stream to provide water to turn a millwheel. **2.** any expanse of calm water.

millrace ('mil,reɪs) or **millrun** *n.* **1.** the current of water that turns a millwheel. **2.** the channel for this water.

millstone ('mil,stu:n) *n.* **1.** one of a pair of heavy flat disc-shaped stones that are rotated one against the other to grind grain. **2.** a heavy burden, such as a responsibility or obligation.

millstream ('mil,stri:m) *n.* a stream of water used to turn a millwheel.

millwheel ('mil,wil) *n.* a wheel, esp. a waterwheel, that drives a mill.

milometer (mɪ'lɒmɪtə) *n.* a variant spelling of **mileometer**.

milord (mɪ'lɔ:d) *n.* (formerly) a continental title used for an English gentleman.

milt (milt) *n.* **1.** the testis of a fish. **2.** the spermatozoa and seminal fluid produced by a fish. **3.** Rare. the spleen, esp. of fowls and pigs. —*vb.* **4.** to fertilize (fish roe) with milt, esp. artificially. —**'milter** *n.*

mime (maɪm) *n.* **1.** the theatrical technique of expressing an idea or mood or portraying a character entirely by gesture and bodily movement without the use of words. **2.** Also called: **mime artist**, a performer specializing in this. **3.** a dramatic presentation using such a technique. **4.** (in the classical theatre) **a.** a comic performance with exaggerated gesture and physical action. **b.** an actor in such a performance. —*vb.* **5.** to express (an idea, etc.) in actions or gestures without speech. **6.** (of singers or musicians) to perform as if

singing a song or playing a piece of music that is actually prerecorded. —**'mimer** *n.*

Mimeograph ('mimiə,græf) *n.* **1.** Trademark. an office machine for printing multiple copies of text or line drawings from a stencil. **2.** a copy produced by this. —*vb.* **3.** to print copies from (a prepared stencil) using this machine.

mimesis (mɪ'mɪsɪs) *n.* **1.** Art, literature, the imitative representation of nature or human behaviour. **2.** Biol. another name for **mimicry** (sense 2). **3.** Rhetoric. representation of another person's alleged words in a speech. —**metimetic** (mɪ'metɪk) *adj.*

mimic ('mɪmɪk) *vb.* -icking, -icked. (tr.) **1.** to imitate (a person, a manner, etc.), esp. for satirical effect; ape. **2.** to take on the appearance of: *certain flies mimic wasps.* **3.** to copy closely or in a servile manner. —*n.* **4.** a person or an animal, such as a parrot, that is clever at mimicking. **5.** an animal that displays mimicry. —*adj.* **6.** of, relating to, or using mimicry. **7.** simulated, make-believe, or mock. —**'mimicker** *n.*

mimicry ('mɪmɪkri) *n., pl. -ries.* **1.** the act or art of copying or imitating closely; mimicking. **2.** the resemblance shown by one animal species to another, which protects it from predators.

M.I.Min.E. *abbrev.* for Member of the Institute of Mining Engineers.

mosa (mɪ'mɔ:zə, -zə) *n.* any of various tropical shrubs or trees having ball-like clusters of typically yellow flowers and leaves that are often sensitive to touch or light.

min. *abbrev. for:* **1.** mineralogy. **2.** minimum. **3.** mining. **4.** minute or minutes.

Min. *abbrev. for:* **1.** Minister. **2.** Ministry.

mina ('maɪnə) *n.* a variant spelling of **myna** (bird).

minaret ('mɪnə'ret, 'mɪnə,ret) *n.* a slender tower of a mosque having one or more balconies. —**'mina'ret-ed** *adj.*

minatory ('mɪnətəri, -tri) or **minatorial** *adj.* threatening or menacing.

mince (mɪns) *vb.* **1.** (tr.) to chop, grind, or cut into very small pieces. **2.** (tr.) to soften or moderate: *I didn't mince my words.* **3.** (intr.) to walk or speak in an affected dainty manner. —*n.* **4.** Chiefly *Brit.* minced meat. —**'mincer** *n.*

mincemeat ('mɪns,mɪt) *n.* **1.** a mixture of dried fruit, spices, etc., used esp. for filling pies. **2.** **make mincemeat** of, to defeat completely.

mince pie *n.* a small round pastry tart filled with mincemeat.

mincing ('mɪnsɪŋ) *adj.* (of a person) affectedly elegant in gait, manner, or speech. —**'mincingly** *adv.*

mind (maɪnd) *n.* **1.** the entity in an individual responsible for thought, feelings, and speech. **2.** intelligence or the intellect, esp. as opposed to feelings or wishes. **3.** recollection or remembrance: *it comes to mind.* **4.** the faculty of original or creative thought; imagination: *it's all in the mind.* **5.** a person considered as an intellectual being: *great minds.* **6.** condition, state, or manner of feeling or thought: *his state of mind.* **7.** an inclination, desire, or purpose: *I have a mind to go.* **8.** attention or thoughts: *keep your mind on your work.* **9.** a sound mental state; sanity: *to lose your mind.* **10.** (in Cartesian philosophy) one of two basic modes of existence, the other being matter. **11.** **blow someone's mind.** *Sl.* a. to cause someone to have a psychedelic experience. **b.** to astound or surprise someone. **12.** in or of two minds. Undecided; wavering. **13.** **make up one's mind.** to decide (something or to do something). **14.** on one's mind. in one's thoughts. **15.** **piece of one's mind.** an expression of one's candid opinion, esp. a rebuke. —*vb.* **16.** (when tr., may take a clause as object) to take offence at: *do you mind if I smoke?* **17.** to pay attention to (something); heed; notice: *to mind one's own business.* **18.** (tr.; takes a clause as object) to make certain; ensure: *mind you tell her.* **19.** (tr.) to take care of; have charge of: *to mind the shop.* **20.** (when tr., may take a clause as object) to be cautious or careful about (something): *mind how you go.* **21.** (tr.) to obey (someone or something); heed: *mind your father!* **22.** to be concerned (about); be troubled (about): *never mind about your hat.* **23.** **mind you.** an expression qualifying a previous statement: *Dogs are nice. Mind you, I don't like all dogs.* —*Related adj.: mental.* —*See also mind out.* —**'minder** *n.*

mindful ('maɪndfʊl) *adj.* **1.** having a mind, inclination, intention, etc., as specified: *politically minded.* **2. (in combination): *money-minded.***

mindful ('maɪndfʊl) *adj.* (usually *postpositive* and foll.

by of) keeping aware; heedful: *mindful of your duty*. — **mindfully** *adv.* — **'mindfulness** *n.*

mindless ('maɪdlɪs) *adj.* 1. stupid or careless. 2. requiring little or no intellectual effort. — **'mindlessly** *adv.* — **'mindlessness** *n.*

mind out *vb. (intr., adv.)* *Brit.* to be careful or pay attention.

mind-reader *n.* a person seemingly able to discern the thoughts of another. — **'mind-reading** *n.*

mind's eye *n.* the visual memory or the imagination.

mine¹ ('maɪn) *pron.* 1. something or someone belonging to or associated with me: *mine is best*. 2. of mine, belonging to or associated with me. ~ *determiner*. 3. (preceding a vowel) an archaic word for *my*: *mine eyes*.

mine² ('maɪn) *n.* 1. a system of excavations made for the extraction of minerals, esp. coal, ores, or precious stones. 2. any deposit of ore or minerals. 3. a lucrative source or abundant supply: *a mine of information*. 4. a device containing explosive designed to destroy ships, vehicles, or personnel, usually laid beneath the ground or in water. 5. a tunnel dug to undermine a fortification, etc. ~ *vb.* 6. to dig into (the earth) for (minerals). 7. to make (a hole, tunnel, etc.) by digging or boring. 8. to place explosive mines in position below the surface of (the sea or land). 9. to undermine (a fortification, etc.) by digging mines. 10. another word for **undermine**.

mine detector *n.* an instrument designed to detect explosive mines. — **mine detection** *n.*

mine-dump *n.* *S. African.* a large mound of residue, esp. from gold-mining operations.

minefield ('maɪn,fi:ld) *n.* an area of ground or water containing explosive mines.

minelayer ('maɪn,leɪə) *n.* a warship or aircraft designed for the carrying and laying of mines.

miner ('maɪnə) *n.* 1. a person who works in a mine. 2. any of various insects or insect larvae that bore into and feed on plant tissues. 3. *Austral.* any of several honey-eaters.

mineral ('mɪnərəl, 'mɪnərəl) *n.* 1. any of a class of naturally occurring solid inorganic substances with a characteristic crystalline form and a homogeneous chemical composition. 2. any inorganic matter. 3. any substance obtained by mining, esp. a metal ore. 4. (often *pl.*) *Brit.* short for **mineral water**. 5. *Brit.* a soft drink containing carbonated water and flavourings. ~ *adj.* 6. of, relating to, containing, or resembling minerals.

mineralogy ('mɪnərə'lɒdʒɪ) *n.* the branch of geology concerned with the study of minerals. — **mineralogical** ('mɪnərə'lɒdʒɪkəl) *or* **mineral'ologic** *adj.* — **mineral'ologist** *n.*

mineral water *n.* water containing dissolved mineral salts or gases, usually having medicinal properties.

minestrone ('mɪnɪ'strɔ:ni) *n.* a soup made from a variety of vegetables and pasta.

minesweeper ('maɪn,swi:pə) *n.* a naval vessel equipped to clear mines. — **'mine-sweeping** *n.*

Ming (mɪŋ) *n.* 1. the imperial dynasty of China from 1368 to 1644. ~ *adj.* 2. of or relating to Chinese porcelain produced during the Ming dynasty.

mingle ('mɪŋɡl) *vb.* 1. to mix or cause to mix. 2. (*intr.*; often *fol.* by *with*) to come into close association. — **'mingler** *n.*

mingy ('mɪndʒɪ) *adj.* -**gler**, -**gliest**. *Brit. inf.* miserly, stingy, or niggardly.

mini ('mɪni) *adj.* 1. (of a woman's dress, skirt, etc.) very short; thigh-length. 2. (*prenominal*) small; miniature. ~ *n.* 3. something very small of its kind, esp. a small car or a miniskirt.

mini- *combining form.* smaller or shorter than the standard size: *minibus*; *miniskirt*.

miniature ('mɪnɪʃə) *n.* 1. a model, copy, or representation on a very small scale. 2. anything that is very small of its kind. 3. a very small painting, esp. a portrait. 4. an illuminated decoration in a manuscript. 5. in *miniature*, on a small scale. ~ *adj.* 6. greatly reduced in size, etc. 7. on a small scale; minute. — **'miniaturist** *n.* — **'miniaturization** *or* -**'i-sation** *n.* — **'miniaturize** *or* -**'ise** *vb.*

minibus ('mɪnɪ,bʌs) *n.* a small bus able to carry approximately ten passengers.

minicab ('mɪnɪ,kæb) *n.* a small saloon car used as a taxi.

minicomputer ('mɪnɪkəm'pjʊ:tə) *n.* a small comparatively cheap digital computer.

minim ('mɪnɪm) *n.* 1. a unit of fluid measure equal to one sixtieth of a drachm. It is approximately equal to

one drop. Symbol: m , *m*. 2. *Music.* a note having the time value of half a semibreve. 3. a small or insignificant thing. 4. a downward stroke in calligraphy.

minimize *or* -**ise** ('mɪnɪ,maɪz) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to reduce to or estimate at the least possible degree or amount. 2. to rank or treat at less than the true worth; belittle. — **'minimization** *or* -**'i-sation** *n.* — **'mini,mizer** *or* -**iser** *n.*

minimum ('mɪnɪmə) *n., pl. -mums* *or* -**ma** (-mə). 1. the least possible amount, degree, or quantity. 2. the least amount recorded, allowed, or reached. 3. (*modifier*) being the least possible, recorded, allowed, etc.: *minimum age*. ~ *adj.* 4. of or relating to a minimum or minimums. — **'minimal** *adj.* — **'minimally** *adv.*

minimum lending rate *n.* (formerly) the minimum rate at which the Bank of England discounted approved bills.

minimum wage *n.* the lowest wage that an employer is permitted to pay by law or union contract.

mining ('maɪnɪŋ) *n.* 1. the act, process, or industry of extracting coal, ores, etc., from the earth. 2. *Mil.* the process of laying mines.

minion ('mɪnjən) *n.* 1. a favourite or dependant, esp. a servile or fawning one. 2. a servile agent.

miniskirt ('mɪnɪ,skɜ:t) *n.* a very short skirt, originally in the 1960s, one at least four inches above the knee. Often shortened to **mini**.

minister ('mɪnɪstə) *n.* 1. (esp. in Presbyterian and some Nonconformist Churches) a clergyman. 2. a head of a government department. 3. any diplomatic agent accredited to a foreign government or head of state. 4. short for **minister plenipotentiary**. See **envoy**¹ (sense 1). 5. Also called: **minister resident**, a diplomat ranking after an envoy. 6. a person who attends to the needs of others, esp. in religious matters. 7. a person who acts as the agent or servant of a person or thing. ~ *vb.* 8. (*intr.*; often *fol.* by *to*) to attend to the needs (of); take care (of). 9. (*tr.*) *Arch.* to provide; supply. — **'minis'terial** *adj.* — **'ministrant** *adj.*

minister of state *n.* 1. (in the British Parliament) a minister, usually below cabinet rank, appointed to assist a senior minister. 2. any government minister.

Minister of the Crown *n.* *Brit.* any Government minister of cabinet rank.

minister plenipotentiary *n., pl. ministers plenipotentiary.* another term for **envoy**¹ (sense 1).

ministration ('mɪnɪ'streɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act or an instance of serving or giving aid. 2. the act or an instance of ministering religiously. — **'ministrative** ('mɪnɪstrə-tɪv) *adj.*

ministry ('mɪnɪstri) *n., pl. -tries.* 1. a. the profession or duties of a minister of religion. b. his performance of these duties. 2. ministers of religion or government ministers considered collectively. 3. the tenure of a minister. 4. a. a government department headed by a minister. b. the buildings of such a department.

miniver ('mɪnɪvə) *n.* white fur, used in ceremonial costumes.

mink (mɪŋk) *n.* 1. any of several mammals of Europe, Asia, and North America, having slightly webbed feet. 2. their highly valued fur, esp. that of the American mink. 3. a garment made of this, esp. a woman's coat or stole.

minnesinger ('mɪnɪ,sɪŋə) *n.* one of the German lyric poets and musicians of the 12th to 14th centuries.

minnow ('mɪnəʊ) *n., pl. -nows* *or* -**now**. 1. a small slender European freshwater cyprinid fish. 2. a small or insignificant person.

Minoan (mɪ'nəʊən) *adj.* 1. of or denoting the Bronze Age culture of Crete from about 3000 B.C. to about 1100 B.C. ~ *n.* 2. a Cretan belonging to the Minoan culture.

minor ('maɪnə) *adj.* 1. lesser or secondary in amount, extent, importance, or degree. 2. of or relating to the minority. 3. below the age of legal majority. 4. *Music.* a. (of a scale) having a semitone between the second and third and fifth and sixth degrees (**natural minor**). b. (of a key) based on the minor scale. c. (*postpositive*) denoting a specified key based on the minor scale: *C minor*. d. (of an interval) reduced by a semitone from the major. e. (of a chord, esp. a triad) having a minor third above the root. f. (esp. in jazz) of or relating to a chord built upon a minor triad and containing a minor seventh: *a minor ninth*. 5. *Logic.* (of a term or premiss) having less generality or scope than another term or proposition. 6. *U.S. education.* of or relating to an additional secondary subject taken by a student. 7. *Brit.* the younger or junior: sometimes used after the surname of a schoolboy if he has an older brother in the same

school. ~n. 8. a person or thing that is lesser or secondary. 9. a person below the age of legal majority. 10. *U.S. education*, a subsidiary subject. 11. *Music*, a minor key, chord, mode, or scale. 12. *Logic*, a minor term or premiss. ~vb. 13. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *in*) *U.S. education*, to take a minor.

minority (maɪ'nɒrɪtɪ, mɪ-*n*), *pl.* -ties. 1. the smaller of two parts, factions, or groups. 2. a group that is different racially, politically, etc., from a larger group of which it is a part. 3. a. the state of being a minor. b. the period during which a person is below legal age. 4. (*modifier*) relating to or being a minority: a *minority opinion*.

minster ('mɪnstə) *n. Brit.* any of certain cathedrals and large churches, usually originally connected to a monastery.

minstrel ('mɪnstɹəl) *n.* 1. a medieval musician who performed songs or recited poetry with instrumental accompaniment. 2. a performer in a minstrel show. 3. *Arch. or poetic.* any poet, musician, or singer. —'min-strely *n.*

minstrel show *n.* a theatrical entertainment consisting of songs, dances, etc., performed by actors wearing black face make-up.

mint (mɪnt) *n.* 1. any *N* temperate plant of a genus having aromatic leaves. The leaves of some species are used for seasoning and flavouring. See also **peppermint**, **spearmint**. 2. a sweet flavoured with mint. —'minty *adj.*

mint (mɪnt) *n.* 1. a place where money is coined by governmental authority. 2. a very large amount of money. 3. (*modifier*) in **mint condition**, in perfect condition; as if new. ~*adj.* 4. (of coins, postage stamps, etc.) in perfect condition as issued. ~vb. 5. to make (coins) by stamping metal. 6. (*tr.*) to invent (esp. phrases or words). —'minter *n.*

mint julep ('dʒu:lɪp) *n. Chiefly U.S.* a long drink consisting of bourbon whiskey, crushed ice, sugar, and sprigs of mint.

minuend ('mɪnjuːnd) *n.* the number from which another number, the **subtrahend**, is to be subtracted.

minuet (ˌmɪnjuː'et) *n.* 1. a stately court dance of the 17th and 18th centuries in triple time. 2. a piece of music composed for or in the rhythm of this dance.

minus ('mɪnəs) *prep.* 1. reduced by the subtraction of: *four minus two* (written 4 — 2). 2. *Inf.* deprived of; lacking: *minus the trimmings*. ~*adj.* 3. a. indicating or involving subtraction: a *minus sign*. b. Also: **negative**, having a value or designating a quantity less than zero: a *minus number*. 4. involving a disadvantage, harm, etc.: a *minus factor*. 5. (*postpositive*) *Education*, slightly below the standard of a particular grade: a *B minus*. 6. denoting a negative electric charge. ~*n.* 7. short for **minus sign**. 8. a negative quantity. 9. a disadvantage, loss, or deficit. 10. *Inf.* something detrimental or negative. ~Mathematical symbol: —

minuscule ('mɪnəsˌkjʊ:l) *n.* 1. a lower-case letter. 2. writing using such letters. 3. a small cursive 17th-century style of lettering. ~*adj.* 4. relating to, printed in, or written in small letters. 5. very small. 6. (of letters) lower-case. —**minuscular** (mɪ'naskjʊlə) *adj.*

minus sign *n.* the symbol —, indicating subtraction or a negative quantity.

minute ('mɪnɪt) *n.* 1. a period of time equal to 60 seconds; one sixtieth of an hour. 2. Also called: **minute of arc**, a unit of angular measure equal to one sixtieth of a degree. Symbol: '. 3. any very short period of time; moment. 4. a short note or memorandum. 5. the distance that can be travelled in a minute: *it's only two minutes away*. 6. **up to the minute** (**up-to-the-minute** when *prenominal*), the very latest or newest. ~vb. (*tr.*) 7. to record in minutes: *to minute a meeting*. 8. to time in terms of minutes. ~See also **minutes**. —'minutely *adv.*

minute (maɪ'nju:t) *adj.* 1. very small; diminutive; tiny. 2. unimportant; petty. 3. precise or detailed. —'mi'nute-ness *n.* —mi'nutely *adv.*

minute hand ('mɪnɪt) *n.* the pointer on a timepiece that indicates minutes.

minutes ('mɪnɪts) *pl. n.* an official record of the proceedings of a meeting, conference, etc.

minute steak ('mɪnɪt) *n.* a small piece of steak that can be cooked quickly.

minutiae (mɪ'nju:ʃi:ɪ) *pl. n., sing. -tia* (-ʃi:ə). small, precise, or trifling details.

minx (mɪŋks) *n.* a bold, flirtatious, or scheming woman.

Miocene ('maɪəʊˌsi:n) *adj.* 1. of or denoting the fourth epoch of the Tertiary period. ~*n.* 2. the **Miocene**, this epoch or rock series.

miracle ('mɪrəˌkl̩) *n.* 1. a marvellous event attributed to a supernatural cause. 2. any amazing or wonderful event. 3. a marvellous example of something: a *miracle of engineering*. 4. short for **miracle play**. 5. (*modifier*) being or seeming a miracle: a *miracle cure*.

miracle play *n.* a medieval play based on a biblical story or the life of a saint. Cf. **mystery play**.

miraculous (mɪ'rækjʊləs) *adj.* 1. of, like, or caused by a miracle; marvellous. 2. surprising. 3. having the power to work miracles. —mi'raculously *adv.* —mi'raculousness *n.*

mirage ('mɪrɑ:ʒ) *n.* 1. an image of a distant object or sheet of water, often inverted or distorted, caused by atmospheric refraction by hot air. 2. something illusory.

mire (maɪə) *n.* 1. a boggy or marshy area. ~vb. 2. to sink or cause to sink in a mire. 3. (*tr.*) to make dirty or muddy. 4. (*tr.*) to involve, esp. in difficulties, etc. —'miry *adj.*

mirk (mɜ:k) *n.* a variant spelling of **murk**. —'mirkily *adv.* —'mirkiness *n.* —'mirkly *adj.*

mirror ('mɪrə) *n.* 1. a surface, such as polished metal or glass coated with a metal film, that reflects an image of an object placed in front of it. 2. such a reflecting surface mounted in a frame. 3. any reflecting surface. 4. a thing that reflects or depicts something else. ~vb. 5. (*tr.*) to reflect, represent, or depict faithfully: *he mirrors his teacher's ideals*.

mirror image *n.* 1. an image as observed in a mirror. 2. an object that corresponds to another as it would to its image in a mirror.

mirror writing *n.* backward writing that forms a mirror image of normal writing.

mirth (mɜ:θ) *n.* laughter, gaiety, or merriment. —'mirthful *adj.* —'mirthfulness *n.* —'mirthless *adj.* —'mirthlessness *n.*

mis- *prefix.* 1. wrong or bad; wrongly or badly: *misunderstanding*; *misfortune*; *mistreat*; *mislead*. 2. lack of; not: *mistrust*.

misadventure (ˌmɪsədˌventʃə) *n.* 1. an unlucky event; misfortune. 2. *Law*, accidental death not due to crime or negligence.

misalliance (ˌmɪsəˈlaɪəns) *n.* an unsuitable alliance or marriage. —,misal'ly *vb.*

misanthrope ('mɪzənˌθrəʊp) or **misanthropist** (mɪˈzænθrəpɪst) *n.* a person who dislikes or distrusts other people or mankind in general. —**misanthropic** (ˌmɪzənˌθrəpɪk) or **misanthropical** *adj.* —**misanthropy** (mɪˈzænθrəpɪ) *n.*

misapply (ˌmɪsəˈplɑɪ) *vb. -plying, -plied.* (*tr.*) 1. to apply wrongly or badly. 2. another word for **misappropriate**. —**misapplication** (ˌmɪsəplɪˈkeɪʃən) *n.*

misapprehend (ˌmɪsəprɪˈhend) *vb. (tr.)* to misunderstand. —**misapprehension** (ˌmɪsəprɪˈhenʃən) *n.* —,mis-appre'hensive *adj.* —,misappre'hensiveness *n.*

misappropriate (ˌmɪsəˈprɒpriːt) *vb. (tr.)* to appropriate for a wrong or dishonest use; embezzle or steal. —,misap,propri'ation *n.*

misbegotten (ˌmɪsbɪˈɡɒt'n) *adj.* 1. unlawfully obtained. 2. badly conceived, planned, or designed. 3. *Literary and dialect*, illegitimate; bastard.

misbehave (ˌmɪsbɪˈhev) *vb.* to behave (oneself) badly. —,misbe'have *n.* —**misbehaviour** (ˌmɪsbɪˈheɪvjə) *n.*

miscalculate (ˌmɪskælkjʊˌleɪt) *vb. (tr.)* to calculate wrongly. —,miscalcu'lation *n.*

miscall (ˌmɪsˈkɔ:l) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to call by the wrong name. 2. *Brit. dialect*, to abuse or malign. —,mis'caller *n.*

miscarriage (mɪsˈkæɪdʒ) *n.* 1. (mɪsˈkæɪdʒ, 'mɪskær-), spontaneous expulsion of a foetus from the womb, esp. prior to the 20th week of pregnancy. 2. an act of mismanagement or failure: a *miscarriage of justice*. 3. *Brit.* the failure of freight to reach its destination. —mis'carry *vb.*

miscast (ˌmɪsˈkɑ:st) *vb. -casting, -cast.* (*tr.*) 1. to cast badly. 2. (*often passive*) a. to cast (a role) in (a play, film, etc.) inappropriately: *Falstaff was miscast*. b. to assign an inappropriate role to: *he was miscast as Othello*.

miscegenation (ˌmɪsɪdʒɪˈneɪʃən) *n.* interbreeding of

misaddress *vb.*
misadministration *n.*

misalign *vb.*
misalignment *n.*

ances, esp. where differences of pigmentation are involved.

miscellanea (ˌmɪsəˈleɪniə) *pl. n.* a collection of miscellaneous items, esp. literary works.

miscellaneous (ˌmɪsəˈleɪniəs) *adj.* 1. composed of or containing a variety of things; mixed. 2. having varied capabilities, sides, etc. —**miscelˈlaneously** *adv.* —**miscelˈlaneousness** *n.* —**miscellanist** (mɪˈsclənɪst) *n.*

miscellany (mɪˈsclənɪ; U.S. ˈmɪsəˈleɪni) *n., pl. -nies.* (sometimes *pl.*) a miscellaneous collection of items, esp. essays, poems, etc.

mischance (mɪsˈtʃɑːns) *n.* 1. bad luck. 2. a stroke of bad luck.

mischief (ˈmɪstʃɪf) *n.* 1. wayward but not malicious behaviour, usually of children, that causes trouble, etc. 2. a playful inclination to behave in this way or to tease or disturb. 3. a person who causes mischief. 4. injury or harm caused by a person or thing. 5. a source of trouble, difficulty, etc.

mischievous (ˈmɪstʃɪvəs) *adj.* 1. inclined to acts of mischief. 2. teasing; slightly malicious. 3. causing or intended to cause harm. —**mischievously** *adv.* —**mischievousness** *n.*

miscible (ˈmɪsɪbəl) *adj.* capable of mixing: *miscible with water.* —**misciˈbility** *n.*

misconception (mɪskənˈsepʃən) *n.* a false or mistaken view, opinion, or attitude. —**misconceive** (mɪskənˈsiːv) *vb.*

misconduct *n.* (mɪsˈkɒndʌkt) 1. behaviour, such as adultery or professional negligence, that is regarded as immoral or unethical. —*vb.* (mɪskənˈdʌkt) (tr.) 2. to conduct (oneself) in such a way. 3. to manage (something) badly.

misconstrue (mɪskənˈstruː) *vb.* —**struing**, —**strued**. (tr.) to interpret mistakenly. —**misconˈstruction** *n.*

miscreant (ˈmɪskrɪənt) *n.* 1. a wrongdoer or villain. 2. *Arch.* an unbeliever or heretic. —*adj.* 3. evil or villainous. 4. *Arch.* unbelieving or heretical.

misdeal (ˈmɪsdiːl) *vb.* —**dealing**, —**dealt**. 1. (intr.) to deal out cards incorrectly. —*n.* 2. a faulty deal. —**misˈdealer** *n.*

misdeed (ˈmɪsdiːd) *n.* an evil or illegal action.

misdeemeanor or **U.S. misdemeanor** (mɪsdiˈmiːnə) *n.* 1. *Criminal law.* (formerly) an offence generally less heinous than a felony. 2. any minor offence or transgression.

misdirect (ˈmɪsdiːrɛkt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to give (a person) wrong directions or instructions. 2. to address (a letter, parcel, etc.) wrongly. —**misdiˈrection** *n.*

misdoubt (mɪsˈdaʊt) *vb.* an archaic word for **doubt** or **suspect**.

mise en scène *French.* (miz ɛ ˈsen) *n.* 1. a. the arrangement of properties, scenery, etc., in a play. b. the objects so arranged; stage setting. 2. the environment of an event.

miser (ˈmaɪzə) *n.* 1. a person who hoards money or possessions, often living miserably. 2. a selfish person. —**miserliness** *n.* —**miserly** *adj.*

miserable (ˈmɪzəɪəbəl) *adj.* 1. unhappy or depressed; wretched. 2. causing misery, discomfort, etc.: *a miserable life.* 3. contemptible: *a miserable villain.* 4. sordid or squalid: *miserable living conditions.* 5. mean; stingy. —**miserableness** *n.* —**miserably** *adv.*

misericord or **misericorde** (mɪˈzɛrɪˌkɔːd) *n.* 1. a ledge projecting from the underside of the hinged seat of a choir stall in a church, on which the occupant can support himself while standing. 2. *Christianity.* a. a relaxation of certain monastic rules for infirm or aged monks or nuns. b. a monastery or room where this can be enjoyed. 3. a medieval dagger used to give the death stroke to a wounded foe.

misery (ˈmɪzəri) *n., pl. -eries.* 1. intense unhappiness, discomfort, or suffering. 2. a cause of such unhappiness, etc. 3. squalid or poverty-stricken conditions. 4. *Brit. inf.* a person who is habitually depressed: *he is such a misery.*

misfeasance (mɪsˈfiːzəns) *n.* *Law.* the improper performance of an act that is lawful in itself. Cf. **malfeasance**.

misfire (ˈmɪsˈfaɪə) *vb.* (intr.) 1. (of a firearm or its

projectile) to fail to fire or explode as expected. 2. (of a motor engine or vehicle, etc.) to fail to fire at the appropriate time. 3. to fail to operate or occur as intended. —*n.* 4. the act or an instance of misfiring.

misfit *n.* (ˈmɪsˌfɪt) 1. a person not suited to a particular social environment. 2. something that does not fit or fits badly. —*vb.* (ˈmɪsˌfɪt), —**fitted**, —**fitted**. 3. to fail to fit or be fitted.

misfortune (mɪsˈfɔːtʃən) *n.* 1. evil fortune; bad luck. 2. an unfortunate or disastrous event.

misgiving (mɪsˈɡɪvɪŋ) *n.* (often *pl.*) a feeling of uncertainty, apprehension, or doubt.

misguide (ˈmɪsˈɡaɪd) *vb.* (tr.) to guide or direct wrongly or badly.

misguided (ˈmɪsˈɡaɪdɪd) *adj.* foolish or unreasonable, esp. in action or behaviour. —**misˈguidedly** *adv.*

mishandle (ˈmɪsˈhændl) *vb.* (tr.) to handle or treat badly or inefficiently.

mishap (ˈmɪshəp) *n.* 1. an unfortunate accident. 2. bad luck.

mis-hit *Sport.* —*n.* (ˈmɪsˌhɪt). 1. a faulty shot or stroke. —*vb.* (ˈmɪsˌhɪt), —**hitting**, —**hit**. 2. to hit (a ball) with a faulty stroke.

mishmash (ˈmɪʃˌmæʃ) *n.* a confused collection or mixture.

misinform (ˈmɪsɪnˈfɔːm) *vb.* (tr.) to give incorrect information to. —**misinformation** (ˈmɪsɪnˈfɔːmeɪʃən) *n.*

misinterpret (ˈmɪsɪnˈtɜːprɪt) *vb.* (tr.) to interpret badly, misleadingly, or incorrectly. —**misinˌterpreˈtation** *n.* —**misinˌterpreter** *n.*

misjudge (ˈmɪsˈdʒʌdʒ) *vb.* to judge (a person or persons) wrongly or unfairly. —**misˈjudge** *n.* —**misˈjudgment** or **misˈjudgement** *n.*

mislay (mɪsˈleɪ) *vb.* —**laying**, —**laid**. (tr.) 1. to lose (something) temporarily, esp. by forgetting where it is. 2. to lay (something) badly.

mislead (mɪsˈliːd) *vb.* —**leading**, —**led**. (tr.) 1. to give false or confusing information to. 2. to lead or guide in the wrong direction. —**misˈleader** *n.* —**misˈleading** *adj.* —**misˈleadingly** *adv.*

mismatch (ˈmɪsˌmætʃ) *vb.* 1. to match badly, esp. in marriage. —*n.* 2. a bad match.

misnomer (ˈmɪsˈnəʊmə) *n.* 1. an incorrect or unsuitable name for a person or thing. 2. the act of referring to a person by the wrong name.

mis- or *before a vowel* **mis-** combining form. indicating hatred: *misogyny.*

misogamy (mɪˈsɒɡəmi, mɑː-) *n.* hatred of marriage. —**misˈogamist** *n.*

misogyny (mɪˈsɒdʒɪni, mɑː-) *n.* hatred of women. —**misˈogynist** *n.* —**misˈogynously** *adv.*

misplace (ˈmɪsˈpleɪs) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to put (something) in the wrong place, esp. to lose (something) temporarily by forgetting where it was placed. 2. (often *passive*) to bestow (trust, affection, etc.) inadvisably. —**misˈplacement** *n.*

misprint *n.* (ˈmɪsˌprɪnt). 1. an error in printing, made through damaged type, careless reading, etc. —*vb.* (ˈmɪsˌprɪnt). 2. (tr.) to print (a letter) incorrectly.

misprision (mɪsˈprɪʒən) *n.* a. a failure to inform the authorities of the commission of an act of treason. b. the deliberate concealment of the commission of a felony.

mispronounce (ˈmɪsprəˈnaʊns) *vb.* to pronounce (a word) wrongly. —**mispronunciation** (ˈmɪsprəˌnʌnsɪˈeɪʃən) *n.*

misquote (ˈmɪsˌkwəʊt) *vb.* to quote (a text, speech, etc.) inaccurately. —**misquoˈtation** *n.*

misread (ˈmɪsˌriːd) *vb.* —**reading**, —**read** (ˈred). (tr.) 1. to read incorrectly. 2. to misinterpret.

misrepresent (ˈmɪsreprɪˈzent) *vb.* (tr.) to represent wrongly or inaccurately. —**misrepresentˈation** *n.* —**misrepresˈentative** *adj.*

misrule (ˈmɪsˌruːl) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to govern inefficiently or without justice. —*n.* 2. inefficient or unjust government. 3. disorder.

miss (mɪs) *vb.* 1. to fail to reach, hit, meet, find, or attain (some aim, goal, target, etc.). 2. (tr.) to fail to attend or be present for: *to miss an appointment.* 3. (tr.) to fail to see, hear, understand, or perceive. 4. (tr.) to

miscount *vb.*
miscount *n.*
misemploy *vb.*
misgovern *vb.*
misgovernment *n.*

mishear *vb.*
misidentification *n.*
misidentify *vb.*
mismanage *vb.*
mismanagement *n.*

misname *vb.*
misperception *n.*
misremember *vb.*
misreport *vb.*

lose, overlook, or fail to take advantage of: *to miss an opportunity*. 5. (tr.) to leave out; omit: *to miss an entry in a list*. 6. (tr.) to discover or regret the loss or absence of: *she missed him*. 7. (tr.) to escape or avoid (something, esp. a danger), usually narrowly: *he missed death by inches*. 8. **miss the boat**, to lose an opportunity. ~n. 9. a failure to reach, hit, meet, find, etc. 10. **give (something) a miss**, *Inf.* to avoid (something): *give the pudding a miss*. ~See also **miss out**.

misses' (mis) n. *Inf.* or *fashion trade use*. 1. an unmarried woman or girl. 2. a size in young women's clothes.

Miss (mis) n. a title of an unmarried woman or girl, usually used before the surname or sometimes alone in direct address.

▷ **Usage**. When reference is made to two or more unmarried women with the same surname, *the Misses Smith* is more formal than *the Miss Smiths*.

missal ('misəl) n. *R.C. Church*, a book containing the prayers, etc., of the Masses for a complete year.

misshape vb. (mis'ʃeip). 1. **-shaping, -shaped** or **-shapen**. (tr.) to shape badly; deform. ~n. (mis'ʃeip). 2. something that is badly shaped.

misshapen (mis'ʃeip'n) adj. badly shaped; deformed. —, **mis'shapeness** n.

missile ('misail) n. 1. any object or weapon that is thrown at a target or shot from an engine, gun, etc. 2. a rocket-propelled weapon that flies either in a fixed trajectory (**ballistic missile**) or in a trajectory controlled during flight (**guided missile**).

missing ('misiŋ) adj. 1. not present; absent or lost. 2. not able to be traced and not known to be dead: *nine men were missing after the attack*.

missing link n. 1. (*sometimes cap.*; usually preceded by *the*) a hypothetical extinct animal, formerly thought to be intermediate between the anthropoid apes and man. 2. any missing section or part in a series.

mission ('mifən) n. 1. a specific task or duty assigned to a person or group of people. 2. a person's vocation (often in **mission in life**). 3. a group of persons representing or working for a particular country, business, etc., in a foreign country. 4. a special embassy sent to a foreign country for a specific purpose. 5. a. a group of people sent by a religious body, esp. a Christian church, to a foreign country to do religious and social work. b. the campaign undertaken by such a group. 6. a. a building in which missionary work is performed. b. the area assigned to a particular missionary. 7. the dispatch of aircraft or spacecraft to achieve a particular task. 8. a charitable centre that offers shelter or aid to the destitute or underprivileged. 9. (*modifier*) of or relating to an ecclesiastical mission: *a mission station*. ~vb. 10. (tr.) to direct a mission to or establish a mission in (a given region).

missionary ('mifənəri) n., pl. **-aries**. a. Also called: **missioner**, a member of a religious mission. b. (*as modifier*): *missionary work*.

missis or **missus** ('misiz, -is) n. (usually preceded by *the*) *Inf.* one's wife or the wife of the person addressed or referred to.

missive ('misiv) n. 1. a formal or official letter. 2. a formal word for **letter**.

miss out vb. 1. (tr., adv.) to leave out; overlook. 2. (intr., adv.; often foll. by *on*) to fail to experience: *you missed out on the celebrations*.

misspell ('misʃpel) vb. **-spelling, -spelt** or **-spelled**. to spell (a word or words) wrongly. —, **mis'spelling** n.

misspend ('misʃpend) vb. **-spending, -spent**. to spend thoughtlessly or wastefully.

missy ('misi) n., pl. **missies**. *Inf.* an affectionate or disparaging form of address to a young girl.

mist (mist) n. 1. a thin fog resulting from condensation in the air near the earth's surface. 2. *Meteorol.* such an atmospheric condition with a horizontal visibility of 1-2 kilometres. 3. a fine spray of liquid, such as that produced by an aerosol container. 4. condensed water vapour on a surface. 5. something that causes haziness or lack of clarity, such as a film of tears. ~vb. 6. to cover or be covered with or as if with mist. ~**mistily** adv. —, **mistiness** n. —, **misty** adj.

mistake (mi'steik) n. 1. an error or blunder in action, opinion, or judgment. 2. a misconception or misunderstanding. ~vb. **-taking, -took, -taken**. 3. (tr.) to misunderstand; misinterpret: *she mistook his meaning*. 4. (tr., foll. by *for*) to take (for), interpret (as), or confuse (with): *she mistook his direct manner for honesty*. 5.

(tr.) to choose badly or incorrectly: *he mistook his path*. 6. (intr.) to make a mistake. —, **mis'takable** adj.

mistaken (mi'steikən) adj. 1. (*usually predicative*) wrong in opinion, judgment, etc. 2. arising from error in judgment, etc.: *a mistaken viewpoint*. —, **mis'takenly** adv. —, **mis'takeness** n.

mister ('mistə) (*sometimes cap.*) ~n. 1. an informal form of address for a man. 2. *Naval*, a. the official form of address for subordinate or senior warrant officers. b. the official form of address for all officers in a merchant ship, other than the captain. 3. *Brit.* the form of address for a surgeon. 4. the form of address for officials holding certain positions: *mister chairman*. ~vb. 5. (tr.) *Inf.* to call (someone) mister.

Mister ('mistə) n. the full form of **Mr.**

mistime ('mis'taim) vb. (tr.) to time (an action, utterance, etc.) wrongly.

mistle thrush or **missel thrush** ('mistl) n. a large European thrush with a brown back and spotted breast, noted for feeding on mistletoe berries.

mistletoe ('mistl,təu) n. 1. a Eurasian evergreen shrub with waxy white berries: grows as a partial parasite on various trees: used as a Christmas decoration. 2. any of several similar and related American plants.

mistook (mi'stok) vb. the past tense of **mistake**.

mistral ('mistral, mi'strəl) n. a strong cold dry wind that blows through the Rhône valley and S France to the Mediterranean coast, mainly in the winter.

mistreat ('mis'tri:t) vb. (tr.) to treat badly. —, **mis'treatment** n.

mistress ('mistris) n. 1. a woman who has a continuing extramarital sexual relationship with a man. 2. a woman in a position of authority, ownership, or control. 3. a woman having control over something specified: *mistress of her own destiny*. 4. *Chiefly Brit.* short for **schoolmistress** (see **schoolmaster**). 5. an archaic or dialect word for **sweetheart**.

Mistress ('mistris) n. an archaic or dialect title equivalent to **Mrs.**

Mistress of the Robes n. *Brit.* a lady of high rank in charge of the Queen's wardrobe.

mistrial (mis'triəl) n. 1. a trial made void because of some error. 2. (U.S.) an inconclusive trial, as when a jury cannot agree on a verdict.

mistrust ('mis'trast) vb. 1. to have doubts or suspicions about (someone or something). ~n. 2. distrust. —, **mis'trustful** adj. —, **mis'trustfully** adv. —, **mis'trustfulness** n.

misunderstanding (misʌndə'stændiŋ) n. 1. a failure to understand properly. 2. a disagreement. —, **mis-under'stand** vb.

misunderstood (misʌndə'stud) adj. not properly or sympathetically understood: *a misunderstood adolescent*.

misuse n. ('mis'ju:s), also **misusage**. 1. erroneous, improper, or unorthodox use: *misuse of words*. 2. cruel or inhumane treatment. ~vb. ('mis'ju:z). (tr.) 3. to use wrongly. 4. to treat badly or harshly. —, **mis'user** n.

mite¹ (maɪt) n. any of numerous small terrestrial or aquatic free-living or parasitic arachnids.

mite² (maɪt) n. 1. a very small particle, creature, or object. 2. a very small contribution or sum of money. 3. a former Flemish coin of small value. 4. *a mite*. (adv.) *Inf.* somewhat: *he's a mite foolish*.

mitigate ('miti,geɪt) vb. to make or become less severe or harsh; moderate. —, **mitigable** ('mitigəbəl) adj. —, **miti'gation** n. —, **miti,gative** or **'miti,gatory** adj. —, **'miti,gator** n.

mitigating circumstances pl.n. circumstances that may be held to lessen the culpability of an offender.

mitosis (maɪ'təʊsɪs, mɪ-) n. a method of cell division, in which the nucleus divides into daughter nuclei, each containing the same number of chromosomes as the parent nucleus. —, **mitotic** (maɪ'təʊtɪk, mɪ-) adj.

mitre or **U.S. miter** ('maɪtə) n. 1. *Christianity*, the liturgical headress of a bishop or abbot, consisting of a tall pointed cleft cap with two bands hanging down at the back. 2. Also called: **mitre joint**, a corner joint formed by cutting bevels of equal angles at the ends of each piece of material. 3. a bevelled surface of a mitre joint. ~vb. (tr.) 4. to make a mitre joint between (two pieces of material). 5. to confer a mitre upon: *a mitred abbot*. —, **mitral** adj.

mitre box *n.* an open-ended box with sides slotted to guide a saw in cutting mitre joints.

mitt (mitt) *n.* 1. any of various glove-like hand coverings, such as one that does not cover the fingers. 2. *Baseball.* a large round thickly padded leather mitten worn by the catcher. 3. (*often pl.*) a slang word for *hand*. 4. *Sl.* a boxing glove.

mitten ('mittn) *n.* 1. a glove having one section for the thumb and a single section for the other fingers. Sometimes shortened to *mitt*. 2. *Sl.* a boxing glove.

mix (miks) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to combine or blend (ingredients, liquids, objects, etc.) together into one mass. 2. (*intr.*) to become or have the capacity to become combined, joined, etc.: *some chemicals do not mix*. 3. (*tr.*) to form (something) by combining constituents: *to mix cement*. 4. (*tr.*; often foll. by *in* or *into*) to add as an additional element (to a mass or compound): *to mix flour into a batter*. 5. (*tr.*) to do at the same time: *to mix study and pleasure*. 6. (*tr.*) to consume (different alcoholic drinks) in close succession. 7. to come or cease to come into association socially: *Pauline mixed well*. 8. (*intr.*; often foll. by *with*) to go together; complement. 9. (*tr.*) to crossbreed (differing strains of plants or breeds of livestock), esp. more or less at random. 10. *mix it. Inf.* to cause mischief or trouble, often for a person named: *she tried to mix it for John*. ~*n.* 11. the act or an instance of mixing. 12. the result of mixing; mixture. 13. a mixture of ingredients, esp. one commercially prepared for making a cake, bread, etc. 14. *Inf.* a state of confusion. ~See also **mix-up**. —**mixable** *adj.* —**mixed** *adj.*

mixed bag *n.* *Inf.* something composed of diverse elements, characteristics, people, etc.

mixed blessing *n.* an event, situation, etc., having both advantages and disadvantages.

mixed doubles *pl. n.* *Tennis.* a doubles game with a man and a woman as partners on each side.

mixed farming *n.* combined arable and livestock farming (on *mixed farms*).

mixed marriage *n.* a marriage between persons of different races or religions.

mixed metaphor *n.* a combination of incongruous metaphors, as *when the Nazi jackboots sing their swan song*.

mixed-up *adj.* in a state of mental confusion.

mixer ('miksə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that mixes. 2. *Inf.* a. a person considered in relation to his ability to mix socially. b. a person who creates trouble for others. 3. a kitchen appliance, usually electrical, used for mixing foods, etc. 4. a drink such as ginger ale, fruit juice, etc., used in preparing cocktails. 5. *Electronics.* a device in which two or more input signals are combined to give a single output signal.

mixture ('mɪkstʃə) *n.* 1. the act of mixing or state of being mixed. 2. something mixed; a result of mixing. 3. *Chem.* a substance consisting of two or more substances mixed together without any chemical bonding between them. 4. *Pharmacol.* a liquid medicine in which an insoluble compound is suspended in the liquid. 5. *Music.* an organ stop that controls several ranks of pipes. 6. the mixture of petrol vapour and air in an internal-combustion engine.

mix-up *n.* 1. a confused condition or situation. 2. *Inf.* a fight. ~*vb.* **mix up.** (*tr.*, *adv.*) 3. to make into a mixture. 4. to confuse or confound: *Tom mixes John up with Bill*. 5. (*often passive*) to put (someone) into a state of confusion: *I'm all mixed up*. 6. (*foll. by in* or *with*; usually passive) to involve in (an activity or group, esp. one that is illegal): *mixed up in the drugs racket*.

mizzenmast or **mizenmast** ('mɪzn,mæst; *Naut.* 'mɪznməst) *n.* *Naut.* (on a vessel with three or more masts) the third mast from the bow.

mizzle ('mɪzl) *vb.*, *n.* a dialect word for drizzle. —**mizzly** *adj.*

mk. *Currency.* abbrev. for mark.

mks units *pl. n.* a metric system of units based on the metre, kilogram, and second as the units of length, mass, and time; it forms the basis of the SI units.

ml *symbol for:* 1. millilitre. 2. mile.

M.L. abbrev. for Medieval Latin.

M.L.A. abbrev. for: 1. Member of the Legislative Assembly. 2. Modern Language Association (of America).

M.Litt. (in Britain) abbrev. for Master of Letters.

Mile or **Mille.** *pl.* Miles or Miles. the French equivalent of Miss

MLR abbrev. for minimum lending rate.

mm abbrev. for millimetre.

MM. the French equivalent of Messrs.

M.M. abbrev. for Military Medal.

Mme or **Mme.** *pl.* Mmes or Mmes. the French equivalent of Mrs.

M.Mus. abbrev. for Master of Music.

Mn the chemical symbol for manganese.

mnemonic (nɪ'mɒnɪk) *adj.* 1. aiding or meant to aid one's memory. 2. of or relating to memory or mnemonics. ~*n.* 3. something, such as a verse, to assist memory. —**mne'monically** *adv.*

mo (məʊ) *n. Inf.* 1. Chiefly *Brit.* short for *moment* (sense 1) (esp. in *half a mo*). 2. *Austral.* short for *moustache*.

Mo the chemical symbol for molybdenum.

m.o. or **M.O.** abbrev. for: 1. mail order. 2. money order.

M.O. abbrev. for Medical Officer.

-mo *suffix forming nouns.* (in bookbinding) indicating book size by specifying the number of leaves formed by folding one sheet of paper: *16mo* or *sixteenmo*.

moa ('məʊə) *n.* any of various recently extinct large flightless birds of New Zealand.

moan (məʊn) *n.* 1. a low prolonged mournful sound expressive of suffering or pleading. 2. any similar mournful sound, esp. that made by the wind. 3. *Inf.* a grumble or complaint. ~*vb.* 4. to utter (words, etc.) in a low mournful manner. 5. (*intr.*) to make a sound like a moan. 6. (*usually intr.*) *Inf.* to lament. —**moaner** *n.* —**moanful** *adj.*

moat (məʊt) *n.* 1. a wide water-filled ditch surrounding a fortified place, such as a castle. ~*vb.* 2. (*tr.*) to surround with or as if with a moat.

mob (mɒb) *n.* 1. a. a riotous or disorderly crowd of people; rabble. b. (*as modifier*): *mob law*. 2. *Often derog.* a group or class of people, animals, or things. 3. *Often derog.* the masses. 4. *Sl.* a gang of criminals. 5. *Austral. & N.Z.* a large number of anything. 6. *Austral. & N.Z.* a flock or herd of animals. 7. *mobs of Austral. & N.Z. inf.* lots of. ~*vb.* **mobbing, mobbed.** (*tr.*) 8. to attack in a group resembling a mob. 9. to surround, esp. in order to acclaim. 10. *U.S.* to crowd into (a building, etc.).

mobcap ('mɒb,kæp) *n.* a woman's large cotton cap with a pouched crown, worn esp. during the 18th century.

mobile ('məʊbaɪl) *adj.* 1. having freedom of movement; movable. 2. changing quickly in expression: *a mobile face*. 3. *Sociol.* (of individuals or social groups) moving within and between classes, occupations, and localities. 4. (of military forces) able to move freely and quickly. 5. (*postpositive*) *Inf.* having transport available: *are you mobile?* ~*n.* 6. a. a sculpture suspended in midair with delicately balanced parts that are set in motion by air currents. b. (*as modifier*): *mobile sculpture*. —**mobility** (məʊ'bɪlɪtɪ) *n.*

mobile home *n.* living quarters mounted on wheels and capable of being towed by a motor vehicle.

mobilize or **-ise** ('məʊbaɪ,ləɪz) *vb.* 1. to prepare for war or another emergency by organizing (national resources, the armed services, etc.). 2. (*tr.*) to organize for a purpose. 3. (*tr.*) to put into motion or use. —**'mobilize** or **-isable** *adj.* —**'mobilization** or **-isation** *n.*

mobocracy (mɒ'bɒkrəsi) *n.*, *pl.* -cies. 1. rule or domination by a mob. 2. the mob that rules.

mobster ('mɒbstə) *n.* a *U.S.* slang word for *gangster*.

moccasin ('mɒkəsɪn) *n.* 1. a shoe of soft leather, esp. deerskin, worn by North American Indians. 2. any soft shoe resembling this.

mocha ('mɒkə) *n.* 1. a dark brown coffee originally imported from the port of Mocha in Arabia. 2. a flavouring made from coffee and chocolate. 3. a soft glove leather, made from goatskin or sheepskin. 4. a. a dark brown colour. b. (*as adj.*): *mocha shoes*.

mock (mɒk) *vb.* 1. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *at*) to behave with scorn or contempt (towards); show ridicule (for). 2. (*tr.*) to imitate, esp. in fun; mimic. 3. (*tr.*) to deceive, disappoint, or delude. 4. (*tr.*) to defy or frustrate. ~*n.* 5. the act of mocking. 6. a person or thing mocked. 7. a counterfeit; imitation. ~*adj.* (*prenominal*) 8. sham or counterfeit. 9. serving as an imitation or substitute, esp. for practice purposes: *a mock battle*. ~See also **mock-up**. —**'mock** *n.* —**'mocking** *adj.* —**'mockingly** *adv.*

mockers ('mɒkəz) *n. Inf.* put the mockers on, to ruin the chances of success of.

mockery ('mɒkəri) *n.*, *pl.* -eries. 1. ridicule, contempt, or derision. 2. a derisive action or comment. 3. an

imitation or pretence, esp. a derisive one. 4. a person or thing that is mocked. 5. a person, thing, or action that is inadequate.

mock-heroic *adj.* 1. (of a literary work, esp. a poem) imitating the style of heroic poetry in order to satirize an unheroic subject. ~*n.* 2. burlesque imitation of the heroic style.

mockingbird ('mɒkɪŋ,bɜ:d) *n.* any of various American songbirds, noted for their ability to mimic the song of other birds.

mock orange *n.* 1. Also called: **syringa**. any shrub of a genus with white fragrant flowers resembling those of the orange. 2. an Australian shrub with white flowers and dark shiny leaves.

mock turtle soup *n.* an imitation turtle soup made from the calf's head.

mock-up *n.* 1. a working full-scale model of a machine, apparatus, etc., for testing, research, etc. 2. a layout of printed matter. ~*vb.* **mock up**. 3. (*tr.*, *adv.*) to build or make a mock-up of.

mod¹ ('mɒd) *adj.* 1. of or relating to any fashion in dress regarded as stylish, esp. that of the early 1960s in Britain. ~*n.* 2. *Brit.* a member of a group of teenagers, originally in the mid-1960s, noted for their clothes-consciousness.

mod² ('mɒd) *n.* an annual Highland Gaelic meeting with musical and literary competitions.

mod. *abbrev. for:* 1. moderate. 2. moderato. 3. modern.

M.O.D. (in Britain) *abbrev. for* Ministry of Defence.

modal ('mɒdəl) *adj.* 1. of or relating to mode or manner. 2. *Grammar.* (of a verb form or auxiliary verb) expressing a distinction of mood, such as that between possibility and actuality. 3. characterized by or expressing logical modality. 4. *Metaphysics.* of or relating to the form of a thing as opposed to its attributes, substance, etc. 5. *Music.* of or relating to a mode. 6. of or relating to a statistical mode. —**modality** *n.* —**modally** *adv.*

mod cons *pl. n.* *Inf.* modern conveniences; the usual installations of a modern house, such as hot water, heating, etc.

mode (mɔ:nd) *n.* 1. a manner or way of doing, acting, or existing. 2. the current fashion or style. 3. *Music.* a. any of the various scales of notes within one octave, esp. any of the twelve natural diatonic scales taken in ascending order used in plainsong, folksong, and art music until 1600. b. (in the music of classical Greece) any of the descending diatonic scales from which the liturgical modes evolved. c. either of the two main scale systems in music since 1600: *major mode*; *minor mode*. 4. *Logic, linguistics.* another name for **mod**¹. 5. *Philosophy.* the form in which a thing or one of its attributes manifests itself. 6. the predominating value in a set of values as determined from statistical data or by observation.

model ('mɒdəl) *n.* 1. a. a representation, usually on a smaller scale, of a device, structure, etc. b. (as *modifier*): a *model train*. 2. a. a standard to be imitated. b. (as *modifier*): a *model wife*. 3. a representative form, style, or pattern. 4. a person who poses for a sculptor, painter, or photographer. 5. a person who wears clothes to display them to prospective buyers; mannequin. 6. a preparatory sculpture in clay, wax, etc., from which the finished work is copied. 7. a design or style of a particular product. ~*vb.* -**elling**, -**elled** or *U.S.* -**eling**, -**eled**. 8. to make a model (of something or someone). 9. to form in clay, wax, etc.; mould. 10. to display (clothing and accessories) as a mannequin. 11. to plan or create according to a model or models. —**modeller** or *U.S.* **modeler** *n.*

modem ('mɒdəm) *n.* *Computers.* a device for connecting two computers by a telephone line, consisting of a modulator that converts computer signals into audio signals and a corresponding demodulator.

moderate *adj.* ('mɒdərɪt). 1. not extreme or excessive. 2. not violent; mild or temperate. 3. of average quality or extent: *moderate success*. ~*n.* ('mɒdərɪt). 4. a person who holds moderate views, esp. in politics. ~*vb.* ('mɒdə,reit). 5. to become or cause to become less extreme or violent. 6. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *over*) to preside over a meeting, discussion, etc. 7. *Physics.* to slow down (neutrons), esp. by using a moderator. —**moderately** *adv.* —**moderateness** *n.*

moderation ('mɒdə'reɪʃən) *n.* 1. the state or an instance of being moderate. 2. the act of moderating. 3. *in moderation.* within moderate or reasonable limits.

moderato ('mɒdə'ræ:təu) *adv.* *Music.* 1. at a moderate tempo. 2. a direction indicating that the tempo specified is to be used with restraint: *allegro moderato*.

moderator ('mɒdə,reitə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that moderates. 2. *Presbyterian Church.* a minister appointed to preside over a Church court, synod, or general assembly. 3. a presiding officer at a public or legislative assembly. 4. a material, such as heavy water, used for slowing down neutrons in nuclear reactors. 5. an examiner at Oxford or Cambridge Universities in first public examinations. —**moderator**, *ship* *n.*

modern ('mɒdən) *adj.* 1. of, involving, or befitting the present or a recent time; contemporary. 2. of, relating to, or characteristic of contemporary styles or schools of art, literature, music, etc., esp. those of an experimental kind. 3. belonging or relating to the period in history from the end of the Middle Ages to the present. ~*n.* 4. a contemporary person. —**modernity** or **modernness** *n.* —**modernization** or -**isation** *n.* —**modernize** or -**ise** *vb.*

Modern English *n.* the English language since about 1450.

Modern Hebrew *n.* the official language of Israel; a revived form of ancient Hebrew.

modernism ('mɒdə,nɪzəm) *n.* 1. modern tendencies, thoughts, etc., or the support of these. 2. something typical of contemporary life or thought. 3. (*cap.*) *R.C. Church.* the movement at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries that sought to adapt doctrine to modern thought. —**modernist** *n.*, *adj.* —**modernistic** *adj.* —**modernistically** *adv.*

modest ('mɒdɪst) *adj.* 1. having or expressing a humble opinion of oneself or one's accomplishments or abilities. 2. reserved or shy. 3. not ostentatious or pretentious. 4. not extreme or excessive. 5. decorous or decent. —**modestly** *adv.* —**modesty** *n.*

modicum ('mɒdɪkəm) *n.* a small amount or portion.

modifier ('mɒdɪ,fəɪə) *n.* 1. Also called: **qualifier**. *Grammar.* a word or phrase that qualifies the sense of another word; for example, the noun *alarm* is a modifier of *clock* in *alarm clock* and the phrase *every day* is an adverbial modifier of *walks* in *he walks every day*. 2. a person or thing that modifies.

▷ **Usage.** Nouns are frequently used in English to modify other nouns: *police officer*; *chicken farm*. They should be used with restraint, however, esp. when the appropriate adjective can be used: *lunar research* (not *moon research*); *educational system* (not *education system*).

modify ('mɒdɪ,fai) *vb.* -**fy**ing, -**fied**. (mainly *tr.*) 1. to change the structure, character, intent, etc., of. 2. to make less extreme or uncompromising. 3. *Grammar.* (of a word or phrase) to bear the relation of modifier to (another word or phrase). 4. *Linguistics.* to change (a vowel) by umlaut. 5. (*intr.*) to be or become modified. —**modifiable** *adj.* —**modification** *n.*

modish ('mɒdɪʃ) *adj.* in the current fashion or style. —**modishly** *adv.* —**modishness** *n.*

modiste (mɔ:'dɪ:st) *n.* a fashionable dressmaker or milliner.

modulate ('mɒdju:lert) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to change the tone, pitch, or volume of. 2. (*tr.*) to adjust or regulate the degree of. 3. *Music.* a. to change or cause to change from one key to another. b. (often foll. by *to*) to make or become in tune (with a pitch, key, etc.). 4. *Physics, electronics.* to superimpose the amplitude, frequency, phase, etc., of a wave or signal onto another wave or signal or onto an electron beam. —**modulation** *n.* —**modulator** *n.*

module ('mɒdju:l) *n.* 1. a standard unit of measure, esp. one used to coordinate the dimensions of buildings and components. 2. a standard self-contained unit or item, such as an assembly of electronic components, that can be used in combination with other units. 3. *Astronautics.* any of several self-contained separable units making up a spacecraft or launch vehicle, each of which has one or more specified tasks. —**modular** *adj.*

modulus ('mɒdjʊləs) *n.*, *pl.* -**li** (-laɪ). 1. *Physics.* a coefficient expressing a specified property of a specified substance. 2. *Maths.* the number by which a logarithm to one base is multiplied to give the corresponding logarithm to another base. 3. *Maths.* an integer that can be divided exactly into the difference between two other integers: 7 is a modulus of 25 and 11. —**modular** *adj.*

modus operandi Latin. ('mɒdəs, ɒpə'rændi:) *n.*, *pl.* **modi operandi** ('mɒdi:, ɒpə'rændi:) a method of operating.

modus vivendi Latin. ('mɒdəs vɪ'vendi:) *n.*, *pl.* **modi vivendi** ('mɒdi: vɪ'vendi:) a working arrangement between conflicting interests; practical compromise.

mog (mɒg) or **moggy** *n.* *Brit.* a slang name for cat.

mogul ('mɒɡʊl, məʊ'ɡal) *n.* an important or powerful person.

Mogul ('mɒɡʊl, məʊ'ɡal) *n.* 1. a member of the Muslim dynasty of Indian emperors established in 1526. 2. a Muslim Indian, Mongol, or Mongolian. ~*adj.* 3. of or relating to the Moguls or their empire.

M.O.H. (in Britain) *abbrev. for* Medical Officer of Health.

mohair ('məʊ,heə) *n.* 1. Also called: **angora**, the long soft silky hair of the Angora goat. 2. a. a fabric made from the yarn of this hair and cotton or wool. b. (as *modifier*): a mohair suit.

Mohammedan (məʊ'hæmɪd'n) *n., adj.* another word (not in Muslim use) for **Muslim**. — **Mo'hammedan,ism** *n.*

moiety ('mɔɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. a half. 2. one of two parts or divisions of something.

moil (moɪl) *Arch. or dialect. ~vb.* 1. to moisten or soil or become moist, soiled, etc. 2. (*intr.*) to toil or drudge (esp. in **toil and moil**). ~*n.* 3. toil; drudgery. 4. confusion; turmoil.

moire (mwɑː) *n.* a fabric, usually silk, having a watered effect.

moiré ('mwɑːreɪ) *adj.* 1. having a watered or wavelike pattern. ~*n.* 2. such a pattern, impressed on fabrics by means of engraved rollers. 3. any fabric having such a pattern; moire.

moist (moɪst) *adj.* 1. slightly damp or wet. 2. saturated with or suggestive of moisture. — **moisten** ('moɪs'n) *vb.* — **moistly** *adv.* — **moistness** *n.*

moisture ('moɪstʃə) *n.* water or other liquid diffused as vapour or condensed on or in objects. — **moistureless** *adj.*

moisturize or **-ise** ('moɪstʃə,raɪz) *vb. (tr.)* to add moisture to (the air, the skin, etc.). — **moisturizer** or **-iser** *n.*

moke (mɒk) *n. Brit.* a slang name for **donkey** (sense 1). *Mol* *Chem. symbol for* molybdenum.

mol. *abbrev. for:* 1. molecular. 2. molecule.

molar ('mɔʊlə) *n.* 1. any of the 12 grinding teeth in man. 2. a corresponding tooth in other mammals. ~*adj.* 3. of or relating to any of these teeth. 4. used for or capable of grinding.

molasses (mə'læsɪz) *n.* 1. the thick brown uncrystallized bitter syrup obtained from sugar during refining. 2. the U.S. name for **treacle** (sense 1).

mold (məʊld) *n., vb.* the U.S. spelling of **mould**.

moldboard ('məʊld,bɔːd) *n.* the U.S. spelling of **mouldboard**.

molder ('məʊldə) *vb.* the U.S. spelling of **moulder**.

molding ('məʊldɪŋ) *n.* the U.S. spelling of **moulding**.

moldy ('məʊldɪ) *adj.* the U.S. spelling of **mouldy**.

mole¹ (məʊl) *n. Pathol.* a nontechnical name for **naevus**.

mole² (məʊl) *n.* any small burrowing mammal of a family of Europe, Asia, and North and Central America. They have velvety, typically dark fur and forearms specialized for digging.

mole³ (məʊl) *n.* the basic SI unit of amount of substance; the amount that contains as many elementary entities as there are atoms in 0.012 kilogram of carbon-12. The entity may be an atom, a molecule, an ion, a radical, etc. Symbol: mol

mole⁴ (məʊl) *n.* 1. a breakwater. 2. a harbour protected by a breakwater.

molecular weight *n.* the sum of all the atomic weights (relative atomic masses) of the atoms in a molecule; the ratio of the average mass per molecule of a specified isotopic composition of a substance to 1/12 the mass of an atom of carbon-12. *Abbrev.: mol. wt.*

molecule ('mɒlɪkjʊl) *n.* 1. the simplest unit of a chemical compound that can exist, consisting of two or more atoms held together by chemical bonds. 2. a very small particle. — **mo'lecular** *adj.*

molehill ('məʊl,hɪl) *n.* 1. the small mound of earth thrown up by a burrowing mole. 2. **make a mountain out of a molehill**, to exaggerate an unimportant matter out of all proportion.

moleskin ('məʊl,skɪn) *n.* 1. the dark grey dense velvety pelt of a mole, used as a fur. 2. a hard-wearing cotton fabric of twill weave. 3. (*modifier*): a **moleskin waistcoat**.

molest (mə'lest) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to disturb or annoy by malevolent interference. 2. to accost or attack, esp. with the intention of assaulting sexually. — **molestation** (məʊl'steɪʃən) *n.* — **mo'lester** *n.*

moll (mɒl) *n. Sl.* 1. the female accomplice of a gangster. 2. a prostitute.

mollah ('mɔːlə) *n.* an older spelling of **mullah**.

mollify ('mɒlɪ,fai) *vb. -fying, -fied. (tr.)* 1. to pacify; soothe. 2. to lessen the harshness or severity of. — **molli,fiable** *adj.* — **molli,fication** *n.* — **molli,fier** *n.*

mollusc or **U.S. mollusk** ('mɒləsk) *n.* any of various invertebrates having a soft unsegmented body and often a shell, secreted by a fold of skin (the mantle). The group includes the gastropods (snails, slugs, etc.), bivalves (clams, mussels, etc.), and cephalopods (cuttlefish, octopuses, etc.). — **molluscan** or **U.S. molluskan** (mə'ləskən) *adj., n.*

mollycoddle ('mɒlɪ,kɒd'l) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to treat with indulgent care; pamper. ~*n.* 2. a pampered person.

Molotov cocktail ('mɒlə,tɒf) *n.* an elementary incendiary weapon, usually a bottle of petrol with a short delay fuse or wick; petrol bomb.

molt (məʊlt) *vb., n.* the usual U.S. spelling of **moult**. — **molter** *n.*

molten ('mɒltən) *adj.* 1. liquefied; melted. 2. made by having been melted: **molten casts**. ~*vb.* 3. the past participle of **melt**.

molto ('mɒltəʊ) *adv. Music.* very: **allegro molto**; **molto adagio**.

mol. wt. *abbrev. for* molecular weight.

molybdenite (mə'libdɪnɪt) *n.* a soft grey mineral consisting of molybdenum sulphide in hexagonal crystalline form with rhenium as an impurity. Formula: MoS₂.

molybdenum (mə'libdɪnəm) *n.* a very hard silvery-white metallic element occurring principally in molybdenite: used in alloys, esp. to harden and strengthen steels. Symbol: Mo; atomic no.: 42; atomic wt.: 95.94.

mom (mɒm) *n.* Chiefly U.S. an informal word for **mother**.

moment ('mɒmənt) *n.* 1. a short indefinite period of time. 2. a specific instant or point in time: *at the moment he came, I was out.* 3. **the moment**, the present point of time: *at the moment it's fine.* 4. import, significance, or value: *a man of moment.* 5. **Physics.** a. a tendency to produce motion, esp. rotation about a point or axis. b. the product of a physical quantity, such as force or mass, and its distance from a fixed reference point.

momentary ('mɒməntəri, -trɪ) *adj.* 1. lasting for only a moment; temporary. 2. occurring or present at each moment. — **momentarily** *adv.* — **momentariness** *n.*

moment of truth *n.* 1. a moment when a person or thing is put to the test. 2. the point in a bullfight when the matador is about to kill the bull.

momentous (məʊ'ments) *adj.* of great significance. — **mo'mentously** *adv.* — **mo'mentousness** *n.*

momentum (məʊ'mentəm) *n., pl. -ta (-tə) or -tums.* 1. **Physics.** the product of a body's mass and its velocity. 2. the impetus of a body resulting from its motion. 3. driving power or strength.

momma ('mɒmə) *n.* Chiefly U.S. 1. an informal or childish word for **mother**. 2. *Inf.* a buxom and voluptuous woman.

Mon. *abbrev. for* Monday.

mon- *combining form.* variant of **mono-** before a vowel.

monad ('mɒnəd, 'məʊ-) *n.* 1. (*pl. -ads or -ades* (-ə,dɪz)) **Philosophy.** any fundamental singular metaphysical entity, esp. if autonomous. 2. a single-celled organism. 3. an atom, ion, or radical with a valency of one. ~*Also* called (for senses 1, 2): **monas**. — **monadic** (mə'nædɪk) *adj.*

monandrous (mə'nændrəs) *adj.* 1. having only one male sexual partner over a period of time. 2. (of plants) having flowers with only one stamen. 3. (of flowers) having only one stamen. — **mo'nandry** *n.*

monarch ('mɒnək) *n.* 1. a sovereign head of state, esp. a king, queen, or emperor, who rules usually by hereditary right. 2. a supremely powerful or pre-eminent person or thing. 3. *Also* called: **milkweed**, a large migratory orange and black butterfly that feeds on the milkweed plant. — **monarchal** (mə'nɑːk'l) or **monarchical** (mə'nɑːkɪəl) *adj.* — **mo'narchical** *adj.* — **monarchism** *n.* — **monarchist** *n., adj.* — **monar'chistic** *adj.*

monarchy ('mɒnəki) *n., pl. -chies.* 1. a form of government in which supreme authority is vested in a single and usually hereditary figure, such as a king. 2. a country reigned over by a monarch.

monastery ('mɒnəstəri) *n., pl. -teries.* the residence of a religious community, esp. of monks, living in seclusion from secular society and bound by religious vows. — **monasterial** (mə'nəstəriəl) *adj.*

monastic (mə'næstɪk) *adj.* *also* **monastical.** 1. of or relating to monasteries or monks, nuns, etc. 2. resem-

bling this sort of life. ~*n.* 3. a person committed to this way of life, esp. a monk. — **mo'nast'ic** *n.*

monatomic (ˈmɒnəˈtɒmɪk) or **monoatomic** (ˈmɒnəʊˈtɒmɪk) *adj.* *Chem.* 1. (of an element) having or consisting of single atoms. 2. (of a compound or molecule) having only one atom or group that can be replaced in a chemical reaction.

monaural (ˈmɒnəʊrəl) *adj.* 1. relating to, having, or hearing with only one ear. 2. another word for **monophonic** (sense 1). — **mon'aurally** *adv.*

Monday (ˈmʌndi) *n.* the second day of the week; first day of the working week.

monacious (ˈmɒnɪːʃəs) *adj.* a variant spelling of **monocious**.

monetarist (ˈmɒnɪtərɪst) *n.* a person who advocates regulation of the money supply as a method of controlling the economy of a country. — **monetarism** *n.*

monetary (ˈmɒnɪtəri, -tri) *adj.* of or relating to money or currency. — **monetarily** *adv.*

money (ˈmeni) *n.*, *pl.* **-eys** or **-ies**. 1. a medium of exchange that functions as legal tender. 2. the official currency, in the form of bank notes, coins, etc., issued by a government or other authority. 3. a particular denomination or form of currency: *silver money*. 4. a pecuniary sum or income. 5. an unspecified amount of paper currency or coins: *money to lend*. 6. **for one's money**, in one's opinion. 7. **in the money**. *Inf.* well-off; rich. 8. **one's money's worth**, full value for the money one has paid for something. 9. **put money on**, to place a bet on. ~Related *adj.*: **pecuniary**.

moneybags (ˈmʌniˌbægz) *n.* *Sl.* a very rich person.

moneychanger (ˈmʌniˌtʃeɪndʒə) *n.* 1. a person engaged in the business of exchanging currencies or money. 2. *Chiefly U.S.* a machine for dispensing coins.

moneyed or **monied** (ˈmʌniəd) *adj.* 1. having a great deal of money; rich. 2. arising from or characterized by money.

money-grubbing *adj.* *Inf.* seeking greedily to obtain money. — **money-grubber** *n.*

moneylender (ˈmʌniˌlɛndə) *n.* a person who lends money at interest as a living. — **money-lending** *adj.*, *n.*

moneymaker (ˈmʌniˌmeɪkə) *n.* 1. a person who is intent on accumulating money. 2. a person or thing that is or might be profitable. — **money-making** *adj.*, *n.*

money-spinner *n.* *Inf.* an enterprise, idea, person, or thing that is a source of wealth.

monger (ˈmʌŋɡə) *n.* 1. (in combination except in archaic use) a trader or dealer: *ironmonger*. 2. (in combination) a promoter of something: *warmonger*. — **mongering** *n.*, *adj.*

Mongolian (ˈmɒŋˈɡəʊliən) *adj.* 1. of or relating to Mongolia, a region in Central Asia, its people, or their language. ~*n.* also **Mongol**. 2. a native or inhabitant of Mongolia. 3. the language of Mongolia.

mongolism (ˈmɒŋɡəˌlɪzəm) *n.* *Pathol.* a chromosomal abnormality resulting in a flat face and nose, short stubby fingers, a vertical fold of skin at the inner edge of the eye, and mental retardation. Also called: **Down's syndrome**. — **mongol** *n.* — **mongolian** *adj.* — **mongoloid** *adj.*, *n.*

Mongoloid (ˈmɒŋɡəˌlɔɪd) *adj.* 1. of or relating to a major racial group of mankind, characterized by yellowish complexion, straight black hair, slanting eyes, short nose, and scanty facial hair, including most of the peoples of Asia, the Eskimos, and the North American Indians. ~*n.* 2. a member of this group.

mongoose (ˈmɒŋˌɡuːs) *n.*, *pl.* **-gooses**. any of various small predatory mammals occurring in Africa and from S Europe to SE Asia, typically having a long tail and brindled coat.

mongrel (ˈmʌŋɡrəl) *n.* 1. a plant or animal, esp. a dog, of mixed or unknown breeding. 2. *Derog.* a person of mixed race. ~*adj.* 3. of mixed origin, breeding, character, etc. — **mongrelism** *n.* — **mongrelize** or **-ise** *vb.* — **mongrelization** or **-i'sation** *n.* — **mongrelly** *adj.*

monied (ˈmʌniəd) *adj.* a less common spelling of **moneyed**.

monies (ˈmʌnɪz) *n.* a plural of **money**.

moniker or **monicker** (ˈmɒnɪkə) *n.* *Inf.* a person's name or nickname.

monism (ˈmɒnɪzəm) *n.* 1. *Philosophy*. the doctrine that reality consists of only one basic substance or element, such as mind or matter. Cf. **dualism**, **pluralism**. 2. the attempt to explain anything in terms of one principle only. — **monist** *n.*, *adj.* — **mon'istic** *adj.*

monition (ˈmɒnɪˌʃən) *n.* 1. a warning or caution; admonition. 2. *Ecclesiast.* a formal notice from a bishop

or ecclesiastical court requiring a person to refrain from committing a specific offence.

monitor (ˈmɒnɪtə) *n.* 1. a person or piece of equipment that warns, checks, controls, or keeps a continuous record of something. 2. *Education*. a. a senior pupil with various supervisory duties, etc. b. a pupil assisting a teacher in classroom organization, etc. 3. a television set used in a studio for viewing or checking a programme being transmitted. 4. any of various large predatory lizards inhabiting warm regions of Africa, Asia, and Australia. 5. (formerly) a small heavily armoured warship used for coastal assault. ~*vb.* 6. to act as a monitor of. 7. (tr.) to observe or record (the activity or performance of) (an engine or other device). 8. (tr.) to check (the technical quality of) (a radio or television broadcast). — **monitorial** (ˈmɒnɪˈtɔːriəl) *adj.* — **monitor, ship** *n.* — **monitress** *fem. n.*

monitory (ˈmɒnɪtəri, -tri) *adj.* also **monitorial**. 1. warning or admonishing. ~*n.*, *pl.* **-ries**. 2. Rare. a letter containing a monition.

monk (mʌŋk) *n.* a male member of a religious community bound by vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. Related *adj.*: **monastic**. — **monkish** *adj.*

monkey (ˈmʌŋki) *n.* 1. any of numerous long-tailed primates excluding lemurs, tarsiers, etc. 2. any primate except man. 3. a naughty or mischievous person, esp. a child. 4. the head of a pile driver (**monkey engine**) or of some similar mechanical device. 5. *U.S. sl.* an addict's dependence on a drug (esp. in **have a monkey on one's back**). 6. *Sl.* a butt of derision; someone made to look a fool (esp. in **make a monkey of**). 7. *Sl.* (esp. in book-making) £500. 8. *U.S. sl.* \$500. ~*vb.* 9. (intr.; usually foll. by *around*, *with*, etc.) to meddle, fool, or tinker. 10. (tr.) Rare. to imitate; ape.

monkey business *n.* *Inf.* mischievous, suspect, or dishonest, behaviour or acts.

monkey jacket *n.* a short close-fitting jacket, esp. a waist-length jacket similar to a mess jacket.

monkey nut *n.* *Brit.* another name for a **peanut**.

monkey puzzle *n.* a South American coniferous tree having branches shaped like a candelabra and stiff sharp leaves. Also called: **Chile pine**.

monkey's wedding *n.* *S. African inf.* a combination of rain and sunshine.

monkey tricks or **U.S. monkey shines** *pl. n.* *Inf.* mischievous behaviour or acts.

monkey wrench *n.* a wrench with adjustable jaws.

monkfish (ˈmʌŋkˌfɪʃ) *n.*, *pl.* **-fish** or **-fishes**. 1. any of various angler fishes. 2. another name for **angel fish** (sense 3).

monkshood (ˈmʌŋkʃʊd) *n.* any of several poisonous N temperate plants that have hooded blue-purple flowers.

mono (ˈmɒnəʊ) *adj.* 1. short for **monophonic** (sense 1). ~*n.* 2. monophonic sound; monophony.

mono- or before a vowel **mon-** combining form. 1. one; single: *monorail*. 2. indicating that a chemical compound contains a single specified atom or group: *monoxide*.

monoacid (ˈmɒnəʊˈæsɪd), **monacid**, **monoacidic** (ˈmɒnəʊˈsɪdɪk), or **monacidic** *adj.* *Chem.* (of a base) capable of reacting with only one molecule of a monobasic acid; having only one hydroxide ion per molecule.

monobasic (ˈmɒnəʊˈbeɪsɪk) *adj.* *Chem.* (of an acid, such as hydrogen chloride) having only one replaceable hydrogen atom per molecule.

monochromatic (ˈmɒnəʊkrəˈmætɪk) or **monochrome** (ˈmɒnəʊkrəʊɪk) *adj.* (of light or other electromagnetic radiation) having only one wavelength.

monochrome (ˈmɒnəˌkrəʊm) *n.* 1. a black-and-white photograph or transparency. 2. *Photog.* black and white. 3. a. a painting, drawing, etc., done in a range of tones of a single colour. b. the technique or art of this. 4. (modifier) executed in or resembling monochrome: a *monochrome print*. ~Also called (for senses 3, 4): **monotint**. — **mono'chromic** *adj.* — **mono,chromist** *n.*

monocle (ˈmɒnəkəl) *n.* a lens for correcting defective vision of one eye, held in position by the facial muscles. — **monocled** *adj.*

monocline (ˈmɒnəʊˌklaɪn) *n.* a fold in stratified rocks in which the strata are inclined in the same direction from the horizontal. — **mono'clinal** *adj.*, *n.*

monoclinic (ˈmɒnəʊˌklɪnɪk) *adj.* *Crystallog.* relating to or belonging to the crystal system characterized by three unequal axes, one pair of which are not at right angles to each other.

monocotyledon (ˈmɒnəʊˌkɒtɪˌlɪdɒn) *n.* any of various flowering plants having a single embryonic seed leaf,

leaves with parallel veins, and flowers with parts in threes: includes grasses, lilies, palms, and orchids. Cf. **dicotyledon**. — **mono, coty** 'ledonous *adj.*

monocracy (mɒ'nɒkrəsi) *n.*, *pl.* -cies. government by one person. — **monocrat** (ˈmɒnə,kɾæt) *n.* — **mono** 'cratic *adj.*

monocular (mɒ'nɒkjʊlə) *adj.* having or intended for the use of only one eye. — **mono** 'ocularly *adv.*

monocycle (ˈmɒnə,sɪk'l) *n.* another name for **unicycle**.

monody (ˈmɒnədi) *n.*, *pl.* -dies. 1. (in Greek tragedy) an ode sung by a single actor. 2. any poem of lament for someone's death. 3. *Music.* a style of composition consisting of a single vocal part, usually with accompaniment. — **monodic** (mɒ'nɒdik) *adj.* — **mono** 'dist *n.*

monoecious (mɒ'ni:ʃəs) *adj.* 1. (of some flowering plants) having the male and female reproductive organs in separate flowers on the same plant. 2. (of some animals and lower plants) hermaphrodite.

monogamy (mɒ'nɒɡəmi) *n.* 1. the state or practice of having only one husband or wife over a period of time. 2. *Zool.* the practice of having only one mate. — **mono** 'nagamist *n.* — **mono** 'nagamous *adj.*

monogram (ˈmɒnə,ɡræm) *n.* a design of one or more letters, esp. initials, on clothing, stationery, etc. — **monogrammatic** (ˌmɒnə,ɡræm'ætɪk) *adj.*

monograph (ˈmɒnə,ɡrə:f) *n.* 1. a paper, book, or other work concerned with a single subject or aspect of a subject. ~vb. (tr.) 2. to write a monograph on. — **monographer** (mɒ'nɒgrəfə) or **monographer** *n.* — **mono** 'graphic *adj.*

monogyny (mɒ'nɒdʒɪni) *n.* the custom of having only one female sexual partner over a period of time. — **mono** 'nogynous *adj.*

monolingual (ˌmɒnə'lɪŋɡwəl) *adj.* knowing or expressed in only one language.

monolith (ˈmɒnəlɪθ) *n.* 1. a large block of stone or anything that resembles one in appearance, intractability, etc. 2. a statue, obelisk, column, etc., cut from one block of stone. 3. a large hollow foundation piece sunk as a caisson and filled with concrete. — **mono** 'lithic *adj.*

monologue (ˈmɒnə,lɒɡ) *n.* 1. a long speech made by one actor in a play, film, etc., esp. when alone. 2. a dramatic piece for a single performer. 3. any long speech by one person, esp. when interfering with conversation. — **monologic** (ˌmɒnə'lɒdʒɪk) or **mono** 'logical *adj.* — **monologist** (ˈmɒnə,lɒɡɪst) *n.* — **monologize** or **-ise** (mɒ'nɒlədʒaɪz) *vb.*

monomania (ˌmɒnə'meɪniə) *n.* an excessive mental preoccupation with one thing, idea, etc. — **mono** 'mani,ac *n.* — **monomaniacal** (ˌmɒnə'məni'ækəl) *adj.*

monomer (ˈmɒnəmə) *n.* *Chem.* a compound whose molecules can join together to form a polymer. — **monomeric** (ˌmɒnə'merɪk) *adj.*

monomial (mɒ'nəʊmɪəl) *n.* 1. *Maths.* an expression consisting of a single term, such as *5ax*. ~adj. 2. consisting of a single algebraic term.

mononucleosis (ˌmɒnə,nju:kli:'əʊsɪs) *n.* 1. *Pathol.* the presence of a large number of monocytes in the blood. 2. See **infectious mononucleosis**.

monophonic (ˌmɒnə'fɒnɪk) *adj.* 1. Also: **monaural**. (of a system of broadcasting, recording, or reproducing sound) using only one channel between source and loudspeaker. Sometimes shortened to **mono**. Cf. **stereophonic**. 2. *Music.* of or relating to a style of musical composition consisting of a single melodic line.

Monophysite (mɒ'nɒfɪ'saɪt) *n.* *Christianity.* a person who holds that there is only one nature in the person of Christ, which is primarily divine with human attributes. — **Monophysitic** (ˌmɒnə'fɪsɪtɪk) *adj.*

monoplane (ˈmɒnə,pleɪn) *n.* an aeroplane with only one pair of wings. Cf. **biplane**.

monopoly (mɒ'nɒpəli) *n.*, *pl.* -lies. 1. exclusive control of the market supply of a product or service. 2. a. an enterprise exercising this control. b. the product or service so controlled. 3. *Law.* the exclusive right granted to a person, company, etc., by the state to purchase, manufacture, use, or sell some commodity or to trade in a specified area. 4. exclusive control, possession, or use of something. — **mono** 'nopolist *n.* — **mono** 'nopolistic *adj.* — **mono** 'nopolization or **-li** 'sation *n.* — **mono** 'nopo,lize or **-lise** *vb.*

Monopoly (mɒ'nɒpəli) *n.* *Trademark.* a board game for two to six players who throw dice to advance their tokens, the object being to acquire the property on which their tokens land.

monorail (ˈmɒnə,reɪl) *n.* a single-track railway, often elevated and with suspended cars.

monosaccharide (ˌmɒnə'sækə,raɪd) *n.* a simple sugar, such as glucose or fructose, that does not hydrolyse to yield other sugars.

monosodium glutamate (ˌmɒnə'səʊdɪəm 'ɡlu:tə,meɪt) *n.* a white crystalline substance that has a meaty taste: used as a food additive.

monosyllable (ˈmɒnə,sɪləbəl) *n.* a word of one syllable, esp. one used as a sentence. — **monosyl** 'labic *adj.*

monotheism (ˈmɒnəθi,ɪzəm) *n.* the belief or doctrine that there is only one God. — **mono** 'theist *n.*, *adj.* — **mono** 'theistic *adj.* — **mono** 'theistically *adv.*

monotint (ˈmɒnə,tɪnt) *n.* another word for **monochrome** (senses 3, 4).

monotone (ˈmɒnə,təʊn) *n.* 1. a single unvaried pitch level in speech, sound, etc. 2. utterance, etc., without change of pitch. 3. lack of variety in style, expression, etc. ~adj. 4. unvarying.

monotonous (mɒ'nɒtənəs) *adj.* 1. tedious, esp. because of repetition. 2. in unvarying tone. — **mono** 'tonously *adv.* — **mono** 'tonousness *n.*

monotony (mɒ'nɒtəni) *n.*, *pl.* -nies. 1. wearisome routine; dullness. 2. lack of variety in pitch or cadence.

monotype (ˈmɒnə,təɪp) *n.* 1. a single print made from a metal or glass plate on which a picture has been painted. 2. *Biol.* a monotypic genus or species. — **monotypic** (ˌmɒnə'tɪpɪk) *adj.*

Monotype (ˈmɒnə,təɪp) *n.* 1. *Trademark.* a typesetting machine, operated by a keyboard, in which each character is cast individually from hot metal. 2. type produced on such a machine.

monovalent (ˌmɒnə'veɪlənt) *adj.* *Chem.* Also: **univalent**. a. having a valency of one. b. having only one valency. — **mono** 'valence or **mono** 'valency *n.*

monoxide (mɒ'nɒksaɪd) *n.* an oxide that contains one oxygen atom per molecule.

Monseigneur French. (mɔ̃sɛ'ɲœ:r) *n.*, *pl.* **Messeigneurs**. a title given to French bishops, prelates, and princes.

monsieur (mɔ̃'sjɜ:) *n.*, *pl.* **messieurs** (mɛ'sjø). a French title of address equivalent to *sir* when used alone or *Mr.* before a name.

Monsignor (mɒn'sɪnjə) *n.*, *pl.* -nors or -nori (*Italian* -'ɲɔ:ri). *R.C. Church.* an ecclesiastical title attached to certain offices.

monsoon (mɒn'su:n) *n.* 1. a seasonal wind of S Asia from the southwest in summer and from the northeast in winter. 2. the rainy season when the SW monsoon blows, from about April to October. 3. any wind that changes direction with the seasons. — **mono** 'soonal *adj.*

mons pubis (ˈmɒnz 'pjʊ:bɪs) *n.*, *pl.* **montes pubis** ('mɒntɪ:z). the fatty flesh in human females over the junction of the pubic bones. Also called: **mons veneris**.

monster (ˈmɒnstə) *n.* 1. an imaginary beast, usually made up of various animal or human parts. 2. a person, animal, or plant with a marked deformity. 3. a cruel, wicked, or inhuman person. 4. a. a very large person, animal, or thing. b. (as modifier): a monster cake.

monstrance ('mɒnstrəns) *n.* *R.C. Church.* a receptacle in which the consecrated Host is exposed for adoration.

monstrosity (mɒn'strɒsɪti) *n.*, *pl.* -ties. 1. an outrageous or ugly person or thing; monster. 2. the state or quality of being monstrous.

monstrous ('mɒnstrəs) *adj.* 1. abnormal, hideous, or unnatural in size, character, etc. 2. (of plants and animals) abnormal in structure. 3. outrageous, atrocious, or shocking. 4. huge. 5. of, relating to, or resembling a monster. — **monstrously** *adv.* — **monstrousness** *n.*

montage (mɒn'tɑ:ʒ) *n.* 1. the art or process of composing pictures of miscellaneous elements, such as other pictures or photographs. 2. such a composition. 3. a method of film editing by juxtaposition or partial superimposition of several shots to form a single image. 4. a film sequence of this kind.

montane ('mɒnteɪn) *adj.* of or inhabiting mountainous regions.

montbretia (mɒn'bri:tʃə) *n.* any plant of an African genus related to the iris, with ornamental orange flowers.

Montessori method (ˌmɒntɪ'sɔ:ri) *n.* a method of nursery education in which children are allowed to develop at their own pace through practical play.

month (mʌnθ) *n.* 1. one of the twelve divisions (calendar months) of the calendar year. 2. a period of time extending from one date to a corresponding date in the

next calendar month. **3.** a period of four weeks or of 30 days. **4.** the period of time (**solar month**) taken by the moon to return to the same longitude after one complete revolution around the earth; 27.321 58 days (approximately 27 days, 7 hours, 43 minutes, 4.5 seconds). **5.** the period of time (**sidereal month**) taken by the moon to make one complete revolution around the earth, measured between two successive conjunctions with a particular star; 27.321 66 days (approximately 27 days, 7 hours, 43 minutes, 11 seconds). **6.** Also called: **lunation**. the period of time (**lunar** or **synodic month**) taken by the moon to make one complete revolution around the earth, measured between two successive new moons; 29.530 59 days (approximately 29 days, 12 hours, 44 minutes, 3 seconds).

monthly ('manθli) *adj.* **1.** occurring, done, appearing, payable, etc., once every month. **2.** lasting or valid for a month. *~adv.* **3.** once a month. *~n., pl. -lies.* **4.** a book, periodical, magazine, etc., published once a month. **5.** *Inf.* a menstrual period.

monument ('monjəmənt) *n.* **1.** an obelisk, statue, building, etc., erected in commemoration of a person or event. **2.** a notable building or site, esp. one preserved as public property. **3.** a tomb or tombstone. **4.** a literary or artistic work regarded as commemorative of its creator or a particular period. **5.** *U.S.* a boundary marker. **6.** an exceptional example: his lecture was a monument of tedium.

monumental ('monju'mentl) *adj.* **1.** like a monument, esp. in large size, endurance, or importance. **2.** of, relating to, or being a monument. **3.** *Inf.* (intensifier): monumental stupidity. — **monu'mentally** *adv.*

moo (mu:) *vb.* **1.** (*intr.*) (of a cow, bull, etc.) to make a characteristic deep long sound; low. *~interj.* **2.** an instance or imitation of this sound.

mooch (mu:tʃ) *vb.* **Sl.** **1.** (*intr.*) to loiter or walk aimlessly. **2.** (*intr.*) to lurk; skulk. **3.** (*tr.*) *Chiefly U.S.* a. to cadge. b. to steal. — **'moocher** *n.*

mood¹ (mu:d) *n.* **1.** a temporary state of mind or temper: a cheerful mood. **2.** a sullen or gloomy state of mind, esp. when temporary: she's in a mood. **3.** a prevailing atmosphere or feeling. **4.** in the mood, in a favourable state of mind.

mood² (mu:d) *n.* **1.** *Grammar.* a category of the verb or verbal inflections that expresses semantic and grammatical differences, including such forms as the indicative, subjunctive, and imperative. **2.** *Logic.* one of several forms of a syllogism classified by whether the constituent statements are affirmative, negative, universal, or particular. *~Also called:* **mode.**

moody ('mu:di) *adj.* **moodier, moodiest.** **1.** sullen, sulky, or gloomy. **2.** temperamental or changeable. — **'moodily** *adv.* — **'moodiness** *n.*

Moog synthesizer (mu:g, mɔ:g) *n.* *Music, trademark.* an electrophonic instrument operated by a keyboard and pedals, in which a wide range of musical sounds is produced. Often shortened to **synthesizer** or **Moog**.

mooi (mɔi) *adj.* *S. African sl.* pleasing; nice.

moon (mu:n) *n.* **1.** the natural satellite of the earth. **2.** the face of the moon as it is seen during its revolution around the earth, esp. at one of its phases: *new moon; full moon.* **3.** any natural satellite of a planet. **4.** moonlight. **5.** something resembling a moon. **6.** a month, esp. a lunar one. **7.** *once in a blue moon.* very seldom. **8.** *over the moon.* very excited and happy. *~vb.* **9.** (when *tr.*, often foll. by *away*; when *intr.*, often foll. by *around*) to be idle in a listless way, as if in love, or to idle (time) away. — **'moonless** *adj.*

moonbeam ('mu:n,bim) *n.* a ray of moonlight.

mooncalf ('mu:n,kɔ:f) *n., pl. -calves.* **1.** a born fool; dolt. **2.** a person who idles time away.

moon-faced *adj.* having a round face.

moonlight ('mu:n,lait) *n.* **1.** light from the sun received on earth after reflection by the moon. **2.** (*modifier*) illuminated by the moon: a moonlight walk. *~vb.* **-lighting, -lighted.** **3.** (*intr.*) *Inf.* to work at a secondary job, esp. at night. — **'moon,lighter** *n.* — **'moon,lighting** *n.* — **'moon,lit** *adj.*

moonlight flit *n.* a hurried departure by night to escape from one's creditors.

moonscape ('mu:n,skeip) *n.* the general surface of the moon or a representation of it.

moonshine ('mu:n,ʃain) *n.* **1.** another word for **moonlight** (sense 1). **2.** *U.S.* illegally distilled or smuggled whisky. **3.** foolish talk or thought.

moonshot ('mu:n,ʃɒt) *n.* the launching of a spacecraft, rocket, etc., to the moon.

moonstone ('mu:n,stəʊn) *n.* a gem variety of orthoclase or albite that is white and translucent.

moonstruck ('mu:n,strʌk) or **moonstricken** ('mu:n-,stri:kən) *adj.* deranged or mad.

moony ('mu:ni) *adj.* **moonier, mooniest.** **1.** *Inf.* dreamy or listless. **2.** of or like the moon.

moor¹ (mu:, mɔ:) *n.* a tract of uncultivated waste ground, usually covered with heather, coarse grass, bracken, and moss.

moor² (mu:, mɔ:) *vb.* to secure (a vessel, etc.) with cables, ropes, or anchors, or (of a vessel, etc.) to be secured in this way. — **'moorage** ('muɔrɪdʒ) *n.*

Moor (mu:, mɔ:) *n.* a member of a Muslim people of North Africa, of mixed Arab and Berber descent. — **'Moorish** *adj.*

moorhen ('mu:,hen, 'mɔ:) *n.* **1.** a bird of the rail family, inhabiting ponds, lakes, etc., having a black plumage, red bill, and a red shield above the bill. **2.** the female of the red grouse.

mooring ('muəriŋ, 'mɔ:) *n.* **1.** a place for anchoring a vessel. **2.** a permanent anchor with a floating buoy, to which vessels can moor.

moorings ('muəriŋz, 'mɔ:) *pl. n.* **1.** *Naut.* the ropes, anchors, etc., used in mooring a vessel. **2.** (*sometimes sing.*) something that provides security or stability.

moorland ('muɔlənd) *n.* *Brit.* an area of moor.

moose (mu:s) *n., pl. moose.* a large North American deer having large flattened palmate antlers: also occurs in Europe and Asia where it is called an elk.

moot (mu:t) *adj.* **1.** subject or open to debate: a moot point. *~vb.* (*tr.*) **2.** to suggest or bring up for debate. **3.** to plead or argue hypothetical cases, as an academic exercise or as training for law students. *~n.* **4.** a discussion or debate of a hypothetical case or point, held as an academic activity. **5.** (in Anglo-Saxon England) an assembly dealing with local legal and administrative affairs.

mop (mɒp) *n.* **1.** an implement with a wooden handle and a head made of twists of cotton or a piece of synthetic sponge, used for polishing or washing floors, or washing dishes. **2.** something resembling this, such as a tangle of hair. *~vb.* **mopping, mopped.** (*tr.*) **3.** (often foll. by *up*) to clean or soak up as with a mop.

mope (mɔ:p) *vb.* (*intr.*) **1.** to be gloomy or apathetic. **2.** to move or act in an aimless way. *~n.* **3.** a gloomy person. — **'moper** *n.*

moped ('mɔ:pəd) *n.* *Brit.* a light motorcycle not over 50cc.

mopes (mɔ:pəs) *pl. n.* the low spirits.

moppet ('mɒpɪt) *n.* a less common word for **poppet** (sense 1).

mop up *vb.* (*tr., adv.*) **1.** to clean with a mop. **2.** *Inf.* to complete (a task, etc.). **3.** *Mil.* to clear (remaining enemy forces) after a battle, as by killing, taking prisoner, etc.

moquette (mɒ'ket) *n.* a thick velvety fabric used for carpets, upholstery, etc.

Mor. *abbrev.* for Morocco.

moraine (mɔ'rein) *n.* a mass of debris, carried by glaciers and forming ridges and mounds when deposited. — **mo'rainal** or **mo'rainic** *adj.*

moral ('mɒrəl) *adj.* **1.** concerned with or relating to human behaviour, esp. the distinction between good and bad or right and wrong behaviour: *moral sense.* **2.** adhering to conventionally accepted standards of conduct. **3.** based on a sense of right and wrong according to conscience: *moral courage; moral law.* **4.** having psychological rather than tangible effects: *moral support.* **5.** having the effects but not the appearance of (victory or defeat): a moral victory. **6.** having a strong probability: a moral certainty. *~n.* **7.** the lesson to be obtained from a fable or event. **8.** a concise truth; maxim. **9.** (*pl.*) principles of behaviour in accordance with standards of right and wrong. **10.** *Austral. sl.* a certainty: a moral to win. — **'morally** *adv.*

morale (mɔ'rɔ:l) *n.* the degree of mental or moral confidence of a person or group.

moralist ('mɒrəlɪst) *n.* **1.** a person who seeks to regulate the morals of others. **2.** a person who lives in accordance with moral principles. — **'moral'istic** *adj.* — **'moral'istically** *adv.*

morality (mɔ'rælɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* **1.** the quality of being moral. **2.** conformity to conventional standards of moral conduct. **3.** a system of moral principles. **4.** an instruction or lesson in morals. **5.** short for **morality play**.

morality play *n.* a type of drama between the 14th

and 16th centuries concerned with the conflict between personified virtues and vices.

moralize or **-ise** ('mɒrəlaɪz) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to make moral pronouncements. 2. (*tr.*) to interpret or explain in a moral sense. 3. (*tr.*) to improve the morals of. —**moralization** or **-isation** *n.* —**'moralizer** or **-iser** *n.*

moral philosophy *n.* the branch of philosophy dealing with ethics.

morass (mɒ'ræs) *n.* 1. a tract of swampy low-lying land. 2. a disordered or muddled situation or circumstance, esp. one that impedes progress.

moratorium (mɒ'rə'tɔ:riəm) *n.*, *pl.* **-ria** (-riə) or **-riums**. 1. a legally authorized postponement of the fulfilment of an obligation. 2. an agreed suspension of activity.

Moravian (mɒ'reɪvɪən, mɒ-) *adj.* 1. of or relating to Moravia, its people, or their dialect of Czech. 2. of or relating to the Moravian Church. ~*n.* 3. the Moravian dialect. 4. a native or inhabitant of Moravia. 5. a member of the Moravian Church. —**Mo'ra'vianism** *n.*

moray (mɒ'reɪ) *n.*, *pl.* **-rays**. a voracious marine coastal eel marked with brilliant colours.

morbid ('mɒ:bɪd) *adj.* 1. having an unusual interest in death or unpleasant events. 2. gruesome. 3. relating to or characterized by disease. —**mor'bidity** *n.* —**'morbidly** *adv.* —**'morbidness** *n.*

mordant ('mɒ:dnt) *adj.* 1. sarcastic or caustic. 2. having the properties of a mordant. 3. pungent. ~*n.* 4. a substance used before the application of a dye, possessing the ability to fix colours. 5. an acid or other corrosive fluid used to etch lines on a printing plate. —**'mordancy** *n.* —**'mordantly** *adv.*

more (mɔ:) *determiner.* 1. *a.* the comparative of **much** or **many**: *more joy than you know; more sausages.* *b.* (as pronoun; functioning as sing. or pl.): *he has more than she does; even more are dying.* 2. *a.* additional; further: *no more bananas.* *b.* (as pronoun; functioning as sing. or pl.): *I can't take any more; more than expected.* 3. **more of**. to a greater extent or degree: *we see more of Sue; more of a nuisance.* ~*adv.* 4. used to form the comparative of some adjectives and adverbs: *a more believable story; more quickly.* 5. the comparative of **much**: *people listen to the radio more now.* 6. **more or less**. *a.* as an estimate; approximately. *b.* to an unspecified extent or degree: *the party was ruined, more or less.*

▷ **Usage.** See at **most**.

moreish or **morish** ('mɔ:riʃ) *adj.* *Inf.* (of food) causing a desire for more.

mored (mɒ'rel) *n.* an edible fungus in which the mushroom has a pitted cap.

morello (mɒ'reləʊ) *n.*, *pl.* **-los**. a variety of small very dark sour cherry.

moreover (mɔ:'rəʊvə) *sentence connector.* in addition to what has already been said.

mores ('mɔ:reiz) *pl.* *n.* the customs and conventions embodying the fundamental values of a group or society.

morganatic (,mɔ:gə'nætɪk) *adj.* of or designating a marriage between a person of high rank and a person of low rank, by which the latter is not elevated to the higher rank and any issue have no rights to the succession of the higher party's titles, property, etc. —**'morga-natically** *adv.*

morgen ('mɔ:gən) *n.* 1. a South African unit of area, equal to about two acres or 0.8 hectare. 2. a unit of area, formerly used in Prussia and Scandinavia, equal to about two thirds of an acre.

morgue (mɔ:g) *n.* 1. another word for **mortuary**. 2. *Inf.* a room or file containing clippings, etc., used for reference in a newspaper.

moribund ('mɔ:ri,bʌnd) *adj.* 1. near death. 2. without force or vitality. —**'mori'bundity** *n.* —**'mori,bundly** *adv.*

Morisco (mɒ'riskɔʊ) or **Moresco** (mɒ'reskɔʊ) *n.*, *pl.* **-cos** or **-coes**. 1. a Spanish Moor. 2. a morris dance. ~*adj.* 3. another word for **Moorish**; see **Moor**.

morish ('mɔ:riʃ) *adj.* a variant spelling of **moreish**.

Mormon ('mɔ:məm) *n.* 1. a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, founded in 1830 in New York by Joseph Smith. 2. a prophet whose supposed revelations were recorded by Joseph Smith in the Book of Mormon. ~*adj.* 3. of or relating to the Mormons, their Church, or their beliefs. —**'Mormonism** *n.*

morn (mɔ:n) *n.* a poetic word for **morning**.

mornay ('mɔ:nei) *adj.* (often immediately postpositive) denoting a cheese sauce: *eggs mornay*.

morning ('mɔ:nɪŋ) *n.* 1. the first part of the day,

ending at noon. 2. sunrise; daybreak; dawn. 3. the beginning or early period. 4. **the morning after**. *Inf.* the aftereffects of excess, esp. a hangover. 5. (*modifier*) of, used, or occurring in the morning: *morning coffee*.

morning dress *n.* formal day dress for men, comprising a cutaway frock coat (**morning coat**), usually with grey trousers and top hat.

morning-glory *n.*, *pl.* **-ries**. any of various mainly tropical plants of the convolvulus family, with trumpet-shaped blue, pink, or white flowers, which close in late afternoon.

mornings ('mɔ:nɪŋz) *adv.* *Inf.* in the morning, esp. regularly, or during every morning.

morning sickness *n.* *Inf.* nausea occurring shortly after rising: a symptom of pregnancy.

morning star *n.* a planet, usually Venus, seen just before sunrise. Also called: **daystar**.

Moroccan (mɒ'rɒkən) *adj.* 1. of or denoting Morocco, a kingdom in NW Africa, or its inhabitants, their customs, etc. ~*n.* 2. a native or inhabitant of Morocco.

morocco (mɒ'rɒkəʊ) *n.* a fine soft leather made from goatskins, used for bookbinding, shoes, etc.

moron ('mɔ:rən) *n.* 1. a foolish or stupid person. 2. a person having an intelligence quotient of between 50 and 70. —**'moronic** ('mɔ:rɒnɪk) *adj.* —**'moronically** *adv.* —**'moronism** or **mor'ronity** *n.*

morose (mɒ'rɔ:s) *adj.* ill-tempered or gloomy. —**'morosely** *adv.* —**'moroseness** *n.*

-morph *n.* *combining form.* indicating shape, form, or structure of a specified kind: *ectomorph*. —**'morphic** or **-morphous** *adj.* *combining form.* —**'morphy** *n.* *combining form.*

morpheme ('mɔ:fi:m) *n.* *Linguistics.* a speech element having a meaning or grammatical function that cannot be subdivided into further such elements. —**'morphemic** *adj.* —**'morphemically** *adv.*

morphine ('mɔ:fi:n) or **morphia** ('mɔ:fiə) *n.* an alkaloid extracted from opium: used in medicine as an anaesthetic and sedative.

morphology (mɔ:'fɒlədʒɪ) *n.* 1. the branch of biology concerned with the form and structure of organisms. 2. the form and structure of words in a language. 3. the study of linguistic forms and structures. 4. the form and structure of anything. —**'morphologic** (,mɔ:fə'lɒdʒɪk) or **'morpho'logical** *adj.* —**'morpho'logically** *adv.* —**'morphologist** *n.*

morris dance ('mɒrɪs) *n.* any of various old English folk dances usually performed by men (**morris men**) adorned with bells and often representing characters from folk tales. Often shortened to **morris**. —**'morris dancing** *n.*

morrow ('mɒrəʊ) *n.* (usually preceded by *the*) *Arch.* or *poetic.* 1. the next day. 2. the period following a specified event. 3. the morning.

Morse code (mɔ:s) *n.* a telegraph code used internationally for transmitting messages. Letters, numbers, etc., are represented by groups of shorter dots and longer dashes, or by groups of the corresponding sounds.

morsel ('mɔ:səl) *n.* 1. a small slice or mouthful of food. 2. a small piece; bit.

mortal ('mɔ:təl) *adj.* 1. (of living beings, esp. human beings) subject to death. 2. of or involving life or the world. 3. ending in or causing death; fatal: *a mortal blow*. 4. deadly or unrelenting: *a mortal enemy*. 5. of or like the fear of death: *mortal terror*. 6. great or very intense: *mortal pain*. 7. conceivable or possible: *there was no mortal reason to go*. 8. *Sl.* long and tedious: *for three mortal hours*. ~*n.* 9. a mortal being. 10. *Inf.* a person: *a mean mortal*. —**'mortally** *adv.*

mortality (mɔ:'tælɪti) *n.*, *pl.* **-ties**. 1. the condition of being mortal. 2. great loss of life, as in war or disaster. 3. the number of deaths in a given period. 4. mankind; humanity.

mortal sin *n.* *Theol.* a sin regarded as involving total loss of grace.

mortar ('mɔ:tə) *n.* 1. a mixture of cement or lime or both with sand and water, used as a bond between bricks or stones or as a covering on a wall. 2. a cannon having a short barrel and relatively wide bore that fires low-velocity shells in high trajectories. 3. a vessel, usually bowl-shaped, in which substances are pulverized with a pestle. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 4. to join (bricks or stones) or cover (a wall) with mortar. 5. to fire on with mortars.

mortarboard ('mɔ:tə,bɔ:d) *n.* 1. a black tasselled academic cap with a flat square top. 2. a small square board with a handle on the underside for carrying mortar.

mortgage ('mɔːɡɪdʒ) *n.* 1. a conditional conveyance of property, esp. real property, as security for the repayment of a loan. 2. the deed effecting such a transaction. ~*vb.* (tr.) 3. to convey (property) by mortgage. 4. *Inf.* to pledge. —**mortgageable** *adj.* —**mortgagee** *n.* —**mortgagor** (,mɔːɡɪ'dʒɔː) or **mortgager** *n.*

mortice ('mɔːtɪs) *n., vb.* a variant spelling of **mortise**.

mortician (mɔː'tɪʃən) *n.* U.S. another word for **undertaker**.

mortify ('mɔːtɪ,faɪ) *vb.* -fying, -fied. 1. (tr.) to humiliate or cause to feel shame. 2. (tr.) Christianity. to subdue and bring under control by disciplinary exercises, etc. 3. to cause or undergo tissue death or gangrene. —**mortification** *n.* —**mortifier** *n.*

mortise or **mortice** ('mɔːtɪs) *n.* 1. a slot or recess cut into a piece of wood, stone, etc., to receive a matching projection (tenon) of another piece, or a mortise lock. ~*vb.* (tr.) 2. to cut a slot or recess in (a piece of wood, etc.). 3. to join (two pieces of wood, etc.) by means of a mortise and tenon.

mortise lock *n.* a lock set into a mortise in a door so that the mechanism of the lock is enclosed by the door.

mortmain ('mɔːt,meɪn) *n.* Law. the state or condition of lands, etc., held inalienably, as by an ecclesiastical or other corporation.

mortuary ('mɔːtʃuəri) *n., pl. -aries.* 1. Also called: **orgue**. a building where dead bodies are kept before cremation or burial. ~*adj.* 2. of or relating to death or burial.

mosaic (mə'zeɪk) *n.* 1. a design or decoration made up of small pieces of coloured glass, stone, etc. 2. the process of making a mosaic. 3. a. a mottled yellowing that occurs in the leaves of plants affected with any of various virus diseases. b. Also called: **mosaic disease**. any of the diseases, such as **tobacco mosaic**, that produce this discoloration. 4. a light-sensitive surface on a television camera tube, consisting of a large number of granules of photoemissive material. —**mosaicist** (mə'zeɪsɪst) *n.*

Mosaic (mə'zeɪnk) *adj.* of or relating to Moses or the laws and traditions ascribed to him.

moschatel (,mɔskə'tel) *n.* a small N temperate plant with greenish-white musk-scented flowers. Also called: **townhall clock**, **five-faced bishop**.

mosey ('mɔʊzi) *vb.* (intr.) U.S. *sl.* (often foll. by *along* or *on*) to amble.

Moslem ('mɔzləm) *n., pl. -lems or -lem, adj.* a variant spelling of **Muslim**.

mosque (mosk) *n.* a Muslim place of worship.

mosquito (mə'ski:təʊ) *n., pl. -toes or -tos.* any dipterous insect of the family *Culicidae*: the females have a long proboscis adapted for piercing the skin of man and animals to suck their blood.

mosquito net or **netting** *n.* a fine curtain or net to keep mosquitoes out.

moss (mɒs) *n.* 1. any of a class of plants, typically growing in dense mats on trees, rocks, moist ground, etc. 2. a clump or growth of any of these plants. 3. any of various similar but unrelated plants, such as Spanish moss and reindeer moss. 4. *Chiefly Scot.* a peat bog or swamp. —**mossiness** *n.* —**moss,like** *adj.* —**mossy** *adj.*

moss rose *n.* a variety of rose that has a mossy stem and calyx and fragrant pink flowers.

moss stitch *n.* a knitting stitch made up of alternate plain and purl stitches.

mosstrooper ('mɒs,tru:pə) *n.* a raider in the border country of England and Scotland in the mid-17th century.

most (məʊst) *determiner.* 1. a. a great majority of; nearly all: *most people like eggs.* b. (as pronoun; functioning as sing. or pl.): *most of them don't know; most of it is finished.* 2. the **most**, a. the superlative of many and much: *you have the most money; the most apples.* b. (as pronoun): *the most he can afford is two pounds.* 3. at (the) **most**, at the maximum: *that girl is four at the most.* 4. **make the most of**, to use to the best advantage: *she makes the most of her accent.* ~*adv.* 5. the **most**, used to form the superlative of some adjectives and adverbs: *the most beautiful daughter of all.* 6. the superlative of much: *people welcome a drink most after work.* 7. (intensifier): *a most absurd story.*

▷ **Usage.** The meanings of **most** and **mostly** should not be confused. In *she was most affected by the news*, **most** is equivalent to **very** and is generally acceptable. In *she was mostly affected by the news*, the implication is that there was something else, in addition to the news, which affected her, although less so. **More** and **most** should

also be distinguished when used in comparisons. **More** applies to cases involving two persons, objects, etc., *most* to cases involving three or more: *John is the more intelligent of the two; he is the most intelligent of the students.*

-most *suffix.* (forming the superlative degree of some adjectives and adverbs): *hindmost; uppermost.*

mostly ('mɔʊstli) *adv.* 1. almost entirely; chiefly. 2. on many or most occasions; usually.

Most Reverend *n.* a courtesy title applied to Anglican archbishops and Roman Catholic bishops.

mot (məʊ) *n.* short for **bon mot**.

M.O.T. (in Britain) *abbrev. for:* 1. Ministry of Transport (Industries). 2. the M.O.T. test or test certificate.

mote (məʊt) *n.* a tiny speck.

motel (məʊ'tel) *n.* a roadside hotel for motorists.

motet (məʊ'tet) *n.* a polyphonic choral composition used as an anthem in the Roman Catholic service.

moth (mɒθ) *n.* any of numerous insects that typically have stout bodies with antennae of various shapes (but not clubbed), including large brightly coloured species, such as hawk moths, and smaller inconspicuous types, such as the clothes moths. Cf. **butterfly** (sense 1). —**'mothy** *adj.*

mothball ('mɒθ,bɔ:l) *n.* 1. a small ball of camphor or naphthalene used to repel clothes moths in stored clothing, etc. 2. **put in mothballs**, to postpone work on (a project, activity, etc.). ~*vb.* (tr.) 3. to prepare (a ship) for a long period of storage by sealing with plastic. 4. to postpone work on (a project, activity, etc.).

moth-eaten *adj.* 1. decayed, decrepit, or outdated. 2. eaten away by or as if by moths.

mother ('mʌðə) *n.* 1. a. a female who has given birth to offspring. b. (as modifier): *a mother bird.* 2. (often *cap.*, esp. as a term of address) a person's own mother. 3. a female substituting in the function of a mother. 4. (often *cap.*) *Chiefly arch.* a term of address for an old woman. 5. a. motherly qualities, such as maternal affection: *it appealed to the mother in her.* b. (as modifier): *mother love.* c. (in combination): *mothercraft.* 6. a. a female or thing that creates, nurtures, protects, etc., something. b. (as modifier): *mother church; mother earth.* 7. a title given to certain members of female religious orders. 8. (modifier) native or innate: *mother wit.* ~*vb.* (tr.) 9. to give birth to or produce. 10. to nurture, protect, etc. as a mother. —**'motherless** *adj.* —**'motherly** *adj.*

Mother Carey's chicken ('keəriːz) *n.* any of various small petrels typically having dark plumage and paler underparts. Also called: **stormy petrel**, **storm petrel**.

mother country *n.* 1. the original country of colonists or settlers. 2. a person's native country.

Mother Goose *n.* the imaginary author of a collection of nursery rhymes.

motherhood ('mʌðə,hʊd) *n.* 1. the state of being a mother. 2. the qualities characteristic of a mother.

Mothering Sunday ('mʌðərɪŋ) *n.* *Brit.* the fourth Sunday in Lent, when mothers traditionally receive presents from their children. Also called: **Mother's Day**.

mother-in-law *n., pl. mothers-in-law.* the mother of one's wife or husband.

motherland ('mʌðə,lænd) *n.* a person's native country.

mother lode *n.* *Mining.* the principal lode in a system.

mother-of-pearl *n.* a hard iridescent substance that forms the inner layer of the shells of certain molluscs, such as the oyster. It is used to make buttons, etc. Also called: **nacre**.

Mother's Day *n.* 1. U.S. & *Canad.* the second Sunday in May, observed as a day in honour of mothers. 2. See **Mothering Sunday**.

mother superior *n., pl. mother superiors or mothers superior.* the head of a community of nuns.

mother tongue *n.* 1. the language first learned by a child. 2. a language from which another has evolved.

mothproof ('mɒθ,pru:f) *adj.* 1. (esp. of clothes) chemically treated so as to repel clothes moths. ~*vb.* 2. (tr.) to make (clothes, etc.) mothproof.

motif (məʊ'ti:f) *n.* 1. a distinctive idea, esp. a theme elaborated on in a piece of music, literature, etc. 2. Also called: **motive**, a recurring shape in a design.

motion ('mɔʊʃən) *n.* 1. the process of continual change in the physical position of an object; movement. 2. a movement or action, esp. of part of the human body; a gesture. 3. a. the capacity for movement. b. a manner of movement, esp. walking; gait. 4. a mental impulse. 5. a formal proposal to be discussed and voted on in a

debate, meeting, etc. **6. Law.** an application made to a judge or court for an order or ruling necessary to the conduct of legal proceedings. **7. Brit. a.** the evacuation of the bowels. **b. excrement.** **8. a.** part of a moving mechanism. **b.** the action of such a part. **9. go through the motions. a.** to act or perform the task (of doing something) mechanically or without sincerity. **b.** to mimic the action (of something) by gesture. **10. in motion.** operational or functioning (often in set in motion, set the wheels in motion). **~vb.** **11. (when tr., may take a clause as object or an infinitive)** to signal or direct (a person) by a movement or gesture. — **'motionless adj.**

motion picture *n.* a U.S. term for film.

motivate ('məʊtɪveɪt) *vb.* (tr.) to give incentive to. — **'motivation** *n.*

motive ('məʊtɪv) *n.* **1.** the reason for a certain course of action, whether conscious or unconscious. **2.** a variant spelling of **motif.** **~adj.** **3.** of or causing motion: a *motive force.* **4.** of or acting as a motive; motivating. **~vb.** (tr.) **5.** to motivate. — **'motiveless adj.**

motive power *n.* **1.** any source of energy used to produce motion. **2.** the means of supplying power to an engine, vehicle, etc.

mot juste French. (mo 'ʒyst) *n.*, *pl.* *mots justes* (mo 'ʒyst). the appropriate word or expression.

motley ('məʊli) *adj.* **1.** made up of elements of varying type, quality, etc. **2.** multicoloured. **~n.** **3.** a motley collection. **4.** the particoloured attire of a jester.

motocross ('məʊtə,kros) *n.* a motorcycle race across rough ground.

motor ('məʊtə) *n.* **1. a.** the engine, esp. an internal-combustion engine, of a vehicle. **b. (as modifier):** a *motor scooter.* **2.** Also called: **electric motor.** a machine that converts electrical energy into mechanical energy. **3.** any device that converts another form of energy into mechanical energy to produce motion. **4. a.** Chiefly *Brit.* a car. **b. (as modifier):** *motor spares.* **~adj.** **5.** producing or causing motion. **6. Physiol. a.** of or relating to nerves or neurons that carry impulses that cause muscles to contract. **b.** of or relating to movement or to muscles that induce movement. **~vb.** **7. (intr.)** to travel by car. **8. (tr.)** *Brit.* to transport by car. — **'motorization** or **'l'sation** *n.* — **'motor,ize** or **-,ise** *vb.*

motorbicycle ('məʊtə,baisɪkl) *n.* **1.** a motorcycle. **2.** a moped.

motorbike ('məʊtə,baik) *n.* a less formal name for motorcycle.

motorboat ('məʊtə,bəʊt) *n.* any boat powered by a motor.

motorcade ('məʊtə,keɪd) *n.* a parade of cars.

motorcar ('məʊtə,kɑː) *n.* **1.** a more formal word for car. **2.** a self-propelled electric railway car.

motorcycle ('məʊtə,saikl) *n.* **1.** Also called: **motorbike.** a two-wheeled vehicle that is driven by a petrol engine. **~vb.** (intr.) **2.** to ride on a motorcycle. — **'motorcyclist** *n.*

motorist ('məʊtərɪst) *n.* a driver of a car.

motorman ('məʊtəsmən) *n.*, *pl.* **men.** **1.** the driver of an electric train. **2.** the operator of a motor.

motor scooter *n.* a light motorcycle with small wheels and an enclosed engine. Often shortened to **scooter.**

motor vehicle *n.* a road vehicle driven esp. by an internal-combustion engine.

motorway ('məʊtə,wei) *n.* *Brit.* a main road for fast-moving traffic, having separate carriageways for vehicles travelling in opposite directions.

Motown ('məʊ,təʊn) *n.* music combining rhythm and blues and pop, or gospel rhythms and modern ballad harmony.

M.O.T. test *n.* (in Britain) a compulsory annual test of the roadworthiness of motor vehicles over a certain age.

mottle ('mɒtl) *vb.* **1. (tr.)** to colour with streaks or blotches of different shades. **~n.** **2.** a mottled appearance, as of the surface of marble.

motto ('mɒtəʊ) *n.*, *pl.* **-toes** or **-tos.** **1.** a short saying expressing the guiding maxim or ideal of a family, organization, etc., esp. when part of a coat of arms. **2.** a verse or maxim contained in a paper cracker. **3.** a quotation prefacing a book or chapter of a book.

mouse French. (mu) *n.* a pointing look.

mould¹ or **U.S. mold** (məʊld) *n.* **1.** a shaped cavity used to give a definite form to fluid or plastic material. **2.** a frame on which something may be constructed. **3.** something shaped in or made on a mould. **4.** shape, form, design, or pattern. **5.** specific nature, character,

or type. **~vb.** (tr.) **6.** to make in a mould. **7.** to shape or form, as by using a mould. **8.** to influence or direct: *to mould opinion.* **9.** to cling to: *the skirt moulds her figure.* **10. Metallurgy.** to make (a material) into a mould used in casting. — **'mouldable** or **U.S. 'moldable adj.** — **'moulder** or **U.S. 'molder** *n.*

mould² or **U.S. mold** (məʊld) *n.* **1.** a coating or discoloration caused by various fungi that develop in a damp atmosphere on the surface of food, fabrics, etc. **2.** any of the fungi that cause this growth. **~vb.** **3.** to become or cause to become covered with this growth. **~Also called: mildew.**

mould³ or **U.S. mold** (məʊld) *n.* loose soil, esp. when rich in organic matter.

mouldboard or **U.S. moldboard** ('məʊld,bɔːd) *n.* the curved blade of a plough, which turns over the furrow.

moulder or **U.S. molder** ('məʊldə) *vb.* (often foll. by *away*) to crumble or cause to crumble, as through decay.

moulding or **U.S. molding** ('məʊldɪŋ) *n.* **1. Archit. a.** a shaped outline, esp. one used on cornices, etc. **b.** a shaped strip made of wood, stone, etc. **2.** something moulded.

mouldy or **U.S. moldy** ('məʊldɪ) *adj.* **-dier, -diest.** **1.** covered with mould. **2.** stale or musty, esp. from age or lack of use. **3. Sl.** boring; dull. — **'mouldiness** or **U.S. 'moldiness** *n.*

moult or **U.S. molt** (məʊlt) *vb.* **1.** (of birds, mammals, arthropods, etc.) to shed (feathers, hair, or cuticle). **~n.** **2.** the periodic process of moulting. — **'moulter** or **U.S. 'molder** *n.*

mound (maʊnd) *n.* **1.** a raised mass of earth, debris, etc. **2.** any heap or pile. **3.** a small natural hill. **4.** an artificial ridge of earth, stone, etc., as used for defence. **~vb.** **5.** (often foll. by *up*) to gather into a mound; heap. **6. (tr.)** to cover or surround with a mound: *to mound a grave.*

mount¹ (maʊnt) *vb.* **1.** to go up (a hill, stairs, etc.); climb. **2.** to get up on (a horse, a platform, etc.). **3. (intr., often foll. by up)** to increase; accumulate: *excitement mounted.* **4. (tr.)** to fix onto a backing, setting, or support: *to mount a photograph; to mount a slide.* **5. (tr.)** to provide with a horse for riding, or to place on a horse. **6. (of male animals)** to climb onto (a female animal) for copulation. **7. (tr.)** to prepare (a play, etc.) for production. **8. (tr.)** to plan and organise (a campaign, etc.). **9. (tr.)** to prepare (a skeleton, etc.) for exhibition as a specimen. **10. (tr.)** to place or carry (weapons) in such a position that they can be fired. **11. mount guard.** See **guard.** **~n.** **12.** a backing, setting, or support onto which something is fixed. **13.** the act or manner of mounting. **14.** a horse for riding. **15.** a slide used in microscopy. — **'mountable adj.** — **'mounter** *n.*

mount² (maʊnt) *n.* a mountain or hill: used in literature and (when cap.) in proper names: *Mount Everest.*

mountain ('maʊntɪn) *n.* **1. a.** a natural upward projection of the earth's surface, higher and steeper than a hill. **b. (as modifier):** *mountain scenery.* **c. (in combination):** a *mountaintop.* **2.** a huge heap or mass: *a mountain of papers.* **3.** anything of great quantity or size. **4.** a surplus of a commodity, esp. in the European Economic Community: *a butter mountain.*

mountain ash *n.* **1.** any of various trees, such as the European mountain ash or rowan, having clusters of small white flowers and bright red berries. **2.** any of several Australian eucalyptus trees, such as *Eucalyptus regnans.*

mountain cat *n.* any of various wild feline mammals, such as the bobcat, lynx, or puma.

mountaineer ('maʊntɪnɪə) *n.* **1.** a person who climbs mountains. **2.** a person living in a mountainous area. **~vb.** **3. (intr.)** to climb mountains. — **'mountaineering** *n.*

mountain goat *n.* any wild goat inhabiting mountainous regions.

mountain lion *n.* another name for **puma.**

mountainous ('maʊntɪnəs) *adj.* **1.** of or relating to mountains: *a mountainous region.* **2.** like a mountain, esp. in size or impressiveness.

mountain sickness *n.* nausea and shortness of breath caused by climbing to high altitudes.

mountebank ('maʊntɪ,bæŋk) *n.* **1.** (formerly) a person who sold quack medicines in public places. **2.** a charlatan; fake. **~vb.** **3. (intr.)** to play the mountebank. — **'mountebankery** *n.*

mounted ('maʊntɪd) *adj.* **1.** riding horses: *mounted police.* **2.** provided with a support, backing, etc.

Mountie or Mounty ('maunti) *n.*, *pl.* **Mounties.** *Inf.* a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

mounting ('mauntiŋ) *n.* another word for **mount** (sense 12).

mounting-block *n.* a block of stone formerly used to aid a person when mounting a horse.

mourn (mɔ:n) *vb.* 1. to feel or express sadness for the death or loss of (someone or something). 2. (*intr.*) to observe the customs of mourning, as by wearing black. — **'mourner** *n.*

mournful ('mɔ:nfʊl) *adj.* 1. evoking grief; sorrowful. 2. gloomy; sad. — **'mournfully** *adv.* — **'mournfulness** *n.*

mourning ('mɔ:nɪŋ) *n.* 1. the act or feelings of one who mourns; grief. 2. the conventional symbols of grief, such as the wearing of black. 3. the period of time during which a death is officially mourned. — *adj.* 4. of or relating to mourning. — **'mourningly** *adv.*

mourning band *n.* a piece of black material, esp. an armband, worn to indicate mourning.

mouse *n.* (maʊs), *pl.* **mice** (maɪs). 1. any of numerous small long-tailed rodents that are similar to but smaller than rats. See also **dormouse**. Cf. **house mouse**. 2. any of various related rodents, such as the jumping mouse. 3. a quiet, timid, or cowardly person. 4. *Sl.* a black eye. — *vb.* (maʊz). 5. to stalk and catch (mice, etc.). 6. (*intr.*) to go about stealthily. — **'mouse, like** *adj.*

mouser ('maʊzə, 'maʊsə) *n.* a cat or other animal that is used to catch mice.

mousetrap ('maʊs, træp) *n.* 1. any trap for catching mice, esp. one with a spring-loaded metal bar that is released by the taking of the bait. 2. *Brit. inf.* cheese of indifferent quality.

mousey ('maʊsi) *adj.* a variant spelling of **mousy**.

moussaka or mousaka (mʊ'sɜ:kə) *n.* a dish originating in the Balkan States, consisting of meat, aubergines, and tomatoes, topped with cheese sauce.

mousse (mu:s) *n.* 1. a light creamy dessert made with eggs, cream, fruit, etc., set with gelatine. 2. a similar dish made from fish or meat.

mousseline (French mus'lin) *n.* 1. a fine fabric made of rayon or silk. 2. a type of fine glass.

moustache or U.S. mustache (mɔ'stɑ:ʃ) *n.* 1. the unshaved growth of hair on the upper lip. 2. a similar growth of hair or bristles (in animals). 3. a mark like a moustache. — **'moustached or U.S. mus'tached** *adj.*

moustache cup *n.* a cup with a partial cover to protect a drinker's moustache.

mousy or mousey ('maʊsi) *adj.* **mousier, mousiest.** 1. resembling a mouse, esp. in colour. 2. shy or ineffectual. 3. infested with mice. — **'mously** *adv.* — **'mousiness** *n.*

mouth *n.* (maʊθ), *pl.* **mouths** (maʊðz). 1. the opening through which many animals take in food and issue vocal sounds. 2. the system of organs surrounding this opening, including the lips, tongue, teeth, etc. 3. the visible part of the lips on the face. 4. a person regarded as a consumer of food: *four mouths to feed*. 5. a particular manner of speaking: *a foul mouth*. 6. *Inf.* boastful, rude, or excessive talk: *he is all mouth*. 7. the point where a river issues into a sea or lake. 8. the opening of a container, such as a jar. 9. the opening of a cave, tunnel, volcano, etc. 10. that part of the inner lip of a horse on which the bit acts. 11. a pout; grimace. 12. by word of mouth, orally rather than by written means. 13. down in or at the mouth, in low spirits. — *vb.* (maʊð). 14. to speak or say (something) insincerely, esp. in public. 15. (*tr.*) to form (words) with movements of the lips but without speaking. 16. (*tr.*) to take (something) into the mouth or to move (something) around inside the mouth. 17. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *at*) to make a grimace. — **'mouther** ('maʊðə) *n.*

mouthful ('maʊθfʊl) *n.*, *pl.* **-fuls.** 1. as much as is held in the mouth at one time. 2. a small quantity, as of food. 3. a long word or phrase that is difficult to say.

mouth organ *n.* another name for **harmonica**.

mouthpiece ('maʊθ, pi:s) *n.* 1. the part of a wind instrument into which the player blows. 2. the part of a telephone receiver into which a person speaks. 3. the part of a container forming its mouth. 4. a person who acts as a spokesman, as for an organization. 5. a publication expressing the official views of an organization.

mouthwash ('maʊθ, wɒʃ) *n.* a medicated solution for gargling and cleansing the mouth.

movable or moveable ('mu:vəbəl) *adj.* 1. able to be moved; not fixed. 2. (esp. of Easter) varying in date from year to year. 3. (usually spelt **moveable**) *Law.* denoting or relating to personal property as opposed to

reality. — *n.* 4. (*often pl.*) a movable article, esp. a piece of furniture. — **'movability, 'moveability or 'moveableness, 'moveableness** *n.* — **'movably or 'moveably** *adv.*

move (mu:v) *vb.* 1. to go or take from one place to another; change in position. 2. (*usually intr.*) to change (one's dwelling, place of business, etc.). 3. to be or cause to be in motion; stir. 4. (*intr.*) (of machines, etc.) to work or operate. 5. (*tr.*) to cause (to do something); prompt. 6. (*intr.*) to begin to act: *move soon or we'll lose the order*. 7. (*intr.*) to associate oneself with a specified social circle: *to move in exalted spheres*. 8. (*intr.*) to make progress. 9. (*tr.*) to arouse affection, pity, or compassion in; touch. 10. (in board games) to change the position of (a piece) or (of a piece) to change position. 11. (of merchandise) to be disposed of by being bought. 12. (when *tr.*, often takes a clause as object; when *intr.*, often foll. by *for*) to suggest (a proposal) formally, as in debating or parliamentary procedure. 13. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *on* or *along*) to go away or to another place; leave. 14. to cause (the bowels) to evacuate or (of the bowels) to be evacuated. — *n.* 15. the act of moving; movement. 16. one of a sequence of actions, usually part of a plan; manoeuvre. 17. the act of moving one's residence, place of business, etc. 18. (in board games) a. a player's turn to move his piece. b. a manoeuvre of a piece. 19. **get a move on.** *Inf.* a. to get started. b. to hurry up. 20. **on the move.** *Inf.* a. travelling from place to place. b. advancing; succeeding. c. very active; busy.

move in *vb.* (*mainly adv.*) 1. (*also prep.*) Also (when *prep.*): **move into.** to occupy or take possession of (a new residence, place of business, etc.). 2. (*intr.*; often foll. by *on*) *Inf.* to creep close (to), as in preparing to capture. 3. (*intr.*; often foll. by *on*) *Inf.* to try to gain power or influence (over).

movement ('mu:vmənt) *n.* 1. a. the act, process, or result of moving. b. an instance of moving. 2. the manner of moving. 3. a. a group of people with a common ideology. b. the organized action of such a group. 4. a trend or tendency. 5. the driving and regulating mechanism of a watch or clock. 6. (*often pl.*) a person's location and activities during a specific time. 7. a. the evacuation of the bowels. b. the matter evacuated. 8. *Music.* a principal self-contained section of a symphony, sonata, etc. 9. tempo or pace, as in music or literature. 10. *Fine arts.* the appearance of motion in painting, sculpture, etc. 11. *Prosody.* the rhythmical structure of verse. 12. a positional change by one or a number of military units. 13. a change in the market price of a security or commodity.

mover ('mu:və) *n.* 1. *Inf.* a person, business, idea, etc., that is advancing or progressing. 2. a person or thing that moves. 3. a person who moves a proposal, as in a debate. 4. *U.S.* a removal firm or a person who works for one.

movie ('mu:vi) *n.* *U.S. a.* an informal word for **film** (sense 1). b. (as modifier): **movie ticket**.

moving ('mu:vɪŋ) *adj.* 1. arousing or touching the emotions. 2. changing or capable of changing position. 3. causing motion. — **'movingly** *adv.*

moving staircase or stairway *n.* less common terms for **escalator**.

mow (mɔʊ) *vb.* **mowing, mowed, mowed or mown.** 1. to cut down (grass, crops, etc.), with a hand implement or machine. 2. (*tr.*) to cut the growing vegetation of (a field, lawn, etc.). — **'mower** *n.*

mow down *vb.* (*tr.*, *adv.*) to kill in large numbers, esp. by gunfire.

mown (mɔʊn) *vb.* the past participle of **mow**.

mp or m.p. *Music. abbrev. for mezzo piano:* moderately soft.

M.P. *abbrev. for:* 1. (in Britain, Canada, etc.) Member of Parliament. 2. (in Britain) Metropolitan Police. 3. Military Police. 4. Mounted Police.

m.p. *abbrev. for melting point.*

m.p.g. *abbrev. for miles per gallon.*

m.p.h. *abbrev. for miles per hour.*

M.Phil. or M.Ph. *abbrev. for Master of Philosophy.*

Mr. ('mɪstə) *n.*, *pl.* **Messrs.** ('mesəz), a title used before a man's name or before some office that he holds: *Mr. Jones; Mr. President*.

Mrs. ('mɪzɪz) *n.*, *pl.* **Mrs. or Mesdames.** a title used before the name or names of a married woman.

MS. or ms. *pl.* **MSS. or mss.** *abbrev. for manuscript.*

M.S. *abbrev. for:* 1. Master of Surgery. 2. (on grave-stones, etc.) *memoriae sacrum*. 3. multiple sclerosis.

Ms. (miz, mɒs) *n.* a title substituted for **Mrs.** or **Miss** to avoid making a distinction between married and unmarried women.

M.Sc. *abbrev.* for Master of Science.

M.S.C. (in Britain) *abbrev.* for Manpower Services Commission.

MSG *abbrev.* for monosodium glutamate.

Msr. *abbrev.* for Monsignor.

M.S.T. *abbrev.* for Mountain Standard Time.

Mt. or **mt.** *abbrev. for:* 1. mount: **Mt. Everest**. 2. Also: **mntn.** mountain.

M.Tech. *abbrev.* for Master of Technology.

mu (mjʊː) *n.* the 12th letter in the Greek alphabet (**Μ, μ**).

much (mʌtʃ) *determiner.* 1. *a. (usually used with a negative) a great quantity or degree of: there isn't much honey left. b. (as pronoun): much has been learned from this.* 2. *a bit much. Inf.* rather excessive. 3. *make much of. a. (used with a negative) to make sense of: he couldn't make much of her babble. b. to give importance to: she made much of this fact. c. to pay flattering attention to: the reporters made much of the film star.* 4. *not much of.* not to any appreciable degree or extent: *he's not much of an actor really.* 5. *not up to much. Inf.* of a low standard: *this beer is not up to much.* ~*adv.* 6. *considerably: they're much better now.* 7. *practically; nearly (esp. in much the same).* 8. *(usually used with a negative) often; a great deal: it doesn't happen much in this country.* 9. *(as) much as.* even though; although: *much as I'd like to, I can't come.* ~*See also more, most.*

muchness ('mʌtʃnəs) *n.* 1. *Arch. or inf.* magnitude. 2. *a much of a muchness. Brit.* very similar.

mucilage ('mjʊːsɪlɪdʒ) *n.* 1. a sticky preparation, such as gum or glue, used as an adhesive. 2. a complex glutinous carbohydrate secreted by certain plants. —**mucilaginous** ('mjʊːsɪ'lædʒɪnəs) *adj.*

muck (mʌk) *n.* 1. farmyard dung or decaying vegetable matter. 2. an organic soil rich in humus and used as a fertilizer. 3. dirt or filth. 4. *Sl., chiefly Brit.* trash. 5. *make a muck of. Sl., chiefly Brit.* to ruin or spoil. ~*vb.* (tr.) 6. to spread manure upon (fields, etc.). 7. to soil or pollute. 8. (usually foll. by up) *Brit. sl.* to ruin or spoil. 9. (often foll. by out) to clear muck from. —**'mucky adj.**

muck about *vb. Brit. sl.* 1. (intr.) to waste time; misbehave. 2. (when intr., foll. by with) to interfere with, annoy, or waste the time of.

mucker ('mʌkə) *n. Brit. sl. a. a friend; mate. b. a coarse person.* —**'muckerish adj.**

muck in *vb. (intr., adv.) Brit. sl.* to share duties, work, etc. (with other people).

muckrake ('mʌk, reɪk) *vb. (intr.)* to seek out and expose scandal, esp. concerning public figures. —**'muck-raker n.** —**'muck,raking n.**

muckswat ('mʌk,swet) *n. Brit. inf.* profuse sweat or a state of profuse sweating.

mucous membrane *n.* a mucus-secreting membrane that lines body cavities or passages that are open to the external environment.

mucus ('mjʊːkəs) *n.* the slimy protective secretion of the mucous membranes. —**mu'cosity n.** —**'mucous adj.**

mud (mʌd) *n.* 1. a fine-grained soft wet deposit that occurs on the ground after rain, at the bottom of ponds, etc. 2. *Inf.* slander or defamation. 3. *clear as mud.* not at all clear. 4. *here's mud in your eye. Inf.* a humorous drinking toast. 5. (someone's) name is *mud. Inf.* (someone) is disgraced. 6. *throw (or sling) mud at. Inf.* slander; vilify. ~*vb.* **mudding, mudded.** 7. (tr.) to soil or cover with mud.

mud bath *n.* 1. a medicinal bath in heated mud. 2. a dirty or muddy occasion, state, etc.

muddle ('mʌdʒl) *vb. (tr.)* 1. (often foll. by up) to mix up (objects, items, etc.). 2. to confuse. 3. *U.S.* to mix or stir (alcoholic drinks, etc.). ~*n.* 4. a state of physical or mental confusion. —**muddler** ('mʌdʒl) *n.*

muddleheaded ('mʌdʒl'hedɪd) *adj.* mentally confused or vague. —**'muddle'headedness n.**

muddle through *vb. (intr., adv.) Chiefly Brit.* to succeed in spite of lack of organization.

muddy ('mʌdi) *adj. -dier, -diest.* 1. covered or filled with mud. 2. not clear or bright: *muddy colours.* 3. *cloudy: a muddy liquid.* 4. (esp. of thoughts) confused or vague. ~*vb.* **-dying, -died.** 5. to become or cause to become muddy. —**'muddily adv.** —**'muddiness n.**

mud flat *n.* a tract of low muddy land that is covered at high tide and exposed at low tide.

mudguard ('mʌd,gɑːd) *n.* a curved part of a motorcycle, bicycle, etc., attached above the wheels to reduce

the amount of water or mud thrown up by them. *U.S. name: fender.*

mudlark ('mʌd,lɑːk) *n.* 1. (formerly) one who made a living by picking up odds and ends in the mud of tidal rivers. 2. *Sl., now rare.* a street urchin. 3. *Austral. sl.* a racehorse that runs well on a wet or muddy course.

mudpack ('mʌd,pæk) *n.* a cosmetic astringent paste containing fuller's earth.

mudslinging ('mʌd,slɪŋɪŋ) *n.* casting malicious slurs on an opponent, esp. in politics. —**'mud,slinger n.**

muesli ('mjʊːzli) *n.* a mixture of rolled oats, nuts, fruit, etc., eaten with milk.

muezzin (muː'ezɪn) *n. Islam.* the official of a mosque who calls the faithful to prayer from the minaret.

muff (mʌf) *n.* an open-ended cylinder of fur or cloth into which the hands are placed for warmth.

muff (mʌf) *vb.* 1. to perform (an action) awkwardly. 2. (tr.) to bungle (a shot, catch, etc.). ~*n.* 3. any unskilful play, esp. a dropped catch. 4. any bungled action. 5. a bungler.

muffin ('mʌfɪn) *n.* 1. *Brit.* a thick round baked yeast roll, usually toasted and served with butter. 2. *U.S.* a small cup-shaped sweet bread roll, usually eaten hot with butter.

muffin man *n. Brit. (formerly)* an itinerant seller of muffins.

muffle ('mʌfl) *vb. (tr.)* 1. (often foll. by up) to wrap up (the head) in a scarf, cloak, etc., esp. for warmth. 2. to deaden (a sound or noise), esp. by wrapping. 3. to prevent (the expression of something) by (someone). ~*n.* 4. something that muffles. 5. a kiln with an inner chamber for firing porcelain, enamel, etc.

muffler ('mʌflə) *n.* 1. a thick scarf, collar, etc. 2. the *U.S.* name for **silencer** (sense 1).

mufti ('mʌftɪ) *n., pl. -tis.* civilian dress, esp. as worn by a person who normally wears a military uniform.

mug (mʌg) *n.* 1. a drinking vessel with a handle, usually cylindrical and made of earthenware. 2. Also called: **mugful.** the quantity held by a mug or its contents.

mug (mʌg) *n.* 1. *Sl.* a person's face or mouth. 2. *Sl.* a gullible person; esp. one who is swindled easily. 3. *a mug's game.* a worthless activity. ~*vb.* **mugging,** **mugged.** 4. (tr.) *Inf.* to attack or rob (someone) violently. —**'mugger n.**

muggins ('mʌɡɪnz) *n.* 1. *Brit. sl.* a simpleton. 2. a card game.

muggy ('mʌɡɪ) *adj. -gier, -giest.* (of weather, air, etc.) unpleasantly warm and humid. —**'mugginess n.**

mug up *vb. (adv.) Brit. sl.* to study (a subject) hard, esp. for an exam.

Muhammadan or Muhammedan (mu'hæməd'n) *n., adj.* another word (not in Muslim use) for **Muslim**.

mukluk ('mʌklʌk) *n.* a soft boot, usually of sealskin, worn by Eskimos.

mulatto ('mjʊːlətəʊ) *n., pl. -tos or -toes.* 1. a person having one Negro and one White parent. ~*adj.* 2. of a light brown colour; tawny.

mulberry ('mʌlbəri, -bri) *n., pl. -ries.* 1. a tree having edible blackberry-like fruit, such as the white mulberry, the leaves of which are used to feed silkworms. 2. the fruit of any of these trees. 3. any of several similar or related trees. 4. a dark purple colour.

mulch (mʌltʃ) *n.* 1. half-rotten vegetable matter, peat, etc., used to prevent soil erosion or enrich the soil. ~*vb.* 2. (tr.) to cover (the surface of land) with mulch.

mulct (mʌkt) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to cheat or defraud. 2. to fine (a person). ~*n.* 3. a fine or penalty.

mule ('mjʊːl) *n.* 1. the sterile offspring of a male donkey and a female horse, used as a beast of burden. 2. any hybrid animal: a *mule canary*. 3. Also called: **spinning mule,** a machine that spins cotton into yarn and winds the yarn on spindles. 4. *Inf.* an obstinate or stubborn person.

mule ('mjʊːl) *n.* a backless shoe or slipper.

muleteer ('mjʊːlɪ'tɪə) *n.* a person who drives mules.

mulish ('mjʊːlɪʃ) *adj.* stubborn; obstinate. —**'mulishly adv.** —**'mulishness n.**

mul (mʌl) *vb. (tr.)* (often foll. by over) to study or ponder.

mul (mʌl) *vb. (tr.)* to heat (wine, ale, etc.) with sugar and spices.

mul (mʌl) *n. Scot.* a promontory.

mullah, mulla ('mʌlə, 'mʊlə), or **mollah** *n.* a Muslim scholar, teacher, or religious leader: also used as a title of respect.

mullet ('malɪt) *n.* any of various teleost food fishes such as the grey mullet or red mullet.

muligatawny (ˌmʌlɪɡə'tɔːni) *n.* a curry-flavoured soup of Anglo-Indian origin, made with meat stock.

mullion ('mʌlɪən) *n.* 1. a vertical member between the casements or panes of a window. ~*vb.* 2. (tr.) to furnish (a window, etc.) with mullions. —'mullioned *adj.*

multangular (mʌl'tæŋɡjʊlə) or **multiangular** *adj.* having many angles.

multi- *combining form.* 1. many or much: *multimillion.* 2. more than one: *multistorey.*

multifarious (ˌmʌltɪ'feəriəs) *adj.* having many parts of great variety. —'multi'fariously *adv.* —'multi'fariousness *n.*

multiflora rose (ˌmʌltɪ'flɔːrə) *n.* an Asian climbing shrubby rose having clusters of small fragrant flowers.

multiform (ˌmʌltɪ'fɔːm) *adj.* having many forms. —'multiformity (ˌmʌltɪ'fɔːmɪti) *n.*

multilateral (ˌmʌltɪ'lætərəl, -lætərl) *adj.* 1. of or involving more than two nations or parties: a *multilateral pact.* 2. having many sides. —'multi'laterally *adv.*

multilingual (ˌmʌltɪ'lɪŋɡwəl) *adj.* 1. able to speak more than two languages. 2. written or expressed in more than two languages.

multimedia (ˌmʌltɪ'mɪdiə) *pl. n.* the combined use of media such as television, slides, etc.

multimillionaire (ˌmʌltɪ,mɪljə'neɪ) *n.* a person with a fortune of several million pounds, dollars, etc.

multinational (ˌmʌltɪ'næʃənəl) *adj.* (of a large business company) operating in several countries.

multiparous (mʌl'tɪpərəs) *adj.* (of certain species of mammal) producing many offspring at one birth.

multiple ('mʌltɪpl) *adj.* 1. having or involving more than one part, individual, etc. 2. *Electronics, U.S.* (of a circuit) having a number of conductors in parallel. ~*n.* 3. the product of a given number or polynomial and any other one: 6 is a *multiple* of 2. —'multiply *adv.*

multiple-choice *adj.* having a number of possible given answers out of which the correct one must be chosen.

multiple personality *n. Psychiatry.* a mental disorder in which an individual's personality appears to have become separated into two or more distinct personalities: Nontechnical name: *split personality.*

multiple sclerosis *n.* a chronic progressive disease of the central nervous system, resulting in speech and visual disorders, tremor, muscular incoordination, partial paralysis, etc.

multiplex ('mʌltɪ,pleks) *n.* 1. *Telecomm.* a. the use of a common communications channel for sending two or more messages or signals. b. (as modifier): a *multiplex transmitter.* ~*adj.* 2. a less common word for **multiple**.

multiplicand (ˌmʌltɪplɪ'kænd) *n.* a number to be multiplied by another number, the **multiplier**.

multiplication (ˌmʌltɪplɪ'keɪʃən) *n.* 1. a mathematical operation, the inverse of division, in which the product of two or more numbers or quantities is calculated. Usually written $a \times b$, $a.b$, ab . 2. the act of multiplying or state of being multiplied. 3. the act or process in animals, plants, or people, of reproducing or breeding.

multiplication sign *n.* the symbol \times , placed between numbers to be multiplied.

multiplication table *n.* one of a group of tables giving the results of multiplying two numbers together.

multiplicity (ˌmʌltɪ'plɪsɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. a large number or great variety. 2. the state of being multiple.

multiply ('mʌltɪ,plai) *vb. -plying, -plied.* 1. to increase or cause to increase in number, quantity, or degree. 2. (tr.) to increase (one number) by another number using multiplication. 3. (intr.) to increase in number by reproduction. —'multi,pliable or 'multi,pliable *adj.* —'multi,plier *n.*

multistage ('mʌltɪ,steɪdʒ) *adj.* 1. (of a rocket or missile) having several stages, each of which can be jettisoned after it has burnt out. 2. (of a turbine, compressor, or supercharger) having more than one rotor. 3. (of any process or device) having more than one stage.

multistorey (ˌmʌltɪ'stɔːri) *adj.* 1. (of a building) having many storeys. ~*n.* 2. a multistorey car park.

multitude ('mʌltɪ,tjuːd) *n.* 1. a large gathering of people. 2. the common people. 3. a large number.

4. the state or quality of being numerous. —'multi'tudinous *adj.*

mum ('mʌm) *n.* Chiefly *Brit.* an informal word for mother.

mum ('mʌm) *adj.* 1. keeping information, etc., to oneself, silent. ~*n.* 2. **mum's the word.** (*interj.*) silence or secrecy is to be observed.

mum ('mʌm) *vb. mumming, mummied.* (*intr.*) to act in a mummer's play.

mumble ('mʌmbəl) *vb.* 1. to utter indistinctly, as with the mouth partly closed. 2. *Rare.* to chew (food) ineffectually. ~*n.* 3. an indistinct or low utterance or sound. —'mumbler *n.* —'mumbly *adv.*

mumbo jumbo ('mʌmbəʊ) *n., pl. mumbo jumbos.* 1. foolish religious reverence, ritual, or incantation. 2. meaningless or unnecessarily complicated language. 3. an object of superstitious awe or reverence.

mu meson (mjʊː) *n.* a former name for **muon**.

mummer ('mʌmə) *n.* 1. one of a group of masked performers in a folk play or mime. 2. *Humorous or derog.* an actor.

mummerly ('mʌmərlɪ) *n., pl. -meries.* 1. a performance by mummers. 2. hypocritical or ostentatious ceremony.

mummy ('mʌmɪ) *n., pl. -mies.* 1. an embalmed or preserved body, esp. as prepared for burial in ancient Egypt. 2. a mass of pulp. 3. a dark brown pigment. —'mummifi'cation *n.* —'mummi,fy *vb.*

mummy ('mʌmɪ) *n., pl. -mies.* Chiefly *Brit.* a child's word for mother.

mumps ('mʌmps) *n.* 1. an acute contagious viral disease of the parotid salivary glands, characterized by swelling of the affected parts, fever, and pain beneath the ear. 2. sulks. —'mumpish *adj.*

mun. *abbrev.* for municipal.

munch (mʌntʃ) *vb.* to chew (food, etc.) steadily, esp. with a crunching noise.

mundane ('mʌndeɪn, mʌn'deɪn) *adj.* 1. everyday, ordinary, or banal. 2. relating to the world or worldly matters. —'mundanely *adv.* —'mundaneness *n.*

municipal (mjuː'nɪsɪpəl) *adj.* of or relating to a town, city, or borough or its local government. —'mu,nicipali'zation or -l'sation *n.* —'mu'nicipa,lize or -ise *vb.* —'mu'nicipally *adv.*

municipality (mjuː'nɪsɪ'pælɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. a city, town, or district enjoying local self-government. 2. the governing body of such a unit.

munificent (mjuː'nɪfɪsənt) *adj.* 1. (of a person) generous; bountiful. 2. (of a gift, etc.) liberal. —'mu'nificence *n.* —'mu'nificently *adv.*

muniments ('mjuːnɪmənts) *pl. n.* Law. the title deeds and other documentary evidence relating to the title to land.

munition (mjuː'nɪʃən) *vb. (tr.)* to supply with munitions.

munitions (mjuː'nɪʃənz) *pl. n. (sometimes sing.)* military equipment and stores, esp. ammunition.

Munro (mʌn'rəʊ) *n., pl. -os.* Mountaineering. any Scottish peak over 3000 feet high.

muon ('mjuːɒn) *n.* a positive or negative elementary particle with a mass 207 times that of an electron. It was originally called the **mu meson**.

mural ('mjuərəl) *n.* 1. a large painting on a wall. ~*adj.* 2. of or relating to a wall. —'muralist *n.*

murder ('mɜːdə) *n.* 1. the unlawful premeditated killing of one human being by another. Cf. **manslaughter**. 2. *Inf.* something dangerous, difficult, or unpleasant: *driving around London is murder.* 3. **cry blue murder.** *Inf.* to make or cause an outcry. 4. **get away with murder.** *Inf.* to escape censure; do as one pleases. ~*vb. (mainly tr.)* 5. (*also intr.*) to kill (someone) unlawfully with premeditation or during the commission of a crime. 6. to kill brutally. 7. *Inf.* to destroy; ruin. 8. *Inf.* to defeat completely; beat decisively: *the home team murdered their opponents.* —'murderer *n.* —'murderess *fem. n.* —'murderous *adj.* —'murderously *adv.* —'murderousness *n.*

muriatic acid (ˌmjuəri'æɪk) *n.* a former name for hydrochloric acid.

murk or mirk (mɜːk) *n.* 1. gloomy darkness. ~*adj.* 2. an archaic variant of **murky**.

murky or mirky ('mɜːki) *adj.* murkier, murkiest or mirkier, mirkiest. 1. gloomy or dark. 2. cloudy or

multicellular *adj.*
multicoloured *adj.*
multidimensional *adj.*

multidirectional *adj.*
multifaceted *adj.*
multihull *n.*

multinuclear *adj.*
multipurpose *adj.*
multiracial *adj.*

impenetrable as with smoke or fog. —**'murlily** or **'mirkily** *adv.* —**'murliness** or **'mirkiness** *n.*

murmur ('m3:mə) *n.* 1. a continuous low indistinct sound, as of distant voices. 2. an indistinct utterance: a murmur of satisfaction. 3. a complaint; grumble: *he made no murmur at my suggestion.* 4. *Med.* any abnormal soft blowing sound heard usually over the chest (**heart murmur**). ~*vb.* 5. to utter (something) in a murmur. 6. (*intr.*) to complain. —**'murmurer** *n.* —**'murmuringly** *adv.* —**'murmurous** *adj.*

murphy ('m3:fi) *n., pl. -phies.* a dialect or informal word for **potato**.

murrain ('marin) *n.* 1. any plague-like disease in cattle. 2. *Arch.* a plague.

mus. *abbrev. for:* 1. museum. 2. music. 3. musical.

Mus.B. or **Mus.Bac.** *abbrev. for* Bachelor of Music.

muscat ('maskət, -kæt) *n.* 1. any of various grapevines that produce sweet white grapes used for making wine or raisins. 2. another name for **muscatel**.

muscatel (,maskə'tel) or **muscadell** *n.* 1. Also called: **muscat**. a rich sweet wine made from muscat grapes. 2. the grape or raisin from a muscat vine.

muscle ('masl) *n.* 1. a tissue composed of bundles of elongated cells capable of contraction and relaxation to produce movement in an organ or part. 2. an organ composed of muscle tissue. 3. strength or force. ~*vb.* 4. (*intr.*; often foll. by *in, on, etc.*) *Inf.* to force one's way (*in*). —**'muscularly** *adv.*

muscle-bound *adj.* 1. having overdeveloped and inelastic muscles. 2. lacking flexibility.

muscleman ('masl,mæn) *n., pl. -men.* 1. a man with highly developed muscles. 2. a henchman employed by a gangster, etc., to intimidate or use violence upon victims.

Muscovite ('maskə,vait) *n.* 1. a native or inhabitant of Moscow. ~*adj.* 2. an archaic word for **Russian**.

Muscovy duck ('maskəvi) or **musk duck** *n.* a large crested widely domesticated South American duck, having a greenish-black plumage with white markings and a large red caruncle on the bill.

muscular ('maskjələ) *adj.* 1. having well-developed muscles; brawny. 2. of, relating to, or consisting of muscle. —**'muscularity** (,maskju'lærɪti) *n.* —**'muscularly** *adv.*

muscular dystrophy *n.* a genetic disease characterized by progressive deterioration and wasting of muscle fibres.

musculature ('maskjulətə) *n.* 1. the arrangement of muscles in an organ or part. 2. the total muscular system of an organism.

Mus.D. or **Mus.Doc.** *abbrev. for* Doctor of Music.

mute ('mjuz) *vb.* 1. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *on* or *about*) to reflect (about) or ponder (on), usually in silence. 2. (*intr.*) to gaze thoughtfully. ~*n.* 3. a state of abstraction.

musé ('mjuz) *n.* (often preceded by *the*) a goddess that inspires a creative artist, esp. a poet.

Muse ('mjuz) *n.* *Greek myth.* any of nine sister goddesses, each of whom was regarded as the protectress of a different art or science.

museum ('mju:'ziəm) *n.* a building where objects of historical, artistic, or scientific interest are exhibited and preserved.

museum piece *n.* 1. an object of sufficient age or interest to be kept in a museum. 2. *Inf.* a person or thing regarded as antiquated.

mush ('maʃ) *n.* 1. a soft pulpy mass or consistency. 2. *U.S.* a thick porridge made from corn meal. 3. *Inf.* cloying sentimentality.

mush ('maʃ) *interj.* 1. an order to dogs in a sled team to start up or go faster. ~*n.* 2. a journey with such a sled.

mushroom ('maʃru:m, -rəm) *n.* 1. a. the fleshy spore-producing body of any of various fungi, typically consisting of a cap at the end of a stem. Some species, such as the field mushroom, are edible. *Cf.* **toadstool**. b. (as *modifier*): **mushroom soup**. 2. a. something resembling a mushroom in shape or rapid growth. b. (as *modifier*): **mushroom expansion**. ~*vb.* (*intr.*) 3. to grow rapidly: demand mushroomed overnight. 4. to assume a mushroom-like shape.

mushroom cloud *n.* the large mushroom-shaped cloud produced by a nuclear explosion.

mushy ('maʃi) *adj.* **mushier**, **mushiest**. 1. soft and pulpy. 2. *Inf.* excessively sentimental or emotional. —**'mushily** *adv.* —**'mushiness** *n.*

music ('mjuzɪk) *n.* 1. an art form consisting of sequences of sounds in time, esp. tones of definite pitch

organized melodically, harmonically and rhythmically. 2. the sounds so produced, esp. by singing or musical instruments. 3. written or printed music, such as a score or set of parts. 4. any sequence of sounds perceived as pleasing or harmonious. 5. **face the music**. *Inf.* to accept the consequences of one's actions.

musical ('mjuzɪkəl) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or used in music. 2. harmonious; melodious: **musical laughter**. 3. talented in or fond of music. 4. involving or set to music. ~*n.* 5. Also called: **musical comedy**, a light romantic play or film having dialogue interspersed with songs and dances. —**'musically** *adv.* —**'musicality** *n.*

musical box or **music box** *n.* a mechanical instrument that plays tunes by means of pins on a revolving cylinder striking the tuned teeth of a comblike metal plate.

musical chairs *n.* a party game in which players walk around chairs while music is played, there being one less chair than players. Whenever the music stops, the player who fails to find a chair is eliminated.

music centre *n.* a single hi-fi unit containing a turntable, amplifier, radio and cassette player.

music drama *n.* 1. an opera in which the musical and dramatic elements are of equal importance and strongly interfused. 2. the genre of such operas.

music hall *n.* *Chiefly Brit.* 1. a variety entertainment consisting of songs, comic turns, etc. *U.S. name:* **vaudeville**. 2. a theatre at which such entertainments are staged.

musician ('mju:'zɪən) *n.* a person who plays or composes music, esp. as a profession. —**'musicianly** *adj.* —**'musicianship** *n.*

musicology ('mju:zɪkələdʒɪ) *n.* the scholarly study of music. —**'musicological** ('mju:zɪkə'lɒdʒɪkəl) *adj.* —**'musicologist** *n.*

music paper *n.* paper ruled or printed with a stave for writing music.

musk (mask) *n.* 1. a strong-smelling glandular secretion of the male musk deer, used in perfumery. 2. a similar substance produced by certain other animals, such as the civet and otter, or manufactured synthetically. 3. a North American plant which has yellow flowers and was formerly cultivated for its musky scent. 4. the smell of musk or a similar heady smell. 5. (*modifier*) containing or resembling musk: **musk oil**.

musk deer *n.* a small central Asian mountain deer. The male secretes musk.

musk duck *n.* 1. another name for **Muscovy duck**. 2. a duck inhabiting swamps, lakes, and streams in Australia. The male emits a musky odour.

muskeg ('mas,keg) *n.* *Chiefly Canad.* an undrained boggy hollow.

muskellunge ('maskə,lʌndʒ) or **maskinonge** ('maskə,nɒndʒ) *n., pl. -lunes, -nonges* or **-lunge, -nonge**, a large North American freshwater game fish, related to the pike. Often shortened (informally) to **musky** or **muskie**.

musket ('maskɪt) *n.* a long-barrelled muzzle-loading shoulder gun used between the 16th and 18th centuries by infantry soldiers. —**'muske'iteer** *n.* —**'musketry** *n.*

muskmelon ('mask,melən) *n.* 1. any of several varieties of the melon, such as the cantaloupe and honeydew. 2. the fruit of any of these melons, having ribbed or warty rind and sweet yellow, white, or green flesh with a musky aroma.

musk ox *n.* a large bovid mammal, having a dark shaggy coat, short legs, and widely spaced downward-curving horns: now confined to the tundras of Canada and Greenland.

muskrat ('mask,ræt) *n., pl. -rats* or **-rat**. 1. a North American beaver-like amphibious rodent, closely related to but larger than the voles. 2. the brown fur of this animal. ~Also called: **musquash**.

musk rose *n.* a Mediterranean rose, cultivated for its white musk-scented flowers.

musky ('maskɪ) *adj.* **muskie**, **muskiest**, resembling the smell of musk; having a heady or pungent sweet aroma. —**'muskinskiness** *n.*

Muslim ('mʊzlim, 'mʌz-) or **Moslem** *n., pl. -lms* or **-lim**. 1. a follower of the religion of Islam. ~*adj.* 2. of or relating to Islam, its doctrines, culture, etc. ~Also (but not in Muslim use): **Mohammedan**, **Muhammadan**. —**'Muslimism** or **'Moslemism** *n.*

muslin ('mʌzlin) *n.* a fine plain-weave cotton fabric.

musquash ('maskwʌʃ) *n.* another name for **muskrat**, esp. the fur.

muss (mas) *U.S. inf.* ~*vb.* 1. (*tr.*; often foll. by *up*) to

make untidy; rumple. ~*n.* 2. a state of disorder; muddle. —'mussy *adj.*

mussel ('mas'l) *n.* 1. any of various marine bivalves, esp. the edible mussel, having a dark slightly elongated shell and living attached to rocks, etc. 2. any of various freshwater bivalves, attached to rocks, sand, etc., having a flattened oval shell (a source of mother-of-pearl).

Mussulman ('mas'lman) *n. pl. -mans.* an archaic word for **Muslim**.

must¹ ('mʌst; unstressed məst, məs) *vb.* (takes an infinitive without to or an implied infinitive) used as an auxiliary: 1. to express obligation or compulsion: *you must pay your dues.* In this sense, *must* does not form a negative. If used with a negative infinitive it indicates obligatory prohibition. 2. to indicate necessity: *I must go to the bank tomorrow.* 3. to indicate the probable correctness of a statement: *he must be there by now.* 4. to indicate inevitability: *all good things must come to an end.* 5. to express resolution: a. on the part of the speaker: *I must finish this.* b. on the part of another or others: *let him get drunk if he must.* 6. (used emphatically) to express conviction or certainty on the part of the speaker: *you must be joking.* 7. (foll. by away) used with an implied verb of motion to express compelling haste: *I must away.* ~*n.* 8. an essential or necessary thing: *a safety belt in a car is a must these days.*

must¹ ('mʌst) *n.* the pressed juice of grapes or other fruit ready for fermentation.

moustache (mə'sta:tʃ) *n.* the U.S. spelling of **moustache**. —'mus'tached *adj.*

mustachio (mə'sta:tʃi:əʊ) *n., pl. -chios.* (often *pl.*) Often humorous. a moustache, esp. when bushy or elaborately shaped. —'mus'tachioed *adj.*

mustang ('mʌstæŋ) *n.* a small breed of horse, often wild or half wild, found in the southwestern U.S.

mustard ('mʌstəd) *n.* 1. any of several Eurasian plants, esp. black mustard and white mustard, having yellow flowers and slender pods: cultivated for their pungent seeds. 2. a paste made from the powdered seeds of any of these plants and used as a condiment. 3. a brownish-yellow colour. 4. *Sl.* zest or enthusiasm.

mustard and cress *n.* seedlings of white mustard and garden cress, used in salads, etc.

mustard gas *n.* an oily liquid vesicant compound used in chemical warfare. Its vapour causes blindness and burns.

mustard plaster *n. Med.* a mixture of powdered black mustard seeds applied to the skin for its counter-irritant effects.

muster ('mʌstə) *vb.* 1. to call together (numbers of men) for duty, inspection, etc., or (of men) to assemble in this way. 2. **muster in** or **out.** U.S. to enlist into or discharge from military service. 3. (*tr.*; sometimes foll. by *up*) to summon or gather: *to muster one's arguments;* *to muster up courage.* 4. *Austral. & N.Z.* to round up (stock). ~*n.* 5. an assembly of military personnel for duty, etc. 6. a collection, assembly, or gathering. 7. *Austral. & N.Z.* the act of rounding up stock. 8. *pass muster.* to be acceptable.

musth or **must** ('mʌst) *n.* (often preceded by *in*) a state of frenzied sexual excitement in the males of certain large mammals, esp. elephants.

musty ('mʌsti) *adj. -tier, -tiest.* 1. smelling or tasting old, stale, or mouldy. 2. old-fashioned, dull, or hackneyed: *musty ideas.* —'mustily *adv.* —'mustiness *n.*

mutable ('mjʊ:təb'l) *adj.* able to or tending to change. —'muta'bility or 'mutableness *n.* —'mutably *adv.*

mutant ('mjʊ:tənt) *n.* 1. Also called: **mutation**, an animal, organism, or gene that has undergone mutation. ~*adj.* 2. of, undergoing, or resulting from mutation.

mutation ('mjʊ:t'eɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act or process of mutating; change; alteration. 2. a change or alteration. 3. a change in the chromosomes or genes of a cell which may affect the structure and development of the resultant offspring. 4. another word for **mutant** (sense 1). 5. a physical characteristic of an individual resulting from this type of chromosomal change. 6. *Phonetics.* a. (in Germanic languages) another name for **umlaut**. b. (in Celtic languages) a phonetic change in certain initial consonants caused by a preceding word. —'mu'tate *vb.* —'mu'tational *adj.* —'mu'tationally *adv.*

mutch ('mʌtʃ) *n.* a close-fitting linen cap, formerly worn by women and children in Scotland.

mute ('mjʊ:t) *adj.* 1. not giving out sound or speech; silent. 2. unable to speak; dumb. 3. unspoken or unexpressed. 4. *Law.* (of a person arraigned on indictment) refusing to answer a charge. 5. another word for **plosive**. 6. (of a letter in a word) silent. ~*n.* 7. a person

who is unable to speak. 8. *Law.* a person who refuses to plead. 9. any of various devices used to soften the tone of stringed or brass instruments. 10. *Phonetics.* a plosive consonant. 11. a silent letter. 12. an actor in a dumb-show. 13. a hired mourner. ~*vb. (tr.)* 14. to reduce the volume of (a musical instrument) by means of a mute, soft pedal, etc. 15. to subdue the strength of (a colour, tone, lighting, etc.). —'mutely *adv.* —'mute-ness *n.*

mute swan *n.* a Eurasian swan with a pure white plumage and an orange-red bill.

muti ('mʊ:ti) *n. S. African.* medicine, esp. herbal.

mutilate ('mjʊ:ti,leɪt) *vb. (tr.)* to damage or maim, esp. by depriving of a limb, essential part, etc. —'muti'lation *n.* —'muti,lative *adj.* —'muti,lator *n.*

mutiny ('mjʊ:tni) *n., pl. -nies.* 1. open rebellion against constituted authority, esp. by seamen or soldiers against their officers. ~*vb. -nying, -nied.* 2. (*intr.*) to engage in mutiny. —'muti'neer *n.* —'mutinous *adj.*

mutism ('mjʊ:tizəm) *n.* 1. the state of being mute. 2. *Psychiatry.* a. a refusal to speak. b. the lack of development of speech.

mutt ('mʌt) *n. Sl.* 1. an inept, ignorant, or stupid person. 2. a mongrel dog; cur.

mutter ('mʌtə) *vb.* 1. to utter (something) in a low and indistinct tone. 2. (*intr.*) to grumble or complain. 3. (*intr.*) to make a low continuous murmuring sound. ~*n.* 4. a muttered sound or complaint. —'mutterer *n.*

mutton ('mʌtən) *n.* 1. the flesh of sheep, esp. of mature sheep, used as food. 2. **mutton dressed (up) as lamb.** an older person, thing, or idea dressed up to look young or new. —'muttoney *adj.*

mutton chop *n.* a piece of mutton from the loin.

muttonchops ('mʌtən,tʃɒps) *pl. n.* side whiskers trimmed in the shape of chops.

muttonhead ('mʌtən,hed) *n. Sl.* a stupid or ignorant person; fool. —'mutton,headed *adj.*

mutual ('mjʊ:tʃʊəl) *adj.* 1. experienced or expressed by each of two or more people about the other; reciprocal: *mutual distrust.* 2. *Inf.* common to or shared by both: *a mutual friend.* —'mutuality ('mjʊ:tʃʊ:əli:ti) *n.* —'mutually *adv.*

mutual insurance *n.* a system of insurance by which all policyholders become company members under contract to pay premiums into a common fund out of which claims are paid.

Muzak ('mju:zæk) *n. Trademark.* recorded light music played in shops, restaurants, factories, etc.

muzzle ('mʌz'l) *n.* 1. the projecting part of the face, usually the jaws and nose, of animals such as the dog and horse. 2. a guard or strap fitted over an animal's nose and jaws to prevent it biting or eating. 3. the front end of a gun barrel. ~*vb. (tr.)* 4. to prevent from being heard or noticed. 5. to put a muzzle on (an animal). —'muzzler *n.*

muzzle-loader *n.* a firearm receiving its ammunition through the muzzle. —'muzzle,loading *adj.*

muzzy ('mʌzi) *adj. -zier, -ziest.* 1. blurred or hazy. 2. confused or befuddled. —'muzzily *adv.* —'muzziness *n.*

M.V.O. (in Britain) *abbrev.* for Member of the Royal Victorian Order.

MW 1. symbol for megawatt. 2. *Radio.* abbrev. for medium wave.

Mx *Physics.* symbol for maxwell.

my (maɪ) *determiner.* 1. of, belonging to, or associated with the speaker or writer (me): *my own ideas.* 2. used in various forms of address: *my lord.* ~*interj.* 3. an exclamation of surprise, awe, etc.: *my, how you've grown!*

mycelium (maɪ'si:lɪəm) *n., pl. -lia* (-liə). the vegetative body of fungi: a mass of branching filaments (hyphae). —'my'celial *adj.*

Mycenaean (maɪ'si:nɪən) *adj.* 1. of or relating to ancient Mycenae, a city in S Greece, or its inhabitants. 2. of or relating to the Aegean civilization of Mycenae (1400 to 1100 B.C.)

myeloma (maɪə'ləʊmə) *n.* a usually malignant tumour of the bone marrow.

myna, mynah, or mina ('maɪnə) *n.* any of various tropical Asian starlings, some of which can mimic human speech.

Myneher (mə'nɪə) *n.* a Dutch title of address equivalent to *Sir* when used alone or to *Mr.* before a name.

myocardium (maɪəʊ'kɑ:diəm) *n., pl. -dia* (-diə). the muscular tissue of the heart. —'myo'cardial *adj.*

myope ('maɪəʊp) *n.* any person afflicted with myopia.

myopia (maɪ'əʊpiə) *n.* inability to see distant objects

clearly because the images are focused in front of the retina; short-sightedness. —**myopic** (maɪ'ɒpɪk) *adj.* —**my'opically** *adv.*

myosotis (ˌmaɪə'sɒtɪs) *n.* any plant of the genus *Myosotis*. See **forget-me-not**.

myriad ('mɪrɪəd) *adj.* 1. innumerable. ~*n.* 2. a large indefinite number. 3. *Arch.* ten thousand.

myriapod ('mɪrɪə,pɒd) *n.* 1. any of a group of terrestrial arthropods having a long segmented body and many walking limbs, such as the centipedes and millipedes. ~*adj.* 2. of, relating to, or belonging to this group.

Myrmidon ('mɜːmɪ,dɒn, -d'n) *n.* 1. *Greek myth.* one of a race of people who were led against Troy by Achilles. 2. (often *not cap.*) a follower or henchman.

myrrh (mɜː) *n.* 1. any of several trees and shrubs of Africa and S Asia that exude an aromatic resin. 2. the resin obtained from such a plant, used in perfume, incense, and medicine.

myrtle ('mɜːtl) *n.* an evergreen shrub or tree, esp. a S European shrub with pink or white flowers and aromatic blue-black berries.

myself (maɪ'self) *pron.* 1. *a.* the reflexive form of *I* or *me*. *b.* (intensifier): *I myself know of no answer.* 2. (preceded by a copula) my usual self: *I'm not myself today.* 3. *Not standard.* used instead of *I* or *me* in compound noun phrases: *John and myself are voting together.*

▷ **Usage.** The use of *myself* for *I* or *me* is often the result of an attempt to be elegant or correct. However, careful users of English only employ *myself* when it follows *I* or *me* in the same clause: *I cut myself, but he gave it to me* (not *myself*). The same is true of the other reflexives. This rule does permit constructions such as *he wrote it himself* (unassisted) and *he himself wrote it* (without an intermediary), but these are only to be used to reinforce a previous reference to the same individual.

mysterious (mɪ'stɜːriəs) *adj.* 1. characterized by or indicative of mystery. 2. puzzling, curious. —**mys'teriously** *adv.* —**mys'teriousness** *n.*

mystery¹ ('mɪstəri, -tri) *n., pl. -teries.* 1. an unexplained or inexplicable event, phenomenon, etc. 2. a person or thing that arouses curiosity or suspense because of an unknown, obscure, or enigmatic quality. 3. the state or quality of being obscure, inexplicable, or enigmatic. 4. a story, film, etc., which arouses suspense and curiosity because of facts concealed. 5. *Theol.* any truth that is divinely revealed but otherwise unknowable. 6. *Christianity,* a sacramental rite, such as the Eucharist, or (when *pl.*) the consecrated elements of the Eucharist.

7. (often *pl.*) any rites of certain ancient Mediterranean religions. 8. short for **mystery play**.

mystery² ('mɪstəri) *n., pl. -teries.* *Arch.* 1. a trade, occupation, or craft. 2. a guild of craftsmen.

mystery play *n.* (in the Middle Ages) a type of drama based on the life of Christ. Cf. **miracle play**.

mystery tour *n.* an excursion to an unspecified destination.

mystic ('mɪstɪk) *n.* 1. a person who achieves mystical experience or an apprehension of divine mysteries ~*adj.* 2. another word for **mystical**.

mystical ('mɪstɪk'l) *adj.* 1. relating to or characteristic of mysticism. 2. *Theol.* having a divine or sacred significance that surpasses human apprehension. 3. having occult or metaphysical significance. —**'mystical-ly** *adv.*

mysticism ('mɪstɪ,sɪzəm) *n.* 1. belief in or experience of a reality surpassing normal human understanding or experience. 2. a system of contemplative prayer and spirituality aimed at achieving direct intuitive experience of the divine. 3. obscure or confused belief or thought.

mystify ('mɪstɪ,fai) *vb. -fying, -fied.* (tr.) 1. to confuse, bewilder, or puzzle. 2. to make obscure. —**'mystifi-cation** *n.*

mystique (mɪ'stɪk) *n.* an aura of mystery, power, and awe that surrounds a person or thing.

myth (mɪθ) *n.* 1. *a.* a story about superhuman beings of an earlier age, usually of how natural phenomena, social customs, etc., came into existence. *b.* another word for **mythology** (senses 1, 3). 2. a fictitious or unproven person or thing.

myth. *abbrev. for:* 1. mythological. 2. mythology.

mythical ('mɪθɪk'l) *adj.* 1. of or relating to myth. 2. imaginary or fictitious. —**'mythically** *adv.*

mythology (mɪ'θɒlədʒɪ) *n., pl. -gies.* 1. a body of myths, esp. one associated with a particular culture, institution, person, etc. 2. a body of stories about a person, institution, etc. 3. myths collectively. 4. the study of myths. —**mythological** (mɪθə'lɒdʒɪk'l) *adj.* —**my'thologist** *n.* —**my'thologize** or **-gise** *vb.*

myxoedema or *U.S.* **myxedema** (ˌmɪksr'di:mə) *n.* a disease resulting from underactivity of the thyroid gland characterized by puffy eyes, face, and hands and mental sluggishness. See also **cretinism**.

myxomatosis (ˌmɪksəmə'təʊsɪs) *n.* an infectious and usually fatal viral disease of rabbits characterized by swelling of the mucous membranes and formation of skin tumours.

N

n or **N** (ɛn) *n.*, *pl.* **n's**, **N's**, or **Ns**. 1. the 14th letter of the English alphabet. 2. a speech sound represented by this letter.

n' *symbol for:* 1. neutron. 2. *Optics.* index of refraction. 3. nano-

n' (ɛn) *determiner.* an indefinite number (of): *there are n objects in a box.*

N *symbol for:* 1. Also: **kt.** Chess. knight. 2. newton(s). 3. Chem. nitrogen. 4. North. 5. noun.

n. *abbrev. for:* 1. neuter. 2. new. 3. nominative. 4. noon. 5. note. 6. noun. 7. number.

N. *abbrev. for:* 1. National(ist). 2. Navy. 3. New. 4. Norse.

Na *the chemical symbol for sodium.*

N.A. *abbrev. for North America.*

NAAFI ('næfi) *n.* 1. *acronym for Navy, Army, and Air Force Institutes:* an organization providing canteens, shops, etc., for British military personnel at home or overseas. 2. a canteen, shop, etc., run by this organization.

nab (næb) *vb.* **nabbing**, **nabbed**. (tr.) *Inf.* 1. to arrest (a criminal, etc.). 2. to seize suddenly; snatch.

nabob ('neibob) *n.* 1. *Inf.* a rich or important man. 2. (formerly) a European who made a fortune in India. 3. another name for a **nawab**.

nacre ('neika) *n.* the technical name for **mother-of-pearl**. —'nacred *adj.*

nadir ('neidia, 'næ-) *n.* 1. the point on the celestial sphere directly below an observer and diametrically opposite the zenith. 2. the lowest point; depths.

nae (nei) or **na** (nɑ:) *a Scot. word for no' or not.*

naevus or **U.S. nevus** ('ni:vəs) *n.*, *pl.* -vi (-vai). any pigmented blemish on the skin; birthmark or mole. —'naevoid *adj.*

nag' (næg) *vb.* **nagging**, **nagged**. 1. to scold or annoy constantly. 2. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *at*) to be a constant source of discomfort or worry (to). ~*n.* 3. a person, esp. a woman, who nags. —'nagger *n.*

nag' (næg) *n.* 1. *Often derog.* a horse. 2. a small riding horse.

naiad ('naiəd) *n.*, *pl.* -ads or -ades (-ə,diz). 1. *Greek myth.* a nymph dwelling in a lake, river, spring, or fountain. 2. the aquatic larva of the dragonfly, mayfly, and related insects. 3. Also called: **water nymph**. a submerged aquatic plant, having narrow leaves and small flowers.

naïf (nɑ:'lif) *adj.*, *n.* a less common word for **naïve**.

nail (neil) *n.* 1. a fastening device, usually made of metal, having a point at one end and a head at the other. 2. anything resembling such a device in function or shape. 3. the horny plate covering part of the dorsal surface of the fingers or toes. 4. the claw of a mammal, bird, or reptile. 5. a unit of length, formerly used for measuring cloth, equal to two and a quarter inches. 6. **hit the nail on the head**. to do or say something correct or telling. 7. **on the nail**. *Inf.* (of payments) at once. ~*vb.* (tr.) 8. to attach with or as if with nails. 9. *Inf.* to arrest, catch, or seize. 10. *Inf.* to hit or bring down, as with a shot. 11. *Inf.* to expose or detect (a lie or liar). 12. to fix (one's eyes, attention, etc.) on. 13. to stud with nails. —'nailer *n.*

naifile ('neil,fail) *n.* a small file of metal or of board coated with emery, used to trim the nails.

nail polish or **varnish** or *esp. U.S. enamel* *n.* a quick-drying cosmetic lacquer applied to colour the nails or make them shiny or *esp. both*.

nail set *n.* a punch for driving the head of a nail below or flush with the surrounding surface.

naïve, **naïve** (nɑ:'li:v, nɑ:'li:v), or **naïf** *adj.* 1. having or expressing innocence and credulity; ingenuous. 2. lacking developed powers of reasoning or criticism: *a naïve argument*. —*na'ively*, *na'ively*, or *na'ily adv.* —*na'iveness*, *na'iveness*, or *na'ifness n.*

naïveté, **naïveté** ('nɑ:i:v'te), or **naïvety** (nɑ:'iv'ti) *n.* 1. the state or quality of being naïve. 2. a naïve act or statement.

naked ('neikid) *adj.* 1. having the body unclothed; undressed. 2. having no covering; exposed: *a naked flame*. 3. with no qualification or concealment: *the*

naked facts. 4. unaided by any optical instrument (esp. in the **naked eye**). 5. with no protection or shield. 6. (usually foll. by *of*) destitute: *naked of weapons*. 7. (of animals) lacking hair, feathers, scales, etc. 8. *Law.* a. unsupported by authority: *a naked contract*. b. lacking some essential condition to render valid; incomplete. —'nakedly *adv.* —'nakedness *n.*

NALGO ('nælgəu) *n.* *acronym for National and Local Government Officers' Association.*

namby-pamby ('næmbi'pæmbi) *adj.* 1. sentimental or prim in a weak insipid way. 2. clinging, feeble, or spineless. ~*n.*, *pl.* -bies. 3. a person who is namby-pamby.

name (neim) *n.* 1. a word or term by which a person or thing is commonly and distinctively known. 2. mere outward appearance as opposed to fact: *he was ruler in name only*. 3. a word or phrase descriptive of character, usually abusive: *to call a person names*. 4. reputation, esp., if unspecified, good reputation: *he's made quite a name for himself*. 5. a. a famous person or thing: *a name in the advertising world*. b. Chiefly *U.S.* (as modifier): *a name product*. 6. **in the name of**. a. for the sake of. b. by the authority of. 7. **name of the game**. Chiefly *U.S.* a. anything that is significant or important. b. normal conditions, circumstances, etc.: *in gambling, losing money's the name of the game*. 8. **to one's name**. belonging to one: *I haven't a penny to my name*. ~*vb.* (tr.) 9. to give a name to. 10. to refer to by name; cite: *he named three French poets*. 11. to fix or specify: *they have named a date for the meeting*. 12. to appoint or nominate: *he was named Journalist of the Year*. 13. **name names**. to cite people, esp. in order to blame or accuse them. 14. **name the day**. to choose the day for one's wedding. —'namable or 'nameable *adj.*

name day *n.* *R.C. Church.* the feast day of a saint whose name one bears.

name-dropping *n.* *Inf.* the practice of referring frequently to famous people, esp. as though they were intimate friends, in order to impress others. —'name-'dropper *n.*

nameless ('neimlis) *adj.* 1. without a name. 2. indescribable: *a nameless horror seized him*. 3. too unpleasant or disturbing to be mentioned: *nameless atrocities*. —'namelessness *n.*

namely ('neimli) *adv.* that is to say.

nameplate ('neim,pleit) *n.* a small panel on or next to the door of a room or building, bearing the occupant's name and profession.

namesake ('neim,seik) *n.* a person or thing named after another, or with the same name as another.

nancy or **nancy boy** ('nænsi) *n.* an effeminate or homosexual boy or man.

nankeen (næn'kin) or **nankin** ('nænkɪn) *n.* 1. a hard-wearing buff-coloured cotton fabric. 2. a pale greyish-yellow colour.

nanny ('næni) *n.*, *pl.* -nies. 1. a nurse or nursemaid for children. 2. a child's word for **grandmother**.

nanny goat *n.* a female goat.

nano- *combining form.* denoting 10⁻⁹: **nanosecond**. Symbol: n

nap' (næp) *vb.* **napping**, **napped**. (intr.) 1. to sleep for a short while; doze. 2. to be inattentive or off guard (esp. in **catch someone napping**). ~*n.* 3. a short light sleep; doze.

nap' (næp) *n.* 1. a. the raised fibres of velvet or similar cloth. b. the direction in which these fibres lie. 2. any similar downy coating. ~*vb.* **napping**, **napped**. 3. (tr.) to raise the nap of (velvet, etc.) by brushing.

nap' (næp) *n.* 1. Also called: **napoleon**. a card game similar to whist, usually played for stakes. 2. a call in this game, undertaking to win all five tricks. 3. *Horse racing*. a tipster's choice for a certain winner. 4. **nap hand**. a position in which there is a very good chance of success if a risk is taken. ~*vb.* **napping**, **napped**. (tr.) 5. *Horse racing*. to name (a horse) as likely to win a race.

napalm ('neipɑ:m, 'næ-) *n.* 1. a thick and highly incendiary liquid, usually consisting of petrol gelled with

aluminium soaps, used in fire bombs, flame throwers, etc. ~vb. 2. (tr.) to attack with napalm.

nape (neɪp) *n.* the back of the neck.

naphtha ('næθə, 'næp) *n.* a distillation product from coal tar or petroleum: used as a solvent and in petrol.

naphthalene ('næθəlɪn, 'næp) *n.* a white crystalline hydrocarbon with a characteristic penetrating odour, used in mothballs and in dyes, explosives, etc. Formula: C₁₀H₈. —**naphthalic** ('næfθælik, 'næp) *adj.*

napkin ('næpkɪn) *n.* 1. Also called: **table napkin**. a usually square piece of cloth or paper used while eating to protect the clothes, wipe the mouth, etc.; serviette. 2. Rare. a small piece of cloth. 3. a more formal name for **nappy**. 4. a less common term for **sanitary towel**.

napoleon (nə'pəʊliən) *n.* 1. a former French gold coin worth 20 francs. 2. **Cards**, the full name for **nap**.

nappy ('næpi) *n., pl. -pies*. *Brit.* a piece of soft towelling material wrapped around a baby in order to absorb its excrement. Also called: **napkin**. U.S. name: **diaper**.

narcissism ('nɑ:sɪsɪzəm) or **narcissism** ('nɑ:sɪzəm) *n.* 1. an exceptional interest in or admiration for oneself, esp. one's physical appearance. 2. sexual satisfaction derived from contemplation of one's own physical endowments. —**narcissist** *n.* —**narcis'sistic** *adj.*

narcissus (nɑ:'sɪsəs) *n., pl. -cissuses* or **-cissi** ('-sɪsaɪ). a plant of a Eurasian genus whose yellow, orange, or white flowers have a crown surrounded by spreading segments.

narco- or *sometimes before a vowel narco-* combining form. indicating numbness or torpor: **narcolepsy**.

narcosis (nɑ:'kəʊsɪs) *n.* unconsciousness induced by narcotics or general anaesthetics.

narcotic ('nɑ:kəʊtɪk) *n.* 1. any of a group of drugs, such as opium and morphine, that produce numbness and stupor. 2. anything that relieves pain or induces sleep, mental numbness, etc. ~adj. 3. of or relating to narcotics or narcotics addicts. 4. of or relating to narcosis. —**narcotically** *adv.*

nard (nɑ:d) *n.* 1. another name for **spikenard**. 2. any of several plants whose aromatic roots were formerly used in medicine.

mark (mɑ:k) *Brit. & N.Z. sl.* ~n. 1. an informer or spy: **copper's mark**. 2. someone who complains in an irritating or whining manner. ~vb. 3. (tr.) to annoy, upset, or irritate. 4. (intr.) to inform or spy, esp. for the police. 5. (intr.) to complain irritably.

narrate (nə'reɪt) *vb.* 1. to tell (a story); relate. 2. to speak in accompaniment of (a film, etc.). —**nar'ratable** *adj.* —**nar'rator** *n.*

narration (nə'reɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act or process of narrating. 2. a narrated account or story.

narrative ('nærətɪv) *n.* 1. an account or story, as of events, experiences, etc. 2. the part of a literary work, etc., that relates events. 3. the process or technique of narrating. ~adj. 4. telling a story: *a narrative poem*. 5. of or relating to narration: *narrative art*.

narrow ('nærəʊ) *adj.* 1. small in breadth, esp. in comparison to length. 2. limited in range or extent. 3. limited in outlook. 4. limited in means or resources. 5. barely adequate or successful (esp. in a **narrow escape**). 6. painstakingly thorough: *a narrow scrutiny*. 7. **Phonetics**. another word for **tense**. ~vb. 8. to make or become narrow; limit; restrict. ~n. 9. a narrow place, esp. a pass or strait. —**narrowly** *adv.* —**narrowness** *n.*

narrow boat *n.* a long barge-like boat with a beam of 2.1 metres (7 feet), used on canals.

narrow gauge *n.* 1. a smaller distance between the lines of a railway than the standard gauge of 56½ inches. ~adj. **narrow-gauge**. 2. of or denoting a railway with a narrow gauge.

narrow-minded *adj.* having a biased or illiberal viewpoint; bigoted, intolerant, or prejudiced. —**narrow-mindedness** *n.*

narrows ('nærəʊz) *pl. n.* a narrow part of a strait, river, current, etc.

narwhal, **narwal** ('nɑ:wəl), or **narwhale** ('nɑ:,weɪl) *n.* an arctic toothed whale having a black-spotted whitish skin and, in the male, a long spiral tusk.

N.A.S. *abbrev.* for National Association of Schoolmasters.

NASA ('næsə) *n.* (in the U.S.) *acronym* for National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

nasal ('neɪzəl) *adj.* 1. of the nose. 2. **Phonetics**. pronounced with the soft palate lowered allowing air to escape via the nasal cavity. ~n. 3. a nasal speech sound, such as English *m, n, or ng*. —**nasality** ('neɪzəlɪtɪ) *n.* —**nasally** *adv.*

nasalize or **-lise** ('neɪzəl,laɪz) *vb. (tr.)* to pronounce nasally. —**nasal'i'zation** or **-li'sation** *n.*

nascent ('næsənt, 'neɪ) *adj.* starting to grow or develop; being born. —**nascence** or **nascenty** *n.*

naso- combining form. nose: *nasopharynx*.

nasturtium (nə'stɜ:ʃɪəm) *n.* a plant having round leaves and yellow, red, or orange trumpet-shaped spurred flowers.

nasty ('nɑ:stɪ) *adj. -tier, -tiest*. 1. unpleasant or repugnant. 2. dangerous or painful: *a nasty wound*. 3. spiteful or ill-natured. —**nastily** *adv.* —**nastiness** *n.*

nat. *abbrev. for:* 1. national. 2. native. 3. natural.

natal ('neɪtəl) *adj.* of or relating to birth.

nation ('neɪʃən) *n.* 1. an aggregation of people or peoples of one or more cultures, races, etc., organized into a single state: *the Canadian nation*. 2. a community of persons not constituting a state but bound by common descent, language, history, etc. —**nation,hood** *n.*

national ('næʃənəl) *adj.* 1. of or relating to a nation as a whole. 2. characteristic of a particular nation: *the national dress of Poland*. ~n. 3. a citizen or subject. 4. a national newspaper. —**nationally** *adv.*

national anthem *n.* a patriotic song adopted by a nation for use on public occasions.

national assistance *n.* the former name for **supplementary benefit**.

national debt *n.* the total financial obligations incurred by a nation's central government.

national insurance *n.* (in Britain) state insurance based on weekly contributions from employees and employers and providing payments to the unemployed, the sick, the retired, etc., as well as medical services.

nationalism ('næʃənə'lɪzəm) *n.* 1. a sentiment based on common cultural characteristics that binds a population and often produces a policy of national independence. 2. loyalty to one's country; patriotism. 3. exaggerated or fanatical devotion to a national community. —**nationalist** *n., adj.* —**national'istic** *adj.*

nationality ('næʃənə'lɪtɪ) *n., pl. -ties*. 1. the fact of being a citizen of a particular nation. 2. a body of people sharing common descent, history, language, etc.; a nation. 3. a national group: *30 different nationalities are found in this city*. 4. national character. 5. the fact of being a nation; national status.

nationalize or **-lise** ('næʃənə,laɪz) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to put (an industry, resources, etc.) under state control. 2. to make national in character or status. 3. a less common word for **naturalize**. —**nationali'zation** or **-li'sation** *n.*

national park *n.* an area of land controlled by the state in order to preserve its natural beauty, wildlife, etc.

national service *n.* *Chiefly Brit.* compulsory military service.

National Trust *n.* an organization concerned with the preservation of historic buildings and areas of the countryside of great beauty.

nationwide ('neɪʃən,waɪd) *adj.* covering or available to the whole of a nation; national.

native ('neɪtv) *adj.* 1. relating or belonging to a person by virtue of conditions existing at birth: *a native language*. 2. natural or innate: *native wit*. 3. born in a specified place: *a native Indian*. 4. (when postpositive, foll. by *to*) originating in: *kangaroos are native to Australia*. 5. relating to the indigenous inhabitants of a country: *the native art of the New Guinea Highlands*. 6. (of metals) found naturally in the elemental form; not chemically combined as in an ore. 7. unadulterated by civilization, artifice, or adornment; natural. 8. *Arch.* related by birth or race. ~n. 9. (usually foll. by *of*) a person born in a particular place: *a native of Geneva*. 10. (usually foll. by *of*) a species of animal or plant originating in a particular place. 11. a member of an indigenous people of a country, esp. a non-White people, as opposed to colonial immigrants. —**natively** *adv.* —**nativeness** *n.*

nativity ('nætvɪtɪ) *n., pl. -ties*. birth or origin.

Nativity (nə'tɪvɪtɪ) *n.* 1. the birth of Christ. 2. the feast of Christmas as a commemoration of this. 3. a. an artistic representation of the circumstances of the birth of Christ. b. (as modifier): *a nativity play*.

NATO ('neɪtəʊ) *n.* *acronym* for North Atlantic Treaty Organization: an international organization established (1949) for purposes of collective security.

NATSOPA ('næt'səʊpə) *n.* *acronym* for National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel.

natter ('nætə) *Chiefly Brit. inf.* ~vb. 1. (intr.) to talk

idly and at length; chatter. ~*n.* 2. prolonged idle chatter.

natty ('næti) *adj.* -tier, -tiest. *Inf.* smart in appearance or dress; spruce; dapper. —'nattily *adv.* —'nattiness *n.*

natural ('nætʃrəl) *adj.* 1. of, existing in, or produced by nature: *natural science*; *natural cliffs*. 2. in accordance with human nature. 3. as is normal or to be expected: *the natural course of events*. 4. not acquired; innate: *a natural gift for sport*. 5. being so through innate qualities: *a natural leader*. 6. not supernatural or strange: *natural phenomena*. 7. genuine or spontaneous. 8. lifelike: *she looked more natural without make-up*. 9. not affected by man; wild: *in the natural state this animal is not ferocious*. 10. born out of wedlock. 11. not adopted but rather related by blood: *her natural parents*. 12. *Music.* a. not sharp or flat. b. (postpositive) denoting a note that is neither sharp nor flat. c. (of a key or scale) containing no sharps or flats. 13. based on the principles and findings of human reason rather than on revelation: *natural religion*. ~*n.* 14. *Inf.* a person or thing regarded as certain to qualify for success, selection, etc.: *the horse was a natural for first place*. 15. *Music.* a. an accidental cancelling a previous sharp or flat. Also called (U.S.): **cancel**. Usual symbol: ♮ b. a note affected by this accidental. 16. *Obs.* an imbecile; idiot. —'naturally *adv.* —'naturalness *n.*

natural gas *n.* a gaseous mixture, consisting mainly of methane, trapped below ground; used extensively as a fuel.

natural history *n.* 1. the study of animals and plants in the wild state. 2. the sum of these phenomena in a given place and at a given time: *the natural history of Iran*. —'natural historian *n.*

naturalism ('nætʃrə,lɪzəm) *n.* 1. a movement, esp. in art and literature, advocating detailed realistic and factual description. 2. the belief that all religious truth is based not on revelation but rather on the study of natural causes and processes. 3. *Philosophy.* a scientific account of the world in terms of causes and natural forces. 4. action or thought caused by natural instincts.

naturalist ('nætʃrəlɪst) *n.* 1. a person who is versed in or interested in botany or zoology. 2. a person who advocates or practises naturalism.

naturalistic (,nætʃrə'lɪstɪk) *adj.* 1. of or reproducing nature in effect or characteristics. 2. of or characteristic of naturalism. 3. of naturalists. —'natural'istically *adv.*

naturalize or -lize ('nætʃrə,ləɪz) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to give citizenship to (a person of foreign birth). 2. to be or cause to be adopted in another place, as a word, custom, etc. 3. (tr.) to introduce (a plant or animal from another region) and cause it to adapt to local conditions. 4. (intr.) (of a plant or animal) to adapt successfully to a foreign environment. 5. (tr.) to make natural or more lifelike. —'naturalization or -li'sation *n.*

naturally ('nætʃrəli) *adv.* 1. in a natural way. 2. instinctively. 3. of course; surely.

natural number *n.* any of the positive integers 1, 2, 3, 4,...

natural philosophy *n.* physical science, esp. physics. —'natural philosopher *n.*

natural resources *pl. n.* naturally occurring materials such as coal, fertile land, etc.

natural science *n.* the sciences that are involved in the study of the physical world and its phenomena, including biology, physics, chemistry, and geology.

natural selection *n.* a process resulting in the survival of those individuals from a population of animals or plants that are best adapted to the prevailing environmental conditions.

nature ('neɪtʃə) *n.* 1. fundamental qualities; identity or essential character. 2. (often *cap.*) the whole system of the existence, forces, and events of all physical life that are not controlled by man. 3. plant and animal life, as distinct from man. 4. a wild primitive state untouched by man. 5. natural unspoiled countryside. 6. disposition or temperament. 7. desires or instincts governing behaviour. 8. the normal biological needs of the body. 9. sort; character. 10. **against nature**. unnatural or immoral. 11. **by nature**. essentially or innately. 12. **call of nature**. *Inf.* the need to urinate or defecate. 13. **from nature**. using natural models in drawing, painting, etc. 14. **in (or of) the nature of**. essentially the same as; by way of.

nature trail *n.* a path through countryside of particular interest to naturalists.

naught (nɔ:t) *n.* 1. *Arch. or literary.* nothing; ruin or failure. 2. a variant spelling (esp. U.S.) of **nought**. 3. **set**

at naught. to disregard or scorn; disdain. ~*adv.* 4. *Arch. or literary.* not at all: *it matters naught*. ~*adj.* 5. *Obs.* worthless, ruined, or wicked.

naughty ('nɔ:tɪ) *adj.* -tier, -tiest. 1. (esp. of children) mischievous or disobedient. 2. mildly indecent; titillating. —'naughtily *adv.* —'naughtiness *n.*

nausea ('nɔ:ziə, -sɪə) *n.* 1. the sensation that precedes vomiting. 2. a feeling of revulsion.

nauseate ('nɔ:zi,et, -sɪ-) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to arouse feelings of disgust or revulsion in. 2. to feel or cause to feel sick. —'nause'ation *n.*

nauseous ('nɔ:ziəs, -sɪəs) *adj.* 1. causing nausea. 2. distasteful; repulsive.

nautical ('nɔ:tɪkəl) *adj.* of or involving ships, navigation, or seamen. —'nautically *adv.*

nautical mile *n.* Also called: **international nautical mile**, **air mile**. a unit of length, used esp. in navigation, equal to 1852 metres (6076.103 feet).

nautilus ('nɔ:tɪləs) *n., pl. -luses or -li* (-,laɪ). any of a genus of cephalopod molluscs, esp. the pearly nautilus.

naval ('nevəl) *adj.* 1. of, characteristic of, or having a navy. 2. of or relating to ships; nautical.

nave ('nev) *n.* the central space in a church, extending from the narthex to the chancel and often flanked by aisles.

nave ('nev) *n.* the central block or hub of a wheel.

navel ('nevəl) *n.* 1. the scar in the centre of the abdomen, usually forming a slight depression, where the umbilical cord was attached. Technical name: **umbilicus**. 2. a central part or point.

navel orange *n.* a sweet orange that has at its apex a navel-like depression enclosing an underdeveloped secondary fruit.

navigable ('nævɪgəbəl) *adj.* 1. wide, deep, or safe enough to be sailed through: *a navigable channel*. 2. capable of being steered: *a navigable raft*. —'naviga'bility *n.* —'navigably *adv.*

navigate ('nævɪ,geɪt) *vb.* 1. to direct or plot the path or position of (a ship, an aircraft, etc.). 2. (tr.) to travel over, through, or on in a boat, aircraft, etc. 3. *Inf.* to direct (oneself) carefully or safely: *he navigated his way to the bar*. 4. (of a passenger in a motor vehicle) to give directions to the driver; point out the route. —'naviga'tor *n.*

navigation (,nævɪ'geɪʃən) *n.* 1. the skill or process of plotting a route and directing a ship, aircraft, etc., along it. 2. the act or practice of navigating: *dredging made navigation of the river possible*. —'navigational *adj.*

navvy ('nævi) *n., pl. -vies.* *Brit. inf.* a labourer on a building site, excavations, etc.

navy ('nevɪ) *n., pl. -vies.* 1. the warships and auxiliary vessels of a nation or ruler. 2. (often *cap.*) the branch of a country's armed services comprising such ships, their crews, and all their supporting services. 3. short for **navy blue**. 4. *Arch. or literary.* a fleet of ships.

navy blue *n.* a dark greyish-blue colour.

nawab (nə'wɑ:b) *n.* (formerly) a Muslim ruling prince or powerful landowner in India.

nay (nei) 1. (*sentence substitute*) a word for **no**: archaic or dialectal except in voting by voice. ~*n.* 2. a person who votes in the negative. ~*adv.* 3. (*sentence modifier*) *Arch.* an emphatic form of **no**.

Nazarene (,næzə'reɪn) *n.* 1. an early name for a **Christian** (Acts 24:5) or (when preceded by *the*) for **Jesus Christ**. 2. a member of one of several groups of Jewish-Christians found principally in Syria. ~*adj.* 3. of Nazareth in N Israel, or the Nazarenes.

Nazi ('nɑ:tsɪ) *n., pl. -zis.* 1. a member of the National Socialist German Workers' Party, which seized political control in Germany in 1933 under Adolf Hitler. 2. *Derog.* anyone who thinks or acts like a Nazi. ~*adj.* 3. characteristic of or relating to the Nazis. —'Nazism ('nɑ:tsɪzəm) or **Nazism** ('nɑ:tsɪzəm) *n.*

Nb the chemical symbol for niobium.

NB, N.B., or n.b. abbrev. for *nota bene*.

N.B. abbrev. for New Brunswick.

N.C.B. *Brit.* abbrev. for National Coal Board.

N.C.O. abbrev. for noncommissioned officer.

n.d. abbrev. for no date.

Nd the chemical symbol for neodymium.

N.D.P. (in Canada) abbrev. for New Democratic Party.

N.D.T. *Canad.* abbrev. for Newfoundland Daylight Time.

Ne the chemical symbol for neon.

NE abbrev. for northeast(ern).

N.E. abbrev. for New England.

ne- *combining form.* variant of **neo-**, esp. before a vowel: *Neartic*.

Neanderthal man (nɪˈændəʊ, tɔ:l) *n.* a type of primitive man occurring throughout much of Europe in late Palaeolithic times.

neap (ni:p) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or constituting a neap tide. ~*n.* 2. short for **neap tide**.

Neapolitan (ˌnəˈpɒlɪtən) *n.* 1. a native or inhabitant of Naples. ~*adj.* 2. of or relating to Naples.

neap tide *n.* either of the tides that occur at the first or last quarter of the moon when the attractions of the sun and moon almost balance and produce the smallest rise in tidal level. Cf. **spring tide** (sense 1).

near (niə) *prep.* 1. at or to a place or time not far away from; close to. ~*adv.* 2. at or to a place or time not far away; close by. 3. short for **nearly**: *I was damn near killed*. ~*adj.* 4. (postpositive) at or in a place not far away. 5. (prenominal) only just successful or only just failing: *a near escape*. ~*vb.* 6. to come or draw close (to). ~*n.* 7. Also called **nearside**. *a.* the left side of a horse, vehicle, etc. *b.* (as modifier): *the near foreleg*. — **nearness** *n.*

nearby adj. ('niə,baɪ), *adv.* ('niə,baɪ) not far away; close at hand.

nearly ('niəli) *adv.* 1. almost. 2. **not nearly**. nowhere near: *not nearly enough*. 3. closely: *the person most nearly concerned*.

nearside ('niə,saɪd) *n.* 1. (usually preceded by *the*) *Chiefly Brit.* *a.* the side of a vehicle, etc., nearer the kerb. *b.* (as modifier): *the nearside door*. 2. *a.* the left side of an animal, etc. *b.* (as modifier): *the nearside flank*.

near-sighted (ˌniəˈsaɪtɪd) *adj.* relating to or suffering from myopia. — **near-sightedly** *adv.*

neat (ni:t) *adj.* 1. clean, tidy, and orderly. 2. liking or insisting on order and cleanliness. 3. smoothly or competently done; efficient: *a neat job*. 4. pat or slick: *his excuse was suspiciously neat*. 5. (of alcoholic drinks, etc.) undiluted. 6. (of language) concise and well-phrased. 7. *Sl.*, chiefly *U.S.* pleasing; admirable; excellent. — **neatly** *adv.* — **neatness** *n.*

neaten ('ni:tən) *vb.* (tr.) to make neat; tidy.

neath or 'neath (niθ) *prep.* Arch. short for **beneath**.

N.E.B. *abbrev. for:* 1. New English Bible. 2. National Enterprise Board.

nebula ('nebju:lə) *n.*, *pl.* -lae (-li:) or -las. 1. *Astron.* a diffuse cloud of particles and gases visible either as a hazy patch of light or an irregular dark region. 2. *Pathol.* opacity of the cornea. — **nebular** *adj.*

nebulous ('nebju:ləs) *adj.* 1. lacking definite form, shape, or content; vague or amorphous. 2. of a nebula. 3. *Rare.* misty or hazy. — **nebulousness** *n.* — **nebulosity** *n.*

necessaries ('nesɪsərɪz) *pl. n.* (sometimes *sing.*) what is needed, esp. money or provisions.

necessarily ('nesɪsərɪli, 'nesɪ'serɪli) *adv.* 1. as an inevitable or natural consequence. 2. as a certainty: *he won't necessarily come*.

necessary ('nesɪsəri) *adj.* 1. needed to achieve a certain desired result; required. 2. inevitable: *the necessary consequences of your action*. 3. *Logic.* *a.* (of a proposition) true or false by the meaning of the words, so that a denial would be a contradiction. *b.* (of a condition) required to be fulfilled to assure the truth of a proposition, etc. Cf. **sufficient** (sense 2). 4. *Rare.* compelled, as by necessity or law; not free.

necessitarianism (nɪ'sesɪ'teəriəm, nɪ'zəm) *n.* *Philosophy.* the belief that human actions and choices are causally determined and cannot be willed. — **neccissitarian** *n.*, *adj.*

necessitate (nɪ'sesɪ'teɪt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to cause as an unavoidable result. 2. (usually *passive*) to compel or require (someone to do something).

necessitous (nɪ'sesɪ'təs) *adj.* very needy; destitute; poverty-stricken.

necessity (nɪ'sesɪtɪ) *n.*, *pl.* -ties. 1. (sometimes *pl.*) something needed; prerequisite: *necessities of life*. 2. a condition or set of circumstances that inevitably requires a certain result: *it is a matter of necessity to wear formal clothes when meeting the Queen*. 3. the state or quality of being obligatory or unavoidable. 4. urgent requirement, as in an emergency. 5. poverty or want. 6. *Rare.* compulsion through laws of nature; fate. 7. of **necessity**. inevitably.

neck (nek) *n.* 1. the part of an organism connecting the head with the body. 2. the part of a garment around the neck. 3. something resembling a neck in shape or position: *the neck of a bottle*. 4. *Anat.* a constricted

portion of an organ or part. 5. a narrow strip of land; peninsula or isthmus. 6. a strait or channel. 7. the part of a violin, cello, etc., that extends from the body to the tuning pegs and supports the fingerboard. 8. a solid block of lava from an extinct volcano, exposed after erosion of the surrounding rock. 9. the length of a horse's head and neck taken as an approximate distance by which one horse beats another in a race: *to win by a neck*. 10. *Archit.* the narrow band at the top of the shaft of a column. 11. *Sl.* impudence or cheek. 12. **get it in the neck**. *Inf.* to be reprimanded or punished severely. 13. **neck and neck**. absolutely level in a race or competition. 14. **neck of the woods**. *Inf.* area: *a quiet neck of the woods*. 15. **neck or nothing**, at any cost. 16. **save one's or someone's neck**. *Inf.* to escape from or help someone else to escape from a difficult or dangerous situation. 17. **stick one's neck out**. *Inf.* to risk criticism, ridicule, etc., by speaking one's mind. ~*vb.* 18. (*intr.*) *Inf.* to kiss or fondle (someone or one another) passionately. — **necker** *n.*

neckband ('nek,bænd) *n.* a band around the neck of a garment as finishing, decoration, or a base for a collar.

neckcloth ('nek,kloθ) *n.* a large ornamental usually white cravat worn formerly by men.

neckkerchief ('nekətʃɪf, -tʃɪ:f) *n.* a piece of ornamental cloth, often square, worn round the neck.

necklace ('nekli:s) *n.* a chain, band, or cord, often bearing beads, pearls, jewels, etc., worn around the neck as an ornament, esp. by women.

neckline ('nek,laɪn) *n.* the shape or position of the upper edge of a dress, blouse, etc.

necktie ('nek,tar) *n.* the U.S. name for **tie** (sense 10).

neckwear ('nek,wɛə) *n.* articles of clothing, such as ties, scarves, etc., worn round the neck.

necro- or before a vowel **necr-** *combining form.* indicating death, a dead body, or dead tissue: *necrosis*.

necromancy ('nekrou,mænsɪ) *n.* 1. the art of supposedly conjuring up the dead, esp. in order to obtain from them knowledge of the future. 2. black magic; sorcery. — **necro, mancer** *n.* — **necro'mantic** *adj.*

necrophilia ('nekrou'fɪlə) *n.* sexual attraction for or sexual intercourse with dead bodies. Also called: **necromania**, **necrophilism**. — **necrophile** ('nekrou'faɪl) *n.* — **necro'philic** *adj.*

necropolis ('nek'rɒpəlɪs) *n.*, *pl.* -lises or -leis (-,leɪs). a burial site or cemetery.

necropsy ('nek'rɒpsɪ) or **necroscopy** ('nek'rɒskəpɪ) *n.*, *pl.* -sies or -pies. another name for **autopsy**.

necrosis ('nek'rəʊsɪs) *n.* 1. the death of one or more cells in the body, usually within a localized area, as from an interruption of the blood supply. 2. death of plant tissue due to disease, frost, etc. — **necrotic** ('nek'rɒtɪk) *adj.*

nectar ('nektə) *n.* 1. a sugary fluid produced in the nectaries of flowers and collected by bees. 2. *Classical myth.* the drink of the gods. Cf. **ambrosia** (sense 1). 3. any delicious drink. — **nectarous** *adj.*

nectarine ('nektərɪn) *n.* 1. a variety of peach tree. 2. the fruit of this tree, which has a smooth skin.

N.E.D.C. *abbrev. for* National Economic Development Council. Also: (*inf.*) **Neddy** ('nedɪ).

neddy ('nedɪ) *n.*, *pl.* -dies. a child's word for a **donkey** (sense 1).

née or nee (nei) *adj.* indicating the maiden name of a married woman: *Mrs. Bloggs née Blandish*.

need (ni:d) *vb.* 1. to be in want of: *to need money*. 2. (tr.) to be obliged: *to need to do more work*. 3. (takes an infinitive without *to*) used as an auxiliary to express necessity or obligation and does not add -s when used with *he, she, it*, and singular nouns: *need he go?* 4. (*intr.*) *Arch.* to be essential to: *there needs no reason for this*. ~*n.* 5. the fact or an instance of feeling the lack of something: *he has need of a new coat*. 6. a requirement: *the need for vengeance*. 7. necessity or obligation: *no need to be frightened*. 8. distress: *a friend in need*. 9. poverty or destitution.

needful ('ni:dful) *adj.* 1. necessary; required. 2. *Arch.* poverty-stricken. ~*n.* 3. **the needful**. what is necessary, esp. money. — **needfulness** *n.*

needle ('ni:dli) *n.* 1. a pointed slender piece of metal with a hole in it through which thread is passed for sewing. 2. a somewhat larger rod with a point at one end, used in knitting. 3. a similar instrument with a hook at one end for crocheting. 4. *a.* another name for **stylus** (sense 3). *b.* a small thin pointed device used to transmit the vibrations from a gramophone record to the pickup. 5. *Med.* the long hollow pointed part of a

hypodermic syringe, which is inserted into the body. **6. Surgery.** a pointed instrument, often curved, for suturing, puncturing, or ligating. **7.** a long narrow stiff leaf in which water loss is greatly reduced: *pine needles*. **8.** any slender sharp spine. **9.** a pointer on the scale of a measuring instrument. **10.** short for **magnetic needle**. **11.** a sharp pointed instrument used in engraving. **12.** anything long and pointed, such as an obelisk. **13. Inf.** a. anger or intense rivalry, esp. in a sporting encounter. b. (as *modifier*): *a needle match*. **14.** have or get the **needle** (to). *Brit. sl.* to feel dislike, nervousness, or annoyance (for): *she got the needle after he had refused her invitation*. ~vb. **15.** (tr.) *Inf.* to goad or provoke, as by constant criticism. **16.** (tr.) to sew, embroider, or prick (fabric) with a needle.

needlecord ('ni:d'l,kɔ:d) *n.* a corduroy fabric with narrow ribs.

needlepoint ('ni:d'l,pɔɪnt) *n.* embroidery done on canvas with various stitches so as to resemble tapestry.

needless ('ni:dlɪs) *adj.* not required; unnecessary. —**needlessly** *adv.* —**needlessness** *n.*

needle time *n.* *Chiefly Brit.* the limited time allocated by a radio channel to the broadcasting of music from records.

needlewoman ('ni:d'l,wʊmən) *n., pl. -women.* a woman who does needlework; seamstress.

needlework ('ni:d'l,wɜ:k) *n.* sewing and embroidery.

needs (ni:dz) *adv.* (preceded or foll. by *must*) of necessity: *we must needs go*.

needy ('ni:di) *adj.* **needier, neediest.** a. in need; poverty-stricken. b. (as *n.*): *the needy*.

ne'er (ne:) *adv.* a poetic contraction of **never**.

ne'er-do-well *n.* **1.** an improvident, irresponsible, or lazy person. ~adj. **2.** useless; worthless: *your ne'er-do-well schemes*.

nefarious (ni'færiəs) *adj.* evil; wicked; sinful. —**ne'fariously** *adv.* —**ne'fariousness** *n.*

neg. *abbrev.* for **negative** (ly).

negate (ni'geɪt) *vb.* (tr.) **1.** to nullify; invalidate. **2.** to contradict. —**negator** or **neg'ator** *n.*

negation (ni'geɪʃən) *n.* **1.** the opposite or absence of something. **2.** a negative thing or condition. **3.** the act of negating. **4. Logic.** a proposition that is the denial of another proposition and is true only if the original proposition is false. **5. Computers.** another name for **inversion**.

negative ('negətv) *adj.* **1.** expressing a refusal or denial: *a negative answer*. **2.** lacking positive qualities, such as enthusiasm or optimism. **3.** showing opposition or resistance. **4.** measured in a direction opposite to that regarded as positive. **5. Biol.** indicating movement or growth away from a stimulus: *negative geotropism*. **6. Med.** indicating absence of the disease or condition for which a test was made. **7.** another word for **minus** (senses 3b, 4). **8. Physics.** a. (of an electric charge) having the same polarity as the charge of an electron. b. (of a body, system, ion, etc.) having a negative electric charge; having an excess of electrons. **9.** short for **electronegative**. **10.** of or relating to a photographic negative. **11. Logic.** (of a proposition) denying the truth of the predicate. ~n. **12.** a statement or act of denial or refusal. **13.** a negative thing. **14. Photog.** a piece of photographic film or a plate, previously exposed and developed, showing an image that, in black-and-white photography, has a reversal of tones. **15. Physics.** a negative object, such as a terminal or a plate in a voltaic cell. **16.** a sentence or other linguistic element with a negative meaning, as the English word *not*. **17.** a quantity less than zero. **18. Logic.** a proposition that denies the truth of the predicate. **19. in the negative.** indicating denial or refusal. ~vb. (tr.) **20.** to deny; negate. **21.** to show to be false; disprove. **22.** to refuse consent to or approval of: *the proposal was negated*. —**negatively** *adv.* —**negativeness** or **negativity** *n.*

negativism ('negətv,izəm) *n.* **1.** a tendency to be unconstructively critical. **2.** any sceptical or derisive system of thought. —**negativist** *n., adj.*

neglect (ni'glekt) *vb.* (tr.) **1.** to fail to give due care, attention, or time to: *to neglect a child*. **2.** to fail (to do something) through carelessness: *he neglected to tell her*. **3.** to disregard. ~n. **4.** lack of due care or attention; negligence: *the child starved through neglect*. **5.** the act or an instance of neglecting or the state of being neglected.

neglectful (ni'glektfʊl) *adj.* (when *postpositive*, foll. by *of*) careless; heedless.

negligee, negligée, or negligé ('negli,ʒei) *n.* **1.** a

woman's light dressing gown, esp. one that is lace-trimmed. **2.** any informal attire.

negligent ('negliʒənt) *adj.* **1.** lacking attention, care, or concern; neglectful. **2.** careless or nonchalant. —**negligence** *n.* —**negligently** *adv.*

negligible ('negliʒəb'l) *adj.* so small, unimportant, etc., as to be not worth considering. —**negligibly** *adv.*

negotiable (ni'gəʊjəb'l) *adj.* **1.** able to be negotiated. **2.** (of a bill of exchange, promissory note, etc.) legally transferable in title from one party to another. —**negotiability** *n.*

negotiate (ni'gəʊʃi,eɪt) *vb.* **1.** to talk (with others) to achieve (an agreement, etc.). **2.** (tr.) to succeed in passing round or over. **3. (tr.) Finance.** a. to transfer (a negotiable commercial paper) by endorsement to another in return for value received. b. to sell (financial assets). c. to arrange for (a loan). —**negotiation** *n.* —**negoti'ator** *n.*

Negress ('ni:grɪs) *n.* a female Negro.

Negrillo (ni'grɪləʊ) *n., pl. -los or -loes.* a member of a dwarfish Negro race of central and southern Africa.

negritude ('ni:grɪ,tju:d, 'neg-) *n.* **1.** the fact of being a Negro. **2.** awareness and cultivation of the Negro heritage, values, and culture.

Negro ('ni:grəʊ) *n., pl. -groes.* **1.** a member of any of the dark-skinned indigenous peoples of Africa and their descendants elsewhere. ~adj. **2.** relating to or characteristic of Negroes. —**Negroism** *n.*

Negroid ('ni:grɔɪd) *adj.* **1.** denoting, relating to, or belonging to one of the major racial groups of mankind, characterized by brown-black skin, crisp or woolly hair, a broad flat nose, and full lips. ~n. **2.** a member of this racial group.

negus ('ni:gəs) *n., pl. -guses.* a hot drink of port and lemon juice, usually spiced and sweetened.

neigh (nei) *n.* **1.** the high-pitched cry of a horse. ~vb. **2.** to make or utter with a sound like a neigh.

neighbour or U.S. neighbor ('neɪbə) *n.* **1.** a person who lives near or next to another. **2. a.** a person or thing near or next to another. b. (as *modifier*): *neighbour states*. ~vb. **3.** (when *intr.*, often foll. by *on*) to be or live close to. —**'neighbouring** *adj.*

neighbourhood or U.S. neighborhood ('neɪbə,hʊd) *n.* **1.** the immediate environment; surroundings. **2.** a district where people live. **3.** the people in a particular area. **4. in the neighbourhood of.** approximately. **5. Maths.** the set of all points whose distance from a given point is less than a specified value. **6. (modifier)** living or situated in and serving the needs of a local area: *a neighbourhood community worker*.

neighbourly or U.S. neighborly ('neɪbəli) *adj.* kind, friendly, or sociable, as befits a neighbour. —**'neighbourliness or U.S. neighborliness** *n.*

neither ('ni:ðə, 'ni:ðə) *determiner.* **1.** a. not one nor the other (of two). b. (as *pronoun*): *neither can win*. ~conj. **2. (coordinating)** a. (used preceding alternatives joined by *nor*) not: *neither John nor Mary nor Joe went*. b. another word for **nor** (sense 2). —*adv.* (sentence *modifier*) **3.** *Not standard.* another word for **either** (sense 4).

▷ **Usage.** A verb following a compound subject that uses *neither...nor* should be in the singular if both subjects are in the singular: *neither Jack nor John has done the work*. Where the subjects are different in number, the verb usually agrees with the subject nearest to it: *neither they nor Jack was able to come*. It may be considered preferable to rephrase the sentence in order to avoid this construction.

nelson ('nelnsn) *n.* any wrestling hold in which a wrestler places his arm or arms under his opponent's arm or arms from behind and exerts pressure with his palms on the back of his opponent's neck.

nematode ('nemə,təʊd) *n.* any of a class of unsegmented worms having a tough outer cuticle, including the hookworm and filaria. Also called: **nematode worm, roundworm.**

Nemesis ('nemɪsɪs) *n., pl. -ses (-sɪz).* **1.** Greek myth. the goddess of retribution and vengeance. **2. (sometimes not cap.)** any agency of retribution and vengeance.

neo- or *sometimes before a vowel ne-* combining form. **1. (sometimes cap.)** new, recent, or a modern form: *neoclassicism*. **2. (usually cap.)** the most recent subdivision of a geological period: *Neogene*.

neoclassicism (ni:əʊ'klæsɪs,ɪzəm) *n.* **1.** a late 18th- and early 19th-century style in architecture and art, based on classical models. **2. Music.** a movement of the 1920s that sought to avoid the emotionalism of late

romantic music. —**neoclassical** (ˌni:əʊˈklæsɪkəl) or **neo-classic** *adj.*

neodymium (ˌni:əʊˈdiːmiəm) *n.* a toxic silvery-white metallic element of the lanthanide series. Symbol: Nd; atomic no.: 60; atomic wt.: 144.24.

Neolithic (ˌni:əʊˈliθɪk) *n.* 1. the cultural period that was characterized by primitive farming and the use of polished stone and flint tools and weapons. ~*adj.* 2. relating to this period.

neologism (niˈblɒˌdʒɪzəm) or **neology** *n., pl. -gisms or -gies.* 1. a newly coined word, or a phrase or familiar word used in a new sense. 2. the practice of using or introducing neologisms. —**neologist** *n.*

neon (ˈni:ɒn) *n.* 1. a colourless odourless rare gaseous element occurring in trace amounts in the atmosphere: used in illuminated signs and lights. Symbol: Ne; atomic no.: 10; atomic wt.: 20.179. 2. (*modifier*) of or illuminated by neon: *neon sign*.

neon lamp *n.* a glass bulb or tube containing neon at low pressure that gives a pink or red glow when a voltage is applied.

neophyte (ˈni:əʊˌfaɪt) *n.* 1. a person newly converted to a religious faith. 2. a novice in a religious order. 3. a beginner.

Nepali (niˈpɔːli) or **Nepalese** (ˌnepəˈli:z) *n.* 1. the official language of Nepal, also spoken in parts of India. 2. a native or inhabitant of Nepal. ~*adj.* 3. of or relating to Nepal, its inhabitants, or their language.

nephew (ˈnevjuː, ˈnef-) *n.* a son of one's sister or brother.

nephritis (niˈfraitɪs) *n.* inflammation of a kidney.

nephro- or before a vowel **nephr-** *combining form.* kidney or kidneys: *nephritis*.

ne plus ultra *Latin.* (ˈneiˈplʊˈʊltrə) *n.* the extreme or perfect point or state.

nepotism (ˈnepəˌtɪzəm) *n.* favouritism shown to relatives or close friends by those with power. —**nepotist** *n.*

Neptune (ˈneptjʊn) *n.* the Roman god of the sea. Greek counterpart: **Poseidon**.

Neptune (ˈneptjʊn) *n.* the eighth planet from the sun, having two satellites, Triton and Nereid.

neptunium (nepˈtjuːniəm) *n.* a silvery metallic element synthesized in the production of plutonium and occurring in trace amounts in uranium ores. Symbol: Np; atomic no.: 93; half-life of most stable isotope, ²³⁷Np: 2.14 × 10⁴ years.

N.E.R.C. *abbrev. for* Natural Environment Research Council.

nervate (ˈnɜːveɪt) *adj.* (of leaves) having veins.

nerve (nɜːv) *n.* 1. any of the cordlike bundles of fibres that conduct impulses between the brain or spinal cord and another part of the body. 2. bravery or steadfastness. 3. **lose one's nerve.** to become timid, esp. failing to perform some audacious act. 4. *Inf.* effrontery; impudence. 5. muscle or sinew (often in **strain every nerve**). 6. a vein in a leaf or an insect's wing. ~*vb.* (tr.) 7. to give courage to (oneself); steel (oneself). 8. to provide with nerve or nerves.

nerve cell *n.* another name for **neuron**.

nerve centre *n.* 1. a group of nerve cells associated with a specific function. 2. a principal source of control over any complex activity.

nerve gas *n.* any of various poisonous gases that have a paralysing effect on the central nervous system that can be fatal.

nerveless (ˈnɜːvli:s) *adj.* 1. calm and collected. 2. listless or feeble. —**nervelessly** *adv.*

nerve-racking or **nerve-wracking** *adj.* very distressing, exhausting, or harrowing.

nerves (nɜːvz) *pl. n. Inf.* 1. the imagined source of emotional control: *my nerves won't stand it*. 2. anxiety, tension, or imbalance: *she's all nerves*. 3. **get on one's nerves.** to irritate or upset one.

nervous (ˈnɜːvəs) *adj.* 1. very excitable or sensitive; highly strung. 2. (often foll. by *of*) apprehensive or worried. 3. of or containing nerves: *nervous tissue*. 4. affecting the nerves or nervous tissue: *a nervous disease*. 5. *Arch.* vigorous or forceful. —**nervously** *adv.* —**nervousness** *n.*

nervous breakdown *n.* (not in technical use) a psychiatric illness characterized by irritability, depression, fatigue, insomnia, and nonspecific or ill-defined physical complaints.

nervous system *n.* the sensory and control apparatus of animals, consisting of a network of nerve cells (see **neuron**).

nervy (ˈnɜːvi) *adj.* **nervier, nerviest.** 1. *Brit. inf.* tense

or apprehensive. 2. having or needing bravery or endurance. 3. *U.S. inf.* brash or cheeky. 4. *Arch.* muscular; sinewy.

ness (nes) *n.* *Arch.* a promontory or headland.

-ness *suffix forming nouns chiefly from adjectives and participles.* indicating state, condition, or quality: *greatness; selfishness*.

nest (nest) *n.* 1. a place or structure in which birds, fishes, etc., lay eggs or give birth to young. 2. a number of animals of the same species occupying a common habitat: *an ants' nest*. 3. a place fostering something undesirable: *a nest of thievery*. 4. a cosy or secluded place. 5. a set of things, usually of graduated sizes, designed to fit together: *a nest of tables*. ~*vb.* 6. (*intr.*) to make or inhabit a nest. 7. (*intr.*) to hunt for birds' nests. 8. (*tr.*) to place in a nest. 9. *Computers.* to position data within other data at different ranks or levels so that the different levels of data can be used or accessed recursively. —**nest, like** *adj.*

nest egg *n.* 1. a fund of money kept in reserve; savings. 2. a natural or artificial egg left in a nest to induce hens to lay their eggs in it.

nestle (ˈnesl) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*; often foll. by *up* or *down*) to snuggle, settle, or cuddle closely. 2. (*intr.*) to be in a sheltered position; lie snugly. 3. (*tr.*) to shelter or place snugly or partly concealed, as in a nest.

nestling (ˈnestlɪŋ, ˈneslɪŋ) *n.* a. a young bird not yet fledged. b. (*as modifier*): *a nestling thrush*.

net (net) *n.* 1. an openwork fabric of string, wire, etc.; mesh. 2. a device made of net, used to protect or enclose things or to trap animals. 3. a thin light mesh fabric used for curtains, etc. 4. a plan, strategy, etc., intended to trap or ensnare: *the murderer slipped through the police net*. 5. *Tennis, badminton, etc.* a. a strip of net that divides the playing area into two equal parts. b. a shot that hits the net. 6. the goal in soccer, hockey, etc. 7. (*often pl.*) *Cricket.* a. a pitch surrounded by netting, used for practice. b. a practice session in a net. 8. another word for **network** (sense 2). ~*vb.* **netting, netted.** 9. (*tr.*) to ensnare. 10. (*tr.*) to shelter or surround with a net. 11. (*intr.*) *Tennis, badminton, etc.* to hit a shot into the net. 12. to make a net out of (rope, string, etc.).

net or **nett** (net) *adj.* 1. remaining after all deductions, as for taxes, expenses, losses, etc.: *net profit*. Cf. **gross** (sense 2). 2. (of weight) after deducting tare. 3. final; conclusive (esp. in **net result**). ~*n.* 4. net income, profits, weight, etc. ~*vb.* **netting, netted.** 5. (*tr.*) to yield or earn as clear profit.

netball (ˈnetˌbɔːl) *n.* a team game similar to basketball played mainly by women.

nether (ˈneðə) *adj.* below, beneath, or underground: *nether regions*.

nethermost (ˈneðəˌməʊst) *determiner.* the. farthest down; lowest.

nether world *n.* 1. the underworld. 2. hell. ~Also called: **nether regions**.

net profit *n.* gross profit minus all operating costs not included in the calculation of gross profit, esp. wages, overheads, and depreciation.

nett (net) *adj., n., vb.* a variant spelling of **net**.

netting (ˈnetɪŋ) *n.* any netted fabric or structure.

nettle (ˈnetl) *n.* 1. a plant having serrated leaves with stinging hairs and greenish flowers. 2. any of various other plants with stinging hairs or spines. 3. any of various plants that resemble nettles, such as the dead-nettle. 4. **grasp the nettle.** to attempt something with boldness and courage. ~*vb.* (tr.) 5. to bother; irritate. 6. to sting as a nettle does.

nettle rash *n.* a skin condition characterized by itchy red or whitish raised patches, usually caused by an allergy. Also called: **urticaria**.

network (ˈnetˌwɜːk) *n.* 1. an interconnected group or system: *a network of shops*. 2. a system of intersecting lines, roads, veins, etc. 3. another name for **net** (sense 1) or **netting**. 4. *Radio & TV.* a group of broadcasting stations that all transmit the same programme simultaneously. 5. *Electronics.* a system of interconnected components or circuits. ~*vb.* 6. *Radio & TV.* to broadcast over a network.

neural (ˈnjuərəl) *adj.* of or relating to a nerve or the nervous system. —**neurally** *adv.*

neuralgia (njuˈrældʒə) *n.* severe spasmodic pain along the course of one or more nerves. —**neur'algic** *adj.*

neuritis (njuˈraɪtɪs) *n.* inflammation of a nerve or nerves, often accompanied by pain and loss of function in the affected part. —**neuritic** (njuˈrɪtɪk) *adj.*

neuro- or before a vowel **neur-** combining form, indicating a nerve or the nervous system: *neurology*.

neurology (nju:'rɒlədʒi) *n.* the study of the anatomy, physiology, and diseases of the nervous system. —**neurological** (nju:'rɒlədʒɪkəl) *adj.*

neuron ('nju:ɔ:n) or **neurone** ('nju:ɔ:ʊn) *n.* a cell specialized to conduct nerve impulses: consists of a cell body, axon, and dendrites. Also called: **nerve cell**. —**neuronic** (nju:'rɒnik) *adj.*

neurosis (nju:'rəʊsɪs) *n.* *pl.* **-ses** (-sɪz). a relatively mild mental disorder, characterized by hysteria, anxiety, or obsessive behaviour.

neurosurgery (nju:'sɜ:ʒəri) *n.* the branch of surgery concerned with the nervous system. —**neuro-surgical** *adj.*

neurotic (nju:'rɒtɪk) *adj.* 1. of or afflicted by neurosis. ~*n.* 2. a person who is afflicted with a neurosis or who tends to be emotionally unstable. —**neurotically** *adv.* —**neuroticism** *n.*

neuter ('nju:tə) *adj.* 1. *Grammar.* a. denoting or belonging to a gender of nouns which do not specify the sex of their referents. b. (as *n.*): *German* "Mädchen" (meaning "girl") is a **neuter**. 2. (of animals and plants) having nonfunctional, underdeveloped, or absent reproductive organs. 3. giving no indication of sex. ~*n.* 4. a sexually underdeveloped female insect, such as a worker bee. 5. a castrated animal. ~*vb.* 6. (tr.) to castrate (an animal).

neutral ('nju:trəl) *adj.* 1. not siding with any party to a war or dispute. 2. of or belonging to a neutral party, country, etc. 3. of no distinctive quality or type. 4. (of a colour) a. having no hue; achromatic. b. dull, but harmonizing with most other colours. 5. a less common term for **neuter** (sense 2). 6. *Chem.* neither acidic nor alkaline. 7. *Physics.* having zero charge or potential. 8. *Phonetics.* (of a vowel) articulated with the tongue relaxed in mid-central position: "about" begins with a **neutral vowel**. ~*n.* 9. a neutral person, nation, etc. 10. a citizen of a neutral state. 11. the position of the controls of a gearbox that leaves the transmission disengaged. —**neutrally** *adv.*

neutrality (nju:'trælti) *n.* 1. the state of being neutral. 2. the condition of being chemically or electrically neutral.

neutralize or **-ise** ('nju:trə,laɪz) *vb.* (mainly tr.) 1. (also *intr.*) to render or become neutral by counteracting, mixing, etc. 2. to make or become electrically or chemically neutral. 3. to exclude (a country) from warfare or alliances by international agreement: the great powers neutralized Belgium in the 19th century. —**neutralization** or **-isation** *n.* —**neutralizer** or **-iser** *n.*

neutrino (nju:'tri:nəʊ) *n.*, *pl.* **-nos**. *Physics.* a stable elementary particle with zero rest mass and spin $\frac{1}{2}$ that travels at the speed of light.

neutron ('nju:trɒn) *n.* *Physics.* a neutral elementary particle with approximately the same mass as a proton. In the nucleus of an atom it is stable but when free it decays.

never ('nevə) *adv.*, *sentence substitute.* 1. at no time; not ever. 2. certainly not; by no means; in no case. ~*interj.* 3. Also: **well I never!** surely not!

▷ **Usage.** In good usage, **never** is not used with simple past tenses to mean *not* (I was asleep at midnight, so I did not see (not never saw) her go).

nevermore ('nevə'mɔ:ə) *adv.* *Literary.* never again.

never-never *Inf.* ~*n.* 1. *Brit.* the hire-purchase system of buying. 2. *Austral.* remote desert country. ~*adj.* 3. imaginary; idyllic (esp. in **never-never land**).

nevertheless ('nevəðə'les) *sentence connector.* in spite of that; however; yet.

new (nju:) *adj.* 1. a. recently made or brought into being. b. (as *n.*): the **new**. 2. of a kind never before existing; novel: a new concept in marketing. 3. recently discovered: a new comet. 4. markedly different from what was before: the new liberalism. 5. (often foll. by *to* or *at*) recently introduced (to); inexperienced (in) or unaccustomed (to): new to this neighbourhood. 6. (cap. in names or titles) more or most recent of things with the same name: the New Testament. 7. (prenominal) fresh; additional: send some new troops. 8. (often foll. by *to*) unknown: this is new to me. 9. (of a cycle) beginning or occurring again: a new year. 10. (prenominal) (of crops) harvested early. 11. changed, esp. for the better: she returned a new woman. 12. up-to-date; fashionable. 13. turn over a new leaf. to make a fresh start. ~*adv.* (usually in combination) 14. recently, freshly: new-laid eggs. 15. anew; again. —**newish** *adj.* —**newness** *n.*

newborn ('nju:bɔ:n) *adj.* 1. recently or just born. 2. (of hope, faith, etc.) reborn.

newcomer ('nju:kʌmə) *n.* a person who has recently arrived or started to participate in something.

newel ('nju:əl) *n.* 1. the central pillar of a winding staircase, esp. one that is made of stone. 2. Also called: **newel post**. the post at the top or bottom of a flight of stairs that supports the handrail.

newfangled ('nju:fæŋɡld) *adj.* newly come into existence or fashion, esp. excessively modern.

New Jerusalem *n.* Christianity. heaven.

newly ('nju:li) *adv.* 1. recently. 2. again; anew: newly raised hopes. 3. in a new manner; differently: a newly arranged hairdo.

newlywed ('nju:li,wed) *n.* (often *pl.*) a recently married person.

new maths *n.* an approach to mathematics in which the basic principles of set theory are introduced at an elementary level.

new moon *n.* the moon when it appears as a narrow waxing crescent.

news (nju:z) *n.* (functioning as *sing.*) 1. important or interesting recent happenings. 2. information about such events, as in the mass media. 3. the, a presentation, such as a radio broadcast, of information of this type. 4. interesting or important information not previously known. 5. a person, fashion, etc., widely reported in the mass media: she is news in the film world. —**newsless** *adj.*

newsagent ('nju:z,eɪdʒənt) or **U.S. newsdealer** *n.* *Brit.* a shopkeeper who sells newspapers, stationery, etc.

newscast ('nju:z,kɑ:st) *n.* a radio or television broadcast of the news. —**news,caster** *n.*

news conference *n.* another term for **press conference**.

news flash *n.* a brief item of important news, often interrupting a radio or television programme.

newsletter ('nju:z,letə) *n.* 1. Also called: **news-sheet**. a printed periodical bulletin circulated to members of a group. 2. *History.* a written or printed account of the news.

newspaper ('nju:z,peɪpə) *n.* a weekly or daily publication consisting of folded sheets and containing articles on the news, features, reviews, and advertisements. Often shortened to **paper**.

newsppeak ('nju:z,spi:k) *n.* the language of bureaucrats and politicians, regarded as deliberately ambiguous and misleading.

newsprint ('nju:z,prɪnt) *n.* an inexpensive wood-pulp paper used for newspapers.

newsreel ('nju:z,rɪl) *n.* a short film with a commentary presenting current events.

newsstand ('nju:z,stænd) *n.* a portable stand or stall from which newspapers are sold.

newsworthy ('nju:z,wɜ:ði) *adj.* sufficiently interesting to be reported in a news bulletin, etc.

newsy ('nju:zi) *adj.* **newswier**, **newsiest**. full of news, esp. gossip or personal news.

newt (nju:t) *n.* any of various small semiaquatic amphibians having a long slender body and tail and short feeble legs.

New Testament *n.* a collection of writings composed soon after Christ's death and added to the Jewish writings of the Old Testament to make up the Christian Bible.

newton ('nju:t'n) *n.* the derived SI unit of force that imparts an acceleration of 1 metre per second per second to a mass of 1 kilogram. Symbol: N

new town *n.* *Brit.* a town planned as a complete unit and built with government sponsorship, esp. to accommodate overspill population.

New World *n.* the Americas; the western hemisphere.

New Year *n.* the first day or days of the year in various calendars, usually a holiday.

New Year's Day *n.* January 1, celebrated as a holiday in many countries. Often shortened to (U.S. inf.) **New Year's**.

New Year's Eve *n.* the evening of Dec. 31. See also **Hogmanay**.

next (nekst) *adj.* 1. immediately following: the next patient to be examined. 2. immediately adjoining: the next room. 3. closest to in degree: the next-best thing. 4. the next (Sunday) but one. the (Sunday) after the next. ~*adv.* 5. at a time immediately to follow: the patient to be examined next. 6. next to. a. adjacent to: the house next to ours. b. following in degree: next to

your mother, who do you love most? c. almost: *next to impossible.* ~prep. 7. Arch. next to.

next door *adj.* (**next-door** when prenominal), *adv.* at or to the adjacent house, flat, etc.

next of kin *n.* a person's closest relative.

nexus ('neksəs) *n.*, *pl.* **nexus**. 1. a means of connection; link; bond. 2. a connected group or series.

NF or **N.F.** (in Britain) *abbrev.* for National Front.

Nfld. or **NF.** *abbrev.* for Newfoundland.

N.F.U. (in Britain) *abbrev.* for National Farmers' Union.

N.G. *abbrev.* for: 1. Also: **NG** (in the U.S.) National Guard. 2. New Guinea. 3. Also: **ng** no good.

N.G.A. *abbrev.* for National Graphical Association.

N.H.S. (in Britain) *abbrev.* for National Health Service.

Ni the chemical symbol for nickel.

N.I. *abbrev.* for: 1. (in Britain) National Insurance. 2. Northern Ireland.

nib (nɪb) *n.* 1. the writing point of a pen, esp. an insertable tapered metal part. 2. a point, tip, or beak. 3. (*pl.*) crushed cocoa beans. ~vb. **nibbing**, **nibbed**. (*tr.*) 4. to provide with a nib. 5. to sharpen the nib of.

nibble ('nɪbl) *vb.* (when *intr.*, often foll. by *at*) 1. (esp. of animals) to take small repeated bites (of). 2. to take dainty or tentative bites: *to nibble at a cake*. 3. to bite (*at*) gently. ~*n.* 4. a small mouthful. 5. an instance of nibbling. —'nibbler *n.*

nibs (nɪbz) *pl. n.* his **nibs**. *Sl.* a mock title used of someone in authority.

nice (naɪs) *adj.* 1. pleasant: *a nice day*. 2. kind or friendly: *a nice gesture of help*. 3. subtle or discriminating: *a nice point in the argument*. 4. precise; skilful: *a nice fit*. 5. Now rare. fastidious; respectable: *he was not too nice about his methods*. 6. Obs. a. foolish or ignorant. b. delicate. c. shy; modest. d. wanton. —'nicely *adv.* —'niceness *n.* —'nicish *adj.*

nicety ('naɪsɪti) *n.*, *pl.* -ties. 1. a subtle point: *a nicety of etiquette*. 2. (usually *pl.*) a refinement or delicacy: *the niceties of first-class travel*. 3. subtlety, delicacy, or precision. 4. to a nicety. with precision.

niche (nɪʃ, niːʃ) *n.* 1. a recess in a wall, esp. one that contains a statue, etc. 2. a position particularly suitable for the person occupying it: *he found his niche in politics*. 3. Ecology. the status of a plant or animal within its community, which determines its activities, relationships with other organisms, etc. ~vb. 4. (*tr.*) to place (a statue) in a niche; ensconce (oneself).

nick (nɪk) *n.* 1. a small notch or indentation. 2. *Brit. sl.* a prison or police station. 3. in good nick. in good condition. 4. in the nick of time. just in time. ~vb. 5. (*tr.*) to chip or cut. 6. *Sl.*, chiefly *Brit. a.* to steal. b. to arrest. 7. (*intr.*; often foll. by *off*) *Austral. inf.* to depart rapidly. 8. **nick (someone)** for. *U.S. sl.* to defraud (someone) to the extent of. 9. to divide and reset (the tail muscles of a horse) to give the tail a high carriage. 10. (*tr.*) to guess, catch, etc., exactly.

nickel ('nɪkəl) *n.* 1. a malleable silvery-white metallic element that is corrosion-resistant: used in alloys, in electroplating, and as a catalyst in organic synthesis. Symbol: Ni; atomic no.: 28; atomic wt.: 58.71. 2. a U.S. and Canadian coin worth five cents. ~vb. -elling, -elled or *U.S.* -eling, -eled. 3. (*tr.*) to plate with nickel.

nickelodeon ('nɪkə'ləʊdɪən) *n.* *U.S.* 1. an early form of jukebox. 2. (formerly) a Pianola, esp. one operated by inserting a five-cent piece.

nickel plate *n.* a thin layer of nickel deposited on a surface, usually by electrolysis.

nickel silver *n.* any of various white alloys containing copper, zinc, and nickel: used in making tableware, etc. Also called: **German silver**.

nicker¹ ('nɪkə) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. (of a horse) to neigh softly. 2. to snigger.

nicker² ('nɪkə) *n.*, *pl.* -er. *Brit. sl.* a pound sterling.

nicknack ('nɪk,næk) *n.* a variant spelling of **knick-knack**.

nickname ('nɪk,nem) *n.* 1. a familiar, pet, or derisive name given to a person, animal, or place. 2. a shortened or familiar form of a person's name: *Joe is a nickname for Joseph*. ~vb. 3. (*tr.*) to call by a nickname.

nicotine ('nɪkə,tɪn) *n.* a colourless oily acrid toxic liquid that turns yellowish-brown in air and light: the principal alkaloid in tobacco. —'nicotinic ('nɪkə-'tɪnɪk) *adj.*

nictitate ('nɪktɪ,tet) or **nictate** ('nɪktet) *vb.* a technical word for blink. —'nicti'tation or nict'tation *n.*

nictitating membrane *n.* (in reptiles, birds, and

some mammals) a thin fold of skin beneath the eyelid that can be drawn across the eye.

niece (niːs) *n.* a daughter of one's sister or brother.

niff (nɪf) *Brit. sl.* ~*n.* 1. a bad smell. ~vb. 2. to stink. —'niffy *adj.*

nifty ('nɪftɪ) *adj.* -tier, -tiest. *Inf.* 1. pleasing, apt, or stylish. 2. quick; agile. —'niftily *adv.* —'niftiness *n.*

niggard ('nɪɡəd) *n.* 1. a stingy person. ~adj. *Arch.* 2. miserly.

niggardly ('nɪɡədli) *adj.* 1. stingy. 2. meagre: *a niggardly salary*. ~adv. 3. stingily; grudgingly. —'niggardliness *n.*

nigger ('nɪɡə) *Derog.* ~*n.* 1. another name for a Negro. 2. a member of any dark-skinned race. 3. **nigger in the woodpile**, a hidden snag.

niggle ('nɪɡl) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to find fault continually. 2. (*intr.*) to be preoccupied with details; fuss. 3. (*tr.*) to irritate; worry.

nigh (naɪ) *adj.*, *adv.*, *prep.* an archaic, poetic, or dialect word for near.

night (naɪt) *n.* 1. the period of darkness that occurs each 24 hours, as distinct from day. 2. (*modifier*) of, occurring, working, etc., at night: *a night nurse*. 3. this period considered as a unit: *four nights later they left*. 4. the period between sunset and retiring to bed; evening. 5. the time between bedtime and morning. 6. the weather at night: *a clear night*. 7. the activity or experience of a person during a night. 8. (*sometimes cap.*) any evening designated for a special observance or function. 9. nightfall or dusk. 10. a state or period of gloom, ignorance, etc. 11. **make a night of it**, to celebrate for most of the night. ~Related *adj.*: **nocturnal**.

nightcap ('naɪt,kæp) *n.* 1. a cloth cap formerly worn in bed. 2. a bedtime drink.

nightclub ('naɪt,kɪlɒb) *n.* a place of entertainment open until late at night, usually offering food, drink, a floor show, dancing, etc.

nightdress ('naɪt,dres) *n.* *Brit.* a loose dress worn in bed by women. Also called: **nightgown**, **nightie**.

nightfall ('naɪt,fɔ:l) *n.* the approach of darkness; dusk.

nightgown ('naɪt,gaʊn) *n.* 1. another name for **nightdress**. 2. a man's nightshirt.

nightie or **nighty** ('naɪti) *n.*, *pl.* **nighties**. *Inf.* short for **nightdress** or **nightgown**.

nightingale ('naɪtɪŋ,geɪl) *n.* a brownish European songbird with a broad reddish-brown tail: well known for its musical song, usually heard at night.

nightjar ('naɪt,dʒɑː) *n.* any of a family of nocturnal birds which have large eyes and feed on insects.

night-light *n.* a dim light burning at night, esp. for children.

nightlong ('naɪt,lɒŋ) *adj.*, *adv.* throughout the night.

nightly ('naɪtlɪ) *adj.* 1. happening or relating to each night. 2. happening at night. ~adv. 3. at night or each night.

nightmare ('naɪt,mɛə) *n.* 1. a terrifying or deeply distressing dream. 2. a. an event or condition resembling a terrifying dream. b. (*as modifier*): *a nightmare drive*. 3. a thing that is feared. 4. (formerly) an evil spirit supposed to harass or suffocate sleeping people. —'night,marish *adj.*

nights (naɪts) *adv.* *Inf.* at night, esp. regularly: *he works nights*.

night safe *n.* a safe built into the outside wall of a bank, in which customers can deposit money at times when the bank is closed.

night school *n.* an educational institution that holds classes in the evening.

nightshade ('naɪt,ʃeɪd) *n.* any of various solanaceous plants, such as deadly nightshade and black nightshade.

nightshirt ('naɪt,ʃɜ:t) *n.* a loose knee-length or longer shirtlike garment worn in bed by men.

nightspot ('naɪt,spɒt) *n.* an informal word for **nightclub**.

night-time *n.* the time from sunset to sunrise; night as distinct from day.

night watch *n.* 1. a watch or guard kept at night, esp. for security. 2. the period of time the watch is kept. 3. a night watchman.

night watchman *n.* 1. Also called: **night watch**. a person who keeps guard at night on a factory, public building, etc. 2. *Crickets*. a batsman sent in to bat to play out time when a wicket has fallen near the end of a day's play.

nihilism ('naɪ,lɪzəm) *n.* 1. a complete denial of all established authority and institutions. 2. *Philosophy*. an extreme form of scepticism that systematically rejects

all values, belief in existence, etc. **3.** a revolutionary doctrine of destruction for its own sake. **4.** the practice of terrorism. — **'nihilist** *n.* **adj.** — **'nihil'istic** *adj.*

nil (nil) *n.* another word for **nothing**.

nilgai ('nilgai) or **nilghau** *n., pl.* -gai, -gais or -ghau, -ghaus. a large Indian antelope, the male of which has small horns.

nimble ('nimbl) *adj.* **1.** agile, quick, and neat in movement. **2.** alert; acute. — **'nimbleness** *n.* — **'nimbly** *adv.*

nimbus ('nimbus) *n., pl.* -bi (-bai) or -buses. **1. a.** a dark grey rain-bearing cloud. **b. (in combination):** *cumulo-nimbus clouds.* **2. a.** an emanation of light surrounding a saint or deity. **b.** a representation of this emanation. **3.** a surrounding aura.

nincompoop ('nin(k)m,pu:p, 'niŋ-) *n.* a stupid person; fool; idiot.

nine (nain) *n.* **1.** the cardinal number that is the sum of one and eight. **2.** a numeral, 9, IX, etc., representing this number. **3.** something representing, represented by, or consisting of nine units, such as a playing card with nine symbols on it. **4.** Also: **nine o'clock.** nine hours after noon or midnight: *the play starts at nine.* **5. dressed (up) to the nines. *Inf.* elaborately dressed. **6. 999** (in Britain) the telephone number of the emergency services. **7. nine to five.** normal office hours: *a nine-to-five job.* — **determiner.** **8. a.** amounting to nine: *nine days.* **b. (as pronoun):** *nine of the ten are ready.* — **'ninth** *adj.***

nine-days wonder *n.* something that arouses great interest but only for a short period.

ninefold ('naɪn,fəʊld) *adj.* **1.** equal to or having nine times as many or as much. **2.** composed of nine parts. — **adv.** **3.** by nine times as much.

ninepins ('naɪn,pɪnz) *n. (functioning as sing.)* **1.** the game of skittles. **2. (sing.)** one of the pins used in this game.

nineteen ('naɪn'ti:n) *n.* **1.** the cardinal number that is the sum of ten and nine. **2.** a numeral, 19, XIX, etc., representing this number. **3.** something represented by, representing, or consisting of 19 units. **4. talk nineteen to the dozen. to talk incessantly. — **determiner.** **5. a.** amounting to nineteen: *nineteen pictures.* **b. (as pronoun): *only nineteen voted.* — **'nine'teenth** *adj.*****

nineteenth hole *n.* Golf, *sl.* the bar in a golf clubhouse.

ninety ('naɪnti) *n., pl.* -ties. **1.** the cardinal number that is the product of ten and nine. **2.** a numeral, 90, XC, etc., representing this number. **3.** something represented by, representing, or consisting of 90 units. — **determiner.** **4. a.** amounting to ninety: *ninety times.* **b. (as pronoun): *at least ninety are missing.* — **'ninetieth** *adj.***

ninny ('ni:ni) *n., pl.* -nies. a dull-witted person.

niobium ('naɪ'ɒbiəm) *n.* a ductile white superconductive metallic element that occurs principally in the black mineral columbite and tantalite. Symbol: Nb; atomic no.: 41; atomic wt.: 92.906. Former name: **columbium**.

nip¹ ('nip) *vb.* **nipping, nipped.** (*mainly tr.*) **1.** to compress, as between a finger and the thumb; pinch. **2.** (often foll. by *off*) to remove by clipping, biting, etc. **3.** (when *intr.*, often foll. by *at*) to give a small sharp bite (to): *the dog nipped at his heels.* **4.** (esp. of the cold) to affect with a stinging sensation. **5.** to harm through cold: *the frost nipped the young plants.* **6.** Also: **nip in the bud.** to check or destroy the growth of. **7. (intr.; foll. by along, up, out, etc.) *Brit. inf.* to hurry; dart. **8. Sl., chiefly U.S. to snatch. — *n.* **9.** a pinch, snip, etc. **10.** severe frost or cold: *the first nip of winter.* **11. put the nips in (to). *Austral. & N.Z. sl.* to try to borrow money (from). **12. Arch. a taunting remark. **13. nip and tuck. *U.S.* neck and neck.**********

nip² ('nip) *n.* **1.** a small drink of spirits; dram. — *vb.* **nipping, nipped.** **2.** to drink spirits, esp. habitually in small amounts.

nipper ('nɪpə) *n.* **1.** a person or thing that nips. **2.** the large pincer-like claw of a lobster, crab, etc. **3. Inf., chiefly Brit. a small child.**

nippers ('nɪpəz) *pl. n.* an instrument or tool, such as a pair of pliers, for snipping or squeezing.

nipple ('nɪpəl) *n.* **1.** the small conical projection in the centre of each breast, which in women contains the outlet of the milk ducts. **2.** something resembling a nipple in shape or function. **3.** Also called: **grease nipple.** a small drilled bush, usually screwed into a bearing, through which grease is introduced.

nippy ('nɪpi) *adj.* -pier, -piest. **1.** biting, sharp, or chilly. **2. Brit. inf. a. quick; nimble; active. **b. (of a motor vehicle)** small and relatively powerful. **3. (of dogs)** inclined or quick to bite. — **'nippily** *adv.***

nirvana (nɪə'vɑ:nə, nɜ:-) *n.* **Buddhism, Hinduism.** final release from the cycle of reincarnation attained by extinction of all desires and individual existence, culminating (in Buddhism) in absolute blessedness, or (in Hinduism) in absorption into Brahman.

Nissen hut ('nis'n) *n.* a military shelter of semicircular cross section, made of corrugated steel sheet.

nit¹ ('nit) *n.* **1.** the egg of a louse, usually adhering to human hair. **2.** the larva of a louse.

nit² ('nit) *n.* *Inf., chiefly Brit.* short for **nitwit**.

nit-picking *Inf.* — *n.* **1.** a concern with insignificant details, esp. with the intention of finding fault. — *adj.* **2.** showing such a concern; fussy. — **'nit,-picker** *n.*

nitrate ('naitreit) *n.* **1.** any salt or ester of nitric acid. **2.** a fertilizer containing nitrate salts. — *vb.* **3. (tr.)** to treat with nitric acid or a nitrate. **4.** to convert or be converted into a nitrate. — **'nit'ration** *n.*

nitre or **U.S. niter** ('naɪtə) *n.* another name for **potassium nitrate**.

nitric ('naitrɪk) *adj.* of or containing nitrogen.

nitric acid *n.* a colourless corrosive liquid important in the manufacture of fertilizers, explosives, and many other chemicals. Formula: HNO₃. Former name: **aqua fortis**.

nitrify ('naitrɪ,faɪ) *vb.* -fying, -fied. (*tr.*) **1.** to treat or cause to react with nitrogen. **2.** to treat (soil) with nitrates. **3. (of nitrobacteria)** to convert (ammonium compounds) into nitrates by oxidation. — **'nitri,fi-**able *adj.*

nitro- or before a vowel **nitr-** combining form. **1.** indicating that a chemical compound contains a nitro group, -NO₂: **nitrobenzene.** **2.** indicating that a chemical compound is a nitrate ester: **nitrocellulose.**

nitrogen ('naɪtrɒdʒən) *n.* a colourless odourless relatively unreactive gaseous element that forms 78 per cent of the air and is an essential constituent of proteins and nucleic acids. Symbol: N; atomic no.: 7; atomic wt.: 14.0067. — **'nitrogenous** (-'trɒdʒ-) *adj.*

nitrogen cycle *n.* the natural circulation of nitrogen by living organisms. Nitrates in the soil, derived from dead organic matter by bacterial action, are absorbed and synthesized into complex organic compounds by plants and reduced to nitrates again when the plants and the animals feeding on them die and decay.

nitrogen fixation *n.* **1.** the conversion of atmospheric nitrogen into nitrogen compounds by soil bacteria in the root nodules of legumes, and by certain algae. **2.** a process in which atmospheric nitrogen is converted into a nitrogen compound, used esp. for fertilizer.

nitroglycerin ('naɪtrəʊ'glɪsərɪn) or **nitroglycerine** ('naɪtrəʊ'glɪsə,rɪn) *n.* a pale yellow viscous explosive liquid made from glycerol and nitric and sulphuric acids. Formula: CH₂NO₃CHNO₃CH₂NO₃. Also called: **trinitro-glycerin**.

nitrous ('naɪtrəs) *adj.* of, derived from, or containing nitrogen, esp. in a low valency state.

nitrous oxide *n.* a colourless gas with a sweet smell: used as an anaesthetic in dentistry. Formula: N₂O. Also called: **laughing gas**.

nitty ('nɪti) *adj.* -tier, -tiest. infested with nits.

nitty-gritty ('nɪti'grɪti) *n.* the *Sl.* the basic facts of a matter, situation, etc.; the core.

nitwit ('nɪt,wɪt) *n.* a foolish or dull person.

NNE *abbrev. for* north-northeast.

NNW *abbrev. for* north-northwest.

no¹ (nəʊ) *sentence substitute.* **1.** used to express denial, disagreement, refusal, etc. — *adv.* **2. (sentence modifier)** used to emphasize a negative statement, esp. when disagreeing: *no you can't.* — *n., pl.* **noes** or **nos**. **3.** an answer or vote of *no*. **4. (often pl.)** a person who votes in the negative. **5. the noes have it.** there is a majority of votes in the negative. **6. not take no for an answer.** to continue in a course of action, etc., despite refusals.

no² (nəʊ) *determiner.* **1.** not any, not a, or not one: *there's no money left; no card in the file.* **2.** not at all: *she's no youngster.* **3. (foll. by comparative adjectives and adverbs)** not: *no less than forty men; no taller than a child.*

No¹ or **Noh** (nəʊ) *n., pl.* **No** or **Noh.** the stylized classic drama of Japan, developed in the 15th century or earlier, using music, dancing, and themes from religious stories or myths.

No² *the chemical symbol for* nobelium.

No. *abbrev. for:* **1.** north(ern). **2.** Also: **no.** (*pl.* **Nos., nos.**) number.

n.o. *Cricket. abbrev. for* not out.

nob (nob) *n. Sl., chiefly Brit.* a person of wealth or social distinction.

no-ball *n.* 1. *Cricket.* an illegal ball, as for overstepping the crease, for which the batting side scores a run unless the batsman hits the ball, in which case he can only be out by being run out. 2. *Rounders.* an illegal ball, esp. one bowled too high or too low. ~*interj.* 3. *Cricket, rounders.* a call by the umpire indicating a no-ball.

nobble ('nobl) *vb. (tr.) Brit. sl.* 1. to disable (a race-horse), esp. with drugs. 2. to win over or outwit (a person) by underhand means. 3. to steal. 4. to grab. 5. to kidnap.

nobelium (nəu'bi:liəm) *n.* a transuranic element produced artificially from curium. Symbol: No; atomic no.: 102; half-life of most stable isotope, ²⁵⁹No: 180 seconds (approx.).

Nobel prize (nəu'bel) *n.* an annual prize awarded since 1901 for outstanding contributions to chemistry, physics, physiology and medicine, literature, economics, and peace.

nobility (nəu'bilɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. a privileged class whose titles are conferred by descent or royal decree. 2. the quality of being good; dignity: *nobility of mind.* 3. (in the British Isles) the class of people holding the title of dukes, marquesses, earls, viscounts, or barons and their feminine equivalents; peerage.

noble ('nəʊbl) *adj.* 1. of or relating to a hereditary class with special status, often derived from a feudal period. 2. of or characterized by high moral qualities; magnanimous: *a noble deed.* 3. having dignity or eminence; illustrious. 4. imposing; magnificent: *a noble avenue of trees.* 5. superior; excellent: *a noble strain of horses.* 6. *Chem. a.* (of certain elements) chemically unreactive. *b.* (of certain metals, esp. copper, silver, and gold) resisting oxidation. ~*n.* 7. a person belonging to a privileged class whose status is usually indicated by a title. 8. (in the British Isles) a person holding the title of duke, marquess, earl, viscount, or baron, or a feminine equivalent. 9. a former Brit. gold coin having the value of one third of a pound. —**nobleness** *n.* —**nobly** *adv.*

nobleman ('nəʊblmən) or (*fem.*) **noblewoman** *n., pl. -men or -women.* a person of noble rank, title, or status; peer; aristocrat.

noblesse oblige (nəu'bles əu'bli:ʒ) *n.* *Often ironic.* the supposed obligation of nobility to be honourable and generous.

nobody ('nəʊbədi) *pron.* 1. no person; no-one. ~*n., pl. -bodies.* 2. an insignificant person.

➤ **Usage.** See at **everyone.**

nock (nok) *n.* 1. a notch on an arrow that fits on the bowstring. 2. either of the grooves at each end of a bow that hold the bowstring. ~*vb. (tr.)* 3. to fit (an arrow) on a bowstring.

no-claim bonus *n.* a reduction on an insurance premium, esp. one covering a motor vehicle, if no claims have been made within a specified period. Also called: **no-claims bonus.**

nocturnal (nɒk'tʃ:nl) *adj.* 1. of, used during, occurring in, or relating to the night. 2. (of animals) active at night. 3. (of plants) having flowers that open at night and close by day. —**nocturnality** *n.* —**nocturnally** *adv.*

nocturne ('nɒktʃ:n) *n.* 1. a short, lyrical piece of music, esp. one for the piano. 2. a painting of a night scene.

nod (nod) *vb.* **nodding, nodded.** 1. to lower and raise (the head) briefly, as to indicate agreement, etc. 2. (*tr.*) to express by nodding: *she nodded approval.* 3. (*intr.*) (of flowers, trees, etc.) to sway or bend forwards and back. 4. (*intr.*) to let the head fall forward through drowsiness; be almost asleep: *the old lady sat nodding by the fire.* 5. (*intr.*) to be momentarily careless: *even Homer sometimes nods.* ~*n.* 6. a quick down-and-up movement of the head, as in assent, command, etc. See also **nod off.** —**'noddingly** *adv.*

noddle ('nodl) *n. Inf., chiefly Brit.* the head or brains: *use your noddle!*

noddy ('nɒdi) *n., pl. -dies.* 1. any of several tropical terns, typically having a dark plumage. 2. a fool or dunce.

node (nɒd) *n.* 1. a knot, swelling, or knob. 2. the point on a plant stem from which the leaves or lateral branches grow. 3. *Physics.* a point of zero or minimum displacement in a standing wave. 4. Also called: **crunode.** *Maths.* a point at which two branches of a curve intersect. 5. *Maths., linguistics.* one of the objects of which a graph or a tree consists. 6. *Astron.* either of the two points at which the orbit of a body intersects the

plane of the ecliptic. 7. *Anat.* any natural bulge or swelling, such as those along the course of a lymphatic vessel (**lymph node**). —**'nodal** *adj.*

nod off *vb. (intr., adv.) Inf.* to fall asleep.

nodule ('nodju:l) *n.* 1. a small knot, lump, or node. 2. any of the knoblike outgrowths on the roots of clover and other legumes that contain bacteria involved in nitrogen fixation. 3. a small rounded lump of rock or mineral substance, esp. in a matrix of different rock material. —**'nodular, 'nodulose, or 'nodulous** *adj.*

Noel or Noël (nəu'el) *n.* (in carols, etc.) another word for Christmas.

nog or nogg (nog) *n.* 1. Also called: **flip.** a drink, esp. an alcoholic one, containing beaten egg. 2. *East Anglian dialect.* strong local beer.

noggin ('nogɪn) *n.* 1. a small quantity of spirits. 2. a small mug. 3. an informal word for **head.**

no-go area *n.* a district in a town that is barricaded off, usually by a paramilitary organization, which the police, army, etc., can only enter by force.

noise (noɪz) *n.* 1. a sound, esp. one that is loud or disturbing. 2. loud shouting; clamour; din. 3. any undesired electrical disturbance in a circuit, etc. 4. **make a noise.** to talk a great deal or complain (about). ~*vb.* 5. (*tr.*; usually foll. by *abroad* or *about*) to spread (news, gossip, etc.).

noiseless ('noɪzls) *adj.* making little or no sound. —**'noiselessly** *adv.* —**'noiselessness** *n.*

noisome ('noɪsəm) *adj.* 1. (esp. of smells) offensive. 2. harmful or noxious. —**'noisomeness** *n.*

noisy ('noɪzi) *adj.* **noisier, noisiest.** 1. making a loud or constant noise. 2. full of or characterized by noise. —**'noisily** *adv.* —**'noisiness** *n.*

nomad ('nəʊmæd) *n.* 1. a member of a people or tribe who move from place to place to find pasture and food. 2. a wanderer. —**no'madic** *adj.* —**'nomadism** *n.*

no-man's-land *n.* 1. land between boundaries, esp. an unoccupied zone between opposing forces. 2. an unowned or unclaimed piece of land. 3. an ambiguous area of activity.

nom de plume ('nɒm də 'plu:m) *n., pl. noms de plume.* another term for **pen name.**

nomenclature (nəu'menklətʃ; U.S. 'nəʊmən,kleitʃər) *n.* the terminology used in a particular science, art, activity, etc.

nominal ('nɒmɪnəl) *adj.* 1. in name only; theoretical: *the nominal leader.* 2. minimal in comparison with real worth; token: *a nominal fee.* 3. of, constituting, or giving a name. 4. *Grammar.* of or relating to a noun or noun phrase. ~*n.* 5. *Grammar.* a noun, noun phrase, or syntactically similar structure. —**'nominally** *adv.*

nominalism ('nɒmɪn,lɪzəm) *n.* the philosophical theory that a general word, such as *dog*, is merely a name and does not denote a real object, the general idea "dog". —**'nominalist** *n.*

nominal value *n.* another name for **par value.**

nominate *vb.* ('nɒmɪ,neɪt). (*mainly tr.*) 1. to propose as a candidate, esp. for an elective office. 2. to appoint to an office or position. 3. (*intr.*) *Austral.* to stand as a candidate in an election. —**'nomination** *n.* —**'nominator** *n.*

nominalative ('nɒmɪnətɪv) *adj.* 1. *Grammar.* denoting a case of nouns and pronouns in inflected languages that is used esp. to identify the subject of a finite verb. 2. appointed rather than elected to a position, office, etc. ~*n.* 3. *Grammar.* a. the nominative case. b. a word or speech element in the nominative case. —**'nominativ** ('nɒmɪnətɪv) *adj.*

nominee ('nɒmɪ'ni:) *n.* a person who is nominated to an office or as a candidate.

-nomy *n.* combining form. indicating a science or the laws governing a certain field of knowledge: *agronomy; economy.* —**-nomic** *adj.* combining form.

non- *prefix.* 1. indicating negation: *nonexistent.* 2. indicating refusal or failure: *noncooperation.* 3. indicating exclusion from a specified class: *nonfiction.* 4. indicating lack or absence: *nonobjective; nonevent.*

nonage ('nɒnɪdʒ) *n.* 1. *Law.* the state of being under any of various ages at which a person may legally enter into certain transactions, such as marrying, etc. 2. any period of immaturity.

nonagenarian ('nɒnədʒɪ'nɛɪʃən) *n.* 1. a person who is from 90 to 99 years old. ~*adj.* 2. of, relating to, or denoting a nonagenarian.

nonagon ('nɒnə,gɒn) *n.* a polygon having nine sides. —**nonagonal** ('nɒn'æɡənəl) *adj.*

nonaligned (ˌnɒnəˈlaɪnd) *adj.* (of states, etc.) not part of a major alliance or power bloc. — **'nonalignment** *n.*

nonce (nɒns) *n.* the present time or occasion (now only in for the nonce).

nonce word *n.* a word coined for a single occasion.

nonchalant (ˌnɒnʃələnt) *adj.* casually unconcerned or indifferent; uninvolved. — **'nonchalance** *n.*

non-com (ˌnɒn,kɒm) *n.* short for **noncommissioned officer**.

noncombatant (ˌnɒnˈkɒmbətənt) *n.* 1. a civilian in time of war. 2. a member of the armed forces whose duties do not include fighting, such as a chaplain or surgeon.

noncommissioned officer (ˌnɒnˈkɒmɪʃnd) *n.* a person holding a military rank, such as sergeant or corporal, that involves the exercise of authority but does not carry a commission: noncommissioned officers are appointed from the ranks.

noncommittal (ˌnɒnˈkɒmɪtəl) *adj.* not involving or revealing commitment to any particular opinion or course of action.

non compos mentis *Latin.* (ˌnɒn ˈkɒmpɒs ˈmentɪs) *adj.* mentally incapable of managing one's own affairs; of unsound mind.

nonconformist (ˌnɒnˈkɒnˈfɔːmɪst) *n.* a person who does not conform to generally accepted patterns of behaviour or thought. — **'nonconformity** or **'nonconformism** *n.*

Nonconformist (ˌnɒnˈkɒnˈfɔːmɪst) *n.* 1. a member of a Protestant denomination that dissents from an Established Church, esp. the Church of England. ~*adj.* 2. of, relating to, or denoting Nonconformists. — **'Nonconformity** or **'Nonconformism** *n.*

noncontributory (ˌnɒnˈkɒnˈtrɪbjʊtəri) *adj.* denoting an insurance or pension scheme for employees, the premiums of which are paid entirely by the employer.

nondescript (ˈnɒndɪˌskrɪpt) *adj.* 1. having no outstanding features. ~*n.* 2. a nondescript person or thing.

none (nan) *pron.* (functioning as *sing.* or *pl.*) 1. not any of a particular class: none of my letters has arrived. 2. no-one; nobody: there were none to tell the tale. 3. not any (of): none of it looks edible. 4. none other. no other person: none other than the Queen herself. 5. none the. (*fol.* by a comparative *adj.*) in no degree: she was none the worse for her ordeal. 6. none too. not very: he was none too pleased.

▷ **Usage.** See at everyone.

nonentity (ˌnɒnˈentɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. an insignificant person or thing. 2. a nonexistent thing. 3. the state of not existing; nonexistence.

nones (nɒnz) *n.* (functioning as *sing.* or *pl.*) 1. (in the Roman calendar) the ninth day before the ides of each month: the seventh day of March, May, July, and October, and the fifth of each other month. 2. **Chiefly** R.C. Church. the fifth of the seven canonical hours of the

divine office, originally fixed at the ninth hour of the day, about 3 p.m.

nonesuch or **nonsuch** (ˌnɒn,satʃ) *n.* Arch. a matchless person or thing; nonpareil.

nonetheless (ˌnɒnðəˈles) *sentence connector.* despite that; however; nevertheless.

nonevent (ˌnɒnˈvent) *n.* a disappointing or insignificant occurrence, esp. one predicted to be important.

nonferrous (ˌnɒnˈfɛrəs) *adj.* 1. denoting any metal other than iron. 2. not containing iron.

nonflammable (ˌnɒnˈflæməbəl) *adj.* incapable of burning or not easily set on fire.

nonintervention (ˌnɒnɪntəˈvenʃən) *n.* refusal to intervene, esp. the abstention by a state from intervening in the affairs of other states or in its own internal disputes.

nonmetal (ˌnɒnˈmetl) *n.* any of a number of chemical elements that have acidic oxides and are poor conductors of heat and electricity. — **'nonmetallic** *adj.*

nonmoral (ˌnɒnˈmɒrəl) *adj.* not involving morality or ethics; neither moral nor immoral.

nonpareil (ˌnɒnpərəɪl, ˌnɒnpəˈreɪl) *n.* a person or thing that is unsurpassed or unmatched; peerless example.

nonplus (ˌnɒnˈplʌs) *vb.* **-plussing, -plussed** or **U.S. -plusing, -plused.** 1. (*tr.*) to put at a loss; confound. ~*n., pl. -pluses.* 2. a state of utter perplexity prohibiting action or speech.

nonproliferation (ˌnɒnpəˈlɪfəˈreɪʃən) *n.* a. limitation of the production or spread of something, esp. nuclear or chemical weapons. b. (as modifier): a nonproliferation treaty.

nonrepresentational (ˌnɒnrɪˈprezənˈteɪʃənəl) *adj.* Art. another word for **abstract**.

nonsense (ˈnɒnsəns) *n.* 1. something that has or makes no sense; unintelligible language; drivel. 2. conduct or action that is absurd. 3. foolish behaviour: she'll stand no nonsense. 4. no-nonsense. businesslike. 5. things of little or no value; trash. ~*interj.* 6. an exclamation of disagreement. — **'nonsensical** (ˌnɒnˈsensɪkəl) *adj.* — **'non-sensically** *adv.* — **'non-sensicalness** or **'non-sensicality** *n.*

non sequitur (ˌnɒn ˈsekwi:tə) *n.* 1. a statement having little or no relevance to what preceded it. 2. Logic. a conclusion that does not follow from the premisses.

nonstarter (ˌnɒnˈstɑːtə) *n.* 1. a horse that fails to run in a race for which it has been entered. 2. a person or thing that has little chance of success.

nonstick (ˌnɒnˈstɪk) *adj.* (of saucepans, etc.) coated with a substance that prevents food sticking to them.

nonstop (ˌnɒnˈstɒp) *adj., adv.* without making a stop: a nonstop flight.

nonsuch (ˌnɒn,satʃ) *n.* a variant spelling of **nonesuch**.

nonsuit (ˌnɒnˈsjʊt) *n.* 1. Law. an order of a judge dismissing a suit when the plaintiff fails to show he has a good cause of action or fails to produce any evidence.

nonappearance *n.*
nonattendance *n.*
nonbelligerent *adj.*
nonbreakable *adj.*
noncentral *adj.*
non-Christian *adj.*
noncommercial *adj.*
noncommissioned *adj.*
noncommunicant *n.*
noncommunicative *adj.*
noncommunist *n., adj.*
noncompetitive *adj.*
noncompliance *n.*
nonconclusive *adj.*
nonconductor *n.*
nonconsecutive *adj.*
noncontagious *adj.*
noncontributing *adj.*
noncontroversial *adj.*
nonconventional *adj.*
nonconversant *adj.*
nonconvertible *adj.*
noncooperation *n.*
noncreative *adj.*
noncriminal *adj.*
noncritical *adj.*
noncultivated *adj.*
nondelivery *n.*
nondemocratic *adj.*
nondenominational *adj.*

nondepartmental *adj.*
nondetachable *adj.*
nondiscriminating *adj.*
nondivisible *adj.*
nondrinker *n.*
nondriver *n.*
nonearning *adj.*
noneffective *adj.*
nonessential *adj., n.*
nonethical *adj.*
nonexchangeable *adj.*
nonexistence *n.*
nonexistent *adj.*
nonexplosive *adj.*
nonfatal *adj.*
nonfreezing *adj.*
nonfunctional *adj.*
nonhuman *adj.*
noninfectious *adj.*
noninflammable *adj.*
nonintellectual *adj.*
nonintersecting *adj.*
nonintoxicating *adj.*
nonirritant *adj., n.*
nonlethal *adj.*
nonlinear *adj.*
nonmagnetic *adj.*
nonmalignant *adj.*
nonmember *n.*
nonmigratory *adj.*

nonmilitant *adj.*
nonnavigable *adj.*
non-negotiable *adj.*
non-nuclear *adj.*
nonoperative *adj.*
nonparticipating *adj.*
nonpaying *adj.*
nonpayment *n.*
nonpermanent *adj.*
nonpermeable *adj.*
nonplaying *adj.*
nonpoisonous *adj.*
nonporous *adj.*
nonracial *adj.*
nonreader *n.*
nonrecognition *n.*
nonrecoverable *adj.*
nonregistered *adj.*
nonrepresentative *adj.*
nonresident *n., adj.*
nonrestricted *adj.*
nonreturnable *adj.*
nonscheduled *adj.*
nonsectarian *adj.*
nonselective *adj.*
nonskilled *adj.*
nonslip *adj.*
nonstructural *adj.*

~vb. 2. (tr.) to order the dismissal of the suit of (a person).

non-U (non'ju:) *adj.* *Brit. inf.* (esp. of language) not characteristic of or used by the upper class.

nonunion (non'ju:njən) *adj.* 1. not belonging or related to a trade union: *nonunion workers*. 2. not favouring or employing union labour: a *nonunion shop*. 3. not produced by union labour.

nonvoter (non'vəutə) *n.* 1. a person who does not vote. 2. a person not eligible to vote.

noodle ('nu:dl) *n.* (often pl.) a ribbon-like strip of pasta.

noodle ('nu:dl) *n.* 1. U.S. a slang word for **head**. 2. a simpleton.

nook (nu:k) *n.* 1. a corner or narrow recess, as in a room. 2. a secluded or sheltered place.

noon (nu:n) *n.* 1. the middle of the day; 12 o'clock. 2. *Poetic.* the most important part; culmination.

no-one or no one *pron.* no person; nobody.

▷ **Usage.** See at **everyone**.

noose (nu:s) *n.* 1. a loop in the end of a rope, such as a lasso or hangman's halter, usually tied with a slipknot. 2. something that restrains or traps. 3. **put one's head in a noose**, to bring about one's own downfall. ~vb. (tr.) 4. to secure in or as if in a noose. 5. to make a noose of or in.

no-par *adj.* (of securities) without a par value.

nor (nɔ:; unstressed nə) *conj.* (coordinating) 1. (used to join alternatives, the first of which is preceded by *neither* and not: *neither measles nor mumps*. 2. (foll. by a verb) (and) not...either: *they weren't talented—nor were they particularly funny*. 3. *Poetic.* *neither: nor wind nor rain*.

Nor. *abbrev. for:* 1. Norman. 2. north. 3. Norway. 4. Norwegian.

Nordic ('nɔ:dɪk) *adj.* of or belonging to a subdivision of the Caucasoid race typified by the tall blond blue-eyed long-headed inhabitants of Scandinavia.

Norfolk jacket ('nɔ:fək) *n.* a man's single-breasted belted jacket with one or two chest pockets and a box pleat down the back.

norm (nɔ:m) *n.* 1. an average level of achievement or performance, as of a group. 2. a standard of achievement or behaviour that is required, desired, or designated as normal.

normal ('nɔ:məl) *adj.* 1. usual; regular; common; typical: *the normal level*. 2. constituting a standard: *if we take this as normal*. 3. *Psychol.* a. being within certain limits of intelligence, ability, etc. b. conforming to the conventions of one's group. 4. (of laboratory animals) maintained in a natural state for purposes of comparison with animals treated with drugs, etc. 5. *Chem.* (of a solution) containing a number of grams equal to the equivalent weight of the solute in each litre of solvent. 6. *Geom.* another word for **perpendicular** (sense 1). ~*n.* 7. the usual, average, or typical state, degree, form, etc. 8. anything that is normal. 9. *Geom.* a perpendicular line or plane. —**normality** (nɔ:'mælɪti) or *esp.* U.S. **'normalcy** *n.*

normalize or -ise ('nɔ:mə,laɪz) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to bring or make into the normal state. 2. to bring into conformity with a standard. 3. to heat (steel) above a critical temperature and allow it to cool in air to relieve internal stresses; anneal. —**normalization or -i'sation** *n.*

normally ('nɔ:məlɪ) *adv.* 1. as a rule; usually; ordinarily. 2. in a normal manner.

Norman ('nɔ:mən) *n.* 1. (in the Middle Ages) a member of the people of Normandy in N France, descended from the 10th-century Scandinavian conquerors of the country and the native French. 2. a native or inhabitant of Normandy. 3. another name for **Norman French**. ~*adj.* 4. of or characteristic of the Normans or their dialect of French. 5. of or characteristic of Normandy. 6. denoting or having the style of Romanesque architecture used in Britain from the Norman Conquest until the 12th century, characterized by the rounded arch, massive masonry walls, etc.

Norman French *n.* the medieval Norman and English dialect of Old French.

normative ('nɔ:mətɪv) *adj.* implying, creating, or prescribing a norm or standard, as in language: *normative grammar*.

Norn (nɔ:n) *n.* 1. *Norse myth.* any of the three virgin

goddesses of fate. 2. the medieval Norse language of the Orkneys, Shetlands, and parts of N Scotland.

Norse (nɔ:s) *adj.* 1. of ancient and medieval Scandinavia or its inhabitants. 2. of or characteristic of Norway. ~*n.* 3. a. the N group of Germanic languages, spoken in Scandinavia. b. any one of these languages, esp. in their ancient or medieval forms. 4. **the Norse**. (*functioning as pl.*) a. the Norwegians. b. the Vikings.

Norseman ('nɔ:smən) *n., pl. -men.* another name for a Viking.

north (nɔ:θ) *n.* 1. one of the four cardinal points of the compass, at 0° or 360°, that is 90° from east and west and 180° from south. 2. the direction along a meridian towards the North Pole. 3. the direction in which a compass needle points; magnetic north. 4. **the north**. (*often cap.*) any area lying in or towards the north. ~*adj.* 5. in, towards, or facing the north. 6. (esp. of the wind) from the north. ~*adv.* 7. in, to, or towards the north.

North (nɔ:θ) *n. the.* 1. the northern area of England, generally regarded as reaching the southern boundaries of Yorkshire, Derbyshire, and Cheshire. 2. (in the U.S.) the states north of the Mason-Dixon Line that were known as the Free States during the Civil War. 3. the northern part of North America, esp. Alaska and the Yukon. ~*adj.* 4. of or denoting the northern part of a specified country, area, etc.

Northants. (nɔ:'θænts) *abbrev. for* Northamptonshire.

North Country *n.* (usually preceded by *the*) another name for **North** (sense 1).

northeast (,nɔ:θ'i:st; *Naut.* ,nɔ:r'i:st) *n.* 1. the point of the compass or direction midway between north and east. 2. (*often cap.*; usually preceded by *the*) any area lying in or towards this direction. ~*adj.* also **northeastern**. 3. (*sometimes cap.*) of or denoting the northeastern part of a specified country, area, etc.: *northeast Lincolnshire*. 4. in, towards, or facing the northeast. 5. (esp. of the wind) from the northeast. ~*adv.* 6. in, to, towards, or (esp. of the wind) from the northeast. —**northeast'ly** *adj., adv.* —**northeasternmost** *adj.* —**northeastward** *adj.*

Northeast (,nɔ:θ'i:st) *n.* (usually preceded by *the*) the northeastern part of England, esp. Northumberland and Durham.

northeaster (,nɔ:θ'i:stə; *Naut.* ,nɔ:r'i:stə) *n.* a strong wind or storm from the northeast.

northerly ('nɔ:θəli) *adj.* 1. of or situated in the north. ~*adv.* 2. towards the north. 3. from the north: *a northerly wind*. ~*n., pl. -lies*. 4. a wind from the north. —**'northerliness** *n.*

northern ('nɔ:ðən) *adj.* 1. in or towards the north. 2. (esp. of winds) proceeding from the north. 3. (*sometimes cap.*) of or characteristic of the north or North.

Northerner ('nɔ:ðənə) *n.* (*sometimes not cap.*) a native or inhabitant of the north of any specified region, esp. England, the U.S., or the far north of Canada.

northern hemisphere *n.* (*often caps.*) that half of the globe lying north of the equator.

northern lights *pl. n.* another name for **aurora borealis**.

Northman ('nɔ:θmən) *n., pl. -men.* another name for a Viking.

north-northeast *n.* 1. the point on the compass or the direction midway between north and northeast. ~*adj., adv.* 2. in, from, or towards this direction.

north-northwest *n.* 1. the point on the compass or the direction midway between northwest and north. ~*adj., adv.* 2. in, from, or towards this direction.

North Pole *n.* 1. the northernmost point on the earth's axis, at a latitude of 90°N, characterized by very low temperatures. 2. Also called: **north celestial pole**. *Astron.* the point of intersection of the earth's extended axis and the northern half of the celestial sphere.

North-Sea gas *n. Brit.* natural gas obtained from deposits below the North Sea.

North Star *n. the.* another name for **Polaris**.

northward ('nɔ:θwəd; *Naut.* 'nɔ:ðəd) *adj.* 1. moving, facing, or situated towards the north. ~*n.* 2. the northward part, direction, etc. ~*adv.* also **northwards**. 3. towards the north.

northwest (,nɔ:θ'west; *Naut.* ,nɔ:'west) *n.* 1. the point of the compass or direction midway between north and

nonswimmer *n.*

nontechnical *adj.*

nontoxic *adj.*

nontransferable *adj.*

nonvenomous *adj.*

nonverbal *adj.*

nonviolent *adj.*

west. **2.** (*often cap.*; usually preceded by *the*) any area lying in or towards this direction. ~*adj.* also **northwestern**. **3.** (*sometimes cap.*) of or denoting the northwestern part of a specified country, area, etc.: *northwest Greenland*. ~*adj.* *adv.* **4.** in, to, towards, (esp. of the wind) from the northwest. —**north'westerly** *adj.*, *adv.* —**north'westernmost** *adj.* —**north'westward** *adj.*

Northwest (ˌnɔːθˈwest) *n.* (usually preceded by *the*) the northwestern part of England, esp. Lancashire and the Lake District.

northwester (ˌnɔːθˈwestə; *Naut.* ˌnɔːˈwestə) *n.* a strong wind or storm from the northwest.

Norw. *abbrev. for:* 1. Norway. 2. Norwegian.

Norwegian (nɔːˈwiːdʒən) *adj.* 1. of or characteristic of Norway, its language, or its people. ~*n.* 2. any of the various North Germanic languages of Norway. **3.** a native or inhabitant of Norway.

Nos. or nos. *abbrev. for numbers.*

nose (naʊz) *n.* 1. the organ of smell and entrance to the respiratory tract, consisting of a prominent structure divided into two hair-lined air passages. 2. the sense of smell itself; in animals, the ability to follow trails by scent (esp. in a **good nose**). 3. instinctive skill in discovering things (sometimes in **follow one's nose**); *he had a nose for good news stories*. 4. any part resembling a nose in form or function, such as a nozzle or spout. 5. the forward part of a vehicle, aircraft, etc. 6. narrow margin of victory (in **win**) by a nose). 7. **cut off one's nose to spite one's face**, to carry out a vengeful action that hurts oneself more than another. 8. **keep one's nose clean**, to stay out of trouble. 9. **keep one's nose to the grindstone**, to work hard and continuously. 10. **lead by the nose**, to control; dominate. 11. **look down one's nose at**, *Inf.* to be disdainful of. 12. **pay through the nose**, *Inf.* to pay an exorbitant price. 13. **on the nose**, *Sl. a.* (in horse-race betting) to win only: *I bet twenty pounds on the nose on that horse*. *b.* Chiefly U.S. precisely; exactly. *c.* Austral. bad or bad-smelling. 14. **with one's nose in the air**, haughtily. 15. **put someone's nose out of joint**, *Inf.* to thwart or offend someone. 16. **rub someone's nose in it**, *Inf.* to remind someone unkindly of a shortcoming. 17. **turn up one's nose (at)**, *Inf.* to behave disdainfully (towards). ~*vb.* 18. (*tr.*) (esp. of horses, dogs, etc.) to rub, touch, or sniff with the nose; nuzzle. 19. to smell or sniff. 20. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *after* or *for*) to search (for) by or as if by scent. 21. to move or cause to move forwards slowly and carefully: *we nosed the car into the garage*. 22. (*intr.*; foll. by *into*, *around*, *about*, etc.) to pry or snoop (into) or meddle (in). —**'noseless** *adj.* —**'nose, like** *adj.*

nosebag (ˈnaʊz,bæg) *n.* a bag, fastened around the head of a horse and covering the nose, in which feed is placed.

noseband (ˈnaʊz,bænd) *n.* the detachable part of a horse's bridle that goes around the nose.

nosebleed (ˈnaʊz,blid) *n.* bleeding from the nose as the result of injury, etc.

nose cone *n.* the conical forward section of a missile, spacecraft, etc., designed to withstand high temperatures, esp. during re-entry into the earth's atmosphere.

nose dive *n.* 1. a sudden plunge with the nose or front pointing downwards, esp. of an aircraft. 2. *Inf.* a sudden drop or sharp decline: *prices took a nose dive*. ~*vb.* **nose-dive**, (*intr.*) 3. to perform or cause to perform a nose dive.

nosegay (ˈnaʊz,geɪ) *n.* a small bunch of flowers; posy.

nosey (ˈnɔːzi) *adj.* a variant spelling of **nosy**.

nosh (nɒʃ) *Sl.* ~*n.* 1. food or a meal. ~*vb.* 2. to eat. —**'nosher** *n.*

nosh-up *n.* *Brit. sl.* a large and satisfying meal.

nostalgia (nɒˈstældʒə, -dʒiə) *n.* 1. a yearning for past circumstances, events, etc. 2. the evocation of this emotion, as in a book, film, etc. 3. homesickness. —**'nos'talgic** *adj.* —**'nos'talgically** *adv.*

nostril (ˈnɒstrɪl) *n.* either of the two external openings of the nose.

nostrum (ˈnɒstrəm) *n.* 1. a patent or quack medicine. 2. a favourite remedy.

nosy or nosey (ˈnɔːzi) *adj.* **nosier**, **nosiest**. *Inf.* prying or inquisitive. —**'nosily** *adv.* —**'nosiness** *n.*

nosy parker *n.* *Inf.*, chiefly *Brit.* a prying person.

not (nɒt) *adv.* 1. a. used to negate the sentence, phrase, or word that it modifies: *I will not stand for it*. *b.* (*in combination*): *they cannot go*. 2. **not that**, (*conj.*) Also (*arch.*): **not but what**, which is not to say or suppose that: *I expect to lose the game—not that I mind*. ~ 3. *sentence substitute*, used to indicate denial or refusal: *certainly not*.

nota bene *Latin.* (ˈnɔːtəˈbiːni) *vb.* (*imperative*) *note* well; take note. Abbrevs.: **NB**, **N.B.**, **nb**, **n.b.**

notable (ˈnəʊtəbl̩) *adj.* 1. worthy of being noted or remembered; remarkable; distinguished. ~*n.* 2. a notable person. —**'notability** *n.* —**'notably** *adv.*

notary (ˈnəʊtəri) *n.*, *pl.* **-ries**. 1. a notary public. 2. (formerly) a clerk licensed to prepare legal documents. 3. *Arch.* a clerk or secretary. —**notarial** (nəʊˈteəriəl) *adj.* —**'notary,ship** *n.*

notary public *n.*, *pl.* **notaries public**, a public official, usually a solicitor, who is legally authorized to administer oaths, attest and certify certain documents, etc.

notation (nəʊˈteɪʃən) *n.* 1. any series of signs or symbols used to represent quantities or elements in a specialized system, such as music or mathematics. 2. the act or process of notating. 3. a note or record. —**'no'tational** *adj.*

notch (nɒtʃ) *n.* 1. a V-shaped cut or indentation; nick. 2. a nick made in a tally stick. 3. *U.S.* a narrow gorge. 4. *Inf.* a step or level (esp. in a **notch above**). ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 5. to cut or make a notch. 6. to record with or as if with a notch. 7. (usually foll. by *up*) *Inf.* to score or achieve: *the team notched up its fourth win*.

note (nəʊt) *n.* 1. a brief record in writing, esp. a jotting for future reference. 2. a brief informal letter. 3. a formal written communication, esp. from one government to another. 4. a short written statement giving any kind of information. 5. a critical comment, explanatory statement, or reference in a book. 6. short for **bank note**. 7. a characteristic atmosphere: *a note of sarcasm*. 8. a distinctive vocal sound, as of a species of bird or animal. 9. any of a series of graphic signs representing the pitch and duration of a musical sound. 10. Also called (esp. U.S.): **tone**. Chiefly *Brit.* a musical sound of definite fundamental frequency or pitch. 11. Chiefly *Brit.* a key on a piano, organ, etc. 12. a sound used as a signal or warning: *the note to retreat was sounded*. 13. short for **promissory note**. 14. *Arch.* or *poetic*, a melody. 15. of *note*, *a.* distinguished or famous. *b.* important: *nothing of note*. 16. **strike the right (or a false) note**, to behave appropriately (or inappropriately). 17. **take note**, (often foll. by *of*) to pay attention (to). ~*vb.* (*tr.*; may take a clause as object) 18. to notice; perceive. 19. to pay close attention to: *they noted every movement*. 20. to make a written note of: *she noted the date in her diary*. 21. to remark upon: *I note that you do not wear shoes*. 22. to write down (music, a melody, etc.) in notes. 23. a less common word for **annotate**. —**'noteless** *adj.*

notebook (ˈnəʊt,bʊk) *n.* a book for recording notes or memoranda.

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▷ **Usage.** *Nothing* always takes a singular verb in careful usage, although a plural verb is often heard in informal speech in sentences such as *nothing but books were on the shelf*.

nothingness (ˈnʌθɪŋnɪs) *n.* 1. the state of being nothing; nonexistence. 2. absence of consciousness or life. 3. complete insignificance. 4. something that is worthless.

notice (ˈnəʊtɪs) *n.* 1. observation; attention: *to escape*

notice 2. **take notice**, to pay attention. 3. **take no notice of**, to ignore or disregard. 4. a warning; announcement. 5. a displayed placard or announcement giving information. 6. advance notification of intention to end an arrangement, contract, etc., as of employment (esp. in **give notice**). 7. **at short notice**, with notification only a little in advance. 8. *Chiefly Brit.* dismissal from employment. 9. favourable, interested, or polite attention: *she was beneath his notice*. 10. a theatrical or literary review: *the play received very good notices*. ~vb. 11. to become aware of; perceive; note. 12. (tr.) to point out or remark upon. 13. (tr.) to pay polite or interested attention to. 14. (tr.) to acknowledge (an acquaintance, etc.).

noticeable ('nɒtɪsəbəl) *adj.* easily seen or detected; perceptible. —'noticeably *adv.*

notice board *n. Brit.* a board on which notices, advertisements, bulletins, etc., are displayed. U.S. name: **bulletin board**.

notifiable ('nɒtɪfəɪəbəl) *adj.* denoting certain infectious diseases, outbreaks of which must be reported to the public health authorities.

notification ('nɒtɪfɪ'keɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of notifying. 2. a formal announcement. 3. something that notifies; a notice.

notify ('nɒtɪfaɪ) *vb.* -fying, -fled. (tr.) 1. to tell. 2. *Chiefly Brit.* to make known; announce. —'notifier *n.*

notion ('nɒʃən) *n.* 1. a vague idea; impression. 2. an idea, concept, or opinion. 3. an inclination or whim.

notional ('nɒʃənl) *adj.* 1. expressing or consisting of ideas. 2. characteristic of a notion, esp. in being speculative or abstract. 3. *Grammar*. a. (of a word) having lexical meaning. b. another word for **semantic**. —'notionally *adv.*

notorious ('nɒtɪ'ʃɪəs) *adj.* 1. well-known for some bad or unfavourable quality, deed, etc.; infamous. 2. Rare. generally known or widely acknowledged. —'notoriety ('nɒtə'riəti) *n.* —'notoriously *adv.*

not proven ('nɒt'pruːn) *adj. (postpositive)* a third verdict available to Scottish courts, returned when there is insufficient evidence against the accused to convict.

no-trump *Card games.* ~*n.* also **no-trumps**. 1. a bid or contract to play without trumps. ~*adj.* also **no-trumper**. 2. (of a hand) of balanced distribution suitable for playing without trumps.

Notts. (nɒts) *abbrev.* for Nottinghamshire.

notwithstanding ('nɒtwɪð'stændɪŋ) *prep.* 1. (often immediately postpositive) in spite of; despite. ~*conj.* 2. (subordinating) although. ~ 3. *sentence connector*, nevertheless.

nougat ('nuːɡɑː) *n.* a hard chewy pink or white sweet containing chopped nuts, cherries, etc.

nought (nɔːt) *n.* also **naught**, **ought**, **ought**. 1. another name for **zero**; used esp. in numbering. ~*n.*, *adj.*, *adv.* 2. a variant spelling of **naught**.

noughts and crosses *n.* a game in which two players, one using a nought, "O", the other a cross, "X", alternately mark squares formed by two pairs of crossed lines, the winner being the first to get three of his symbols in a row. U.S. terms: **tick-tack-toe**, **crisscross**.

noun (naʊn) *n.* a. a word or group of words that refers to a person, place, or thing. b. (as modifier): *a noun phrase*. *Abbrev.*: *n.* —'nounal *adj.*

nourish ('nʌrɪʃ) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to provide with the materials necessary for life and growth. 2. to encourage (an idea, etc.); foster: *to nourish resentment*. —'nourisher *n.* —'nourishingly *adv.*

nourishment ('nʌrɪʃmənt) *n.* 1. the act or state of nourishing. 2. a substance that nourishes; food.

nous (naʊs) *n.* 1. *Metaphysics*. mind or reason, esp. when regarded as the principle governing all things. 2. *Brit. sl.* common sense.

nouveau riche *French.* (nuvo 'riʃ) *n.*, *pl.* **nouveaux riches** (nuvo 'riʃ). (often preceded by *the*) a person who has acquired wealth recently and is regarded as vulgarly ostentatious or lacking in social graces.

Nov. *abbrev.* for November.

nova ('nɒvə) *n.*, *pl.* -vae (-viː) or -vas. a faint variable star that undergoes an explosion and fast increase of luminosity, decreasing to its original luminosity in months or years.

novel ('nɒvəl) *n.* 1. an extended fictional work in prose dealing with character, action, thought, etc., esp. in the form of a story. 2. *the*. the literary genre represented by novels. —'novel'istic *adj.*

novel ('nɒvəl) *adj.* of a kind not seen before; fresh; new; original: *a novel suggestion*. —'novelly *adv.*

novelette ('nɒvə'let) *n.* 1. an extended prose narrative or short novel. 2. a novel that is regarded as slight, trivial, or sentimental. 3. a short piece of lyrical music, esp. one for the piano. —'nove'lettish *adj.*

novelist ('nɒvəlɪst) *n.* a writer of novels.

novella (nəʊ'velə) *n.*, *pl.* -las or -le (-leɪ). 1. a short narrative tale, esp. one having a satirical point, such as those in Boccaccio's *Decameron*. 2. a short novel.

novelty ('nɒvəlti) *n.*, *pl.* -ties. 1. a. the quality of being new and interesting. b. (as modifier): *novelty value*. 2. a new or unusual experience. 3. (often *pl.*) a small usually cheap new ornament or trinket.

November (nəʊ'vembə) *n.* the eleventh month of the year, consisting of 30 days.

novena (nəʊ'veinə) *n.*, *pl.* -nae (-niː). R.C. Church. a devotion consisting of prayers or services on nine consecutive days.

novice ('nɒvɪs) *n.* 1. a person who is new to or inexperienced in a certain task, situation, etc.; beginner; tyro. 2. a probationer in a religious order. 3. a sportsman, esp. an oarsman, who has not won a recognized prize, performed to an established level, etc.

novitiate or **noviciate** ('nɒvɪʃɪət, -et) *n.* 1. the state of being a novice, esp. in a religious order, or the period for which this lasts. 2. the part of a religious house where the novices live.

now (naʊ) *adv.* 1. at or for the present time. 2. immediately. 3. in these times; nowadays. 4. given the present circumstances: *now we'll have to stay to the end*. 5. (preceded by *just*) very recently: *he left just now*. 6. (often preceded by *just*) very soon: *he is leaving just now*. 7. (every) **now and again** or **then**, occasionally; on and off. 8. **now now!** (*interj.*) an exclamation used to rebuke or pacify someone. ~*conj.* 9. (subordinating; often foll. by *that*) seeing that: *now you're in charge, things will be better*. ~ 10. *sentence connector*. a. used as a hesitation word: *now, I can't really say*. b. used for emphasis: *now listen to this*. c. used at the end of a command: *run along, now*. ~*n.* 11. the present time: *now is the time to go*.

nowadays ('naʊədeɪz) *adv.* in these times.

noway ('naʊweɪ) *adv. Sl.* not at all.

Nowel or **Nowell** (nəʊ'el) *n.* an archaic spelling of **Noel**.

nowhere ('nəʊweə) *adv.* 1. in, at, or to no place; not anywhere. 2. **get nowhere (fast)**. *Inf.* to fail completely to make any progress. 3. **nowhere near**. far from; not nearly. ~*n.* 4. a nonexistent or insignificant place. 5. **middle of nowhere**, a completely isolated place.

nowise ('nəʊwaɪz) *adv.* in no manner; not at all.

nowt (naʊt) *n.* *Northern Brit.* a dialect word for **nothing**.

noxious ('nɒkʃəs) *adj.* poisonous or harmful. —'noxiously *adv.* —'noxiousness *n.*

nozzle ('nɒzəl) *n.* a projecting pipe or spout from which fluid is discharged.

Np *the chemical symbol for neptunium.*

N.S. *abbrev. for:* 1. New Style (method of reckoning dates). 2. Nova Scotia.

N.S.B. *abbrev. for* National Savings Bank.

N.S.P.C.C. *abbrev. for* National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

N.S.T. *Canad. abbrev. for* Newfoundland Standard Time.

N.S.W. *abbrev. for* New South Wales.

N.T. *abbrev. for:* 1. National Trust. 2. New Testament. 3. Northern Territory. 4. no trumps.

-n't *contraction of not:* used as an enclitic after *be* and *have* when they function as main verbs and after auxiliary verbs or verbs operating syntactically as auxiliaries: *can't; don't; isn't*.

nth (enθ) *adj.* 1. *Maths.* of or representing an unspecified ordinal number, usually the greatest in a series: *the nth power*. 2. *Inf.* being the last or most extreme of a long series: *for the nth time*. 3. **to the nth degree**. *Inf.* to the utmost extreme.

nt. wt. or **nt wt** *abbrev. for* net weight.

nu (njuː) *n.* the 13th letter in the Greek alphabet (Ν, ν), a consonant.

nuance ('njuːɑːns, 'njuːɑːns) *n.* a subtle difference in colour, meaning, tone, etc.

nub (nʌb) *n.* 1. a small lump or protuberance. 2. a small piece or chunk. 3. the point or gist: *the nub of a story*. —'nubbly or 'nubby *adj.*

nubble ('nʌbəl) *n.* a small lump.

nubile ('njuːbəl) *adj.* (of a girl) 1. ready or suitable for marriage by virtue of age or maturity. 2. sexually attractive. —'nubility ('njuː'bɪlɪti) *n.*

nuclear ('nju:klə) *adj.* 1. of or involving the nucleus of an atom: *nuclear fission*. 2. *Biol.* of, relating to, or contained within the nucleus of a cell: *a nuclear membrane*. 3. of, forming, or resembling any other kind of nucleus. 4. of or operated by energy from fission or fusion of atomic nuclei: *a nuclear weapon*. 5. involving or possessing nuclear weapons: *nuclear war*.

nuclear bomb *n.* a bomb whose force is due to uncontrolled nuclear fusion or nuclear fission.

nuclear energy *n.* energy released during a nuclear reaction as a result of fission or fusion. Also called: **atomic energy**.

nuclear family *n.* *Sociol., anthropol.* a primary social unit consisting of parents and their offspring.

nuclear fission *n.* the splitting of an atomic nucleus into approximately equal parts, either spontaneously or as a result of the impact of a particle usually with an associated release of energy. Sometimes shortened to **fission**.

nuclear fusion *n.* a reaction in which two nuclei combine to form a nucleus with the release of energy. Sometimes shortened to **fusion**.

nuclear physics *n.* the branch of physics concerned with the structure and behaviour of the nucleus and the particles of which it consists.

nuclear reactor *n.* a device in which a nuclear reaction is maintained and controlled for the production of nuclear energy. Sometimes shortened to **reactor**.

nucleate ('nju:kleɪt, -ɪt) *adj.* 1. having a nucleus. ~*vb.* 2. to form a nucleus.

nuclei ('nju:klɪ, aɪ) *n.* the plural of **nucleus**.

nucleic acid (nju:'klɪk, -'kleɪ-*n.* *Biochem.* any of a group of complex compounds with a high molecular weight that are vital constituents of all living cells.

nucleo- or before a vowel **nucle-** combining form. 1. nucleus or nuclear. 2. nucleic acid.

nuclear physics (nju:'klɪ'fɪzɪks) *n.* (*functioning as sing.*) the branch of physics concerned with the applications of nuclear energy. —, **nucle'onic** *adj.* —, **nucle'onical** *adv.*

nucleus ('nju:kləs) *n., pl. -clei* (-klɪ, aɪ) or **-cleuses**. 1. a central or fundamental thing around which others are grouped; core. 2. a centre of growth or development; basis: *the nucleus of an idea*. 3. *Biol.* a spherical or ovoid cellular organelle that is responsible for growth and reproduction of the cell. 4. *Astron.* the central portion in the head of a comet, consisting of small solid particles of ice and frozen gases. 5. *Physics.* the positively charged dense region at the centre of an atom, composed of protons and neutrons, about which electrons orbit. 6. *Chem.* a fundamental group of atoms in a molecule serving as the base structure for related compounds.

nude (nju:d) *adj.* 1. completely undressed. 2. having no covering; bare; exposed. 3. *Law.* a. lacking some essential legal requirement. b. (of a contract, etc.) made without consideration and void unless under seal. ~*n.* 4. the state of being naked (esp. in **the nude**). 5. a naked figure, esp. in painting, sculpture, etc. —'nudely *adv.* —'nudity *n.*

nudge (nʌdʒ) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to push (someone) gently, esp. with the elbow, to get attention; jog. 2. to push slowly or lightly: *as I drove out, I just nudged the gatepost*. ~*n.* 3. a gentle poke or push. —'nuder *n.*

nudism ('nju:dzɪzəm) *n.* the practice of nudity, esp. for reasons of health, etc. —'nudist *n.*

nuisance ('nju:səns) *n.* 1. a. a person or thing that causes annoyance or bother. b. (*as modifier*): *nuisance value*. 2. *Law.* something unauthorized that is obnoxious or injurious to the community at large or to an individual, esp. in relation to his ownership of property.

N.U.J. *abbrev. for* National Union of Journalists.

null (nʌl) *adj.* 1. without legal force; invalid; (esp. in **null and void**). 2. without value or consequence; useless. 3. lacking distinction; characterless. 4. nonexistent; amounting to nothing. 5. *Maths.* a. quantitatively zero. b. relating to zero. c. (of a set) having no members. 6. *Physics.* involving measurement in which conditions are adjusted so that an instrument has a zero reading, as with a Wheatstone bridge.

nullify ('nʌlɪfaɪ) *vb. -fying, -fied.* (tr.) 1. to render legally void or of no effect. 2. to render ineffective or useless; cancel out. —, **nullifi'cation** *n.*

nullity ('nʌlɪti) *n., pl. -ties*. 1. the state of being null. 2. a null or legally invalid act or instrument. 3. something null, ineffective, characterless, etc.

N.U.M. *abbrev. for* National Union of Mineworkers.

num. *abbrev. for:* 1. number. 2. numeral.

Num. *Bible. abbrev. for* Numbers.

numb (nʌm) *adj.* 1. deprived of feeling through cold, shock, etc. 2. unable to move; paralysed. ~*vb.* 3. (tr.) to make numb; deaden, shock, or paralyse. —'numbly *adv.* —'numbness *n.*

number ('nʌmbə) *n.* 1. a concept of quantity that is or can be derived from a single unit, the sum of a collection of units, or zero. Every number occupies a unique position in a sequence, enabling it to be used in counting. See also **cardinal number**, **ordinal number**. 2. the symbol used to represent a number; numeral. 3. a numeral or string of numerals used to identify a person or thing: *a telephone number*. 4. the person or thing so identified or designated: *she was number seven in the race*. 5. sum or quantity: *a large number of people*. 6. one of a series, as of a magazine; issue. 7. a. a self-contained piece of pop or jazz music. b. a self-contained part of an opera or other musical score. 8. a group of people, esp. an exclusive group: *he was not one of our number*. 9. *Sl.* a person, esp. a sexually attractive girl: *who's that nice little number?* 10. *Inf.* an admired article: *that little number is by Dior*. 11. a grammatical category for the variation in form of nouns, pronouns, and any words agreeing with them, depending on how many persons or things are referred to. 12. **any number** of, several or many. 13. **by numbers**. *Mil.* (of a drill procedure, etc.) performed step by step, each move being made on the call of a number. 14. **get or have someone's number**. *Chiefly U.S. inf.* to discover a person's true character or intentions. 15. **one's number is up**. *Brit. inf.* one is finished; one is dead or ruined. 16. **without or beyond number**. innumerable. ~*vb. (mainly tr.)* 17. to assign a number to. 18. to add up to; total. 19. (*also intr.*) to list (items) one by one; enumerate. 20. (*also intr.*) to put or be put into a group, category, etc.: *they were numbered among the worst hit*. 21. to limit the number of: *his days were numbered*.

numberless ('nʌmbləs) *adj.* 1. too many to be counted; countless. 2. not containing numbers.

number one *n.* 1. an informal phrase for **oneself**, **myself**, etc.: *to look after number one*. ~*adj.* 2. first in importance, urgency, quality, etc.: *number one priority*.

numberplate ('nʌmbə, plɛɪt) *n.* a plate mounted on the front and back of a motor vehicle bearing the registration number. *Usual U.S. term:* **license plate**.

Number Ten *n.* 10 Downing Street, the British prime minister's official London residence.

numbskull ('nʌm, skʌl) *n.* a variant spelling of **numskull**.

numerable ('nju:mərəbəl) *adj.* able to be numbered or counted. —'numerably *adv.*

numeral ('nju:mərəl) *n.* 1. a symbol or group of symbols used to express a number: for example, 6 (*Arabic*), VI (*Roman*), 110 (*binary*). ~*adj.* 2. of, consisting of, or denoting a number.

numerate *adj.* ('nju:mərɪt). 1. able to use numbers, esp. in arithmetical operations. ~*vb.* ('nju:m, reɪt). 2. (tr.) to read (a numerical expression). 3. a less common word for **enumerate**. —'numeracy ('nju:mərəsɪ) *n.*

numeration ('nju:mə'reɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act or process of writing, reading, or naming numbers. 2. a system of numbering. —'numerative *adj.*

numerator ('nju:mə'reɪtə) *n.* 1. *Maths.* the dividend of a fraction: the numerator of 7/8 is 7. 2. a person or thing that numbers; enumerator. Cf. **denominator**.

numerical (nju:'merɪkəl) or **numeric** *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or denoting a number or numbers. 2. measured or expressed in numbers: *numerical value*. —'numerically *adv.*

numerology ('nju:mə'rɒlədʒɪ) *n.* the study of numbers, such as the figures in a birth date, and of their supposed influence on human affairs. —'numerological ('nju:mə'rɒlədʒɪkəl) *adj.*

numerous ('nju:mərəs) *adj.* 1. being many. 2. consisting of many parts: *a numerous collection*. —'numerously *adv.* —'numerousness *n.*

numismatics ('nju:mɪz'mætɪks) *n.* (*functioning as sing.*) the study or collection of coins, medals, etc. Also called: **numismatology** ('nju:mɪz'mə'tɒlədʒɪ). —, **numis'matic** *adj.* —, **numis'matically** *adv.*

numskull or **numbskull** ('nʌm, skʌl) *n.* a stupid person; dolt; blockhead.

nun (nʌn) *n.* a female member of a religious order. —'nunhood *n.* —'nunlike *adj.*

nuncio ('nʌnʃɪ, ə, -sɪ) *n., pl. -cios.* *R.C. Church.* a diplomatic representative of the Holy See.

nunnery ('nʌnəri) *n.*, *pl.* **-neries**. the convent or religious house of a community of nuns.

NUPE ('nju:pi) *n.* acronym for National Union of Public Employees.

nuptial ('nʌpʃəl, -tʃəl) *adj.* 1. relating to marriage; conjugal: **nuptial** vows. 2. *Zool.* of or relating to mating: the **nuptial** flight of a queen bee. — '**nuptially** *adv.*

nuptials ('nʌpʃəlz, -tʃəlz) *pl. n.* (sometimes *sing.*) a marriage ceremony; wedding.

N.U.R. *abbrev.* for National Union of Railwaymen.

nurse (nɜ:s) *n.* 1. a person, often a woman, who is trained to tend the sick and infirm, assist doctors, etc. 2. short for **nursemaid**. 3. a woman employed to breast-feed another woman's child; wet nurse. 4. a worker in a colony of social insects that takes care of the larvae. ~*vb.* (mainly *tr.*) 5. (also *intr.*) to tend (the sick). 6. (also *intr.*) to feed (a baby) at the breast. 7. to try to cure (an ailment). 8. to clasp fondly: she **nursed** the child in her arms. 9. to look after (a child) as one's employment. 10. to harbour; preserve: to **nurse** a grudge. 11. to give special attention to, esp. in order to promote good will: to **nurse** a difficult constituency. 12. *Billiards.* to keep (the balls) together for a series of cannons.

nursemaid ('nɜ:s,meɪd) or **nurserymaid** *n.* a woman employed to look after someone else's children. Often shortened to **nurse**.

nursery ('nɜ:səri) *n.*, *pl.* **-ries**. 1. a room in a house set apart for children. 2. a place where plants, young trees, etc., are grown commercially. 3. an establishment providing for babies and young children; crèche. 4. anywhere serving to foster or nourish new ideas, etc. 5. Also called: **nursery cannon**. *Billiards.* a. a series of cannons with the three balls adjacent to a cushion, esp. near a corner pocket. b. a cannon in such a series.

nurseryman ('nɜ:srɪmən) *n.*, *pl.* **-men**. a person who owns or works in a nursery in which plants are grown.

nursery rhyme *n.* a short traditional verse or song for children, such as *Little Jack Horner*.

nursery school *n.* a school for young children, usually from three to five years old.

nursery slopes *pl. n.* gentle slopes used by beginners in skiing.

nursery stakes *n.* a race for two-year-old horses.

nursing home *n.* a private hospital or residence for aged or infirm persons.

nursing officer *n.* (in Britain) the official name for **matron** (sense 4).

nurture ('nɜ:tʃə) *n.* 1. the act or process of promoting the development, etc., of a child. 2. something that nourishes. ~*vb.* (tr.) 3. to feed or support. 4. to educate or train. — '**nurturable** *adj.* — '**nurturer** *n.*

N.U.S. *abbrev. for:* 1. National Union of Seamen. 2. National Union of Students.

nut (nʌt) *n.* 1. a dry one-seeded indehiscent fruit that usually possesses a woody wall. 2. (not in technical use) any similar fruit, such as the walnut, having a hard shell and an edible kernel. 3. the edible kernel of such a fruit. 4. *Sl.* an eccentric or mad person. 5. a slang word for the head. 6. *do one's nut.* *Brit. sl.* to be extremely angry. 7. *off one's nut.* *Sl.* mad or foolish. 8. a person or thing that presents difficulties (esp. in a **tough nut to crack**). 9. a small metallic block, usually hexagonal or square, with an internal screw thread enabling it to be fitted onto a bolt. 10. Also called (U.S.): **frog**. *Music.* a. the ridge at the upper end of the fingerboard of a violin, cello, etc., over which the strings pass to the tuning pegs. b. the end of a violin bow that is held by the player. 11. a small usually gingery biscuit. 12. *Brit.* a small piece of coal. ~*See* also **nuts**. ~*vb.* **nutting**, **nuttid**. 13. (*intr.*) to gather nuts.

N.U.T. *abbrev.* for National Union of Teachers.

nutcase ('nʌt,keɪs) *n.* *Sl.* an insane or very foolish person.

nutcracker ('nʌt,kɹækə) *n.* 1. (often *pl.*) a device for cracking the shells of nuts. 2. either an Old World bird

or a North American bird (**Clark's nutcracker**) having speckled plumage and feeding on nuts, seeds, etc.

nuthatch ('nʌt,hætʃ) *n.* a songbird having strong feet and bill, and feeding on insects, seeds, and nuts.

nutmeg ('nʌt,meg) *n.* 1. an East Indian evergreen tree cultivated in the tropics for its hard aromatic seed. *See* also **mace**. 2. the seed of this tree, used as a spice.

nutria ('nju:triə) *n.* another name for **coypu**, esp. the fur.

nutrient ('nju:triənt) *n.* 1. any of the mineral substances that are absorbed by the roots of plants. 2. any substance that nourishes an animal. ~*adj.* 3. providing or contributing to nourishment.

nutriment ('nju:trɪmənt) *n.* any material providing nourishment. — '**nutrimental** ('nju:trɪ'mentl) *adj.*

nutrition ('nju:triʃən) *n.* 1. a process in animals and plants involving the intake and assimilation of nutrient materials. 2. the act or process of nourishing. 3. the study of nutrition, esp. in humans. — '**nutritional** *adj.* — '**nutritionist** *n.*

nutritious ('nju:triʃəs) *adj.* nourishing. — '**nutritiously** *adv.* — '**nutritiousness** *n.*

nutritive ('nju:trɪtv) *adj.* 1. providing nourishment. 2. of, concerning, or promoting nutrition. ~*n.* 3. a nutritious food.

nuts (nʌts) *adj.* 1. a slang word for **insane**. 2. (foll. by *about* or *on*) *Sl.* extremely fond (of) or enthusiastic (about). ~*interj.* 3. *Sl.* an expression of contempt, refusal, or defiance.

nuts and bolts *pl. n.* *Inf.* the essential or practical details.

nutshell ('nʌtʃəl) *n.* 1. the shell around the kernel of a nut. 2. in a **nutshell**, in essence; briefly.

nutter ('nʌtə) *n.* *Brit. sl.* a mad or eccentric person.

nutty ('nʌti) *adj.* **-tier**, **-tiest**. 1. containing nuts. 2. resembling nuts. 3. a slang word for **insane**. 4. (foll. by *over* or *about*) *Inf.* extremely enthusiastic (about). — '**nutliness** *n.*

nux vomica ('nʌks 'vɒmɪkə) *n.* 1. an Indian tree with orange-red berries containing poisonous seeds. 2. any of the seeds of this tree, which contain strychnine and other poisonous alkaloids. 3. a medicine manufactured from the seeds of this tree, formerly used as a heart stimulant.

nuzzle ('nʌzl) *vb.* 1. to push or rub gently with the nose or snout. 2. (*intr.*) to nestle; lie close. 3. (*tr.*) to dig out with the snout.

NW *abbrev.* for northwest(ern).

N.W.T. *abbrev.* for Northwest Territories (of Canada).

nyctitropism ('nik'tɹə'pɪzəm) *n.* a tendency of some plant parts to assume positions at night that are different from their daytime positions.

N.Y. *abbrev.* for New York (city or state).

nylon ('naɪlən) *n.* 1. a class of synthetic polyamide materials made by copolymerizing dicarboxylic acids with diamines. Nylon monofilaments are used for bristles, etc., and nylon fibres can be spun into yarn. 2. yarn or cloth made of nylon, used for clothing, stockings, etc.

nylons ('naɪlɒnz) *pl. n.* stockings made of nylon.

nymph (nɪmf) *n.* 1. *Myth.* a spirit of nature envisaged as a beautiful maiden. 2. *Chiefly poetic.* a beautiful young woman. 3. the larva of insects such as the dragonfly: resembles the adult, apart from having underdeveloped wings and reproductive organs, and develops without a pupal stage. — '**nymphal** or **nymphean** ('nɪmfən) *adj.* — '**nymphlike** *adj.*

nymphet ('nɪmfɪt) *n.* a young girl who is sexually precocious and desirable.

nympho ('nɪmfəʊ) *n.*, *pl.* **-phos**. *Inf.* short for **nymphomaniac** (see **nymphomania**).

nymphomania ('nɪmfə'meɪniə) *n.* an abnormally intense and persistent desire in a woman for sexual intercourse. — '**nymphomaniac** *n.*, *adj.*

N.Z. or **N. Zeal.** *abbrev.* for New Zealand.



o or **O** (əʊ) *n.*, *pl.* **o's**, **O's**, or **Os**. 1. the 15th letter and fourth vowel of the English alphabet. 2. any of several speech sounds represented by this letter, as in *code*, *pot*, *cow*, or *form*. 3. another name for **nought**.

O' symbol for: 1. *Chem.* oxygen. 2. a human blood type of the ABO group. 3. Old.

O' (əʊ) *interj.* 1. a variant of **oh**. 2. an exclamation introducing an invocation, entreaty, wish, etc.: *O God! O for the wings of a dove!*

o. abbrev. for: 1. octavo. 2. old. 3. only. 4. order. 5. *Pharmacol.* pint.

O. abbrev. for: 1. Ocean. 2. octavo. 3. old.

o' (ə) *prep.* *Inf.* or *arch.* shortened form of **of**: *a cup o' tea*. **O'-** prefix. (in surnames of Irish Gaelic origin) descendant of: *O'Corrigan*.

oaf (əʊf) *n.* a stupid or loutish person. —**oafish** *adj.* —**oafishness** *n.*

oak (əʊk) *n.* 1. any deciduous or evergreen tree or shrub having acorns as fruits and lobed leaves. 2. *a.* the wood of any of these trees, used esp. as building timber and for making furniture. *b.* (as *modifier*): *an oak table*. 3. any of various trees that resemble the oak, such as the poison oak. 4. anything made of oak, esp. a heavy outer door to a set of rooms in an Oxford college. 5. the leaves of an oak tree, worn as a garland.

oak apple or **gall** *n.* any of various brownish round galls on oak trees, containing the larva of certain wasps.

Oaks (əʊks) *n.* the. a horse race for fillies held annually at Epsom since 1779: one of the classics of English flat-racing.

oakum ('əʊkəm) *n.* loose fibre obtained by unravelling old rope, used esp. for caulking seams in wooden ships.

O.A.P. abbrev. for old age pension or pensioner.

oar (ɔː) *n.* 1. a long shaft of wood for propelling a boat by rowing, having a broad blade that is dipped into and pulled against the water. 2. short for **oarsman**. 3. *put one's oar in.* to interfere or interrupt. ~*vb.* 4. to row or propel with or as if with oars. —**oarless** *adj.* —**oar-**, *like* *adj.*

oarsman ('ɔːzmən) *n.*, *pl.* **-men**. a man who rows, esp. one who rows in a racing boat. —**oarsman**, **ship** *n.*

OAS abbrev. for: 1. Organization of American States. 2. *Organisation de l'Armée Secrète*, an organization which opposed Algerian independence by acts of terrorism.

oasis (əʊ'eɪsɪs) *n.*, *pl.* **-ses** (-sɪz). 1. a fertile patch in a desert occurring where the water table approaches or reaches the ground surface. 2. a refuge; haven.

oast (əʊst) *n.* *Chiefly Brit.* 1. a kiln for drying hops. 2. Also called: **oast house**. a building containing such kilns, usually having a conical or pyramidal roof.

oat (əʊt) *n.* 1. an erect annual grass grown in temperate regions for its edible seed. 2. (usually *pl.*) the seeds or fruits of this grass. 3. any of various other grasses such as the wild oat. 4. *Poetic.* a flute made from an oat straw. 5. *feel one's oats.* *U.S. inf.* *a.* to feel exuberant. *b.* to feel self-important. 6. *sow one's (wild) oats.* to indulge in adventure or promiscuity during youth.

oatcake ('əʊt,keɪk) *n.* a brittle unleavened cake of oatmeal.

oath (əʊθ) *n.*, *pl.* **oaths** (əʊðz). 1. a solemn pronouncement to affirm the truth of a statement or to pledge a person to some course of action. 2. the form of such a pronouncement. 3. an irreverent or blasphemous expression, esp. one involving the name of a deity; curse. 4. *on, upon, or under oath.* *a.* under the obligation of an oath. *b.* *Law.* having sworn to tell the truth, usually with one's hand on the Bible. 5. *my oath.* *Austral. sl.* certainly; yes indeed. 6. *take an oath.* to declare formally with a pledge, esp. before giving evidence.

oatmeal ('əʊt,mɪl) *n.* 1. meal ground from oats, used for making porridge, oatcakes, etc. 2. *a.* a greyish-yellow colour. *b.* (as *adj.*): *an oatmeal coat*.

OAU abbrev. for Organization of African Unity.

ob. abbrev. for: 1. (on tombstones, etc.) obit. 2. obiter. 3. oboe.

ob- prefix. inverse or inversely: *obovate*.

O.B. *Brit.* abbrev. for: 1. Old Boy. 2. outside broadcast.

obbligato or **obligato** (ˌɒblɪ'ɡatəʊ) *Music.* ~*adj.* 1. not to be omitted in performance. ~*n.*, *pl.* **-tos** or **-ti** (-ti-). 2. an essential part in a score: *with oboe obbligato*. **obdurate** ('ɒbdjʊrɪt) *adj.* 1. not easily moved by feelings or supplication; hard-hearted. 2. impervious to persuasion. —**obduracy** or **obdurateness** *n.* —**obdurately** *adv.*

O.B.E. abbrev. for Officer of the Order of the British Empire (a *Brit.* title).

obedient (ə'bi:diənt) *adj.* obeying or willing to obey. —**obedience** *n.* —**obediently** *adv.*

obeisance (əʊ'beɪsəns, əʊ'bi:-) *n.* 1. an attitude of deference or homage. 2. a gesture expressing obeisance. —**obeisant** *adj.* —**obeisantly** *adv.*

obelisk ('ɒbɪlɪsk) *n.* 1. a stone pillar having a square or rectangular cross section and sides that taper towards a pyramidal top. 2. *Printing.* another name for **dagger** (sense 2). —**obeliskal** *adj.* —**obeliskoid** *adj.*

obese (əʊ'bi:s) *adj.* excessively fat or fleshy; corpulent. —**obesity** or **obeseness** *n.*

obey (ə'beɪ) *vb.* 1. to carry out (instructions or orders); comply with (demands). 2. to behave or act in accordance with (one's feelings, whims, etc.). —**obeyer** *n.*

obfuscate ('ɒbfʌs,keɪt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to obscure or darken. 2. to perplex or bewilder. —**obfuscation** *n.* —**obfuscatory** *adj.*

obituary (ə'bitjʊəri) *n.*, *pl.* **-aries**. a published announcement of a death, often accompanied by a short biography of the dead person. —**obituarist** *n.*

obj. abbrev. for: 1. *Grammar.* object(ive). 2. objection.

object' ('ɒbdʒɪkt) *n.* 1. a tangible and visible thing. 2. a person or thing seen as a focus for feelings, thought, etc. 3. an aim or objective. 4. *Inf.* a ridiculous or pitiable person, spectacle, etc. 5. *Philosophy.* that towards which cognition is directed, esp. the external world as opposed to the ego. 6. *Grammar.* a noun, pronoun, or noun phrase whose referent is the recipient of the action of a verb. See also **direct object**, **indirect object**. 7. *Grammar.* a noun, pronoun, or noun phrase that is governed by a preposition. 8. **no object.** not a hindrance or obstacle: *money is no object*.

object' (əb'dʒɛkt) *vb.* 1. (tr.; takes a clause as *object*) to state as an objection. 2. (intr.; often foll. by *to*) to raise or state an objection (to); present an argument (against).

objectify (əb'dʒɛktɪfaɪ) *vb.* **-fying, -fied.** (tr.) to represent concretely; present as an object. —**objectifi-** *ca-* *n.*

objection (əb'dʒɛkʃən) *n.* 1. an expression or feeling of opposition or dislike. 2. a cause for such an expression or feeling. 3. the act of objecting.

objectionable (əb'dʒɛkʃənəbəl) *adj.* unpleasant, offensive, or repugnant. —**objectionability** or **objectionableness** *n.* —**objectionably** *adv.*

objective (əb'dʒɛktɪv) *adj.* 1. existing independently of perception; being a material object as opposed to a concept, idea, etc. 2. undistorted by emotion or personal bias. 3. of or relating to actual and external phenomena as opposed to thoughts, feelings, etc. 4. *Med.* (of disease symptoms) perceptible to persons other than the individual affected. 5. *Grammar.* denoting a case of nouns and pronouns, esp. in languages having only two cases, that is used to identify the direct object of a finite verb or preposition. See also **accusative**. 6. of or relating to a goal or aim. ~*n.* 7. the object of one's endeavours; goal; aim. 8. an actual phenomenon; reality. 9. *Grammar.* the objective case. 10. Also called: **object glass**. *Optics.* the lens or combination of lenses nearest to the object in an optical instrument. ~*Abbrev.*: **obj.** Cf. **subjective**. —**objectival** (əb'dʒɛk'taɪvəl) *adj.* —**objectively** *adv.* —**objectiveness** or **objectivity** *n.*

object lesson *n.* a practical demonstration of some principle or ideal.

objet d'art French. (əʒɛ'da:r) *n.*, *pl.* **objets d'art** (əʒɛ'da:r), a small object considered to be of artistic worth.

oburgate ('ɒbdʒə,geɪt) *vb.* (tr.) to scold or reprimand. —**objur'gation** *n.* —**objur'gator** *n.* —**objurgatory** (əb'dʒɜ:gətəri, -tri) *adj.*

oblate ('ɒbleɪt) *adj.* having an equatorial diameter of

greater length than the polar diameter: *the earth is an oblate sphere*. Cf. **prolate**. —**'oblately** adv.

oblation (ɒ'bleɪʃən) *n.* **Christianity**. 1. the offering of the Eucharist to God. 2. any offering made for religious or charitable purposes. —**oblatory** ('ɒblətəri, -tri) or **ob'lati**onal adj.

obligate ('ɒbli,geɪt) *vb.* 1. to compel, constrain, or oblige morally or legally. 2. (in the U.S.) to bind (property, funds, etc.) as security. ~adj. 3. compelled, bound, or restricted. 4. *Biol.* able to exist under only one set of environmental conditions. —**'obligable** adj. —**ob'ligative** adj. —**'obligator** *n.*

obligation ('ɒbli,geɪʃən) *n.* 1. a moral or legal requirement; duty. 2. the act of obligating or the state of being obligated. 3. *Law*. a. a written contract containing a penalty. b. an instrument acknowledging indebtedness to secure the repayment of money borrowed. 4. a person or thing to which one is bound morally or legally. 5. a service or favour for which one is indebted. —**'obligational** adj.

obligato ('ɒbli,ɡə:təu) *adj.*, *n.* **Music**. a variant spelling of **obligato**.

obligatory ('ɒbligətəri, -tri) *adj.* 1. required to be done, obtained, possessed, etc. 2. of the nature of or constituting an obligation. —**ob'ligatorily** adv.

oblige ('ɒblaɪdʒ) *vb.* 1. (tr.; often passive) to bind or constrain (someone) to do something by legal, moral, or physical means. 2. (tr.; usually passive) to make indebted or grateful to (someone) by doing a favour. 3. to do a service or favour to (someone): *she obliged the guest with a song*. —**o'bliger** *n.*

obliging ('ɒblaɪɪŋ) *adj.* ready to do favours; agreeable; kindly. —**o'bligingly** adv. —**'obligingness** *n.*

oblique ('ɒblik) *adj.* 1. at an angle; slanting; sloping. 2. *Geom.* a. (of lines, planes, etc.) neither perpendicular nor parallel to one another or to another line, plane, etc. b. not related to or containing a right angle. 3. indirect or evasive. 4. *Grammar*. denoting any case of nouns, pronouns, etc., other than the nominative and vocative. 5. *Biol.* having asymmetrical sides or planes: *an oblique leaf*. ~*n.* 6. something oblique, esp. a line. 7. another name for **solidus** (sense 1). ~*vb.* (intr.) 8. to take or have an oblique direction. 9. (of a military formation) to move forward at an angle. —**o'bliquely** adv. —**o'bliqueness** *n.* —**obliquity** ('ɒblikwəti) *n.*

oblique angle *n.* an angle that is not a right angle or any multiple of a right angle.

obliterate ('ɒblɪtə,reit) *vb.* (tr.) to destroy every trace of; wipe out completely. —**o'bliteration** *n.* —**o'bliterative** *adj.* —**o'bliter,ator** *n.*

oblivion ('ɒblɪvɪən) *n.* 1. the condition of being forgotten or disregarded. 2. *Law*. amnesty; pardon.

oblivious ('ɒblɪvɪəs) *adj.* (usually foll. by *of*) unaware or forgetful. —**ob'liviously** adv. —**ob'liviousness** *n.*

oblong ('ɒb,lɒŋ) *adj.* 1. having an elongated, esp. rectangular, shape. ~*n.* 2. a figure or object having this shape.

obloquy ('ɒblɒkwɪ) *n.*, *pl.* -quies. 1. defamatory or censorious statements, esp. when directed against one person. 2. disgrace brought about by public abuse.

obnoxious ('ɒnɒkʃəs) *adj.* 1. extremely unpleasant. 2. *Obs.* exposed to harm, injury, etc. —**ob'noxiously** adv. —**ob'noxiousness** *n.*

oboe ('əʊbəu) *n.* 1. a woodwind instrument consisting of a conical tube fitted with a mouthpiece having a double reed. It has a penetrating nasal tone. 2. a person who plays this instrument in an orchestra. ~*Arch. form*: **hautboy**. —**'oboist** *n.*

obs. *abbrev. for*: 1. observation. 2. obsolete.

obscene ('ɒbsi:n) *adj.* 1. offensive or outrageous to accepted standards of decency or modesty. 2. *Law*. (of publications, etc.) having a tendency to deprave or corrupt. 3. disgusting; repellent. —**ob'scenely** adv. —**obscenity** (-'sɛn-) *n.*

obscure ('ɒbskjʊə) *adj.* 1. unclear. 2. indistinct, vague, or indefinite. 3. inconspicuous or unimportant. 4. hidden, secret, or remote. 5. (of a vowel) reduced to a neutral vowel (ə). 6. gloomy, dark, clouded, or dim. ~*vb.* (tr.) 7. to make unclear, vague, or hidden. 8. to cover or cloud over. 9. *Phonetics*. to pronounce (a vowel) so that it becomes a neutral sound represented by (ə). —**obscuration** ('ɒbskjʊ'reɪʃən) *n.* —**ob'scurely** adv. —**ob'scureness** *n.* —**ob'scurity** *n.*

obsequies ('ɒbsɪkwɪz) *pl. n.*, *sing.* -quy. funeral rites.

obsequious ('ɒbsɪkwɪəs) *adj.* 1. obedient or attentive in an ingratiating or servile manner. 2. *Now rare*.

submissive or compliant. —**ob'sequiously** adv. —**ob'sequiousness** *n.*

observance ('ɒbzə:vəns) *n.* 1. recognition of or compliance with a law, custom, practice, etc. 2. a ritual, ceremony, or practice, esp. of a religion. 3. observation or attention. 4. the degree of strictness of a religious order in following its rule. 5. *Arch.* respectful or deferential attention.

observant ('ɒbzə:vənt) *adj.* 1. paying close attention to detail; watchful or heedful. 2. adhering strictly to rituals, ceremonies, laws, etc. —**ob'servantly** adv.

observation ('ɒbzə'veɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of observing or the state of being observed. 2. a comment or remark. 3. detailed examination of phenomena prior to analysis, diagnosis, or interpretation: *the patient was under observation*. 4. the facts learned from observing. 5. *Navigation*. a. a sight taken with an instrument to determine the position of an observer relative to that of a given heavenly body. b. the data so taken. —**ob'servational** adj. —**ob'servationally** adv.

observatory ('ɒbzə:vətəri, -tri) *n.*, *pl.* -ries. 1. an institution or building specially designed and equipped for observing meteorological and astronomical phenomena. 2. any building or structure providing an extensive view of its surroundings.

observe ('ɒbzə:v) *vb.* 1. (tr.; may take a clause as object) to see; perceive; notice: *we have observed that you steal*. 2. (when tr., may take a clause as object) to watch (something) carefully; pay attention to (something). 3. to make observations of (something), esp. scientific ones. 4. (when intr., usually foll. by *on* or *upon*; when tr., may take a clause as object) to make a comment or remark: *the speaker observed that times had changed*. 5. (tr.) to abide by, keep, or follow (a custom, tradition, etc.). —**ob'servable** adj. —**ob'servableness** *n.* —**ob'server** *n.*

obsess ('ɒbses) *vb.* (tr.) to preoccupy completely; haunt. —**ob'sessive** adj. —**ob'sessiveness** *n.*

obsession ('ɒbsɛʃən) *n.* 1. *Psychiatry*. a persistent idea or impulse, esp. one associated with anxiety and mental illness. 2. a persistent preoccupation, idea, or feeling. 3. the act of obsessing or the state of being obsessed. —**ob'sessional** adj. —**ob'sessionally** adv.

obsidian ('ɒbsɪdɪən) *n.* a dark glassy volcanic rock formed by very rapid solidification of lava.

obsolescent ('ɒbsə'lesnt) *adj.* becoming obsolete or out of date. —**obso'lescence** *n.*

obsolete ('ɒbsə'li:t, 'ɒbsə'li:t) *adj.* 1. out of use or practice; not current. 2. out of date; unfashionable or outmoded. 3. *Biol.* (of parts, organs, etc.) vestigial; rudimentary. —**'obso,letely** adv. —**'obso,leteness** *n.*

obstacle ('ɒbstəkl) *n.* 1. a person or thing that opposes or hinders something. 2. *Brit.* a fence or hedge used in show jumping.

obstetric ('ɒbstetɪk) or **obstetrical** *adj.* of or relating to childbirth or obstetrics. —**ob'setrically** adv.

obstetrician ('ɒbstet'ɪtʃən) *n.* a physician who specializes in obstetrics.

obstetrics ('ɒbstetɪks) *n.* (*functioning as sing.*) the branch of medicine concerned with childbirth and the treatment of women before and after childbirth.

obstinate ('ɒbstɪnt) *adj.* 1. adhering fixedly to a particular opinion, attitude, course of action, etc. 2. self-willed or headstrong. 3. difficult to subdue or alleviate; persistent: *an obstinate fever*. —**'obstinacy** *n.* —**'obstinately** adv.

obstreperous ('ɒbstrepərəs) *adj.* noisy or rough, esp. in resisting restraint or control. —**ob'streperously** adv. —**ob'streperousness** *n.*

obstruct ('ɒb'strəkt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to block (a road, passageway, etc.) with an obstacle. 2. to make (progress or activity) difficult. 3. to impede or block a clear view of. —**ob'structor** or **ob'strictor** *n.* —**ob'structive** *adj.*, *n.* —**ob'structively** adv. —**ob'structiveness** *n.*

obstruction ('ɒb'strəktʃən) *n.* 1. a person or thing that obstructs. 2. the act or an instance of obstructing. 3. delay of business, esp. in a legislature by means of procedural devices. 4. *Sport*. the act of unfairly impeding an opposing player. —**ob'strictional** adj. —**ob'strictionally** adv.

obstructionist ('ɒb'strəktʃənɪst) *n.* a person who deliberately obstructs business, etc., esp. in a legislature. —**ob'structionism** *n.*

obtain ('ɒb'teɪn) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to gain possession of; acquire; get. 2. (intr.) to be customary, valid, or accepted: *a new law obtains in this case*. —**ob'tainable** adj. —**ob'tainability** *n.* —**ob'tainer** *n.* —**ob'tainment** *n.*

obtrude (əb'tru:d) *vb.* 1. to push (oneself, one's opinions, etc.) on others in an unwelcome way. 2. (tr.) to push out or forward. —**ob'truder** *n.* —**obtrusion** (əb'tru:ʒən) *n.*

obtrusive (əb'tru:siv) *adj.* 1. obtruding or tending to obtrude. 2. sticking out; protruding; noticeable. —**ob'trusively** *adv.* —**ob'trusiveness** *n.*

obtuse (əb'tju:s) *adj.* 1. mentally slow or emotionally insensitive. 2. Maths. (of an angle) lying between 90° and 180°. 3. not sharp or pointed. 4. indistinctly felt, heard, etc.; dull: *obtuse pain*. 5. (of a leaf or similar flat part) having a rounded or blunt tip. —**ob'tusely** *adv.* —**ob'tuseness** *n.*

obverse (ə'bvɜ:s) *adj.* 1. facing or turned towards the observer. 2. forming or serving as a counterpart. 3. (of leaves) narrower at the base than at the top. ~*n.* 4. a counterpart or complement. 5. *Logic*. a proposition formed from another proposition whose subject is the same as in the original but whose predicate is the contradictory of the original and whose quality is changed, as in *No x is a non-y* inferred from *Every x is a y*. 6. the side of a coin that bears the main design or device. —**ob'versely** *adv.*

obviate (ə'bvi:et) *vb.* (tr.) to do away with. —**obvi'ation** *n.*

obvious (ə'bvi:əs) *adj.* 1. easy to see or understand; evident. 2. exhibiting motives, feelings, intentions, etc., clearly or without subtlety. 3. naive or unsubtle: *the play was rather obvious*. —**ob'viously** *adv.* —**ob'viousness** *n.*

O.C. *abbrev.* for Officer Commanding.

o/c *abbrev.* for overcharge.

ocarina (ə'kɑ:'ri:nə) *n.* an egg-shaped wind instrument with a protruding mouthpiece and six to eight finger holes, producing an almost pure tone.

occasion (ə'keɪʒən) *n.* 1. (sometimes foll. by *of*) the time of a particular happening or event. 2. (sometimes foll. by *for*) a reason or cause (to do or be something); grounds: *there was no occasion to complain*. 3. an opportunity (to do something); chance. 4. a special event, time, or celebration: *the party was quite an occasion*. 5. *on occasion*. every so often. 6. *rise to the occasion*. to have the courage, wit, etc., to meet the special demands of a situation. 7. *take occasion*. to avail oneself of an opportunity (to do something). ~*vb.* 8. (tr.) to bring about, esp. incidentally or by chance.

occasional (ə'keɪʒənəl) *adj.* 1. taking place from time to time; not frequent or regular. 2. of, for, or happening on special occasions. 3. serving as an occasion (for something). —**oc'casionally** *adv.*

occident ('ɒksɪdənt) *n.* a literary or formal word for west. Cf. *orient*.

Occident ('ɒksɪdənt) *n.* (usually preceded by *the*) 1. the countries of Europe and America. 2. the western hemisphere. —**Occi'dental** *adj.*

occiput ('ɒksɪ,pət) *n., pl. occiputs or occipita* (ɒk'sɪpɪtə). the back part of the head or skull. —**oc'cipital** *adj.*

occlude (ə'klu:d) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to block or stop up (a passage or opening); obstruct. 2. (tr.) to prevent the passage of. 3. (tr.) *Chem.* (of a solid) to incorporate (a substance) by absorption or adsorption. 4. *Meteorol.* to form an occluded front. 5. *Dentistry*. to produce occlusion, as in chewing. —**oc'cludent** *adj.*

occluded front *n.* *Meteorol.* the line or plane occurring where the cold front of a depression has overtaken the warm front, raising the warm sector from ground level. Also called: **occlusion**.

occlusion (ə'klu:ʒən) *n.* 1. the act of occluding or the state of being occluded. 2. *Meteorol.* another term for **occluded front**. 3. *Dentistry*. the normal position of the teeth when the jaws are closed. —**oc'clusive** *adj.*

occult *adj.* (ɒ'kʌlt, 'bʌlt). 1. a. of or characteristic of mystical or supernatural phenomena or influences. b. (as *n.*): *the occult*. 2. beyond ordinary human understanding. 3. secret or esoteric. ~*vb.* (ɒ'kʌlt). 4. *Astron.* (of a celestial body) to hide (another celestial body) from view by occultation or (of a celestial body) to become hidden by occultation. 5. to hide or become hidden or shut off from view. 6. (*intr.*) (of lights, esp. in lighthouses) to shut off at regular intervals. —**oc'cultness** *n.* —**oc'cultism** *n.* —**oc'cultist** *n.*

occupancy ('ɒkjʊpənsi) *n., pl. -cies*. 1. the act of occupying; possession of a property. 2. *Law*. the possession and use of property by or without agreement and without any claim to ownership. 3. *Law*. the act of taking possession of unowned property, esp. land, with the intent of thus acquiring ownership. 4. the condition

or fact of being an occupant, esp. a tenant. 5. the period of time during which one is an occupant, esp. of property.

occupant ('ɒkjʊpənt) *n.* 1. a person, thing, etc., holding a position or place. 2. *Law*. a person who has possession of something, esp. an estate, house, etc.; tenant. 3. *Law*. a person who acquires by occupancy the title to something previously without an owner.

occupation ('ɒkjʊ'peɪʃən) *n.* 1. a person's regular work or profession; job. 2. any activity on which time is spent by a person. 3. the act of occupying or the state of being occupied. 4. the control of a country by a foreign military power. 5. the period of time that a nation, place, or position is occupied. 6. (*modifier*) for the use of the occupier of a particular property: *occupation road*. —**occu'pational** *adj.*

occupational therapy *n.* *Med.* the therapeutic use of crafts, hobbies, etc., esp. in the rehabilitation of emotionally disturbed patients.

occupier ('ɒkjʊ,pəɪ) *n.* 1. *Brit.* a person who is in possession or occupation of a house or land. 2. a person or thing that occupies.

occupy ('ɒkjʊ,pai) *vb. -pying, -pied.* (tr.) 1. to live or be established in (a house, flat, office, etc.). 2. (*often passive*) to keep (a person) busy or engrossed. 3. (*often passive*) to take up (time or space). 4. to take and hold possession of, esp. as a demonstration: *students occupied the college buildings*. 5. to fill or hold (a position or rank).

occur (ə'kɜ:) *vb. -curring, -curred.* (*intr.*) 1. to happen; take place; come about. 2. to be found or be present; exist. 3. (foll. by *to*) to be realized or thought of (by); suggest itself (to).

Usage. In careful English, *occur* and *happen* are not used of prearranged events: *the wedding took place* (not *occurred or happened*) *in the afternoon*.

occurrence (ə'kʌrəns) *n.* 1. something that occurs; a happening; event. 2. the act or an instance of occurring: *a crime of frequent occurrence*. —**oc'current** *adj.*

ocean ('əʊʃən) *n.* 1. a very large stretch of sea, esp. one of the five oceans of the world, the Atlantic, Pacific, Indian, Arctic, and Antarctic. 2. the body of salt water covering approximately 70 per cent of the earth's surface. 3. a huge quantity or expanse: *an ocean of replies*. 4. *Literary*. the sea. —**oceanic** ('əʊʃɪ'ænik) *adj.*

ocean-going *adj.* (of a ship, boat, etc.) suited for travel on the open ocean.

oceanography ('əʊʃɪ'nɒgrəfi, 'əʊʃɪ-) *n.* the branch of science dealing with the physical and biological features of the sea. —**ocean'ographer** *n.* —**oceanographic** ('əʊʃɪ'nɒ'græfɪk, 'əʊʃɪ-) *adj.* —**ocean'ographical** *adj.*

ocelot ('ɒsi,lət, 'ɒ-) *n.* a feline mammal inhabiting Central and South America and having a dark-spotted buff-brown coat.

och (ɒx) *interj.* *Scot., Irish*. an expression of surprise, contempt, or disagreement.

ochre or **U.S. ochre** ('ɒkɜə) *n.* 1. any of various natural earths containing ferric oxide, silica, and alumina: used as yellow or red pigments. 2. a. a moderate yellow-orange to orange colour. b. (as *adj.*): *an ochre dress*. ~*vb.* 3. (tr.) to colour with ochre. —**ochreous** ('ɒkɜ:əs, 'ɒkɜ:əs), **ochrous** ('ɒkɜ:əs), **ochry** ('ɒkɜ:ɪ) or **U.S. ochereous, ochery** *adj.*

o'clock (ə'klɒk) *adv.* 1. used after a number from one to twelve to indicate the hour of the day or night. 2. used after a number to indicate direction or position relative to the observer, twelve o'clock being directly ahead and other positions being obtained by comparisons with a clock face.

OCR *abbrev.* for optical character reader or recognition.

oct. *abbrev.* for octavo.

Oct. *abbrev.* for October.

oct- *combining form.* a variant of *octo-* before a vowel.

octa- *combining form.* a variant of *octo-*.

octagon ('ɒktə,gən) or **octangle** *n.* a polygon having eight sides. —**oc'tagonal** *adj.*

octahedron ('ɒktə'hɪdrən) *n., pl. -drons or -dra* (-drə). a solid figure having eight plane faces.

octal notation or **octal** ('ɒktəl) *n.* *Computers*. a number system having a base 8, one octal digit being equivalent to a group of three bits.

octane ('ɒkteɪn) *n.* a liquid hydrocarbon found in petroleum. Formula: C₈H₁₈.

octane number or **rating** *n.* a measure of the antiknock quality of a petrol expressed as a percentage.

octave ('ɒktɪv) *n.* 1. **a.** the interval between two musical notes one of which has twice the pitch of the other and lies eight notes away from it counting inclusively along the diatonic scale. **b.** one of these two notes, esp. the one of higher pitch. **c.** (as modifier): *an octave leap*. 2. *Prosody.* a rhythmic group of eight lines of verse. 3. ('ɒkteɪv) **a.** a feast day and the seven days following. **b.** the final day of this period. 4. the eighth of eight basic positions in fencing. 5. any set or series of eight. ~*adj.* 6. consisting of eight parts.

octavo ('ɒktəvəʊ) *n., pl. -vos.* 1. a book size resulting from folding a sheet of paper of a specified size to form eight leaves: *democtavo*. Often written: 8vo, 8°. 2. a book of this size.

octet ('ɒktet) *n.* 1. any group of eight, esp. singers or musicians. 2. a piece of music composed for such a group. 3. *Prosody.* another word for *octave* (sense 2). 4. *Chem.* a stable group of eight electrons. ~Also (for senses 1, 2, 3): *octette*.

octo-, octa-, or before a vowel **oct-** combining form. eight; *octosyllabic*; *octagon*.

October ('ɒktəʊbə) *n.* the tenth month of the year, consisting of 31 days.

Octobrist ('ɒktəʊbrɪst) *n.* a member of a Russian political party favouring the constitutional reforms granted in a manifesto issued by Nicholas II in Oct. 1905.

octogenarian ('ɒktədʒɪnəriən) or **octogenary** ('ɒktədʒɪnəri) *n., pl. -narians* or *-naries.* 1. a person who is between 80 and 90 years old. ~*adj.* 2. of or relating to an octogenarian.

octopus ('ɒktəpəs) *n., pl. -puses.* 1. a cephalopod mollusc having a soft oval body with eight long suckered tentacles and occurring at the sea bottom. 2. a powerful influential organization, etc., with far-reaching effects, esp. harmful ones.

OCU ('ɒktuː) *n.* *Brit. acronym* for Officer Cadets Training Unit.

ocular ('ɒkjʊlə) *adj.* 1. of or relating to the eye. ~*n.* 2. another name for *eyepiece*. — *ocularly adv.*

O.D. *abbrev. for:* 1. Also: *o.d.* *Mil.* olive drab. 2. Officer of the Day. 3. Also: *O/D* *Banking.* a. on demand. **b.** overdrawn. 4. outside diameter. 5. ordnance datum. 6. Also: *o/d* *overdose*.

odalisque or **odalisk** ('ɒdəlɪsk) *n.* a female slave or concubine.

odd (ɒd) *adj.* 1. unusual or peculiar in appearance, character, etc. 2. occasional, incidental, or random: *odd jobs*. 3. leftover or additional: *odd bits of wool*. 4. **a.** not divisible by two. **b.** represented or indicated by a number that is not divisible by two: *graphs are on odd pages*. Cf. *even* (sense 7). 5. being part of a matched pair or set when the other or others are missing: *an odd sock*. 6. (*in combination*) used to designate an indefinite quantity more than the quantity specified in round numbers: *fifty-odd pounds*. 7. out-of-the-way. 8. **odd man out** a person or thing excluded from others forming a group, unit, etc. ~*n.* 9. *Golf.* **a.** one stroke more than the score of one's opponent. **b.** a handicap of one stroke. 10. a thing or person that is odd in sequence or number. — *oddly adv.* — *oddness n.*

oddity ('ɒdɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. an odd person or thing. 2. an odd quality or characteristic. 3. the condition of being odd.

oddment ('ɒdmənt) *n.* 1. (*often pl.*) an odd piece or thing; leftover. 2. *Printing.* any individual part of a book excluding the main text.

odds (ɒdz) *pl. n.* 1. (foll. by *on* or *against*) the probability, expressed as a ratio, that a certain event will take place: *the odds against the outsider are a hundred to one*. 2. the amount, expressed as a ratio, by which the wager of one better is greater than that of another: *he was offering odds of five to one*. 3. the likelihood that a certain state of affairs will be so: *the odds are that he is drunk*. 4. an equalizing allowance, esp. one given to a weaker side in a contest. 5. the advantage that one contender is judged to have over another. 6. *Brit.* a significant difference (esp. in it makes no odds). 7. at odds, on bad terms. 8. *give or lay odds.* to offer a bet with favourable odds. 9. *take odds.* to accept such a bet. 10. *over the odds.* *a. Brit.* more than is expected, necessary, etc. **b. Austral. & N.Z.** unfair or excessive. 11. *what's the odds?* *Brit. inf.* what difference does it make? **odds and ends** *pl. n.* miscellaneous items or articles.

odds-on *adj.* 1. (of a chance, horse, etc.) rated at even money or less to win. 2. regarded as more or most likely to win, succeed, happen, etc.

ode (əʊd) *n.* 1. a lyric poem, typically addressed to a particular subject, with lines of varying lengths and

complex rhythms. 2. (formerly) a poem meant to be sung.

odious ('əʊdiəs) *adj.* offensive; repugnant. — *odiousness n.*

odium ('əʊdiəm) *n.* 1. the dislike accorded to a hated person or thing. 2. hatred; repugnance.

odometer ('ɒdəmɪtə, ə-) *n.* the usual U.S. name for *mileometer*. — *o'dometry n.*

odontology ('ɒdəntɒlədʒɪ) *n.* the branch of science concerned with the anatomy, development, and diseases of teeth. — *odontological* ('ɒdəntə'lɒdʒɪkəl) *adj.* — *odon'tologist n.*

odoriferous ('əʊdə'rɪfərəs) *adj.* having or emitting an odour, esp. a fragrant one. — *odor'iferously adv.* — *odor'iferousness n.*

odour or **U.S. odor** ('əʊdə) *n.* 1. the property of a substance that gives it a characteristic scent or smell. 2. a pervasive quality about something: *an odour of dishonesty*. 3. *repute* or *regard* (in *in good odour*, *in bad odour*). 4. *Arch.* a sweet-smelling fragrance. — *odourless* or *U.S. odorless adj.*

Odyssey ('ɒdɪsi) *n.* 1. a Greek epic poem, attributed to Homer, describing the ten-year homeward wanderings of Odysseus after the fall of Troy. 2. (*often not cap.*) any long eventful journey. — *Odyssean* ('ɒdɪ'si:ən) *adj.*

OE, O.E., or **OE.** *abbrev. for* Old English (language).

O.E.C.D. *abbrev. for* Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.

oedema or **edema** ('i:di:mə) *n., pl. -mata* (—mætə). 1. *Pathol.* an excessive accumulation of serous fluid in the intercellular spaces of tissue. 2. *Bot.* an abnormal swelling in a plant caused by parenchyma or an accumulation of water in the tissues. — *oedematous*, *edematous* ('i:demətəs) or *o'e'dema, tose, e'dema, tose adj.*

Oedipus complex ('i:di:pəs) *n.* *Psychoanal.* the usually unconscious desire of a child, esp. a male child, to possess sexually the parent of the opposite sex while excluding the parent of the same sex. — *oedipal* or *oedi'pean adj.*

o'er (ɔː, əʊ) *prep., adv.* a poetic contraction of *over*.

oesophagus or **U.S. esophagus** ('i:səfəgəs) *n., pl. -gi* (—gai), the part of the alimentary canal between the pharynx and the stomach; gullet. — *oesophageal* or *U.S. esophageal* ('i:səfə'dʒi:əl) *adj.*

oestrogen ('i:stɹədʒən, 'estrə-) or **U.S. estrogen** *n.* any of several hormones that induce oestrus, stimulate changes in the female reproductive organs, and promote development of female secondary sexual characteristics. — *oestrogenic* ('i:stɹə'dʒenɪk, 'estrə-) or *U.S. estrogenic* ('estrə'dʒenɪk, 'i:stɹə-) *adj.* — *oestro'genically* or *U.S. 'estro'genically adv.*

oestrus ('i:stɹəs, 'estrəs) or **U.S. estrus** *n.* a regularly occurring period of sexual receptivity in most female mammals, except humans, during which ovulation occurs and copulation can take place; heat. — *oestrous* or *U.S. 'estrous adj.*

off (ɒv; *unstressed* əv) *prep.* 1. used with a verbal noun or gerund to link it with a following noun that is either the subject or the object of the verb embedded in the gerund: *the breathing of a fine swimmer* (subject); *the breathing of clean air* (object). 2. used to indicate possession, origin, or association: *the house of my sister*; *to die of hunger*. 3. used after words or phrases expressing quantities: *a pint of milk*. 4. constituted by, containing, or characterized by: *a family of idiots*; *a rod of iron*; *a man of some depth*. 5. used to indicate separation, as in time or space: *within a mile of the town*; *within ten minutes of the beginning of the concert*. 6. used to mark apposition: *the city of Naples*; *a speech on the subject of archaeology*. 7. about; concerning: *speak to me of love*. 8. used in passive constructions to indicate the agent: *he was beloved of all*. 9. *Inf.* used to indicate a day or part of a period of time when some activity habitually occurs: *I go to the pub on an evening*. 10. *U.S.* before the hour of: *a quarter of nine*.

▷ **Usage.** See at *off*.

OF, O.F., or **OF.** *abbrev. for* Old French (language).

off (ɒf) *prep.* 1. used to indicate actions in which contact is absent, as between an object and a surface: *to lift a cup off the table*. 2. used to indicate the removal of something that is appended to or in association with something else: *to take the tax off potatoes*. 3. out of alignment with: *we are off course*. 4. situated near to or leading away from: *just off the High Street*. 5. not inclined towards: *I've gone off you*. ~*adv.* 6. (particle) so as to deactivate or disengage: *turn off the radio*. 7. (particle) *a.* so as to get rid of: *sleep off a hangover*. *b.* so as to be removed from, esp. as a reduction: *he took*

ten per cent off. 8. spent away from work or other duties: *take the afternoon off.* 9. a. on a trip, journey, or race: *I saw her off at the station.* b. (particle) so as to be completely absent, used up, or exhausted: *this stuff kills off all vermin.* 10. out from the shore or land: *the ship stood off.* 11. a. out of contact; at a distance: *the ship was 10 miles off.* b. out of the present location: *the girl ran off.* 12. away in the future: *August is less than a week off.* 13. (particle) so as to be no longer taking place: *the match has been rained off.* 14. (particle) removed from contact with something, as clothing from the body: *the girl took all her clothes off.* 15. **off and on**, occasionally; intermittently: *he comes here off and on.* 16. **off with**, (*interj.*) a command or an exhortation to remove or cut off (something specified): *off with his head; off with that coat.* ~adj. 17. not on; no longer operative: *the off position on the dial.* 18. (postpositive) not taking place; cancelled or postponed: *the meeting is off.* 19. in a specified condition regarding money, provisions, etc.: *well off; how are you off for bread?* 20. unsatisfactory or disappointing: *his performance was rather off; an off year for good tennis.* 21. (postpositive) in a condition as specified: *I'd be better off without this job.* 22. (postpositive) no longer on the menu: *haddock is off.* 23. (postpositive) (of food or drink) having gone bad, sour, etc.: *this milk is off.* ~n. 24. **Cricket.** a. the part of the field on that side of the pitch to which the batsman presents his bat when taking strike. b. (in combination) a fielding position in this part of the field: *mid-off.* c. (as modifier): *the off stump.*

▷ **Usage.** In educated usage, *off* is not followed by *from* or *of*: *he stepped off (not off of) the platform.* Careful writers also avoid using the word in the place of *from*: *they bought apples from (rather than off) the man.*

off, abbrev. for: 1. offer. 2. office. 3. officer. 4. official.

offal ('ɒfəl) *n.* 1. the edible internal parts of an animal, such as the heart, liver, and tongue. 2. dead or decomposing organic matter. 3. refuse; rubbish.

offbeat ('ɒfbi:t) *n.* 1. **Music.** any of the normally unaccented beats in a bar, such as the second and fourth beats in a bar of four-four time. ~adj. 2. a. unusual, unconventional, or eccentric. b. (as *n.*): *he liked the offbeat in music.*

off chance *n.* 1. a slight possibility. 2. **on the off chance**, with the hope: *on the off chance of getting the job.*

off colour *adj.* (**off-colour** when *prenominal*). 1. Chiefly **Brit.** slightly ill; unwell. 2. indecent or indelicate; risqué.

off cut *n.* a piece of paper, wood, etc., remaining after the main pieces have been cut; remnant.

offence or **U.S. offense** ('ɒfens) *n.* 1. a violation or breach of a law, rule, etc. 2. any public wrong or crime. 3. annoyance, displeasure, or resentment. 4. **give offence (to)**, to cause annoyance or displeasure (to). 5. **take offence**, to feel injured, humiliated, or offended. 6. a source of annoyance, displeasure, or anger. 7. attack; assault. 8. **Arch.** injury or harm. —**of'fenceless** or **U.S. of'fenseless** *adj.*

offend ('ɒfend) *vb.* 1. to hurt the feelings, sense of dignity, etc., of (a person, etc.). 2. (*tr.*) to be disagreeable to; disgust: *the smell offended him.* 3. (*intr.* except in archaic uses) to break (a law). —**of'fender** *n.*

offensive ('ɒfensiv) *adj.* 1. unpleasant or disgusting, as to the senses. 2. causing anger or annoyance; insulting. 3. for the purpose of attack rather than defence. ~*n.* 4. (usually preceded by *the*) an attitude or position of aggression. 5. an assault, attack, or military initiative, esp. a strategic one. —**of'fensively** *adv.* —**of'fensiveness** *n.*

offer ('ɒfə) *vb.* 1. to present (something, someone, oneself, etc.) for acceptance or rejection. 2. (*tr.*) to present as part of a requirement: *she offered English as a second subject.* 3. (*tr.*) to provide or make accessible: *this stream offers the best fishing.* 4. (*intr.*) to present itself: *if an opportunity should offer.* 5. (*tr.*) to show or express willingness or the intention (to do something). 6. (*tr.*) to put forward (a proposal, opinion, etc.) for consideration. 7. (*tr.*) to present for sale. 8. (*tr.*) to propose as payment; bid or tender. 9. (when *tr.*, often foll. by *up*) to present (a prayer, sacrifice, etc.) as or during an act of worship. 10. (*tr.*) to show readiness for: *to offer battle.* 11. (*intr.*) to make a proposal of marriage. ~*n.* 12. something, such as a proposal or bid, that is offered. 13. the act of offering or the condition of being offered. 14. a proposal of marriage. 15. **on offer**, for sale at a reduced price. —**offerer** or **offeror** *n.*

offering ('ɒfəriŋ) *n.* 1. something that is offered. 2. a contribution to the funds of a religious organization. 3. a sacrifice, as of an animal, to a deity.

offertory ('ɒfətəri) *n.*, *pl.* -*ories*. **Christianity.** 1. the oblation of the bread and wine at the Eucharist. 2. the offerings of the worshippers at this service. 3. the prayers said or sung while the worshippers' offerings are being brought to the altar during the offertory procession.

offhand ('ɒfhænd) *adj.* also **offhanded**, *adv.* 1. without preparation or warning; impromptu. 2. without care, thought, attention, or consideration: *an offhand manner.* —**off'handedly** *adv.* —**off'handedness** *n.*

office ('ɒfis) *n.* 1. a. a room or rooms in which business, professional duties, clerical work, etc., are carried out. b. (as modifier): *office furniture; an office boy.* 2. (*often pl.*) the building or buildings in which the work of an organization, such as a business, is carried out. 3. a commercial or professional business: *the architect's office approved the plans.* 4. the group of persons working in an office: *it was a happy office until she came.* 5. (*cap. when part of a name*) (in Britain) a department of the national government: *the Home Office.* 6. (*cap. when part of a name*) (in the U.S.) a. a governmental agency, esp. of the Federal government. b. a subdivision of such an agency: *Office of Science and Technology.* 7. a. a position of trust, responsibility, or duty, esp. in a government or organization: *to seek office.* b. (*in combination*): *an office-holder.* 8. duty or function: *the office of an administrator.* 9. (*often pl.*) a minor task or service: *domestic offices.* 10. (*often pl.*) an action performed for another, usually a beneficial action: *through his good offices.* 11. a place where tickets, information, etc., can be obtained: *a ticket office.* 12. **Christianity.** a. (*often pl.*) a ceremony or service, prescribed by ecclesiastical authorities, esp. one for the dead. b. **R.C. Church.** the official daily service. 13. (*pl.*) the parts of a house or estate where work is done, goods are stored, etc. 14. **Brit.** a euphemistic term for **lavatory**. 15. **the office**, a hint or signal. 16. **in (or out) of office**, (of a government) in (or out) of power.

officer ('ɒfisə) *n.* 1. a person in the armed services who holds a position of responsibility, authority, and duty. 2. a member of a police force, esp. a constable; policeman. 3. a person authorized to serve as master or mate of a vessel. 4. a person appointed or elected to a position of responsibility or authority in a government, society, etc. 5. a government official: *a customs officer.* 6. (in the Order of the British Empire) a member of the grade below commander. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 7. to furnish with officers. 8. to act as an officer over (some section, group, organization, etc.).

official ('ɒfɪʃəl) *adj.* 1. of or relating to an office, its administration, or its duration. 2. sanctioned by, recognized by, or derived from authority: *an official statement.* 3. having a formal ceremonial character: *an official dinner.* ~*n.* 4. a person who holds a position in an organization, government department, etc., esp. a subordinate position. —**of'ficially** *adv.*

officialdom ('ɒfɪʃəldəm) *n.* 1. the outlook or behaviour of officials, esp. those rigidly adhering to regulations; bureaucracy. 2. officials or bureaucrats collectively.

officialese ('ɒfɪʃəli:z) *n.* language characteristic of official documents, esp. when verbose or pedantic.

Official Receiver *n.* an officer appointed by the Department of Trade and Industry to receive the income and manage the estate of a bankrupt. See also **receiver**.

officiate ('ɒfɪʃi,et) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. to hold the position, responsibility, or function of an official. 2. to conduct a religious or other ceremony. —**of'fici'ation** *n.* —**of'fici'ator** *n.*

officious ('ɒfɪʃəs) *adj.* 1. unnecessarily or obtrusively ready to offer advice or services. 2. **Diplomacy.** informal or unofficial. —**of'ficiously** *adv.* —**of'ficiousness** *n.*

offing ('ɒfɪŋ) *n.* 1. the part of the sea that can be seen from the shore. 2. **in the offing**, likely to occur soon.

offish ('ɒfɪʃ) *adj.* **Inf.** aloof or distant in manner. —**of'fishly** *adv.* —**offishness** *n.*

off key *adj.* (**off-key** when *prenominal*) *adv.* 1. **Music.** a. not in the correct key. b. out of tune. 2. out of keeping; discordant.

off-licence *n.* **Brit.** 1. a shop, counter, etc., where alcoholic drinks are sold for consumption elsewhere. U.S. equivalent: **package store**. 2. a licence permitting such sales.

off line *adj.* (**off-line** when *prenominal*). 1. of or concerned with a part of a computer system not connected to the central processing unit but controlled by a

computer storage device. Cf. **on line**. 2. disconnected from a computer; switched off.

off-load *vb.* (tr.) to get rid of (something unpleasant), as by delegation to another.

off-peak *adj.* of or relating to services as used outside periods of intensive use.

off-putting *adj.* *Brit. inf.* disconcerting or disturbing.

off season *adj.* (**off-season** when prenominal). 1. denoting or occurring during a period of little activity in a trade or business. ~*adv.* 2. in an off-season period.

offset *n.* ('ɒf, set). 1. something that counterbalances or compensates for something else. 2. a. a printing method in which the impression is made onto an intermediate surface, such as a rubber blanket, which transfers it to the paper. b. (*modifier*) relating to, involving, or printed by offset: *offset letterpress*. 3. another name for **setoff**. 4. *Bot.* a short runner in certain plants that produces roots and shoots at the tip. 5. a ridge projecting from a range of hills or mountains. 6. a narrow horizontal or sloping surface formed where a wall is reduced in thickness towards the top. 7. *Surveying.* a measurement of distance to a point at right angles to a survey line. ~*vb.* ('ɒf, set), -*setting*, -*set*. 8. (tr.) to counterbalance or compensate for. 9. (tr.) to print (text, etc.) using the offset process. 10. (tr.) to construct an offset in (a wall). 11. (intr.) to project or develop as an offset.

offshoot ('ɒf,ʃu:t) *n.* 1. a shoot or branch growing from the main stem of a plant. 2. something that develops or derives from a principal source or origin.

offshore ('ɒf,ʃɔ:) *adj.*, *adv.* from, away from, or at some distance from the shore.

offside ('ɒf,saɪd) *adj.*, *adv.* 1. *Sport.* (in football, etc.) in a position illegally ahead of the ball when it is played. ~*n.* 2. (usually preceded by *the*) *Chiefly Brit.* a. the side of a vehicle, etc., nearest the centre of the road. b. (*as modifier*): *the offside passenger door*.

offspring ('ɒf,spɪŋ) *n.* 1. the immediate descendant or descendants of a person, animal, etc.; progeny. 2. a product, outcome, or result.

off-the-peg *adj.* (of clothing) ready to wear; not produced especially for the person buying.

oft (ɒft) *adv.* short for **often** (archaic or poetic except in combinations such as **oft-repeated** and **oft-recurring**).

often ('ɒfn) *adv.* 1. frequently or repeatedly; much of the time. Archaic equivalents: '**often, times**', '**oft, times**'. 2. as often as not. quite frequently. 3. every so often. at regular intervals. 4. more often than not. in more than half the instances. ~*adj.* 5. *Arch.* repeated; frequent.

ogee ('ɒdʒi:) *n.* *Archit.* 1. Also called: **talon**. a moulding having a cross section in the form of a letter S. 2. Also called: **ogee arch**. a pointed arch having an S-shaped curve on both sides.

ogle ('ɒgl) *vb.* 1. to look at (someone, esp. a woman) amorously. 2. (tr.) to stare or gape at. ~*n.* 3. a flirtatious or lewd look. —'ogler *n.*

ogre ('ɒɡr) *n.* 1. (in folklore) a giant, usually given to eating human flesh. 2. any monstrous or cruel person. —'ogreish *adj.* —'ogress *fem. n.*

oh (əʊ) *interj.* an exclamation expressive of surprise, pain, pleasure, etc.

OHG, O.H.G. or OHG. *abbrev.* for Old High German.

ohm (ɔm) *n.* the derived SI unit of electric resistance; the resistance between two points on a conductor when a constant potential difference of 1 volt between them produces a current of 1 ampere. Symbol: Ω —'ohm-age *n.*

O.H.M.S. (in Britain and the Commonwealth) *abbrev.* for On Her (or His) Majesty's Service.

oil (ɔɪl) *n.* 1. any of a number of viscous liquids with a smooth sticky feel. They are usually flammable, insoluble in water, soluble in organic solvents, and are obtained from plants and animals, from mineral deposits, and by synthesis. See also **essential oil**. 2. a. another name for **petroleum**. b. (*as modifier*): *an oil engine*; *an oil rig*. 3. a. any of a number of substances usually derived from petroleum and used for lubrication. b. (*in combination*): *an oilcan*. c. (*as modifier*): *an oil pump*. 4. a fraction of petroleum used as a fuel in domestic heating, marine engines, etc. Also called: **fuel oil**. 5. *Brit.* a. paraffin; esp. when used as a domestic fuel. b. (*as modifier*): *an oil lamp*. 6. any substance of a consistency resembling that of oil: *oil of vitriol*. 7. the solvent, usually linseed oil, with which pigments are mixed to make artists' paints. 8. a. (*often pl.*) oil colour or paint. b. (*as modifier*): *an oil painting*. 9. an oil painting. 10. *Austral. & N.Z. sl.* facts or news. 11. **strike oil**. a. to discover petroleum while drilling for it. b. *Inf.*

to become very rich or successful. ~*vb.* (tr.) 12. to lubricate, smear, polish, etc., with oil or an oily substance. 13. *oil one's tongue.* *Inf.* to speak flatteringly or glibly. 14. *Inf.* to bribe (esp. in **oil someone's palm**). 15. **oil the wheels.** to make things run smoothly. 16. **well oiled.** drunk. —'oil-, like *adj.* —'oiler *n.* —'oilman *n.*

oil cake *n.* stock feed consisting of compressed cubes made from the residue of the crushed seeds of oil-bearing crops such as linseed.

oilcloth ('ɔɪl,klɒθ) *n.* 1. waterproof material made by treating one side of a cotton fabric with a drying oil, or a synthetic resin. 2. another name for **linoleum**.

oilfield ('ɔɪl,fi:ld) *n.* an area containing reserves of petroleum, esp. one that is already being exploited.

oilfired ('ɔɪl,faɪəd) *adj.* (of central heating, etc.) using oil as fuel.

oil painting *n.* 1. a picture painted with oil paints. 2. the art or process of painting with oil paints. 3. *Inf.* a person or thing regarded as good-looking (esp. in **she's no oil painting**).

oil rig *n.* See **rig** (sense 6).

oilskin ('ɔɪl,skɪn) *n.* 1. a. a cotton fabric treated with oil and pigment to make it waterproof. b. (*as modifier*): *an oilskin hat*. 2. (*often pl.*) a protective outer garment of this fabric.

oil slick *n.* a mass of floating oil covering an area of water.

oil well *n.* a boring into the earth or sea bed for the extraction of petroleum.

oily ('ɔɪli) *adj.* **oilier, oiliest.** 1. soaked in or smeared with oil or grease. 2. consisting of, containing, or resembling oil. 3. flatteringly servile or obsequious. —'oilily *adv.* —'oiliness *n.*

oink (ɔɪŋk) *interj.* an imitation or representation of the grunt of a pig or the cry of a goose.

ointment ('ɔɪntmənt) *n.* 1. a fatty or oily medicated preparation applied to the skin to heal or protect. 2. a similar substance used as a cosmetic.

O.K. ('əʊ,keɪ) *Inf.* 1. *sentence substitute.* an expression of approval or agreement. ~*adj.* (usually postpositive), *adv.* 2. in good or satisfactory condition. ~*vb.* **O.K.ing** ('əʊ,keɪŋ), **O.K.ed** ('əʊ,keɪd). 3. (tr.) to approve or endorse. ~*n.*, *pl.* **O.K.s**. 4. approval or agreement. ~*Also:* okay.

okapi ('əʊ,kæpi) *n.*, *pl.* -**pis** or -**pl.** a ruminant mammal of the forests of central Africa, having a reddish-brown coat with horizontal white stripes on the legs and small horns.

okay ('əʊ,keɪ) *adj.*, *adv.*, *vb.*, *n.*, *sentence substitute.* a variant spelling of **O.K.**

okra ('əʊkrə) *n.* 1. an annual plant of the Old World tropics, with yellow-and-red flowers and edible oblong sticky green pods. 2. the pod of this plant, eaten in soups, stews, etc.

old (əʊld) *adj.* 1. having lived or existed for a relatively long time: *an old man*; *an old tradition*; *an old house*. 2. a. of or relating to advanced years or a long life: *old age*. b. the old. old people. c. **old and young.** people of all ages. 3. decrepit or senile. 4. worn with age or use: *old clothes*; *an old car*. 5. a. (*postpositive*) having lived or existed for a specified period: *a child who is six years old*. b. (*in combination*): *a six-year-old child*. c. (*as n. in combination*): *a six-year-old*. 6. (*cap. when part of a name or title*) earlier or earliest of two or more things with the same name: *the old edition*; *the Old Testament*. 7. (*cap. when part of a name*) designating the form of a language in which the earliest known records are written: *Old English*. 8. (*prenominal*) familiar through long acquaintance or repetition: *an old friend*; *an old excuse*. 9. practised; hardened: *old in cunning*. 10. (*prenominal*) (often preceded by *good*) cherished; dear: used as a term of affection or familiarity: *good old George*. 11. *Inf.* (with any of several nouns) used as a familiar form of address to a person: *old thing*; *old bean*; *old stick*. 12. skilled through long experience (esp. in **an old hand**). 13. out-of-date; unfashionable. 14. remote or distant in origin or time of origin: *an old culture*. 15. (*prenominal*) former; previous: *my old house was small*. 16. a. (*prenominal*) established for a relatively long time: *an old member*. b. (*in combination*): *old-established*. 17. sensible, wise, or mature: *old beyond one's years*. 18. (*intensifier*) (esp. in **a good old time**, **any old thing**, **any old how**, etc.). 19. **good old days.** an earlier period of time regarded as better than the present. 20. **little old.** indicating affection, esp. humorous affection. 21. **the old one (or gentleman).** *Inf.* a jocular name for Satan. ~*n.* 22. an earlier or past time (esp. in **of old**): *in days of old*. —'oldish *adj.* —'oldness *n.*

old age pension *n.* another name for **retirement pension**. — **old age pensioner** *n.*

Old Bailey ('beɪlɪ) *n.* the Central Criminal Court of England.

old boy *n.* 1. (*sometimes caps.*) *Brit.* a male ex-pupil of a school. 2. *Inf.*, chiefly *Brit.* a. a familiar name used to refer to a man. b. an old man. — **old girl** (*fern.*) *n.*

old country *n.* the country of origin of an immigrant or an immigrant's ancestors.

olden ('əʊldn) *adj.* an archaic or poetic word for **old** (often in **olden days** and in **olden times**).

Old English *n.* 1. Also called: **Anglo-Saxon**. the English language from the time of the earliest Saxon settlements in the fifth century A.D. to about 1100. Abbrev.: **OE**. 2. *Printing*. a Gothic typeface commonly used in England up to the 18th century.

Old English sheepdog *n.* a breed of large sheepdog with a profuse shaggy coat.

old-fashioned *adj.* 1. belonging to, characteristic of, or favoured by former times; outdated: *old-fashioned ideas*. 2. favouring or adopting the dress, manners, fashions, etc., of a former time. 3. *N. English dialect*. old for one's age: *an old-fashioned child*. ~*n.* 4. a cocktail containing spirit, bitters, fruit, etc.

Old French *n.* the French language in its earliest forms, from about the 9th century up to about 1400. Abbrev.: **OF**.

old guard *n.* 1. a group that works for a long-established or old-fashioned cause or principle. 2. the conservative element in a political party or other group.

old hat *adj.* (*postpositive*) old-fashioned or trite.

Old High German *n.* a group of West Germanic dialects that eventually developed into modern German; High German up to about 1200. Abbrev.: **OHG**.

oldie ('əʊldɪ) *n.* *Inf.* an old joke, song, film, person, etc.

old lady *n.* an informal term for **mother** or **wife**.

old maid *n.* 1. a woman regarded as unlikely ever to marry; spinster. 2. *Inf.* a prim, fastidious, or excessively cautious person. 3. a card game in which players try to avoid holding the unpaired card at the end of the game. — **old-maidish** *adj.*

old man *n.* 1. an informal term for **father** or **husband**. 2. (*sometimes caps.*) *Inf.* a man in command, such as an employer, foreman, or captain of a ship. 3. *Sometimes facetious*, an affectionate term used in addressing a man. 4. Also called: **southernwood**, an aromatic shrubby wormwood of S Europe, having drooping yellow flowers. 5. *Christianity*. the unregenerate aspect of human nature.

old master *n.* 1. one of the great European painters of the period 1500 to 1800. 2. a painting by one of these.

old moon *n.* a phase of the moon lying between last quarter and new moon, when it appears as a waning crescent.

Old Nick *n.* *Inf.* a jocular name for **Satan**.

old rose *n.* a. a greyish-pink colour. b. (*as adj.*): *old-rose gloves*.

Old Saxon *n.* the Saxon dialect of Low German up to about 1200, from which modern Low German is derived. Abbrev.: **OS**.

old school *n.* 1. Chiefly *Brit.* one's former school. 2. a group of people favouring traditional ideas or conservative practices.

old school tie *n.* 1. *Brit.* a distinctive tie that indicates which school the wearer attended. 2. the attitudes, loyalties, values, etc., associated with British public schools.

Old Testament *n.* the collection of books comprising the sacred Scriptures of the Hebrews; the first part of the Christian Bible.

old-time *adj.* (*prenominal*) of or relating to a former time; old-fashioned: *old-time dancing*.

old wives' tale *n.* a belief passed on by word of mouth as a piece of traditional wisdom.

old woman *n.* 1. an informal term for **mother** or **wife**. 2. a timid, fussy, or cautious person. — **old womanish** *adj.*

Old World *n.* that part of the world that was known before the discovery of the Americas; the eastern hemisphere.

old-world *adj.* of or characteristic of former times, esp., in Europe, quaint or traditional. — **old-worldly** *adv.*

oleaginous (,əʊlɪ'ædʒɪnəs) *adj.* 1. resembling or having the properties of oil. 2. containing or producing oil.

oleander (,əʊlɪ'ændə) *n.* a poisonous evergreen Medi-

terranean shrub or tree with fragrant white, pink, or purple flowers. Also called: **rosebay**.

oleo- combining form. oil: **oleomargarine**.

O level *n.* *Brit.* 1. a. the basic level of the General Certificate of Education. b. (*as modifier*): *O level maths*. 2. a pass in a particular subject at O level: *he has eight O levels*.

olfactory (ɒl'fæktəri, -trɪ) *adj.* 1. of or relating to the sense of smell. ~*n.*, *pl.* **-ries**. 2. (*usually pl.*) an organ or nerve concerned with the sense of smell.

oligarch ('ɒlɪ,gɑ:k) *n.* a member of an oligarchy.

oligarchy ('ɒlɪ,gɑ:kɪ) *n.*, *pl.* **-chies**. 1. government by a small group of people. 2. a state or organization so governed. 3. a small body of individuals ruling such a state. 4. Chiefly *U.S.* a small clique of private citizens who exert a strong influence on government. — **oligarchic** or **oligarchical** *adj.*

oligo- or before a vowel **olig-** combining form. indicating a few or little: **oligopoly**.

Oligocene ('ɒlɪgəʊ,sɪn, ɒ'lig-) *adj.* 1. of, denoting, or formed in the third epoch of the Tertiary period. ~*n.* 2. (preceded by *the*) the Oligocene epoch or rock series.

olio ('əʊlɪ,əʊ) *n.*, *pl.* **olios**. 1. a dish of many different ingredients. 2. a miscellany or potpourri.

olive ('ɒlɪv) *n.* 1. an evergreen oleaceous tree of the Mediterranean region having white fragrant flowers and edible black fruits. 2. the fruit of this plant, eaten as a relish and used as a source of olive oil. 3. the wood of the olive tree, used for ornamental work. 4. a. a yellow-green colour. b. (*as adj.*): *an olive coat*. ~*adj.* 5. of, relating to, or made of the olive tree, its wood, or its fruit.

olive branch *n.* 1. a branch of an olive tree used to symbolize peace. 2. any offering of peace or conciliation.

olive green *n.* a. a colour that is greener, stronger, and brighter than olive; deep yellowish-green. b. (*as adj.*): *an olive-green coat*.

olive oil *n.* a pale yellow oil pressed from ripe olive fruits and used in cooking, medicines, etc.

olivine ('ɒlɪ,vɪn, ɒ'lɪ'vɪn) *n.* any of a group of hard glassy olive-green minerals consisting of magnesium iron silicate in crystalline form.

-ology *n.* combining form. see **-logy**.

Olympiad (ə'ɒlɪmpɪ,əd) *n.* 1. a staging of the modern Olympic Games. 2. the four-year period between consecutive celebrations of the Olympic Games; a unit of ancient Greek chronology dating back to 776 B.C. 3. an international contest in chess, bridge, etc.

Olympian (ə'ɒlɪmpɪən) *adj.* 1. of or relating to Mount Olympus or to the classical Greek gods. 2. majestic or godlike in manner or bearing. 3. of or relating to ancient Olympia, a plain in Greece, or its inhabitants. ~*n.* 4. a god of Mount Olympus. 5. an inhabitant of ancient Olympia. 6. Chiefly *U.S.* a competitor in the Olympic Games.

Olympic (ə'ɒlɪmpɪk) *adj.* 1. of or relating to the Olympic Games. 2. of or relating to ancient Olympia.

Olympic Games *n.* (*functioning as sing. or pl.*) 1. the greatest Panhellenic festival, held every fourth year in honour of Zeus at ancient Olympia, consisting of games and festivities. 2. Also called: **the Olympics**. the modern revival of these games, consisting of international athletic and sporting contests held every four years in a selected country.

O.M. abbrev. for Order of Merit (a *Brit.* title).

-oma *n.* combining form. indicating a tumour: **glaucoma**.

ombudsman ('ɒmbʊdzmən) *n.*, *pl.* **-men**. an official who investigates citizens' complaints against the government or its servants. Also called (*Brit.*): **Parliamentary Commissioner**.

omega ('əʊmɪgə) *n.* 1. the 24th and last letter of the Greek alphabet (Ω, ω). 2. the ending or last of a series.

omelette or esp. *U.S.* **omelet** ('ɒmlɪt) *n.* a savoury or sweet dish of beaten eggs cooked in fat.

omen ('əʊmən) *n.* 1. a phenomenon or occurrence regarded as a sign of future happiness or disaster. 2. prophetic significance. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to portend.

omicron (ə'maɪkrən, 'ɒmɪkrən) *n.* the 15th letter in the Greek alphabet (Ο, ο).

ominous ('ɒmɪnəs) *adj.* 1. foreboding evil. 2. serving as or having significance as an omen. — **ominously** *adv.* — **ominousness** *n.*

omission (əʊ'mɪʃən) *n.* 1. something that has been omitted or neglected. 2. the act of omitting or the state

of having been omitted. —**o'missive** *adj.* —**o'missive-ness** *n.*

omit (əʊ'mɪt) *vb.* **omitting, omitted.** (tr.) 1. to neglect to do or include. 2. to fail to (do something). —**omissible** (əʊ'mɪsɪbəl) *adj.* —**o'mitter** *n.*

omni- *combining form.* all or everywhere: **omnipresent**.

omnibus ('ɒmni,bʌs, -bəs) *n., pl. -buses.* 1. a less common word for **bus**. 2. Also called: **omnibus volume**, a collection of works by one author or several works on a similar topic, reprinted in one volume. —*adj.* 3. (*prenominal*) of, dealing with, or providing for many different things or cases.

omnifarious ('ɒmni'fɛəriəs) *adj.* of many or all varieties or forms. —**omni'fariously** *adv.* —**omni'fariousness** *n.*

omnipotent ('ɒm'nɪpə'tɪnt) *adj.* 1. having very great or unlimited power. —*n.* 2. the **Omnipotent**, an epithet for God. —**om'nipotence** *n.* —**om'nipotently** *adv.*

omnipresent ('ɒmni'prez'nt) *adj.* (esp. of a deity) present in all places at the same time. —**omni'presence** *n.*

omniscient ('ɒm'nɪsɪənt) *adj.* 1. having infinite knowledge or understanding. 2. having very great or seemingly unlimited knowledge. —**om'niscience** *n.* —**om'nisciently** *adv.*

omnivorous ('ɒm'nɪvərəs) *adj.* 1. eating any type of food indiscriminately. 2. taking in or assimilating everything, esp. with the mind. —**om'nivorously** *adv.* —**om'nivorousness** *n.* —**omni,vore** *n.*

on (ɒn) *prep.* 1. in contact or connection with the surface of; at the upper surface of: *an apple on the ground*; *a mark on the table cloth*. 2. attached to: *a puppet on a string*. 3. carried with: *I've no money on me*. 4. in the immediate vicinity of; close to or along the side of: *a house on the sea*. 5. within the time limits of a day or date: *he arrived on Thursday*. 6. being performed upon or relayed through the medium of: *what's on the television?* 7. at the occasion of: *on his retirement*. 8. used to indicate support, subsistence, contingency, etc.: *he lives on bread*. 9. a. regularly taking (a drug): *she's on the pill*. b. addicted to: *he's on heroin*. 10. by means of (something considered as a mode of transport) (esp. in *on foot*, *on horseback*, etc.). 11. in the process or course of: *on a journey*; *on strike*. 12. concerned with or relating to: *a programme on archaeology*. 13. used to indicate the basis or grounds, as of a statement or action: *I have it on good authority*. 14. against: used to indicate opposition: *they marched on the city at dawn*. 15. used to indicate a meeting or encounter: *he crept up on her*. 16. (used with an *adj.* preceded by the) indicating the manner or way in which an action is carried out: *on the sly*; *on the cheap*. —*adv.* (often used as a *particle*) 17. in the position or state required for the commencement or sustained continuation, as of a mechanical operation: *the radio's been on all night*. 18. a. attached to, surrounding, or placed in contact with something: *the girl had nothing on*. b. taking place: *what's on tonight?* 19. in a manner indicating continuity, persistence, etc.: *don't keep on about it*; *the play went on all afternoon*. 20. in a direction towards something, esp. forwards: *we drove on towards London*; *march on!* 21. **on and off**, intermittently; from time to time. 22. **on and on**, without ceasing; continually. —*adj.* 23. functioning; operating: *the on position on a radio*. 24. (*postpositive*) *Inf.* a. staked or wagered as a bet: *ten pounds on that horse*. b. performing, as on stage, etc.: *I'm on in five minutes*. c. definitely taking place: *the match is on for Friday*. d. charged to: *the drinks are on me*. e. tolerable or practicable: *your plan just isn't on*. 25. **on at**, *Inf.* nagging: *she was always on at her husband*. 26. **Cricket**, (of a bowler) bowling. —*n.* 27. **Cricket**, a. (*modifier*) relating to or denoting the leg side of a cricket field or pitch: *an on drive*. b. (*in combination*) used to designate certain fielding positions on the leg side: *mid-on*.

-on *suffix forming nouns.* 1. (in physics) indicating an elementary particle or quantum: *electron*; *photon*. 2. (in chemistry) indicating an inert gas: *neon*; *radon*.

onager ('ɒnədʒə) *n., pl. -gri (-,grai) or -gers.* 1. a Persian variety of the wild ass. 2. an ancient war engine for hurling stones, etc.

onanism ('əʊnə,nɪzəm) *n.* 1. the withdrawal of the penis from the vagina before ejaculation. 2. masturbation. —**onanist** *n.* —**onan'istic** *adj.*

O.N.C. (in Britain) *abbrev. for* Ordinary National Certificate.

once (wʌns) *adv.* 1. one time; on one occasion or in one case. 2. at some past time: *I could speak French once*.

3. by one step or degree (of relationship): *a cousin once removed*. 4. (*in conditional clauses, negatives, etc.*) ever; at all: *if you once forget it*. 5. multiplied by one. 6. **once and away**, a. conclusively. b. occasionally. 7. **once and for all**, conclusively; for the last time. 8. **once in a while**, occasionally; now and then. 9. **once or twice** or **once and again**, a few times. 10. **once upon a time**, used to begin fairy tales and children's stories. —*conj.* 11. (*subordinating*) as soon as; if ever: *once you begin, you'll enjoy it*. —*n.* 12. one occasion or case: *you may do it, this once*. 13. **all at once**, a. suddenly. b. simultaneously. 14. **at once**, a. immediately. b. simultaneously. 15. **for once**, this time, if (or but) at no other time.

once-over *n. Inf.* 1. a quick examination or appraisal. 2. a quick but comprehensive piece of work. 3. a violent beating or thrashing. —*Esp.* (for all senses) in **give (a person or thing) the (or a) once-over**.

oncoming ('ɒn,kʌmɪŋ) *adj.* 1. coming nearer in space or time; approaching. —*n.* 2. the approach or onset: *the oncoming of winter*.

O.N.D. (in Britain) *abbrev. for* Ordinary National Diploma.

one (wʌn) *determiner.* 1. a. single; lone; not two or more. b. (*as pronoun*): *one is enough for now*; *one at a time*. c. (*in combination*): *one-eyed*. 2. a. distinct from all others; only; unique: *one girl in a million*. b. (*as pronoun*): *one of a kind*. 3. a. a specified (person, item, etc.) as distinct from another or others of its kind: *raise one hand and then the other*. b. (*as pronoun*): *which one is correct?* 4. a certain, indefinite, or unspecified (time); some: *one day you'll be sorry*. 5. *Inf.* an emphatic word for a or *an*: *it was one hell of a fight*. 6. a certain (person): *one Miss Jones was named*. 7. (*all*) in **one**, combined; united. 8. **all one**, a. all the same. b. of no consequence: *it's all one to me*. 9. **at one**, (often foll. by *with*) in a state of agreement or harmony. 10. **be made one**, to become married. 11. **many a one**, many people. 12. **neither one thing nor the other**, indefinite, undecided, or mixed. 13. **never a one**, none. 14. **one and all**, everyone, without exception. 15. **one by one**, one at a time; individually. 16. **one or two**, a few. 17. **one way and another**, on balance. 18. **one with another**, on average. —*pron.* 19. an indefinite person regarded as typical of every person: *one can't say any more than that*. 20. any indefinite person: used as the subject of a sentence to form an alternative grammatical construction to that of the passive voice: *one can catch fine trout in this stream*. 21. *Arch.* an unspecified person: *one came to him*. —*n.* 22. the smallest whole number and the first cardinal number; unity. 23. a numeral (1, I, i, etc.) representing this number. 24. *Inf.* a joke or story (esp. in **the one about**). 25. something representing, represented by, or consisting of one unit. 26. Also: **one o'clock**, one hour after noon or midnight. 27. a blow or setback (esp. in **one in the eye for**). 28. **the Holy One or the One above**, God. 29. **the Evil one**, Satan. —*Related prefixes:* **mono-**, **uni-**.

▷ **Usage.** Where the pronoun *one* is repeated, as in *one might think one would be unwise to say that*, he is sometimes substituted: *one might think he would be unwise to say that*. Careful writers avoid *one* followed by *he*, however, because of possible ambiguity: *he* in this case could refer either to the same person as *one* or to some other person.

-one *suffix forming nouns.* indicating that a chemical compound is a ketone: *acetone*.

one-armed bandit *n. Inf.* a fruit machine operated by pulling down a lever at one side.

one-horse *adj.* 1. drawn by or using one horse. 2. (*prenominal*) *Inf.* small or obscure: *a one-horse town*.

oneness ('wʌnnɪs) *n.* 1. the state or quality of being one; singleness. 2. the state of being united; agreement. 3. uniqueness. 4. sameness.

one-night stand *n.* 1. a performance given only once at any one place. 2. *Inf.* a sexual encounter lasting only one evening or night.

one-off *n. Brit.* a. something that is carried out or made only once. b. (*as modifier*): *a one-off job*. Also: **one-shot**.

onerous ('ɒnərəs, 'əʊ-) *adj.* 1. laborious or oppressive. 2. Law. (of a contract, etc.) having or involving burdens or obligations. —**onerously** *adv.* —**onerousness** *n.*

oneself ('wʌn'sɛlf) *pron.* 1. a. the reflexive form of *one*. b. (*intensifier*): *one doesn't do that oneself*. 2. (*preceded by a copula*) *one's* normal or usual self: *one doesn't feel oneself after such an experience*.

one-sided *adj.* 1. considering or favouring only one side of a matter, problem, etc. 2. having all the advan-

tage on one side. **3.** larger or more developed on one side. **4.** having, existing on, or occurring on one side only. — **one-'sidedly** *adv.* — **one-'sidedness** *n.*

one-time *adj.* (*pronominal*) at some time in the past; former.

one-to-one *adj.* **1.** (of two or more things) corresponding exactly. **2.** Maths. involving the pairing of each member of one set with only one member of another set, without remainder.

one-track *adj.* **1.** *Inf.* obsessed with one idea, subject, etc. **2.** having or consisting of a single track.

one-up *adj.* *Inf.* having an advantage or lead over someone or something. — **one-'upman, ship** *n.*

one-way *adj.* **1.** moving or allowing travel in one direction only: *one-way traffic*. **2.** entailing no reciprocal obligation, action, etc.: *a one-way agreement*.

ongoing ('ɒn,ɡəʊŋ) *adj.* **1.** actually in progress: *ongoing projects*. **2.** continually moving forward; developing.

onion ('ɒnjən) *n.* **1.** an alliaceous plant having greenish-white flowers; cultivated for its rounded edible bulb. **2.** the bulb of this plant, consisting of concentric layers of white succulent leaf bases with a pungent odour and taste. **3.** *know one's onions.* *Brit. sl.* to be fully acquainted with a subject. — **'oniony** *adj.*

onionskin ('ɒnjən,skɪn) *n.* a glazed translucent paper.

on line *adj.* (*on-line* when *pronominal*). of or concerned with a peripheral device that is directly connected to and controlled by the central processing unit of a computer. Cf. **off line**.

onlooker ('ɒnlʊkə) *n.* a person who observes without taking part. — **on,looking** *adj.*

only ('ɒnli) *adj.* (*pronominal*) **1.** the, being single or very few in number: *the only men left in town were too old to bear arms*. **2.** (of a child) having no siblings. **3.** unique by virtue of being superior to anything else; peerless. **4. one and only.** **a.** (*adj.*) incomparable; unique. **b.** (*as n.*) the object of all one's love: *you are my one and only*. ~*adv.* **5.** without anyone or anything else being included; alone: *you have one choice only*; *only a genius can do that*. **6.** merely or just: *it's only Henry*. **7.** no more or no greater than: *we met only an hour ago*. **8.** used in conditional clauses introduced by *if* to emphasize the impossibility of the condition ever being fulfilled: *if I had only known, this would never have happened*. **9.** not earlier than; not...until: *I only found out yesterday*. **10.** if only or if...only, an expression used to introduce a wish, esp. one felt to be unrealizable. **11.** only if, never...except when. **12.** only too, *a.* (intensifier): *he was only too pleased to help*. **b.** most regrettably (esp. in *only too true*). **13.** sentence connector. but; however: used to introduce an exception or condition: *play outside: only don't go into the street*.

▷ **Usage.** In informal English, *only* is often used as a sentence connector: *it would have been possible, only he was not present at the time*. This use is avoided in careful usage, esp. in formal contexts: *it would have been possible had he been present*.

o.n.o. abbrev. for or near(est) offer.

onomatopoeia (,ɒnə,mætə'pi:ə) *n.* **1.** the formation of words whose sound is imitative of the sound of the noise or action designated, such as *hiss*. **2.** the use of such words for poetic or rhetorical effect. — **ono-,mato'poetic** or **onomatopoeitic** (,ɒnə,mætə'pəʊ'etɪk) *adj.* — **ono-,mato'poetically** or **onomatopoeitically** *adv.*

onrush ('ɒn,rʌʃ) *n.* a forceful forward rush or flow.

onset ('ɒn,set) *n.* **1.** an attack; assault. **2.** a start; beginning.

onshore ('ɒnʃɔː) *adj., adv.* **1.** towards the land: *an onshore gale*. **2.** on land; not at sea.

onslaught ('ɒn,slɔːt) *n.* a violent attack.

Ont. abbrev. for Ontario.

Ontarian ('ɒntəriən) or **Ontarioan** ('ɒntəri:ən) *adj.* **1.** of or denoting Ontario, a province of central Canada. ~*n.* **2.** a native or inhabitant of Ontario.

onto or **on to** ('ɒntuː; unstressed 'ɒntə) *prep.* **1.** to a position that is on: *step onto the train*. **2.** having become aware of (something illicit or secret): *the police are onto us*. **3.** into contact with: *get onto the factory*.

▷ **Usage.** *Onto* is generally accepted as a word in its own right. *On to* is still used, however, where *on* is considered to be part of the verb: *he moved on to the next platform* as contrasted with *he jumped onto the next platform*.

ontology ('ɒntə'lɒdʒi) *n.* **1.** Philosophy. the branch of metaphysics that deals with the nature of being. **2.**

Logic. the set of entities presupposed by a theory. — **onto'logical** *adj.* — **onto'logically** *adv.*

onus ('ʌnəs) *n., pl. onuses.* a responsibility, task, or burden.

onward ('ɒnwəd) *adj.* **1.** directed or moving forwards, onwards, etc. ~*adv.* **2.** Also: **onwards.** ahead; forward.

-onym *n.* combining form. indicating a name or word: *pseudonym*.

onyx ('ɒnɪks) *n.* **1.** a variety of chalcedony with alternating black and white parallel bands, used as a gemstone. **2.** a variety of calcite used as an ornamental stone; *onyx marble*.

oodles ('uːdlɪz) *pl. n.* *Inf.* great quantities: *oodles of money*.

oolite ('ʊə,lɪt) *n.* any sedimentary rock, esp. limestone, consisting of tiny spherical concentric grains within a fine matrix. — **oolitic** (,ʊə'lɪtɪk) *adj.*

oomiak or **oomiac** ('uːmɪ,æk) *n.* other words for *umiak*.

oompah ('uːm,pəː) *n.* a representation of the sound made by a deep brass instrument, esp. in military band music.

oomph (ʊmf) *n.* *Inf.* **1.** enthusiasm, vigour, or energy. **2.** sex appeal.

oops (ʊps, ʊps) *interj.* an exclamation of surprise or of apology as when someone drops something or makes a mistake.

ooze ('uːz) *vb.* **1.** (*intr.*) to flow or leak out slowly, as through pores or small holes. **2.** to exude or emit (moisture, etc.). **3.** (*tr.*) to overflow with: *to ooze charm*. **4.** (*intr.*; often foll. by *away*) to disappear or escape gradually. ~*n.* **5.** a slow flowing or leaking. **6.** an infusion of vegetable matter, such as oak bark, used in tanning.

ooze ('uːz) *n.* **1.** a soft thin mud found at the bottom of lakes and rivers. **2.** a fine-grained marine deposit consisting of the hard parts of planktonic organisms. **3.** muddy ground, esp. of bogs. — **'oozy** *adj.*

op. abbrev. for: **1.** opera. **2.** operation. **3.** opposite. **4.** opus. **5.** operator. **6.** optical.

o.p. or O.P. abbrev. for out of print.

O.P. abbrev. for Ordo Praedictatorum (the Dominicans).

opacity (əʊ'pæsɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* **1.** the state or quality of being opaque. **2.** the degree to which something is opaque. **3.** an opaque object or substance. **4.** obscurity of meaning; unintelligibility.

opal ('ɒpəl) *n.* an amorphous form of hydrated silicon dioxide that is colourless or of variable colour and transparent or translucent. Some varieties are used as gemstones. — **'opal-,like** *adj.*

opalescent (,əʊpə'lesnt) *adj.* having or emitting an iridescence like that of an opal. — **opal'escence** *n.* — **opa'lesce** *vb.* (*intr.*).

opaline ('əʊpə,lɪn) *adj.* **1.** opalescent. ~*n.* **2.** an opaque or semiopaque whitish glass.

opaque (əʊ'peɪk) *adj.* **1.** not transmitting light; not transparent or translucent. **2.** not reflecting light; lacking lustre or shine; dull. **3.** hard to understand; unintelligible. **4.** unintelligent; dense. ~*n.* **5.** *Photog.* an opaque pigment used to block out areas on a negative. ~*vb.* **opaquing, opaqued.** (*tr.*) **6.** to make opaque. **7.** *Photog.* to block out areas using an opaque. — **o'paquely** *adv.* — **o'paqueness** *n.*

op. cit. (in textual annotations) abbrev. for *opere citato*.

OPEC ('əʊpek) *n.* acronym for Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries.

open ('əʊpən) *adj.* **1.** not closed or barred. **2.** affording free passage, access, view, etc.; not blocked or obstructed. **3.** not sealed, fastened, or wrapped. **4.** having the interior part accessible: *an open drawer*. **5.** extended, expanded, or unfolded: *an open flower*. **6.** ready for business. **7.** able to be obtained; available: *the position is no longer open*. **8.** unobstructed by buildings, trees, etc.: *open countryside*. **9.** free to all to join, enter, use, visit, etc.: *an open competition*. **10.** unengaged or unoccupied: *the doctor has an hour open for you to call*. **11.** (of a season or period) not restricted for purposes of hunting game or quarry of various kinds. **12.** not decided or finalized: *an open question*. **13.** ready to entertain new ideas; not biased or prejudiced. **14.** unreserved or candid. **15.** liberal or generous: *an open hand*. **16.** extended or eager to receive (esp. in **with open arms**). **17.** exposed to view; blatant: *open disregard of the law*. **18.** liable or susceptible: *you will leave yourself open to attack*. **19.** (of climate or seasons) free from frost; mild.

20. free from navigational hazards, such as ice, sunken ships, etc. 21. without barriers to prevent absconding: *an open prison*. 22. having large or numerous spacing or apertures: *open ranks*. 23. full of small openings or gaps; porous: *an open texture*. 24. *Music*. a. (of a string) not stopped with the finger. b. (of a pipe, such as an organ pipe) not closed at either end. c. (of a note) played on such a string or pipe. 25. *Commerce*. in operation; active: *an open account*. 26. (of a cheque) not crossed. 27. (of a return ticket) not specifying a date for travel. 28. *Sport*. (of a goal, court, etc.) unguarded or relatively unprotected. 29. (of a wound) exposed to the air. 30. (esp. of the large intestine) free from obstruction. 31. undefended and of no military significance: *an open city*. 32. *Phonetics*. a. denoting a vowel pronounced with the lips relatively wide apart. b. denoting a syllable that does not end in a consonant, as in *pa*. 33. *Maths*. (of a set) containing points whose neighbourhood consists of other points of the same set. ~vb. 34. to move from a closed or fastened position: *to open a window*. 35. (when intr., foll by *on* or *onto*) to render accessible or unobstructed: *to open a road*; *to open a parcel*. 36. (intr.) to come into or appear in view: *the lake opened before us*. 37. to extend or unfold: *to open a newspaper*. 38. to disclose or uncover or be disclosed or uncovered: *to open one's heart*. 39. to cause (the mind) to become receptive or (of the mind) to become receptive. 40. to operate: *to open a shop*. 41. (when intr., sometimes foll. by *out*) to make or become less compact or dense in structure: *to open ranks*. 42. to set or be set in action; start: *to open the batting*. 43. (tr.) to arrange for (a bank account, etc.), usually by making an initial deposit. 44. to turn to a specified point in (a book, etc.): *open at page one*. 45. *Law*. to make the opening statement in (a case before a court of law). 46. (intr.) *Cards*. to bet, bid, or lead first on a hand. ~n. 47. (often prec. by *the*) any wide or unobstructed space or expanse, esp. of land or water. 48. See *open air*. 49. *Sport*. a competition which all may enter. 50. *bring* (or *come*) into the open. to make (or become) evident or public. —*openable* adj. —*openly* adv. —*openness* n. —*opener* n.

open air *n.* a. the place or space where the air is unenclosed; the outdoors. b. (as modifier): *an open-air concert*.

open-and-shut *adj.* easily decided or solved; obvious: *an open-and-shut case*.

opencast mining (ˈɒpənˌkɑːst) *n.* *Brit.* mining by excavating from the surface. Also called (esp. *U.S.*): *strip mining* or *Austral. & N.Z. open cut mining*.

open-ended *adj.* without definite limits, as of duration or amount: *an open-ended contract*.

open-eyed *adj.* 1. with the eyes wide open, as in amazement. 2. watchful; alert.

open-handed *adj.* generous. —*open-handedly* adv.

open-hearted *adj.* 1. kindly and warm. 2. disclosing intentions and thoughts clearly; candid. —*open-heartedness* n.

open-heart surgery *n.* surgical repair of the heart during which the blood circulation is often maintained mechanically.

opening (ˈəʊpənɪŋ) *n.* 1. the act of making or becoming open. 2. a vacant or unobstructed space, esp. one that will serve as a passageway; gap. 3. *Chiefly U.S.* a tract in a forest in which trees are scattered or absent. 4. the first part or stage of something. 5. a. the first performance of something, esp. a theatrical production. b. (as modifier): *the opening night*. 6. a specific or formal sequence of moves at the start of any of certain games, esp. chess or draughts. 7. an opportunity or chance. 8. *Law*. the preliminary statement made by counsel to the court or jury.

opening time *n.* *Brit.* the time at which pubs can legally start selling alcoholic drinks.

open letter *n.* a letter, esp. one of protest, addressed to a person but also made public, as through the press.

open-minded *adj.* having a mind receptive to new ideas, arguments, etc.; unprejudiced. —*open-mindedness* n.

open-mouthed *adj.* 1. having an open mouth, esp. in surprise. 2. greedy or ravenous. 3. clamorous or vociferous.

open-plan *adj.* having no or few dividing walls between areas: *an open-plan office floor*.

open secret *n.* something that is supposed to be secret but is widely known.

open sesame *n.* a very successful means of achieving a result.

Open University *n.* *Brit. the.* a university founded in 1969 for mature students studying by television and radio lectures, correspondence courses, local counselling, and summer schools.

open verdict *n.* a finding by a coroner's jury of death without stating the cause.

opera (ˈɒpərə, ˈɒprə) *n.* 1. an extended dramatic work in which music constitutes a dominating feature. 2. the branch of music or drama represented by such works. 3. the score, libretto, etc., of an opera. 4. a theatre where opera is performed.

opera (ˈɒpərə) *n.* a plural of *opus*.

operable (ˈɒpərəbəl, ˈɒprə) *adj.* 1. capable of being treated by a surgical operation. 2. capable of being operated. 3. capable of being put into practice. —*operability* *n.* —*operably* adv.

opera glasses *pl. n.* small low-powered binoculars used by audiences in theatres, etc.

opera hat *n.* a collapsible top hat operated by a spring.

operate (ˈɒpəreɪt) *vb.* 1. to function or cause to function. 2. (tr.) to control the functioning of. 3. to manage, direct, run, or pursue (a business, system, etc.). 4. to perform a surgical operation upon (a person or animal). 5. (intr.) to produce a desired effect. 6. (tr.; usually foll. by *on*) to treat or process in a particular or specific way. 7. (intr.) to conduct military or naval operations. 8. (intr.) to deal in securities on a stock exchange.

operatic (ˌɒpəˈrætik) *adj.* 1. of or relating to opera. 2. histrionic or exaggerated. —*operatically* adv.

operating theatre *n.* a room in which surgical operations are performed.

operation (ˌɒpəˈreɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act, process, or manner of operating. 2. the state of being in effect, in action, or operative (esp. in *in* or *into* operation). 3. a process, method, or series of acts, esp. of a practical or mechanical nature. 4. *Surgery*. any manipulation of the body or one of its organs or parts to repair damage, arrest the progress of a disease, remove foreign matter, etc. 5. a. a military or naval action, such as a campaign, manoeuvre, etc. b. (cap. and prenominal when part of a name): *Operation Crossbow*. 6. *Maths*. any procedure, such as addition, in which one or more numbers or quantities are operated upon according to specific rules. 7. a commercial or financial transaction.

operational (ˌɒpəˈreɪʃənəl) *adj.* 1. of or relating to an operation. 2. in working order and ready for use. 3. *Mil.* capable of, needed in, or actually involved in operations. —*operationally* adv.

operations research *n.* the analysis of problems in business and industry involving quantitative techniques. Also: *operational research*.

operative (ˈɒpəreɪtɪv) *adj.* 1. in force, effect, or operation. 2. exerting force or influence. 3. producing a desired effect; significant: *the operative word*. 4. of or relating to a surgical procedure. ~n. 5. a worker, esp. one with a special skill. 6. *U.S.* a private detective. —*operatively* adv. —*operativeness* or *operativity* *n.*

operator (ˈɒpəreɪtə) *n.* 1. a person who operates a machine, instrument, etc., esp. a telephone switchboard. 2. a person who owns or operates an industrial or commercial establishment. 3. a speculator, esp. one who operates on currency or stock markets. 4. *Inf.* a person who manipulates affairs and other people. 5. *Maths*. any symbol, term, letter, etc., used to indicate or express a specific operation or process, such as *f* (the integral operator).

operculum (əʊˈpɜːkjʊləm) *n.*, *pl.* -la (-lə) or -lums. 1. *Zool.* a. the hard bony flap covering the gill slits in fishes. b. the bony plate in certain gastropods covering the opening of the shell when the body is withdrawn. 2. *Biol. & Bot.* any other covering or lid in various organisms. —*opercular* or *operculate* (əʊˈpɜːkjʊlət, -leɪt) *adj.*

operetta (ˌɒpəˈretə) *n.* a type of comic or lighthearted opera. —*operettist* *n.*

ophthalmia (ɒfˈθælmɪə) *n.* inflammation of the eye, often including the conjunctiva.

ophthalmic (ɒfˈθælmɪk) *adj.* of or relating to the eye.

ophthalmic optician *n.* See *optician*.

ophthalmo- or before a vowel **ophthalm-** combining form. indicating the eye or the eyeball.

ophthalmology (ˌɒfˈθælmɒlədʒɪ) *n.* the branch of medicine concerned with the eye and its diseases. —*ophthalmologist* *n.* —*ophthalmological* (ɒfˈθælmɒlədʒɪkəl) *adj.*

ophthalmoscope (ɒf'θælmə'skəʊp) *n.* an instrument for examining the interior of the eye. — **ophthalmoscopic** (ɒf'θælmə'skɒpɪk) *adj.*

-opia *n.* combining form. indicating a visual defect or condition: *myopia*. — **-opic** *adj.* combining form.

opiate *n.* ('əʊpiət). 1. any of various narcotic drugs containing opium. 2. any other narcotic or sedative drug. 3. something that soothes, deadens, or induces sleep. ~*adj.* ('əʊpiət). 4. containing or consisting of opium. 5. inducing relaxation; soporific. ~*vb.* ('əʊpi-,eɪt). (tr.) Rare. 6. to treat with an opiate. 7. to dull or deaden.

opine (əʊ'paɪn) *vb.* (when tr., usually takes a clause as object) to hold or express an opinion: *he opined that it was a mistake*.

opinion (ə'pɪnjən) *n.* 1. judgment or belief not founded on certainty or proof. 2. the prevailing or popular feeling or view: *public opinion*. 3. evaluation, impression, or estimation of the value or worth of a person or thing. 4. an evaluation or judgment given by an expert: *a medical opinion*. 5. the advice given by counsel on a case submitted to him for his view on the legal points involved. 6. **a matter of opinion**. a point open to question. 7. **be of the opinion (that)**. to believe (that).

opinionated (ə'pɪnjə,neɪtɪd) *adj.* holding obstinately and unreasonably to one's own opinions; dogmatic. — *o'pinion, atedly adv.* — *o'pinion, atedness n.*

opinionative (ə'pɪnjə,neɪtɪv) *adj.* Rare. 1. of or relating to opinion. 2. another word for **opinionated**. — *o'pinion, atively adv.* — *o'pinion, ativeness n.*

opinion poll *n.* another term for a **poll** (sense 3).

opium ('əʊpɪəm) *n.* 1. an addictive narcotic drug extracted from the seed capsules of the opium poppy; used in medicine as an analgesic and hypnotic. 2. something having a tranquillizing or stupefying effect.

opossum (ə'pɒsəm) or **possum** *n., pl. -sums or -sum.* 1. a thick-furred marsupial, esp. the common opossum of North and South America, having an elongated snout and a hairless prehensile tail. 2. *Austral. & N.Z.* any of various similar animals, esp. a phalanger: Usually shortened to **possum**.

opp. *abbrev. for:* 1. opposed. 2. opposite.

opponent (ə'pəʊnənt) *n.* 1. a person who opposes another in a contest, battle, etc. 2. *Anat.* an opponent muscle. ~*adj.* 3. opposite, as in position. 4. *Anat.* (of a muscle) bringing two parts into opposition. 5. opposing; contrary. — *o'p'ponency n.*

opportune (ə'pɒtʃuːn) *adj.* 1. occurring at a time that is suitable or advantageous. 2. fit or suitable for a particular purpose or occurrence. — *o'ppor, tunely adv.* — *o'ppor, tuneness n.*

opportunist (ə'pɒtʃuːnɪst) *n.* 1. a person who adapts his actions, responses, etc., to take advantage of opportunities, circumstances, etc. ~*adj.* 2. taking advantage of opportunities and circumstances in this way. — *o'ppor-'tunism n.* — *o'ppor, tunistic adj.*

opportunity (ə'pɒtʃuːnɪtɪ) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. a favourable, appropriate, or advantageous combination of circumstances. 2. a chance or prospect.

opposable (ə'pɒzəbəl) *adj.* 1. capable of being opposed. 2. Also: **apposable**. (of the thumb of primates, esp. man) capable of being moved into a position facing the other digits so as to be able to touch the ends of each. 3. capable of being placed opposite something else. — *o'p'posably adv.* — *o'p, posa'bility n.*

oppose (ə'pəʊz) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to fight against, counter, or resist strongly. 2. (tr.) to be hostile or antagonistic to; be against. 3. (tr.) to place or set in opposition; contrast or counterbalance. 4. (tr.) to place opposite or facing. 5. (intr.) to be or act in opposition. — *o'p'poser n.* — *o'p'posingly adv.* — *o'ppositive* (ə'pɒzɪtɪv) *adj.*

opposite (ə'pɒzɪt, -sɪt) *adj.* 1. situated or being on the other side or at each side of something between. 2. facing or going in contrary directions: *opposite ways*. 3. diametrically different in character, tendency, belief, etc. 4. *Bot. a.* (of leaves) arranged in pairs on either side of the stem. 5. (of parts of a flower) arranged opposite the middle of another part. 6. *Maths.* (of a side in a triangle) facing a specified angle. *Abbrev.: opp.* ~*n.* 6. a person or thing that is opposite; antithesis. ~*prep.* 7. Also: **opposite to**. facing; corresponding to (something on the other side of a division). 8. as a co-star with: *she played opposite Olivier*. ~*adv.* 9. on opposite sides: *she lives opposite*. — *o'ppositely adv.* — *o'ppositeness n.*

opposite number *n.* a person holding an equivalent and corresponding position on another side or situation.

opposition (ə'pɒzɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of opposing or the state of being opposed. 2. hostility, unfriendliness, or

antagonism. 3. a person or group antagonistic or opposite in aims to another. 4. **a.** (usually preceded by *the*) a political party or group opposed to the ruling party or government. **b.** (*cap. as part of a name, esp. in Britain and Commonwealth countries*): *Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition*. **c.** in **opposition**. (of a political party) opposing the government. 5. a position facing or opposite another. 6. something that acts as an obstacle to some course or progress. 7. *Astron.* the position of an outer planet or the moon when it is in line with the earth as seen from the sun and is approximately at its nearest to the earth. 8. *Astron.* an exact aspect of 180° between two planets, etc., an orb of 8° being allowed. 9. *Logic.* the relation between propositions having the same subject and predicate but differing in quality, quantity, or both, as with *all men are wicked; no men are wicked; some men are not wicked*. — *o'ppo' sitional adj.* — *o'ppo' sitionist n.* — *o'ppo' sitionless adj.*

oppress (ə'pres) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to subjugate by cruelty, force, etc. 2. to afflict or torment. 3. to lie heavy on (the mind, etc.). — *o'p'pressingly adv.* — *o'p'pression n.* — *o'p'pressor n.*

oppressive (ə'presɪv) *adj.* 1. cruel, harsh, or tyrannical. 2. heavy, constricting, or depressing. — *o'p'pressively adv.* — *o'p'pressiveness n.*

opprobrious (ə'prɒbrɪəs) *adj.* 1. expressing scorn, disgrace, or contempt. 2. shameful or infamous. — *o'p'probriously adv.* — *o'p'probriousness n.*

opprobrium (ə'prɒbrɪəm) *n.* 1. the state of being abused or scornfully criticized. 2. reproach or censure. 3. a cause of disgrace or ignominy.

oppugn (ə'pjuːn) *vb.* (tr.) to call into question; dispute. — *o'p'pugner n.*

opt (ɒpt) *vb.* (when intr., foll. by *for*) to show preference (for) or choose (to do something). ~*See also opt out.*

opt. *abbrev. for:* 1. Grammar. optative. 2. optical. 3. optician. 4. optimum. 5. optional.

optative (ə'ptətɪv) *adj.* 1. indicating or expressing choice or wish. 2. Grammar. denoting a mood of verbs in Greek and Sanskrit expressing a wish. ~*n.* 3. Grammar. **a.** the optative mood. **b.** a verb in this mood.

optic ('ɒptɪk) *adj.* 1. of or relating to the eye or vision. 2. a less common word for **optical**. ~*n.* 3. an informal word for **eye**. 4. *Brit., trademark.* a device attached to an inverted bottle for dispensing measured quantities of liquid.

optical ('ɒptɪkəl) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, producing, or involving light. 2. of or relating to the eye or to the sense of sight; optic. 3. (esp. of a lens) aiding vision or correcting a visual disorder. — *o'ptically adv.*

optical character reader *n.* a computer peripheral device enabling letters, numbers, or other characters usually printed on paper to be optically scanned and input to a storage device, such as magnetic tape. The device uses the process of **optical character recognition**. *Abbrev. (for both reader and recognition): OCR.*

optician (ə'ptɪʃən) *n.* a general name used to refer to: **a.** an **ophthalmic optician**. one qualified to examine the eyes and prescribe and supply spectacles and contact lenses. **b.** a **dispensing optician**. one who supplies and fits spectacle frames and lenses, but is not qualified to examine the eyes.

optics ('ɒptɪks) *n.* (*functioning as sing.*) the branch of science concerned with vision and the generation, nature, propagation, and behaviour of electromagnetic light.

optimism ('ɒptɪmɪzəm) *n.* 1. the tendency to expect the best in all things. 2. hopefulness; confidence. 3. the doctrine of the ultimate triumph of good over evil. 4. the philosophical doctrine that this is the best of all possible worlds. ~*Cf. pessimism.* — *optimist n.* — *o'pti'mistic or o'pti'mistical adj.* — *o'pti'mistically adv.*

optimum ('ɒptɪməm) *n., pl. -ma (-mə) or -mums.* 1. a condition, degree, amount, or compromise that produces the best possible result. ~*adj.* 2. most favourable or advantageous; best: *optimum conditions*.

option ('ɒpʃən) *n.* 1. the act or an instance of choosing or deciding. 2. the power or liberty to choose. 3. the right, obtained by a fee, to purchase or sell property, esp. shares or commodities, at a specified time in the future at a fixed price. 4. see **local option**. 5. something chosen; choice. 6. **keep (or leave) one's options open**. not to commit oneself. 7. **soft option**. an easy alternative.

optional ('ɒpʃənəl) *adj.* possible but not compulsory; left to personal choice. — *o'ptionally adv.*

opt out *vb.* (intr., *adv.*; often foll. by *of*) to choose not to

be involved (in) or part (of).

opulent ('ɒpjulənt) *adj.* 1. having or indicating wealth. 2. abundant or plentiful. — **'opulence** or **'opulency** *n.* — **'opulently** *adv.*

opus ('ɒpəs) *n., pl. opuses or opera* ('ɒpərə). 1. an artistic composition, esp. a musical work. 2. (*often cap.*) (usually followed by a number) a musical composition by a particular composer, generally catalogued in order of publication: *Beethoven's opus 61*. Abbrev.: **op.**

or¹ (ɔː; unstressed ə) *conj. (coordinating)* 1. used to join alternatives. 2. used to join rephrasings of the same thing: *twelve, or a dozen*. 3. used to join two alternatives when the first is preceded by *either* or *whether*: *either yes or no*. 4. *one or two, four or five, etc.* a few. 5. *or else*, otherwise; if not. 6. a poetic word for *either* or *whether*, as the first element in correlatives, with or also preceding the second alternative.

▷ **Usage.** See at **either** and **neither**.

or² (ɔː) *adj. (usually postpositive)* *Heraldry.* of the metal gold.

— **or**¹ *suffix forming nouns from verbs.* a person or thing that does what is expressed by the verb: *actor; conductor; generator; sailor*.

— **or**² *suffix forming nouns.* 1. indicating state, condition, or activity: *terror; error*. 2. the U.S. spelling of **-our**.

O.R. *abbrev. for:* 1. Official Receiver. 2. operational research.

oracle ('ɒrəkl̩) *n.* 1. a prophecy revealed through the medium of a priest or priestess at the shrine of a god. 2. a shrine at which an oracular god is consulted. 3. an agency through which a prophecy is transmitted. 4. any person or thing believed to indicate future action with infallible authority.

Oracle ('ɒrəkl̩) *n.* *Trademark.* (in Britain) the ITV teletext service.

oracular ('ɒrəkjələ) *adj.* 1. of or relating to an oracle. 2. wise and prophetic. 3. mysterious or ambiguous. — **'oraculantly** *adv.*

oral ('ɔːrəl, 'ɒrəl) *adj.* 1. spoken or verbal. 2. relating to, affecting, or for use in the mouth: *an oral thermometer*. 3. denoting a drug to be taken by mouth: *an oral contraceptive*. 4. of, relating to, or using spoken words. 5. *Psychoanal.* relating to a stage of psychosexual development during which the child's interest is concentrated on the mouth. ~*n.* 6. an examination in which the questions and answers are spoken rather than written. — **'orally** *adv.*

orange ('ɒrɪndʒ) *n.* 1. any of several citrus trees, esp. *sweet orange* and the *Seville orange*, cultivated in warm regions for their round edible fruit. 2. a. the fruit of any of these trees, having a yellowish-red bitter rind and segmented juicy flesh. b. (*as modifier*): *orange peel*. 3. the hard wood of any of these trees. 4. any of a group of colours, such as that of the skin of an orange, that lie between red and yellow in the visible spectrum. 5. a dye or pigment producing these colours. 6. orange cloth or clothing: *dressed in orange*. 7. any of several trees or herbaceous plants that resemble the orange, such as *mock orange*. ~*adj.* 8. of the colour orange.

orangeade ('ɒrɪndʒ'eɪd) *n.* an effervescent orange-flavoured drink.

orange blossom *n.* the flowers of the orange tree, traditionally worn by brides.

Orangeman ('ɒrɪndʒmən) *n., pl. -men.* a member of a society founded as a secret order in Ireland (1795) to uphold Protestantism.

orangery ('ɒrɪndʒəri, -dʒəri) *n., pl. -eries.* a building, such as a greenhouse, in which orange trees are grown.

orange stick *n.* a small stick used to clean the fingernails and cuticles.

orangewood ('ɒrɪndʒ,wud) *n.* a. the hard fine-grained yellowish wood of the orange tree. b. (*as modifier*): *an orangewood table*.

orang-utan (ɔːræŋgʊːˈtæn, ɔːræŋˈuːtæn) or **orang-outang** (ɔːræŋgʊːˈtæn, ɔːræŋˈuːtæn) *n.* a large anthropoid ape of the forests of Sumatra and Borneo, with shaggy reddish-brown hair and strong arms. Sometimes shortened to **orang**.

oration (ɔːˈreɪʃən) *n.* 1. a formal public declaration or speech. 2. any rhetorical, lengthy, or pompous speech.

orator ('ɒrəto) *n.* 1. a public speaker, esp. one versed in rhetoric. 2. a person given to lengthy or pompous speeches. 3. *Obs.* the plaintiff in a cause of action in chancery.

oratorio (ɔːˈrɒtɔːrɪəʊ) *n., pl. -rios.* a dramatic but unstaged musical composition for soloists, chorus, and orchestra, based on a religious theme.

oratory¹ ('ɒrətəri, -tri) *n.* 1. the art of public speaking. 2. rhetorical skill or style. — **'ora'torical** *adj.*

oratory² ('ɒrətəri, -tri) *n., pl. -ries.* a small room or secluded place, set apart for private prayer.

orb (ɔːb) *n.* 1. (in regalia) an ornamental sphere surmounted by a cross. 2. a sphere; globe. 3. *Poetic.* another word for *eye*. 4. *Obs. or poetic.* a. a celestial body, esp. the earth or sun. b. the orbit of a celestial body. ~*vb.* 5. to make or become circular or spherical. 6. (*tr.*) an archaic word for **encircle**.

orbicular (ɔːˈbɪkjələ), **orbiculate**, or **orbiculated** *adj.* 1. circular or spherical. 2. (of a leaf or similar flat part) circular or nearly circular. — **orbicularity** (ɔːˈbɪkjʊˈlærɪti) *n.* — **'orbicularly** *adv.*

orbit ('ɔːbɪt) *n.* 1. *Astron.* the curved path followed by a planet, satellite, etc., in its motion around another celestial body. 2. a range or field of action or influence; sphere. 3. the bony cavity containing the eyeball; eye socket. 4. *Zool.* a. the skin surrounding the eye of a bird. b. the hollow in which lies the eye or eyestalk of an insect. 5. *Physics.* the path of an electron around the nucleus of an atom. ~*vb.* 6. to move around (a body) in a curved path. 7. (*tr.*) to send (a satellite, spacecraft, etc.) into orbit. 8. (*intr.*) to move in or as if in an orbit. — **'orbital** *adj.* — **'orbitally** *adv.*

Orcadian (ɔːˈkeɪdiən) *n.* 1. a native or inhabitant of the Orkneys. ~*adj.* 2. of or relating to the Orkneys.

orchard ('ɔːtʃəd) *n.* 1. an area of land devoted to the cultivation of fruit trees. 2. a collection of fruit trees especially cultivated.

orchestra ('ɔːkɪstrə) *n.* 1. a large group of musicians, esp. one whose members play a variety of different instruments. 2. a group of musicians, each playing the same type of instrument. 3. Also called: **orchestra pit**. the space reserved for musicians in a theatre, immediately in front of or under the stage. 4. *Chiefly U.S.* the stalls in a theatre. 5. (in ancient Greek theatre) the semicircular space in front of the stage. — **orchestral** (ɔːˈkɛstrəl) *adj.*

orchestrate ('ɔːkɪstreɪt) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to score or arrange a piece of music for orchestra. 2. to arrange, organize, or build up for special effect. — **'orchest'ration** *n.* — **'orches'trator** *n.*

orchid ('ɔːkɪd) *n.* a terrestrial or epiphytic plant having flowers of unusual shapes and beautiful colours, usually with one petal larger than the other two. The flowers are specialized for pollination by certain insects.

ordain (ɔːˈdeɪn) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to consecrate (someone) as a priest; confer holy orders upon. 2. (*may take a clause as object*) to decree, appoint, or predetermine irrevocably. 3. (*may take a clause as object*) to order, establish, or enact with authority. — **'or'dainer** *n.* — **'or'dainment *n.***

ordel ('ɔːdɪl) *n.* 1. a severe or trying experience. 2. *History.* a method of trial in which the innocence of an accused person was determined by subjecting him to physical danger, esp. by fire or water.

order ('ɔːdə) *n.* 1. a state in which all components or elements are arranged logically, comprehensibly, or naturally. 2. an arrangement or disposition of things in succession; sequence: *alphabetical order*. 3. an established or customary method or state, esp. of society. 4. a peaceful or harmonious condition of society: *order reigned in the streets*. 5. (*often pl.*) a class, rank, or hierarchy: *the lower orders*. 6. *Biol.* any of the taxonomic groups into which a class is divided and which contains one or more families. 7. an instruction that must be obeyed; command. 8. a. a commission or instruction to produce or supply something in return for payment. b. the commodity produced or supplied. c. (*as modifier*): *order form*. 9. a procedure followed by an assembly, meeting, etc. 10. (*cap. when part of a name*) a body of people united in a particular aim or purpose. 11. Also called: **religious order**. (*usually cap.*) a group of persons who bind themselves by vows in order to devote themselves to the pursuit of religious aims. 12. (*often pl.*) another name for **holy orders**. 13. *History.* a society of knights constituted as a fraternity, such as the *Knights Templars*. 14. a. a group of people holding a specific honour for service or merit, conferred on them by a sovereign or state. b. the insignia of such a group. 15. a. any of the five major classical styles of architecture classified by the style of columns and entablatures used. b. any style of architecture. 16. *Ecclesiast.* a. the sacrament by which bishops, priests, etc., have their offices conferred upon them. b. any of the degrees into which the ministry is divided. c. the office of an ordained Christian minister. 17. *Maths.* a. the number of times a function must be differentiated to obtain a given deriva-

tive. **b.** the order of the highest derivative in a differential equation. **c.** the number of rows or columns in a determinant or square matrix. **d.** the number of members of a finite group. **18. Mil.** (often preceded by *the*) the dress, equipment, or formation directed for a particular purpose or undertaking: *battle order*. **19. a tall order**, something difficult, demanding, or exacting. **20. in order.** **a.** in sequence. **b.** properly arranged. **c.** appropriate or fitting. **21. in order to.** (*prep., foll. by an infinitive*) so that it is possible to: *to eat in order to live*. **22. in order that.** (*conj.*) with the purpose that; so that. **23. keep order.** to maintain or enforce order. **24. of or in the order of.** having an approximately specified size or quantity. **25. on order.** having been ordered but not having been delivered. **26. out of order.** **a.** not in sequence. **b.** not working. **c.** not following the rules or customary procedure. **27. to order.** **a.** according to a buyer's specifications. **b.** on request or demand. *~vb.* **28. (tr.)** to give a command to (a person or animal to do or be something). **29.** to request (something) to be supplied or made, esp. in return for payment. **30. (tr.)** to instruct or command to move, go, etc. (to a specified place): *they ordered her into the house*. **31. (tr.; may take a clause as object)** to authorize; prescribe: *the doctor ordered a strict diet*. **32. (tr.)** to arrange, regulate, or dispose (articles, etc.) in their proper places. **33.** (of fate) to will; ordain. *~interj.* **34.** an exclamation demanding that orderly behaviour be restored. —'order-er *n.*

order in council *n.* (in Britain) a decree of the Cabinet, usually made under the authority of a statute: in theory a decree of the sovereign and Privy Council.

orderly ('ɔ:dəli) *adj.* **1.** in order, properly arranged, or tidy. **2.** obeying or appreciating method, system, and arrangement. **3. Mil.** of or relating to orders: *an orderly book*. *~adv.* **4.** according to custom or rule. *~n., pl. -lies.* **5. Med.** a male hospital attendant. **6. Mil.** a junior rank detailed to carry orders for a more senior officer. —'orderliness *n.*

Order of Merit *n. Brit.* an order conferred on civilians and servicemen for eminence in any field.

order paper *n.* a list indicating the order in which business is to be conducted, esp. in Parliament.

ordinal ('ɔ:dɪnəl) *adj.* **1.** denoting a certain position in a sequence of numbers. **2.** of, relating to, or characteristic of an order in biological classification. *~n.* **3.** short for **ordinal number**. **4.** a book containing the forms of services for the ordination of ministers. **5. R.C. Church.** a service book.

ordinal number *n.* a number denoting order, quality, or degree in a group, such as *first, second, third*. Sometimes shortened to **ordinal**.

ordinance ('ɔ:dɪnəns) *n.* an authoritative regulation, decree, law or practice.

ordinarily ('ɔ:dɪnəli, 'ɔ:d, 'nɔ:li) *adv.* in ordinary, normal, or usual practice; usually; normally.

ordinary ('ɔ:dɪnəri) *adj.* **1.** of common or established type or occurrence. **2.** familiar, everyday, or unexceptional. **3.** uninteresting or commonplace. **4.** having regular or *ex officio* jurisdiction: *an ordinary judge*. **5. Maths.** (of a differential equation) containing two variables only and derivatives of one of the variables with respect to the other. *~n., pl. -naries.* **6.** a common or average situation, amount, or degree (esp. in **out of the ordinary**). **7.** a normal or commonplace person or thing. **8. Civil law.** a judge who exercises jurisdiction in his own right. **9. (usually cap.)** an ecclesiastic, esp. a bishop, holding an office to which certain jurisdictional powers are attached. **10. R.C. Church.** **a.** the parts of the Mass that do not vary from day to day. **b.** a prescribed form of divine service, esp. the Mass. **11.** the U.S. name for **penny-farthing**. **12. Heraldry.** any of several conventional figures, such as the bend, and the cross, commonly charged upon shields. **13. History.** a clergyman who visited condemned prisoners. **14. Brit. obs. a.** a meal provided regularly at a fixed price. **b.** the inn, etc., providing such meals. **15. in ordinary.** *Brit.* (used esp. in titles) in regular service or attendance: *physician in ordinary to the sovereign*.

Ordinary level *n. Brit.* See **O level**.

ordinary rating *n.* a rank in the Royal Navy comparable to that of a private in the army.

ordinary seaman *n.* a seaman of the lowest rank, being insufficiently experienced to be an able-bodied seaman.

ordinary shares *pl. n. Brit.* shares representing part of the capital issued by a company and entitling their holders to a variable dividend according to the profitabil-

ity of the company and to a claim on net assets. U.S. equivalent: **common stock**. Cf. **preference shares**.

ordinate ('ɔ:dɪnt) *n.* the vertical or y-coordinate of a point in a two-dimensional system of Cartesian coordinates. Cf. **abscissa**.

ordination ('ɔ:dɪneɪʃən) *n.* **1. a.** the act of conferring holy orders. **b.** the reception of holy orders. **2.** the condition of being ordained or regulated. **3.** an arrangement or order.

ordnance ('ɔ:dɪnəns) *n.* **1.** cannon or artillery. **2.** military supplies; munitions. **3. the.** a department of an army or government dealing with military supplies.

ordnance datum *n.* mean sea level calculated from observation taken at Newlyn, Cornwall, and used as the official basis for height calculation on British maps. Abbrev.: **O.D.**

Ordnance Survey *n.* the official map-making body of the British or Irish government.

Ordovician ('ɔ:dəvɪʃjən) *adj.* **1.** of, denoting, or formed in the second period of the Palaeozoic era, between the Cambrian and Silurian periods. *~n.* **2. the.** the Ordovician period or rock system.

ordure ('ɔ:dʒʊə) *n.* excrement; dung.

ore (ɔ:) *n.* any naturally occurring mineral or aggregate of minerals from which economically important constituents, esp. metals, can be extracted.

oregano ('ɔ:rɪ'gənəʊ) *n.* **1.** a Mediterranean variety of wild marjoram (*Origanum vulgare*), with pungent leaves. **2.** the dried powdered leaves of this plant, used to season food.

organ ('ɔ:gən) *n.* **1. a.** Also called: **pipe organ**, a large complex musical keyboard instrument in which sound is produced by means of a number of pipes arranged in sets or stops, supplied with air from a bellows. **b. (as modifier):** *organ stop; organ loft*. **2.** any instrument, such as a harmonium, in which sound is produced in this way. **3.** a fully differentiated structural and functional unit, such as a kidney or a root, in an animal or plant. **4.** an agency or medium of communication, esp. a periodical issued by a specialist group or party. **5.** an instrument with which something is done or accomplished. **6.** a euphemistic word for **penis**.

organdie or esp. U.S. **organdy** ('ɔ:gəndi) *n., pl. -dies.* a fine and slightly stiff cotton fabric used for dresses, etc.

organic ('ɔ:gənɪk) *adj.* **1.** of, relating to, or derived from living plants and animals. **2.** of or relating to animal or plant constituents or products having a carbon basis. **3.** of or relating to one or more organs of an animal or plant. **4.** of, relating to, or belonging to the class of chemical compounds that are formed from carbon: *an organic compound*. **5.** constitutional in the structure of something; fundamental; integral. **6.** of or characterized by the coordination of integral parts; organized. **7.** of or relating to the essential constitutional laws regulating the government of a state: *organic law*. **8.** of, relating to, or grown with the use of fertilizers or pesticides deriving from animal or vegetable matter. *~n.* **9.** any substance, such as a fertilizer or pesticide, that is derived from animal or vegetable matter. —'organically *adv.*

organism ('ɔ:gə'nɪzəm) *n.* **1.** any living animal or plant, including any bacterium or virus. **2.** anything resembling a living creature in structure, behaviour, etc. —'organ'ismal or 'organ'ismic *adj.* —'organ'ismally *adv.*

organist ('ɔ:gənɪst) *n.* a person who plays the organ.

organization or **-isation** ('ɔ:gənə'zeɪʃən) *n.* **1.** the act of organizing or the state of being organized. **2.** an organized structure or whole. **3.** a business or administrative concern united and constructed for a particular end. **4.** a body of administrative officials, as of a government department, etc. **5.** order, tidiness, or system; method. —'organ'izational or 'organ'isational *adj.*

organize or **-ise** ('ɔ:gə'naɪz) *vb.* **1.** to form (parts or elements of something) into a structured whole; coordinate. **2. (tr.)** to arrange methodically or in order. **3. (tr.)** to provide with an organic structure. **4. (tr.)** to enlist (the workers) (of a factory, etc.) in a trade union. **5. (intr.)** to join or form an organization or trade union. **6. (tr.)** *Inf.* to put (oneself) in an alert and responsible frame of mind. —'orga'nizer or 'iser *n.*

organza ('ɔ:gənzə) *n.* a thin stiff fabric of silk, cotton, nylon, rayon, etc.

orgasm ('ɔ:gəzəm) *n.* **1.** the most intense point during sexual excitement. **2.** Rare. intense or violent excitement. —'org'asmic or 'org'astic *adj.*

orgy ('ɔ:dʒɪ) *n., pl. -gies.* **1.** a wild gathering marked by promiscuous sexual activity, excessive drinking, etc. **2.**

an act of immoderate or frenzied indulgence. **3.** (*often pl.*) secret religious rites of Dionysus, Bacchus, etc., marked by drinking, dancing, and songs. —,orgi'astic adj.

oriel ('ɔ:riəl) *n.* a bay window, esp. one that is supported by one or more brackets or corbels. Also called: **oriel window**.

orient n. ('ɔ:riənt). **1.** Poetic. another word for east. Cf. **occident**. **2.** Arch. the eastern sky or the dawn. **3.** a. the iridescent lustre of a pearl. b. (as modifier): *orient pearls*. **4.** a pearl of high quality. ~adj. ('ɔ:riənt). **5.** Now chiefly poetic. oriental. **6.** Arch. (of the sun, stars, etc.) rising. ~vb. ('ɔ:riənt). **7.** to adjust or align (oneself or something else) according to surroundings or circumstances. **8.** (tr.) to position or set (a map, etc.) with reference to the compass or other specific directions. **9.** (tr.) to build (a church) with the chancel end facing in an easterly direction.

➤ **Usage.** See at **orientate**.

Orient ('ɔ:riənt) *n.* (usually preceded by *the*) **1.** the countries east of the Mediterranean. **2.** the eastern hemisphere.

oriental (,ɔ:ri'entl) *adj.* another word for **eastern**.

Oriental (,ɔ:ri'entl) *adj.* **1.** (*sometimes not cap.*) of or relating to the Orient. **2.** of or denoting a region consisting of southeastern Asia from India to Borneo, Java, and the Philippines. ~n. **3.** (*sometimes not cap.*) an inhabitant, esp. a native, of the Orient.

orientate ('ɔ:riən,tet) *vb.* another word for **orient** (senses 7,8,9).

➤ **Usage.** Careful users avoid *orientate* as an unnecessary back formation from *orientation*, since *orient* has the same range of meanings. Nevertheless, there can be little doubt that either form is acceptable. The excessive use of *orientate* and *orientation* in such phrases as *orientation course* (preparatory course), *profits-orientated systems* (those geared to producing high profits), and *student-orientated lectures* (lectures written with students in mind) is frowned on in careful usage as jargon.

orientation (,ɔ:riən'teɪʃən) *n.* **1.** the act or process of orienting or the state of being oriented. **2.** positioning with relation to the compass or other specific directions. **3.** the adjustment or alignment of oneself or one's ideas to surroundings or circumstances. **4.** Also called: **orientation course**. Chiefly U.S. a. a course, lecture, etc., introducing a new situation or environment. b. (as modifier): *an orientation talk*. **5.** Psychol. the knowledge of one's own temporal, social, and practical circumstances. **6.** the siting of a church on an east-west axis. —,orien'tational adj.

orientteering (,ɔ:riən'tiəriŋ) *n.* a sport in which contestants race on foot over a course consisting of checkpoints found with the aid of a map and a compass.

orifice ('ɔ:rifis) *n.* Chiefly technical. an opening or mouth into a cavity; vent; aperture.

orig. abbrev. for: **1.** origin. **2.** original(ly).

origami (,ɔ:ri'gami) *n.* the art or process, originally Japanese, of paper folding.

origin ('ɔ:ridʒɪn) *n.* **1.** a primary source; derivation. **2.** the beginning of something; first part. **3.** (*often pl.*) ancestry or parentage; birth; extraction. **4.** Anat. a. the end of a muscle, opposite its point of insertion. b. the beginning of a nerve or blood vessel or the site where it first starts to branch out. **5.** Maths. a. the point of intersection of coordinate axes or planes. b. the point whose coordinates are all zero.

original ('ɔ:ridʒɪnl) *adj.* **1.** of or relating to an origin or beginning. **2.** fresh and unusual; novel. **3.** able to think of or carry out new ideas or concepts. **4.** being that from which a copy, translation, etc., is made. ~n. **5.** the first and genuine form of something, from which others are derived. **6.** a person or thing used as a model in art or literature. **7.** a person whose way of thinking is unusual or creative. **8.** the first form or occurrence of something. —o,rigi'nality *n.* —o,rigi'nally *adv.*

original sin *n.* Theol. a state of sin held to be innate in mankind as the descendants of Adam.

originate ('ɔ:ridʒɪ,neɪt) *vb.* **1.** to come or bring into being. **2.** (intr.) U.S. (of a bus, train, etc.) to begin its journey at a specified point. —o,rigi'nation *n.* —o,rigi'nator *n.*

oriole ('ɔ:ri:əl) *n.* **1.** a tropical Old World songbird, such as the golden oriole, having a long pointed bill and a mostly yellow-and-black plumage. **2.** an American songbird, esp. the Baltimore oriole, with a typical male plumage of black with either orange or yellow.

Orion ('ɔ:riən) *n.* a constellation containing two first

magnitude stars (Betelgeuse and Rigel) and a distant low density emission nebula (the **Orion Nebula**).

orison ('ɔ:ri:zən) *n.* Literary. another word for **prayer**!

Orlon ('ɔ:lən) *n.* Trademark. a crease-resistant acrylic fibre or fabric used for clothing, etc.

ormolu ('ɔ:mə,lʊ:) *n.* **1.** a. a gold-coloured alloy of copper, tin, or zinc used to decorate furniture, etc. b. (as modifier): *an ormolu clock*. **2.** gold prepared for gilding.

ornament n. ('ɔ:nəmənt). **1.** anything that enhances the appearance of a person or thing. **2.** decorations collectively: *she was totally without ornament*. **3.** a small decorative object. **4.** something regarded as a source of pride or beauty. **5.** Music. any of several decorations, such as the trill, etc. ~vb. ('ɔ:nə,ment). (tr.) **6.** to decorate with or as if with ornaments. **7.** to serve as an ornament to.—,orna'mental *adj.* —,orna'mentation *n.*

ornate ('ɔ:neɪt) *adj.* **1.** heavily or elaborately decorated. **2.** (of style in writing, etc.) over-embellished; flowery. —or'nately *adv.* —or'nateness *n.*

ornitho- or before a vowel **ornith-** combining form. bird or birds.

ornithology (,ɔ:nɪ'θɒlədʒɪ) *n.* the study of birds. —**ornithological** (,ɔ:nɪ'θɒ'lədʒɪkəl) *adj.* —,ornitho'logically *adv.* —**ornithologist** *n.*

orotund ('ɔ:rəʊ,tʌnd) *adj.* **1.** (of the voice) resonant; booming. **2.** (of speech or writing) bombastic; pompous.

orphan ('ɔ:fən) *n.* **1.** a. a child, one or both of whose parents are dead. b. (as modifier): *an orphan child*. ~vb. **2.** (tr.) to deprive of one or both parents.

orphanage ('ɔ:fəndʒ) *n.* **1.** an institution for orphans and abandoned children. **2.** the state of being an orphan.

Orphic ('ɔ:fɪk) *adj.* **1.** of or relating to Orpheus or Orphism, a mystery religion of ancient Greece. **2.** (*sometimes not cap.*) mystical or occult. —**Orphically** *adv.*

orrery ('ɔ:rəri) *n.*, *pl.* -ries. a mechanical model of the solar system in which the planets can be moved at the correct relative velocities around the sun.

orris or **orrice** ('ɔ:ris) *n.* **1.** any of various irises that have fragrant rhizomes. **2.** Also: **orrisroot**, the rhizome of such a plant, prepared and used as perfume.

ortho- or before a vowel **orth-** combining form. **1.** straight or upright: *orthorhombic*. **2.** perpendicular or at right angles: *orthogonal*. **3.** correct or right: *orthodontics*. **4.** (*often in italics*) denoting an organic compound containing a benzene ring with substituents attached to adjacent carbon atoms (the 1,2-positions). **5.** denoting an oxyacid regarded as the highest hydrated form of the anhydride or a salt of such an acid: *orthophosphoric acid*. **6.** denoting a diatomic substance in which the spins of the two atoms are parallel: *orthohydrogen*.

orthodontics (,ɔ:θəʊ'dɒntɪks) or **orthodontia** (,ɔ:θəʊ'dɒntɪə) *n.* the branch of dentistry concerned with preventing or correcting irregularities of the teeth. —,ortho'dontic *adj.* —,ortho'dontist *n.*

orthodox ('ɔ:θə,dɒks) *adj.* **1.** conforming with established standards, as in religion, behaviour, or attitudes. **2.** conforming to the Christian faith as established by the early Church. —'ortho,doxly *adv.*

Orthodox ('ɔ:θə,dɒks) *adj.* **1.** of or relating to the Orthodox Church of the East. **2.** (*sometimes not cap.*) of or relating to Orthodox Judaism.

orthography (ɔ:θɒ'grəfi) *n.*, *pl.* -phies. **1.** a writing system. **2.** a. spelling considered to be correct. b. the principles underlying spelling. **3.** the study of spelling. —or'thographer or or'thographist *n.* —,ortho'graphic *adj.*

orthopaedics or U.S. **orthopedics** (,ɔ:θə'pi:dɪks) *n.* (*functioning as sing.*) **1.** the branch of surgery concerned with disorders of the spine and joints and the repair of deformities of these parts. **2.** dental orthopaedics. another name for **orthodontics**. —,ortho'paedic or U.S. ortho'pedic *adj.* —,ortho'paedist or U.S. ortho'pedist *n.*

ortolan ('ɔ:tələn) *n.* **1.** a brownish Old World bunting regarded as a delicacy. **2.** any of various other small birds eaten as delicacies, esp. the bobolink.

Os the chemical symbol for osmium.

O.S. abbrev. for: **1.** Old Style. **2.** Ordinary Seaman. **3.** (in Britain) Ordnance Survey. **4.** outside. **5.** Also **OS**, Old Saxon (language).

Oscar ('ɔ:skə) *n.* any of several small gold statuettes awarded annually in the United States for outstanding achievements in films.

oscillate ('ɔ:si,leɪt) *vb.* **1.** (intr.) to move or swing from

side to side regularly. 2. (*intr.*) to waver between opinions, courses of action, etc. 3. *Physics.* to undergo or produce oscillation. — *oscillation* *n.* — *oscillator* *n.*

oscilloscope (ˈɒsɪləskəʊp) *n.* an instrument for producing a representation of a rapidly changing quantity on the screen of a cathode-ray tube.

oscular (ˈɒskjələ) *adj.* 1. *Zool.* of or relating to a mouthlike aperture, esp. of a sponge. 2. of or relating to the mouth or to kissing.

osculate (ˈɒskjuːleɪt) *vb.* 1. *Usually humorous.* to kiss. 2. (*intr.*) (of an organism) to be intermediate between two taxonomic groups.

osier (ˈəʊziə) *n.* 1. any of various willow trees, whose flexible branches or twigs are used for making baskets, etc. 2. a twig or branch from such a tree. 3. any of several North American dogwoods, esp. the red osier.

-osis *suffix forming nouns.* 1. indicating a process or state: *metamorphosis*. 2. indicating a diseased condition: *tuberculosis*. 3. indicating the formation or development of something: *fibrosis*.

Osmanli (ˈɒzmənli) *adj.* 1. of or relating to the Ottoman Empire. ~ *n.* 2. (*pl.* -lis) (formerly) a subject of the Ottoman Empire.

osmium (ˈɒzmiəm) *n.* a very hard brittle bluish-white metal, the heaviest known element, occurring with platinum and alloyed with iridium in osmiridium. Symbol: Os; atomic no. 76; atomic wt. 190.2.

osmosis (ˈɒzməʊsɪs, ɒs-) *n.* 1. the passage of solvent molecules from a less concentrated to a more concentrated solution through a semipermeable membrane until both solutions are of the same concentration. 2. diffusion through any membrane or porous barrier, as in dialysis. — *osmotic* (ˈɒzmətɪk, ɒs-) *adj.* — *osmotically* *adv.*

osprey (ˈɒspri-, -prei) *n.* 1. a large broad-winged fish-eating diurnal bird of prey, with a dark back and whitish head and underparts. Often called in U.S.: *fish hawk*. 2. any of the feathers of various other birds, used esp. as trimming for hats.

osseous (ˈɒsiəs) *adj.* consisting of or containing bone, bony. — *osseously* *adv.*

ossify (ˈɒsiˌfaɪ) *vb.* -fying, -fied. 1. to convert or be converted into bone. 2. (*intr.*) (of habits, attitudes, etc.) to become inflexible. — *ossifier* *n.* — *ossification* *n.*

ostensible (ˈɒstənsɪbəl) *adj.* 1. apparent; seeming. 2. pretended. — *ostensibility* *n.* — *ostensibly* *adv.*

ostensive (ˈɒstənsɪv) *adj.* 1. obviously or manifestly demonstrative. 2. (of a definition), giving examples of objects to which a word or phrase is properly applied. 3. a less common word for *ostensible*. — *ostensively* *adv.*

ostentation (ˈɒstənˈteɪʃən) *n.* pretentious, showy, or vulgar display. — *ostentatious* *adj.* — *ostentatiously* *adv.*

oste- or *before a vowel oste-* combining form. indicating bone or bones.

osteoarthritis (ˈɒstriəʊˈθraɪtɪs) *n.* chronic inflammation of the joints, esp. those that bear weight, with pain and stiffness. — *osteoarthritic* (ˈɒstriəʊˈθrɪtɪk) *adj.*, *n.*

osteomyelitis (ˈɒstriəʊˌmaɪˈlaɪtɪs) *n.* inflammation of bone marrow, caused by infection.

osteopathy (ˈɒstiˈɒpəði) *n.* a system of healing based on the manipulation of bones or other parts of the body. — *osteopathic* (ˈɒstriəˈpæθɪk) *adj.* — *osteopathically* *adv.* — *osteopath* *n.*

ostler (ˈɒslə) or **hostler** *n.* *Arch.* a stableman, esp. one at an inn.

ostracize or **-ise** (ˈɒstrəˌsaɪz) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to exclude or banish (a person) from a particular group, society, etc. 2. (in ancient Greece) to punish by temporary exile. — *ostracism* *n.* — *ostracizable* or *-isable* *adj.* — *ostracizer* or *-iser* *n.*

ostrich (ˈɒstrɪtʃ) *n.*, *pl.* -triches or -trich. 1. a fast-running flightless African bird that is the largest living bird, with stout two-toed feet and dark feathers, except on the naked head, neck, and legs. 2. **American ostrich.** another name for *rhea*. 3. a person who refuses to recognize the truth, reality, etc.

O.T. *abbrev. for:* 1. occupational therapy. 2. Old Testament. 3. overtime.

O.T.C. (in Britain) *abbrev. for:* Officers' Training Corps.

other (ˈʌðə) *determiner.* 1. *a.* (when used before a singular noun, usually preceded by *the*) the remaining (one or ones in a group of which one or some have been specified): *I'll read the other sections of the paper later.* *b.* **the other.** (as *pronoun*; functioning as *sing.*): *one walks while the other rides.* 2. (*a*) different (one or ones from

that or those already specified or understood): *no other man but you.* 3. additional; further: *there are no other possibilities.* 4. (preceded by *every*) alternate; two: *it buzzes every other minute.* 5. **other than.** *a.* apart from; besides: *a lady other than his wife.* *b.* different from: *he couldn't be other than what he is.* *Archaic form: other from.* 6. **no other.** *Arch.* nothing else: *I can do no other.* 7. or **other.** (preceded by a phrase or word with *some*) used to add vagueness to the preceding pronoun, noun, or noun phrase: *he's somewhere or other.* 8. **other things being equal.** conditions being the same or unchanged. 9. **the other day, night, etc.** a few days, nights, etc., ago. 10. **the other thing.** an unexpressed alternative. ~ *pron.* 11. another: *show me one other.* 12. (*pl.*) additional or further ones. 13. (*pl.*) other people or things. 14. **the others.** the remaining ones (of a group). ~ *adv.* 15. (usually used with a negative and *followed by than*) otherwise; differently: *they couldn't behave other than they do.* — *otherness* *n.*

otherwise (ˈʌðəˌwaɪz) 1. *sentence connector.* or else; if not, then: *go home — otherwise your mother will worry.* ~ *adv.* 2. differently: *I wouldn't have thought otherwise.* 3. in other respects: *an otherwise hopeless situation.* ~ *adj.* 4. (predicative) of an unexpected nature; different: *the facts are otherwise.* ~ *pron.* 5. something different in outcome: *success or otherwise.*

otherworldly (ˌʌðəˌwɜːldli) *adj.* 1. of or relating to the spiritual or imaginative world. 2. impractical or unworldly. — *otherworldliness* *n.*

otic (ˈəʊtɪk, ˈɒtɪk) *adj.* of or relating to the ear.

otiose (ˈəʊtiəs, -iəʊz) *adj.* 1. serving no useful purpose: *otiose language.* 2. Rare. indolent; lazy. — *otiosity* (ˌəʊtiˈɒsɪti) or *otioseness* *n.*

otitis (əʊˈtaɪtɪs) *n.* inflammation of the ear.

oto- or *before a vowel ot-* combining form. indicating the ear.

otter (ˈɒtə) *n.*, *pl.* -ters or -ter. 1. a freshwater carnivorous mammal, esp. the **Eurasian otter**, typically having smooth fur, a streamlined body, and webbed feet. 2. the fur of this animal. 3. a type of fishing tackle consisting of a weighted board to which hooked and baited lines are attached.

ottoman (ˈɒtəmən) *n.*, *pl.* -mans. 1. *a.* a low padded seat, usually armless, sometimes in the form of a chest. *b.* a cushioned footstool. 2. a corded fabric.

Ottoman (ˈɒtəmən) or **Othman** (ˈɒθmən) *adj.* 1. *History.* of or relating to the Ottomans or the Ottoman Empire. 2. denoting or relating to the Turkish language. ~ *n.*, *pl.* -mans. 3. a member of a Turkish people in the late 13th century.

O.U. *abbrev. for:* 1. the Open University. 2. Oxford University.

oubliette (ˌuːbliˈet) *n.* a dungeon, the only entrance to which is through the top.

ouch (aʊtʃ) *interj.* an exclamation of sharp sudden pain.

ought (ɔːt) *vb.* (foll. by *to*; takes an infinitive or implied infinitive) used as an auxiliary 1. to indicate duty or obligation: *you ought to pay.* 2. to express prudent expediency: *you ought to see him.* 3. (usually with reference to future time) to express probability or expectation: *you ought to finish this by Friday.* 4. to express a desire or wish on the part of the speaker: *you ought to come next week.*

▷ **Usage.** In careful English, *ought* is not used with *did* or *had*. *I ought not to do it, not I didn't ought to do it; I ought not to have done it, not I hadn't ought to have done it.*

ought (ɔːt) *n.*, *adv.* a variant spelling of *ought*. **ought** (ɔːt) *n.* a less common word for *nought* (zero).

Ouija (ˈwiːdʒə) *n.* *Trademark.* a board on which are marked the letters of the alphabet. Answers to questions are spelt out by a pointer and are supposedly formed by spirits.

ounce (aʊns) *n.* 1. a unit of weight equal to one sixteenth of a pound (avoirdupois). *Abbrev.: oz.* 2. a unit of weight equal to one twelfth of a Troy or Apothecaries' pound; 1 ounce is equal to 480 grains. 3. short for **fluid ounce**; 4. a small portion or amount.

our (aʊə) *determiner.* 1. of, belonging to, or associated in some way with us: *our best vodka; our parents are good to us.* 2. belonging to or associated with all people or people in general: *our nearest planet is Venus.* 3. a formal word for *my* used by editors or other writers, and monarchs.

-our *suffix forming nouns.* indicating state, condition, or activity: *behaviour; labour.*

ours (aʊəz) *pron.* 1. something or someone belonging to

or associated with us: *ours have blue tags*. 2. of ours, belonging to or associated with us.

ourself (auə'self) *pron.* Arch. a variant of **myself**, formerly used by monarchs or editors.

ourselves (auə'selvz) *pron.* 1. a. the reflexive form of we or us. b. (intensifier): *we ourselves will finish it*. 2. (preceded by a copula) our usual selves: *we are ourselves when we're together*. 3. Not standard. used instead of we or us in compound noun phrases: *other people and ourselves*.

▷ **Usage.** See at **myself**.

-ous *suffix forming adjectives.* 1. having or full of: *dangerous; spacious*. 2. (in chemistry) indicating that an element is chemically combined in the lower of two possible valence states: *ferrous*. Cf. **-ic** (sense 2).

ousel ('u:zl) *n.* a variant spelling of **ouzel**.

oust (aust) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to eject; expel. 2. *Property law.* to deprive (a person) of the possession of land, etc.

out (aut) *adv.* 1. (often used as a particle) at or to a point beyond the limits of some location; outside: *get out at once*. 2. (particle) out of consciousness: *she passed out*. 3. (particle) used to indicate a burst of activity as indicated by the verb: *fever broke out*. 4. (particle) used to indicate obliteration of an object: *the graffiti was painted out*. 5. (particle) used to indicate an approximate drawing or description: *chalk out*. 6. on sale or on view to the public: *the book is being brought out next May*. 7. (of a young woman) in or into polite society: *Lucinda had a fabulous party when she came out*. 8. (of a jury) withdrawn to consider a verdict in private. 9. (particle) used to indicate exhaustion or extinction: *the sugar's run out; put the light out*. 10. (particle) used to indicate a goal or object achieved at the end of the action specified by the verb: *he worked it out*. 11. (preceded by a superlative) existing: *the friendliest dog out*. 12. an expression in signalling, radio, etc., to indicate the end of a transmission. 13. **out of**. a. at or to a point outside: *out of his reach*. b. away from; not in: *stepping out of line; out of focus*. c. because of; motivated by: *out of jealousy*. d. from (a material or source): *made out of plastic*. e. not or no longer having any of (a substance, material, etc.): *we're out of sugar*. ~*adj.* (postpositive). 14. not or not any longer worth considering: *that plan is out*. 15. not allowed: *smoking on duty is out*. 16. (also *prepositional*) not in vogue; unfashionable. 17. (of a fire or light) no longer burning or providing illumination. 18. not working: *the radio's out*. 19. unconscious: *he was out for two minutes*. 20. not in; not at home. 21. desirous of or intent on (something or doing something): *I'm out for as much money as I can get*. 22. Also: **out on strike**, on strike. 23. *Sport.* denoting the state in which a player is caused to discontinue active participation, esp. in some specified role. 24. used up; exhausted: *our supplies are completely out*. 25. worn into holes: *out at the elbows*. 26. inaccurate, deficient, or discrepant: *out by six pence*. 27. not in office or authority. 28. completed or concluded, as of time: *before the year is out*. ~*prep.* 29. out of; out through: *he ran out the door*. ~*interj.* 30. a. an exclamation of dismissal, reproach, etc. b. (in wireless telegraphy) an expression used to signal that the speaker is signing off. 31. **out with it**, a command to make something known immediately, without missing any details. ~*n.* 32. Chiefly U.S. a method of escape from a place, difficult situation, etc. 33. *Baseball.* an instance of causing a batter to be out by fielding. 34. **ins and outs**. See **in** (sense 26). ~*vb.* 35. (tr.) to put or throw out. 36. (intr.) to be made known or effective despite efforts to the contrary (esp. in the **truth will out**).

out- *prefix.* 1. excelling or surpassing in a particular action: *outlast; outlive*. 2. indicating an external location or situation away from the centre: *outpost; outpatient*. 3. indicating emergence, an issuing forth, etc.: *outcrop; outgrowth*. 4. indicating the result of an action: *outcome*.

outage ('autɪdʒ) *n.* 1. a quantity of goods missing or lost after storage or shipment. 2. a period of power failure, machine stoppage, etc.

out-and-out *adj.* (*prepositional*) thoroughgoing; complete.

outback ('aut,bæk) *n.* Austral. a. the remote bush country of Australia. b. (as modifier): *outback life*.

outboard ('aut,bɔ:d) *adj.* 1. (of a boat's engine) port-

able, with its own propeller, and designed to be attached externally to the stern. 2. in a position away from, or further away from, the centre line of a vessel or aircraft, esp. outside the hull or fuselage. ~*adv.* 3. away from the centre line of a vessel or aircraft, esp. outside the hull or fuselage. ~*n.* 4. an outboard motor.

outbreak ('aut,breɪk) *n.* a sudden, violent, or spontaneous occurrence, esp. of disease or strife.

outbuilding ('aut,bɪldɪŋ) *n.* a building separate from a main building; outhouse.

outburst ('aut,bɜ:st) *n.* 1. a sudden and violent expression of emotion. 2. an explosion or eruption.

outcast ('aut,kɑ:st) *n.* 1. a person who is rejected or excluded from a social group. 2. a vagabond or wanderer. 3. anything thrown out or rejected. ~*adj.* 4. rejected, abandoned, or discarded; cast out.

outcaste ('aut,kɑ:st) *n.* 1. a person who has been expelled from a caste. 2. a person having no caste. ~*vb.* 3. (tr.) to cause (someone) to lose his caste.

outclass ('aut,'klɑ:s) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to surpass in class, quality, etc. 2. to defeat easily.

outcome ('aut,'kʌm) *n.* something that follows from an action or situation; result; consequence.

outcrop *n.* ('aut,'krɒp). 1. part of a rock formation or mineral vein that appears at the surface of the earth. 2. an emergence; appearance. ~*vb.* ('aut,'krɒp). -**cropping**, -**cropped**. 3. (intr.) (of rock strata, mineral veins, etc.) to protrude through the surface of the earth.

outcry *n.* ('aut,'kraɪ). pl. -**cries**. 1. a widespread or vehement protest. 2. clamour; uproar. ~*vb.* ('aut,'kraɪ). -**criying**, -**cried**. 3. (tr.) to cry louder or make more noise than (someone or something).

outdated ('aut,'deɪtɪd) *adj.* old-fashioned or obsolete.

outdo ('aut,'du:ð) *vb.* -**doing**, -**did**, -**done**. (tr.) to surpass or exceed in performance.

outdoor ('aut,'dɔ:) *adj.* (*prepositional*) Also: **out-of-door**. taking place, existing, or intended for use in the open air: *outdoor games; outdoor clothes*.

outdoors ('aut,'dɔ:z) *adv.* 1. Also: **out-of-doors**, in the open air; outside. ~*n.* 2. the world outside habitation.

outer ('auta) *adj.* (*prepositional*) 1. being or located on the outside; external. 2. further from the middle or central part. ~*n.* 3. *Archery.* a. the white outermost ring on a target. b. a shot that hits this ring. 4. Austral. the unsheltered part of the spectator area at a sports ground. 5. **on the outer**. Austral. & N.Z. excluded or neglected.

outermost ('autə,'məʊst) *adj.* furthest from the centre or middle; outmost.

outer space *n.* any region of space beyond the atmosphere of the earth.

outfall ('aut,'fɔ:l) *n.* the end of a river, sewer, drain, etc., from which it discharges.

outfield ('aut,'fi:ld) *n.* 1. *Cricket.* the area of the field relatively far from the pitch; the deep. Cf. **infield**. 2. *Baseball.* a. the area of the playing field beyond the lines connecting first, second, and third bases. b. the positions of the left fielder, centre fielder, and right fielder taken collectively. 3. *Agriculture.* farm land most distant from the farmstead. —'out,fielder *n.*

outfit ('aut,'fɪt) *n.* 1. a set of articles or equipment for a particular task, etc. 2. a set of clothes, esp. a carefully selected one. 3. *Inf.* any group or association regarded as a cohesive unit, such as a military company, etc. ~*vb.* -**fitting**, -**fitted**. 4. to furnish or be furnished with an outfit, equipment, etc. —'out,fitter *n.*

outflank ('aut,'flæŋk) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to go around the flank of (an opposing army, etc.). 2. to get the better of.

outflow ('aut,'fləʊ) *n.* 1. anything that flows out, such as liquid, money, etc. 2. the amount that flows out. 3. the act or process of flowing out.

outfox ('aut,'fɒks) *vb.* (tr.) to surpass in guile or cunning.

outgoing ('aut,'gəʊɪŋ) *adj.* 1. departing; leaving. 2. retiring from office. 3. friendly and sociable. ~*n.* 4. the act of going out.

outgrow ('aut,'grəʊ) *vb.* -**growing**, -**grew**, -**grown**. (tr.) 1. to grow too large for (clothes, shoes, etc.). 2. to lose (a habit, idea, reputation, etc.) in the course of development or time. 3. to grow larger or faster than.

outgrowth ('aut,'grəʊð) *n.* 1. a thing growing out of a main body. 2. a development, result, or consequence. 3. the act of growing out.

outact *vb.*
outbid *vb.*
outbox *vb.*

outdare *vb.*
outdistance *vb.*
outdrink *vb.*

outface *vb.*
outfight *vb.*

outhouse ('aut,haus) *n.* a building near to, but separate from, a main building; outbuilding.

outing ('autɪŋ) *n.* a short outward and return journey; trip; excursion.

outlandish ('aut'lændɪʃ) *adj.* 1. grotesquely unconventional in appearance, habits, etc. 2. *Arch.* foreign. —**outlandishly** *adv.* —**outlandishness** *n.*

outlaw ('aut,lɔː) *n.* 1. (formerly) a person excluded from the law and deprived of its protection. 2. any fugitive from the law, esp. a habitual transgressor. —*vb.* (tr.) 3. to put (a person) outside the law and deprive of its protection. 4. to ban. —**outlawry** *n.*

outlay *n.* ('aut,leɪ) 1. an expenditure of money, effort, etc. —*vb.* ('aut,leɪ) —**laying**, —**laid**. 2. (tr.) to spend (money, etc.).

outlet ('autlet,-lɪt) *n.* 1. an opening or vent permitting escape or release. 2. *a.* a market for a product or service. *b.* a commercial establishment retailing the goods of a particular producer or wholesaler. 3. a channel that drains a body of water. 4. a point in a wiring system from which current can be taken to supply electrical devices.

outline ('aut,lam) *n.* 1. a preliminary or schematic plan, draft, etc. 2. (*usually pl.*) the important features of a theory, work, etc. 3. the line by which an object or figure is or appears to be bounded. 4. *a.* a drawing or manner of drawing consisting only of external lines. *b.* (*as modifier*): an outline map. —*vb.* (tr.) 5. to draw or display the outline of. 6. to give the main features or general idea of.

outlive ('aut,lɪv) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to live longer than (someone). 2. to live beyond a date or period: *he outlived the century*. 3. to live through (an experience).

outlook ('aut,lʊk) *n.* 1. a mental attitude or point of view. 2. the probable or expected condition or outcome of something: *the weather outlook*. 3. the view from a place. 4. view or prospect. 5. the act or state of looking out.

outlying ('aut,laiŋ) *adj.* distant or remote from the main body or centre, as of a town or region.

outmanoeuvre or **U.S. outmaneuver** ('autmæ-'nu:və) *vb.* (tr.) to secure a strategic advantage over by skillful manoeuvre.

outmoded ('aut,məʊdɪd) *adj.* no longer fashionable or widely accepted. —**outmodedly** *adv.* —**outmodedness** *n.*

out of date *adj.* (**out-of-date** when *prenominal*), *adv.* no longer valid, current, or fashionable; outmoded.

out-of-doors *adv.*, *adj.* (*postpositive*) in the open air; outside. Also: **outdoors**.

out of pocket *adj.* (**out-of-pocket** when *prenominal*), 1. (*postpositive*) having lost money, as in a commercial enterprise. 2. without money to spend. 3. (*prenominal*) (of expenses) unbudgeted and paid for in cash.

out-of-the-way *adj.* (*prenominal*) 1. distant from more populous areas. 2. uncommon or unusual.

outpatient ('aut,peɪʃənt) *n.* a non-resident hospital patient. Cf. **inpatient**.

outport ('aut,pɔ:t) *n.* 1. *Chiefly Brit.* a subsidiary port built in deeper water than the original port. 2. *Canad.* a small fishing village of Newfoundland.

outpost ('aut,pəʊst) *n.* 1. *Mil.* *a.* a position stationed at a distance from the area occupied by a major formation. *b.* the troops assigned to such a position. 2. an outlying settlement or position.

output ('aut,pʊt) *n.* 1. the act of production or manufacture. 2. the amount produced, as in a given period: *a weekly output*. 3. the material produced, manufactured, etc. 4. *Electronics.* *a.* the power, voltage, or current delivered by a circuit or component. *b.* the point at which the signal is delivered. 5. the power, energy, or work produced by an engine or a system. 6. *Computers.* *a.* the information produced by a computer. *b.* the operations and devices involved in producing this information. 7. (*modifier*) of or relating to electronic or computer output: *output signal*. —*vb.* 8. *Computers.* to put out; supply.

outrage ('aut,redʒ) *n.* 1. a wantonly vicious or cruel act. 2. a gross violation of decency, morality, honour, etc. 3. profound indignation, anger, or hurt, caused by such an act. —*vb.* (tr.) 4. to cause profound indignation,

anger, or resentment in. 5. to offend grossly. 6. to commit an act of wanton viciousness, cruelty, or indecency on. 7. a euphemistic word for **rape**.

outrageous ('aut,redʒəs) *adj.* 1. being or having the nature of an outrage. 2. grossly offensive to decency, authority, etc. 3. violent or unrestrained in behaviour or temperament. 4. extravagant or immoderate. —**outrageously** *adv.* —**outrageousness** *n.*

outrank ('aut,ræŋk) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to be of higher rank than. 2. to take priority over.

outré French. (u'tre) *adj.* deviating from what is usual or proper.

outrider ('aut,raɪdɪə) *n.* 1. a person who goes in advance to investigate, discover a way, etc.; scout. 2. a person who rides in front of or beside a carriage, esp. as an attendant or guard. 3. *U.S.* a mounted herdsman.

outrigger ('aut,rɪɡə) *n.* 1. a framework for supporting a pontoon outside and parallel to the hull of a boat to provide stability. 2. a boat equipped with such a framework, esp. one of the canoes of the South Pacific. 3. any projecting framework attached to a boat, aircraft, building, etc., to act as a support.

outright ('aut,raɪt) *adj.* (*prenominal*) 1. without qualifications or limitations: *outright ownership*. 2. complete; total. 3. straightforward; direct. —*adv.* 4. without restrictions. 5. without reservation or concealment: *ask outright*. 6. instantly: *he was killed outright*.

outset ('aut,set) *n.* a start; beginning (esp. in **from** (or **at**) the outset).

outside *prep.* ('aut,said). 1. (sometimes foll. by *of*) on or to the exterior of: *outside the house*. 2. beyond the limits of. 3. apart from; other than: *no-one knows outside you*. —*adj.* ('aut,said). 4. (*prenominal*) situated on the exterior: *an outside lavatory*. 5. remote; unlikely. 6. not a member of. 7. the greatest possible or probable (prices, odds, etc.). —*adv.* ('aut,said). 8. outside a specified thing or place; out of doors. 9. *Sl.* not in prison. —*n.* ('aut,said). 10. the external side or surface. 11. the external appearance or aspect. 12. (of a pavement, etc.) the side nearest the road or away from a wall. 13. *Sport.* an outside player, as in football. 14. (*pl.*) the outer sheets of a ream of paper. 15. *Canad.* (in the north) the settled parts of Canada. 16. **at the outside**. *Inf.* at the most or at the greatest extent: *two days at the outside*.

▷ **Usage.** In careful usage, *outside* and *inside* are preferred to *outside of* and *inside of*: *she waits outside* (not *outside of*) the school.

outside broadcast *n.* Radio, television, a broadcast not made from a studio.

outsider ('aut,sɑɪdɪə) *n.* 1. a person or thing excluded from or not a member of a set, group, etc. 2. a contestant, esp. a horse, thought unlikely to win in a race. 3. *Canad.* a person who does not live in the arctic regions.

outside ('aut,sɑɪz) *adj.* 1. Also: **outsized**. very large or larger than normal. —*n.* 2. something outside, such as a garment or person. 3. (*modifier*) relating to or dealing in outside clothes: *an outside shop*.

outskirts ('aut,skɜ:ts) *pl. n.* (*sometimes sing.*) outlying or bordering areas, districts, etc., as of a city.

outsmart ('aut,smɑ:t) *vb.* (tr.) *Inf.* to get the better of; outwit.

outspan *S. African.* —*n.* ('aut,spæn). 1. an area on a farm kept available for travellers to rest and refresh animals, etc. 2. the act of unharnessing or unyoking. —*vb.* ('aut,spæn), —**spanning**, —**spanned**. 3. to unharness or unyoke (animals).

outsoken ('aut,spəʊkən) *adj.* 1. candid or bold in speech. 2. said or expressed with candour or boldness.

outspread *vb.* ('aut,spred), —**spreading**, —**spread**. 1. to spread out. —*adj.* ('aut,spred). 2. spread or stretched out. 3. scattered or diffused widely. —*n.* ('aut,spred). 4. a spreading out.

outstanding ('aut,stændɪŋ) *adj.* 1. superior; excellent. 2. prominent, remarkable, or striking. 3. unsettled, unpaid, or unresolved. 4. (of shares, bonds, etc.) issued and sold. 5. projecting or jutting upwards or outwards.

outstay ('aut,steɪ) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to stay longer than. 2. to stay too long. 3. **outstay one's welcome**. See **overstay** (sense 2).

outstretch ('aut,stretʃ) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to extend or expand; stretch out. 2. to stretch or extend beyond.

outlast *vb.*

outmatch *vb.*

outnumber *vb.*

outpace *vb.*

outperform *vb.*

outplay *vb.*

outrange *vb.*

outreach *vb.*

outrun *vb.*

outsell *vb.*

outshine *vb.*

outstare *vb.*

outstrip (ˌaʊtˈstri:p) *vb.* **-stripping, -stripped.** (tr.) 1. to surpass in a sphere of activity, competition, etc. 2. to be or grow greater than. 3. to go faster than and leave behind.

outvote (ˌaʊtˈvəʊt) *vb.* (tr.) to defeat by a majority of votes.

outward (ˈaʊtwəd) *adj.* 1. of or relating to what is apparent or superficial. 2. of or relating to the outside of the body. 3. belonging or relating to the external, as opposed to the mental, spiritual, or inherent. 4. of, relating to, or directed towards the outside or exterior. 5. the **outward man**. a. *Theol.* the body as opposed to the soul. b. *Facetious.* clothing. ~adv. 6. (of a ship) away from port. 7. Also: **outwards**, towards the outside; away. ~n. 8. the outward part; exterior. —**'outwardly** *adv.* —**'outwardness** *n.* —**'outwards** *adv.*

outweigh (ˌaʊtˈwei) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to prevail over; overcome. 2. to be more important or significant than. 3. to be heavier than.

outwit (ˌaʊtˈwɪt) *vb.* **-witting, -witted.** (tr.) to get the better of by cunning or ingenuity.

outwork *n.* (ˈaʊt,wɜ:k). 1. (often pl.) defences which lie outside main defensive works. 2. work done away from the factory, etc., by which it has been commissioned. ~vb. (ˌaʊtˈwɜ:k). **-working, -worked or -wrought.** (tr.) 3. to work better, harder, etc., than. 4. to work out to completion. —**'out,worker** *n.*

ouzel or ouzel (ˈu:zəl) *n.* 1. Also called: **water ouzel**, other names for **dipper** (sense 2). 2. an archaic name for the (European) **blackbird**.

ouzo (ˈu:zəʊ) *n.* a strong aniseed-flavoured spirit from Greece.

ova (ˈəʊvə) *n.* the plural of **ovum**.

oval (ˈəʊvəl) *adj.* 1. having the shape of an ellipse or ellipsoid. ~n. 2. anything that is oval in shape, such as a sports ground. 3. *Austral.* a. an Australian Rules ground. b. any sports field. —**'ovally** *adv.* —**'ovalness or ovality** (əʊˈvælɪti) *n.*

ovary (ˈəʊvəri) *n.*, *pl.* **-ries.** 1. either of the two female reproductive organs, which produce ova and secrete oestrogen hormones. 2. the corresponding organ in vertebrate and invertebrate animals. 3. *Bot.* the hollow basal region of a carpel containing one or more ovules. —**ovarian** (əʊˈveəriən) *adj.*

ovate (ˈəʊvət) *adj.* 1. shaped like an egg. 2. (esp. of a leaf) shaped like the longitudinal section of an egg, with the broader end at the base. —**'ovately** *adv.*

ovation (əʊˈveɪʃən) *n.* 1. an enthusiastic reception, esp. one of prolonged applause. 2. a victory procession less glorious than a triumph awarded to a Roman general. —**'ovational** *adj.*

oven (ˈʌvən) *n.* 1. an enclosed heated compartment or receptacle for baking or roasting food. 2. a similar device, usually lined with a refractory material, used for drying substances, firing ceramics, heat-treating, etc. —**'oven-like** *adj.*

over (ˈəʊvə) *prep.* 1. directly above; on the top of; via the top or upper surface of: *over one's head*. 2. on or to the other side of: *over the river*. 3. during; through or throughout (a period of time). 4. in or throughout all parts of: *to travel over England*. 5. throughout the whole extent of: *over the racecourse*. 6. above; in preference to. 7. by the agency of (an instrument of telecommunication): *over the radio*. 8. more than: *over a century ago*. 9. on the subject of; about: *an argument over nothing*. 10. while occupied in: *discussing business over golf*. 11. having recovered from the effects of. 12. **over and above**, added to; in addition to. ~adv. 13. in a state, condition, situation, or position that is placed or put over something: *to climb over*. 14. (particle) so as to cause to fall: *knocking over a policeman*. 15. at or to a point across intervening space, water, etc. 16. throughout a whole area: *the world over*. 17. (particle) from

beginning to end, usually cursorily: *to read a document over*. 18. throughout a period of time: *stay over for this week*. 19. (esp. in signalling and radio) it is now your turn to speak, act, etc. 20. more than is expected or usual: *not over well*. 21. **over again**, once more. 22. **over against**, a. opposite to. b. contrasting with. 23. **over and over**, (often followed by **again**) repeatedly. 24. **over the odds**, in addition, esp. when not expected. ~adj. 25. (postpositive) finished; no longer in progress. ~adv., adj. 26. remaining; surplus (often in **left over**). ~n. 27. *Cricket*, a set of six balls (eight in Australia) bowled by a bowler from the same end of the pitch.

over- *prefix.* 1. excessive or excessively; beyond an agreed or desirable limit: *overcharge; overdue*. 2. indicating superior rank: *overseer*. 3. indicating location or movement above: *overhang*. 4. indicating movement downwards: *overthrow*.

overage (ˌəʊvərˈeɪdʒ) *adj.* beyond a specified age.

overall *adj.* (ˌəʊvərˌɔ:l). 1. (prenominal) from one end to the other. 2. (prenominal) including or covering everything: *the overall cost*. ~adv. (ˌəʊvərˌɔ:l). 3. in general; on the whole. ~n. (ˌəʊvərˌɔ:l). 4. *Brit.* a protective work garment usually worn over ordinary clothes. 5. (pl.) hard-wearing work trousers with a bib and shoulder-straps or jacket attached.

overarm (ˌəʊvərˌɑ:m) *adj.* 1. *Sport, esp. cricket.* bowled, thrown, or performed with the arm raised above the shoulder. ~adv. 2. with the arm raised above the shoulder.

overawe (ˌəʊvərˈɔ:ə) *vb.* (tr.) to subdue, restrain, or overcome by affecting with a feeling of awe.

overbalance *vb.* (ˌəʊvəˈbæləns). 1. to lose or cause to lose balance. 2. (tr.) another word for **outweigh**. ~n. (ˌəʊvəˈbæləns). 3. excess of weight, value, etc.

overbear (ˌəʊvərˈbeə) *vb.* **-bearing, -bore, -borne.** 1. (tr.) to dominate or overcome. 2. (tr.) to press or bear down with weight or physical force. 3. to produce or bear (fruit, etc.) excessively.

overbearing (ˌəʊvərˈbeərɪŋ) *adj.* 1. domineering or dictatorial in manner or action. 2. of particular or overriding importance or significance. —**'overbearingly** *adv.*

overblown (ˌəʊvərˈbləʊn) *adj.* 1. overdone or excessive. 2. bombastic; turgid: *overblown prose*. 3. (of flowers) past the stage of full bloom.

overboard (ˌəʊvərˈbɔ:d) *adv.* 1. from on board a vessel into the water. 2. **go overboard**. *Inf.* a. to be extremely enthusiastic. b. to go to extremes. 3. **throw overboard**, to reject or abandon.

overcast *adj.* (ˈəʊvərˌkɑ:st). 1. covered over or obscured, esp. by clouds. 2. *Meteorol.* (of the sky) cloud-covered. 3. gloomy or melancholy. 4. sewn over by overcasting. ~vb. (ˌəʊvərˌkɑ:st). 5. to make or become overclouded or gloomy. 6. to sew (an edge, as of a hem) with long stitches passing successively over the edge. ~n. (ˈəʊvərˌkɑ:st). 7. a covering, as of clouds or mist. 8. *Meteorol.* the state of the sky when it is cloud-covered.

overcharge *vb.* (ˌəʊvərˈtʃɑ:dʒ). 1. to charge too much. 2. (tr.) to fill or load beyond capacity. 3. *Literary.* another word for **exaggerate**. ~n. (ˈəʊvərˌtʃɑ:dʒ). 4. an excessive price or charge. 5. an excessive load.

overcloud (ˌəʊvərˈklaʊd) *vb.* 1. to make or become covered with clouds. 2. to make or become dark or dim.

overcoat (ˈəʊvərˌkəʊt) *n.* a warm heavy coat worn over the outer clothes in cold weather.

overcome (ˌəʊvərˌkʌm) *vb.* **-coming, -came, -come.** 1. (tr.) to get the better of in a conflict. 2. (often passive) to render incapable or powerless by laughter, sorrow, exhaustion, etc. 3. (tr.) to surmount obstacles, objections, etc. 4. (intr.) to be victorious.

overdo (ˌəʊvərˈdu:) *vb.* **-doing, -did, -done.** (tr.) 1. to take or carry too far; do to excess. 2. to exaggerate, overelaborate, or overplay. 3. to cook or bake too long.

overabundance *n.*

overact *vb.*

overactive *adj.*

overaggressive *adj.*

overambitious *adj.*

overanxious *adj.*

overappreciative *adj.*

overassertive *adj.*

overbid *vb.*

overbid *n.*

overbold *adj.*

overbook *vb.*

overcapacity *n.*

overcareful *adj.*

overcautious *adj.*

overcivil *adj.*

overcommon *adj.*

overcompensate *vb.*

overcomplacency *n.*

overcomplicate *vb.*

overconcern *n.*

overconfident *adj.*

overconscientious *adj.*

overconsiderate *adj.*

overcook *vb.*

overcostly *adj.*

overcritical *adj.*

overcrowd *vb.*

overcurious *adj.*

overdecorative *vb.*

overdependence *n.*

overdependent *adj.*

overdetailed *adj.*

overdevelop *vb.*

overdiligent *adj.*

4. overdo it, things, etc. to overtax one's strength, capacity, etc.

overdose *n.* ('aʊvə,dəʊs). 1. (esp. of drugs) an excessive dose. ~*vb.* ('aʊvə,dəʊs). 2. (tr.) to give an excessive dose to. —*over'dosage n.*

overdraft ('aʊvə,draʊt) *n.* 1. a withdrawal of money in excess of the credit balance on a bank account. 2. the amount of money withdrawn thus.

overdraw ('aʊvə,droʊ) *vb.* -drawing, -drew, -drawn. 1. to draw on (a bank account) in excess of the credit balance. 2. (tr.) to exaggerate in describing or telling.

overdress *vb.* ('aʊvə,dres). 1. to dress (oneself or another) too elaborately or finely. ~*n.* ('aʊvə,dres). 2. a dress that may be worn over a jumper, blouse, etc.

overdrive *n.* ('aʊvə,draiv). 1. a very high gear in a motor vehicle used at high speeds to reduce wear. ~*vb.* ('aʊvə,draiv). -driving, -drove, -driven. 2. (tr.) to drive too hard or too far; overwork or overuse.

overdue ('aʊvə,dju:) *adj.* past the time specified, required, or preferred for arrival, occurrence, payment, etc.

overestimate *vb.* ('aʊvə'esti,meɪt). 1. (tr.) to estimate too highly. ~*n.* ('aʊvə'estimɪt). 2. an estimate that is too high. —*over'esti'mation n.*

overflow *vb.* ('aʊvə'fləʊ), -flowing, -flowed, -flown. 1. to flow or run over (a limit, brim, etc.). 2. to fill or be filled beyond capacity so as to spill or run over. 3. (intr.; usually foll. by *with*) to be filled with happiness, tears, etc. 4. (tr.) to spread or cover over; flood or inundate. ~*n.* ('aʊvə,fləʊ). 5. overflowing matter, esp. liquid. 6. any outlet that enables surplus liquid to be discharged or drained off. 7. the amount by which a limit, capacity, etc., is exceeded.

overgrow ('aʊvə'grəʊ) *vb.* -growing, -grew, -grown. 1. (tr.) to grow over or across (an area, path, etc.). 2. (tr.) to choke or supplant by a stronger growth. 3. (tr.) to grow too large for. 4. (intr.) to grow beyond normal size. —*over'growth n.*

overhang *vb.* ('aʊvə'hæŋ), -hanging, -hung. 1. to project or extend beyond (a surface, building, etc.). 2. (tr.) to hang or be suspended over. 3. (tr.) to menace, threaten, or dominate. ~*n.* ('aʊvə,hæŋ). 4. a formation, object, etc., that extends beyond or hangs over something, such as an outcrop of rock overhanging a mountain face. 5. the amount or extent of projection.

overhaul *vb.* ('aʊvə'hɔ:l). (tr.) 1. to examine carefully for faults, necessary repairs, etc. 2. to make repairs or adjustments to (a car, machine, etc.). 3. to overtake. ~*n.* ('aʊvə,hɔ:l). 4. a thorough examination and repair.

overhead *adj.* ('aʊvə,hed). 1. situated or operating above head height or some other reference level. 2. (prenominal) inclusive; the overhead price included meals. ~*adv.* ('aʊvə,hed). 3. over or above head height, esp. in the sky. ~*n.* ('aʊvə,hed). 4. a. a stroke in racket games played from above head height. b. (as modifier) an overhead smash. 5. (modifier) of, concerned with, or resulting from overheads: overhead costs.

overheads ('aʊvə,hedz) *pl. n.* business expenses, such as rent, that are not directly attributable to any department or product and can therefore be assigned only arbitrarily.

overhear ('aʊvə'hɪə) *vb.* -hearing, -heard. (tr.) to hear (a person, remark, etc.) without the knowledge of the speaker.

overjoy ('aʊvə'dʒɔɪ) *vb.* (tr.) to give great delight to.

overkill ('aʊvə,kɪl) *n.* 1. the capability to deploy more weapons, esp. nuclear weapons, than is necessary to

ensure military advantage. 2. any capacity or treatment that is greater than that required.

overland ('aʊvə,lænd) *adj.* (prenominal), *adv.* 1. over or across land. ~*vb.* 2. Austral. to drive (animals) overland. —*over'lander n.*

overlap *vb.* ('aʊvə'læp), -lapping, -lapped. 1. (of two things) to extend or lie partly over (each other). 2. to cover and extend beyond (something). 3. (intr.) to coincide partly in time, subject, etc. ~*n.* ('aʊvə,læp). 4. a part that overlaps or is overlapped. 5. the amount, length, etc., overlapping. 6. *Geol.* the horizontal extension of the lower beds in a series of rock strata beyond the upper beds.

overlay *vb.* ('aʊvə'leɪ), -laying, -laid. (tr.) 1. to lay or place over or upon something else. 2. (often foll. by *with*) to cover, overspread, or conceal with. 3. (foll. by *with*) to cover a surface with an applied decoration: *ebony overlaid with silver*. 4. to achieve the correct printing pressure all over (a forme or plate) by adding to the appropriate areas of the packing. ~*n.* ('aʊvə'leɪ). 5. something that is laid over something else; covering. 6. an applied decoration or layer, as of gold leaf. 7. a transparent sheet giving extra details to a map or diagram over which it is designed to be placed. 8. *Printing.* material, such as paper, used to overlay a forme or plate.

overleaf ('aʊvə'li:f) *adv.* on the other side of the page.

overlie ('aʊvə'laɪ) *vb.* -lying, -lay, -lain. (tr.) 1. to lie or rest upon. Cf. *overlay*. 2. to kill (a baby or newborn animal) by lying upon it.

overlook *vb.* ('aʊvə'lʊk). (tr.) 1. to fail to notice or take into account. 2. to disregard deliberately or indulgently. 3. to afford a view of from above: *the house overlooks the bay*. 4. to rise above. 5. to look at carefully. 6. to cast the evil eye upon (someone). ~*n.* ('aʊvə,lʊk). *U.S.* 7. a high place affording a view. 8. an act of overlooking.

overmuch ('aʊvə'mʌtʃ) *adv.*, *adj.* 1. too much; very much. ~*n.* 2. an excessive amount.

overnight *adv.* ('aʊvə'naɪt). 1. for the duration of the night. 2. in or as if in the course of one night; suddenly: *the situation changed overnight*. ~*adj.* ('aʊvə,naɪt). (usually prenominal) 3. done in, occurring in, or lasting the night: *an overnight stop*. 4. staying for one night. 5. for use during a single night. 6. occurring in or as if in the course of one night; sudden: *an overnight victory*.

overpass *n.* ('aʊvə,pɑ:s). 1. another name for *flyover* (sense 1). ~*vb.* ('aʊvə,pɑ:s). -passing, -passed, -past. (tr.) *Now rare.* 2. to pass over, through, or across. 3. to exceed. 4. to ignore.

overplay ('aʊvə'pleɪ) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to exaggerate the importance of. 2. to act or behave in an exaggerated manner. 3. **overplay one's hand.** to overestimate the worth or strength of one's position.

overpower ('aʊvə'paʊə) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to conquer or subdue by superior force. 2. to have such a strong effect on as to make helpless or ineffective. 3. to supply with more power than necessary. —*over'powering adj.*

overprint *vb.* ('aʊvə'prɪnt). 1. (tr.) to print (additional matter or another colour) on a sheet of paper. ~*n.* ('aʊvə,prɪnt). 2. additional matter or another colour printed onto a previously printed sheet. 3. additional matter applied to a finished postage stamp by printing, stamping, etc.

overrate ('aʊvə'reɪt) *vb.* (tr.) to assess too highly.

overreach ('aʊvə'ri:tʃ) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to defeat or thwart (oneself) by attempting to do or gain too much. 2. (tr.) to aim for but miss by going too far. 3. to get the better of (a person) by trickery. 4. (tr.) to reach beyond or

overdramatize *vb.*

overeager *adj.*

overeat *vb.*

overeducate *vb.*

overembellish *vb.*

overemotional *adj.*

overemphasis *n.*

overemphasize *vb.*

overenthusiasm *n.*

overenthusiastic *adj.*

overexcitable *adj.*

overexert *vb.*

overexpand *vb.*

overexpenditure *n.*

overfamiliar *adj.*

overfanciful *adj.*

overfeed *vb.*

overfill *vb.*

overfish *vb.*

overfly *vb.*

overfond *adj.*

overfull *adj.*

overgenerous *adj.*

overhasty *adj.*

overindulge *vb.*

overindulgence *n.*

overinfluence *vb.*

overinsistent *adj.*

overinsure *vb.*

overintense *adj.*

overladen *adj.*

overlarge *adj.*

overlavish *adj.*

overleap *vb.*

overload *vb.*

overload *n.*

overmany *adj.*

overmodest *adj.*

overparticular *adj.*

overpay *vb.*

overpopulate *vb.*

overpopulation *n.*

overprice *vb.*

overproduce *vb.*

overproduction *n.*

overprotect *vb.*

overproud *adj.*

over. 5. (*intr.*) to reach or go too far. 6. (*intr.*) (of a horse) to strike the back of a forefoot with the edge of the opposite hind foot.

overreact (ˌəʊvəˈrɛkt) *vb.* (*intr.*) to react excessively to something. — **overreaction** *n.*

override (ˌəʊvəˈraɪd) *vb.* **-riding, -rode, -ridden.** (*tr.*) 1. to set aside or disregard with superior authority or power. 2. to supersede or annul. 3. to dominate or vanquish by or as if by trampling down. 4. to extend or pass over, esp. to overlap. 5. to ride (a horse, etc.) too hard. 6. to ride over.

overriding (ˌəʊvəˈraɪdɪŋ) *adj.* taking precedence.

overrule (ˌəʊvəˈru:l) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to disallow the arguments of (a person) by the use of authority. 2. to rule or decide against (an argument, decision, etc.). 3. to prevail over, dominate, or influence. 4. to exercise rule over.

overrun *vb.* (ˌəʊvəˈrʌn), **-running, -ran, -run.** 1. (*tr.*) to swarm or spread over rapidly. 2. to run over (something); overflow. 3. to extend or run beyond a limit. 4. (*intr.*) (of an engine) to run with a closed throttle at a speed dictated by that of the vehicle it drives. 5. (*tr.*) to print (a book, journal, etc.) in a greater quantity than ordered. 6. (*tr.*) *Printing* to transfer (set type) from one column, line, or page, to another. 7. (*tr.*) *Arch.* to run faster than. ~*n.* (ˌəʊvəˈrʌn). 8. the act or an instance of overrunning. 9. the amount or extent of overrunning. 10. the number of copies of a publication in excess of the quantity ordered.

overseas *adv.* (ˌəʊvəˈsi:z). 1. beyond the sea; abroad. ~*adj.* (ˌəʊvəˈsi:z). 2. of, to, in, from, or situated in countries beyond the sea. 3. Also: **oversea** (ˌəʊvəˈsi:) of or relating to passage over the sea. ~*n.* (ˌəʊvəˈsi:z). 4. (*functioning as sing.*) *Inf.* a foreign country or foreign countries collectively.

oversee (ˌəʊvəˈsi:) *vb.* **-seeing, -saw, -seen.** (*tr.*) 1. to watch over and direct; supervise. 2. to watch secretly or accidentally. 3. *Arch.* to scrutinize; inspect. — **overseer** *n.*

overset (ˌəʊvəˈset) *vb.* **-setting, -set.** 1. (*tr.*) to disturb or upset. 2. (*tr.*) *Printing* to set (type or copy) in excess of the space available.

overshadow (ˌəʊvəˈʃædəʊ) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to render insignificant or less important in comparison. 2. to cast a shadow or gloom over.

overshoe (ˌəʊvəˈʃu:) *n.* a protective shoe worn over an ordinary shoe.

overshoot (ˌəʊvəˈʃu:t) *vb.* **-shooting, -shot.** 1. to shoot or go beyond (a mark or target). 2. (of an aircraft) to fly or taxi too far along a runway. 3. (*tr.*) to pass swiftly over or down over, as water over a wheel.

overshot (ˌəʊvəˈʃɒt) *adj.* 1. having or designating an upper jaw that projects beyond the lower jaw. 2. (of a water wheel) driven by a flow of water that passes over the wheel.

oversight (ˌəʊvəˈsaɪt) *n.* 1. an omission or mistake, esp. one made through failure to notice something. 2. supervision.

overspend (ˌəʊvəˈspend) *vb.* **-spending, -spent.** 1. to spend in excess of (one's desires or what one can afford). 2. (*tr.*; usually passive) to wear out.

overspill *n.* (ˌəʊvəˈspɪl). 1. a. something that spills over or is in excess. b. (*as modifier*) *overspill* population. ~*vb.* (ˌəʊvəˈspɪl), **-spilling, -spilt** or **-spilled.** 2. (*intr.*) to overflow.

overstate (ˌəʊvəˈsteɪt) *vb.* (*tr.*) to state too strongly; exaggerate or overemphasize. — **overstatement** *n.*

overstay (ˌəʊvəˈsteɪ) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to stay beyond the time, limit, or duration of. 2. **overstay** or **outstay** one's welcome. to stay (at a party etc.), longer than pleases the host.

overstep (ˌəʊvəˈstep) *vb.* **-stepping, -stepped.** (*tr.*) to go beyond (a certain or proper limit).

overstrung (ˌəʊvəˈstrʌŋ) *adj.* 1. too highly strung; tense. 2. (of a piano) having two sets of strings crossing each other at an oblique angle.

oversubscribe (ˌəʊvəsəbˈskraɪb) *vb.* (*tr.*; often passive) to subscribe or apply for in excess of available supply.

overt (ˈəʊvɜ:t) *adj.* 1. open to view; observable. 2. *Law.* open; deliberate.

overtake (ˌəʊvəˈteɪk) *vb.* **-taking, -took, -taken.** 1. *Chiefly Brit.* to move past (another vehicle or person) travelling in the same direction. 2. (*tr.*) to pass or do better than, after catching up with. 3. (*tr.*) to come upon suddenly or unexpectedly: *night overtook him.* 4. (*tr.*) to catch up with; draw level with.

overtax (ˌəʊvəˈtæks) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to tax too heavily. 2. to impose too great a strain on.

overthrow *vb.* (ˌəʊvəˈθrəʊ), **-throwing, -threw, -thrown.** 1. (*tr.*) to effect the downfall or destruction of (a ruler, institution, etc.), esp. by force. 2. (*tr.*) to throw or turn over. 3. to throw (something, esp. a ball) too far. ~*n.* (ˌəʊvəˈθrəʊ). 4. downfall; destruction. 5. *Cricket.* a ball thrown back too far by a fielder. b. a run scored because of this.

overtime *n.* (ˌəʊvəˈtaɪm). 1. a. work at a regular job done in addition to regular working hours. b. (*as modifier*): *overtime* pay. 2. the rate of pay established for such work. 3. time in excess of a set period. 4. *Sport, U.S.* extra time. ~*adv.* (ˌəʊvəˈtaɪm). 5. beyond the regular or stipulated time. ~*vb.* (ˌəʊvəˈtaɪm). 6. (*tr.*) to exceed the required time for (a photographic exposure, etc.).

overtone (ˌəʊvəˈtʌn) *n.* 1. (*often pl.*) additional meaning or nuance: *overtones of despair.* 2. *Music, acoustics.* any of the tones, with the exception of the fundamental, that constitute a musical sound and contribute to its quality.

overture (ˌəʊvəˈtʃʊə) *n.* 1. *Music.* a. a piece of orchestral music that is played at the beginning of an opera or oratorio, often containing the main musical themes of the work. b. a one-movement orchestral piece, usually having a descriptive or evocative title. 2. (*often pl.*) a proposal, act, or gesture initiating a relationship, negotiation, etc. 3. something that introduces what follows. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 4. to make or present an overture to. 5. to introduce with an overture.

overturn *vb.* (ˌəʊvəˈtɜ:n). 1. to turn or cause to turn from an upright or normal position. 2. (*tr.*) to overthrow or destroy. ~*n.* (ˌəʊvəˈtɜ:n). 3. the act of overturning or the state of being overturned.

overweening (ˌəʊvəˈwi:nɪŋ) *adj.* 1. (of a person) excessively arrogant or presumptuous. 2. (of opinions, appetites, etc.) excessive; immoderate. — **overweeningness** *n.*

overweight *adj.* (ˌəʊvəˈweɪt). 1. weighing more than is usual, allowed, or healthy. ~*n.* (ˌəʊvəˈweɪt). 2. extra or excess weight. ~*vb.* (ˌəʊvəˈweɪt). (*tr.*) 3. to give too much emphasis or consideration to. 4. to add too much weight to. 5. to weigh down.

overwhelm (ˌəʊvəˈweɪlm) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to overpower the thoughts, emotions, or senses of. 2. to overcome with irresistible force. 3. to cover over or bury completely. 4. to weigh or rest upon overpoweringly. — **overwhelming** *adj.*

overwork *vb.* (ˌəʊvəˈwɜ:k). (*mainly tr.*) 1. (*also intr.*) to work too hard or too long. 2. to use too much: *to overwork an excuse.* 3. to decorate the surface of. ~*n.* (ˌəʊvəˈwɜ:k). 4. excessive or excessively tiring work.

overwrought (ˌəʊvəˈrɔ:t) *adj.* 1. full of nervous tension; agitated. 2. too elaborate; fussy: *an overwrought style.* 3. (*often postpositive* and foll. by *with*) with the surface decorated or adorned.

ovi- or ovo- combining form. egg or ovum: *oviform; ooviviparous.*

oviduct (ˈɒvɪˌdʌkt, ˈəʊ-) *n.* the tube through which ova are conveyed from an ovary. Also called (in mammals): **Fallopian tube.** — **oviducal** (ˌɒvɪˈdju:kəl, ˈəʊ-) or **oviductal** *adj.*

oviform (ˈɒvɪˌfɔ:m) *adj.* *Biol.* shaped like an egg.

ovine (ˈəʊvaɪn) *adj.* of, relating to, or resembling a sheep.

oviparous (əʊˈvɪpərəs) *adj.* (of fishes, reptiles, birds, etc.) producing eggs that hatch outside the body of the mother. Cf. **viviparous** (sense 1). — **oviparity** (ˌəʊvɪˈpærɪti) *n.* — **oviparously** *adv.*

ovoid (ˈəʊvɔɪd) *adj.* 1. egg-shaped. ~*n.* 2. something that is ovoid.

override *adj.*
overscrupulous *adj.*
oversensitive *adj.*
oversimplify *vb.*
oversleep *vb.*

overstock *vb.*
overstretch *vb.*
overstrict *adj.*
overtire *vb.*
overtop *vb.*

overtrump *vb.*
overuse *vb. n.*
overvalue *vb.*
overzealous *adj.*

ovulate ('ɒvjuːleɪt) *vb.* (*intr.*) to produce or discharge eggs from an ovary. — **ovu·lation** *n.*

ovule ('ɒvjuːl) *n.* 1. a small body in seed-bearing plants that contains the egg cell and develops into the seed after fertilization. 2. *Zool.* an immature ovum. — **ovu·lar** *adj.*

ovum ('əʊvəm) *n.*, *pl.* **ova** ('əʊvə). an unfertilized female gamete; egg cell.

owe (əʊ) *vb.* (*mainly tr.*) 1. to be under an obligation to pay (someone) to the amount of. 2. (*intr.*) to be in debt: *he still owes for his house.* 3. (often foll. by *to*) to have as a result (of). 4. to feel the need or obligation to do, give, etc. 5. to hold or maintain in the mind or heart (esp. in **owe a grudge**). — **owing** ('əʊɪŋ) *adj.* 1. (*postpositive*) owed; due. 2. **owing to**, (*prep.*) because of or on account of.

▷ **Usage.** See at **due**.

owl (aʊl) *n.* 1. a nocturnal bird of prey having large front-facing eyes, a small hooked bill, soft feathers, and a short neck. 2. any of various breeds of owl-like fancy domestic pigeon. 3. a person who looks or behaves like an owl, esp. in having a solemn manner. — **owlish** *adj.*

own (əʊn) *determiner.* (*preceded by a possessive*) 1. *a.* (*intensifier*): *John's own idea.* *b.* (*as pronoun*): *I'll use my own.* 2. on behalf of oneself or in relation to oneself: *he is his own worst enemy.* 3. **come into one's own.** *a.* to fulfil one's potential. *b.* to receive what is due to one. 4. **get one's own back.** *Inf.* to have revenge. 5. **hold one's own.** to maintain one's situation or position, esp. in spite of opposition or difficulty. 6. **on one's own.** *a.* without help. *b.* by oneself; alone. ~*vb.* 7. (*tr.*) to have as one's possession. 8. (*when intr.*, often foll. by *up to*, *to*, or *up to*) to confess or admit; acknowledge. 9. (*tr.*; takes a clause as object) *Now rare*, to concede: *I own that you are right.* — **owner** *n.* — **owner, ship** *n.*

owner-occupier *n.* someone who has bought or is buying the house in which he lives.

ox (ɒks) *n.*, *pl.* **oxen**. 1. an adult castrated male of any domesticated species of cattle used for draught work and meat. 2. any bovine mammal, esp. any of the domestic cattle.

oxalic acid (ɒk'sælk) *n.* a colourless poisonous crystalline acid found in many plants: used as a bleach and a cleansing agent for metals. Formula: (COOH)₂.

oxbow ('ɒks,bəʊ) *n.* 1. a U-shaped piece of wood fitted under and around the neck of a harnessed ox and attached to the yoke. 2. Also called: **oxbow lake**, a small curved lake lying on the flood plain of a river and constituting the remnant of a former meander.

Oxbridge ('ɒks,bɪdʒ) *n.* *a.* the British universities of Oxford and Cambridge, esp. considered as ancient and prestigious academic institutions, bastions of privilege and superiority, etc. *b.* (*as modifier*): **Oxbridge arrogance**.

oxen ('ɒksən) *n.* the plural of **ox**.

oxeye ('ɒks,aɪ) *n.* 1. a Eurasian composite plant having daisy-like flower heads with yellow rays and dark centres. 2. any of various North American plants having daisy-like flowers. 3. **oxeye daisy**, a type of hardy perennial chrysanthemum.

Oxfam ('ɒks,fæm) *n.* *acronym* for Oxford Committee for Famine Relief.

Oxford Movement *n.* the movement within the Church of England initiated by the Tractarians at Oxford in 1833, insisting upon the continuity of the Church with patristic Christianity and opposing liberalizing and rationalizing tendencies.

oxidation ('ɒksɪ'deɪʃən) *n.* *a.* the act or process of oxidizing. *b.* (*as modifier*): *an oxidation state.* — **oxi·da·tional** *adj.* — **oxi,dative** *adj.* — **oxi,date** *vb.*

oxide ('ɒksaɪd) *n.* 1. any compound of oxygen with

another element. 2. any organic compound in which an oxygen atom is bound to two alkyl groups; an ether.

oxidize or **-ise** ('ɒksɪ,dəɪz) *vb.* 1. to undergo or cause to undergo a chemical reaction with oxygen, as in formation of an oxide. 2. to form a layer of metal oxide, as in rusting. 3. to lose or cause to lose hydrogen atoms. 4. to undergo a decrease in the number of electrons. — **oxi,dization** or **-i,sation** *n.*

Oxon ('ɒksən) *abbrev. for:* 1. (in degree titles, etc.) of Oxford. 2. Oxfordshire.

Oxonian (ɒk'səʊniən) *adj.* 1. of or relating to Oxford or Oxford University. ~*n.* 2. a member of Oxford University. 3. an inhabitant or native of Oxford.

oxtail ('ɒks,tel) *n.* the skinned tail of an ox, used esp. in soups and stews.

oxtongue ('ɒks,tʌŋ) *n.* 1. any of various Eurasian composite plants having oblong bristly leaves and clusters of dandelion-like flowers. 2. any of various other plants having bristly tongue-shaped leaves. 3. the tongue of an ox, braised or boiled as food.

oxy- *combining form.* denoting something sharp; acute: *oxytone*.

oxy- *combining form.* containing or using oxygen: *oxyacetylene*.

oxyacetylene ('ɒksɪə'setɪ,lɪn) *n.* *a.* a mixture of oxygen and acetylene; used in a blowpipe for cutting or welding metals at high temperatures. *b.* (*as modifier*): *an oxyacetylene burner*.

oxygen ('ɒksɪdʒən) *n.* *a.* a colourless odourless highly reactive gaseous element: the most abundant element in the earth's crust. Symbol: O; atomic no.: 8; atomic wt.: 15.9994. *b.* (*as modifier*): *an oxygen mask.* — **oxygenic** ('ɒksɪ'dʒenɪk) or **oxygenous** (ɒk'sɪdʒɪnəs) *adj.*

oxygenate ('ɒksɪdʒɪ,neɪt), **oxygenize** or **-ise** *vb.* to enrich or be enriched with oxygen: *to oxygenate blood.* — **oxygen·ation** *n.* — **oxygen·izable** or **-isable** *adj.* — **oxyge,nizer** or **-iser** *n.*

oxygen tent *n.* *Med.* a transparent enclosure covering a bedridden patient, into which oxygen is released to help maintain respiration.

oxyhaemoglobin ('ɒksɪ,hɪməʊ'glæbɪn) *n.* *Biochem.* the bright red product formed when oxygen from the lungs combines with haemoglobin in the blood.

oxymoron ('ɒksɪ'mɔːrən) *n.*, *pl.* **-mora** ('-mɔːrə). *Rhetoric.* an epigrammatic effect, by which contradictory terms are used in conjunction: *beautiful tyrant*.

oyez or **oyes** ('əʊjes, -jez) *interj.* 1. a cry, usually uttered three times, by a public crier or court official for silence and attention before making a proclamation. ~*n.* 2. such a cry.

oyster ('ɔɪstə) *n.* 1. *a.* an edible marine bivalve mollusc having a rough irregularly shaped shell and occurring on the sea bed, mostly in coastal waters. *b.* (*as modifier*): *oyster farm; oyster knife.* 2. any of various similar and related molluscs, such as the pearl oyster and the saddle oyster. 3. the oyster-shaped piece of dark meat in the hollow of the pelvic bone of a fowl. 4. something from which advantage, delight, profit, etc., may be derived: *the world is his oyster.* 5. *Inf.* a very uncommunicative person. ~*vb.* 6. (*intr.*) to dredge for, gather, or raise oysters.

oystercatcher ('ɔɪstə,kætʃə) *n.* a shore bird having a black or black-and-white plumage and a long stout laterally compressed red bill.

oz or **oz.** *abbrev. for* ounce.

ozone ('əʊzən, əʊ'zən) *n.* 1. a colourless gas with a chlorine-like odour, formed by an electric discharge in oxygen: a strong oxidizing agent, used in bleaching, sterilizing water, purifying air, etc. Formula: O₃. 2. *Inf.* clean bracing air, as found at the seaside. — **ozonic** (əʊ'zɒnɪk) or **ozonous** *adj.*

P

p or **P** (pi:) *n.*, *pl.* **p's**, **P's**, or **Ps**. 1. the 16th letter of the English alphabet. 2. a speech sound represented by this letter. 3. **mind one's p's and q's**. to be careful to use polite or suitable language.

p *symbol for*: 1. (in Britain) penny or pence. 2. *Music*. piano: an instruction to play quietly. 3. *Physics*. pico. 4. *Physics*. a. momentum. b. proton. c. pressure.

P *symbol for*: 1. *Chem.* phosphorus. 2. *Physics*. a. pressure. b. power. c. parity. d. poise. 3. (on road signs) parking. 4. *Chess*. pawn. 5. (of a medicine or drug) available only from a chemist's shop, but not requiring a prescription to obtain it.

p. *abbrev. for*: 1. (*pl.* **pp.**) page. 2. part. 3. participle. 4. past. 5. per. 6. *Currency*. a. peseta. b. peso. 7. pint. 8. pipe. 9. population. 10. post. 11. pro.

pa (pɑ:) *n.* an informal word for **father**.

Pa *the chemical symbol for protactinium*.

P.A. *abbrev. for*: 1. personal assistant. 2. *Mil.* Post Adjutant. 3. power of attorney. 4. press agent. 5. Press Association. 6. private account. 7. public-address system. 8. publicity agent. 9. Publishers Association. 10. purchasing agent.

p.a. *abbrev. for* per annum.

pubulum ('pʌbjʊləm) *n.* *Rare*. 1. food. 2. food for thought.

pace¹ (peɪs) *n.* 1. a. a single step in walking. b. the distance covered by a step. 2. a measure of length equal to the average length of a stride, approximately 3 feet. 3. speed of movement, esp. of walking or running. 4. rate or style of proceeding at some activity: *to live at a fast pace*. 5. manner or action of stepping, walking, etc.; gait. 6. any of the manners in which a horse or other quadruped walks or runs. 7. a manner of moving, sometimes developed in the horse, in which the two legs on the same side are moved at the same time. 8. **put (someone) through his paces**. to test the ability of (a person). 9. **keep pace with**. to proceed at the same speed as. 10. **set the pace**. to determine the rate at which a group runs or walks or proceeds at some other activity. ~*vb.* 11. (*tr.*) to set or determine the pace for, as in a race. 12. (often foll. by *about*, *up* and *down*, etc.) to walk with regular slow or fast paces, as in boredom, agitation, etc.: *to pace the room*. 13. (*tr.*; often foll. by *out*) to measure by paces: *to pace out the distance*. 14. (*intr.*) to walk with slow regular strides. 15. (*intr.*) (of a horse) to move at the pace (the specially developed gait).

pace² ('peɪs; *Latin* 'pɑ:ke) *prep.* with due deference to: used to acknowledge politely someone who disagrees.

pacemaker ('peɪs,meɪkə) *n.* 1. a person, horse, vehicle, etc., used in a race or speed trial to set the pace. 2. a person, organization, etc., regarded as being the leader in a particular activity. 3. Also called: **cardiac pacemaker**. a small area of specialized tissue within the wall of the heart whose spontaneous electrical activity initiates and controls the heartbeat. 4. Also called: **artificial pacemaker**. an electronic device to assume the functions of the natural cardiac pacemaker.

pachyderm ('pæki,dɜ:m) *n.* any very large thick-skinned mammal, such as an elephant, rhinoceros, or hippopotamus. —**pachy**/dermatous *adj.*

pacific ('pæɪsɪfɪk) *adj.* 1. tending or conducive to peace; conciliatory. 2. not aggressive. 3. free from conflict; peaceful. —**pa**'cifically *adv.*

Pacific ('pæɪsɪfɪk) *n.* 1. the, short for **Pacific Ocean**, the world's largest and deepest ocean. ~*adj.* 2. of or relating to the Pacific Ocean or its islands.

pacifier ('pæɪsɪ,faiə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that pacifies. 2. *U.S.* a baby's dummy or teething ring.

pacifism ('pæɪsɪ,fɪzəm) *n.* 1. the belief that violence of any kind is unjustifiable and that one should not participate in war, etc. 2. the belief that international disputes can be settled by arbitration rather than war. —**pacifist** *n.*, *adj.*

pacify ('pæɪsɪ,fai) *vb.* -fying, -fied. (*tr.*) 1. to calm the anger or agitation of; mollify. 2. to restore to peace or order. —**pacifiable** *adj.* —**pacifi**'cation *n.*

pack¹ (pæk) *n.* 1. a. a bundle or load, esp. one carried on the back. b. (*as modifier*): *a pack animal*. 2. a collected

amount of anything. 3. a complete set of similar things, esp. a set of 52 playing cards. 4. a group of animals of the same kind, esp. hunting animals: *a pack of hounds*. 5. any group or band that associates together, esp. for criminal purposes. 6. any group or set regarded dismissively: *a pack of fools*; *a pack of lies*. 7. *Rugby*. the forwards of a team. 8. the basic organizational unit of Cub Scouts and Brownies. 9. a small package, carton, or container, used to retail commodities, esp. foodstuffs, cigarettes, etc. 10. short for **pack ice**. 11. the quantity of something, such as food, packaged for preservation. 12. *Med.* a sheet or blanket, either damp or dry, for wrapping about the body, esp. for its soothing effect. 13. *Austral. & N.Z.* another name for **rucksack**. 14. Also called: **face pack**. a cream treatment that cleanses and tones the skin. 15. a parachute folded and ready for use. 16. **go to the pack**. *Austral. & N.Z. inf.* to fall into a worse state or condition. 17. *Computers*. another name for **deck** (sense 5). ~*vb.* 18. to place or arrange (articles) in (a container), such as clothes in a suitcase. 19. (*tr.*) to roll up into a bundle. 20. (when passive, often foll. by *out*) to press tightly together; cram: *the audience packed into the foyer*; *the hall was packed out*. 21. to form (snow, ice, etc.) into a hard compact mass or (of snow, etc.) to become compacted. 22. (*tr.*) to press in or cover tightly. 23. (*tr.*) to load (a horse, donkey, etc.) with a burden. 24. (often foll. by *off* or *away*) to send away or go away, esp. hastily. 25. (*tr.*) to seal (a joint) by inserting a layer of compressible material between the faces. 26. (*tr.*) *Med.* to treat with a pack. 27. (*tr.*) *Sl.* to be capable of inflicting (a blow, etc.): *he packs a mean punch*. 28. (*tr.*) *U.S. inf.* to carry or wear habitually: *he packs a gun*. 29. (*tr.*; often foll. by *in*, *into*, *to*, etc.) *U.S. & N.Z.* to carry (goods, etc.), esp. on the back. 30. **send packing**. *inf.* to dismiss preemptorily. ~See also **pack in**, **pack up**. —**packable** *adj.*

pack² ('pæk) *vb.* (*tr.*) to fill (a legislative body, committee, etc.) with one's own supporters: *to pack a jury*.

package ('pækɪdʒ) *n.* 1. any wrapped or boxed object or group of objects. 2. a. a proposition, offer, or thing for sale in which separate items are offered together as a unit. b. (*as modifier*): *a package holiday*; *a package deal*. 3. the act or process of packing or packaging. 4. *Computers*. a set of programs designed for a specific type of problem. 5. the usual *U.S.* word for **packet** (sense 1). ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 6. to wrap in or put into a package. 7. to design and produce a package for (retail goods). 8. to group (separate items) together as a single unit. —**packager** *n.*

packet ('pækɪt) *n.* 1. a small or medium-sized container of cardboard, paper, etc., often together with its contents: *a packet of biscuits*. *Usual U.S. word*: **package**. 2. a small package; parcel. 3. Also called: **packet boat**. a boat that transports mail, passengers, goods, etc., on a fixed short route. 4. *Sl.* a large sum of money: *to cost a packet*. ~*vb.* 5. (*tr.*) to wrap up in a packet or as a packet.

packhorse ('pæk,hɔ:s) *n.* a horse used to transport goods, equipment, etc.

pack ice *n.* a large area of floating ice, consisting of pieces that have become massed together.

pack in *vb.* (*tr.*, *adv.*) *Brit. & N.Z. inf.* to stop doing (something) (often in **pack it in**).

packing ('pæknɪŋ) *n.* 1. a. material used to cushion packed goods. b. (*as modifier*): *a packing needle*. 2. the packaging of foodstuffs. 3. any substance or material used to make joints watertight or gastight.

packsaddle ('pæk,sæd'l) *n.* a saddle hung with packs, equipment, etc., used on a pack animal.

packthread ('pæk,θred) *n.* a strong twine for sewing or tying up packages.

pack up *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. to put (things) away in a proper or suitable place. 2. *inf.* to give up (an attempt) or stop doing (something). 3. (*intr.*) (of an engine, etc.) to fail to operate; break down.

pack (pæk) *n.* an agreement or compact between two or more parties, nations, etc.

pad¹ (pæd) *n.* 1. a thick piece of soft material used to make something comfortable, give it shape, or protect it. 2. Also called: **stamp pad**, **ink pad**. a block of firm

absorbent material soaked with ink for transferring to a rubber stamp. **3.** Also called: **notepad**, **writing pad**. a number of sheets of paper fastened together along one edge. **4.** a flat piece of stiff material used to back a piece of blotting paper. **5. a.** the fleshy cushion-like underpart of the foot of a cat, dog, etc. **b.** any of the parts constituting such a structure. **6.** any of various level surfaces or flat-topped structures, such as a launch pad. **7.** the large flat floating leaf of the waterlily. **8. S.** a person's residence. *~vb.* **padding**, **padded**. *(tr.)* **9.** to line, stuff, or fill out with soft material, esp. in order to protect or shape. **10.** (often foll. by *out*) to inflate with irrelevant or false information: *to pad out a story*.

pad' (pæd) *vb.* **padding**, **padded**. **1.** (*intr.*; often foll. by *along*, *up*, etc.) to walk with a soft or muffled tread. **2.** (when *intr.*, often foll. by *around*) to travel (a route, etc.) on foot, esp. at a slow pace; tramp: *to pad around the country*. *~n.* **3.** a dull soft sound, esp. of footsteps.

padded cell *n.* a room, esp. one in a mental hospital, with padded surfaces in which violent inmates are placed.

padding ('pædɪŋ) *n.* **1.** any soft material used to pad clothes, etc. **2.** superfluous material put into a speech or written work to pad it out; waffle. **3.** inflated or false entries in a financial account, esp. an expense account.

paddle¹ ('pæd'l) *n.* **1.** a short light oar with a flat blade at one or both ends, used without a rowlock. **2.** Also called: **float**, a blade of a water wheel or paddle wheel. **3.** a period of paddling: *to go for a paddle upstream*. **4. a.** a paddle wheel used to propel a boat. **b. (as modifier):** a **paddle steamer**. **5.** any of various instruments shaped like a paddle and used for beating, mixing, etc. **6.** a table-tennis bat. **7.** the flattened limb of a seal, turtle, etc., specialized for swimming. *~vb.* **8.** to propel (a canoe, etc.) with a paddle. **9. paddle one's own canoe.** **a.** to be self-sufficient. **b.** to mind one's own business. **10. (tr.)** to stir or mix with or as if with a paddle. **11.** to row (a boat) steadily, but not at full pressure. **12. (intr.)** to swim with short rapid strokes, like a dog. **13. U.S. inf.** to spank. —'paddler *n.*

paddle² ('pæd'l) *vb.* (*mainly intr.*) **1.** to walk or play barefoot in shallow water, mud, etc. **2.** to dabble the fingers, hands, or feet in water. **3.** to walk unsteadily, like a baby. **4. (tr.)** *Arch.* to fondle with the fingers. *~n.* **5.** the act of paddling in water. —'paddler *n.*

paddle wheel *n.* a large wheel fitted with paddles, turned by an engine to propel a vessel.

padlock ('pædɒk) *n.* **1.** a small enclosed field, usually near a house or stable. **2.** (in horse racing) the enclosure in which horses are paraded and mounted before a race. **3. Austral. & N.Z.** any area of fenced land.

paddy¹ ('pædɪ) *n., pl. -dies*. **1.** Also called: **paddy field**. a field planted with rice. **2.** rice as a growing crop or when harvested but not yet milled.

paddy² ('pædɪ) *n., pl. -dies.* *Brit. inf.* a fit of temper.

padlock ('pæd,lɒk) *n.* **1.** a detachable lock having a hinged or sliding shackle, which can be used to secure a door, lid, etc., by passing the shackle through rings or staples. *~vb.* **2. (tr.)** to fasten as with a padlock.

padre ('pædri) *n. Inf. (sometimes cap.)* **1.** father: used to address or refer to a priest. **2.** a chaplain to the armed forces.

paean or *U.S. (sometimes) psalm* ('pi:ən) *n.* **1.** a hymn sung in ancient Greece in thanksgiving to a deity. **2.** any song of praise. **3.** enthusiastic praise: *the film received a paean from the critics*.

paediatrician or *U.S. pediatrician* ('pi:diə'triʃən) *n.* a medical practitioner who specializes in paediatrics.

paediatrics or *U.S. pediatrics* ('pi:di'ætri:ks) *n.* the branch of medical science concerned with children and their diseases. —'paedi'atric or *U.S. pedi'atric* *adj.*

paedo-, pedo- or before a vowel **paed-, ped-** combining form. indicating a child or children: *paedophilia*.

paedophilia ('pi:diə'filɪə) *n.* the condition of being sexually attracted to children. —'paedophile ('pi:diə'fai) or *paedo'philic* *n., adj.*

paella (pa'i'eɪə) *n., pl. -las* (-ləz). **1.** a Spanish dish made from rice, shellfish, chicken, and vegetables. **2.** the pan in which a paella is cooked.

pagan ('peɪɡən) *n.* **1.** a member of a group professing any religion other than Christianity, Judaism, or Islam. **2.** a person without any religion; heathen. *~adj.* **3.** of or relating to pagans. **4.** heathen; irreligious. —'pagandom *n.* —'paganish *adj.* —'paganism *n.*

page¹ ('peɪdʒ) *n.* **1.** one side of one of the leaves of a book, newspaper, etc. or the written or printed matter it bears. **2.** such a leaf considered as a unit. **3.** an episode,

phase, or period: *a glorious page in the revolution*. *~vb.* **4. (tr.)** another word for **paginate**.

page² ('peɪdʒ) *n.* **1.** a boy employed to run errands, carry messages, etc., for the guests in a hotel, club, etc. **2.** a youth in attendance at official functions or ceremonies, esp. weddings. **3. Medieval history.** **a.** a boy in training for knighthood in personal attendance on a knight. **b.** a youth in the personal service of a person of rank. *~vb. (tr.)* **4.** to call out the name of a person, esp. by a loudspeaker system, so as to give him a message. **5.** to act as a page to or attend as a page.

pageant ('pædʒənt) *n.* **1.** an elaborate colourful display portraying scenes from history, etc. **2.** any magnificent or showy display, procession, etc.

pageantry ('pædʒəntri) *n., pl. -ries*. **1.** spectacular display or ceremony. **2. Arch.** pageants collectively.

pageboy ('peɪdʒ,bɔɪ) *n.* **1.** a smooth medium-length hair style with the ends of the hair curled under. **2.** a less common word for **page**¹.

paginate ('pædʒɪ,neɪt) *vb. (tr.)* to number the pages of (a book, manuscript, etc.) in sequence. —'pagi'nation *n.*

pagoda (pə'gəʊdə) *n.* an Indian or Far Eastern temple, esp. a tower, usually pyramidal and having many storeys.

paid (peɪd) *vb.* **1.** the past tense or past participle of **pay**¹. **2.** put paid to. *Chiefly Brit.* to end or destroy: *breaking his leg put paid to his hopes of running in the Olympics*.

pail (peɪl) *n.* **1.** a bucket, esp. one made of wood or metal. **2.** Also called: **paiful**. the quantity that fills a pail.

pain (peɪn) *n.* **1.** the sensation of acute physical hurt or discomfort caused by injury, illness, etc. **2.** emotional suffering or mental distress. **3. on pain of.** subject to the penalty of. **4.** Also called: **pain in the neck.** *Inf.* a person or thing that is a nuisance. *~vb. (tr.)* **5.** to cause (a person) hurt, grief, anxiety, etc. **6. Inf.** to annoy; irritate. —'painless *adj.*

pained (peɪnd) *adj.* having or expressing pain or distress, esp. mental or emotional distress.

painful ('peɪnfʊl) *adj.* **1.** causing pain; distressing: *a painful duty*. **2.** affected with pain. **3.** tedious or difficult. **4. Inf.** extremely bad. —'painfully *adv.* —'painfulness *n.*

painkiller ('peɪn,kɪlə) *n.* **1.** an analgesic drug or agent. **2.** anything that relieves pain.

pains (peɪnz) *pl. n.* **1.** care or trouble (esp. in **take pains**, **be at pains to**). **2.** labour pains.

painstaking ('peɪnz,teɪkɪŋ) *adj.* extremely careful, esp. as to fine detail. —'pains,takingly *adv.* —'pains-,takingness *n.*

paint (peɪnt) *n.* **1.** a substance used for decorating or protecting a surface, esp. a mixture consisting of a solid pigment suspended in a liquid that dries to form a hard coating. **2.** a dry film of paint on a surface. **3. Inf. face make-up, such as rouge. **4.** short for **greasepaint**. *~vb.* **5.** to make (a picture) of (a figure, landscape, etc.) with paint applied to a surface such as canvas. **6.** to coat (a surface, etc.) with paint, as in decorating. **7. (tr.)** to apply (liquid, etc.) onto (a surface): *she painted the cut with antiseptic*. **8. (tr.)** to apply make-up onto (the face, lips, etc.). **9. (tr.)** to describe vividly in words. **10. paint the town red.** *Inf.* to celebrate uninhibitedly. —'painty *adj.***

paintbrush ('peɪnt,bʁʌʃ) *n.* a brush used to apply paint.

painted lady *n.* a migratory butterfly with pale brownish-red mottled wings.

painter¹ ('peɪntə) *n.* **1.** a person who paints surfaces as a trade. **2.** an artist who paints pictures. —'painterly *adj.*

painter² ('peɪntə) *n.* a line attached to the bow of a boat for tying it up.

painting ('peɪntɪŋ) *n.* **1.** the art of applying paints to canvas, etc. **2.** a picture made in this way. **3.** the act of applying paint to a surface.

pair (peə) *n., pl. pairs* or *inf. pair*. **1.** two identical or similar things matched for use together: *a pair of socks*. **2.** two persons, animals, things, etc., used or grouped together: *a pair of horses; a pair of scoundrels*. **3.** an object considered to be two identical or similar things joined together: *a pair of trousers*. **4.** two people joined in love or marriage. **5.** a male and a female animal of the same species kept for breeding purposes. **6. Parliament.** **a.** two opposed members who both agree not to vote on a specified motion. **b.** the agreement so made. **7.** two playing cards of the same rank or denomination. **8.** one member of a matching pair: *I can't find the pair to*

this glove. ~vb. 9. (often foll. by *off*) to arrange or fall into groups of twos. 10. to group or be grouped in matching pairs. 11. to join or be joined in marriage; mate or couple. 12. (when *tr.*, usually *passive*) *Parliament* to form or cause to form a pair.

► **Usage.** Like other collective nouns, *pair* takes a singular or a plural verb according to whether it is seen as a unit or as a collection of two things: *the pair of cuff links was gratefully received*; *that pair (the two of them) are on very good terms*.

paisley ('peɪzli) *n.* 1. a pattern of small curving shapes with intricate detailing. 2. a soft fine wool fabric traditionally printed with this pattern. 3. a shawl made of this fabric, popular in the late 19th century. 4. (*modifier*) of or decorated with this pattern: a *paisley scarf*.

pajamas (pə'dʒɑ:məz) *pl. n.* the U.S. spelling of *pyjamas*.

Paki ('pæki) *n.* *Brit. sl. derog.* a Pakistani immigrant residing in Britain.

Pakistan (,pɑ:kɪ'stɑ:n) *adj.* 1. of or relating to Pakistan, a country in the Indian subcontinent. ~*n.* 2. a native or inhabitant of Pakistan.

pal (pæl) *Inf.* ~*n.* 1. a close friend; comrade. ~vb. **palling, palled.** 2. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *with*) to associate as friends.

palace ('pælɪs) *n.* (*cap. when part of a name*) 1. the official residence of a reigning monarch. 2. the official residence of various high-ranking people, as of an archbishop. 3. a large and richly furnished building resembling a royal palace.

paladin ('pælədɪn) *n.* 1. one of the legendary twelve peers of Charlemagne's court. 2. a knightly champion.

palaeo-, before a vowel **palae-** or esp. U.S. **paleo-**, **pale-** combining form. old, ancient, or prehistoric: *palaeography*.

Palaeocene ('pælɪəʊ,sɪn) *adj.* 1. of, denoting, or formed in the first epoch of the Tertiary period. ~*n.* 2. *the*, the Palaeocene epoch or rock series.

palaeography (,pælɪ'ɒgrəfi) *n.* 1. the study of the handwritings of the past, and often the manuscripts, etc., so that they may be dated, read, etc. 2. a handwriting of the past. —**palaeographer** *n.* —**palaeographic** (,pælɪ'ɒgrəfɪk) or **palaeographical** *adj.*

Palaeolithic (,pælɪəʊ'lɪθɪk) *n.* 1. the period of the emergence of primitive man and the manufacture of unpolished chipped stone tools, about 2.5 million to 3 million years ago. ~*adj.* 2. (*sometimes not cap.*) of or relating to this period.

palaeontology (,pælɪən'tɒlədʒɪ) *n.* the study of fossils to determine the structure and evolution of extinct animals and plants and the age and conditions of deposition of the rock strata in which they are found. —**palaeontological** (,pælɪ,ɒntə'lɒdʒɪkəl) *adj.* —**palaeontologist** *n.*

Palaeozoic (,pælɪəʊ'zəʊɪk) *adj.* 1. of, denoting, or relating to an era of geological time that began with the Cambrian period and lasted until the end of the Permian period. ~*n.* 2. *the*, the Palaeozoic era.

palanquin or **palankeen** (,pælən'kɪn) *n.* a covered litter, formerly used in the Orient, carried on the shoulders of four men.

palatable ('pælətəbəl) *adj.* pleasant, acceptable, or satisfactory. —**palatability** or **'palatableness** *n.* —**'palatably** *adv.*

palatal ('pælətəl) *adj.* 1. Also: **palatine**, of or relating to the palate. 2. **Phonetics**, of, relating to, or denoting a speech sound articulated with the blade of the tongue touching the hard palate. ~*n.* 3. Also called: **palatine**, the bony plate that forms the palate. 4. **Phonetics**, a palatal speech sound, such as (j). —**'palatally** *adv.*

palate ('pælit) *n.* 1. the roof of the mouth, separating the oral and nasal cavities. See **hard palate**, **soft palate**. 2. the sense of taste: *she had no palate for the wine*. 3. relish or enjoyment.

palatial ('pælɪəl) *adj.* of, resembling, or suitable for a palace; sumptuous. —**'palatially** *adv.*

palatine ('pælə,tæn) *adj.* 1. (of an individual) possessing royal prerogatives in a territory. 2. of or relating to a count palatine, county palatine, palatinate, or palatine. 3. of or relating to a palace. ~*n.* 4. *Feudal history*, the lord of a palatinate. 5. any of various important officials at the late Roman, Merovingian, or Carolingian courts.

palatine² ('pælə,tæn) *adj.* 1. of the palate. ~*n.* 2. either of two bones forming the hard palate.

palaver (pə'lɑ:və) *n.* 1. tedious or time-consuming business, esp. when of a formal nature: *all the palaver of filling in forms*. 2. confused talk and activity; hubbub.

3. (often used humorously) a conference. 4. *Now rare*, talk intended to flatter or persuade. ~vb. 5. (*intr.*) (often used humorously) to have a conference. 6. (*intr.*) to talk confusedly. 7. (*tr.*) to flatter or cajole.

pale¹ (peɪ) *adj.* 1. lacking brightness or colour: *pale morning light*. 2. (of a colour) whitish. 3. dim or wan: *the pale stars*. 4. feeble: a *pale effort*. ~vb. 5. to make or become pale or paler; blanch. 6. (*intr.*; often foll. by *before*) to lose superiority (in comparison to): *her beauty paled before that of her hostess*. —**'palely** *adv.* —**'pale-ness** *n.* —**'palish** *adj.*

pale² (peɪ) *n.* 1. a wooden post or strip used as an upright member in a fence. 2. an enclosing barrier, esp. a fence made of pales. 3. an area enclosed by a pale. 4. *Heraldry*, a vertical stripe, usually in the centre of a shield. 5. *beyond the pale*, outside the limits of social convention.

paleface ('peɪ,feɪs) *n.* a derogatory term for a White person, said to have been used by North American Indians.

paleo- or before a vowel **pale-** combining form. variants (esp. U.S.) of **palaeo-**.

Palestinian (,pælɪ'stɪniən) *adj.* 1. of or relating to Palestine, a former country in the Middle East. ~*n.* 2. a native or inhabitant of this area. 3. a descendant of an inhabitant of this area, displaced when Israel became a state.

palette or **pallet** ('pælit) *n.* 1. a flat piece of wood, plastic, etc., used by artists as a surface on which to mix their paints. 2. the range of colours characteristic of a particular artist, painting, or school of painting: a *restricted palette*.

palette knife *n.* a spatula with a thin flexible blade used in painting and cookery.

palfrey ('pɔ:lfri) *n.* *Arch.* a light saddle horse, esp. ridden by women.

palindrome (,pælɪn'drəʊm) *n.* a word or phrase the letters of which, when taken in reverse order, read the same: *able was I ere I saw Elba*. —**palindromic** (,pælɪn'drəʊmɪk) *adj.*

paling ('peɪlɪŋ) *n.* 1. a fence made of pales. 2. pales collectively. 3. a single pale. 4. the act of erecting pales.

palisade (,pælɪ'seɪd) *n.* 1. a strong fence made of stakes driven into the ground, esp. for defence. 2. one of the stakes used in such a fence. ~vb. 3. (*tr.*) to enclose with a palisade.

pall¹ (pɔ:l) *n.* 1. a cloth covering, usually black, spread over a coffin or tomb. 2. a coffin, esp. during the funeral ceremony. 3. a dark heavy covering; shroud: *the clouds formed a pall over the sky*. 4. a depressing or oppressive atmosphere: *her bereavement cast a pall on the party*. 5. *Heraldry*, a Y-shaped bearing. 6. *Christianity*, a small square linen cloth with which the chalice is covered at the Eucharist. ~vb. 7. (*tr.*) to cover or depress with a pall.

pall² (pɔ:l) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*; often foll. by *on*) to become boring, insipid, or tiresome (to): *history classes palled on me*. 2. to cloy or satiate, or become cloyed or satiated.

palladium (pə'læɪdɪəm) *n.* a ductile malleable silvery-white element of the platinum metal group: used as a catalyst and, alloyed with gold, in jewellery, etc. Symbol: Pd; atomic no.: 46; atomic wt.: 106.4.

pallbearer ('pɔ:l,bɛərə) *n.* a person who carries or escorts the coffin at a funeral.

pallet¹ ('pælit) *n.* a straw-filled mattress or bed.

pallet² ('pælit) *n.* 1. an instrument with a handle and a flat, sometimes flexible, blade used by potters for shaping. 2. a portable platform for storing and moving goods. 3. *Horology*, the locking lever that engages and disengages to give impulses to the balance. 4. a variant spelling of **palette** (sense 1). 5. *Music*, a flap valve that opens to admit air to the wind chest of an organ.

palliasse or **paillasse** ('pæli,æs, ,pæli'æs) *n.* a straw-filled mattress; pallet.

palliate ('pæli,eɪt) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to lessen the severity of (pain, disease, etc.) without curing; alleviate. 2. to cause (an offence, etc.) to seem less serious; extenuate. —**'palli-ation** *n.* —**'palli-ator** *n.*

palliative ('pæliətɪv) *adj.* 1. relieving without curing. ~*n.* 2. something that palliates, such as a sedative drug. —**'palliatively** *adv.*

pallid ('pælid) *adj.* lacking colour, brightness, or vigour: a *pallid complexion*; a *pallid performance*. —**'pallidly** *adv.* —**'pallidness** or **pal'lidity** *n.*

pall-mall ('pæl'mæl) *n.* *Obs.* 1. a game in which a ball

is driven by a mallet along an alley and through an iron ring. 2. the alley itself.

pallor ('pælo) *n.* a pale condition, esp. when unnatural: *fear gave his face a deathly pallor.*

pally ('pæli) *adj.* **-lier, -liest.** *Inf.* on friendly terms.

palm¹ ('pɑ:m) *n.* 1. the inner part of the hand from the wrist to the base of the fingers. 2. a linear measure based on the breadth or length of a hand, equal to three to four inches (7.5 to 10 centimetres) or seven to ten inches (17.5 to 25 centimetres) respectively. 3. the part of a glove that covers the palm. 4. a. one side of the blade of an oar. b. the face of the fluke of an anchor. 5. a flattened part of the antlers of certain deer. 6. in the palm of one's hand. at one's mercy or command. ~*vb.* (tr.) 7. to conceal in or about the hand, as in sleight-of-hand tricks, etc. —See also **palm off**. —**palmar** ('pælmo) *adj.*

palm² ('pɑ:m) *n.* 1. any treelike plant of a tropical and subtropical family having a straight unbranched trunk crowned with large pinnate or palmate leaves. 2. a leaf or branch of any of these trees, a symbol of victory, success, etc. 3. merit or victory. —**palmaceous** ('pæl'meɪʃəs) *adj.*

palmate ('pælmet, -mit) or **palmated** *adj.* 1. shaped like an open hand: *palmate antlers.* 2. *Bot.* having five lobes that spread out from a common point: *palmate leaves.* 3. (of most water birds) having three toes connected by a web.

palmetto ('pælmetəʊ) *n.*, *pl.* **-tos** or **-toes.** any of several small chiefly tropical palms with fan-shaped leaves.

palmistry ('pɑ:mɪstri) *n.* the process or art of telling fortunes, etc., by the configuration of lines and bumps on a person's hand. Also called: **chiromancy**. —**palmist** *n.*

palm off *vb.* (tr., *adv.*, often foll. by *on*) 1. to offer, sell or spend fraudulently: *to palm off a counterfeit coin.* 2. to divert in order to be rid of: *I palmed the unwelcome visitor off on John.*

palm oil *n.* an oil obtained from the fruit of certain palms, used as an edible fat and in soap, etc.

Palm Sunday *n.* the Sunday before Easter commemorating Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

palmly ('pɑ:mi) *adj.* **palmier, palmiest.** 1. prosperous, flourishing, or luxurious: *a palmly life.* 2. covered with, relating to, or resembling palms.

palomino ('pælə'mɪnoʊ) *n.*, *pl.* **-nos.** a golden horse with a white mane and tail.

palpable ('pælpəbəl) *adj.* 1. (usually *prenominal*) easily perceived by the senses or the mind; obvious: *a palpable lie.* 2. capable of being touched; tangible. —**palpability** *n.* —**palpably** *adv.*

palpate ('pælpet) *vb.* (tr.) *Med.* to examine (an area of the body) by the sense of touch. —**palpation** *n.*

palpitate ('pælpɪteɪt) *vb.* (intr.) 1. (of the heart) to beat rapidly. 2. to flutter or tremble. —**palpitant** *adj.* —**palpitation** *n.*

palsy ('pɔ:li) *n.*, *pl.* **-sies.** 1. *Pathol.* paralysis, esp. of a specified type: *cerebral palsy.* ~*vb.* **-syng, -sied.** (tr.) 2. to paralyse. —**palsied** *adj.*

paltry ('pɔ:ltri) *adj.* **-trier, -triest.** 1. insignificant; meagre. 2. worthless or petty. —**paltrily** *adv.* —**paltriness** *n.*

pampas ('pæmpəz) *n.* (often *functioning as pl.*) a. the extensive grassy plains of temperate South America, esp. in Argentina. b. (as *modifier*): *pampas dwellers.* —**pampean** ('pæmpɪən, pæm'pi:ən) *adj.*

pampas grass ('pæmpəs, -pəz) *n.* any of various large South American grasses, widely cultivated for their large feathery silver-coloured flower branches.

pamper ('pæmpə) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to treat with affectionate and usually excessive indulgence; coddle; spoil. 2. *Arch.* to feed to excess. —**pamperer** *n.*

pamphlet ('pæmflɪt) *n.* 1. a brief publication generally having a paper cover; booklet. 2. a brief treatise, often on a subject of current interest, in pamphlet form.

pamphleteer ('pæmflɪ'tɪə) *n.* 1. a person who writes or issues pamphlets. ~*vb.* 2. (intr.) to write or issue pamphlets.

pan¹ ('pæn) *n.* 1. a. a wide metal vessel used in cooking. b. (in *combination*): *saucepan.* 2. Also called: **panful**, the amount such a vessel will hold. 3. any of various similar vessels used in industry, etc. 4. a dish used esp. by gold prospectors for separating gold from gravel by washing and agitating. 5. either of the two dislike receptacles on a balance. 6. Also called: **lavatory pan.** *Brit.* the bowl of a lavatory. 7. a. a natural or artificial depression in the ground where salt can be obtained by the evaporation of brine. b. a natural depression containing water

or mud. 8. a small cavity containing priming powder in the locks of old guns. 9. a hard substratum of soil. ~*vb.* **panning, panned.** 10. (when *tr.*, often foll. by *off* or *out*) to wash (gravel) in a pan to separate particles of (valuable minerals) from it. 11. (intr.; often foll. by *out*) (of gravel, etc.) to yield valuable minerals by this process. 12. (tr.) *Inf.* to criticize harshly: *the critics panned his new play.* —See also **pan out**.

pan² ('pæn) *vb.* **panning, panned.** 1. to move (a film camera) or (of a film camera) to be moved so as to follow a moving object or obtain a panoramic effect. ~*n.* 2. the act of panning.

pan- *combining form.* 1. all or every: *panchromatic.* 2. including or relating to all parts or members: *Pan-American; pantheistic.*

panacea ('pænə'siə) *n.* a remedy for all diseases or ills. —**panacea** *adj.*

panache ('pænʃ, -'nɑ:ʃ) *n.* 1. a dashing manner; swagger: *he rides with panache.* 2. a plume on a helmet.

Pan-American *adj.* of, relating to, or concerning North, South, and Central America collectively or the advocacy of political or economic unity among American countries. —**Pan-A-mericanism** *n.*

pancake ('pæn,keɪk) *n.* 1. a thin flat cake made from batter and fried on both sides. 2. a stick or flat cake of compressed make-up. 3. Also called: **pancake landing.** an aircraft landing made by levelling out a few feet from the ground and then dropping onto it. ~*vb.* 4. to cause (an aircraft) to make a pancake landing or (of an aircraft) to make a pancake landing.

Pancake Day *n.* another name for **Shrove Tuesday**. See **Shrove**.

pancreas ('pæŋkriəs) *n.* a large elongated glandular organ, situated behind the stomach, that secretes insulin and pancreatic juice. —**pancreatic** ('pæŋkri'ætik) *adj.*

panda ('pændə) *n.* 1. Also called: **giant panda.** a large black-and-white herbivorous bearlike mammal, related to the raccoons and inhabiting the bamboo forests of China. 2. **lesser or red panda.** a closely related smaller animal resembling a raccoon of the mountain forests of S Asia, having a reddish-brown coat and ringed tail.

panda car *n.* *Brit.* a police patrol car.

pandemic ('pændemɪk) *adj.* 1. (of a disease) affecting persons over a wide geographical area; extensively epidemic. ~*n.* 2. a pandemic disease.

pandemonium ('pændi'məniəm) *n.* 1. wild confusion; uproar. 2. a place of uproar and chaos.

pander ('pændə) *vb.* 1. (intr.; foll. by *to*) to give gratification (to weaknesses or desires). 2. (arch. when *tr.*) to act as a go-between in a sexual intrigue (for). ~*n.* also **panderer.** 3. a person who caters for vulgar desires. 4. a person who procures a sexual partner for another; pimp.

pandit ('pændɪt; *spelling pron.* 'pændɪt) *n.* **Hinduism.** a variant spelling of **pundit**.

p. & p. *Brit. abbrev. for postage and packing.*

pane ('peɪn) *n.* 1. a sheet of glass in a window or door. 2. a panel of a window, door, wall, etc. 3. a flat section or face, as of a cut diamond.

panegyric ('pæni'dʒɪrɪk) *n.* a formal public commendation; eulogy. —**panegyric** *adj.* —**panegyrically** *adv.* —**panegyrist** *n.* —**panegyrize** or **-rise** ('pændʒɪ, -raɪz) *vb.*

panel ('pænl) *n.* 1. a flat section of a wall, door, etc. 2. any distinct section of something, esp. of a car body. 3. a piece of material inserted in a skirt, etc. 4. a. a group of persons selected to act as a team in a quiz, to discuss a topic before an audience, etc. b. (as *modifier*): *a panel game.* 5. *Law.* a. a list of persons summoned for jury service. b. the persons on a jury. 6. *Scot. law.* a person accused of a crime. 7. a. a thin board used as a surface or backing for an oil painting. b. a painting done on such a surface. 8. any picture with a length much greater than its breadth. 9. *Brit.* (formerly) a. a list of patients insured under the National Health Insurance Scheme. b. a list of medical practitioners available for consultation by these patients. ~*vb.* **-elling, -elled** or **U.S. -eling, -eled.** (tr.) 10. to furnish or decorate with panels. 11. *Law.* a. to empanel (a jury). b. (in Scotland) to bring (a person) to trial; indict.

panelling or **U.S. paneling** ('pænlɪŋ) *n.* 1. panels collectively, as on a wall or ceiling. 2. material used for making panels.

panellist or **U.S. panelist** ('pænlɪst) *n.* a member of a panel, esp. on radio or television.

pang ('pæŋ) *n.* a sudden brief sharp feeling, as of loneliness, physical pain, or hunger.

pangolin (pæn'gəʊlɪn) *n.* a mammal of central Africa, S Asia, and Indonesia, having a scaly body and a long snout for feeding on ants and termites. Also called: **scaly anteater**.

panic ('pænik) *n.* 1. a sudden overwhelming feeling of terror or anxiety, esp. one affecting a whole group of people. 2. (modifier) of or resulting from such terror: **panic measures**. 3. (modifier) for use in an emergency: **panic stations; panic button**. ~*vb.* -**icking**, -**icked**. 4. to feel or cause to feel panic. — **panicky** *adj.*

panicle ('pænikl) *n.* a compound raceme, as in the oat. — **panicked** *adj.* — **paniculate** (pə'nikjuːleɪt, -lɪt) *adj.*

panic-stricken or **panic-struck** *adj.* affected by panic.

panjandrum (pæn'dʒændrəm) *n.* a pompous self-important man.

pannier ('pæniə) *n.* 1. a large basket, esp. one of a pair slung over a beast of burden. 2. one of a pair of bags slung either side of the back wheel of a motor cycle, etc. 3. (esp. in the 18th century) a. a hooped framework to distend a woman's skirt. b. one of two puffed out loops of material worn drawn back onto the hips.

panoply ('pænəpli) *n., pl. -plies*. 1. a complete or magnificent array. 2. the entire equipment of a warrior. — **panoplied** *adj.*

panorama (pænə'raɪmə) *n.* 1. an extensive unbroken view in all directions. 2. a wide or comprehensive survey of a subject. 3. a large extended picture of a scene, unrolled before spectators a part at a time so as to appear continuous. — **panoramic** (pænə'ræmik) *adj.* — **panoratically** *adv.*

pan out *vb. (intr., adv.)* *Inf.* to work out; result.

pansy ('pænzɪ) *n., pl. -sies*. 1. a garden plant having flowers with rounded velvety petals, white, yellow, or purple in colour. 2. *Sl.* an effeminate or homosexual man or boy.

pant (pænt) *vb.* 1. to breathe with noisy deep gasps, as when out of breath from exertion. 2. to say (something) while breathing thus. 3. (*intr.*; often foll. by *for*) to have a frantic desire (*for*). 4. (*intr.*) to throb rapidly. ~*n.* 5. the act or an instance of panting. 6. a short deep gasping noise.

pantaloon (pæntə'luːn) *n.* 1. (in pantomime) an absurd old man, the butt of the clown's tricks. 2. (*usually cap.*) (in commedia dell'arte) a lecherous old merchant dressed in pantaloons.

pantaloons (pæntə'luːnz) *pl. n.* 1. (formerly) men's tight-fitting trousers fastened below the calf or under the shoe. 2. *Inf.* any trousers, esp. baggy ones.

pantechnicon (pæn'teknikən) *n. Brit.* 1. a large van, esp. one used for furniture removals. 2. a warehouse where furniture is stored.

pantheism ('pænθɪzəm) *n.* 1. the doctrine that regards God as identical with the material universe or the forces of nature. 2. readiness to worship all gods. — **pantheist** *n.* — **pantheistic** or **pantheistical** *adj.* — **pantheistically** *adv.*

pantheon ('pænθɪən) *n.* 1. (esp. in ancient Greece or Rome) a temple to all the gods. 2. all the gods of a religion. 3. a building commemorating a nation's dead heroes.

panther ('pænθə) *n., pl. -thers* or **-ther**. 1. another name for **leopard** (sense 1), esp. the black variety (**black panther**). 2. U.S. any of various related animals, esp. the puma.

panties ('pæntɪz) *pl. n.* a pair of women's or children's underpants.

panthorse ('pæntɪ,həʊz) *n.* a less common word for **tights**.

pantile ('pæn,tail) *n.* a roofing tile, with an S-shaped cross section, so that the downward curve of one tile overlaps the upward curve of the next.

panto ('pæntəʊ) *n., pl. -tos. Brit. inf.* short for **pantomime**.

panto- or before a vowel **pant-** combining form. all: **pantisocracy; pantograph; pantomime**.

pantograph ('pæntə,græf) *n.* 1. an instrument consisting of pivoted levers for copying drawings, maps, etc., to any scale. 2. a sliding type of current collector, esp. a diamond-shaped frame mounted on a train roof in contact with an overhead wire. — **pantographic** (pæntə'græfɪk) *adj.*

pantomime ('pæntə,maim) *n.* 1. (in Britain) a kind of play performed at Christmas time characterized by farce, music, lavish sets, stock roles, and topical jokes. 2. a theatrical entertainment in which words are replaced by gestures and bodily actions. 3. action without

words as a means of expression. 4. *Inf., chiefly Brit.* a confused or farcical situation. ~*vb.* 5. another word for **mime**. — **pantomimic** (pæntə'mimɪk) *adj.* — **pantomimist** ('pæntə,maimɪst) *n.*

pantry ('pæntri) *n., pl. -tries*. a small room in which provisions, cooking utensils, etc., are kept; larder.

pants (pænts) *pl. n.* 1. *Brit.* an undergarment covering the body from the waist to the thighs or knees. 2. the usual U.S. name for **trousers**. 3. **bore**, **scare**, etc., the **pants off**. *Inf.* to bore, scare, etc., extremely.

panzer ('pænzə; German 'pantzər) *n.* 1. (modifier) of or relating to the fast mechanized armoured units employed by the German army in World War II: a **panzer attack**. 2. a vehicle belonging to a panzer unit, esp. a tank. 3. (*pl.*) armoured troops.

pap ('pæp) *n.* 1. any soft or semiliquid food esp. for babies or invalids; mash. 2. worthless or oversimplified ideas, etc.; drivel. 3. *S. African.* maize porridge.

pap ('pæp) *n.* 1. *Arch. or N. Brit. dialect.* a nipple or teat. 2. something resembling a breast, such as one of a pair of rounded hillslops.

papa ('pɑːpə) *n. Arch.* an informal word for **father**.

papacy ('peɪpəsi) *n., pl. -cies*. 1. the office or term of office of a pope. 2. the system of government in the Roman Catholic Church in which the pope is head.

papal ('peɪpl) *adj.* of or relating to the pope or the papacy. — **papally** *adv.*

papaw or **pawpaw** ('pɑːpɑː) *n.* 1. Also called: **custard apple**. a. a bush or small tree of Central North America, having small fleshy edible fruit. b. the fruit of this tree. 2. another name for **papaya**.

papaya (pə'paɪə) *n.* 1. a West Indian evergreen tree with a crown of large dissected leaves and large green hanging fruit. 2. the fruit of this tree, having a yellow sweet edible pulp and small black seeds. ~Also called: **pawpaw**.

paper ('peɪpə) *n.* 1. a substance made from cellulose fibres derived from rags, wood, etc., and formed into flat thin sheets suitable for writing on, decorating walls, wrapping, etc. 2. a single piece of such material, esp. if written or printed on. 3. (*usually pl.*) documents for establishing the identity of the bearer. 4. (*pl.*) Also called: **ship's papers**, official documents relating to a ship. 5. (*pl.*) collected diaries, letters, etc. 6. See **newspaper** or **wallpaper**. 7. **Government**. See **white paper**, **green paper**. 8. a lecture or treatise on a specific subject. 9. a short essay. 10. a. a set of examination questions. b. the student's answers. 11. **Theatre** *sl.* a free ticket. 12. **on paper**, in theory, as opposed to fact. ~*adj.* 13. made of paper: **paper cups** do not last long. 14. thin like paper: **paper walls**. 15. (*prenominal*) existing only in theory: **paper expenditure**. 16. taking place in writing: **paper battles**. ~*vb.* 17. to cover (walls) with wallpaper. 18. (*tr.*) to cover or furnish with paper. 19. (*tr.*) **Theatre** *sl.* to fill (a performance, etc.) by giving away free tickets (esp. in **paper the house**). ~See also **paper over**. — **paperer** *n.* — **paperly** *adj.*

paperback ('peɪpə,bæk) *n.* 1. a book or edition with covers made of flexible card. ~*adj.* 2. of or denoting a paperback or publication of paperbacks. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to publish a paperback edition of a book.

paperboy ('peɪpə,bɔɪ) *n.* a boy employed to deliver newspapers, etc. — **paper, girl** *fem. n.*

paper chase *n.* a cross-country run in which a runner lays a trail of paper for others to follow.

paperclip ('peɪpə,kli:p) *n.* a clip for holding sheets of paper together; esp. one of bent wire.

paperhanger ('peɪpə,hæŋə) *n.* a person who hangs wallpaper as an occupation.

paperknife ('peɪpə,nɑɪf) *n., pl. -knives*. a knife with a comparatively blunt blade for opening sealed envelopes, etc.

paper money *n.* paper currency issued by the government or the central bank as legal tender and which circulates as a substitute for specie.

paper over *vb. (tr., adv.)* to conceal (something controversial or unpleasant).

paperweight ('peɪpə,wet) *n.* a small heavy object to prevent loose papers from scattering.

paperwork ('peɪpə,wɜ:k) *n.* clerical work, such as the writing of reports or letters.

papier-mâché (pæ'piə,mæʃeɪ) *n.* 1. a hard strong substance made of paper pulp or layers of paper mixed with paste, size, etc., and moulded when moist. ~*adj.* 2. made of papier-mâché.

papilla (pə'pɪlə) *n., pl. -lae* (-li-). 1. the small projection of tissue at the base of a hair, tooth, or feather. 2. any

similar protuberance. —**pa'pillary**, 'papillate, or 'papillose *adj.*

papist ('peipst) *n.*, *adj.* (often *cap.*) Usually disparaging, another term for **Roman Catholic**. —**pa'pistical** or **pa'pistic** *adj.* —**papistry** *n.*

papoose (pə'pu:s) *n.* an American Indian baby.

paprika ('pæprika, pæ'pri:-) *n.* 1. a mild powdered seasoning made from a sweet variety of red pepper. 2. the fruit or plant from which this seasoning is obtained.

Pap test or **smear** *n.* *Med.* an examination of stained cells in a smear taken of bodily secretions, esp. from the uterus, for detection of cancer.

papyrus (pə'paɪrəs) *n.*, *pl.* -ri (-rai) or -ruses. 1. a tall aquatic plant of S Europe and N and Central Africa. 2. a kind of paper made from the stem pith of this plant, used by the ancient Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans. 3. an ancient document written on this paper.

par (pɑ:) *n.* 1. an accepted standard, such as an average (esp. in **up to par**). 2. a state of equality (esp. in **on a par with**). 3. *Finance*, the established value of the unit of one national currency in terms of the unit of another. 4. *Commerce*. a. See **par value**. b. equality between the current market value of a share, bond, etc., and its face value, indicated by **at par**; **above** (or **below**) **par** indicates that the market value is above (or below) face value. 5. *Golf*, a standard score for a hole or course that a good player should make: *par for the course was 72*. ~*adj.* 6. average or normal. 7. (usually *prenominal*) of or relating to **par**: *par value*.

par. *abbrev. for:* 1. paragraph. 2. parallel. 3. parenthesis. 4. parish.

para ('pæɪə) *n.* *Inf.* 1. a parachutist, esp. a soldier. 2. paragraph.

para- or before a vowel **par-** *prefix*. 1. beside; near: *parameter*. 2. beyond: *parapsychology*. 3. resembling: *paratyphoid fever*. 4. defective; abnormal: *paranoia*. 5. (usually in *italics*) denoting that an organic compound contains a benzene ring with substituents attached to atoms that are directly opposite (the 1,4-positions): *para-cresol*. 6. denoting an isomer, polymer, or compound related to a specified compound: *paraldehyde*. 7. denoting the form of a diatomic substance in which the spins of the two constituent atoms are antiparallel: *parahydrogen*.

para- *combining form*, indicating an object that acts as a protection against something: *parachute*; *parasol*.

parable ('pærəb'l) *n.* 1. a short story that uses familiar events to illustrate a religious or ethical situation. 2. any of the stories of this kind told by Jesus Christ.

parabola (pə'ræbələ) *n.* a conic section formed by the intersection of a cone by a plane parallel to its side.

parabolic ('pærə'bɒlɪk) *adj.* of, relating to, or shaped like a parabola.

parabolic ('pærə'bɒlɪk) or **parabolical** *adj.* of or like a parabola. —**para'bolically** *adv.*

paracetamol ('pærə'sɪtə,mɒl, -'setə-) *n.* a mild analgesic drug.

parachute ('pærəʃu:t) *n.* 1. a device used to retard the fall of a person or package from an aircraft, consisting of a large fabric canopy connected to a harness. ~*vb.* 2. (of troops, supplies, etc.) to land or cause to land by parachute from an aircraft. —**para'chutist** *n.*

parade (pə'reɪd) *n.* 1. an ordered, esp. ceremonial, march or procession, as of troops being reviewed. 2. Also called: **parade ground**, a place where military formations regularly assemble. 3. a visible show or display: *to make a parade of one's grief*. 4. a public promenade or street of shops. 5. a successive display of things or people. 6. **on parade**, exhibiting oneself. ~*vb.* 7. (when *intr.*, often *followed by through or along*) to walk or march, esp. in a procession. 8. (*tr.*) to exhibit or flaunt: *he was parading his medals*. 9. (*tr.*) to cause to assemble in formation, as for a military parade. 10. (*intr.*) to walk about in a public place. —**pa'rader** *n.*

paradigm ('pærə'daɪm) *n.* 1. the set of all the inflected forms of a word. 2. a pattern or model. —**paradigmatic** ('pærədɪg'mætɪk) *adj.*

paradise ('pærə'daɪs) *n.* 1. heaven as the ultimate abode or state of the righteous. 2. *Islam*, the sensual garden of delights that the Koran promises the faithful after death. 3. Also called: **limbo**, (according to some theologians) the intermediate abode or state of the just prior to the Resurrection of Jesus. 4. the Garden of Eden. 5. any place or condition that fulfils all one's desires or aspirations. 6. a park in which foreign animals are kept. —**paradisical** ('pærədɪ'saɪkəl), **paradisac** ('pærə'dɪsɪ,æk), or **paradisaical** ('pærədɪ'seɪkəl) *adj.*

paradox ('pærə'dɒks) *n.* 1. a seemingly absurd or self-contradictory statement that is or may be true: *religious truths are often expressed in paradox*. 2. a self-contradictory proposition, such as *I am always a liar*. 3. a person or thing exhibiting apparently contradictory characteristics. 4. an opinion that conflicts with common belief. —**para'doxical** *adj.* —**para'doxically** *adv.*

paraffin ('pærəfɪn) *n.* 1. Also called: **paraffin oil**, (esp. U.S.) **kerosene**, a liquid mixture consisting mainly of alkane hydrocarbons, used as an aircraft fuel, in domestic heaters, and as a solvent. 2. Also called: **paraffin wax**, a white insoluble odourless waxlike solid distilled from petroleum, used in candles, waterproof paper, and as a sealing agent. 3. See **liquid paraffin**. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 4. to treat with paraffin.

paragon ('pærəgən) *n.* a model of excellence; pattern: *a paragon of virtue*.

paragraph ('pærə'grɑ:f, -'græf) *n.* 1. one of a number of blocks into which a text is subdivided in order to separate ideas, etc., usually marked by the beginning of a new line, indentation, etc. 2. *Printing*, the character ¶, used to indicate the beginning of a new paragraph. 3. a short article, etc., in a newspaper. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 4. to form into paragraphs. 5. to express or report in a paragraph. —**paragraphic** ('pærə'græfɪk) *adj.*

parakeet or **parakeet** ('pærə'ki:t) *n.* any of numerous small long-tailed parrots.

parallax ('pærə'læks) *n.* 1. an apparent change in the position of an object resulting from a change in position of the observer. 2. *Astron.* the angle subtended at a celestial body, esp. a star, by the radius of the earth's orbit. —**parallaxic** ('pærə'læktɪk) *adj.*

parallel ('pærə'lɛl) *adj.* (when *postpositive*, usually *followed by to*) 1. separated by an equal distance at every point; never touching or intersecting: *parallel walls*. 2. corresponding; similar: *parallel situations*. 3. *Music*. Also: **consecutive**, (of two or more parts or melodies) moving in similar motion but keeping the same interval apart throughout: *parallel fifths*. 4. *Grammar*, denoting syntactic constructions in which the constituents of one construction correspond to those of the other. 5. *Computers*, operating on several items of information, instructions, etc., simultaneously. ~*n.* 6. *Maths*, one of a set of parallel lines, planes, etc., 7. an exact likeness. 8. a comparison. 9. Also called: **parallel of latitude**, any of the imaginary lines around the earth parallel to the equator, designated by degrees of latitude. 10. a. a configuration of two or more electrical components connected between two points in a circuit so that the same voltage is applied to each (esp. in **in parallel**). Cf. **series** (sense 6). b. (as *modifier*): *a parallel circuit*. 11. *Printing*, the character ¶ used as a reference mark. ~*vb.* -*leling*, -*leled*. (*tr.*) 12. to make parallel. 13. to supply a parallel to. 14. to be a parallel to or correspond with: *your experience parallels mine*.

parallel bars *pl. n.* *Gymnastics*, a pair of wooden bars on uprights used for various exercises.

parallelepiped ('pærə'lɛlə'paɪpɪd) or **parallelepipedon** ('pærə'lɛlə'paɪpɪdɒn) *n.* a geometric solid whose six faces are parallelograms.

parallelism ('pærə'lɛlɪzəm) *n.* 1. the state of being parallel. 2. *Grammar*, the use of parallel constructions. 3. *Philosophy*, the doctrine that mental and physical processes are concomitant but not causally connected.

parallelogram ('pærə'lɛlə'græm) *n.* a quadrilateral whose opposite sides are parallel and equal in length.

paralyse or **U.S. -lyze** ('pærə'laz) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. *Pathol.* to affect with paralysis. 2. *Med.* to render (a part of the body) insensitive to pain, touch, etc. 3. to make immobile; transfix. —**paraly'sation** or **U.S. -ly'zation** *n.* —**para'lyser** or **U.S. -lyzer** *n.*

paralysis (pə'rælɪsɪs) *n.*, *pl.* -ses (-sɪz) 1. *Pathol.* a. impairment or loss of voluntary muscle function or of sensation (**sensory paralysis**) in a part or area of the body. b. a disease characterized by such impairment or loss; palsy. 2. cessation or impairment of activity: *paralysis of industry by strikes*.

paralytic ('pærə'lɪtɪk) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or of the nature of paralysis. 2. afflicted with or subject to paralysis. 3. *Brit. inf.* drunk. ~*n.* 4. a person afflicted with paralysis.

paramedical ('pærə'medɪkəl) *adj.* of or designating a person, such as a laboratory technician, who supplements the work of the medical profession. —**para'medic** *n.*

parameter (pə'ræmɪtə) *n.* 1. an arbitrary constant that determines the specific form of a mathematical expression, such as *a* and *b* in $y = ax^2 + b$. 2. a

characteristic constant of a statistical population, such as its variance or mean. **3.** *Inf.* any constant or limiting factor: a designer must work within the parameters of budget and practicality. — **parametric** (ˌpærə'met-rik) *adj.*

paramilitary (ˌpærə'militəri, -tri) *adj.* denoting or relating to a group of personnel with military structure functioning either as a civil force or in support of military forces.

paramount (ˌpærə'maʊnt) *adj.* of the greatest importance or significance. — **para,mountcy** *n.* — **para,mountly** *adv.*

paramour (ˌpærə'mʊə) *n.* **1.** Now usually derog. a lover, esp. adulterous. **2.** an archaic word for beloved.

parang (ˌpærə'ɹæŋ) *n.* a Malay short stout straight-edged knife used in Borneo.

paranoia (ˌpærə'noʊiə) *n.* **1.** a mental disorder characterized by any of several types of delusions, as of grandeur or persecution. **2.** *Inf.* intense fear or suspicion, esp. when unfounded. — **para,noid** or **paranoiac** (ˌpærə'noʊik) *adj.*, *n.*

paranormal (ˌpærə'nɔːmə) *adj.* beyond normal explanation.

parapet (ˌpærə'pɛt, -pɛt) *n.* **1.** a low wall or railing along the edge of a balcony, roof, etc. **2.** another word for **breastwork**.

paraphernalia (ˌpærə'fɛniəliə) *pl. n.* (sometimes functioning as *sing.*) **1.** miscellaneous articles or equipment. **2.** *Law.* (formerly) articles of personal property given to a married woman by her husband and regarded in law as her possessions.

paraphrase (ˌpærə'freɪz) *n.* **1.** an expression of a statement or text in other words. ~*vb.* **2.** to put into other words; restate. — **paraphrastic** (ˌpærə'fræstik) *adj.*

paraplegia (ˌpærə'plɪdʒiə) *n.* *Pathol.* paralysis of the lower half of the body, usually as the result of disease or injury of the spine. — **para,plegic** *adj.*, *n.*

parapsychology (ˌpærə'saɪkələdʒi) *n.* the study of mental phenomena, such as telepathy, which are beyond the scope of normal physical explanation.

Paraquat (ˌpærə'kwɒt) *n.* *Trademark.* a yellow extremely poisonous weedkiller.

parasite (ˌpærə'saɪt) *n.* **1.** an animal or plant that lives in or on another (the host) from which it obtains nourishment. **2.** a person who habitually lives at the expense of others; sponger. — **parasitic** (ˌpærə'sɪtɪk) or **para,siti-cal** *adj.* — **parasitically** *adv.* — **parasitism** *n.*

parasol (ˌpærə'sɒl) *n.* an umbrella used for protection against the sun; sunshade.

parathion (ˌpærə'θaɪən) *n.* a toxic oil used as an insecticide.

paratroops (ˌpærə'truːps) *pl. n.* troops trained and equipped to be dropped by parachute into a battle area. Also called: **paratroopers**.

paratyphoid fever (ˌpærə'taɪfɔɪd) *n.* a disease resembling but less severe than typhoid fever, caused by bacteria of the genus *Salmonella*.

par avion *French.* (par a'vjɔ̃) by aeroplane: used in labelling mail sent by air.

parboil (ˌpɑː'bɔɪl) *vb. (tr.)* **1.** to boil until partially cooked. **2.** to subject to uncomfortable heat.

parcel (ˌpɑː'sl) *n.* **1.** something wrapped up; package. **2.** a group of people or things having some common characteristic. **3.** a quantity of some commodity offered for sale; lot. **4.** a distinct portion of land. ~*vb.* **-celling, -celled** or **U.S. -celing, -celed.** (tr.) **5.** (often foll. by *up*) to make a parcel of; wrap up. **6.** (often foll. by *out*) to divide (up) into portions.

parch (pɑːtʃ) *vb.* **1.** to deprive or be deprived of water; dry up: the sun parches the fields. **2.** (tr.; usually *passive*) to make very thirsty. **3.** (tr.) to roast (corn, etc.) lightly.

parchment (ˌpɑːtʃmənt) *n.* **1.** the skin of certain animals, such as sheep, treated to form a durable material, as for manuscripts. **2.** a manuscript, etc., made of this material. **3.** a type of stiff yellowish paper resembling parchment.

pard (pɑːd) *n.* *Arch.* a leopard or panther.

pardon (ˌpɑːd'n) *vb. (tr.)* **1.** to excuse or forgive (a person) for (an offence, mistake, etc.): to pardon someone; to pardon a fault. ~*n.* **2.** forgiveness. **3.** a. release from punishment for an offence. b. the warrant granting such release. **4.** a Roman Catholic indulgence. ~*interj.* **5.** Also: **pardon me; I beg your pardon.** a. sorry; excuse me. b. what did you say? — **pardonable** *adj.* — **pardonably** *adv.*

pardoner (ˌpɑːd'nə) *n.* (before the Reformation) a person licensed to sell ecclesiastical indulgences.

pare (peə) *vb. (tr.)* **1.** to peel (the outer layer) from (something). **2.** to cut the edges from (the nails). **3.** to decrease bit by bit. — **parer** *n.*

paregoric (ˌpærə'gɔːrɪk) *n.* a medicine consisting of opium, benzoic acid, and camphor, formerly widely used to relieve diarrhoea and coughing.

parent (ˌpeərənt) *n.* **1.** a father or mother. **2.** a person acting as a father or mother; guardian. **3.** *Rare.* an ancestor. **4.** a source or cause. **5.** an organism or organization that has produced one or more organisms similar to itself. **6.** *Physics, chem.* a precursor, such as a nucleus or compound, of a derived entity. — **pa'rental** *adj.* — **parenthood** *n.*

parentage (ˌpeərəntɪdʒ) *n.* **1.** ancestry. **2.** derivation from a particular origin. **3.** a less common word for **parenthood**.

parent company *n.* a company that owns a number of subsidiary companies.

parenthesis (pə'renθɪsɪs) *n., pl. -ses (-sɪz).* **1.** a phrase, often explanatory or qualifying, inserted into a passage with which it is not grammatically connected, and marked off by brackets, dashes, etc. **2.** Also called: **bracket.** either of a pair of characters, (), used to enclose such a phrase or as a sign of aggregation in mathematical or logical expressions. **3.** an interlude; interval. **4.** in **parenthesis**, inserted as a parenthesis. — **parenthetic** (ˌpærən'tetɪk) or **paren'thetical** *adj.* — **paren'thetically** *adv.*

parenthesize or **-sise** (pə'renθɪsaɪz) *vb. (tr.)* **1.** to place in parentheses. **2.** to insert as a parenthesis. **3.** to intersperse (a speech, writing, etc.) with parentheses.

parent teacher association *n.* a social group of the parents of children at a school and their teachers formed in order to foster better understanding between them and to organize fund-raising activities on behalf of the school.

par excellence *French.* (par ek'sel:lās; *English* pɑː'eksələns) to a degree of excellence; beyond comparison.

parfait (pɑː'fei) *n.* a rich frozen dessert made from eggs and cream, etc.

pariah (pə'raɪə; 'pærɪə) *n.* **1.** a social outcast. **2.** (formerly) a member of a low caste in South India.

parietal (pə'ri:ntl) *adj.* **1.** *Anat., biol.* of or forming the walls of a bodily cavity: the parietal bones of the skull. **2.** of or relating to the side of the skull. **3.** (of plant ovaries) having ovules attached to the walls. **4.** *U.S.* living or having authority within a college. ~*n.* **5.** a parietal bone.

pari-mutuel (ˌpærɪ'mju:tʃuəl) *n., pl. pari-mutuels* or **paris-mutuels** (ˌpærɪ'mju:tʃu:z) a system of betting in which those who have bet on the winners of a race share in the total amount wagered less a percentage for the management.

paring (ˌpɛərɪŋ) *n. (often pl.)* something pared or cut off.

parish (ˌpærɪʃ) *n.* **1.** a subdivision of a diocese, having its own church and a clergyman. **2.** the churchgoers of such a subdivision. **3.** (in England and, formerly, Wales) the smallest unit of local government. **4.** (in Louisiana) a county. **5.** (in Quebec and New Brunswick, Canada) a subdivision of a county. **6.** the people living in a parish. **7.** on the parish. *History.* receiving parochial relief.

parish clerk *n.* a person designated to assist in various church duties.

parish council *n.* *Brit.* the administrative body of a parish. See **parish** (sense 3).

parishioner (pə'riʃənə) *n.* a member of a particular parish.

parish register *n.* a book in which the births, baptisms, marriages, and deaths in a parish are recorded.

parity (ˌpærɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* **1.** equality of rank, pay, etc. **2.** close or exact analogy or equivalence. **3.** *Finance.* the amount of a foreign currency equivalent to a specific sum of domestic currency. **4.** equality between prices of commodities or securities in two separate markets. **5.** *Physics.* a. a property of a physical system characterized by the behaviour of the sign of its wave function when reflected in space. The wave function either remains unchanged (**even parity**) or changes in sign (**odd parity**). b. a quantum number describing this property, equal to +1 for even parity systems and -1 for odd parity systems. Symbol: *P* **6.** *Maths.* a relationship between two integers. If both are odd or both even they have the same parity; if one is odd and one even they have different parity.

park (pɑ:k) *n.* 1. a large area of land preserved in a natural state for recreational use by the public. 2. a piece of open land in a town with public amenities. 3. a large area of land forming a private estate. 4. *U.S.* a playing field or sports stadium. 5. *the park.* *Brit. inf.* a soccer pitch. 6. a gear selector position on the automatic transmission of a motor vehicle that acts as a parking brake. 7. the area in which the equipment and supplies of a military formation are assembled. ~*vb.* 8. to stop and leave (a vehicle) temporarily. 9. to manoeuvre (a motor vehicle) into a space for it to be left: *try to park without hitting the kerb.* 10. *(tr.)* *Inf.* to leave or put somewhere: *park yourself in front of the fire.* 11. *Mil.* to arrange equipment in a park. 12. *(tr.)* to enclose in or as a park.

parka ('pɑ:kə) *n.* a warm knee-length weatherproof coat, often with a hood, originally worn by Eskimos.

parkin ('pɑ:kin) *n.* *Brit.* moist spicy ginger cake usually containing oatmeal.

parking meter *n.* a timing device, usually coin-operated, that indicates how long a vehicle may be left parked.

parking ticket *n.* a summons served for a parking offence.

Parkinson's disease ('pɑ:kinzən) *n.* a progressive chronic disorder of the central nervous system characterized by impaired muscular coordination and tremor. Also called: **parkinism**.

Parkinson's law *n.* the notion, expressed facetiously as a law of economics, that work expands to fill the time available.

parkland ('pɑ:k,lænd) *n.* grassland with scattered trees.

parky ('pɑ:ki) *adj.* parkier, parkiest. (*usually postpositive*) *Brit. inf.* (of the weather) chilly; cold.

Parl. *abbrev. for:* 1. Parliament. 2. Also: **parl.** parliamentary.

parlance ('pɑ:ləns) *n.* a particular manner of speaking, esp. when specialized; *idiom:* *political parlance.*

parley ('pɑ:li) *n.* 1. a discussion, esp. between enemies under a truce to decide terms of surrender, etc. ~*vb.* 2. *(intr.)* to discuss, esp. with an enemy.

parliament ('pɑ:ləmənt) *n.* 1. an assembly of the representatives of a political nation or people, often the supreme legislative authority. 2. any legislative or deliberative assembly, conference, etc.

Parliament ('pɑ:ləmənt) *n.* 1. the highest legislative authority in Britain, consisting of the House of Commons, which exercises effective power, the House of Lords, and the sovereign. 2. a similar legislature in another country or state. 3. any of the assemblies of such a body created by a general election and royal summons and dissolved before the next election.

parliamentarian ('pɑ:ləmənt'etərɪən) *n.* 1. an expert in parliamentary procedures. ~*adj.* 2. of or relating to a parliament.

parliamentary ('pɑ:lə'mentəri) *adj.* (*sometimes cap.*) 1. of or proceeding from a parliament or Parliament: *a parliamentary decree.* 2. conforming to the procedures of a parliament or Parliament: *parliamentary conduct.* 3. having a parliament or Parliament.

parlour or **U.S. parlor** ('pɑ:lə) *n.* 1. *Old-fashioned.* a living room, esp. one kept tidy for the reception of visitors. 2. a small room for guests away from the public rooms in an inn, club, etc. 3. *Chiefly U.S. & N.Z.* a room or shop equipped as a place of business: *a billiard parlor.* 4. a building equipped for milking cows in.

parlous ('pɑ:ləs) *Arch.* ~*adj.* 1. dangerous or difficult. 2. cunning. ~*adv.* 3. extremely. — **parlously** *adv.*

Parmesan cheese ('pɑ:mi'zæn) *n.* a hard dry cheese used grated, esp. on pasta dishes and soups.

parochial ('pɑ:rəkiəl) *adj.* 1. narrow in outlook or scope; provincial. 2. of or relating to a parish. — **pa'rochialism** *n.* — **pa'rochially** *adv.*

parody ('pærədi) *n., pl. -dies.* 1. a musical, literary, or other composition that mimics the style of another composer, author, etc., in a humorous or satirical way. 2. something so badly done as to seem an intentional mockery; travesty. ~*vb.* -*dying, -died.* 3. *(tr.)* to make a parody of. — **parodic** ('pærədik) or **pa'rodical** *adj.* — **parodist** *n.*

parole ('pɑ:rəul) *n.* 1. a. the freeing of a prisoner before his sentence has expired, on the condition that he is of good behaviour. b. the duration of such conditional release. 2. a promise given by a prisoner, as to be of good behaviour if granted liberty or partial liberty. 3. *Linguistics.* language as manifested in the individual

speech acts of particular speakers. 4. **on parole.** conditionally released from detention. ~*vb.* *(tr.)* 5. to place (a person) on parole. — **parolee** ('pɑ:rəuli) *n.*

parotid ('pɑ:rətid) *adj.* 1. relating to, denoting, or near either of the salivary glands below and in front of each ear. ~*n.* 2. Also **parotid gland**, either of these glands.

parotitis ('pɑ:rə'taɪtɪs) *n.* inflammation of the parotid gland. See also **mumps**.

parous *adj.* combining form. giving birth to: *oviparous.*

paroxysm ('pærək,sɪzəm) *n.* 1. an uncontrollable outburst: *a paroxysm of giggling.* 2. *Pathol.* a. a sudden attack or recurrence of a disease. b. any fit or convulsion. — **parox'ysmal** *adj.*

parquet ('pɑ:keɪ,-ki) *n.* 1. a floor covering of pieces of hardwood fitted in a decorative pattern; *parquetry.* 2. Also called: **parquet floor**, a floor so covered. 3. *U.S.* the stalls of a theatre. ~*vb.* *(tr.)* 4. to cover a floor with parquet.

parquetry ('pɑ:kitri) *n.* a geometric pattern of inlaid pieces of wood, esp. as used to cover a floor.

parr (pɑ:) *n., pl. parrs or parr.* a salmon up to two years of age.

parrakeet ('pærə,ki:t) *n.* a variant spelling of **parakeet**.

paricide ('pærɪ,said) *n.* 1. the act of killing either of one's parents. 2. a person who kills his or her parent. — **parri'cidal** *adj.*

parrot ('pærət) *n.* 1. any of several related tropical and subtropical birds having a short hooked bill, bright plumage, and an ability to mimic sounds. 2. a person who repeats or imitates the words or actions of another. ~*vb.* 3. *(tr.)* to repeat or imitate without understanding.

parrot fever or **disease** *n.* another name for **psittacosis**.

parry ('pæri) *vb.* -*rying, -ried.* 1. to ward off (an attack, etc.) by blocking or deflecting, as in fencing. 2. *(tr.)* to evade (questions, etc.), esp. adroitly. ~*n., pl. -ries.* 3. an act of parrying. 4. a skilful evasion, as of a question.

parse (pɑ:z) *vb.* *Grammar.* to assign constituent structure to (a sentence or the words in a sentence).

parsec ('pɑ:sek) *n.* a unit of astronomical distance equivalent to 3.0857×10^{16} metres or 3.262 light years.

Parsee ('pɑ:si) *n.* an adherent of a Zoroastrian religion, the practitioners of which were driven out of Persia by the Muslims in the eighth century A.D. It is now found chiefly in western India. — **Parseeism** *n.*

parsimony ('pɑ:sɪməni) *n.* extreme care in spending; niggardliness. — **parsimonious** ('pɑ:sɪ'məniəs) *adj.* — **parsimoniously** *adv.*

parsley ('pɑ:slɪ) *n.* 1. a S European umbelliferous plant, widely cultivated for its curled aromatic leaves, which are used in cooking. 2. any of various similar and related plants, such as fool's-parsley and cow parsley.

parsnip ('pɑ:snɪp) *n.* 1. an umbelliferous plant cultivated for its long whitish root. 2. the root of this plant, eaten as a vegetable.

parson ('pɑ:sn) *n.* 1. a parish priest in the Church of England. 2. any clergyman.

parsonage ('pɑ:snɪdʒ) *n.* the residence of a parson, as provided by the parish.

parson's nose *n.* the fatty extreme end portion of the tail of a fowl when cooked.

part (pɑ:t) *n.* 1. a piece or portion of a whole. 2. an integral constituent of something: *dancing is part of what we teach.* 3. an amount less than the whole; *bit: they only recovered part of the money.* 4. one of several equal divisions: *mix two parts flour to one part water.* 5. an actor's role in a play. 6. a person's proper role or duty: *everyone must do his part.* 7. (*often pl.*) region; area: *you're well-known in these parts.* 8. *Anat.* any portion of a larger structure. 9. a component that can be replaced in a machine, etc. 10. the U.S. word for **parting** (sense 1). 11. *Music.* one of a number of separate melodic lines which is assigned to one or more instrumentalists or singers. 12. **for the most part**, generally. 13. **for one's part**, as far as one is concerned. 14. **in part**, to some degree; partly. 15. **of many parts**, having many different abilities. 16. **on the part of**, on behalf of. 17. **part and parcel**, an essential ingredient. 18. **play a part**, a. to pretend to be what one is not. b. to have something to do with; *be instrumental.* 19. **take in good part**, to respond to (teasing, etc.) with good humour. 20. **take part in**, to participate in. 21. **take someone's part**, to support one person in an argument, etc. ~*vb.* 22. to divide or separate from one another; take or come apart: *to part the curtains; the seams*

parted when I washed the dress. **23.** to go away or cause to go away from one another: *the couple parted amicably.* **24.** (*intr.*, foll. by *from*) to leave; say goodbye to. **25.** (*intr.*, foll. by *with*) to relinquish, esp. reluctantly: *I couldn't part with my teddy bear.* **26.** (*tr.*, foll. by *from*) to cause to relinquish, esp. reluctantly: *he's not easily parted from his cash.* **27.** (*intr.*) to split; separate: *the path parts here.* **28.** (*tr.*) to arrange (the hair) in such a way that a line of scalp is left showing. **29.** (*intr.*) a euphemism for *die*. **30.** (*intr.*) *Arch.* to depart. ~*adv.* **31.** to some extent; partly.

part. *abbrev. for:* 1. participle. 2. particular.

partake (pɑ:'teik) *vb.* -taking, -took, -taken. (*mainly intr.*) **1.** (foll. by *in*) to have a share; participate. **2.** (foll. by *of*) to take or receive a portion, esp. of food or drink. **3.** (foll. by *of*) to suggest or have some of the quality (of): *music partaking of sadness.* —**partaker** *n.*

parterre (pɑ:'teə) *n.* **1.** a formally patterned flower garden. **2.** the pit of a theatre.

parthenogenesis (pɑ:'θi:nəʊ'dʒenɪsɪs) *n.* a type of reproduction, occurring in some insects and flowers, in which the unfertilized ovum develops directly into a new individual. —**parthenogenetic** (pɑ:'θi:nəʊ'dʒɪ'netɪk) *adj.*

Parthian shot ('pɑ:θiən) *n.* a hostile remark or gesture delivered while departing.

partial ('pɑ:ʃəl) *adj.* **1.** relating to only a part; not general or complete: a *partial eclipse*. **2.** biased: a *partial judge*. **3.** (*postpositive*; foll. by *to*) having a particular liking (for). **4.** *Maths.* designating or relating to an operation in which only one of a set of independent variables is considered at a time. ~*n.* **5.** Also called: **partial tone.** *Music & acoustics.* any of the component tones of a single musical sound. **6.** *Maths.* a partial derivative. —**partiality** *n.* —**partially** *adv.* —**partialness** *n.*

partial derivative *n.* the derivative of a function of two or more variables with respect to one of the variables, the other or others being considered constant. Written *df/dx*.

participate (pɑ:'tɪsɪ,peɪt) *vb.* (*intr.*; often foll. by *in*) to take part, be or become actively involved, or share (in). —**participant** *adj.*. —**participation** or **participance** *n.* —**participator** *n.* —**participatory** *adj.*

participle ('pɑ:tɪsɪpəl) *n.* a nonfinite form of verbs, in English and other languages, used adjectivally and in the formation of certain compound tenses. See also **present participle**, **past participle**. —**participial** (pɑ:tɪ'sɪpiəl) *adj.* —**participially** *adv.*

particle ('pɑ:tɪkəl) *n.* **1.** an extremely small piece of matter; speck. **2.** a very tiny amount; iota: *it doesn't make a particle of difference.* **3.** a function word, esp. (in certain languages) a word belonging to an uninflected class having grammatical function: *up is sometimes regarded as an adverbial particle.* **4.** a common affix, such as *re-*, *un-*, or *-ness*. **5.** *Physics.* a body with finite mass that can be treated as having negligible size, and internal structure. **6.** See **elementary particle**.

parti-coloured ('pɑ:tɪ,kələd) *adj.* having different colours in different parts; variegated.

particular (pɑ:'tɪkjələ) *adj.* **1.** (*prenominal*) of or belonging to a single or specific person, thing, category, etc.; specific; special: *the particular demands of the job.* **2.** (*prenominal*) exceptional or marked: *a matter of particular importance.* **3.** (*prenominal*) relating to or providing specific details or circumstances: *a particular account.* **4.** exacting or difficult to please, esp. in details; fussy. **5.** (of the solution of a differential equation) obtained by giving specific values to the arbitrary constants in a general equation. **6.** *Logic.* (of a proposition) affirming or denying something about only some members of a class of objects, as in *some men are not wicked*. Cf. **universal** (sense 9). ~*n.* **7.** a separate distinct item that helps to form a generalization: *opposed to general.* **8.** (*often pl.*) an item of information; detail: *complete in every particular.* **9.** *Logic.* a particular proposition. **10.** in **particular**. especially or exactly. —**particularly** *adv.*

particularity (pɑ:'tɪkjəlɪrɪti) *n.*, *pl.* -ties. **1.** (*often pl.*) a specific circumstance: *the particularities of the affair.* **2.** great attentiveness to detail; fastidiousness. **3.** the quality of being precise: *a description of great particularity.* **4.** the state or quality of being particular as opposed to general; individuality.

particularize or **-ise** (pɑ:'tɪkjələ,raɪz) *vb.* **1.** to treat in detail; give details (about). **2.** (*tr.*) to apply to a particular case. —**particularization** or **-isation** *n.*

parting ('pɑ:tɪŋ) *n.* **1.** *Brit.* the line of scalp showing when sections of hair are combed in opposite directions. U.S. equivalent: **part**. **2.** the act of separating or the

state of being separated. **3.** *a.* a departure or leaving-taking, esp. one causing a final separation. *b.* (*as modifier*): *a parting embrace.* **4.** a place or line of separation or division. **5.** a euphemism for *death*. ~*adj.* (*prenominal*) **6.** *Literary.* departing: *the parting day.* **7.** serving to divide or separate.

partisan or **partizan** (pɑ:'tɪzæn, 'pɑ:tɪzæn) *n.* **1.** an adherent or devotee of a cause, party, etc. **2.** a member of an armed resistance group within occupied territory. ~*adj.* **3.** of, relating to, or characteristic of a partisan. **4.** excessively devoted to one party, faction, etc.; one-sided. —**partisanship** or **partizanship** *n.*

partition ('pɑ:tɪʃən) *n.* **1.** a division into parts; separation. **2.** something that separates, such as a large screen dividing a room in two. **3.** a part or share. **4.** *Property law.* a division of property, esp. realty, among joint owners. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) **5.** (often foll. by *off*) to separate or apportion into sections: *to partition a room off with a large screen.* **6.** *Property law.* to divide (property, esp. realty) among joint owners. —**partitioner** or **partitionist** *n.*

partitive ('pɑ:tɪtɪv) *adj.* **1.** *Grammar.* indicating that a noun involved in a construction refers only to a part of what it otherwise refers to. The phrase *some of the butter* is a partitive construction. **2.** serving to separate or divide into parts. ~*n.* **3.** *Grammar.* a partitive linguistic element or feature. —**partitively** *adv.*

partly ('pɑ:tlɪ) *adv.* not completely.

partner ('pɑ:tənə) *n.* **1.** an ally or companion: *a partner in crime.* **2.** a member of a partnership. **3.** one of a pair of dancers or players on the same side in a game: *my bridge partner.* **4.** either member of a married couple. ~*vb.* **5.** to be or cause to be a partner (of).

partnership ('pɑ:tənə,ʃɪp) *n.* **1.** *a.* a contractual relationship between two or more persons carrying on a joint business venture. *b.* the deed creating such a relationship. *c.* the persons associated in such a relationship. **2.** the state or condition of being a partner.

part of speech *n.* a class of words sharing important syntactic or semantic features; a group of words in a language that may occur in similar positions or fulfil similar functions in a sentence. The chief parts of speech in English are noun, pronoun, adjective, determiner, adverb, verb, preposition, conjunction, and interjection.

partook (pɑ:'tʊk) *vb.* the past tense of **partake**.

partridge ('pɑ:tɪdʒ) *n.*, *pl.* -tridges or -tridge. any of various small Old World game birds of the pheasant family, esp. the common or European partridge.

parts (pɑ:ts) *pl. n.* **1.** personal abilities or talents: *a man of many parts.* **2.** *private parts.* *Euphemistic.* external genital regions.

part song *n.* **1.** a song composed in harmonized parts. **2.** (*in more technical usage*) a piece of choral music in which the topmost part carries the melody.

part-time *adj.* **1.** for less than the entire time appropriate to an activity: *a part-time job.* ~*adv.* **2.** on a part-time basis: *he works part time.* ~Cf. **full-time**. —**part-timer** *n.*

parturient (pɑ:'tʃʊərɪənt) *adj.* **1.** of or relating to childbirth. **2.** giving birth. **3.** producing a new idea, etc. —**parturiency** *n.*

parturition (pɑ:'tʃʊ'rɪʃən) *n.* the act or process of giving birth.

party ('pɑ:ti) *n.*, *pl.* -ties. **1.** *a.* a social gathering for pleasure, often held as a celebration. *b.* (*as modifier*): *party spirit.* *c.* (*in combination*): *partygoer.* **2.** a group of people associated in some activity: *a rescue party.* **3.** *a.* (*often cap.*) a group of people organized together to further a common political aim, etc. *b.* (*as modifier*): *party politics.* **4.** a person, esp. one entering into a contract. **5.** the person or persons taking part in legal proceedings: *a party to the action.* ~*adj.* **6.** *Heraldry.* (of a shield) divided vertically into two colours, metals, or furs.

party line *n.* **1.** a telephone line serving two or more subscribers. **2.** the policies or dogma of a political party, etc.

party wall *n.* *Property law.* a wall separating two properties or pieces of land and over which each of the adjoining owners has certain rights.

par value *n.* the value imprinted on the face of a share certificate or bond and used to assess dividend, capital ownership, or interest.

parvenu or (*fem.*) **parvenue** ('pɑ:və,nju:) *n.* **1.** a person who, having risen socially or economically, is considered to be an upstart. ~*adj.* **2.** of or characteristic of a parvenu.

pas (pɑː) *n.*, *pl.* **pas**. a dance step or movement, esp. in ballet.

pascal ('pæskəl) *n.* the derived SI unit of pressure; the pressure exerted on an area of 1 square metre by a force of 1 newton; equivalent to 10 dynes per square centimetre or 1.45×10^4 pound per square inch. Symbol: Pa

Pasch (pɑːsk, pæsk) *n.* an archaic name for **Passover** or **Easter**. — '**Paschal** adj.

pas de deux (French pɑ də 'dø) *n.*, *pl.* **pas de deux**. Ballet. a sequence for two dancers.

pasha or **pacha** ('pɑːʃə, 'pæʃə) *n.* (formerly) a high official of the Ottoman Empire or the modern Egyptian kingdom; placed after a name when used as a title.

pasqueflower ('pɑːsk,flaʊə) *n.* 1. a small purple-flowered plant of N and Central Europe and W Asia. 2. any of several related North American plants.

pass (pɑːs) *vb.* 1. to go onwards or move by or past (a person, thing, etc.). 2. to run, extend, or lead through, over, or across (a place): *the route passes through the city*. 3. to go through or cause to go through (an obstacle or barrier): *to pass a needle through cloth*. 4. to move or cause to move onwards or over: *he passed his hand over her face*. 5. (tr.) to go beyond or exceed: *this victory passes all expectation*. 6. to gain or cause to gain an adequate mark or grade in (an examination, course, etc.). 7. (often foll. by *away* or *by*) to elapse or allow to elapse: *we passed the time talking*. 8. (intr.) to take place or happen: *what passed at the meeting?* 9. to speak or exchange or be spoken or exchanged: *angry words passed between them*. 10. to spread or cause to spread: *we passed the news round the class*. 11. to transfer or exchange or be transferred or exchanged: *the bomb passed from hand to hand*. 12. (intr.) to undergo change or transition: *to pass from joy to despair*. 13. (when tr., often foll. by *down*) to transfer or be transferred by inheritance: *the house passed to the younger son*. 14. to agree to or be agreed to by a legislative body, etc.: *the assembly passed 10 resolutions*. 15. (tr.) (of a legislative measure) to undergo (a procedural stage) and be agreed: *the bill passed the committee stage*. 16. (when tr., often foll. by *on* or *upon*) to pronounce (judgment, findings, etc.): *the court passed sentence*. 17. to go or allow to go without comment or censure: *the insult passed unnoticed*. 18. (intr.) to opt not to exercise a right, as by not answering a question or not making a bid or a play in card games. 19. to discharge (urine, etc.) from the body. 20. (intr.) to come to an end or disappear: *his anger soon passed*. 21. (intr.; usually foll. by *for* or *as*) to be likely to be mistaken for (someone or something else): *you could easily pass for your sister*. 22. (intr.; foll. by *away*, *on*, or *over*) a euphemism for *die*! 23. *Sport*. to hit, kick, or throw (the ball, etc.) to another player. 24. *bring to pass*. Arch. to cause to happen. 25. *come to pass*. Arch. to happen. ~*n.* 26. the act of passing. 27. a route through a range of mountains where there is a gap between peaks. 28. a permit, licence, or authorization to do something without restriction. 29. a. a document allowing entry to and exit from a military installation. b. a document authorizing leave of absence. 30. *Brit.* a. the passing of a college or university examination to a satisfactory standard but not as high as honours. b. (as modifier): *a pass degree*. 31. a dive, sweep, or bombing or landing run by an aircraft. 32. a motion of the hand or of a wand as part of a conjuring trick. 33. *Inf.* an attempt to invite sexual intimacy. 34. a state of affairs, esp. a bad one (esp. in a pretty pass). 35. *Sport*. the transfer of a ball, etc., from one player to another. 36. *Fencing*. a thrust or lunge. 37. *Bridge*, etc. the act of passing (making no bid). ~*interj.* 38. *Bridge*, etc. a call indicating that a player has no bid to make. ~See also **pass off**, **pass out**, etc.

pass. abbrev. for: 1. passive. 2. passenger. 3. passage.

passable ('pɑːsəbəl) *adj.* 1. adequate, fair, or acceptable. 2. (of an obstacle) capable of being crossed. 3. (of currency) valid for circulation. 4. (of a proposed law) able to be enacted. — '**passableness** *n.* — '**passably** *adv.*

passage ('pæsiʒ) *n.* 1. a channel, opening, etc., through or by which a person may pass. 2. *Music*. a section or division of a piece, movement, etc. 3. a way, as in a hall or lobby. 4. a section of a written work, speech, etc. 5. a journey, esp. by ship. 6. the act or process of passing from one place, condition, etc., to another: *passage of a gas through a liquid*. 7. the permission, right, or freedom to pass: *to be denied passage through a country*. 8. the enactment of a law by a legislative body. 9. Rare. an exchange, as of blows, words, etc.

passageway ('pæsiʒ,weɪ) *n.* a way, esp. one in or between buildings; passage.

passbook ('pɑːs,bʊk) *n.* 1. a book for keeping a record of withdrawals from and payments into a building society. 2. another name for **bankbook**. 3. *S. African*. an official document to identify the bearer, his race, residence, and employment.

passé ('pɑːseɪ, 'pæseɪ) *adj.* 1. out-of-date: *passé ideas*. 2. past the prime; faded: *a passé society beauty*.

passenger ('pæsiŋdʒə) *n.* 1. a. a person travelling in a car, train, boat, etc., not driven by him. b. (as modifier): *a passenger seat*. 2. *Chiefly Brit.* a member of a group or team who is not participating fully in the work.

passepport ('pæspɑːtuː) *n.* 1. a mounting for a picture in which strips of gummed paper bind together the glass, picture and backing. 2. the gummed paper used for this. 3. a mat on which a photograph, etc., is mounted. 4. something that secures entry everywhere, esp. a master key.

passer-by *n.*, *pl.* **passers-by**. a person that is passing or going by, esp. on foot.

passerine ('pæspɑːrɪn, -rɪn) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or belonging to an order of birds characterized by the perching habit: includes the larks, finches, starlings, etc. ~*n.* 2. any bird belonging to this order.

passim Latin. ('pæsim) *adv.* here and there; throughout: used to indicate that what is referred to occurs frequently in the work cited.

passing ('pæsiŋ) *adj.* 1. transitory or momentary: *a passing fancy*. 2. cursory or casual in action or manner: *a passing reference*. ~*adv.*, *adj.* Arch. 3. to an extreme degree: *the events were passing strange*. ~*n.* 4. a place where or means by which one may pass, cross, ford, etc. 5. a euphemistic word for death. 6. in **passing**, by the way; incidentally.

passion ('pæʃən) *n.* 1. ardent love or affection. 2. intense sexual love. 3. a strong affection or enthusiasm for an object, concept, etc.: *a passion for poetry*. 4. any strongly felt emotion, such as love, hate, envy, etc. 5. the object of an intense desire, ardent affection, or enthusiasm. 6. an outburst expressing intense emotion: *he burst into a passion of sobs*. 7. the sufferings and death of a Christian martyr. — '**passional** *adj.* — '**passionless** *adj.*

Passion ('pæʃən) *n.* 1. the sufferings of Christ from the Last Supper to his death on the cross. 2. any of the four Gospel accounts of this. 3. a musical setting of this: *the St. Matthew Passion*.

passionate ('pæʃənt) *adj.* 1. manifesting or exhibiting intense sexual feeling or desire. 2. capable of, revealing, or characterized by intense emotion. 3. easily roused to anger; quick-tempered. — '**passionately** *adv.*

passionflower ('pæʃən,flaʊə) *n.* any plant of a tropical American genus cultivated for their red, yellow, greenish, or purple showy flowers: some species have edible fruit.

passion fruit *n.* the edible fruit of any of various passionflowers, esp. granadilla.

Passion play *n.* a play depicting the Passion of Christ.

passive ('pæsiv) *adj.* 1. not active or not participating perceptibly in an activity, organization, etc. 2. unresisting and receptive to external forces; submissive. 3. affected or acted upon by an external object or force. 4. *Grammar*. denoting a voice of verbs in sentences in which the grammatical subject is the recipient of the action described by the verb, as *was broken* in the sentence *The glass was broken by a boy*. 5. *Chem.* (of a substance, esp. a metal) apparently chemically unreactive. 6. *Electronics, telecomm.* a. capable only of attenuating a signal: *a passive network*. b. not capable of amplifying a signal or controlling a function: *a passive communications satellite*. 7. *Finance*. (of a bond, share, debt, etc.) yielding no interest. ~*n.* 8. *Grammar*. a. the passive voice. b. a passive verb. — '**passively** *adv.* — '**passiveness** or **pas'sivity** *n.*

passive resistance *n.* resistance to a government, law, etc., without violence, as by fasting, demonstrating, or refusing to cooperate.

passkey ('pɑːskiː) *n.* 1. any of various keys, esp. a latchkey. 2. another term for **master key** or **skeleton key**.

pass off *vb.* (adv.) 1. to be or cause to be accepted in a false character: *he passed the fake diamonds off as real*. 2. (intr.) to come to a gradual end; disappear: *eventually the pain passed off*. 3. (intr.) to take place: *the meeting passed off without disturbance*. 4. (tr.) to set aside or disregard: *I managed to pass off his insult*.

pass out *vb. (adv.)* 1. (*intr.*) *Inf.* to become unconscious; faint. 2. (*intr.*) *Brit.* (esp. of an officer cadet) to qualify for a military commission, etc. 3. (*tr.*) to distribute.

pass over *vb.* 1. (*tr., adv.*) to take no notice of; disregard: *they passed me over in the last round of promotions.* 2. (*intr., prep.*) to disregard (something bad or embarrassing).

Passover ('pɑːsəʊvə) *n.* an eight-day Jewish festival celebrated in commemoration of the passing over or sparing of the Israelites in Egypt (Exodus 12).

passport ('pɑːspɔːt) *n.* 1. an official document issued by a government, identifying an individual, granting him permission to travel abroad, and requesting the protection of other governments for him. 2. a quality, asset, etc., that gains a person admission or acceptance.

pass up *vb. (tr., adv.)* *Inf.* to refuse or reject: *I won't pass up this opportunity.*

password ('pɑːswɜːd) *n.* 1. a secret word, phrase, etc., that ensures admission by proving identity, membership, etc. 2. an action, quality, etc., that gains admission or acceptance.

past (pɑːst) *adj.* 1. completed, finished, and no longer in existence: *past happiness.* 2. denoting or belonging to the time that has elapsed at the present moment: *the past history of the world.* 3. denoting a specific unit of time that immediately precedes the present one: *the past month.* 4. (*prepositional*) denoting a person who has held an office or position; former: *a past president.* 5. *Grammar.* denoting any of various tenses of verbs that are used in describing actions, events, or states that have been begun or completed at the time of utterance. ~*n.* 6. *the past.* the period of time that has elapsed: *forget the past.* 7. the history, experience, or background of a nation, person, etc. 8. an earlier period of someone's life, esp. one regarded as disreputable. 9. *Grammar.* a. a past tense. b. a verb in a past tense. ~*adv.* 10. at a time before the present; ago: *three years past.* 11. on or onwards: *I greeted him but he just walked past.* ~*prep.* 12. beyond in time: *it's past midnight.* 13. beyond in place or position: *the library is past the church.* 14. moving beyond: *he walked past me.* 15. beyond or above the reach, limit, or scope of: *his foolishness is past comprehension.* 16. *past it.* *Inf.* unable to perform the tasks one could do when one was younger. 17. *not put it past someone.* to consider a person capable of (something).

pasta ('pæstə) *n.* any of several variously shaped edible preparations made from a flour and water dough, such as spaghetti.

paste (peɪst) *n.* 1. a mixture of a soft or malleable consistency, such as toothpaste. 2. an adhesive made from water and flour or starch, used for joining pieces of paper, etc. 3. a preparation of food, such as meat, that has been pounded to a creamy mass, for spreading on bread, etc. 4. any of various sweet doughy confections: *almond paste.* 5. dough, esp. for making pastry. 6. a. a hard shiny glass used for making imitation gems. b. an imitation gem made of this glass. 7. the combined ingredients of porcelain. ~*vb. (tr.)* 8. (often foll. by *on* or *onto*) to attach as by using paste: *he pasted posters onto the wall.* 9. (usually foll. by *with*) to cover (a surface) with paper, etc.: *he pasted the wall with posters.* 10. *Sl.* to thrash or beat; defeat.

pasteboard ('peɪst,bɔːd) *n.* 1. a stiff board formed from layers of paper or pulp pasted together. ~*adj.* 2. flimsy or fake.

pastel ('pæstl̩, pæ'stel) *n.* 1. a. a substance made of ground pigment bound with gum. b. a crayon of this. c. a drawing done in such crayons. 2. the medium or technique of pastel drawing. 3. a pale delicate colour. ~*adj.* 4. (of a colour) pale; delicate: *pastel blue.* —*pastelist* or *pastellist* *n.*

pastern ('pæstən) *n.* the part of a horse's foot between the fetlock and the hoof.

paste-up *n.* *Printing.* a sheet of paper or board on which are pasted artwork, proofs, etc., for photographing prior to making a plate.

pasteurization or **-isation** (,pæstəraɪ'zeɪʃən, -stjə-, 'pɑː-) *n.* the process of heating beverages, such as milk, beer, wine, or cider, or solid foods, such as cheese or crab meat, to destroy harmful microorganisms.

pasteurize or **-ise** ('pæstə,raɪz, -stjə-, 'pɑː-) *vb. (tr.)* to subject (milk, beer, etc.) to pasteurization. —*'pasteurizer* or *-iser* *n.*

pastiche (pæ'stiːʃ) or **pasticcio** (pæ'stɪtʃəʊ) *n.* 1. a work of art that mixes styles, materials, etc. 2. a work of art in the style of another artist.

pastille or pastil ('pæstɪl) *n.* 1. a small flavoured or medicated lozenge. 2. an aromatic substance burnt to fumigate the air.

pastime ('pɑːs,tʌɪm) *n.* an activity or entertainment which makes time pass pleasantly.

past master *n.* 1. a person with talent for, or experience in, a particular activity. 2. a person who has held the office of master in a guild, etc.

pastor ('pɑːstə) *n.* 1. a clergyman or priest in charge of a congregation. 2. a person who exercises spiritual guidance over a number of people. 3. a S Asian starling having a black head and wings and a pale pink body. —*'pastorship* *n.*

pastoral ('pɑːstərəl) *adj.* 1. of, characterized by, or depicting rural life, scenery, etc. 2. (of a literary work) dealing with an idealized form of rural existence. 3. (of land) used for pasture. 4. of or relating to a clergyman or priest in charge of a congregation or his duties as such. 5. of or relating to shepherds, their work, etc. ~*n.* 6. a literary work or picture portraying rural life, esp. in an idealizing way. 7. *Music.* a variant spelling of *pastorale*. 8. *Ecclesiast.* a. a letter from a clergyman to the people under his charge. b. the letter of a bishop to the clergy or people of his diocese. c. Also called: **pastoral staff.** the crozier carried by a bishop. —*'pastoralism* *n.* —*'pastorally* *adv.*

pastorale (,pæstə'reɪl) *n., pl. -rales* or *-rali* (*Italian* -'ra:li). *Music.* 1. a composition evocative of rural life, sometimes with a droning accompaniment. 2. a musical play based on a rustic story.

pastoralist ('pɑːstərəlist) *n.* *Austral.* a grazier raising sheep, cattle, etc., on a large scale.

pastorate ('pɑːstəɪt) *n.* 1. the office or term of office of a pastor. 2. a body of pastors.

past participle *n.* a participial form of verbs used to modify a noun that is logically the object of a verb, also used in certain compound tenses and passive forms of the verb.

past perfect *Grammar.* ~*adj.* 1. denoting a tense of verbs used in relating past events where the action had already occurred at the time of the action of a main verb that is itself in a past tense. In English this is a compound tense formed with *had* plus the past participle. ~*n.* 2. a. the past perfect tense. b. a verb in this tense.

pastry ('peɪstri) *n., pl. -tries.* 1. a dough of flour, water, and fat. 2. baked foods, such as tarts, made with this dough. 3. an individual cake or pastry pie.

pasturage ('pɑːstʃərɪdʒ) *n.* 1. the business of grazing cattle. 2. another word for *pasture*.

pasture ('pɑːstʃə) *n.* 1. land covered with grass or herbage and grazed by or suitable for grazing by livestock. 2. the grass or herbage growing on it. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to cause (livestock) to graze or (of livestock) to graze (a pasture).

pasty¹ ('peɪsti) *adj.* **pastier, pastiest.** 1. of or like the colour, texture, etc., of paste. 2. (esp. of the complexion) pale or unhealthy-looking. —*'pastily* *adv.* —*'pastiness* *n.*

pasty² ('pæsti) *n., pl. pasties.* a round of pastry folded over a filling of meat, vegetables, etc.

pat (pæt) *vb.* **patting, patted.** 1. to hit (something) lightly with the palm of the hand or some other flat surface: *to pat a ball.* 2. to slap (a person or animal) gently, esp. on the back, as an expression of affection, congratulation, etc. 3. (*tr.*) to shape, smooth, etc., with a flat instrument or the palm. 4. (*intr.*) to walk or run with light footsteps. 5. **pat (someone) on the back.** *Inf.* to congratulate. ~*n.* 6. a light blow with something flat. 7. a gentle slap. 8. a small mass of something: *a pat of butter.* 9. the sound of patting. 10. **pat on the back.** *Inf.* a gesture or word indicating approval.

pat¹ (pæt) *adv.* 1. Also: **off pat.** exactly or fluently memorized: *he recited it pat.* 2. opportunely or aptly. 3. **stand pat.** a. *Chiefly* U.S. to refuse to abandon a belief, decision, etc. b. (in poker, etc.) to play without adding new cards to the hand dealt. ~*adj.* 4. exactly right; apt: *a pat reply.* 5. too exactly fitting; glib: *a pat answer to a difficult problem.* 6. exactly right: *a pat hand in poker.*

pat. abbrev. for patent(ed).

patch (pætʃ) *n.* 1. a piece of material used to mend a garment, etc., or to make patchwork, a sewn-on pocket, etc. 2. a. a small plot of land. b. its produce: *a patch of cabbages.* 3. *Med.* a. a protective covering for an injured eye. b. any protective dressing. 4. an imitation beauty spot made of black silk, etc., worn esp. in the 18th century. 5. an identifying piece of fabric worn on the shoulder of a uniform. 6. a small contrasting section: a

patch of cloud in the blue sky. 7. a scrap; remnant. 8. **not a patch on**, not nearly as good as. 9. **strike or hit a bad patch**, to have a difficult time. —*vb. (tr.)* 10. to mend or supply (a garment, etc.) with a patch or patches. 11. to put together or produce with patches. 12. (of material) to serve as a patch to. 13. (often foll. by *up*) to mend hurriedly or in a makeshift way. 14. (often foll. by *up*) to make (up) or settle (a quarrel, etc.). 15. to connect (electric circuits) together temporarily. —**'patcher** *n.*

patchwork ('pætʃ,wɜ:k) *n.* 1. needlework done by sewing pieces of different materials together. 2. something made up of various parts.

patchy ('pætʃi) *adj.* **patchier, patchiest**. 1. irregular in quality, occurrence, intensity, etc.: a *patchy* essay. 2. having or forming patches. —**'patchily** *adv.* —**'patchiness** *n.*

pate (peɪt) *n.* the head, esp. with reference to baldness or (in facetious use) intelligence.

pâté ('pæteɪ) *n.* 1. a spread of finely minced liver, poultry, etc., served usually as an hors d'oeuvre. 2. a savoury pie.

pâté de foie gras (French *pâté de foie gras*) *n., pl. pâtés de foie gras* (French *pâté*). a smooth rich paste made from the liver of a specially fattened goose.

patella (pə'telə) *n., pl. -lae (-li:)*. *Anat.* a small flat triangular bone in front of and protecting the knee joint. Nontechnical name: **kneecap**. —**pa'tellar** *adj.*

paten ('pætn) *n.* a plate, usually made of silver or gold, esp. for the bread in the Eucharist.

patent ('peɪnt, 'pænt) *n.* 1. **a.** a government grant to an inventor assuring him the sole right to make, use, and sell his invention for a limited period. **b.** a document conveying such a grant. 2. an invention, privilege, etc., protected by a patent. 3. **a.** an official document granting a right. **b.** any right granted by such a document. —*adj.* 4. open or available for inspection (esp. in **letters patent, patent writ**). 5. ('peɪnt): obvious: *their scorn was patent to everyone*. 6. concerning protection, appointment, etc., of or by a patent or patents. 7. proprietary. 8. (esp. of a bodily passage or duct) being open or unobstructed. —*vb. (tr.)* 9. to obtain a patent for. 10. to grant by a patent. —**'patentable** *adj.* —**'paten'tee** *n.* —**'paten'tor** *n.*

patent leather ('peɪnt) *n.* leather processed with lacquer to give a hard glossy surface.

patently ('peɪntntli) *adv.* obviously.

patent medicine ('peɪnt) *n.* a medicine with a patent, available without a prescription.

Patent Office *n.* a government department that issues patents.

pater ('peɪtə) *n. Brit. sl.* another word for **father**: now chiefly used facetiously.

paternal (pə'tɜ:nəl) *adj.* 1. relating to or characteristic of a father; fatherly. 2. (*prenominal*) related through the father: *his paternal grandfather*. 3. inherited or derived from the male parent. —**pa'ternally** *adv.*

paternity (pə'tɜ:niti) *n.* 1. **a.** the fact or state of being a father. **b.** (*as modifier*): a *paternity suit* was filed against the man. 2. descent or derivation from a father. 3. authorship or origin.

Paternoster (,pætrə'nɒstə) *n.* (*sometimes not cap.*) *R.C. Church.* 1. the Lord's Prayer, esp. in Latin. 2. the recital of this as an act of devotion.

path (pəθ) *n., pl. paths* (pəθz). 1. a road or way, esp. a narrow trodden track. 2. a surfaced walk, as through a garden. 3. the course or direction in which something moves: *the path of a whirlwind*. 4. a course of conduct: *the path of virtue*. —**'pathless** *adj.*

path. *abbrev. for:* 1. pathological. 2. pathology.

-path *suffix forming nouns.* 1. denoting a person suffering from a specified disease or disorder: *neuropath*. 2. denoting a practitioner of a particular method of treatment: *osteopath*.

pathetic (pə'θetɪk) *adj.* 1. evoking or expressing pity, sympathy, etc. 2. distressingly inadequate: a *pathetic fire flickered in the hearth*. 3. *Brit. sl.* uninteresting; worthless. 4. *Obs.* of or affecting the feelings. —**pa'thetically** *adv.*

pathetic fallacy *n.* (in literature) the presentation of nature, etc., as possessing human feelings.

patho- or before a vowel **path-** *combining form.* disease: *pathology*.

pathogen ('pæθə,dʒɛn) *n.* any agent that can cause disease. —**'patho'genic** *adj.*

pathological (,pæθə'lɒdʒɪkəl) or **pathologic** *adj.* 1. of or relating to pathology. 2. relating to, involving, or

caused by disease. 3. *Inf.* compulsively motivated: a *pathological liar*. —**'patho'logically** *adv.*

pathology (pə'θɒlədʒi) *n., pl. -gies*. 1. the branch of medicine concerned with the cause, origin, and nature of disease, including the changes occurring as a result of disease. 2. the manifestations of disease, esp. changes occurring in tissues or organs. —**pa'thologist** *n.*

pathos ('peɪθɒs) *n.* 1. the quality or power, esp. in literature or speech, of arousing feelings of pity, sorrow, etc. 2. a feeling of sympathy or pity.

pathway ('pæθ,wei) *n.* 1. another word for **path**. 2. *Biochem.* a chain of reactions associated with a particular metabolic process.

-pathy *n. combining form.* 1. indicating feeling or perception: *telepathy*. 2. indicating disease: *psychopathy*. 3. indicating a method of treating disease: *osteopathy*. —**'pathic** *adj. combining form.*

patience ('peɪʃəns) *n.* 1. tolerant and even-tempered perseverance. 2. the capacity for calmly enduring pain, trying situations, etc. 3. *Brit.* any of various card games for one player only. *U.S. word: solitaire.*

patient ('peɪʃənt) *adj.* 1. enduring trying circumstances with even temper. 2. tolerant; understanding. 3. capable of accepting delay with equanimity. 4. persevering or diligent: a *patient worker*. —*n.* 5. a person who is receiving medical care. —**'patiently** *adv.*

patina ('pætnə) *n.* 1. a film formed on the surface of a metal, esp. the green oxidation of bronze or copper. 2. any fine layer on a surface: a *patina of frost*. 3. the sheen on a surface caused by long handling.

patio ('pæti,ʊ) *n., pl. -os*. 1. an open inner courtyard, esp. one in a Spanish or Spanish-American house. 2. an area adjoining a house, esp. one that is paved.

patois ('pætwɑ; French *pa'twa*) *n., pl. patois* ('pætwɑz; French *pa'twa*). a regional dialect of a language, usually considered substandard.

pat. pend. *abbrev. for* patent pending.

patri- *combining form.* father: *patricide; patriarch.*

patrial ('peɪtriəl) *n. Brit.* a person who has rights of nationality by virtue of the birth of a parent or grandparents.

patriarch ('peɪtri,ɑ:k) *n.* 1. the male head of a tribe or family. 2. a very old or venerable man. 3. *Bible.* a. any of a number of persons regarded as the fathers of the human race. **b.** any of the three ancestors of the Hebrew people: Abraham, Isaac, or Jacob. **c.** any of Jacob's twelve sons, regarded as the ancestors of the twelve tribes of Israel. 4. *Early Christian Church.* the bishop of one of several principal sees, esp. those of Rome, Antioch, and Alexandria. 5. *Eastern Orthodox.* the bishops of the four ancient principal sees of Constantinople, Antioch, Alexandria, and Jerusalem, and also of Russia, Rumania, and Serbia. 6. *R.C. Church.* a. a title given to the Pope. **b.** a title given to a number of bishops, esp. of the Uniat Churches, indicating their rank as immediately below that of the Pope. 7. the oldest or most venerable member of a group, community, etc. 8. a person regarded as the founder of a community, tradition, etc. —**'patri'archal** *adj.*

patriarchate ('peɪtri,ɑ:kɪt) *n.* the office, jurisdiction, province, or residence of a patriarch.

patriarchy ('peɪtri,ɑ:kɪ) *n., pl. -chies*. 1. a form of social organization in which a male is the head of the family and descent, kinship, and title are traced through the male line. 2. any society governed by such a system.

patrician (pə'triʃjən) *n.* 1. a member of the hereditary aristocracy of ancient Rome. 2. (in medieval Europe) a member of the upper class in numerous Italian republics and German free cities. 3. an aristocrat. 4. a person of refined conduct, tastes, etc. —*adj.* 5. (esp. in ancient Rome) of, relating to, or composed of patricians. 6. aristocratic.

patricide ('pætri,said) *n.* 1. the act of killing one's father. 2. a person who kills his father. —**'patri'cidal** *adj.*

patrimony ('pætrɪməni) *n., pl. -nies*. 1. an inheritance from one's father or other ancestor. 2. the endowment of a church. —**'patrimonial** ('pætrɪ'məniəl) *adj.*

patriot ('peɪtriət, 'pæ-) *n.* a person who vigorously supports his country and its way of life. —**'patriotic** ('pætri'ɒtɪk) *adj.* —**'patri'otically** *adv.* —**'patriotism** ('pætri,tɪzəm) *n.*

patrol (pə'trəʊl) *n.* 1. the action of going round a town, etc., at regular intervals for purposes of security or observation. 2. a person or group that carries out such an action. 3. a military detachment with the mission of security or the destruction of enemy forces. 4. a division of a troop of Scouts or Guides. —*vb.* **trolling,**

-trolled. **5.** to engage in a patrol of (a place). —**patroller** *n.*

patron ('peɪtrən) *n.* 1. a person who sponsors or aids artists, charities, etc.; protector or benefactor. 2. a customer of a shop, hotel, etc., esp. a regular one. 3. See **patron saint**.

patronage ('pætrənɪdʒ) *n.* 1. a. the support given or custom brought by a patron. b. the position of a patron. 2. (in politics) a. the practice of making appointments to office, granting contracts, etc. b. the favours, etc., so distributed. 3. a. a condescending manner. b. any kindness done in a condescending way.

patronize or -ise ('pætrənaɪz) *vb.* 1. to behave or treat in a condescending way. 2. to act as a patron by sponsoring or bringing trade to. —**patron, izer or -iser** *n.* —**patron, izingly or -isingly** *adv.*

patron saint *n.* a saint regarded as the particular guardian of a country, person, etc.

patronymic ('pætrə'nɪmɪk) *adj.* 1. (of a name) derived from the name of its bearer's father. ~*n.* 2. a patronymic name.

patter ('pætə) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to walk or move with quick soft steps. 2. (*intr.*) to strike with or make a quick succession of light tapping sounds. ~*n.* 3. a quick succession of light tapping sounds, as of feet: *the patter of mice*.

patter ('pætə) *n.* 1. the glib rapid speech of comedians, etc. 2. quick idle talk; chatter. 3. the jargon of a particular group, etc.; lingo. ~*vb.* 4. to speak glibly and rapidly. 5. to repeat (prayers, etc.) in a mechanical or perfunctory manner.

pattern ('pætrən) *n.* 1. an arrangement of repeated or corresponding parts, decorative motifs, etc. 2. a decorative design: *a paisley pattern*. 3. a style: *various patterns of cutlery*. 4. a plan or diagram used as a guide in making something: *a paper pattern for a dress*. 5. a standard way of moving, acting, etc.: *traffic patterns*. 6. a model worthy of imitation: *a pattern of kindness*. 7. a representative sample. 8. a wooden or metal shape or model used in a foundry to make a mould. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 9. (often foll. by *after* or *on*) to model. 10. to arrange as or decorate with a pattern.

patty ('pæti) *n., pl. -ties*. 1. a small cake of minced food. 2. a small pie.

paucity ('pɔːsɪti) *n.* 1. insufficiency; dearth. 2. smallness of number; fewness.

Pauline ('pɔːlaɪn) *adj.* relating to Saint Paul or his doctrines.

paunch ('pɔːntʃ) *n.* 1. the belly or abdomen, esp. when protruding. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 2. to stab in the stomach; disembowel. —**paunchy** *adj.* —**paunchiness** *n.*

pauper ('pɔːpə) *n.* 1. a person who is extremely poor. 2. (formerly) a person supported by public charity. —**pauperism** *n.*

pause ('pɔːz) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. to cease an action temporarily. 2. to hesitate; delay: *she replied without pausing*. ~*n.* 3. a temporary stop or rest, esp. in speech or action; short break. 4. *Prosody*. another word for *caesura*. 5. Also called: *fermata*. *Music*. a continuation of a note or rest beyond its normal length. Usual symbol: ♮. 6. *give pause* (*to*), to cause to hesitate.

pavane or pavan ('pəːvæn, 'pævən) *n.* 1. a slow and stately dance of the 16th and 17th centuries. 2. music for or in the rhythm of this dance.

pave ('peɪv) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to cover (a road, etc.) with a firm surface suitable for travel, as with paving stones or concrete. 2. to serve as the material for a pavement or other hard layer: *bricks paved the causeway*. 3. (often foll. by *with*) to cover with a hard layer (*of*): *shelves paved with marble*. 4. to prepare or make easier (*esp. in pave the way*). —**paver** *n.*

pavement ('peɪvmənt) *n.* 1. a hard-surfaced path for pedestrians alongside and a little higher than a road. U.S. word: *sidewalk*. 2. the material used in paving.

pavilion ('pævɪljən) *n.* 1. *Brit.* a building at a sports ground, esp. a cricket pitch, in which players change, etc. 2. a summerhouse or other decorative shelter. 3. a building or temporary structure, esp. one that is open and ornamental, for housing exhibitions, etc. 4. a large ornate tent, esp. one with a peaked top, as used by medieval armies. 5. one of a set of buildings that together form a hospital or other large institution. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) *Literary*. 6. to place as in a pavilion: *pavilioned in splendour*. 7. to provide with a pavilion or pavilions.

paving ('peɪvɪŋ) *n.* 1. a paved surface; pavement. 2. material used for a pavement.

pavlova ('pæv'lɔʊvə) *n.* a meringue cake topped with whipped cream and fruit.

paw (pɔː) *n.* 1. any of the feet of a four-legged mammal, bearing claws or nails. 2. *Inf.* a hand, esp. one that is large, clumsy, etc. ~*vb.* 3. to scrape or contaminate with the paws or feet. 4. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to touch or caress in a clumsy, rough, or overfamiliar manner.

pawl (pɔːl) *n.* a pivoted lever shaped to engage with a ratchet wheel to prevent motion in a particular direction.

pawn ('pɔːn) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to deposit (an article) as security for the repayment of a loan, esp. from a pawnbroker. 2. to stake: *to pawn one's honour*. ~*n.* 3. an article deposited as security. 4. the condition of being so deposited (*esp. in in pawn*). 5. a person or thing that is held as a security. 6. the act of pawning. —**pawnage** *n.*

pawn ('pɔːn) *n.* 1. a chess piece of the lowest theoretical value. 2. a person, group, etc., manipulated by another.

pawnbroker ('pɔːn,brəʊkə) *n.* a dealer licensed to lend money at a specified rate of interest on the security of movable personal property, which can be sold if the loan is not repaid within a specified period. —**pawn, broking** *n.*

pawnshop ('pɔːn,ʃɒp) *n.* the premises of a pawnbroker.

pawpaw ('pɔː,pɔː) *n.* another name for **papaw** or **papaya**.

pax (pæks) *n.* 1. *Chiefly R.C. Church.* a. the kiss of peace. b. a small metal or ivory plate, formerly used to convey the kiss of peace from the celebrant at Mass to those attending it. ~*interj.* 2. *Brit. school sl.* a call signalling an end to hostilities or claiming immunity from the rules of a game.

P.A.X. *Brit. abbrev. for private automatic exchange.*

pay (peɪ) *vb.* **paying, paid.** 1. to discharge (a debt, obligation, etc.) by giving or doing something: *he paid his creditors*. 2. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *for*) to give (money, etc.) to (a person) in return for goods or services: *they pay their workers well; they pay by the hour*. 3. to give or afford (a person, etc.) a profit or benefit: *it pays one to be honest*. 4. (*tr.*) to give or bestow (a compliment, regards, attention, etc.). 5. (*tr.*) to make (a visit or call). 6. (*intr.*; often foll. by *for*) to give compensation or make amends. 7. (*tr.*) to yield a return of: *the shares pay 15 per cent*. 8. *Austral. inf.* to acknowledge or accept (something) as true, just, etc. 9. **pay one's way.** a. to contribute one's share of expenses. b. to remain solvent without outside help. ~*n.* 10. a. money given in return for work or services; a salary or wage. b. (*as modifier*): *a pay slip; pay claim*. 11. paid employment (*esp. in in the pay of*). 12. (*modifier*) *Chiefly U.S.* requiring the insertion of money before or during use: *a pay phone*. 13. (*modifier*) rich enough in minerals to be profitably worked: *pay gravel*. ~See also **pay back, pay for**, etc. —**payed** *n.*

payable ('peɪəbəl) *adj.* 1. (often foll. by *on*) to be paid: *payable on the third of each month*. 2. that is capable of being paid. 3. capable of being profitable. 4. (*of* a debt, etc.) imposing an obligation on the debtor to pay, esp. at once.

pay back *vb.* (*tr., adv.*) 1. to retaliate against: *to pay someone back for an insult*. 2. to give or do (something equivalent) in return for a favour, insult, etc. 3. to repay (a loan, etc.).

pay bed *n.* a bed in a hospital for which the user has paid as a private patient.

P.A.Y.E. (in Britain and New Zealand) *abbrev. for* pay as you earn; a system by which income tax levied on wage and salary earners is paid by employers directly to the government.

payee ('peɪiː) *n.* the person to whom a cheque, money order, etc., is made out.

pay for *vb.* (*prep.*) 1. to make (payment) (*for*). 2. (*intr.*) to suffer or be punished, as for a mistake, wrong decision, etc.

paying guest *n.* a euphemism for lodger.

payload ('peɪləʊd) *n.* 1. that part of a cargo earning revenue. 2. a. the passengers, cargo, or bombs carried by an aircraft. b. the equipment carried by a rocket, satellite, or spacecraft. 3. the explosive power of a warhead, bomb, etc., carried by a missile or aircraft.

paymaster ('peɪ,mɑːstə) *n.* an official of a government, business, etc., responsible for the payment of wages and salaries.

payment ('peɪmənt) *n.* 1. the act of paying. 2. a sum of money paid. 3. something given in return; punishment or reward.

pay off *vb.* 1. (*tr., adv.*) to pay all that is due in wages, etc., and discharge from employment. 2. (*tr., adv.*) to

pay the complete amount of (a debt, bill, etc.). **3.** (*intr.*, *adv.*) to turn out to be profitable, effective, etc.: *the gamble paid off*. **4.** (*tr.*, *adv.* or *intr.*, *prep.*) to take revenge on (a person) or for (a wrong done): *to pay someone off for an insult*. **5.** (*tr.*, *adv.*) *Inf.* to give a bribe to. **~n.** **payoff**. **6.** the final settlement, esp. in retribution. **7.** *Inf.* the climax, consequence, or outcome of events, a story, etc. **8.** the final payment of a debt, salary, etc. **9.** the time of such a payment. **10.** *Inf.* a bribe.

payola (peɪ'əʊlə) *n.* *Inf.* **1.** a bribe given to secure special treatment, esp. to a disc jockey to promote a commercial product. **2.** the practice of paying or receiving such bribes.

pay out *vb.* (*adv.*) **1.** to distribute (money, etc.); disburse. **2.** (*tr.*) to release (a rope) gradually, hand over hand.

payroll ('peɪ,rəʊl) *n.* **1.** a list of employees, specifying the salary or wage of each. **2.** the total of these amounts or the actual money equivalent.

pay up *vb.* (*adv.*) to pay (money) promptly, in full, or on demand.

Pb the chemical symbol for lead.

P.C. abbrev. for: **1.** Parish Council(lor). **2.** (in Britain) Police Constable. **3.** (in Britain) Privy Council(lor). **4.** (in Canada) Progressive Conservative.

p.c. abbrev. for: **1.** per cent. **2.** postcard.

Pd the chemical symbol for palladium.

pd. abbrev. for paid.

p.d. abbrev. for: **1.** Also: **P.D.** per diem. **2.** potential difference.

P.D.S.A. (in Britain) abbrev. for People's Dispensary for Sick Animals.

P.D.T. (in the U.S. and Canada) abbrev. for Pacific Daylight Time.

P.E. abbrev. for: **1.** physical education. **2.** potential energy. **3.** Presiding Elder. **4.** Also: **p.e.** printer's error. **5.** Statistics. probable error. **6.** Protestant Episcopal.

pea (pi:) *n.* **1.** an annual climbing plant with small white flowers and long green pods containing edible green seeds; cultivated in temperate regions. **2.** the seed of this plant, eaten as a vegetable. **3.** any of several other leguminous plants, such as the sweet pea.

peace (pi:s) *n.* **1.** a. the state existing during the absence of war. **b.** (*as modifier*): *peace negotiations*. **2.** (*often cap.*) a treaty marking the end of a war. **3.** a state of harmony between people or groups. **4.** law and order within a state: *a breach of the peace*. **5.** absence of mental anxiety (*often in peace of mind*). **6.** a state of stillness, silence, or serenity. **7.** *at peace*. **a.** in a state of harmony or friendship. **b.** in a state of serenity. **c.** dead: *the old lady is at peace now*. **8.** *hold or keep one's peace*, to keep silent, esp. about something secret. **9.** *keep the peace*, to maintain law and order. **~vb.** **10.** (*intr.*) *Obs.* except as an imperative, to be or become silent or still.

peaceable ('pi:səb'l) *adj.* **1.** inclined towards peace. **2.** tranquil; calm. — **'peaceableness** *n.* — **'peaceably** *adv.*

peaceful ('pi:sfʊl) *adj.* **1.** not in a state of war or disagreement. **2.** calm; tranquil. **3.** of, relating to, or in accord with a time of peace. **4.** inclined towards peace. — **'peacefully** *adv.* — **'peacefulness** *n.*

peacemaker ('pi:s,meɪkə) *n.* a person who establishes peace, esp. between others. — **'peace, making** *n.*

peace offering *n.* **1.** something given to an adversary in the hope of procuring or maintaining peace. **2.** *Judaism*. a sacrificial meal shared between the offerer and Jehovah.

peace pipe *n.* a long decorated pipe smoked by North American Indians, esp. as a token of peace. Also called: **calumet**.

peacetime ('pi:s,taim) *n.* **a.** a period without war; time of peace. **b.** (*as modifier*): *a peacetime agreement*.

peach ('pi:tʃ) *n.* **1.** a small tree with pink flowers and rounded edible fruit: cultivated in temperate regions. **2.** the soft juicy fruit of this tree, which has a downy reddish-yellow skin, yellowish-orange sweet flesh, and a single stone. **3.** a pinkish-yellow to orange colour. **4.** *Inf.* a person or thing that is especially pleasing.

peach ('pi:tʃ) *vb.* (*intr.*) *Sl.* to inform against (an accomplice).

peach melba *n.* a dessert made of halved peaches, vanilla ice cream, and raspberries.

peachy ('pi:tʃi) *adj.* **peachier, peachiest**. **1.** of or like a peach, esp. in colour or texture. **2.** *Inf.* excellent; fine. — **'peachiness** *n.*

peacock ('pi:k,kɒk) *n.*, *pl.* -cocks or -cock. **1.** a male

peafowl, having a crested head and a very large fan-like tail marked with blue and green eyelike spots. **2.** a vain strutting person. **~vb.** **3.** to display (oneself) proudly. — **'pea, cockish** *adj.* — **'pea, hen** *fem. n.*

pea green *n.*, *adj.* (*pea-green when prenominal*). **a.** a yellowish-green colour. **b.** (*as adj.*): *a pea-green teapot*.

pea jacket or peacoat ('pi:kəʊt) *n.* a sailor's short heavy woollen overcoat.

peak ('pi:k) *n.* **1.** a pointed end, edge, or projection: *the peak of a roof*. **2.** the pointed summit of a mountain. **3.** a mountain with a pointed summit. **4.** the point of greatest development, strength, etc.: *the peak of his career*. **5.** a sharp increase followed by a sharp decrease: *a voltage peak*. **b.** the maximum value of this quantity. **c.** (*as modifier*): *peak voltage*. **6.** Also called: **visor**. a projecting piece on the front of some caps. **7.** *Naut.* **a.** the extreme forward (**forepeak**) or aft (**afterpeak**) parts of the hull. **b.** (of a fore-and-aft quadrilateral sail) the after uppermost corner. **c.** the after end of a gaff. **~vb.** **8.** (*tr.*) *Naut.* to set (a gaff) or tilt (oars) vertically. **9.** to form or reach or cause to form or reach a peak.

peak ('pi:k) *vb.* (*intr.*) to become wan, emaciated, or sickly. — **'peaky** or **'peakish** *adj.*

peaked ('pi:kɪd) *adj.* having a peak; pointed.

peak load *n.* the maximum load on an electrical power-supply system.

peal (pi:l) *n.* **1.** a loud prolonged usually reverberating sound, as of bells, thunder or laughter. **2.** *Bell-ringing*, a series of changes rung in accordance with specific rules. **3.** (*not in technical usage*) the set of bells in a belfry. **~vb.** **4.** (*intr.*) to sound with a peal or peals. **5.** (*tr.*) to give forth loudly and sonorously. **6.** (*tr.*) to ring (bells) in peals.

peanut ('pi:nʌt) *n.* **a.** a leguminous plant of tropical America widely cultivated for its edible seeds. **b.** the edible nutlike seed of this plant, used for food and as a source of oil. Also called: **groundnut, monkey nut**.

peanut butter *n.* a brownish oily paste made from peanuts.

peanuts ('pi:nʌts) *n.* *Sl.* a trifling amount of money.

pear (peə) *n.* **1.** a widely cultivated tree, having white flowers and edible fruits. **2.** the sweet gritty-textured juicy fruit of this tree, which has a globular base and tapers towards the apex. **3.** the wood of this tree, used for making furniture.

pearl (pɜ:l) *n.* **1.** a hard smooth lustrous typically rounded structure occurring on the inner surface of the shell of a clam or oyster around an invading particle such as a sand grain; much valued as a gem. **2.** any artificial gem resembling this. **3.** See **mother-of-pearl**. **4.** a person or thing that is like a pearl, esp. in beauty or value. **5.** a pale greyish-white colour, often with a bluish tinge. **~adj.** **6.** of, made of, or set with pearl or mother-of-pearl. **7.** having the shape or colour of a pearl. **~vb.** **8.** (*tr.*) to set with or as if with pearls. **9.** to shape into or assume a pearl-like form or colour. **10.** (*intr.*) to dive or search for pearls.

pearl barley *n.* barley ground into small round grains, used esp. in soups and stews.

pearly ('pɜ:li) *adj.* **pearlier, pearliest**. **1.** resembling a pearl, esp. in lustre. **2.** decorated with pearls or mother-of-pearl. **~n.**, *pl.* **pearlies**. *Brit.* **3.** a London costermonger or the wife of one who wears on ceremonial occasions a traditional dress of dark clothes covered with pearl buttons. **4.** (*pl.*) the clothes or the buttons themselves. — **'pearliness** *n.*

Pearly Gates *pl. n.* *Inf.* the entrance to heaven.

pearly king or (*fem.*) **pearly queen** *n.* the London costermonger whose ceremonial clothes display the most lavish collection of pearl buttons.

peasant ('pez'nt) *n.* **1.** a member of a class of low social status that depends on either cottage industry or agricultural labour as a means of subsistence. **2.** *Inf.* a person who lives in the country; rustic. **3.** *Inf.* an uncouth or uncultured person.

peasantry ('pez'ntri) *n.* peasants as a class.

pease (pi:z) *n.*, *pl.* **pease**. *Arch. or dialect.* another word for **pea**.

peasecod or peascod ('pi:z,kɒd) *n.* *Arch.* the pod of a pea plant.

pease pudding *n.* *Chiefly Brit.* a dish of split peas that have been soaked and boiled.

peashooter ('pi:ʃu:tə) *n.* a tube through which dried peas are blown, used as a toy weapon.

peasouper ('pi:su:pə) *n.* **1.** *Inf.*, *chiefly Brit.* dense

dirty yellowish fog. **2. Canad.** a disparaging name for a French Canadian.

peat (pi:t) *n. a.* a compact brownish deposit of partially decomposed vegetable matter saturated with water: found in uplands and bogs and used as a fuel (when dried) and as a fertilizer. *b. (as modifier):* peat bog. —'peaty *adj.*

peat moss *n.* any of various mosses, esp. sphagnum, that grow in wet places and decay to form peat. See also sphagnum.

pebble ('pebl̩) *n.* 1. a small smooth rounded stone, esp. one worn by the action of water. **2. a.** a transparent colourless variety of rock crystal, used for making certain lenses. *b.* such a lens. **3. (modifier) Inf.** (of a lens or of spectacles) thick, with a high degree of magnification or distortion. **4. a.** a grainy irregular surface, esp. on leather. *b.* leather having such a surface. ~*vb.* **5.** to cover with pebbles. **6. (tr.)** to impart a grainy surface to (leather). —'pebbly *adj.*

pebble dash *n. Brit.* a finish for external walls consisting of small stones embedded in plaster.

pecan (pɪˈkæn, 'pɪkən) *n.* 1. a hickory tree of the southern U.S. having deeply furrowed bark and edible nuts. **2.** the smooth oval nut of this tree, which has a sweet oily kernel.

peccadillo (ˌpekə'dɪləʊ) *n., pl. -los or -loes.* a petty sin or fault.

peccary ('pekəri) *n., pl. -ries or -ry.* either of two pig-like mammals of forests of southern North America, Central and South America.

peck¹ (pek) *n.* 1. a unit of dry measure equal to 8 quarts or one quarter of a bushel. **2.** a container used for measuring this quantity. **3.** a large quantity or number.

peck² (pek) *vb.* **1.** (when *intr.*, sometimes foll. by *at*) to strike with the beak or with a pointed instrument. **2. (tr.)**, sometimes foll. by *out* to dig (a hole, etc.) by pecking. **3. (tr.)** (of birds) to pick up (corn, worms, etc.) by pecking. **4. (intr.)**, often foll. by *at* to nibble or pick (at one's food). **5. Inf.** to kiss (a person) quickly and lightly. **6. (intr.)**, foll. by *at* to nag. ~*n.* **7.** a quick light blow, esp. from a bird's beak. **8.** a mark made by such a blow. **9. Inf.** a quick light kiss.

pecker ('pekə) *n. Brit. sl.* good spirits (esp. in **keep one's pecker up**).

peckish ('pekɪʃ) *adj. Inf., chiefly Brit.* feeling slightly hungry.

pectin ('pektɪn) *n. Biochem.* any of the acidic polysaccharides that occur in ripe fruit and vegetables: used in the manufacture of jams because of their ability to solidify to a gel. —'pectic or 'pectinous *adj.*

pectoral ('pektərəl) *adj.* **1.** of or relating to the chest, breast, or thorax: *pectoral fins*. **2.** worn on the breast or chest: a *pectoral medallion*. ~*n.* **3.** a pectoral organ or part, esp. a muscle or fin. **4.** a medicine for disorders of the chest or lungs. **5.** anything worn on the chest or breast for decoration or protection. —'pectorally *adv.*

pectoral fin *n.* either of a pair of fins, situated just behind the head in fishes, that help to control the direction of movement during locomotion.

peculate ('pekjuːleɪt) *vb.* to appropriate or embezzle (public money, etc.). —'pecu'lation *n.* —'pecu'lator *n.*

peculiar (pɪ'kjuːliə) *adj.* **1.** strange or unusual; odd: a *peculiar idea*. **2.** distinct from others; special. **3. (post-positive; foll. by to)** belonging characteristically or exclusively (to): *peculiar to North America*. —'pe'cularly *adv.*

peculiarity (pɪˌkjuːlɪ'ærɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* **1.** a strange or unusual habit or characteristic. **2.** a distinguishing trait, etc., that is characteristic of a particular person; idiosyncrasy. **3.** the state or quality of being peculiar.

pecuniary (pɪ'kjuːnɪəri) *adj.* **1.** of or relating to money. **2. Law.** (of an offence) involving a monetary penalty. —'pe'cuniarily *adv.*

-ped or -pede *n. combining form.* foot or feet: *quadruped; centipede*.

pedagogue or *U.S. (sometimes) pedagog* ('pedəˌɡɒɡ) *n.* **1.** a teacher or educator. **2.** a pedantic or dogmatic teacher. —'peda'gogic or 'peda'gogical *adj.* —'peda'gogically *adv.*

pedagogy ('pedəˌɡɒɡɪ, -ˌɡɒdʒɪ, -ˌɡæʊdʒɪ) *n.* the principles, practice, or profession of teaching.

pedal¹ ('pedl̩) *n.* **1. a.** any foot-operated lever, esp. one of the two levers that drive the chainwheel of a bicycle, the foot-brake, clutch control, or accelerator of a car, one of the levers on an organ controlling deep bass notes, or one of the levers on a piano used to mute or sustain tone. *b. (as modifier):* a *pedal cycle*. ~*vb.* **-alling, -alled or U.S. -aling, -aled.** **2.** to propel (a

bicycle, etc.) by operating the pedals. **3. (intr.)** to operate the pedals of an organ, piano, etc. **4.** to work (pedals of any kind).

pedal² ('piːdl̩) *adj.* of or relating to the foot or feet.

pedant ('pednt̩) *n.* **1.** a person who relies too much on academic learning or who is concerned chiefly with insignificant detail. **2. Arch.** a schoolmaster or teacher. —'pedantic (pɪˌdæntɪk) *adj.* —'pe'dantically *adv.*

pedantry ('pedntri) *n., pl. -ries.* the habit or an instance of being a pedant, esp. in the display of useless knowledge or minute observance of petty rules or details.

peddle ('pedl̩) *vb.* **1.** to go from place to place selling (goods, esp. small articles). **2. (tr.)** to sell (illegal drugs, esp. narcotics). **3. (tr.)** to advocate (ideas, etc.) persistently: to *peddle a new philosophy*.

pederasty or **paederasty** ('pedəˌræsti) *n.* homosexual relations between men and boys. —'pede,rast or 'paede,rast *n.* —'pede'r'astic or 'paede'r'astic *adj.*

pedestal ('pedɪstl̩) *n.* **1.** a base that supports a column, statue, etc. **2.** a position of eminence or supposed superiority (esp. in **place, put, or set on a pedestal**).

pedestrian (pɪˌdestriən) *n.* **1. a.** a person travelling on foot; walker. *b. (as modifier):* a *pedestrian precinct*. ~*adj.* **2.** dull; commonplace: a *pedestrian style of writing*.

pedestrian crossing *n. Brit.* a path across a road marked as a crossing for pedestrians.

pedestrianize or **-ise** (pɪˌdestriənaɪz) *vb. (tr.)* to convert (a street, etc.) into an area for the use of pedestrians only. —'pe,destriani'zation or -i'sation *n.*

pedi- *combining form.* indicating the foot: *pedicure*.

pediculosis (pɪˌdɪkjʊˈlæʊsɪs) *n. Pathol.* the state of being infested with lice. —'pediculous (pɪˌdɪkjʊləs) *adj.*

pedicure ('pedɪˌkjʊə) *n.* treatment of the feet, either by a medical expert or a cosmetician.

pedigree ('pedɪˌɡriː) *n.* **1. a.** the line of descent of a pure-bred animal. *b. (as modifier):* a *pedigree bull*. **2.** a document recording this. **3.** a genealogical table, esp. one indicating pure ancestry. —'pedi,greed *adj.*

pediment ('pedɪmənt) *n.* a low-pitched gable, esp. one that is triangular as used in classical architecture. —'pedi'mental *adj.*

pedlar or *esp. U.S. peddler ('pedlə) *n.* a person who peddles; hawker.*

pedo- or *before a vowel ped-* *combining form.* a U.S. spelling of **paedo-**.

pedometer (pɪˌdɒmɪtə) *n.* a device that records the number of steps taken in walking and hence the distance travelled.

peduncle (pɪˌdʌŋkl̩) *n.* **1.** the stalk of a plant bearing an inflorescence or solitary flower. **2. Anat. & pathol.** any stalklike structure. —'peduncular (pɪˌdʌŋkjʊlə) or 'pedunculate (pɪˌdʌŋkjʊlɪt, -leɪt) *adj.*

pee (piː) *Sl.* ~*vb.* **peeing, peed.** **1. (intr.)** to urinate. ~*n.* **2.** urine. **3.** the act of urinating.

peek (piːk) *vb.* **1. (intr.)** to glance quickly or furtively. ~*n.* **2.** such a glance.

peel¹ (piːl) *vb.* **1. (tr.)** to remove (the skin, rind, etc.) of (a fruit, egg, etc.). **2. (intr.)** (of paint, etc.) to be removed from a surface, esp. by weathering. **3. (intr.)** (of a surface) to lose its outer covering of paint, etc., esp. by weathering. **4. (intr.)** (of a person or part of the body) to shed skin in flakes or (of skin) to be shed in flakes, esp. as a result of sunburn. **5. (intr.; often foll. by off) Sl. to undress. **6. keep one's eyes peeled (or skinned).** to keep a sharp lookout. ~*n.* **7.** the skin or rind of a fruit, etc. ~*See also* peel off. —'peeler *n.***

peel² (piːl) *n. Brit.* a fortified tower of the 16th century on the borders of Scotland.

peeling ('piːlɪŋ) *n.* a strip of skin, rind, bark, etc., that has been peeled off: a *potato peeling*.

peel off *vb. (adv.)* **1.** to remove or be removed by peeling. **2. (intr.)** (of an aircraft) to turn away as by banking, and leave a formation.

peen (piːn) *n.* **1.** the end of a hammer head opposite the striking face, often rounded or wedge-shaped. ~*vb.* **2. (tr.)** to strike with the peen of a hammer or a stream of metal shot.

peep¹ (piːp) *vb. (intr.)* **1.** to look furtively or secretly, as through a small aperture or from a hidden place. **2.** to appear partially or briefly: *the sun peeped through the clouds*. ~*n.* **3.** a quick or furtive look. **4.** the first appearance: *the peep of dawn*. —'peeper *n.*

peep² (piːp) *vb. (intr.)* **1.** (esp. of young birds) to utter shrill small noises. **2.** to speak in a weak voice. ~*n.* **3.** a peeping sound.

Peeping Tom *n.* a man who furtively observes women undressing; voyeur.

peepshow ('pi:p,ʃəʊ) *n.* a box with a peephole through which a series of pictures can be seen.

peer (piə) *n.* 1. a member of a nobility; nobleman. 2. a person who holds any of the five grades of the British nobility: duke, marquess, earl, viscount, and baron. See also **life peer**. 3. a person who is an equal in social standing, rank, age, etc.: *to be tried by one's peers*.

peer (piə) *vb. (intr.)* 1. to look intently with or as if with difficulty: *to peer into the distance*. 2. to appear partially or dimly: *the sun peered through the fog*.

peerage ('piəridʒ) *n.* 1. the whole body of peers; aristocracy. 2. the position, rank, or title of a peer. 3. (esp. in the British Isles) a book listing the peers and giving their genealogy.

peeress ('piəris) *n.* 1. the wife or widow of a peer. 2. a woman holding the rank of a peer in her own right.

peer group *n.* a social group composed of individuals of approximately the same age.

peerless ('piəlis) *adj.* having no equals; matchless.

peeve (pi:v) *Inf. ~vb.* 1. (tr.) to irritate; vex; annoy. ~*n.* 2. something that irritates; vexation.

peevish ('pi:vɪʃ) *adj.* fretful or irritable. —**peevishly** *adv.* —**peevishness** *n.*

peg — or pewit ('pi:wit) *n.* another name for **lapwing**.

peg (peg) *n.* 1. a small cylindrical pin or dowel used to join two parts together. 2. a pin pushed or driven into a surface: used to mark scores, define limits, support coats, etc. 3. any of several pins on a violin, etc., which can be turned so as to tune strings wound around them. 4. Also called: **clothes peg**. *Brit.* a split or hinged pin for fastening wet clothes to a line to dry. U.S. equivalent: **clothespin**. 5. *Brit.* a small drink of wine or spirits. 6. an opportunity or pretext for doing something: *a peg on which to hang a theory*. 7. *Inf.* a level of self-esteem, importance, etc. (esp. in **come or take down a peg**). 8. *Inf.* See **peg leg**. 9. **off the peg**. *Chiefly Brit.* (of clothes) ready-to-wear, as opposed to tailor-made. ~*vb.* **pegging, pegged**. 10. (tr.) to knock or insert a peg into. 11. (tr.) to secure with pegs: *to peg a tent*. 12. (tr.) to mark (a score) with pegs, as in some card games. 13. (tr.) *Inf.* to throw (stones, etc.) at a target. 14. (intr.; foll. by *away, along*, etc.) *Chiefly Brit.* to work steadily: *he pegged away at his job for years*. 15. (tr.) to stabilize (the price of a commodity, an exchange rate, etc.).

pegboard ('peg,bɔ:d) *n.* 1. a board having a pattern of holes into which small pegs can be fitted, used for playing certain games or keeping a score. 2. another name for **solitaire** (sense 1). 3. hardboard perforated by a pattern of holes in which articles may be hung, as for display.

peg leg *n. Inf.* 1. an artificial leg, esp. one made of wood. 2. a person with an artificial leg.

peg out *vb. (adv.)* 1. (intr.) *Inf.* to collapse or die. 2. *Cribbage. (intr.)* to score the point that wins the game. 3. (tr.) to mark or secure with pegs: *to peg out one's claims to a piece of land*.

P.E.I. *abbrev.* for Prince Edward Island.

peignoir ('peinwɔ:) *n.* a woman's dressing gown.

pejorative (pi'dʒɔrəti:v, 'pi:dʒɔr-) *adj.* 1. (of words, expressions, etc.) having an unpleasant or disparaging connotation. ~*n.* 2. a pejorative word, etc. —**pejoratively** *adv.*

peke (pi:k) *n. Inf.* a Pekingese dog.

Pekingese (,pi:kɪŋ'izi) or **Pekinese** (,pi:kə'ni:z) *n.* 1. (pl. -ese) a small breed of pet dog with a profuse straight coat, curled plumed tail, and short wrinkled muzzle. 2. the dialect of Mandarin Chinese spoken in Peking. 3. (pl. -ese) a native or inhabitant of Peking. ~*adj.* 4. of or relating to Peking or its inhabitants.

Peking man (pi:'kiŋ) *n.* an early type of man, of the Lower Palaeolithic age, remains of which were found in a cave near Peking.

pekoe ('pi:kəʊ) *n.* a high-quality tea made from the dargy tips of the young buds of the tea plant.

pelargonium (,pelə'gɔniəm) *n.* any plant of a chiefly southern African genus having circular or lobed leaves and red, pink, or white aromatic flowers: includes many cultivated geraniums.

pelf (pelʃ) *n. Contemptuous.* money or wealth; lucre.

pelican ('pelikən) *n.* any aquatic bird of a tropical and warm water family. They have a long straight flattened bill, with a distensible pouch for engulfing fish.

pelican crossing *n.* a type of road crossing with a pedestrian-operated traffic-light system.

pelisse (pe'li:s) *n.* 1. a fur-trimmed cloak. 2. a loose

coat, usually fur-trimmed, worn esp. by women in the early 19th century.

pellagra (pə'leɪgrə, -'læ-) *n. Pathol.* a disease caused by a dietary deficiency of niacin, characterized by scaling of the skin, inflammation of the mouth, diarrhoea, mental impairment, etc. —**pel'lagrous** *adj.*

pellet ('pelɪt) *n.* 1. a small round ball, esp. of compressed matter. 2. a. an imitation bullet used in toy guns. b. a piece of small shot. 3. a stone ball formerly used in a catapult. 4. *Ornithol.* a mass of undigested food that is regurgitated by birds of prey. 5. a small pill. ~*vb. (tr.)* 6. to strike with pellets. 7. to make or form into pellets.

pell-mell ('pel'mel) *adv.* 1. in a confused headlong rush: *the hounds ran pell-mell into the yard*. 2. in a disorderly manner: *the things were piled pell-mell in the room*. ~*adj.* 3. disordered; tumultuous: *a pell-mell rush for the exit*. ~*n.* 4. disorder; confusion.

pellucid (pe'lusɪd) *adj.* 1. transparent or translucent. 2. extremely clear in style and meaning. —**pel'luclidy** *adv.* —**pellu'cidity** or **pel' lucidness** *n.*

pelmet ('pelmt) *n.* an ornamental drapery or board fixed above a window to conceal the curtain rail.

pelota (pə'lɒtə) *n.* any of various games played in Spain, Spanish America, SW France, etc., by two players who use a basket strapped to their wrists to propel a ball against a specially marked wall.

pelt (pelt) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to throw (missiles, etc.) at (a person, etc.). 2. (tr.) to hurl (insults, etc.) at (a person, etc.). 3. (intr.; foll. by *along*, etc.) to hurry. 4. (intr.) to rain heavily. ~*n.* 5. a blow. 6. speed (esp. in **at full pelt**).

pelt (pelt) *n.* 1. the skin of a fur-bearing animal, esp. when it has been removed from the carcass. 2. the hide of an animal, stripped of hair.

pelvis ('pelvis) *n. pl. -vises or -ves (-viz).* 1. the large funnel-shaped structure at the lower end of the trunk of most vertebrates. 2. Also called: **pelvic girdle**. the bones that form this structure. 3. any anatomical cavity or structure shaped like a funnel or cup. —**pelvic** *adj.*

pen (pen) *n.* 1. an implement for writing or drawing using ink, formerly consisting of a sharpened and split quill, and now of a metal nib attached to a holder. See also **ballpoint, fountain pen**. 2. the writing end of such an implement; nib. 3. style of writing. 4. **the pen**. writing as an occupation. ~*vb.* **penning, penned**. 5. (tr.) to write or compose.

pen (pen) *n.* 1. an enclosure in which domestic animals are kept. 2. any place of confinement. 3. a dock for servicing submarines, esp. having a bombproof roof. ~*vb.* **penning, penned** or **pent**. 4. (tr.) to enclose in a pen.

pen (pen) *n. U.S. inf.* short for **penitentiary**.

pen (pen) *n.* a female swan.

Pen. *abbrev.* for Peninsula.

P.E.N. (pen) *abbrev.* for International Association of Poets, Playwrights, Editors, Essayists, and Novelists.

penal ('pi:nl) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, constituting, or prescribing punishment. 2. used or designated as a place of punishment: *a penal institution*. —**penally** *adv.*

penal code *n.* the codified body of the laws that relate to crime and its punishment.

penalize or **-ise** ('pi:nə,laɪz) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to impose a penalty on (someone), as for breaking a law or rule. 2. to inflict a disadvantage on. 3. *Sport.* to award a free stroke, point, or penalty against (a player or team). 4. to declare (an act) legally punishable. —**penali'zation** or **-i'sation** *n.*

penalty ('penɪti) *n. pl. -ties.* 1. a legal or official punishment, such as a term of imprisonment. 2. some other form of punishment, such as a fine or forfeit for not fulfilling a contract. 3. loss, suffering, or other unfortunate result of one's own action, error, etc. 4. *Sport, games, etc.* a handicap awarded against a player or team for illegal play, such as a free shot at goal by the opposing team.

penalty box *n.* 1. Also called: **penalty area**. *Soccer.* a rectangular area in front of the goal, within which a penalty is awarded for a foul by the defending team. 2. *Ice hockey.* a bench for players serving time penalties.

penance ('penəns) *n.* 1. voluntary self-punishment to atone for a sin, crime, etc. 2. a feeling of regret for one's wrongdoings. 3. *Christianity.* a punishment usually consisting of prayer, fasting, etc., imposed by church authority as a condition of absolution. 4. *R.C. Church.* a sacrament in which repentant sinners are absolved on condition of confession of their sins to a priest and of

performing a penance. ~vb. 5. (tr.) (of ecclesiastical authorities) to impose a penance upon (a sinner).

pence (pens) *n.* the plural of **penny**.

▷ **Usage.** Since the decimalization of British currency and the introduction of the abbreviation **p**, as in *10p*, *85p*, etc., the abbreviation has tended to replace **pence** in speech, as in *4p* (fɔː'piː), etc.

penchant ('pentʃənt; French pɑ̃'ʃɑ̃) *n.* strong inclination or liking; bent or taste.

pencil ('pensl) *n.* 1. a thin cylindrical instrument used for writing, drawing, etc., consisting of a central rod of graphite encased in wood and sharpened. 2. something similar in shape or function: a *styptic pencil*. 3. a narrow set of lines or rays, such as light rays, diverging from or converging to a point. 4. *Rare.* an artist's individual style. 5. a type of artist's brush. ~vb. -ciling, -cilled or U.S. -ciling, -ciled. (tr.) 6. to draw, colour, or write with a pencil. 7. to mark with a pencil. —'penciller or U.S. 'penciler *n.*

pend (pend) *vb.* (intr.) to await judgment or settlement.

pendant ('pendənt) *n.* 1. a. an ornament that hangs from a piece of jewellery. b. a necklace with such an ornament. 2. a hanging light, esp. a chandelier. 3. a carved ornament that is suspended from a ceiling or roof. ~adj. 4. a variant spelling of **pendent**.

pendent ('pendənt) *adj.* 1. dangling. 2. jutting. 3. (of a grammatical construction) incomplete. 4. a less common word for **pending**. ~n. 5. a variant spelling of **pendant**. —'pendency *n.* —'pendently *adv.*

pending ('pendɪŋ) *prep.* 1. while waiting for. ~adj. (postpositive) 2. not yet decided, confirmed, or finished. 3. imminent: *these developments have been pending for some time.*

pendragon (pen'dræɡən) *n.* a supreme war chief or leader of the ancient Britons.

pendulous ('pendjʊləs) *adj.* hanging downwards, esp. so as to swing from side to side. —'pendulously *adv.*

pendulum ('pendjʊləm) *n.* 1. a body mounted so that it can swing freely under the influence of gravity. 2. such a device used to regulate a clock mechanism. 3. something that changes fairly regularly: *the pendulum of public opinion.*

penepain or **penepplane** ('piːni,pleɪn) *n.* a relatively flat land surface produced by erosion.

penetrate ('peni,treit) *vb.* 1. to find or force a way into or through (something); pierce; enter. 2. to diffuse through (a substance, etc.); permeate. 3. (tr.) to see through: *their eyes could not penetrate the fog*. 4. (tr.) (of a man) to insert the penis into the vagina of (a woman). 5. (tr.) to grasp the meaning of (a principle, etc.). 6. (intr.) to be understood: *his face lit up as the new idea penetrated*. —'penetrable *adj.* —'penetra'bility *n.* —'pene,tra'tor *n.*

penetrating ('peni,treitɪŋ) *adj.* tending to or able to penetrate: *a penetrating mind; a penetrating voice*. —'pene,tra'tingly *adv.*

penetration ('peni,treitʃən) *n.* 1. the act or an instance of penetrating. 2. the ability or power to penetrate. 3. keen insight or perception. 4. *Mil.* an offensive manoeuvre that breaks through an enemy's defensive position.

pen friend *n.* another name for **pen pal**.

penguin ('peŋɡwɪn) *n.* a flightless marine bird of cool southern, esp. Antarctic, regions: they have wings modified as flippers, webbed feet, and feathers lacking barbs.

penicillin ('peni,sɪlɪn) *n.* an antibiotic with powerful action against bacteria: obtained from the fungus *Penicillium*.

peninsula (pi'nɪnsjələ) *n.* a narrow strip of land projecting into a sea or lake from the mainland. —'pen'insular *adj.*

penis ('piːnɪs) *n.* pl. -nises or -nes (-nɪz). the male organ of copulation in higher vertebrates, also used for urine excretion in many mammals. —'penile ('piːnaɪl) *adj.*

penitent ('penɪtənt) *adj.* 1. feeling regret for one's sins; repentant. ~n. 2. a person who is penitent. 3. *Christianity.* a. a person who repents his sins and seeks forgiveness for them. b. *R.C. Church.* a person who confesses his sins and submits to a penance. —'penitence *n.* —'peni'tential *adj.* —'penitently *adv.*

penitentiary ('peni'tenʃəri) *n.* pl. -ries. 1. (in the U.S.) a state prison. 2. *R.C. Church.* a. a cardinal who presides over a tribunal that decides all matters affecting the sacrament of penance. b. this tribunal itself. ~adj. 3. (of an offence) punishable by imprisonment in a penitentiary.

penknife ('pen,naɪf) *n.* pl. -knives. a small knife with

one or more blades that fold into the handle; pocket-knife.

penman ('penmən) *n.* pl. -men. 1. a person skilled in handwriting. 2. a person who writes by hand in a specified way: *a bad penman*. 3. an author. 4. *Rare.* a scribe.

penmanship ('penmənʃɪp) *n.* style or technique of writing by hand.

pen name *n.* an author's pseudonym. Also called: **nom de plume**.

pennant ('penənt) *n.* 1. a type of pennon, esp. one flown from vessels as identification or for signalling. 2. *Chiefly U.S. & Austral.* a flag serving as an emblem of championship in certain sports. b. (as modifier): *pennant cricket*.

penniless ('penɪlɪs) *adj.* very poor; almost totally without money. —'pennilessly *adv.* —'pennilessness *n.*

pennon ('penən) *n.* 1. a long flag, often tapering and divided at the end, originally a knight's personal flag. 2. a small tapering or triangular flag borne on a ship or boat. 3. a poetic word for **wing**.

penny ('peni) *n.* pl. **pennies** or **pence** (pens). 1. Also called: **new penny**. *Brit.* a bronze coin having a value equal to one hundredth of a pound. Abbrev.: **p**. 2. *Brit.* (before 1971) a bronze or copper coin having a value equal to one twelfth of a shilling. Symbol: **d**. 3. (pl. **pennies**) *U.S. & Canad.* a cent. 4. a coin of similar value, as used in several other countries. 5. (used with a negative) *Inf.* *chiefly Brit.* the least amount of money: *I don't have a penny*. 6. *a pretty penny*. *Inf.* a considerable sum of money. 7. *spend a penny*. *Brit. inf.* to urinate. 8. *the penny dropped*. *Inf.* *chiefly Brit.* the explanation of something was finally realized.

Penny Black *n.* the first adhesive postage stamp, issued in Britain in 1840.

penny-dreadful *n.* pl. -fuls. *Brit. inf.* a cheap, often lurid book or magazine.

penny-farthing *n.* *Brit.* an early type of bicycle with a large front wheel and a small rear wheel, the pedals being on the front wheel.

penny-pincher *n.* *Inf.* a person who is excessively careful with money. —'penny-,pinching *n.* *adj.*

pennyroyal ('peni,roɪəl) *n.* 1. a Eurasian plant with hairy leaves and small mauve flowers, yielding an aromatic oil used in medicine. 2. a similar and related plant of E North America.

pennyweight ('peni,weɪt) *n.* a unit of weight equal to 24 grains or one twentieth of an ounce (Troy).

penny-wise *adj.* 1. greatly concerned with saving small sums of money. 2. **penny-wise and pound-foolish**. careful about trifles but wasteful in large ventures.

pennywort ('peni,wɜːt) *n.* 1. a Eurasian rock plant with whitish-green tubular flowers and rounded leaves. 2. a marsh plant of Europe and North Africa, having circular leaves and greenish-pink flowers. 3. any of various other plants with rounded penny-like leaves.

pennyworth ('peni,wɜːθ) *n.* 1. the amount that can be bought for a penny. 2. a small amount: *he hasn't got a pennyworth of sense*.

penology (pi'nɒlədʒi) *n.* 1. the branch of the social sciences concerned with the punishment of crime. 2. the science of prison management. —'penological ('piːnɒlədʒɪkəl) *adj.* —'pe'nologist *n.*

pen pal *n.* a person with whom one exchanges letters, often a person in another country whom one has not met. Also called: **pen friend**.

penpusher ('pen,pʊʃə) *n.* a person who writes a lot, esp. a clerk involved with boring paperwork. —'pen,pushing *adj.*, *n.*

pension ('penʃən) *n.* 1. a regular payment made by the state to people over a certain age to enable them to subsist without having to work. 2. a regular payment made by an employer to former employees after they retire. 3. any regular payment made by way of patronage, or in recognition of merit, service, etc.: *a pension paid to a disabled soldier*. ~vb. 4. (tr.) to grant a pension to. —'pensionable *adj.* —'pensionary *adj.* —'pensioner *n.*

pension French. (pɑ̃'sjɔ̃) *n.* (in France and some other countries) a relatively cheap boarding house.

pension off *vb.* (tr., adv.) 1. to cause to retire from a job and pay a pension to. 2. to discard, because of age: *to pension off submarines*.

pensive ('pensɪv) *adj.* 1. deeply or seriously thoughtful, often with a tinge of sadness. 2. expressing or suggesting pensiveness. —'pensively *adv.* —'pensiveness *n.*

pent (pent) *vb.* a past tense of **pen**.

penta- combining form. five: *pentagon*; *pentameter*.

pentacle ('pentəkl̩) *n.* 1. Also called: **pentagram**, **pentangle**, a star-shaped figure with five points. 2. such a figure used by the Pythagoreans, black magicians, etc.

pentagon ('pentəɡɒn) *n.* a polygon having five sides. —**pentagonal** (pen'tæɡənəl) *adj.*

Pentagon ('pentəɡɒn) *n.* 1. the five-sided building in Arlington, Virginia, that houses the headquarters of the U.S. armed forces. 2. the military leadership of the U.S.

pentameter (pen'tæmɪtə) *n.* 1. a verse line consisting of five metrical feet. 2. (in classical prosody) a verse line consisting of two dactyls, one stressed syllable, two dactyls, and a final stressed syllable. ~*adj.* 3. designating a verse line consisting of five metrical feet.

Pentateuch ('pentə,tju:k) *n.* the first five books of the Old Testament. —**Penta'teuchal** *adj.*

pentathlon (pen'tæθlɒn) *n.* an athletic contest consisting of five different events.

pentatonic scale (pen'tə'tɒnik) *n.* *Music.* any of several scales consisting of five notes.

Pentecost ('pentɪ,kɒst) *n.* 1. a Christian festival occurring on Whit Sunday commemorating the descent of the Holy Ghost on the apostles. 2. *Judaism.* the Jewish harvest festival occurring on the fiftieth day after the second day of Passover.

Pentecostal (pen'tɪ,kɒstəl) *adj.* 1. (usually *prenominal*) of or relating to any of various Christian groups that emphasize the charismatic aspects of Christianity and adopt a fundamental attitude to the Bible. 2. of or relating to Pentecost or the influence of the Holy Ghost. ~*n.* 3. a member of a Pentecostal Church. —**Pente'costalist** *n., adj.*

penthouse ('pent,haus) *n.* 1. a flat or maisonette built onto the top floor or roof of a block of flats. 2. a construction on the roof of a building, esp. one used to house machinery, etc. 3. a shed built against a building, esp. one that has a sloping roof.

pent-up *adj.* not released; repressed: *pent-up emotions*.

penult ('penʌlt, pɪ'nʌlt) *n.* the last syllable but one in a word.

penultimate (pɪ'nʌltɪmət) *adj.* 1. next to the last. ~*n.* 2. anything next to last, esp. a penult.

penumbra (pɪ'nʌmbɹə) *n., pl. -brae* (-bri:) or *-bras*. 1. a fringe region of half shadow resulting from the partial obstruction of light by an opaque object. 2. *Astron.* the lighter and outer region of a sunspot. 3. *Painting.* the area in which light and shade blend. —**pe'numbral** *adj.*

penurious (pɪ'njʊəriəs) *adj.* 1. niggardly with money. 2. lacking money or means. 3. scanty. —**pe'nuriously** *adv.* —**pe'nurioussness** *n.*

penury ('penjʊri) *n.* 1. extreme poverty. 2. extreme scarcity.

peon ('pi:ən, 'pi:ɒn) *n.* 1. a Spanish-American farm labourer or unskilled worker. 2. (formerly in Spanish America) a debtor compelled to work off his debts. 3. any very poor person. —**peonage** *n.*

peon ('pi:ən, 'pi:ɒn) *n.* (in India, Ceylon, etc., esp. formerly) 1. a messenger or attendant, esp. in an office. 2. a native policeman. 3. a foot soldier.

peony ('pi:ənt) *n., pl. -nies*. 1. any of a genus of shrubs and plants of Eurasia and North America, having large pink, red, white, or yellow flowers. 2. the flower of any of these plants.

people ('pi:pəl) *n.* (usually *functioning as pl.*) 1. persons collectively or in general. 2. a group of persons considered together: *blind people*. 3. (*pl. peoples*) the persons living in a country and sharing the same nationality: *the French people*. 4. one's family: *he took her home to meet his people*. 5. persons loyal to someone powerful: *the king's people accompanied him in exile*. 6. **the people**, a. the mass of persons without special distinction, privileges, etc. b. the body of persons in a country, etc., esp. those entitled to vote. ~*vb.* 7. (*tr.*) to provide with or as if with people or inhabitants.

▷ **Usage.** See at **person**.

pep (pep) *n.* 1. high spirits, energy, or vitality. ~*vb.* **pepping, pepped**. 2. (*tr.*; usually *fol. by up*) to liven by imbuing with new vigour. —**'peppy** *adj.*

pepper ('pepə) *n.* 1. a woody climbing plant, *Piper nigrum*, of the East Indies, having small black berry-like fruits. 2. the dried fruit of this plant, which is ground to produce a sharp hot condiment. See also **black pepper**, **white pepper**. 3. any of various other plants of the genus *Piper*. 4. Also called: **capsicum**, any of various tropical plants, the fruits of which are used as a vegetable and a condiment. See also **sweet pepper**, **red pepper**, **cayenne pepper**. 5. the fruit of any of these

capsicums, which has a mild or pungent taste. 6. the condiment made from the fruits of any of these plants. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 7. to season with pepper. 8. to sprinkle liberally; dot: *his prose was peppered with alliteration*. 9. to pelt with small missiles.

pepper-and-salt *adj.* 1. (of cloth, etc.) marked with a fine mixture of black and white. 2. (of hair) streaked with grey.

peppercorn ('pepə,kɒ:n) *n.* 1. the small dried berry of the pepper plant (*Piper nigrum*). 2. something trifling.

peppercorn rent *n.* a rent that is very low or nominal.

pepper mill *n.* a small hand mill used to grind peppercorns.

peppermint ('pepə,mɪnt) *n.* 1. a temperate mint plant with purple or white flowers and downy leaves, which yield a pungent oil. 2. the oil from this plant, which is used as a flavouring. 3. a sweet flavoured with peppermint.

peppery ('pepəri) *adj.* 1. flavoured with or tasting of pepper. 2. quick-tempered; irritable. 3. full of bite and sharpness: *a peppery speech*. —**'pepperness** *n.*

pep pill *n.* *Inf.* a tablet containing a stimulant drug.

pepsin ('pepsɪn) *n.* an enzyme produced in the stomach, which, when activated by acid, splits proteins into peptones.

pep talk *n.* *Inf.* an enthusiastic talk designed to increase confidence, production, cooperation, etc.

peptic ('peptɪk) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or promoting digestion. 2. of, relating to, or caused by pepsin or the action of the digestive juices.

peptic ulcer *n.* *Pathol.* an ulcer of the mucous membrane lining those parts of the alimentary tract exposed to digestive juices, including the oesophagus, the stomach, and the duodenum.

per (pə; *unstressed* pə) *determiner*. 1. for every: *three pence per pound*. ~*prep.* 2. (esp. in some Latin phrases) by; through. 3. **as per**, according to: *as per specifications*. 4. **as per usual**. *Inf.* as usual.

per- *prefix*. 1. indicating that a chemical compound contains a high proportion of a specified element: *peroxide*. 2. indicating that a chemical element is in a higher than usual state of oxidation: *permanganate*.

peradventure (pə'rəd'ventʃə, pə:r-) *Arch.* ~*adv.* 1. by chance; perhaps. ~*n.* 2. chance or doubt.

perambulate (pə'ræmbjuːleɪt) *vb.* 1. to walk about (a place). 2. (*tr.*) to walk round in order to inspect. —**perambu'lation** *n.* —**perambulatory** (pə'ræmbjuːlətəri, -trɪ) *adj.*

perambulator (pə'ræmbjuːləɪtə) *n.* a formal word for **pram**.

per annum (pə'r ænəm) *adv.* every year or by the year.

percale (pə'keɪl, -'kæl) *n.* a close-textured woven cotton fabric, used esp. for sheets.

per capita (pə 'kæpɪtə) *adj., adv.* of or for each person.

perceive (pə'si:v) *vb.* 1. to become aware of (something) through the senses; recognize or observe. 2. (*tr.*; *may take a clause as object*) to come to comprehend; grasp. —**per'ceivable** *adj.* —**per'ceivably** *adv.* —**per'ceiver** *n.*

per cent (pə 'sent) *adv.* 1. Also: **per centum**, in or for every hundred. ~*n.* Also **percent**. 2. a percentage or proportion. 3. (*often pl.*) securities yielding a rate of interest as specified: *he bought three percents*.

percentage (pə'sentɪdʒ) *n.* 1. proportion or rate per hundred parts. 2. *Commerce.* the interest, tax, commission, or allowance on a hundred items. 3. any proportion in relation to the whole. 4. *Inf.* profit or advantage.

percentile (pə'sentail) *n.* one of 99 actual or notional values of a variable dividing its distribution into 100 groups with equal frequencies. Also called (in the U.S.): **centile**.

perceptible (pə'septəbəl) *adj.* able to be perceived; noticeable or recognizable. —**per,cepti'bility** *n.* —**per'ceptibly** *adv.*

perception (pə'sepʃən) *n.* 1. the act or the effect of perceiving. 2. insight or intuition gained by perceiving. 3. the ability or capacity to perceive. 4. the process by which an organism detects and interprets information from the external world by means of the sensory receptors. —**per'ceptional** *adj.* —**perceptual** (pə'septʃuəl) *adj.*

perceptive (pə'septɪv) *adj.* 1. quick at perceiving; observant. 2. perceptual. 3. able to perceive. —**per'ceptively** *adv.* —**percep'tivity** or **per'ceptiveness** *n.*

perch' (pɜ:tʃ) *n.* 1. a pole, branch, or other resting place above ground on which a bird roosts. 2. a similar resting place for a person or thing. 3. another name for rod (sense 7). ~vb. 4. (usually foll. by *on*) to alight, rest, or cause to rest on or as if on a perch: *the bird perched on the branch; the cap was perched on his head.* —**percher** *n.*

perch' (pɜ:tʃ) *n., pl. perch or perches.* 1. any of a family of freshwater spiny-finned teleost fishes of Europe and North America: valued as food and game fishes. 2. any of various similar or related fishes.

perchance (pɜ:'tʃɑ:ns) *adv. Arch. or poetic.* 1. perhaps; possibly. 2. by chance; accidentally.

perceptive (pɜ:'sɪpiənt) *adj.* 1. able to perceive. 2. perceptive. ~*n.* 3. a person who perceives. —**per'cipience** *n.* —**per'cipiently** *adv.*

percolate vb. ('pɜ:kə,leɪt). 1. to cause (a liquid) to pass through a fine mesh, porous substance, etc. or (of a liquid) to pass through a fine mesh, etc.; trickle: *rain percolated through the roof.* 2. to permeate; penetrate gradually: *water percolated the road.* 3. to make (coffee) or (of coffee) to be made in a percolator. ~*n.* ('pɜ:kəlɪt, -leɪt). 4. a product of percolation. —**percolable** ('pɜ:kələb'l) *adj.* —**perco'lation** *n.*

percolator (pɜ:'kɒlətə) *n.* a kind of coffeepot in which boiling water is forced up through a tube and filters down through the coffee grounds into a container.

percussion (pɜ:'kʌʃən) *n.* 1. the act, an instance, or an effect of percussing. 2. *Music.* the family of instruments in which sound arises from the striking of materials with sticks or hammers. 3. *Music.* instruments of this family constituting a section of an orchestra, etc. 4. *Med.* the act of percussing a body surface. 5. the act of exploding a percussion cap. —**per'cussive** *adj.* —**per'cussively** *adv.* —**per'cussiveness** *n.*

percussion cap *n.* a detonator consisting of a paper or thin metal cap containing material that explodes when struck.

percussion instrument *n.* any of various musical instruments that produce a sound when their resonating surfaces are struck directly, as with a stick or mallet, or by leverage action.

percussionist (pɜ:'kʌʃənɪst) *n. Music.* a person who plays any of several percussion instruments.

perdition (pɜ:'dɪʃən) *n.* 1. *Christianity.* a. final and irrevocable spiritual ruin. b. this state as one that the wicked are said to be destined to endure forever. 2. another word for hell. 3. *Arch.* utter ruin or destruction.

peregrinate ('perɪgrɪ,neɪt) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to travel or wander about from place to place; voyage. 2. (*tr.*) to travel through (a place). —**peregri'nation** *n.* —**'peregri,nator** *n.*

peregrine falcon *n.* a falcon occurring in most parts of the world, having a dark plumage on the back and wings and lighter underparts.

peremptory (pɜ:'remptəri) *adj.* 1. urgent or commanding: *a peremptory ring on the bell.* 2. not able to be remitted or debated; decisive. 3. dogmatic. 4. *Law.* a. admitting of no denial or contradiction; precluding debate. b. obligatory rather than permissive. —**per'emptorily** *adv.* —**per'emptoriness** *n.*

perennial (pɜ:'renɪəl) *adj.* 1. lasting throughout the year or through many years. 2. everlasting; perpetual. ~*n.* 3. a woody or herbaceous plant that continues its growth for at least three years. —**per'ennially** *adv.*

perfect *adj.* ('pɜ:fɪkt). 1. having all essential elements. 2. unblemished; faultless: *a perfect gemstone.* 3. correct or precise: *perfect timing.* 4. utter or absolute: *a perfect stranger.* 5. excellent in all respects: *a perfect day.* 6. *Maths.* exactly divisible into equal integral or polynomial roots: *36 is a perfect square.* 7. *Bot.* a. (of flowers) having functional stamens and pistils. b. (of plants) having all parts present. 8. *Grammar.* denoting a tense of verbs used in describing an action that has been completed. In English this is formed with *have* or *has* plus the past participle. 9. *Music.* a. of or relating to the intervals of the unison, fourth, fifth, and octave. b. (of a cadence) ending on the tonic chord, giving a feeling of conclusion. Also: *final.* ~*n.* ('pɜ:fɪkt). 10. *Grammar.* a. the perfect tense. b. a verb in this tense. ~vb. (*tr.*) ('pɜ:fekt). 11. to make perfect; improve to one's satisfaction: *he is in Paris to perfect his French.* 12. to make fully accomplished. —**per'fecter** *n.* —**'perfectly** *adv.* —**'perfectness** *n.*

▷ Usage. See at **unique**.

perfectible (pɜ:'fektəb'l) *adj.* capable of becoming or being made perfect. —**per,fecti'bility** *n.*

perfection (pɜ:'fɛkʃən) *n.* 1. the act of perfecting or the

state or quality of being perfect. 2. the highest degree of a quality, etc. 3. an embodiment of perfection.

perfectionism (pɜ:'fɛkʃənɪzəm) *n.* 1. *Philosophy.* the doctrine that man can attain perfection in this life. 2. the demand for the highest standard of excellence. —**per'fectionist** *n.*

perfect participle *n.* another name for **past participle**.

perfect pitch *n.* another name (not in technical usage) for **absolute pitch** (sense 1).

perfidious (pɜ:'fɪdɪəs) *adj.* guilty, treacherous, or faithless; deceitful. —**per'fidiously** *adv.* —**per'fidiousness** *n.* —**'perfidy** *n.*

perforate vb. ('pɜ:fə,reit). 1. to make a hole or holes in (something). 2. (*tr.*) to punch rows of holes between (stamps, etc.) for ease of separation. ~*adj.* ('pɜ:fərit). 3. *Biol.* pierced by small holes: *perforate shells.* 4. *Philately.* perforated. —**perforable** ('pɜ:fərəb'l) *adj.* —**perfo,rator** *n.*

perforation (pɜ:'fɔ'reɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of perforating or the state of being perforated. 2. a hole or holes made in something. 3. a. a method of making individual stamps, etc. easily separable by punching holes along their margins. b. the holes punched in this way. Abbrev.: **perf.**

perforce (pɜ:'fɔ:s) *adv.* by necessity; unavoidably.

perform (pɜ:'fɔ:m) *vb.* 1. to carry out (an action). 2. (*tr.*) to fulfil: *to perform someone's request.* 3. to present or enact (a play, concert, etc.): *the group performed Hamlet.* —**per'formable** *adj.* —**per'former** *n.*

performance (pɜ:'fɔ:məns) *n.* 1. the act, process, or art of performing. 2. an artistic or dramatic production: *last night's performance was terrible.* 3. manner or quality of functioning: *a machine's performance.* 4. *Inf.* mode of conduct or behaviour, esp. when distasteful: *what did you mean by that performance at the restaurant?* 5. *Inf.* any tiresome procedure: *the performance of preparing to go out in the snow.*

perfume *n.* ('pɜ:fju:m). 1. a mixture of alcohol and fragrant essential oils extracted from flowers, etc., or made synthetically. 2. a scent or odour, esp. a fragrant one. ~vb. ('pɜ:fju:m). 3. (*tr.*) to impart a perfume to.

perfumer (pɜ:'fju:mə) *n.* a person who makes or sells perfume.

perfumery (pɜ:'fju:məri) *n., pl. -eries.* 1. a place where perfumes are sold. 2. a factory where perfumes are made. 3. the process of making perfumes. 4. perfumes in general.

perfunctory (pɜ:'fʌŋktəri) *adj.* 1. done superficially, only as a matter of routine. 2. dull or indifferent. —**per'functorily** *adv.* —**per'functoriness** *n.*

pergola ('pɜ:gələ) *n.* a horizontal trellis or framework, supported on posts, that carries climbing plants.

perhaps (pɜ:'hæps; *informal* præps) *adv.* 1. a. possibly; maybe. b. (as sentence modifier): *he'll arrive tomorrow, perhaps.* ~*sentence substitute.* 2. it may happen, be so, etc.; maybe.

peri- *prefix.* 1. enclosing, encircling, or around: *pericardium; pericarp.* 2. near or adjacent: *perihelion.*

perianth ('perɪ,æθ) *n.* the outer part of a flower, consisting of the calyx and corolla.

pericardium (,perɪ'kɑ:dɪəm) *n., pl. -dia* (-dɪə). the membranous sac enclosing the heart. —**perɪ'cardial** or **perɪ'cardiac** *adj.*

perigee ('perɪ,dʒi:) *n.* the point in its orbit around the earth when the moon or a satellite is nearest the earth. —**perɪ'gean** *adj.*

perihelion (,perɪ'hɪliən) *n., pl. -lia* (-liə). the point in its orbit when a planet or comet is nearest the sun.

peril ('perɪl) *n.* exposure to risk or harm; danger or jeopardy. —**'perilous** *adj.*

perimeter (pɜ:'mɪtə) *n.* 1. *Maths.* a. the curve or line enclosing a plane area. b. the length of this curve or line. 2. a. any boundary around something. b. (as modifier): *a perimeter fence.* 3. a medical instrument for measuring the field of vision. —**perimetric** (,perɪ'metrɪk) *adj.*

perineum (,perɪ'nɪəm) *n., pl. -nea* (-'ni:ə). 1. the region of the body between the anus and the genital organs. 2. the surface of the human trunk between the thighs. —**perɪ'neal** *adj.*

period ('pɪəriəd) *n.* 1. a portion of time of indefinable length: *he spent a period away from home.* 2. a. a portion of time specified in some way: *Picasso's blue period.* b. (as modifier): *period costume.* 3. a non-technical name for menstruation. See **menstruate**. 4. *Geol.* a unit of geological time during which a system of rocks

is formed: *the Jurassic period*. 5. a division of time, esp. of the academic day. 6. *Physics, maths*. the time taken to complete one cycle of a regularly recurring phenomenon; the reciprocal of frequency. Symbol: *T*. 7. *Astron.* a. the time required by a body to make one complete rotation on its axis. b. the time interval between two successive maxima or minima of light variation of a variable star. 8. *Chem.* one of the horizontal rows of elements in the periodic table. Each period starts with an alkali metal and ends with a rare gas. 9. another term (esp. U.S.) for **full stop**. 10. a complete sentence, esp. one with several clauses. 11. a completion or end.

periodic (ˈpɪərɪˈɒdɪk) *adj.* 1. happening or recurring at intervals; intermittent. 2. of, relating to, or resembling a period. 3. having or occurring in repeated periods or cycles. —**peri**'odically *adv.* —**periodicity** (ˌpɪərɪˈɒdɪsɪtɪ) *n.*

periodical (ˈpɪərɪˈɒdɪkəl) *n.* 1. a publication issued at regular intervals, usually monthly or weekly. ~*adj.* 2. of or relating to such publications. 3. published at regular intervals. 4. periodic or occasional.

periodic law *n.* the principle that the chemical properties of the elements are periodic functions of their atomic weights or, more accurately, of their atomic numbers.

periodic table *n.* a table of the elements, arranged in order of increasing atomic number, based on the periodic law.

peripatetic (ˌpɛrɪpəˈtɛtɪk) *adj.* 1. itinerant. 2. *Brit.* employed in two or more educational establishments and travelling from one to another: *a peripatetic football coach*. ~*n.* 3. a peripatetic person. —**peripa**'tetical-ly *adv.*

Peripatetic (ˌpɛrɪpəˈtɛtɪk) *adj.* 1. of or relating to the teachings of Aristotle, who used to teach philosophy while walking about the Lyceum in ancient Athens. ~*n.* 2. a student of Aristotelianism.

peripheral (pəˈrɪfərəl) *adj.* 1. not relating to the most important part of something; incidental. 2. of or relating to a periphery. 3. *Anat.* of, relating to, or situated near the surface of the body: *a peripheral nerve*. —**pe**'ripherally *adv.*

peripheral device or unit *n.* *Computers.* any device, such as a card punch, line printer, etc., concerned with input/output, storage, etc. Often shortened to **peripheral**.

periphery (pəˈrɪfəri) *n., pl. -eries*. 1. the outermost boundary of an area. 2. the outside surface of something.

periphrasis (pəˈrɪfrəʊsɪs) *n., pl. -rases* (-rəʃɪz). 1. a roundabout way of expressing something; circumlocution. 2. an expression of this kind.

periscope (ˌpɛrɪˈskəʊp) *n.* any of a number of optical instruments that enable the user to view objects that are not in the direct line of vision, such as one in a submarine for looking above the surface of the water. They have a system of mirrors or prisms to reflect the light. —**periscopic** (ˌpɛrɪˈskɒpɪk) *adj.*

perish (ˈpɛrɪʃ) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to be destroyed or die, esp. in an untimely way. 2. (*tr.* sometimes foll. by *with* or *from*) to cause to suffer: *we were perished with cold*. 3. to rot or cause to rot: *leather perishes if exposed to bad weather*. ~*n.* 4. **do a perish**. *Austral. inf.* to die or come near to dying of thirst or starvation.

perishable (ˈpɛrɪʃəbəl) *adj.* 1. liable to rot. ~*n.* 2. (*often pl.*) a perishable article, esp. food. —**perisha**'bility or **perishableness** *n.*

perishing (ˈpɛrɪʃɪŋ) *adj.* 1. *Inf.* (of weather, etc.) extremely cold. 2. *Sl.* (intensifier qualifying something undesirable): *you perishing blighter!* —**perishingly** *adv.*

peristalsis (ˌpɛrɪˈstælsɪs) *n., pl. -ses* (-sɪz). *Physiol.* the succession of waves of involuntary muscular contraction of various bodily tubes, esp. of the alimentary tract, where it effects transport of food and waste products. —**peri**'staltic *adj.*

peritoneum (ˌpɛrɪtəˈni:əm) *n., pl. -nea* (-ˈni:ə) or **-neums**. a serous sac that lines the walls of the abdominal cavity and covers the viscera. —**perito**'neal *adj.*

peritonitis (ˌpɛrɪtəˈnætɪs) *n.* inflammation of the peritoneum.

periwig (ˈpɛrɪ,wɪɡ) *n.* a wig, such as a peruke.

periwinkle (ˌpɛrɪ,wɪŋkəl) *n.* any of various edible marine gastropods having a spirally coiled shell. Often shortened to **winkle**.

periwinkle (ˌpɛrɪ,wɪŋkəl) *n.* any of several Eurasian evergreen plants having trailing stems and blue flowers.

perjure (ˈpɜːdʒə) *vb. (tr.)* *Criminal law.* to render (oneself) guilty of perjury. —**perjurer** *n.*

perjury (ˈpɜːdʒəri) *n., pl. -juries*. *Criminal law.* the offence committed by a witness in judicial proceedings who, having been lawfully sworn, wilfully gives false evidence. —**perjurious** (pɜːˈdʒʊəriəs) *adj.*

perk¹ (pɜːk) *vb. (intr.)* *Inf.* (of coffee) to percolate.

perk² (pɜːk) *n. Brit. inf.* short for **perquisite**.

perk up *vb. (adv.)* 1. to make or become more cheerful, hopeful, or lively. 2. to rise or cause to rise briskly: *the dog's ears perked up*. 3. (*tr.*) to make smarter in appearance: *she perked up her outfit with a bright scarf*.

perky (ˈpɜːki) *adj.* **perkier, perkier**. 1. jaunty; lively. 2. confident; spirited. —**perkily** *adv.* —**perkiness** *n.*

perm¹ (pɜːm) *Inf.* ~*n.* 1. short for **permanent wave**. ~*vb. (tr.)* 2. to give (hair) a permanent wave.

perm² (pɜːm) *n. Inf.* short for **permutation** (sense 4).

permafrost (ˈpɜːməˌfrɒst) *n.* ground that is permanently frozen.

permanent (ˈpɜːmənənt) *adj.* 1. existing or intended to exist for an indefinite period: *a permanent structure*. 2. not expected to change; not temporary: *a permanent condition*. —**permanence** or **permanency** *n.* —**permanently** *adv.*

permanent wave *n.* a series of waves or curls made in the hair by application of heat or chemicals, lasting several months. Often shortened to **perm**.

permanent way *n.* *Chiefly Brit.* the track of a railway, including the sleepers, rails, etc.

permanganate (pɜːˈmæŋɡəˌneɪt, -nt) *n.* a salt of an acid containing manganese.

permeable (ˈpɜːməbəl) *adj.* capable of being permeated, esp. by liquids. —**permea**'bility *n.* —**permeably** *adv.*

permeate (ˈpɜːmiˌeɪt) *vb.* 1. to penetrate or pervade (a substance, area, etc.): *a lovely smell permeated the room*. 2. to pass through or cause to pass through by osmosis or diffusion: *to permeate a membrane*. —**permea**'tion *n.* —**permeative** *adj.* —**permeator** *n.*

Permian (ˈpɜːmiən) *adj.* 1. of, denoting, or formed in the last period of the Palaeozoic era, between the Carboniferous and Triassic periods. ~*n.* 2. **the**. the Permian period or rock system.

permissible (pəˈmɪsəbəl) *adj.* permitted; allowable. —**per**'missibility *n.* —**per**'missibly *adv.*

permission (pəˈmɪʃən) *n.* authorization to do something.

permissive (pəˈmɪsɪv) *adj.* 1. tolerant; lenient: *permissive parents*. 2. indulgent in matters of sex: *a permissive society*. 3. granting permission. —**per**'missively *adv.* —**per**'missiveness *n.*

permit *vb.* (pəˈmɪt, -mitting, -mitted). 1. (*tr.*) to grant permission to do something: *you are permitted to smoke*. 2. (*tr.*) to consent to or tolerate: *she will not permit him to come*. 3. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *of*; when *tr.*, often foll. by an infinitive) to allow the possibility (of): *the passage permits of two interpretations; his work permits him to relax nowadays*. ~*n.* (ˈpɜːmɪt). 4. an official document granting authorization; licence. 5. permission. —**per**'mitter *n.*

permutation (ˌpɜːmjʊˈteɪʃən) *n.* 1. *Maths.* a. an ordered arrangement of the numbers, terms, etc., of a set into specified groups: *the permutations of a, b, and c, taken two at a time, are ab, ba, ac, ca, bc, cb*. b. a group formed in this way. 2. a combination of items, etc., made by reordering. 3. an alteration; transformation. 4. a fixed combination for selections of results on football pools. Usually shortened to **perm**. —**permu**'tational *adj.*

pernicious (pəˈnɪʃəs) *adj.* 1. wicked or malicious: *pernicious lies*. 2. causing grave harm; deadly. —**per**'niciously *adv.* —**per**'niciousness *n.*

pernicious anaemia *n.* a form of anaemia characterized by lesions of the spinal cord, weakness, sore tongue, diarrhoea, etc.; associated with inadequate absorption of vitamin B₁₂.

pernickety (pəˈnɪkɪtɪ) *adj. Inf.* 1. excessively precise; fussy. 2. (of a task) requiring close attention.

peroration (ˌpɛrəˈreɪʃən) *n.* the conclusion of a speech or discourse, in which points made previously are summed up.

peroxide (pəˈrɒksaɪd) *n.* 1. short for **hydrogen peroxide**, esp. when used for bleaching hair. 2. any of a class of metallic oxides, such as sodium peroxide, Na₂O₂. 3. (*not in technical usage*) any of certain dioxides, such as manganese peroxide, MnO₂, that resemble peroxides in

their formula. 4. any of a class of organic compounds whose molecules contain two oxygen atoms bound together. 5. (*modifier*) of, relating to, bleached with, or resembling peroxide: *a peroxide blonde*. ~vb. 6. (tr.) to bleach (the hair) with peroxide.

perpendicular (ˈpɜːpənˈdɪkjʊlə) *adj.* 1. at right angles. 2. denoting, relating to, or having the style of Gothic architecture used in England during the 14th and 15th centuries, characterized by tracery having vertical lines. 3. upright; vertical. ~n. 4. *Geom.* a line or plane perpendicular to another. 5. any instrument used for indicating the vertical line through a given point. —**perpendicularity** (ˈpɜːpənˈdɪkjʊləriti) *n.* —**perpendicularly** *adv.*

perpetrate (ˈpɜːpɪˌtreɪt) *vb.* (tr.) to perform or be responsible for (a deception, crime, etc.). —**perpetration** *n.* —**perpetrator** *n.*

perpetual (pəˈpetʃʊəl) *adj.* 1. (usually *prenominal*) eternal; permanent. 2. (usually *prenominal*) seemingly ceaseless because often repeated: *your perpetual complaints*. —**perpetually** *adv.*

perpetual motion *n.* motion of a hypothetical mechanism that continues indefinitely without any external source of energy. It is impossible in practice because of friction.

perpetuate (pəˈpetʃuˌeɪt) *vb.* (tr.) to cause to continue: *to perpetuate misconceptions*. —**perpetuation** *n.*

perpetuity (ˌpɜːpɪˈtjuːɪti) *n.*, *pl.* -ties. 1. eternity. 2. the state of being perpetual. 3. *Property law.* a limitation preventing the absolute disposal of an estate for longer than the period allowed by law. 4. an annuity that is payable indefinitely. 5. *in perpetuity*, for ever.

perplex (pəˈpleks) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to puzzle; bewilder; confuse. 2. to complicate: *to perplex an issue*. —**perplexedly** (pəˈpleksɪdli, -ˈplekstli) *adv.* —**perplexingly** *adv.*

perplexity (pəˈpleksɪti) *n.*, *pl.* -ties. 1. the state of being perplexed. 2. the state of being intricate or complicated. 3. something that perplexes.

perquisite (ˈpɜːkwɪzɪt) *n.* 1. an incidental benefit gained from a certain type of employment, such as the use of a company car. 2. a customary benefit received in addition to a regular income. 3. a customary tip. 4. something expected or regarded as an exclusive right. ~Often shortened (informal) to **perk**.

perry (ˈpɛri) *n.*, *pl.* -ries. wine made of pears, similar in taste to cider.

per se (ˈpɜːˈseɪ) *adv.* by or in itself; intrinsically.

persecute (ˈpɜːsɪˌkjʊːt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to oppress, harass, or maltreat, esp. because of race, religion, etc. 2. to bother persistently. —**persecution** *n.* —**persecutive** *adj.* —**persecutor** *n.*

perseverance (ˈpɜːsɪˌvɪərəns) *n.* 1. continued steady belief or efforts; persistence. 2. *Christian Theol.* continuance in a state of grace.

persevere (ˈpɜːsɪˌvɪə) *vb.* (*intr.*; often foll. by *in*) to show perseverance.

Persian (ˈpɜːʃən) *adj.* 1. of or relating to ancient Persia or modern Iran, their inhabitants, or their languages. ~n. 2. a native, citizen, or inhabitant of modern Iran; an Iranian. 3. the language of Iran or Persia in any of its ancient or modern forms.

Persian cat *n.* a long-haired variety of domestic cat.

Persian lamb *n.* 1. a black loosely curled fur from the karakul lamb. 2. a karakul lamb.

persiflage (ˈpɜːsɪˌflɑːʒ) *n.* light frivolous conversation, style, or treatment; friendly teasing.

persimmon (pɜːˈsɪmən) *n.* 1. any of several tropical trees, typically having hard wood and large orange-red fruit. 2. the sweet fruit of any of these trees, which is edible when completely ripe.

persist (pəˈsɪst) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. (often foll. by *in*) to continue steadfastly or obstinately despite opposition. 2. to continue without interruption: *the rain persisted throughout the night*. —**persistently** *adv.*

persistent (pəˈsɪstənt) *adj.* 1. showing persistence. 2. incessantly repeated; unrelenting: *your persistent questioning*. 3. (of plant parts) remaining attached to the plant after the normal time of withering. 4. *Zool.* (of parts normally present only in young stages) present in the adult. —**persistently** *adv.*

person (ˈpɜːsn) *n.*, *pl.* persons. 1. an individual human being. 2. the body of a human being: *guns hidden on his person*. 3. a grammatical category into which pronouns and forms of verbs are subdivided depending on whether they refer to the speaker, the person addressed, or some other individual, thing, etc. 4. a human being or a

corporation recognized in law as having certain rights and obligations. 5. *in person*. actually present: *the author will be there in person*.

▷ **Usage.** *People* is the word usually used to refer to more than one individual: *there were a hundred people at the reception*. *Persons* is rarely used, except in official English: *several persons were interviewed*.

-person *suffix of nouns.* sometimes used instead of *-man* and *-woman* or *-lady*: *chairperson*.

persona (ˈpɜːsəʊnə) *n.*, *pl.* -nae (-niː). 1. (often *pl.*) a character in a play, novel, etc. 2. (in Jungian psychology) the mechanism that conceals a person's true thoughts and feelings, esp. in adaptation to the outside world.

personable (ˈpɜːsənəbəl) *adj.* pleasant in appearance and personality. —**personableness** *n.* —**personably** *adv.*

personage (ˈpɜːsənɪdʒ) *n.* 1. an important or distinguished person. 2. another word for **person**. 3. Rare. a figure in literature, history, etc.

persona grata *Latin.* (ˈpɜːsəʊnə ˈgrɑːtə) *n.*, *pl.* **personae gratae** (pɜːˈsəʊni ˈgrɑːti). an acceptable person, esp. a diplomat.

personal (ˈpɜːsnəl) *adj.* 1. of or relating to the private aspects of a person's life: *personal letters*. 2. (*prenominal*) of or relating to a person's body, its care, or its appearance: *personal hygiene*. 3. (*prenominal*) belonging to or intended for a particular person and no one else: *for your personal use*. 4. (*prenominal*) undertaken by an individual: *a personal appearance by a celebrity*. 5. referring to or involving a person's individual personality, intimate affairs, etc., esp. in an offensive way: *personal remarks; don't be so personal*. 6. having the attributes of an individual conscious being: *a personal God*. 7. of, relating to, or denoting grammatical person. 8. *Law.* of or relating to moveable property, as money, etc.

personal column *n.* a newspaper column containing personal messages and advertisements.

personality (ˈpɜːsəˈnælɪti) *n.*, *pl.* -ties. 1. *Psychol.* the sum total of all the behavioural and mental characteristics by means of which an individual is recognized as being unique. 2. the distinctive character of a person that makes him socially attractive: *a salesman needs a lot of personality*. 3. a well-known person in a certain field, such as entertainment. 4. a remarkable person. 5. (often *pl.*) a personal remark.

personalize or **-ise** (ˈpɜːsənaɪz, laɪz) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to endow with personal or individual qualities. 2. to mark (stationery, clothing, etc.) with a person's initials, name, etc. 3. to take (a remark, etc.) personally. 4. another word for **personify**. —**personalization** or **-isation** *n.*

personally (ˈpɜːsnəli) *adv.* 1. without the help or intervention of others: *I'll attend to it personally*. 2. (*sentence modifier*) in one's own opinion or as regards oneself: *personally, I hate onions*. 3. as if referring to oneself: *to take the insults personally*. 4. as a person: *we like him personally, but professionally he's incompetent*.

persona non grata *Latin.* (pɜːˈsəʊnə nɒn ˈgrɑːtə) *n.*, *pl.* **personae non gratae** (pɜːˈsəʊni nɒn ˈgrɑːti). 1. an unacceptable or unwelcome person. 2. a diplomat who is not acceptable to the government to whom he is accredited.

personate (ˈpɜːsəˌneɪt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to act the part of (a character in a play); portray. 2. *Criminal law.* to assume the identity of (another person) with intent to deceive. —**personation** *n.* —**personative** *adj.* —**personator** *n.*

personification (pɜːˈsɒnɪˌkeɪʃən) *n.* 1. the attribution of human characteristics to things, abstract ideas, etc. 2. the representation of an abstract quality or idea in the form of a person, creature, etc., as in art and literature. 3. a person or thing that personifies. 4. a person or thing regarded as an embodiment of a quality: *he is the personification of optimism*.

personify (pɜːˈsɒnɪˌfaɪ) *vb.* -fying, -fied. (tr.) 1. to attribute human characteristics to (a thing or abstraction). 2. to represent (an abstract quality) in human or animal form. 3. (of a person or thing) to represent (an abstract quality), as in art. 4. to be the embodiment of. —**personifier** *n.*

personnel (ˈpɜːsəˌneɪl) *n.* 1. the people employed in an organization or for a service. 2. a. the department that interviews, appoints, or keeps records of employees. b. (*as modifier*): *a personnel officer*.

perspective (pəˈspektɪv) *n.* 1. a way of regarding situations, facts, etc., and judging their relative importance. 2. the proper or accurate point of view or the

ability to see it; objectivity: *try to get some perspective on your troubles*. 3. the theory or art of suggesting three dimensions on a two-dimensional surface, in order to recreate the dimensions and spatial relationships that objects or a scene in recession present to the eye. 4. the appearance of objects, buildings, etc., relative to each other, as determined by their distance from the viewer, or the effects of this distance on their appearance. —*pers'pectively* *adv.*

Perspex ('pɜːspeks) *n.* Trademark. any of various clear acrylic resins.

perspicacious (ˌpɜːspiˈkeɪʃəs) *adj.* acutely perceptive or discerning. —*perspi'caciously* *adv.* —*perspi'caiousness* or *perspicacity* (ˌpɜːspiˈkæsi) *n.*

perspicuous (pɜːspiˈkjuəs) *adj.* (of speech or writing) easily understood; lucid. —*pers'piciuously* *adv.* —*pers'piciuousness* or *perspicuity* (ˌpɜːspiˈkjuːiti) *n.*

perspiration (ˌpɜːspə'reɪʃən) *n.* 1. the salty fluid secreted by the sweat glands of the skin. 2. the act of secreting this fluid. —*perspiratory* (pɜːspə'reɪtəri) *adj.*

perspire (pɜːspəɪə) *vb.* to secrete or exude (perspiration) through the pores of the skin. —*pers'piringly* *adv.*

persuade (pɜːsweɪd) *vb.* (tr.; may take a clause as object or an infinitive) 1. to induce, urge, or prevail upon successfully: *he finally persuaded them to buy it*. 2. to cause to believe; convince: *even with the evidence, the police were not persuaded*. —*pers'suadable* or *pers'suasive* *adj.* —*pers'suadability* or *pers'suasibility* *n.* —*pers'suader* *n.*

persuasion (pɜːsweɪʒən) *n.* 1. the act of persuading or of trying to persuade. 2. the power to persuade. 3. a strong belief. 4. an established creed or belief, esp. a religious one. 5. a sect, party, or faction.

persuasive (pɜːsweɪsɪv) *adj.* having the power or tending to persuade: *a persuasive salesman*. —*pers'suasively* *adv.* —*pers'suasiveness* *n.*

pert (pɜːt) *adj.* 1. saucy, impudent, or forward. 2. jaunty: *a pert little bow*. 3. Obs. clever or brisk. —*pertly* *adv.* —*pertness* *n.*

pertain (pɜːteɪn) *vb.* (intr.; often foll. by *to*) 1. to have reference or relevance. 2. to be appropriate. 3. to belong (to) or be a part (of).

pertinacious (ˌpɜːtɪˈneɪʃəs) *adj.* 1. doggedly resolute in purpose or belief; unyielding. 2. stubbornly persistent. —*perti'naciously* *adv.* —*pertinacity* (ˌpɜːtɪˈnæsɪti) or *perti'naciousness* *n.*

pertinent (ˌpɜːtɪˈnɒnt) *adj.* relating to the matter at hand; relevant. —*'pertinence* or *'pertinency* *n.* —*'pertinently* *adv.*

perturb (pɜːtɜːb) *vb.* (tr.; often passive) 1. to disturb the composure of; trouble. 2. to throw into disorder. 3. *Physics, astron.* to cause (a planet, electron, etc.) to undergo a perturbation. —*per'turbable* *adj.* —*per'turbingly* *adv.*

perturbation (ˌpɜːtɜːˈbeɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of perturbing or the state of being perturbed. 2. a cause of disturbance. 3. *Physics.* a secondary influence on a system that modifies simple behaviour, such as the effect of the other electrons on one electron in an atom. 4. *Astron.* a small continuous deviation in the orbit of a planet or comet, due to the attraction of neighbouring planets.

peruke (pɜːruːk) *n.* a wig for men in the 17th and 18th centuries. Also called: *periwig*.

peruse (pɜːruːz) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to read or examine with care; study. 2. to browse or read in a leisurely way. —*per'usally* *n.* —*per'user* *n.*

pervade (pɜːveɪd) *vb.* (tr.) to spread through or throughout, esp. subtly or gradually; permeate. —*per'vader* *n.* —*pervasion* (pɜːveɪʃən) *n.* —*pervasive* (pɜːveɪsɪv) *adj.* —*per'vasively* *adv.* —*per'vasiveness* *n.*

perverse (pɜːvɜːs) *adj.* 1. deliberately deviating from what is regarded as normal, good, or proper. 2. persistently holding to what is wrong. 3. wayward or contrary; obstinate. —*per'versely* *adv.* —*per'verse* or *per'versity* *n.*

perversion (pɜːvɜːʃən) *n.* 1. any abnormal means of obtaining sexual satisfaction. 2. the act of perverting or the state of being perverted. 3. a perverted form or usage.

pervert *vb.* (pɜːvɜːt). (tr.) 1. to use wrongly or badly. 2. to interpret wrongly or badly; distort. 3. to lead into deviant or perverted beliefs or behaviour; corrupt. 4. to debase. ~*n.* (ˌpɜːvɜːt). 5. a person who practises sexual perversion. —*per'verted* *adj.* —*per'verter* *n.* —*per'vertible* *adj.* —*per'versive* *adj.*

pervious (ˌpɜːviəs) *adj.* 1. able to be penetrated; per-

meable. 2. receptive to new ideas, etc.; open-minded. —*per'viciously* *adv.* —*'perviousness* *n.*

peseta (pəˈseɪtə; Spanish pəˈseta) *n.* the standard monetary unit of Spain, divided into 100 céntimos.

pesky ('peski) *adj.* **peskier, peskiest.** *U.S. inf.* troublesome. —*'peskily* *adv.* —*'peskiness* *n.*

peso ('peɪsəʊ; Spanish 'peso) *n., pl. -sos* (-səʊz; Spanish -sos). the standard monetary unit of Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, the Philippines, and Uruguay.

pessary ('pesəri) *n., pl. -ries.* *Med.* 1. a device for inserting into the vagina, either as a support for the uterus or (diaphragm pessary) as a contraceptive. 2. a vaginal suppository.

pessimism ('pesɪˌmɪzəm) *n.* 1. the tendency to expect the worst in all things. 2. the doctrine of the ultimate triumph of evil over good. 3. the doctrine that this is the worst of all possible worlds. —*'pessimist* *n.* —*'pessimistic* *adj.* —*'pessimistically* *adv.*

pest (pest) *n.* 1. a person or thing that annoys, esp. by imposing itself when it is not wanted; nuisance. 2. any organism that damages crops, or injures or irritates livestock or man. 3. *Rare.* an epidemic disease.

pester ('peɪstə) *vb.* (tr.) to annoy or nag continually. —*'pesterer* *n.*

pesticide ('pestɪˌsaɪd) *n.* a chemical used for killing pests, esp. insects. —*'pesti'cidal* *adj.*

pestiferous (peˈstɪfərəs) *adj.* 1. *Inf.* troublesome; irritating. 2. breeding, carrying, or spreading infectious disease. 3. corrupting; pernicious.

pestilence ('pestɪləns) *n.* 1. a. any epidemic of a deadly infectious disease, such as the plague. b. such a disease. 2. an evil influence.

pestilent ('pestɪlənt) *adj.* 1. annoying; irritating. 2. highly destructive morally or physically; pernicious. 3. likely to cause epidemic or infectious disease. —*'pestilently* *adv.* —*pestilential* (ˌpestɪˈlenʃəl) *adj.* —*'pestilentially* *adv.*

pestle ('pesl) *n.* 1. a club-shaped instrument for mixing or grinding substances in a mortar. 2. a tool for pounding or stamping. ~*vb.* 3. to pound (a substance or object) with or as if with a pestle.

pet (pet) *n.* 1. a tame animal kept for companionship, amusement, etc. 2. a person who is fondly indulged; favourite: *teacher's pet*. ~(*modifier*) 3. kept as a pet: *a pet dog*. 4. of or for pet animals: *pet food*. 5. particularly cherished: *a pet hatred*. 6. showing fondness: *a pet name*. ~*vb.* **petting, petted.** 7. (tr.) to treat (a person, animal, etc.) as a pet; pamper. 8. (tr.) to pat or fondle (an animal, child, etc.). 9. (intr.) *Inf.* (of two people) to caress each other in an erotic manner. —*'petter* *n.*

pet (pet) *n.* a fit of sulkiness, esp. at what is felt to be a slight; pique.

Pet. *Bible. abbrev. for Peter.*

petal ('petl) *n.* any of the separate parts of the corolla of a flower: often brightly coloured. —*'petaline* *adj.* —*'petal-like* *adj.* —*'petalled* *adj.*

petard (pɪˈtɑːd) *n.* 1. (formerly) a device containing explosives used to breach a wall, doors, etc. 2. *hoist with one's own petard.* being the victim of one's own schemes, etc.

peter ('pi:tə) *vb.* (intr.; foll. by *out* or *away*) to fall (off) in volume, intensity, etc., and finally cease.

Peter Pan *n.* a youthful, boyish, or immature man.

petersham ('pi:təʃəm) *n.* 1. a thick corded ribbon used to stiffen belts, etc. 2. a heavy woollen fabric used for coats, etc. 3. a kind of overcoat made of such fabric.

pethidine ('peθɪˌdiːn) *n.* a white crystalline water-soluble drug used as an analgesic. Also called: (esp U.S.) *meperidine*.

petiole ('petɪˌɔːl) *n.* 1. the stalk by which a leaf is attached to the plant. 2. *Zool.* a slender stalk or stem, as between the thorax and abdomen of ants. —*'petiolate* ('petɪˌleɪt) *adj.*

petit ('petɪ) *adj.* (*prenominal*) Chiefly *law.* of lesser importance; small.

petit bourgeois ('petɪ 'bʊʒwɑːz) *n., pl. petits bourgeois* ('petɪ 'bʊʒwɑːz). 1. Also called: *petite bourgeoisie*, *petty bourgeoisie*. the section of the middle class with the lowest social status, as shopkeepers, lower clerical staff, etc. 2. a member of this stratum. ~*adj.* 3. of, relating to, or characteristic of the petit bourgeois, esp. indicating a sense of self-righteousness and conformity to established standards of behaviour.

petite (pəˈtiːt) *adj.* (of women) small, delicate, and dainty.

petit four ('peti 'fɔː) *n.*, *pl.* **petits fours** ('peti 'fɔːz). any of various very small fancy cakes and biscuits.

petition (prɪ'tɪʃən) *n.* 1. a written document signed by a large number of people demanding some form of action from a government or other authority. 2. any formal request to a higher authority; entreaty. 3. Law, a formal application in writing made to a court asking for some specific judicial action: a *petition for divorce*. 4. the action of petitioning. ~*vb.* 5. (*tr.*) to address or present a petition to (a person in authority, government, etc.): *to petition Parliament*. 6. (*intr.*; *folly for*) to seek by petition: *to petition for a change in the law*. —**peti'titioner** *adj.* —**pe'titioner** *n.*

petit mal ('peti 'mæl) *n.* a mild form of epilepsy characterized by periods of impairment or loss of consciousness for up to 30 seconds. Cf. **grand mal**.

petit point ('peti 'point) *n.* 1. a small diagonal needlepoint stitch used for fine detail. 2. work done with such stitches.

petrel ('petrəl) *n.* any of a family of oceanic birds having a hooked bill and tubular nostrils: includes albatrosses, storm petrels, and shearwaters.

petrify ('petri,faɪ) *vb.* -**tying**, -**fied**. 1. (*tr.*; *often passive*) to convert (organic material) into a fossilized form by impregnation with dissolved minerals so that the original appearance is preserved. 2. to make or become dull, unresponsive, etc.; deaden. 3. (*tr.*; *often passive*) to stun or daze with horror, fear, etc. —**petri'faction** or **petrifi'cation** *n.* —**petri'fier** *n.*

petro- or before a vowel **petr-** *combining form*. 1. indicating stone or rock: *petrology*. 2. indicating petroleum, its products, etc.: *petrochemical*.

petrochemical ('petrəu'kemɪkəl) *n.* 1. any substance, such as acetone or ethanol, obtained from petroleum. ~*adj.* 2. of, concerned with, or obtained from petrochemicals or related to petrochemistry. —**petro'chemistry** *n.*

petrodollar ('petrəu,dɒlə) *n.* money earned by a country by the exporting of petroleum.

petrol ('petrəl) *n.* any one of various volatile flammable liquid mixtures of hydrocarbons, obtained from petroleum and used as a solvent and a fuel for internal-combustion engines. U.S. name: **gasoline**.

petrolatum ('petrə'leɪtəm) *n.* a translucent gelatinous substance obtained from petroleum; used as a lubricant and in medicine as an ointment base. Also called: **petroleum jelly**.

petroleum (pə'trəʊliəm) *n.* a dark-coloured thick flammable crude oil occurring in sedimentary rocks, consisting mainly of hydrocarbons. Fractional distillation separates the crude oil into petrol, paraffin, diesel oil, lubricating oil, etc. Fuel oil, paraffin wax, asphalt, and carbon black are extracted from the residue.

petroleum jelly *n.* another name for **petrolatum**.

petrol station *n.* *Brit.* another term for **filling station**.

petticoat ('petɪ,kəʊt) *n.* 1. a woman's undershirt. 2. *Inf.* a humorous or mildly disparaging name for a woman. *b.* (as *modifier*): *petticoat politics*.

pettifogger ('petɪ,fɒgə) *n.* 1. a lawyer who conducts unimportant cases, esp. one who resorts to trickery. 2. any person who quibbles. —**petti,fogger** *n.* —**petti,fog** *vb.* (*intr.*) -**fogging**, -**fogged**. —**petti,fogging** *adj.*

pettish ('petɪʃ) *adj.* peevish; petulant. —**pettishly** *adv.* —**pettishness** *n.*

petty ('petɪ) *adj.* -**tier**, -**tiest**. 1. trivial; trifling: *petty details*. 2. narrow-minded, mean: *petty spite*. 3. minor or subordinate in rank: *petty officialdom*. 4. Law, a variant of **petit**. —**pettily** *adv.* —**pettiness** *n.*

petty cash *n.* a small cash fund for minor incidental expenses.

petty jury *n.* a group of 12 persons picked to weigh evidence in and decide the issue of a trial in court. Also called: **petit jury**.

petty officer *n.* a noncommissioned officer in a naval service comparable in rank to a sergeant in an army or marine corps.

petulant ('petjulənt) *adj.* irritable, impatient, or sullen in a peevish or capricious way. —**petulance** or **petulancy** *n.* —**petulantly** *adv.*

petunia ('pi:tju:nə) *n.* any plant of a tropical American genus: cultivated for their colourful funnel-shaped flowers.

pew (pjʊː) *n.* 1. (in a church) a. one of several long benchlike seats with backs, used by the congregation. *b.* an enclosed compartment reserved for the use of a

family or other small group. 2. *Brit. inf.* a seat (esp. in *take a pew*).

pewter ('pjʊ:tə) *n.* 1. a. any of various alloys containing tin, lead, and sometimes copper and antimony. *b.* (as *modifier*): *pewter ware*; a *pewter tankard*. 2. plate or kitchen utensils made from pewter. —**pewterer** *n.*

pF *abbrev. for* picofarad.

pH *n.* potential of hydrogen; a measure of the acidity or alkalinity of a solution. Pure water has a pH of 7, acid solutions have a pH less than 7, and alkaline solutions a pH greater than 7.

phaeton ('feɪtən) *n.* a light four-wheeled horse-drawn carriage with or without a top.

phago- or before a vowel **phag-** *combining form*. eating, consuming, or destroying: *phagocyte*.

phagocyte ('fægə'saɪt) *n.* a cell or protozoan that engulfs particles, such as microorganisms. —**phagocytic** ('fægə'sɪtɪk) *adj.*

phalanger ('fæləndʒə) *n.* any of various Australasian arboreal marsupials, having dense fur and a long tail. Also called (in Australia): **possum**.

phalanx ('fæləŋks) *n.*, *pl.* **phalanxes** or **phalanges** ('fæləndʒɪz). 1. an ancient Greek and Macedonian battle formation of hoplites presenting long spears from behind a wall of overlapping shields. 2. any closely ranked unit or mass of people: *the police formed a phalanx to protect the embassy*. 3. a number of people united for a common purpose. 4. any of the bones of the fingers or toes. 5. *Bot.* a bundle of stamens.

phallic ('fælkɪk) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or resembling a phallus: a *phallic symbol*. 2. *Psychoanal.* relating to a stage of psychosexual development during which the child's interest is concentrated on the genital organs. 3. of or relating to phallicism.

phallus ('fæləs) *n.*, *pl.* -**li** (-laɪ) or -**luses**. 1. another word for **penis**. 2. an image of the male sexual organ, esp. as a symbol of reproductive power.

phantasm ('fæntəzəm) *n.* 1. a phantom. 2. an illusory perception of an object, person, etc. —**phan'tasmal** or **phan'tasmic** *adj.*

phantasmagoria ('fæntəzmə'gɔːrɪə) or **phantasmagory** ('fæntəzməgəri) *n.* 1. *Psychol.* a shifting medley of real or imagined figures, as in a dream. 2. *Films.* a sequence of pictures made to vary in size rapidly. 3. a shifting scene composed of different elements. —**phantasmagoric** ('fæntəzmə'gɔːrɪk) or **phantasma'gorical** *adj.*

phantasy ('fæntəsi) *n.*, *pl.* -**sies**. an archaic spelling of **fantasy**.

phantom ('fæntəm) *n.* 1. a. an apparition or spectre. *b.* (as *modifier*): a *phantom army marching through the sky*. 2. the visible representation of something abstract, esp. as in a dream or hallucination: *phantoms of evil haunted his sleep*. 3. something apparently unpleasant or horrific that has no material form.

Pharaoh ('fɛərəʊ) *n.* the title of the ancient Egyptian kings. —**Pharaonic** ('fɛə'rɒnɪk) *adj.*

Pharisaic ('færɪ'seɪk) or **Pharisaical** *adj.* 1. *Judaism.* of, relating to, or characteristic of the Pharisees or Pharisaism. 2. (*often not cap.*) righteously hypocritical. —**Phari'saically** *adv.*

Pharisee ('færɪ'siː) *n.* 1. a member of an ancient Jewish sect teaching strict observance of Jewish traditions. 2. (*often not cap.*) a self-righteous or hypocritical person.

pharmaceutical ('fɑːmə'sjuːtɪkəl) or **pharmaceutic** *adj.* of or relating to drugs or pharmacy. —**pharma'ceutically** *adv.*

pharmaceutics ('fɑːmə'sjuːtɪks) *n.* 1. (*functioning as sing.*) another term for **pharmacy** (sense 1). 2. pharmaceutical remedies.

pharmacist ('fɑːməsɪst) *n.* a person qualified to prepare and dispense drugs.

pharmaco- *combining form*. indicating drugs: *pharmacology*.

pharmacology ('fɑːmə'kɒlədʒɪ) *n.* the science or study of drugs, including their characteristics, action, and uses. —**pharmacological** ('fɑːməkə'lɒdʒɪkəl) *adj.* —**pharmacologically** *adv.* —**pharma'cologist** *n.*

pharmacopoeia or *U.S. (sometimes)* **pharmacopoeia** ('fɑːməkə'piːə) *n.* an authoritative book containing a list of medicinal drugs with their uses, preparation, dosages, formulas, etc. —**pharmacopoeial** *adj.*

pharmacy ('fɑːməsɪ) *n.*, *pl.* -**cies**. 1. *pharmaceutics.* the practice or art of preparing and dispensing drugs. 2. a dispensary.

pharyngitis (ˌfærɪnˈdʒaɪtɪs) *n.* inflammation of the pharynx.

pharynx (ˈfærɪŋks) *n.*, *pl.* **pharynges** (fæˈrɪndʒiːz) or **pharynxes**. the 16th of the alimentary canal between the mouth and the oesophagus. — **pharyngeal** (ˌfærɪnˈdʒiəl) *adj.*

phase (feɪz) *n.* 1. any distinct or characteristic period or stage in a sequence of events: *there were two phases to the resolution.* 2. *Astron.* one of the recurring shapes of the portion of the moon or an inferior planet illuminated by the sun. 3. *Physics.* the fraction of a cycle of a periodic quantity that has been completed at a specific reference time, expressed as an angle. 4. *Physics.* a particular stage in a periodic process or phenomenon. 5. *In phase.* (of two waveforms) reaching corresponding phases at the same time. 6. *out of phase.* (of two waveforms) not in phase. 7. *Chem.* a distinct state of matter characterized by homogeneous composition and properties and the possession of a clearly defined boundary. 8. *Zool.* a variation in the normal form of an animal, esp. a colour variation, brought about by seasonal or geographical change. ~ *vb.* (tr.) 9. (often passive) to execute, arrange, or introduce gradually or in stages: *the withdrawal was phased over several months.* 10. (sometimes foll. by *with*) to cause (a part, process, etc.) to function or coincide with (another part, etc.): *he tried to phase the intake and output of the machine; he phased the intake with the output.* 11. *Chiefly U.S.* to arrange (processes, goods, etc.) to be supplied or executed when required. — **phasic** *adj.*

phase in *vb.* (tr., adv.) to introduce in a gradual or cautious manner: *the legislation was phased in over two years.*

phase out *vb.* (tr., adv.) 1. to discontinue or withdraw gradually. ~ *n.* **phase-out.** 2. *Chiefly U.S.* the action or an instance of phasing out: *a phase-out of conventional forces.*

-phasia *n.* combining form. indicating speech disorder of a specified kind: *aphasia.* — **phasic** *adj.* and *n.* combining form.

Ph.D. *abbrev.* for Doctor of Philosophy. Also: **D.Phil.**

pheasant (ˈfeɪzənt) *n.* 1. any of various long-tailed gallinaceous birds, having a brightly-coloured plumage in the male: native to Asia but introduced elsewhere. 2. any of various other related birds, including the quails and partridges. 3. *U.S.* any of several other gallinaceous birds, esp. the ruffed grouse.

pheno- or before a vowel **phen-** combining form. 1. showing or manifesting: *phenotype.* 2. indicating that a molecule contains benzene rings: *phenobarbitone.*

phenobarbitone (ˌfɪnəʊˈbɑːbɪˌtəʊn) or **phenobarbital** (ˌfɪnəʊˈbɑːbɪˌtəl) *n.* a white crystalline derivative of barbituric acid used as a sedative for treating insomnia and epilepsy.

phenol (ˈfɛnɒl) *n.* 1. Also called: **carbolic acid.** a white crystalline derivative of benzene, used as an antiseptic and disinfectant and in the manufacture of resins, explosives, and pharmaceuticals. Formula: C_6H_5OH . 2. *Chem.* any of a class of organic compounds whose molecules contain one or more hydroxyl groups bound directly to a carbon atom in an aromatic ring. — **phenolic** *adj.*

phenomena (fɪˈnɒmɪnə) *n.* a plural of **phenomenon**.

phenomenal (fɪˈnɒmɪnəl) *adj.* 1. of or relating to a phenomenon. 2. extraordinary; outstanding; remarkable: *a phenomenal achievement.* 3. *Philosophy.* known or perceived by the senses rather than the mind. — **phenomenally** *adv.*

phenomenalism (fɪˈnɒmɪnəlɪzəm) *n.* 1. the theory that only phenomena are real and can be known. 2. the tendency to think about things as phenomena only. — **phenomenalist** *n.*, *adj.*

phenomenon (fɪˈnɒmɪnən) *n.*, *pl.* **-ena** (-ɪnə) or **-enons**. 1. anything that can be perceived as an occurrence or fact by the senses. 2. any remarkable occurrence or person. 3. *Philosophy.* a. the object of perception, experience, etc. b. (in the writings of Kant (1724-1804), German philosopher) a thing as it appears, as distinguished from its real nature as a thing-in-itself.

▷ **Usage.** Although **phenomena** is often treated as if it were singular, correct usage is to employ **phenomenon** with a singular construction and **phenomena** with a plural: *that is an interesting phenomenon* (not *phenomena*); *several new phenomena were recorded in his notes.*

phenyl (ˈfiːnɪl, ˈfɛnɪl) *n.* (*modifier*) of, containing, or consisting of the monovalent group C_6H_5 , derived from benzene: *a phenyl group.*

phew (fjuː) *interj.* an exclamation of relief, surprise, disbelief, weariness, etc.

phi (faɪ) *n.*, *pl.* **phis.** the 21st letter in the Greek alphabet, Φ, φ.

phial (ˈfiəl) *n.* a small bottle for liquids, etc.; vial.

Phil. *abbrev. for:* 1. *Philippians.* 2. *Philippines.* 3. *Philadelphia.*

philadelphus (ˌfɪləˈdelfəs) *n.* any of a N temperate genus of shrubs cultivated for their strongly scented showy flowers. See also **mock orange**.

philander (fɪˈlændə) *vb.* (*intr.*, often foll. by *with*) (of a man) to flirt with women. — **philanderer** *n.*

philanthropy (fɪˈlæntʁəpi) *n.*, *pl.* **-phies.** 1. the practice of performing charitable or benevolent actions. 2. love of mankind in general. — **philanthropic** *adj.* — **philanthropist** or **philanthrope** (ˈfɪlənˌθrəʊp) *n.*

philately (fɪˈlætəli) *n.* the collection and study of postage stamps. — **philatelic** (ˌfɪləˈtelɪk) *adj.* — **philately** *adv.* — **philatelist** *n.*

-phile or **-phil** *n.* combining form. indicating a person or thing having a fondness for something specified: *bibliophile.*

philharmonic (ˌfɪlhɑːˈmɒnɪk, ˌfɪlə-) *adj.* 1. fond of music. 2. (*cap. when part of a name*) denoting an orchestra, choir, society, etc., devoted to music. ~ *n.* 3. (*cap. when part of a name*) a specific philharmonic choir, orchestra, or society.

philhellene (fɪˈhelɪn) *n.* 1. a lover of Greece and Greek culture. 2. *European history.* a supporter of the cause of Greek national independence. — **philhellenic** (ˌfɪlhɛˈlɪnɪk) *adj.*

-philia *n.* combining form. 1. indicating a tendency towards: *haemophilia.* 2. indicating an abnormal liking for: *necrophilia.* — **philic** *n.* combining form. — **philous** or **-philic** *adj.* combining form.

philippic (fɪˈlɪpɪk) *n.* a bitter or impassioned speech of denunciation; invective.

Philippine (ˈfɪlɪˌpiːn) *n.*, *adj.* another name for **Filipino**.

Philistine (ˈfɪlɪˌstɪn) *n.* 1. a person who is hostile towards culture, the arts, etc.; a smug boorish person. 2. a member of the non-Semitic people who inhabited ancient Philistia, a country on the coast of SW Palestine. — *adj.* 3. (*sometimes not cap.*) boorishly uncultured. 4. of or relating to the ancient Philistines. — **Philistinism** (ˈfɪlɪstɪˌnɪzəm) *n.*

Phillips screw (ˈfɪlɪps) *n.* *Trademark.* a screw with a cross-shaped slot.

philo- or before a vowel **phil-** combining form. indicating a love of: *philology; philanthropic.*

philology (fɪˈlɒlədʒɪ) *n.* (no longer in scholarly use) 1. comparative and historical linguistics. 2. the scientific analysis of written records and literary texts. 3. the study of literature. — **philological** (ˌfɪləˈlɒdʒɪkəl) *adj.* — **philologically** *adv.* — **philologist** or **philologer** *n.*

philos. *abbrev. for:* 1. *philosopher.* 2. *philosophical.*

philosopher (fɪˈlɒsəfə) *n.* 1. a student or adherent of a particular philosophy. 2. a person of philosophical temperament, esp. one who is patient, wise, and stoical. 3. (formerly) an alchemist or devotee of occult science.

philosopher's stone *n.* a stone or substance thought by alchemists to be capable of transmuting base metals into gold.

philosophize or **-phise** (fɪˈlɒsəˌfaɪz) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to make philosophical pronouncements and speculations. 2. (tr.) to explain philosophically. — **philosophizer** or **-phiser** *n.*

philosophy (fɪˈlɒsəfi) *n.*, *pl.* **-phies.** 1. the rational investigation of being, knowledge, and right conduct. 2. a system or school of thought: *the philosophy of Descartes.* 3. the basic principles of a discipline: *the philosophy of law.* 4. any system of belief, values, or tenets. 5. a personal outlook or viewpoint. 6. serenity of temper. — **philosophical** *adj.*

philtre or **U.S. philter** (ˈfɪltə) *n.* a drink supposed to arouse desire.

phlebitis (fɪˈleɪtɪs) *n.* inflammation of a vein. — **phlebitic** (fɪˈbɪtɪk) *adj.*

phlebo- or before a vowel **phleb-** combining form. indicating a vein: *phlebotomy.*

phlegm (flem) *n.* 1. the viscid mucus secreted by the walls of the respiratory tract. 2. *Arch.* one of the four bodily humours. 3. apathy; stolidity. 4. imperturbability; coolness. — **phlegmy** *adj.*

phlegmatic (flegˈmætɪk) or **phlegmatical** *adj.* 1. having a stolid or unemotional disposition. 2. not easily excited. — **phlegmatically** *adv.*

phloem (ˈfləʊəm) *n.* tissue in higher plants that con-

ducts synthesized food substances to all parts of the plant.

phlogiston (flob'dʒɪstən, -tən) *n.* *Chem.* a hypothetical substance formerly thought to be present in all combustible materials.

phlox (flocks) *n., pl. phlox or phloxes.* any of a chiefly North American genus of plants cultivated for their clusters of white, red, or purple flowers.

-phobe *n. combining form.* indicating one that fears or hates: *xenophobe*. —**phobic** *adj. combining form.*

phobia ('fəʊbiə) *n.* a compelling fear or dread, esp. of a particular object or situation. —**phobic** *adj.*

-phobia *n. combining form.* indicating an extreme abnormal fear of or aversion to: *acrophobia*; *claustrophobia*. —**phobic** *adj. combining form.*

Phoenician (fə'niʃiən, -'ni:ʃən) *n.* 1. a member of an ancient Semitic people of NW Syria. 2. the extinct language of this people. ~*adj.* 3. of or relating to Phoenicia, the Phoenicians, or their language.

phoenix or **U.S. phenix** ('fi:niks) *n.* 1. a legendary Arabian bird said to set fire to itself and rise anew from the ashes every 500 years. 2. a person or thing of surpassing beauty or quality.

phone (fəʊn) *n., vb.* *Inf.* short for **telephone**.

-phone *combining form.* 1. (*forming nouns*) indicating a device giving off sound: *telephone*. 2. (*forming adjectives*) speaking a particular language: *Francophone*. —**phonic** *adj. combining form.*

phone-in *n. a.* a radio or television programme in which listeners' or viewers' questions, comments, etc., are telephoned to the studio and broadcast live as part of a discussion. *b.* (*as modifier*): a *phone-in programme*.

phoneme ('fəʊnɪm) *n.* *Linguistics.* one of the set of speech sounds in any given language that serve to distinguish one word from another. —**phonemic** ('fəʊnɪmɪk) *adj.*

phonemics ('fəʊnɪ:miks) *n.* (*functioning as sing.*) that aspect of linguistics concerned with the classification and analysis of the phonemes of a language. —**phonemicist** *n.*

phonetic (fə'netɪk) *adj.* 1. of or relating to phonetics. 2. denoting any perceptible distinction between one speech sound and another. 3. conforming to pronunciation: *phonetic spelling*. —**phonetically** *adv.*

phonetics (fə'netɪks) *n.* (*functioning as sing.*) the science concerned with the study of speech processes, including the production, perception, and analysis of speech sounds. —**phonetician** (,fəʊnɪ'tɪʃən) or **phonetist** ('fəʊnɪtɪst) *n.*

phoney or **phony** ('fəʊni) *Sl.* ~*adj.* *-nier, -niest.* 1. not genuine; fake. 2. (of a person) insincere or pretentious. ~*n., pl. -neys or -nies.* 3. an insincere or pretentious person. 4. something that is not genuine; a fake. —**phoneyness** or **phoniness** *n.*

phono- or before a vowel **phon-** *combining form.* indicating a sound or voice: *phonograph*; *phonology*.

phonograph ('fəʊnə,grɑ:f, -græf) *n.* 1. an early form of gramophone capable of recording and reproducing sound on wax cylinders. 2. the usual U.S. word for *gramophone*.

phonology (fə'nɒlədʒi) *n., pl. -gies.* 1. the study of the sound system of a language or of languages in general. 2. such a sound system. —**phonological** (,fəʊnə'lɒdʒɪkəl, 'fɒn-) *adj.* —**phonologically** *adv.* —**phonologist** *n.*

-phony *n. combining form.* indicating a specified type of sound: *cacophony*; *euphony*. —**phonic** *adj. combining form.*

phooey ('fu:ɪ) *interj.* *Inf.* an exclamation of scorn, contempt, etc.

-phore *n. combining form.* indicating one that bears or produces: *semaphore*. —**phorous** *adj. combining form.*

phosphate ('fɒʃfeɪt) *n.* 1. any salt or ester of any phosphoric acid. 2. (*often pl.*) any of several chemical fertilizers containing phosphorous compounds. —**phosphatic** (fɒʃ'fætk) *adj.*

phospho- or before a vowel **phosph-** *combining form.* containing phosphorus: *phosphoric*.

phosphor ('fɒʃtə) *n.* a substance capable of emitting light when irradiated with particles or electromagnetic radiation.

phosphoresce (,fɒʃtə'res) *vb. (intr.)* to exhibit phosphorescence.

phosphorescence (,fɒʃtə'resəns) *n.* 1. *Physics.* a fluorescence that persists after the bombarding radiation producing it has stopped. 2. the light emitted in phosphorescence. 3. the emission of light in which

insufficient heat is evolved to cause fluorescence. Cf. **fluorescence**. —**phosphorescent** *adj.*

phosphoric (fɒʃ'fɒrɪk) *adj.* of or containing phosphorus in the pentavalent state.

phosphorous ('fɒʃfərəs) *adj.* of or containing phosphorus in the trivalent state.

phosphorous acid *n.* 1. Also called: **orthophosphorous acid**, a white or yellowish hygroscopic crystalline dibasic acid. 2. any oxyacid of phosphorus containing less oxygen than the corresponding phosphoric acid.

phosphorus ('fɒʃfərəs) *n.* 1. an allotropic nonmetallic element occurring in phosphates and living matter. Ordinary phosphorus is a toxic flammable phosphorescent white solid; the red form is less reactive and nontoxic; used in matches, pesticides, and alloys. The radioisotope **phosphorus-32** (**radiophosphorus**), with a half-life of 14.3 days, is used in radiotherapy and as a tracer. Symbol: P; atomic no.: 15; atomic wt.: 30.974. 2. *Rare.* another name for a **phosphor**.

photo ('fəʊtə) *n., pl. -tos.* *Inf.* short for **photograph**.

photo- *combining form.* 1. of, relating to, or produced by light: *photosynthesis*. 2. indicating a photographic process: *photolithography*.

photocopier ('fəʊtəʊ,kɒpiə) *n.* an instrument using light-sensitive photographic materials to reproduce written, printed, or graphic work.

photocopy ('fəʊtəʊ,kɒpi) *n., pl. -copies.* 1. a photographic reproduction of written, printed, or graphic work. ~*vb. -copying, -copied.* 2. to reproduce (written, printed, or graphic work) on photographic material.

photoelectric (,fəʊtəʊ'lektrɪk) *adj.* of or concerned with electric or electronic effects caused by light or other electromagnetic radiation. —**photoelectricity** (,fəʊtəʊ'lek'trɪsɪtɪ) *n.*

photoengraving (,fəʊtəʊn'greɪvɪŋ) *n.* 1. a photo-mechanical process for producing letterpress printing plates. 2. a plate made by this process. 3. a print made from such a plate. —**photoen/grave** *vb. (tr.)*

photo finish *n.* 1. a finish of a race in which contestants are so close that a photograph is needed to decide the result. 2. *Inf.* any race or competition in which the winners are separated by a very small margin.

photoflash ('fəʊtəʊ,flæʃ) *n.* another name for **flash-bulb**.

photoflood ('fəʊtəʊ,flʌd) *n.* a highly incandescent tungsten lamp used for indoor photography, television, etc.

photogenic (,fəʊtə'dʒenɪk) *adj.* 1. (esp. of a person) having a general facial appearance that looks attractive in photographs. 2. *Biol.* producing or emitting light. —**photogenically** *adv.*

photograph ('fəʊtə,græf, -græf) *n.* 1. an image of an object, person, scene, etc., in the form of a print or slide recorded by a camera. Often (informal) shortened to **photo**. ~*vb.* 2. to take photographs of (an object, person, scene, etc.).

photographic (,fəʊtə'græfɪk) *adj.* 1. of or relating to photography. 2. like a photograph in accuracy or detail. 3. (of a person's memory) able to retain facts, appearances, etc., in precise detail. —**photo/graphically** *adv.*

photography ('fəʊtəgrəfi) *n.* 1. the process of recording images on sensitized material by the action of light, x-rays, etc. 2. the art, practice, or occupation of taking photographs. —**photo/grapher** *n.*

photogravure (,fəʊtəgrə'vjʊə) *n.* 1. any of various methods in which an intaglio plate for printing is produced by the use of photography. 2. matter printed from such a plate.

photolithography (,fəʊtəʊlɪθəgrəfi) *n.* 1. a lithographic printing process using photographically made plates. Often shortened to **photolitho**. 2. *Electronics.* a process used in the manufacture of semiconductor devices and printed circuits in which a particular pattern is transferred from a photograph onto a substrate. —**photo/lithographer** *n.*

photometer ('fəʊ'tɒmɪtə) *n.* an instrument used in photometry, usually one that compares the illumination produced by a particular light source with that produced by a standard source.

photometry ('fəʊ'tɒmɪtrɪ) *n.* 1. the measurement of the intensity of light. 2. the branch of physics concerned with such measurements. —**photo/metrist** *n.*

photomontage (,fəʊtəʊmɒn'ta:ʒ) *n.* 1. the technique of producing a composite picture by combining several photographs. 2. the composite picture so produced.

photon ('fəʊtən) *n.* a quantum of electromagnetic radiation.

tion with energy equal to the product of the frequency of the radiation and the Planck constant.

photosensitive (ˌfəʊtəʊˈsensɪv) *adj.* sensitive to electromagnetic radiation, esp. light. — **photo,sensi'tivity** *n.* — **photo'sensitize** or **-tise** *vb.* (tr.)

Photostat (ˈfəʊtəʊˌstæt) *n.* 1. *Trademark.* a machine or process used to make photographic copies of written, printed, or graphic matter. 2. any copy made by such a machine. ~*vb.* 3. to make a Photostat copy. — **photo'static** *adj.*

photosynthesis (ˌfəʊtəʊˈsɪnθɪsɪs) *n.* (in plants) the synthesis of organic compounds from carbon dioxide and water using light energy absorbed by chlorophyll. — **photo'synthesize** or **-sise** *vb.* — **photosynthetic** (ˌfəʊtəʊsɪnˈθetɪk) *adj.* — **photosyn'thetically** *adv.*

phototropism (ˌfəʊtəʊˈtrɒpɪzəm) *n.* the growth response of plant parts to the stimulus of light. — **photo'tropic** *adj.*

phrasal verb (ˈfreɪzəl) *n.* a phrase that consists of a verb plus an adverbial or prepositional particle, esp. one the meaning of which cannot be deduced from the constituents: "take in" meaning "deceive" is a phrasal verb.

phrase (freɪz) *n.* 1. a group of words forming together a syntactic constituent of a sentence but (in English) not containing a finite verb. Cf. **clause** (sense 1). 2. an idiomatic or original expression. 3. manner or style of speech or expression. 4. *Music.* a small group of notes forming a coherent unit of melody. ~*vb.* (tr.) 5. *Music.* to divide (a melodic line, part, etc.) into musical phrases, esp. in performance. 6. to express orally or in a phrase. — **phrasal** *adj.*

phraseology (ˌfreɪzɪˈɒlədʒi) *n., pl. -gies.* 1. the manner in which words or phrases are used. 2. a set of phrases used by a particular group of people. — **phraseological** (ˌfreɪzɪˈɒlədʒɪkəl) *adj.*

frenetic (frɪˈnetɪk) *adj.* an obsolete spelling of **frenetic**. — **phre'tetically** *adv.*

phrenology (frɪˈnɒlədʒi) *n.* (formerly) the branch of science concerned with determination of the strength of the faculties by the shape and size of the skull overlying the parts of the brain thought to be responsible for them. — **phrenological** (ˌfrɛnəˈlədʒɪkəl) *adj.* — **phre'nologist** *n.*

phthisis (ˈθeɪsɪs, ˈθaɪ, ˈtaɪ-) *n.* *Rare.* any disease that causes wasting of the body, esp. pulmonary tuberculosis.

phut (fʌt) *Inf.* ~*n.* 1. a representation of a dull heavy sound. ~*adv.* 2. to go **phut**. to break down or collapse.

phylactery (fɪˈlæktəri) *n., pl. -teries.* 1. *Judaism.* either of two small leather cases containing strips of parchment inscribed with religious texts, worn by Jewish men during morning prayer. 2. a reminder. 3. *Arch.* an amulet or charm.

-phyll or **-phyl** *n. combining form.* leaf: **chlorophyll**.

phyllo- or **before a vowel phyll-** *combining form.* leaf: **phyllopod**.

phyllo- or **before a vowel phyl-** *combining form.* tribe; race; phylum: **phylogeny**.

phylum (ˈfaɪləm) *n., pl. -la (-lə).* 1. a major taxonomic division of the animals and plants that contain one or more classes. 2. a group of related language families or linguistic stocks.

phys. *abbrev. for:* 1. physical. 2. physician. 3. physics. 4. physiological. 5. physiology.

physic (ˈfɪzɪk) *n.* 1. *Rare.* a medicine, esp. a cathartic. 2. *Arch.* the art or skill of healing. ~*vb.* -**icking**, -**icked**. (tr.) *Arch.* 3. to treat (a patient) with medicine.

physical (ˈfɪzɪkəl) *adj.* 1. of or relating to the body, as distinguished from the mind or spirit. 2. of, relating to, or resembling material things or nature: *the physical universe*. 3. of or concerned with matter and energy. 4. of or relating to physics. — **physically** *adv.*

physical education *n.* training and practice in sports, gymnastics, etc. *Abbrev.: PE*

physical geography *n.* the branch of geography that deals with the natural features of the earth's surface.

physical jerks *pl. n. Sl.* See **jerk** (sense 6).

physical science *n.* any of the sciences concerned with nonliving matter, such as physics, chemistry, astronomy, and geology.

physical therapy *n.* another term for **physiotherapy**.

physician (fɪˈzɪʃən) *n.* 1. a person legally qualified to practise medicine, esp. other than surgery; doctor of medicine. 2. *Arch.* any person who treats diseases; healer.

physicist (ˈfɪzɪsɪst) *n.* a person versed in or studying physics.

physics (ˈfɪzɪks) *n. (functioning as sing.)* 1. the branch of science concerned with the properties of matter and energy and the relationships between them. It is based on mathematics and traditionally includes mechanics, optics, electricity and magnetism, acoustics, and heat. Modern physics, based on quantum theory, includes atomic, nuclear, particle, and solid-state studies. 2. physical properties of behaviour: *the physics of the electron*. 3. *Arch.* natural science.

physio- or **before a vowel phys-** *combining form.* 1. of or relating to nature or natural functions: *physiology*. 2. physical: *physiotherapy*.

physiognomy (ˌfɪzɪˈɒnəmi) *n.* 1. a person's features considered as an indication of personality. 2. the art or practice of judging character from facial features. 3. the outward appearance of something. — **physiognomic** (ˌfɪzɪˈnɒmɪk) or **physiognomical** *adj.* — **physiognomically** *adv.* — **physi'ognomist** *n.*

physiography (ˌfɪzɪˈɒɡrəfi) *n.* another name for **physical geography**. — **physi'ographer** *n.* — **physiographic** (ˌfɪzɪˈɡræfɪk) or **physi'graphical** *adj.*

physiology (ˌfɪzɪˈɒlədʒi) *n.* 1. the branch of science concerned with the functioning of organisms. 2. the processes and functions of all or part of an organism. — **physi'ologist** *n.* — **physiological** (ˌfɪzɪˈɒlədʒɪkəl) *adj.* — **physio'logically** *adv.*

physiotherapy (ˌfɪzɪəʊˈθerəpi) *n.* the treatment of disease, injury, etc. by physical means, such as massage or exercises, rather than by drugs. — **physio'therapist** *n.*

physique (ˈfɪzɪk) *n.* the general appearance of the body with regard to size, shape, muscular development, etc.

-phyte *n. combining form.* indicating a plant of a specified type or habitat: **lithophyte**. — **phytic** *adj. combining form.*

phyo- or **before a vowel phyt-** *combining form.* indicating a plant or vegetation: **phytogenesis**.

pi! (paɪ) *n., pl. pis.* 1. the 16th letter in the Greek alphabet (Π, π). 2. *Maths.* a transcendental number, fundamental to mathematics, that is the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter. Approximate value: 3.141 592...; symbol: π

pi? or **pie** (paɪ) *n., pl. pies.* 1. a jumbled pile of printer's type. 2. a jumbled mixture. ~*vb.* **piing**, **pie'd** or **pieing**, **pie'd**. (tr.) 3. to spill and mix (set type) indiscriminately. 4. to mix up.

pia mater (ˈpaɪə ˈmeɪtə) *n.* the innermost of the three membranes (see **meninges**) that cover the brain and spinal cord.

pianissimo (piəˈnɪsɪməʊ) *adj., adv.* *Music.* to be performed very quietly. Symbol: *pp*

pianist (ˈpiənɪst) *n.* a person who plays the piano.

piano (piˈænəʊ) *n., pl. -anos.* a musical stringed instrument played by depressing keys that cause hammers to strike the strings and produce audible vibrations.

piano (ˈpiənoʊ) *adj., adv.* *Music.* to be performed softly.

piano accordion (piˈænəʊ) *n.* an accordion in which the right hand plays a piano-like keyboard. See **accordion**. — **piano accordionist** *n.*

pianoforte (piˌænəʊˈfɔːtɪ) *n.* the full name for **piano**.

Pianola (piəˈnɒlə) *n. Trademark.* a type of mechanical piano in which the keys are depressed by air pressure, this air flow being regulated by perforations in a paper roll.

piazza (prɪˈætʃə; *Italian* ˈpjattʃa) *n.* 1. a large open square in an Italian town. 2. *Chiefly Brit.* a covered passageway or gallery.

pibroch (ˈpiːbrɒk; *Gaelic* ˈpiːbrɒx) *n.* a piece of music for Scottish bagpipes, consisting of a theme and variations.

pica (ˈpaɪkə) *n.* 1. Also called: **em**, **pica em**. a printer's unit of measurement, equal to 12 points or 0.166 ins. 2. (formerly) a size of printer's type equal to 12 point.

picador (ˈpɪkəˌdɔː) *n.* *Bullfighting.* a horseman who pricks the bull with a lance to weaken it.

picaresque (ˌpɪkəˈresk) *adj.* of or relating to a type of fiction in which the hero, a rogue, goes through a series of episodic adventures.

picayune (ˌpɪkəˈjuːn) *adj. also picayunish.* *U.S.* 1. *Inf.* of small value or importance. 2. *Inf.* mean; petty. ~*n.* 3. the half real, an old Spanish-American coin. 4. *U.S.* any coin of little value, esp. a five-cent piece.

piccalilli (ˈpɪkəlɪlɪ) *n.* a pickle of mixed vegetables in a mustard sauce.

piccanin (ˈpɪkəlɪn) *n. S. African inf.* a Black African child.

piccaninny or **pickaninny** (ˈpɪkəˈnɪni) *n.* a small Negro or Aboriginal child.

piccolo (ˈpɪkəˌləʊ) *n.*, *pl.* -los. a woodwind instrument, an octave higher than the flute.

pick (pɪk) *vb.* 1. to choose (something) deliberately or carefully, as from a number; select. 2. to pluck or gather (fruit, berries, or crops) from (a tree, bush, field, etc.). 3. (tr.) to remove loose particles from (the teeth, the nose, etc.). 4. (esp. of birds) to nibble or gather (corn, etc.). 5. (tr.) to pierce, dig, or break up (a hard surface) with a pick. 6. (tr.) to form (a hole, etc.) in this way. 7. (when *intr.*, foll. by *at*) to nibble (at) fussily or without appetite. 8. to separate (strands, fibres, etc.), as in weaving. 9. (tr.) to provoke (an argument, fight, etc.) deliberately. 10. (tr.) to steal (money or valuables) from (a person's pocket). 11. (tr.) to open (a lock) with an instrument other than a key. 12. to pluck the strings of (a guitar, banjo, etc.). 13. (tr.) to make (one's way) carefully on foot: *they picked their way through the rubble.* 14. **pick and choose**, to select fastidiously, fussily, etc. 15. **pick someone's brains**. *Inf.* to obtain information or ideas from someone. ~*n.* 16. freedom or right of selection (esp. in **take one's pick**). 17. a person, thing, etc., that is chosen first or preferred: *the pick of the bunch.* 18. the act of picking. 19. the amount of a crop picked at one period, from one area. ~See also **pick off**, **pick on**, etc. —**'picker** *n.*

pick (pɪk) *n.* 1. a tool with a handle carrying a long steel head curved and tapering to a point at one or both ends, used for loosening soil, breaking rocks, etc. 2. any of various tools used for picking, such as an ice pick or toothpick.

pickaback (ˈpɪkəˌbæk) *n.*, *adv.* another word for **piggyback**.

pickaxe or *U.S.* **pickax** (ˈpɪkˌæks) *n.* 1. a large pick or mattock. ~*vb.* 2. to use a pickaxe on (earth, rocks, etc.).

picket (ˈpɪkɪt) *n.* 1. a pointed stake that is driven into the ground to support a fence, etc. 2. an individual or group standing outside an establishment to make a protest, to dissuade or prevent employees or clients from entering, etc. 3. a small detachment of troops positioned to give early warning of attack. ~*vb.* 4. to post or serve as pickets at (a factory, embassy, etc.). 5. to guard (a main body or place) by using or acting as a picket. 6. (tr.) to fasten (a horse or other animal) to a picket. 7. (tr.) to fence (an area, etc.) with pickets. —**'picketeer** *n.*

picket fence *n.* a fence consisting of pickets driven into the ground.

picket line *n.* a line of people acting as pickets.

pickings (ˈpɪkɪŋz) *pl. n.* (sometimes *sing.*) money, profits, etc., acquired easily; spoils.

pickle (ˈpɪkəl) *n.* 1. (often *pl.*) vegetables, such as onions, etc., preserved in vinegar, brine, etc. 2. any food preserved in this way. 3. a liquid or marinade, such as spiced vinegar, for preserving vegetables, meat, fish, etc. 4. *U.S.* a cucumber that has been preserved and flavoured in a pickling solution, as brine or vinegar. 5. *Inf.* an awkward or difficult situation: *to be in a pickle.* 6. *Brit. inf.* a mischievous child. ~*vb.* (tr.) 7. to preserve in a pickling liquid. 8. to immerse (a metallic object) in a liquid, such as an acid, to remove surface scale. —**'pickler** *n.*

pickled (ˈpɪkld) *adj.* 1. preserved in a pickling liquid. 2. *Inf.* intoxicated; drunk.

pick-me-up *n. Inf.* a tonic or restorative, esp. a special drink taken as a stimulant.

pick off *vb. (tr., adv.)* to aim at and shoot one by one.

pick on *vb. (intr., prep.)* to select for something unpleasant, esp. in order to bully or blame.

pick out *vb. (tr., adv.)* 1. to select for use or special consideration, etc., as from a group. 2. to distinguish (an object from its surroundings), as in painting: *she picked out the woodwork in white.* 3. to recognize (a person or thing): *we picked out his face among the crowd.* 4. to distinguish (sense or meaning) as from a mass of detail or complication. 5. to play (a tune) tentatively, as by ear.

pickpocket (ˈpɪkˌpɒkɪt) *n.* a person who steals from the pockets of others in public places.

pick-up *n.* 1. the light balanced arm of a gramophone that carries the wires from the cartridge to the preamplifier. 2. an electromagnetic transducer that converts vibrations into electric signals. 3. another name for **cartridge** (sense 2). 4. a small truck with an open body used for light deliveries. 5. *Inf.* an ability to accelerate rapidly: *this car has good pick-up.* 6. *Inf.* a casual

acquaintance, usually for a sexual liaison. 7. *Inf.* a. a stop to collect passengers, goods, etc. b. the people or things collected. 8. *Inf.* an improvement. 9. *Sl.* a pick-me-up. ~*vb.* **pick up** (*adv.*) 10. (tr.) to gather up in the hand or hands. 11. (tr.) to obtain casually, incidentally, etc. 12. (*intr.*) to improve in health, condition, activity, etc.: *the market began to pick up.* 13. (tr.) to learn gradually or as one goes along. 14. (tr.) to collect or give a lift to (passengers, goods, etc.). 15. (tr.) *Inf.* to become acquainted with, esp. with a view to having sexual relations. 16. (tr.) *Sl.* to arrest. 17. to increase (speed). 18. (tr.) to receive (electrical signals, a radio signal, sounds, etc.).

picky (ˈpɪki) *adj.* **pickier, pickiest.** *Inf.* fussy; finicky. —**'pickily** *adv.* —**'pickiness** *n.*

picnic (ˈpɪknɪk) *n.* 1. a trip or excursion on which people bring food to be eaten in the open air. 2. a. any informal meal eaten outside. b. (as *modifier*): *a picnic lunch.* 3. *Inf.* an easy or agreeable task. ~*vb.* **-nicking, -nicked.** 4. (*intr.*) to eat or take part in a picnic. —**'picnicker** *n.*

pico- *prefix.* denoting 10⁻¹²: *picofarad*. Symbol: p

picot (ˈpɪkəʊ) *n.* any of a pattern of small loops, as on lace.

picric acid (ˈpɪkrɪk) *n.* a toxic sparingly soluble crystalline yellow acid; 2,4,6-trinitrophenol: used as a dye, antiseptic, and explosive.

Pict (pɪkt) *n.* a member of a pre-Celtic people of N Britain. —**'Pictish** *adj.*

pictograph (ˈpɪktəˌɡrɑːf) *n.* 1. a picture or symbol standing for a word or group of words, as in written Chinese. 2. a chart on which symbols are used to represent values. ~Also called: **pictogram**. —**pictographic** (ˌpɪktəˈɡræfɪk) *adj.* —**pictography** (pɪkˈtɒɡrəfi) *n.*

pictorial (pɪkˈtɔːriəl) *adj.* 1. relating to, consisting of, or expressed by pictures. 2. (of language, style, etc.) suggesting a picture; vivid; graphic. ~*n.* 3. a magazine, newspaper, etc., containing many pictures. —**'pictorially** *adv.*

picture (ˈpɪktʃə) *n.* 1. a. a visual representation of something, such as a person or scene, produced on a surface, as in a photograph, painting, etc. b. (as *modifier*): *picture gallery; picture postcard.* 2. a mental image: *a clear picture of events.* 3. a verbal description, esp. one that is vivid. 4. a situation considered as an observable scene: *the political picture.* 5. a person or thing resembling another: *he was the picture of his father.* 6. a person, scene, etc., typifying a particular state: *the picture of despair.* 7. the image on a television screen. 8. a motion picture; film. 9. **the pictures.** *Chiefly Brit.* a cinema or film show. 10. in **the picture**, informed about a situation. ~*vb.* (tr.) 11. to visualize or imagine. 12. to describe or depict, esp. vividly. 13. (often *passive*) to put in a picture or make a picture of: *they were pictured sitting on the rocks.*

picture card *n.* another name for **court card**.

picture moulding *n.* 1. the edge around a framed picture. 2. Also called: **picture rail.** the moulding or rail near the top of a wall from which pictures are hung.

picture palace *n. Brit., old-fashioned.* another name for **cinema**.

picturesque (ˌpɪktʃəˈresk) *adj.* 1. visually pleasing, esp. in being striking or quaint: *a picturesque view.* 2. (of language) graphic; vivid. —**'pictur'esquely** *adv.* —**'pictur'esqueness** *n.*

picture window *n.* a large window having a single pane of glass, usually facing a view.

piddle (ˈpɪdl) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) *Inf.* to urinate. 2. (when *tr.*, often foll. by *away*) to spend (one's time) aimlessly; fritter. —**'piddler** *n.*

piddling (ˈpɪdlɪŋ) *adj. Inf.* petty; trifling; trivial.

pidgin (ˈpɪdʒɪn) *n.* a language made up of elements of two or more other languages and used for contacts, esp. trading contacts, between the speakers of other languages.

pidgin English *n.* a pidgin in which one of the languages involved is English.

pie (paɪ) *n.* 1. a baked sweet or savoury filling in a pastry-lined dish, often covered with a pastry crust. 2. **have a finger in the pie.** to have a share in something. 3. **pie in the sky.** *Inf.* illusory hope of some future good.

pie (paɪ) *n.* an archaic or dialect name for **maggie**.

pie (paɪ) *n. Printing.* a variant spelling of **pi**.

piebald (ˈpaɪˌbɔːld) *adj.* 1. marked in two colours, esp. black and white. ~*n.* 2. a black-and-white horse.

piece (piːs) *n.* 1. an amount or portion forming a

separate mass or structure; bit: *a piece of wood*. **2.** a small part, item, or amount forming part of a whole, esp. when broken off or separated: *a piece of bread*. **3.** a length by which a commodity is sold, esp. cloth, wallpaper, etc. **4.** an instance or occurrence: *a piece of luck*. **5.** an example or specimen of a style or type: *a beautiful piece of Dresden*. **6.** *Inf.* an opinion or point of view: *to state one's piece*. **7.** a literary, musical, or artistic composition. **8.** a coin: *fifty-pence piece*. **9.** a small object used in playing certain games: *chess pieces*. **10.** a firearm or cannon. **11.** any chessman other than a pawn. **12.** *N Brit. dialect.* a packed lunch taken to work. **13.** *give someone a piece of one's mind.* *Inf.* to criticize or censure a person frankly. **14.** *go to pieces.* **a.** (of a person) to lose control of oneself; have a breakdown. **b.** (of a building, organization, etc.) to disintegrate. **15.** *nasty piece of work.* *Brit. inf.* a cruel or mean person. **16.** *of a piece.* of the same kind; alike. **17.** *piece of cake.* *Brit. inf.* something easily obtained or achieved. *~vb.* **18.** (often foll. by *together*) to fit or assemble piece by piece. **19.** (often foll. by *up*) to patch or make up (a garment, etc.) by adding pieces.

pièce de résistance *French.* (pjes də rezis'tâs) *n.* **1.** the principal or most outstanding item in a series. **2.** the main dish of a meal.

piece goods *pl. n.* goods, esp. fabrics, made in standard widths and lengths.

piecemeal ('pi:s,mil) *adv.* **1.** by degrees; bit by bit; gradually. **2.** in or into pieces. *~adj.* **3.** fragmentary or unsystematic: *a piecemeal approach*.

piece of eight *n., pl. pieces of eight.* a former Spanish coin worth eight reals; peso.

piecework ('pi:s,wɜ:k) *n.* work paid for according to the quantity produced.

pie chart *n.* a circular graph divided into sectors proportional to the magnitudes of the quantities represented.

pied (paɪd) *adj.* having markings of two or more colours.

pied-à-terre *French.* (pjɛt'a:tɛr) *n., pl. pieds-à-terre* (pjɛt'a:tɛr). a flat or other lodging for occasional use.

pier (piə) *n.* **1.** a structure with a deck that is built out over water, and used as a landing place, promenade, etc. **2.** a pillar that bears heavy loads. **3.** the part of a wall between two adjacent openings. **4.** another name for *buttress*.

pierce (piəs) *vb.* (*mainly tr.*) **1.** to form or cut (a hole) in (something) as with a sharp instrument. **2.** to thrust into sharply or violently: *the thorn pierced his heel*. **3.** to force (a way, route, etc.) through (something). **4.** (of light, etc.) to shine through or penetrate (darkness). **5.** (*also intr.*) to discover or realize (something) suddenly or (of an idea, etc.) to become suddenly apparent. **6.** (of sounds or cries) to sound sharply through (the silence, etc.). **7.** to move or affect deeply or sharply: *the cold pierced their bones*. **8.** (*intr.*) to penetrate: *piercing cold*. *~piercer n.* *~piercing adj.* *~piercingly adv.*

pier glass *n.* a tall narrow mirror, designed to hang on the wall between windows.

Pierrot ('piərə; *French* pjɛ'ro) *n.* **1.** a male character from French pantomime with a whitened face, white costume, and pointed hat. **2.** (*usually not cap.*) a clown so made up.

pietism ('pan,tizəm) *n.* exaggerated or affected piety. *~pietist n.* *~pie'tistic or pie'tistical adj.*

piety ('paɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* **1.** dutiful devotion to God and observance of religious principles. **2.** the quality of being pious. **3.** a pious action, saying, etc. **4.** *Now rare.* devotion and obedience to parents or superiors.

piezoelectric effect (paɪ,izəʊ'lektɹɪk) or **piezoelectricity** (paɪ,izəʊlekt'rɪsɪti) *n. Physics.* **a.** the production of electricity or electric polarity by applying a mechanical stress to certain crystals. **b.** the converse effect in which stress is produced in a crystal as a result of an applied potential difference. *~piezoelectrical-ly adv.*

piffle ('pɪfl) *n. Inf.* **1.** nonsense. *~vb.* **2.** (*intr.*) to talk or behave feebly.

pig (pɪɡ) *n.* **1.** any artiodactyl mammal of an African and Eurasian family, esp. the domestic pig, typically having a long head with a movable snout and a thick bristle-covered skin. **2.** *Inf.* a dirty, greedy, or bad-mannered person. **3.** the meat of swine; pork. **4.** *Dero.* a slang word for *policeman*. **5.** a mass of metal, cast into a simple shape. **6.** the mould used. **6.** *Brit. inf.* something that is difficult or unpleasant. **7.** a pig in a poke, something bought or received without prior sight or knowledge. **8.** *make a pig of oneself.* *Inf.* to overindulge oneself. *~vb.* **pigging, pigged.** **9.** (*intr.*) (of a

sow) to give birth. **10.** (*intr.*) *Also:* **pig it.** *Inf.* to live in squalor. **11.** (*tr.*) *Inf.* to devour (food) greedily.

pigeon ('pɪdʒɪn) *n.* **1.** any of numerous related birds having a heavy body, small head, short legs, and long pointed wings. **2.** *Sl.* a victim or dupe. **3.** *Brit. inf.* concern or responsibility (often in *it's his, her, etc., pigeon*).

pigeonhole ('pɪdʒɪn,həʊl) *n.* **1.** a small compartment for papers, letters, etc., as in a bureau. **2.** a hole or recess in a dovecot for pigeons to nest in. *~vb.* (*tr.*) **3.** to put aside or defer. **4.** to classify or categorize.

pigeon-toed *adj.* having the toes turned inwards.

piggery ('pɪɡəri) *n., pl. -geries.* **1.** a place where pigs are kept. **2.** great greediness.

piggish ('pɪɡɪʃ) *adj.* **1.** like a pig, esp. in appetite or manners. **2.** *Inf., chiefly Brit.* obstinate or mean. *~piggishly adv.* *~piggishness n.*

piggy ('pɪɡi) *n., pl. -gies.* **1.** a child's word for a pig. **2.** a child's word for tea. *~adj. -gier, -giest.* **3.** another word for *piggish*.

piggyback ('pɪɡɪ,bæk) or **pickaback** ('pɪkə,bæk) *n.* **1.** **a.** a ride on the back and shoulders of another person. **b.** (*as modifier*): *a piggyback ride*. *~adv.* **2.** on the back and shoulders of another person.

piggy bank *n.* a child's coin bank shaped like a pig with a slot for coins.

pig-headed *adj.* stupidly stubborn. *~pig-headedly adv.* *~pig-headedness n.*

pig iron *n.* crude iron produced in a blast furnace and poured into moulds.

piglet ('pɪɡlɪt) *n.* a young pig.

pigment ('pɪɡmənt) *n.* **1.** a substance occurring in plant or animal tissue and producing a characteristic colour. **2.** any substance used to impart colour. **3.** a powder that is mixed with a liquid to give a paint, ink, etc. *~pigmentary adj.*

pigmentation ('pɪɡmənt'eɪʃən) *n.* **1.** coloration in plants, animals, or man caused by the presence of pigments. **2.** the deposition of pigment in animals, plants, or man.

Pigmy ('pɪɡmi) *n., pl. -mies.* a variant spelling of *Pgymy*.

pignut ('pɪɡ,nʌt) *n.* **a.** the bitter nut of any of several North American hickory trees. **b.** any of the trees bearing such a nut. *~Also called: hognut.*

pigpen ('pɪɡ,pɛn) *n.* another word for *pigsty*.

pigskin ('pɪɡ,skɪn) *n.* **1.** the skin of the domestic pig. **2.** leather made of this skin. **3.** *U.S. inf.* a football. *~adj.* **4.** made of pigskin.

pigsty ('pɪɡ,stɑɪ) or *U.S. pigpen* *n., pl. -sties.* **1.** a pen for pigs; sty. **2.** *Brit.* an untidy place.

pigswill ('pɪɡ,swɪl) *n.* waste food or other edible matter fed to pigs. *Also called: pig's wash.*

pigtail ('pɪɡ,tɛɪl) *n.* **1.** a bunch of hair or one of two bunches on either side of the face, worn loose or plaited. **2.** a twisted roll of tobacco.

pike ('paɪk) *n., pl. pike or pikes.* **1.** any of several large predatory freshwater teleost fishes having a broad flat snout, strong teeth, and an elongated body covered with small scales. **2.** any of various similar fishes.

pike ('paɪk) *n.* **1.** a medieval weapon consisting of a metal spearhead joined to a long pole. **2.** a point or spike. *~vb.* **3.** (*tr.*) to pierce using a pike. *~pike-man n.*

pike ('paɪk) *n.* *N English dialect.* a pointed or conical hill.

pikestaff ('paɪk,stɑ:f) *n.* the wooden handle of a pike.

pilaster ('pɪlæstə) *n.* a shallow rectangular column attached to the face of a wall. *~pilastered adj.*

pilchard ('pɪltʃəd) *n.* a European food fish of the herring family, with a rounded body covered with large scales.

pile ('paɪl) *n.* **1.** a collection of objects laid on top of one another; heap; mound. **2.** *Inf.* a large amount of money (esp. in *make a pile*). **3.** (*often pl.*) *Inf.* a large amount: *a pile of work*. **4.** a less common word for *pyre*. **5.** a large building or group of buildings. **6.** *Physics.* a structure of uranium and a moderator used for producing atomic energy; nuclear reactor. *~vb.* **7.** (*often foll. by up*) to collect or be collected into or as if into a pile: *snow piled up in the drive*. **8.** (*intr.*; foll. by *in, into, off, out, etc.*) to move in a group, esp. in a hurried or disorganized manner: *to pile off the bus*. **9.** *pile it on.* *Inf.* to exaggerate. *~See also pile up.*

pile ('paɪl) *n.* **1.** a long column of timber, concrete, or steel, driven into the ground as a foundation for a structure. *~vb.* (*tr.*) **2.** to drive (piles) into the ground. **3.** to support (a structure) with piles.

pile¹ (paɪl) *n.* 1. the yarns in a fabric that stand up or out from the weave, as in carpeting, velvet, etc. 2. soft fine hair, fur, wool, etc.

pile-driver (*paɪl-drɪvər*) *n.* a machine that drives piles into the ground.

piles (paɪlz) *pl. n.* a nontechnical name for haemorrhoids.

pile up *vb. (adv.)* 1. to gather or be gathered in a pile. 2. *Inf.* to crash or cause to crash. ~*n.* **pile-up**. 3. *Inf.* a multiple collision of vehicles.

pilfer ('pɪlfər) *vb.* to steal (minor items), esp. in small quantities. —**pilferage** *n.* —**pilferer** *n.*

pilgrim ('pɪlgrɪm) *n.* 1. a person who undertakes a journey to a sacred place. 2. any wayfarer.

pilgrimage ('pɪlgrɪmɪdʒ) *n.* 1. a journey to a shrine or other sacred place. 2. a journey or long search made for exalted or sentimental reasons. ~*vb.* 3. (*intr.*) to make a pilgrimage.

Pilgrim Fathers or **Pilgrims** *pl. n. the* the English Puritans who sailed on the Mayflower to New England, where they founded Plymouth Colony in SE Massachusetts (1620).

pill (pɪl) *n.* 1. a small spherical or ovoid mass of a medicinal substance, intended to be swallowed whole. 2. *the. (sometimes cap.) Inf.* an oral contraceptive. 3. something unpleasant that must be endured (esp. in *bitter pill to swallow*). 4. *Sl.* a ball or disc. 5. *Sl.* an unpleasant or boring person. ~*vb.* 6. (*tr.*) to give pills to.

pillage ('pɪlɪdʒ) *vb.* 1. to rob (a town, village, etc.) of (booty or spoils). ~*n.* 2. the act of pillaging. 3. something obtained by pillaging; booty. —**pillager** *n.*

pillar ('pɪlə) *n.* 1. an upright structure of stone, brick, metal, etc. that supports a superstructure. 2. something resembling this in shape or function: *a pillar of smoke*. 3. a prominent supporter: *a pillar of the Church*. 4. **from pillar to post**, from one place to another.

pillar box *n. Brit.* a red pillar-shaped public letter box situated on a pavement.

pillbox ('pɪlbɒks) *n.* 1. a box for pills. 2. a small enclosed fortified emplacement, made of reinforced concrete. 3. a small round hat.

pillion ('pɪljən) *n.* 1. a seat or place behind the rider of a motorcycle, scooter, horse, etc. ~*adv.* 2. on a pillion: *to ride pillion*.

pillory ('pɪləri) *n., pl. -ries*. 1. a wooden framework into which offenders were formerly locked by the neck and wrists and exposed to public abuse and ridicule. 2. exposure to public scorn or abuse. ~*vb.* **-rying, -ried.** (*tr.*) 3. to expose to public scorn or ridicule. 4. to punish by putting in a pillory.

pillow ('pɪləʊ) *n.* 1. a cloth case stuffed with feathers, foam rubber, etc., used to support the head, esp. during sleep. 2. Also called: **cushion**. a padded cushion or board on which pillow lace is made using bobbins. 3. anything like a pillow in shape or function. ~*vb.* 4. (*tr.*) to rest (one's head) on or as if on a pillow. 5. (*tr.*) to serve as a pillow for.

pillowcase ('pɪləʊ,keɪs) or **pillowslip** ('pɪləʊ,slɪp) *n.* a removable washable cover of cotton, linen, nylon, etc., for a pillow.

pilot ('paɪlət) *n.* 1. a person who is qualified to operate an aircraft or spacecraft in flight. 2. *a.* a person who is qualified to steer or guide a ship into or out of a port, river mouth, etc. *b. (as modifier): a pilot ship*. 3. a person who steers a ship. 4. a person who acts as a leader or guide. 5. **Machinery**, a guide used to assist in joining two mating parts together. 6. an experimental programme on radio or television. 7. (*modifier*) used in or serving as a test or trial: *a pilot project*. 8. (*modifier*) serving as a guide: *a pilot beacon*. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 9. to act as pilot of. 10. to control the course of. 11. to guide or lead (a project, people, etc.). —**pilotage** *n.*

pilot house *n. Naut.* an enclosed structure on the bridge of a vessel from which it can be navigated; a wheelhouse.

pilot lamp *n.* a small light in an electric circuit or device that lights when the current is on.

pilot light *n.* 1. a small auxiliary flame that ignites the main burner of a gas appliance. 2. a small electric light used as an indicator.

pilot officer *n.* the most junior commissioned rank in the British Royal Air Force and in certain other air forces.

pileule ('pɪljʊ:l) *n.* a small pill. —**pilular** *adj.*

pimento (pɪ'mentəʊ) *n., pl. -tos*. another name for allspice or pimiento.

pimiento (pɪ'mjəntəʊ, -'mən-) *n., pl. -tos*. a Spanish pepper with a red fruit used as a vegetable. Also called: **pimiento**.

pimp (pɪmp) *n.* 1. a man who solicits for a prostitute or brothel. 2. a man who procures sexual gratification for another; procurer; pander. ~*vb.* 3. (*intr.*) to act as a pimp.

pimpernel ('pɪmpə,nəl, -nəl) *n.* any of several plants, such as the scarlet pimpernel, typically having small star-shaped flowers.

pimple ('pɪmpəl) *n.* a small round usually inflamed swelling of the skin. —**pimpled** *adj.* —**pimpily** *adj.* —**pimpliness** *n.*

pin (pɪn) *n.* 1. a short stiff straight piece of wire pointed at one end and either rounded or having a flattened head at the other: used mainly for fastening pieces of cloth, paper, etc. 2. short for **cotter pin**, **hairpin**, **rolling pin**, or **safety pin**. 3. an ornamental brooch, esp. a narrow one. 4. a badge worn fastened to the clothing by a pin. 5. something of little or no importance (esp. in *not care or give a pin (for)*). 6. a peg or dowel. 7. anything resembling a pin in shape, function, etc. 8. (in various bowling games) a usually club-shaped wooden object set up in groups as a target. 9. Also called: **safety pin**. a clip on a hand grenade that prevents its detonation until removed or released. 10. **Naut.** the sliding closure for a shackle. 11. **Music**. a metal tuning peg on a piano. 12. **Surgery**. a metal rod, esp. of stainless steel, for holding together adjacent ends of broken or fractured bones during healing. 13. **Chess**. a position in which a piece is pinned against a more valuable piece or the king. 14. **Golf**. the flagpole marking the hole on a green. 15. (*usually pl.*) *Inf.* legs. ~*vb.* **pinning, pinned.** (*tr.*) 16. to attach, hold, or fasten with or as if with a pin or pins. 17. to transfix with a pin, spear, etc. 18. (*fol.* by *on*) *Inf.* to place (the blame for something): *he pinned the charge on his accomplice*. 19. **Chess**. to cause (an enemy piece) to be effectively immobilized since moving it would reveal a check or expose a more valuable piece to capture. ~*See also pin down*.

pinafore ('pɪnə,fɔː) *n.* 1. *Chiefly Brit.* an apron, esp. one with a bib. 2. Also called: **pinafore dress**. a dress with a sleeveless bodice or bib top, worn over a jumper or blouse.

pince-nez ('pæns,neɪ, 'pɪns; *French* pēs'ne) *n., pl. pince-nez*. eyeglasses that are held in place only by means of a clip over the bridge of the nose.

pincers ('pɪnsəz) *pl. n.* 1. Also called: **pair of pincers**. a gripping tool consisting of two hinged arms with handles at one end and, at the other, curved bevelled jaws that close on the workpiece. 2. the pair or pairs of jointed grasping appendages in lobsters and certain other arthropods.

pinch (pɪntʃ) *vb.* 1. to press (something, esp. flesh) tightly between two surfaces, esp. between a finger and thumb. 2. to confine, squeeze, or painfully press (toes, fingers, etc.) because of lack of space: *these shoes pinch*. 3. (*tr.*) to cause stinging pain to: *the cold pinched his face*. 4. (*tr.*) to make thin or drawn-looking, as from grief, lack of food, etc. 5. (*usually foll. by on*) to provide (oneself or another person) with meagre allowances, amounts, etc. 6. **pinch pennies**, to live frugally because of meanness or to economize. 7. (*usually foll. by off, out, or back*) to remove the tips of (buds, shoots, etc.) to correct or encourage growth. 8. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to steal or take without asking. 9. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to arrest. ~*n.* 10. a squeeze or sustained nip. 11. the quantity of a substance, such as salt, that can be taken between a thumb and finger. 12. a very small quantity. 13. (*usually preceded by the*) sharp, painful, or extreme stress, need, etc.: *the pinch of poverty*. 14. *Sl.* a robbery. 15. *Sl.* a police raid or arrest. 16. *at a pinch*, if absolutely necessary.

pinchbeck ('pɪntʃ,bek) *n.* 1. an alloy of copper and zinc, used as imitation gold. 2. a spurious or cheap imitation. ~*adj.* 3. made of pinchbeck. 4. sham or cheap.

pin cushion ('pɪn,kʊʃən) *n.* a small well-padded cushion in which pins are stuck ready for use.

pin down *vb. (tr., adv.)* 1. to force (someone) to make a decision or carry out a promise. 2. to define clearly: *he had a vague suspicion that he couldn't quite pin down*. 3. to confine to a place.

pine¹ (paɪn) *n.* 1. an evergreen resinous coniferous tree of the *N* hemisphere, with long needle-shaped leaves (**pine needle**) and brown cones. 2. the wood of any of these trees. —**pinny** or **pinney** *adj.*

pine² (paɪn) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*; often foll. by *for* or an infinitive) to feel great longing or desire; yearn. 2. (*intr.*;

often foll. by *away*) to become ill or thin through worry, longing, etc.

pineal gland or **body** *n.* a pea-sized organ situated at the base of the brain. Technical names: **epiphysis**, **epiphysis cerebri**.

pineapple ('paɪn,æpəl) *n.* 1. a tropical American plant cultivated for its large fleshy edible fruit. 2. the fruit of this plant, consisting of an inflorescence clustered around a fleshy axis and surmounted by a tuft of leaves. 3. *Mil. sl.* a hand grenade.

pine cone *n.* the seed-producing structure of a pine tree. See **cone** (sense 3a).

ping (pɪŋ) *n.* 1. a short high-pitched resonant sound, as of a bullet striking metal or a sonar echo. ~*vb.* 2. (*intr.*) to make such a noise. — **'pinger** *n.*

Ping-Pong ('pɪŋ,pɒŋ) *n.* **Trademark.** another name for table tennis. Also called: **ping pong**.

pinhead ('pɪn,hed) *n.* 1. the head of a pin. 2. something very small. 3. *sl.* a stupid person. — **'pin,headed** *adj.* — **'pin,headedness** *n.*

pinhole ('pɪn,həʊl) *n.* a small hole made with or as if with a pin.

pinion¹ ('pɪnjən) *n.* 1. *Chiefly poetic.* a bird's wing. 2. the part of a bird's wing including the flight feathers. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 3. to hold or bind (the arms) of (a person) so as to restrain or immobilize him. 4. to confine or shackle. 5. to make (a bird) incapable of flight by removing the flight feathers.

pinion² ('pɪnjən) *n.* a cogwheel that engages with a larger wheel or rack.

pink¹ (pɪŋk) *n.* 1. a pale reddish colour. 2. pink cloth or clothing: *dressed in pink*. 3. any of various Old World plants, such as the garden pink, cultivated for their fragrant flowers. See also **carnation** (sense 1). 4. the flower of any of these plants. 5. the highest or best degree, condition, etc. (esp. in *in the pink*). 6. a. a huntsman's scarlet coat. b. a huntsman who wears a scarlet coat. ~*adj.* 7. of the colour pink. 8. *Brit. inf.* left wing. 9. (of a huntsman's coat) scarlet or red. ~*vb.* 10. (*intr.*) another word for **knock** (sense 7). — **'pinkish** *adj.* — **'pinkness** *n.* — **'pinky** *adj.*

pink² (pɪŋk) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to prick lightly with a sword, etc. 2. to decorate (leather, etc.) with a perforated or punched pattern. 3. to cut with pinkish shears.

pinkie or **pinky** ('pɪŋki) *n.*, *pl.* -ies. *U.S., Scot.* the little finger.

pinking shears *pl.* *n.* scissors with a serrated edge on one or both blades, producing a wavy edge to material cut, thus preventing fraying.

pin money *n.* 1. an allowance by a husband to his wife for personal expenditure. 2. money saved or earned for incidental expenses.

pinnacle ('pɪnɪs) *n.* any of various kinds of ship's tender.

pinnacle ('pɪnəkəl) *n.* 1. the highest point, esp. of fame, success, etc. 2. a towering peak, as of a mountain. 3. a slender upright structure in the form of a spire on the top of a buttress, gable, or tower. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 4. to set as on a pinnacle. 5. to furnish with a pinnacle or pinnacles. 6. to crown with a pinnacle.

pinnate ('pɪneɪt, 'pɪnɪt) *adj.* 1. like a feather in appearance. 2. (of compound leaves) having the leaflets growing opposite each other in pairs on either side of the stem. — **'pinnately** *adv.* — **'pin'nation** *n.*

pinny ('pɪni) *n.*, *pl.* -nies. a child's or informal name for pinafore.

pinpoint ('pɪn,pɔɪnt) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to locate or identify exactly: *to pinpoint a problem; to pinpoint a place on a map*. ~*n.* 2. an insignificant or trifling thing. 3. the point of a pin. 4. (*modifier*) exact: *a pinpoint aim*.

pinprick ('pɪn,pɹɪk) *n.* 1. a slight puncture made by or as if by a pin. 2. a small irritation. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to puncture with or as if with a pin.

pins and needles *n. Inf.* 1. a tingling sensation in the fingers, toes, legs, etc., caused by the return of normal blood circulation after its temporary impairment. 2. **on pins and needles.** in a state of anxious suspense.

pinstripe ('pɪn,straɪp) *n.* (in textiles) a very narrow stripe in fabric or the fabric itself.

pint (paɪnt) *n.* 1. a unit of liquid measure of capacity equal to one eighth of a gallon. 1 *Brit.* pint is equal to 0.568 litre, 1 *U.S.* pint to 0.473 litre. 2. a unit of dry measure of capacity equal to one half of a quart. 1 *U.S.* dry pint is equal to one sixty-fourth of a *U.S.* bushel or 0.5506 litre. 3. a measure having such a capacity. 4. *Brit. inf.* a. a pint of beer. b. a drink of beer: *he's gone out for a pint*.

pinta ('paɪntə) *n.* an informal word for **pint**, esp. of milk.

paintail ('paɪn,tel) *n.*, *pl.* -tails or -tail. a greyish-brown duck with a pointed tail.

pinle ('pɪntl) *n.* 1. a pin or bolt forming the pivot of a hinge. 2. the link bolt, hook, or pin on a vehicle's towing bracket. 3. the needle or plunger of the injection valve of an oil engine.

pinto ('pɪntəʊ) *U.S. ~adj.* 1. marked with patches of white; piebald. ~*n.*, *pl.* -tos. 2. a pinto horse.

pin-size or **pin-sized** *adj. Inf.* very small.

pin tuck *n.* a narrow, ornamental fold, esp. used on shirt fronts and dress bodices.

pin-up *n.* 1. *Inf.* a. a picture of a sexually attractive person, esp. when partially or totally undressed. b. (*as modifier*): *a pin-up magazine*. 2. *sl.* a person who has appeared in such a picture. 3. a photograph of a famous personality.

pinwheel ('pɪn,wɪl) *n.* another name for a **Catherine wheel** (sense 1).

pion ('paɪən) or **pi meson** *n. Physics.* a meson having a positive or negative charge and a rest mass 273 times that of the electron, or no charge and a rest mass 264 times that of the electron.

pioneer (ˌpaɪəˈniə) *n.* 1. a. a colonist, explorer, or settler of a new land, region, etc. b. (*as modifier*): *a pioneer wagon*. 2. an innovator or developer of something new. 3. *Mil.* a member of an infantry group that digs entrenchments, makes roads, etc. ~*vb.* 4. to be a pioneer (in or of something). 5. (*tr.*) to initiate, prepare, or open up: *to pioneer a medical programme*.

pious ('paɪəs) *adj.* 1. having or expressing reverence for a god or gods; religious; devout. 2. marked by reverence. 3. marked by false reverence; sanctimonious. 4. sacred; not secular. — **'piously** *adv.* — **'piousness** *n.*

pip¹ (pɪp) *n.* 1. the seed of a fleshy fruit, such as an apple or pear. 2. any of the segments marking the surface of a pineapple.

pip² (pɪp) *n.* 1. a short high-pitched sound, a sequence of which can act as a time signal, esp. on radio. 2. a radar blip. 3. a. a device, such as a spade, diamond, heart, or club on a playing card. b. any of the spots on dice or dominoes. 4. *Inf.* the emblem worn on the shoulder by junior officers in the British Army, indicating their rank. ~*vb.* **pip**ping, **pip**ped. 5. (of a young bird) a. (*intr.*) to chirp; peep. b. to pierce (the shell of its egg) while hatching. 6. (*intr.*) to make a short high-pitched sound.

pip³ (pɪp) *n.* 1. a contagious disease of poultry characterized by the secretion of thick mucus in the mouth and throat. 2. *Facetious sl.* a minor human ailment. 3. *Brit. sl.* a bad temper or depression (esp. in *give (someone) the pip*). ~*vb.* **pip**ping, **pip**ped. 4. *Brit. sl.* to be or cause to be annoyed or depressed.

pip⁴ (pɪp) *vb.* **pip**ping, **pip**ped. (*tr.*) *Brit. sl.* 1. to wound, esp. with a gun. 2. to defeat (a person), esp. when his success seems certain (often in *pip at the post*). 3. to blackmail or ostracize.

pipe¹ (paɪp) *n.* 1. a long tube of metal, plastic, etc. used to convey water, oil, gas, etc. 2. a long tube or case. 3. an object made in various shapes and sizes, consisting of a small bowl with an attached tubular stem, in which tobacco or other substances are smoked. 4. Also called: **pipeful**, the amount of tobacco that fills the bowl of a pipe. 5. *Zool., bot.* any of various hollow organs, such as the respiratory passage of certain animals. 6. a. any musical instrument whose sound production results from the vibration of an air column in a simple tube. b. any of the tubular devices on an organ. 7. the **pipes**, bagpipes. 8. a shrill voice or sound, as of a bird. 9. a. a boatswain's pipe. b. the sound it makes. 10. (*pl.*) *Inf.* the respiratory tract or vocal cords. 11. **Metallurgy.** a conical hole in the head of an ingot. 12. a cylindrical vein of rich ore. 13. Also called: **volcanic pipe**, a vertical cylindrical passage in a volcano through which molten lava is forced during eruption. 14. **put that in your pipe and smoke it.** *Inf.* accept that fact if you can. ~*vb.* 15. to play (music) on a pipe. 16. (*tr.*) to summon or lead by a pipe: *to pipe the dancers*. 17. to utter (something) shrilly. 18. a. to signal orders to (the crew) by a boatswain's pipe. b. (*tr.*) to signal the arrival or departure of: *to pipe the admiral aboard*. 19. (*tr.*) to convey (water, gas, etc.) by a pipe or pipes. 20. (*tr.*) to provide with pipes. 21. (*tr.*) to trim (an article, esp. of clothing) with piping. 22. to force cream or icing, etc., through a shaped nozzle to decorate food. ~See also **pipe down**, **pipe up**.

pipe² (paɪp) *n.* 1. a large cask for wine, oil, etc. 2. a measure of capacity for wine equal to four barrels or 105

Brit. gallons. **3.** a cask holding this quantity with its contents.

pipeclay ('paɪp,kleɪ) *n.* **1.** a fine white pure clay, used in the manufacture of tobacco pipes and pottery and for whitening leather and similar materials. ~*vb.* **2.** (*tr.*) to whiten with pipeclay.

pipe cleaner *n.* a short length of thin wires twisted so as to hold tiny tufts of yarn: used to clean the stem of a tobacco pipe.

pipe down *vb.* (*intr., adv.*) *Sl.* to stop talking, making noise, etc.

pipe dream *n.* a fanciful or impossible plan or hope.

pipeline ('paɪp,lain) *n.* **1.** a long pipe used to transport oil, natural gas, etc. **2.** a medium of communication, esp. a private one. **3.** in the pipeline. in the process of being completed, delivered, or produced. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) **4.** to convey by pipeline. **5.** to supply with a pipeline.

pipe organ *n.* another name for **organ** (the musical instrument).

piper ('paɪpə) *n.* **1.** a person who plays a pipe or bagpipes. **2.** pay the piper and call the tune. to bear the cost of an undertaking and control it.

pipette ('pɪpet) *n.* a slender glass tube for transferring or measuring out known volumes of liquid.

pipe up *vb.* (*intr., adv.*) **1.** to commence singing or playing a musical instrument: the band piped up. **2.** to speak up, esp. in a shrill voice.

piping ('paɪpɪŋ) *n.* **1.** pipes collectively, as in the plumbing of a house. **2.** a cord of icing, whipped cream, etc., often used to decorate desserts and cakes. **3.** a thin strip of covered cord or material, used to edge hems, etc. **4.** the sound of a pipe or bagpipes. **5.** the art or technique of playing a pipe or bagpipes. **6.** a shrill voice or sound, esp. a whistling sound. ~*adj.* **7.** making a shrill sound. **8.** piping hot. extremely hot.

pipit ('pɪpt) *n.* any of various songbirds, esp. the meadow pipit, having brownish speckled plumage and a long tail.

pippin ('pɪpɪn) *n.* any of several varieties of eating apple.

pipsqueak ('pɪp,skwɪk) *n.* *Inf.* a person or thing that is insignificant or contemptible.

piquant ('pɪkənt, -kənt) *adj.* **1.** having an agreeably pungent or tart taste. **2.** lively or stimulating to the mind. — **piquancy** or **piquantness** *n.* — **piquantly** *adv.*

pique ('pɪk) *n.* **1.** a feeling of resentment or irritation, as from having one's pride wounded. ~*vb.* **piquing**, **piqued**. (*tr.*) **2.** to cause to feel resentment or irritation. **3.** to excite or arouse. **4.** (foll. by *on* or *upon*) to pride or congratulate (oneself).

piqué ('pɪkeɪ) *n.* a close-textured fabric of cotton, silk, or spun rayon woven with lengthwise ribs.

piquet ('pɪket, -keɪ) *n.* a card game for two people played with a reduced pack.

piracy ('paɪrəsi) *n., pl. -cies.* **1.** *Brit.* robbery on the seas. **2.** a felony, such as robbery or hijacking, committed aboard a ship or aircraft. **3.** the unauthorized use or appropriation of patented or copyrighted material, ideas, etc.

piranha or **piraña** ('pɪrɑːnjə) *n.* any of various small freshwater voracious fishes of tropical America, having strong jaws and sharp teeth.

pirate ('paɪrɪt) *n.* **1.** a person who commits piracy. **2.** *a.* a vessel used by pirates. *b.* (*as modifier*): a pirate ship. **3. a person who uses or appropriates literary, artistic, or other work of someone else illicitly. **4.** *a.* a person or group of people who broadcast illegally. *b.* (*as modifier*): a pirate radio station. ~*vb.* **5.** (*tr.*) to use, appropriate, or reproduce (artistic work, ideas, etc.) illicitly. — **piratic** ('paɪrətɪk) or **pi'rat**ical *adj.* — **pi'rat**ically *adv.***

pirouette ('pɪruːet) *n.* **1.** a body spin, esp. in dancing, on the toes or the ball of the foot. ~*vb.* **2.** (*intr.*) to perform a pirouette.

piscatorial ('pɪskəːtɔːriəl) or **piscatory** ('pɪskətəri) *adj.* **1.** of or relating to fish, fishing, or fishermen. **2.** devoted to fishing. — **pisca'tor**ially *adv.*

Pisces ('paɪsɪz, 'pi-) *n., Latin genitive Piscium* ('paɪsɪm). **1.** *Astron.* a faint extensive zodiacal constellation lying between Aquarius and Aries on the ecliptic. **2.** *Astrol.* Also called: the Fishes, the twelfth sign of the zodiac. The sun is in this sign between about Feb. 19 and March 20. **3.** *a.* a taxonomic group that comprises all fishes. See fish (sense 1). *b.* a taxonomic group that comprises the bony fishes only.

pisci- combining form. fish: pisciculture.

pisciculture ('pɪsɪ,kaltʃə) *n.* the rearing and breeding

of fish under controlled conditions. — **pisci'cultural** *adj.* — **pisci'culturist** *n., adj.*

piscine ('pɪsən) *adj.* of, relating to, or resembling a fish.

pish (pɪ, pi) *interj.* **1.** an exclamation of impatience or contempt. ~*vb.* **2.** to make this exclamation at (someone or something).

piss (pɪs) *Taboo sl.* ~*vb.* **1.** (*intr.*) to urinate. **2.** (*tr.*) to discharge as or in one's urine: to piss blood. ~*n.* **3.** an act of urinating. **4.** urine.

pissed (pɪst) *adj. Brit. Taboo sl.* drunk.

piss off *vb.* (*adv.*) *Taboo sl.* **1.** (*tr.*; often passive) to annoy, irritate, or disappoint. **2.** (*intr.*) *Chiefly Brit.* to go away; depart, often used to dismiss a person.

pistachio ('pɪstɑːtʃi,ʊ) *n., pl. -os.* **1.** a tree of the Mediterranean region and W Asia, with small hard-shelled nuts. **2.** Also called: **pistachio nut.** the nut of this tree, having an edible green kernel. **3.** the sweet flavour of the pistachio nut, used in ice creams, etc. ~*adj.* **4.** of a yellowish-green colour.

piste (pɪst) *n.* a slope or course for skiing.

pistil ('pɪstl) *n.* the female reproductive part of a flower, consisting of one or more separate or fused carpels.

pistillate ('pɪstɪlt, -leɪt) *adj.* (of plants) **1.** having pistils but no anthers. **2.** having or producing pistils.

pistol ('pɪstl) *n.* **1.** a short-barrelled handgun. **2.** hold a pistol to a person's head. to threaten a person in order to force him to do what one wants. ~*vb.* -tolling, -tollered or *U.S.* -toling, -toled. **3.** (*tr.*) to shoot with a pistol.

pistol-whip *vb.* -whipping, -whipped. (*tr.*) *U.S.* to beat or strike with a pistol barrel.

piston ('pɪstən) *n.* a disc or cylindrical part that slides to and fro in a hollow cylinder. In an internal-combustion engine it is attached by a pivoted connecting rod to a crankshaft or flywheel, thus converting reciprocating motion into rotation.

pit (pɪt) *n.* **1.** a large, usually deep opening in the ground. **2.** *a.* a mine or excavation, esp. for coal. *b.* the shaft in a mine. *c.* (*as modifier*): pit pony; pit prop. **3.** a concealed danger or difficulty. **4.** the pit. hell. **5.** Also called: **orchestra pit.** the area that is occupied by the orchestra in a theatre, located in front of the stage. **6.** an enclosure for fighting animals or birds. **7.** *Anat.* *a.* a small natural depression on the surface of a body, organ, or part. *b.* the floor of any natural bodily cavity: the pit of the stomach. **8.** *Pathol.* a small indented scar at the site of a former pustule; pockmark. **9.** a working area at the side of a motor-racing track for servicing or refuelling vehicles. **10.** *U.S.* a section on the floor of a commodity exchange devoted to a special line of trading. **11.** the ground floor of the auditorium of a theatre. **12.** another word for **pitfall** (sense 2). ~*vb.* **pit**ting, **pit**ted. **13.** (*tr.*; often foll. by *against*) to match in opposition, esp. as antagonists. **14.** to mark or become marked with pits. **15.** (*tr.*) to place or bury in a pit.

pit (pɪt) *Chiefly U.S.* ~*n.* **1.** the stone of a cherry, etc. ~*vb.* **pit**ting, **pit**ted. (*tr.*) **2.** to extract the stone from (a fruit).

pitapat ('pɪtə,pæt) *adv.* **1.** with quick light taps. ~*vb.* -patting, -patted. **2.** (*intr.*) to make quick light taps. ~*n.* **3.** such taps.

pitch (pɪtʃ) *vb.* **1.** to hurl or throw (something); cast; fling. **2.** (*usually tr.*) to set up (a camp, tent, etc.). **3.** (*tr.*) to set the level, character, or slope of. **4.** (*intr.*) to slope downwards. **5.** (*intr.*) to fall forwards or downwards. **6.** (*intr.*) (of a vessel) to alternatively dip and raise its bow and stern. **7.** (*tr.*; foll. by *up*) *Cricket.* to bowl (a ball) so that it bounces near the batsman. **8.** (*intr.*) (of a missile, aircraft, etc.) to deviate from a stable flight attitude by movement of the longitudinal axis about the lateral axis. **9.** (*tr.*) (in golf, etc.) to hit (a ball) steeply into the air. **10.** (*tr.*) *Music.* *a.* to sing or play accurately (a note, interval, etc.). *b.* (*usually passive*) (of a wind instrument) to specify or indicate its basic key or harmonic series by its size, manufacture, etc. ~*n.* **11.** the degree of elevation or depression. **12.** *a.* the angle of descent of a downward slope. *b.* such a slope. **13.** the extreme height or depth. **14.** a section of a route up a slope between two lay points. **15.** the degree of slope of a roof. **16.** the distance between corresponding points on adjacent members of a body of regular form, esp. the distance between teeth on a gearwheel or between threads on a screw thread. **17.** the pitching motion of a ship, missile, etc. **18.** *Music.* *a.* the auditory property of a note that is conditioned by its frequency relative to other notes: high pitch; low pitch. *b.* an absolute frequency assigned to a specific note, fixing the relative frequencies of all other notes. **19.**

Cricket. the rectangular area between the stumps, 22 yards long and 10 feet wide; the wicket. **20.** the act or manner of pitching a ball, as in cricket, etc. **21.** *Chiefly Brit.* a vendor's station, esp. on a pavement. **22.** *Sl.* a persuasive sales talk, esp. one routinely repeated. **23.** *Chiefly Brit.* (in many sports) the field of play. **24.** Also called: **pitch shot.** *Golf.* an approach shot in which the ball is struck in a high arc. **25.** **queer someone's pitch.** *Brit. inf.* to upset the plans of another. ~See also **pitch in**, **pitch into**.

pitch¹ ('pitʃ) *n.* **1.** any of various heavy dark viscid substances obtained as a residue from the distillation of tars. **2.** any of various similar substances, such as asphalt, occurring as natural deposits. **3.** crude turpentine obtained as sap from pine trees. ~vb. **4.** (*tr.*) to apply pitch to (something).

pitch-black *adj.* **1.** extremely dark; unlit: *the room was pitch-black*. **2.** of a deep black colour.

pitchblende ('pitʃ,blend) *n.* a blackish mineral that occurs in veins, frequently associated with silver: the principal source of uranium and radium.

pitch-dark *adj.* extremely or completely dark.

pitched battle *n.* **1.** a battle ensuing from the deliberate choice of time and place. **2.** any fierce encounter, esp. one with large numbers.

pitcher¹ ('pitʃə) *n.* a large jug, usually rounded with a narrow neck and often of earthenware, used mainly for holding water.

pitcher² ('pitʃə) *n.* *Baseball.* the player on the fielding team who pitches the ball to the batter.

pitcher plant *n.* any of various insectivorous plants, having leaves modified to form pitcher-like organs that attract and trap insects, which are then digested.

pitchfork ('pitʃ,fɔ:k) *n.* **1.** a long-handled fork with two long curved tines for tossing hay. ~vb. (*tr.*) **2.** to use a pitchfork on (something). **3.** to thrust (someone) unwillingly into a position.

pitch in *vb.* (*intr., adv.*) **1.** to cooperate or contribute. **2.** to begin energetically.

pitch into *vb.* (*intr., prep.*) **1.** to assail physically or verbally. **2.** to get on with doing (something).

pitch pine *n.* **1.** any of various coniferous trees of North America: valued as a source of turpentine and pitch. **2.** the wood of any of these trees.

pitch pipe *n.* a small pipe that sounds a note or notes of standard frequency. It is used for establishing the correct starting note for unaccompanied singing.

pitchy ('pitʃi) *adj.* **pitchier, pitchiest.** **1.** full of or covered with pitch. **2.** resembling pitch. —'pitchiness *n.*

piteous ('pitɪəs) *adj.* exciting or deserving pity. —'piteously *adv.* —'piteousness *n.*

pitfall ('pit,fɔ:l) *n.* **1.** an unsuspected difficulty or danger. **2.** a trap in the form of a concealed pit, designed to catch men or wild animals.

pith (piθ) *n.* **1.** the soft fibrous tissue lining the inside of the rind in fruits such as the orange. **2.** the essential or important part, point, etc. **3.** weight; substance. **4.** *Bot.* the central core of unspecialized cells surrounded by conducting tissue in stems. **5.** the soft central part of a bone, feather, etc. ~vb. (*tr.*) **6.** to kill (animals) by severing the spinal cord. **7.** to remove the pith from (a plant).

pithead ('pit,hed) *n.* the top of a mine shaft and the buildings, hoisting gear, etc., around it.

pith helmet *n.* a lightweight hat made of the pith of the sola, an E Indian swamp plant, that protects the wearer from the sun. Also called: **topee, topi.**

pithy ('piθi) *adj.* **pithier, pithiest.** **1.** terse and full of meaning or substance. **2.** of, resembling, or full of pith. —'pithily *adv.* —'pithiness *n.*

pitiable ('pitɪəbəl) *adj.* exciting or deserving pity or contempt. —'pitiablely *adv.* —'pitiously *adv.*

pitiful ('pitɪfʊl) *adj.* **1.** arousing or deserving pity. **2.** arousing or deserving contempt. **3.** *Arch.* full of pity or compassion. —'pitifully *adv.* —'pitifulness *n.*

pitiless ('pitɪləs) *adj.* having or showing little or no pity or mercy. —'pitilessly *adv.* —'pitilessness *n.*

piton ('pit:tn) *n.* *Mountaineering.* a metal spike that may be driven into a crevice and used to secure a rope, etc.

pittance ('pitɪns) *n.* a small amount or portion, esp. a meagre allowance of money.

pitter-patter ('pitə,pætə) *n.* **1.** the sound of light rapid taps or pats, as of raindrops. ~vb. **2.** (*intr.*) to make such a sound. ~adv. **3.** with such a sound.

pituitary (pi'tju:itəri) *n., pl. -taries.* **1.** See **pituitary gland.** ~adj. **2.** of or relating to the pituitary gland.

pituitary gland or body *n.* the master endocrine gland, attached by a stalk to the base of the brain. Its two lobes secrete hormones affecting skeletal growth, development of the sex glands, and the functioning of the other endocrine glands.

pity ('pitɪ) *n., pl. pities.* **1.** sympathy or sorrow felt for the sufferings of another. **2.** have (or take) **pity on**, to have sympathy or show mercy for. **3.** something that causes regret. **4.** an unfortunate chance: *what a pity you can't come.* ~vb. **pit**ing, **pitied.** **5.** to feel pity (for). —'pitily *adv.*

più (pju:) *adv.* *Music.* (in combination) more (quickly, etc.): *più allegro.*

pivot ('pɪvət) *n.* **1.** a short shaft or pin supporting something that turns; fulcrum. **2.** the end of a shaft or arbor that terminates in a bearing. **3.** a person or thing upon which progress, success, etc., depends. **4.** the person or position from which a military formation takes its reference when altering position, etc. ~vb. **5.** (*tr.*) to mount on or provide with a pivot or pivots. **6.** (*intr.*) to turn on or as if on a pivot.

pivotal ('pɪvətəl) *adj.* **1.** of, involving, or acting as a pivot. **2.** of crucial importance.

pix¹ ('pɪks) *pl. n.* *Inf.* photographs; prints.

pix² ('pɪks) *n.* a less common spelling of **pyx.**

pixie or pixy ('pɪksɪ) *n., pl. pixies.* (in folklore) a fairy or elf.

pizza ('pi:tʃə) *n.* a dish of Italian origin consisting of a baked disc of dough covered with cheese and tomatoes, etc.

pizzicato ('pɪtsɪ'kɑ:təʊ) *Music.* ~adj., *adv.* **1.** (in music for the violin family) to be plucked with the finger. ~n. **2.** this style or technique of playing.

pl. *abbrev. for:* **1.** place. **2.** plate. **3.** plural.

Pl. (in street names) *abbrev. for* Place.

P.L.A. *abbrev. for* Port of London Authority.

placable ('plækəbəl) *adj.* easily placated or appeased. —'placability *n.*

placard ('plækɑ:d) *n.* **1.** a notice for public display; poster. **2.** a small paper or card. ~vb. (*tr.*) **3.** to post placards on or in. **4.** to advertise by placards. **5.** to display as a placard.

placate ('plækət) *vb.* (*tr.*) to pacify or appease. —'placation *n.* —'placatory *adj.*

place (pleɪs) *n.* **1.** a particular point or part of space or of a surface, esp. that occupied by a person or thing. **2.** a geographical point, such as a town, city, etc. **3.** a position or rank in a sequence or order. **4.** an open square lined with houses in a city or town. **5.** space or room. **6.** a house or living quarters. **7.** any building or area set aside for a specific purpose. **8.** a passage in a book, play, film, etc.: *to lose one's place.* **9.** proper, right, or customary surroundings (esp. in **out of place**, in **place**). **10.** right, prerogative, or duty: *it is your place to give a speech.* **11.** appointment, position, or job: *a place at college.* **12.** position, condition, or state: *if I were in your place.* **13.** a. a space or seat, as at a dining table. b. (as modifier): *place mat.* **14.** Maths. the relative position of a digit in a number. **15.** any of the best times in a race. **16.** *Horse racing.* a. *Brit.* the first, second, or third position at the finish. b. *U.S.* the first or usually the second position at the finish. c. (as modifier): *a place bet.* **17.** **all over the place**, in disorder or disarray. **18.** **give place (to)**, to make room (for) or be superseded (by). **19.** **go places.** *Inf.* a. to travel. b. to become successful. **20.** **in place of**, a. instead of; in lieu of: *go in place of my sister.* b. in exchange for: *he gave her it in place of her ring.* **21.** **know one's place**, to be aware of one's inferior position. **22.** **pride of place**, the highest or foremost position. **23.** **put someone in his (or her) place**, to humble someone who is arrogant, conceited, forward, etc. **24.** **take one's place**, to take up one's usual or specified position. **25.** **take the place of**, to be a substitute for. **26.** **take place**, to happen or occur. ~vb. (mainly *tr.*) **27.** to put or set in a particular or appropriate place. **28.** to find or indicate the place of. **29.** to identify or classify by linking with an appropriate context: *to place a face.* **30.** to regard or view as being: *to place prosperity above sincerity.* **31.** to make (an order, bet, etc.). **32.** to find a home or job for (someone). **33.** to appoint to an office or position. **34.** (often foll. by *with*) to put under the care (of). **35.** to direct or aim carefully. **36.** (passive) *Brit.* to cause (a racehorse, greyhound, athlete, etc.) to arrive in first, second, third, or sometimes fourth place. **37.** (*intr.*) *U.S.* (of a racehorse, greyhound, etc.) to finish among the first three in

a contest, esp. in second position. **38.** to invest (funds). **39.** to insert (an advertisement) in a newspaper, journal, etc.

placebo (plə'si:bəʊ) *n.*, *pl.* **-bos** or **-boes**. **1.** *Med.* an inactive substance administered to a patient who insists on receiving medication or who would benefit by the psychological deception. **2.** something said or done to please or humour another. **3.** *R.C. Church.* a traditional name for the vespers of the office for the dead.

place kick *Football.* *~n.* **1.** a kick in which the ball is placed in position before it is kicked. *~vb.* **place-kick.** **2.** to kick (a ball) in this way.

placement ('pleismənt) *n.* **1.** the act of placing or the state of being placed. **2.** arrangement or position. **3.** the process of finding employment.

placenta (plə'sentə) *n.*, *pl.* **-tas** or **-tae** (-ti:). **1.** the vascular organ formed in the uterus of most mammals during pregnancy, consisting of both maternal and embryonic tissues and providing oxygen and nutrients for the foetus. **2.** *Bot.* the part of the ovary of flowering plants to which the ovules are attached. — **placental** *adj.*

placer ('plæsə) *n.* **a.** surface sediment containing particles of gold or some other valuable mineral. **b.** (*in combination*): *placer-mining.*

place setting *n.* the cutlery, crockery, and glassware laid for one person at a dining table.

placid ('plæsid) *adj.* having a calm appearance or nature. — **placidity** (plə'siditi) or **placidity** *n.* — **placidly** *adv.*

placket ('plækɪt) *n.* *Dressmaking.* **1.** a piece of cloth sewn in under a closure with buttons, zips, etc. **2.** the closure itself.

plagiarize or **-ise** ('pleidʒə,raɪz) *vb.* to appropriate (ideas, passages, etc.) from (another work or author). — **plagiarism** *n.* — **plagiarizer** or **-iser** *n.*

plague (pleɪɡ) *n.* **1.** any widespread and usually highly contagious disease with a high fatality rate. **2.** an infectious disease of rodents, esp. rats, transmitted to man by the bite of the rat flea. **3.** See **bubonic plague**. **4.** something that afflicts or harasses. **5.** *Inf.* an annoyance or nuisance. **6.** a pestilence, affliction, or calamity on a large scale, esp. when regarded as sent by God. *~vb.* **plagu**, **plagued**. (*tr.*) **7.** to afflict or harass. **8.** to bring down a plague upon. **9.** *Inf.* to annoy. — **plagu** *n.*

plaguy or **plaguey** ('pleɪɡ) *Inf.* *~adj.* **1.** disagreeable or vexing. *~adv.* **2.** disagreeably or annoyingly. — **plaguily** *adv.*

plaice (pleɪs) *n.*, *pl.* **plaice** or **plaices**. **1.** a European flatfish having an oval brown body marked with red or orange spots and valued as a food fish. **2.** *U.S.* any of various other related fishes.

plaid (pleɪd) *n.* **1.** a long piece of cloth of a tartan pattern, worn over the shoulder as part of Highland costume. **2.** *a.* a crisscross weave or cloth. **b.** (*as modifier*): *a plaid scarf.*

Plaid Cymru (,plaid 'kɑmri) *n.* the Welsh nationalist party.

plain (pleɪn) *adj.* **1.** flat or smooth; level. **2.** not complicated; clear: *the plain truth.* **3.** not difficult; simple or easy: *a plain task.* **4.** honest or straightforward. **5.** lowly, esp. in social rank or education. **6.** without adornment or show: *a plain coat.* **7.** (of fabric) without pattern or of simple untwilled weave. **8.** not attractive. **9.** not mixed; simple: *plain vodka.* **10.** *Knitting.* of or done in plain. *~n.* **11.** a level or almost level tract of country. **12.** a simple stitch in knitting. *~adv.* **13.** (*intensifier*): *just plain tired.* — **plainly** *adv.* — **plainness** *n.*

plain chocolate *n.* chocolate with a slightly bitter flavour and dark colour.

plain clothes *pl.* *n.* **a.** ordinary clothes, as distinguished from uniform, as worn by a police detective on duty. **b.** (*as modifier*): *a plain-clothes policeman.*

plain flour *n.* flour to which no raising agent has been added.

plain sailing *n.* **1.** *Inf.* smooth or easy progress. **2.** *Naut.* sailing in a body of water that is unobstructed; clear sailing.

plainsong ('pleɪn,sɒŋ) *n.* the style of unison unaccompanied vocal music used in the medieval Church, esp. in Gregorian chant.

plain-spoken *adj.* candid; frank; blunt.

plaint (pleɪnt) *n.* **1.** *Arch.* a complaint or lamentation. **2.** *Law.* a statement in writing of grounds of complaint made to a court of law.

plaintiff ('pleɪntɪf) *n.* a person who brings a civil action in a court of law.

plaintive ('pleɪntɪv) *adj.* expressing melancholy; mournful. — **plaintively** *adv.* — **plaintiveness** *n.*

plait (plæt) *n.* **1.** a length of hair, etc., that has been plaited. **2.** a rare spelling of **pleat**. *~vb.* **3.** (*tr.*) to intertwine (strands or strips) in a pattern.

plan (plæn) *n.* **1.** a detailed scheme, method, etc., for attaining an objective. **2.** (*sometimes pl.*) a proposed, usually tentative idea for doing something. **3.** a drawing to scale of a horizontal section through a building taken at a given level. **4.** an outline, sketch, etc. *~vb.* **planning**, **planned**. **5.** to form a plan (for) or make plans (for). **6.** (*tr.*) to make a plan of (a building). **7.** (*tr.*; *takes a clause as object or an infinitive*) to have in mind as a purpose; intend.

planar ('plemən) *adj.* **1.** of or relating to a plane. **2.** lying in one plane; flat.

planchette (plæn'fɛt) *n.* a heart-shaped board on wheels with a pencil attached that writes messages under supposed spirit guidance.

plane ('pleɪn) *n.* **1.** *Maths.* a flat surface in which a straight line joining any two of its points lies entirely on that surface. **2.** a level surface. **3.** a level of existence, attainment, etc. **4.** *a.* short for **aeroplane**. **b. an aerofoil or supporting surface of an aircraft. *~adj.* **5.** level or flat. **6.** *Maths.* lying entirely in one plane. *~vb.* (*intr.*) **7.** to glide. **8.** (of a boat) to rise partly and skim over the water when moving at a certain speed.**

plane ('pleɪn) *n.* **1.** a tool with a steel blade set obliquely in a wooden or iron body, for smoothing timber surfaces, cutting grooves, etc. **2.** a flat tool, usually metal, for smoothing the surface of clay or plaster in a mould. *~vb.* **3.** (*tr.*) to smooth or cut (timber, etc.) using a plane. **4.** (*tr.*; often foll. by *off*) to remove using a plane.

plane ('pleɪn) *n.* a tree with ball-shaped heads of fruit and leaves with pointed lobes.

planet ('plæɪnt) *n.* **1.** Also called: **major planet.** any of the nine celestial bodies, Mercury, Venus, earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, or Pluto, that revolve around the sun in elliptical orbits. **2.** any celestial body revolving around a star. **3.** *Astrol.* any of the planets of the solar system, excluding the earth but including the sun and moon, each thought to rule one or sometimes two signs of the zodiac. — **planetary** *adj.*

planetarium (plænɪ'teəriəm) *n.*, *pl.* **-iums** or **-ia** (-iə). **1.** an instrument for simulating the apparent motions of the sun, moon, and planets by projecting images of these bodies onto a domed ceiling. **2.** a building in which such an instrument is housed. **3.** a model of the solar system.

planetoid ('plæni,tɔɪd) *n.* another name for **asteroid** (sense 1). — **plane'toidal** *adj.*

plank (plæŋk) *n.* **1.** a stout length of sawn timber. **2.** something that supports or sustains. **3.** *Chiefly U.S.* one of the policies in a political party's programme. **4.** **walk the plank.** to be forced by pirates, etc., to walk to one's death off the end of a plank jutting out from the side of a ship. *~vb.* **5.** (*tr.*) to cover or provide with planks.

planking ('plæŋkɪŋ) *n.* a number of planks.

plankton ('plæŋktn) *n.* the organisms inhabiting the surface layer of a sea or lake, consisting of small drifting plants and animals.

plano- or *sometimes before a vowel plan-* combining form. indicating flatness or planeness: *plano-concave.*

plant (plænt) *n.* **1.** any living organism that typically synthesizes its food from inorganic substances, lacks specialized sense organs, and has no powers of locomotion. **2.** such an organism that is smaller than a shrub or tree; a herb. **3.** a cutting, seedling, or similar structure, esp. when ready for transplantation. **4.** *a.* a factory or works. **b. specialized mechanical apparatus; *generating plant.* **5.** *Inf.* a thing positioned secretly for discovery by another, esp. in order to incriminate an innocent person. *~vb.* (*tr.*) **6.** (often foll. by *out*) to set (seeds, crops, etc.) into (ground) to grow. **7.** to place firmly in position. **8.** to establish; found. **9.** (foll. by *with*) to stock or furnish. **10.** to implant in the mind. **11.** *Sl.* to deliver (a blow). **12.** *Sl.* to position or hide, esp. in order to deceive or observe. **13.** *Austral.* to hide or secrete, esp. for some illegal purpose. — **plantable** *adj.***

plantain ('plæntɪn) *n.* any of various N temperate plants, esp. the great plantain, which has a rosette of broad leaves and a slender spike of small greenish flowers.

plantain ('plæntɪn) *n.* a large tropical plant with a green-skinned banana-like fruit which is eaten as a staple food in many tropical regions.

plantation (plæn'teɪʃən) *n.* **1.** an estate, esp. in tropical

countries, where cash crops such as rubber, oil palm, etc., are grown on a large scale. 2. a group of cultivated trees or plants. 3. (formerly) a colony or group of settlers.

planter ('plɑ:ntə) *n.* 1. the owner or manager of a plantation. 2. a machine designed for rapid and efficient planting of seeds. 3. a colonizer or settler. 4. a decorative pot for house plants.

plantigrade ('plɑ:ntɪ,greɪd) *adj.* 1. walking with the entire sole of the foot touching the ground, as man and bears. ~*n.* 2. a plantigrade animal.

plaque (plæk, plɑ:k) *n.* 1. an ornamental or commemorative inscribed tablet. 2. a small flat brooch or badge. 3. *Pathol.* any small abnormal patch on or within the body. 4. Also called: **dental plaque**, a filmy deposit on teeth consisting of mucus, bacteria, food, etc.

plash (plæʃ) *n., vb.* a less common word for **splash**. —**plashy** *adj.*

-plasm *n. combining form.* (in biology) indicating the material forming cells: *protoplasm*. —**plasmic** *adj. combining form.*

plasma ('plæzmə) or **plasm** ('plæzm) *n.* 1. the clear yellowish fluid portion of blood or lymph in which the corpuscles and cells are suspended. 2. Also called: **blood plasma**, a sterilized preparation of such fluid, taken from the blood, for use in transfusions. 3. a former name for **protoplasm** or **cytoplasm**. 4. *Physics*, a hot ionized gas containing positive ions and electrons. 5. a green variety of chalcidony. —**plasmatic** (plæz'mætɪk) or **'plasmic** *adj.*

-plast *n. combining form.* indicating a living cell or particle of living matter: *protoplast*.

plaster ('plɑ:stə) *n.* 1. a mixture of lime, sand, and water that is applied to a wall or ceiling as a soft paste that hardens when dry. 2. *Brit.* an adhesive strip of material for dressing a cut, wound, etc. 3. short for **mustard plaster** or **plaster of Paris**. ~*vb.* 4. to coat (a wall, ceiling, etc.) with plaster. 5. (*tr.*) to apply like plaster: *she plastered make-up on her face*. 6. (*tr.*) to cause to lie flat or to adhere. 7. (*tr.*) to apply a plaster cast to. 8. (*tr.*) *Sl.* to strike or defeat with great force. —**'plasterer** *n.*

plasterboard ('plɑ:stə,bɔ:d) *n.* a thin rigid board, in the form of a layer of plaster compressed between two layers of fibreboard, used to form or cover walls, etc.

plastered ('plɑ:stəd) *adj. Sl.* intoxicated; drunk.

plaster of Paris *n.* 1. a white powder that sets to a hard solid when mixed with water, used for making sculptures and casts, as an additive for lime plasters, and for making casts for setting broken limbs. 2. the hard plaster produced when this powder is mixed with water.

plastic ('plæstɪk) *n.* 1. any one of a large number of synthetic materials that have a polymeric structure and can be moulded when soft and then set. Plastics are used in the manufacture of many articles and in coatings, artificial fibres, etc. ~*adj.* 2. made of plastic. 3. easily influenced; impressionable. 4. capable of being moulded or formed. 5. *a.* of moulding or modelling: *the plastic arts*. *b.* produced or apparently produced by moulding: *the plastic draperies of Giotto's figures*. 6. having the power to form or influence: *the plastic forces of the imagination*. 7. *Biol.* able to change, develop, or grow: *plastic tissues*. 8. *Sl.* superficially attractive yet unoriginal or artificial: *plastic food*. —**'plastically** *adv.* —**plasticity** (plæ'stɪsɪtɪ) *n.*

-plastic *adj. combining form.* growing or forming.

plastic bomb *n.* a bomb consisting of an adhesive jelly-like explosive fitted around a detonator.

Plastiscine ('plæstɪ,sɪn) *n.* *Trademark.* a soft coloured material used, esp. by children, for modelling.

plasticize or **-cise** ('plæstɪ,səɪz) *vb.* to make or become plastic, as by the addition of a plasticizer. —**plasticization** or **-cisation** *n.*

plasticizer or **-ciser** ('plæstɪ,səɪzə) *n.* any of a number of substances added to materials. Their uses include softening and improving the flexibility of plastics and preventing dried paint coatings from becoming too brittle.

plastic surgery *n.* the branch of surgery concerned with therapeutic or cosmetic repair or reformation of missing, injured, or malformed tissues or parts. —**plastic surgeon** *n.*

plate (plɛt) *n.* 1. *a.* a shallow usually circular dish made of porcelain, earthenware, glass, etc., on which food is served. *b.* (as modifier): *a plate rack*. 2. *a.* Also called: **plateful**, the contents of a plate. *b.* *Austral. & N.Z.* a plate of cakes, sandwiches, etc., brought by a guest to a party: *everyone was asked to bring a plate*. 3.

an entire course of a meal: *a cold plate*. 4. any shallow receptacle, esp. for receiving a collection in church. 5. flat metal of uniform thickness obtained by rolling, usually having a thickness greater than about three millimetres. 6. a thin coating of metal on another metal, as produced by electrodeposition. 7. metal or metalware that has been coated in this way: *Sheffield plate*. 8. dishes, cutlery, etc., made of gold or silver. 9. a sheet of metal, plastic, rubber, etc., having a printing surface produced by a process such as stereotyping. 10. a print taken from such a sheet or from a woodcut. 11. a thin flat sheet of a substance, such as metal or glass. 12. a small piece of metal, plastic, etc. designed to bear an inscription and to be fixed to another surface. 13. armour made of overlapping or articulated pieces of thin metal. 14. *Photog.* a sheet of glass, or sometimes metal, coated with photographic emulsion on which an image can be formed by exposure to light. 15. a device for straightening teeth. 16. an informal word for **denture**. 17. *Anat.* any flat platelike structure. 18. *a.* a cup awarded to the winner of a sporting contest, esp. a horse race. *b.* a race or contest for such a prize. 19. any of the rigid layers of the earth's lithosphere. 20. *Electronics.* *Chiefly U.S.* the anode in an electronic valve. 21. a horizontal timber joist that supports rafters. 22. a light horseshoe for flat racing. 23. Also called: **Communism plate**, *R.C. Church*, a flat plate held under the chin of a communicant in order to catch any fragments of the consecrated Host. 24. *on a plate*, acquired without trouble: *he was handed the job on a plate*. 25. *on one's plate*, waiting to be done or dealt with. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 26. to coat (a metal) with a thin layer of other metal by electrolysis, etc. 27. to cover with metal plates, as for protection. 28. *Printing*, to make a stereotype or electrotype from (type or another plate). 29. to form (metal) into plate, esp. by rolling.

plateau ('plætəʊ) *n., pl. -eaus* or *-eaux* (-əʊz). 1. a wide mainly level area of elevated land. 2. a relatively long period of stability; levelling off: *the rising prices reached a plateau*.

plated ('plɛtɪd) *adj.* *a.* coated with a layer of metal. *b.* (in combination): *goldplated*.

plate glass *n.* glass formed into a thin sheet by rolling, used for windows, etc.

platelayer ('plɛt,leɪə) *n.* *Brit.* a workman who lays and maintains railway track. *U.S.* equivalent: **trackman**.

platelet ('plɛtlɪt) *n.* a minute particle occurring in the blood of vertebrates and involved in the clotting of the blood.

platen ('plæt'n) *n.* 1. a flat plate in a printing press that presses the paper against the type. 2. the roller on a typewriter, against which the keys strike.

platform ('plætfɔ:m) *n.* 1. a raised floor or other horizontal surface. 2. a raised area at a railway station, from which passengers have access to the trains. 3. See **drilling platform**. 4. the declared principles, aims, etc., of a political party. 5. *a.* the thick raised sole of some shoes. *b.* (as modifier): *platform shoes*. 6. a vehicle or level place on which weapons are mounted and fired.

platform ticket *n.* a ticket for admission to railway platforms but not for travel.

plating ('plɛtɪŋ) *n.* 1. a coating or layer of material, esp. metal. 2. a layer or covering of metal plates.

platinum ('plætɪnəm) *n.* a ductile malleable silvery-white metallic element, very resistant to heat and chemicals: used in jewellery, laboratory apparatus, electrical contacts, dentistry, electroplating, and as a catalyst. Symbol: Pt; atomic no.: 78; atomic wt.: 195.09.

platitude ('plætɪ,tju:d) *n.* 1. a trite, dull, or obvious remark. 2. staleness or insipidity of thought or language; triteness. —**'plati/tudinous** *adj.*

Platonic (plə'tɒnɪk) *adj.* 1. of or relating to Plato or his teachings. 2. (often not cap.) free from physical desire: *Platonic love*. —**Pla'tonically** *adv.*

Platonism ('plætə,nɪzəm) *n.* 1. the teachings of Plato, ?427–?347 B.C., Greek philosopher, and his followers. 2. the philosophical theory that the meanings of general words are real entities (forms) and describe particular objects, etc., by virtue of some relationship of these to the form. —**'Platonist** *n.*

platoon (plə'tu:n) *n.* 1. *Mil.* a subdivision of a company comprising one or more sections of an army formation. 2. a group of people sharing a common activity, etc.

platteland ('plætə,lənt) *n.* the. (in South Africa) the area outside the cities and chief towns.

platter ('plætə) *n.* a large shallow usually oval dish or plate.

platy- combining form. indicating something flat, as **platyhelminth**, the flatworm.

platypus ('plætpʌs) *n.*, *pl.* -puses. See **duck-billed platypus**.

plaudit ('plɔːdɪt) *n.* (usually *pl.*) 1. an expression of enthusiastic approval. 2. a round of applause.

plausible ('plɔːzəbəl) *adj.* 1. apparently reasonable, valid, truthful, etc.: a *plausible* excuse. 2. apparently trustworthy or believable: a *plausible* speaker. — **plausibility** or **plausibleness** *n.* — **plausibly** *adv.*

play ('pleɪ) *vb.* 1. to occupy oneself in (a sport or diversion). 2. (*tr.*) to contend against (an opponent) in a sport or game: *Ed played Tony at chess and lost.* 3. to fulfil or cause to fulfil (a particular role) in a team game: *he plays in the defence.* 4. (*intr.*; often foll. by *about* or *around*) to behave carelessly, esp. in a way that is unconsciously cruel or hurtful: *to play about with a young girl's affections.* 5. (when *intr.*; often foll. by *at*) to perform or act the part (of) in or as in a dramatic production. 6. to perform (a dramatic production). 7. a. to have the ability to perform on (a musical instrument): *David plays the harp.* b. to perform as specified: *he plays out of tune.* 8. (*tr.*) a. to reproduce (a piece of music, note, etc.) on an instrument. b. to perform works by: *to play Brahms.* 9. to discharge or cause to discharge: *he played the water from the hose onto the garden.* 10. to cause (a radio, etc.) to emit sound. 11. to move freely, quickly, or irregularly: *lights played on the scenery.* 12. (*tr.*) *Stock Exchange*, to speculate or operate aggressively for gain in (a market). 13. (*tr.*) *Angling*, to attempt to tire (a hooked fish) by alternately letting out and reeling in line. 14. to put (a card, counter, piece, etc.) into play. 15. to gamble. 16. **play fair** (or **false**). (often foll. by *with*) to prove oneself fair (or unfair) in one's dealings. 17. **play by ear**. See **ear**! 18. **play for time**, to delay the outcome of some activity so as to gain time to one's own advantage. 19. **play into the hands of**, to act directly to the advantage of (an opponent). 20. **play the game**, to act in accordance with acknowledged principles. ~n. 21. a dramatic composition written for performance by actors on a stage, etc.; drama. 22. the performance of a dramatic composition. 23. a. games, exercise, or other activity undertaken for pleasure, esp. by children. b. (*in combination*): **playroom**. c. (*as modifier*): a *play group*. 24. conduct: *fair play*. 25. the playing of a game or the period during which a game is in progress: *rain stopped play*. 26. U.S. a manoeuvre in a game: a *brilliant play*. 27. the situation of a ball, etc., that is within the defined area and being played according to the rules (*in play*, *out of play*). 28. gambling. 29. activity or operation: *the play of the imagination*. 30. freedom of movement: *too much play in the rope*. 31. light, free, or rapidly shifting motion: *the play of light on the water*. 32. fun, jest, or joking: *I only did it in play*. 33. **make a play for**, *Inf.* to make an obvious attempt to gain. ~See **play along**, **playback**, etc. — **playable** *adj.*

play along *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *with*) to cooperate (with), esp. as a temporary measure. 2. (*tr.*) to manipulate as if in a game, esp. for one's own advantage: *he played the widow along until she gave him her money.*

playback ('pleɪ,bæk) *n.* 1. the act or process of reproducing a recording, esp. on magnetic tape. 2. the part of a tape recorder serving to or used for reproducing recorded material. ~*vb.* **play back**. (*adv.*) 3. to reproduce (recorded material) on (a magnetic tape) by means of a tape recorder.

playbill ('pleɪ,bɪl) *n.* 1. a poster or bill advertising a play. 2. the programme of a play.

playboy ('pleɪ,bɔɪ) *n.* a man, esp. one of private means, who devotes himself to the pleasures of nightclubs, female company, etc.

play down *vb.* (*tr.*, *adv.*) to make little or light of; minimize the importance of.

player ('pleɪə) *n.* 1. a person who participates in or is skilled at some game or sport. 2. a person who plays a game or sport professionally. 3. a person who plays a musical instrument. 4. an actor.

player piano *n.* a mechanical piano; Pianola.

playful ('pleɪfʊl) *adj.* 1. full of high spirits and fun: a *playful* kitten. 2. good-natured and humorous: a *playful* remark. — **playfully** *adv.*

playgoer ('pleɪ,gəʊə) *n.* a person who goes to theatre performances, esp. frequently.

playground ('pleɪ,graʊnd) *n.* 1. an outdoor area for children's play, esp. one having swings, slides, etc., or adjoining a school. 2. a place popular as a sports or holiday resort.

playgroup ('pleɪ,gru:p) *n.* another name for **play-school**.

playhouse ('pleɪ,haʊs) *n.* 1. a theatre. 2. U.S. a small house for children to play in.

playing field *n.* Chiefly *Brit.* a field or open space used for sport.

playmate ('pleɪ,meɪt) or **playfellow** *n.* a friend or partner in play or recreation.

play off *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. (*tr.*; usually foll. by *against*) to manipulate as if in playing a game: *to play one person off against another.* 2. (*intr.*) to take part in a play-off. ~*n.* **play-off**. 3. Sport, an extra contest to decide the winner when competitors are tied. 4. Chiefly U.S. a contest or series of games to determine a championship.

play on *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. (*adv.*) to continue to play. 2. (*prep.*) Also: **play upon**, to exploit or impose upon (the feelings or weakness of another).

play on words *n.* another term for **pun**.

playpen ('pleɪ,pɛn) *n.* a small enclosure, usually portable, in which a young child can be left to play in safety.

playschool ('pleɪ,sku:l) *n.* an informal nursery group for preschool children. Also called: **playgroup**.

plaything ('pleɪ,θɪŋ) *n.* 1. a toy. 2. a person regarded or treated as a toy.

playtime ('pleɪ,tʌɪm) *n.* a time for play or recreation, esp. the school break.

play up *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. (*tr.*) to highlight: *to play up one's best features.* 2. *Brit. inf.* to behave irritably (towards). 3. (*intr.*) *Brit. inf.* (of a machine, etc.) to function erratically: *the car is playing up again.* 4. **play up to**, a. to support (another actor) in a performance. b. *Inf.* to try to gain favour with, by flattery.

playwright ('pleɪ,rʌɪt) *n.* a person who writes plays.

plaza ('plæzə) *n.* 1. an open space or square, esp. in Spain. 2. Chiefly U.S. a modern complex of shops, buildings, and parking areas.

PLC *abbrev.* for Public Limited Company.

plea (pli:) *n.* 1. an earnest entreaty or request. 2. a. Law, something alleged by or on behalf of a party to legal proceedings in support of his claim or defence. b. *Criminal law*, the answer made by an accused to the charge: a *plea of guilty*. c. (formerly in England) a suit or action at law.

plead (pli:d) *vb.* **pleading**, **pleaded**, **plead** (pled), or **pled**. 1. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *with*) to appeal earnestly or humbly (to). 2. (*tr.*; may take a clause as *object*) to give as an excuse: *to plead ignorance*. 3. Law, to declare oneself to be (guilty or not guilty) in answer to the charge. 4. Law, to advocate (a case) in a court of law. 5. (*intr.*) Law, a. to file pleadings. b. to address a court as an advocate. — **pleadable** *adj.* — **pleader** *n.*

pleadings ('pli:dɪŋz) *pl. n.* Law, the formal written statements presented alternately by the plaintiff and defendant in a lawsuit.

pleasant ('plezənt) *adj.* 1. giving or affording pleasure; enjoyable. 2. having pleasing or agreeable manners, appearance, habits, etc. 3. *Obs.* merry and lively. — **pleasantly** *adv.*

pleasantry ('plezəntri) *n.*, *pl.* -ries. 1. (often *pl.*) an agreeable or amusing remark, etc., often one made in order to be polite: *they exchanged pleasantries*. 2. an agreeably humorous manner or style.

please (plɪz) *vb.* 1. to give satisfaction, pleasure, or contentment (to a person). 2. to be the will of or have the will (to): *if it pleases you; the court pleases*. 3. **if you please**, if you will or wish, sometimes used in ironic exclamation. 4. **pleased with**, happy because of. 5. **please oneself**, to do as one likes. ~*adv.* 6. (*sentence modifier*) used in making polite requests, pleading, etc. 7. **yes please**, a polite formula for accepting an offer, invitation, etc. — **pleasedly** ('pli:zdlɪ) *adv.*

pleasing ('plɪzɪŋ) *adj.* giving pleasure; likeable or gratifying. — **pleasingly** *adv.*

pleasurable ('pleʒərəbəl) *adj.* enjoyable, agreeable, or gratifying. — **pleasurably** *adv.*

pleasure ('pleʒə) *n.* 1. an agreeable or enjoyable sensation or emotion: *the pleasure of hearing good music*. 2. something that gives enjoyment: *his garden was his only pleasure*. 3. a. amusement, recreation, or enjoyment. b. (*as modifier*): a *pleasure ground*. 4. *Euphemistic*, sexual gratification: *he took his pleasure of her*. 5. a person's preference. ~*vb.* 6. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *in*) *Arch.* to give pleasure to or take pleasure (in).

pleat (plit:) *n.* 1. any of various types of fold formed by doubling back fabric, etc., and pressing, stitching, or

steaming into place. ~vb. 2. (tr.) to arrange (material, part of a garment, etc.) in pleats.

pleb (pleb) *n.* 1. short for **plebeian**. 2. *Brit. sl.* a common vulgar person.

plebeian (plə'bi:ən) *adj.* 1. of or characteristic of the common people, esp. those of ancient Rome. 2. lacking refinement; philistine or vulgar: **plebeian tastes**. ~*n.* 3. one of the common people, esp. one of the Roman plebs. 4. a person who is coarse, vulgar, etc. — **ple'beianism** *n.*

plebiscite ('pleb,saɪt,-sɪt) *n.* 1. a direct vote by the electorate of a state, region, etc., on some question of usually national importance. 2. any expression of public opinion on some matter. ~See also **referendum**. — **plebiscitary** (plə'bɪsɪtəri) *adj.*

plectrum ('plektrəm) or **plectron** ('plektrən) *n., pl. -tra (-trə), -trums or -tra, -trons.* any implement for plucking a string, such as a small piece of plastic, wood, etc., used to strum a guitar.

pled (pled) *vb.* U.S. or (esp. in legal usage) Scot. a past tense or past participle of **plead**.

pledge (pledʒ) *n.* 1. a formal or solemn promise or agreement. 2. a. collateral for the payment of a debt or the performance of an obligation. b. the condition of being collateral (esp. in **in pledge**). 3. a token: *the gift is a pledge of their sincerity*. 4. an assurance of support or goodwill, conveyed by drinking a toast: *we drank a pledge to their success*. 5. a person who binds himself, as by becoming bail or surety for another. 6. **take or sign the pledge**, to make a vow to abstain from alcoholic drink. ~vb. 7. to promise formally or solemnly. 8. (tr.) to bind by or as if by a pledge: *they were pledged to secrecy*. 9. to give or offer (one's word, freedom, property, etc.) as a guarantee, as for the repayment of a loan. 10. to drink a toast to (a person, cause, etc.). — **pledgable** *adj.* — **pledger** or **pledgor** *n.*

-plegia *n.* combining form. indicating a specified type of paralysis: **paraplegia**. — **plegic** *adj.* and *n.* combining form.

Pleocene ('plaɪəʊ,sɪ:n) *adj., n.* a variant spelling of **Pliocene**.

Pleistocene ('plaɪstəʊ,sɪ:n) *adj.* 1. of, denoting, or formed in the first epoch of the Quaternary period. It was characterized by extensive glaciations of the N hemisphere and the evolutionary development of man. ~*n.* 2. the **Pleistocene**, the Pleistocene epoch or rock series.

plenary ('plɪnəri, 'plen-) *adj.* 1. full, unqualified, or complete: **plenary powers**; **plenary indulgence**. 2. (of assemblies, councils, etc.) attended by all the members. — **plenarily** *adv.*

plenipotentiary ('plenɪpə'tenʃəri) *adj.* 1. (esp. of a diplomatic envoy) invested with or possessing full authority. 2. conferring full authority. 3. (of power or authority) full; absolute. ~*n., pl. -aries*. 4. a person invested with full authority to transact business, esp. a diplomat authorized to represent a country. See also **envoy** (sense 1).

plenitude ('plenɪ,tju:d) *n.* 1. abundance. 2. the condition of being full or complete.

plenteous ('plentɪəs) *adj.* 1. ample; abundant: *a plenteous supply of food*. 2. producing or yielding abundantly: *a plenteous grape harvest*. — **plenteously** *adv.* — **plenteousness** *n.*

plentiful ('plentɪfʊl) *adj.* 1. ample; abundant. 2. having or yielding an abundance: *a plentiful year*. — **plentifully** *adv.* — **plentifulness** *n.*

plenty ('plenti) *n., pl. -ties*. 1. (often foll. by *of*) a great number, amount, or quantity; lots: *plenty of time*; *there are plenty of cars on display here*. 2. ample supplies or resources: *the age of plenty*. 3. in **plenty**, existing in abundance: *food in plenty*. ~*determiner*. 4. a. very many; ample: *plenty of people believe in ghosts*. b. (as pronoun): *that's plenty, thanks*. ~*adv.* 5. *Inf.* fully or abundantly: *the coat was plenty big enough*.

plenum ('plɪnəm) *n., pl. -nums or -na (-nə)*. 1. an enclosure containing gas at a higher pressure than the surrounding environment. 2. a fully attended meeting. 3. (esp. in the philosophy of the Stoics) space regarded as filled with matter.

pleonasm ('pli:ənæzəm) *n.* **Rhetoric**. 1. the use of more words than necessary or an instance of this, such as *a tiny little child*. 2. a word or phrase that is superfluous. — **pleo'nastic** *adj.*

plethora ('pleθərə) *n.* 1. superfluity or excess; overabundance. 2. **Pathol., obs.** a condition caused by dilation of superficial blood vessels, characterized esp. by a reddish face. — **plethoric** (ple'θɒrɪk) *adj.*

pleura ('pluərə) *n., pl. pleurae* ('pluəri:). the thin trans-

parent membrane enveloping the lungs and lining the walls of the thoracic cavity. — **pleural** *adj.*

pleurisy ('pluəri:si) *n.* inflammation of the pleura, characterized by pain that is aggravated by deep breathing or coughing. — **pleuritic** (plo'rɪtɪk) *adj., n.*

pleuro- or before a vowel **pleur-** *combining form*. 1. of or relating to the side. 2. indicating the pleura.

plexus ('pleksəs) *n., pl. -uses or -us*. 1. any complex network of nerves, blood vessels, or lymphatic vessels. 2. an intricate network or arrangement.

pliable ('plaɪəbəl) *adj.* easily moulded, bent, influenced, or altered. — **plia'bility** or **'pliableness** *n.* — **'plia'bly** *adv.*

pliant ('plaɪənt) *adj.* 1. easily bent; supple: *a pliant young tree*. 2. adaptable; yielding readily to influence; compliant. — **'pliancy** *n.* — **'pliantly** *adv.*

pliers ('plaɪəz) *pl. n.* a gripping tool consisting of two hinged arms usually with serrated jaws.

plight¹ (plaɪt) *n.* a condition of extreme hardship, danger, etc.

plight² (plaɪt) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to promise formally or pledge (allegiance, support, etc.). 2. **plight one's troth**, to make a promise, esp. of marriage. ~*n.* 3. *Arch. or Brit. dialect*, a solemn promise, esp. of engagement; pledge. — **'plighter** *n.*

plimsoll or **plimsol** ('plɪmsəl) *n.* *Brit.* a light rubber-soled canvas shoe worn for various sports. Also called: **gym shoe**.

Plimsoll line ('plɪmsəl) *n.* a line on the outside of merchant ships, showing the water level to which they may be legally loaded.

plinth (plɪnθ) *n.* 1. the rectangular slab or block that forms the lowest part of the base of a column, pedestal, or pier. 2. Also called: **plinth course**, the lowest part of the wall of a building, esp. one that is formed of a course of stone or brick. 3. a flat block on either side of a door frame, where the architrave meets the skirting.

Pliocene or **Pleocene** ('plaɪəʊ,sɪ:n) *adj.* 1. of, denoting, or formed in the last epoch of the Tertiary period, during which many modern mammals appeared. ~*n.* 2. the **Pliocene**, the Pliocene epoch or rock series.

plissé ('plɪseɪ, 'plɪs-) *n.* 1. fabric with a wrinkled finish, achieved by treatment involving caustic soda: *cotton plissé*. 2. such a finish on a fabric.

P.L.O. *abbrev. for* Palestine Liberation Organization.

plod (plɒd) *vb.* **plodding**, **plodded**. 1. to make (one's way) or walk along (a path, etc.) with heavy usually slow steps. 2. (*intr.*) to work slowly and perseveringly. ~*n.* 3. the act of plodding. — **'plodder** *n.* — **'ploddingly** *adv.*

-ploid *adj.* and *n.* combining form. indicating a specific multiple of a single set of chromosomes: **diploid**. — **'ploidy** *n.* combining form.

plonk¹ (plɒŋk) *vb.* 1. (often foll. by *down*) to drop or be dropped heavily: *he plonked the money on the table*. ~*n.* 2. the act or sound of plonking.

plonk² (plɒŋk) *n.* *Inf.* alcoholic drink, usually wine, esp. of inferior quality.

plop (plɒp) *n.* 1. the characteristic sound made by an object dropping into water without a splash. ~vb. **plopping**, **plopped**. 2. to fall or cause to fall with the sound of a plop: *the stone plopped into the water*. ~*interj.* 3. an exclamation imitative of this sound: *to go plop*.

plosive ('plɒsɪv) **Phonetics**. ~*adj.* 1. accompanied by plosion. ~*n.* 2. a plosive consonant; stop.

plot¹ (plɒt) *n.* 1. a secret plan to achieve some purpose, esp. one that is illegal or underhand. 2. the story or plan of a play, novel, etc. 3. *Mil.* a graphic representation of an individual or tactical setting that pinpoints an artillery target. 4. **chiefly U.S.** a diagram or plan. ~vb. **plotting**, **plotted**. 5. to plan secretly (something illegal, revolutionary, etc.); conspire. 6. (tr.) to mark (a course, as of a ship or aircraft) on a map. 7. (tr.) to make a plan or map of. 8. a. to locate and mark (points) on a graph by means of coordinates. b. to draw (a curve) through these points. 9. (tr.) to construct the plot of (a literary work, etc.). — **'plotter** *n.*

plot² (plɒt) *n.* a small piece of land: *a vegetable plot*.

plough or **esp. U.S. plow** (plau) *n.* 1. an agricultural implement with sharp blades for cutting or turning over the earth. 2. any of various similar implements, such as a device for clearing snow. 3. ploughed land. 4. **put one's hand to the plough**, to perform a task. ~vb. 5. to till (the soil, etc.) with a plough. 6. to make (furrows or grooves) in (something) with or as if with a plough. 7. (when *intr.*, usually foll. by *through*) to move (through something) in the manner of a plough. 8. (*intr.*; foll. by

through) to work at slowly or perseveringly. **9.** (*intr.*) *Brit. sl.* to fail an examination. — '**plougher** or *esp. U.S.* **plower** *n.*

Plough or *esp. U.S.* **Plow** (plau) *n.* the group of the seven brightest stars in the constellation Ursa Major. Also called: **Charles's Wain**. Usual U.S. name: the **Big Dipper**.

ploughman or *esp. U.S.* **plowman** ('plau:mən) *n., pl. -men* a man who ploughs, *esp.* using horses.

ploughshare or *esp. U.S.* **plowshare** ('plau:ʃə) *n.* the horizontal pointed cutting blade of a mouldboard plough.

plover ('plavə) *n.* **1.** any of a family of shore birds, typically having a round head, straight bill, and large pointed wings. **2.** **green plover**. another name for **lapwing**.

plow (plau) *n., vb.* the usual U.S. spelling of **plough**. — '**plower** *n.*

ploy (plɔɪ) *n.* **1.** a manoeuvre or tactic in a game, conversation, etc. **2.** any business, job, hobby, etc., with which one is occupied: *angling is his latest ploy*. **3.** *Chiefly Brit.* a frolic, escapade, or practical joke.

P.L.P. (in Britain) *abbrev. for* Parliamentary Labour Party.

P.L.R. *abbrev. for* Public Lending Right.

pluck (plæk) *vb.* **1.** (*tr.*) to pull off (feathers, fruit, etc.) from (a fowl, tree, etc.). **2.** (*when intr., foll. by at*) to pull or tug. **3.** (*tr.; foll. by off, away, etc.*) *Arch.* to pull (something) forcibly or violently (from something or someone). **4.** (*tr.*) to sound (the strings) of (a musical instrument) with the fingers, a plectrum, etc. **5.** (*tr.*) *Sl.* to fleece or swindle. **~n.** **6.** courage, usually in the face of difficulties or hardship. **7.** a sudden pull or tug. **8.** the heart, liver, and lungs, *esp.* of an animal used for food. — '**plucker** *n.*

pluck up *vb. (tr., adv.)* **1.** to pull out; uproot. **2.** to muster (courage, one's spirits, etc.).

plucky ('plʌki) *adj.* **pluckier, pluckiest.** having or showing courage in the face of difficulties, danger, etc. — '**pluckily** *adv.* — '**pluckiness** *n.*

plug (plæg) *n.* **1.** a piece of wood, cork, or other material, used to stop up holes or waste pipes or as a wedge for taking a screw or nail. **2.** a device usually having three pins to which the terminals of a flex are attached: used to make an electrical connection when inserted into a socket. **3.** Also called: **volcanic plug**. a mass of solidified magma filling the neck of an extinct volcano. **4.** See **sparkling plug**. **5. a.** a cake of pressed or twisted tobacco, *esp.* for chewing. **b.** a small piece of such a cake. **6. Inf.** a favourable mention of a product, show, etc., as on television. **~vb.** **plugging, plugged.** **7.** (*tr.*) to stop up or secure (a hole, gap, etc.) with or as if with a plug. **8.** (*tr.*) to insert or use (something) as a plug: *to plug a finger into one's ear*. **9.** (*tr.*) *Inf.* to make favourable and often-repeated mentions of (a song, product, show, etc.), as on television. **10.** (*tr.*) *Sl.* to shoot; *he plugged six rabbits*. **11.** (*tr.*) *Sl.* to punch. **12.** (*intr.; foll. by along, away, etc.*) *Inf.* to work steadily or persistently. — '**plugger** *n.*

plug in *vb. (tr., adv.)* to connect (an electrical appliance, etc.) with a power source by means of an electrical plug.

plum (pləm) *n.* **1.** a small rosaceous tree with an edible oval fruit that is purple, yellow, or green and contains an oval stone. **2.** the fruit of this tree. **3.** a raisin, as used in a cake or pudding. **4.** a dark reddish-purple colour. **5. Inf. a.** something of a superior or desirable kind, such as a financial bonus. **b. (as modifier):** *a plum job*. — '**plum, like** *adj.*

plumage ('plu:mɪdʒ) *n.* the layer of feathers covering the body of a bird.

plumb (pləm) *n.* **1.** a weight, usually of lead, suspended at the end of a line and used to determine water depth or verticality. **2.** the perpendicular position of a freely suspended plumb line (*esp. in out of plumb, off plumb*). **~adv. also plumb.** **3.** vertical or perpendicular. **4. Inf., chiefly U.S. (intensifier):** *plumb idiotic*. **5. Inf.** exactly; precisely. **~vb.** **6.** (*tr.; often foll. by up*) to test the alignment of or adjust to the vertical with a plumb line. **7.** (*tr.*) to experience (the worst extremes of): *to plumb the depths of despair*. **8.** (*tr.*) to understand or master (something obscure): *to plumb a mystery*. **9.** to connect or join (a device, such as a tap, etc.) to a waterpipe or drainage system. — '**plumbable** *adj.*

plumber ('plʌmə) *n.* a person who installs and repairs pipes, fixtures, etc., for water, drainage, and gas.

plumbing ('plʌmɪŋ) *n.* **1.** the trade or work of a plumber. **2.** the pipes, fixtures, etc., used in a water,

drainage, or gas installation. **3.** the act or procedure of using a plumb.

plumb line *n.* a string with a metal weight, or **plumb bob**, at one end that, when suspended, points directly towards the earth's centre of gravity and so is used to determine verticality, depth, etc.

plume (plu:m) *n.* **1.** a feather, *esp.* one that is large or ornamental. **2.** a feather or cluster of feathers worn *esp.* formerly as a badge or ornament in a headband, hat, etc. **3. Biol.** any feathery part. **4.** something that resembles a plume: *a plume of smoke*. **5.** a token or decoration of honour; prize. **~vb. (tr.)** **6.** to adorn with feathers or plumes. **7.** (of a bird) to clean or preen (itself or its feathers). **8.** (*foll. by on or upon*) to pride or congratulate (oneself). — '**plume, like** *adj.*

plummet ('plʌmɪt) *vb.* **1.** (*intr.*) to drop down; plunge. **~n.** **2.** the weight on a plumb line; plumb bob. **3.** a lead plumb used by anglers.

plummy ('plʌmi) *adj. -mier, -miest.* **1.** of, full of, or resembling plums. **2. Brit. inf.** (of speech) deep, refined, and somewhat drawling. **3. Brit. inf.** choice; desirable.

plump¹ ('plʌmp) *adj.* **1.** well filled out or rounded; chubby: *a plump turkey*. **2.** bulging; full: *a plump wallet*. **~vb.** **3.** (*often foll. by up or out*) to make or become plump: *to plump up a pillow*. — '**plumpily** *adv.* — '**plumpness** *n.*

plump² ('plʌmp) *vb.* **1.** (*often foll. by down, into, etc.*) to drop or fall suddenly and heavily. **2.** (*intr.; foll. by for*) to give support (to) or make a choice (of) one out of a group or number. **~n.** **3.** a heavy abrupt fall or the sound of this. **~adv.** **4.** suddenly or heavily. **5.** straight down; directly: *the helicopter landed plump in the middle of the field*. **~adj., adv.** **6.** in a blunt, direct, or decisive manner.

plum pudding *n. Brit.* a boiled or steamed pudding made with flour, suet, sugar, and dried fruit.

plummy ('plu:mi) *adj.* **plumier, plumiest.** **1.** plumelike; feathery. **2.** consisting of, covered, or adorned with feathers.

plunder ('plʌndə) *vb.* **1.** to steal (valuables, goods, sacred items, etc.) from (a town, church, etc.) by force, *esp.* in time of war; loot. **2.** (*tr.*) to rob or steal (choice or desirable things) from (a place): *to plunder an orchard*. **~n.** **3.** anything taken by plundering; booty. **4.** the act of plundering; pillage. — '**plunderer** *n.*

plunge ('plʌndʒ) *vb.* **1.** (usually foll. by *into*) to thrust or throw (something, oneself, etc.): *they plunged into the sea*. **2.** to throw or be thrown into a certain condition: *the room was plunged into darkness*. **3.** (usually foll. by *into*) to involve or become involved deeply (in). **4.** (*intr.*) to move or dash violently or with great speed or impetuosity. **5.** (*intr.*) to descend very suddenly or steeply: *the ship plunged in heavy seas*; *a plunging neckline*. **6.** (*intr.*) *Inf.* to speculate or gamble recklessly, for high stakes, etc. **~n.** **7.** a leap or dive. **8. Inf.** a swim; dip. **9.** a pitching or tossing motion. **10. take the plunge. Inf.** to resolve to do something dangerous or irrevocable.

plunger ('plʌndʒə) *n.* **1.** a rubber suction cup used to clear a blocked drain, etc. **2.** a device or part of a machine that has a plunging or thrusting motion; piston. **3. Inf.** a reckless gambler.

plunk (plʌŋk) *vb.* **1.** to pluck (the strings) of (a banjo, etc.) or (of such an instrument) to give forth a sound when plucked. **2.** (*often foll. by down*) to drop or be dropped, *esp.* heavily or suddenly. **~n.** **3.** the act or sound of plunking.

pluperfect (plu:'pɜ:fɪkt) *adj., n.* *Grammar.* another term for **past perfect**.

plural ('plʊərəl) *adj.* **1.** containing, involving, or composed of more than one. **2.** denoting a word indicating that more than one referent is being referred to or described. **~n.** **3. Grammar.** **a.** the plural number. **b.** a plural form. — '**plurally** *adv.*

pluralism ('plʊərə,lɪzəm) *n.* **1.** the holding by a single person of more than one ecclesiastical benefice or office; plurality. **2. Sociol.** a theory of society as several autonomous but interdependent groups. **3.** the existence in a society of groups having distinctive ethnic origin, cultural forms, religions, etc. **4. Philosophy,** the doctrine that reality consists of several basic substances or elements. — '**pluralist** *n., adj.* — '**pluralistic** *adj.*

plurality ('plʊərə'lɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* **1.** the state of being plural. **2. Maths.** a number greater than one. **3.** a large number. **4.** the greater number; majority. **5.** another word for **pluralism** (sense 1).

pluralize or **-ise** ('plʊərə,laɪz) *vb.* **1.** (*intr.*) to hold

more than one ecclesiastical benefice or office at the same time. **2.** to make or become plural.

pluri- combining form. denoting several.

plus (plʌs) prep. **1.** increased by the addition of: *four plus two*. **2.** with or with the addition of: *a good job, plus a new car*. ~adj. **3.** (prenominal) indicating or involving addition: *a plus sign*. **4.** another word for **positive** (senses 7, 8). **5.** on the positive part of a scale or coordinate axis: *a value of +x*. **6.** involving advantage: *a plus factor*. **7.** (postpositive) *Inf.* having a value above that which is stated: *she had charm plus*. **8.** (postpositive) slightly above a specified standard: *he received a B+ grade for his essay*. ~n. **9.** the symbol +, indicating addition or positive quantity. **10.** a positive quantity. **11.** *Inf.* something positive or to the good. **12.** a gain, surplus, or advantage.

▷ **Usage.** *Plus, together with, and along with* do not create compound subjects in the way that *and* does: the number of the verb depends on that of the subject to which *plus, together with, or along with* are added: *this task, plus all the others, was (not were) undertaken by the government*.

plus fours pl. n. men's baggy knickerbockers reaching below the knee, now only worn for golf, etc.

plush (plʌʃ) n. **1.** a fabric with a cut pile that is longer and softer than velvet. ~adj. **2.** Also: **plushy**. *Inf.* lavishly appointed; rich; costly. —'plushly adv.

Pluto ('plʊtəʊ) n. the second smallest planet and the farthest known from the sun.

plutocracy (plu:'tɒkrəsi) n., pl. -cies. **1.** the rule of society by the wealthy. **2.** a state or government characterized by the rule of the wealthy. **3.** a class that exercises power by virtue of its wealth. —**plutocratic** (plu:tə'krætɪk) adj. —, **pluto'cratically** adv.

plutocrat ('plʊtə,kræt) n. a member of a plutocracy.

plutonic (plu:'tɒnɪk) adj. (of igneous rocks) derived from magma that has cooled and solidified below the surface of the earth.

plutonium (plu:'tʊniəm) n. a highly toxic metallic transuranic element. It occurs in trace amounts in uranium ores and is produced in a nuclear reactor by neutron bombardment of uranium-238. The most stable isotope, **plutonium-239**, readily undergoes fission and is used as a reactor fuel. Symbol: Pu; atomic no. 94; half-life of ²³⁹Pu: 24 360 years.

pluvial ('plʊ:vɪəl) adj. **1.** of, characterized by, or due to the action of rain; rainy. ~n. **2.** *Geol.* a period of persistent heavy rainfall.

ply¹ (plai) vb. **plying, plied.** (mainly tr.) **1.** to carry on, pursue, or work at (a job, trade, etc.). **2.** to manipulate or wield (a tool, etc.). **3.** to sell (goods, wares, etc.) esp. at a regular place. **4.** (usually foll. by *with*) to provide (with) or subject (to) repeatedly or persistently: *he plied us with drink; he plied the speaker with questions*. **5.** (intr.) to work at steadily or diligently. **6.** (also intr.) (esp. of a ship, etc.) to travel regularly along (a route) or in (an area): *to ply the trade routes*.

ply² (plai) n., pl. **plies**. **1.** a. a layer, fold, or thickness, as of yarn. b. (in combination): *four-ply*. **2.** a thin sheet of wood glued to other similar sheets to form plywood. **3.** one of the strands twisted together to make rope, etc.

Plymouth Brethren ('plɪmθ) n. a religious sect founded about 1827, strongly Puritanical in outlook and having no organized ministry.

plywood ('plai,wʊd) n. a structural board consisting of thin layers of wood glued together under pressure, with the grain of one layer at right angles to the grain of the adjoining layer.

Pm the chemical symbol for promethium.

p.m. or **P.M.** abbrev. for: **1.** (indicating the time from midday to midnight) post meridiem. **2.** post-mortem (examination).

P.M. abbrev. for: **1.** Prime Minister. **2.** Past Master (of a fraternity). **3.** Paymaster. **4.** Postmaster. **5.** Mil. Provost Marshal.

P.M.G. abbrev. for: **1.** Paymaster General. **2.** Postmaster General.

PMS abbrev. for premenstrual syndrome.

PMT abbrev. for premenstrual tension.

pneumatic (nju:'mætiɪk) adj. **1.** of or concerned with air, gases, or wind. **2.** (of a machine or device) operated by compressed air or by a vacuum. **3.** containing compressed air: *a pneumatic tyre*. **4.** (of the bones of birds) containing air spaces which reduce their weight as an adaptation to flying. ~n. **5.** a pneumatic tyre. —**pneu'matically** adv.

pneumatics (nju:'mætiɪks) n. (functioning as sing.) the

branch of physics concerned with the mechanical properties of gases, esp. air.

pneumoconiosis (nju:'mæʊ,kəʊni'əʊsɪs) or **pneumoconiosis** (nju:'mæʊ,kəʊni'əʊsɪs) n. any disease of the lungs or bronchi caused by the inhalation of metallic or mineral particles.

pneumonia (nju:'mæʊniə) n. inflammation of one or both lungs, in which the air sacs (alveoli) become filled with liquid. —**pneumonic** (nju:'mɒnɪk) adj.

po (pəʊ) n., pl. **pos.** *Brit.* an informal word for **chamber pot**.

Po the chemical symbol for polonium.

P.O. abbrev. for: **1.** Post Office. **2.** Personnel Officer.

3. petty officer. **4.** Pilot Officer. **5.** Also: **p.o.** postal order.

poach ('pəʊtʃ) vb. **1.** to catch (game, fish, etc.) illegally by trespassing on private property. **2.** to encroach on or usurp (another person's rights, duties, etc.) or steal (an idea, employee, etc.). **3.** *Tennis, badminton, etc.* to take or play (shots that should belong to one's partner). **4.** to break up (land) into wet muddy patches, as by riding over it. —'poacher n.

poach ('pəʊtʃ) vb. to simmer (eggs, fish, etc.) very gently in water, milk, stock, etc. —'poacher n.

pock (pɒk) n. **1.** any pustule resulting from an eruptive disease, esp. from smallpox. **2.** another word for **pockmark**. —'pocky adj.

pocket ('pɒkɪt) n. **1.** a small bag or pouch in a garment for carrying small articles, money, etc. **2.** any bag or pouch or anything resembling this. **3.** *S. African.* a bag or sack of vegetables or fruit. **4.** a cavity in the earth, etc., such as one containing ore. **5.** a small enclosed or isolated area: *a pocket of resistance*. **6.** any of the six holes with pouches or nets let into the corners and sides of a billiard table. **7.** in one's **pocket**, under one's control. **8.** in or out of **pocket**, having made a profit or loss. **9.** line one's **pockets**, to make money, esp. by dishonesty when in a position of trust. **10.** (modifier) small: *a pocket edition*. ~vb. (tr.) **11.** to put into one's pocket. **12.** to take surreptitiously or unlawfully; steal. **13.** (usually passive) to confine in or as if in a pocket. **14.** *Billiards, etc.* to drive (a ball) into a pocket. —'pocketless adj.

pocketbook ('pɒkɪt,bʊk) n. *Chiefly U.S.* a small bag or case for money, papers, etc.

pocket borough n. (before the Reform Act of 1832) an English borough constituency controlled by one person or family who owned the land.

pocketful ('pɒkɪt,fʊl) n., pl. -fuls. as much as a pocket will hold.

pocketknife ('pɒkɪt,naɪf) n., pl. -knives. a small knife with one or more blades that fold into the handle; penknife.

pocket money n. **1.** *Brit.* a small weekly sum of money given to children by parents as an allowance. **2.** money for day-to-day spending, incidental expenses, etc.

pockmark ('pɒk,mɑ:k) n. **1.** Also called: **pock**, a pitted scar left on the skin after the healing of a smallpox or similar pustule. **2.** any pitting of a surface that resembles or suggests such scars. ~vb. **3.** (tr.) to scar or pit with pockmarks.

poco ('pɒkəʊ; Italian 'pɒko) or **un poco** adj., adv. *Mus.* (in combination) a little; to a small degree.

pod (pɒd) n. **1.** a. the fruit of any leguminous plant, consisting of a long two-valved case that contains seeds. b. the seed case as distinct from the seeds. **2.** any similar fruit. **3.** a streamlined structure attached to an aircraft and used to house a jet engine, fuel tank, armament, etc. ~vb. **podding, podded.** **4.** (tr.) to remove the pod from.

-**pod** or -**pode** n. combining form. indicating a certain type or number of feet: *arthropod; tripod*.

podgy ('pɒdʒɪ) adj. **podgier, podgiest.** **1.** short and fat; chubby. **2.** (of the face, arms, etc.) unpleasantly chubby and pasty looking. —'podgily adv. —'podginess n.

podium ('pəʊdiəm) n., pl. -diums or -dia (-diə). **1.** a small raised platform used by lecturers, conductors, etc. **2.** a plinth that supports a colonnade or wall. **3.** a low wall surrounding the arena of an ancient amphitheatre. **4.** *Zool.* any footlike organ, such as the tube foot of a starfish.

poem ('pəʊɪm) n. **1.** a composition in verse, usually characterized by words chosen for their sound and suggestive power as well as for their sense, and using such techniques as metre, rhyme, and alliteration. **2.** a literary composition that is not in verse but exhibits the intensity of imagination and language common to it: a

prose poem. **3.** anything resembling a poem in beauty, effect, etc.

poesy ('pəʊzi) *n.*, *pl.* **-sies**. 1. an archaic word for poetry. **2.** Poetic. the art of writing poetry.

poet ('pəʊt) or (sometimes when fem.) **poetess** *n.* 1. a person who writes poetry. **2.** a person with great imagination and creativity.

poetaster (,pəʊ'tæstə, -'tɛ-) *n.* a writer of inferior verse.

poetic (pəʊ'etɪk) or **poetical** *adj.* 1. of poetry. **2.** characteristic of poetry, as in being elevated, sublime, etc. **3.** characteristic of a poet. **4.** recounted in verse. —**poetically** *adv.*

poetic justice *n.* fitting retribution.

poetic licence *n.* justifiable departure from conventional rules of form, fact, etc., as in poetry.

poet laureate *n.*, *pl.* **poets laureate**. *Brit.* the poet appointed as court poet of Britain who is given a lifetime post in the Royal Household.

poetry ('pəʊtri) *n.* 1. literature in metrical form; verse. **2.** the art or craft of writing verse. **3.** poetic qualities, spirit, or feeling in anything. **4.** anything resembling poetry in rhythm, beauty, etc.

po-faced *adj.* wearing a disapproving stern expression.

pogo stick ('pəʊgʊstɪk) *n.* a stout pole with a handle at the top, steps for the feet and a spring at the bottom, so that the user can spring up, down, and along on it.

pogrom ('pɒɡrɒm) *n.* an organized persecution or extermination of an ethnic group, esp. of Jews.

poignant ('pɔɪnjənt, -nənt) *adj.* 1. sharply distressing or painful to the feelings. **2.** to the point; cutting or piercing: *poignant wit*. **3.** keen or pertinent in mental appeal: *a poignant subject*. **4.** pungent in smell. —**'poignancy** or **'poignance** *n.* —**'poignantly** *adv.*

poinsettia ('pɔɪn'setʃə) *n.* a shrub of Mexico and Central America, widely cultivated for its showy scarlet bracts, which resemble petals.

point (pɔɪnt) *n.* 1. a dot or tiny mark. **2.** a location, spot, or position. **3.** any dot used in writing or printing, such as a decimal point or a full stop. **4.** the sharp tapered end of a pin, knife, etc. **5.** *Maths.* a. a geometric element having no dimensions whose position is located by means of its coordinates. **b. a location: *point of inflection*. **6. a small promontory. **7. a specific condition or degree. **8. a moment: *at that point he left the room*. **9. a reason, aim, etc.: *the point of this exercise is to train new teachers*. **10. an essential element in an argument: *I take your point*. **11. a suggestion or tip. **12. a detail or item. **13. a, characteristic, physical attribute, etc.: *he has his good points*. **14. a distinctive characteristic or quality of an animal, esp. one used as a standard in judging livestock. **15.** (*often pl.*) any of the extremities, such as the tail, ears, or feet, of a domestic animal. **16. a single unit for measuring or counting, as in scoring of a game. **17.** *Printing.* a unit of measurement equal to one twelfth of a pica. There are approximately 72 points to the inch. **18.** *Finance.* a unit of value used to quote security and commodity prices and their fluctuations. **19.** *Navigation.* a. one of the 32 marks on the compass indicating direction. **b.** the angle of 11°15' between two adjacent marks. **20.** *Cricket.* a fielding position at right angles to the batsman on the off side and relatively near the pitch. **21.** either of the two electrical contacts that make or break the current flow in the distributor of an internal-combustion engine. **22.** *Brit. (often pl.)* a junction of railway tracks in which a pair of rails can be moved so that a train can be directed onto either of two lines. *U.S.* equivalent: **switch**. **23.** (*often pl.*) a piece of ribbon, cord, etc., with metal tags at the end: used during the 16th and 17th centuries to fasten clothing. **24.** *Brit.* an informal name for **socket** (sense 2). **25.** the position of the body of a pointer or setter when it discovers game. **26.** *Boxing.* a mark awarded for a scoring blow, knock-down, etc. **27.** any diacritic used in a writing system, esp. in a phonetic transcription, to indicate modifications of vowels or consonants. **28.** *Jewellery.* a unit of weight equal to 0.01 carat. **29.** the act of pointing. **30.** *at (or on) the point of*, at the moment immediately before: *on the point of leaving the room*. **31.** *beside the point*, irrelevant. **32.** *case in point*, a specific or relevant instance. **33.** *make a point of*, a. to make (something) one's regular habit. **b.** to do (something) because one thinks it important. **34.** *not to put too fine a point on it*, to speak plainly and bluntly. **35.** *score points off*, to gain an advantage at someone else's expense. **36.** *stretch a point*, to make a concession or exception. **37.** *to the point*, relevant. **38.** *up to a point*, not completely. —*vb.***********************

39. (usually foll. by *at* or *to*) to indicate the location or direction of by or as by extending (a finger or other pointed object) towards it: *he pointed to the front door*; *don't point that gun at me*. **40.** (*intr.*; usually foll. by *at* or *to*) to indicate or identify a specific person or thing among several: *all evidence pointed to Donald as the murderer*. **41.** (*tr.*) to direct or face in a specific direction: *point me in the right direction*. **42.** (*tr.*) to sharpen or taper. **43.** (*intr.*) (of gun dogs) to indicate the place where game is lying by standing rigidly with the muzzle turned in its direction. **44.** (*tr.*) to finish or repair the joints of (brickwork, masonry, etc.) with mortar or cement. **45.** (*tr.*) *Music.* to mark (a psalm text) with vertical lines to indicate the points at which the music changes during chanting. **46.** (*tr.*) *Phonetics.* to provide (a letter or letters) with diacritics. **47.** (*tr.*) to provide (a Hebrew or similar text) with vowel points. —*See also point out.*

point-blank *adj.* 1. a. aimed or fired horizontally at a target without making allowance for the drop in the course of the projectile. **b.** permitting such aim or fire without loss of accuracy: *at point-blank range*. **2.** aimed or fired at nearly zero range. **3.** plain or blunt: *a point-blank question*. —*adv.* **4.** directly or straight. **5.** plainly or bluntly.

point duty *n.* the stationing of a policeman or traffic warden at a road junction to control and direct traffic.

pointed ('pɔɪntɪd) *adj.* 1. having a point. **2.** cutting or incisive: *a pointed wit*. **3.** obviously directed at a particular person: *pointed criticism*. **4.** emphasized or made conspicuous: *pointed ignorance*. **5.** (of an arch or style of architecture) Gothic. —**'pointedly** *adv.*

pointer ('pɔɪntə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that points. **2.** an indicator on a measuring instrument. **3.** a long rod or cane used by a lecturer to point to parts of a map, blackboard, etc. **4.** one of a breed of large swift hunting dogs, usually white with black, liver, or lemon markings. **5.** a helpful piece of information.

pointillism ('pɔɪntɪlɪzəm) *n.* the technique of painting elaborated from impressionism, in which dots of unmixed colour are juxtaposed on a white ground so that from a distance they fuse in the viewer's eye into appropriate intermediate tones. —**'pointillist** *n.*, *adj.*

pointing ('pɔɪntɪŋ) *n.* the act or process of repairing or finishing joints in brickwork, masonry, etc., with mortar.

pointless ('pɔɪntlɪs) *adj.* 1. without a point. **2.** without meaning, relevance, or force. **3.** *Sport.* without a point scored. —**'pointlessly** *adv.*

point of no return *n.* 1. a point at which an irreversible commitment must be made to an action, progression, etc. **2.** a point in a journey at which, if one continues, supplies will be insufficient for a return to the starting place.

point of order *n.*, *pl.* **points of order**. a question raised in a meeting as to whether the rules governing procedures are being breached.

point of view *n.*, *pl.* **points of view**. 1. a position from which someone or something is observed. **2.** a mental viewpoint or attitude.

point out *vb.* (*tr.*, *adv.*) to indicate or specify.

point-to-point *n.* *Brit.* a steeplechase organized by a recognized hunt or other body, usually restricted to amateurs riding horses that have been regularly used in hunting.

poise (pɔɪz) *n.* 1. composure or dignity of manner. **2.** physical balance. **3.** equilibrium; stability. **4.** the position of hovering. —*vb.* **5.** to be or cause to be balanced or suspended. **6.** (*tr.*) to hold, as in readiness: *to poise a lance*.

poison ('pɔɪz'n) *n.* 1. any substance that can impair function or otherwise injure the body. **2.** something that destroys, corrupts, etc. **3.** a substance that retards a chemical reaction or the activity of a catalyst. **4.** a substance that absorbs neutrons in a nuclear reactor and thus slows down the reaction. —*vb.* (*tr.*) **5.** to give poison to (a person or animal) esp. with intent to kill. **6.** to add poison to. **7.** to taint or infect with or as if with poison. **8.** (*foll. by against*) to turn (a person's mind) against: *he poisoned her mind against me*. **9.** to retard or stop (a chemical or nuclear reaction) by the action of a poison. —**'poisoner** *n.*

poison ivy *n.* any of several North American shrubs or climbing plants that cause an itching rash on contact.

poisonous ('pɔɪzənəs) *adj.* 1. having the effects or qualities of a poison. **2.** capable of killing or inflicting injury. **3.** corruptive or malicious. —**'poisonously** *adv.* —**'poisonousness** *n.*

poison-pen letter *n.* a letter written in malice,

usually anonymously, and intended to abuse, frighten, or insult the recipient.

poke¹ (pəʊk) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to jab or prod, as with the elbow, a stick, etc. 2. (*tr.*) to make (a hole) by or as by poking. 3. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *at*) to thrust (*at*). 4. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to hit with the fist; punch. 5. (usually foll. by *in*, *through*, etc.) to protrude or cause to protrude: *don't poke your arm out of the window.* 6. (*tr.*) to stir (a fire, etc.) by poking. 7. (*intr.*) to meddle or intrude. 8. (*intr.*; often foll. by *about* or *around*) to search or pry. 9. **poke fun** *at* to ridicule. 10. **poke one's nose into**, to interfere with or meddle in. ~*n.* 11. a jab or prod. 12. *Inf.* a blow with one's fist; punch.

poke² (pəʊk) *n.* 1. *Dialect.* a pocket or bag. 2. a pig in a poke. See **pig**.

poker¹ ('pəʊkə) *n.* a metal rod, usually with a handle, for stirring a fire.

poker² ('pəʊkə) *n.* a card game of bluff and skill in which bets are made on the hands dealt, the highest-ranking hand winning the pool.

poker face *n.* *Inf.* a face without expression, as that of a poker player attempting to conceal the value of his cards. — **poker-faced** *adj.*

pokerwork ('pəʊkə,wɜ:k) *n.* the art of producing pictures or designs on wood by charring it with a heated tool.

poky or **pokey** ('pəʊki) *adj.* **pokier**, **pokiest**. 1. (esp. of rooms) small and cramped. 2. *Inf.* without speed or energy; slow. — **pokily** *adv.* — **pokiness** *n.*

Pol. *abbrev. for:* 1. Poland. 2. Polish.

polar ('pəʊlə) *adj.* 1. at, near, or relating to either of the earth's poles or the area inside the Arctic or Antarctic Circles: **polar regions**. 2. having or relating to a pole or poles. 3. pivotal or guiding in the manner of the Pole Star. 4. directly opposite, as in tendency or character. 5. *Chem.* (of a molecule) having an uneven distribution of electrons and thus a permanent dipole moment: *water has polar molecules.*

polar bear *n.* a white carnivorous bear of coastal regions of the North Pole.

polar circle *n.* a term for either the Arctic Circle or Antarctic Circle.

Polaris (pə'laɪrɪs) *n.* 1. Also called: the **Pole Star**, the **North Star**, the brightest star in the constellation Ursa Minor, situated slightly less than 1° from the north celestial pole. 2. a type of U.S. two-stage intermediate-range ballistic missile, usually fired by a submerged submarine.

polarity (pəʊ'lærɪti) *n.*, *pl.* **-ties**. 1. the condition of having poles. 2. the condition of a body or system in which it has opposing physical properties, esp. magnetic poles or electric charge. 3. the particular state of a part that has polarity: *an electrode with positive polarity.* 4. the state of having or expressing two directly opposite tendencies, opinions, etc.

polarization or **-isation** (pəʊ'ləraɪ'zeɪʃən) *n.* 1. the condition of having or giving polarity. 2. *Physics.* the phenomenon in which waves of light or other radiation are restricted to certain directions of vibration.

polarize or **-ise** ('pəʊləraɪz) *vb.* to acquire or cause to acquire polarity or polarization. — **polarizer** or **-iser** *n.*

Polaroid ('pəʊlə,rɔɪd) *Trademark.* ~*n.* 1. a type of plastic sheet that can polarize a transmitted beam of normal light because it is composed of long parallel molecules. It only transmits plane-polarized light if these molecules are parallel to the plane of polarization. 2. **Polaroid Land Camera**, any of several types of camera yielding a finished print by means of a special developing and processing technique that occurs inside the camera and takes only a few seconds.

polder ('pəʊldə, 'pɒl-) *n.* a stretch of land reclaimed from the sea or a lake, esp. in the Netherlands.

pole¹ (pəʊl) *n.* 1. a long slender usually round piece of wood, metal, or other material. 2. the piece of timber on each side of which a pair of carriage horses are hitched. 3. another name for **rod** (sense 7). 4. **under bare poles**. *Naut.* (of a sailing vessel) with no sails set. 5. **up the pole**. *Brit. & Austral. inf.* a. slightly mad. b. mistaken; on the wrong track. ~*vb.* 6. (*tr.*) to strike or push with a pole. 7. (*tr.*) a. to set out (an area of land or garden) with poles. b. to support (a crop, such as hops) on poles. 8. to punt (a boat).

pole² (pəʊl) *n.* 1. either of the two antipodal points where the earth's axis of rotation meets the earth's surface. See also **North Pole**, **South Pole**. 2. *Physics.* a. either of the two regions at the extremities of a magnet to which the lines of force converge. b. either of two

points at which there are opposite electric charges, as at the terminals of a battery. 3. *Biol.* either end of the axis of a cell, spore, ovum, or similar body. 4. either of two mutually exclusive or opposite actions, opinions, etc. 5. **poles apart** (or **asunder**), having widely divergent opinions, tastes, etc.

Pole (pəʊl) *n.* a native, inhabitant, or citizen of Poland or a speaker of Polish.

poleaxe or **U.S. poleax** ('pəʊl,æks) *n.* 1. another term for a battle-axe or a butcher's axe. ~*vb.* 2. (*tr.*) to hit or fell with or as if with a poleaxe.

polecat ('pəʊl,kæt) *n.*, *pl.* **-cats** or **-cat**. 1. a dark brown musteline mammal of Europe, Asia, and N Africa, that is closely related to but larger than the weasel and gives off an unpleasant smell. 2. *U.S.* a nontechnical name for skunk.

polemic (pə'lemɪk) *adj.* also **polemical**. 1. of or involving dispute or controversy. ~*n.* 2. an argument or controversy, esp. over a doctrine, belief, etc. 3. a person engaged in such controversy. — **polemically** *adv.* — **polemicist** (pə'lemɪsɪst) *n.*

polemics (pə'lemɪks) *n.* (*functioning as sing.*) the art or practice of dispute or argument, as in attacking or defending a doctrine or belief.

pole star *n.* a guiding principle, rule, etc.

Pole Star *n.* the star closest to the N celestial pole at any particular time. At present this is Polaris, but it will eventually be replaced owing to precession of the earth's axis.

pole vault *n.* 1. the, a field event in which competitors attempt to clear a high bar with the aid of an extremely flexible long pole. ~*vb.* **pole-vault**. 2. (*intr.*) to perform a pole vault or compete in the pole vault. — **pole-vaulter** *n.*

police (pə'li:s) *n.* 1. (often preceded by *the*) the organized civil force of a state, concerned with maintenance of law and order. 2. (*functioning as pl.*) the members of such a force collectively. 3. any organized body with a similar function: *security police*. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 4. to regulate, control, or keep in order by means of a police or similar force. 5. to observe or record the activity or enforcement of: *a committee was set up to police the new agreement on picketing.*

police dog *n.* a dog, often an Alsatian, trained to help the police, as in tracking.

policeman (pə'li:smən) or (*fem.*) **policewoman** *n.*, *pl.* **-men** or **-women**, a member of a police force, esp. one holding the rank of constable.

police state *n.* a state or country in which a repressive government maintains control through the police.

police station *n.* the office or headquarters of the police force of a district.

policy¹ ('pɒlɪsi) *n.*, *pl.* **-cies**. 1. a plan of action adopted or pursued by an individual, government, party, business, etc. 2. wisdom, shrewdness, or sagacity. 3. *Scot.* (*sometimes pl.*) the improved grounds surrounding a country house.

policy² ('pɒlɪsi) *n.*, *pl.* **-cies**, a document containing a contract of insurance. — **policyholder** *n.*

polio ('pəʊliəʊ) *n.* short for **poliomyelitis**.

poliomyelitis (pəʊliəʊ,məɪə'ləɪtɪs) *n.* an acute infectious viral disease, esp. affecting children. In its paralytic form the brain and spinal cord are involved, causing paralysis and wasting of muscle. Also called: **infantile paralysis**.

polish ('pɒlɪʃ) *vb.* 1. to make or become smooth and shiny by rubbing, esp. with wax or an abrasive. 2. (*tr.*) to make perfect or complete. 3. to make or become elegant or refined. ~*n.* 4. a finish or gloss. 5. the act of polishing. 6. a substance used to produce a shiny, often protective surface. 7. elegance or refinement, esp. in style, manner, etc. — **polisher** *n.*

Polish ('pəʊlɪʃ) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or characteristic of Poland, its people, or their language. ~*n.* 2. the official language of Poland. 3. **the Polish**, (*functioning as pl.*) the people of Poland or Polish speakers collectively.

polished ('pɒlɪʃt) *adj.* 1. accomplished: *a polished actor*. 2. impeccably or professionally done: *a polished performance*. 3. (of rice) having had the outer husk removed by milling.

polish off *vb.* (*tr.*, *adv.*) *Inf.* 1. to finish or process completely. 2. to dispose of or kill.

polish up *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. to make or become smooth and shiny by polishing. 2. (when *intr.*, foll. by *on*) to study or practise until adept at; improve: *he's polishing up on his German.*

Politburo ('polit,bjuərəʊ) *n.* 1. the executive and policy-making committee of a Communist Party. 2. the supreme policy-making authority in most Communist countries.

polite (pə'laɪt) *adj.* 1. showing a great regard for others, as in manners, speech, etc.; courteous. 2. cultivated or refined: *polite society*. 3. elegant or polished: *polite letters*. —*po'litely adv.* —*po'liteness n.*

politic ('politɪk) *adj.* 1. artful or shrewd; ingenious. 2. crafty or unscrupulous; cunning. 3. wise or prudent, esp. in statesmanship: *a politic choice*. 4. an archaic word for **political**. *See body politic*. —*po'litically adv.*

political (pə'litɪkəl) *adj.* 1. of or relating to the state, government, public administration, etc. 2. *a.* of or relating to government policy-making as distinguished from administration or law. *b.* of or relating to the civil aspects of government as distinguished from the military. 3. of, dealing with, or relating to politics: *a political person*. 4. of or relating to the parties and the partisan aspects of politics. 5. organized with respect to government: *a political unit*. —*po'litically adv.*

political prisoner *n.* someone imprisoned for holding or expressing particular political beliefs.

political science *n.* the study of the state, government, and politics: one of the social sciences. —*political scientist n.*

politician (pə'lɪtʃən) *n.* 1. a person actively engaged in politics, esp. a full-time professional member of a deliberative assembly. 2. a person who is experienced or skilled in government or administration; statesman. 3. *Disparaging, chiefly U.S.* a person who engages in politics out of a wish for personal gain.

politicize or **-ise** (pə'litɪsaɪz) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to render political in tone, interest, or awareness. 2. (*intr.*) to participate in political discussion or activity. —*po,litici'zation* or *-i'sation n.*

politics ('politɪks) *n.* 1. (*functioning as sing.*) the art and science of directing and administering states and other political units; government. 2. (*functioning as sing.*) the complex or aggregate of relationships of men in society, esp. those relationships involving authority or power. 3. (*functioning as pl.*) political activities or affairs: *party politics*. 4. (*functioning as sing.*) the business or profession of politics. 5. (*functioning as sing. or pl.*) any activity concerned with the acquisition of power, etc.: *company politics are frequently vicious*. 6. *manoeuvres or factors leading up to or influencing (something): the politics of the decision*. 7. (*functioning as pl.*) opinions, sympathies, etc., with respect to politics: *his conservative politics*.

polity ('polɪti) *n.*, *pl. -ties*. 1. a form of government or organization of a society, etc.; constitution. 2. a politically organized society, etc. 3. the management of public affairs. 4. political organization.

polka ('pɒlkə) *n.*, *pl. -kas*. 1. a 19th-century Bohemian dance with three steps and a hop, in fast duple time. 2. a piece of music composed for this dance. —*vb. -kaing, -kaed*. 3. (*intr.*) to dance a polka.

polka dot *n.* one of a pattern of small circular regularly spaced spots on a fabric.

poll (pɒl) *n.* 1. the casting, recording, or counting of votes in an election; a voting. 2. the result of such a voting: *a heavy poll*. 3. Also called: **opinion poll**. *a.* a canvassing of a representative sample of people on some question in order to determine the general opinion. *b.* the results of such a canvassing. 4. any counting or enumeration, esp. for taxation or voting purposes. 5. the back part of the head of an animal. —*vb. (mainly tr.)* 6. to receive (a vote or quantity of votes): *he polled 10 000 votes*. 7. to receive, take, or record the votes of: *he polled the whole town*. 8. to canvass (a person, group, area, etc.) as part of a survey of opinion. 9. (*sometimes intr.*) to cast (a vote) in an election. 10. to clip or shear. 11. to remove or cut short the horns of (cattle).

pollack or **pollock** ('pɒlək) *n.*, *pl. -lacks, -lack* or **-locks, -lock**. a gadoid food fish that has a projecting lower jaw and occurs in northern seas.

pollard ('pɒləd) *n.* 1. an animal, such as a sheep or deer, that has either shed its horns or antlers or has had them removed. 2. a tree that has had its branches cut back to encourage a more bushy growth. —*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to convert into a pollard; poll.

pollen ('pɒlən) *n.* a substance produced by the anthers of seed-bearing plants, consisting of numerous fine grains containing the male gametes. —*pollinic* (pə'linɪk) *adj.*

pollen count *n.* a measure of the pollen present in the air over a 24-hour period, often published to enable

sufferers from hay fever to predict the severity of their attacks.

pollinate ('pɒli,neɪt) *vb. (tr.)* to transfer pollen from the anthers to the stigma of (a flower). —*po'lli'nation n.* —*po'lli'nator n.*

polling booth *n.* a semienclosed space in which a voter stands to mark a ballot paper during an election.

polling station *n.* a building, such as a school, designated as the place to which voters go during an election in order to cast their votes.

pollster ('pɒlstə) *n.* a person who conducts opinion polls.

pollutant ('pɒlu:tənt) *n.* a substance that pollutes, esp. a chemical produced as a waste product of an industrial process.

pollute (pə'lu:t) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to contaminate, as with poisonous or harmful substances. 2. to make morally corrupt. 3. to desecrate. —*po'luter n.* —*po'lution n.*

polo ('pəʊləʊ) *n.* 1. a game similar to hockey played on horseback using long-handled mallets (**polo sticks**) and a wooden ball. 2. short for **water polo**. 3. Also called: **polo neck**. *a.* a collar on a garment, worn rolled over to fit closely round the neck. *b.* a garment, esp. a sweater, with such a collar.

polonaise (pə'lɔ'neɪz) *n.* 1. a ceremonial marchlike dance in three-four time from Poland. 2. a piece of music composed for or in the rhythm of this dance. 3. a woman's costume with a tight bodice and an overskirt drawn back to show a decorative underskirt.

polonium (pə'ləʊniəm) *n.* a very rare radioactive element that occurs in trace amounts in uranium ores. Symbol: Po; atomic no.: 84; half-life of most stable isotope, ²⁰⁹Po: 103 years.

poltergeist ('pɒltə,gaɪst) *n.* a spirit believed to manifest its presence by noises and acts of mischief, such as throwing furniture about.

poltroon (pɒl'tru:n) *n.* an abject or contemptible coward.

poly ('pɒli) *n.*, *pl. polys*. *Inf.* short for **polytechnic**.

poly- *combining form*. 1. more than one; many or much: **polyhedron**. 2. having an excessive or abnormal number or amount: **polyphagia**.

polyandry ('pɒli,ændri) *n.* 1. the practice or condition of being married to more than one husband at the same time. 2. the practice in animals of a female mating with more than one male during one breeding season. 3. the condition in flowers of having a large indefinite number of stamens. —*po'ly'androus adj.*

polyanthus (pə'lɪ'ænbəs) *n.*, *pl. -thus*. any of several hybrid garden primroses with brightly coloured flowers.

polychromatic (pɒlɪk'rəʊ'mætɪk), **polychromic** (pɒlɪ'krəʊmɪk), or **polychromous** *adj.* 1. having various or changing colours. 2. (of light or other radiation) containing radiation with more than one wavelength. —*polychromatism* (pɒlɪ'krəʊm,tɪzəm) *n.*

polyester (pə'lɪ'estə) *n.* any of a large class of synthetic materials that are polymers containing recurring -COO- groups: used as plastics, textile fibres, and adhesives.

polyethylene (pə'lɪ'ði:lɪn) *n.* another name (esp. U.S.) for **polythene**.

polygamy (pə'lɪgəmi) *n.* 1. the practice of being married to more than one woman at the same time. 2. the condition of having male, female, and hermaphrodite flowers on the same plant or on separate plants of the same species. 3. the practice in male animals of having more than one mate during one breeding season. —*po'lygamist n.* —*po'lygamously adj.* —*po'lygamously adv.*

polyglot ('pɒli,glɒt) *adj.* 1. having a command of many languages. 2. written in or containing many languages. —*n.* 3. a person with a command of many languages. 4. a book, esp. a Bible, containing several versions of the same text written in various languages. 5. a mixture of languages.

polygon ('pɒli,gɒn) *n.* a closed plane figure consisting of three or more straight sides that connect three or more points, none of the sides intersecting. Specific polygons are named according to the number of sides, such as triangle, pentagon, etc. —*polygonal* (pə'lɪgənəl) *adj.* —*po'lygonally adv.*

polygraph ('pɒli,græf, -græf) *n.* 1. an instrument for the simultaneous recording of several involuntary physiological activities, including pulse rate and perspiration, used esp. as a lie detector. 2. a device for producing copies of written matter.

polygyny (pə'lɪdʒɪni) *n.* 1. the practice in animals of a male mating with more than one female during one

breeding season. 2. the condition in flowers of having many styles. —**polygynous** *adj.*

polyhedron (ˈpɒliˈhiːdrən) *n.*, *pl.* **-drons** or **-dra** (-drə). a solid figure consisting of four or more plane faces (all polygons), pairs of which meet along an edge, three or more edges meeting at a vertex. Specific polyhedrons are named according to the number of faces, such as tetrahedron, icosahedron, etc. —**polyhedral** *adj.*

polymath (ˈpɒli,mæθ) *n.* a person of great and varied learning. —**polymathy** (pəˈlɪməθi) *n.*

polymer (ˈpɒlɪmə) *n.* a naturally occurring or synthetic compound, such as starch or Perspex, that has large molecules made up of many relatively simple repeated units. —**polymerism** (pəˈlɪmə,rɪzəm, ˈpɒlɪmə-) *n.*

polymeric (ˈpɒliˈmerɪk) *adj.* of, concerned with, or being a polymer: a **polymeric compound**.

polymerization or **-isation** (pəˈlɪməraɪˈzeɪʃən, ˈpɒlɪməraɪ-) *n.* the act or process of forming a polymer or copolymer. —**polymerize** or **-ise** (or pəˈlɪməˈraɪz) *vb.*

polymorphous (ˈpɒli,mɔːfəs) or **polymorphic** *adj.* 1. having, taking, or passing through many different forms or stages. 2. exhibiting or undergoing polymorphism.

Polynesian (ˈpɒliˈniːzən, ˈʒɪən) *adj.* 1. of or relating to Polynesia, a group of Pacific islands, or to its people, or any of their languages. ~*n.* 2. a member of the people that inhabit Polynesia, generally of Caucasoid features with light skin and wavy hair. 3. a branch of the Malayo-Polynesian family of languages, including Maori and Hawaiian.

polynomial (ˈpɒliˈnɒmɪəl) *adj.* 1. of, consisting of, or referring to two or more names or terms. ~*n.* 2. a mathematical expression consisting of a sum of terms each of which is the product of a constant and one or more variables raised to a positive or zero integral power. b. Also called: **multinomial**. any mathematical expression consisting of the sum of a number of terms. 3. *Biol.* a taxonomic name consisting of more than two terms, such as *Parus major minor* in which *minor* designates the subspecies.

polyp (ˈpɒlɪp) *n.* 1. *Zool.* one of the two forms of individual that occur in coelenterates. It usually has a hollow cylindrical body with a ring of tentacles around the mouth. 2. Also called: **polypus**. *Pathol.* a small growth arising from the surface of a mucous membrane. —**polypous** or **polypoid** *adj.*

polyphonic (ˈpɒliˈfɒnik) *adj.* 1. *Music.* composed of relatively independent parts; contrapuntal. 2. many-voiced. 3. *Phonetics.* denoting a telephone. —**polyphonically** *adv.*

polyphony (pəˈlɪfəni) *n.*, *pl.* **-nies**. 1. polyphonic style of composition or a piece of music utilizing it. 2. the use of polyphones in a writing system. —**polyphonous** *adj.* —**polyphonously** *adv.*

polystyrene (ˈpɒliˈstairɪn) *n.* a synthetic thermoplastic material obtained by polymerizing styrene; used as a white rigid foam (**expanded polystyrene**) for insulating and packing and as a glasslike material in light fittings.

polysyllable (ˈpɒliˈsɪləbəl) *n.* a word consisting of more than two syllables. —**polysyllabic** (ˈpɒlɪsɪˈlæbɪk) *adj.* —**polysyllabically** *adv.*

polytechnic (ˈpɒliˈteknɪk) *n.* 1. *Brit.* a college offering advanced courses in many fields at and below degree standard. ~*adj.* 2. of or relating to technical instruction and training.

polytheism (ˈpɒliθiːzəm, ˈpɒliθiːzəm) *n.* the worship of or belief in more than one god. —**polytheistic** *adj.* —**polytheistically** *adv.*

polythene (ˈpɒliθiːn) *n.* any one of various light thermoplastic materials made from ethylene with properties depending on the molecular weight of the polymer. Also called (esp. U.S.): **polyethylene**.

polyunsaturated (ˈpɒlɪnˈsætʃuːreɪtɪd) *adj.* of or relating to a class of animal and vegetable fats, the molecules of which consist of long carbon chains with many double bonds.

polyurethane (ˈpɒliˈjʊərəθeɪn) *n.* a class of synthetic materials commonly used as a foam for insulation and packing.

polyvinyl chloride (ˈpɒliˈvaɪnɪl, ˈvaɪnɪl) *n.* the full name of PVC.

pomace (ˈpʌmɪs) *n.* 1. the pulpy residue of apples or similar fruit after crushing and pressing, as in cider-making. 2. any pulpy substance left after crushing, mashing, etc.

pomade (pəˈmɑːd) *n.* 1. a perfumed oil or ointment put

on the hair, as to make it smooth and shiny. ~*vb.* 2. (*tr.*) to put pomade on. ~Also: **pomatum**.

pomander (pəʊˈmændə) *n.* 1. a mixture of aromatic substances in a sachet or an orange, formerly carried as scent or as a protection against disease. 2. a container for such a mixture.

pomegranate (ˈpɒmɪ,grænɪt, ˈpɒmɪ,grænɪt) *n.* 1. an Asian shrub or small tree cultivated in semitropical regions for its edible fruit. 2. the many-chambered globular fruit of this tree, which has tough reddish rind, juicy red pulp, and many seeds.

Pomeranian (ˈpɒmɔːreɪniən) *adj.* 1. of or relating to Pomerania, a region of N central Europe. ~*n.* 2. a breed of toy dog with a long thick straight coat, related to the Spitz.

pomfret or **pomfret-cake** (ˈpʌmfɹɪt, ˈpɒm-) *n.* a small black rounded confection of liquorice. Also called: **Pontefract cake**.

pommel (ˈpʌmɒl, ˈpɒm-) *n.* 1. the raised part on the front of a saddle. 2. a knob at the top of a sword or similar weapon. ~*vb.* **-melling, -melled** or **U.S. -meling, -meled**. 3. a less common word for **pommel**.

pommy (ˈpɒmɪ) *n.*, *pl.* **-mies**. (*sometimes cap.*) *Sl.* a mildly offensive word used by Australians and New Zealanders for a British person. Sometimes shortened to **pom**.

pomp (pɒmp) *n.* 1. stately or magnificent display; ceremonial splendour. 2. vain display, esp. of dignity or importance. 3. *Obs.* a procession or pageant.

pom-pom (ˈpɒmpɒm) *n.* an automatic rapid-firing cannon, esp. a type of antiaircraft cannon used in World War II. Also called: **pompom**.

pompon (ˈpɒmpɒn) or **pompom** *n.* 1. a ball of tufted silk, wool, feathers, etc., worn on a hat for decoration. 2. a small globe-like flower head of certain varieties of dahlia and chrysanthemum. b. (*as modifier*): **pompon dahlia**.

pompous (ˈpɒmpəs) *adj.* 1. exaggeratedly or ostentatiously dignified or self-important. 2. ostentatiously lofty in style: a **pompous speech**. 3. *Rare.* characterized by ceremonial pomp or splendour. —**pompously** *adv.* —**pomposity** (pɒmˈpɒsɪti) or **pompousness** *n.*

ponce (pɒns) *Sl.*, chiefly *Brit.* ~*n.* 1. a man given to ostentatious or effeminate display. 2. another word for **pimp**. ~*vb.* 3. (*intr.*; often foll. by *around* or *about*) to act like a ponce.

poncho (ˈpɒntʃəʊ) *n.*, *pl.* **-chos**. a cloak of a kind originally worn in South America, made of a rectangular or circular piece of cloth with a hole in the middle for the head.

pond (pɒnd) *n.* a pool of still water, often artificially created.

ponder (ˈpɒndə) *vb.* (when *intr.*, sometimes foll. by *on* or *over*) to give thorough or deep consideration (to); meditate (upon). —**ponderable** *adj.*

ponderous (ˈpɒndərəs) *adj.* 1. heavy; huge. 2. (esp. of movement) lacking ease or lightness; lumbering or graceless. 3. dull or laborious: a **ponderous oration**. —**ponderously** *adv.* —**ponderousness** or **ponderosity** (ˈpɒndəˈrɒsɪti) *n.*

pondok (ˈpɒndɒk) or **pondokie** *n.* *Derog.* (in southern Africa) a crudely made house built of tin sheet, reeds, etc.

pondweed (ˈpɒnd,wɪd) *n.* 1. any of various water plants of the genus *Potamogeton*, which grow in ponds and slow streams. 2. Also called: **waterweed**. *Brit.* any of various water plants, such as mare's-tail, that have thin or much divided leaves.

pong (pɒŋ) *Brit. inf.* ~*n.* 1. a disagreeable or offensive smell; stink. ~*vb.* 2. (*intr.*) to stink.

pongee (pɒnˈdʒiː, ˈpɒndʒiː) *n.* 1. a thin plain-weave silk fabric from China or India, left in its natural colour. 2. a cotton or rayon fabric similar to this.

poniard (ˈpɒnjəd) *n.* 1. a small dagger with a slender blade. ~*vb.* 2. (*tr.*) to stab with a poniard.

pontiff (ˈpɒntɪf) *n.* a former title of the pagan high priest at Rome, later used of popes and occasionally of other bishops, and now confined to the pope.

pontifical (pɒnˈtɪfɪkəl) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or characteristic of a pontiff. 2. having an excessively authoritative manner; pompous. ~*n.* *R.C. Church, Church of England.* 3. a book containing the prayers and ritual instructions for ceremonies restricted to a bishop. —**pontifically** *adv.*

pontificate *vb.* (pɒnˈtɪfɪ,keɪt). (*intr.*) 1. to speak or behave in a pompous or dogmatic manner. 2. to serve

or officiate at a Pontifical Mass. ~*n.* (pɒn'tɪfɪkɪt). **3.** the office or term of office of a pope.

pontoon ('pɒn'tu:n) *n.* **a.** a watertight float or vessel used where buoyancy is required in water, as in supporting a bridge, in salvage work, or where a temporary or mobile structure is required in military operations. **b.** (as modifier): a pontoon bridge.

pontoon ('pɒn'tu:n) *n.* a gambling game in which players try to obtain card combinations better than the banker's but never worth more than 21 points. Also called: **twenty-one** (esp. U.S.), **vingt-et-un**.

pony ('pəʊni) *n., pl. -nies.* **1.** any of various breeds of small horse, usually under 14.2 hands. **2.** a small drinking glass, esp. for liqueurs. **3.** anything small of its kind. **4. Brit. sl.** a sum of £25, esp. in bookmaking. **5.** Also called: **trot.** *U.S. sl.* a translation used by students, often illicitly; crib.

ponytail ('pəʊni,tel) *n.* a hair style for girls in which the hair is pulled tightly into a band at the back of the head into a loose hanging fall.

pony trekking *n.* the act of riding ponies cross-country, esp. as a pastime.

poodle ('pu:d'l) *n.* an intelligent breed of dog, with curly hair, which is generally clipped from ribs to tail.

poof (pʊf, pu:f) or **poove** (pu:v) *n. Brit. sl.* a male homosexual.

pooh (pu:) *interj.* an exclamation of disdain, contempt, or disgust.

pooh-pooh ('pu:'pu:) *vb.* (tr.) to express disdain or scorn for; dismiss or belittle.

pool¹ ('pu:l) *n.* **1.** a small body of still water, usually fresh; small pond. **2.** a small isolated collection of spilt liquid, puddle: a pool of blood. **3.** a deep part of a stream or river where the water runs very slowly. **4.** an underground accumulation of oil or gas. **5.** See **swimming pool**.

pool² ('pu:l) *n.* **1.** any communal combination of resources, funds, etc.: a typing pool. **2.** the combined stakes of the betters in many gambling games; kitty. **3. Commerce.** a group of producers who agree to establish and maintain output levels and high prices, each member of the group being allocated a maximum quota. **4. Finance, chiefly U.S.** a joint fund organized by security-holders for speculative or manipulative purposes on financial markets. **5.** any of various billiard games in which the object is to pot all the balls with the cue ball, esp. that played with 15 coloured and numbered balls, popular in the U.S.; pocket billiards. ~*vb.* (tr.) **6.** to combine (investments, money, interests, etc.) into a common fund, as for a joint enterprise. **7. Commerce.** to organize a pool of (enterprises).

pools (pu:lz) *pl. n. Brit.* an organized nationwide principally postal gambling pool betting on the result of football matches. Also called: **football pools**.

poop¹ ('pu:p) *Naut.* ~*n.* **1.** a raised structure at the stern of a vessel, esp. a sailing ship. **2.** Also called: **poop deck.** a raised deck at the stern of a ship. ~*vb.* **3.** (tr.) (of a wave or sea) to break over the stern of (a vessel). **4.** (intr.) (of a vessel) to ship a wave or sea over the stern, esp. repeatedly.

poop² ('pu:p) *vb. U.S. sl.* **1.** (tr.; usually passive) to cause to become exhausted; tire: he was pooped after the race. **2.** (intr.; usually foll. by out) to give up or fail: he pooped out of the race.

poor (puə, pɔ:) *adj.* **1.** lacking financial or other means of subsistence; needy. **2.** characterized by or indicating poverty: the country had a poor economy. **3.** scanty or inadequate: a poor salary. **4.** (when postpositive, usually foll. by in) badly supplied (with resources, etc.): a region poor in wild flowers. **5.** inferior. **6.** contemptible or despicable. **7.** disappointing or disagreeable: a poor play. **8.** (prenominal) deserving of pity; unlucky: poor John is ill again. — **'poorness** *n.*

poorhouse ('puə,haus, 'pɔ:) *n.* (formerly) a publicly maintained institution offering accommodation to the poor.

poor law *n.* English history. a law providing for the relief or support of the poor from parish funds.

poorly ('puəli, 'pɔ:) *adv.* **1.** badly. ~*adj.* **2.** (usually postpositive) *Inf.* in poor health; rather ill.

poor White *n.* Often *offens.* **a.** a poverty-stricken and underprivileged White person, esp. in the southern U.S. and South Africa. **b.** (as modifier): poor White trash.

pop¹ ('pɒp) *vb.* **1.** popping, popped. **1.** to make or cause to make a light sharp explosive sound. **2.** to burst open with such a sound. **3.** (intr.; often foll. by in, out, etc.) *Inf.* to come (to) or go (from) rapidly or suddenly. **4.** (intr.) (esp. of the eyes) to protrude: her eyes popped with

amazement. **5.** to shoot at (a target) with a firearm. **6.** (tr.) to place with a sudden movement: she popped some tablets into her mouth. **7.** (tr.) *Inf.* to pawn: he popped his watch yesterday. **8. pop the question.** *Inf.* to propose marriage. ~*n.* **9.** a light sharp explosive sound; crack. **10. Inf.** a flavoured nonalcoholic carbonated beverage. ~*adv.* **11.** with a popping sound. ~See also **pop off**.

pop² ('pɒp) *n.* **1. a.** music of general appeal, esp. among young people, that originated as a distinctive genre in the 1950s. It is generally characterized by a heavy rhythmic element and the use of electrical amplification. **b.** (as modifier): a pop group. **2. Inf.** a piece of popular or light classical music. ~*adj.* **3. Inf.** short for **popular**.

pop³ ('pɒp) *n.* **1.** an informal word for **father**. **2. Inf.** a name used in addressing an old man.

pop. *abbrev. for:* 1. popular(ly). 2. population.

P.O.P. *abbrev. for* Post Office Preferred (size of envelopes, etc.).

pop art *n.* a movement in modern art that imitates the methods, styles, and themes of popular culture and mass media, such as comic strips, advertising, and science fiction.

popcorn ('pɒp,kɔ:n) *n.* **1.** a variety of maize having hard pointed kernels that puff up when heated. **2.** the puffed edible kernels of this plant.

pope ('pəʊp) *n.* **1. (often cap.)** the bishop of Rome as head of the Roman Catholic Church. **2. Eastern Orthodox Churches.** a title sometimes given to a parish priest or to the Greek Orthodox patriarch of Alexandria. — **'popedom** *n.*

popery ('pəʊpəri) *n.* a derogatory name for **Roman Catholicism**.

popeyed ('pɒp,aɪd) *adj.* **1.** having bulging prominent eyes. **2.** staring in astonishment.

popgun ('pɒp,gʌn) *n.* a toy gun that fires a pellet or cork by means of compressed air.

popinjay ('pɒpɪn,dʒeɪ) *n.* **1.** a conceited, foppish, or excessively talkative person. **2.** an archaic word for **parrot**. **3.** the figure of a parrot used as a target.

popish ('pɒpɪʃ) *adj.* *Derg.* belonging to or characteristic of **Roman Catholicism**.

poplar ('pɒplə) *n.* **1.** a tree of **N** temperate regions, having triangular leaves, flowers borne in catkins, and light soft wood. **2. U.S.** the tulip tree.

poplin ('pɒplɪn) *n.* a strong fabric, usually of cotton, in plain weave with fine ribbing.

pop off *vb.* (intr., adv.) *Inf.* **1.** to depart suddenly or unexpectedly. **2.** to die, esp. suddenly.

poppadom or **poppadum** ('pɒpədəm) *n.* a thin round crisp Indian bread, fried or roasted and served with curry, etc.

popper ('pɒpə) *n.* **1.** a person or thing that pops. **2. Brit. an informal name for **press stud**. **3. Chiefly U.S.** a container for cooking popcorn in.**

poppet ('pɒpɪt) *n.* **1.** a term of affection for a small child or sweetheart. **2.** Also called: **poppet valve.** a mushroom-shaped valve that is lifted from its seating by applying an axial force to its stem. **3. Naut.** a temporary supporting brace for a vessel hauled on land.

popping crease *n.* *Cricket.* a line four feet in front of and parallel with the bowling crease, at or behind which the batsman stands.

poppy ('pɒpi) *n., pl. -pies.* **1.** any of a numerous genus of plants having red, orange, or white flowers and a milky sap. **2.** any of several similar or related plants, such as the California poppy and Welsh poppy. **3.** any of the drugs, such as opium, that are obtained from these plants. **4.** an artificial red poppy flower worn to mark Remembrance Sunday.

poppycock ('pɒpi,kɒk) *n.* *Inf.* nonsense.

popsy ('pɒpsɪ) *n., pl. -sies.* *Old-fashioned Brit. sl.* an attractive young woman.

populace ('pɒpjʊləs) *n.* (sometimes functioning as *pl.*) **1.** local inhabitants. **2.** the common people; masses.

popular ('pɒpjʊlə) *adj.* **1.** widely favoured or admired. **2.** favoured by an individual or limited group: I'm not very popular with her. **3.** prevailing among the general public; common: popular discontent. **4.** appealing to or comprehensible to the layman: a popular lecture on physics. — **'popularity** ('pɒpjʊ'lærɪti) *n.* — **'popularly** *adv.*

popular front *n.* (often *cap.*) any of the left-wing groups or parties that were organized from 1935 onwards to oppose the spread of fascism.

popularize or **-ise** ('pɒpjʊlə,raɪz) *vb.* (tr.) **1.** to make popular. **2.** to make or cause to become easily under-

standable or acceptable. — **populari'zation** or **-i'sation** *n.* — **popular,izer** or **-iser** *n.*

populate ('popju,leit) *vb.* (tr.) 1. (often passive) to live in; inhabit. 2. to provide a population for; colonize or people.

population ('popju'leifən) *n.* 1. (sometimes functioning as pl.) all the persons inhabiting a specified place. 2. the number of such inhabitants. 3. (sometimes functioning as pl.) all the people of a particular class in a specific area: the Chinese population of San Francisco. 4. the act or process of providing a place with inhabitants; colonization. 5. Ecology. a group of individuals of the same species inhabiting a given area. 6. Astron. either of two main groups of stars classified according to age and location. 7. Statistics. the entire aggregate of individuals or items from which samples are drawn.

populous ('popjuls) *adj.* containing many inhabitants. — **populously** *adv.* — **populosity** *n.*

porcelain ('pɔ:slɪn) *n.* 1. a more or less translucent ceramic material, the principal ingredients being kaolin and petunite (hard paste) or other clays, bone ash, etc. 2. an object made of this or such objects collectively. 3. (modifier) of, relating to, or made from this material: a porcelain cup. — **porcellaneous** ('pɔ:sə'leɪniəs) *adj.*

porch ('pɔ:tʃ) *n.* 1. a low structure projecting from the doorway of a house and forming a covered entrance. 2. U.S. a veranda.

porcine ('pɔ:sɪn) *adj.* of or characteristic of pigs.

porcupine ('pɔ:kju,pain) *n.* any of various large rodents that have a body covering of protective spines or quills. — **porcu,pinish** *adj.* — **porcu,piny** *adj.*

pore¹ ('pɔ: vb. (intr.) 1. (foll. by over) to make a close intent examination or study (of): he pored over the documents for several hours. 2. (foll. by over, on, or upon) to think deeply (about). 3. (foll. by over, on, or upon) Rare. to gaze fixedly (upon).

pore² ('pɔ: n.) 1. any small opening in the skin or outer surface of an animal. 2. any other small hole, such as a space in a rock, etc.

pork ('pɔ:k) *n.* the flesh of pigs used as food.

porker ('pɔ:kə) *n.* a pig, esp. a young one, fattened to provide meat.

pork pie *n.* a pie filled with minced seasoned pork.

porky ('pɔ:ki) *adj.* **porkier, porkiest.** 1. characteristic of pork. 2. Inf. fat; obese.

porn ('pɔ:n) or **porno** *n.* Inf. short for **pornography**.

pornography ('pɔ:nɒgrəfi) *n.* 1. writings, pictures, films, etc., designed to stimulate sexual excitement. 2. the production of such material. ~Sometimes (informal) shortened to **porn** ('pɔ:n) or **porno** ('pɔ:nəu). — **pornographer** *n.* — **pornographic** ('pɔ:nə'græfɪk) *adj.* — **porno'graphically** *adv.*

porous ('pɔ:rəs) *adj.* 1. able to absorb water, air, or other fluids. 2. Biol., geol. having pores. — **porously** *adv.* — **porosity** ('pɔ:rosɪti) or **porousness** *n.*

porphyria ('pɔ:frɪə) *n.* a hereditary disease of body metabolism, producing abdominal pain, mental confusion, etc.

porphyry ('pɔ:frɪ) *n.*, pl. **-ries.** 1. a reddish-purple rock consisting of large crystals of feldspar in a finer groundmass of feldspar, hornblende, etc. 2. any igneous rock with large crystals embedded in a finer groundmass of minerals. — **porphy'ritic** *adj.*

porpoise ('pɔ:pɔ:s) *n.*, pl. **-poise** or **-poises.** any of various small cetacean mammals having a blunt snout and many teeth.

porridge ('pɔ:rɪdʒ) *n.* 1. a dish made from oatmeal or another cereal, cooked in water or milk to a thick consistency. 2. Sl. a term of imprisonment.

porringer ('pɔ:rɪndʒə) *n.* a small dish, often with a handle, for soup, porridge, etc.

port¹ ('pɔ:t) *n.* a town or place alongside navigable water with facilities for the loading and unloading of ships.

port² ('pɔ:t) *n.* 1. Also called (formerly) **larboard**, the left side of an aircraft or vessel when facing the nose or bow. Cf. **starboard**. ~*vb.* 2. to turn or be turned towards the port.

port³ ('pɔ:t) *n.* a sweet fortified dessert wine.

port⁴ ('pɔ:t) *vb.* (tr.) Mil. to carry (a rifle, etc.) in a position diagonally across the body with the muzzle near the left shoulder.

Port. *abbrev. for:* 1. Portugal. 2. Portuguese.

portable ('pɔ:təb'l) *adj.* 1. able to be carried or moved easily, esp. by hand. ~*n.* 2. an article that can be readily carried by hand, such as a tape recorder, typewriter, etc. — **portability** *n.* — **portably** *adv.*

portage ('pɔ:tɪdʒ) *n.* 1. the act of carrying; transport.

2. the cost of carrying or transporting. 3. the transporting of boats, supplies, etc., overland between navigable waterways. 4. the route used for such transport. ~*vb.* 5. to transport (boats, supplies, etc.) thus.

portal ('pɔ:t'l) *n.* an entrance, gateway, or doorway, esp. one that is large and impressive.

portcullis ('pɔ:t'kʌlɪs) *n.* an iron or wooden grating suspended vertically in grooves in the gateway of a castle or town and able to be lowered so as to bar the entrance.

portend ('pɔ:tend) *vb.* (tr.) to give warning of; foreshadow.

portent ('pɔ:tent) *n.* 1. a sign of a future event; omen. 2. momentous or ominous significance: a cry of dire portent. 3. a marvel.

portentous ('pɔ:tentəs) *adj.* 1. of momentous or ominous significance. 2. miraculous, amazing, or awe-inspiring. 3. self-important or pompous.

porter¹ ('pɔ:tə) *n.* 1. a man employed to carry luggage, parcels, supplies, etc., at a railway station or hotel. 2. U.S. a railway employee who waits on passengers, esp. in a sleeper. — **porterage** *n.*

porter² ('pɔ:tə) *n.* 1. Chiefly Brit. a person in charge of a gate or door; doorman or gatekeeper. 2. a person employed as a caretaker and doorkeeper who also answers enquiries. 3. a person in charge of the maintenance of a building, esp. a block of flats.

porter³ ('pɔ:tə) *n.* Brit. a dark sweet ale brewed from black malt.

porterhouse ('pɔ:tə,haus) *n.* 1. Also called: **porterhouse steak.** a thick choice steak of beef cut from the middle ribs or sirloin. 2. (formerly) a place in which porter, beer, etc., and sometimes chops and steaks, were served.

portfolio ('pɔ:t'fəʊliəu) *n.*, pl. **-os.** 1. a flat case, esp. of leather, used for carrying maps, drawings, etc. 2. such a case used for carrying ministerial or state papers. 3. the responsibilities or role of the head of a government department: the portfolio for foreign affairs. 4. **Minister without portfolio.** a cabinet minister who is not responsible for any government department. 5. a list of financial assets, such as shares, bonds, bills of exchange, etc.

porthole ('pɔ:t'həʊl) *n.* 1. a small aperture in the side of a vessel to admit light and air, fitted with a watertight cover. Sometimes shortened to **port.** 2. an opening in a wall or parapet through which a gun can be fired.

portico ('pɔ:tɪkəu) *n.*, pl. **-coes** or **-cos.** 1. a covered entrance to a building; porch. 2. a covered walkway in the form of a roof supported by columns or pillars, esp. one built on to the exterior of a building.

portion ('pɔ:ʃən) *n.* 1. a part of a whole. 2. a part allotted or belonging to a person or group. 3. an amount of food served to one person; helping. 4. Law. a. a share of property, esp. one coming to a child from the estate of his parents. b. a dowry. 5. a person's lot or destiny. ~*vb.* (tr.) 6. to divide up; share out. 7. to give a share to (a person). — **portionless** *adj.*

portly ('pɔ:tlɪ) *adj.* **-lier, -liest.** 1. stout or corpulent. 2. Arch. stately; impressive. — **portliness** *n.*

portmanteau ('pɔ:t'mæntəu) *n.*, pl. **-teaus** or **-teaux** ('təu). 1. a large traveling case made of stiff leather, esp. one hinged at the back so as to open out into two compartments. 2. (modifier) embodying several uses or qualities: the heroine is a portmanteau figure of all the virtues.

portmanteau word *n.* another name for **blend** (sense 7).

portrait ('pɔ:trɪt, -treɪt) *n.* 1. a painting or other likeness of an individual, esp. of the face. 2. a verbal description, esp. of a person's character. — **portraitist** *n.*

portraiture ('pɔ:trɪtʃə) *n.* 1. the practice or art of making portraits. 2. a. a portrait. b. portraits collectively. 3. a verbal description.

portray ('pɔ:treɪ) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to make a portrait of. 2. to depict in words. 3. to play the part of (a character) in a play or film. — **por'trayal** *n.* — **por'trayer** *n.*

Portuguese ('pɔ:tju'gɪz) *n.* 1. the official language of Portugal and Brazil; it belongs to the Romance group of the Indo-European family. 2. (pl. **-guese**) a native, citizen, or inhabitant of Portugal. ~*adj.* 3. of Portugal, its inhabitants, or their language.

Portuguese man-of-war *n.* any of several large hydrozoans having an aerial float and long stinging tentacles. Sometimes shortened to **man-of-war**.

pose¹ ('pəʊz) *vb.* 1. to assume or cause to assume a physical attitude, as for a photograph or painting. 2. (intr.; often foll. by as) to present oneself (as something

one is not). **3. (intr.)** to affect an attitude in order to impress others. **4. (tr.)** to put forward or ask: *to pose a question*. **5. Sl.** to adopt a particular style of appearance and stand or strut around, esp. in bars, discotheques, etc., in order to attract attention. **~n.** **6.** a physical attitude, esp. one deliberately adopted for an artist or photographer. **7.** a mode of behaviour that is adopted for effect.

pose' (pəʊz) *vb.* (tr.) Rare. to puzzle or baffle.

poser' ('pəʊzə) *n.* a person who poses.

poser' ('pəʊzə) *n.* a baffling or insoluble question.

poseur (pəʊ'zɜː) *n.* a person who strikes an attitude or assumes a pose in order to impress others.

posh (pɒʃ) *adj. Inf., chiefly Brit.* **1.** smart, elegant, or fashionable. **2.** upper-class or genteel.

position (pə'zɪʃən) *n.* **1.** place, situation, or location: *he took up a position to the rear*. **2.** the appropriate or customary location: *the telescope is in position for use*. **3.** the manner in which a person or thing is placed; arrangement. **4. Mil.** an area or point occupied for tactical reasons. **5.** point of view; stand: *what's your position on this issue?* **6.** social status, esp. high social standing. **7.** a post of employment; job. **8.** the act of positing a fact or viewpoint. **9.** something posited, such as an idea. **10. Sport.** the part of a field or playing area where a player is placed or where he generally operates. **11. Music.** the vertical spacing or layout of the written notes in a chord. **12. (in classical prosody)** the situation in which a short vowel may be regarded as long, that is, when it occurs before two or more consonants. **13. Finance.** the market commitment of an investor in securities or a trader in commodities: *a short position*. **14. in a position.** (foll. by an infinitive) able (to). **~vb.** (tr.) **15.** to put in the proper or appropriate place; locate. **16. Sport.** to place (oneself or another player) in a particular part of the field or playing area. — **po'sition-al** *adj.*

positive ('pɒzɪtɪv) *adj.* **1.** expressing certainty or affirmation: *a positive answer*. **2.** possessing actual or specific qualities; real: *a positive benefit*. **3.** tending to emphasize what is good or laudable; constructive: *he takes a very positive attitude when correcting pupils' mistakes*. **4.** tending towards progress or improvement. **5. Philology.** of or relating to positivism. **6. (prenominal) Inf.** (intensifier): *a positive delight*. **7. Maths.** having a value greater than zero: *a positive number*. **8. Maths. a.** measured in a direction opposite to that regarded as negative. **b.** having the same magnitude as but opposite sense to an equivalent negative quantity. **9. Grammar.** denoting the usual form of an adjective as opposed to its comparative or superlative form. **10. Physics. a.** (of an electric charge) having an opposite polarity to the charge of an electron and the same polarity as the charge of a proton. **b.** (of a body, system, ion, etc.) having a positive electric charge. **11. Med.** (of the results of an examination or test) indicating the presence of a suspected disorder or organism. **~n.** **12.** something that is positive. **13. Maths.** a quantity greater than zero. **14. Photog.** a print or slide showing a photographic image whose colours or tones correspond to those of the original subject. **15. Grammar.** the positive degree of an adjective or adverb. **16.** a positive object, such as a terminal or plate in a voltaic cell. — **'positively** *adv.* — **'positiveness** *n.*

positivism ('pɒzɪtɪvɪzəm) *n.* **1.** a philosophical system that bases knowledge on perception. **2.** the philosophical system of Auguste Comte, in which the importance of positive science is stressed, esp. that of sociology over religion and metaphysics. **3.** the quality of being definite, certain, etc. — **'positivist** *n., adj.*

positron ('pɒzɪtrɒn) *n. Physics.* the antiparticle of the electron, having the same mass but an equal and opposite charge.

poss. *abbrev. for:* **1.** possession. **2.** possessive. **3.** possible. **4.** possibly.

posse ('pɒsɪ) *n.* **1. U.S.** short for *posse comitatus*, the able-bodied men of a district forming a group upon whom the sheriff may call for assistance in maintaining law and order. **2. (in W Canada),** a troop of trained horses and riders who perform at stampedes. **3. Law.** possibility (esp. in *in posse*).

possess (pə'zes) *vb.* (tr.) **1.** to have as one's property; own. **2.** to have as a quality, characteristic, etc.: *to possess good eyesight*. **3.** to have knowledge of: *to possess a little French*. **4.** to gain control over or dominate: *whatever possessed you to act so foolishly?* **5.** (foll. by *of*) to cause to be the owner or possessor: *I am possessed of the necessary information*. **6.** to have sexual intercourse with. **7. Now rare.** to maintain (one-

self or one's feelings) in a certain state or condition: *possess yourself in patience until I tell you the news*.

— **pos'sessor** *n.* — **pos'sessory** *adj.*

possessed (pə'zest) *adj.* **1.** (foll. by *of*) owning or having. **2. (usually postpositive)** under the influence of a powerful force, such as a spirit or strong emotion. **3.** a less common word for *self-possessed*.

possession (pə'zɛʃən) *n.* **1.** the act of possessing or state of being possessed: *in possession of the crown*. **2.** anything that is owned or possessed. **3. (pl.)** wealth or property. **4.** the state of being controlled by or as if by evil spirits. **5.** the occupancy of land, property, etc., whether or not accompanied by ownership: *to take possession of a house*. **6.** a territory subject to a foreign state: *colonial possessions*. **7. Sport.** control of the ball, puck, etc., as exercised by a player or team: *he got possession in his own half*.

possessive (pə'zɛsɪv) *adj.* **1.** of or relating to possession. **2.** having or showing an excessive desire to possess or dominate: *a possessive mother*. **3. Grammar. a.** another word for *genitive*. **b.** denoting an inflected form of a noun or pronoun used to convey the idea of possession, association, etc., as *my* or *Harry's*. **~n.** **4. Grammar. a.** the possessive case. **b.** a word or speech element in the possessive case. — **pos'sessively** *adv.* — **pos'sessiveness** *n.*

possible ('pɒsɪbəl) *adj.* **1.** capable of existing, taking place, or proving true without contravention of any natural law. **2.** capable of being achieved: *it is not possible to finish in three weeks*. **3.** having potential: *the idea is a possible money-spinner*. **4.** feasible but less than probable: *it is possible that man will live on Mars*. — **possi'bility** *n.*

possibly ('pɒsɪbəl) *sentence substitute, adv.* **1.** a. perhaps or maybe. **b. (as sentence modifier):** *possibly he'll come*. **~adv.** **2.** by any chance; at all: *he can't possibly come*.

possum ('pɒsəm) *n.* **1.** another name for *opossum*. **2. play possum.** to pretend to be dead, asleep, etc., in order to deceive an opponent.

post' (pəʊst) *n.* **1.** a length of wood, metal, etc., fixed upright to serve as a support, marker, point of attachment, etc. **2. Horse racing. a.** either of two upright poles marking the beginning (*starting post*) and end (*winning post*) of a racecourse. **b.** the finish of a horse race. **~vb.** (tr.) **3.** (sometimes foll. by *up*) to fasten or put up (a notice) in a public place. **4.** to announce by or as if by means of a poster: *to post banns*. **5.** to publish (a name) on a list. **6.** to denounce publicly; brand.

post' (pəʊst) *n.* **1.** a position to which a person is appointed or elected; appointment; job. **2.** a position to which a person, such as a sentry, is assigned for duty. **3.** a permanent military establishment. **4. Brit.** either of two military bugle calls (*first post* and *last post*) giving notice of the time to retire for the night. **~vb.** **5. (tr.)** to assign to or station at a particular place or position. **6. Chiefly Brit.** to transfer to a different unit or ship on taking up a new appointment, etc.

post' (pəʊst) *n.* **1. Chiefly Brit.** letters, packages, etc., that are transported and delivered by the Post Office; mail. **2. Chiefly Brit.** a single collection or delivery of mail. **3. Brit.** an official system of mail delivery. **4.** (formerly) any of a series of stations furnishing relays of men and horses to deliver mail over a fixed route. **5.** a rider who carried mail between such stations. **6. Brit.** a postbox or post office: *take this to the post*. **7.** any of various book sizes, esp. 5¼ by 8¼ inches (*post octavo*). **8. by return of post.** by the next mail in the opposite direction. **~vb.** **9. (tr.)** *Chiefly Brit.* to send by post. **U.S. word: mail.** **10. (tr.)** *Book-keeping.* **a.** to enter (an item) in a ledger. **b.** (often foll. by *up*) to compile or enter all paper items in (a ledger). **11. (tr.)** to inform of the latest news. **12. (intr.)** (formerly) to travel with relays of post horses. **13. Arch.** to travel or dispatch with speed; hasten. **~adv.** **14.** with speed; rapidly. **15. (formerly)** by means of post horses.

post- *prefix.* **1.** after in time or sequence; following; subsequent: *postgraduate*. **2.** behind; posterior to: *post-orbital*.

postage ('pəʊstɪdʒ) *n.* the charge for delivering a piece of mail.

postage stamp *n.* **1.** a printed paper label with a gummed back for attaching to mail as an official indication that the required postage has been paid. **2.** a mark printed on an envelope, etc., serving the same function.

postal ('pəʊstl) *adj.* of or relating to a Post Office or to the mail-delivery service. — **'postally** *adv.*

postal code *n.* another name for *postcode*.

postal order *n.* a written order for the payment of a sum of money, to a named payee, obtainable and payable at a post office.

postbag ('pəʊst,bæg) *n.* 1. *Chiefly Brit.* another name for **mailbag**. 2. the mail received by a magazine, radio programme, public figure, etc.

postbox ('pəʊst,bɒks) *n.* *Chiefly Brit.* a box into which mail is put for collection.

postcard ('pəʊst,kɑ:d) *n.* a card, often bearing a photograph, picture, etc., on one side (**picture postcard**), for sending a message by post without an envelope. Also called (U.S.): **postal card**.

post chaise *n.* a closed four-wheeled horse-drawn coach used as a rapid means for transporting mail and passengers in the 18th and 19th centuries.

postcode ('pəʊst,kəʊd) *n.* a code of letters and digits used as part of a postal address to aid the sorting of mail. Also called: **postal code**. U.S. name: **zip code**.

postdate ('pəʊst'deɪt) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to write a future date on (a document, etc.), as on a cheque to prevent it being paid until then. 2. to assign a date to (an event, period, etc.) that is later than its previously assigned date of occurrence. 3. to be or occur at a later date than.

poster ('pəʊstə) *n.* 1. a placard or bill posted in a public place as an advertisement. 2. a person who posts bills.

poste restante ('pəʊst rɪ'stænt) *n.* 1. an address on mail indicating that it should be kept at a specified post office until collected by the addressee. 2. the mail-delivery service or post-office department that handles mail having this address. ~U.S. and Canadian equivalent: **general delivery**.

posterior (pə'stɪəriə) *adj.* 1. situated at the back of or behind something. 2. coming after or following another in a series. 3. coming after in time. ~*n.* 4. the buttocks; rump. —**posteriorly** *adv.*

posterity (pə'stɪərɪti) *n.* 1. future or succeeding generations. 2. all of one's descendants.

postern ('pəʊstən) *n.* a back door or gate, esp. one that is for private use.

post-free *adv., adj.* 1. *Brit.* with the postage prepaid; postpaid. 2. free of postal charge.

postgraduate ('pəʊst'grædjʊət) *n.* a student who has obtained a degree from a university, etc., and is pursuing studies for a more advanced qualification. ~Also (U.S.): **graduate**.

posthaste ('pəʊst'heɪst) *adv.* 1. with great haste. ~*n.* 2. *Arch.* great haste.

posthumous ('pəʊstjʊməs) *adj.* 1. happening or continuing after one's death. 2. (of a book, etc.) published after the author's death. 3. (of a child) born after the father's death. —**posthumously** *adv.*

postilion or **postillion** (pə'stɪljən) *n.* a person who rides the near horse of the leaders in order to guide a team of horses drawing a coach.

postimpressionism ('pəʊstɪm'preʃənɪzəm) *n.* a movement in painting in France at the end of the 19th century which rejected the naturalism and momentary effects of impressionism but adapted its use of pure colour to paint subjects with greater subjective emotion. —**postimpressionist** *n., adj.*

postman ('pəʊstmən) or (*fem.*) **postwoman** *n., pl. -men or -women.* a person who carries and delivers mail as a profession.

postmark ('pəʊst,mɑ:k) *n.* any mark stamped on mail by postal officials, such as a simple obliteration, date mark, or indication of route.

postmaster ('pəʊst,mɑ:stə) or (*fem.*) **postmistress** *n.* an official in charge of a local post office.

postmaster general *n., pl. postmasters general.* the executive head of the postal service in certain countries.

postmeridian ('pəʊstmə'rɪdiən) *adj.* after noon; in the afternoon or evening.

post meridiem ('pəʊst mə'rɪdiəm) the full form of *p.m.*

postmortem ('pəʊst'mɔ:təm) *adj.* 1. (*prenominal*) occurring after death. ~*n.* 2. analysis or study of a recent event: a *postmortem* on a game of chess. 3. In full **postmortem examination**. dissection and examination of a dead body to determine the cause of death.

post-obit ('pəʊst'əʊbɪt, 'əʊbɪt) *Chiefly law.* ~*n.* 1. a bond given by a borrower, payable after the death of a specified person, esp. one given to a moneylender by an expectant heir promising to repay when his interest falls into possession. ~*adj.* 2. taking effect after death.

post office *n.* a building or room where postage stamps are sold and other postal business is conducted.

Post Office *n.* a government department or authority in many countries responsible for postal services and often telecommunications.

postoperative ('pəʊst'ɒpəɪtɪv) *adj.* of or occurring in the period following a surgical operation.

postpaid ('pəʊst'peɪd) *adv., adj.* with the postage prepaid.

postpone ('pəʊst'pəʊn, pə'spəʊn) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to put off or delay until a future time. 2. to put behind in order of importance; defer. —**post'ponable** *adj.* —**post'ponement** *n.* —**post'poner** *n.*

postpositive ('pəʊst'pɒzɪtɪv) *adj.* 1. (of an adjective or other modifier) placed after the word modified, either immediately after, as in *two men abreast*, or as part of a complement, as in *those men are bad*. ~*n.* 2. a postpositive modifier.

postscript ('pəʊst'skɪpt) *n.* 1. a message added at the end of a letter, after the signature. 2. any supplement, as to a document or book.

postulant ('pəʊstjələnt) *n.* a person who makes a request or application, esp. a candidate for admission to a religious order.

postulate ('pəʊstjʊleɪt) *vb. (tr.; may take a clause as object)* 1. to assume to be true or existent; take for granted. 2. to ask, demand, or claim. 3. to nominate (a person) to a post or office subject to approval by a higher authority. ~*n.* ('pəʊstjʊlɪt) 4. something taken as self-evident or assumed as the basis of an argument. 5. a prerequisite. 6. a fundamental principle. 7. *Logic, maths.* an unproved statement that should be taken for granted: used as an initial premiss in a process of reasoning. —**postulation** *n.*

posture ('pəʊstʃə) *n.* 1. a position or attitude of the limbs or body. 2. a characteristic manner of bearing the body: *good posture*. 3. the disposition of the parts of a visible object. 4. a mental attitude. 5. a state or condition. 6. a false or affected attitude; pose. —*vb.* 7. to assume or cause to assume a bodily attitude. 8. (*intr.*) to assume an affected posture; pose. —**postural** *adj.* —**posturer** *n.*

posy ('pəʊzi) *n., pl. -sies.* 1. a small bunch of flowers. 2. *Arch.* a brief motto or inscription, esp. one on a trinket or a ring.

pot ('pɒt) *n.* 1. a container, usually round and deep and often having a handle and lid, used for cooking and other domestic purposes. 2. the amount that a pot will hold; *potful*. 3. a large mug or tankard. 4. *Austral.* any of various measures used for serving beer. 5. the money or stakes in the pool in gambling games. 6. a wicker trap for catching fish, esp. crustaceans: a *lobster pot*. 7. *Billiards*, etc. a shot by which a ball is pocketed. 8. a chamberpot, esp. a small one designed for a baby or toddler. 9. *Sl.* a prize or trophy. 10. *Chiefly Brit.* In full **chimney-pot**, a short pipe on the top of a chimney. 11. See **flowerpot**. 12. See **potbelly**. 13. *go to pot*, to go to ruin. ~*vb.* **potting, potted.** (*mainly tr.*) 14. to put or preserve (meat, etc.) in a pot. 15. to plant (a cutting, seedling, etc.) in soil in a flowerpot. 16. to cause (a baby or toddler) to use or sit on a pot. 17. to shoot (game) for food rather than for sport. 18. (*also intr.*) to shoot casually or without careful aim. 19. *Billiards*, etc. to pocket (a ball). 20. *Inf.* to capture or win.

pot ('pɒt) *n.* *Sl.* cannabis used as a drug in any form.

potable ('pəʊtəbəl) *adj.* drinkable. —**potability** *n.*

potage *French.* ('pɔ:tɑ:ʒ; *English* pəʊ'tɑ:ʒ) *n.* any thick soup.

potash ('pɒt,æʃ) *n.* potassium chemically combined in certain compounds: *chloride of potash*.

potassium (pə'tæʃəm) *n.* a light silvery element of the alkali metal group that is highly reactive and rapidly oxidizes in air. Symbol: K; atomic no.: 19; atomic wt.: 39.102. —**po'tassic** *adj.*

potassium nitrate *n.* a colourless or white crystalline compound used in gunpowders, pyrotechnics, fertilizers, and as a preservative. Formula: KNO₃. Also called: **saltpetre**, **nitre**.

potation ('pəʊteɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of drinking. 2. a drink or draught, esp. of alcoholic drink.

potato (pə'tetəʊ) *n., pl. -atoes.* 1. a. a plant of South America widely cultivated for its edible tubers. b. the starchy oval tuber of this plant, which has a brown or red skin and is cooked and eaten as a vegetable. 2. any of various similar plants, esp. the sweet potato. 3. *hot potato*. *Sl.* a delicate or awkward matter.

potato beetle *n.* another name for the **Colorado beetle**.

potato crisp *n.* (usually *pl.*) another name for **crisp** (sense 10).

potbelly ('pɒt,bɛlɪ) *n., pl. -lies.* 1. a protruding or distended belly. 2. a person having such a belly. —**'pot,bellied** *adj.*

potboiler ('pɒt,bɔɪlə) *n.* *Inf.* an artistic work of little merit produced quickly to make money.

pot-bound *adj.* (of a pot plant) having grown to fill all the available root space and therefore lacking room for continued growth.

poten (pɒ'tɪn) *n.* (in Ireland) illicit spirit, often distilled from potatoes.

potent ('pəʊnt) *adj.* 1. possessing great strength; powerful. 2. (of arguments, etc.) persuasive or forceful. 3. influential or authoritative. 4. tending to produce violent physical or chemical effects: a *potent poison*. 5. (of a male) capable of having sexual intercourse. —**'potently** *adv.* —**'potency** or **'potence** *n.*

potentate ('pəʊntɪ,tet) *n.* a ruler or monarch.

potential (pə'tenʃəl) *adj.* 1. *a.* possible but not yet actual. *b.* (*prenominal*) capable of being or becoming; latent. 2. *Grammar.* (of a verb) expressing possibility, as *English may and might*. ~*n.* 3. latent but unrealized ability: *Jones has great potential as a sales manager.* 4. *Grammar.* a potential verb or verb form. —**'potential-** *ly* *adv.*

potential difference *n.* the difference in electric potential between two points in an electric field; the work that has to be done in transferring unit positive charge from one point to the other, measured in volts. Abbrev.: **p.d.**

potentiality (pə'tenʃɪ'æltɪ) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. latent or inherent capacity for growth, fulfilment, etc. 2. a person or thing that possesses this.

potful ('pɒt,fʊl) *n.* the amount held by a pot.

potther ('pɒðə) *n.* 1. a commotion, fuss, or disturbance. 2. a choking cloud of smoke, dust, etc. ~*vb.* 3. to make or be troubled or upset.

pottherb ('pɒt,hɜ:b) *n.* any plant having leaves, flowers, stems, etc., that are used in cooking.

pothole ('pɒt,həʊl) *n.* 1. *Geog.* a deep hole in limestone areas resulting from action by running water. *b.* a circular hole in the bed of a river produced by abrasion. 2. a deep hole produced in a road surface by wear or weathering.

potholing ('pɒt,həʊlɪŋ) *n.* *Brit.* a sport in which participants explore underground caves. —**'pot,holer** *n.*

pothook ('pɒt,hʊk) *n.* 1. a curved or S-shaped hook used for suspending a pot over a fire. 2. a long hook used for lifting hot pots, lids, etc. 3. an S-shaped mark, often made by children when learning to write.

pothunter ('pɒt,hʌntə) *n.* 1. a person who hunts for profit without regard to the rules of sport. 2. *Inf.* a person who enters competitions for the sole purpose of winning prizes.

potion ('pəʊʃən) *n.* a drink, esp. of medicine, poison, or some supposedly magic beverage.

potluck ('pɒt'lʌk) *n.* *Inf.* 1. whatever food happens to be available without special preparation. 2. a choice dictated by lack of alternative (esp. in **take potluck**).

potpourri (,pɒ'pʊəri) *n., pl. -ris.* 1. a collection of mixed flower petals dried and preserved in a pot to scent the air. 2. a collection of unrelated items; miscellany. 3. a medley of popular tunes.

pot roast *n.* meat cooked slowly in a covered pot with very little water.

potsherd ('pɒt,ʃɜ:d) or **potshard** ('pɒt,ʃɑ:d) *n.* a broken fragment of pottery.

pot shot *n.* 1. a chance shot taken casually, hastily, or without careful aim. 2. a shot fired to kill game in disregard of the rules of sport. 3. a shot fired at quarry within easy range.

pottage ('pɒtɪdʒ) *n.* a thick soup.

potted ('pɒtɪd) *adj.* 1. placed or grown in a pot. 2. cooked or preserved in a pot: *potted shrimps*. 3. *Inf.* abridged: a *potted version of a novel*.

potter ('pɒtə) *n.* a person who makes pottery.

potter¹ ('pɒtə) or *esp. U.S. putter* *Chiefly Brit. vb.* 1. (*intr.*; often foll. by *about* or *around*) to busy oneself in a desultory though agreeable manner. 2. (*intr.*; often foll. by *along* or *about*) to move with little energy or direction: *to potter about town*. 3. (*tr.*; usually foll. by *away*) to waste (time): *to potter the day away*. —**'potterer** or *esp. U.S. 'putterer* *n.*

Potteries ('pɒtɪrɪz) *pl. n.* the a region of W central England, in Staffordshire, in which the china industries are concentrated.

potter's wheel *n.* a device with a horizontal rotating disc, on which clay is moulded by hand.

pottery ('pɒtəri) *n., pl. -teries.* 1. articles made from earthenware and baked in a kiln. 2. a place where such articles are made. 3. the craft or business of making such articles.

potting shed ('pɒtɪŋ) *n.* a building in which plants are grown in flowerpots before being planted outside.

potty¹ ('pɒtɪ) *adj. -tier, -tiest.* *Brit. inf.* 1. foolish or slightly crazy. 2. trivial or insignificant. —**'pottiness** *n.*

potty² ('pɒtɪ) *n., pl. -ties.* a child's word for **chamber pot**.

pouch (paʊf) *n.* 1. a small flexible baglike container: a *tobacco pouch*. 2. a saclike structure in any of various animals, such as the cheek fold in rodents. 3. *Anat.* any sac, pocket, or pouchlike cavity. 4. a *Scot.* word for **pocket**. ~*vb.* 5. (*tr.*) to place in or as if in a pouch. 6. to arrange or become arranged in a pouchlike form. 7. (*tr.*) (of certain birds and fishes) to swallow. —**'pouchy** *adj.*

pouf or pouffe (pu:f) *n.* 1. a large solid cushion used as a seat. 2. *a.* a woman's hair style, fashionable esp. in the 18th century, in which the hair is piled up in rolled puffs. *b.* a pad set in the hair to make such puffs. 3. (puf, pu:f). *Brit. sl.* less common spellings of **poof**.

poulterer ('pəʊltərə) or **poultryman** ('pəʊltrɪmən) *n., pl. -terers or -trymen.* 1. a person who rears domestic fowls for their eggs or meat. 2. a dealer in poultry.

poultice ('pəʊltɪs) *n.* *Med.* a local moist and often heated application for the skin used to improve the circulation, treat inflamed areas, etc.

poultry ('pəʊltrɪ) *n.* domestic fowls collectively.

pounce (paʊns) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*; often foll. by *on* or *upon*) to spring or swoop, as in capturing prey. ~*n.* 2. the act of pouncing; a spring or swoop. 3. the claw of a bird of prey. —**'pouncer** *n.*

pound¹ (paʊnd) *vb.* 1. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *on* or *at*) to strike heavily and often. 2. (*tr.*) to beat to a pulp; pulverize. 3. (*tr.*; foll. by *out*) to produce, as by typing heavily. 4. to walk or move with heavy steps or thuds. 5. (*intr.*) to throb heavily. ~*n.* 6. the act of pounding. —**'pounder** *n.*

pound² (paʊnd) *n.* 1. an avoirdupois unit of weight that is divided into 16 ounces and is equal to 0.453 592 kilograms. Abbrev.: **lb.** 2. a troy unit of weight divided into 12 ounces equal to 0.373 242 kilograms. 3. *a.* the standard monetary unit of the United Kingdom, divided into 100 pence. Official name: **pound sterling**. *b.* (*as modifier*): a *pound note*. 4. the standard monetary unit of various other countries, including Cyprus, Egypt, Ireland, Israel, and Malta. 5. Also called: **pound Scots**, a former Scottish monetary unit originally worth an English pound but later declining in value to 1 shilling 8 pence.

pound³ (paʊnd) *n.* 1. an enclosure for keeping officially removed vehicles or distrained goods or animals, esp. stray dogs. 2. a place where people are confined. 3. a trap for animals. ~*vb.* 4. (*tr.*) to confine in or as if in a pound; impound, imprison, or restrain.

poundage ('paʊndɪdʒ) *n.* 1. a charge of so much per pound of weight. 2. a charge of so much per pound sterling. 3. a weight expressed in pounds.

-pounder ('paʊndə) *n.* (*in combination*) 1. something weighing a specified number of pounds: a *200-pounder*. 2. something worth a specified number of pounds: a *ten-pounder*. 3. a gun that discharges a shell weighing a specified number of pounds: a *two-pounder*.

pour (pɔ:) *vb.* 1. to flow or cause to flow in a stream. 2. (*tr.*) to emit in a profuse way. 3. (*intr.*; often foll. by *down*) Also: **pour with rain**, to rain heavily. 4. (*intr.*) to move together in large numbers; swarm. 5. (*intr.*) to serve tea, coffee, etc.: *shall I pour?* 6. **It never rains but it pours**, events, esp. unfortunate ones, come in rapid succession. 7. **pour cold water on**, *Inf.* to discourage or disparage. 8. **pour oil on troubled waters**, to calm a quarrel, etc. ~*n.* 9. a pouring, downpour, etc. —**'pourer** *n.*

pourboire *French.* (pur'bwa:r) *n.* a tip; gratuity.

pout (paʊt) *vb.* 1. to thrust out (the lips), as when sullen, or (of the lips) to be thrust out. 2. (*intr.*) to swell out; protrude. 3. (*tr.*) to utter with a pout. ~*n.* 4. (*sometimes the pouts*) a fit of sullenness. 5. the act or state of pouting. —**'poutingly** *adv.*

pouter ('paʊtə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that pouts. 2. a breed of domestic pigeon with a large crop capable of being greatly puffed out.

poverty ('pɒvəti) *n.* 1. the condition of being without

adequate food, money, etc. 2. scarcity: *a poverty of wit*. 3. a lack of elements conducive to fertility in soil.

poverty-stricken *adj.* suffering from extreme poverty.

poverty trap *n.* the situation of being unable to raise one's living standard because one is dependent on state benefits which are reduced if one gains any extra income.

pow (*paʊ*) *interj.* an exclamation imitative of a collision, explosion, etc.

P.O.W. *abbrev. for* prisoner of war.

powder (*ˈpaʊdər*) *n.* 1. a substance in the form of tiny loose particles. 2. preparations in this form, such as gunpowder, face powder, or soap powder. *~vb.* 3. to turn into powder; pulverize. 4. (*tr.*) to cover or sprinkle with or as if with powder. —**powderer** *n.* —**powdery** *adj.*

powder horn *n.* a powder flask consisting of the hollow horn of an animal.

powder keg *n.* 1. a small barrel to hold gunpowder. 2. a potential source of violence, disaster, etc.

powder puff *n.* a soft pad of fluffy material used for applying cosmetic powder to the skin.

powder room *n.* a ladies' cloakroom.

power (*ˈpaʊər*) *n.* 1. ability to do something. 2. (*often pl.*) a specific ability, capacity, or faculty. 3. political, financial, social, etc., force or influence. 4. control or dominion or a position of control, dominion, or authority. 5. a state or other political entity with political, industrial, or military strength. 6. a person or group that exercises control, influence, or authority: *he's a power in the state*. 7. a prerogative, privilege, or liberty. 8. legal authority to act for another. 9. a. a military force. b. military potential. 10. *Maths.* a. the value of a number or quantity raised to some exponent. b. another name for **exponent** (sense 4). 11. *Physics, engineering.* a measure of the rate of doing work expressed as the work done per unit time. It is measured in watts, horsepower, etc. 12. a. the rate at which electrical energy is fed into or taken from a device or system. It is measured in watts. b. (*as modifier*): *a power amplifier*. 13. the ability to perform work. 14. a. mechanical energy as opposed to manual labour. b. (*as modifier*): *a power tool*. 15. a particular form of energy: *nuclear power*. 16. a. a measure of the ability of a lens or optical system to magnify an object. b. another word for **magnification**. 17. *Inf.* a large amount: *a power of good*. 18. *in one's power*, (*often foll. by an infinitive*) able or allowed (to). 19. *in (someone's) power*, under the control of (someone). 20. *the powers that be*, established authority. *~vb.* (*tr.*) 21. to give or provide power to. 22. to fit (a machine) with a motor or engine.

power cut *n.* a temporary interruption or reduction in the supply of electrical power.

powerful (*ˈpaʊəfʊl*) *adj.* 1. having great power. 2. extremely effective or efficient: *a powerful drug*. *~adv.* 3. *Dialect.* very: *he ran powerful fast*. —**powerfully** *adv.* —**powerfulness** *n.*

powerhouse (*ˈpaʊə,haʊs*) *n.* 1. an electrical generating station or plant. 2. a forceful or powerful person or thing.

powerless (*ˈpaʊəls*) *adj.* without power or authority. —**powerlessly** *adv.* —**powerlessness** *n.*

power of attorney *n.* 1. legal authority to act for another person in certain specified matters. 2. the document conferring such authority.

power point *n.* an electrical socket mounted on or recessed into a wall.

power station *n.* an electrical generating station.

powwow (*ˈpaʊ,wau*) *n.* 1. a talk, conference, or meeting. 2. a magical ceremony of certain North American Indians. 3. (among certain North American Indians) a medicine man. 4. a meeting of North American Indians. *~vb.* 5. (*intr.*) to hold a powwow.

pox (*pɒks*) *n.* 1. any disease characterized by the formation of pustules on the skin that often leave pockmarks when healed. 2. (usually preceded by *the*) an informal name for **syphilis**. 3. *a pox on (someone or something)*, (*interj.*) *Arch.* an expression of intense disgust or aversion.

pp or **pp.** 1. *abbrev. for* per procuracionem: by proxy; for and on behalf of. 2. *symbol for* pianissimo. See **p**

pp. *abbrev. for* pages.

p.p. *abbrev. for:* 1. parcel post. 2. past participle. 3. prepaid. 4. post paid. 5. by delegation to. 6. (on prescriptions) post prandium: after a meal.

ppd. *abbrev. for:* 1. postpaid. 2. prepaid.

ppr. or **p.pr.** *abbrev. for* present participle.

P.P.S. *abbrev. for:* 1. parliamentary private secretary. 2. Also: **p.p.s.** post postscriptum: after postscript; additional postscript.

P.Q. *abbrev. for:* 1. (in Canada) Parti Québécois. 2. Province of Quebec.

Pr *the chemical symbol for* praseodymium.

pr. *abbrev. for:* 1. (*pl. prs.*) pair. 2. paper. 3. price. 4. pronoun. 5. power.

P.R. *abbrev. for:* 1. proportional representation. 2. public relations. 3. Puerto Rico.

practicable (*ˈpræktɪkəbəl*) *adj.* 1. capable of being done; feasible. 2. usable. —**practicability** or **practicableness** *n.* —**practicably** *adv.*

▷ **Usage.** See at **practical**.

practical (*ˈpræktɪkəl*) *adj.* 1. of, involving, or concerned with experience or actual use; not theoretical. 2. of or concerned with ordinary affairs, work, etc. 3. adapted or adaptable for use. 4. of, involving, or trained by practice. 5. being such for all general purposes; virtual. *~n.* 6. an examination in a practical subject. —**practicality** or **practicalness** *n.* —**practically** *adv.*

▷ **Usage.** In careful usage, a distinction is made between **practical** and **practicable**. **Practical** refers to a person, idea, project, etc., as being more concerned with or relevant to practice than theory: *he is a very practical person; the idea had no practical application*. **Practicable** refers to a project or idea as being capable of being done or put into effect: *the plan was expensive, yet practicable*.

practical joke *n.* a prank or trick usually intended to make the victim appear foolish. —**practical joker** *n.*

practice (*ˈpræktɪs*) *n.* 1. a usual or customary action: *it was his practice to rise at six*. 2. repetition of an activity in order to achieve mastery and fluency. 3. the condition of having mastery of a skill or activity through repetition (esp. *in practice, out of practice*). 4. the exercise of a profession: *he set up practice as a lawyer*. 5. the act of doing something: *he put his plans into practice*. 6. the established method of conducting proceedings in a court of law. *~vb.* 7. the U.S. spelling of **practise**.

practise or **U.S. practice** (*ˈpræktɪs*) *vb.* 1. to do or cause to do repeatedly in order to gain skill. 2. (*tr.*) to do (something) habitually or frequently: *they practise ritual murder*. 3. to observe or pursue (something): *to practise Christianity*. 4. to work at (a profession, etc.): *he practises medicine*. 5. (*foll. by on or upon*) to take advantage of (someone, someone's credulity, etc.).

practitioner (*præktɪˈtʃənə*) *n.* 1. a person who practises a profession or art. 2. *Christian Science*, a person authorized to practise spiritual healing.

praetor or **pretor** (*ˈpri:tə,-tɔː*) *n.* (in ancient Rome) any of several senior magistrates ranking just below the consuls. —**prae/torian** or **pre/torian** *adj.*, *n.* —**praetorship** or **pretorship** *n.*

pragmatic (*præɡˈmætɪk*) *adj.* 1. advocating behaviour that is dictated more by practical consequences than by theory. 2. *Philosophy*, of pragmatism. 3. involving everyday or practical business. 4. of or concerned with the affairs of a state or community. 5. *Rare*, meddlesome; officious. Also (for senses 3, 5): **pragmatical**. —**prag,maticality** *n.* —**prag,matically** *adv.*

pragmatism (*ˈpræɡmə,tɪzəm*) *n.* 1. a philosophical movement holding that practical consequences are the criterion of knowledge, meaning, and value. 2. the condition of being pragmatic. —**pragmatist** *n.*, *adj.*

prairie (*ˈpreəri*) *n.* (*often pl.*) a treeless grassy plain of the central U.S. and S Canada.

prairie dog *n.* any of several rodents that live in large complex burrows in the prairies of North America. Also called: **prairie marmot**.

praise (*preɪz*) *n.* 1. the act of expressing commendation, admiration, etc. 2. the rendering of homage and gratitude to a deity. 3. *sing someone's praises*, to commend someone highly. *~vb.* (*tr.*) 4. to express commendation, admiration, etc., for. 5. to proclaim the glorious attributes of (a deity) with homage and thanksgiving. —**praiser** *n.*

praiseworthy (*ˈpreɪz,wɜːði*) *adj.* deserving of praise; commendable. —**praise,worthily** *adv.* —**praise,worthiness** *n.*

praline (*ˈprɑːlɪn*) *n.* 1. a confection of nuts with caramelized sugar. 2. Also called: **sugared almond**, a sweet consisting of an almond encased in sugar.

pram (præm) *n.* *Brit.* a cotlike four-wheeled carriage for a baby. *U.S. term:* **baby carriage**.

prance (prɑ:ns) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to swagger or strut. 2. (*intr.*) to caper, gambol, or dance about. 3. (*intr.*) (of a horse) to move with high lively springing steps. 4. (*tr.*) to cause to prance. ~*n.* 5. the act or an instance of prancing. —'prancer *n.* —'prancingly *adv.*

prang (præŋ) *Chiefly Brit. inf.* ~*n.* 1. an accident or crash in an aircraft, car, etc. 2. an aircraft bombing raid. ~*vb.* 3. to crash or damage (an aircraft, car, etc.). 4. to damage (a town, etc.) by bombing.

prank (præŋk) *n.* a mischievous trick or joke. —'prankish *adj.* —'pranker *n.*

praseodymium (ˌpreɪzɪəʊˈdɪmɪəm) *n.* a malleable ductile silvery-white element of the lanthanide series of metals. *Symbol:* Pr; *atomic no.:* 59; *atomic wt.:* 140.91.

prate (preɪt) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to talk idly and at length; chatter. 2. (*tr.*) to utter in an idle or empty way. ~*n.* 3. idle or trivial talk; chatter. —'prater *n.* —'pratingly *adv.*

prattle ('prætl) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to talk in a foolish or childish way; babble. 2. (*tr.*) to utter in a foolish or childish way. ~*n.* 3. foolish or childish talk. —'prattler *n.* —'prattlingly *adv.*

prawn (prɔ:n) *n.* 1. any of various small edible marine decapod crustaceans having a slender flattened body with a long tail and two pairs of pincers. 2. **come the raw prawn (with).** *Austral. inf.* to attempt to deceive (someone). —'prawner *n.*

praxis ('præksɪs) *n., pl. praxes or praxes* ('præksɪz). 1. the practice of a field of study, as opposed to the theory. 2. a practical exercise. 3. accepted practice or custom.

pray (preɪ) *vb.* 1. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *for*; when *tr.*, usually takes a clause as object) to utter prayers (to God or other object of worship). 2. (when *tr.*, usually takes a clause as object or an infinitive) to beg or implore: *she prayed to be allowed to go.* ~*interj.* 3. *Arch.* I beg you; please: *pray, leave us alone.*

prayer¹ (preɪə) *n.* 1. a personal communication or petition addressed to a deity, esp. in the form of supplication, adoration, praise, contrition, or thanksgiving. 2. a similar personal communication that does not involve adoration, addressed to beings closely associated with a deity, such as saints. 3. the practice of praying: *prayer is our solution to human problems.* 4. (often *pl.*) a form of devotion spent mainly or wholly praying: *morning prayers.* 5. (*cap. when part of a recognized name*) a form of words used in praying: *the Lord's Prayer.* 6. an object or benefit prayed for. 7. an earnest request or entreaty. —'prayerful *adj.*

prayer² ('preɪə) *n.* a person who prays.

prayer book (preɪə) *n.* a book containing the prayers used at church services or recommended for private devotions.

prayer rug (preɪə) *n.* the small carpet on which a Muslim kneels and prostrates himself while saying his prayers. Also called: **prayer mat.**

prayer wheel (preɪə) *n.* *Buddhism.* (esp. in Tibet) a wheel or cylinder inscribed with or containing prayers, each revolution of which is counted as an uttered prayer, so that such prayers can be repeated by turning it.

praying mantis or mantid *n.* another name for mantis.

pre- *prefix.* before in time, position, etc.: *predare; pre-eminent.*

preach (pri:tʃ) *vb.* 1. to make known (religious truth) or give religious or moral instruction or exhortation (in sermons). 2. to advocate (a virtue, action, etc.), esp. in a moralizing way.

preacher ('pri:tʃə) *n.* a person who preaches, esp. a Protestant clergyman.

preamble (pri:'æmbəl) *n.* 1. a preliminary or introductory statement, esp. attached to a statute setting forth its purpose. 2. a preliminary event, fact, etc. —'preambular (pri:'æmbjulə), 'preambulatory (pri:'æmbjulətəri, -tri), or 'preambulatory *adj.*

prebend ('prebəd) *n.* 1. the stipend assigned by a cathedral or collegiate church to a canon or member of the chapter. 2. the land, tithe, or other source of such a stipend. 3. a less common word for **prebendary**. 4.

Church of England. the office of a prebendary. —'prebendal (pri:'bendl) *adj.*

prebendary ('prebəndəri, -dri) *n., pl. -daries.* 1. a canon or member of the chapter of a cathedral or collegiate church who holds a prebend. 2. *Church of England.* an honorary canon with the title of prebendary.

Precambrian or **Pre-Cambrian** (pri:'kæmbriən) *adj.* 1. of, denoting, or formed in the earliest geological era, which lasted for about 4000 000 000 years before the Cambrian period. ~*n.* 2. the Precambrian, the Precambrian era.

precarious (pri:'keəriəs) *adj.* 1. liable to failure or catastrophe; insecure; perilous. 2. *Arch.* dependent on another's will. —'precariously *adv.* —'precariousness *n.*

precaution (pri:'kəʊʃən) *n.* 1. an action taken to avoid a dangerous or undesirable event. 2. caution practised beforehand; circumspection. —'precautionary *adj.*

precede (pri:'si:d) *vb.* 1. to go or be before (someone or something) in time, place, rank, etc. 2. (*tr.*) to preface or introduce.

precedence ('presɪdəns) or **precedency** *n.* 1. the act of preceding or the condition of being precedent. 2. the ceremonial order or priority to be observed on formal occasions: *the officers are seated according to precedence.* 3. a right to preferential treatment: *I take precedence over you.*

precedent *n.* ('presɪdənt). 1. *Law.* a judicial decision that serves as an authority for deciding a later case. 2. an example or instance used to justify later similar occurrences. ~*adj.* (pri:'si:dənt, 'presɪdənt). 3. preceding.

precentor (pri:'sentə) *n.* 1. a cleric who directs the choral services in a cathedral. 2. a person who leads a congregation or choir in the sung parts of church services. —'precentorial (pri:'sentɔ:riəl) *adj.* —'precentorship *n.*

precept ('pri:sept) *n.* 1. a rule or principle for action. 2. a guide or rule for morals; maxim. 3. a direction, esp. for a technical operation. 4. *Law.* a writ or warrant. *b.* (in England) an order to collect money under a rate. —'preceptive *adj.*

preceptor (pri:'septə) *n.* *Rare.* a tutor or instructor. —'preceptorial (pri:'septɔ:riəl) or 'preceptorial *adj.* —'preceptress *fem. n.*

precession (pri:'seʃən) *n.* 1. the act of preceding. 2. the motion of a spinning body, such as a top, gyroscope, or planet, in which it wobbles so that the axis of rotation sweeps out a cone. —'precessional *adj.* —'precessionally *adv.*

precinct ('pri:sɪŋkt) *n.* 1. *a.* an enclosed area or building marked by a fixed boundary such as a wall. *b.* such a boundary. 2. a limited area, esp. of thought. 3. an area in a town, often closed to traffic, that is designed or reserved for a particular activity: *a shopping precinct.* 4. *U.S.* a district of a city for administrative or police purposes. *b.* a polling district.

precincts ('pri:sɪŋkts) *pl. n.* the surrounding region or area.

preciosity (ˌpri:ʃɪ'ɒsɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* fastidiousness or affectation.

precious ('preʃəs) *adj.* 1. beloved; dear; cherished. 2. very costly or valuable. 3. very fastidious or affected, as in speech, manners, etc. —'preciously *adv.* —'preciousness *n.*

precious metal *n.* gold, silver, or platinum.

precious stone *n.* any of certain rare minerals, such as diamond, ruby, or opal, that are highly valued as gemstones.

precipice ('presɪpsɪ) *n.* 1. the steep sheer face of a cliff or crag. 2. the cliff or crag itself. —'precipiced *adj.*

precipitant (pri:'sɪptənt) *adj.* 1. hasty or impulsive; rash. 2. rushing or falling rapidly or without heed. 3. abrupt or sudden. ~*n.* 4. *Chem.* a substance that causes a precipitate to form. —'precipitance or 'precipitancy *n.*

precipitate *vb.* (pri:'sɪpɪteɪt). 1. (*tr.*) to cause to happen too soon; bring on. 2. to throw or fall from or as from a height. 3. to cause (moisture) to condense and fall as snow, rain, etc., or (of moisture, rain, etc.) to condense and fall thus. 4. *Chem.* to undergo or cause to undergo a process in which a dissolved substance separates from solution as a fine suspension of solid particles.

preaccept *vb.*
preadapt *vb.*
preadolescent *n., adj.*

preadvertise *vb.*
prearrange *vb.*
prearrangement *n.*

precheck *vb.*
pre-Christian *adj.*

~adj. (pri'sipitit). 5. rushing ahead. 6. done rashly or with undue haste. 7. sudden and brief. ~n. (pri'sipitit). 8. *Chem.* a precipitated solid. —**pre'cipitable** *adj.* —**pre'cipita'bility** *n.* —**pre'cipitately** *adv.* —**pre'cipi,tat'or** *n.*

precipitation (pri'sipitei'ʃən) *n.* 1. *Meteorol.* a. rain, snow, sleet, dew, etc., formed by condensation of water vapour in the atmosphere. b. the deposition of these on the earth's surface. 2. the formation of a chemical precipitate. 3. the act of precipitating or the state of being precipitated. 4. rash or undue haste.

precipitous (pri'sipitəs) *adj.* 1. resembling a precipice. 2. very steep. 3. hasty or precipitate. —**pre'cipitously** *adv.* —**pre'cipitousness** *n.*

precis or **précis** ('preisi:) *n., pl. précis* or **précis** ('preisi:z). 1. a summary of a text; abstract. ~vb. 2. (tr.) to make a précis of.

precise (pri'sais) *adj.* 1. strictly correct in amount or value: a precise sum. 2. particular: this precise location. 3. using or operating with total accuracy: precise instruments. 4. strict in observance of rules, standards, etc.: a precise mind. —**pre'cisely** *adv.* —**pre'ciseness** *n.*

precision (pri'siʒən) *n.* 1. the quality of being precise; accuracy. 2. (modifier) characterized by a high degree of exactness: precision grinding. —**pre'cisionism** *n.* —**pre'cisionist** *n.*

preclude (pri'klu:d) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to exclude or debar. 2. to make impossible, esp. beforehand. —**preclusion** (pri'klu:ʒən) *n.* —**preclusive** (pri'klusiv) *adj.*

precocious (pri'kəʊʃəs) *adj.* 1. ahead in development, such as the mental development of a child. 2. Bot. flowering or ripening early. —**pre'cociously** *adv.* —**pre'cociousness** or **precocity** (pri'kəsiti) *n.*

precognition (pri'kɒgə'niʃən) *n.* *Psychol.* the alleged ability to foresee future events. —**precognitive** (pri'kɒgnitiv) *adj.*

preconceive (pri:kən'si:v) *vb.* (tr.) to form an idea beforehand. —**preconception** (pri:kən'sepʃən) *n.*

precondition (pri:kən'diʃən) *n.* 1. a necessary or required condition; prerequisite. ~vb. 2. (tr.) *Psychol.* to present two stimuli to (an organism) consecutively and repeatedly so that they become associated.

precursor (pri'kɜ:sə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that precedes and announces someone or something to come. 2. a predecessor.

precursory (pri'kɜ:səri) or **precursive** *adj.* 1. serving as a precursor. 2. preliminary.

pred. *abbrev. for* predicate.

predacious or **predaceous** (pri'deiʃəs) *adj.* (of animals) habitually hunting and killing other animals for food. —**pre'daciousness**, **pre'daceousness**, or **predac'ity** (pri'dæsiti) *n.*

predate (pri'deit) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to affix a date to (a document, paper, etc.) that is earlier than the actual date. 2. to assign a date to (an event, period, etc.) that is earlier than the actual or previously assigned date of occurrence. 3. to be or occur at an earlier date than; precede in time.

predator ('predətə) *n.* 1. any carnivorous animal. 2. a predatory person or thing.

predatory ('predətəri) *adj.* 1. *Zool.* another word for **predacious**. 2. of or characterized by plundering, robbing, etc. —**predatorily** *adv.* —**predatoriness** *n.*

predecease (pri'di'si:s) *vb.* to die before (some other person).

predecessor ('pri:di,səsə) *n.* 1. a person who precedes another, as in an office. 2. something that precedes something else. 3. an ancestor.

predestinate *vb.* (pri:'desti,neit). 1. (tr.) another word for **predestine**. ~*adj.* (pri:'destinit, -,neit). 2. predestined.

predestination (pri:'desti,neiʃən) *n.* 1. *Christian theol.* a. the act of God foreordaining every event from eternity. b. the doctrine or belief, esp. associated with Calvin, that the final salvation of some of mankind is foreordained from eternity by God. 2. the act of predestining or the state of being predestined.

predestine (pri:'destin) or **predestinate** *vb.* (tr.) 1. to determine beforehand. 2. *Christian theol.* (of God) to decree from eternity (any event, esp. the final salvation of individuals).

predetermine (pri:'di:tɜ:mɪn) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to determine

beforehand. 2. to influence or bias. —**prede'terminable** *adj.* —**prede'terminate** *adj.* —**prede,termi'nation** *n.*

predicable ('predikəb'l) *adj.* 1. capable of being predicated or asserted. ~n. 2. a quality that can be predicated. 3. *Logic.* any of the five general forms of attribution, namely genus, species, differentia, property, and accident. —**predica'bility** *n.*

predicament (pri'dikəmənt) *n.* 1. a perplexing, embarrassing, or difficult situation. 2. ('predikəmənt). *Logic.* a logical category.

predicant ('predikənt) *adj.* 1. of or relating to preaching. ~n. 2. a member of a religious order founded for preaching, esp. a Dominican.

predicate *vb.* ('predi,keit). (mainly tr.) 1. (also intr.; when tr., may take a clause as object) to declare or affirm. 2. to imply or connote. 3. (foll. by *on* or *upon*) *Chiefly U.S.* to base (a proposition, argument, etc.). 4. *Logic.* to assert (a property or condition) of the subject of a proposition. ~n. ('predikit). 5. *Grammar.* the part of a sentence in which something is asserted or denied of the subject of a sentence. 6. *Logic.* a term, property, or condition that is affirmed or denied concerning the subject of a proposition. ~*adj.* ('predikit). 7. of or relating to something that has been predicated. —**predi'cation** *n.* —**predicative** *adj.*

predict (pri'dikt) *vb.* (tr.; may take a clause as object) to state or make a declaration about in advance; foretell. —**pre'dictable** *adj.* —**pre,dicta'bility** *n.* —**pre'dictably** *adv.* —**pre'dictor** *n.*

prediction (pri'dikʃən) *n.* 1. the act of predicting. 2. something predicted; a forecast.

predikant (,predi'kənt) *n.* a minister in the Dutch Reformed Church, esp. in South Africa.

predilection (,pri:di'lekʃən) *n.* a predisposition, preference, or bias.

predispose (,pri:di'spəuz) *vb.* (tr.) (often foll. by *to* or *towards*) to incline or make (someone) susceptible to something beforehand. —**pre'dis'posal** *n.* —**pre'disposi'tion** *n.*

predominant (pri'dɒmɪnənt) *adj.* 1. superior in power, influence, etc., over others. 2. prevailing. —**pre'dominance** *n.* —**pre'dominantly** *adv.*

predominate *vb.* (pri'dɒmi,neit). 1. (intr.; often foll. by *over*) to have power, influence, or control. 2. (intr.) to prevail or preponderate. ~*adj.* (pri'dɒmɪnt). 3. another word for **predominant**. —**pre'dominately** *adv.* —**pre,domi'nation** *n.*

pre-eminent (pri'eminənt) *adj.* extremely eminent or distinguished; outstanding. —**pre'e'minence** *n.* —**pre'e'minently** *adv.*

pre-empt (pri'empt) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to acquire in advance or to the exclusion of others; appropriate. 2. (tr.) *Chiefly U.S.* to occupy (public land) in order to acquire a prior right to purchase. 3. (intr.) *Bridge.* to make a high opening bid, often on a weak hand, to shut out opposition bidding. —**pre-emptive** *adj.* —**pre-emptor** *n.*

pre-emption (pri'empʃən) *n.* 1. Law the purchase of or right to purchase property in preference to others. 2. *International law.* the right of a government to intercept and seize property of the subjects of another state while in transit, esp. in time of war.

preen (pri:n) *vb.* 1. (of birds) to maintain (feathers) in a healthy condition by arrangement, cleaning, and other contact with the bill. 2. to dress or array (oneself) carefully; primp. 3. (usually foll. by *on*) to pride or congratulate (oneself). —**'preener** *n.*

pref. *abbrev. for:* 1. preface. 2. prefatory. 3. preference. 4. preferred. 5. prefix.

prefab ('pri:fæb) *n.* a building that is prefabricated, esp. a small house.

prefabricate (pri:'fæbrɪ,keit) *vb.* (tr.) to manufacture sections of (a building) so that they can be easily transported to and rapidly assembled on a building site. —**pre,fabri'cation** *n.*

preface ('prefəs) *n.* 1. a statement written as an introduction to a literary or other work, typically explaining its scope, intention, method, etc.; foreword. 2. anything introductory. ~vb. (tr.) 3. to furnish with a preface. 4. to serve as a preface to. —**'prefacer** *n.*

prefatory ('prefətəri, -tri) or **prefatorial** (,prefə'tɔ:riəl) *adj.* of or serving as a preface; introductory.

preclassical *adj.*
precollege *adj.*
preconviction *n.*

precook *vb.*
pre-engagement *n.*
pre-exist *vb.*

pre-existence *n.*

prefect (ˈpri:fekt) *n.* 1. (in France, Italy, etc.) the chief administrative officer in a department. 2. (in France, etc.) the head of a police force. 3. *Brit.* a schoolchild appointed to a position of limited power over his fellows. 4. (in ancient Rome) any of several magistrates or military commanders. 5. *R.C. Church.* one of two senior masters in a Jesuit school or college. —**prefectorial** (ˌpri:fekˈtɔ:riəl) *adj.*

prefecture (ˈpri:fek.tʃuə) *n.* 1. the office, position, or area of authority of a prefect. 2. the official residence of a prefect in France, etc.

prefer (ˈpri:fɜ:) *vb.* **-ferring, -ferred.** 1. (when *tr.*, may take a clause as object or an infinitive) to like better or value more highly: *I prefer to stand.* 2. *Law.* (esp. of the police) to put (charges) before a court, magistrate, etc., for consideration and judgment. 3. (*tr.*; often passive) to advance in rank over another or others; promote.

preferable (ˈprefərəbəl) *adj.* preferred or more desirable. —**preferably** *adv.*

preference (ˈprefərəns, ˈprefrəns) *n.* 1. the act of preferring. 2. something or someone preferred. 3. *International trade.* the granting of favour or precedence to particular foreign countries, as by levying differential tariffs.

preference shares *pl. n.* *Brit.* fixed interest shares issued by a company and giving their holders a prior right over ordinary shareholders to payment of dividend and to repayment of capital if the company is liquidated. U.S. name: **preferred stock.** Cf. **ordinary shares.**

preferential (ˌprefəˈrenʃəl) *adj.* 1. showing or resulting from preference. 2. giving, receiving, or originating from preference in international trade. —**preferentially** *adv.*

preferment (ˈpri:fɜ:mənt) *n.* 1. the act of promoting to a higher position, office, etc. 2. the state of being preferred for promotion or social advancement. 3. the act of preferring.

prefigure (ˈpri:figə) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to represent or suggest in advance. 2. to imagine beforehand. —**prefiguration** *n.* —**prefigurement** *n.*

prefix *n.* (ˈpri:fiks). 1. *Grammar.* an affix that precedes the stem to which it is attached, as for example *un-* in *unhappy*. Cf. **suffix** (sense 1). 2. something coming or placed before. ~*vb.* (ˈpri:fiks, ˈpri:fiks). (*tr.*) 3. to put or place before. 4. *Grammar.* to add (a morpheme) as a prefix to the beginning of a word. —**prefixion** (ˈpri:ˈfikʃən) *n.*

pregnant (ˈpregnənt) *adj.* 1. carrying a foetus or foetuses within the womb. 2. full of meaning or significance. 3. inventive or imaginative. 4. prolific or fruitful. —**pregnancy** *n.* —**pregnantly** *adv.*

prehensile (ˈpri:hen.sail) *adj.* adapted for grasping, esp. by wrapping around a support: a *prehensile tail*. —**prehensility** (ˌpri:henˈsiliti) *n.*

prehistoric (ˌpri:hiˈstɔ:rik) or **prehistorical** *adj.* of or relating to man's development before the appearance of the written word. —**prehistorically** *adv.* —**prehistory** *n.*

prejudge (pri:ˈdʒʌdʒ) *vb.* (*tr.*) to judge beforehand, esp. without sufficient evidence.

prejudice (ˈpredʒudis) *n.* 1. an opinion formed beforehand, esp. an unfavourable one based on inadequate facts. 2. the act or condition of holding such opinions. 3. intolerance of or dislike for people of a specific race, religion, etc. 4. disadvantage or injury resulting from prejudice. 5. *in (or to) the prejudice of*, to the detriment of. 6. *without prejudice.* *Law.* without dismissing or detracting from an existing right or claim. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 7. to cause to be prejudiced. 8. to disadvantage or injure by prejudice.

prejudicial (ˌpredʒuˈdiʃəl) *adj.* causing prejudice; damaging. —**prejudicially** *adv.*

prelacy (ˈpreləsi) *n., pl. -cies.* 1. Also called: **prelature** (ˈprelitʃ). a. the office or status of a prelate. b. prelates collectively. 2. *Often derog.* government of the Church by prelates.

prelate (ˈprelit) *n.* a Church dignitary of high rank, such as a cardinal, bishop, or abbot. —**prelatic** (ˈpri:lætik) or **prelatical** *adj.*

preliminaries (ˌpri:liminəri) *pl. n.* the full word for **prelims.**

preliminary (ˌpri:liminəri) *adj.* 1. (usually *prenominal*) occurring before or in preparation; introductory. ~*n., pl. -naries.* 2. a preliminary event or occurrence.

3. an eliminating contest held before the main competition. —**preliminarily** *adv.*

prelims (ˈpri:limz, ˌprəˈlimz) *pl. n.* 1. Also called: **front matter.** the pages of a book, such as the title page and contents, before the main text. 2. the first public examinations taken for the bachelor's degree in some universities. 3. (in Scotland) the school examinations taken before public examinations.

prelude (ˈpreljʊd) *n.* 1. a. a piece of music that precedes a fugue, or forms the first movement of a suite, or an introduction to an act in an opera; etc. b. (esp. for piano) a self-contained piece of music. 2. an introduction or preceding event, occurrence, etc. ~*vb.* 3. to serve as a prelude to (something). 4. (*tr.*) to introduce by a prelude. —**preludial** *adj.* —**prelusion** (ˌpriˈljʊ:ʒən) *n.*

premarital (ˌpriːˈmæritl) *adj.* (esp. of sexual relations) occurring before marriage.

premature (ˌpreməˈtʃʊə, ˌpreməˈtʃuə) *adj.* 1. occurring or existing before the normal or expected time. 2. impulsive or hasty: a *premature judgment*. 3. (of an infant) born before the end of the full period of gestation. —**prematurely** *adv.*

premeditate (ˌpriːmedɪˈteɪt) *vb.* to plan or consider (something, such as a violent crime) beforehand. —**premeditation** *n.* —**premediator** *n.*

premenstrual tension or syndrome (ˌpriːˈmenstrʊəl) *n.* nervous tension that may be experienced as a result of hormonal changes in the days before a menstrual period. Abbrevs.: **PMT, PMS.**

premier (ˈpremjə) *n.* 1. another name for **prime minister**. 2. any of the heads of governments of the Canadian provinces and the Australian states. 3. *Austral.* a team that wins a premiership. ~*adj.* (*prenominal*) 4. first in importance, rank, etc. 5. first in occurrence; earliest.

premiere (ˈpremiːə, ˈpremjə) *n.* 1. the first public performance of a film, play, opera, etc. 2. the leading lady in a theatre company. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to give a premier of the show will be *premiered* on Broadway.

premise (ˌpriːˈmaɪz, ˌpremis) *vb.* (when *tr.*, may take a clause as object) to state or assume (a proposition) as a premiss in an argument, etc.

premises (ˈpremisɪz) *pl. n.* 1. a piece of land together with its buildings, esp. considered as a place of business. 2. *Law.* (in a deed, etc.) the matters referred to previously; the aforesaid.

premiss or premise (ˈpremis) *n.* 1. a statement from which a conclusion can logically be drawn. 2. *Logic.* either of the two propositions of a syllogism.

premium (ˈpri:miəm) *n.* 1. an amount paid in addition to a standard rate, price, wage, etc.; bonus. 2. the amount paid or payable, usually in regular instalments, for an insurance policy. 3. the amount above nominal or par value at which something sells. 4. an offer of something free or at a reduced price as an inducement to buy a commodity or service. 5. a prize given to the winner of a competition. 6. U.S. an amount sometimes charged for a loan of money in addition to the interest. 7. great value or regard: *to put a premium on someone's services.* 8. *at a premium.* a. in great demand, usually because of scarcity. b. above par.

Premium Savings Bonds *pl. n.* (in Britain) bonds issued by the Treasury since 1956 for purchase by the public. No interest is paid but there is a monthly draw for cash prizes of various sums. Also called: **premium bonds.**

premonition (ˌpreməˈniʃən) *n.* 1. an intuition of a future, usually unwelcome, occurrence; foreboding. 2. an early warning of a future event. —**premonitory** (ˌpriːˈmɒnɪtəri) *adj.*

preoccupy (ˌpriːˈɒkjʊˌpaɪ) *vb.* **-pying, -pied.** (*tr.*) 1. to engross the thoughts or mind of. 2. to occupy before or in advance of another. —**preoccupation** *n.*

preordain (ˌpriːɔːˈdeɪn) *vb.* (*tr.*) to ordain, decree, or appoint beforehand.

prep (prep) *n.* *Inf.* short for **preparation** (sense 5) or (chiefly U.S.) **preparatory school.**

prep. *abbrev. for:* 1. preparation. 2. preparatory. 3. preposition.

preparation (ˌprepeɪˈreɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act or process of preparing. 2. the state of being prepared; readiness. 3. (often *pl.*) a measure done in order to prepare for something; provision: *to make preparations for some-*

prefreeze *vb.*
preheat *vb.*

premenstrual *adj.*
prepack *vb.*

prepackage *vb.*

thing. 4. something that is prepared, esp. a medicine. 5. (esp. in a boarding school) a. homework. b. the period reserved for this. Usually shortened to **prep.** 6. *Music.* a. the anticipation of a dissonance so that the note producing it in one chord is first heard in the preceding chord as a consonance. b. a note so employed.

preparatory (pri:'pærətəri) *adj.* 1. serving to prepare. 2. introductory. 3. occupied in preparation. 4. **preparatory to**, before: a *drink preparatory to eating*. —**preparatorily** *adv.*

preparatory school *n.* 1. (in Britain) a private school, usually single-sex and for children between the ages of 6 and 13, generally preparing pupils for public school. 2. (in the U.S.) a private secondary school preparing pupils for college. ~Often shortened to **prep school**.

prepare (pri:'peə) *vb.* 1. to make ready or suitable in advance for some use, event, etc.: *to prepare a meal*; *to prepare to go*. 2. to put together using parts or ingredients; construct. 3. (tr.) to equip or outfit, as for an expedition. 4. (tr.) *Music.* to soften the impact of (a dissonant note) by the use of preparation. 5. **be prepared**. (foll. by an infinitive) to be willing and able: *I'm not prepared to reveal these figures*. —**preparer** *n.*

prepay (pri:'pei) *vb.* -paying, -paid. (tr.) to pay for in advance. —**prepayable** *adj.*

prepense (pri:'pens) *adj.* (postpositive) (usually in legal contexts) premeditated (esp. in **malice prepense**).

preponderant (pri:'pɒndərənt) *adj.* greater in weight, force, influence, etc. —**preponderance** *n.* —**preponderantly** *adv.*

preponderate (pri:'pɒndə'reit) *vb.* (intr.) 1. (often foll. by *over*) to be more powerful, important, numerous, etc., than. 2. to be of greater weight than something else. —**preponderation** *n.*

preposition (,pri:'pɒzɪʃən) *n.* a word or group of words used before a noun or pronoun to relate it grammatically or semantically to some other constituent of a sentence. —**prepositional** *adj.* —**prepositionally** *adv.*

▷ **Usage.** The practice of ending a sentence with a preposition (*they are the people I hate talking to*) has been much condemned, but careful users avoid it only where it would be stylistically clumsy.

prepossess (,pri:'pɒs'zɛs) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to preoccupy or engross mentally. 2. to influence in advance, esp., to make a favourable impression on beforehand. —**prepossession** *n.*

prepossessing (,pri:'pɒs'zɛsɪŋ) *adj.* creating a favourable impression; attractive.

preposterous (pri:'pɒstərəs) *adj.* contrary to nature, reason, or sense; absurd; ridiculous. —**preposterously** *adv.* —**preposterousness** *n.*

prep school *n.* *Inf.* See **preparatory school**.

prepuce ('pri:pju:s) *n.* 1. the retractable fold of skin covering the tip of the penis. Nontechnical name: **foreskin**. 2. a similar fold of skin covering the tip of the clitoris.

Pre-Raphaelite (,pri:'æfə'lait) *n.* 1. a member of the **Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood**, an association of painters and writers founded in 1848 to revive the fidelity to nature and the vivid realistic colour considered typical of Italian painting before Raphael. ~*adj.* 2. of, in the manner of, or relating to Pre-Raphaelite painting and painters. —**Pre-Raphaelitism** *n.*

prerequisite (pri:'rekwi:zɪt) *adj.* 1. required as a prior condition. ~*n.* 2. something required as a prior condition.

prerogative (pri:'rɒɡətɪv) *n.* 1. an exclusive privilege or right exercised by a person or group of people holding a particular office or hereditary rank. 2. any privilege or right. 3. a power, privilege, or immunity restricted to a sovereign or sovereign government. ~*adj.* 4. having or able to exercise a prerogative.

pres. *abbrev. for:* 1. present (time). 2. presidential.

Pres. *abbrev. for:* President.

presage *n.* ('presɪdʒ). 1. an intimation or warning of something about to happen; portent; omen. 2. a sense of what is about to happen; foreboding. ~*vb.* ('presɪdʒ, pri:'seɪdʒ). 3. (tr.) to have a presentiment of. 4. (tr.) to give a forewarning of; portend. —**presageful** *adj.* —**presager** *n.*

presbyopia (,prezbɪ'əʊpiə) *n.* a progressively diminishing ability of the eye to focus, noticeable from middle to

old age, caused by loss of elasticity of the crystalline lens. —**presbyopic** (,prezbɪ'ɒpɪk) *adj.*

presbyter ('prezbɪtə) *n.* 1. a. an elder of a congregation in the early Christian Church. b. (in some Churches having episcopal politics) an official who is subordinate to a bishop and has administrative and sacerdotal functions. 2. (in some hierarchical Churches) another name for **priest**. 3. (in the Presbyterian Church) an elder. —**presbyterial** *adj.*

presbyterian (,prezbɪ'tɪəriən) *adj.* 1. of or designating Church government by presbyters or lay elders. ~*n.* 2. an upholder of this type of Church government. —**presbyterianism** *n.*

Presbyterian (,prezbɪ'tɪəriən) *adj.* 1. of or relating to any of various Protestant Churches governed by presbyters or lay elders and adhering to various modified forms of Calvinism. ~*n.* 2. a member of a Presbyterian Church. —**Presbyterianism** *n.*

presbytery ('prezbɪtəri) *n.*, *pl.* -teries. 1. *Presbyterian Church.* a. a local Church court. b. the congregations within the jurisdiction of any such court. 2. the part of a church east of the choir, in which the main altar is situated; a sanctuary. 3. presbyters or elders collectively. 4. *R.C. Church.* the residence of a parish priest.

prescience ('presɪəns) *n.* knowledge of events before they take place; foreknowledge. —**prescient** *adj.*

prescribe (pri:'skraɪb) *vb.* 1. to lay down as a rule or directive. 2. *Med.* to recommend or order the use of (a drug or other remedy). —**prescriber** *n.*

prescription (pri:'skrɪpʃən) *n.* 1. a. written instructions from a physician to a pharmacist stating the form, dosage, strength, etc., of a drug to be issued to a specific patient. b. the drug or remedy prescribed. 2. written instructions for an optician on the proper grinding of lenses for spectacles. 3. the act of prescribing. 4. something that is prescribed. 5. a long-established custom or a claim based on one. 6. *Law.* a. the uninterrupted possession of property over a stated time, after which a right or title is acquired (**positive prescription**). b. the barring of adverse claims to property, etc., after a specified time has elapsed, allowing the possessor to acquire title (**negative prescription**).

prescriptive (pri:'skriptɪv) *adj.* 1. making or giving directions, rules, or injunctions. 2. sanctioned by long-standing custom. 3. based upon legal prescription: a *prescriptive title*. —**prescriptively** *adv.* —**prescriptiveness** *n.*

presence ('prezəns) *n.* 1. the state or fact of being present. 2. immediate proximity. 3. personal appearance or bearing, esp. of a dignified nature. 4. an imposing or dignified personality. 5. an invisible spirit felt to be nearby. 6. *Obs.* assembly or company.

presence of mind *n.* the ability to remain calm and act constructively during times of crisis.

present ('preznt) *adj.* 1. (prenominal) in existence at the time at which something is spoken or written. 2. (postpositive) being in a specified place, thing, etc.: *the murderer is present in this room*. 3. (prenominal) now being dealt with or under discussion: *the present author*. 4. *Grammar.* denoting a tense of verbs used when the action or event described is occurring at the time of utterance or when the speaker does not wish to make any explicit temporal reference. 5. *Arch.* instant: *present help is at hand*. ~*n.* 6. **the present**, the time being; now. 7. *Grammar.* a. the present tense. b. a verb in this tense. 8. **at present**, now. 9. **for the present**, for the time being; temporarily.

present² *vb.* (pri:'zent). (tr.) 1. to introduce (a person) to another, esp. to someone of higher rank. 2. to introduce to the public: *to present a play*. 3. to show; exhibit: *he presented a brave face to the world*. 4. to bring or suggest to the mind: *to present a problem*. 5. to award: *to present a prize*; *to present a university with a foundation scholarship*. 6. to offer formally: *to present one's compliments*. 7. to hand over for action or settlement: *to present a bill*. 8. to depict in a particular manner: *the actor presented Hamlet as a very young man*. 9. to salute someone with (one's weapon) (usually in **present arms**). 10. to aim (a weapon). 11. to nominate (a clergyman) to a bishop for institution to a benefice in his diocese. 12. to lay (a charge, etc.) before a court, magistrate, etc., for consideration or trial. 13. to bring a formal charge or accusation against (a person); indict. 14. **present oneself**, to appear, esp. at a specific

preprandial *adj.*
prerecord *vb.*

pre-Reformation *adj.*
preschool *adj.*

preselect *vb.*

time and place. ~*n.* ('prez'nt). 15. a gift. —**pre'sent-er** *n.*

presentable (pri'zentəb'l) *adj.* 1. fit to be presented or introduced to other people. 2. fit to be displayed or offered. —**pre'sentableness** or **pre'senta'bility** *n.* —**pre'sentably** *adv.*

presentation (,prezən'teɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of presenting or state of being presented. 2. the manner of presenting; delivery. 3. a. an offering, as of a gift. b. (as *modifier*): a presentation copy of a book. 4. a performance or representation, as of a play. 5. the formal introduction of a person, as or at court; debut. 6. the act or right of nominating a clergyman to a benefice. —**presen'tational** *adj.*

present-day *n.* (*modifier*) of the modern day; current: *I don't like present-day fashions.*

presentiment (pri'zentimənt) *n.* a sense of something about to happen; premonition.

presently ('prezəntli) *adv.* 1. in a short while; soon. 2. *Chiefly Scot. & U.S.* at the moment. 3. an archaic word for immediately.

present participle ('prez'nt) *n.* a participial form of verbs used adjectivally when the action it describes is contemporaneous with that of the main verb of a sentence and also used in the formation of certain compound tenses. In English this form ends in *-ing*.

present perfect ('prez'nt) *adj., n.* *Grammar.* another term for perfect (senses 8, 10).

presents ('prezənts) *pl. n.* *Law.* used in a deed or document to refer to itself: *know all men by these presents.*

preservative (pri'zɜ:vətɪv) *n.* 1. something that preserves, esp. a chemical added to foods. ~*adj.* 2. tending or intended to preserve.

preserve (pri'zɜ:v) *vb. (mainly tr.)* 1. to keep safe from danger or harm; protect. 2. to protect from decay or dissolution; maintain: *to preserve old buildings.* 3. to maintain possession of; keep up: *to preserve a facade of indifference.* 4. to prevent from decomposition or chemical change. 5. to prepare (food), as by salting, so that it will resist decomposition. 6. to make preserves of (fruit, etc.). 7. to rear and protect (game) in restricted places for hunting or fishing. 8. (*intr.*) to maintain protection for game in preserves. ~*n.* 9. something that preserves or is preserved. 10. a special domain: *archaeology is the preserve of specialists.* 11. (usually *pl.*) fruit, etc., prepared by cooking with sugar. 12. areas where game is reared for private hunting or fishing. —**pre'servable** *adj.* —**preservation** (,prezə'veɪʃən) *n.* —**pre-server** *n.*

preside (pri'zaid) *vb. (intr.)* 1. to sit in or hold a position of authority, as over a meeting. 2. to exercise authority; control.

presidency ('prezɪdənsɪ) *n., pl. -cies.* 1. the office, dignity, or term of a president. 2. (*often cap.*) the office of president of a republic, esp. of the President of the U.S.

president ('prezɪdənt) *n.* 1. (*often cap.*) the head of state of a republic, esp. of the U.S. 2. (in the U.S.) the chief executive officer of a company, corporation, etc. 3. a person who presides over an assembly, meeting, etc. 4. the chief executive officer of certain establishments of higher education. —**presidential** (,prezɪ'denʃəl) *adj.* —**pres'i'dentially** *adv.* —**president, ship** *n.*

presidium (pri'sɪdiəm) *n.* 1. (*often cap.*) (in Communist countries) a permanent committee of a larger body, such as a legislature, that acts for it when it is recessed. 2. a collective presidency.

press' (pres) *vb.* 1. to apply or exert weight, force, or steady pressure on: *he pressed the button on the camera.* 2. (*tr.*) to squeeze or compress so as to alter in shape. 3. to apply heat or pressure to (clothing) so as to smooth out creases. 4. to make (objects) from soft material by pressing with a mould, etc., esp. to make gramophone records from plastic. 5. (*tr.*) to clasp; embrace. 6. (*tr.*) to extract or force out (juice) by pressure (from). 7. (*tr.*) to force or compel. 8. to importune (a person) insistently: *they pressed for an answer.* 9. to harass or cause harassment. 10. (*tr.*) to plead or put forward strongly: *to press a claim.* 11. (*intr.*) to be urgent. 12. (*tr.*; usually passive) to have little of: *we're hard pressed for time.* 13. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *on* or *forward*) to hasten or advance or cause to hasten or advance in a forceful manner. 14. (*tr.*) *Arch.* to trouble or oppress. ~*n.* 15. any machine that exerts pressure to form,

shape, or cut materials or to extract liquids, compress solids, or hold components together while an adhesive joint is formed. 16. See **printing press**. 17. the art or process of printing. 18. to (the) **press**. to be printed: *when is this book going to press?* 19. a. the press. news media collectively, esp. newspapers. b. (as *modifier*): *press relations.* 20. the opinions and reviews in the newspapers, etc.: *the play received a poor press.* 21. the act of pressing or state of being pressed. 22. the act of crowding or pushing together. 23. a closely packed throng; crowd. 24. a cupboard, esp. a large one used for storing clothes or linen. 25. a wood or metal clamp to prevent tennis rackets, etc., from warping when not in use.

press' (pres) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to recruit (men) by forcible measures for military service. 2. to use for a purpose other than intended, (esp. in **press into service**). ~*n.* 3. recruitment into military service by forcible measures, as by a press gang.

press agent *n.* a person employed to obtain favourable publicity, such as notices in newspapers, for an organization, actor, etc.

press conference *n.* an interview for press reporters given by a politician, film star, etc.

press gallery *n.* an area for newspaper reporters, esp. in a legislative assembly.

press gang *n.* 1. (formerly) a detachment of men used to press civilians for service in the navy or army. ~*vb.* **press-gang.** (*tr.*) 2. to force (a person) to join the navy or army by a press gang. 3. to induce (a person) to perform a duty by forceful persuasion.

pressing ('presɪŋ) *adj.* 1. demanding immediate attention. 2. persistent or importunate. ~*n.* 3. a large specified number of gramophone records produced at one time from a master record. —**pressingly** *adv.*

press stud *n.* a fastening device consisting of one part with a projecting knob that snaps into a hole on another like part, used esp. on clothing.

press-up *n.* an exercise in which the body is alternately raised from and lowered to the floor by the arms only, the trunk being kept straight. Also called (U.S.): **push-up**.

pressure ('preʃə) *n.* 1. the state of pressing or being pressed. 2. the exertion of force by one body on the surface of another. 3. a moral force that compels: *to bring pressure to bear.* 4. urgent claims or demands: *to work under pressure.* 5. a burdensome condition that is hard to bear: *the pressure of grief.* 6. the force applied to a unit area of a surface, usually measured in pascals, millibars, torrs, or atmospheres. 7. short for **blood pressure**. ~*vb.* 8. (*tr.*) *Chiefly U.S.* to constrain or compel, as by moral force. 9. another word for **pressurize**.

pressure cooker *n.* a strong hermetically sealed pot in which food may be cooked quickly under pressure at a temperature above the normal boiling point of water. —**pressure-cook** *vb.*

pressure group *n.* a group of people who seek to exert pressure on legislators, public opinion, etc., in order to promote their own ideas or welfare.

pressurize or -ise ('preʃə,raɪz) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to increase the pressure in (an enclosure, such as an aircraft cabin) in order to maintain approximately atmospheric pressure when the external pressure is low. 2. to increase pressure on (a fluid). —**pressuri'zation** or **-i'sation** *n.*

Prestel ('prestel) *n.* *Trademark.* (in Britain) the Post Office public viewdata service.

prestidigitation (,presti,dɪdʒɪ'teɪʃən) *n.* another name for sleight of hand. —**presti'digitator** *n.*

prestige (pre'sti:ʒ) *n.* 1. high status or reputation achieved through success, influence, wealth, etc.; renown. 2. a. the power to impress; glamour. b. (*modifier*): *a prestige car.* —**prestigious** (pre'stɪdʒəs) *adj.*

presto ('prestəʊ) *adj., adv.* 1. *Music.* to be played very fast. ~*adv.* 2. immediately (esp. in **hey presto**). ~*n.*, *pl. -tos.* 3. *Music.* a passage directed to be played very quickly.

prestressed concrete (pri:'strest) *n.* concrete that contains steel wires that are stretched to counteract the stresses that will occur under load.

presumably (pri'zju:məbli) *adv.* (*sentence modifier*) one supposes that: *presumably he won't see you, if you're leaving tomorrow.*

presume (pri'zju:m) *vb.* 1. (when *tr.*, often takes a clause as object) to take (something) for granted; as-

sume. 2. (when *tr.*, often foll. by an infinitive) to dare (to do something): *do you presume to copy my work?* 3. (*intr.*; foll. by *on* or *upon*) to rely or depend: *don't presume on his agreement.* 4. (*intr.*; foll. by *on* or *upon*) to take advantage of: *don't presume upon his good nature too far.* 5. Law. to take as proved until contrary evidence is produced. —**presumedly** (*prɪ'zjuːmɪdli*) *adv.*

presumption (*prɪ'zʌmpʃən*) *n.* 1. the act of presuming. 2. bold or insolent behaviour. 3. a belief or assumption based on reasonable evidence. 4. a basis on which to presume. 5. Law. an inference of the truth of a fact from other facts proved. —**presumptive** *adj.*

presumptuous (*prɪ'zʌmpʃjuəs*) *adj.* characterized by presumption or tending to presume; bold; forward. —**presumptuously** *adv.* —**presumptuousness** *n.*

presuppose (*ˌprɪsə'pəʊz*) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to take for granted. 2. to require as a necessary prior condition. —**presupposition** (*ˌprɪsə'pəʊzɪʃən*) *n.*

pretence or U.S. **pretense** (*prɪ'tens*) *n.* 1. the act of pretending. 2. a false display; affectation. 3. a claim, esp. a false one, to a right, title, or distinction. 4. make-believe. 5. a pretext.

pretend (*prɪ'tend*) *vb.* 1. (when *tr.*, usually takes a clause as object or an infinitive) to claim or allege (something untrue). 2. (*tr.*; may take a clause as object or an infinitive) to make believe, as in a play: *you pretend to be Ophelia.* 3. (*intr.*; foll. by *to*) to present a claim, esp. a dubious one: *to pretend to the throne.* 4. (*intr.*; foll. by *to*) *Obs.* to aspire as a candidate or suitor (*for*).

pretender (*prɪ'tendə*) *n.* 1. a person who pretends or makes false allegations. 2. a person who mounts a claim, as to a throne or title.

pretension (*prɪ'tenʃən*) *n.* 1. (*often pl.*) a false claim, esp. to merit, worth, or importance. 2. a specious or unfounded allegation; pretext. 3. the quality of being pretentious.

pretentious (*prɪ'tenʃəs*) *adj.* 1. making claim to distinction or importance, esp. undeservedly. 2. ostentatious. —**pretentiously** *adv.* —**pretentiousness** *n.*

preterite or esp. U.S. **preterit** (*'pretɪt*) *Grammar.* ~*n.* 1. a tense of verbs used to relate past action, formed in English by inflection of the verb, as *jumped*, *swam*. 2. a verb in this tense. ~*adj.* 3. denoting this tense.

prternatural (*ˌprɪtə'nætʃrəl*) *adj.* 1. beyond what is ordinarily found in nature; abnormal. 2. another word for **supernatural**. —**preter-naturally** *adv.*

pretext (*'prɪtekst*) *n.* 1. a fictitious reason given in order to conceal the real one. 2. a pretence.

prettify (*'prɪtɪfaɪ*) *vb.* **-tying, -tied.** (*tr.*) *Often ironical.* to make pretty; embellish. —**prettification** *n.* —**'prettifier** *n.*

pretty (*'prɪtɪ*) *adj.* **-tier, -tiest.** 1. pleasing or appealing in a delicate or graceful way. 2. dainty, neat, or charming. 3. *Inf.*, often *ironical.* excellent, grand, or fine: *here's a pretty mess!* 4. commendable; good of its kind: *he replied with a pretty wit.* 5. *Inf.* effeminate; foppish. 6. *Arch.* or *Scot.* vigorous or brave. 7. a pretty penny. *Inf.* a large sum of money. 8. sitting pretty. *Inf.* in a favourable or satisfactory state. ~*n.*, *pl.* **-ties.** 9. a pretty person or thing. ~*adv.* 10. *Inf.* fairly; somewhat. 11. *Inf.* very. ~*vb.* **-tying, -tied.** 12. (*tr.*; often foll. by *up*) to make pretty; adorn. —**'prettily** *adv.* —**'prettiness** *n.*

▷ **Usage.** The use of *pretty* as an adverb meaning *fairly* or *quite* is accepted informal usage but is avoided in formal contexts by careful writers of English: *the profit was fairly (not pretty) large that year.*

pretty-pretty *adj. Inf.* excessively or ostentatiously pretty.

pretzel (*'pretsəl*) *n.* a brittle savoury biscuit, in the form of a knot or stick, eaten esp. in Germany.

prevail (*prɪ'veɪl*) *vb. (intr.)* 1. (often foll. by *over* or *against*) to prove superior; gain mastery: *skill will prevail.* 2. to be the most important feature; be prevalent. 3. to exist widely; be in force. 4. (often foll. by *on* or *upon*) to succeed in persuading or inducing. —**pre'vail-er** *n.*

prevailing (*prɪ'veɪlɪŋ*) *adj.* 1. generally accepted; widespread: *the prevailing opinion.* 2. most frequent; predominant: *the prevailing wind is from the north.* —**pre'vailingly** *adv.*

prevalent (*'prevalənt*) *adj.* 1. widespread or current.

2. superior in force or power; predominant. —**'prevalence** *n.* —**'prevalently** *adv.*

prevaricate (*prɪ'veəriˌkeɪt*) *vb. (intr.)* to speak or act falsely or evasively with intent to deceive. —**pre'veari-cation** *n.* —**pre'variator** *n.*

prevent (*prɪ'vent*) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to keep from happening, esp. by taking precautionary action. 2. (*tr.*; often foll. by *from*) to keep (someone from doing something). 3. (*intr.*) to interpose or act as a hindrance. 4. (*tr.*) *Arch.* to anticipate or precede. —**pre'ventable** or **pre'ventible** *adj.* —**pre'ventably** or **pre'ventibly** *adv.* —**pre'venter** *n.* —**pre'vention** *n.*

preventive (*prɪ'ventɪv*) *adj.* 1. tending or intended to prevent or hinder. 2. *Med.* tending to prevent disease; prophylactic. 3. (in Britain) of, relating to, or belonging to the customs and excise service or the coastguard. ~*n.* 4. something that serves to prevent or hinder. 5. *Med.* any drug or agent that tends to prevent disease. Also (for senses 1, 2, 4, 5) **preventative** (*prɪ'ventətɪv*). —**pre'ventively** or **pre'ventatively** *adv.*

preview (*'prɪvjʊː*) *n.* 1. an advance view or sight. 2. an advance showing before public presentation of a film, art exhibition, etc., usually before an invited audience. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to view in advance.

previous (*'prɪvɪəs*) *adj.* 1. (*prepositional*) existing or coming before something else. 2. (*postpositive*) *Inf.* taking place or done too soon; premature. 3. previous to, before. —**'previously** *adv.* —**'previousness** *n.*

prey (*preɪ*) *n.* 1. an animal hunted or captured by another for food. 2. a person or thing that becomes the victim of a hostile person, influence, etc. 3. *bird or beast of prey.* a bird or animal that preys on others for food. 4. an archaic word for **booty**. ~*vb. (intr.*; often foll. by *on* or *upon*) 5. to hunt food by killing other animals. 6. to make a victim (of others), as by profiting at their expense. 7. to exert a depressing or obsessive effect (on the mind, spirits, etc.). —**'preyer** *n.*

price (*praɪs*) *n.* 1. the sum in money or goods for which anything is or may be bought or sold. 2. the cost at which anything is obtained. 3. the cost of bribing a person. 4. a sum of money offered as a reward for a capture or killing. 5. value or worth, esp. high worth. 6. *Gambling.* another word for **odds**. 7. at any price. whatever the price or cost. 8. at a price. at a high price. 9. what price (something)? what are the chances of (something) happening now? ~*vb. (tr.)* 10. to fix the price of. 11. to discover the price of. 12. **price out of the market.** to charge so highly for as to prevent the sale, hire, etc., of. —**'pricer** *n.*

price control *n.* the establishment and maintenance of maximum price levels for basic goods and services by a government.

price-fixing *n.* *Chiefly U.S.* 1. the setting of prices by agreement among producers and distributors. 2. another name for **price control** or **resale price maintenance**.

priceless (*'praɪslɪs*) *adj.* 1. of inestimable worth; invaluable. 2. *Inf.* extremely amusing or ridiculous. —**'pricelessly** *adv.* —**'pricelessness** *n.*

pricier or **pricy** (*'praɪsɪ*) *adj.* **pricier, priciest.** an informal word for **expensive**.

prick (*prɪk*) *vb. (mainly tr.)* 1. **a.** to make (a small hole) in (something) by piercing lightly with a sharp point. **b.** to wound in this manner. 2. (*intr.*) to cause or have a piercing or stinging sensation. 3. to cause to feel a sharp emotional pain: *knowledge of such poverty pricked his conscience.* 4. to puncture something. 5. to outline by dots or punctures. 6. (*also intr.*; usually foll. by *up*) to rise or raise erect: *the dog pricked his ears up.* 7. (usually foll. by *out* or *off*) to transplant (seedlings) into a larger container. 8. *Arch.* to urge on, esp. to spur a horse on. 9. **prick up one's ears.** to listen attentively. ~*n.* 10. the act of pricking or the sensation of being pricked. 11. a mark made by a sharp point; puncture. 12. a sharp emotional pain: *a prick of conscience.* 13. a taboo slang word for **penis**. 14. *Sl.*, *derog.* an obnoxious or despicable person. 15. an instrument or weapon with a sharp point. 16. the track of an animal, esp. a hare. 17. **kick against the pricks.** to hurt oneself by struggling against something in vain. —**'pricker** *n.*

prickle (*'prɪkl̩*) *n.* 1. *Bot.* a pointed process arising from the outer layer of a stem, leaf, etc., and containing no woody tissue. Cf. **thorn**. 2. a pricking or stinging sensation. ~*vb.* 3. to feel or cause to feel a stinging sensation. 4. (*tr.*) to prick, as with a thorn.

prickly (*'prɪklɪ*) *adj.* **-lier, -liest.** 1. having or covered

with prickles. 2. stinging. 3. irritable. 4. full of difficulties: a *prickly problem*. — '**prickliness** *n.*

prickly heat *n.* a nontechnical name for *miliaria*.

prickly pear *n.* 1. any of various tropical cacti having flattened or cylindrical spiny joints and oval fruit that is edible in some species. 2. the fruit of any of these plants.

pride (praɪd) *n.* 1. a feeling of honour and self-respect; a sense of personal worth. 2. excessive self-esteem; conceit. 3. a source of pride. 4. satisfaction or pleasure in one's own or another's success, achievements, etc. (esp. in **take (a) pride in**). 5. the better or superior part of something. 6. the most flourishing time. 7. a group (of lions). 8. courage; spirit. 9. Arch. pomp or splendour. 10. **pride of place**, the most important position. ~*vb.* 11. (*tr.*; foll. by *on* or *upon*) to take pride in (oneself) for. — '**prideful** *adj.* — '**pridefully** *adv.*

prie-dieu (pri:'dʒi:) *n.* a piece of furniture consisting of a low surface for kneeling upon and a narrow front surmounted by a rest, for use when praying.

priest (pri:st) or (*fem.*) **priestess** *n.* 1. a person ordained to act as a mediator between God and man in administering the sacraments, preaching, etc. 2. (in episcopal Churches) a minister in the second grade of the hierarchy of holy orders, ranking below a bishop but above a deacon. 3. a minister of any religion. 4. an official who offers sacrifice on behalf of the people and performs other religious ceremonies. ~*vb.* 5. (*tr.*) to make a priest; ordain. — '**priest, hood** *n.* — '**priest, like** *adj.* — '**priestly** *adj.*

prig (prɪg) *n.* a person who is smugly self-righteous and narrow-minded. — '**priggery** or '**priggishness** *n.* — '**priggish** *adj.* — '**priggishly** *adv.*

prim (prɪm) *adj.* **primer**, **primmest**. 1. affectedly proper, precise, or formal. ~*vb.* **primming**, **primmed**. 2. (*tr.*) to make prim. 3. to purse (the mouth) primly or (of the mouth) to be so pursed. — '**primly** *adv.* — '**primness** *n.*

prima ballerina ('prɪ:mə) *n.* a leading female ballet dancer.

primacy ('prɪməsɪ) *n.*, *pl.* -**cies**. 1. the state of being first in rank, grade, etc. 2. *Ecclesiast.* the office, rank, or jurisdiction of a primate, senior bishop, or pope.

prima donna ('prɪ:mə 'dɒnə) *n.*, *pl.* **prima donnas**. 1. a leading female operatic star. 2. *Inf.* a temperamental person.

prima facie ('prɪmə 'feɪʃi) *adv.* at first sight; as it seems at first.

primal ('prɪməl) *adj.* 1. first or original. 2. chief or most important.

primarily ('prɪməriəl) *adv.* 1. principally; chiefly; mainly. 2. at first; originally.

primary ('prɪməri) *adj.* 1. first in importance, degree, rank, etc. 2. first in position or time, as in a series. 3. fundamental; basic. 4. being the first stage; elementary. 5. (*pronominal*) of or relating to the education of children up to the age of 11. 6. (of the flight feathers of a bird's wing) growing from the manus. 7. *a.* being the part of an electric circuit, such as a transformer, in which a changing current induces a current in a neighbouring circuit: a *primary coil*. *b.* (of a current) flowing in such a circuit. 8. *a.* (of a product) consisting of a natural raw material; unmanufactured. *b.* (of production or industry) involving the extraction or winning of such products. 9. (of Latin, Greek, or Sanskrit tenses) referring to present or future time. 10. *Geol.*, *obs.* relating to the Palaeozoic or earlier eras. ~*n.*, *pl.* -**ries**. 11. a person or thing that is first in rank, occurrence, etc. 12. (in the U.S.) a preliminary election in which the voters of a state or region choose a party's convention delegates, nominees for office, etc. Full name: **primary election**. 13. See **primary colour**. 14. any of the flight feathers growing from the manus of a bird's wing. 15. a primary coil, winding, inductance, or current in an electric circuit. 16. *Astron.* a celestial body around which one or more specified secondary bodies orbit: *the sun is the primary of the earth*.

primary accent or stress *n.* *Linguistics*, the strongest accent in a word or breath group, as that on the first syllable of *agriculture*.

primary colour *n.* 1. any of the colours red, green, or blue. An equal mixture of the three gives white light. 2. any one of the colours magenta, yellow, or cyan. An equal mixture of the three produces a black pigment. 3. any one of the colours red, yellow, green, blue, black, or white. Any colour can be regarded as formed from a mixture of two or more of these.

primary school *n.* 1. (in England and Wales) a

school for children below the age of 11. It is usually divided into an infant and a junior section. 2. (in Scotland) a school for children below the age of 12. 3. (in the U.S.) a school equivalent to the first three or four grades of elementary school.

primate¹ ('praɪmət) *n.* 1. any placental mammal of the order *Primates*, typically having flexible hands, good eyesight, and, in the higher apes, a highly developed brain: includes lemurs, apes, and man. ~*adj.* 2. of, relating to, or belonging to the order *Primates*. — '**primate**² (praɪ'meɪʃl) *adj.*

primate² ('praɪmət) *n.* 1. another name for an **archbishop**. 2. **Primate of all England**, the Archbishop of Canterbury. 3. **Primate of England**, the Archbishop of York.

prime (praɪm) *adj.* 1. (*pronominal*) first in quality or value; first-rate. 2. (*pronominal*) fundamental; original. 3. (*pronominal*) first in importance; chief. 4. *Maths.* *a.* having no factors except itself or one: $x^2 + x + 3$ is a prime polynomial. *b.* (foll. by *to*) having no common factors (with): 20 is prime to 21. 5. *Finance*. having the best credit rating: *prime investments*. ~*n.* 6. the time when a thing is at its best. 7. a period of power, vigour, etc. (esp. in the **prime of life**). 8. *Maths.* short for **prime number**. 9. *Chiefly* R.C. Church, the second of the seven canonical hours of the divine office, originally fixed for the first hour of the day, at sunrise. 10. the first of eight basic positions from which a parry or attack can be made in fencing. ~*vb.* 11. to prepare (something). 12. (*tr.*) to apply a primer, such as paint or size, to (a surface). 13. (*tr.*) to fill (a pump) with its working fluid before starting, in order to expel air from it before starting. 14. (*tr.*) to increase the quantity of fuel in the float chamber of (a carburettor) in order to facilitate the starting of an engine. 15. (*tr.*) to insert a primer into (a gun, mine, etc.) preparatory to detonation or firing. 16. (*tr.*) to provide with facts beforehand; brief. — '**primely** *adv.* — '**primeness** *n.*

prime meridian *n.* the 0° meridian from which the other meridians are calculated, usually taken to pass through Greenwich.

prime minister *n.* 1. the head of a parliamentary government. 2. the chief minister of a sovereign or a state.

prime number *n.* an integer that cannot be factorized into other integers but is only divisible by itself or 1, such as 2, 3, 7, and 11.

primer¹ ('prɪmə) *n.* an introductory text, such as a school textbook.

primer² ('prɪmə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that primes. 2. a device, such as a tube containing explosive, for detonating the main charge in a gun, mine, etc. 3. a substance, such as paint, applied to a surface as a base, sealer, etc.

primeval or **primaeval** (praɪ'mɪvəl) *adj.* of or belonging to the first ages of the world. — '**primevally** or '**primaevally** *adv.*

priming ('praɪmɪŋ) *n.* 1. something used to prime. 2. a substance used to ignite an explosive charge.

primitive ('prɪmɪtɪv) *adj.* 1. of or belonging to the beginning; original. 2. characteristic of an early state, esp. in being crude or uncivilized: a *primitive dwelling*. 3. *Anthropol.* denoting a preliterate and nonindustrial social system. 4. *Biol.* of, relating to, or resembling an early stage in development: *primitive amphibians*. 5. showing the characteristics of primitive painters; untrained, childlike, or naive. 6. *Geol.* of or denoting rocks formed in or before the Palaeozoic era. 7. denoting a word from which another word is derived, as for example *hope*, from which *hopeless* is derived. 8. *Protestant theol.* of or associated with a group that breaks away from a sect, denomination, or Church in order to return to what is regarded as the original simplicity of the Gospels. ~*n.* 9. a primitive person or thing. 10. *a.* an artist whose work does not conform to traditional standards of Western painting, such as a painter from an African civilization. *b.* a painter of the pre-Renaissance era in European painting. *c.* a painter of any era whose work appears childlike or untrained. 11. a work by such an artist. 12. a word from which another word is derived. 13. *Maths.* a curve or other form from which another is derived. — '**primitively** *adv.* — '**primitiveness** *n.*

primogenitor (,praɪməʊ'dʒenɪtə) *n.* 1. a forefather; ancestor. 2. an earliest parent or ancestor, as of a race.

primogeniture (,praɪməʊ'dʒɛntɪtʃə) *n.* 1. the state of being a first-born. 2. *Law*. the right of an eldest son to

succeed to the estate of his ancestor to the exclusion of all others. —**primogenitary** (ˈpraɪməʊdʒənɪtəri) *adj.*

primordial (ˈpraɪməʊdɪəl) *adj.* 1. existing at or from the beginning; primeval. 2. constituting an origin; fundamental. 3. *Biol.* relating to an early stage of development. —**primordially** *adv.*

primp (prɪmp) *vb.* to dress (oneself), esp. in fine clothes; prink.

primrose (ˈprɪm,rəʊz) *n.* 1. any of various temperate plants of the genus *Primula*, esp. a European variety which has pale yellow flowers. 2. short for **evening primrose**. 3. Also called: **primrose yellow**, a light yellow, sometimes with a greenish tinge. —*adj.* 4. of or abounding in primroses. 5. of the colour primrose.

primrose path *n.* (often preceded by *the*) a pleasurable way of life.

primula (ˈprɪmjʊlə) *n.* any plant of the *N* temperate genus *Primula*, having white, yellow, pink, or purple funnel-shaped flowers with five spreading petals: includes the primrose, oxlip, cowslip, and polyanthus.

Primus (ˈpraɪməs) *n.* *Trademark.* a portable paraffin cooking stove, used esp. by campers. Also called: **Primus stove**.

prince (prɪns) *n.* 1. (in Britain) a son of the sovereign or of one of the sovereign's sons. 2. a nonreigning male member of a sovereign family. 3. the monarch of a small territory that was at some time subordinate to an emperor or king. 4. any monarch. 5. a nobleman in various countries, such as Italy and Germany. 6. an outstanding member of a specified group: *a merchant prince*. —**princedom** *n.* —**prince, like** *adj.*

princling (ˈprɪnsɪŋ) *n.* 1. a young prince. 2. Also called: **princelet**, the ruler of an insignificant territory.

princely (ˈprɪnsli) *adj.* -lier, -liest. 1. generous or lavish. 2. of or characteristic of a prince. —*adv.* 3. in a princely manner. —**princeliness** *n.*

Prince of Wales *n.* the eldest son and heir apparent of the British sovereign.

princess (ˈprɪnsɪs) *n.* 1. (in Britain) a daughter of the sovereign or of one of the sovereign's sons. 2. a nonreigning female member of a sovereign family. 3. the wife and consort of a prince. 4. *Arch.* a female sovereign.

princess royal *n.* the eldest daughter of a British or (formerly) a Prussian sovereign.

principal (ˈprɪnsɪpl) *adj.* (*prenominal*) 1. first in importance, rank, value, etc. 2. denoting capital or property as opposed to interest, etc. —*n.* 3. a person who is first in importance or directs some event, organization, etc. 4. *Law, a.* a person who engages another to act as his agent. *b.* an active participant in a crime. *c.* the person primarily liable to fulfil an obligation. 5. the head of a school or other educational institution. 6. (in the British civil service) an officer of the grade below that of secretary. 7. *Finance, a.* capital or property, as contrasted with income. *b.* the original amount of a debt on which interest is calculated. 8. a main roof truss or rafter. 9. *Music.* either of two types of open diaphan organ stops. —**principally** *adv.* —**principal, ship** *n.*

principal boy *n.* the leading male role in a pantomime, played by a woman.

principality (ˈprɪnsɪpəlɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. a territory ruled by a prince or from which a prince draws his title. 2. the authority of a prince.

principal parts *pl. n.* *Grammar.* the main inflected forms of a verb, from which all other inflections may be deduced.

principle (ˈprɪnsɪpl) *n.* 1. a standard or rule of personal conduct. 2. a set of such moral rules: *a man of principle*. 3. a fundamental or general truth. 4. the essence of something. 5. a source; origin. 6. a law concerning a natural phenomenon or the behaviour of a system: *the principle of the conservation of mass*. 7. *Chem.* a constituent of a substance that gives the substance its characteristics. 8. **in principle**, in theory. 9. **on principle**, because of or in demonstration of a principle.

prink (prɪŋk) *vb.* 1. to dress (oneself, etc.) finely; deck out. 2. (*intr.*) to preen oneself.

print (prɪnt) *vb.* 1. to reproduce (text, pictures, etc.), esp. in large numbers, by applying ink to paper or other material. 2. to produce or reproduce (a manuscript, data, etc.) in print, as for publication. 3. to write (letters, etc.) in the style of printed matter. 4. to mark or indent (a surface) by pressing (something) onto it. 5. to produce a photographic print from (a negative). 6. (*tr.*) to fix in the mind or memory. 7. (*tr.*) to make (a mark) by applying pressure. —*n.* 8. printed matter such as

newsprint. 9. a printed publication such as a book. 10. **in print, a. in printed or published form. *b.* (of a book, etc.) offered for sale by the publisher. 11. **out of print**, no longer available from a publisher. 12. a design or picture printed from an engraved plate, wood block, or other medium. 13. printed text, esp. with regard to the typeface: *small print*. 14. a positive photographic image produced from a negative image on film. 15. *a.* a fabric with a printed design. *b.* (as *modifier*): *a print dress*. 16. *a.* a mark made by pressing something onto a surface. *b.* a stamp, die, etc., that makes such an impression. 17. See **fingerprint**. —See also **print out**. —**printable** *adj.***

printed circuit *n.* an electronic circuit in which certain components and the connections between them are formed by etching a metallic coating or by electro-deposition on one or both sides of a thin insulating board.

printer (ˈprɪntə) *n.* 1. a person or business engaged in printing. 2. a machine or device that prints. 3. *Computers.* an output device for printing results on paper.

printer's devil *n.* an apprentice or errand boy in a printing establishment.

printing (ˈprɪntɪŋ) *n.* 1. the business or art of producing printed matter. 2. printed text. 3. Also called: **impression**, all the copies of a book, etc., printed at one time. 4. a form of writing in which letters resemble printed letters.

printing press *n.* any of various machines used for printing.

print out *vb.* (*tr., adv.*) 1. (of a computer output device) to produce (printed information). —*n.* **print-out**. 2. such printed information.

prior¹ (ˈpraɪə) *adj.* 1. (*prenominal*) previous. 2. **prior to**, before; until.

prior² (ˈpraɪə) *n.* 1. the superior of a community in certain religious orders. 2. the deputy head of a monastery or abbey, immediately below the abbot. —**priorate** *n.* —**prioress** *fem. n.*

priority (ˈpraɪərɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. the condition of being prior; antecedence; precedence. 2. the right of precedence over others. 3. something given specified attention: *my first priority*.

priory (ˈpraɪəri) *n., pl. -ories.* a religious house governed by a prior, sometimes being subordinate to an abbey.

prise or **prize** (praɪz) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to force open by levering. 2. to extract or obtain with difficulty: *they had to prise the news out of him*.

prism (ˈprɪzəm) *n.* 1. a transparent polygonal solid, often having triangular ends and rectangular sides, for dispersing light into a spectrum or for reflecting light: used in binoculars, periscopes, etc. 2. *Maths.* a polyhedron having parallel bases and sides that are parallelograms.

prismatic (ˈprɪzˈmætɪk) *adj.* 1. of or produced by a prism. 2. exhibiting bright spectral colours: *prismatic light*. —**pris'matically** *adv.*

prison (ˈprɪzən) *n.* 1. a public building used to house convicted criminals and accused persons awaiting trial. 2. any place of confinement.

prisoner (ˈprɪzənə) *n.* 1. a person kept in custody as a punishment for a crime, while awaiting trial, or for some other reason. 2. a person confined by any of various restraints: *we are all prisoners of time*. 3. **take (someone) prisoner**, to capture and hold (someone) as a prisoner.

prisoner of war *n.* a person, esp. a serviceman, captured by an enemy in time of war. Abbrev.: **P.O.W.**

prissy (ˈprɪsi) *adj.* -sier, -siest. *Inf.* fussy and prim, esp. in a prudish way. —**prissily** *adv.* —**prissiness** *n.*

pristine (ˈprɪstɪn, -tɪn) *adj.* 1. of or involving the earliest period, state, etc.; original. 2. pure; uncorrupted.

privacy (ˈpraɪvəsi, ˈprɪvəsi) *n., pl. -cies.* 1. the condition of being private. 2. secrecy.

private (ˈpraɪvət) *adj.* 1. not widely or publicly known: *they had private reasons for the decision*. 2. confidential; secret: *a private conversation*. 3. not for general or public use: *a private bathroom*. 4. (*prenominal*) individual; special: *my own private recipe*. 5. (*prenominal*) having no public office, rank, etc.: *a private man*. 6. (*prenominal*) denoting a soldier of the lowest military rank. 7. **in private**, in secret. —*n.* 8. a soldier of the lowest rank in many armies and marine corps. —**privately** *adv.*

private bill *n.* a bill presented to Parliament or

Congress on behalf of a private individual, corporation, etc.

private company *n.* a limited company that does not issue shares for public subscription and whose owners do not enjoy an unrestricted right to transfer their shareholdings. Cf. **public company**.

privateer ('praɪvə'tɪə) *n.* 1. an armed privately owned vessel commissioned for war service by a government. 2. Also called: **privateersman**, a member of the crew of a privateer. ~*vb.* 3. (*intr.*) to serve as a privateer.

private eye *n. inf.* a private detective.

private income *n.* an income from sources other than employment, such as investment. Also called: **private means**.

private member *n.* a member of a legislative assembly not having an appointment in the government.

private member's bill *n.* a parliamentary bill sponsored by a Member of Parliament who is not a government minister.

private parts or privates ('praɪvɪts) *pl. n.* euphemistic terms for **genitals**.

private school *n.* a school under the financial and managerial control of a private body, accepting mostly fee-paying pupils.

privation ('praɪveɪʃən) *n.* 1. loss or lack of the necessities of life, such as food and shelter. 2. hardship resulting from this. 3. the state of being deprived.

privative ('prɪvətɪv) *adj.* 1. causing privation. 2. expressing lack or negation, as for example the English suffix *-less* and prefix *un-*.

privatize or -ise ('praɪvɪtaɪz) *vb. (tr.)* to take into, or return to, private ownership, a company or concern that has previously been owned by the state. —**privatization or -isation** *n.*

privet ('prɪvɪt) *n.* a. any of a genus of shrubs, esp. one having oval dark green leaves, white flowers, and purplish-black berries. *b. (as modifier):* a **privet hedge**.

privilege ('prɪvɪlɪdʒ) *n.* 1. a benefit, immunity, etc., granted under certain conditions. 2. the advantages and immunities enjoyed by a small usually powerful group or class, esp. to the disadvantage of others: *one of the obstacles to social harmony is privilege*. 3. *U.S. stock exchange*, a speculative contract permitting its purchaser to make optional purchases or sales of securities at a specified time over a limited period. ~*vb. (tr.)* 4. to bestow a privilege or privileges upon. 5. (*fol.* by *from*) to free or exempt.

privileged ('prɪvɪlɪdʒd) *adj.* 1. enjoying or granted as a privilege or privileges. 2. *Law*, a. not actionable as a libel or slander. *b. (of a communication, document, etc.)* that a witness cannot be compelled to divulge.

privy ('prɪvi) *adj.* **privier, priviest**. 1. (*postpositive*; *fol.* by *to*) participating in the knowledge of something secret. 2. *Arch.* secret, hidden, etc. ~*n., pl. privies*. 3. a small lavatory, esp. an outhouse. 4. *Law*, a person in a legally recognized relationship with another. —**privily** *adv.*

privy council *n.* 1. the council of state of a monarch, esp. formerly. 2. *Arch.* a secret council.

Privy Council *n.* 1. the private council of the British sovereign, consisting of all current and former ministers of the Crown and other distinguished subjects, all of whom are appointed for life. 2. (*in Canada*), a ceremonial body of advisors of the Governor General, the chief of them being the Federal cabinet ministers. —**Privy Councillor** *n.*

privy purse *n. (often cap.)* 1. an allowance voted by Parliament for the private expenses of the monarch. 2. an official of the royal household responsible for dealing with the monarch's private expenses. Full name: **Keeper of the Privy Purse**.

privy seal *n. (often cap.)* (*in Britain*) a seal affixed to certain documents issued by royal authority; of less importance than the great seal.

prize¹ ('praɪz) *n.* 1. a. a reward or honour for having won a contest, competition, etc. *b. (as modifier):* *prize jockey; prize essay*. 2. something given to the winner of any game of chance, lottery, etc. 3. something striven for. 4. any valuable property captured in time of war, esp. a vessel.

prize² ('praɪz) *vb. (tr.)* to esteem greatly; value highly.

prizefight ('praɪzfaɪt) *n.* a boxing match for a prize or purse. —**prize, fighter** *n.* —**prize, fighting** *n.*

pro¹ ('prəʊ) *adv.* 1. in favour of a motion, issue, course of action, etc. ~*prep.* 2. in favour of. ~*n., pl. pros*. 3. (*usually pl.*) an argument or vote in favour of a proposal or motion.

pro² ('prəʊ) *n., pl. pros, adj. inf.* 1. short for **professional**. 2. a professional prostitute.

P.R.O. *abbrev. for:* 1. Public Records Office. 2. public relations officer.

pro-¹ *prefix.* 1. in favour of; supporting: *pro-Chinese*. 2. acting as a substitute for: *proconsul; pronoun*.

pro-² *prefix.* before in time or position; anterior; forward: *prognathous*.

probability ('prɒbə'bɪləti) *n., pl. -ties*. 1. the condition of being probable. 2. an event or other thing that is probable. 3. *Statistics*, a measure of the relative frequency or likelihood of occurrence. Values are derived from a theoretical distribution or from observations.

probable ('prɒbəb'l) *adj.* 1. likely to be or to happen but not necessarily so. 2. most likely: *the probable cause of the accident*. ~*n.* 3. a person who is probably to be chosen for a team, event, etc.

probably ('prɒbəbli) *adv.* 1. (*sentence modifier*) in all likelihood or probability: *I'll probably see you tomorrow*. ~ 2. *sentence substitute*. I believe such a thing may be the case.

probate ('prəʊbɪt, -beɪt) *n.* 1. the process of officially proving the validity of a will. 2. the official certificate stating a will to be genuine and conferring on the executors power to administer the estate. 3. (*modifier*) relating to probate: *a probate court*. ~*vb.* 4. (*tr.*) *Chiefly U.S.* to establish officially the validity of (a will).

probation ('prəʊbeɪʃən) *n.* 1. a system of dealing with offenders by placing them under the supervision of a probation officer. 2. *on probation*, a. under the supervision of a probation officer. *b. undergoing a test period*. 3. a trial period, as for a teacher. —**prob'ational or prob'ationary** *adj.*

probationer ('prəʊbeɪʃənə) *n.* a person on probation.

probation officer *n.* an officer of a court who supervises offenders placed on probation and assists and befriends them.

probe ('prəʊb) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to search into closely. 2. to examine (something) with or as if with a probe. ~*n.* 3. something that probes or tests. 4. *Surgery*, a slender instrument for exploring a wound, sinus, etc. 5. a thorough inquiry, such as one by a newspaper into corrupt practices. 6. *Electronics*, a lead connecting to or containing a monitoring circuit used for testing. 7. anything which provides or acts as a coupling, esp. a flexible tube extended from an aircraft to link it with another so that it can refuel. 8. See **space probe**. —**probeable** *adj.* —**prober** *n.*

probity ('prɒbɪti) *n.* confirmed integrity.

problem ('prɒbləm) *n.* 1. a. any thing, matter, person, etc., that is difficult to deal with. *b. (as modifier):* *a problem child*. 2. a puzzle, question, etc., set for solution. 3. *Maths*, a statement requiring a solution usually by means of several operations or constructions. 4. (*modifier*) designating a literary work that deals with difficult moral questions: *a problem play*.

problematic ('prɒblə'mætɪk) or **problematical** *adj.* 1. having the nature of a problem; uncertain; questionable. 2. *Logic*, (of a proposition or judgment) that may or may not be true. —**problem'atically** *adv.*

proboscis ('prɒʊ'bɒsɪs) *n., pl. -cises or -cides* (-sɪ,dɪz). 1. a long flexible prehensile trunk or snout, as of an elephant. 2. the elongated mouthparts of certain insects. 3. any similar organ. 4. *Inf., facetious*, a person's nose.

procedure ('prə'si:dʒə) *n.* 1. a way of acting or progressing, esp. an established method. 2. the established form of conducting the business of a legislature, the enforcement of a legal right, etc. 3. *Computers*, another name for **subroutine**. —**pro'cedural** *adj.* —**pro'cedurally** *adv.*

proceed ('prə'si:d) *vb. (intr.)* 1. (*often foll. by to*) to advance or carry on, esp. after stopping. 2. (*often foll. by with*) to continue: *he proceeded with his reading*. 3. (*often foll. by against*) to institute or carry on a legal action. 4. to originate; arise: *evil proceeds from the heart*. —**pro'ceeder** *n.*

proceeding ('prə'si:dɪŋ) *n.* 1. an act or course of action. 2. a. a legal action. *b. any step taken in a legal action*. 3. (*pl.*) the minutes of the meetings of a society, etc. 4. (*pl.*) legal action; litigation. 5. (*pl.*) the events of an occasion.

proceeds ('prəʊsɪdz) *pl. n.* 1. the profit or return derived from a commercial transaction, investment, etc. 2. the result, esp. the total sum, accruing from some undertaking.

process ('prəʊses) *n.* 1. a series of actions which

produce a change or development: *the process of digestion*. 2. a method of doing or producing something. 3. progress or course of time. 4. in the **process** of, during or in the course of. 5. a. a summons commanding a person to appear in court. b. the whole proceedings in an action at law. 6. a natural outgrowth or projection of a part or organism. 7. (*modifier*) relating to the general preparation of a printing forme or plate by the use, at some stage, of photography. ~vb. (tr.) 8. to subject to a routine procedure; handle. 9. to treat or prepare by a special method: *to process cheese*. 10. a. to institute legal proceedings against. b. to serve a process on. 11. *Photog.* a. to develop, rinse, fix, wash, and dry (exposed film, etc.). b. to produce final prints or slides from (undeveloped film). 12. *Computers.* to perform operations on (data) according to programmed instructions in order to obtain the required information.

procession (prə'seʃən) *n.* 1. the act of proceeding in a regular formation. 2. a group of people or things moving forwards in an orderly, regular, or ceremonial manner. 3. the emanation of the Holy Spirit. ~vb. 4. (*intr.*) Rare. to go in procession.

processional (prə'seʃənəl) *adj.* 1. of or suitable for a procession. ~n. 2. *Christianity.* a. a book containing the prayers, hymns, etc., prescribed for processions. b. a hymn, etc., used in a procession.

processor (prə'sesə) *n.* 1. *Computers.* another name for **central processing unit**. 2. a person or thing that carries out a process.

process-server *n.* a sheriff's officer who serves legal documents such as writs for appearance in court.

proclaim (prə'kleɪm) *vb.* (tr.) 1. (*may take a clause as object*) to announce publicly. 2. (*may take a clause as object*) to indicate plainly. 3. to praise or extol. —**proclamation** (prə'klæməʃən) *n.* —**proclamatory** (prə'klæmətəri) *adj.* —**proclaimer** *n.*

proclivity (prə'klɪvɪti) *n.* *pl.* -ties. a tendency or inclination.

procrastinate (prəʊ'kræstɪneɪt, prə-) *vb.* (*usually intr.*) to put off (an action) until later; delay. —**procrastination** *n.* —**procrastinator** *n.*

procreate (prə'kreɪt) *vb.* 1. to beget or engender (offspring). 2. (tr.) to bring into being. —**procreation** *n.* —**procreant** or **procreative** *adj.* —**procreator** *n.*

Procrustean (prə'krʌstɪən) *adj.* designed to produce conformity by ruthless methods.

proctor ('prɒktə) *n.* 1. a member of the staff of certain universities having duties including the enforcement of discipline. 2. (formerly) an agent, esp. one engaged to conduct another's case in a court. 3. *Church of England.* one of the elected representatives of the clergy in Convocation. —**proctorial** (prɒk'tɔ:riəl) *adj.*

procurator (prɒ'kjʊəreɪtə) *n.* 1. (in ancient Rome) a civil official of the emperor's administration, often employed as the governor of a minor province. 2. Rare. a person engaged by another to manage his affairs. —**procuracy** (prɒ'kjʊərəsɪ) or **procuratorship** *n.* —**procuratorial** (prɒ'kjʊəreɪtɔ:riəl) *adj.*

procurator fiscal *n.* (in Scotland) a legal officer who performs the functions of public prosecutor and coroner.

procure (prə'kjʊə) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to obtain or acquire; secure. 2. to obtain (women or girls) to act as prostitutes. —**procurable** *adj.* —**procurement**, **procural**, or **procurator** *n.*

procurer (prə'kjʊərə) *n.* a person who procures, esp. a man who procures women as prostitutes.

prod (prɒd) *vb.* **prodding**, **prodded**. 1. to poke or jab with or as if with a pointed object. 2. (tr.) to rouse to action. ~n. 3. the act or an instance of prodding. 4. a sharp object. 5. a stimulus or reminder. —**prodder** *n.*

prodigal ('prɒdɪɡl) *adj.* 1. recklessly wasteful or extravagant, as in disposing of goods or money. 2. *lavish: prodigal of compliments.* ~n. 3. a person who spends lavishly or squanders money. —**prodigality** *n.* —**prodigally** *adv.*

prodigious (prə'dɪdʒəs) *adj.* 1. vast in size, extent, power, etc. 2. wonderful or amazing. —**prodigiously** *adv.* —**prodigiousness** *n.*

prodigy ('prɒdɪdʒɪ) *n.* *pl.* -gies. 1. a person, esp. a child, of unusual or marvellous talents. 2. anything that is a cause of wonder. 3. something monstrous or abnormal.

produce *vb.* (prə'dju:s) 1. to bring (something) into existence; yield. 2. to make: *she produced a delicious dinner*. 3. (tr.) to give birth to. 4. (tr.) to present to view: *to produce evidence*. 5. to bring before the public: *he produced a film last year*. 6. (tr.) *Geom.* to extend (a line). ~n. ('prɒdju:s) 7. anything produced; a product.

8. agricultural products collectively: *farm produce*. —**producible** *adj.* —**productibility** *n.*

producer (prə'dju:sə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that produces. 2. *Brit.* a person responsible for the artistic direction of a play. 3. *U.S.* a person who organizes the stage production of a play, including the finance, management, etc. 4. *Econ.* a person or business enterprise that generates goods or services for sale. Cf. **consumer** (sense 1). 5. *Chem.* an apparatus or plant for making producer gas.

product ('prɒdʌkt) *n.* 1. something produced by effort, or some mechanical or industrial process. 2. the result of some natural process. 3. a result or consequence. 4. *Maths.* the result of the multiplication of two or more numbers, quantities, etc.

production (prə'dʌkʃən) *n.* 1. the act of producing. 2. anything that is produced; a product. 3. the amount produced or the rate at which it is produced. 4. *Econ.* the creation or manufacture of goods and services with exchange value. 5. any work created as a result of literary or artistic effort. 6. the presentation of a play, opera, etc. 7. *Brit.* the artistic direction of a play. 8. (*modifier*) manufactured by mass-production: *a production model of a car*. —**productional** *adj.*

productive (prə'dʌktɪv) *adj.* 1. producing or having the power to produce; fertile. 2. yielding favourable results. 3. *Econ.* a. producing goods and services that have exchange value: *productive assets*. b. relating to such production: *the productive processes of an industry*. 4. (*postpositive*; foll. by *of*) resulting in: *productive of good results*. —**productively** *adv.* —**productivity** (prə'dʌk'tɪvɪti) or **productiveness** *n.*

proem ('prəʊem) *n.* an introduction or preface, such as to a work of literature. —**proemial** (prəʊ'ɪmiəl) *adj.*

Prof. abbrev. for Professor.

profane (prə'feɪn) *adj.* 1. having or indicating contempt, irreverence, or disrespect for a divinity or something sacred. 2. not designed for religious purposes; secular. 3. not initiated into the inner mysteries or sacred rites. 4. coarse or blasphemous: *profane language*. ~vb. (tr.) 5. to treat (something sacred) with irreverence. 6. to put to an unworthy use. —**profanation** (prə'fæneɪʃən) *n.* —**profanatory** (prə'fænətəri, -tri) *adj.* —**profaner** *n.* —**profanely** *adv.* —**profaneness** *n.*

profanity (prə'fæntɪ) *n.* *pl.* -ties. 1. the state or quality of being profane. 2. vulgar or irreverent action, speech, etc.

profess (prə'fes) *vb.* 1. to affirm or acknowledge: *to profess ignorance*; *to profess a belief in God*. 2. (tr.) to claim (something), often insincerely or falsely: *to profess to be a skilled driver*. 3. to receive or be received into a religious order, as by taking vows. —**professed** *adj.*

profession (prə'feʃən) *n.* 1. an occupation requiring special training in the liberal arts or sciences, esp. one of the three learned professions, law, theology, or medicine. 2. the body of people in such an occupation. 3. an avowal; declaration. 4. Also called: **profession of faith**, a declaration of faith in a religion, esp. as made on entering the Church or an order belonging to it.

professional (prə'feʃənəl) *adj.* 1. of, suitable for, or engaged in as a profession. 2. engaging in an activity as a means of livelihood. 3. a. extremely competent in a job, etc. b. (of a piece of work or anything performed) produced with competence or skill. 4. undertaken or performed by people who are paid. ~n. 5. a person who belongs to one of the professions. 6. a person who engages for his livelihood in some activity also pursued by amateurs. 7. a person who engages in an activity with great competence. 8. an expert player of a game who gives instruction, esp. to members of a club by whom he is hired. —**professionally** *adv.* —**professionism** *n.*

professor (prə'fesə) *n.* 1. Also called (esp. in the U.S.): **full professor**, the principal teacher in a field of learning at a university or college; a holder of a university chair. 2. Chiefly U.S. any teacher in a university or college. 3. a person who professes his opinions, beliefs, etc. —**professorial** (prə'fɜ:səriəl) *adj.* —**professorially** *adv.* —**professoriate** or **professorship** *n.*

proffer ('prɒfə) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to offer for acceptance. ~n. 2. the act of proffering.

proficient (prə'fɪʃənt) *adj.* 1. having great facility (in an art, occupation, etc.); skilled. ~n. 2. an expert. —**proficiency** *n.* —**proficiently** *adv.*

profile ('prəʊfaɪl) *n.* 1. a side view or outline of an object, esp. of a human head. 2. **keep a low profile**, to behave so as to avoid publicity or notice. 3. a short biographical sketch. 4. a graph or table representing

the extent to which a person, field, or object exhibits various tested characteristics: a *population profile*. 5. a vertical section of soil or rock showing the different layers. 6. the outline of the shape of a river valley either from source to mouth (**long profile**) or at right angles to the flow of the river (**cross profile**). ~vb. 7. (tr.) to draw, write, or make a profile of. —**profilist** ('prɒfɪlɪst) *n.*

profit ('prɒfɪt) *n.* 1. (often pl.) excess of revenues over outlays and expenses in a business enterprise. 2. the monetary gain derived from a transaction. 3. income derived from property or an investment, as contrasted with capital gains. 4. *Econ.* the income accruing to a successful entrepreneur and held to be the motivating factor of a capitalist economy. 5. a gain, benefit, or advantage. ~vb. 6. to gain or cause to gain profit. —**profitable** *adj.* —**profiter** *n.* —**profitless** *adj.*

profit and loss *n.* *Book-keeping.* an account compiled at the end of a financial year showing that year's revenue and expense items and indicating gross and net profit or loss.

profiteer ('prɒfɪtɪə) *n.* 1. a person who makes excessive profits, esp. by charging exorbitant prices for goods in short supply. ~vb. 2. (intr.) to make excessive profits.

profit-sharing *n.* a system in which a portion of the net profit of a business is distributed to its employees, usually in proportion to their wages or their length of service.

profligate ('prɒflɪɡɪt) *adj.* 1. shamelessly immoral or debauched. 2. wildly extravagant or wasteful. ~*n.* 3. a profligate person. —**profligacy** ('prɒflɪɡəsɪ) *n.* —**profligately** *adv.*

pro forma *Latin.* ('prəʊ'fɔ:mə) *adj.* 1. prescribing a set form or procedure. ~adv. 2. performed in a set manner.

profound ('prəʊfaʊnd) *adj.* 1. penetrating deeply into subjects or ideas: a *profound mind*. 2. showing or requiring great knowledge or understanding: a *profound treatise*. 3. situated at or extending to a great depth. 4. stemming from the depths of one's nature: *profound regret*. 5. intense or absolute: *profound silence*. 6. thoroughgoing; extensive: *profound changes*. ~*n.* 7. *Arch. or literary.* a great depth; abyss. —**profoundly** *adv.* —**profundity** ('prəʊfʌndɪtɪ) *n.*

profuse ('prəʊfju:s) *adj.* 1. plentiful or abundant: *profuse compliments*. 2. (often foll. by *in*) free or generous in the giving (of): *profuse in thanks*. —**profusely** *adv.* —**profuseness** or **profusion** *n.*

progenitor ('prəʊdʒɪnɪtə) *n.* 1. a direct ancestor. 2. an originator or founder.

progeny ('prɒdʒɪni) *n., pl. -nies.* 1. the immediate descendant or descendants of a person, animal, etc. 2. a result or outcome.

progesterone ('prəʊdʒestəˌrɒn) *n.* a steroid hormone, secreted mainly by the corpus luteum in the ovary, that prepares and maintains the uterus for pregnancy.

prognosis ('prɒɡnəʊsɪs) *n., pl. -noses* ('-nəʊsɪz). 1. *Med.* a prediction of the course or outcome of a disease. 2. any prediction. —**prognostic** ('-nɒsɪ) *adj.*

prognosticate ('prɒɡ'nɒstɪˌkeɪt) *vb.* 1. to foretell (future events); prophesy. 2. (tr.) to foreshadow or portend. —**prog.nostɪ'cation** *n.* —**prog'nosticative** *adj.* —**prog'nostɪˌcator** *n.*

program or (*sometimes*) **programme** ('prəʊɡræm) *n.* 1. a sequence of coded instructions fed into a computer, enabling it to perform specified logical and arithmetical operations on data. ~vb. -grams, -gramming, -grammed or -grammes, -gramming, -grammed. 2. (tr.) to feed a program into (a computer). 3. (tr.) to arrange (data) in a suitable form so that it can be processed by a computer. 4. (intr.) to write a program. —**programmer** *n.*

programmable or **programable** ('prəʊ'græməbəl) *adj.* capable of being programmed.

programme or **U.S. program** ('prəʊɡræm) *n.* 1. a written or printed list of the events, performers, etc., in a public performance. 2. a performance presented at a scheduled time, esp. on radio or television. 3. a specially arranged selection of things to be done: *what's the programme for this afternoon?* 4. a plan, schedule, or procedure. 5. a syllabus or curriculum. ~vb. -gramming, -grammed or *U.S.* -graming, -grammed. 6. to design or schedule (something) as a programme. ~*n., vb.* 7. *Computers.* a variant spelling of **program**. —, **program'matic** *adj.*

programming language *n.* a language system by

which instructions to a computer are coded, using a set of characters that is mutually comprehensible to user and computer.

progress *n.* ('prəʊɡres). 1. movement forwards, esp. towards a place or objective. 2. satisfactory development or advance. 3. advance towards completion or perfection. 4. (*modifier*) of or relating to progress: a *progress report*. 5. (formerly) a stately royal journey. 6. **in progress**, taking place. ~vb. ('prəʊ'gres). 7. (intr.) to move forwards or onwards. 8. to move towards or bring nearer to completion or perfection.

progression ('prəʊ'ɡreʃən) *n.* 1. the act of progressing; advancement. 2. the act or an instance of moving from one thing in a sequence to the next. 3. *Maths.* a sequence of numbers in which each term differs from the succeeding term by a constant relation. See also **arithmetic progression**, **geometric progression**. 4. *Mus.* movement from one note or chord to the next. —**pro'gressional** *adj.* —**pro'gressionally** *adv.*

progressive ('prəʊ'gresɪv) *adj.* 1. of or relating to progress. 2. progressing by steps or degrees. 3. (often *cap.*) favouring or promoting political or social reform: a *progressive policy*. 4. denoting an educational system that allows flexibility in learning procedures, based on activities determined by the needs and capacities of the individual child. 5. (esp. of a disease) advancing in severity, complexity, or extent. 6. (of a dance, card game, etc.) involving a regular change of partners. 7. denoting an aspect of verbs in some languages, including English, used to express continuous activity: a *progressive aspect of the verb "to walk" is "is walking"*. ~*n.* 8. a person who advocates progress, as in education, politics, etc. 9. a. the progressive aspect of a verb. b. a verb in this aspect. —**pro'gressively** *adv.* —**pro'gressiveness** *n.* —**pro'gressivism** *n.* —**pro'gressivist** *n.*

prohibit ('prəʊ'hɪbɪt) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to forbid by law or other authority. 2. to hinder or prevent. —**pro'hibitor** or **pro'hibitor** *n.*

prohibition ('prəʊ'hɪbɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of prohibiting or state of being prohibited. 2. an order or decree that prohibits. 3. (*sometimes cap.*) (esp. in the U.S.) a policy of legally forbidding the manufacture, sale, or consumption of alcoholic beverages. 4. *Law.* a writ from a superior court forbidding an inferior court to determine a matter outside its jurisdiction. —**prohi'bitionary** *adj.* —**prohi'bitionist** *n.*

Prohibition ('prəʊ'hɪbɪʃən) *n.* the period (1920–33) when the manufacture, sale, and transportation of intoxicating liquors was banned in the U.S. —, **Prohi'bitionist** *n.*

prohibitive ('prəʊ'hɪbɪtɪv) or **prohibitory** ('prəʊ'hɪbɪtəri) *adj.* 1. prohibiting or tending to prohibit. 2. (esp. of prices) tending or designed to discourage sale or purchase. —**pro'hibitively** *adv.* —**pro'hibitiveness** *n.*

project *n.* ('prɒdʒekt). 1. a proposal, scheme, or design. 2. a. a task requiring considerable or concerted effort, such as one by students. b. the subject of such a task. ~vb. ('prɒdʒekt). 3. (tr.) to propose or plan. 4. (tr.) to throw forwards. 5. to jut or cause to jut out. 6. (tr.) to transport in the imagination: *to project oneself into the future*. 7. to make a prediction based on known data and observations. 8. (tr.) to cause (an image) to appear on a surface. 9. to cause (one's voice) to be heard clearly at a distance. 10. *Psychol.* a. (intr.) (esp. of a child) to believe that others share one's subjective mental life. b. to impute to others (one's hidden desires). 11. (tr.) *Geom.* to draw a projection of. 12. (intr.) to communicate effectively, esp. to a large gathering.

projectile ('prɒdʒektəl) *n.* 1. an object thrown forwards. 2. any self-propelling missile, esp. a rocket. 3. any object that can be fired from a gun, such as a shell. ~*adj.* 4. designed to be hurled forwards. 5. projecting forwards.

projection ('prɒdʒekʃən) *n.* 1. the act of projecting or the state of being projected. 2. a part that juts out. 3. in map making, the representation on a plane of all or part of the earth's surface or of the celestial sphere. 4. the representation of a line, figure, or solid on a given plane as it would be seen from a particular direction or in accordance with an accepted set of rules. 5. a scheme or plan. 6. a prediction based on known evidence and observations. 7. a. the process of showing film on a screen. b. the images shown. 8. *Psychol.* a. the belief that others share one's subjective mental life. b. the process of projecting one's own hidden desires and impulses. —**pro'jectional** *adj.* —**pro'jective** *adj.*

projectionist ('prɒdʒekʃənɪst) *n.* a person responsible for the operation of film projection machines.

projector (prɒ'dʒektə) *n.* 1. an optical instrument that projects an enlarged image of individual slides. Full name: **slide projector**. 2. an optical instrument in which a film is wound past a lens so that the frames can be viewed as a continuously moving sequence. Full name: **film or cine projector**. 3. a device for projecting a light beam. 4. a person who devises projects.

prolapse ('prɒlæps, prəu'læps) *Pathol.* ~*n.* 1. Also: **prolapsus** (prəu'læpsəs), the sinking or falling down of an organ or part. ~*vb.* (*intr.*) 2. (of an organ, etc.) to sink from its normal position.

prolate ('prəʊleɪt) *adj.* having a polar diameter of greater length than the equatorial diameter. Cf. **oblate**. —**'prolately** *adv.*

prole (prəʊl) *n.* *Derog. sl., chiefly Brit.* a member of the proletariat; proletarian.

proletariat (,prəʊli'teəriət) *n.* 1. all wage-earners collectively. 2. the lower or working class. 3. (in Marxist theory) the class of wage-earners, esp. industrial workers, in a capitalist society, whose only possession of significant material value is their labour. 4. (in ancient Rome) the lowest class of citizens, who had no property. —**'proletarian** *adj., n.*

proliferate ('prɒlifə'reɪt) *vb.* 1. to grow or reproduce (new parts, cells, etc.) rapidly. 2. to grow or increase rapidly. —**'proliferation** *n.* —**'proliferative** *adj.*

prolific ('prɒlifɪk) *adj.* 1. producing fruit, offspring, etc., in abundance. 2. producing constant or successful results. 3. (often foll. by *in* or *of*) rich or fruitful. —**'prolifically** *adv.* —**'prolificness** or **'prolificacy** *n.*

prolix ('prɒlɪks, prəu'liks) *adj.* 1. (of a speech, book, etc.) so long as to be boring. 2. long-winded. —**'prolixity** *n.* —**'prolixly** *adv.*

prologue or *U.S. (often) prolog* ('prɒləʊg) *n.* 1. the prefatory lines introducing a play or speech. 2. a preliminary act or event. 3. (in early opera) a. an introductory scene in which a narrator summarizes the main action of the work. b. a brief independent play preceding the opera, esp. one in honour of a patron. ~*vb.* -**loguing**, -**logued** or *U.S.* -**logging**, -**logged**. 4. (*tr.*) to introduce with a prologue.

prolong (prə'ləŋ) *vb.* (*tr.*) to lengthen; extend. —**'prolongation** (,prɒləŋ'geɪʃən) *n.*

prom (prɒm) *n.* 1. *Brit.* short for **promenade** or **promenade concert**. 2. *U.S. inf.* a formal dance held at a high school or college.

PROM (prɒm) *n.* *Computers.* acronym for Programmable Read Only Memory.

promenade (,prɒmə'neɪd) *n.* 1. *Chiefly Brit.* a public walk, esp. at a seaside resort. 2. a leisurely walk, esp. one in a public place for pleasure or display. 3. a marchlike step in dancing. 4. a marching sequence in a square or country dance. ~*vb.* 5. to take a promenade in or through (a place). 6. (*intr.*) **Dancing.** to perform a promenade. 7. (*tr.*) to display or exhibit (someone or oneself) on or as if on a promenade. —**'promenade** *n.*

promenade concert *n.* a concert at which some of the audience stand rather than sit.

promethium (prə'mi:θəm) *n.* a radioactive element of the lanthanide series artificially produced by the fission of uranium. Symbol: Pm; atomic no.: 61; half-life of most stable isotope, ¹⁴⁷Pm: 17.7 years.

prominent ('prɒmɪnənt) *adj.* 1. jutting or projecting outwards. 2. standing out from its surroundings; noticeable. 3. widely known; eminent. —**'prominence** *n.* —**'prominently** *adv.* —**'prominentness** *n.*

promiscuous (prə'mɪskjuəs) *adj.* 1. indulging in casual and indiscriminate sexual relationships. 2. consisting of a number of dissimilar parts or elements mingled indiscriminately. 3. indiscriminate in selection. 4. casual or heedless. —**'promiscuously** *adv.* —**'promiscuity** (,prɒmɪ'skju:ti) or **'promiscuousness** *n.*

promise ('prɒmɪs) *vb.* 1. (often foll. by *to*; when *tr.*, may take a clause as object or an infinitive) to give an assurance of (something to someone): *I promise that I will come.* 2. (*tr.*) to undertake to give (something to someone): *he promised me a car for my birthday.* 3. (when *tr.*, takes an infinitive) to cause one to expect that one is likely (to be or do something): *she promises to be a fine soprano.* 4. (*usually passive*) *Obs.* to betroth: *I'm promised to Bill.* 5. (*tr.*) to assure (someone) of the authenticity or inevitability of something: *there'll be trouble, I promise you.* ~*n.* 6. an assurance given by one person to another agreeing or guaranteeing to do or not to do something. 7. indication of forthcoming excellence: *a writer showing considerable promise.* 8. the thing of which an assurance is given. —**'promiser** or (*Law*) **'promisor** *n.* —**'promis'ee** *n.*

Promised Land *n.* 1. *Old Testament.* the land of Canaan, promised by God to Abraham and his descendants as their heritage (Genesis 12:7). 2. *Christianity.* heaven. 3. any longed-for place where one expects to find greater happiness.

promising ('prɒmɪsɪŋ) *adj.* showing promise of future success. —**'promisingly** *adv.*

promissory note *n.* *Commerce.* a document containing a signed promise to pay a stated sum of money to a specified person at a designated date or on demand. Also called: **note, note of hand.**

promontory ('prɒməntəri, -tri) *n., pl. -ries.* 1. a high point of land, esp. of rocky coast, that juts out into the sea. 2. *Anat.* any of various projecting structures.

promote (prə'məʊt) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to encourage the progress or existence of. 2. to raise to a higher rank, status, etc. 3. to advance (a pupil or student) to a higher course, class, etc. 4. to work for: *to promote reform.* 5. to encourage the sale of (a product) by advertising or securing financial support. —**'promotable** *adj.* —**'promotion** *n.* —**'promotional** *adj.* —**'promotive** *adj.*

promoter (prə'məʊtə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that promotes. 2. a person who helps to organize, develop, or finance an undertaking. 3. a person who organizes and finances a sporting event, esp. a boxing match.

prompt (prɒmpt) *adj.* 1. performed or executed without delay. 2. quick or ready to act or respond. ~*adv.* 3. *Inf.* punctually. ~*vb.* 4. (*tr.*) to urge or induce (someone to do something). 5. to remind (an actor, singer, etc.) of lines forgotten during a performance. 6. (*tr.*) to refresh the memory of. 7. (*tr.*) to give rise to by suggestion: *his affairs will prompt discussion.* ~*n.* 8. *Commerce.* a. the time limit allowed for payment of the debt incurred by purchasing on credit. b. Also called: **prompt note.** a memorandum sent to a purchaser to remind him of the time limit and the sum due. 9. anything that serves to remind. —**'promptitude** *n.* —**'promptly** *adv.* —**'promptness** *n.*

prompter ('prɒmptə) *n.* 1. a person offstage who reminds the actors of forgotten lines or cues. 2. a person, thing, etc., that prompts.

promulgate ('prɒmʌl'geɪt) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to put into effect (a law, decree, etc.), esp. by formal proclamation. 2. to announce officially. 3. to make widespread. —**'promulgation** *n.* —**'promulgator** *n.*

pron. *abbrev. for:* 1. pronominal. 2. pronoun. 3. pronounced. 4. pronunciation.

prone (prəʊn) *adj.* 1. lying flat or face downwards; prostrate. 2. sloping or tending downwards. 3. having an inclination to do something. —**'prone** *adv.* —**'prone** *n.*

-prone *adj.* combining form. liable or disposed to suffer: *accident-prone.*

prong (prɒŋ) *n.* 1. a sharply pointed end of an instrument, such as on a fork. 2. any pointed projecting part. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to prick or spear with or as if with a prong. —**'pronged** *adj.*

pronominal (prəu'nɒmɪnəl) *adj.* relating to or playing the part of a pronoun. —**'pronominally** *adv.*

pronoun ('prəʊnaʊn) *n.* one of a class of words that serves to replace a noun or noun phrase that has already been or is about to be mentioned in the sentence or context. *Abbrev.: pron.*

pronounce (prə'naʊns) *vb.* 1. to utter or articulate (a sound or sounds). 2. (*tr.*) to utter (words) in the correct way. 3. (*tr.*; may take a clause as object) to proclaim officially: *I now pronounce you man and wife.* 4. (when *tr.*, may take a clause as object) to declare as one's judgment: *to pronounce the death sentence upon someone.* —**'pronounceable** *adj.* —**'pronouncer** *n.*

pronounced (prə'naʊnst) *adj.* 1. strongly marked or indicated. 2. (of a sound) articulated with vibration of the vocal cords; |voiced|. —**'pronouncedly** (prə'naʊnsɪdli) *adv.*

pronouncement (prə'naʊnsmənt) *n.* 1. an official or authoritative announcement. 2. the act of declaring or uttering formally.

pronto ('prɒntəʊ) *adv.* *U.S. inf.* at once.

pronunciation (prə'naʊnsɪ'eɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act, instance, or manner of pronouncing sounds. 2. the supposedly correct manner of pronouncing sounds in a given language. 3. a phonetic transcription of a word.

proof (pru:f) *n.* 1. any evidence that establishes or helps to establish the truth, validity, quality, etc., of something. 2. *Law.* the whole body of evidence upon which the verdict of a court is based. 3. *Maths, logic.* a sequence of steps or statements that establishes the

truth of a proposition. 4. the act of testing the truth of something (esp. in **put to the proof**). 5. *Scot. law*. trial before a judge without a jury. 6. *Printing*. a trial impression made from composed type for the correction of errors. 7. (in engraving, etc.) a print made by an artist or under his supervision for his own satisfaction before he hands the plate over to a professional printer. 8. *Photog.* a trial print from a negative. 9. a. the alcoholic strength of proof spirit. b. the strength of a liquor as measured on a scale in which the strength of proof spirit is 100 degrees. ~adj. 10. (usually *postpositive*; foll. by *against*) impervious (to): *the roof is proof against rain*. 11. having the alcoholic strength of proof spirit. 12. of proved impenetrability: *proof armour*. ~vb. 13. (tr.) to take a proof from (type matter, a plate, etc.). 14. to proofread (text) or inspect (a print, etc.), as for approval. 15. to render (something) proof, esp. to waterproof.

-proof adj. combining form. impervious to; resisting the effects of: *waterproof*.

proofread ('pru:f,ri:d) vb. -reading, -read (-,red). to read (copy or printer's proofs) and mark errors to be corrected. —'proof,reader n.

proof spirit n. (in Britain) a mixture of alcohol and water or an alcoholic beverage that contains 49.28 per cent of alcohol by weight, 57.1 per cent by volume at 60°F (15.6°C): used as a standard of alcoholic liquids.

prop ('prop) vb. **propping**, **propped**. (tr.; often foll. by *up*) 1. to support with a rigid object, such as a stick. 2. (usually also foll. by *against*) to place or lean. 3. to sustain or support. ~n. 4. something that gives rigid support, such as a stick. 5. In full **clothes prop**. a long wooden pole with a forked end used to raise a line of washing into the breeze. 6. a person or thing giving support, as of a moral nature. 7. *Rugby*. either of the forwards at either end of the front row of a scrum.

prop¹ ('prop) n. short for **property** (sense 8).

prop² ('prop) n. an informal word for **propeller**.

prop. abbrev. for: 1. proper(ly). 2. property. 3. proposition. 4. proprietor.

propaganda ('propa'gandə) n. 1. the organized dissemination of information, allegations, etc., to assist or damage the cause of a government, movement, etc. 2. such information, allegations, etc. —'propa'gandism n. —'propa'gandist n., adj.

propagate ('propa'geit) vb. 1. *Biol.* to reproduce or cause to reproduce; breed. 2. *Horticulture*. (tr.) to produce (plants) by layering, grafting, cuttings, etc. 3. (tr.) to promulgate. 4. *Physics*. to transmit, esp. in the form of a wave: *to propagate sound*. 5. (tr.) to transmit (characteristics) from one generation to the next. —'propa'gation n. —'propa'gational adj. —'propagative adj. —'propa'gator n.

propane ('prəu'pein) n. a flammable gaseous alkane found in petroleum and used as a fuel. Formula: $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$.

propel ('prə'pel) vb. -pelling, -pelled. (tr.) to impel, drive, or cause to move forwards. —'pro'pellant or 'pro'pellent n.

propeller ('prə'pelə) n. 1. a device having blades radiating from a central hub that is rotated to produce thrust to propel a ship, aircraft, etc. 2. a person or thing that propels.

propensity ('prə'pensiti) n., pl. -ties. 1. a natural tendency. 2. Obs. partiality.

proper ('prə'pə) adj. 1. (usually *prenominal*) appropriate or usual: *in its proper place*. 2. suited to a particular purpose: *use the proper knife to cut the bread*. 3. correct in behaviour. 4. vigorously or excessively moral. 5. up to a required or regular standard. 6. (immediately *postpositive*) (of an object, quality, etc.) referred to so as to exclude anything not directly connected with it: *his claim is connected with the deed proper*. 7. (*postpositive*; foll. by *to*) belonging to or characteristic of a person or thing. 8. (*prenominal*) *Brit. inf.* (intensifier): *I felt a proper fool*. 9. (usually *postpositive*) (of heraldic colours) considered correct for the natural colour of the object depicted: *three martlets proper*. 10. *Arch.* pleasant or good. 11. **good and proper**. *inf.* thoroughly. ~n. 12. the parts of the Mass that vary according to the particular day or feast on which the Mass is celebrated. —'properly adv. —'properness n.

proper fraction n. a fraction in which the numerator has a lower absolute value than the denominator, as $\frac{1}{2}$ or $x/(3+x^2)$.

proper noun or name n. the name of a person, place, or object, as for example *Iceland*, *Patrick*, or *Uranus*.

propertied ('prəpə'tid) adj. owning land or property.

property ('prəpə'ti) n., pl. -ties. 1. something of value, either tangible, such as land, or intangible, such as copyrights. 2. *Law*. the right to possess, use, and dispose of anything. 3. possessions collectively. 4. a. land or real estate. b. (as modifier): *property rights*. 5. *Chiefly Austral.* a ranch or station. 6. a quality or characteristic attribute, such as the density or strength of a material. 7. *Logic*. an attribute that is not essential to a species but is common and peculiar to it. 8. any movable object used on the set of a stage play or film. Usually shortened to **prop**.

prophecy ('prəfisi) n., pl. -cies. 1. a. a message of divine truth revealing God's will. b. the act of uttering such a message. 2. a prediction or guess. 3. the charismatic endowment of a prophet.

prophecy ('prəfisi) vb. -sying, -sied. 1. to foretell (something) by or as if by divine inspiration. 2. (*intr.*) *Arch.* to give instructions in religious subjects. —'prophesiable adj. —'prophesier n.

prophet ('prəfit) n. 1. a person who speaks by divine inspiration, esp. one through whom a divinity expresses his will. 2. a person who predicts the future: *a prophet of doom*. 3. a spokesman for a movement, doctrine, etc. —'prophetess fem. n.

Prophet ('prəfit) n. the. 1. the principal designation of Mohammed as the founder of Islam. 2. a name for Joseph Smith as founder of the Mormon Church.

prophetic ('prə'fetik) adj. 1. of or relating to a prophet or prophecy. 2. of the nature of a prophecy; predictive. —'prophetically adv.

prophylactic ('prəfi'læktik) adj. 1. protecting from or preventing disease. 2. protective or preventive. ~n. 3. a prophylactic drug or device. 4. *Chiefly U.S.* another name for **condom**.

propinquity ('prə'pɪŋkwɪti) n. 1. nearness in place or time. 2. nearness in relationship.

propitiate ('prə'pɪj,et) vb. (tr.) to appease or make well disposed; conciliate. —'propitiable adj. —'propitiation n. —'propitiative adj. —'propitiator n.

propitious ('prə'pɪʃəs) adj. 1. favourable or auspicious. 2. gracious or favourably inclined. —'propitiously adv. —'propitiousness n.

propjet ('prəp,dʒet) n. another name for **turboprop**.

proponent ('prə'pɒnənt) n. a person who argues in favour of something or puts forward a proposal, etc.

proportion ('prə'pɔ:ʃən) n. 1. relative magnitude or extent; ratio. 2. correct or desirable relationship between parts; symmetry. 3. a part considered with respect to the whole. 4. (*pl.*) dimensions or size: *a building of vast proportions*. 5. a share or quota. 6. a relationship that maintains a constant ratio between two variable quantities: *prices increase in proportion to manufacturing costs*. 7. *Maths.* a relationship between four numbers or quantities in which the ratio of the first pair equals the ratio of the second pair. ~vb. (tr.) 8. to adjust in relative amount, size, etc. 9. to cause to be harmonious in relationship of parts. —'proportionable adj. —'proportionably adv. —'proportionment n.

proportional ('prə'pɔ:ʃən'l) adj. 1. of, involving, or being in proportion. ~n. 2. *Maths.* an unknown term in a proportion: *in $a/b = c/x$, x is the fourth proportional*. —'proportionality n. —'proportionally adv.

proportional representation n. representation of parties in an elective body in proportion to the votes they win. Abbrev.: **P.R.**

proportionate adj. ('prə'pɔ:ʃənɪt). 1. being in proper proportion. ~vb. ('prə'pɔ:ʃənɪt). 2. (tr.) to make proportionate. —'proportionately adv.

proposal ('prə'pɔ:zəl) n. 1. the act of proposing. 2. something proposed, as a plan. 3. an offer, esp. of marriage.

propose ('prə'pəʊz) vb. 1. (when tr., *may take a clause as object*) to put forward (a plan, etc.) for consideration. 2. (tr.) to nominate, as for a position. 3. (tr.) to intend (to do something): *I propose to leave town now*. 4. (tr.) to announce the drinking of (a toast) to. 5. (*intr.*; often foll. by *to*) to make an offer of marriage. —'proposable adj. —'proposer n.

proposition ('prə'pɔ:zɪʃən) n. 1. a proposal for consideration. 2. *Logic*. a statement in which the predicate affirms or denies something about the subject, or which affirms a relation between objects, and is either true or false. 3. *Maths.* a statement or theorem, usually containing its proof. 4. *inf.* a. a person or matter to be dealt with: *he's a difficult proposition*. b. an invitation to engage in sexual intercourse. ~vb. 5. (tr.) to propose a

plan, deal, etc., to, esp. to engage in sexual intercourse. — **propo'sitional** *adj.*

propound (prə'paʊnd) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to put forward for consideration. 2. *English law.* to produce (a will or similar instrument) to the proper court or authority for its validity to be established. — **prop'ounder** *n.*

proprietary (prə'praɪtəri) *adj.* 1. of or belonging to property or proprietors. 2. privately owned and controlled. 3. *Med.* denoting a drug manufactured and distributed under a trade name. ~*n.*, *pl.* -*tries*. 4. *Med.* a proprietary drug. 5. a proprietor or proprietors collectively. 6. a. right to property. b. property owned. 7. (in Colonial America) an owner of a **proprietary colony**, a colony which was granted by the Crown to a particular person or group. — **prop'rietarily** *adv.*

proprietor (prə'praɪətə) *n.* 1. an owner of a business. 2. a person enjoying exclusive right of ownership to some property. — **prop'rietress** or **prop'rietrix** *fem. n.*

propriety (prə'praɪəti) *n.*, *pl.* -*ties*. 1. the quality or state of being appropriate or fitting. 2. conformity to the prevailing standard of behaviour, speech, etc. 3. (*pl.*) the **proprieties**, the standards of behaviour considered correct by polite society.

propulsion (prə'pʌlʃən) *n.* 1. the act of propelling or the state of being propelled. 2. a propelling force. — **propulsive** (prə'pʌlsɪv) or **prop'ulsory** *adj.*

pro rata (prəu'ra:tə) in proportion.

prorogue (prə'rʊɡ) *vb.* to discontinue the meetings of (a legislative body) without dissolving it. — **prorogation** (prəu'rʊɡeɪʃən) *n.*

prosaic (prəu'zeɪk) *adj.* 1. lacking imagination. 2. having the characteristics of prose. — **pro'saically** *adv.*

proscenium (prə'si:niəm) *n.*, *pl.* -*nia* (-niə) or -*niums*. 1. the arch or opening separating the stage from the auditorium together with the area immediately in front of the arch. 2. (in ancient theatres) the stage itself.

proscribe (prəu'skraɪb) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to condemn or prohibit. 2. to outlaw; banish; exile. — **pro'scriber** *n.* — **proscription** (prəu'skrɪpʃən) *n.*

prose (prəuz) *n.* 1. spoken or written language distinguished from poetry by its lack of a marked metrical structure. 2. a passage set for translation into a foreign language. 3. commonplace or dull discourse, expression, etc. 4. (*modifier*) written in prose. 5. (*modifier*) matter-of-fact. ~*vb.* 6. to write (something) in prose. 7. (*intr.*) to speak or write in a tedious style. — **prose-like** *adj.*

prosecute (prə'si:kju:t) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to bring a criminal action against (a person). 2. (*intr.*) a. to seek redress by legal proceedings. b. to institute or conduct a prosecution. 3. (tr.) to practise (a profession or trade). 4. (tr.) to continue to do (a task, etc.). — **prose,cutable** *adj.* — **prose,cutor** *n.*

prosecution (prə'si:kju:ʃən) *n.* 1. the act of prosecuting or the state of being prosecuted. 2. a. the institution and conduct of legal proceedings against a person. b. the proceedings brought in the name of the Crown to put an accused on trial. 3. the lawyers acting for the Crown to put the case against a person. 4. the following up or carrying on of something begun.

proselyte (prə'si:lait) *n.* 1. a person newly converted to a religious faith, esp. a gentile converted to Judaism. ~*vb.* 2. a less common word for **proselytize**. — **proselytism** (prə'si:lɪ,tɪzəm) *n.* — **proselytic**, (prə'si:'lɪtɪk) *adj.*

proselytize or **-ise** (prə'si:lɪ,təɪz) *vb.* to convert (someone) from one religious faith to another. — **proselyt,izer** or **-iser** *n.*

prosody (prə'sədi) *n.* 1. the study of poetic metre and of the art of versification. 2. a system of versification. 3. the patterns of stress and intonation in a language. — **prosodic** (prə'sədi:k) *adj.* — **prosodist** *n.*

prospect *n.* (prə'spekt). 1. (*sometimes pl.*) a probability of future success. 2. a view or scene. 3. a mental outlook. 4. expectation, or what one expects. 5. a prospective buyer, project, etc. 6. a survey or observation. 7. *Mining.* a. a known or likely deposit of ore. b. the location of a deposit of ore. c. the yield of mineral obtained from a sample of ore. ~*vb.* (prə'spekt). 8. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *for*) to explore (a region) for gold or other valuable minerals. 9. (tr.) to work (a mine) to discover its profitability. 10. (*intr.*; often foll. by *for*) to search (for). — **pro'spector** *n.*

prospective (prə'spektɪv) *adj.* 1. looking towards the future. 2. (*prenominal*) expected or likely. — **pro'spectively** *adv.*

prospectus (prə'spektʊs) *n.*, *pl.* -*tuses*. 1. a formal statement giving details of a forthcoming event, such as

the issue of shares. 2. a brochure giving details of courses, as at a school.

prosper ('prɒspə) *vb.* (*usually intr.*) to thrive, succeed, etc., or cause to thrive, etc., in a healthy way.

prosperity (prɒ'spɛrɪti) *n.*, *pl.* -*ities*. the condition of prospering; success or wealth.

prosperous ('prɒspərəs) *adj.* 1. flourishing; prospering. 2. wealthy. — **'prosperously** *adv.* — **'prosperousness** *n.*

prostaglandin (prɒ'stə'glændɪn) *n.* any of a group of hormone-like compounds found in all mammalian tissues, which stimulate the muscles and affect the nervous system.

prostate ('prɒsteɪt) *n.* 1. Also called: **prostate gland**, a gland in male mammals that surrounds the neck of the bladder and secretes a liquid constituent of the semen. ~*adj.* 2. Also: **prostatic** (prɒ'stætɪk). of the prostate gland.

prosthesis ('prɒstə'sɪs) *n.*, *pl.* -*ses* (-sɪz). *Surgery.* a. the replacement of a missing bodily part with an artificial substitute. b. an artificial part such as a limb, eye, or tooth. — **prosthetic** (prɒ'stɛtɪk) *adj.* — **pro'sthetically** *adv.*

prostitute ('prɒsti:tju:t) *n.* 1. a woman who engages in sexual intercourse for money. 2. a man who engages in such activity, esp. in homosexual practices. 3. a person who offers his talent for unworthy purposes. ~*vb.* (tr.) 4. to offer (oneself or another) in sexual intercourse for money. 5. to offer for unworthy purposes. — **prosti'tution** *n.* — **'prosti,tutor** *n.*

prostrate *adj.* ('prɒstreɪt). 1. lying face downwards, as in submission. 2. exhausted physically or emotionally. 3. helpless or defenceless. ~*vb.* (prɒ'streɪt). (tr.) 4. to cast (oneself) down, as in submission. 5. to lay or throw down flat. 6. to make helpless. 7. to make exhausted. — **pro'stration** *n.*

prosy ('prəʊzi) *adj.* **prosier**, **prosiest**. 1. of the nature of or similar to prose. 2. dull, tedious, or long-winded. — **'prosilly** *adv.* — **'prosiness** *n.*

Prot. *abbrev. for:* 1. Protestant. 2. Protectorate.

protactinium (prəʊtæk'tɪniəm) *n.* a toxic radioactive element that occurs in uranium ores and is produced by neutron irradiation of thorium. Symbol: Pa; atomic no.: 91; half-life of most stable isotope, ²³¹Pa: 32 500 years.

protagonist (prəu'tæɡənɪst) *n.* 1. the principal character in a play, story, etc. 2. a supporter, esp. when important or respected, of a cause, party, etc. — **pro'tagonism** *n.*

protea ('prəʊtə) *n.* a shrub of tropical and southern Africa, having flowers with coloured bracts arranged in showy heads.

protean (prəʊ'teɪʃən, 'prəʊtɪən) *adj.* readily taking on various shapes or forms; variable.

protect (prə'tekt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to defend from trouble, harm, etc. 2. *Econ.* to assist (domestic industries) by the imposition of protective tariffs on imports. 3. *Commerce.* to provide funds in advance to guarantee payment of (a note, etc.).

protection (prə'tekʃən) *n.* 1. the act of protecting or the condition of being protected. 2. something that protects. 3. a. the imposition of duties on imports, for the protection of domestic industries against overseas competition, etc. b. Also called: **protectionism**, the system or theory of such restrictions. 4. *Inf.* a. Also called: **protection money**, money demanded by gangsters for freedom from molestation. b. freedom from molestation purchased in this way. — **pro'tection,ism** *n.* — **pro'tectionist** *n.*

protective (prə'tektɪv) *adj.* 1. giving or capable of giving protection. 2. *Econ.* of or intended for protection of domestic industries. — **pro'tectively** *adv.* — **pro'tectiveness** *n.*

protector (prə'tektə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that protects. 2. *History.* a person who exercised royal authority during the minority, absence, or incapacity of the monarch. — **pro'tectress** *fem. n.*

Protector (prə'tektə) *n.* short for **Lord Protector**, the title borne by Oliver Cromwell (1653–58) and by Richard Cromwell (1658–59) as heads of state during the period known as the Protectorate.

protectorate (prə'tektərɪt) *n.* 1. a. a territory largely controlled by but not annexed to a stronger state. b. the relation of a protecting state to its protected territory. 2. the office or period of office of a protector.

protégé or (*fem.*) **protégée** ('prəʊti:ʒeɪ) *n.* a person who is protected and aided by the patronage of another.

protein ('prəʊtɪn) *n.* any of a large group of nitrog-

enous compounds of high molecular weight that are essential constituents of all living organisms. —, **protein**'aceous, **pro**'teinic, or **pro**'teinous *adj.*

pro tempore *Latin* ('prəʊ'tempəri) for the time being. Often shortened to **pro tem** ('prəʊ'tem).

protest *n.* ('prəʊtest). 1. **a.** public, often organized, manifestation of dissent. **b.** (as modifier): a *protest march*. 2. a formal or solemn objection. 3. a formal notarial statement drawn up on behalf of a creditor and declaring that the debtor has dishonoured a bill of exchange, etc. 4. the act of protesting. ~*vb.* ('prəʊtest). 5. (when *intr.*, foll. by *against*, *at*, *about*, etc.; when *tr.*, may take a clause as object) to make a strong objection (to something, esp. a supposed injustice or offence). 6. (when *tr.*, may take a clause as object) to assert in a formal or solemn manner. —**pro**'testant *adj.*, *n.* —**pro**'tester *n.* —**pro**'testingly *adv.*

Protestant ('prəʊtestnt) *n.* **a.** an adherent of Protestantism. **b.** (as modifier): the *Protestant Church*.

protestation ('prəʊtestetʃən) *n.* 1. the act of protesting. 2. a strong declaration.

protium ('prəʊtəm) *n.* the most common isotope of hydrogen, having a mass number of 1.

proto- or sometimes before a vowel **prot-** combining form. 1. first: *protomartyr*. 2. primitive or original: *prototype*. 3. first in a series of chemical compounds: *protoxide*.

protocol ('prəʊtə,kəl) *n.* 1. the formal etiquette and procedure for state and diplomatic ceremonies. 2. a record of an agreement, esp. in international negotiations, etc. 3. **a.** an amendment to a treaty or convention. **b.** an annex appended to a treaty to deal with subsidiary matters.

proton ('prəʊtɒn) *n.* a stable, positively charged elementary particle, found in atomic nuclei in numbers equal to its atomic number.

protoplasm ('prəʊtə,plæzəm) *n.* *Biol.* the living contents of a cell: a complex translucent colourless colloidal substance. —**proto**'plasmic, **proto**'plasmal, or **proto**'plasmatic *adj.*

prototype ('prəʊtə,taɪp) *n.* 1. an original model from which improved types can be made or that has analogies at a later period. 2. a person or thing that serves as an example of a type. 3. *Biol.* the ancestral or primitive form of a species. —**proto**'typal, **prototypic** ('prəʊtə'tɪpɪk), or **proto**'typical *adj.*

protozoan ('prəʊtə'zəʊən) *n.*, *pl.* -zoa ('-zəʊə). 1. Also **protozoon**. any minute invertebrate of a phylum including amoebae and foraminifers. ~*adj.* also **protozoic**. 2. of or belonging to this group.

protract ('prəʊ'trækt) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to lengthen or extend (a speech, etc.). 2. (of a muscle) to draw, thrust, or extend (a part, etc.) forwards. 3. to plot using a protractor and scale. —**protractedly** ('prəʊ'træktɪdli) *adv.* —**pro**'traction *n.*

protractor ('prəʊ'træktə) *n.* 1. an instrument for measuring or drawing angles on paper, usually a flat semicircular transparent plastic sheet graduated in degrees. 2. *Anat.* a former term for **extensor**.

protrude ('prəʊ'truːd) *vb.* 1. to thrust forwards or outwards. 2. to project or cause to project. —**pro**'trusion *n.* —**pro**'trusive *adj.*

protuberant ('prəʊ'tju:bərənt) *adj.* swelling out; bulging. —**pro**'tuberance or **pro**'tuberancy *n.* —**pro**'tuberantly *adv.*

proud ('praʊd) *adj.* 1. (foll. by *of*, an infinitive, or a clause) pleased or satisfied, as with oneself, one's possessions, achievements, etc. 2. feeling honoured or gratified by some distinction. 3. having an inordinately high opinion of oneself; haughty. 4. characterized by or proceeding from a sense of pride: a *proud moment*. 5. stately or distinguished. 6. bold or fearless. 7. (of a surface, edge, etc.) projecting or protruding. 8. (of animals) restive or excited, often sexually. ~*adv.* 9. **do** (someone) **proud**. **a.** to entertain (a person) on a grand scale: *they did us proud at the hotel*. **b.** to honour (a person): *his honesty did him proud*. —**'proudly** *adv.* —**'proudness** *n.*

proud flesh *n.* a mass of tissue formed around a healing wound.

Prov. *abbrev. for:* 1. *Provençal*. 2. *Bible*. Proverbs. 3. *Province*. 4. *Provost*.

prove ('pru:v) *vb.* **proving**, **proved**; **proved** or **proven**. (mainly *tr.*) 1. (may take a clause as object or an infinitive) to demonstrate the truth or validity of, esp. by using an established sequence of procedures. 2. to establish the quality of, esp. by experiment. 3. *Law*. to establish the genuineness of (a will). 4. to show (one-

self) able or courageous. 5. (*copula*) to be found (to be): *this has proved useless*. 6. (*intr.*) (of dough) to rise in a warm place before baking. —**'provable** *adj.* —**'provability** *n.* —**'provably** *adv.*

proven ('pru:vɪn, 'prəʊ-) *vb.* 1. a past participle of **prove**. 2. See **not proven**. ~*adj.* 3. tried; tested: *a proven method*.

provenance ('prəʊvɪnəns) *n.* a place of origin, as of a work of art.

Provençal ('prəʊvɒn'sæl; *French* *prɔvə'sal*) *adj.* 1. denoting or characteristic of Provence, a former province of SE France, its inhabitants, their dialect of French, or their Romance language. ~*n.* 2. a language of Provence, closely related to French and Italian, belonging to the Romance group of the Indo-European family. 3. a native or inhabitant of Provence.

provender ('prəʊvɪdə) *n.* 1. fodder for livestock. 2. food in general.

proverb ('prəʊvɜ:b) *n.* 1. a short memorable saying embodying some commonplace fact. 2. a person or thing exemplary of a characteristic: *Antarctica is a proverb for extreme cold*. 3. *Ecclesiast.* a wise saying providing guidance.

proverbial ('prəʊvɜ:bɪəl) *adj.* 1. (*prenominal*) commonly or traditionally referred to as an example of some peculiarity, characteristic, etc. 2. of, embodied in, or resembling a proverb. —**pro**'verbially *adv.*

provide ('prəʊvaɪd) *vb.* (mainly *tr.*) 1. to furnish or supply. 2. to afford; yield: *this meeting provides an opportunity to talk*. 3. (*intr.*; often foll. by *for* or *against*) to take careful precautions: *he provided against financial ruin by wise investment*. 4. (*intr.*; foll. by *for*) to supply means of support (to): *he provides for his family*. 5. (of a person, law, etc.) to state as a condition; stipulate. 6. to confer and induct into ecclesiastical offices. —**pro**'vider *n.*

providence ('prəʊvɪdəns) *n.* 1. **a.** God's foreseeing protection and care of his creatures. **b.** such protection and care as manifest by some other force. 2. a manifestation of such care and guidance. 3. the foresight or care exercised by a person in the management of his affairs.

Providence ('prəʊvɪdəns) *n.* God, esp. as showing foreseeing care of his creatures.

provident ('prəʊvɪdənt) *adj.* 1. providing for future needs. 2. exercising foresight in the management of one's affairs. 3. characterized by foresight. —**'providently** *adv.*

providential ('prəʊvɪdənləl) *adj.* characteristic of or presumed to proceed from or as if from divine providence. —**pro**'videntially *adv.*

providing ('prəʊvaɪdɪŋ) or **provided** *conj.* (*subordinating*; sometimes foll. by *that*) on the condition or understanding (that): *I'll play, providing you pay me*.

province ('prəʊvɪns) *n.* 1. a territory governed as a unit of a country or empire. 2. (*pl.*; usually preceded by *the*) those parts of a country lying outside the capital and other large cities and regarded as outside the mainstream of sophisticated culture. 3. an area of learning, activity, etc. 4. the extent of a person's activities or office. 5. an ecclesiastical territory, having an archbishop or metropolitan at its head. 6. an administrative and territorial subdivision of a religious order. 7. *History*. a region of the Roman Empire outside Italy ruled by a governor from Rome.

provincial ('prəʊvɪnʃəl) *adj.* 1. of or connected with a province. 2. characteristic of or connected with the provinces. 3. having attitudes and opinions supposedly common to people living in the provinces; unsophisticated; limited. 4. *N.Z.* denoting a football team representing a province, one of the historical administrative areas of New Zealand. ~*n.* 5. a person lacking the sophistications of city life; rustic or narrow-minded individual. 6. a person coming from or resident in a province or the provinces. 7. the head of an ecclesiastical province. 8. the head of a territorial subdivision of a religious order. —**pro**'vincialism *n.* —**pro**'vinciality ('prəʊvɪnʃi'ælɪti) *n.* —**pro**'vincially *adv.*

provision ('prəʊvɪʒən) *n.* 1. the act of supplying food, etc. 2. something that is supplied. 3. preparations (esp. in **make provision for**). 4. (*pl.*) food and other necessities, as for an expedition. 5. a condition or stipulation incorporated in a document; proviso. 6. the conferring of and induction into ecclesiastical offices. ~*vb.* 7. (*tr.*) to supply with provisions. —**pro**'visioner *n.*

provisional ('prəʊvɪʒənəl) *adj.* subject to later alteration; temporary or conditional: *a provisional decision*. —**pro**'visionally *adv.*

Provisional (prə'vɪʒənəl) *adj.* 1. designating one of the two factions of the IRA and Sinn Féin that have existed since a split in late 1969. The Provisional movement advocates terrorism to achieve Irish unity. ~n. 2. Also called: **Provo**, a member of the Provisional IRA or Sinn Féin.

proviso (prə'vaɪzəʊ) *n.*, *pl.* **-sos** or **-soes**. 1. a clause in a document or contract that embodies a condition or stipulation. 2. a condition or stipulation.

provisory (prə'vaɪzəri) *adj.* 1. containing a proviso; conditional. 2. provisional. 3. making provision. —**provisorially** *adv.*

provocation (prə'vɒkeɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of provoking or inciting. 2. something that causes indignation, anger, etc.

provocative (prə'vɒkətɪv) *adj.* serving or intended to provoke or incite, esp. to anger or sexual desire: a *provocative woman*; a *provocative remark*. —**provocatively** *adv.*

provoke (prə'vʊk) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to anger or infuriate. 2. to incite or stimulate. 3. to promote (anger, indignation, etc.) in a person. 4. to cause; bring about: *the accident provoked an inquiry*. —**provokingly** *adv.*

provost ('prɒvɒst) *n.* 1. the head of certain university colleges or schools. 2. the principal magistrate of a Scottish burgh. 3. *Church of England*, the senior dignitary of one of the more recent cathedral foundations. 4. *R.C. Church*, a. the head of a cathedral chapter. b. (formerly) the member of a monastic community second in authority under the abbot. 5. (in medieval times) an overseer, steward, or bailiff.

provost marshal (prə'vʊ) *n.* the officer in charge of military police in a camp or city.

prow (prau) *n.* the bow of a vessel.

proress ('praʊs) *n.* 1. outstanding or superior skill or ability. 2. bravery or fearlessness, esp. in battle.

prowl (praul) *vb.* 1. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *around* or *about*) to move stealthily around (a place) as if in search of prey or plunder. ~n. 2. the act of prowling. 3. **on the prowl**, a. moving around stealthily. b. pursuing members of the opposite sex. —**prowler** *n.*

prox, *abbrev.* for *proximo* (next month).

proximate ('prɒksɪmət) *adj.* 1. next or nearest in space or time. 2. very near; close. 3. immediately preceding or following in a series. 4. a less common word for *approximate*. —**proximately** *adv.*

proximity (prɒk'sɪmɪtɪ) *n.* 1. nearness in space or time. 2. nearness or closeness in a series.

proximo ('prɒksɪməʊ) *adv.* Now rare except when abbreviated in formal correspondence, in or during the next or coming month: *a letter of the seventh proximo*. *Abbrev.*: *prox.* Cf. *instant*, *ultimo*.

proxy ('prɒksɪ) *n.*, *pl.* **proxies**. 1. a person authorized to act on behalf of someone else; agent: *to vote by proxy*. 2. the authority, esp. in the form of a document, given to a person to act on behalf of someone else.

prude (pru:d) *n.* a person who affects or shows an excessively modest, prim, or proper attitude, esp. regarding sex. —**prudish** *adj.* —**prudishly** *adv.* —**'prudery** *n.*

prudence ('pru:dəns) *n.* 1. caution in practical affairs; discretion. 2. care taken in the management of one's resources. 3. consideration for one's own interests. 4. the quality of being prudent.

prudent ('pru:dənt) *adj.* 1. discreet or cautious in managing one's activities; circumspect. 2. practical and careful in providing for the future. 3. exercising good judgment. —**prudently** *adv.*

prudential (pru:'denʃəl) *adj.* 1. characterized by or resulting from prudence. 2. exercising sound judgment. —**prudentially** *adv.*

prune¹ (pru:n) *n.* 1. a purplish-black partially dried fruit of any of several varieties of plum tree. 2. *SL*, chiefly *Brit.* a dull or foolish person. 3. **prunes and prisms**, denoting an affected and mincing way of speaking.

prune² (pru:n) *vb.* 1. to remove (dead or superfluous twigs, branches, etc.) from (a tree, shrub, etc.), esp. by cutting off. 2. to remove (anything undesirable or superfluous) from (a book, etc.). —**prunable** *adj.* —**'pruner** *n.*

prurient ('prʊəriənt) *adj.* 1. unusually or morbidly interested in sexual thoughts or practices. 2. exciting lustfulness. —**'prurience** *n.* —**pruriently** *adv.*

pruritus (pru:'raɪtəs) *n.* *Pathol.* any intense sensation of itching. —**pruritic** (pru:'rɪtɪk) *adj.*

prussic acid ('prʌsɪk) *n.* the extremely poisonous aqueous solution of hydrogen cyanide.

pry (praɪ) *vb.* **prying**, **pried**. 1. (*intr.*; often foll. by *into*)

to make an impertinent or uninvited inquiry (about a private matter, topic, etc.). ~n., *pl.* **pries**. 2. the act of prying. 3. a person who pries.

P.S., *abbrev. for:* 1. Passenger Steamer. 2. Police Sergeant. 3. Also: **p.s.** postscript. 4. private secretary. 5. prompt side.

Ps. or **Psa.** *Bible*, *abbrev. for* Psalm(s).

psalm (sɑ:m) *n.* 1. (*often cap.*) any of the sacred songs that constitute a book (Psalms) of the Old Testament. 2. a musical setting of one of these. 3. any sacred song. —**'psalmic** *adj.* —**'psalmist** *n.*

psalmody ('sɑ:mədi, 'sæl-) *n.*, *pl.* **-dies**. 1. the act of singing psalms or hymns. 2. the art of setting psalms to music. —**'psalmodist** *n.* —**'psalmodic** (sɑ:'mɒdɪk, 'sæl-) *adj.*

Psalter ('sɒ:ltə) *n.* 1. another name for the Book of Psalms, esp. in the version in the Book of Common Prayer. 2. a translation, musical, or metrical version of the Psalms. 3. a book containing a version of Psalms.

psaltery ('sɒ:ltəri) *n.*, *pl.* **-teries**. *Music*, an ancient stringed instrument similar to the lyre, but having a trapezoidal sounding board over which the strings are stretched.

psephology (seɪ'fɒlədʒɪ) *n.* the statistical and sociological study of elections. —**'psephological**, (seɪ'fɒlədʒɪkəl) *adj.* —**'psephologically** *adv.* —**'psephologist** *n.*

pseud (sju:d) *n.* 1. *Sl.* a false or pretentious person. ~*adj.* 2. another word for **pseudo**.

pseudo ('sju:ðəʊ) *adj.* *Inf.* not genuine.

pseudo- or sometimes before a vowel **pseud-** *combining form.* 1. false, pretending, or inauthentic: *pseudo-intellectual*. 2. having a close resemblance to: *pseudopodium*.

pseudonym ('sju:ðə,nɪm) *n.* a fictitious name adopted, esp. by an author. —**'pseudoonymy** *n.* —**'pseudonymous** (sju:'dɒnɪməs) *adj.*

psaw (pɔ:z) *interj.* *Becoming rare.* an exclamation of disgust, impatience, disbelief, etc.

psi (psaɪ) *n.* the 23rd letter of the Greek alphabet (Ψ, ψ), a composite consonant, transliterated as *ps*.

psittacosis (sɪ'tə:kəʊsɪs) *n.* a viral disease of parrots and other birds that can be transmitted to man, in whom it produces pneumonia. Also called: **parrot fever**.

psoriasis (sə'reɪsɪs) *n.* a skin disease characterized by the formation of reddish spots and patches covered with silvery scales. —**'psoriatic** (sɔ:rɪ'nɪ:tɪk) *adj.*

psst (pst) *interj.* an exclamation of beckoning, esp. one made surreptitiously.

P.S.T. (in the U.S. & Canada) *abbrev. for* Pacific Standard Time.

P.S.V. *abbrev. for* public service vehicle.

psych or **psyche** (saɪk) *vb.* (*tr.*) *Inf.* 1. to psychoanalyse. 2. (often foll. by *out*) a. to guess correctly the intentions of (another). b. to analyse (a problem, etc.) psychologically. 3. to intimidate or frighten. 4. (usually foll. by *up*) to prepare (oneself) for an action, performance, etc.

psyche ('saɪkɪ) *n.* the human mind or soul.

psychedelic (saɪkɪ'delɪk) *adj.* 1. relating to or denoting new or altered perceptions or sensory experiences, as through the use of hallucinogenic drugs. 2. denoting any of the drugs, esp. LSD, that produce these effects. 3. *Inf.* (of painting, fabric design, etc.) having the vivid colours and complex patterns popularly associated with the visual effects of psychedelic states. —**'psychedelically** *adv.*

psychiatry (saɪ'kɪətri) *n.* the branch of medicine concerned with the diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders. —**'psychiatric** (saɪkɪ'ætrɪk) or **'psychi'atrical** *adj.* —**'psychi'atrically** *adv.* —**'psy'chiatrist** *n.*

psychic ('saɪkɪk) *adj.* 1. a. outside the possibilities defined by natural laws, as mental telepathy. b. (of a person) sensitive to forces not recognized by natural laws. 2. mental as opposed to physical. ~n. 3. a person who is sensitive to parapsychological forces or influences. —**'psychical** *adj.* —**'psychically** *adv.*

psycho ('saɪkəʊ) *n.*, *pl.* **-chos**, *adj.* a slang word for psychopath or psychopathic.

psycho- or sometimes before a vowel **psych-** *combining form.* indicating the mind or psychological or mental processes: *psychology*; *psychosomatic*.

psychoanalyse or esp. U.S. **-lyze** (saɪkəʊ'ænəlaɪz) *vb.* (*tr.*) to examine or treat (a person) by psychoanalysis.

psychoanalysis (saɪkəʊ'nælɪsɪs) *n.* a method of studying the mind and treating mental and emotional

disorders based on revealing and investigating the role of the unconscious mind. —**psychoanalyst** (ˈsaɪkəʊˈænəlist) *n.* —**psychoanalytic** (ˈsaɪkəʊˈænəˌlɪtɪk) *or* **psychoanalytical** *adj.* —**psychoanalytically** *adv.*

psychogenic (ˈsaɪkəʊˈdʒenɪk) *adj.* *Psychol.* (esp. of disorders or symptoms) of mental, rather than organic, origin. —**psychogenically** *adv.*

psychokinesis (ˈsaɪkəʊkɪˈnɪsɪs, -kai-) *n.* (in parapsychology) alteration of the state of an object supposedly by mental influence alone.

psychological (ˈsaɪkəˈlɒdʒɪkəl) *adj.* 1. of or relating to psychology. 2. of or relating to the mind or mental activity. 3. having no real or objective basis; arising in the mind: *his backaches are all psychological*. 4. affecting the mind. —**psychologically** *adv.*

psychological moment *n.* the most appropriate time for producing a desired effect.

psychological warfare *n.* the military application of psychology, esp. to the manipulation of morale in time of war.

psychologize *or* **U.S. -gise** (saɪˈkɒləˌdʒaɪz) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. to make interpretations of mental processes. 2. to carry out investigation in psychology.

psychology (ˈsaɪkɒlədʒi) *n., pl. -gies*. 1. the scientific study of all forms of human and animal behaviour. 2. *Inf.* the mental make-up of an individual that causes him to think or act in the way he does. —**psychologist** *n.*

psychopath (ˈsaɪkəʊˌpæθ) *n.* a person afflicted with a personality disorder characterized by a tendency to commit antisocial and sometimes violent acts and a failure to feel guilt for such acts. —**psychopathic** *adj.* —**psychopathically** *adv.*

psychopathology (ˈsaɪkəʊˌpæθɒləˌdʒɪ) *n.* the scientific study of mental disorders. —**psychopathological** (ˈsaɪkəʊˌpæθɒˈlɒdʒɪkəl) *adj.*

psychopathy (saɪˈkɒpəθi) *n.* any mental disorder or disease.

psychosis (saɪˈkəʊsɪs) *n., pl. -choses* (-ˈkəʊsɪz). any form of severe mental disorder in which the individual's contact with reality becomes highly distorted. —**psychotic** (-ˈkɒt-) *adj.*

psychosomatic (ˈsaɪkəʊsəˈmætɪk) *adj.* of disorders, such as stomach ulcers, thought to be caused or aggravated by psychological stress.

psychotherapy (ˈsaɪkəʊˈθerəpi) *or* **psychotherapeutics** (ˈsaɪkəʊˌθerəˈpjʊːtɪks) *n.* the use of psychological (as opposed to physical) methods to treat mental disorders. —**psychotherapeutic** *adj.* —**psychotherapeutically** *adv.* —**psychotherapist** *n.*

Pt the chemical symbol for platinum.

pt. *abbrev. for:* 1. part. 2. patient. 3. payment. 4. pint. 5. point. 6. port. 7. preterite.

Pt. (in place names) *abbrev. for:* 1. Point. 2. Port.

p.t. *abbrev. for:* 1. past tense. 2. pro tempore.

P.T. *abbrev. for:* 1. physical therapy. 2. physical training. 3. postal telegraph.

P.T.A. *abbrev. for:* 1. Parent-Teacher Association. 2. (in Britain) Passenger Transport Authority.

ptarmigan (ˈtɑːmɪɡən) *n., pl. -gans or -gan.* any of several arctic and subarctic grouse, esp. one which has a white winter plumage.

ptero- *combining form.* a wing, or a part resembling a wing: *pterodactyl*.

pterodactyl (ˈtɛrəˈdæktɪl) *n.* an extinct flying reptile having membranous wings supported on an elongated fourth digit.

P.T.O. or p.t.o. *abbrev. for* please turn over.

Ptolemaic (ˈtɒliˈmeɪk) *adj.* 1. of or relating to Ptolemy, the 2nd-century A.D. Greek astronomer, or to his conception of the universe. 2. of or relating to the Macedonian dynasty that ruled Egypt from the death of Alexander the Great (323 B.C.) to the death of Cleopatra (30 B.C.).

ptomaine or ptomain (ˈtəʊmeɪn) *n.* any of a group of amines formed by decaying organic matter.

pty. *Chiefly Austral. abbrev. for* proprietary.

Pu the chemical symbol for plutonium.

pub (pʌb) *Inf. ~n.* 1. *Chiefly Brit.* a building with a bar and one or more public rooms licensed for the sale and consumption of alcoholic drink, often also providing light meals. *Formal name:* **public house**. 2. *Austral. & N.Z.* a hotel. ~*vb.* **pubbing, pubbed.** 3. (*intr.*) to visit a pub or pubs (esp. in *go pubbing*).

pub. *abbrev. for:* 1. public. 2. publication. 3. published. 4. publisher. 5. publishing.

pub-crawl *Sl., chiefly Brit. ~n.* 1. a drinking tour of

a number of pubs or bars. ~*vb.* 2. (*intr.*) to make such a tour.

puberty (ˈpjuːbɪti) *n.* the period at the beginning of adolescence when the sex glands become functional. Also called: **pubescence**. —**pubertal** *adj.*

pubes (ˈpjuːbɪz) *n., pl. pubes* (ˈpjuːbɪz). 1. the region above the external genital organs, covered with hair from the time of puberty. 2. pubic hair. 3. the pubic bones. 4. the plural of **pubis**.

pubescent (ˈpjuːbesˈnt) *adj.* 1. arriving or arrived at puberty. 2. (of certain plants and animals or their parts) covered with a layer of fine short hairs or down. —**pubescence** *n.*

pubic (ˈpjuːbɪk) *adj.* of or relating to the pubes or pubis: *pubic hair*.

pubis (ˈpjuːbɪs) *n., pl. -bes* (-bɪz). one of the three sections of the hipbone that forms part of the pelvis.

public (ˈpʌblɪk) *adj.* 1. of or concerning the people as a whole. 2. open to all: *public gardens*. 3. performed or made openly: *public proclamation*. 4. (*prenominal*) well-known: *a public figure*. 5. (*usually prenominal*) maintained at the expense of, serving, or for the use of a community: *a public library*. 6. open, acknowledged, or notorious: *a public scandal*. 7. *go public.* (of a private company) to issue shares for subscription by the public. ~*n.* 8. the community or people in general. 9. a section of the community grouped because of a common interest, activity, etc.: *the racing public*. —**publicly** *adv.*

public-address system *n.* a system of microphones, amplifiers, and loudspeakers for increasing the sound level, used in auditoriums, public gatherings, etc. Sometimes shortened to **PA system**.

publican (ˈpʌblɪkən) *n.* 1. (in Britain) a person who keeps a public house. 2. (in ancient Rome) a public contractor, esp. one who farmed the taxes of a province.

publication (ˈpʌblɪˈkeɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act or process of publishing a printed work. 2. any printed work offered for sale or distribution. 3. the act or an instance of making information public.

public company *n.* a limited company whose shares may be purchased by the public and traded freely on the open market and whose share capital is not less than a statutory minimum. Cf. **private company**.

public convenience *n.* a public lavatory.

public enemy *n.* a notorious person, such as a criminal, who is regarded as a menace to the public.

public house *n.* 1. *Brit.* the formal name for a **pub**. 2. *U.S.* an inn, tavern, or small hotel.

publicist (ˈpʌblɪsɪst) *n.* 1. a person who publicizes something, esp. a press or publicity agent. 2. a journalist. 3. *Rare.* a person learned in public or international law.

publicity (pʌˈblɪsɪti) *n.* 1. *a.* the technique or process of attracting public attention to people, products, etc., as by the use of the mass media. *b. (as modifier):* *a publicity agent*. 2. public interest aroused by such a technique or process. 3. information used to draw public attention to people, products, etc. 4. the state of being public.

publicize or -ise (ˈpʌblɪˌsaɪz) *vb. (tr.)* to bring to public notice; advertise.

public lending right *n.* the right of authors to receive payment when their books are borrowed from public libraries.

public prosecutor *n.* *Law.* an official in charge of prosecuting important cases.

public relations *n.* 1. *a.* the practice of creating, promoting, or maintaining good will and a favourable image among the public towards an institution, public body, etc. *b.* the professional staff employed for this purpose. *Abbrev.: P.R.* 2. the techniques employed. *d. (as modifier):* *the public relations industry*. 2. the relationship between an organization and the public.

public school *n.* 1. (in England and Wales) a private independent fee-paying secondary school. 2. in certain Canadian provinces, a public elementary school as distinguished from a separate school. 3. any school that is part of a free local educational system.

public sector *n.* the part of an economy which consists of state-owned institutions, including nationalized industries and services provided by local authorities.

public servant *n.* 1. an elected or appointed holder of a public office. 2. *Austral. & N.Z.* a civil servant.

public-spirited *adj.* having or showing active interest in the good of the community.

public utility *n.* an enterprise concerned with the provision to the public of essentials, such as electricity

or water. Also called (in the U.S.): **public-service corporation**.

publish ('pʌblɪʃ) *vb.* 1. to produce and issue (printed matter) for distribution and sale. 2. (*intr.*) to have one's written work issued for publication. 3. (*tr.*) to announce formally or in public. 4. (*tr.*) to communicate (defamatory matter) to someone other than the person defamed: *to publish a libel*. — **'publishable** *adj.*

publisher ('pʌblɪʃə) *n.* 1. a company or person engaged in publishing periodicals, books, music, etc. 2. U.S. the proprietor of a newspaper.

puce ('piʊs) *n., adj.* (of) a colour varying from deep red to dark purplish-brown.

puck ('pʌk) *n.* a small disc of hard rubber used in ice hockey.

puck' ('pʌk) *n.* a mischievous or evil spirit. — **'puckish** *adj.*

pucker ('pʌkə) *vb.* 1. to gather (a soft surface such as the skin) into wrinkles, or (of such a surface) to be so gathered. 2. a wrinkle, crease, or irregular fold.

pudding ('puːdɪŋ) *n.* 1. a sweetened usually cooked dessert made in many forms and of various ingredients. 2. a savoury dish, usually consisting partially of pastry or batter: *steak-and-kidney pudding*. 3. the dessert course in a meal. 4. a sausage-like mass of meat, oatmeal, etc., stuffed into a prepared skin or bag and boiled. — **'puddingy** *adj.*

puddle ('pʌd'l) *n.* 1. a small pool of water, esp. of rain. 2. a small pool of any liquid. 3. a worked mixture of wet clay and sand that is impervious to water and is used to line a pond or canal. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 4. to make (clay, etc.) into puddle. 5. to subject (iron) to puddling. — **'puddler** *n.* — **'puddly** *adj.*

puddling ('pʌdɪŋ) *n.* a process for converting pig iron into wrought iron by heating it with ferric oxide in a furnace and stirring it to oxidize the carbon.

puendum (piu:'dendəm) *n., pl. -da* (-da). (*often pl.*) the human external genital organs collectively, esp. of a female. — **'pu'dental** or **'pu'dic** ('piu:dɪk) *adj.*

pudgy ('pʌdʒɪ) *adj.* **pudgier**, **pudgiest**. a variant spelling (esp. U.S.) of **podgy**. — **'pudgily** *adv.* — **'pudginess** *n.*

puerile ('piʊərəl) *adj.* 1. exhibiting silliness; immature; trivial. 2. of or characteristic of a child. — **'puerilely** *adv.* — **'puerility** ('piʊərlɪtɪ) *n.*

puerperal (piu:'ɜ:pərəl) *adj.* of or occurring during the period following childbirth.

puerperal fever *n.* a serious, formerly widespread, form of blood poisoning caused by infection contracted during childbirth.

puff (pʌf) *n.* 1. a short quick gust or emission, as of wind, smoke, etc. 2. the amount of wind, smoke, etc., released in a puff. 3. the sound made by a puff. 4. an instance of inhaling and expelling the breath as in smoking. 5. a light aerated pastry usually filled with cream, jam, etc. 6. a powder puff. 7. exaggerated praise, as of a book, product, etc., esp. through an advertisement. 8. a piece of clothing fabric gathered up so as to bulge in the centre while being held together at the edges. 9. a cylindrical roll of hair pinned in place in a coiffure. 10. U.S. name for **quilt** (sense 1). 11. one's breath (esp. in **out of puff**). 12. *sl.* a male homosexual. ~*vb.* 13. to blow or breathe or cause to blow or breathe in short quick draughts. 14. (*tr.*; often foll. by *out*; usually passive) to cause to be out of breath. 15. to take draws at (a cigarette, etc.). 16. to move with or by the emission of puffs: *the steam train puffed up the incline*. 17. (often foll. by *up*, *out*, etc.) to swell, as with air, pride, etc. 18. (*tr.*) to praise with exaggerated empty words, often in advertising. 19. (*tr.*) to apply (powder, dust, etc.) to (something). — **'puffy** *adj.*

puff adder *n.* a large venomous African viper that inflates its body when alarmed.

puffball ('pʌf,bɔ:l) *n.* any of various fungi having a round fruiting body that discharges a cloud of brown spores when mature.

puffin ('pʌfɪn) *n.* any of various northern diving birds, having a black-and-white plumage and a brightly coloured vertically flattened bill.

puff pastry or **U.S. puff paste** *n.* a dough used for making a rich flaky pastry.

puff-puff *n.* *Brit.* a children's name for a steam locomotive or railway train.

pug' ('pʌg) *n.* a small compact breed of dog with a smooth coat, lightly curled tail, and a short wrinkled nose. — **'puggish** *adj.*

pug' ('pʌg) *n.* a slang name for **boxer** (sense 1).

pugilism ('piu:dʒɪ,lɪzəm) *n.* the art, practice, or profes-

sion of fighting with the fists; boxing. — **'pugilist** *n.* — **'pugilistic** *adj.* — **'pugilistically** *adv.*

pugnacious ('pʌg'neɪʃəs) *adj.* readily disposed to fight; belligerent. — **'pug'naciously** *adv.* — **'pugnacity** ('pʌg'næsɪtɪ) *n.*

pug nose *n.* a short stubby upturned nose. — **'pug-nosed** *adj.*

puissance ('piʊs'ns, 'pwɪs:ns) *n.* 1. a competition in showjumping that tests a horse's ability to jump large obstacles. 2. *Arch. or poetic.* power.

puissant ('piʊs'nt) *adj.* *Arch. or poetic.* powerful. — **'puissantly** *adv.*

puke ('pjʊk) *sl.* ~*vb.* 1. to vomit (matter). ~*n.* 2. the act of vomiting. 3. the matter vomited.

pukka or **pucka** ('pʌkə) *adj.* *Anglo-Indian.* properly or perfectly done, constructed, etc.; good; genuine.

pulchritude ('pʌlkri,tju:d) *n.* *Formal or literary.* physical beauty. — **'pulchri'tudinous** *adj.*

pule ('piʊl) *vb.* (*intr.*) to cry plaintively; whimper. — **'puler** *n.*

pull (pul) *vb.* (*mainly tr.*) 1. (*also intr.*) to exert force on (an object) so as to draw it towards the source of the force. 2. to remove; extract: *to pull a tooth*. 3. to strip of feathers, hair, etc.; pluck. 4. to draw the entrails from (a fowl). 5. to rend or tear. 6. to strain (a muscle or tendon). 7. (usually foll. by *off*) *Inf.* to bring about: *to pull off a million-pound deal*. 8. *Inf.* (often foll. by *on*) to draw out (a weapon) for use: *he pulled a knife on his attacker*. 9. *Inf.* to attract: *the pop group pulled a crowd*. 10. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *on* or *at*) to drink or inhale deeply: *to pull at one's pipe*. 11. to make (a grimace): *to pull a face*. 12. (*also intr.*; foll. by *away*, *out*, *over*, etc.) to move (a vehicle) or (of a vehicle) to be moved in a specified manner. 13. (*intr.*) to possess or exercise the power to move: *this car doesn't pull well on hills*. 14. *Printing.* to take (a proof) from type. 15. *Golf, baseball, etc.* to hit (a ball) so that it veers away from the direction in which the player intended to hit it. 16. *Cricket.* to hit (a ball pitched straight or on the off side) to the leg side. 17. (*also intr.*) to row (a boat) or take a stroke of (an oar) in rowing. 18. (of a rider) to restrain (a horse), esp. to prevent it from winning a race. 19. **pull a fast one**. *sl.* to play a sly trick. 20. **pull apart** or **to pieces**. to criticize harshly. 21. **pull (one's) punches**. *a. Boxing.* to restrain the force of one's blows. *b. Inf.* to restrain the force of one's criticisms or actions. 22. **pull one's weight**. *Inf.* to do a fair share of a task. 23. **pull strings**. *Brit. inf.* to exercise personal influence. 24. **pull (someone's) leg**. *Inf.* to make fun of or tease (someone). ~*n.* 25. an act or an instance of pulling or being pulled. 26. the force or effort used in pulling: *the pull of the moon affects the tides*. 27. the act or an instance of taking in drink or smoke. 28. *Printing.* a proof taken from type: *the first pull was smudged*. 29. something used for pulling, such as a handle. 30. *Inf.* special advantage or influence: *his uncle is chairman of the company, so he has quite a lot of pull*. 31. *Inf.* the power to attract attention or support. 32. a period of rowing. 33. a single stroke of an oar in rowing. 34. the act of pulling the ball in golf, cricket, etc. 35. the act of reining in a horse. ~*See also pull down, pull in*, etc. — **'puller** *n.*

pull down *vb.* (*tr., adv.*) to destroy or demolish: *the old houses were pulled down*.

pullet ('pʊlɪt) *n.* a young hen of the domestic fowl, less than one year old.

pulley ('puːli) *n.* 1. a wheel with a grooved rim in which a rope can run in order to change the direction of a force applied to the rope, etc. 2. a number of such wheels pivoted in parallel in a block, used to raise heavy loads. 3. a wheel with a flat, convex, or grooved rim mounted on a shaft and driven by or driving a belt passing around it.

pull in *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. (*intr.*; often foll. by *to*) to reach a destination: *the train pulled in at the station*. 2. (*intr.*) *Also: pull over.* (of a motor vehicle) *a.* to draw in to the side of the road. *b.* to stop (at a café, lay-by, etc.). 3. (*tr.*) to attract: *his appearance will pull in the crowds*. 4. (*tr.*) *Brit. sl.* to arrest. 5. (*tr.*) to earn or gain (money). ~*n.* **pull-in**. 6. *Brit.* a roadside café, esp. for lorry drivers.

Pullman ('pʊlmən) *n., pl. -mans*. a luxurious railway coach. Also called: **Pullman car**.

pull off *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to remove (clothing) forcefully. 2. (*adv.*) to succeed in performing (a difficult feat).

pull out *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. (*tr.*) to extract. 2. (*intr.*) to depart: *the train pulled out of the station*. 3. *Mil.* to withdraw or be withdrawn: *the troops were pulled out of*

the ruined city. **4. (intr.)** (of a motor vehicle) **a.** to draw away from the side of the road. **b.** to draw out from behind another vehicle to overtake. **5. (intr.)** to abandon a position or situation. **6. (foll. by of)** to level out (from a dive). *~n.* **pull-out.** **7.** an extra leaf of a book that folds out. **8.** a removable section of a magazine, etc.

pullover ('pul,vʊvə) *n.* a garment, esp. a sweater, that is pulled on over the head.

pull through *vb.* to survive or recover or cause to survive or recover, esp. after a serious illness or crisis. Also: **pull round.**

pull together *vb.* **1. (intr., adv.)** to cooperate, or work harmoniously. **2. pull oneself together.** *Inf.* to regain one's self-control or composure.

pull up *vb. (adv.)* **1. (tr.)** to remove by the roots. **2. (often foll. by with or on)** to move level (with) or ahead (of), esp. in a race. **3. to stop:** *the car pulled up suddenly.* **4. (tr.)** to rebuke.

pulmonary ('pʌlmənəri, 'pul-) *adj.* **1.** of or affecting the lungs. **2.** having lungs or lunglike organs.

pulp (pʌlp) *n.* **1.** soft or fleshy plant tissue, such as the succulent part of a fleshy fruit. **2.** a moist mixture of cellulose fibres, as obtained from wood, from which paper is made. **3. U.S.** a magazine or book containing trite or sensational material, and usually printed on cheap rough paper. **4. Dentistry.** the soft innermost part of a tooth, containing nerves and blood vessels. **5.** any soft soggy mass. **6. Mining.** pulverized ore. *~vb.* **7.** to reduce (a material) to pulp or (of a material) to be reduced to pulp. **8. (tr.)** to remove the pulp from (fruit, etc.). *—'pulp* *adj.*

pulpit ('pʌlpɪt) *n.* **1.** a raised platform, usually surrounded by a barrier, set up in churches as the appointed place for preaching, etc. **2.** a medium for expressing an opinion, such as a newspaper column. **3. (usually preceded by the)** **a.** the preaching of the Christian message. **b.** the clergy or their influence.

pulpwood ('pʌlp, wʊd) *n.* pine, spruce, or any other soft wood used to make paper.

pulsar ('pʌl,sɜ:) *n.* any of a number of very small stars first discovered in 1967, which rotate fast emitting regular pulses of polarized radiation.

pulsate (pʌl'seɪt) *vb. (intr.)* **1.** to expand and contract with a rhythmical beat; throb. **2. Physics.** to vary in intensity, magnitude, etc. **3.** to quiver or vibrate. *—pul-sative* ('pʌlsətɪv) *adj.* *—pul'sation* *n.* *—pul'sator* *n.* *—pulsatory* ('pʌlsətəri) *adj.*

pulse (pʌls) *n.* **1. Physiol.** **a.** the rhythmical contraction and expansion of an artery at each beat of the heart. **b.** a single such pulsation. **2. Physics, electronics.** **a.** a transient sharp change in some quantity normally constant in a system. **b.** one of a series of such transient disturbances, usually recurring at regular intervals. **3. a.** a recurrent rhythmical series of beats, vibrations, etc. **b.** any single beat, wave, etc., in such a series. **4.** bustle, vitality, or excitement: *the pulse of a city.* **5. keep one's finger on the pulse.** to be well-informed about current events, opinions, etc. *~vb.* **6. (intr.)** to beat, throb, or vibrate. *—pulseless* *adj.*

pulse (pʌls) *n.* **1.** the edible seeds of any of several leguminous plants, such as peas, beans, and lentils. **2.** the plant producing any of these.

pulverize or -ise ('pʌlvə,raɪz) *vb.* **1.** to reduce (a substance) to fine particles, as by grinding, or (of a substance) to be so reduced. **2. (tr.)** to destroy completely. *—pulver,izable or -isable* *adj.* *—pulverization or -isation* *n.* *—pulver,izer or -iser* *n.*

puma ('pju:mə) *n.* a large American feline mammal that resembles a lion, having a plain greyish-brown coat and long tail. Also called: **cougar, mountain lion.**

pumice ('pʌmɪs) *n.* **1.** Also called: **pumice stone.** a light porous volcanic rock used for scouring and, in powdered form, as an abrasive and for polishing. *~vb.* **2. (tr.)** to rub or polish with pumice. *—pumiceous* ('pju: 'mɪʃəs) *adj.*

pummel ('pʌməl) *vb.* *—melling, -melled* or *U.S. -meling, -melled.* (tr.) to strike repeatedly with or as if with the fists. Also (less common): **pommel.**

pump¹ ('pʌmp) *n.* **1.** any device for compressing, driving, raising, or reducing the pressure of a fluid, esp. by means of a piston or set of rotating impellers. *~vb.* **2. (when tr., usually foll. by from, out, etc.)** to raise or drive (air, liquid, etc.), esp. into or from something) with a pump. **3. (tr.; usually foll. by in or into)** to supply in large amounts: *to pump capital into a project.* **4. (tr.)** to deliver (bullets, etc.) repeatedly. **5.** to operate (something, esp. a handle) in the manner of a pump or (of something) to work in this way: *to pump the pedals of a*

bicycle. **6. (tr.)** to obtain (information) from (a person) by persistent questioning. **7. (intr.; usually foll. by from or out of)** (of liquids) to flow freely in large spurts: *oil pumped from the fissure.*

pump² ('pʌmp) *n.* **1.** a low-cut low-heeled shoe without fastenings, worn esp. for dancing. **2.** a type of shoe with a rubber sole, used in games such as tennis; plimsoll.

pumpnickel ('pʌmp, nɪk'l) *n.* a slightly sour black bread, originating in Germany, made of coarse rye flour.

pumpkin ('pʌmpkɪn) *n.* **1.** any of several creeping plants of the genus *Cucurbita*. **2.** the large round fruit of any of these plants, which has a thick orange rind, pulpy flesh, and numerous seeds.

pun (pʌn) *n.* **1.** the use of words to exploit ambiguities and innuendoes for humorous effect; a play on words. An example is: *"Ben Battle was a soldier bold, And used to war's alarms: But a cannonball took off his legs, So he laid down his arms."* (Thomas Hood). *~vb.* **punning, punned.** **2. (intr.)** to make puns.

punch¹ ('pʌntʃ) *vb.* **1.** to strike at, esp. with a clenched fist. **2. (tr.)** *Western U.S.* to herd or drive (cattle), esp. for a living. **3. (tr.)** to poke with a stick, etc. *~n.* **4.** a blow with the fist. **5. Inf. point or vigour: *his arguments lacked punch.* *—puncher* *n.***

punch² ('pʌntʃ) *n.* **1.** a tool or machine for piercing holes in a material. **2.** a tool or machine used for stamping a design on something or shaping it by impact. **3.** the solid die of a punching machine. **4. Computers.** a device for making holes in a card or paper tape. *~vb.* **5. (tr.)** to pierce, cut, stamp, shape, or drive with a punch.

punch³ ('pʌntʃ) *n.* any mixed drink containing fruit juice and, usually, alcoholic liquor, generally hot and spiced.

Punch ('pʌntʃ) *n.* the main character in the traditional children's puppet show **Punch and Judy.**

punchball ('pʌntʃ,bɔ:l) *n.* **1.** Also called (U.S.): **punching bag.** a stuffed or inflated ball or bag, either suspended or supported by a flexible rod, that is punched for exercise, esp. boxing training. **2. U.S.** a game resembling baseball.

punch-drunk *adj.* **1.** demonstrating or characteristic of the behaviour of a person who has suffered repeated blows to the head, esp. a professional boxer. **2.** dazed; stupefied.

Punchinello ('pʌntʃɪ'nɛləʊ) *n., pl. -los or -loes.* **1.** a clown from Italian puppet shows, the prototype of Punch. **2. (sometimes not cap.)** any grotesque or absurd character.

punch line *n.* the culminating part of a joke, funny story, etc., that gives it its point.

punch-up *n.* *Brit. sl.* a fight or brawl.

punchy ('pʌntʃɪ) *adj.* **punchier, punchiest.** **1.** an informal word for **punch-drunk.** **2. Inf.** incisive or forceful. *—'punchily* *adv.* *—punchiness* *n.*

punctate ('pʌŋktetɪ) *adj.* having or marked with minute spots or depressions. *—punctation* *n.*

punctilio ('pʌŋk'tɪli,ʊ) *n., pl. -os.* **1.** strict attention to minute points of etiquette. **2.** a petty formality or fine point of etiquette.

punctilious ('pʌŋk'tɪliəs) *adj.* **1.** paying scrupulous attention to correctness in etiquette. **2.** attentive to detail. *—punctiliously* *adv.* *—punctiliousness* *n.*

punctual ('pʌŋktʃʊəl) *adj.* **1.** arriving or taking place at an arranged time. **2. (of a person)** having the characteristic of always keeping to arranged times. **3. Obs.** precise; exact. **4. Maths.** consisting of or confined to a point. *—punctuality* *n.* *—'punctually* *adv.*

punctuation ('pʌŋktʃu'eɪʃən) *n.* **1.** the use of symbols not belonging to the alphabet of a writing system to indicate aspects of the intonation and meaning not otherwise conveyed in the written language. **2.** the symbols used for this purpose.

punctuation mark *n.* any of the signs used in punctuation, such as a comma.

puncture ('pʌŋktʃə) *n.* **1.** a small hole made by a sharp object. **2.** a perforation and loss of pressure in a pneumatic tyre. **3.** the act of puncturing or perforating. *~vb.* **4. (tr.)** to pierce (a hole) in (something) with a sharp object. **5.** to cause (something pressurized, esp. a tyre) to lose pressure by piercing, or (of a tyre, etc.) to collapse in this way. **6. (tr.)** to depreciate (a person's self-esteem, pomposity, etc.).

pundit or pandit ('pʌndɪt) *n.* **1.** a self-appointed expert. **2. (formerly)** a learned person. **3.** a Brahman learned in Sanskrit and, esp. in Hindu religion, philosophy or law.

pungent ('pʌŋdʒənt) *adj.* **1.** having an acrid smell or sharp bitter flavour. **2. (of wit, satire, etc.)** biting;

caustic. 3. *Biol.* ending in a sharp point. —'pungency *n.* —'pungently *adv.*

punish ('pʌnɪʃ) *vb.* 1. to force (someone) to undergo a penalty for some crime or misdemeanour. 2. (*tr.*) to inflict punishment for (some crime, etc.). 3. (*tr.*) to treat harshly, esp. as by overexertion: to *punish a horse*. 4. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to consume in large quantities: to *punish the bottle*. —'punishable *adj.* —'punisher *n.* —'punishingly *adv.*

punishment ('pʌnɪʃmənt) *n.* 1. a penalty for a crime or offence. 2. the act of punishing or state of being punished. 3. *Inf.* rough treatment.

punitive ('pjʊ:nɪtɪv) or **punitory** ('pjʊ:nɪtəri) *adj.* relating to, involving, or with the intention of inflicting punishment: a *punitive expedition*. —'punitively *adv.*

punk (pʌŋk) *n.* 1. an inferior or worthless person or thing. 2. a follower or practitioner of punk rock, esp. one wearing worthless articles such as safety pins for decoration. 3. worthless articles collectively. 4. short for **punk rock**. 5. *Obs.* a young male homosexual; catamite. 6. *Obs.* a prostitute. —*adj.* 7. rotten or worthless. 8. denoting punk rock.

punk rock *n.* rock music in a style of the late 1970s, characterized by offensive lyrics and aggressive performance. —'punk rocker *n.*

punnet ('pʌnɪt) *n.* *Chiefly Brit.* a small basket for fruit.

punster ('pʌnstə) *n.* a person who is fond of making puns, esp. one who makes a tedious habit of this.

punt¹ (pʌnt) *n.* 1. an open flat-bottomed boat with square ends, propelled by a pole. —*vb.* 2. to propel (a boat, esp. a punt) by pushing with a pole on the bottom of a river, etc.

punt² (pʌnt) *n.* 1. a kick in certain sports, such as rugby, in which the ball is released and kicked before it hits the ground. —*vb.* 2. to kick (a ball, etc.) using a punt.

punt³ (pʌnt) *Chiefly Brit.* —*vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to gamble; bet. —*n.* 2. a gamble or bet, esp. against the bank, as in roulette, or on horses. 3. Also called: **punter**, a person who bets. 4. *take a punt at.* *Austral. inf.* to make an attempt at.

punter ('pʌntə) *n.* 1. one who gambles or bets. 2. *Inf.* any person. 3. a person who punts a boat. 4. a person who punts a ball. 5. *Inf.* a customer or client, esp. a prostitute's client.

puny ('pjʊ:nɪ) *adj.* —**nier**, —**niest**. 1. small and weakly. 2. paltry; insignificant. —'puniness *n.*

pup (pʌp) *n.* 1. a young dog; puppy. **b.** the young of various other animals, such as the seal. 2. *in pup.* (of a bitch) pregnant. 3. *Inf., chiefly Brit.* a conceited young man (esp. in *young pup*). 4. *Inf.* a worthless purchase (esp. in *be sold a pup*). —*vb.* **pupping**, **pupped**. 5. (of dogs, seals, etc.) to give birth to (young).

pupa ('pjʊ:pə) *n.*, *pl.* —**pae** (—**pi**) or —**pas**. an insect at the immobile nonfeeding stage of development between larva and adult, when many internal changes occur. —'pupal *adj.*

pupil¹ ('pjʊ:pəl) *n.* 1. a student who is taught by a teacher. 2. *Civil & Scot. law.* a boy under 14 or a girl under 12 who is in the care of a guardian. —'pupillage or *U.S.* 'pupilage *n.* —'pupillary *adj.*

pupil² ('pjʊ:pəl) *n.* the dark circular aperture at the centre of the iris of the eye, through which light enters. —'pupillary *adj.*

puppet ('pʌpɪt) *n.* 1. a. a small doll or figure moved by strings attached to its limbs or by the hand inserted in its cloth body. **b.** (as *modifier*): a *puppet theatre*. 2. a. a person, state, etc., that appears independent but is controlled by another. **b.** (as *modifier*): a *puppet government*. —'puppetry *n.*

puppeteer ('pʌpɪ'tiə) *n.* a person who manipulates puppets.

puppy ('pʌpi) *n.*, *pl.* —**pies**. 1. a young dog; pup. 2. *Inf.* contemptuous, a brash or conceited young man; pup. —'puppyhood *n.* —'puppyish *adj.*

puppy fat *n.* fatty tissue in a child or adolescent, usually disappearing with age.

purblind ('pʊ:blænd) *adj.* 1. partly or nearly blind. 2. lacking in insight or understanding; obtuse.

purchase ('pʊ:tʃɪs) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to obtain (goods, etc.) by payment. 2. to obtain by effort, sacrifice, etc.: to *purchase one's freedom*. 3. to draw or lift (a load) with mechanical apparatus. —*n.* 4. something that is purchased. 5. the act of buying. 6. acquisition of an estate by any lawful means other than inheritance. 7. a tackle or lever used in moving a heavy load. 8. a firm foothold, grasp, etc., as for climbing something. —'purchasable *adj.* —'purchaser *n.*

purdah ('pʊ:də) *n.* 1. the custom in some Muslim and Hindu communities of keeping women in seclusion, with clothing that conceals them completely when they go out. 2. a screen in a Hindu house used to keep the women out of view.

pure (pjʊə) *adj.* 1. not mixed with any extraneous or dissimilar materials, elements, etc. 2. free from tainting or polluting matter: *pure water*. 3. free from moral taint or defilement: *pure love*. 4. (*prenominal*) (intensifier): a *pure coincidence*. 5. (of a subject, etc.) studied in its theoretical aspects rather than for its practical applications: *pure mathematics*. 6. (of a vowel) pronounced with more or less unvarying quality without any glide. 7. (of a consonant) not accompanied by another consonant. 8. of unmixed descent. 9. *Genetics, biol.* breeding true; homozygous. 10. *Philosophy.* independent of empirical concepts: *pure reason*. —'purely *adv.* —'pureness *n.*

purebred ('pjʊə'bred) *adj.* 1. denoting a pure strain obtained through many generations of controlled breeding. —*n.* ('pjʊə'bred). 2. a purebred animal.

purée ('pjʊərə) *n.* 1. a smooth thick pulp of sieved fruit, vegetables, meat, or fish. —*vb.* —**réeing**, —**réed**. 2. (*tr.*) to make (cooked foods) into a purée.

purgative ('pʊ:gətɪv) *Med.* —*n.* 1. a drug or agent for purging the bowels. —*adj.* 2. causing evacuation of the bowels. —'purgatively *adv.*

purgatory ('pʊ:gətəri) *n.* 1. *Chiefly R.C. Church.* a state or place in which the souls of those who have died in a state of grace are believed to undergo a limited amount of suffering to expiate their venial sins. 2. a place or condition of suffering or torment, esp. one that is temporary. —'purgatorial *adj.*

purge (pʊ:dʒ) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to rid (something) of (impure elements). 2. (*tr.*) to rid (a state, political party, etc.) of (dissident people). 3. (*tr.*) a. to empty (the bowels) by evacuation of faeces. **b.** to cause (a person) to evacuate his bowels. 4. a. to clear (a person) of a charge. **b.** to free (oneself) of guilt, as by atonement. 5. (*intr.*) to be purified. —*n.* 6. the act or process of purging. 7. the elimination of opponents or dissidents from a state, political party, etc. 8. a purgative drug or agent. —'purger *n.*

purify ('pjʊəfaɪ) *vb.* —**fy**ing, —**fied**. 1. to free (something) of contaminating or debasing matter. 2. (*tr.*) to free (a person, etc.) from sin or guilt. 3. (*tr.*) to make clean, as in a ritual. —'purification *n.* —'purificatory ('pjʊəfɪkətəri) *adj.* —'purifier *n.*

purism ('pjʊə,rɪzəm) *n.* insistence on traditional canons of correctness of form or purity of style or content. —'purist *adj.*, *n.* —'puristic *adj.*

puritan ('pjʊərɪtən) *n.* 1. a person who adheres to strict moral or religious principles, esp. one opposed to luxury and sensual enjoyment. —*adj.* 2. characteristic of a puritan. —'puritanism *n.*

Puritan ('pjʊərɪtən) (in the late 16th and 17th centuries) —*n.* 1. any of the extreme English Protestants who wished to purify the Church of England of most of its ceremony and other aspects that they deemed to be Catholic. —*adj.* 2. of or relating to the Puritans. —'Puritanism *n.*

puritanical ('pjʊərɪtənɪkəl) or **puritanic** *adj.* 1. *Usually disparaging.* strict in moral or religious outlook, esp. in shunning sensual pleasures. 2. (*sometimes cap.*) of or relating to a puritan or the Puritans. —'puritanically *adv.*

purity ('pjʊərɪti) *n.* the state or quality of being pure.

purl¹ ('pɜ:əl) *n.* 1. a knitting stitch made by doing a plain stitch backwards. 2. a decorative border, as of lace. 3. gold or silver wire thread. —*vb.* 4. to knit in purl stitch. 5. to edge (something) with a purl.

purl² ('pɜ:əl) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) (of a stream, etc.) to flow with a gentle swirling or rippling movement and a murmuring sound. —*n.* 2. a swirling movement of water; eddy. 3. a murmuring sound, as of a shallow stream.

purlieu ('pɜ:liju) *n.* 1. *English history.* land on the edge of a forest once included within the bounds of the royal forest but later separated although still subject to some of the forest laws. 2. (*usually pl.*) a neighbouring area; outskirts. 3. (*often pl.*) a place one frequents; haunt.

purlin or **purline** ('pɜ:lm) *n.* a horizontal beam that provides intermediate support for the common rafters of a roof construction.

purlion ('pɜ:lm) *vb.* to steal. —'pur'loiner *n.*

purple ('pɜ:pəl) *n.* 1. a colour between red and blue. 2. a dye or pigment producing such a colour. 3. cloth of this colour, often used to symbolize royalty or nobility. 4. (usually preceded by *the*) high rank; nobility. 5. a. the

official robe of a cardinal. **b.** the rank of a cardinal as signified by this. ~*adj.* **6.** of the colour purple. **7.** (of writing) excessively elaborate or full of imagery: *purple prose*. —*'purpleness* *n.* —*'purplish* *adj.* —*'purply* *adj.*

purple heart *n.* **1.** any of several tropical American trees. **2.** *Inf.*, chiefly *Brit.* a heart-shaped purple tablet consisting mainly of amphetamine.

Purple Heart *n.* a decoration awarded to members of the U.S. Armed Forces for a wound received in action.

purport *vb.* (pɜː'pɔ:t). (tr.) **1.** to claim to be (true, official, etc.) by manner or appearance, esp. falsely. **2.** to signify or imply. ~*n.* ('pɜːpɔ:t). **3.** meaning; significance. **4.** object; intention.

purpose ('pɜːpəs) *n.* **1.** the reason for which anything is done, created, or exists. **2.** a fixed design or idea that is the object of an action or other effort. **3.** determination: *a man of purpose*. **4.** practical advantage or use: *to work to good purpose*. **5.** that which is relevant (esp. in to or from the purpose). **6.** Arch. purport. **7.** on purpose, intentionally. ~*vb.* **8.** (tr.) to intend or determine to do (something). —*'purposeful* *adj.* —*'purposeless* *adj.*

purpose-built *adj.* made to serve a specific purpose.

purposely ('pɜːpəsli) *adv.* on purpose.

purposive ('pɜːpəsiv) *adj.* **1.** having or indicating conscious intention. **2.** serving a purpose; useful. —*'purposively* *adv.* —*'purposiveness* *n.*

purr (pɜː) *vb.* **1.** (intr.) (esp. of cats) to make a low vibrant sound, usually considered as expressing pleasure, etc. **2.** (tr.) to express (pleasure, etc.) by this sound. ~*n.* **3.** a purring sound.

purse (pɜːs) *n.* **1.** a small bag or pouch for carrying money, esp. coins. **2.** U.S. a woman's handbag. **3.** anything resembling a small bag or pouch in form or function. **4.** wealth; funds; resources. **5.** a sum of money that is offered, esp. as a prize. ~*vb.* **6.** (tr.) to contract (the mouth, lips, etc.) into a small rounded shape.

purser ('pɜːsə) *n.* an officer aboard a ship or aircraft who keeps the accounts and attends to the welfare of the passengers.

purse strings *pl. n.* control of expenditure (esp. in hold or control the purse strings).

purslane ('pɜːslæn) *n.* a plant with fleshy leaves used (esp. formerly) in salads and as a potherb.

pursuance (pɜː'sjuːəns) *n.* the carrying out or pursuing of an action, plan, etc.

pursuant (pɜː'sjuːənt) *adj.* **1.** (usually postpositive; often foll. by *to*) Chiefly *law* in agreement or conformity. **2.** Arch. pursuing. —*'pur'suantly* *adv.*

pursue (pɜː'sjuː) *vb.* -*suing*, -*sued*. (mainly tr.) **1.** (also intr.) to follow (a fugitive, etc.) in order to capture or overtake. **2.** to follow closely or accompany: *ill health pursued her*. **3.** to seek or strive to attain (some desire, etc.). **4.** to follow the precepts of (a plan, policy, etc.). **5.** to apply oneself to (studies, interests, etc.). **6.** to follow persistently or seek to become acquainted with. **7.** to continue to discuss or argue (a point, subject, etc.). —*'pur'suer* *n.*

pursuit (pɜː'sjuːt) *n.* **1.** a. the act of pursuing. **b.** (as modifier) a pursuit plane. **2.** an occupation or pastime. **3.** (in cycling) a race in which the riders set off at intervals along the track and attempt to overtake each other.

pursuivant ('pɜːsivənt) *n.* **1.** the lowest rank of heraldic officer. **2.** History. a state or royal messenger. **3.** History. a follower or attendant.

pursy ('pɜːsi) *adj.* **1.** short-winded. **2.** Arch. fat; overweight.

purulent ('pjʊərələnt) *adj.* of, relating to, or containing pus. —*'purulence* *n.* —*'purulently* *adv.*

purvey ('pɜːveɪ) *vb.* (tr.) **1.** to sell or provide (commodities, esp. foodstuffs) on a large scale. **2.** to publish (lies, scandal, etc.). —*'pur'veyor* *n.*

purview ('pɜːvjʊː) *n.* **1.** scope of operation. **2.** breadth or range of outlook. **3.** Law. the body of a statute, containing the enacting clauses.

pus (pʌs) *n.* the yellow or greenish fluid product of inflammation.

push (pʊʃ) *vb.* **1.** (when tr., often foll. by *off*, *away*, etc.) to apply steady force to in order to move. **2.** to thrust (one's way) through something, such as a crowd. **3.** (tr.) to encourage or urge (a person) to some action, decision, etc. **4.** (when intr., often foll. by *for*) to be an advocate or promoter (of): *to push for acceptance of one's theories*. **5.** (tr.) to use one's influence to help (a person): *to push one's own candidate*. **6.** to bear upon (oneself or

another person) in order to achieve better results, etc. **7.** (tr.) to rely too much on: *to push one's luck*. **8.** Cricket, etc. to hit (a ball) with a stiff pushing stroke. **9.** (tr.) *Inf.* to sell (narcotic drugs) illegally. **10.** (intr.; foll. by *out*, *into*, etc.) to extend: *the cliffs pushed out to the sea*. ~*n.* **11.** the act of pushing; thrust. **12.** a part or device that is pressed to operate some mechanism. **13.** *Inf.* drive, energy, etc. **14.** *Inf.* a special effort or attempt to advance, as of an army: *to make a push*. **15.** Austral. sl. a group, gang, or clique. **16.** Cricket, etc. a stiff pushing stroke. **17.** at a push. *Inf.* with difficulty; only just. **18.** the push. *Sl.*, chiefly *Brit.* dismissal, esp. from employment. ~See also *push off*, *push through*.

push-bike *n.* *Brit.* an informal name for bicycle.

push button *n.* **1.** an electrical switch operated by pressing a button, which closes or opens a circuit. **2.** (modifier) **push-button**. a. operated by a push button: a push-button radio. b. initiated as simply as by pressing a button: *push-button warfare*.

pushchair ('pʊʃ,tʃeə) *n.* *Brit.* a chair-shaped carriage for a small child. U.S. word: *stroller*. Austral. words: *pusher*, *stroller*.

pusher ('pʊʃə) *n.* **1.** *Inf.* a person who sells illegal drugs. **2.** *Inf.* an aggressively ambitious person. **3.** a person or thing that pushes. **4.** Austral. the usual name for *pushchair*.

pushing ('pʊʃɪŋ) *adj.* **1.** enterprising or aggressively ambitious. **2.** impertinently self-assertive. ~*adv.* **3.** almost or nearly (a certain age, speed, etc.): *pushing fifty*. —*'pushingly* *adv.*

push off *vb.* (adv.) **1.** Also: **push out**. to move into open water, as by being cast off from a mooring. **2.** (intr.) *Inf.* to go away; leave.

pushover ('pʊʃ,ʌʊvə) *n.* *Sl.* **1.** something that is easily achieved. **2.** a person, team, etc., that is easily taken advantage of or defeated.

push-start *vb.* (tr.) **1.** to start (a motor vehicle) by pushing it while it is in gear, thus turning the engine. ~*n.* **2.** this process.

push through *vb.* (tr.) to compel to accept: *the bill was pushed through Parliament*.

pushy ('pʊʃi) *adj.* **pushier**, **pushiest**. *Inf.* **1.** offensively assertive. **2.** aggressively or ruthlessly ambitious. —*'pushily* *adv.* —*'pushiness* *n.*

pusillanimous (ˌpjuːsɪˈlænɪməs) *adj.* characterized by a lack of courage or determination. —*pusillanimity* (ˌpjuːsɪlənɪmɪti) *n.* —*'pusil'lanimously* *adv.*

puss (pʌs) *n.* **1.** an informal name for a cat. **2.** *Sl.* a girl or woman. **3.** an informal name for a hare.

pussy ('pʊsi) *n.*, *pl.* pussies. **1.** Also called: **puss**, **pussycat** ('pʊsi,kæt), an informal name for a cat. **2.** a furry catkin. **3.** Taboo *sl.* the female pudenda.

pussy ('pʊsi) *adj.* -*sier*, -*siest*. containing or full of pus.

pussyfoot ('pʊsi,fʊt) *vb.* (intr.) *Inf.* **1.** to move about stealthily or warily like a cat. **2.** to avoid committing oneself.

pussy willow ('pʊsi) *n.* a willow tree with silvery silky catkins.

pustulate *vb.* ('pʌstjuːleɪt). **1.** to form or cause to form into pustules. ~*adj.* ('pʌstjuːlət). **2.** covered with pustules. —*'pustu'lation* *n.*

pustule ('pʌstjuːl) *n.* **1.** a small inflamed elevated area of skin containing pus. **2.** any spot resembling a pimple. —*'pustular* ('pʌstjuːlə) *adj.*

put (put) *vb.* **putting**, **put**. (mainly tr.) **1.** to cause to be (in a position or place): *to put a book on the table*. **2.** to cause to be (in a state, relation, etc.): *to put one's things in order*. **3.** (foll. by *to*) to cause (a person) to experience or suffer: *to put to death*. **4.** to set or commit (to an action, task, or duty), esp. by force: *he put him to work*. **5.** to render or translate: *to put into English*. **6.** to set (words) in a musical form (esp. in **put to music**). **7.** (foll. by *at*) to estimate: *he put the distance at fifty miles*. **8.** (foll. by *to*) to utilize: *he put his knowledge to use*. **9.** (foll. by *to*) to couple a female animal (with a male) for breeding: *the farmer put his heifer to the bull*. **10.** to express: *to put it bluntly*. **11.** to make (an end or limit): *he put an end to the proceedings*. **12.** to present for consideration; propose: *he put the question to the committee*. **13.** to invest (money) in or expend (time, energy, etc.) on: *he put five thousand pounds into the project*. **14.** to impart: *to put zest into a party*. **15.** to throw or cast. **16.** not know where to put oneself. to feel embarrassed. **17.** put paid to. to destroy utterly. **18.** stay put. to remain in one place; remain stationary. ~*n.* **19.** a throw, esp. in putting the shot. **20.** Also called: **put option**. Stock Exchange. an option to sell a stated num-

ber of securities at a specified price during a limited period. ~See also **put about**, **put across**, etc.

put about *vb.* (adv.) 1. *Naut.* to change course. 2. (tr.) to make widely known: *he put about the news of the air disaster*. 3. (tr.; usually passive) to disconcert or disturb.

put across *vb.* (tr.) 1. (adv.) to communicate in a comprehensible way: *he couldn't put things across very well*. 2. **put one across**. *Inf.* to get (someone) to believe a claim, excuse, etc., by deception: *they put one across their teacher*.

put aside *or by* *vb.* (tr., adv.) 1. to move (an object, etc.) to one side, esp. in rejection. 2. to save: *to put money aside for a rainy day*. 3. to disregard: *let us put aside our differences*.

putative ('pjʊ:tətv) *adj.* 1. (prenominal) commonly regarded as being: *the putative father*. 2. (prenominal) considered to exist or have existed; inferred. —'putatively *adv.*

put away *vb.* (tr., adv.) 1. to return (something) to the proper place. 2. to save: *to put away money for the future*. 3. to lock up in a prison, mental institution, etc.: *they put him away for twenty years*. 4. to eat or drink, esp. in large amounts. 5. to put to death, because of old age or illness: *the dog had to be put away*.

put back *vb.* (tr., adv.) 1. to return to its former place. 2. to move to a later time: *the wedding was put back a fortnight*. 3. to impede the progress of: *the strike put back production*.

put down *vb.* (tr., adv.) 1. to make a written record of. 2. to repress: *to put down a rebellion*. 3. to consider: *they put him down for an ignoramus*. 4. to attribute: *I put the mistake down to inexperience*. 5. to put (an animal) to death, because of old age or illness. 6. to table on the agenda: *the MPs put down a motion on the increase in crime*. 7. *Sl.* to reject or humiliate. ~*n.* **put-down**. 8. a cruelly critical remark.

put forward *vb.* (tr., adv.) 1. to propose; suggest. 2. to offer the name of; nominate.

put in *vb.* (adv.) 1. (intr.) *Naut.* to bring a vessel into port. 2. (often foll. by *for*) to apply (for a job, etc.). 3. (tr.): to submit: *he put in his claims form*. 4. to intervene with (a remark) during a conversation. 5. (tr.): to devote (time, effort, etc.): *he put in three hours overtime last night*. 6. *N.Z.* (tr.) to establish or appoint, esp. in relation to a farm: *he put in a manager*. 7. (tr.) *Cricket*. to cause to bat: *England won the toss and put the visitors in to bat*.

put off *vb.* 1. (tr., adv.) to postpone: *they have put off the dance until tomorrow*. 2. (tr., adv.) to evade (a person) by postponement or delay: *they tried to put him off, but he came anyway*. 3. (tr., adv.) to disconcert: *he was put off by her appearance*. 4. (tr., prep.) to cause to lose interest in: *the accident put him off driving*.

put on *vb.* (tr., mainly adv.) 1. to clothe oneself in. 2. (usually passive) to adopt (an attitude or feeling) insincerely: *his misery was just put on*. 3. to present (a play, show, etc.). 4. to add: *she put on weight*. 5. to cause (an electrical device) to function. 6. (also prep.) to wager (money) on a horse race, game, etc. 7. (also prep.) to impose: *to put a tax on cars*. 8. *Cricket*. to cause (a bowler) to bowl.

put out *vb.* (tr., adv.) 1. (often passive) a. to annoy; anger. b. to disturb; confuse. 2. to extinguish (a fire, light, etc.). 3. to poke forward: *to put out one's tongue*. 4. to be a source of inconvenience to: *I hope I'm not putting you out*. 5. to publish; broadcast: *the authorities put out a leaflet*. 6. to render unconscious. 7. to dislocate: *he put out his shoulder in the accident*. 8. to give out (work to be done) at different premises. 9. to lend (money) at interest. 10. *Cricket*. to dismiss (a player or team).

put over *vb.* (tr., adv.) 1. *Inf.* to communicate (facts, information, etc.). 2. *Chiefly U.S.* to postpone. 3. **put (a fast) one over on**. *Inf.* to get (someone) to believe a claim, excuse, etc., by deception: *he put one over on his boss*.

putrefy ('pjʊ:tri,fai) *vb.* -fying, -fied. (of organic matter) to decompose or rot with an offensive smell. —**putrefaction** ('pjʊ:tri'fækʃən) *n.* —**putrefactive** *or putrefacient* ('pjʊ:tri'feɪʃənt) *adj.*

putrescent ('pjʊ:'tres'nt) *adj.* 1. becoming putrid; rotting. 2. characterized by or undergoing putrefaction. —**putrescence** *n.*

putrid ('pjʊ:trɪd) *adj.* 1. (of organic matter) in a state of decomposition: *putrid meat*. 2. morally corrupt. 3. sickening; foul: *a putrid smell*. 4. *Inf.* deficient in quality

or value: *a putrid film*. —**putridity** *or* **putridness** *n.* —**putridly** *adv.*

Putsch *German*. (putʃ) *n.* a violent and sudden uprising; political revolt.

putt (pʌt) *Golf*. ~*n.* 1. a stroke on the green with a putter to roll the ball into or near the hole. ~*vb.* 2. to strike (the ball) in this way.

puttee *or* **putty** ('pʌti) *n., pl. -tees or -ties.* (often pl.) a strip of cloth worn wound around the leg from the ankle to the knee, esp. as part of a uniform in World War I.

putter ('pʌtə) *n. Golf*. 1. a club with a short shaft for putting, usually having a solid metal head. 2. a golfer who putts: *he is a good putter*.

putter² ('pʌtə) *vb.* the usual U.S. spelling of **potter**². —**putterer** *n.*

put through *vb.* (tr., mainly adv.) 1. to carry out to a conclusion: *he put through his plan*. 2. (also prep.) to organize the processing of: *she put through his application to join the organization*. 3. to connect by telephone. 4. to make (a telephone call).

putting green ('pʌtɪŋ) *n.* 1. (on a golf course) the area of closely mown grass at the end of a fairway where the hole is. 2. an area of smooth grass with several holes for putting games.

putty ('pʌti) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. a stiff paste made of whiting and linseed oil that is used to fix glass into frames and to fill cracks in woodwork, etc. 2. any substance with a similar function or appearance. 3. a mixture of lime and water with sand or plaster of Paris used on plaster as a finishing coat. 4. (as modifier) *a putty knife*. 5. a person who is easily influenced: *he's putty in her hands*. 6. a colour varying from greyish-yellow to greyish-brown. ~*vb.* -tying, -tied. 7. (tr.) to fix, fill, or coat with putty.

put up *vb.* (adv., mainly tr.) 1. to build; erect: *to put up a statue*. 2. to accommodate or be accommodated at: *can you put me up for tonight?* 3. to increase (prices). 4. to submit (a plan, case, etc.). 5. to offer: *to put a house up for sale*. 6. to give: *to put up a good fight*. 7. to provide (money) for: *they put up five thousand for the new project*. 8. to preserve or can (jam, etc.). 9. to pile up (long hair) on the head in any of several styles. 10. (also intr.) to nominate or be nominated as a candidate: *he put up for president*. 11. *Arch.* to return (a weapon) to its holder: *put up your sword!* 12. **put up to**. a. to inform or instruct (a person) about (tasks, duties, etc.). b. to incite to. 13. **put up with**. (intr.) *Inf.* to endure; tolerate. ~*adj.* **put-up**. 14. dishonestly or craftily prearranged (esp. in **put-up job**).

put upon *vb.* (intr., prep., usually passive) 1. to presume on (a person's generosity, good nature, etc.): *he's always being put upon*. 2. to impose hardship on: *he was sorely put upon*.

puzzle ('pʌzəl) *vb.* 1. to perplex or be perplexed. 2. (intr.; foll. by *over*) to ponder about the cause of: *he puzzled over her absence*. 3. (tr.; usually foll. by *out*) to solve by mental effort: *he puzzled out the meaning*. ~*n.* 4. a person or thing that puzzles. 5. a problem that cannot be easily solved. 6. the state of being puzzled. 7. a toy, game, or question presenting a problem that requires skill or ingenuity for its solution. —**puzzlement** *n.* —**puzzler** *n.* —**puzzlingly** *adv.*

PVC *abbrev.* for polyvinyl chloride; a synthetic thermoplastic material made by polymerizing vinyl chloride. The flexible forms are used in insulation, shoes, etc. Rigid PVC is used for moulded articles.

P.W. *abbrev.* for policewoman.

pyaemia *or* **pyemia** (paɪ'miə) *n.* blood poisoning characterized by pus-forming microorganisms in the blood. —**pyaemic** *or* **pyemic** *adj.*

pye-dog *or* **pie-dog** *n.* an ownerless half-wild Asian dog.

pygmy *or* **pigmy** ('pɪgmɪ) *n., pl. -mies.* 1. an abnormally undersized person. 2. something that is a very small example of its type. 3. a person of little importance or significance. 4. (modifier) very small. —**pygmaean** *or* **pygmean** ('pɪg'mi:ən) *adj.*

Pygmy *or* **Pigmy** ('pɪgmɪ) *n., pl. -mies.* a member of one of the dwarf peoples of Equatorial Africa, noted for their hunting and forest culture.

pylamos *or* **U.S. pajamas** (pə'dʒɑ:məz) *pl. n.* 1. loose-fitting nightclothes comprising a jacket or top and trousers. 2. full loose-fitting ankle-length trousers worn by either sex in various Eastern countries.

pylon ('paɪlən) *n.* 1. a large vertical steel tower-like structure supporting high-tension electrical cables. 2. a post or tower for guiding pilots or marking a turning

point in a race. **3.** a streamlined aircraft structure for attaching an engine pod, etc., to the main body of the aircraft. **4.** a monumental gateway, such as one at the entrance to an ancient Egyptian temple.

pyo- or before a vowel **py-** combining form. denoting pus: *pyosis*.

pyorrhoea or esp. U.S. **pyorrhea** (ˌpaɪəˈrɪə) *n.* *Pathol.* 1. any condition characterized by a discharge of pus. **2.** See **pyorrhoea alveolaris**.

pyorrhoea alveolaris (ˌælvɪəˈlɑːrɪs) *n.* *Dentistry.* inflammation of the gums characterized by the discharge of pus and loosening of the teeth.

pyramid (ˈpɪrəˌmɪd) *n.* **1.** a huge masonry construction that has a square base and, as in the case of the ancient Egyptian royal tombs, four sloping triangular sides. **2.** an object or structure resembling such a construction. **3. Maths.** a solid having a polygonal base and triangular sides that meet in a common vertex. **4. Crystallography.** a crystal form in which three planes intersect all three axes of the crystal. **5. Finance.** a group of enterprises containing a series of holding companies structured so that the top holding company controls the entire group with a relatively small proportion of the total capital invested. **6. (pl.)** a game similar to billiards. **~vb.** **7.** to build up or be arranged in the form of a pyramid. **8. Finance.** to form (companies) into a pyramid. —**pyramidal** (ˌpɪˈræmɪdəl), **pyra'midical**, or **pyra'midic** *adj.* —**py'ramidally** or **pyra'midically** *adv.*

pyramid selling —*n.* a practice adopted by some manufacturers of advertising for distributors and selling them batches of goods. The first distributors then advertise for more distributors who are sold subdivisions of the original batches at an increased price. This process continues until the final distributors are left with a stock that is unsaleable except at a loss.

pyre (paɪə) *n.* a pile of wood or other combustible material, esp. one for cremating a corpse.

pyrethrum (paɪˈrɪθrəm) *n.* **1.** any of several cultivated Eurasian chrysanthemums with white, pink, red, or purple flowers. **2.** any insecticide prepared from the dried flowers of any of these plants.

pyretic (paɪˈrɛtɪk) *adj.* *Pathology.* of, relating to, or characterized by fever.

Pyrex (ˈpaɪrɛks) *n.* *Trademark.* **a.** any of a variety of glasses that have low coefficients of expansion, making them suitable for heat-resistant glassware used in cookery and chemical apparatus. **b. (as modifier):** a *Pyrex dish*.

pyrite (ˈpaɪraɪt) *n.* a yellow mineral consisting of iron sulphide in cubic crystalline form. It occurs in all types of rocks and veins, associated with various metals, and is used mainly in the manufacture of sulphuric acid and paper. Formula: FeS_2 . Also called: **iron pyrites**, **pyrites**. —**pyritic** (paɪˈrɪtɪk) or **py'ritous** *adj.*

pyrites (paɪˈraɪtɪz) *n., pl. -tes.* **1.** another name for **pyrite**. **2.** any of a number of other disulphides of metals, esp. of copper and tin.

pyro- or before a vowel **pyr-** combining form. **1.** denoting fire or heat: *pyromania*; *pyrometer*. **2. Chem.** denoting a new substance obtained by heating another: *pyroboric acid is obtained by heating boric acid*. **3. Mineralogy.** **a.** having a property that changes upon the application of heat. **b.** having a flame-coloured appearance: *pyroxylin*.

pyrography (paɪˈrɒɡrəfi) *n., pl. -phies.* **1.** the art or process of burning designs on wood or leather with heated tools or a fire flame. **2.** a design made by this process. —**py'rographer** *n.*

pyromania (ˌpaɪrəˈmeɪniə) *n.* *Psychiatry.* the uncontrollable impulse and practice of setting things on fire. —**pyro'maniac** *n.*

pyrotechnics (ˌpaɪrəˈtɛknɪks) *n.* **1. (functioning as sing.)** the art of making fireworks. **2. (functioning as sing. or pl.)** a firework display. **3. (functioning as sing. or pl.)** brilliance of display, as in the performance of music. —**pyro'technic** or **pyro'technical** *adj.*

Pyrrhic victory *n.* a victory in which the victor's losses are as great as those of the defeated. Also called: **Cadmean victory**.

Pythagoras' theorem (paɪˈθæɡərəs) *n.* the theorem that in a right-angled triangle the square of the length of the hypotenuse equals the sum of the squares of the other two sides.

python (ˈpaɪθən) *n.* any of a family of large nonvenomous snakes of Africa, S Asia, and Australia. They reach a length of more than 20 feet and kill their prey by constriction. —**pythonic** (paɪˈθɒnɪk) *adj.*

pythoness (ˈpaɪθəˌnes) *n.* a woman, such as Apollo's priestess at Delphi, believed to be possessed by an oracular spirit.

pyx or **pix** (pɪks) *n.* **1.** Also called: **pyx chest**. the chest in which coins from the British mint are placed to be tested for weight, etc. **2. Christianity.** any receptacle in which the Eucharistic Host is kept.

Q

q or **Q** (kjʊr) *n.*, *pl.* **q's**, **Q's**, or **Qs**. 1. the 17th letter of the English alphabet. 2. a speech sound represented by this letter.

Q *symbol for:* 1. Chess. queen. 2. question. 3. Physics. heat.

q. *abbrev. for:* 1. quart. 2. quarter. 3. quarterly. 4. query. 5. question. 6. quire.

Q. *abbrev. for:* 1. quartermaster. 2. (*pl.* **Qq.**, **qq.**) Also: **q.** quarto. 3. Quebec. 4. Queen. 5. question. 6. Electronics. Q factor.

Q.A.R.A.N.C. *abbrev. for* Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps.

Q.B. *abbrev. for* Queen's Bench.

Q.C. *abbrev. for* Queen's Counsel.

Q.E.D. *abbrev. for* *quod erat demonstrandum*.

Qld. *abbrev. for* Queensland.

Q.M. *abbrev. for* Quartermaster.

Q.M.G. *abbrev. for* Quartermaster General.

qr. *pl.* **qrs.** *abbrev. for:* 1. quarter. 2. quarterly. 3. quire.

qt. *pl.* **qt.** or **qts.** *abbrev. for* quart.

q.t. *Inf.* 1. *abbrev. for* quiet. 2. *on the q.t.* secretly.

qua (kwei, kwa:) *prep.* in the capacity of; by virtue of being.

quack¹ (kwæk) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. (of a duck) to utter a harsh guttural sound. 2. to make a noise like a duck. ~*n.* 3. the sound made by a duck.

quack² (kwæk) *n.* 1. a. an unqualified person who claims medical knowledge or other skills. b. (*as modifier*): a quack doctor. 2. *Sl.*, chiefly *Austral.* a doctor; physician or surgeon. ~*vb.* 3. (*intr.*) to act in the manner of a quack. —'quackery *n.* —'quackish *adj.*

quadr¹ (kwɒd) *n.* *Inf.* short for quadrangle.

quadr² (kwɒd) *n.* *Inf.* short for quadruplet.

Quadragesima (ˌkwɒdrəˈdʒɛsɪmə) *n.* Also called: **Quadragesima Sunday**, the first Sunday in Lent.

quadrangle (ˌkwɒdˈræŋɡl̩) *n.* 1. *Geom.* a plane figure consisting of four points connected by four lines, esp. a rectangle or square. 2. a rectangular courtyard, esp. one having buildings on all four sides. 3. the building surrounding such a courtyard. —'quadrangular (kwɒˈdræŋɡjʊlə) *adj.*

quadrant (ˌkwɒdrənt) *n.* 1. *Geom.* a. a quarter of the circumference of a circle. b. the area enclosed by two perpendicular radii of a circle. c. any of the four sections into which a plane is divided by two coordinate axes. 2. a piece of a mechanism in the form of a quarter circle. 3. an instrument formerly used in astronomy and navigation for measuring the altitudes of stars. —'quadrantal (kwɒˈdræntl̩) *adj.*

quadrasonics or **quadrosonics** (ˌkwɒdrəˈfɒnɪks) *n.* (*functioning as sing.*) a system of sound recording and reproduction that uses four independent loudspeakers to give directional sources of sound. —'quadraˈphonic or 'quadroˈphonic *adj.*

quadrante *n.* (ˌkwɒdrɪnt, -reit). 1. a cube, square, or a square or cubelike object. 2. one of a pair of bones of the upper jaw of fishes, amphibians, reptiles, and birds. ~*adj.* (ˌkwɒdrɪnt, -reit). 3. of or relating to this bone. 4. square or rectangular. ~*vb.* (kwɒˈdreɪt). 5. (*tr.*) to make square or rectangular. 6. (often foll. by *with*) to conform or cause to conform.

quadratic (ˌkwɒdrətɪk) *n.* ~*n.* 1. Also called: **quadratic equation**, an equation containing one or more terms in which the variable is raised to the power of two, but no terms in which it is raised to a higher power. ~*adj.* 2. of or relating to the second power.

quadrature (ˌkwɒdrətʃə) *n.* 1. *Maths.* the process of determining a square having an area equal to that of a given figure or surface. 2. the process of making square or dividing into squares. 3. *Astron.* a configuration in which two celestial bodies form an angle of 90° with a third body. 4. *Electronics.* the relationship between two waves that are 90° out of phase.

quadrennial (kwɒˈdrenjəl) *adj.* 1. occurring every four years. 2. lasting four years. ~*n.* 3. a period of four years. —'quadˈrennially *adv.*

quadr- or **before a vowel quadr-** *combining form.* *four:* quadrilateral.

quadrilateral (ˌkwɒdrɪˈlætərəl) *adj.* 1. having or formed by four sides. ~*n.* 2. Also called: **tetragon**, a polygon having four sides.

quadrille¹ (kwɒˈdrɪl) *n.* 1. a square dance for four couples. 2. a piece of music for such a dance.

quadrillion (kwɒˈdrɪljən) *n.* 1. (in Britain and Germany) the number represented as one followed by 24 zeros (10²⁴). U.S. word: **septillion**. 2. (in the U.S. and France) the number represented as one followed by 15 zeros (10¹⁵). ~*determiner*. 3. amounting to this number: a quadrillion atoms. —'quadˈrillionth *adj.*

quadruplegia (ˌkwɒdrɪˈpliːdʒiə) *n.* paralysis of all four limbs. Also called: **tetraplegia**. —'quadruplegic (ˌkwɒdrɪˈpliːdʒɪk) *adj.*

quadruped (ˌkwɒdrʊˈped) *n.* 1. an animal, esp. a mammal, that has all four limbs specialized for walking. ~*adj.* 2. having four feet. —'quadrupedal (kwɒˈdrʊˈpidl̩) *adj.*

quadruple (ˌkwɒdrʊˈpl̩, kwɒˈdrʊːpl̩) *vb.* 1. to multiply by four or increase fourfold. ~*adj.* 2. four times as much or as many; fourfold. 3. consisting of four parts. 4. *Music.* having four beats in each bar. ~*n.* 5. a quantity or number four times as great as another. —'quadruply *adv.*

quadruplet (ˌkwɒdrʊˈplɪt, kwɒˈdrʊːplɪt) *n.* 1. one of four offspring born at one birth. 2. a group of four similar things. 3. *Music.* a group of four notes to be played in a time value of three.

quadruplicate *adj.* (kwɒˈdrʊːplɪkɪt). 1. fourfold or quadruple. ~*vb.* (kwɒˈdrʊːplɪˈkeɪt). 2. to multiply or be multiplied by four. ~*n.* (kwɒˈdrʊːplɪkɪt). 3. a group or set of four things.

quaestor (ˈkwɪstə) or *U.S. (sometimes) questor* (ˈkwɛstə) *n.* any of several magistrates of ancient Rome, usually a financial administrator. —'quaestorial (kwɛˈstɔːriəl) *adj.*

quaff (kwɒf) *vb.* to drink heartily or in one draught. —'quaffer *n.*

quagga (ˈkwæɡə) *n.*, *pl.* -gas or -ga, a recently extinct member of the horse family of southern Africa: it had zebra-like stripes on the head and shoulders.

quagmire (ˈkwæɡˌmaɪə) *n.* 1. a soft wet area of land that gives way under the feet; bog. 2. an awkward, complex, or embarrassing situation.

quail¹ (kweɪl) *n.*, *pl.* **quails** or **quail**, any of various small Old World game birds having rounded bodies and small tails.

quail² (kweɪl) *vb.* (*intr.*) to shrink back with fear; cower.

quaint (kweɪnt) *adj.* 1. attractively unusual, esp. in an old-fashioned style. 2. odd or inappropriate. —'quaintly *adv.* —'quaintness *n.*

quake (kweɪk) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. to shake or tremble with or as with fear. 2. to convulse or quiver, as from instability. ~*n.* 3. a quaking. 4. *Inf.* an earthquake. —'quaky *adj.*

Quaker (ˈkweɪkə) *n.* 1. a member of the Society of Friends, a Christian sect founded by George Fox about 1650. Quakers reject sacraments, ritual, and formal ministry, and have promoted many causes for social reform. ~*adj.* 2. of the Society of Friends or its beliefs or practices. —'Quakeress *fem. n.* —'Quakerish *adj.* —'Quakerism *n.*

qualification (ˌkwɒlɪfɪˈkeɪʃən) *n.* 1. an ability, quality, or attribute, esp. one that fits a person to perform a particular job or task. 2. a condition that modifies or limits; restriction. 3. a qualifying or being qualified.

qualified (ˈkwɒlɪˈfaɪd) *adj.* 1. having the abilities, qualities, attributes, etc., necessary to perform a particular job or task. 2. limited, modified, or restricted; not absolute.

qualify (ˈkwɒlɪˈfaɪ) *vb.* -fying, -fied. 1. to provide or be provided with the abilities or attributes necessary for a task, office, duty, etc.: *his degree qualifies him for the job*. 2. (*tr.*) to make less strong, harsh, or violent; moderate or restrict. 3. (*tr.*) to modify or change the strength or flavour of. 4. (*tr.*) *Grammar.* another word for **modify**. 5. (*tr.*) to attribute a quality to; characterize.

6. (intr.) to progress to the final stages of a competition, as by winning preliminary contests. — **'quali, fiable** *adj.* — **'quali, fier** *n.*

qualitative ('kwɒlɪtətv) *adj.* involving or relating to distinctions based on quality or qualities. — **'qualitatively** *adv.*

qualitative analysis *n.* See **analysis** (sense 4).

quality ('kwɒlɪti) *n., pl. -ties*. 1. a distinguishing characteristic or attribute. 2. the basic character or nature of something. 3. a feature of personality. 4. degree or standard of excellence, esp. a high standard. 5. (formerly) high social status or the distinction associated with it. 6. musical tone colour; timbre. 7. *Logic*. the characteristic of a proposition that makes it affirmative or negative. 8. *Phonetics*. the distinctive character of a vowel, determined by the configuration of the mouth, tongue, etc. 9. (*modifier*) having or showing excellence or superiority: a quality product.

quality control *n.* control of the relative quality of a manufactured product, usually by statistical sampling techniques.

quail (kwɑ:m) *n.* 1. a sudden feeling of sickness or nausea. 2. a pang of doubt, esp. concerning moral conduct; scruple. 3. a sudden sensation of misgiving. — **'quailish** *adj.*

quandary ('kwɒndrɪ) *n., pl. -ries*. a difficult situation; predicament; dilemma.

quango ('kwæŋɡəʊ) *n., pl. -gos*. acronym for quasi-autonomous national government organization or quasi-autonomous non-governmental organization.

quantify ('kwɒntɪfaɪ) *vb. -fying, -fied*. (*tr.*) 1. to discover or express the quantity of. 2. *Logic*. to specify the quantity of (a term) by using a quantifier, such as *all, some, or no*. — **'quantifiable** *adj.* — **'quantifi'cation** *n.*

quantitative ('kwɒntɪtətv) or **quantitive** *adj.* 1. involving or relating to considerations of amount or size. 2. capable of being measured. 3. *Prosody*. of a metrical system that is based on the length of syllables. — **'quantitatively** or **'quantitively** *adv.*

quantitative analysis *n.* See **analysis** (sense 4).

quantity ('kwɒntɪti) *n., pl. -ties*. 1. *a.* a specified or definite amount, number, etc. *b.* (*as modifier*): a quantity estimate. 2. the aspect of anything that can be measured, weighed, counted, etc. 3. a large amount. 4. *Maths*. an entity having a magnitude that is denoted by a constant, a variable, or a combination of both. 5. *Physics*. a specified magnitude or amount. 6. *Logic*. the characteristic of a proposition that makes it universal or particular. 7. *Prosody*. the relative duration of a syllable or the vowel in it.

quantity surveyor *n.* a person who estimates the cost of the materials and labour necessary for a construction job.

quantum ('kwɒntəm) *n., pl. -ta (-tə)*. 1. *Physics*. *a.* the smallest quantity of some physical property that a system can possess according to the quantum theory. *b.* a particle with such a unit of energy. 2. amount or quantity, esp. a specific amount. ~*adj.* 3. of or designating a major breakthrough or sudden advance: a quantum leap forward.

quantum mechanics *n.* the branch of mechanics, based on the quantum theory, used for interpreting the behaviour of elementary particles and atoms, which do not obey Newtonian mechanics.

quantum theory *n.* a theory concerning the behaviour of physical systems based on the idea that they can only possess certain properties, such as energy and angular momentum, in discrete amounts (quanta).

quarantine ('kwɒrən,tɪn) *n.* 1. a period of isolation or detention, esp. of persons or animals arriving from abroad, to prevent the spread of disease. 2. the place where such detention is enforced. 3. any period or state of enforced isolation. ~*vb.* 4. (*tr.*) to isolate in or as if in quarantine.

quark (kwɔ:k) *n.* *Physics*. any of four or more hypothetical elementary particles postulated to be fundamental units of all baryons and mesons.

quarrel ('kwɒrəl) *n.* 1. an angry disagreement; argument. 2. a cause of dispute; grievance. ~*vb.* -**reling, -relled** or *U.S.* -**reling, -reled**. (*intr.*; often foll. by *with*) 3. to engage in a disagreement or dispute; argue. 4. to find fault; complain. — **'quarreller** *n.*

quarrelsome ('kwɒrəlsəm) *adj.* inclined to quarrel or disagree; belligerent.

quarry ('kwɒrɪ) *n., pl. -ries*. 1. an open surface excavation for the extraction of building stone, slate, marble, etc. 2. a copious source, esp. of information. ~*vb.* -**rying, -ried**. 3. to extract (stone, etc.) from or as if

from a quarry. 4. (*tr.*) to excavate a quarry in. 5. to obtain (something) diligently and laboriously.

quarry ('kwɒrɪ) *n., pl. -ries*. 1. an animal, etc. that is hunted, esp. by other animals; prey. 2. anything pursued.

quarry tile *n.* an unglazed floor tile.

quart (kwɔ:t) *n.* 1. a unit of liquid measure equal to a quarter of a gallon or two pints. 1 U.S. quart (0.946 litre) is equal to 0.8326 U.K. quart. 1 U.K. quart (1.136 litres) is equal to 1.2009 U.S. quarts. 2. a unit of dry measure equal to 2 pints or one eighth of a peck.

quarter ('kwɔ:tə) *n.* 1. one of four equal parts of an object, quantity, etc. 2. the fraction equal to one divided by four (1/4). 3. *U.S., Canad., etc.* a 25-cent piece. 4. a unit of weight equal to a quarter of a hundredweight. 1 U.S. quarter is equal to 25 pounds; 1 Brit. quarter is equal to 28 pounds. 5. a quarter-hour. 6. a fourth part of a year; three months. 7. *Astron.* *a.* one fourth of the moon's period of revolution around the earth. *b.* either of two phases of the moon when half of the lighted surface is visible. 8. *Inf.* a unit of weight equal to a quarter of a pound or 4 ounces. 9. *Brit.* a unit of capacity for grain, etc., usually equal to 8 U.K. bushels. 10. *Sport*. one of the four periods into which certain games are divided. 11. *Naut.* the part of a vessel's side towards the stern. 12. a region or district of a town or city: the Spanish quarter. 13. a region, direction, or point of the compass. 14. (*sometimes pl.*) an unspecified person or group of people: to get word from the highest quarter. 15. mercy or pity, as shown to a defeated opponent (esp. in ask for or give quarter). 16. any of the four limbs, including the adjacent parts, of a quadruped or bird. 17. *Heraldry*. one of four quadrants into which a shield may be divided. ~*vb.* 18. (*tr.*) to divide into four equal parts. 19. (*tr.*) to divide into any number of parts. 20. (*tr.*) (esp. formerly) to dismember (a human body). 21. to billet or be billeted in lodgings, esp. (of military personnel) in civilian lodgings. 22. (*intr.*) (of hounds) to range over an area of ground in search of game or the scent of quarry. 23. (*intr.*) *Naut.* (of the wind) to blow onto a vessel's quarter. 24. (*tr.*) *Heraldry.* *a.* to divide (a shield) into four separate bearings. *b.* to place (one set of arms) in diagonally opposite quarters to another. ~*adj.* 25. being or consisting of one of four equal parts. ~See also **quarters**.

quarter day *n.* any of four days in the year when certain payments become due. In England, Wales, and Ireland these are Lady Day, Midsummer Day, Michaelmas, and Christmas. In Scotland they are Candlemas, Whit Sunday, Lammass, and Martinmas.

quarterdeck ('kwɔ:tə,dek) *n.* *Naut.* the after part of the weather deck of a ship, traditionally the deck for official or ceremonial use.

quarterfinal ('kwɔ:tə,fan'fɪl) *n.* the round before the semifinal in a competition.

quartering ('kwɔ:tərɪŋ) *n.* 1. *Mil.* the allocation of accommodation to service personnel. 2. *Heraldry.* *a.* the marshalling of several coats of arms on one shield, usually representing intermarriages. *b.* any coat of arms marshalled in this way.

quarterlight ('kwɔ:tə,lait) *n.* *Brit.* a small pivoted window in the door of a car for ventilation.

quarterly ('kwɔ:təli) *adj.* 1. occurring, done, paid, etc., at intervals of three months. 2. of, relating to, or consisting of a quarter. ~*n., pl. -lies*. 3. a periodical issued every three months. ~*adv.* 4. once every three months.

quartermaster ('kwɔ:tə,mɑ:stə) *n.* 1. an officer responsible for accommodation, food, and equipment in a military unit. 2. a rating in the navy, usually a petty officer, with particular responsibility for navigational duties.

quartern ('kwɔ:tən) *n.* 1. a fourth part of certain weights or measures. 2. Also called: **quartern loaf**. *Brit.* *a.* a type of loaf 4 inches square. *b.* any loaf weighing 1600 g.

quarters ('kwɔ:təz) *pl. n.* 1. accommodation, esp. as provided for military personnel. 2. the stations assigned to crew members of a warship: general quarters.

quarter sessions *n.* (formerly) a criminal court held four times a year before justices of the peace or a recorder, empowered to try all but the most serious offences.

quarterstaff ('kwɔ:tə,sta:f) *n., pl. -staves (-steɪvz)*. a stout iron-tipped wooden staff about 6ft. long, formerly used as a weapon.

quartet or quartette (kwɔ:tet) *n.* 1. a group of four

singers or instrumentalists or a piece of music composed for such a group. 2. any group of four.

quartile ('kwɔ:tail) *n.* 1. *Statistics.* one of three values of a variable dividing its distribution into four groups with equal frequencies. ~*adj.* 2. *Statistics.* of a quartile. 3. *Astrol.* denoting an aspect of two heavenly bodies when their longitudes differ by 90°.

quarto ('kwɔ:təu) *n., pl. -tos.* a book size resulting from folding a sheet of paper into four leaves or eight pages.

quartz (kwɔ:tɪs) *n.* a hard glossy mineral consisting of silicon dioxide in crystalline form. It occurs as colourless rock crystal and as several impure coloured varieties including agate, chalcedony, flint, and amethyst. Formula: SiO₂.

quartzite ('kwɔ:tɪsait) *n.* 1. a sandstone composed of quartz. 2. a very hard rock consisting of intergrown quartz crystals.

quartz timepiece *n.* a watch or clock that is operated by a vibrating quartz crystal.

quasar ('kwɛɪzɜ:, -sɜ:) *n.* any of a class of quasi-stellar objects that are powerful sources of radio waves and other forms of energy. Many have large red shifts which imply distances of several thousand million light years.

quash (kwɒʃ) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to subdue forcefully and completely. 2. to annul or make void (a law, etc.). 3. to reject (an indictment, etc.) as invalid.

quasi- *combining form.* 1. almost but not really; seemingly: a *quasi-religious cult*. 2. resembling but not actually being; so-called: a *quasi-scholar*.

quassia ('kwɒʃɪə) *n.* 1. any of a genus of tropical American trees having bitter bark and wood. 2. the wood of this tree or a bitter compound extracted from it, formerly used as a tonic and vermifuge, now used in insecticides.

quaternary (kwə'tɜ:nəri) *adj.* 1. consisting of fours or by fours. 2. fourth in a series. 3. *Chem.* containing or being an atom bound to four other atoms or groups. ~*n., pl. -naries.* 4. the number four or a set of four.

Quaternary (kwə'tɜ:nəri) *adj.* 1. of or denoting the most recent period of geological time, which succeeded the Tertiary period one million years ago. ~*n.* 2. *the.* the Quaternary period or rock system.

quatrain ('kwɔ:trein) *n.* a stanza or poem of four lines.

quatrefoil ('kætrə,foɪl) *n.* 1. a leaf composed of four leaflets. 2. *Archit.* a carved ornament having four foils arranged about a common centre.

quattrocento (kwə'trɔ:tʃɛntəu) *n.* the 15th century, esp. in reference to Renaissance Italian art and literature.

quaver ('kwɛɪvə) *vb.* 1. to say or sing (something) with a trembling voice. 2. (*intr.*) (esp. of the voice) to quiver or tremble. 3. (*intr.*) *Rare.* to sing or play trills. ~*n.* 4. *Music.* a note having the time value of an eighth of a semibreve. Usual U.S. name: **eighth note**. 5. a tremulous sound or note. —'quaverer *n.* —'quaveringly *adv.*

quay (ki:) *n.* a wharf, typically one built parallel to the shoreline.

Que. *abbrev.* for Quebec.

quean (kwɪ:n) *n.* 1. *Arch.* a. a boisterous impudent woman. b. a prostitute. 2. *Scot.* an unmarried girl.

queasy ('kwɛɪzi) *adj.* -sier, -siest. 1. having the feeling that one is about to vomit; nauseous. 2. feeling or causing uneasiness. —'queasily *adv.* —'queasiness *n.*

Quebecker or Quebecer (kwɪ'bekə, kə'bekə) *n.* a native or inhabitant of Quebec.

queen (kwɪ:n) *n.* 1. the wife of a king. 2. a female sovereign who is the official ruler or head of state. 3. a woman or a thing personified as a woman considered the best or most important of her kind: *the queen of ocean liners*. 4. *Inf.* a male homosexual. 5. the only fertile female in a colony of bees, ants, etc. 6. a playing card bearing the picture of a queen. 7. the most powerful chess piece, able to move in a straight line in any direction or diagonally. ~*vb.* 8. *Chess.* to promote (a pawn) to a queen when it reaches the eighth rank. 9. (*tr.*) to crown as queen. 10. (*intr.*) to reign as queen. 11. **queen it.** (often foll. by *over*) *Inf.* to behave in an overbearing manner. —'queenly *adj.*

Queen-Anne *n.* 1. a style of furniture popular in England about 1700-20 and in America about 1720-70, characterized by the use of curves, walnut veneer, and the cabriole leg. ~*adj.* 2. in or of this style. 3. of a style of architecture popular in early 18th-century England, characterized by red-brick construction with classical ornamentation.

Queen Anne's lace *n.* another name for the wild carrot.

queen consort *n.* the wife of a reigning king.

queen dowager *n.* the widow of a king.

queen mother *n.* the widow of a former king who is also the mother of the reigning sovereign.

queen post *n.* one of a pair of vertical posts that connect the tie beam of a truss to the principal rafters.

Queen's Bench *n.* (in England when the sovereign is female) one of the divisions of the High Court of Justice.

Queensberry rules ('kwɪ:nzbəri) *pl. n.* 1. the code of rules followed in modern boxing. 2. *Inf.* gentlemanly conduct, esp. in a dispute.

Queen's Counsel *n.* 1. (in England when the sovereign is female) a barrister appointed Counsel to the Crown on the recommendation of the Lord Chancellor. 2. (in Canada) an honorary title which may be bestowed by the government on lawyers with long experience.

Queen's English *n.* (when the British sovereign is female) standard Southern British English.

queen's evidence *n.* *English law.* (when the sovereign is female) evidence given for the Crown against his former associates in crime by an accomplice (esp. in turn **queen's evidence**). U.S. equivalent: **state's evidence**.

queen's highway *n.* 1. (in Britain when the sovereign is female) any public road or right of way. 2. (in Canada), a main road maintained by the provincial government.

queer (kwɪə) *adj.* 1. differing from the normal or usual; odd or strange. 2. dubious; shady. 3. faint, giddy, or queasy. 4. *Inf.* homosexual. 5. *Inf.* eccentric or slightly mad. 6. *Sl.* worthless or counterfeit. ~*n.* 7. *Inf.* a homosexual. ~*vb. (tr.)* *Inf.* 8. to spoil or thwart (esp. in **queer someone's pitch**). 9. to put in a difficult position. —'queerly *adv.* —'queerness *n.*

queer street *n.* (*sometimes cap.*) *Inf.* a difficult situation, such as debt or bankruptcy (in **in queer street**).

quell (kwel) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to suppress (rebellion, etc.); subdue. 2. to overcome or allay. —'queller *n.*

quench (kwentʃ) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to satisfy (one's thirst, desires, etc.); slake. 2. to put out (a fire, etc.); extinguish. 3. to put down; suppress; subdue. 4. to cool (hot metal) by plunging it into cold water. —'quenchable *adj.* —'quencher *n.*

quern (kwɜ:n) *n.* a stone hand mill for grinding corn.

querulous ('kwɛrʊləs, 'kwɛrju-) *adj.* 1. inclined to make whining or peevish complaints. 2. characterized by or proceeding from a complaining fretful attitude or disposition. —'querulously *adv.* —'querulousness *n.*

query ('kwɪəri) *n., pl. -ries.* 1. a question, esp. one expressing doubt. 2. a question mark. ~*vb.* -rying, -ried. (*tr.*) 3. to express uncertainty, doubt, or an objection concerning (something). 4. to put a question to (a person); ask.

quest (kwɛst) *n.* 1. a looking for or seeking; search. 2. (in medieval romance) an expedition by a knight or knights to accomplish some task, such as finding the Holy Grail. 3. the object of a search; a goal or target. ~*vb. (mainly intr.)* 4. (foll. by *for* or *after*) to go in search (of). 5. (of dogs, etc.) to search for game. 6. (*also tr.*) *Arch.* to seek or pursue. —'quester *n.* —'questingly *adv.*

question ('kwɛstʃən) *n.* 1. a form of words addressed to a person in order to elicit information or evoke a response; interrogative sentence. 2. a point at issue: *it's only a question of time until she dies*. 3. a difficulty or uncertainty. 4. a. an act of asking. b. an investigation into some problem. 5. a motion presented for debate. 6. **put the question.** to require members of a deliberative assembly to vote on a motion presented. 7. *Law.* a matter submitted to a court or other tribunal. 8. **beg the question.** a. to avoid giving a direct answer by posing another question. b. to assume the truth of that which is intended to be proved. 9. **beyond (all) question.** beyond (any) dispute or doubt. 10. **call in or into question.** a. to make (something) the subject of disagreement. b. to cast doubt upon the validity, truth, etc., of (something). 11. **in question.** under discussion: *this is the man in question*. 12. **out of the question.** beyond consideration; unthinkable or impossible. 13. **pop the question.** *Inf.* to ask a girl to marry one. 14. **put to the question.** (formerly) to interrogate by torture. ~*vb. (mainly tr.)* 15. to put a question or questions to (a person); interrogate. 16. to make (something) the subject of dispute. 17. to express uncertainty about the validity, truth, etc., of (something); doubt. —'questioner *n.*

questionable ('kwɛstʃənəbəl) *adj.* 1. (esp. of a person's morality or honesty) admitting of some doubt; dubious. 2. of disputable value or authority. — **questionableness** *n.* — **questionably** *adv.*

question mark *n.* 1. the punctuation mark ?, used at the end of questions and in other contexts where doubt or ignorance is implied. 2. this mark used for any other purpose, as to draw attention to a possible mistake.

question master *n.* *Brit.* the chairman of a radio or television quiz or panel game.

questionnaire ('kwɛstʃənɛə, 'kɛs-) *n.* a set of questions on a form, submitted to a number of people in order to collect statistical information.

question time *n.* (in parliamentary bodies of the British type) the time set aside each day for questions to government ministers.

queue (kju:) *Chiefly Brit.* ~*n.* 1. a line of people, vehicles, etc., waiting for something. ~*vb.* **queuing**, **queued**. 2. (*intr.*, often foll. by *up*) to form or remain in a line while waiting. ~*U.S. word: line.*

quibble ('kwɪbəl) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. to make trivial objections. 2. *Arch.* to play on words; pun. ~*n.* 3. a trivial objection or equivocation, esp. one used to avoid an issue. 4. *Arch.* a pun. — **quibbler** *n.* — **quibblingly** *adv.*

quiche (ki:tʃ) *n.* an open savoury tart with an egg custard filling to which bacon, onion, cheese, etc., are added.

quick ('kwɪk) *adj.* 1. performed or occurring during a comparatively short time: a *quick move*. 2. lasting a short time; brief. 3. accomplishing something in a time that is shorter than normal: a *quick worker*. 4. characterized by rapidity of movement; fast. 5. immediate or prompt. 6. (*postpositive*) eager or ready to perform (an action): *quick to criticize*. 7. responsive to stimulation; alert; lively. 8. eager or enthusiastic for learning. 9. easily excited or aroused. 10. nimble in one's movements or actions; deft: *quick fingers*. 11. *Arch.* a. alive; living. b. (as *n.*) living people (esp. in the **quick and the dead**). 12. **quick with child**, *Arch.* pregnant. ~*n.* 13. any area of sensitive flesh, esp. that under a toenail or fingernail. 14. the most important part (of a thing). 15. **cut (someone) to the quick**, to hurt (a person's) feelings deeply. ~*adv.* *Inf.* 16. in a rapid manner; swiftly. 17. soon: *I hope he comes quick*. ~*interj.* 18. a command to perform an action immediately. — **quickly** *adv.* — **quickness** *n.*

quick-change artist *n.* an actor or entertainer who undertakes several rapid changes of costume during his performance.

quicken ('kwɪkən) *vb.* 1. to make or become faster; accelerate. 2. to impart to or receive vigour, enthusiasm, etc.: *science quickens man's imagination*. 3. to make or become alive; revive. 4. a. (of an unborn foetus) to begin to show signs of life. b. (of a pregnant woman) to reach the stage of pregnancy at which movements of the foetus can be felt.

quick-freeze *vb.* **-freezing**, **-froze**, **-frozen**. (*tr.*) to preserve (food) by subjecting it to rapid refrigeration at temperatures of 0°C or lower.

quickle ('kwɪki) *n.* *Inf.* 1. Also called (esp. *Brit.*): **quick one**, a speedily consumed alcoholic drink. 2. anything made or done rapidly.

quicklime ('kwɪk,laim) *n.* lime, or calcium oxide, which gives off much heat in combining with water; unslaked lime.

quicksand ('kwɪk,sænd) *n.* a deep mass of loose wet sand that sucks anything on top of it inextricably into it.

quicksset ('kwɪk,set) *Chiefly Brit.* ~*n.* 1. a. a plant or cutting, esp. of hawthorn, set so as to form a hedge. b. such plants or cuttings collectively. 2. a hedge composed of such plants. ~*adj.* 3. composed of such plants.

quicksilver ('kwɪk,sɪlvə) *n.* 1. another name for **mercury** (sense 1). ~*adj.* 2. rapid or unpredictable in movement or change.

quickstep ('kwɪk,step) *n.* 1. a modern ballroom dance in rapid quadruple time. 2. a piece of music composed for or in the rhythm of this dance. ~*vb.* **-stepping**, **-stepped**. 3. (*intr.*) to perform this dance.

quick-tempered *adj.* readily roused to anger; irascible.

quick time *n.* *Mil.* the normal marching rate of 120 paces to the minute.

quick-witted *adj.* having a keenly alert mind, esp. as used to avert danger, make effective reply, etc. — **quick-¹witted** *adv.* — **quick-²wittedness** *n.*

quid¹ (kwɪd) *n.* a piece of tobacco, suitable for chewing.

quid² (kwɪd) *n., pl. quid.* *Brit.* a slang word for pound (sterling).

quiddity ('kwɪdɪtɪ) *n., pl. -ties*. 1. the essential nature of something. 2. a petty or trifling distinction; quibble.

quid pro quo ('kwɪd prəu 'kwəʊ) *n., pl. quid pro quos*. 1. a reciprocal exchange. 2. something given in compensation, esp. an advantage or object given in exchange for another.

quiescent (kwɪ'es'nt) *adj.* quiet, inactive, or dormant. — **quiescence** or **quiescency** *n.* — **quiescently** *adv.*

quiet ('kwɪəɪt) *adj.* 1. characterized by an absence of noise. 2. calm or tranquil: *the sea is quiet tonight*. 3. free from activities, distractions, etc.; untroubled: a *quiet life*. 4. private; not public; secret: a *quiet word with someone*. 5. free from anger, impatience, or other extreme emotion. 6. free from pretentiousness; modest or reserved: *quiet humour*. 7. *Astron.* (of the sun) exhibiting a very low number of sunspots, solar flares, etc.; inactive. ~*n.* 8. the state of being silent, peaceful, or untroubled. 9. on the **quiet**, without other people knowing. ~*vb.* 10. a less common word for **quieten**. — **quietly** *adv.* — **quietness** *n.*

quieten ('kwɪəɪt'n) *vb.* *Chiefly Brit.* 1. (often foll. by *down*) to make or become calm, silent, etc. 2. (*tr.*) to allay (fear, doubts, etc.).

quietism ('kwɪəɪzɪzəm) *n.* a form of religious mysticism originating in Spain in the late 17th century, requiring complete passivity to God's will. — **quietist** *n., adj.*

quietude ('kwɪəɪ,tju:d) *n.* the state or condition of being quiet, peaceful, calm, or tranquil.

quieten ('kwɪəɪtəs, -'eɪtəs) *n., pl. -tuses*. 1. anything that serves to quash, eliminate, or kill. 2. a release from life; death. 3. the discharge or settlement of debts, duties, etc.

quiff (kwɪf) *n.* *Brit.* a tuft of hair brushed up above the forehead.

quill (kwɪl) *n.* 1. a. any of the large stiff feathers of the wing or tail of a bird. b. the long hollow part of a feather; calamus. 2. Also called: **quill pen**, a feather made into a pen for writing. 3. any of the stiff hollow spines of a porcupine or hedgehog. 4. a device, formerly a crow's feather, for plucking a harpsichord string. 5. a small roll of bark, esp. one of dried cinnamon. 6. a bobbin or spindle. 7. a fluted fold, as in a ruff. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 8. to wind (thread, etc.) onto a spool or bobbin. 9. to make or press fluted folds in (a ruff, etc.).

quilt (kwɪlt) *n.* 1. a cover for a bed, consisting of a soft filling sewn between two layers of material, usually with crisscross seams. 2. a bedspread. 3. anything resembling a quilt. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 4. to stitch together (two pieces of fabric) with (a thick padding or lining) between them. 5. to create (a garment, etc.) in this way. 6. to pad with material. — **quilter** *n.*

quilting ('kwɪltɪŋ) *n.* 1. material for quilts. 2. the act of making a quilt. 3. quilted work.

quin (kwɪn) *n.* *Brit. inf.* short for **quintuplet** (sense 1). *U.S. word: quint.*

quince (kwɪns) *n.* 1. a small widely cultivated Asian tree with edible pear-shaped fruits. 2. the fruit of this tree, much used in preserves.

quincenary ('kwɪnsən'tɪnəri) *n., pl. -naries*. a 500th anniversary. — **quincennial** ('kwɪnsən'tɪnəl) *adj., n.*

quincunx ('kwɪnkʌŋks) *n.* a group of five objects arranged in the shape of a rectangle with one at each of the four corners and the fifth in the centre. — **quincunxial** (kwɪn'kʌŋʃəl) *adj.*

quinine (kwɪ'nɪn; *U.S.* 'kwanaɪn) *n.* a bitter crystalline alkaloid extracted from cinchona bark, the salts of which are used as a tonic, analgesic, etc., and in malaria therapy.

Quinquagesima ('kwɪŋkwə'dʒesɪmə) *n.* the Sunday preceding Lent. Also called: **Quinquagesima Sunday**.

quinnennial (kwɪn'kwɛnɪəl) *adj.* 1. occurring once every five years or over a period of five years. ~*n.* 2. a fifth anniversary. — **quinnennially** *adv.*

quinqereme ('kwɪŋkwɪ'rɪ:m) *n.* an ancient Roman galley with five banks of oars.

quinsy ('kwɪnzɪ) *n.* inflammation of the tonsils and surrounding tissues with the formation of abscesses.

quintal ('kwɪntəl) *n.* 1. a unit of weight equal to (esp. in Britain) 112 pounds or (esp. in U.S.) 100 pounds. 2. a unit of weight equal to 100 kilograms.

quintessence (kwɪn'tɛsəns) *n.* 1. the most typical representation of a quality, state, etc. 2. an extract of a substance containing its principle in its most concentrated form. 3. (in ancient philosophy) ether, the fifth

essence or element, which was thought to be the constituent matter of the heavenly bodies and latent in all things. —**quintessential** (ˈkwɪntɪˈsenʃəl) *adj.* —**quintessentially** *adv.*

quintet or **quintette** (kwɪnˈtɛt) *n.* 1. a group of five singers or instrumentalists or a piece of music composed for such a group. 2. any group of five.

quintillion (ˈkwɪnˈtɪljən) *n.*, *pl.* -illions or -lions. 1. (in Britain and Germany) the number represented as one followed by 30 zeros (10³⁰). U.S. word: **nonillion**. 2. (in the U.S. and France) the number represented as one followed by 18 zeros (10¹⁸). Brit. word: **trillion**. —**quin'tillionth** *adj.*

quintuple (ˈkwɪntʃupl̩, kwɪnˈtjuːpl̩) *vb.* 1. to multiply by five. ~*adj.* 2. five times as much or as many; fivefold. 3. consisting of five parts. ~*n.* 4. a quantity or number five times as great as another.

quintuplet (ˈkwɪntʃuplɪt, kwɪnˈtjuːplɪt) *n.* 1. one of five offspring born at one birth. 2. a group of five similar things. 3. *Music.* a group of five notes to be played in a time value of three or four.

quip (kwɪp) *n.* 1. a sarcastic remark. 2. a witty saying. 3. *Arch.* another word for quibble. ~*vb.* **quipping**, **quipped**. 4. (*intr.*) to make a quip. —**'quipster** *n.*

quire (kwɪə) *n.* 1. a set of 24 or 25 sheets of paper. 2. four sheets of paper folded to form 16 pages. 3. a set of all the sheets in a book.

quirk (kwɜːk) *n.* 1. a peculiarity of character; mannerism or foible. 2. an unexpected twist or turn: a *quirk of fate*. 3. a continuous groove in an architectural moulding. 4. a flourish, as in handwriting. —**'quirky** *adj.* —**'quirkiness** *n.*

quising (ˈkwɪzɪŋ) *n.* a traitor who aids an occupying enemy force; collaborator.

quit (kwɪt) *vb.* **quitting**, **quit** or **quitted**. 1. to desist or cease from (something or doing something). 2. (*tr.*) to depart from; leave. 3. to resign; give up (a job). 4. to release one's grasp upon. 5. (*tr.*) to pay off (a debt). 6. (*tr.*) *Arch.* to conduct or acquit (oneself); comport (oneself). ~*adj.* 7. (*usually predicative*; foll. by *of*) free (from); released (from). —**'quitter** *n.*

▷ **Usage.** Some users of English have felt that *quit* in the sense of *leave* is informal, but this use is quite standard at all levels of language. Careful users do not use *quit* to mean *cease* (*he never quit moaning*) because this is felt to be an Americanism.

quite (kwɪt) *adv.* 1. completely or absolutely: *you're quite right*. 2. (*not used with a negative*) somewhat: *she's quite pretty*. 3. in actuality; truly. 4. **quite a** or **an**. (*not used with a negative*) of an exceptional, considerable, or noticeable kind: *quite a girl*. 5. **quite something**. a remarkable or noteworthy thing or person. ~*sentence substitute*. 6. Also: **quite so**. an expression used to indicate agreement.

▷ **Usage.** See at *very*.

quintrent (ˈkwɪntˌrent) *n.* (formerly) a rent payable by a freeholder or copyholder to his lord in lieu of services.

quits (kwɪts) *adj.* (*postpositive*) *Inf.* 1. on an equal footing; even. 2. **call it quits**. to agree to end a dispute, contest, etc., agreeing that honours are even.

quittance (ˈkwɪtəns) *n.* 1. release from debt or other obligation. 2. a receipt or other document certifying this.

quiver (ˈkwɪvə) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to shake with a tremulous movement; tremble. ~*n.* 2. the state, process, or noise of shaking or trembling. —**'quivery** *adj.*

quiver (ˈkwɪvə) *n.* a case for arrows.

quixotic (kwɪkˈsɒtɪk) *adj.* preoccupied with an unrealistically optimistic or chivalrous approach to life; impractically idealistic. —**quix'otically** *adv.*

quiz (kwɪz) *n.*, *pl.* **quizzes**. 1. *a.* an entertainment in which the knowledge of the players is tested by a series of questions. *b.* (*as modifier*): a *quiz programme*. 2. any set of quick questions designed to test knowledge. 3. an investigation by close questioning. 4. *Obs.* a practical joke. 5. *Obs.* a puzzling individual. 6. *Obs.* a person who habitually looks quizzically at others. ~*vb.* **quizzing**, **quizzed**. (*tr.*) 7. to investigate by close questioning; interrogate. 8. *U.S. inf.* to test the knowledge of (a student or class). 9. (*tr.*) *Obs.* to look quizzically at, esp. through a small monocle. —**'quizzer** *n.*

quizzical (ˈkwɪzɪkəl) *adj.* questioning and mocking or supercilious. —**'quizzically** *adv.*

quod (kwɒd) *n.* *Chiefly Brit.* a slang word for jail.

quoin (kwɪn, kwɔɪn) *n.* 1. an external corner of a wall. 2. a stone forming the external corner of a wall. 3. another name for **keystone**. 4. *Printing.* a wedge or an expanding device used to lock type up in a chase. 5. a wedge used for any of various other purposes.

quoit (kwɔɪt) *n.* a ring of iron, plastic, etc., used in the game of quoits.

quoits (kwɔɪts) *pl. n.* (*usually functioning as sing.*) a game in which quoits are tossed at a stake in the ground in attempts to encircle it.

quondam (ˈkwɒndəm) *adj.* (*prenominal*) of an earlier time; former.

quorum (ˈkwɒrəm) *n.* a minimum number of members in an assembly, etc., required to be present before any business can be transacted.

quota (ˈkwɒtə) *n.* 1. the proportional share or part that is due from, due to, or allocated to a person or group. 2. a prescribed number or quantity, as of items to be imported or students admitted to a college, etc.

quotation (kwɒtˈeɪʃən) *n.* 1. a phrase or passage from a book, etc., remembered and spoken, esp. to support a point. 2. the act or habit of quoting. 3. *Commerce.* a statement of the current market price of a security or commodity. 4. an estimate of costs submitted by a contractor to a prospective client. 5. *Printing.* a quadrat used to fill up spaces.

quotation mark *n.* either of the punctuation marks used to begin or end a quotation, respectively "and" or "and".

quote (kwɒt) *vb.* 1. to recite a quotation. 2. (*tr.*) to put quotation marks round (a phrase, etc.). 3. *Stock Exchange.* to state (a current market price) of (a security or commodity). ~*n.* 4. an informal word for **quotation**. 5. (*often pl.*) an informal word for **quotation mark**. ~*interj.* 6. an expression used to indicate that the words that follow it form a quotation. —**'quotable** *adj.*

quoth (kwɒθ) *vb.* *Arch.* (used with all pronouns except *thou* and *you*, and with nouns) said.

quotidian (kwɒtˈɪdiən) *adj.* 1. (esp. of fever) recurring daily. 2. commonplace. ~*n.* 3. a fever characterized by attacks that recur daily.

quotient (ˈkwɒʃənt) *n.* 1. *a.* the result of the division of one number or quantity by another. *b.* the integral part of the result of division. 2. a ratio of two numbers or quantities to be divided.

q.v. (denoting a cross-reference) *abbrev. for* quod vide.

R

r or **R** (ɑ:) *n.*, *pl.* **r's**, **R's** or **Rs**. 1. the 18th letter of the English alphabet. 2. a speech sound represented by this letter.

R *symbol for:* 1. *Chem.* radical. 2. *Currency.* a. rand. b. rupee. 3. Réaumur (scale). 4. *Physics, electronics.* resistance. 5. roentgen or röntgen. 6. *Chess.* rook. 7. *Royal.* 8. *Chem.* gas constant.

R. *abbrev. for:* 1. *rabbi.* 2. *rector.* 3. *Regiment.* 4. *Regina: Queen.* 5. *Republican.* 6. *Rex: King.* 7. *River.* 8. *Royal.*

R. or **r.** *abbrev. for:* 1. *radius.* 2. *railway.* 3. *registered* (trademark). 4. *right.* 5. *river.* 6. *road.* 7. *rouble.*

Ra *the chemical symbol for radium.*

R.A. *abbrev. for:* 1. *rear admiral.* 2. *Astron.* right ascension. 3. (in Britain) *Royal Academician* or *Academy.* 4. (in Britain) *Royal Artillery.*

R.A.A.F. *abbrev. for Royal Australian Air Force.*

rabbit ('ræbɪt) *n.*, *vb.* another word for *rebate*¹.

rabbi ('ræbɪ) *n.*, *pl.* **-bis**. 1. the chief religious minister of a synagogue; the spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation. 2. Also: **rabbin** ('ræbɪn). a scholar learned in Jewish Law, esp. one authorized to teach it. —**rabbinical** ('ræbɪnɪkəl) or **rab'binic** adj.

rabbit ('ræbɪt) *n.*, *pl.* **-bits** or **-bit**. 1. any of various common gregarious burrowing mammals of Europe and North Africa. They are closely related and similar to hares but are smaller and have shorter ears. 2. the fur of such an animal. 3. *Brit. inf.* a poor performer at a game or sport. ~*vb.* (*intr.*) 4. to hunt or shoot rabbits. 5. (often foll. by *on* or *away*) *Brit. sl.* to talk inconsequentially; chatter.

rabbit punch *n.* a short sharp blow to the back of the neck that can cause loss of consciousness or even death. *Austral. name:* **rabbit killer**.

rabble ('ræbəl) *n.* 1. a disorderly crowd; mob. 2. *the.* *Contemptuous.* the common people.

rabble-rouser *n.* a person who manipulates the passions of the mob; demagogue. —**'rabble-rousing** adj. *n.*

Rabelaisian ('ræbə'leɪziən, -zən) adj. 1. of, relating to, or resembling the work of François Rabelais (?1494-1553), French writer, esp. by broad, often bawdy humour and sharp satire. ~*n.* 2. a student or admirer of Rabelais. —**'Rabe'laisianism** *n.*

rabid ('ræbɪd, 'reɪ-) adj. 1. relating to or having rabies. 2. zealous; fanatical; violent; raging. —**rabidity** ('ræbɪdɪ) or **'rabidness** *n.* —**'rabidly** adv.

rabies ('reɪbɪz) *n.* *Pathol.* an acute infectious viral disease of the nervous system transmitted by the saliva of infected animals, esp. dogs. —**rabie** ('ræbɪk) or **rabietic** ('reɪbɪ'etɪk) adj.

R.A.C. *abbrev. for:* 1. *Royal Automobile Club.* 2. *Royal Armoured Corps.*

raccoon or **racoon** ('ræku:n) *n.*, *pl.* **-coons** or **-coon**. 1. an omnivorous mammal, esp. the *North American raccoon*, inhabiting forests of North and Central America. Raccoons have a pointed muzzle, long tail, and greyish-black fur with black bands around the tail and across the face. 2. the fur of the raccoon.

race¹ (reis) *n.* 1. a contest of speed, as in running, etc. 2. any competition or rivalry. 3. rapid or constant onward movement: *the race of time.* 4. a rapid current of water, esp. one through a narrow channel that has a tidal range greater at one end than the other. 5. a channel of a stream, esp. one for conducting water to or from a water wheel for energy: *a mill race.* 6. a. a channel or groove that contains ball bearings or roller bearings. b. the inner or outer cylindrical ring in a ball bearing or roller bearing. 7. *Austral. & N.Z.* a narrow passage or enclosure in a sheep yard through which sheep pass individually, as to a sheep dip. 8. *Austral.* a wire tunnel through which footballers pass from the changing room onto a football field. 9. *Arch.* the span or course of life. ~*vb.* 10. to engage in a contest of speed with (another). 11. to engage in a race, esp. as a profession: *to race pigeons.* 12. to move or go as fast as possible. 13. to run (an engine, propeller, etc.) or (of an engine, propeller, etc.) to run at high speed, esp. after reduction of the load or resistance.

race² (reis) *n.* 1. a group of people of common ancestry, distinguished from others by physical characteristics, such as hair type, colour of skin, stature, etc. 2. **the human race.** human beings collectively. 3. a group of animals or plants having common characteristics that distinguish them from other members of the same species, usually forming a geographically isolated group; subspecies. 4. a group of people sharing the same interests, characteristics, etc.: *the race of authors.*

racecourse ('reis,kɔ:s) *n.* a long broad track, over which horses are raced. Also called (esp. U.S.): **racetrack**.

racehorse ('reis,hɔ:s) *n.* a horse specially bred for racing.

raceme ('ræsi:m) *n.* an inflorescence in which the flowers are borne along the main stem. —**'race,mose** adj.

race meeting *n.* a prearranged fixture for racing horses (or greyhounds) over a set course.

race relations *n.* 1. (*functioning as pl.*) the relations between members of two or more human races, esp. within a single community. 2. (*functioning as sing.*) the branch of sociology concerned with such relations.

race riot *n.* a riot among members of different races in the same community.

races ('reisɪz) *pl. n.* the. a series of contests of speed between horses (or greyhounds) over a set course.

racetrack ('reis,træk) *n.* 1. a circuit or course, esp. an oval one, used for motor racing, etc. 2. the usual U.S. word for a **racecourse**.

racial ('reɪʃəl) adj. 1. denoting or relating to the division of the human species into races on grounds of physical characteristics. 2. characteristic of any such group. —**'racially** adv.

racialism ('reɪʃə,lɪzəm) or **racism** *n.* 1. the belief that races have distinctive cultural characteristics determined by hereditary factors and that this endows some races with an intrinsic superiority. 2. abusive or aggressive behaviour towards members of another race on the basis of such a belief. —**'racialist** or **'racist** *n.*, adj.

rack¹ (ræk) *n.* 1. a framework for holding, carrying, or displaying a specific load or object. 2. a toothed bar designed to engage a pinion to form a mechanism that will adjust the position of something. 3. (preceded by *the*) an instrument of torture that stretched the body of the victim. 4. a cause or state of mental or bodily stress, suffering, etc. (esp. in **on the rack**). 5. *U.S.* (in pool, snooker, etc.) a. the triangular frame used to arrange the balls for the opening shot. b. the balls so grouped. *Brit. equivalent:* **frame.** ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 6. to torture on the rack. 7. to cause great suffering to: *guilt racked his conscience.* 8. to strain or shake (something) violently: *the storm racked the town.* 9. to place or arrange in or on a rack. 10. to move (parts of machinery or a mechanism) using a toothed rack. 11. to raise (rents) exorbitantly. 12. *Austral. sl.* **rack off,** go away. 13. **rack one's brains,** to strain in mental effort. —**'racker** *n.*

rack² (ræk) *n.* destruction; wreck (obs. except in **go to rack and ruin**).

rack³ or **wrack** (ræk) *n.* 1. a group of broken clouds moving in the wind. ~*vb.* 2. (*intr.*) (of clouds) to be blown along by the wind.

rack⁴ (ræk) *vb.* (*tr.*) to clear (wine, beer, etc.) as by siphoning it off from the dregs.

rack-and-pinion *n.* 1. a device for converting rotary into linear motion and vice versa, in which a gearwheel (the pinion) engages with a flat toothed bar (the rack). ~*adj.* 2. (of a type of steering gear in motor vehicles) having a track rod with a rack along part of its length that engages with a pinion attached to the steering column.

racket¹ ('ræktɪ) *n.* 1. a noisy disturbance or loud commotion; clamour; din. 2. an illegal enterprise carried on for profit, such as extortion, fraud, etc. 3. *Sl.* a business or occupation: *what's your racket?* 4. *Music.* a medieval woodwind instrument of deep bass pitch. ~*vb.* 5. (*intr.*; often foll. by *about*) *Now rare.* to go about gaily or noisily, in search of pleasure, etc. —**'rackety** adj.

racket² or **racquet** ('ræktɪ) *n.* 1. a bat consisting of an

open network of strings stretched in an oval frame with a handle, used to strike a tennis-ball, etc. 2. a snowshoe shaped like a tennis racket. ~vb. 3. (tr.) to strike (a ball, etc.) with a racket.

racketeer ('ræki:tə) *n.* 1. a person engaged in illegal enterprises for profit. ~vb. 2. (intr.) to operate an illegal enterprise. — **racketeering** *n.*

rackets ('rækits) *n.* (functioning as *sing.*) a. a game similar to squash played in a four-walled court by two or four players using rackets and a small hard ball. b. (as *modifier*): a rackets court.

rack railway *n.* a steep mountain railway having a middle rail fitted with a rack that engages a pinion on the locomotive to provide traction. Also called: **cog railway**.

rack-rent *n.* 1. a high rent that annually equals the value of the property upon which it is charged. 2. any extortionate rent. ~vb. 3. to charge an extortionate rent for. — **rack-renter** *n.*

raconteur ('rækon'tɜ:) *n.* a person skilled in telling stories.

raccoon ('rækun) *n.*, *pl.* -coons or -coon. a variant spelling of **raccoon**.

racquet ('rækit) *n.* a variant spelling of **racket**.

racy ('reisi) *adj.* **racier**, **raciest**. 1. (of a person's manner, literary style, etc.) having a distinctively lively and spirited quality. 2. having a characteristic or distinctive flavour: a racy wine. 3. suggestive; slightly indecent; risqué. — **racily** *adv.* — **raciness** *n.*

RADA ('rɑ:də) *n.* (in Britain) acronym for Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.

radar ('reɪdɑ:) *n.* 1. a method for detecting the position and velocity of a distant object. A narrow beam of extremely high-frequency radio pulses is transmitted and reflected by the object back to the transmitter. The direction of the reflected beam and the time between transmission and reception of a pulse determine the position of the object. 2. the equipment used in such detection.

radar trap *n.* a device using radar to detect motorists who exceed the speed limit.

raddle ('rædl) *vb.* (tr.) *Chiefly Brit.* to paint (the face) with rouge.

radial ('reɪdiəl) *adj.* 1. (of lines, etc.) emanating from a common central point; arranged like the radii of a circle. 2. of, like, or relating to a radius or ray. 3. short for **radial-ply**. 4. *Anat.* of or relating to the radius or forearm. 5. *Astron.* (of velocity) in a direction along the line of sight of a celestial object and measured by means of the red shift (or blue shift) of the spectral lines of the object. ~*n.* 6. a radial part or section. — **radially** *adv.*

radial-ply *adj.* (of a motor tyre) having the fabric cords in the outer casing running radially to enable the sidewalls to be flexible.

radian ('reɪdiən) *n.* an SI unit of plane angle; the angle between two radii of a circle that cut off on the circumference an arc equal in length to the radius. 1 radian is equivalent to 57.296 degrees. Abbrev. **rad**.

radiant ('reɪdiənt) *adj.* 1. sending out rays of light; bright; shining. 2. characterized by health, happiness, etc.: a radiant smile. 3. emitted or propagated by or as radiation; radiated: radiant heat. 4. *Physics.* (of a physical quantity in photometry) evaluated by absolute energy measurements: radiant flux. ~*n.* 5. a point or object that emits radiation, esp. the part of a heater that gives out heat. 6. *Astron.* the point in space from which a meteor shower appears to emanate. — **radiance** or **radiancy** *n.* — **radiantly** *adv.*

radiant energy *n.* energy that is emitted or propagated in the form of particles or electromagnetic radiation.

radiate *vb.* ('reɪdi,et). 1. Also: **eradiate**. to emit (heat, light, or other forms of radiation) or (of heat, light, etc.) to be emitted as radiation. 2. (intr.) (of lines, beams, etc.) to spread out from a centre or be arranged in a radial pattern. 3. (tr.) (of a person) to show (happiness, etc.) to a great degree. ~*adj.* ('reɪdiənt, ,et). 4. having rays; radiating. 5. (of a capitulum) consisting of ray flowers. 6. (of animals) showing radial symmetry. — **radiative** *adj.*

radiation ('reɪdi'eɪʃən) *n.* 1. *Physics.* a. the emission or transfer of radiant energy as particles, electromagnetic waves, sound, etc. b. the particles, etc., emitted, esp. the particles and gamma rays emitted in nuclear decay. 2. Also called: **radiation therapy**. *Med.* treatment using a radioactive substance. 3. the act, state, or process of radiating or being radiated. — **radiational** *adj.*

radiation sickness *n.* *Pathol.* illness caused by

overexposure of the body to ionizing radiations from radioactive material or x-rays.

radiator ('reɪdi,etə) *n.* 1. a device for heating a room, building, etc., consisting of a series of pipes through which hot water or steam passes. 2. a device for cooling an internal-combustion engine, consisting of a metal honeycomb through which water passes. 3. *Electronics.* the part of an aerial or transmission line that radiates electromagnetic waves.

radical ('rædikl) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or characteristic of the basic or inherent constitution of a person or thing; fundamental: a radical fault. 2. concerned with or tending to concentrate on fundamental aspects of a matter; searching or thoroughgoing: radical thought. 3. favouring or tending to produce extreme or fundamental changes in political, economic, or social conditions, institutions, etc.: a radical party. 4. of or arising from the root or the base of the stem of a plant: radical leaves. 5. *Maths.* of, relating to, or containing roots of numbers or quantities. 6. *Linguistics.* of or relating to the root of a word. ~*n.* 7. a person who favours extreme or fundamental change in existing institutions or in political, social, or economic conditions. 8. *Maths.* a root of a number or quantity, such as $\sqrt{5}$, \sqrt{x} . 9. *Chem.* a. an atom or group of atoms containing at least one unpaired electron and existing for a brief period before reacting to produce a stable molecule. Also called: **free radical**. b. another name for **group** (sense 9). 10. *Linguistics.* another word for **root** (sense 8). — **radicalism** or **'radicalness** *n.* — **radically** *adv.*

radical sign *n.* the symbol $\sqrt{\quad}$ placed before a number or quantity to indicate the extraction of a root, esp. a square root. The value of a higher root is indicated by a raised digit in front of the symbol, as in $\sqrt[3]{\quad}$.

radicle ('rædikl) *n.* 1. *Bot.* a. the part of the embryo of seed-bearing plants that develops into the main root. b. a very small root or rootlike part. 2. *Anat.* any bodily structure resembling a rootlet, esp. one of the smallest branches of a vein or nerve. 3. *Chem.* a variant spelling of **radical** (sense 9).

radio ('reɪdi,ə) *n.* a plural of **radius**.

radio ('reɪdiə) *n.*, *pl.* -os. 1. the use of electromagnetic waves, lying in the radio-frequency range, for broadcasting, two-way communications, etc. 2. an electronic device designed to receive, demodulate, and amplify radio signals from broadcasting stations, etc. 3. the broadcasting, content, etc., of radio programmes: he thinks radio is poor these days. 4. the occupation or profession concerned with any aspect of the broadcasting of radio programmes. 5. short for **radiotelegraph**, **radiotelephony**, or **radiotelephone**. 6. (*modifier*) a. of, relating to, or sent by radio signals: a radio station. b. of, concerned with, using, or operated by radio frequencies: radio spectrum. ~vb. -ing, -oed. 7. to transmit (a message, etc.) to (a person, etc.) by means of radio waves. ~Also called (esp. *Brit.*): **wireless**.

radio- *combining form.* 1. denoting radio, broadcasting, or radio frequency: radiogram. 2. indicating radioactivity or radiation: radiochemistry.

radioactive ('reɪdiəʊ'æktɪv) *adj.* exhibiting, using, or concerned with radioactivity. — **radioactively** *adv.*

radioactivity ('reɪdiəʊ'æktɪvɪti) *n.* the spontaneous emission of alpha, beta, and gamma radiation from atomic nuclei.

radio astronomy *n.* a branch of astronomy in which the radio telescope is used to detect and analyse radio signals received on earth from radio sources in space.

radioactive carbon ('reɪdiəʊ'kɑ:bən) *n.* a radioactive isotope of carbon, esp. carbon-14. See **carbon**.

radiochemistry ('reɪdiəʊ'kɛmɪstri) *n.* the chemistry of radioactive elements and their compounds. — **radiochemical** *adj.* — **radiochemist** *n.*

radio frequency *n.* 1. a. any frequency that lies in the range 10 kilohertz to 300 000 megahertz and can be used for broadcasting. Abbrev.: **rf**, **RF**. b. (as *modifier*): a radio-frequency amplifier. 2. the frequency transmitted by a particular radio station.

radiogram ('reɪdiəʊ'græm) *n.* 1. *Brit.* a unit comprising a radio and gramophone. 2. a message transmitted by radiotelegraphy. 3. another name for **radiograph**.

radiograph ('reɪdiəʊ'græf) *n.* an image produced on a specially sensitized photographic film or plate by radiation, usually by x-rays or gamma-rays.

radiography ('reɪdi'ɒgrəfi) *n.* the production of radiographs of opaque objects for use in medicine, surgery, industry, etc. — **radiographer** *n.* — **radiographic** ('reɪdiəʊ'græfɪk) *adj.* — **radio graphically** *adv.*

radioisotope ('reɪdiəʊ'aisətəʊp) *n.* a radioactive iso-

tope. —**radioisotopic** (ˈreɪdiəʊ,aɪsəˈtɒpɪk) *adj.*

radiology (ˈreɪdiˌɒlədʒi) *n.* the use of x-rays and radioactive substances in the diagnosis and treatment of disease. —**radiologist** *n.*

radioscopy (ˈreɪdiˌɒskəpi) *n.* examination of a person, object, etc. by means of a device consisting of a fluorescent screen and an x-ray source. —**radioscopic** (ˈreɪdiəʊˈskɒpɪk) *adj.* —**radio'scopically** *adv.*

radiosonde (ˈreɪdiəʊ,sɒnd) *n.* an airborne instrument to send meteorological information back to earth by radio.

radiotelegraphy (ˈreɪdiəʊˈtelɪɡrəfi) *n.* a type of telegraphy in which messages (usually in Morse code) are transmitted by radio waves. —**radio'tele,graph** *n.*

radiotelephone (ˈreɪdiəʊˈtelɪfəʊn) *n.* 1. a device for communications by means of radio waves rather than by transmitting along wires or cables. ~vb. 2. to telephone (a person) by radiotelephone. —**radiotelephonic** (ˈreɪdiəʊˈtelɪfəʊnɪk) *adj.* —**radiotelephony** (ˈreɪdiəʊˈtelɪfəʊni) *n.*

radio telescope *n.* an instrument used in radio astronomy to pick up and analyse radio waves from space and also to transmit radio waves.

radiotherapy (ˈreɪdiəʊˈθerəpi) *n.* the treatment of disease by means of alpha or beta particles emitted from an implanted or ingested radioisotope, or by means of a beam of high-energy radiation. —**radiotherapeutic** (ˈreɪdiəʊˈθerəˈpjʊ:tɪk) *adj.* —**radio'therapist** *n.*

radish (ˈrædɪʃ) *n.* 1. any of a genus of plants of Europe and Asia, with petals arranged like a cross, cultivated for their edible roots. 2. the root of this plant, which has a pungent taste and is eaten raw in salads.

radium (ˈreɪdiəm) *n. a.* a highly radioactive luminescent white element of the alkaline earth group of metals. It occurs in pitchblende and other uranium ores. Symbol: Ra; atomic no.: 88; half-life of most stable isotope, ²²⁶Ra: 1620 years. *b.* (as modifier): radium needle.

radius (ˈreɪdiəs) *n., pl. -dii* (ˈdiːaɪ) or *-diuses*. 1. a straight line joining the centre of a circle or sphere to any point on the circumference or surface. 2. the length of this line, usually denoted by the symbol *r*. 3. *Anat.* the outer, slightly shorter of the two bones of the human forearm, extending from the elbow to the wrist. 4. a corresponding bone in other vertebrates. 5. any of the veins of an insect's wing. 6. a group of ray flowers, occurring in such plants as the daisy. 7. *a.* any radial or radiating part, such as a spoke. *b.* (as modifier): a radius arm. 8. a circular area of a size indicated by the length of its radius: *the police stopped every lorry within a radius of four miles*. 9. the operational limit of a ship, aircraft, etc.

radon (ˈreɪdɒn) *n.* a colourless radioactive element of the rare gas group, the most stable isotope of which, radon-222, is a decay product of radium. Symbol: Rn; atomic no.: 86; half-life of ²²²Rn: 3.82 days.

RAF (Not standard *ræf*) or **R.A.F.** *abbrev. for* Royal Air Force.

raffia or **raphia** (ˈræfiə) *n.* 1. a palm tree, native to Madagascar, that has large plumelike leaves, the stalks of which yield a useful fibre. 2. the fibre obtained from this plant, used for weaving, etc. 3. any of several related palms or the fibre obtained from them.

raffish (ˈræfɪʃ) *adj.* 1. careless or unconventional in dress, manners, etc.; rakish. 2. tawdry; flashy; vulgar. —**raffishly** *adv.* —**raffishness** *n.*

raffle (ˈræfl) *n.* 1. *a.* a lottery in which the prizes are goods rather than money. *b.* (as modifier): a raffle ticket. ~vb. 2. (tr.; often foll. by *off*) to dispose of (goods) in a raffle. —**raffler** *n.*

raft (ræft) *n.* 1. a buoyant platform of logs, planks, etc., used as a vessel or moored platform. 2. a thick slab of reinforced concrete laid over soft ground to provide a foundation for a building. ~vb. 3. to convey on or travel by raft, or make a raft from.

rafter (ˈræftə) *n.* any one of a set of parallel sloping beams that form the framework of a roof.

rag (ræg) *n.* 1. *a.* a small piece of cloth, such as one torn from a discarded garment, or such pieces of cloth collectively. *b.* (as modifier): a rag doll. 2. a fragmentary piece of any material; scrap; shred. 3. *Inf.* a newspaper esp. one considered as worthless, sensational, etc. 4. *Inf.* an item of clothing. 5. *Inf.* a handkerchief. 6. *Brit. sl., esp. naval.* a flag or ensign. 7. *chew the rag.* *Sl.* to argue or grumble.

rag (ræg) *vb. ragging, ragged.* (tr.) 1. to draw attention facetiously and persistently to the shortcomings of (a person). 2. *Brit.* to play rough practical jokes on. ~n. 3. *Brit.* a boisterous practical joke. 4. (in British

universities, etc.) *a.* a period in which various events are organized to raise money for charity. *b.* (as modifier): rag day.

rag (ræg) *Jazz. ~n.* 1. a piece of ragtime music. ~vb. **ragging, ragged.** 2. (tr.) to compose or perform in ragtime.

ragamuffin (ˈrægə,mʌfɪn) *n.* a ragged unkempt person, esp. a child.

rag-and-bone man *n. Brit.* a man who buys and sells discarded clothing, etc. U.S. equivalent: **junkman**.

ragbag (ˈræg,bæg) *n.* 1. a bag for storing odd rags. 2. a confused assortment; jumble.

rage (reɪdʒ) *n.* 1. intense anger; fury. 2. violent movement or action, esp. of the sea, wind, etc. 3. great intensity of hunger or other feelings. 4. a fashion or craze (esp. in *all the rage*). 5. *N.Z. & Austral. sl.* a dance or party. ~vb. (intr.) 6. to feel or exhibit intense anger. 7. (esp. of storms, fires, etc.) to move or surge with great violence. 8. (esp. of a disease) to spread rapidly and uncontrollably.

ragged (ˈrægd) *adj.* 1. (of clothes) worn to rags; tattered. 2. (of a person) dressed in tattered clothes. 3. having a neglected or unkempt appearance: *ragged weeds*. 4. having a rough or uneven surface or edge; jagged. 5. uneven or irregular: *a ragged beat*; *a ragged shout*. —**raggedly** *adv.* —**raggedness** *n.* —**raggedy** *adj.*

ragged robin *n.* a plant related to the carnation family and native to Europe and Asia, that has pink or white flowers with ragged petals.

raglan (ˈræglən) *n.* 1. a coat, jumper, etc. with sleeves that continue to the collar instead of having armhole seams. ~adj. 2. cut in this design: *a raglan sleeve*.

ragout (ræˈguː) *n.* 1. a richly seasoned stew of meat and vegetables. ~vb. **-gouting** (ˈguːɪŋ), **-gouted** (ˈguːd). 2. (tr.) to make into a ragout.

ragtag (ˈræg,tæg) *n. Derog.* the common people; rabble (esp. in *ragtag and bobtail*).

ragtime (ˈræg,tam) *n.* a style of jazz piano music, developed by Scott Joplin around 1900, having a two-four rhythm base and a syncopated melody.

rag trade *n. Inf.* the clothing business.

ragwort (ˈræg,wɜ:t) *n.* any of several European plants of the composite family, that have yellow daisy-like flowers.

raid (reɪd) *n.* 1. a sudden surprise attack. 2. an attempt by speculators to force down commodity prices by rapid selling. ~vb. 3. to make a raid against (a person, thing, etc.). —**raider** *n.*

rail (reɪl) *n.* 1. a horizontal bar of wood, etc., supported by vertical posts, functioning as a fence, barrier, etc. 2. a horizontal bar fixed to a wall on which to hang things: *a picture rail*. 3. a horizontal framing member in a door. 4. short for **railing**. 5. one of a pair of parallel bars laid on a track, roadway, etc., that serve as a guide and running surface for the wheels of a train, tramcar, etc. 6. *a.* short for **railway**. *b.* (as modifier): *rail transport*. 7. *Naut.* a trim for finishing the top of a bulwark. 8. *off the rails.* *a.* into or in a state of disorder. *b.* eccentric or mad. ~vb. (tr.) 9. to provide with a rail or railings. 10. (usually foll. by *in* or *off*) to fence (an area) with rails.

rail (reɪl) *vb. (intr.; foll. by at or against)* to complain bitterly or vehemently. —**railer** *n.*

rail (reɪl) *n.* any of various small cranelike wading marsh birds with short wings and neck, long legs, and dark plumage.

railhead (ˈreɪl,hed) *n.* 1. a terminal of a railway. 2. the farthest point reached by completed track on an unfinished railway.

railing (ˈreɪlɪŋ) *n.* 1. a fence, balustrade, or barrier that consists of rails supported by posts. 2. rails collectively or material for making rails.

railery (ˈreɪlɪəri) *n., pl. -leries.* 1. light-hearted satire or ridicule; banter. 2. a bantering remark.

railroad (ˈreɪl,rəʊd) *n.* 1. the usual U.S. word for **railway**. ~vb. 2. (tr.) *Inf.* to force (a person) into (an action) with haste or by unfair means.

railway (ˈreɪl,wei) or **U.S. railroad** *n.* 1. a permanent track composed of a line of parallel metal rails fixed to sleepers, for transport of passengers and goods in trains. 2. any track for the wheels of a vehicle to run on: *a cable railway*. 3. the entire equipment, rolling stock, buildings, property, and system of tracks used in such a transport system. 4. the organization responsible for operating a railway network. 5. (modifier) of, relating to, or used on a railway: *a railway engine*.

raiment (ˈreɪmənt) *n. Arch. or poetic.* attire; clothing.

rain (rein) *n.* 1. **a.** precipitation from clouds in the form of drops of water, formed by the condensation of water vapour in the atmosphere. **b.** a fall of rain; shower. **c.** (in combination): a *raindrop*. 2. a large quantity of anything falling rapidly or in quick succession: a *rain of abuse*. 3. (come) **rain or shine**, regardless of the weather or circumstances. 4. **right as rain**. *Brit. Inf.* perfectly all right. ~*vb.* 5. (intr.; with it as subject) to be the case that rain is falling. 6. (often with it as subject) to fall or cause to fall like rain. 7. (tr.) to bestow in large measure: *to rain abuse on someone*. 8. **rain cats and dogs**. *Inf.* to rain heavily; pour. 9. **rained off**, cancelled or postponed on account of rain. U.S. term: **rained out**. —*rainless adj.* —*rainy adj.*

rainbow ('rein,bəʊ) *n.* 1. **a.** a bow-shaped display in the sky of the colours of the spectrum, caused by the refraction and reflection of the sun's rays through rain. **b.** (as modifier): a *rainbow pattern*. 2. an illusory hope: *to chase rainbows*.

rainbow trout *n.* a freshwater trout of North American origin, marked with many black spots and two longitudinal red stripes.

raincoat ('rein,kəʊt) *n.* a coat worn for protection against rain.

rainfall ('rein,fɔ:l) *n.* 1. precipitation in the form of raindrops. 2. *Meteorol.* the amount of precipitation in a specified place and time.

rainforest ('rein,forɪst) *n.* dense forest found in tropical areas of heavy rainfall.

rains (reɪnz) *pl. n.* the season of heavy rainfall, esp. in the tropics.

rain shadow *n.* the relatively dry area on the leeward side of high ground in the path of rain-bearing winds.

rainwater ('rein,wɔ:tə) *n.* pure water from rain (as distinguished from spring water, tap water, etc., which may contain minerals and impurities).

rainy day *n.* a future time of need, esp. financial.

raise (reɪz) *vb.* (mainly tr.) 1. to move or elevate to a higher position or level; lift. 2. to set or place in an upright position. 3. to construct, build, or erect: *to raise a barn*. 4. to increase in amount, size, value, etc.: *to raise prices*. 5. to increase in degree, strength, intensity, etc.: *to raise one's voice*. 6. to advance in rank or status; promote. 7. to arouse or awaken from sleep or death. 8. to stir up or incite; activate: *to raise a mutiny*. 9. **raise Cain** (or the devil, hell, the roof, etc.) to create a disturbance, esp. by making a great noise. 10. to give rise to; cause or provoke: *to raise a smile*. 11. to put forward for consideration: *to raise a question*. 12. to cause to assemble or gather together: *to raise an army*. 13. to grow or cause to grow: *to raise a crop*. 14. to bring up; rear: *to raise a family*. 15. to cause to be heard or known; utter or express: *to raise a shout*. 16. to bring to an end; remove: *to raise a siege*. 17. to cause (bread, etc.) to rise, as by the addition of yeast. 18. **Poker**, to bet more than (the previous player). 19. **Bridge**, to bid (one's partner's suit) at a higher level. 20. *Naut.* to cause (something) to seem to rise above the horizon by approaching: *we raised land after 20 days*. 21. to establish radio communications with: *we raised Moscow last night*. 22. to obtain (money, funds, etc.). 23. to bring (a surface, a design, etc.) into relief; cause to project. 24. to cause (a blister, etc.) to form on the skin. 25. **Maths**, to multiply (a number) by itself a specified number of times: *8 is 2 raised to the power 3*. 26. **raise an eyebrow** or **one's eyebrows**, to look quizzical or surprised. 27. **raise one's glass** (to), to drink a toast (to). 28. **raise one's hat**, *Old-fashioned*, to take one's hat briefly off one's head as a greeting or mark of respect. ~*n.* 29. the act or an instance of raising. 30. *Chiefly U.S.* an increase, esp. in salary, wages, etc.; rise. —*'raisable adj.*

raisin ('reizn) *n.* a dried grape. —*'raisiny adj.*

raison d'être French. (reɪzɔ̃ 'dɛtrə) *n., pl. raisons d'être* (reɪzɔ̃ 'dɛtrə). reason or justification for existence.

raj (rɑ:dʒ) *n.* 1. (in India) government; rule. 2. (cap. and preceded by *the*) the British government in India before 1947.

rajah or **raja** ('rɑ:dʒə) *n.* 1. (in India, formerly) a ruler: sometimes used as a title preceding a name. 2. a Malayan or Javanese prince or chieftain.

rake¹ (reɪk) *n.* 1. a hand implement consisting of a row of teeth set in a headpiece attached to a long shaft and used for gathering hay, straw, etc., or for smoothing loose earth. 2. any of several mechanical farm implements equipped with rows of teeth or rotating wheels mounted with tines and used to gather hay, straw, etc. 3. any of various implements similar in shape or func-

tion. 4. the act of raking. ~*vb.* 5. to scrape, gather, or remove (leaves, refuse, etc.) with a rake. 6. to level or prepare (a surface) with a rake. 7. (tr.; sometimes foll. by *out*) to clear (ashes, etc.) from (a fire). 8. (tr.; foll. by *up or together*) to gather (items or people) with difficulty, as from a scattered area or limited supply. 9. (tr.; often foll. by *through, over*, etc.) to search or examine carefully. 10. (when intr., foll. by *against, along*, etc.) to scrape or graze: *the ship raked the side of the quay*. 11. (tr.) to direct (gunfire) along the length of (a target): *machine-guns raked the column*. 12. (tr.) to sweep (one's eyes) along the length of (something); scan. —*See also rake in, rake-off, etc.* —*'raker n.*

rake² (reɪk) *n.* a dissolute man, esp. one in fashionable society; roué.

rake³ (reɪk) *vb.* (mainly intr.) 1. to incline from the vertical by a perceptible degree, esp. (of a ship's mast) towards the stern. 2. (tr.) to construct with a backward slope. ~*n.* 3. the degree to which an object, such as a ship's mast, inclines from the perpendicular, esp. towards the stern. 4. *Theatre*, the slope of a stage from the back towards the footlights. 5. the angle between the working face of a cutting tool and a plane perpendicular to the surface of the workpiece.

rake in *vb.* (tr., adv.) *Inf.* to acquire (money) in large amounts.

rake-off *Sl.* ~*n.* 1. a share of profits, esp. one that is illegal or given as a bribe. ~*vb.* **rake off**. 2. (tr., adv.) to take or receive (such a share of profits).

rake up *vb.* (tr., adv.) to revive, discover, or bring to light (something forgotten): *to rake up an old quarrel*.

rakish¹ ('reɪkɪʃ) *adj.* dissolute; profligate. —*'rakishly adv.* —*'rakishness n.*

rakish² ('reɪkɪʃ) *adj.* 1. dashing; jaunty: *a hat set at a rakish angle*. 2. *Naut.* (of a ship or boat) having lines suggestive of speed.

ralentando ('rælən'tændəʊ) *adj., adv.* *Music.* becoming slower. Also: **ritardando**.

rally¹ ('ræli) *vb.* -lying, -lied. 1. to bring (a group, unit, etc.) into order, as after dispersal, or (of such a group) to reform and come to order. 2. (when intr., foll. by *to*) to organize (supporters, etc.) for a common cause or (of such people) to come together for a purpose. 3. to summon up (one's strength, spirits, etc.) or (of a person's health, strength, or spirits) to revive or recover. 4. (intr.) *Stock Exchange*, to increase sharply after a decline. 5. (intr.) *Tennis, squash, etc.* to engage in a rally. ~*n., pl. -lies*. 6. a large gathering of people for a common purpose. 7. a marked recovery of strength or spirits, as during illness. 8. a return to order after dispersal or rout, as of troops, etc. 9. *Stock Exchange*, a sharp increase in price or trading activity after a decline. 10. *Tennis, squash, etc.* an exchange of several shots before one player wins the point. 11. a type of motoring competition over public roads. —*'rallier n.*

rally² ('ræli) *vb.* -lying, -lied. to mock or ridicule (someone) in a good-natured way; chaff; tease.

rally round *vb.* (intr.) to come to the aid of (someone); offer moral or practical support.

ram (ræm) *n.* 1. an uncastrated adult male sheep. 2. a piston or moving plate, esp. one driven hydraulically or pneumatically. 3. the falling weight of a pile driver. 4. short for **battering ram**. 5. a pointed projection in the stem of an ancient warship for puncturing the hull of enemy ships. 6. a warship equipped with a ram. ~*vb.* **ramming, rammed**. 7. (tr.; usually foll. by *into*) to force or drive, as by heavy blows: *to ram a post into the ground*. 8. (of a moving object) to crash with force (against another object) or (of two moving objects) to collide in this way. 9. (tr.; often foll. by *in or down*) to stuff or cram (something into a hole, etc.). 10. (tr.; foll. by *onto, against*, etc.) to thrust violently: *he rammed the books onto the desk*. 11. (tr.) *Sl.* to instil (knowledge, etc.) into a person, esp. by repetition (esp. in **ram** (something) down someone's throat). 12. (tr.) to drive (a charge) into a firearm. —*'rammer n.*

Ram (ræm) *n.* the constellation Aries, the first sign of the zodiac.

RAM (ræm) *n.* *Computers.* acronym for random access memory.

R.A.M. abbrev. for Royal Academy of Music.

ramble ('ræmbəl) *vb.* (intr.) 1. to stroll about freely, as for relaxation, with no particular direction. 2. (of paths, streams, etc.) to follow a winding course; meander. 3. to grow or develop in a random fashion. 4. (of speech, writing, etc.) to lack organization. ~*n.* 5. a leisurely stroll, esp. in the countryside.

rambler ('ræmbəl) *n.* 1. a weak-stemmed plant that

straggles over other vegetation. **2.** a person who rambles, esp. one who takes country walks. **3.** a person who lacks organization in his speech or writing.

rambunctious (ræm'bankʃəs) *adj.* *Inf.* boisterous; unruly. —**ram'bunctiousness** *n.*

R.A.M.C. *abbrev.* for Royal Army Medical Corps.

ramekin or **ramequin** (ræm'ikin) *n.* **1.** a savoury dish made from a cheese mixture baked in a fireproof dish. **2.** the dish itself.

ramification (ræm'ifikeiʃən) *n.* **1.** the act or process of ramifying or branching out. **2.** an offshoot or subdivision. **3.** a structure of branching parts.

ramify (ræm'ifi) *vb.* **-fying, -fied.** **1.** to divide into branches or branchlike parts. **2.** (*intr.*) to develop complicating consequences.

ramose (ræ'məʊs, ræ'məʊs) or **ramous** (ræ'məʊs) *adj.* having branches. —**ramosely** or **ramously** *adv.* —**ramosity** (ræ'məʊsiti) *n.*

ramp (ræmp) *n.* **1.** a sloping floor, path, etc., that joins two surfaces at different levels. **2.** a movable stairway by which passengers enter and leave an aircraft. **3.** the act of ramping. **4.** *Brit. sl.* a swindle, esp. one involving exorbitant prices. ~**vb.** (*intr.*) **5.** (often foll. by *about* or *around*) (esp. of animals) to rush around in a wild excited manner. **6.** to act in a violent or threatening manner (esp. in **ramp** and **rage**).

rampage *vb.* (ræm'peidʒ). **1.** (*intr.*) to rush about in a violent or agitated fashion. ~*n.* (ræm'peidʒ, ræm'peidʒ). **2.** angry or destructive behaviour. **3.** **on the rampage.** behaving violently or destructively. —**ram'pageous** *adj.* —**ram'pageously** *adv.* —**rampager** *n.*

rampant (ræmpənt) *adj.* **1.** unrestrained or violent in behaviour, etc. **2.** growing or developing unchecked. **3.** (*postpositive*) *Heraldry.* (of a beast) standing on the hind legs, the right foreleg raised above the left. **4.** (of an arch) having one abutment higher than the other. —**rampancy** *n.* —**rampantly** *adv.*

rampart (ræmpə:t) *n.* **1.** the surrounding embankment of a fort, often including any walls, etc., that are built on the bank. **2.** any defence or bulwark. ~**vb.** **3.** (*tr.*) to provide with a rampart; fortify.

ramrod (ræm,rɒd) *n.* **1.** a rod for cleaning the barrel of a rifle, etc. **2.** a rod for ramming in the charge of a muzzle-loading firearm.

ramshackle (ræm,ʃæk'l) *adj.* (esp. of buildings) rickety, shaky, or derelict.

ran (ræn) *vb.* the past tense of **run**.

R.A.N. *abbrev.* for Royal Australian Navy.

ranch (ræntʃ) *n.* **1.** a large tract of land, esp. one in North America, together with the necessary personnel, buildings, and equipment, for rearing livestock, esp. cattle. **2.** a. any large farm for the rearing of a particular kind of livestock or crop: a *mink ranch*. b. the buildings, land, etc., connected with it. ~**vb.** **3.** (*intr.*) to run a ranch. —**rancher** *n.*

rancid (rænsɪd) *adj.* **1.** (of food) having an unpleasant stale taste or smell as the result of decomposition. **2.** (of a taste or smell) rank or sour; stale. —**rancidness** or **rancidity** (ræn'sɪditi) *n.*

rancour or **U.S. rancor** (ræŋkə) *n.* malicious resentment or hostility; spite. —**rancorous** *adj.* —**rancorously** *adv.*

rand (rænd, rɒnt) *n.* the standard monetary unit of the Republic of South Africa, divided into 100 cents.

Rand (rænd) *n.* the short for Witwatersrand, an area in South Africa rich in mineral deposits, esp. gold.

R & D *abbrev.* for research and development.

random (rændəm) *adj.* **1.** lacking any definite plan or prearranged order; haphazard: a *random selection*. **2.** *Statistics.* a. (of a variable) having several possible experimental values any one of which is uncertain and depends on chance. b. (of a sampling process) carried out so that each member of the population has an equal probability of being selected. ~*n.* **3.** **at random.** not following any prearranged order. —**randomly** *adv.* —**randomness** *n.*

random access *n.* another name for **direct access**.

randy (rændi) *adj.* **randier, randiest.** **1.** *Sl.* chiefly *Brit.* sexually eager or lustful. **2.** *Chiefly Scot.* lacking any sense of propriety; reckless. ~*n.*, *pl.* **randies.** **3.** *Chiefly Scot.* a rude or reckless person. —**randily** *adv.* —**randiness** *n.*

ranee (ræ:ni) *n.* a variant spelling of **rani**.

rang (ræŋ) *vb.* the past tense of **ring**.

▷ **Usage.** See at **ring**.

range (reɪndʒ) *n.* **1.** the limits within which a person or thing can function effectively: *the range of vision*. **2.** the

limits within which any fluctuation takes place: *a range of values*. **3.** a. the maximum effective distance of a projectile fired from a weapon. b. the distance between a target and a weapon. **4.** an area set aside for shooting practice or rocket testing. **5.** the total distance which a ship, aircraft, or land vehicle is capable of covering without taking on fresh fuel: *the range of this car is about 160 miles*. **6.** *Maths.* a. (of a function) the set of functional values. b. (of a variable) the set of values that a variable can take. **7.** *U.S.* a. an extensive tract of open land on which livestock can graze. b. (as *modifier*): *range cattle*. **8.** the geographical region in which a species of plant or animal normally grows or lives. **9.** a rank, row, or series of items. **10.** a series or chain of mountains. **11.** a large stove with burners and one or more ovens, usually heated by solid fuel. **12.** the act or process of ranging. ~**vb.** **13.** to establish or be situated in a line, row, or series. **14.** (*tr.*; often *reflexive*, foll. by *with*) to put into a specific category; classify: *she ranges herself with the angels*. **15.** (foll. by *on*) to aim or point (a telescope, gun, etc.) or (of a gun, telescope, etc.) to be pointed or aimed. **16.** to establish the distance of (a target) from (a weapon). **17.** (*intr.*) (of a gun or missile) to have a specified range. **18.** (when *intr.*, foll. by *over*) to wander about (in) an area; roam (over). **19.** (*intr.*, foll. by *over*) (of an animal or plant) to live or grow in its normal habitat. **20.** (*tr.*) to put (cattle) to graze on a range. **21.** (*intr.*) to fluctuate within specific limits. **22.** (*intr.*) to extend or run in a specific direction. **23.** (*intr.*) *Naut.* (of a vessel) to swing back and forth while at anchor. **24.** (*tr.*) to make (lines of printers' type) level or even at the margin.

rangefinder (ræɪndʒ,faindɪŋ) *n.* an instrument for determining the distance of an object from the observer, esp. in order to sight a gun or focus a camera.

ranger (ræɪndʒə) *n.* **1.** *Brit.* an official in charge of a royal forest, park, etc. **2.** *Orig. U.S.* a person employed to patrol a State or national park. *Brit. equivalent:* **warden**. **3.** *U.S.* one of a body of armed troops employed to police a State or district: a *Texas ranger*. **4.** (in the U.S.) a commando specially trained in making raids. **5.** a person who wanders about; a rover.

Ranger or Ranger Guide (ræɪndʒə) *n.* *Brit.* a member of the senior branch of the Guides.

rangy (ræɪndʒi) *adj.* **rangier, rangiest.** **1.** having long slender limbs. **2.** adapted to wandering or roaming. **3.** allowing considerable freedom of movement; spacious. —**rangily** *adv.* —**ranginess** *n.*

rani or **ranee** (ræ:ni) *n.* a queen or princess; the wife of a rajah.

rank (ræŋk) *n.* **1.** a position, esp. an official one, within a social organization: *the rank of captain*. **2.** high social or other standing; status. **3.** a line or row of people or things: a *taxi rank*. **4.** a line of soldiers drawn up abreast of each other. **5.** any of the eight horizontal rows of squares on a chessboard. **6.** *Music.* a set of organ pipes controlled by the same stop. **7.** *break ranks.* *Mil.* to fall out of line, esp. when under attack. **8.** *close ranks.* to maintain discipline or solidarity. **9.** *pull rank.* to get one's own way by virtue of one's superior position or rank. **10.** **rank and file.** a. the ordinary soldiers, excluding the officers. b. the great mass or majority of any group, as opposed to the leadership. c. (*modifier*) *rank-and-file support*. ~**vb.** **11.** (*tr.*) to arrange (people or things) in rows or lines; range. **12.** to accord or be accorded a specific position in an organization or group. **13.** *U.S.* to take precedence or surpass in rank.

rank (ræŋk) *adj.* **1.** showing vigorous and profuse growth: *rank weeds*. **2.** highly offensive or disagreeable, esp. in smell or taste. **3.** (*prenominal*) complete or absolute; utter: *a rank outsider*. **4.** coarse or vulgar; gross: *his language was rank*. —**rankly** *adv.* —**rankness** *n.*

rankle (ræŋk'l) *vb.* (*intr.*) to cause severe and continuous irritation, anger, or bitterness; fester.

ransack (rænsæk) *vb.* (*tr.*) **1.** to search through every part of (a house, box, etc.); examine thoroughly. **2.** to plunder; pillage. —**ransacker** *n.*

ransom (rænsəm) *n.* **1.** the release of captured prisoners, property, etc., on payment of a stipulated price. **2.** the price demanded or stipulated for such a release. **3.** **hold to ransom.** a. to keep (prisoners, etc.) in confinement until payment for their release is received. b. to attempt to force (a person) to comply with one's demands. **4.** a *king's ransom*. a very large amount of money or valuables. ~**vb.** (*tr.*) **5.** to pay a stipulated price and so obtain the release of (prisoners, property, etc.). **6.** to set free (prisoners, property, etc.) upon

receiving the payment demanded. 7. to redeem; rescue: *Christ ransomed men from sin.* —'ransomer *n.*

rant (rænt) *vb.* 1. to utter (something) in loud, violent, or bombastic tones. ~*n.* 2. loud, declamatory, or extravagant speech; bombast. —'ranter *n.* —'rantingly *adv.*

R.A.O.C. abbrev. for Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

rap¹ (ræp) *vb.* **raping, rapped.** 1. to strike (a fist, stick, etc.) against (something) with a sharp quick blow; knock. 2. (*intr.*) to make a sharp loud sound, esp. by knocking. 3. (*tr.*; foll. by *out*) to put (forth) in sharp rapid speech; utter in an abrupt fashion: *to rap out orders.* 4. (*intr.*) *U.S. sl.* to talk, esp. volubly. 5. **rap over the knuckles.** to reprimand. ~*n.* 6. a sharp quick blow or the sound produced by such a blow. 7. *U.S. sl.* voluble talk; chatter. 8. **beat the rap.** *U.S. sl.* to escape punishment or be acquitted of a crime. 9. **take the rap.** *Sl.* to suffer the punishment for a crime, whether guilty or not.

rap¹ (ræp) *n.* (used with a negative) the least amount (esp. in not to care a rap).

rapacious (rə'peɪʃəs) *adj.* 1. practising pillage or rapine. 2. greedy or grasping. 3. (of animals, esp. birds) subsisting by catching living prey. —'rapaciously *adv.* —'rapacity (rə'pæsəti) or 'rapaciousness *n.*

rape¹ (reip) *n.* 1. *Criminal law.* the offence of forcing a woman to submit to sexual intercourse against her will. 2. the act of despoiling a country in warfare. 3. any violation or abuse: *the rape of justice.* 4. *Arch.* abduction: *the rape of the Sabine women.* ~*vb.* (mainly *tr.*) 5. *Criminal law.* to commit rape upon (a person). 6. *Arch.* to carry off by force; abduct. —'rapist *n.*

rape² (reip) *n.* a Eurasian plant that is cultivated for its seeds, **rapeseed**, which yield a useful oil, **rape oil**, and as a fodder plant. Also called: **colza, cole.**

rapid ('ræpid) *adj.* 1. (of an action) performed or occurring during a short interval of time; quick. 2. acting or moving quickly; fast: *a rapid worker.* —'rapidly *adv.* —'rapidity (rə'pɪdɪti) or 'rapidness *n.*

rapids ('ræpɪdz) *pl. n.* part of a river where the current is very fast and turbulent.

rapier ('reɪpɪə) *n.* 1. a long narrow two-edged sword with a guarded hilt, used as a thrusting weapon, popular in the 16th and 17th centuries. 2. a smaller single-edged 18th-century sword, used principally in France.

rapine ('ræpaɪn) *n.* the seizure of property by force; pillage.

rapproit (rə'pɔɪ) *n.* (often foll. by *with*) a sympathetic relationship or understanding.

rapprochement French. (rə'pɒʃ'mɑ̃) *n.* a resumption of friendly relations, esp. between two countries.

rapscallion (ræp'skæljən) *n.* a disreputable person; rascal or rogue.

rapt (ræpt) *adj.* 1. totally absorbed; engrossed; spell-bound, esp. through or as if through emotion: *rapt with wonder.* 2. characterized by or proceeding from rapture: *a rapt smile.* —'raptly *adv.*

raptorial (ræp'tɔɪriəl) *adj. Zool.* 1. (of the feet of birds) adapted for seizing prey. 2. (of or relating to birds of prey).

rapture ('ræptʃə) *n.* 1. the state of mind resulting from feelings of high emotion; joyous ecstasy. 2. (*often pl.*) an expression of ecstatic joy. 3. *Arch.* the act of transporting a person from one sphere of existence to another. ~*vb.* 4. (*tr.*) *Arch. or literary.* to enrapture. —'rapturous *adj.*

rare¹ (ræ) *adj.* 1. not widely known; not frequently used or experienced; uncommon or unusual: *a rare word.* 2. not widely distributed; not generally occurring: *a rare herb.* 3. (of a gas, esp. the atmosphere at high altitudes) having a low density; thin; rarefied. 4. uncommonly great; extreme: *kind to a rare degree.* 5. exhibiting uncommon excellence: *rare skill.* —'rareness *n.*

rare² (ræ) *adj.* (of meat, esp. beef) undercooked.

rarebit ('ræəbɪt) *n.* another term for **Welsh rabbit**.

rare earth *n.* 1. any oxide of a lanthanide. 2. Also called: **rare-earth element.** any element of the lanthanide series.

rarefied ('ræəri,faiəd) *adj.* 1. exalted in nature or character; lofty: *a rarefied spiritual existence.* 2. current within only a small group. 3. thin: *air rarefied at altitude.*

rarefy ('ræəri,fai) *vb. -fying, -fied.* to make or become rarer or less dense; thin out. —'rare,fiable *adj.* —'rare,fier *n.*

rarely ('ræəli) *adv.* 1. hardly ever; seldom. 2. to an unusual degree; exceptionally. 3. *Brit. dialect.* uncommonly well; excellently: *he did rarely at market yesterday.*

raring ('ræəriŋ) *adj.* ready; willing; enthusiastic (esp. in raring to go).

rarity ('ræərɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. a rare person or thing, esp. something valued because it is uncommon. 2. the state of being rare.

rascal ('ræskəl) *n.* 1. a disreputable person; villain. 2. a mischievous or impish rogue. 3. an affectionate or mildly reproving term, esp. for a child: *you little rascal.* 4. *Obs.* a person of lowly birth. ~*adj.* 5. (*prenominal*) *Obs.* a. belonging to the rabble. b. dishonest; knavish. —'rascality *n.* —'rascally *adj.*

rase (reɪz) *vb.* a variant spelling of **raze**. —'raser *n.*

rash¹ (ræʃ) *adj.* 1. acting without due thought; impetuous. 2. resulting from excessive haste or impetuosity: *a rash word.* —'rashly *adv.* —'rashness *n.*

rash² (ræʃ) *n.* 1. *Pathol.* any skin eruption. 2. a series of unpleasant and unexpected occurrences: *a rash of forest fires.*

rasher ('ræʃə) *n.* a thin slice of bacon or ham.

rasp (ræsp) *n.* 1. a harsh grating noise. 2. a coarse file with rows of raised teeth. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to scrape or rub (something) roughly, esp. with a rasp; abrade. 4. to utter with or make a harsh grating noise. 5. to irritate (one's nerves); grate (upon). —'rasper *n.* —'raspish *adj.* —'rasping *adj.*

raspberry ('ræzbəri, -brɪ) *n., pl. -ries.* 1. a prickly roseaceous shrub of North America and Europe, that has pinkish-white flowers and typically red berry-like fruits (drupelets). See also **bramble**. 2. a. the fruit of any such plant. b. (*as modifier*): *raspberry jelly.* 3. a. a dark purplish-red colour. b. (*as adj.*): *a raspberry dress.* 4. a spluttering noise made with the tongue and lips to express contempt (esp. in **blow a raspberry**).

Rastafarian ('ræstə'fæəriən) *n.* 1. a member of a Jamaican cult that regards Ras Tafari, the former emperor of Ethiopia, Haile Selassie, as God. ~*adj.* 2. of, characteristic of, or relating to the Rastafarians. —'Rasta *adj., n.*

rat (ræt) *n.* 1. any of numerous long-tailed Old World rodents, that are similar to but larger than mice and are now distributed all over the world. 2. *Inf.* a person who deserts his friends or associates, esp. in time of trouble. 3. *Inf.* a worker who works during a strike; blackleg; scab. 4. *Sl.* a despicable person. 5. **smell a rat.** to have suspicions of some treacherous practice. 6. **have or be rats.** *Austral. sl.* to be mad or eccentric. ~*vb.* **ratting, ratted.** 7. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *on*) a. to divulge secret information (about); betray the trust (of). b. to default (on); abandon. 8. to hunt and kill rats.

rata ('rætə) *n.* a New Zealand tree with red flowers.

ratable or rateable ('reɪtəbəl) *adj.* 1. able to be rated or evaluated. 2. *Brit.* (of property, etc.) liable to payment of rates. —'rat'ability or 'rate'ability *n.* —'rat'ably or 'rate'ably *adv.*

ratable value or rateable value *n. Brit.* a fixed value assigned to a property by a local authority, on the basis of which variable annual rates are charged.

ratafia ('rætə'fiə) or **ratafee** ('rætə'fiː) *n.* 1. any liqueur made from fruit or from brandy with added fruit. 2. a flavouring essence made from almonds. 3. *Chiefly Brit.* Also called: **ratafia biscuit.** a small macaroon flavoured with almonds.

ratan (ræt'tæn) *n.* a variant spelling of **rattan**.

ratatat-tat ('rætə,tæt'tæt) or **ratatrat** ('rætə'tæt) *n.* the sound of knocking on a door.

ratatouille ('rætə'twiː) *n.* a vegetable casserole made of tomatoes, aubergines, peppers, etc., fried in oil and stewed slowly.

ratchet ('rætʃɪt) *n.* 1. a device in which a toothed rack or wheel is engaged by a pawl to permit motion in one direction only. 2. the toothed rack or wheel forming part of such a device.

rate¹ (reɪt) *n.* 1. a quantity or amount considered in relation to or measured against another quantity or amount: *a rate of 70 miles an hour.* 2. a price or charge with reference to a standard or scale: *rate of interest.* 3. a charge made per unit for a commodity, service, etc. 4. See **rates**. 5. the relative speed of progress or change of something variable; pace: *the rate of production has doubled.* 6. a. relative quality; class or grade. b. (*in combination*): *first-rate ideas.* 7. at any rate. 8. (*in any case*; at all events; anyway. ~*vb.* (mainly *tr.*) 8. (*also intr.*) to assign or receive a position on a scale of relative values; rank: *he is rated fifth in the world.* 9. to estimate the value of; evaluate: *we rate your services highly.* 10. to be worthy of; deserve: *this hotel does not rate four*

stars. 11. to consider; regard: *I rate him among my friends.* 12. *Brit.* to assess the value of (property) for the purpose of local taxation.

▷ **Usage.** The use of the verb *rate* alone with the sense of thinking highly of something is avoided in careful usage: *the clients do not think highly of (not do not rate) the new system.*

rate² (reit) *vb.* (tr.) to scold or criticize severely; rebuke harshly.

ratepayer ('reit,peɪə) *n.* *Brit.* a person who pays local rates, esp. a householder.

rates (reits) *pl. n.* *Brit.* a tax on property levied by a local authority.

rather ('rɑːðə) *adv.* (in senses 1-4, not used with a negative) 1. relatively or fairly; somewhat: *it's rather dull.* 2. to a significant or noticeable extent; quite: *she's rather pretty.* 3. to a limited extent or degree: *I rather thought that was the case.* 4. with better or more just cause: *this text is rather to be deleted than rewritten.* 5. more readily or willingly; sooner: *I would rather not see you tomorrow.* ~sentence connector. 6. on the contrary: *it's not cold. Rather, it's very hot.* ~sentence substitute. ('rɑːðə) 7. an expression of strong affirmation: *is it worth seeing? Rather!*

▷ **Usage.** Both *would* and *had* are used with *rather* in sentences such as *I would rather (or had rather) go to the film than to the play.* *Had rather* is less common and now widely regarded as slightly old-fashioned.

ratify ('ræti,faɪ) *vb.* -fying, -fied. (tr.) to give formal approval or consent to. —'rati,fiable *n.* —'ratif'ication *n.* —'rati,fier *n.*

rating¹ ('reɪtɪŋ) *n.* 1. a classification according to order or grade; ranking. 2. an ordinary seaman. 3. *Sailing.* a handicap assigned to a racing boat based on its dimensions, draught, etc. 4. the estimated financial or credit standing of a business enterprise or individual. 5. *Radio, television, etc.* a figure based on statistical sampling indicating what proportion of the total audience tune in to a specific programme.

rating² ('reɪtɪŋ) *n.* a sharp scolding or rebuke.

ratio ('reɪʃiəʊ) *n., pl.* -tios. 1. a relationship that indicates the extent to which one class of objects exists compared to another: *the ratio of boys to girls.* 2. *Maths.* a quotient of two numbers or quantities. See also **proportion** (sense 6).

rationicinate (,ræti'osi,neɪt) *vb.* (intr.) to think or argue logically and methodically; reason. —'rati,oci'lation *n.* —'rati'oci,native *adj.* —'rati'oci,nator *n.*

ration ('reɪʃən) *n.* 1. *a.* a fixed allowance of food, provisions, etc., esp. a statutory one for civilians in time of scarcity or soldiers in time of war. *b.* (as modifier): *a ration book.* 2. a sufficient or adequate amount: *you've had your ration of television for today.* ~*vb.* (tr.) 3. (often foll. by *out*) to distribute (provisions), esp. to an army. 4. to restrict the distribution or consumption of a commodity by (people): *the government has rationed sugar.*

rational ('ræʃənəl) *adj.* 1. using reason or logic in thinking out a problem. 2. in accordance with the principles of logic or reason; reasonable. 3. of sound mind; sane: *the patient seemed quite rational.* 4. endowed with the capacity to reason: *man is a rational being.* 5. *Maths.* (of an expression, equation, etc.) containing no variable either in irreducible radical form or raised to a fractional power. *b.* (as *n.*): a rational. —'rationally *adv.* —'rationalness *n.* —'ratio'nality *n.*

rationale (,ræʃə'nɑːl) *n.* a reasoned exposition, esp. one defining the fundamental reasons for an action, etc.

rationalism ('ræʃənə,lɪzəm) *n.* 1. the doctrine that reason is the proper basis for regulating morals, conduct, etc. 2. *Philosophy.* the doctrine that knowledge is acquired by reason without regard to experience. 3. *Theol.* the doctrine that human reason, rather than divine revelation, is the basis for establishing religious truth. —'rationalist *n.* —'rational'istic *adj.* —'ration'al'istically *adv.*

rationalize or **-ise** ('ræʃənə,ləɪz) *vb.* 1. to justify (one's actions) with plausible reasons, esp. after the event. 2. to apply logic or reason to (something). 3. (tr.) to eliminate unnecessary equipment, etc. from a factory, etc., in order to make it more efficient. 4. (tr.) *Maths.* to eliminate radicals without changing the value of (an expression) or the roots of (an equation). —'ration'al'ization or -'l'sation *n.* —'rational,izer or -'l'ser *n.*

rational number *n.* any real number of the form a/b , where a and b are integers and b is not zero, as 7 or $7/3$.

rations ('ræʃnz) *pl. n.* (sometimes *sing.*) a fixed daily

allowance of food, esp. to military personnel or when supplies are limited.

ratline or **ratlin** ('rætlɪn) *n.* *Naut.* any of a series of light lines tied across the shrouds of a sailing vessel for climbing aloft.

rat race *n.* a continual routine of hectic competitive activity: *working in the City is a real rat race.*

ratsbane ('ræts,bem) *n.* rat poison, esp. arsenic oxide.

rattan or **ratán** ('rætæn) *n.* 1. a climbing palm having tough stems used for wickerwork and canes. 2. the stems of such a plant collectively. 3. a stick made from one of these stems.

ratter ('rætə) *n.* 1. a dog or cat that catches and kills rats. 2. another word for **rat** (sense 3).

rattle ('rætlɪ) *vb.* 1. to make a rapid succession of short sharp sounds, as of loose pellets colliding when shaken in a container. 2. to shake with such a sound. 3. to send, move, drive, etc., with such a sound: *the car rattled along the country road.* 4. (intr.; foll. by *on*) to chatter idly: *he rattled on about his work.* 5. (tr., foll. by *off, out, etc.*) to recite perfunctorily or rapidly. 6. (tr.) *Inf.* to disconcert; make frightened or anxious. ~*n.* 7. a rapid succession of short sharp sounds. 8. a baby's toy filled with small pellets that rattle when shaken. 9. a series of loosely connected horny segments on the tail of a rattlesnake, vibrated to produce a rattling sound. 10. any of various European scrophulariaceae plants having a capsule in which the seeds rattle, such as the **red rattle** and the **yellow rattle**. 11. idle chatter. —'rattly *adj.*

rattlesnake ('rætlɪ,sneɪk) *n.* any of the venomous New World snakes such as the black or **timber rattlesnake** belonging to the family of pit vipers. They have a series of loose horny segments on the tail that are vibrated to produce a buzzing or whirring sound. Also (*Inf.*): **'rattler**.

rattletrap ('rætlɪ,træp) *n.* *Inf.* a broken-down old vehicle, esp. an old car.

rattling ('rætlɪŋ) *adv.* *Inf.* (intensifier qualifying something good, fine, etc.): *a rattling good lunch.*

ratty ('ræti) *adj.* -tier, -tiest. 1. *Brit.* & *N.Z. sl.* irritable; annoyed. 2. *Sl.* (of the hair) straggly, unkempt, or greasy. 3. *U.S. sl.* shabby; dilapidated. 4. *Austral. sl.* mad, eccentric, or odd. 5. of, like, or full of rats. —'rattily *adv.* —'rattiness *n.*

raucous ('rɒkəs) *adj.* (of voices, cries, etc.) harshly or hoarsely loud. —'raucously *adv.* —'raucousness *n.*

raunchy ('rɒntʃɪ) *adj.* -chier, -chiest. *U.S. sl.* lecherous or smutty. 2. slovenly; dirty. —'raunchiness *n.*

ravage ('rævɪdʒ) *vb.* 1. to cause extensive damage to. ~*n.* 2. (often pl.) destructive action: *the ravages of time.* —'ravager *n.*

rave (reɪv) *vb.* 1. to utter (something) in a wild or incoherent manner, as when delirious. 2. (intr.) to speak in an angry uncontrolled manner. 3. (intr.) (of the sea, wind, etc.) to rage or roar. 4. (intr.; foll. by *over* or *about*) *Inf.* to write or speak (about) with great enthusiasm. 5. (intr.) *Brit. sl.* to enjoy oneself wildly or uninhibitedly. ~*n.* 6. *Inf. a.* enthusiastic or extravagant praise. *b.* (as modifier): *a rave review.* 7. Also called: **rave-up**. *Brit. sl.* a party.

ravel ('rævəl) *vb.* -elling, -elled or *U.S.* -eling, -eled. 1. to tangle (threads, fibres, etc.) or (of threads, etc.) to become entangled. 2. (often foll. by *out*) to tease or draw out (the fibres of a fabric) or (of a fabric) to fray out in loose ends; unravel. 3. (tr.; usually foll. by *out*) to disentangle or resolve: *to ravel out a complicated story.* ~*n.* 4. a tangle or complication. —'raveller *n.* —'ravelly *adj.*

raven ('reɪvən) *n.* 1. a large passerine bird of the crow family, having a large straight bill, long wedge-shaped tail, and black plumage. 2. *a.* a shiny black colour. *b.* (as *adj.*): *raven hair.*

ravening ('rævənɪŋ) *adj.* (of animals) voracious; predatory. —'raveningly *adv.*

ravenous ('rævənəs) *adj.* 1. famished; starving. 2. rapacious; voracious. —'ravenously *adv.* —'ravenousness *n.*

ravine ('rəviːn) *n.* a deep narrow steep-sided valley.

raving ('reɪvɪŋ) *adj.* 1. a. delirious; frenzied. *b.* (as *adv.*): *raving mad.* 2. *Inf.* (intensifier): *a raving beauty.* —'ravingly *adv.*

ravioli ('ræviəʊli) *n.* small squares of pasta containing a savoury mixture of meat, cheese, etc.

ravish ('ræviʃ) *vb.* (tr.) 1. (often passive) to enrapture. 2. to rape. 3. *Arch.* to carry off by force. —'ravisher *n.* —'ravishment *n.*

ravishing ('ræviʃɪŋ) *adj.* delightful; lovely; entrancing. —'ravishingly *adv.*

raw (rɔː) *adj.* 1. (of food) not cooked. 2. (*prenominal*) in an unfinished, natural, or unrefined state; not treated by manufacturing or other processes: *raw materials*. 3. (of the skin, a wound, etc.) having the surface exposed or abraded, esp. painfully. 4. (of edge of material) unhemmed; liable to fray. 5. ignorant, inexperienced, or immature: *a raw recruit*. 6. (*prenominal*) not selected or modified: *raw statistics*. 7. frank or realistic: *a raw picture of a marriage*. 8. (of spirits) undiluted. 9. Chiefly U.S. coarse, vulgar, or obscene. 10. (of the weather) harshly cold and damp. 11. *Inf.* unfair; unjust (esp. in a *raw deal*). ~n. 12. *the raw*. *Brit. inf.* a sensitive point: *his criticism touched me on the raw*. 13. *in the raw*. a. *Inf.* without clothes; naked. b. in a natural or unmodified state. —*'rawish adj.* —*'rawly adv.* —*'rawness n.*

rawboned ('rɔːbəʊnd) *adj.* having a lean bony physique.

rawhide ('rɔːhaɪd) *n.* 1. untanned hide. 2. a whip or rope made of strips cut from such a hide.

ray¹ (reɪ) *n.* 1. a narrow beam of light; gleam. 2. a slight indication: *a ray of solace*. 3. *Maths.* a straight line extending from a point. 4. a thin beam of electromagnetic radiation or particles. 5. any of the bony or cartilaginous spines of the fin of a fish that form the support for the soft part of the fin. 6. any of the arms or branches of a starfish. ~vb. 7. (of an object) to emit (light) in rays or (of light) to issue in the form of rays. 8. (*intr.*) (of lines, etc.) to extend in rays or on radiating paths. 9. (tr.) to adorn (an ornament, etc.) with rays or radiating lines. —*'rayless adj.*

ray² (reɪ) *n.* any of various marine selachian fishes typically having a flattened body, greatly enlarged wing-like pectoral fins, gills on the undersurface of the fins, and a long whiplike tail.

ray³ (reɪ) *n.* *Music.* (in tonic solfa) the second degree of any major scale; supertonic.

rayon ('reɪn) *n.* 1. any of a number of textile fibres made from wood pulp or other forms of cellulose. 2. any fabric made from such a fibre. 3. (*modifier*): *a rayon shirt*.

raze or rase (reɪz) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to demolish (buildings, etc.) completely (esp. in *raze to the ground*). 2. to delete; erase. 3. *Arch.* to graze. —*'razer or 'raser n.*

razor ('reɪzə) *n.* 1. a sharp implement used esp. for shaving the face. 2. on a razor's edge or razor-edge, in an acute dilemma. ~vb. 3. (tr.) to cut or shave with a razor.

razorbill ('reɪzə,bɪl) or **razor-billed auk** *n.* a common auk of the North Atlantic, having a thick laterally compressed bill with white markings.

razzle-dazzle ('ræzəl'dæzəl) or **razzmatazz** ('ræzmə'tæz) *n.* *Sl.* 1. noisy or showy fuss or activity. 2. a spree or frolic.

Rb *the chemical symbol for rubidium.*

R.C. *abbrev. for:* 1. Red Cross. 2. Roman Catholic.

R.C.A. *abbrev. for:* 1. Radio Corporation of America. 2. Royal College of Art.

R.C.A.F. *abbrev. for* Royal Canadian Air Force.

R.C.M. *abbrev. for* Royal College of Music.

R.C.M.P. *abbrev. for* Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

R.C.N. *abbrev. for:* 1. Royal Canadian Navy. 2. Royal College of Nursing.

R.C.P. *abbrev. for* Royal College of Physicians.

R.C.S. *abbrev. for:* 1. Royal College of Science. 2. Royal College of Surgeons. 3. Royal Corps of Signals.

rd. *abbrev. for:* 1. rod (unit of length). 2. road. 3. round. 4. *Physics.* rutherford.

Rd. *abbrev. for* Road.

re¹ (reɪ, riː) *n.* *Music.* an alternative spelling of *ray*².

re² (riː) *prep.* with reference to.

▷ **Usage.** *Re*, in contexts such as *re your letter*, *your remarks have been noted* or *he spoke to me re your complaint*, is common in business. In general English with *reference to* is preferable in the former case and *about* or *concerning* in the latter. The use of *re* is often restricted to the letter heading.

Re *the chemical symbol for rhenium.*

R.E. *abbrev. for* Royal Engineers.

re- *prefix.* 1. indicating return to a previous condition, withdrawal, etc.: *rebuild*; *renew*. 2. indicating repetition of an action: *remarry*.

▷ **Usage.** Verbs with *re-* indicate repetition or restoration. It is unnecessary to add an adverb such as *back* or *again*: *This must not occur again* (not *recur again*).

reach (riːtʃ) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to arrive at or get to (a place, person, etc.) in the course of movement or action: *to*

reach the office. 2. to extend as far as (a point or place): *to reach the ceiling*; *can you reach?* 3. (tr.) to come to (a certain condition or situation): *to reach the point of starvation*. 4. (*intr.*) to extend in influence or operation: *the Roman conquest reached throughout England*. 5. (tr.) *Inf.* to pass or give (something to a person) with the outstretched hand. 6. (*intr.*; foll. by *out*, *for*, or *after*) to make a movement (towards), as if to grasp or touch. 7. (tr.) to make contact or communication with (someone): *we tried to reach him all day*. 8. (tr.) to strike, esp. in fencing or boxing. 9. (tr.) to amount to (a certain sum): *to reach five million*. 10. (*intr.*) *Naut.* to sail on a tack with the wind on or near abeam. ~n. 11. the act of reaching. 12. the extent or distance of reaching: *within reach*. 13. the range of influence, power, jurisdiction, etc. 14. an open stretch of water, esp. on a river. 15. *Naut.* the direction or distance sailed by a vessel on one tack. —*'reachable adj.* —*'reacher n.*

reach-me-down *n.* 1. another name for *hand-me-down*. 2. a ready-made garment.

react (rɪ'ækt) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*, foll. by *to*, *upon*, etc.) (of a person or thing) to act in response to another person, a stimulus, etc. 2. (*intr.*, foll. by *against*) to act in an opposing or contrary manner. 3. (*intr.*) *Physics.* to exert an equal force in the opposite direction to an acting force. 4. *Chem.* to undergo or cause to undergo a chemical reaction. —*re'active adj.*

reactance (rɪ'æktəns) *n.* the opposition to the flow of alternating current by the capacitance or inductance of an electrical circuit.

reaction (rɪ'ækʃən) *n.* 1. a response to some foregoing action or stimulus. 2. the reciprocal action of two things acting together. 3. opposition to change, esp. political change, or a desire to return to a former system. 4. a response indicating a person's feelings or emotional attitude. 5. *Med.* a. any effect produced by the action of a drug. b. any effect produced by a substance (allergen) to which a person is allergic. 6. *Chem.* a process that involves changes in the structure and energy content of atoms, molecules, or ions. 7. the equal but opposite force produced when any force is applied to a body or system. —*re'ational adj.*

reactionary (rɪ'ækʃənəri, -fənəri) or **reactionist** *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or characterized by reaction, esp. against radical political or social change. ~n. 2. a person opposed to radical change. —*re'actionism n.*

reactivate (rɪ'æktɪ'veɪt) *vb.* (tr.) to make (something) active again. —*re,acti'vation n.*

reactor (rɪ'æktə) *n.* 1. *Chem.* a substance, such as a reagent, that undergoes a reaction. 2. short for *nuclear reactor*. 3. a vessel in which a chemical reaction takes place. 4. a coil of low resistance and high inductance that introduces reactance into a circuit. 5. *Med.* a person sensitive to a particular drug or agent.

read (riːd) *vb.* **reading, read** (red). 1. to comprehend the meaning of (something written or printed) by looking at and interpreting the written or printed characters. 2. (when tr., often foll. by *out*) to look at, interpret, and speak aloud (something written or printed). 3. (tr.) to interpret the significance or meaning of through scrutiny and recognition: *to read a map*. 4. (tr.) to interpret or understand the meaning of (signs, characters, etc.) other than by visual means: *to read Braille*. 5. (tr.) to have sufficient knowledge of (a language) to understand the written or printed word. 6. (tr.) to discover or make out the true nature or mood of: *to read someone's mind*. 7. to interpret or understand (something read) in a specified way: *I read this speech as satire*. 8. (tr.) to adopt as a reading in a particular passage: *for "boon" read "bone"*. 9. (*intr.*) to have or contain a certain form or wording: *the sentence reads as follows*. 10. to undertake a course of study in (a subject): *to read history*. 11. to gain knowledge by reading: *he read about the war*. 12. (tr.) to register, indicate, or show: *the meter reads 100*. 13. (tr.) to put into a specified condition by reading: *to read a child to sleep*. 14. (tr.) to hear and understand, esp. when using a two-way radio: *we are reading you loud and clear*. 15. *Computers.* to obtain (data) from a storage device, such as magnetic tape. 16. *read a lesson* (or *lecture*). *Inf.* to censure or reprimand. 17. *read between the lines.* *Inf.* to perceive or deduce a meaning that is hidden or implied. ~n. 18. matter suitable for reading: *this book is a very good read*. 19. the act or a spell of reading. —*See also* *read into, read out, etc.*

readable ('rɪdəbəl) *adj.* 1. (of handwriting, etc.) able to be read or deciphered; legible. 2. (of style of writing) interesting, easy, or pleasant to read. —*'reada'bility or 'readableness n.* —*'readably adv.*

reader ('rɪdɜː) *n.* 1. a person who reads. 2. *Chiefly Brit.* a senior lecturer at a university. 3. *a.* a book that is part of a planned series for those learning to read. *b.* a standard textbook, esp. for foreign-language learning. 4. a person who reads aloud in public. 5. a person who reads and assesses the merit of manuscripts submitted to a publisher. 6. a proofreader. 7. short for **lay reader**.

readership ('rɪdɜːʃɪp) *n.* all the readers collectively of a particular publication or author: *a readership of five million*.

reading ('rɪdɪŋ) *n.* 1. *a.* the act of a person who reads. *b.* (as modifier): *a reading room*. 2. *a.* ability to read. *b.* (as modifier): *a child of reading age*. 3. any matter that can be read; written or printed text. 4. a public recital or rendering of a literary work. 5. the form of a particular word or passage in a given text, esp. where more than one version exists. 6. an interpretation, as of a piece of music, a situation, or something said or written. 7. knowledge gained from books: *a person of little reading*. 8. a measurement indicated by a gauge, dial, scientific instrument, etc. 9. *Parliamentary procedure*. *a.* the formal recital of the body or title of a bill in a legislative assembly in order to begin one of the stages of its passage. *b.* one of the three stages in the passage of a bill through a legislative assembly. 10. the formal recital of something written, esp. a will.

read into (rɪd) *vb.* (*tr.*, *prep.*) to discern in or infer from a statement (meanings not intended by the speaker or writer).

read out (rɪd) *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. (*tr.*) to read (something) aloud. 2. (*tr.*) *U.S.* to expel (someone) from a political party or other society. 3. to retrieve information from a computer memory or storage device. *~n.* **read-out**. 4. *a.* the act of retrieving information from a computer memory or storage device. *b.* the information retrieved.

read up (rɪd) *vb.* (*adv.*; when *intr.*, often foll. by *on*) to acquire information about (a subject) by reading intensively.

read-write head ('rɪd'raɪt) *n.* *Computers.* an electromagnet that can both read and write information on a magnetic tape or disk.

ready ('reɪdɪ) *adj.* **readier**, **readiest**. 1. in a state of completion or preparedness, as for use or action. 2. willing or eager: *ready helpers*. 3. prompt or rapid: *a ready response*. 4. (*prenominal*) quick in perceiving; intelligent: *a ready mind*. 5. (*postpositive*) (foll. by *to*) on the point (of) or liable (to): *ready to collapse*. 6. (*postpositive*) conveniently near (esp. in **ready to hand**). 7. **make or get ready**, to prepare (oneself or something) for use or action. *~n.* 8. *Inf.* cash available for immediate use. Also called: **ready money**. 9. *at or to the ready*. *a.* (of a rifle) in the position adopted prior to aiming and firing. *b.* poised for use or action: *with pen at the ready*. —'readily *adv.* —'readiness *n.*

ready-made *adj.* 1. made for purchase and immediate use by any customer. 2. extremely convenient or ideally suited: *a ready-made solution*. 3. unoriginal or conventional: *ready-made phrases*. *~n.* 4. a ready-made article, esp. a garment.

ready reckoner *n.* a table of numbers used to facilitate simple calculations, esp. one for working out interest, etc.

reagent (ri:'eɪdʒənt) *n.* a substance for use in a chemical reaction, esp. for use in chemical synthesis and analysis.

real ('riəl) *adj.* 1. existing or occurring in the physical world; not imaginary, fictitious, or theoretical; actual. 2. (*prenominal*) true; actual; not false: *the real reason*. 3. (*prenominal*) deserving the name; rightly so called: *a real friend*. 4. not artificial or simulated; genuine: *real fur*. 5. *Philosophy.* existent or relating to actual existence (as opposed to nonexistent, potential, contingent, or apparent). 6. (*prenominal*) *Econ.* (of prices, incomes, etc.) considered in terms of purchasing power rather than nominal currency value. 7. (*prenominal*) denoting or relating to immovable property such as land and tenements: *real estate*. 8. *Maths.* involving or containing real numbers; nonimaginary. The real part of a

complex number *z* is usually written *Rez*. 9. *Inf.* (intensifier): *a real genius*. *~n.* 10. *the real*, that which exists in fact; reality. 11. for *real*. *Sl.* not as a test or trial; in earnest. —'realness *n.*

real¹ (reɪ'ɑːl) *n.*, *pl.* **reals** or **reales** (*Spanish* re'ales). a former small Spanish or Spanish-American silver coin.

real estate *n.* land, including the buildings or improvements on it and its natural assets, as minerals, timber, etc.

realism ('rɪəlɪzəm) *n.* 1. awareness or acceptance of the physical universe, events, etc., as they are, as opposed to the abstract or ideal. 2. a style of painting and sculpture that seeks to represent the familiar or typical in real life. 3. any similar style in other arts, esp. literature. 4. *Philosophy.* the theory that things named by general words, including universals, have a real existence independent of their names. 5. *Philosophy.* the theory that physical objects continue to exist whether they are perceived or not. —'realist *n.*

reality (ri:'ælɪti) *n.*, *pl.* **-ties**. 1. the state of things as they are or appear to be, rather than as one might wish them to be. 2. something that is real. 3. the state of being real. 4. *Philosophy.* *a.* that which exists, independent of human awareness. *b.* the totality of facts. 5. *In reality*, actually; in fact.

realize or **-ise** ('rɪəlaɪz) *vb.* 1. (when *tr.*, may take a clause as object) to become conscious or aware of (something). 2. (*tr.*, often *passive*) to bring (a plan, ambition, etc.) to fruition. 3. (*tr.*) to give (a drama or film) the appearance of reality. 4. (*tr.*) (of goods, property, etc.) to sell for or make (a certain sum): *this table realized £800*. 5. (*tr.*) to convert (property or goods) into cash. 6. (*tr.*) (of a musicologist or performer) to reconstruct (a composition) from an incomplete set of parts. —'realizable or **-isable** *adj.* —'realizably or **-isably** *adv.* —'realization or **-isation** *n.* —'realizer or **-iser** *n.*

really ('riəlɪ) *adv.* 1. in reality; in actuality; assuredly: *it's really quite harmless*. 2. truly; genuinely: *really beautiful*. *~interj.* 3. an exclamation of dismay, disapproval, doubt, surprise, etc. 4. **not really?** an exclamation of surprise or polite doubt.

▷ **Usage.** See at **very**.

realm (reɪlm) *n.* 1. a royal domain; kingdom: *peer of the realm*. 2. a field of interest, study, etc.: *the realm of the occult*.

real property *n.* immoveable property, esp. freehold land.

real tennis *n.* an ancient form of tennis played in a four-walled indoor court.

real-time *adj.* denoting or relating to a data-processing system in which a computer is on-line to a source of data and processes the data as it is generated.

reality ('riælɪti) *n.* another term for **real property**.

ream (ri:m) *n.* 1. a number of sheets of paper, formerly 480 sheets (**short ream**), now 500 sheets (**long ream**) or 516 sheets (**printer's ream** or **perfect ream**). One ream is equal to 20 quires. 2. (*often pl.*) *Inf.* a large quantity, esp. of written matter: *he wrote reams*.

reap (ri:p) *vb.* 1. to cut or harvest (a crop) from (a field). 2. (*tr.*) to gain or get (something) as a reward for or result of some action or enterprise. —'reapable *adj.*

reaper ('ri:pə) *n.* 1. a person who reaps or a machine for reaping. 2. *the grim reaper*. death.

rear¹ (riə) *n.* 1. the back or hind part. 2. the area or position that lies at the back: *a garden at the rear of the house*. 3. the section of a military force farthest from the front. 4. an informal word for **buttocks**. 5. **bring up the rear**, to be at the back in a procession, race, etc. 6. **in the rear**, at the back. 7. (*modifier*) of or in the rear: *the rear side*.

rear² (riə) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to care for and educate (children) until maturity; raise. 2. (*tr.*) to breed (animals) or grow (plants, etc.). 3. (*tr.*) to place or lift (a ladder, etc.) upright. 4. (*tr.*) to erect (a monument, building, etc.). 5. (*intr.*; often foll. by *up*) (esp. of horses) to lift the front legs in the air and stand nearly upright. 6. (*intr.*; often foll. by *up* or *over*) (esp. of tall buildings) to rise high;

readdress *vb.*
readjust *vb.*
readmission *n.*
readmit *vb.*
readopt *vb.*
reaffirm *vb.*
reaffirmation *n.*

realign *vb.*
realignment *n.*
reallocate *vb.*
reallocation *n.*
reappear *vb.*
reappearance *n.*
reapplication *n.*

reapply *vb.*
reappoint *vb.*
reappointment *n.*
reapportion *vb.*
reappraisal *n.*
reappraise *vb.*

tower. 7. (*intr.*) to start with anger, resentment, etc. —*'rearer* *n.*

rear admiral *n.* an officer holding flag rank in any of certain navies junior to a vice admiral.

rearguard ('ri:ə,gɑ:d) *n.* 1. a detachment detailed to protect the rear of a military formation, esp. in retreat. 2. an entrenched or conservative element, as in a political party. 3. (*modifier*) of, relating to, or characteristic of a rearguard: a rearguard action.

rear light or lamp *n.* a red light, usually one of a pair, attached to the rear of a motor vehicle. U.S. names: *taillight, tail lamp.*

rearm ('ri:'ɑ:m) *vb.* 1. to arm again. 2. (*tr.*) to equip (an army, etc.) with better weapons. —*re'armament* *n.*

rearmost ('ri:ə,məʊst) *adj.* nearest the rear; coming last.

rear-view mirror *n.* a mirror on a motor vehicle enabling the driver to see traffic behind him.

rearward ('ri:əwəd) *adj., adv.* 1. Also (for *adv.* only): *rearwards*, towards or in the rear. ~*n.* 2. a position in the rear, esp. the rear division of a military formation.

reason ('ri:zən) *n.* 1. the faculty of rational argument, deduction, judgment, etc. 2. sound mind; sanity. 3. a cause or motive, as for a belief, action, etc. 4. an argument in favour or a justification for something. 5. *Philosophy.* intellect, as opposed to sensibility. 6. *Logic.* a premiss of an argument, esp. the minor premiss. 7. *by reason of.* because of. 8. *in or within reason.* within moderate or justifiable bounds. 9. *it stands to reason.* it is logical or obvious. 10. *listen to reason.* to be persuaded peaceably. 11. *reasons of State.* political justifications for an immoral act. ~*vb.* 12. (when *tr.*, takes a clause as object) to think logically or draw (logical conclusions) from facts or premisses. 13. (*intr.*, usually foll. by *with*) to seek to persuade by reasoning. 14. (*tr.*, often foll. by *out*) to work out or resolve (a problem) by reasoning. —*'reasoner* *n.*

▷ **Usage.** Careful users of English avoid the expression *the reason is because...* since *the reason is...* and *because* mean the same thing. *Because* should be replaced by *that: the reason is that...*

reasonable ('ri:zənəbəl) *adj.* 1. showing reason or sound judgment. 2. having the ability to reason. 3. having modest or moderate expectations. 4. moderate in price. 5. fair; average: *reasonable weather.* —*'reasonably* *adv.* —*'reasonableness* *n.*

reasoning ('ri:zənɪŋ) *n.* 1. the act or process of drawing conclusions from facts, evidence, etc. 2. the arguments, proofs, etc., so adduced.

reassure ('ri:əʃʊə) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to relieve (someone) of anxieties; restore confidence to. 2. to insure again. —*'reas'surance* *n.* —*'reas'surer* *n.* —*'reas'suringly* *adv.*

rebate¹ ('ri:beɪt). 1. a refund of a fraction of the amount payable; discount. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 2. to deduct (a part) of a payment from (the total). 3. *Arch.* to reduce. —*re'batable* or *re'bateable* *adj.* —*'rebater* *n.*

rebate² ('ri:beɪt, 'ræbɪt) or **rabbet** *n.* 1. a recess, groove, or step, of rectangular section, cut along the edge of a piece of timber to receive a mating piece. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 2. to cut a rebate in (timber, etc.). 3. to join (pieces of timber) using a rebate.

rebec or **rebeck** ('ri:bɛk) *n.* a medieval stringed instrument resembling the violin but having a lute-shaped body.

rebel *vb.* ('ri:bel, -'belling, -belled). (*intr.*, often foll. by *against*) 1. to resist or rise up against a government or authority, esp. by force of arms. 2. to dissent from an accepted moral code or convention of behaviour, etc. 3. to show repugnance (towards). ~*n.* ('rebəl). 4. a. a person who rebels. b. (*as modifier*): a rebel soldier. 5. a person who dissents from some accepted moral code or convention of behaviour, etc.

rebellion ('ri:beljən) *n.* 1. organized opposition to a government or other authority. 2. dissent from an accepted moral code or convention of behaviour, etc.

rebellious ('ri:beljəs) *adj.* 1. showing a tendency towards rebellion. 2. (of a problem, etc.) difficult to

overcome; refractory. —*re'belliously* *adv.* —*re'belliousness* *n.*

rebirth ('ri:bɜ:θ) *n.* 1. a revival or renaissance: *the rebirth of learning.* 2. a second or new birth.

rebound ('ri:'baʊnd). (*intr.*) 1. to spring back, as from a sudden impact. 2. to misfire, esp. so as to hurt the perpetrator. ~*n.* ('ri:'baʊnd). 3. the act or an instance of rebounding. 4. *on the rebound.* a. in the act of springing back. b. *Inf.* in a state of recovering from rejection, etc.: *he married her on the rebound from an unhappy love affair.*

rebuff ('ri:'bʌf) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to snub, reject, or refuse (help, sympathy, etc.). 2. to beat back (an attack); repel. ~*n.* 3. a blunt refusal or rejection; snub.

rebuke ('ri:'bjʊ:k) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to scold or reprimand (someone). ~*n.* 2. a reprimand or scolding. —*re'bukable* *adj.* —*re'buker* *n.* —*re'bukingly* *adv.*

rebus ('ri:bʊs) *n., pl. -buses.* 1. a puzzle consisting of pictures representing syllables and words; the word *hear* might be represented by H and a picture of an ear. 2. a heraldic device that is a pictorial representation of the name of the bearer.

rebut ('ri:'bʌt) *vb.* -*butting*, -*butted.* (*tr.*) to refute or disprove, esp. by offering a contrary contention or argument. —*re'buttable* *adj.* —*re'buttal* *n.*

rec. *abbrev. for:* 1. receipt. 2. recipe. 3. record.

recalcitrant ('ri:kælsɪtrənt) *adj.* 1. not susceptible to control; refractory. ~*n.* 2. a recalcitrant person. —*re'calcitrance* *n.*

recall ('ri:kɔ:l) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. (*may take a clause as object*) to bring back to mind; recollect; remember. 2. to order to return. 3. to revoke or take back. 4. to cause (one's thoughts, attention, etc.) to return from a reverie or digression. ~*n.* 5. the act of recalling or state of being recalled. 6. revocation or cancellation. 7. the ability to remember things; recollection. 8. *Mil.* (formerly) a signal to call back troops, etc. 9. *U.S.* the process by which elected officials may be deprived of office by popular vote. —*re'callable* *adj.*

recant ('ri:kənt) *vb.* to repudiate or withdraw (a former belief or statement), esp. formally in public. —*recantation* ('ri:kən'teɪʃən) *n.* —*re'canner* *n.*

recap *vb.* ('ri:kæp, ri:'kæp), -*capping*, -*capped*, *n.* ('ri:kæp). *Inf.* short for *recapitulate* or *recapitulation*. —*re'cappable* *adj.*

recapitulate ('ri:kə'pɪtʃʊ,leɪt) *vb.* 1. to restate the main points of (an argument, speech, etc.). 2. (*tr.*) (of an animal) to repeat (stages of its evolutionary development) during the embryonic stages of its life. —*'recap'itulative* or *'recap'itulatory* *adj.*

recapitulation ('ri:kə'pɪtʃʊ,leɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of recapitulating, esp. summing up, as at the end of a speech. 2. Also called: *palingenesis.* *Biol.* the apparent repetition in the embryonic development of an animal of the changes that occurred during its evolutionary history. 3. *Music.* the repeating of earlier themes, esp. in the final section of a movement in sonata form.

recapture ('ri:kæptʃə) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to capture or take again. 2. to recover, renew, or repeat (a lost or former ability, sensation, etc.). ~*n.* 3. the act of recapturing or fact of being recaptured.

recce ('reki) *n., vb., -ceing, -ced* or *-ceed.* a slang word for *reconnaissance* or *reconnoitre*.

recd. or **rec'd.** *abbrev. for:* received.

recede ('ri:sɪd) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. to withdraw from a point or limit; go back: *the tide receded.* 2. to become more distant: *hopes of rescue receded.* 3. to slope backwards: *apes have receding foreheads.* 4. a. (of a man's hair) to cease to grow at the temples and above the forehead. b. (of a man) to start to go bald in this way. 5. to decline in value. 6. (usually foll. by *from*) to draw back or retreat, as from a promise.

receipt ('ri:sɪt) *n.* 1. a written acknowledgment by a receiver of money, goods, etc., that payment or delivery has been made. 2. the act of receiving or fact of being received. 3. (*usually pl.*) an amount or article received. 4. *Obs.* another word for *recipe*. ~*vb.* 5. (*tr.*) to acknowledge payment of (a bill), as by marking it.

receivable ('ri:sɪvəbəl) *adj.* 1. suitable for or capable

rearrange *vb.*
rearrangement *n.*
reassemble *vb.*
reassess *vb.*
reassessment *n.*
reassign *vb.*

reattempt *vb.*
reawaken *vb.*
rebid *vb.*
rebind *vb.*
reborn *adj.*
rebroadcast *vb.*

rebuild *vb.*
reburial *n.*
rebury *vb.*
recalculate *vb.*
recast *vb.*

of being received, esp. as payment or legal tender. **2.** (of a bill, etc.) awaiting payment: *accounts receivable*. ~*n.* **3.** (usually *pl.*) the part of the assets of a business represented by accounts due for payment.

receive (rɪ'si:v) *vb.* (*mainly tr.*) **1.** to take (something offered) into one's hand or possession. **2.** to have (an honour, blessing, etc.) bestowed. **3.** to accept delivery or transmission of (a letter, etc.). **4.** to be informed of (news). **5.** to hear and consent to or acknowledge (a confession, etc.). **6.** (of a container) to take or hold (a substance, commodity, or certain amount). **7.** to support or sustain (the weight of something); bear. **8.** to apprehend or perceive (ideas, etc.). **9.** to experience, undergo, or meet with: *to receive a crack on the skull*. **10.** (*also intr.*) to be at home to (visitors). **11.** to greet or welcome (guests), esp. in formal style. **12.** to admit (a person) to a place, society, condition, etc.: *he was received into the priesthood*. **13.** to accept or acknowledge (a precept or principle) as true or valid. **14.** to convert (incoming radio signals) into sounds, pictures, etc., by means of a receiver. **15.** (*also intr.*) *Tennis*, etc. to play at the other end from the server. **16.** (*also intr.*) to partake of (the Christian Eucharist). **17.** (*intr.*) *Chiefly Brit.* to buy and sell stolen goods.

Received Pronunciation *n.* the accent of standard Southern British English. Abbrev.: **RP**

receiver (rɪ'si:və) *n.* **1.** a person who receives something; recipient. **2.** a person appointed by a court to manage property pending the outcome of litigation, during the infancy of the owner, or after the owner has been declared bankrupt or insane. **3.** *Chiefly Brit.* a person who receives stolen goods knowing that they have been stolen. **4.** the equipment in a telephone, radio, or television that receives incoming electrical signals or modulated radio waves and converts them into the original audio or video signals. **5.** the detachable part of a telephone that is held to the ear. **6.** *Chem.* a vessel in which the distillate is collected during distillation.

receivership (rɪ'si:və'shɪp) *n.* *Law.* **1.** the office or function of a receiver. **2.** the condition of being administered by a receiver.

recent ('ri:sənt) *adj.* having appeared, happened, or been made not long ago; modern, fresh, or new. —'recently *adv.* —'recentness *or* 'recency *n.*

Recent ('ri:sənt) *adj., n.* *Geol.* of or formed in the second epoch of the Quaternary period, extending from the close of the Pleistocene and including the present. Also called: **Holocene**.

receptacle (rɪ'septəkl̩) *n.* **1.** an object that holds something; container. **2.** *Bot.* a. the enlarged or modified tip of the flower stalk that bears the parts of the flower. b. the part of lower plants that bears the reproductive organs or spores.

reception (rɪ'seɪʃən) *n.* **1.** the act of receiving or state of being received. **2.** the manner in which something, such as a guest or a new idea, is received: *a cold reception*. **3.** a formal party for guests, such as after a wedding. **4.** an area in an office, hotel, etc., where visitors or guests are received and appointments or reservations dealt with. **5.** short for **reception room**. **6.** the quality or fidelity of a received radio broadcast: *the reception was poor*.

receptionist (rɪ'seɪʃənɪst) *n.* a person employed in an office, surgery, etc., to receive clients, patients, or guests, arrange appointments, etc.

reception room *n.* **1.** a room in a private house suitable for entertaining guests. **2.** a room in a hotel suitable for receptions, etc.

receptive (rɪ'seɪptɪv) *adj.* **1.** able to apprehend quickly. **2.** tending to receive new ideas or suggestions favourably. **3.** able to hold or receive. —re'ceptively *adv.* —receptivity (rɪ'seɪptɪvɪti) *or* re'ceptiveness *n.*

recess *n.* (rɪ'ses, 'ri:ses). **1.** a space, such as a niche or alcove, set back or indented. **2.** (*often pl.*) a secluded or secret place: *recesses of the mind*. **3.** a cessation of business, such as the closure of Parliament during a vacation. **4.** *Anat.* a small cavity or depression in a bodily organ. **5.** *U.S.* a break between classes at a school. ~*vb.* (rɪ'ses). **6.** (*tr.*) to place or set (something) in a recess. **7.** (*tr.*) to build a recess in (a wall, etc.).

recession (rɪ'seɪʃən) *n.* **1.** a temporary depression in economic activity or prosperity. **2.** the withdrawal of

the clergy and choir in procession after a church service. **3.** the act of receding. **4.** a part of a building, wall, etc., that recedes.

recessional (rɪ'seɪʃənəl) *adj.* **1.** of or relating to recession. ~*n.* **2.** a hymn sung as the clergy and choir withdraw after a church service.

recessive (rɪ'sesɪv) *adj.* **1.** tending to recede or go back. **2.** *Genetics.* a. (of a gene) capable of producing its characteristic phenotype in the organism only when its allele is identical. b. (of a character) controlled by such a gene. Cf. **dominant** (sense 4). **3.** *Linguistics.* (of stress) tending to be placed on or near the initial syllable of a polysyllabic word. ~*n.* **4.** *Genetics.* a recessive gene or character. —re'cessively *adv.* —re'cessive-ness *n.*

recherché (rə'ʃeɪʃeɪ) *adj.* **1.** known only to connoisseurs; choice or rare. **2.** studiously refined or elegant.

recidivism (rɪ'sɪdɪvɪzəm) *n.* habitual relapse into crime. —re'cidivist *n., adj.* —re,ci'di'vistic *or* re'cidivous *adj.*

recipe ('resɪpi) *n.* **1.** a list of ingredients and directions for making something, esp. when preparing food. **2.** *Med.* (formerly) a medical prescription. **3.** a method for achieving some desired objective: *a recipe for success*.

recipient (rɪ'sɪpiənt) *n.* **1.** a person who or thing that receives. ~*adj.* **2.** receptive. —re'cipient *or* re'cipiently *n.*

reciprocal (rɪ'sɪprəkəl) *adj.* **1.** of, relating to, or designating something given by each of two people, countries, etc., to the other; mutual: *reciprocal trade*. **2.** given or done in return: *a reciprocal favour*. **3.** (of a pronoun) indicating that action is given and received by each subject; for example, *each other in they started to shout at each other*. **4.** *Maths.* of or relating to a number or quantity divided into one. ~*n.* **5.** something that is reciprocal. **6.** Also called: **inverse**. *Maths.* a number or quantity that when multiplied by a given number or quantity gives a product of one: *the reciprocal of 2 is 0.5*. —re,ci'pro'cality *n.* —re'cipro'cally *adv.*

reciprocate (rɪ'sɪprə'keɪt) *vb.* **1.** to give or feel in return. **2.** to move or cause to move backwards and forwards. **3.** (*intr.*) to be correspondent or equivalent. —re,ci'pro'cation *n.* —re'cipro'cative *or* re'ci'pro,catory *adj.* —re'ci'pro,cator *n.*

reciprocity (rɪ'sɪ'prɒsɪti) *n.* **1.** reciprocal action or relation. **2.** a mutual exchange of commercial or other privileges.

recital (rɪ'saɪtl̩) *n.* **1.** a musical performance by a soloist. **2.** the act of reciting or repeating something learned or prepared. **3.** an account, narration, or description. **4.** (*often pl.*) *Law.* the preliminary statement in a deed showing the reason for its existence and explaining the operative part. —re'citalist *n.*

recitation (rɪ'sɪ'teɪʃən) *n.* **1.** the act of reciting from memory, esp. a formal reading of verse before an audience. **2.** something recited.

recitative (rɪ'sɪtə'tɪv) *n.* a passage in a musical composition, esp. the narrative parts in an oratorio, reflecting the natural rhythms of speech.

recite (rɪ'saɪt) *vb.* **1.** to repeat (a poem, etc.) aloud from memory before an audience. **2.** (*tr.*) to give a detailed account of. **3.** (*tr.*) to enumerate (examples, etc.). —re'citable *adj.* —re'citer *n.*

reck (rɛk) *vb.* *Arch. (used mainly with a negative)* **1.** to mind or care about (something): *to reck nought*. **2.** (*usually impersonal*) to concern or interest (someone).

reckless ('rɛklɪs) *adj.* having or showing no regard for danger or consequences; heedless; rash: *a reckless driver*. —recklessly *adv.* —recklessness *n.*

reckon ('rɛkən) *vb.* **1.** to calculate or ascertain by calculating; compute. **2.** (*tr.*) to include; count as part of a set or class. **3.** (*usually passive*) to consider or regard: *he is reckoned clever*. **4.** (when *tr.*, takes a clause as object) to think or suppose; be of the opinion: *I reckon you don't know*. **5.** (*intr.*, foll. by *with*) to settle accounts (with). **6.** (*intr.*, foll. by *with* or *without*) to take into account or fail to take into account: *they reckoned without John*. **7.** (*intr.*, foll. by *on* or *upon*) to rely or depend: *I reckon on your support*. **8.** to be reckoned with, of considerable importance or influence.

▷ **Usage.** Some senses of **reckon** are considered informal. The usage *I reckon on your support* is avoided in formal contexts, while in the sentence *It will snow tonight, I*

reckon, the words *believe*, *suppose*, *think*, or *imagine* are preferred.

reckoner ('rekənə) *n.* any of various devices or tables used to facilitate reckoning, esp. a ready reckoner.

reckoning ('rekənɪŋ) *n.* 1. the act of counting or calculating. 2. settlement of an account or bill. 3. a bill or account. 4. retribution for one's actions (esp. in **day of reckoning**). 5. *Navigation*. short for **dead reckoning**.

reclaim ('ri:klem) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to regain possession of. 2. to convert (desert, marsh, etc.) into land suitable for growing crops. 3. to recover (useful substances) from waste products. 4. to convert (someone) from sin, folly, vice, etc. ~*n.* 5. the act of reclaiming or state of being reclaimed. —**reclaimable** *adj.* —**reclaimant** or **reclaimers** *n.* —**reclamation** ('reklə'meɪʃən) *n.*

recline ('ri:klaɪn) *vb.* to rest in a leaning position. —**reclinable** *adj.* —**reclination** ('rekli'neɪʃən) *n.* —**recliner** *n.*

recluse ('ri:klu:s) *n.* 1. a person who lives in seclusion, esp. to devote himself to prayer and religious meditation; a hermit. —*adj.* 2. solitary; retiring. —**reclusion** ('ri:klu:ʒən) *n.* —**reclusive** *adj.*

recognition ('rekəg'nɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of recognizing or fact of being recognized. 2. acceptance or acknowledgment of a claim, duty, etc. 3. a token of thanks. 4. formal acknowledgment of a government or of the independence of a country. —**recognitive** ('ri:kɒgnɪtɪv) or **recognitory** *adj.*

recognizance or **recognisance** ('ri:kɒgnɪzəns) *n.* *Law.* a. a bond entered into before a court or magistrate by which a person binds himself to do a specified act, as to appear in court on a stated day, keep the peace, or pay a debt. b. a monetary sum pledged to the performance of such an act. —**recognizant** or **recognisant** *adj.*

recognize or **-ise** ('rekəg'naɪz) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to perceive (a person or thing) to be the same as or belong to the same class as something previously seen or known; know again. 2. to accept or be aware of (a fact, problem, etc.): *to recognize necessity*. 3. to acknowledge formally (a government) or the independence of (a country). 4. *U.S.* to grant (a person) the right to speak in a deliberative body. 5. to give a token of thanks for (a service rendered, etc.). 6. to acknowledge formally (a claim, etc.). 7. to show approval or appreciation of (something good). 8. to acknowledge or greet (a person). —**recognizable** or **-isable** *adj.* —**recognizability** or **-isability** *n.* —**recognizably** or **-isably** *adv.* —**recognizer** or **-iser** *n.*

recoil *vb.* ('ri:kɔɪl). (*intr.*) 1. to jerk back, as from an impact or violent thrust. 2. (often foll. by *from*) to draw back in fear, horror, or disgust. 3. (foll. by *on* or *upon*) to go wrong, esp. so as to hurt the perpetrator. 4. (of an atom, etc.) to change momentum as a result of the emission of a particle. ~*n.* ('ri:kɔɪl, 'rɪ:kɔɪl). 5. a. the backward movement of a gun when fired. b. the distance moved. 6. the motion acquired by an atom, etc. as a result of its emission of a particle. 7. the act of recoiling. —**recoiler** *n.*

recollect ('rekə'lekt) *vb.* (when *tr.*, often takes a clause as object) to recall from memory; remember. —**recollecion *n.* —**recollecion** *adv.* —**recollecion** *adv.***

recommend ('rekə'mend) *vb.* (tr.) 1. (may take a clause as object or an infinitive) to advise as the best course or choice; counsel. 2. to praise or commend: *to recommend a new book*. 3. to make attractive or advisable: *the trip has little to recommend it*. 4. *Arch.* to entrust (a person or thing) to someone else's care; commend. —**recommendable** *adj.* —**recommendation** *n.* —**recommender** *n.* —**recommendatory** *adj.*

recompense ('rekəm'pens) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to pay or reward for service, work, etc. 2. (tr.) to compensate for loss, injury, etc. ~*n.* 3. compensation for loss, injury, etc. 4. reward, remuneration, or repayment. —**recompensable** *adj.* —**recompenser** *n.*

reconcile ('rekən'saɪl) *vb.* (tr.) 1. (often passive; usually foll. by *to*) to make (oneself or another) no longer opposed; cause to acquiesce in something unpleasant: *she reconciled herself to poverty*. 2. to become friendly with (someone) after estrangement or to re-establish friendly relations between (two or more people). 3. to

settle (a quarrel). 4. to make (two apparently conflicting things) compatible or consistent with each other. 5. to consecrate (a desecrated church, etc.). —**reconciliation** *n.* —**reconciler** *n.* —**reconciliation** ('rekən'saɪl'eɪʃən) *n.* —**reconciliatory** ('rekən'saɪlətəri, -tri) *adj.*

recondite ('rɪkəndaɪt, 'rekən'daɪt) *adj.* 1. requiring special knowledge; abstruse. 2. dealing with abstruse or profound subjects. —**reconditely** *adv.* —**reconditeness** *n.*

recondition ('rɪkən'dɪʃən) *vb.* (tr.) to restore to good condition or working order: *to recondition an engine*. —**reconditioner** *n.*

reconnaissance ('rɪkɒnɪsəns) *n.* 1. the act of reconnoitring. 2. the process of obtaining information about the position, etc., of an enemy. 3. a preliminary inspection of an area of land.

reconnoitre or **U.S. reconnoiter** ('rekə'nɔɪtə) *vb.* 1. to survey or inspect (an enemy's position, region of land, etc.). ~*n.* 2. the act or process of reconnoitring; a reconnaissance. —**reconnoitrer** or **U.S. reconnoiterer** *n.*

reconsider ('rɪkən'sɪdə) *vb.* to consider (something) again, with a view to changing one's policy or course of action. —**reconsideration** *n.*

reconstitute ('rɪkɒnstɪ'tju:t) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to restore (food, etc.) to its former or natural state, as by the addition of water to a concentrate. 2. to reconstruct; form again. —**reconstituent** ('rɪkɒnstɪ'tjuənt) *adj.*, *n.* —**reconstitution** *n.*

reconstruct ('rɪkən'strakt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to construct or form again; rebuild. 2. to form a picture of (a crime, past event, etc.) by piecing together evidence. —**reconstructible** *adj.* —**reconstruction** *n.* —**reconstructive** or **reconstructional** *adj.* —**reconstructor** *n.*

record *n.* ('rekɔ:d). 1. an account in permanent form, esp. in writing, preserving knowledge or information. 2. a written account of some transaction that serves as legal evidence of the transaction. 3. a written official report of the proceedings of a court of justice or legislative body. 4. anything serving as evidence or as a memorial: *the First World War is a record of human folly*. 5. (often *pl.*) information or data on a specific subject collected methodically over a long period: *weather records*. 6. a. the best or most outstanding amount, rate, height, etc., ever attained, as in some field of sport: *a world record*. b. (as modifier): *a record time*. 7. the sum of one's recognized achievements, career, or performance. 8. a list of crimes of which an accused person has previously been convicted. 9. **have a record**, to be a known criminal. 10. also called: **gramophone record**, **disc**, a thin disc of a plastic material upon which sound has been recorded. 11. the markings made by a recording instrument such as a seismograph. 12. **Computers**, a group of data or piece of information preserved as a unit in machine-readable form. 13. **for the record**, for the sake of strict factual accuracy. 14. **go on record**, to state one's views publicly. 15. **off the record**, confidential or confidentially. 16. **on record**, a. stated in a public document. b. publicly known. 17. **set or put the record straight**, to correct an error. ~*vb.* ('rɪkɔ:d). (mainly *tr.*) 18. to set down in some permanent form so as to preserve the true facts of: *to record the minutes of a meeting*. 19. to contain or serve to relate (facts, information, etc.). 20. to indicate, show, or register: *his face recorded his disappointment*. 21. to remain as or afford evidence of: *these ruins record the life of the Romans in Britain*. 22. (also *intr.*) to make a recording of (music, speech, etc.) for reproduction, esp. on a record-player or tape recorder, or for later broadcasting. 23. (also *intr.*) (of an instrument) to register or indicate (information) on a scale: *the barometer recorded a low pressure*. —**recordable** *adj.*

recorded delivery *n.* a Post Office service by which an official record of posting and delivery is obtained for a letter or package.

recorder ('rɪkɔ:də) *n.* 1. a person who records, such as an official or historian. 2. something that records, esp. an apparatus that provides a permanent record of experiments, etc. 3. short for **tape recorder**. 4. *Music*, a wind instrument of the flute family, blown through a

reclassification *n.*
reclassify *vb.*
reclothe *vb.*
recommence *vb.*
recommencement *n.*

recompose *vb.*
reconfirm *vb.*
reconfirmation *n.*
reconnect *vb.*
reconnection *n.*

reconquer *vb.*
reconquest *n.*
reconvene *vb.*

fipple in the mouth end, having a reedlike quality of tone. 5. (in England) a barrister or solicitor of at least ten years' standing appointed to sit as a part-time judge in the crown court. —**re-corder, ship** *n.*

recording (rɪˈkɔːdɪŋ) *n.* 1. **a.** the act or process of making a record, esp. of sound on a gramophone record or magnetic tape. **b.** (as modifier): *recording studio*. 2. the record or tape so produced. 3. something that has been recorded, esp. a radio or television programme.

record-player *n.* a machine, often a small or portable one, for playing gramophone records.

recount (rɪˈkaʊnt) *vb.* (tr.) to tell the story or details of; narrate. —**re-countable** *n.*

re-count *vb.* (rɪˈkaʊnt). 1. to count (votes, etc.) again. ~*n.* ('rɪːkaʊnt). 2. a second or further count, esp. of votes in an election.

recoup (rɪˈkuːp) *vb.* 1. to regain or make good (a financial or other loss). 2. (tr.) to reimburse or compensate (someone), as for a loss. 3. **Law.** to keep back (something due), having rightful claim to do so. ~*n.* 4. **Rare.** the act of recouping; recoupment. —**re-coupable** *adj.* —**re-coupment** *n.*

recourse (rɪˈkɔːs) *n.* 1. the act of resorting to a person, course of action, etc., in difficulty (esp. in **have recourse to**). 2. a person, organization, or course of action that is turned to for help, etc. 3. the right to demand payment, esp. from the drawer or endorser of a bill of exchange or other negotiable instrument when the person accepting it fails to pay. 4. **without recourse.** a qualified endorsement on such a negotiable instrument, by which the endorser protects himself from liability to subsequent holders.

recover (rɪˈkʌvə) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to find again or obtain the return of (something lost). 2. to regain (loss of money, time, etc.). 3. (of a person) to regain (health, spirits, composure, etc.). 4. to regain (a former and better condition): *industry recovered after the war*. 5. **Law.** *a.* (tr.) to gain (something) by the judgment of a court of law: *to recover damages*. *b.* (intr.) to succeed in a lawsuit. 6. (tr.) to obtain (useful substances) from waste. 7. (intr.) (in fencing, rowing, etc.) to make a recovery. —**re-coverable** *adj.* —**re-coverability** *n.* —**re-coverer** *n.*

recovery (rɪˈkʌvəri) *n.*, *pl.* -eries. 1. the act or process of recovering, esp. from sickness, a shock, or a setback. 2. restoration to a former or better condition. 3. the regaining of something lost. 4. the extraction of useful substances from waste. 5. the retrieval of a space capsule after a spaceflight. 6. **Law.** the obtaining of a right, etc., by the judgment of a court. 7. **Fencing.** a return to the position of guard after making an attack. 8. **Swimming, rowing, etc.** the action of bringing the arm, oar, etc., forward for another stroke. 9. **Golf.** a stroke played from the rough or a bunker to the fairway or green.

recreant ('rekriənt) *Arch.* ~*adj.* 1. cowardly; faint-hearted. 2. disloyal. ~*n.* 3. a disloyal or cowardly person. —**recreance** or **'recreancy** *n.* —**recreant-ly** *adv.*

recreate ('rekri,et) *vb.* **Rare.** to amuse (oneself or someone else). —**recreative** *adj.* —**recreatively** *adv.* —**recreator** *n.*

re-create (rɪˈkriːet) *vb.* to create anew; reproduce. —**re-creation** *n.* —**re-creator** *n.*

recreation (rɪˈkriːeɪʃən) *n.* 1. refreshment of health or spirits by relaxation and enjoyment. 2. an activity that promotes this. 3. **a.** an interval of free time between school lessons. **b.** (as modifier): *recreation period*. —**recreational** *adj.*

recriminate (rɪˈkrɪmɪ,net) *vb.* (intr.) to return an accusation against someone or engage in mutual accusations. —**re-criminative** or **re-criminatory** *adj.* —**re-criminal** *n.* —**re-criminality** *n.*

recrudescence (rɪˈkruːdes) *vb.* (intr.) (of a disease, trouble, etc.) to break out or appear again after a period of dormancy. —**recrudescence** *n.*

recruit (rɪˈkruːt) *vb.* 1. **a.** to enlist (men) for military service. **b.** to raise or strengthen (an army, etc.) by enlistment. 2. (tr.) to enrol or obtain (members, support, etc.). 3. to furnish or be furnished with a fresh supply; renew. 4. **Arch.** to recover (health, spirits, etc.). ~*n.* 5. a newly joined member of a military service. 6. any new member or supporter. —**recruitable** *adj.* —**recruiter** *n.* —**recruitment** *n.*

rectal ('rektəl) *adj.* of or relating to the rectum. —**rectally** *adv.*

rectangle ('rek,tæŋɡl) *n.* a parallelogram having four right angles. —**rectangular** *adj.*

recti- or **before a vowel rect-** combining form. straight or right: *rectangle*.

rectifier ('rektɪ,fəɪ) *n.* 1. an electronic device that converts an alternating current to a direct current. 2. **Chem.** an apparatus for condensing a hot vapour to a liquid in distillation; condenser. 3. a thing or person that rectifies.

rectify ('rektɪ,fai) *vb.* -**tying, -fied.** (tr.) 1. to put right; correct; remedy. 2. to separate (a substance) from a mixture or refine (a substance) by fractional distillation. 3. to convert (alternating current) into direct current. 4. **Maths.** to determine the length of (a curve). —**rectifi-** *able* *adj.* —**rectification** *n.*

rectilinear ('rektɪˈlɪnə) or **rectilineal** *adj.* 1. in, moving in, or characterized by a straight line. 2. consisting of, bounded by, or formed by a straight line. —**rectilinearly** or **rectilineally** *adv.*

rectitude ('rektɪ,tjuːd) *n.* 1. moral or religious correctness. 2. correctness of judgment.

recto ('rektəʊ) *n.*, *pl.* -**tos.** 1. the front of a sheet of printed paper. 2. the right-hand pages of a book. **Cf.** *verso* (sense 1b).

rector ('rektə) *n.* 1. **Church of England.** a clergyman in charge of a parish in which, as its incumbent, he would formerly have been entitled to the whole of the tithes. 2. **R.C. Church.** a cleric in charge of a college, religious house, or congregation. 3. **Protestant Episcopal Church.** a clergyman in charge of a parish. 4. **Chiefly Brit.** the head of certain schools, colleges, or universities. 5. (in South Africa) a principal of an Afrikaans university. —**rectorate** *n.* —**rectorial** ('rektɪəriəl) *adj.* —**rectorship** *n.*

rectory ('rektəri) *n.*, *pl.* -**ries.** 1. the official house of a rector. 2. **Church of England.** the office and benefice of a rector.

rectum ('rektəm) *n.*, *pl.* -**tums** or -**ta** (-tə). the lower part of the alimentary canal, between the sigmoid flexure of the colon and the anus.

reclinate (rɪˈkɪnbənt) *adj.* 1. lying down; reclining. 2. (of an organ) leaning or resting against another organ. —**re-cumbence** or **re-cumbency** *n.* —**re-cumbently** *adv.*

recuperate (rɪˈkuːpə,ret, -'kjuː-) *vb.* 1. (intr.) to recover from illness or exhaustion. 2. to recover (money, etc.). —**re-cuperation** *n.* —**re-cuperative** *adj.* —**re-cuperator** *n.*

recur (rɪˈkɜː) *vb.* -**curing, -curred.** (intr.) 1. to happen again. 2. (of a thought, etc.) to come back to the mind. 3. (of a problem, etc.) to come up again. 4. **Maths.** (of a digit or group of digits) to be repeated an infinite number of times at the end of a decimal. —**recurrence** (rɪˈkʌrəns) *n.* —**re-current** *adj.* —**re-currently** or **re-curringly** *adv.*

recusant ('rekjuːzənt) *n.* 1. (in 16th to 18th century England) a Roman Catholic who did not attend the services of the Church of England. 2. any person who refuses to submit to authority. ~*adj.* 3. (formerly, of Catholics) refusing to attend services of the Church of England. 4. refusing to submit to authority. —**recusance** or **'recusancy** *n.*

recycle (rɪˈsaɪkəl) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to pass (a substance) through a system again for further treatment or use. 2. to reclaim for further use: *to recycle water*. ~*n.* 3. the repetition of a fixed sequence of events.

red (red) *n.* 1. any of a group of colours, such as that of a ripe tomato or fresh blood. 2. a pigment or dye of or producing these colours. 3. red cloth or clothing: *dressed in red*. 4. a red ball in snooker, etc. 5. (in roulette) one of two colours on which players may place even bets. 6. in the *red. Inf.* in debt. 7. see *red. Inf.* to become very angry. ~*adj.* redder, reddest. 8. of the colour red. 9. reddish in colour or having parts or marks that are reddish: *red deer*. 10. having the face temporarily suffused with blood, being a sign of anger, shame, etc. 11. (of the eyes) bloodshot. 12. (of the hands) stained with blood. 13. bloody or violent: *red revolution*. 14. (of wine) made from black grapes and coloured by their skins. ~*vb.* redding, redded. 15. another word for *redden*. —**'redness** *n.* —**'reddish** *adj.*

Red (red) *Inf.* ~*adj.* 1. Communist, Socialist, or Soviet. 2. radical, leftist, or revolutionary. ~*n.* 3. a member or

supporter of a Communist or Socialist Party or a national of the Soviet Union. 4. a radical leftist or revolutionary.

red admiral *n.* a butterfly of temperate Europe and Asia, having black wings with red and white markings.

red blood cell *n.* another name for **erythrocyte**.

red-blooded *adj.* *Inf.* vigorous; virile. —, *red-bloodedness* *n.*

redbreast ('red,breɪst) *n.* any of various birds having a red breast, esp. the Old World robin.

redbrick ('red,bri:k) *n.* (*modifier*) denoting, relating to, or characteristic of a provincial British university of relatively recent foundation.

red card *n.* *Soccer.* a piece of red pasteboard displayed by a referee to indicate that a player has been sent off.

red carpet *n.* 1. a strip of red carpeting laid for important dignitaries to walk on. 2. *a.* deferential treatment accorded to a person of importance. *b.* (*as modifier*): a red-carpet reception.

redcoat ('red,kəʊt) *n.* 1. (formerly) a British soldier. 2. *Canad. inf.* another name for **Mountie**.

Red Crescent *n.* the emblem of the Red Cross Society in a Muslim country.

Red Cross *n.* 1. an international humanitarian organization (**Red Cross Society**) formally established by the Geneva Convention of 1864. 2. the emblem of this organization, consisting of a red cross on a white background.

redcurrant ('red'kʌrənt) *n.* 1. a N temperate shrub having greenish flowers and small edible rounded red berries. 2. *a.* the fruit of this shrub. *b.* (*as modifier*): redcurrant jelly.

red deer *n.* a large deer formerly widely distributed in the woodlands of Europe and Asia. The coat is reddish brown in summer and the short tail is surrounded by a patch of light-coloured hair.

redde ('red'n) *vb.* 1. to make or become red. 2. (*intr.*) to flush with embarrassment, anger, etc.

redeem (ri'di:m) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to recover possession or ownership of by payment of a price or service; regain. 2. to convert (bonds, shares, etc.) into cash. 3. to pay off (a loan, etc.). 4. to recover (something pledged, mortgaged, or pawned). 5. to convert (paper money) into bullion or specie. 6. to fulfil (a promise, pledge, etc.). 7. to exchange (coupons, etc.) for goods. 8. to reinstate in someone's estimation or good opinion: *he redeemed himself by his altruistic action*. 9. to make amends for. 10. to recover from captivity, esp. by a money payment. 11. *Christianity.* (of Christ as Saviour) to free (men) from sin by death on the Cross. —*redeemer* *n.* —*redeemable* or *re'demptible* *adj.*

redeeming (ri'di:miŋ) *adj.* serving to compensate for faults or deficiencies.

redemption (ri'dempʃən) *n.* 1. the act or process of redeeming. 2. the state of being redeemed. 3. *Christianity.* a deliverance from sin through the incarnation, sufferings, and death of Christ. *b.* atonement for guilt. —*re'demptional*, *re'demptive*, or *re'demptory* *adj.* —*re'demptively* *adv.*

Red Ensign *n.* the ensign of the British Merchant Navy, having the Union Jack on a red background at the upper corner of the vertical edge alongside the hoist. It was also the national flag of Canada until 1965.

redeploy (ri'di:plɔɪ) *vb.* to assign new positions or tasks to (labour, troops, etc.). —*rede'ployment* *n.*

redfish ('red,fɪʃ) *n.*, *pl.* -fish or -fishes. 1. a male salmon that has recently spawned. 2. *Canad.* another name for **kokanee**.

red flag *n.* 1. a symbol of socialism, communism, or revolution. 2. an object or event likely to arouse anger.

red-handed *adj.* (*postpositive*) in the act of committing a crime or doing something wrong or shameful (esp. in **catch red-handed**). —*red-handedly* *adv.* —, *red-handedness* *n.*

red hat *n.* the broad-brimmed crimson hat given to cardinals as the symbol of their rank.

redhead ('red,hed) *n.* a person with red hair. —*red-headed* *adj.*

red herring *n.* 1. anything that diverts attention from a topic or line of inquiry. 2. a dried and smoked herring.

red-hot *adj.* 1. (esp. of metal) heated to the temperature at which it glows red. 2. extremely hot. 3. keen, excited, or eager. 4. furious; violent: *red-hot anger*. 5. very recent or topical: *red-hot information*.

red-hot poker *n.* a liliaceous plant: widely cultivated for its showy spikes of red or yellow flowers.

Red Indian *n.*, *adj.* another name for **American Indian**.

redistribution (ri'distri'bju:ʃən) *n.* 1. the act or an instance of distributing again. 2. a revision of the number of seats in the Canadian House of Commons allocated to each province, made every ten years on the basis of a new census.

red lead (led) *n.* a bright-red poisonous insoluble oxide of lead.

red-letter day *n.* a memorably important or happy occasion.

red light *n.* 1. a signal to stop, esp. a red traffic signal. 2. a danger signal. 3. *a.* a red lamp hanging outside a house indicating that it is a brothel. *b.* (*as modifier*): a red-light district.

red meat *n.* any meat that is dark in colour, esp. beef and lamb. *Cf.* **white meat**.

redo (ri'du:) *vb.* -doing, -did, -done. (*tr.*) 1. to do over again. 2. *Inf.* to redecorate, esp. thoroughly: *we redid the house last summer*.

redolent ('redəʊlənt) *adj.* 1. having a pleasant smell; fragrant. 2. (*postpositive*; foll. by *of* or *with*) having the odour or smell (of): *a room redolent of flowers*. 3. (*postpositive*; foll. by *of* or *with*) reminiscent or suggestive (of): *a picture redolent of the 18th century*. —*redolence* or *'redolency* *n.* —*redolently* *adv.*

redouble (ri'dəʊbl) *vb.* 1. to make or become much greater in intensity, number, etc.: *to redouble one's efforts*. 2. to send back (sounds) or (of sounds) to be sent back. 3. *Bridge.* to double (an opponent's double). ~*n.* 4. the act of redoubling.

redoubt (ri'daʊt) *n.* 1. a temporary earthwork built inside a permanent fort as a last defensive position. 2. any isolated fortified stronghold.

redoubtable (ri'daʊtəbəl) *adj.* 1. to be feared; formidable. 2. worthy of respect. —*re'doubtability* *n.* —*re'doubtably* *adv.*

redound (ri'daʊnd) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*; foll. by *to*) to have an advantageous or disadvantageous effect (on): *brave deeds redound to your credit*. 2. (*intr.*; foll. by *on* or *upon*) to recoil or rebound. 3. (*tr.*) *Arch.* to reflect; bring: *his actions redound dishonour upon him*.

red pepper *n.* 1. any of several varieties of the pepper plant cultivated for their hot pungent red podlike fruits. 2. the fruit of any of these plants. 3. the ripe red fruit of the sweet pepper. 4. another name for **cayenne pepper**.

redpoll ('red,pɒl) *n.* either of two widely distributed types of finches, having a greyish-brown plumage with a red crown and pink breast.

red rag *n.* a provocation; something that infuriates.

redress (ri'dres) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to put right (a wrong), esp. by compensation; make reparation for. 2. to correct or adjust (esp. in **redress the balance**). 3. to make compensation to (a person) for a wrong. ~*n.* 4. the act or an instance of setting right a wrong; remedy or cure. 5. compensation, amends, or reparation for a wrong, injury, etc. —*re'dressable* or *re'dressible* *adj.* —*re'dresser* or *re'dressor* *n.*

Red River cart *n.* *Canad. history.* a strongly-built, two-wheeled, ox- or horse-drawn cart used in W Canada.

red salmon *n.* any salmon having reddish flesh, esp. the sockeye salmon.

redshank ('red,ʃæŋk) *n.* any of various large common European sandpipers, esp. the **spotted redshank**, having red legs.

red shift *n.* a shift in the spectral lines of a stellar spectrum towards the red end of the visible region relative to the wavelength of these lines in the terrestrial spectrum.

redskin ('red,skin) *n.* an informal name for an **American Indian**.

red squirrel *n.* a reddish-brown squirrel, inhabiting woodlands of Europe and parts of Asia.

redstart ('red,stɑ:t) *n.* 1. a European songbird of the

redecorate *vb.*
redevelop *vb.*
redeveloper *n.*
redevelopment *n.*

redirect *vb.*
redirection *n.*
rediscover *vb.*
rediscovery *n.*

redraft *n.*
redraft *vb.*
redraw *vb.*

thrush family: the male has a black throat, orange-brown tail and breast, and grey back. **2.** a North American warbler.

red tape *n.* obstructive official routine or procedure; time-consuming bureaucracy.

reduce (rɪ'dju:s) *vb.* (mainly *tr.*) **1.** (also *intr.*) to make or become smaller in size, number, etc. **2.** to bring into a certain state, condition, etc.: *to reduce a forest to ashes.* **3.** (also *intr.*) to make or become slimmer; lose or cause to lose excess weight. **4.** to impoverish (esp. in *reduced circumstances*). **5.** to bring into a state of submission to one's authority; subjugate: *the whole country was reduced after three months.* **6.** to bring down the price of (a commodity). **7.** to lower the rank or status of; demote: *reduced to the ranks.* **8.** to set out systematically as an aid to understanding; simplify: *his theories have been reduced in a treatise.* **9.** Maths. to modify or simplify the form of (an expression or equation), esp. by substitution of one term by another. **10.** to thin out (paint) by adding oil, turpentine, etc. **11.** (also *intr.*) *Chem. a.* to undergo or cause to undergo a chemical reaction with hydrogen. *b.* to lose or cause to lose oxygen atoms. *c.* to undergo or cause to undergo an increase in the number of electrons. **12.** *Photog.* to lessen the density of (a negative or print). **13.** *Surgery.* to manipulate or reposition (a broken or displaced bone, organ, or part) back to its normal site. —**re'ducible** *adj.* —**re,ducibility** *n.* —**re'ducibly** *adv.*

reduction (rɪ'dʌkʃən) *n.* **1.** the act or process or an instance of reducing. **2.** the state or condition of being reduced. **3.** the amount by which something is reduced. **4.** a form of an original resulting from a reducing process, such as a copy on a smaller scale. **5.** Maths. *a.* the process of converting a fraction into its decimal form. *b.* the process of dividing out the common factors in the numerator and denominator of a fraction. —**re'ductional** or **re'ductive** *adj.*

reductionism (rɪ'dʌkʃənɪzəm) *n.* **1.** the analysis of complex things, data, etc., into less complex constituents. **2.** *Often disparaging.* any theory or method that holds that a complex idea, system, etc., can be completely understood in terms of its simpler parts or components. —**re'ductionist** *n.* —**re,duction'istic** *adj.*

redundant (rɪ'dʌdənt) *adj.* **1.** surplus to requirements; unnecessary or superfluous. **2.** verbose or tautological. **3.** deprived of one's job because it is no longer necessary. —**re'dundancy** *n.* —**re'dundantly** *adv.*

reduplicate *vb.* (rɪ'dju:plɪ,keɪt) **1.** to make or become double; repeat. **2.** to repeat (a sound or syllable) in a word or (of a sound or syllable) to be repeated. —*adj.* (rɪ'dju:plɪkɪt). **3.** doubled or repeated. **4.** (of petals or sepals) having the margins curving outwards. —**re'duplicative** *adj.* —**re,dupli'cation** *n.*

redwing ('red,wɪŋ) *n.* a small European thrush having a speckled breast, reddish flanks, and brown back.

redwood ('red,wʊd) *n.* a giant coniferous tree of coastal regions of California, having reddish fibrous bark and durable timber.

re-echo (rɪ:'ekəʊ) *vb.* -*ing*, -*oed*. **1.** to echo (a sound that is already an echo); resound. **2.** (*tr.*) to repeat like an echo.

reed (ri:d) *n.* **1.** any of various widely distributed tall grasses that grow in swamps and shallow water and have jointed hollow stalks. **2.** the stalk, or stalks collectively, of any of these plants, esp. as used for thatching. **3.** *Music. a.* a thin piece of cane or metal inserted into the tubes of certain wind instruments, which sets in vibration the air column inside the tube. *b.* a wind instrument or organ pipe that sounds by means of a reed. **4.** one of the several vertical parallel wires on a loom that may be moved upwards to separate the warp threads. **5.** a small semicircular architectural moulding. **6.** an archaic word for **arrow**. **7.** **broken reed.** a weak, unreliable, or ineffectual person. —*vb.* (*tr.*) **8.** to fashion into or supply with reeds or reeding. **9.** to thatch using reeds.

reed bunting *n.* a common European bunting that has a brown streaked plumage with, in the male, a black head.

reedy ('ri:di) *adj.* **reedier, reediest.** **1.** (of a place) abounding in reeds. **2.** of or like a reed. **3.** having a

tone like a reed instrument; shrill or piping. —**'reediness** *n.*

reef (ri:f) *n.* **1.** a ridge of rock, sand, coral, etc., the top of which lies close to the surface of the sea. **2.** a vein of ore, esp. one of gold-bearing quartz. **3.** (*caps.*) *the. a.* the Great Barrier Reef in Australia. *b.* the Witwatersrand in South Africa, a gold-bearing ridge.

reef (ri:f) *Naut.* —*n.* **1.** the part gathered in when sail area is reduced, as in a high wind. —*vb.* **2.** to reduce the area of (sail) by taking in a reef. **3.** (*tr.*) to shorten or bring into board (a spar).

reefer ('ri:fə) *n.* **1.** *Naut.* a person who reefs, such as a midshipman. **2.** a man's short double-breasted jacket. **3.** *Sl.* a hand-rolled cigarette containing cannabis.

reef knot *n.* a knot consisting of two overhead knots turned opposite ways. Also called: **square knot**.

reek (ri:k) *vb.* **1.** (*intr.*) to give off or emit a strong unpleasant odour; smell or stink. **2.** (*intr.*; often foll. by *of*) to be permeated (by): *the letter reeks of subservience.* **3.** (*tr.*) to treat with smoke; fumigate. **4.** (*tr.*) *Chiefly dialect.* to give off or emit (smoke, fumes, etc.). —*n.* **5.** a strong offensive smell; stink. **6.** *Chiefly dialect.* smoke or steam; vapour. —**'reeky** *adj.*

reel (ri:l, riəl) *n.* **1.** any of various cylindrical objects or frames that turn on an axis and onto which film, tape, wire, etc., may be wound. U.S. equivalent: **spool**. **2.** *Angling.* a device for winding, casting, etc., consisting of a revolving spool with a handle, attached to a fishing rod. —*vb.* (*tr.*) **3.** to wind (cotton, thread, etc.) onto a reel. **4.** (foll. by *in*, *out*, etc.) to wind or draw with a reel: *to reel in a fish.* —**'reelable** *adj.* —**'reeler** *n.*

reel (ri:l, riəl) *vb.* (mainly *intr.*) **1.** to sway, esp. under the shock of a blow or through dizziness or drunkenness. **2.** to whirl about or have the feeling of whirling about: *his brain reeled.* —*n.* **3.** a staggering or swaying motion or sensation.

reel (ri:l, riəl) *n.* **1.** any of various lively Scottish dances for a fixed number of couples who combine in square and circular formations. **2.** a piece of music composed for or in the rhythm of this dance.

reel off *vb.* (*tr.*, *adv.*) to recite or write fluently and without apparent effort.

re-entry (ri:'entri) *n.*, *pl.* -*tries*. **1.** the act of retaking possession of land, etc. **2.** the return of a spacecraft into the earth's atmosphere.

reeve ('ri:v) *n.* **1.** *English history.* the local representative of the king in a shire until the early 11th century. **2.** (in medieval England) a manorial steward who supervised the daily affairs of the manor. **3.** *Canad. government.* a president of a local council, esp. in a rural area. **4.** (formerly) a minor local official in England and the U.S.

reeve ('ri:v) *vb.* **reeving, reeved or rove.** (*tr.*) *Naut.* **1.** to pass (a rope or cable) through an eye or other narrow opening. **2.** to fasten by passing through or around something.

ref (ref) *n.* an informal shortening of **referee**.

ref. *abbrev. for:* **1.** referee. **2.** reference. **3.** reformed.

refection (rɪ'fekʃən) *n.* refreshment with food and drink.

refectory (rɪ'fektəri, -tri) *n.*, *pl.* -*ries*. a dining hall in a religious or academic institution.

refectory table *n.* a long narrow dining table supported by two trestles.

refer (rɪ'fɜ:) *vb.* -*fering*, -*ferred*. (often foll. by *to*). **1.** (*intr.*) to make mention (of); allude (to). **2.** (*tr.*) to direct the attention of (someone) for information, facts, etc.: *the reader is referred to Chomsky, 1965.* **3.** (*intr.*) to seek information (from): *he referred to his notes.* **4.** (*intr.*) to be relevant (to); pertain or relate (to). **5.** (*tr.*) to assign or attribute: *Cromwell referred his victories to God.* **6.** (*tr.*) to hand over for consideration, reconsideration, or decision: *to refer a complaint to another department.* **7.** (*tr.*) to hand back to the originator as unacceptable or unusable. **8.** (*tr.*) *Brit.* to fail (a student) in an examination. **9.** **refer to drawer.** a request by a bank that the payee consult the drawer concerning a cheque payable by that bank. **10.** (*tr.*) to direct (a patient) for treatment to another doctor, usually a specialist. —**ref-er-able** ('refərəbəl) or **referrable** (rɪ'fɜ:rəbəl) *adj.* —**re-**

re-edit *vb.*
re-educate *vb.*
re-education *n.*
re-elect *vb.*
re-election *n.*

re-enact *vb.*
re-enactment *n.*
re-enforce *vb.*
re-enforcement *n.*
re-enter *vb.*

re-equip *vb.*
re-erect *vb.*
re-examine *vb.*

on the meter. 12. to show or be shown in a person's face, bearing, etc.: *his face registered surprise*. 13. (intr.) *Inf.* to have an effect; make an impression: *her uncle's death did not register*. 14. to send (a letter, package, etc.) by registered post. 15. (tr.) *Printing*, to adjust (a printing press, forme, etc.) to ensure that the printed matter is in register. —'registerer *n.* —'registrable *adj.*

registered post *n.* 1. a Post Office service by which compensation is paid for loss or damage to mail for which a registration fee has been paid. 2. mail sent by this service.

registrar (ˈredʒɪˈstrɑː) *n.* 1. a person who keeps official records. 2. an administrative official responsible for student records, enrolment procedure, etc., in a school, college, or university. 3. *Brit.* a hospital doctor senior to a houseman but junior to a consultant. 4. *Austral. & N.Z.* the chief medical administrator of a large hospital. 5. *Chiefly U.S.* a person employed by a company to maintain a register of its security issues. —'registrarship *n.*

registration (ˌredʒɪˈstreɪʃən) *n.* 1. a. the act of registering or state of being registered. b. (as modifier): *a registration number*. 2. an entry in a register. 3. a group of people, such as students, who register at a particular time. 4. *Austral. a.* a tax payable by the owner of a motor vehicle. b. the period paid for.

registration plate *n.* *N.Z. & Austral.* the numberplate of a vehicle.

registry (ˈredʒɪstri) *n., pl. -tries*. 1. a place where registers are kept. 2. the registration of a ship's country of origin: *a ship of Liberian registry*. 3. another word for *registration*.

registry office *n.* *Brit.* a government office where civil marriages are performed and births, marriages, and deaths are recorded.

regnant (ˈregnənt) *adj.* 1. (postpositive) reigning. 2. prevalent; current. —'regnancy *n.*

regress *vb.* (riˈɡres). 1. (intr.) to return or revert, as to a former place, condition, or mode of behaviour. 2. (tr.) *Statistics*, to measure the extent to which (a dependent variable) is associated with one or more independent variables. ~*n.* (ˈriːɡres). 3. movement in a backward direction; retrogression. —re'gressor *n.* —re'gressive *adj.*

regression (riˈɡresʃən) *n.* 1. *Psychol.* the adoption by an adult of behaviour more appropriate to a child. 2. *Statistics*. a. the measure of the association between one variable (the dependent variable) and other variables (the independent variables). b. (as modifier): *regression curve*. 3. the act of regressing.

regret (ˈriːɡret) *vb. -gretting, -gretted.* (tr.) 1. (may take a clause as object or an infinitive) to feel sorry, repentant, or upset about. 2. to bemoan or grieve the death or loss of. ~*n.* 3. a sense of repentance, guilt, or sorrow. 4. a sense of loss or grief. 5. (pl.) a polite expression of sadness, esp. in a formal refusal of an invitation. —re'gretful *adj.* —re'gretfully *adv.* —re'gretfulness *n.* —re'grettably *adj.* —re'grettably *adv.*

regular (ˈregjʊlə) *adj.* 1. normal, customary, or usual. 2. according to a uniform principle, arrangement, or order. 3. occurring at fixed or prearranged intervals: *a regular call on a customer*. 4. following a set rule or normal practice; methodical or orderly. 5. symmetrical in appearance or form; even: *regular features*. 6. (prenominal) organized, elected, conducted, etc., in a proper or officially prescribed manner. 7. (prenominal) officially qualified or recognized: *he's not a regular doctor*. 8. (prenominal) (intensifier): *a regular fool*. 9. *U.S. inf.* likable, dependable, or nice: *a regular guy*. 10. denoting or relating to the personnel or units of the permanent military services: *a regular soldier*. 11. (of flowers) having any of their parts, esp. petals, alike in size, etc.; symmetrical. 12. *Grammar*, following the usual pattern of formation in a language. 13. *Maths.* a. (of a polygon) equilateral and equiangular. b. (of a polyhedron) having identical regular polygons as faces. c. (of a prism) having regular polygons as bases. d. (of a pyramid) having a regular polygon as a base and the altitude passing through the centre of the base. 14. *Bot.* (of a flower) having radial symmetry. 15. (postpositive) subject to the rule of an established religious order or community: *canons regular*. ~*n.* 16. a professional long-term serviceman in a military unit. 17. *Inf.* a

person who does something regularly, such as attending a theatre. 18. a member of a religious order or congregation, as contrasted with a secular. —'regu'larly *n.* —'regularly *adv.* —'regular,ize or -ise *vb.*

regulate (ˈregjuˌleɪt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to adjust (the amount of heat, sound, etc.) as required; control. 2. to adjust (an instrument or appliance) so that it operates correctly. 3. to bring into conformity with a rule, principle, or usage. —'regu,lative or 'regu,latory *adj.* —'regu,latively *adv.*

regulation (ˌregjuˌleɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act or process of regulating. 2. a rule, principle, or condition that governs procedure or behaviour. 3. (modifier) as required by official rules: *regulation uniform*. 4. (modifier) normal; usual; conforming to accepted standards: *a regulation haircut*.

regulator (ˈregjuˌleɪtə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that regulates. 2. the mechanism by which the speed of a piece is regulated. 3. any of various mechanisms or devices, such as a governor valve, for controlling fluid flow, pressure, temperature, etc.

regurgitate (riˈɡɜːdʒɪˌteɪt) *vb.* 1. to vomit forth (partially digested food). 2. (of some birds and animals) to bring back to the mouth (undigested or partly digested food to feed the young). 3. (intr.) to be cast up or out, esp. from the mouth. —re'gurgitant *n., adj.* —re,gurgi'tation *n.*

rehabilitate (ˌriːəˈbɪliˌteɪt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to help (a physically or mentally disabled person or an ex-prisoner) to readapt to society or a new job, as by vocational guidance, retraining, or therapy. 2. to restore to a former position or rank. 3. to restore the good reputation of. —,reha'bilitative *adj.* —,reha,billi'tation *n.*

rehash (riˈhæʃ) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to rework, reuse, or make over (old or already used material). ~*n.* 2. something consisting of old, reworked, or reused material.

rehearse (riˈhɑːs) *vb.* 1. to practise (a play, concert, etc.), in preparation for public performance. 2. (tr.) to run through; recount; recite: *he rehearsed the grievances of the committee*. 3. (tr.) to train or drill (a person) for public performance. —re'hearsal *n.* —re'hearser *n.*

Reich (raɪk) *n.* 1. the Holy Roman Empire (962–1806) (*First Reich*). 2. the Hohenzollern empire in Germany from 1871 to 1918 (*Second Reich*). 3. the Nazi dictatorship in Germany from 1933–45 (*Third Reich*).

reign (reɪn) *n.* 1. the period during which a monarch is the official ruler of a country. 2. a period during which a person or thing is dominant or powerful: *the reign of violence*. ~*vb.* (intr.) 3. to exercise the power and authority of a sovereign. 4. to be accorded the rank and title of a sovereign without having ruling authority. 5. to predominate; prevail: *darkness reigns*. 6. (usually present participle) to be the most recent winner of a contest, etc.: *the reigning champion*.

reimburse (ˌriːmˈbɜːs) *vb.* (tr.) to repay or compensate (someone) for (money already spent, losses, damages, etc.). —reim'bursable *adj.* —reim'bursement *n.* —reim'burser *n.*

rein (reɪn) *n.* 1. (often pl.) one of a pair of long straps, usually connected together and made of leather, used to control a horse. 2. a similar device used to control a very young child. 3. any form or means of control: *to take up the reins of government*. 4. the direction in which a rider turns (in on a left rein). 5. something that restrains, controls, or guides. 6. give (a) free rein. to allow considerable freedom; remove restraints. 7. keep a tight rein on. to control carefully; limit: *we have to keep a tight rein on expenditure*. ~*vb.* 8. (tr.) to check, restrain, hold back, or halt with or as if with reins. 9. to control or guide (a horse) with a rein or reins: *they reined left*. —See also rein in.

reincarnation (ˌriːnkaːˈneɪʃən) *n.* 1. the belief that on the death of the body the soul transmigrates to or is born again in another body. 2. the incarnation or embodiment of a soul in a new body after it has left the old one at physical death. 3. embodiment again in a new form, as of a principle or idea. —reincar'nationist *n., adj.*

reindeer (ˌreɪmˌdiə) *n., pl. -deer or -deers*. a large deer, having large branched antlers in the male and female and inhabiting the arctic regions. It also occurs in North America, where it is known as a caribou.

reglaze *vb.*
regrade *vb.*
regrow *vb.*

regrowth *n.*
reheal *vb.*
reheuse *vb.*

reimpose *vb.*
reinfect *vb.*
reinfection *n.*

reinforce (ˈriːnˈfɔːs) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to give added strength or support to. 2. to give added emphasis to; stress or increase: *his rudeness reinforced my determination*. 3. to give added support to (a military force) by providing more men, supplies, etc. —**reinforcement** *n.*

reinforced concrete *n.* concrete with steel bars, mesh, etc., embedded in it to enable it to withstand tensile and shear stresses.

rein in *vb. (adv.)* to stop (a horse) by pulling on the reins.

reins (reinz) *pl. n.* Arch. the kidneys or loins.

reinstale (ˈriːnˈsteɪt) *vb. (tr.)* to restore to a former rank or condition. —**reinstatement** *n.* —**reinstate** *n.*

reiterate (riˈtɪtə, reɪt) *vb. (tr.)* may take a clause as object) to say or do again or repeatedly. —**reiteration** *n.* —**reiterative** *adj.* —**reiteratively** *adv.*

reject *vb. (rɪˈdʒekt).* (tr.) 1. to refuse to accept, use, believe, etc. 2. to throw out as useless or worthless; discard. 3. to rebuff (a person). 4. (of an organism) to fail to accept (a foreign tissue graft or organ transplant). ~*n.* (ˈrɪˈdʒekt). 5. something rejected as imperfect, unsatisfactory, or useless. —**rejecter** or **rejector** *n.* —**rejection** *n.* —**rejective** *adj.*

rejig (riˈdʒɪg) *vb.* -jigging, -jigged. (tr.) 1. to re-equip (a factory or plant). 2. *Inf.* to rearrange. —**rejigger** *n.*

rejoice (riˈdʒɔɪs) *vb.* (when tr., takes a clause as object or an infinitive; when intr., often foll. by *in*) to feel or express great joy or happiness. —**rejoicer** *n.*

rejoin¹ (riˈdʒɔɪn) *vb.* 1. to come again into company with (someone or something). 2. (tr.) to put or join together again; reunite.

rejoin² (riˈdʒɔɪn) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to answer or reply. 2. *Law.* to answer (a plaintiff's reply).

rejoinder (riˈdʒɔɪndə) *n.* 1. a reply or response to a question or remark. 2. *Law.* (in pleading) the answer made by a defendant to the plaintiff's reply.

rejuvenate (riˈdʒuːvɪ, neɪt) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to give new youth, restored vitality, or youthful appearance to. 2. (usually passive) *Geog.* to cause (a river) to begin eroding more vigorously to a new lower base level. —**rejuvenation** *n.* —**rejuvenator** *n.*

relapse (riˈlæps) *vb. (intr.)* 1. to lapse back into a former state or condition, esp. one involving bad habits. 2. to become ill again after apparent recovery. ~*n.* 3. the act or an instance of relapsing. 4. the return of ill health after an apparent or partial recovery. —**relaps** *n.*

relate (riˈleɪt) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to tell or narrate (a story, etc.). 2. (often foll. by *to*) to establish association (between two or more things) or (of something) to have relation or reference (to something else). 3. (*intr.*; often foll. by *to*) to form a sympathetic or significant relationship (with other people, things, etc.). —**relatable** *adj.* —**relater** *n.*

▷ **Usage.** *Relate* is frequently applied to personal relationships, as in sense 3, but this usage is vague and is avoided by careful speakers and writers.

related (riˈleɪtəd) *adj.* 1. connected; associated. 2. connected by kinship or marriage. —**relatedness** *n.*

relation (riˈleɪʃən) *n.* 1. the state or condition of being related or the manner in which things are related. 2. connection by blood or marriage; kinship. 3. a person who is connected by blood or marriage; relative. 4. reference or regard (esp. in *in* or *with relation to*). 5. the position, association, connection, or status of one person or thing with regard to another. 6. the act of relating or narrating. 7. an account or narrative. 8. *Law.* the statement of grounds of complaint made by a relator. 9. *a. Maths.* an association, such as equality or inequality, between two numbers, quantities, expressions, etc. *b. Logic.* an association between things, as in *John is the son of James*.

relations (riˈleɪʃənz) *pl. n.* 1. social, political, or personal connections or dealings between or among individuals, groups, nations, etc. 2. family or relatives. 3. *Euphemistic.* sexual intercourse.

relationship (riˈleɪʃənʃɪp) *n.* 1. the state of being connected or related. 2. association by blood or marriage; kinship. 3. the mutual dealings, connections, or feelings that exist between two countries, people, etc. 4. an emotional or sexual affair or liaison.

relative (ˈrelatɪv) *adj.* 1. having meaning or signifi-

cance only in relation to something else; not absolute. 2. (*nominal*) (of a scientific quantity) being measured or stated relative to some other substance or measurement: *relative density*. 3. (*prepositional*) comparative or respective: *the relative qualities of speed and accuracy*. 4. (*postpositive*; foll. by *to*) in proportion (to); corresponding (to): *earnings relative to production*. 5. *Grammar.* denoting or belonging to a class of words that function as subordinating conjunctions in introducing relative clauses such as *who*, *which*, and *that*. Cf. **demonstrative**. 6. *Grammar.* denoting or relating to a clause (*relative clause*) that modifies a noun or pronoun occurring earlier in the sentence. 7. (of a musical key or scale) having the same key signature as another key or scale. ~*n.* 8. a person who is related by blood or marriage; relation. 9. a relative pronoun, clause, or grammatical construction. —**relatively** *adv.* —**relativeness** *n.*

relative atomic mass *n.* another name for **atomic weight**.

relativity (ˌreləˈtɪvɪti) *n.* 1. either of two theories developed by Albert Einstein. The **special theory of relativity**, proposed in 1905, deals with space, time, and the uniform motion of frames of reference, relative to each other. It also assumes that the velocity of light is independent of an observer's velocity. The **general theory of relativity**, proposed in 1916, extends the special theory to include relative motion between accelerated frames of reference. Both theories contain the idea of a space-time continuum and that mass and energy are equivalent. 2. the state or quality of being relative.

relax (riˈlæks) *vb.* 1. to make (muscles, a grip, etc.) less tense or rigid or (of muscles and the like) to become looser or less rigid. 2. (*intr.*) to take rest, as from work or effort. 3. to lessen the force of (effort, concentration) or (of effort) to become diminished. 4. to make (rules or discipline) less rigid or strict or (of rules, etc.) to diminish in severity. 5. (*intr.*) (of a person) to become less formal; unbend. —**relaxedly** (riˈlæksɪdli) *adv.* —**relax** *n.*

relaxant (riˈlæksənt) *n.* 1. *Med.* a drug or agent that relaxes, esp. one that relaxes tense muscles. ~*adj.* 2. of or tending to produce relaxation.

relaxation (ˌrɪlækˈseɪʃən) *n.* 1. rest or refreshment, as after work or effort; recreation. 2. a form of rest or recreation: *his relaxation is cricket*. 3. a partial lessening of a punishment, duty, etc. 4. the act of relaxing or state of being relaxed. 5. *Physics.* the return of a system to equilibrium after a displacement from this state.

relay *n.* (ˈriːleɪ). 1. a person or team of people relieving others, as on a shift. 2. a fresh team of horses posted along a route to relieve others. 3. the act of relaying or process of being relayed. 4. short for **relay race**. 5. an automatic device that controls a valve, switch, etc., by means of an electric motor, solenoid, or pneumatic mechanism. 6. *Electronics.* an electrical device in which a small change in current or voltage controls the switching on or off of circuits. 7. *Radio.* a combination of a receiver and transmitter designed to receive radio signals and retransmit them. *b. (as modifier):* a relay station. ~*vb.* (riˈleɪ). (tr.) 8. to carry or spread (news or information) by relays. 9. to supply or replace with relays. 10. to retransmit (a signal) by means of a relay. 11. *Brit.* to broadcast (a performance) by sending out signals through a transmitting station.

relay race *n.* a race between two or more teams of contestants in which each contestant covers a specified portion of the distance.

release (riˈliːs) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to free (a person or animal) from captivity or imprisonment. 2. to free (someone) from obligation or duty. 3. to free (something) from (one's grip); let fall. 4. to issue (a record, film, or book) for sale or circulation. 5. to make (news or information) known or allow (news, etc.) to be made known. 6. *Law.* to relinquish (a right, claim, or title) in favour of someone else. ~*n.* 7. the act of freeing or state of being freed. 8. the act of issuing for sale or publication. 9. something issued for sale or public showing, esp. a film or a record: *a new release from Bob Dylan*. 10. a news item, etc., made available for publication, broadcasting, etc. 11. *Law.* the surrender of a claim, right, title, etc., in favour of someone else. 12. a control mechanism for starting or stopping an engine. —**releaser** *n.*

reinsert *vb.*
reinsertion *n.*
reinterpret *vb.*

reinterpretation *n.*
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rekindle *vb.*
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rein in *vb.* (adv.) to stop (a horse) by pulling on the reins.

reins (reinz) *pl. n.* Arch. the kidneys or loins.

reinstale (ˈriːnˈsteɪt) *vb.* (tr.) to restore to a former rank or condition. — **reinstatement** *n.* — **reinstate** *n.*

reiterate (riˈtɪəˌreɪt) *vb.* (tr.) may take a clause as object) to say or do again or repeatedly. — **reiteration** *n.* — **reiterative** *adj.* — **reiteratively** *adv.*

reject *vb.* (rɪˈdʒekt). (tr.) 1. to refuse to accept, use, believe, etc. 2. to throw out as useless or worthless; discard. 3. to rebuff (a person). 4. (of an organism) to fail to accept (a foreign tissue graft or organ transplant). — *n.* (ˈrɪdʒekt). 5. something rejected as imperfect, unsatisfactory, or useless. — **rejecter** or **rejector** *n.* — **rejection** *n.* — **rejective** *adj.*

rejig (riˈdʒɪg) *vb.* -jigging, -jigged. (tr.) 1. to re-equip (a factory or plant). 2. *Inf.* to rearrange. — **rejigger** *n.*

rejoice (riˈdʒɔɪs) *vb.* (when tr., takes a clause as object or an infinitive; when intr., often foll. by *in*) to feel or express great joy or happiness. — **rejoicer** *n.*

rejoin¹ (riˈdʒɔɪn) *vb.* 1. to come again into company with (someone or something). 2. (tr.) to put or join together again; reunite.

rejoin² (riˈdʒɔɪn) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to answer or reply. 2. *Law.* to answer (a plaintiff's reply).

rejoinder (riˈdʒɔɪndə) *n.* 1. a reply or response to a question or remark. 2. *Law.* (in pleading) the answer made by a defendant to the plaintiff's reply.

rejuvenate (riˈdʒuːvɪˌneɪt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to give new youth, restored vitality, or youthful appearance to. 2. (usually passive) *Geog.* to cause (a river) to begin eroding more vigorously to a new lower base level. — **rejuvenation** *n.* — **rejuvenator** *n.*

relapse (riˈlæps) *vb.* (intr.) 1. to lapse back into a former state or condition, esp. one involving bad habits. 2. to become ill again after apparent recovery. — *n.* 3. the act or an instance of relapsing. 4. the return of ill health after an apparent or partial recovery. — **relaps** *n.*

relate (riˈleɪt) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to tell or narrate (a story, etc.). 2. (often foll. by *to*) to establish association (between two or more things) or (of something) to have relation or reference (to something else). 3. (intr.; often foll. by *to*) to form a sympathetic or significant relationship (with other people, things, etc.). — **relatable** *adj.* — **relater** *n.*

▷ **Usage.** *Relate* is frequently applied to personal relationships, as in sense 3, but this usage is vague and is avoided by careful speakers and writers.

related (riˈleɪtɪd) *adj.* 1. connected; associated. 2. connected by kinship or marriage. — **relatedness** *n.*

relation (riˈleɪʃən) *n.* 1. the state or condition of being related or the manner in which things are related. 2. connection by blood or marriage; kinship. 3. a person who is connected by blood or marriage; relative. 4. reference or regard (esp. in *in* or *with* relation to). 5. the position, association, connection, or status of one person or thing with regard to another. 6. the act of relating or narrating. 7. an account or narrative. 8. *Law.* the statement of grounds of complaint made by a relator. 9. *a. Maths.* an association, such as equality or inequality, between two numbers, quantities, expressions, etc. *b. Logic.* an association between things, as in *John is the son of James*.

relations (riˈleɪʃənz) *pl. n.* 1. social, political, or personal connections or dealings between or among individuals, groups, nations, etc. 2. family or relatives. 3. *Euphemistic.* sexual intercourse.

relationship (riˈleɪʃənʃɪp) *n.* 1. the state of being connected or related. 2. association by blood or marriage; kinship. 3. the mutual dealings, connections, or feelings that exist between two countries, people, etc. 4. an emotional or sexual affair or liaison.

relative (ˈrelatɪv) *adj.* 1. having meaning or signifi-

cance only in relation to something else; not absolute. 2. (*prepositional*) (of a scientific quantity) being measured or stated relative to some other substance or measurement: *relative density*. 3. (*prepositional*) comparative or respective: *the relative qualities of speed and accuracy*. 4. (*postpositive*; foll. by *to*) in proportion (to); corresponding (to): *earnings relative to production*. 5. *Grammar.* denoting or belonging to a class of words that function as subordinating conjunctions in introducing relative clauses such as *who*, *which*, and *that*. Cf. **demonstrative**. 6. *Grammar.* denoting or relating to a clause (**relative clause**) that modifies a noun or pronoun occurring earlier in the sentence. 7. (of a musical key or scale) having the same key signature as another key or scale. — *n.* 8. a person who is related by blood or marriage; relation. 9. a relative pronoun, clause, or grammatical construction. — **relatively** *adv.* — **relativeness** *n.*

relative atomic mass *n.* another name for **atomic weight**.

relativity (ˌreləˈtɪvɪti) *n.* 1. either of two theories developed by Albert Einstein. The **special theory of relativity**, proposed in 1905, deals with space, time, and the uniform motion of frames of reference, relative to each other. It also assumes that the velocity of light is independent of an observer's velocity. The **general theory of relativity**, proposed in 1916, extends the special theory to include relative motion between accelerated frames of reference. Both theories contain the idea of a space-time continuum and that mass and energy are equivalent. 2. the state or quality of being relative.

relax (riˈlæks) *vb.* 1. to make (muscles, a grip, etc.) less tense or rigid or (of muscles and the like) to become looser or less rigid. 2. (*intr.*) to take rest, as from work or effort. 3. to lessen the force of (effort, concentration) or (of effort) to become diminished. 4. to make (rules or discipline) less rigid or strict or (of rules, etc.) to diminish in severity. 5. (*intr.*) (of a person) to become less formal; unbend. — **relaxedly** (riˈlæksɪdli) *adv.* — **relaxer** *n.*

relaxant (riˈlæksənt) *n.* 1. *Med.* a drug or agent that relaxes, esp. one that relaxes tense muscles. — *adj.* 2. of or tending to produce relaxation.

relaxation (ˌriːlækˈseɪʃən) *n.* 1. rest or refreshment, as after work or effort; recreation. 2. a form of rest or recreation: *his relaxation is cricket*. 3. a partial lessening of a punishment, duty, etc. 4. the act of relaxing or state of being relaxed. 5. *Physics.* the return of a system to equilibrium after a displacement from this state.

relay *n.* (ˈriːleɪ). 1. a person or team of people relieving others, as on a shift. 2. a fresh team of horses posted along a route to relieve others. 3. the act of relaying or process of being relayed. 4. short for **relay race**. 5. an automatic device that controls a valve, switch, etc., by means of an electric motor, solenoid, or pneumatic mechanism. 6. *Electronics.* an electrical device in which a small change in current or voltage controls the switching on or off of circuits. 7. *Radio.* a combination of a receiver and transmitter designed to receive radio signals and retransmit them. *b. (as modifier):* a relay station. — *vb.* (riˈleɪ). (tr.) 8. to carry or spread (news or information) by relays. 9. to supply or replace with relays. 10. to retransmit (a signal) by means of a relay. 11. *Brit.* to broadcast (a performance) by sending out signals through a transmitting station.

relay race *n.* a race between two or more teams of contestants in which each contestant covers a specified portion of the distance.

release (riˈliːs) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to free (a person or animal) from captivity or imprisonment. 2. to free (someone) from obligation or duty. 3. to free (something) from (one's grip); let fall. 4. to issue (a record, film, or book) for sale or circulation. 5. to make (news or information) known or allow (news, etc.) to be made known. 6. *Law.* to relinquish (a right, claim, or title) in favour of someone else. — *n.* 7. the act of freeing or state of being freed. 8. the act of issuing for sale or publication. 9. something issued for sale or public showing, esp. a film or a record: *a new release from Bob Dylan*. 10. a news item, etc., made available for publication, broadcasting, etc. 11. *Law.* the surrender of a claim, right, title, etc., in favour of someone else. 12. a control mechanism for starting or stopping an engine. — **releaser** *n.*

reinsert *vb.*
reinsertion *n.*
reinterpret *vb.*

reinterpretation *n.*
reinvestigate *vb.*
reinvestigation *n.*

rekindle *vb.*
relay *vb.*
relearn *vb.*

relegate ('relɪɡeɪt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to move to a position of less authority, importance, etc.; demote. 2. (*usually passive*) *Chiefly Brit.* to demote (a football team) to a lower division. 3. to assign or refer (a matter) to another. 4. (foll. by *to*) to banish or exile. 5. to assign (something) to a particular group or category. —**rele.gatable** *adj.* —**rele.gation** *n.*

relent ('relɪnt) *vb.* (intr.) 1. to change one's mind about some decision, esp. a harsh one; become more mild or amenable. 2. (of the pace or intensity of something) to slacken. 3. (of the weather) to become more mild.

relentless ('relɪntlɪs) *adj.* 1. (of an enemy, etc.) implacable; inflexible; inexorable. 2. (of pace or intensity) sustained; unremitting. —**re'lentlessly** *adv.* —**re'lentlessness** *n.*

relevant ('relɪvənt) *adj.* having direct bearing on the matter in hand; pertinent. —**relevance** or **relevancy** *n.* —**re'levantly** *adv.*

reliable ('rɪlaɪəbəl) *adj.* able to be trusted; dependable. —**re'liability** or **re'liableness** *n.* —**re'liably** *adv.*

reliance ('rɪlaɪəns) *n.* 1. dependence, confidence, or trust. 2. something or someone upon which one relies. —**re'liant** *adj.* —**re'liantly** *adv.*

relic ('relɪk) *n.* 1. something that has survived from the past, such as an object or custom. 2. something treasured for its past associations; keepsake. 3. (*usually pl.*) a remaining part or fragment. 4. *R.C. Church, Eastern Church.* part of the body of a saint or his belongings, venerated as holy. 5. *Inf.* an old or old-fashioned person or thing. 6. (*pl.*) *Arch.* the remains of a dead person; corpse.

relict ('relɪkt) *n.* 1. *Ecology.* a. a group of animals or plants that exists as a remnant of a formerly widely distributed group. b. (as *modifier*): a *relict fauna*. 2. *Geol.* a mountain, lake, glacier, etc., that is a remnant of a pre-existing formation after a destructive process has occurred. 3. an archaic word for *widow*. 4. an archaic word for *relic*.

relief ('rɪlɪf) *n.* 1. a feeling of cheerfulness or optimism that follows the removal of anxiety, pain, or distress. 2. deliverance from or alleviation of anxiety, pain, etc. 3. a. help or assistance, as to the poor or needy. b. (as *modifier*): *relief work*. 4. a diversion from monotony. 5. a person who replaces another at some task or duty. 6. a bus, plane, etc., that carries additional passengers when a scheduled service is full. 7. a road (*relief road*) carrying traffic round an urban area; bypass. 8. a. the act of freeing a beleaguered town, fortress, etc.: *the relief of Mafeking*. b. (as *modifier*): a *relief column*. 9. Also called: *relievo, rilievo*. *Sculpture, archit.* a. the projection of forms or figures from a flat ground, so that they are partly or wholly free of it. b. a piece of work of this kind. 10. a printing process that employs raised surfaces from which ink is transferred to the paper. 11. any vivid effect resulting from contrast: *comic relief*. 12. variation in altitude in an area; difference between highest and lowest level. 13. *Law.* redress of a grievance or hardship: *to seek relief through the courts*. 14. *on relief.* *U.S.* (of people) in receipt of government aid because of personal need.

relieve ('rɪli:v) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to bring alleviation of (pain, distress, etc.) to (someone). 2. to bring aid or assistance to (someone in need, etc.). 3. to take over the duties or watch of (someone). 4. to bring aid or a relieving force to (a besieged town, etc.). 5. to free (someone) from an obligation. 6. to make (something) less unpleasant, arduous, or monotonous. 7. to bring into relief or prominence, as by contrast. 8. (foll. by *of*) *Inf.* to take from: *the thief relieved him of his watch*. 9. *relieve oneself*, to urinate or defecate. —**re'lievable** *adj.* —**re'lieved** *adj.* —**re'liever** *n.*

religion ('rɪlɪdʒən) *n.* 1. belief in, worship of, or obedience to a supernatural power or powers considered to be divine or to have control of human destiny. 2. any formal or institutionalized expression of such belief: *the Christian religion*. 3. the attitude and feeling of one who believes in a transcendent controlling power or powers. 4. *Chiefly R.C. Church.* the way of life entered upon by monks and nuns: *to enter religion*. 5. something of overwhelming importance to a person: *football is his religion*.

religious ('rɪlɪdʒəs) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or concerned with religion. 2. a. pious; devout; godly. b. (as *collective*

n., preceded by *the*): *the religious*. 3. appropriate to or in accordance with the principles of a religion. 4. scrupulous, exact, or conscientious. 5. *Christianity.* of or relating to a way of life dedicated to religion and defined by a monastic rule. ~*n.* 6. *Christianity.* a monk or nun. —**re'ligiously** *adv.* —**re'ligiousness** *n.*

relinquish ('rɪlɪŋkwɪʃ) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to give up (a task, struggle, etc.); abandon. 2. to surrender or renounce (a claim, right, etc.). 3. to release; let go. —**re'linquisher** *n.* —**re'linquishment** *n.*

reliquary ('rɪlɪkwəri) *n.*, *pl.* **-quaries**. a receptacle or repository for relics, esp. relics of saints.

relish ('relɪʃ) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to savour or enjoy (an experience) to the full. 2. to anticipate eagerly; look forward to. 3. to enjoy the taste or flavour of (food, etc.); savour. ~*n.* 4. liking or enjoyment, as of something eaten or experienced (esp. in *with relish*). 5. pleasurable anticipation: *he didn't have much relish for the idea*. 6. an appetizing or spicy food added to a main dish to enhance its flavour. 7. an appetizing taste or flavour. 8. a zestful trace or touch: *there was a certain relish in all his writing*. —**re'lishable** *adj.*

rely ('rɪli:v) *vb.* (tr.) to experience (a sensation, event, etc.) again, esp. in the imagination. —**re'livable** *adj.*

relocate ('rɪləʊ'keɪt) *vb.* (esp. of a business or an employee) to move to a new location. —**relo'cation** *n.*

reluctance ('rɪlʌktəns) or **reluctancy** *n.* 1. lack of eagerness or willingness; disinclination. 2. *Physics.* a measure of the resistance of a closed magnetic circuit to a magnetic flux.

reluctant ('rɪlʌktənt) *adj.* not eager; unwilling; disinclined. —**re'luctantly** *adv.*

rely ('rɪli:v) *vb.* **-lying, -lied.** (intr.; foll. by *on* or *upon*) 1. to be dependent (on): *he relies on his charm*. 2. to have trust or confidence (in): *you can rely on us*.

remain ('rɪmeɪn) *vb.* (*mainly intr.*) 1. to stay behind or in the same place: *to remain at home*. 2. (*copula*) to continue to be: *to remain cheerful*. 3. to be left, as after use, consumption, the passage of time, etc. 4. to be left to be done, said, etc.: *it remains to be pointed out*.

remainder ('rɪmeɪndə) *n.* 1. a part or portion that is left, as after use, subtraction, expenditure, the passage of time, etc.: *the remainder of the milk*. 2. *Maths.* a. the amount left over when one quantity cannot be exactly divided by another: *for 10 ÷ 3, the remainder is 1*. b. another name for *difference* (sense 7). 3. *Property law.* a future interest in property; an interest in a particular estate that will pass to one at some future date, as on the death of the current possessor. 4. a number of copies of a book left unsold when demand ceases, which are sold at a reduced price. ~*vb.* 5. (*tr.*) to sell (copies of a book) as a remainder.

remains ('rɪmeɪnz) *pl. n.* 1. any pieces, fragments, etc., that are left unused or still extant, as after use, consumption, the passage of time: *archaeological remains*. 2. the body of a dead person; corpse. 3. Also called: *literary remains*. the unpublished writings of an author at the time of his death.

remand ('rɪmɑ:nd) *vb.* (tr.) 1. *Law.* (of a court or magistrate) to send (a prisoner or accused person) back into custody. 2. to send back. ~*n.* 3. the sending of a prisoner or accused person back into custody to await trial. 4. the act of remanding or state of being remanded. 5. *on remand*, in custody or on bail awaiting trial. —**re'mandment** *n.*

remand home or centre *n.* (in England) an institution to which juvenile offenders are sent for detention while awaiting appearance before a court.

remark ('rɪmɑ:k) *vb.* 1. (when intr., often foll. by *on* or *upon*; when tr., may take a clause as object) to pass a casual comment (about); reflect in informal speech or writing. 2. (*tr.*, may take a clause as object) to perceive; observe; notice. ~*n.* 3. a brief casually expressed thought or opinion. 4. notice, comment, or observation: *the event passed without remark*. 5. a mark in the margin of an engraved plate to indicate the stage of production. —**re'marker** *n.*

remarkable ('rɪmɑ:kəbəl) *adj.* 1. worthy of note or attention: *a remarkable achievement*. 2. unusual, striking, or extraordinary: *a remarkable sight*. —**re'markableness** *n.* —**re'markably** *adv.*

REME ('rɪ:mi:t) *n.* acronym for Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

relet *vb.*
relight *vb.*
reload *vb.*

relocate *vb.*
relocation *n.*
remarriage *n.*

remarry *vb.*
rematch *n.*
remeasure *vb.*

remedial (rɪ'mi:diəl) *adj.* 1. affording a remedy; curative. 2. denoting or relating to special teaching for backward and slow learners: *remedial education*. —*re-medially adv.*

remedy ('remɪdi) *n., pl. -dies*. 1. (usually foll. by *for* or *against*) any drug or agent that cures a disease or controls its symptoms. 2. (usually foll. by *for* or *against*) anything that serves to cure defects, improve conditions, etc.: *a remedy for industrial disputes*. 3. the legally permitted variation from the standard weight or quality of coins. —*vb. (tr.)* 4. to relieve or cure (a disease, illness, etc.) by a remedy. 5. to put to rights (a fault, error, etc.); correct. —**remediably** (rɪ'mi:diəbəl) *adj.* —**re-medially adv.** —**remediless adj.**

remember (rɪ'membə) *vb.* 1. to become aware of (something forgotten) again; bring back to one's consciousness. 2. to retain (an idea, intention, etc.) in one's conscious mind: *remember to do one's shopping*. 3. (tr.) to give money, etc., to (someone), as in a will or in tipping. 4. (tr., foll. by *to*) to mention (a person's name) to another person, as by way of greeting: *remember me to your mother*. 5. (tr.) to mention (a person) favourably, as in prayer. 6. (tr.) to commemorate (a person, event, etc.): *to remember the dead of the wars*. 7. **remember oneself**, to recover one's good manners after a lapse. —**re-memberer n.**

remembrance (rɪ'membrəns) *n.* 1. the act of remembering or state of being remembered. 2. something that is remembered; remembrance. 3. a memento or keepsake. 4. the extent in time of one's power of recollection. 5. the act of honouring some past event, person, etc.

Remembrance Day *n.* 1. (in Britain) another name for **Remembrance Sunday**. 2. (in Canada) a statutory holiday observed on November 11 in memory of the dead of both World Wars.

remind (rɪ'maɪnd) *vb. (tr.)*; usually foll. by *of*; *may take a clause as object or an infinitive* to cause (a person) to remember (something or to do something); put (a person) in mind (of something): *remind me to phone home*; *flowers remind me of holidays*. —**re-minder n.** —**re-mindful adj.**

reminisce (rɛmɪ'nɪs) *vb. (intr.)* to talk or write about old times, past experiences, etc.

reminiscence (rɛmɪ'nɪsəns) *n.* 1. the act of recalling or narrating past experiences. 2. (often pl.) some past experience, event, etc., that is recalled. 3. an event, phenomenon, or experience that reminds one of something else. 4. *Philosophy*, the doctrine that the mind has seen the universal forms of all things in a previous disembodied existence.

reminiscent (rɛmɪ'nɪsnt) *adj.* 1. (postpositive); foll. by *of* stimulating memories (of) or comparisons (with). 2. characterized by reminiscence. 3. (of a person) given to reminiscing. —**re-mi-niscently adv.**

remiss (rɪ'mɪs) *adj. (postpositive)* 1. lacking in care or attention to duty; negligent. 2. lacking in energy. —**re-missly adv.** —**re-missness n.**

remission (rɪ'mɪʃən) or **remittal** (rɪ'mɪtl) *n.* 1. the act of remitting or state of being remitted. 2. a reduction of the term of a sentence of imprisonment, as for good conduct. 3. forgiveness for sin. 4. discharge or release from penalty, obligation, etc. 5. lessening of intensity; abatement, as in the symptoms of a disease. 6. *Rare*, the act of sending a remittance. —**re-missive adj.** —**re-missively adv.**

remit *vb. (rɪ'mɪt)*. —**mitting, -mitted.** (mainly tr.) 1. (also intr.) to send (payment, etc.), as for goods or service, esp. by post. 2. *Law* (esp. of an appeal court) to send back (a case) to an inferior court for further consideration. 3. to cancel or refrain from exacting (a penalty or punishment). 4. (also intr.) to relax (pace, intensity, etc.) or (of pace) to slacken or abate. 5. to postpone; defer. 6. *Arch.* to pardon or forgive (crime, sins, etc.). —*n. (rɪ'mɪt, rɪ'mɪt)*. 7. area of authority (of a committee, etc.). 8. *Law*, the transfer of a case from one court or jurisdiction to another. 9. the act of remitting. —**re-mittable adj.** —**re-mitter n.**

remittance (rɪ'mɪtəns) *n.* 1. payment for goods or services received or as an allowance, esp. when sent by post. 2. the act of remitting.

remittent (rɪ'mɪtnt) *adj.* (of the symptoms of a disease) characterized by periods of diminished severity. —**re-mittance n.** —**re-mittently adv.**

remnant ('remnənt) *n.* 1. (often pl.) a part left over

after use, processing, etc. 2. a surviving trace or vestige: *a remnant of imperialism*. 3. a piece of material from the end of a roll. —*adj.* 4. remaining; left over.

remonstrance (rɪ'mɒnstɾəns) *n.* 1. the act of remonstrating. 2. a protest or reproof, esp. a petition protesting against something.

remonstrate ('remɒn,streɪt) *vb. (intr.)* (usually foll. by *with*, *against*, etc.) to argue in protest or objection: *to remonstrate with the government*. —**re-mon-stration n.** —**re-monstrative** (rɪ'mɒnstɾətɪv) *adj.* —**re-mon-strator n.**

remorse (rɪ'mɔ:s) *n.* 1. a sense of deep regret and guilt for some misdeed. 2. compunction; pity; compassion. —**re'morseful adj.** —**re'morsefully adv.** —**re'morsefulness n.** —**re'morseless adj.**

remote (rɪ'məʊt) *adj.* 1. located far away; distant. 2. far from society, or civilization; out-of-the-way. 3. distant in time. 4. distantly related or connected: *a remote cousin*. 5. slight or faint (esp. in **not the remotest idea**). 6. (of a person's manner) aloof or abstracted. —**re'motely adv.** —**re'moteness n.**

remote control *n.* control of a system or activity from a distance, usually by means of radio, ultrasonic, or electrical signals. —**re,mote-con-trolled adj.**

remould *vb. (rɪ:'məʊld)*. 1. (tr.) to mould again. —*n. (rɪ:'məʊld)*. 2. another name for **retread** (tyre).

removal (rɪ'mu:vəl) *n.* 1. the act of removing or state of being removed. 2. a. a change of residence. b. (as modifier): *a removal company*. 3. dismissal from office.

remove (rɪ'mu:v) *vb. (mainly tr.)* 1. to take away and place elsewhere. 2. to dismiss (someone) from office. 3. to do away with; abolish; get rid of. 4. *Euphemistic*, to assassinate; kill. 5. (intr.) *Formal*, to change the location of one's home or place of business. —*n.* 6. the act of removing, esp. (formal) a removal of one's residence or place of work. 7. the degree of difference: *only one remove from madness*. 8. *Brit.* (in certain schools) a class or form. —**re-movable adj.** —**re,mova'bility n.** —**re-mover n.**

remunerate (rɪ'mju:nə'reɪt) *vb. (tr.)* to reward or pay for work, service, etc. —**re,muner'ation n.** —**re-muner-able adj.** —**re-munerative adj.** —**re-muneratively adv.** —**re-muner-ator n.**

renaissance (rə'neɪsəns; U.S. also 'renə,snəns) or **re-nascence** *n.* a revival or rebirth, esp. of culture and learning.

Renaissance (rə'neɪsəns; U.S. also 'renə,snəns) *n.* 1. **the**, the great revival of art, literature, and learning in Europe in the 14th, 15th, and 16th centuries. 2. the spirit, culture, art, science, and thought of this period. —*adj.* 3. of, characteristic of, or relating to the Renaissance, its culture, etc.

renal ('rɪ:nəl) *adj.* of, relating to, resembling, or situated near the kidney.

renascent (rɪ'næ'snt, -'nei-) *adj.* becoming active or vigorous again; reviving: *renascent nationalism*. —**re-nascence n.**

rend (rend) *vb.* **rending, rent.** 1. to tear with violent force or to be torn in this way; rip. 2. (tr.) to tear or pull (one's clothes, etc.), esp. as a manifestation of rage or grief. 3. (tr.) (of a noise or cry) to disturb (the silence) with a shrill or piercing tone. —**rendible adj.**

render ('rendə) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to present or submit (accounts, etc.) for payment, etc. 2. to give or provide (aid, charity, a service, etc.). 3. to show (obedience), as expected. 4. to give or exchange, as by way of return or requital: *to render blow for blow*. 5. to cause to become: *grief had rendered him simple-minded*. 6. to deliver (a verdict or opinion) formally. 7. to portray or depict (something), as in painting, music, or acting. 8. to translate (something). 9. (sometimes foll. by *up*) to yield or give: *the tomb rendered up its secret*. 10. (often foll. by *back*) to return (something); give back. 11. to cover the surface of (brickwork, etc.) with a coat of plaster. 12. (often foll. by *down*) to extract (fat) from (meat) by melting. —*n.* 13. a first thin coat of plaster applied to a surface. 14. one who or that which rends. —**renderable adj.** —**renderer n.** —**rendering n.**

rendezvous ('rɒndɪ,vu:; *n., pl. -vous (-vu:z)*. 1. a meeting or appointment to meet at a specified time and place. 2. a place where people meet. —*vb.* 3. to meet at a specified time or place.

rendition (ren'dɪʃən) *n.* 1. a performance of a musical composition, dramatic role, etc. 2. a translation. 3. the act of rendering.

renegade ('reni,geid) *n.* 1. *a.* a person who deserts his cause or faith for another; traitor. *b.* (as modifier): a renegade priest. 2. any outlaw or rebel.

renee or **renegue** (ri'ni:ŋ, -'neig) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*; often foll. by *on*) to go back (on one's promise, etc.). ~*vb.*, *n.* 2. *Cards.* other words for *revoke* (senses 2, 3). —**re'neger** or **re'neguer** *n.*

renew (ri'nju:) *vb.* (*mainly tr.*) 1. to take up again. 2. (*also intr.*) to begin (an activity) again; recommence. 3. to restate or reaffirm (a promise, etc.). 4. (*also intr.*) to make (a lease, etc.) valid for a further period. 5. to regain or recover (vigour, strength, activity, etc.). 6. to restore to a new or fresh condition. 7. to replace (an old or worn-out part or piece). 8. to replenish (a supply, etc.). —**re'newable** *adj.* —**re'newal** *n.* —**re'newer** *n.*

rennet ('renit) *n.* 1. the membrane lining the fourth stomach of a young calf. 2. a substance prepared esp. from the stomachs of calves and used for curdling milk in making cheese.

renounce (ri'nauns) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to give up formally (a claim or right): to renounce a title. 2. (*tr.*) to repudiate: to renounce Christianity. 3. (*tr.*) to give up (some habit, etc.) voluntarily: to renounce one's old ways. 4. (*intr.*) *Cards.* to fail to follow suit because one has no more cards of the suit led. ~*n.* 5. *Cards.* a failure to follow suit. —**re'nouncement** *n.* —**re'nouncer** *n.*

renovate ('reno,veit) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to restore (something) to good condition. 2. to revive or refresh (one's spirits, health, etc.). —**reno'vation** *n.* —**reno,vative** *adj.* —**reno,vator** *n.*

renown (ri'naun) *n.* widespread reputation, esp. of a good kind; fame. —**re'nowned** *adj.*

rent¹ (rent) *n.* 1. a payment made periodically by a tenant to a landlord or owner for the occupation or use of land, buildings, etc. 2. *Econ.* the return derived from the cultivation of land in excess of production costs. 3. *for rent.* Chiefly U.S. available for use and occupation subject to the payment of rent. ~*vb.* 4. (*tr.*) to grant (a person) the right to use one's property in return for periodic payments. 5. (*tr.*) to occupy or use (property) in return for periodic payments. 6. (*intr.*; often foll. by *at*) to be let or rented (for a specified rental). —**rentable** *adj.* —**renter** *n.*

rent² (rent) *n.* 1. a slit or opening made by tearing or rending. 2. a breach or division. ~*vb.* 3. the past tense or past participle of *rend*.

rental ('rentl) *n.* 1. *a.* the amount paid by a tenant as rent. *b.* an income derived from rents received. 2. property available for renting. ~*adj.* 3. of or relating to rent.

rentier French. (rã'tje) *n.* a person whose income consists primarily of fixed unearned amounts, such as rent or interest.

renunciation (ri,nãnsi'eifjən) *n.* 1. the act or an instance of renouncing. 2. a formal declaration renouncing something. —**re'nunciative** or **re'nunciatory** *adj.*

rep¹ or **repp** (rep) *n.* a silk, wool, rayon, or cotton fabric with a transversely corded surface. —**repped** *adj.*

rep² (rep) *n.* *Theatre.* short for *repertory company*.

rep³ (rep) *n.* 1. short for *representative* (sense 2). 2. *N.Z. inf.* a rugby player selected to represent his district.

repair¹ (ri'peə) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to restore (something damaged or broken) to good condition or working order. 2. to heal (a breach or division) in (something): to repair a broken marriage. 3. to make amends for (a mistake, injury, etc.). ~*n.* 4. the act, task, or process of repairing. 5. a part that has been repaired. 6. state or condition: in good repair. —**re'pairable** *adj.* —**re'pairer** *n.*

repair² (ri'peə) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. (usually foll. by *to*) to go (to a place). 2. (usually foll. by *to*) to have recourse (to) for help, etc.: to repair to one's lawyer. ~*n.* 3. a haunt or resort.

reparable ('repərəbəl, 'reprə-) *adj.* able to be repaired, recovered, or remedied. —**re'parably** *adv.*

reparation (,repə'reifjən) *n.* 1. the act or process of making amends. 2. (usually *pl.*) compensation exacted as an indemnity from a defeated nation by the victors.

3. the act or process of repairing or state of having been repaired. —**re'parative** (ri'pərativ) or **re'paratory** *adj.*

repartee (,repə'ti:t) *n.* 1. a sharp, witty, or aphoristic remark made as a reply. 2. skill in making sharp witty replies.

repast (ri'pəst) *n.* a meal or the food provided at a meal: a light repast.

repatriate *vb.* (ri:'pətri,et). 1. (*tr.*) to send back (a person) to the country of his birth or citizenship. ~*n.* (ri:'pətrɪt). 2. a person who has been repatriated. —**re,patri'ation** *n.*

repay (ri'pei) *vb.* **-paying, -paid.** 1. to pay back (money, etc.) to (a person); refund or reimburse. 2. to make a return for (something): to repay kindness. —**re'payable** *adj.* —**re'payment** *n.*

repeal (ri'pi:l) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to annul or rescind officially: revoke: these laws were repealed. ~*n.* 2. an instance or the process of repealing; annulment. —**re'pealable** *adj.* —**re'pealer** *n.*

repeat (ri'pit) *vb.* 1. (when *tr.*, may take a clause as object) to do or experience (something) again once or several times, esp. to say or write (something) again. 2. (*intr.*) to occur more than once: the last figure repeats. 3. (*tr.*; may take a clause as object) to reproduce (the words, sounds, etc.) uttered by someone else; echo. 4. (*tr.*) to utter (a poem, etc.) from memory; recite. 5. (*intr.*) (of food) to be tasted again after ingestion as the result of belching. 6. (*tr.*; may take a clause as object) to tell to another person (the secrets imparted to one by someone else). 7. (*intr.*) (of a clock) to strike the hour or quarter-hour just past. 8. (*intr.*) U.S. to vote (illegally) more than once in a single election. 9. **repeat oneself.** to say or do the same thing more than once, esp. so as to be tedious. ~*n.* 10. *a.* the act or an instance of repeating. *b.* (as modifier): a repeat performance. 11. a word, action, etc., that is repeated. 12. an order made out for goods, etc., that duplicates a previous order. 13. *Radio, television.* a broadcast of a programme, film, etc., which has been broadcast before. 14. *Music.* a passage that is an exact restatement of the passage preceding it. —**re'peatable** *adj.*

repeater (ri'pi:tə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that repeats. 2. Also called: **repeating firearm.** a firearm capable of discharging several shots without reloading. 3. a time-piece which strikes the hour or quarter-hour just past, when a spring is pressed. 4. *Electrical engineering.* a device that amplifies or augments incoming electrical signals and retransmits them.

repel (ri'pel) *vb.* **-pelling, -pelled.** (*mainly tr.*) 1. to force or drive back (something or somebody). 2. (*also intr.*) to produce a feeling of aversion or distaste in (someone or something); be disgusting (to). 3. to be effective in keeping away, controlling, or resisting: a spray that repels flies. 4. to have no affinity for; fail to mix with or absorb: water and oil repel each other. 5. to disdain to accept (something); turn away from or spurn: she repelled his advances. —**re'pellent** *adj.* —**re'peller** *n.* —**re'pellingly** *adv.*

▷ **Usage.** See at **repulse**.

repent (ri'pent) *vb.* to feel remorse (for); be contrite (about); show penitence (for). —**re'pentance** *n.* —**re'penter** *n.*

repercussion (,ripə'kʌʃən) *n.* 1. (often *pl.*) a result or consequence of an action or event: the repercussions of the war are still felt. 2. recoil after impact; rebound. 3. a reflection, esp. of sound; echo or reverberation. —**re'per'cussive** *adj.*

repertoire (,repə'twa:) *n.* 1. all the works collectively that a company, actor, etc., is competent to perform. 2. the entire stock of things available in a field or of a kind.

repertory (,repətəri, -tri) *n.*, *pl.* **-ries.** 1. the entire stock of things available in a field or of a kind; repertoire. 2. a building or place where a stock of things is kept; repository. 3. short for *repertory company*. —**reper'torial** *adj.*

repertory company *n.* a theatrical company that performs plays from a repertoire. U.S. name: *stock company*.

repetition (,repɪ'tifjən) *n.* 1. the act or an instance of repeating; reiteration. 2. a thing, word, action, etc., that

renegotiable *adj.*
renegotiate *vb.*
renegotiation *n.*
renumber *vb.*
reoccupation *n.*
reoccupy *vb.*

reopen *vb.*
reorder *vb.*, *n.*
reorganization *n.*
reorganize *vb.*
reorganizer *n.*
repack *vb.*

repackage *vb.*
repaint *vb.*, *n.*
repaper *vb.*
rephrase *vb.*

is repeated. **3.** a replica or copy. —**repe'titious** or **re'petitive** *adj.*

repine (ri'pain) *vb. (intr.)* to be fretful or low-spirited through discontent.

replace (ri'pleis) *vb. (tr.)* **1.** to take the place of; supersede. **2.** to substitute a person or thing for (another); put in place of: *to replace an old pair of shoes.* **3.** to restore to its rightful place. —**re'placeable** *adj.* —**re'placer** *n.*

replacement (ri'pleismənt) *n.* **1.** the act or process of replacing. **2.** a person or thing that replaces another.

reply *n.* (ri'pli). **1.** Also called: **action replay.** a showing again of a sequence of action in slow motion immediately after it happens. **2.** a rematch. ~*vb.* (ri'pli). **3.** to play again (a record, sporting contest, etc.).

replenish (ri'plenif) *vb. (tr.)* **1.** to make full or complete again by supplying what has been used up. **2.** to put fresh fuel on (a fire). —**re'plenisher** *n.* —**re'plenishment** *n.*

replete (ri'pli:t) *adj. (usually postpositive)* **1.** (often foll. by *with*) copiously supplied (with); abounding (in). **2.** having one's appetite completely or excessively satisfied; gorged; satiated. —**re'pletely** *adv.* —**re'plete-ness** *n.* —**re'pletion** *n.*

replica ('replikə) *n.* an exact copy or reproduction, esp. on a smaller scale.

replicate *vb.* ('repli,keit). (*mainly tr.*) **1. (also intr.)** to make or be a copy of; reproduce. **2.** to fold (something) over on itself; bend back. ~*adj.* ('replikit). **3.** folded back on itself: *a replicate leaf.* —**repli'cation** *n.* —**replicative** *adj.*

reply (ri'plai) *vb.* **-plying, -plied.** (*mainly intr.*) **1.** to make answer (to) in words or writing or by an action; respond. **2. (tr.; takes a clause as object)** to say (something) in answer to: *he replied that he didn't want to come.* **3. Law.** to answer a defendant's plea. **4.** to return (a sound); echo. ~*n., pl. -plies.* **5.** an answer; response. **6.** the answer made by a plaintiff or petitioner to a defendant's case. —**re'plier** *n.*

report (ri'pɔ:t) *n.* **1.** an account prepared after investigation and published or broadcast. **2.** a statement made widely known; rumour: *according to report, he is not dead.* **3.** an account of the deliberations of a committee, body, etc.: *a report of parliamentary proceedings.* **4. Brit. a statement on the progress of each schoolchild. **5.** a written account of a case decided at law. **6.** comment on a person's character or actions; reputation: *he is of good report here.* **7.** a sharp loud noise, esp. one made by a gun. ~*vb.* (when *tr.*, *may take a clause as object*; when *intr.*, often foll. by *on*) **8.** to give an account (of); describe. **9.** to give an account of the results of an investigation (into): *to report on housing conditions.* **10.** (of a committee, legislative body, etc.) to make a formal report on (a bill). **11. (tr.)** to complain about (a person), esp. to a superior. **12.** to present (oneself) or be present at an appointed place or for a specific purpose: *report to the manager's office.* **13. (intr.)** to say or show that one is (in a certain state): *to report fit.* **14. (intr.)** to act as a reporter. **15. Law.** to take down in writing details of (the proceedings of a court of law, etc.) as a record or for publication. —**re'portable** *adj.* —**re'portedly** *adv.***

reported speech *n.* another term for **indirect speech.**

reporter (ri'pɔ:tə) *n.* **1.** a person who reports, esp. one employed to gather news for a newspaper or broadcasting organization. **2.** a person authorized to report the proceedings of a legislature.

repose¹ (ri'pəʊz) *n.* **1.** a state of quiet restfulness; peace or tranquility. **2.** dignified calmness of manner; composure. ~*vb.* **3.** to lie or lay down at rest. **4. (intr.)** to lie when dead, as in the grave. **5. (intr.; foll. by on, in, etc.)** *Formal.* to be based (on): *your plan reposes on a fallacy.* —**re'posal** *n.* —**re'posedly** (ri'pəʊzldi) *adv.* —**re'poser** *n.* —**re'poseful** *adj.* —**re'posefully** *adv.*

repose² (ri'pəʊz) *vb. (tr.)* **1.** to put (trust) in a person or thing. **2.** to place or put (an object) somewhere. —**re'posal** *n.*

repository (ri'pɔ:zətəri, -tri) *n., pl. -ries.* **1.** a place or container in which things can be stored for safety. **2.** a place where things are kept for exhibition; museum. **3.** a place of burial; sepulchre. **4.** a person to whom a secret is entrusted; confidant.

repossess (ri:pə'zɛs) *vb. (tr.)* to take back possession of (property), esp. for nonpayment of money due under a

hire-purchase agreement. —**repossession** (ri:pə'zɛʃən) *n.* —**repos'sessor** *n.*

reprehend (ri'pre'hend) *vb. (tr.)* to find fault with; criticize. —**repre'hender** *n.* —**reprehensory** (ri'pri'hensəri) *adj.* —**repre'hension** *n.*

reprehensible (ri'pri'hensəb'l) *adj.* open to criticism or rebuke; blameworthy. —**repre,hensi'bility** *n.* —**repre'hensibly** *adv.*

represent (ri'preznt) *vb. (tr.)* **1.** to stand as an equivalent of; correspond to. **2.** to act as a substitute or proxy (for). **3.** to act as or be the authorized delegate or agent for (a person, country, etc.): *an M.P. represents his constituency.* **4.** to serve or use as a means of expressing: *letters represent the sounds of speech.* **5.** to exhibit the characteristics of; exemplify; typify: *romanticism in music is represented by Beethoven.* **6.** to present an image of through the medium of a picture or sculpture; portray. **7.** to bring clearly before the mind. **8.** to set forth in words; state or explain. **9.** to describe as having a specified character or quality: *he represented her as a saint.* **10.** to act out the part of on stage; portray. —**repre'sentable** *adj.* —**repre,senta'bility** *n.*

representation (ri'prezntetʃən) *n.* **1.** the act or an instance of representing or the state of being represented. **2.** anything that represents, such as a verbal or pictorial portrait. **3.** anything that is represented, such as an image brought clearly to mind. **4.** the principle by which delegates act for a constituency. **5.** a body of representatives. **6.** an instance of acting for another in a particular capacity, such as executor. **7.** a dramatic production or performance. **8. (often pl.)** a statement of facts, true or alleged, esp. one set forth by way of remonstrance or expostulation. —**represen'tational** *adj.*

representative (ri'prezi'tentativ) *n.* **1.** a person or thing that represents another. **2.** a person who represents and tries to sell the products or services of a firm. **3.** a typical example. **4.** a person representing a constituency in a deliberative, legislative, or executive body, esp. (*cap.*) a member of the **House of Representatives** (the lower house of Congress). ~*adj.* **5.** serving to represent; symbolic. **6.** exemplifying a class or kind; typical. **7.** acting as deputy or proxy for another. **8.** representing a constituency or the whole people in the process of government: *a representative council.* **9.** of or relating to the political representation of the people: *representative government.* **10.** of or relating to a mental picture or representation. —**repre'sentatively** *adv.* —**repre'sentativeness** *n.*

repress (ri'pres) *vb. (tr.)* **1.** to keep (feelings, etc.) under control; suppress or restrain. **2.** to put into a state of subjugation: *to repress a people.* **3. Psychol.** to banish (unpleasant thoughts) from one's conscious mind. —**re'presser** or **re'pressor** *n.* —**re'pressible** *adj.* —**re'pression** *n.* —**re'pressive** *adj.*

reprieve (ri'pri:v) *vb. (tr.)* **1.** to postpone or remit the punishment of (a person, esp. one condemned to death). **2.** to give temporary relief to (a person or thing), esp. from otherwise irrevocable harm. ~*n.* **3.** a postponement or remission of punishment. **4.** a warrant granting a postponement. **5.** a temporary relief from pain or harm; respite. —**re'prieveable** *adj.* —**re'prier** *n.*

reprimand ('repri,mænd) *n.* **1.** a reproof or formal admonition; rebuke. ~*vb.* **2. (tr.)** to admonish or rebuke, esp. formally. —**re'pri'mandingly** *adv.*

reprint *n.* (ri'rint). **1.** a reproduction in print of any matter already published. **2.** a reissue of a printed work using the same type, plates, etc., as the original. ~*vb.* (ri'rint). **3. (tr.)** to print again. —**re'printer** *n.*

reprisal (ri'praɪz'l) *n.* **1.** the act or an instance of retaliation in any form. **2. (often pl.)** retaliatory action against an enemy in wartime. **3. (formerly)** the forcible seizure of the property or subjects of one nation by another.

reproach (ri'prəʊtʃ) *vb. (tr.)* **1.** to impute blame to (a person) for an action or fault; rebuke. ~*n.* **2.** the act of reproaching. **3.** rebuke or censure; reproof. **4.** disgrace or shame: *to bring reproach upon one's family.* **5. above or beyond reproach.** perfect; beyond criticism. —**re'proachable** *adj.* —**re'proacher** *n.* —**re'proachful** *adj.* —**re'proachingly** *adv.*

reprobate ('reprə,bent) *adj.* **1.** morally unprincipled; depraved. **2. Christianity.** condemned to eternal punishment in hell. ~*n.* **3.** an unprincipled, depraved, or

damned person. 4. a disreputable or roguish person. ~vb. (tr.) 5. to disapprove of; condemn. 6. (of God) to condemn to eternal punishment in hell. —**reprobacy** ('reprəbəsi) *n.* —**repro, bator** *n.* —**repro' bation** *n.*
reproduce (ˌri:prə'dju:s) *vb.* (mainly tr.) 1. to make a copy, representation, or imitation of; duplicate. 2. (also intr.) *Biol.* to undergo or cause to undergo a process of reproduction. 3. to produce again; bring back into existence again; re-create. 4. (intr.) to come out (well, badly, etc.), when copied. —**repro'ducer** *n.* —**repro'ducible** *adj.* —**repro'ducibly** *adv.* —**repro, duci' bility** *n.*

reproduction (ˌri:prə'dʌkʃən) *n.* 1. *Biol.* any of various processes, either sexual or asexual, by which an animal or plant produces one or more individuals similar to itself. 2. a. an imitation or facsimile of a work of art. b. (as modifier): a reproduction portrait. 3. the act or process of reproducing. —**repro'ductive** *adj.*

reprography (ri'prɒgrəfi) *n.* the art or process of copying, reprinting, or reproducing printed material. —**reprographic** (ˌreprə'græfɪk) *adj.* —**repro'graphically** *adv.*

reproof (ri'pru:f) *n.* an act or expression of rebuke or censure. Also: **reproval** (ri'pru:vəl).

reprove (ri'pru:v) *vb.* (tr.) to rebuke or scold. —**re'provable** *adj.* —**re'prover** *n.* —**re'provingly** *adv.*

reptile ('reptail) *n.* 1. any of the cold-blooded vertebrates characterized by lungs, an outer covering of horny scales or plates, and young produced in eggs, such as the tortoises, turtles, snakes, lizards, and crocodiles. 2. a grovelling insignificant person: *you miserable little reptile!* —*adj.* 3. creeping, crawling, or squirming. —**reptilian** (rep'tilian) *n., adj.*

republic (ri'pʌblɪk) *n.* 1. a form of government in which the people or their elected representatives possess the supreme power. 2. a political or national unit possessing such a form of government. 3. a constitutional form in which the head of state is an elected or nominated president.

republican (ri'pʌblɪkən) *adj.* 1. of, resembling, or relating to a republic. 2. supporting or advocating a republic. ~n. 3. a supporter or advocate of a republic. —**re'publican, nism** *n.*

Republican (ri'pʌblɪkən) *adj.* 1. of, belonging to, or relating to a Republican Party. ~n. 2. a member or supporter of a Republican Party.

repudiate (ri'pjʊ:di,et) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to reject the authority or validity of; refuse to accept or ratify. 2. to refuse to acknowledge or pay (a debt). 3. to cast off or disown (a son, lover, etc.). —**re'pudiable** *adj.* —**re, pudi' ation** *n.* —**re'pudiative** *adj.* —**re'pudi, ator** *n.*

repugnant (ri'pʌgnənt) *adj.* 1. repellent to the senses; causing aversion. 2. distasteful; offensive; disgusting. 3. contradictory; inconsistent or incompatible. —**re'pugnance** or **re'pugnancy** *n.* —**re'pugnantly** *adv.*

repulse (ri'pʌls) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to drive back or ward off (an attacking force); repel; rebuff. 2. to reject with coldness or discourtesy: *she repulsed his advances.* ~n. 3. the act or an instance of driving back or warding off; rebuff. 4. a cold discourteous rejection or refusal. —**re'pulser** *n.*

▷ **Usage.** The verbs *repulse* and *repel* share the meaning of physically driving back or away, but they can be carefully distinguished in other senses. Although the related adjective *repulsive* has the meaning of causing feelings of disgust, *repulse* does not mean to drive away by arousing disgust. Instead, *repel* is normally used in this sense, and *repulse* is used when the required meaning is to reject coldly or drive away with discourtesy.

repulsion (ri'pʌlʃən) *n.* 1. a feeling of disgust or aversion. 2. *Physics.* a force separating two objects, such as the force between two like electric charges.

repulsive (ri'pʌlsɪv) *adj.* 1. causing or occasioning repugnance; loathsome; disgusting or distasteful. 2. tending to repel, esp. by coldness and discourtesy. 3. *Physics.* concerned with, producing, or being a repulsion. —**re'pulsively** *adv.* —**re'pulsiveness** *n.*

reputable ('reputəbəl) *adj.* 1. having a good reputation; honoured, trustworthy, or respectable. 2. (of words) acceptable as good usage; standard. —**reputableness** *n.* —**reputably** *adv.*

reputation (ˌrepju'teɪʃən) *n.* 1. the estimation in which a person or thing is generally held; opinion. 2. a high opinion generally held about a person or thing; esteem.

3. notoriety or fame, esp. for some specified characteristic.

repute (ri'pjʊ:t) *vb.* 1. (tr.; usually passive) to consider (a person or thing) to be as specified: *he is reputed to be rich.* ~n. 2. public estimation; reputation: *a writer of little repute.*

reputed (ri'pjʊ:tɪd) *adj.* (prenominal) generally reckoned or considered; supposed: *the reputed writer of two epic poems.* —**re'putedly** *adv.*

request (ri'kwest) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to express a desire for, esp. politely; ask for or demand: *to request a bottle of wine.* ~n. 2. the act or an instance of requesting, esp. in the form of a written statement, etc.; petition or solicitation. 3. **by request.** in accordance with someone's desire. 4. **in request.** in demand; popular: *he is in request all over the world.* 5. **on request.** on the occasion of a demand or request: *application forms are available on request.* —**re'quester** *n.*

request stop *n.* a point on a route at which a bus, etc., will stop only if signalled to do so. U.S. equivalent: **flag stop.**

Requiem ('rekwi,em) *n.* 1. R.C. Church. a Mass celebrated for the dead. 2. a musical setting of this Mass. 3. any piece of music composed or performed as a memorial to a dead person.

require (ri'kwaɪə) *vb.* (mainly tr.; may take a clause as object or an infinitive) 1. to have need of; depend upon; want. 2. to impose as a necessity; make necessary: *this work requires precision.* 3. (also intr.) to make formal request (for); insist upon. 4. to call upon or oblige (a person) authoritatively; order or command: *to require someone to account for his actions.*

requirement (ri'kwaɪəmənt) *n.* 1. something demanded or imposed as an obligation. 2. a thing desired or needed. 3. the act or an instance of requiring.

requisite ('rekwi:zɪt) *adj.* 1. absolutely essential; indispensable. ~n. 2. something indispensable; necessity. —**re'quisitely** *adv.* —**re'quisiteness** *n.*

requisition (ˌrɛkwɪ'zɪʃən) *n.* 1. a request or demand, esp. an authoritative or formal one. 2. an official form on which such a demand is made. 3. the act of taking something over, esp. temporarily for military or public use. ~vb. (tr.) 4. to demand and take for use, esp. by military or public authority. 5. (may take an infinitive) to require (someone) formally to do (something): *to requisition a soldier to drive an officer's car.* —**re'quisitional** *adj.* —**re'quisitioner** or **re'quistionist** *n.*

requite (ri'kwɪt) *vb.* (tr.) to make return to (a person for a kindness or injury); repay with a similar action. —**re'quitable** *adj.* —**re'quite ment** *n.* —**re'quiter** *n.* —**re'quital** *n.*

reredos ('rɪədɒs) *n.* 1. a screen or wall decoration at the back of an altar. 2. Also called: **fireback.** an ornamental iron slab against the back wall of a hearth.

rerun *vb.* (ri:'rʌn), **-running, -ran.** (tr.) 1. to broadcast or put on (a film, etc.) again. 2. to run (a race, etc.) again. ~n. ('ri:'rʌn). 3. a film, etc., that is broadcast again; repeat. 4. a race that is run again.

rescind (ri'sɪnd) *vb.* (tr.) to annul or repeal. —**re'scindable** *adj.* —**re'scinder** *n.* —**re'scindment** *n.*

rescission (ri'sɪʃən) *n.* the act of rescinding.

rescript ('ri:skript) *n.* 1. (in ancient Rome) a reply by the emperor to a question on a point of law. 2. any official announcement or edict; a decree. 3. something rewritten.

rescue ('reskjʊ:) *vb.* **-cuing, -cued.** (tr.) 1. to bring (someone or something) out of danger, etc.; deliver or save. 2. to free (a person) from legal custody by force. 3. *Law.* to seize (goods) by force. ~n. 4. a. the act or an instance of rescuing. b. (as modifier): *a rescue party.* 5. the forcible removal of a person from legal custody. 6. *Law.* the forcible seizure of goods or property. —**rescuer** *n.*

research (ri'sɜ:tʃ) *n.* 1. systematic investigation to establish facts or collect information on a subject. ~vb. 2. to carry out investigations into (a subject, problem, etc.). —**re'searchable** *adj.* —**re'searcher** *n.*

resection (ri'sekʃən) *n.* 1. *Surgery.* excision of part of a bone, organ, or other part. 2. *Surveying.* a method of fixing the position of a point by making angular observations to three fixed points. —**re'sectional** *adj.*

resemble (ri'zembəl) *vb.* (tr.) to possess some similarity to; be like. —**re'semblance** *n.* —**re'semblem** *n.*

reread *vb.*
 reroute *vb.*

resalable or resaleable *adj.*
 reschedule *vb.*

resal *vb.*

resent (rɪˈzɛnt) *vb.* (tr.) to feel bitter, indignant, or aggrieved at. —**re'sentful** *adj.* —**re'sentment** *n.*

reservation (ˌrɛzəˈveɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act or an instance of reserving. 2. something reserved, esp. accommodation or a seat. 3. (often pl.) a stated or unstated qualification of opinion that prevents one's wholehearted acceptance of a proposal, etc. 4. an area of land set aside, esp. (in the U.S. and Canada) for American Indian peoples. 5. *Brit.* the strip of land between the two carriageways of a dual carriageway. 6. the act or process of keeping back, esp. for oneself; withholding. 7. *Law.* a right or interest retained by the grantor in property dealings.

reserve (rɪˈzɜ:v) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to keep back or set aside, esp. for future use or contingency; withhold. 2. to keep for oneself; retain: *I reserve the right to question these men later.* 3. to obtain or secure by advance arrangement: *I have reserved two tickets for tonight's show.* 4. to delay delivery of (a judgment). —*n.* 5. a. something kept back or set aside, esp. for future use or contingency. b. (as modifier): *a reserve force.* 6. the state or condition of being reserved: *I have plenty in reserve.* 7. a tract of land set aside for a special purpose: *a nature reserve.* 8. *Austral.* a public park. 9. *Sport.* a substitute. 10. (often pl.) a. a part of an army not committed to immediate action in a military engagement. b. that part of a nation's armed services not in active service. 11. coolness or formality of manner; restraint, silence, or reticence. 12. *Finance.* liquid assets or a portion of capital not invested or a portion of profits not distributed by a bank or business enterprise and held to meet future liabilities, or contingencies. 13. without reserve. without reservations; fully. —**re'servable** *adj.* —**re'serv-er** *n.*

reserved (rɪˈzɜ:vɪd) *adj.* 1. set aside for use by a particular person. 2. cool or formal in manner; restrained or reticent. 3. destined; fated: *a man reserved for greatness.* —**reservedly** (rɪˈzɜ:vɪdli) *adv.* —**re'serv-er** *n.*

reserve price *n.* *Brit.* the minimum price acceptable to the owner of property being auctioned. Cf. **upset price.**

reservist (rɪˈzɜ:vɪst) *n.* one who serves in the reserve formations of a nation's armed forces.

reservoir (ˈrɛzə,vwɑː) *n.* 1. a natural or artificial lake or large tank used for collecting and storing water for community use. 2. *Biol.* a cavity in an organism containing fluid. 3. a place where a great stock of anything is accumulated. 4. a large supply of something: *a reservoir of talent.*

reside (rɪˈzaɪd) *vb.* (intr.) *Formal.* 1. to live permanently (in a place); have one's home (in): *he resides in London.* 2. (of things, qualities, etc.) to be inherently present (in); be vested (in): *political power resides in military strength.* —**re'sider** *n.*

residence (ˈrɛzɪdəns) *n.* 1. the place in which one resides; abode or home. 2. a large imposing house; mansion. 3. the fact of residing in a place or a period of residing. 4. the state of being officially present (esp. in in residence).

residency (ˈrɛzɪdənsɪ) *n.*, pl. **-cies**. 1. a variant of residence. 2. *U.S.* the period, following internship, during which a physician undergoes specialized training. 3. (in India, formerly) the official house of the governor general at the court of a native prince.

resident (ˈrɛzɪdənt) *n.* 1. a person who resides in a place. 2. (esp. formerly) a representative of the British government in a British protectorate. 3. (in India, formerly) a representative of the British governor general at the court of a native prince. 4. a bird or animal that does not migrate. 5. *U.S.* a physician who lives in the hospital while undergoing specialist training after completing his internship. —*adj.* 6. living in a place; residing. 7. living or staying at a place in order to discharge a duty, etc. 8. (of qualities, etc.) existing or inherent (in). 9. (of birds and animals) not in the habit of migrating. —**resident,ship** *n.*

residential (ˌrɛzɪˈdɛnʃəl) *adj.* 1. suitable for or allocated for residence: *a residential area.* 2. relating to residence. —**resi'dentially** *adv.*

residual (rɪˈzɪdʒʊəl) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or designating a residue or remainder; remaining; left over. 2. *U.S.* of or relating to the payment of residuals. —*n.* 3. something left over as a residue; remainder. 4. *Statistics.* a. the difference between the mean of a set of

observations and one particular observation. b. the difference between the numerical value of one particular observation and the theoretical result. 5. (often pl.) *U.S.* payment made to an actor or actress for subsequent use of film in which the actor or actress appears. —**re'sidually** *adv.*

residuary (rɪˈzɪdjʊəri) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or constituting a residue; residual. 2. *Law.* entitled to the residue of an estate after payment of debts and distribution of specific gifts.

residue (ˈrɛzɪ,djuː) *n.* 1. matter remaining after something has been removed. 2. *Law.* what is left of an estate after the discharge of debts and distribution of specific gifts.

residuum (rɪˈzɪdjʊəm) *n.*, pl. **-ua** (-juə). a more formal word for residue.

resign (rɪˈzam) *vb.* 1. (when intr., often foll. by *from*) to give up tenure of (a job, office, etc.). 2. (tr.) to reconcile (oneself) to; yield: *to resign oneself to death.* 3. (tr.) to give up (a right, claim, etc.); relinquish. —**re'signer** *n.*

resignation (ˌrɛzɪgˈneɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of resigning. 2. a formal document stating one's intention to resign. 3. a submissive unresisting attitude; passive acquiescence.

resigned (rɪˈzaɪnd) *adj.* characteristic of or proceeding from an attitude of resignation; acquiescent or submissive. —**resignedly** (rɪˈzaɪndli) *adv.* —**re'signedness** *n.*

resilient (rɪˈzɪlənt) *adj.* 1. (of an object) capable of regaining its original shape or position after bending, stretching, or other deformation; elastic. 2. (of a person) recovering easily and quickly from illness, hardship, etc. —**re'silience** or **re'siliency** *n.* —**re'siliently** *adv.*

resin (ˈrɛzn) *n.* 1. Also called: **rosin**. any of a group of solid or semisolid amorphous compounds that are obtained directly from certain plants as exudations. 2. any of a large number of synthetic, usually organic, materials that have a polymeric structure, esp. such a substance in a raw state before it is moulded or treated with plasticizer, etc. —*vb.* 3. (tr.) to treat or coat with resin. —**resinous** *adj.* —**resinously** *adv.* —**resinousness** *n.*

resist (rɪˈzɪst) *vb.* 1. to stand firm (against); not yield (to); fight (against). 2. (tr.) to withstand the deleterious action of; be proof against: *to resist corrosion.* 3. (tr.) to oppose; refuse to accept or comply with: *to resist arrest.* 4. (tr.) to refrain from, esp. in spite of temptation (esp. in cannot resist (something)). —*n.* 5. a substance used to protect something, esp. a coating that prevents corrosion. —**re'sister** *n.* —**re'sistible** *adj.* —**re,sisti'bility** *n.* —**re'sistibly** *adv.* —**re'sistless** *adj.*

resistance (rɪˈzɪstəns) *n.* 1. the act or an instance of resisting. 2. the capacity to withstand something, esp. the body's natural capacity to withstand disease. 3. a. the opposition to a flow of electric current through a circuit component, medium, or substance. It is measured in ohms. Symbol: **R**. b. (as modifier): *a resistance thermometer.* 4. any force that tends to retard or oppose motion: *air resistance; wind resistance.* 5. *Physics.* the magnitude of the real part of the acoustic or mechanical impedance. 6. *line of least resistance*, the easiest, but not necessarily the best or most honourable, course of action. 7. See **passive resistance**. —**re'sistant** *adj.*, *n.*

Resistance (rɪˈzɪstəns) *n.* the. an illegal organization fighting for national liberty in a country under enemy occupation.

resistor (rɪˈzɪstə) *n.* an electrical component designed to introduce a known value of resistance into a circuit.

resit (rɪˈsɪt) *vb.* **-sitting, -sat.** (tr.) 1. to sit (an examination) again. —*n.* 2. an examination which one must sit again.

resoluble (ˌrɛzɒljʊbəl, ˌrɛzəl-) or **resolvable** *adj.* able to be resolved or analysed. —**re,solu'bility**, **re,solva'bility** or **re'solubleness**, **re'solvableness** *n.*

resolute (ˈrɛzə,lʊt) *adj.* 1. firm in purpose or belief; steadfast. 2. characterized by resolution; determined: *a resolute answer.* —**reso,lutely** *adv.* —**reso,luteness** *n.*

resolution (ˌrɛzəˈluʃən) *n.* 1. the act or an instance of resolving. 2. firmness or determination. 3. something resolved or determined; decision. 4. a formal expression of opinion by a meeting. 5. a judicial decision on some matter; verdict; judgment. 6. the act of separating something into its constituent parts or elements. 7. *Med.* subsidence of the symptoms of a disease, esp. the disappearance of inflammation without pus. 8. *Music.* the process in harmony whereby a dissonant note or chord

is followed by a consonant one. **9. Physics.** the ability of a microscope or telescope to produce separate images of closely placed objects. —**reso'lutioner** or **reso'lutionist** *n.*

resolve (rɪ'zɒlv) *vb.* (mainly *tr.*) 1. (takes a clause as object or an infinitive) to decide or determine firmly. 2. to express (an opinion) formally, esp. by a vote. 3. (also *intr.*; usually foll. by *into*) to separate or cause to separate (into) (constituent parts). 4. (usually reflexive) to change, alter: *the ghost resolved itself into a tree.* 5. to make up the mind of; cause to decide: *the tempest resolved him to stay at home.* 6. to find the answer or solution to. 7. to explain away or dispel: *to resolve a doubt.* 8. to bring to an end; conclude: *to resolve an argument.* **9. Med.** to cause (an inflammation) to subside, esp. without the formation of pus. **10. Music.** (also *intr.*) to follow (a dissonant note or chord) by one producing a consonance. **11. Physics.** to distinguish between (separate parts) of (an image) as in a microscope, telescope, or other optical instrument. ~*n.* **12.** something determined or decided; resolution: *he had made a resolve to work all day.* **13.** firmness of purpose; determination: *nothing can break his resolve.* —**re'solvable** *adj.* —**re,solva'bility** *n.* —**re'solver** *n.*

resolved (rɪ'zɒlvd) *adj.* fixed in purpose or intention; determined. —**resolvedly** (rɪ'zɒlvɪdli) *adv.* —**re'solvedness** *n.*

resonance ('rezənəns) *n.* 1. the condition or quality of being resonant. 2. sound produced by a body vibrating in sympathy with a neighbouring source of sound. 3. the condition of a body or system when it is subjected to a periodic disturbance of the same frequency as the natural frequency of the body or system. 4. amplification of speech sounds by sympathetic vibration in the bone structure of the head and chest, resounding in the cavities of the nose, mouth, and pharynx. **5. Electronics.** the condition of an electrical circuit when the frequency is such that the capacitive reactance is just balanced by the inductive reactance, leading to relatively large alternating currents. **6. Med.** the sound heard when tapping a hollow bodily structure, esp. the chest or abdomen. **7. Chem.** the phenomenon in which the electronic structure of a molecule can be represented by two or more hypothetical structures involving single, double, and triple chemical bonds. **8. Physics.** the condition of a system in which there is a sharp maximum probability for the absorption of electromagnetic radiation or capture of particles.

resonant ('rezənənt) *adj.* 1. resounding or re-echoing. 2. producing resonance: *resonant walls.* 3. full of, or intensified by, resonance: *a resonant voice.* —**re'sonantly** *adv.*

resonate ('rezə,neɪt) *vb.* 1. to resound or cause to resound; reverberate. **2. Chem., electronics.** to exhibit or cause to exhibit resonance. —**re'sonation** *n.* —**re'sonator** *n.*

resort (rɪ'zɔ:t) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. usually foll. by *to* to have recourse (to) for help, use, etc.: *to resort to violence.* 2. to go, esp. often or habitually: *to resort to the beach.* ~*n.* 3. a place to which many people go for recreation, etc.: *a holiday resort.* 4. the use of something as a means, help, or recourse. **5. last resort.** the last possible course of action open to one. —**re'sorter** *n.*

resound (rɪ'zaʊnd) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. to ring or echo with sound; reverberate. 2. to make a prolonged echoing noise: *the trumpet resounded.* 3. (of sounds) to echo or ring. 4. to be widely famous: *his fame resounded throughout India.* —**re'sounding** *adj.* —**re'soundingly** *adv.*

resource (rɪ'zɔ:s, -'sɔ:s) *n.* 1. capability, ingenuity, and initiative; quick-wittedness: *a man of resource.* 2. (often *pl.*) a source of economic wealth, esp. of a country or business enterprise. 3. a supply or source of aid or support; something resorted to in time of need. 4. a means of doing something; expedient. —**re'sourceless** *adj.*

resourceful (rɪ'zɔ:sfʊl, -'sɔ:s-) *adj.* ingenious, capable, and full of initiative. —**re'sourcefully** *adv.* —**re'sourcefulness** *n.*

respect (rɪ'spekt) *n.* 1. an attitude of deference, admiration, or esteem; regard. 2. the state of being honoured or esteemed. 3. a detail, point, or characteristic: *they differ in some respects.* 4. reference or relation (esp. in *in respect of, with respect to*). 5. polite or kind regard; consideration: *respect for people's feelings.* 6. (often *pl.*)

an expression of esteem or regard (esp. in *pay one's respects*). ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 7. to have an attitude of esteem towards: *to respect one's elders.* 8. to pay proper attention to; not violate: *to respect Swiss neutrality.* **9. Arch.** to concern or refer to. —**re'specter** *n.*

respectable (rɪ'spektəb'l) *adj.* 1. having or deserving the respect of other people; estimable; worthy. 2. having good social standing or reputation. 3. having socially or conventionally acceptable morals, etc.: *a respectable woman.* 4. relatively or fairly good; considerable: *a respectable salary.* —**re,specta'bility** *n.* —**re'spectably** *adv.*

respectful (rɪ'spektfʊl) *adj.* full of, showing, or giving respect. —**re'spectfully** *adv.* —**re'spectfulness** *n.*

respecting (rɪ'spektɪŋ) *prep.* concerning; regarding.

respective (rɪ'spektɪv) *adj.* belonging or relating separately to each of several people or things; several: *we took our respective ways home.* —**re'spectiveness** *n.*

respectively (rɪ'spektɪvli) *adv.* (in listing a number of items or attributes that refer to another list) separately in the order given: *he gave Janet and John a cake and a chocolate respectively.*

respiration (,respə'reɪʃən) *n.* 1. the process in living organisms of taking in oxygen from the surroundings and giving out carbon dioxide. 2. the chemical breakdown of complex organic substances that takes place in the cells and tissues of animals and plants, during which energy is released and carbon dioxide produced. —**re'spiratory** (,respə'reɪtɔ-, -tri) or **respi'rational** *adj.*

respirator (,respə'reɪtə) *n.* 1. an apparatus for providing long-term artificial respiration. 2. a device worn over the mouth and nose to prevent inhalation of noxious fumes or to warm cold air before it is breathed.

respire (rɪ'spaɪə) *vb.* 1. to inhale and exhale (air); breathe. 2. (*intr.*) to undergo the process of respiration.

respite (,respɪt, -part) *n.* 1. a pause from exertion; interval of rest. 2. a temporary delay. 3. a temporary stay of execution; reprieve. ~*vb.* 4. (*tr.*) to grant a respite to; reprieve.

resplendent (rɪ'splendənt) *adj.* having a brilliant or splendid appearance. —**re'splendence** or **re'splendency** *n.* —**re'splendently** *adv.*

respond (rɪ'spɒnd) *vb.* 1. to state or utter (something) in reply. 2. (*intr.*) to act in reply; react: *to respond by issuing an invitation.* 3. (*intr.*; foll. by *to*) to react favourably: *this patient will respond to treatment.* 4. an archaic word for **correspond**. ~*n.* **5. Archit.** a pilaster or an engaged column that supports an arch or a lintel. **6. Christianity.** a choral anthem chanted in response to a lesson read. —**re'spondence** or **re'spondency** *n.* —**re'sponder** *n.*

respondent (rɪ'spɒndənt) *n.* 1. Law, a person against whom a petition is brought. ~*adj.* 2. a less common word for **responsive**.

response (rɪ'spɒns) *n.* 1. the act of responding; reply or reaction. 2. **Bridge.** a bid replying to a partner's bid or double. 3. (usually *pl.*) **Christianity.** a short sentence or phrase recited or sung in reply to the officiant at a church service. 4. **Electronics.** the ratio of the output to the input level of an electrical device. 5. any glandular, muscular, or electrical reactions that arise from stimulation of the nervous system. —**re'sponseless** *adj.*

responsibility (rɪ'spɒnsə'bɪlɪtɪ) *n.*, *pl. -ties.* 1. the state or position of being responsible. 2. a person or thing for which one is responsible.

responsible (rɪ'spɒnsə'bəl) *adj.* 1. (*postpositive*; usually foll. by *for*) having control or authority (over). 2. (*postpositive*; foll. by *to*) being accountable for one's actions and decisions (to): *responsible to one's commanding officer.* 3. (of a position, duty, etc.) involving decision and accountability. 4. (often foll. by *for*) being the agent or cause (of some action): *responsible for a mistake.* 5. able to take rational decisions without supervision; accountable for one's own actions. 6. able to meet financial obligations; of sound credit. —**re'sponsibleness** *n.* —**re'sponsibly** *adv.*

responsive (rɪ'spɒnsɪv) *adj.* 1. reacting or replying quickly or favourably, as to a suggestion, initiative, etc. 2. (of an organism) reacting to a stimulus. —**re'sponsively** *adv.* —**re'sponsiveness** *n.*

rest (rest) *n.* 1. a. relaxation from exertion or labour. b. (as modifier): *a rest period.* 2. repose; sleep. 3. any relief or refreshment, as from worry. 4. calm; tranquility. 5. death regarded as repose: *eternal rest.* 6. cessation from motion. 7. **at rest.** a. not moving. b.

calm. **c.** dead. **d.** asleep. **8.** a pause or interval. **9.** a mark in a musical score indicating a pause of specific duration. **10.** *Prosody*, a pause at the end of a line; caesura. **11.** to put pastry in a cool place to allow the gluten to contract. **12.** a shelter or lodging: a *seaman's rest*. **13.** a thing or place on which to put something for support or to steady it. **14.** *Billiards*, any of various special sticks used as supports for difficult shots. **15.** **lay to rest**, to bury (a dead person). **16.** **set (someone's mind) at rest**, to reassure or settle. **~vb.** **17.** to take or give rest, as by sleeping, lying down, etc. **18.** to place or position (oneself, etc.) for rest or relaxation. **19.** (*tr.*) to place or position for support or steadying: *to rest one's elbows on the table*. **20.** (*intr.*) to be at ease; be calm. **21.** to cease from motion or exertion. **22.** (*intr.*) to remain without further attention or action: *let the matter rest*. **23.** (of one's eyes) to be directed: *her eyes rested on the child*. **24.** to depend; base; rely: *the whole argument rests on one crucial fact*. **25.** (*intr.*; foll. by *with*, *on*, *upon*, etc.) to be a responsibility (of): *it rests with us to apportion blame*. **26.** **Law**, to finish the introduction of evidence in (a case). **27.** **rest on one's laurels**, to depend on one's past achievements for power, merit, etc. **28.** **rest on one's oars**, to stop doing anything for a time. —**rester** *n.*

rest² (rest) *n.* (usually preceded by *the*) **1.** something left or remaining; remainder. **2.** the others: *the rest of the world*. **~vb.** **3.** (*copula*) to continue to be (as specified); remain: *rest assured*.

restaurant ('restə, rɒŋ, 'restrɒŋ) *n.* a commercial establishment where meals are prepared and served to customers.

restaurant car *n.* *Brit.* a railway coach in which meals are served. Also called: **dining car**.

restaurateur ('restərə'tɜː) *n.* a person who owns or runs a restaurant.

rest-cure *n.* a rest taken as part of a course of medical treatment, so as to relieve stress, anxiety, etc.

restful ('restfʊl) *adj.* **1.** giving or conducive to rest. **2.** being at rest; tranquil; calm. —**restfully** *adv.* —**restfulness** *n.*

restitution ('restɪ'tjuːʃən) *n.* **1.** the act of giving back something that has been lost or stolen. **2.** **Law**, compensating for loss or injury by reverting as far as possible to the original position. **3.** the return of an object or system to its original state, esp. after elastic deformation. —**resti,tutive** or **resti,tutory** *adj.*

restive ('restɪv) *adj.* **1.** restless, nervous, or uneasy. **2.** impatient of control or authority. —**restively** *adv.* —**restiveness** *n.*

restless ('restlis) *adj.* **1.** unable to stay still or quiet. **2.** ceaselessly active or moving: *the restless wind*. **3.** worried; anxious; uneasy. **4.** not restful; without repose: *a restless night*. —**restlessly** *adv.* —**restlessness** *n.*

restoration ('restə'reɪʃən) *n.* **1.** the act of restoring to a former or original condition, place, etc. **2.** the giving back of something lost, stolen, etc. **3.** something restored, replaced, or reconstructed. **4.** a model or representation of an extinct animal, etc. **5.** (*usually cap.*) *Brit. history*, the re-establishment of the monarchy in 1660 or the reign of Charles II (1660–85).

restorative ('rɪstərətɪv) *adj.* **1.** tending to revive or renew health, spirits, etc. **~n.** **2.** anything that restores or revives, esp. a drug.

restore ('rɪstɔː) *vb.* (*tr.*) **1.** to return (something) to its original or former condition. **2.** to bring back to health, good spirits, etc. **3.** to return (something lost, stolen, etc.) to its owner. **4.** to reintroduce or re-enforce: *to restore discipline*. **5.** to reconstruct (an extinct animal, etc.). —**re'stable** *adj.* —**re'storer** *n.*

restrain ('rɪstreɪn) *vb.* (*tr.*) **1.** to hold (someone) back from some action, esp. by force. **2.** to deprive (someone) of liberty, as by imprisonment. **3.** to limit or restrict. —**re'strainable** *adj.* —**re'strainedly** ('rɪstreɪndli) *adv.* —**re'strainer** *n.*

restraint ('rɪstreɪnt) *n.* **1.** the ability to control or moderate one's impulses, passions, etc. **2.** the act of restraining or the state of being restrained. **3.** something that restrains; restriction.

restrict ('rɪstrɪkt) *vb.* (often foll. by *to*) to confine or keep within certain, often specified, limits or selected bounds.

restriction ('rɪstrɪkʃən) *n.* **1.** something that restricts;

a restrictive measure, law, etc. **2.** the act of restricting or the state of being restricted. —**re'strictionist** *n.*, *adj.*

restrictive practice ('rɪstrɪktɪv) *n.* *Brit.* **1.** a trading agreement against the public interest. **2.** a practice of a union or other group tending to limit the freedom of other workers or employers.

rest room *n.* *U.S.* a room in a public building with toilets, washbasins, and, sometimes, couches.

result ('rɪzʌlt) *n.* **1.** something that ensues from an action, policy, etc.; outcome; consequence. **2.** a number, quantity, or value obtained by solving a mathematical problem. **3.** *U.S.* a decision of a legislative body. **4. a. (often pl.)** the final score or outcome of a sporting contest. **b.** in some sports, a win, as opposed to a draw or tie. **~vb. (intr.)** **5.** (often foll. by *from*) to be the outcome or consequence (of). **6.** (foll. by *in*) to issue or terminate (in a specified way, etc.); end: *to result in tragedy*.

resultant ('rɪzʌltənt) *adj.* **1.** that results; resulting. **~n.** **2.** *Maths, physics*, a single vector that is the vector sum of two or more other vectors.

resume ('rɪzjuːm) *vb.* **1.** to begin again or go on with (something interrupted). **2.** (*tr.*) to occupy again, take back, or recover: *to resume one's seat*; *resume the presidency*. **3.** *Arch.* to summarize; make a résumé of. —**re'sumable** *adj.* —**re'sumer** *n.*

résumé ('rezjuːmeɪ) *n.* a short descriptive summary, as of events, etc.

resumption ('rɪzʌmpʃən) *n.* the act of resuming or beginning again. —**re'sumptive** *adj.* —**re'sumptively** *adv.*

resurgent ('rɪsɜːdʒənt) *adj.* rising again, as to new life, vigour, etc.: *resurgent nationalism*. —**re'surgence** *n.*

resurrect ('rezə'rekt) *vb.* **1.** to rise or raise from the dead; bring or be brought back to life. **2.** (*tr.*) to bring back into use or activity; revive. **3.** (*tr.*) *Facetious*, (formerly) to exhume and steal (a body) from its grave.

resurrection ('rezə'rekʃən) *n.* **1.** a supposed act or instance of a dead person coming back to life. **2.** belief in the possibility of this as part of a religious or mystical system. **3.** the condition of those who have risen from the dead: *we shall all live in the resurrection*. **4.** (*usually cap.*) *Christian theol.* the rising again of Christ from the tomb three days after his death. **5.** (*usually cap.*) the rising again from the dead of all men at the Last Judgment. —**resur'rectional** or **resur'rectionary** *adj.*

resurrectionist ('rezə'rekʃənɪst) *n.* **1.** *Facetious*, (formerly) a body-snatcher. **2.** a person who believes in the Resurrection.

resuscitate ('rɪsʌsɪ'teɪt) *vb.* (*tr.*) to restore to consciousness; revive. —**re,susci'tation** *n.* —**re'suscitative** *adj.* —**re'susci,tator** *n.*

retail ('ri:teɪl) *n.* **1.** the sale of goods individually or in small quantities to consumers. Cf. **wholesale**. **~adj.** **2.** of, relating to, or engaged in such selling: *retail prices*. **~adv.** **3.** in small amounts or at a retail price. **~vb.** **4.** to sell or be sold in small quantities to consumers. **5.** (*tr.*) to relate (gossip, scandal, etc.) in detail. —**retailer** *n.*

retain ('ri:teɪn) *vb.* (*tr.*) **1.** to keep in one's possession. **2.** to be able to hold or contain: *soil that retains water*. **3.** (of a person) to be able to remember (information, etc.) without difficulty. **4.** to hold in position. **5.** to keep for one's future use, as by paying a retainer or nominal charge. **6.** **Law**, to engage the services of (a barrister) by payment of a preliminary fee. —**re'tainable** *adj.* —**re,tain'a'bility** or **re'tainableness** *n.* —**re'tainment** *n.*

retainer ('ri:teɪnə) *n.* **1.** *History*, a supporter or dependant of a person of rank. **2.** a servant, esp. one who has been with a family for a long time. **3.** a clip, frame, or similar device that prevents a part of a machine, etc., from moving. **4.** a fee paid in advance to secure first option on the services of a barrister, jockey, etc. **5.** a reduced rent paid for a flat, etc., to reserve it for future use.

retaining wall *n.* a wall constructed to hold back earth, loose rock, etc. Also called: **revetment**.

retake *vb.* ('ri:'teɪk), **-taking, -took, -taken.** (*tr.*) **1.** to take back or capture again: *to retake a fortress*. **2.** *Films*, to shoot (a scene) again. **3.** to tape (a recording) again. **~n.** ('ri:'teɪk). **4.** *Films*, a rephotographed scene. **5.** a retaped recording. —**re'taker** *n.*

retaliate ('rɪ'teɪli,et) *vb.* (*intr.*) **1.** to take retributory action, esp. by returning some injury or wrong in kind.

restart *vb.*, *n.*
restate *vb.*

restring *vb.*
restructure *vb.*

restyle *vb.*

2. to cast (accusations) back upon a person. —**re,tall'a-tion** *n.* —**re,talliative** or **re,talliatory** *adj.*

retard (ri'ta:d) *vb.* (*tr.*) to delay or slow down (the progress or speed) of (something). —**retar'dation** *n.* —**re'tardingly** *adv.*

retarded (ri'ta:did) *adj.* underdeveloped, usually mentally and esp. having an IQ of 70 to 85.

retch (retʃ, ri:tʃ) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to undergo an involuntary spasm of ineffectual vomiting. ~*n.* 2. an involuntary spasm of ineffectual vomiting.

retention (ri'tenʃən) *n.* 1. the act of retaining or state of being retained. 2. the capacity to hold or retain liquid, etc. 3. the capacity to remember. 4. *Pathol.* the abnormal holding within the body of urine, faeces, etc. —**re'tentive** *adj.*

reticent (ri'tisənt) *adj.* not communicative; not saying all that one knows; taciturn; reserved. —**reticence** *n.* —**reticently** *adv.*

reticulate *adj.* (ri'tikjʊlət), also **reticular** (ri'tikjʊlə) 1. in the form of a network or having a network of parts: a reticulate leaf. ~*vb.* (ri'tikjʊ,leɪt). 2. to form or be formed into a net. —**reticulately** *adv.* —**re,ticu'la-tion** *n.*

reticule (ri'ti,kju:l) *n.* (formerly) a woman's small bag or purse, usually with a drawstring and made of net, beading, brocade, etc.

retina (ri'teɪnə) *n.* *pl.* -nas or -nae (-,ni:). the light-sensitive membrane forming the inner lining of the posterior wall of the eyeball. —**retinal** *adj.*

retinue (ri'ti,nju:) *n.* a body of aides and retainers attending an important person.

retire (ri'taɪə) *vb.* (*mainly intr.*) 1. (*also tr.*) to give up or to cause (a person) to give up his work, esp. on reaching pensionable age. 2. to go away, as into seclusion, for recuperation, etc. 3. to go to bed. 4. to recede or disappear: the sun retired behind the clouds. 5. to withdraw from a sporting contest, esp. because of injury. 6. (*also tr.*) to pull back (troops, etc.) from battle or (of troops, etc.) to fall back. 7. (*tr.*) to remove (money, bonds, shares, etc.) from circulation. —**re'tirement** *n.* —**re'tirer** *n.* —**re'tired** *adj.*

retirement pension *n.* *Brit.* a weekly payment made by the government to a retired man over 65 or a woman over 60.

retiring (ri'taɪərɪŋ) *adj.* shunning contact with others; shy; reserved. —**re'tiringly** *adv.*

retort (ri'tɔ:t) *vb.* 1. (when *tr.*, takes a clause as object) to utter (something) quickly, wittily, or angrily, in response. 2. to use (an argument) against its originator. ~*n.* 3. a sharp, angry, or witty reply. 4. an argument used against its originator. —**re'torter** *n.*

retort (ri'tɔ:t) *n.* 1. a glass vessel with a long tapering neck that is bent down, used for distillation. 2. a vessel used for heating ores in the production of metals or heating coal to produce gas. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to heat in a retort.

retouch (ri'tatʃ) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to restore, correct, or improve (a painting, make-up, etc.) with new touches. 2. *Photog.* to alter (a negative or print) by painting over blemishes or adding details. ~*n.* 3. the art or practice of retouching. 4. a detail that is the result of retouching. 5. a photograph, painting, etc., that has been retouched. —**re'toucher** *n.*

retrace (ri'treis) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to go back over (one's steps, a route, etc.) again. 2. to go over (a past event) in the mind; recall. 3. to go over (a story, account, etc.) from the beginning.

retract (ri'trækt) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to draw in (a part or appendage): a snail can retract its horns; to retract the landing gear of an aircraft. 2. to withdraw (a statement, opinion, charge, etc.) as invalid or unjustified. 3. to go back on (a promise or agreement). —**re'tractable** or **re'tractable** *adj.* —**re'traction** *n.* —**re'tractive** *adj.*

retractile (ri'træktail) *adj.* capable of being drawn in: the retractile claws of a cat. —**retractility** (ri'træk-'tilti) *n.*

retread *vb.* (ri:'tred), -treading, -treaded. 1. (*tr.*) to remould (a used pneumatic tyre) to give it new treads. ~*n.* (ri:'tred). 2. Also called: **remould**. a used pneumatic tyre that has been remoulded to give it new treads. 3. *N.Z. sl.* a pensioner who has resumed employment, esp. in the same profession as formerly.

retreat (ri'tri:t) *vb.* (*mainly intr.*) 1. *Mil.* to withdraw

or retire in the face of or from action with an enemy. 2. to retire or withdraw, as to seclusion or shelter. 3. (of a person's features) to slope back; recede. 4. (*tr.*) *Chess.* to move (a piece) back. ~*n.* 5. the act of retreating or withdrawing. 6. *Mil. a.* a withdrawal or retirement in the face of the enemy. 7. a bugle call signifying withdrawal or retirement. 8. retirement or seclusion. 9. a place to which one may retire for religious contemplation. 10. a period of seclusion, esp. for religious contemplation. 11. an institution for the care and treatment of the mentally ill, infirm, elderly, etc.

retrench (ri'trentʃ) *vb.* 1. to reduce (costs); economize. 2. (*tr.*) to shorten, delete, or abridge. —**re'trenchment** *n.*

retribution (ri'tribju:ʃən) *n.* 1. the act of punishing or taking vengeance for wrongdoing, sin, or injury. 2. punishment or vengeance. —**re'tributive** (ri'tribjutiv) or **re'tributory** *adj.* —**re'tributively** *adv.*

retrieve (ri'tri:v) *vb.* (*mainly tr.*) 1. to get or fetch back again; recover. 2. to bring back to a more satisfactory state; revive. 3. to rescue or save. 4. to recover or make newly available (stored information) from a computer system. 5. (*also intr.*) (of dogs) to find and fetch (shot game, etc.). 6. *Tennis.* etc. to return successfully (a shot difficult to reach). 7. to recall; remember. ~*n.* 8. the act of retrieving. 9. the chance of being retrieved. —**re'trivable** *adj.* —**re'trivial** *n.*

retriever (ri'tri:və) *n.* 1. one of a breed of large hunting dogs that can be trained to retrieve game. 2. any dog used to retrieve shot game. 3. a person or thing that retrieves.

retro- *prefix.* 1. back or backwards: *retroactive*. 2. located behind: *retrochoir*.

retroactive (ri'trəʊ'æktiv) *adj.* 1. applying or referring to the past: *retroactive legislation*. 2. effective from a date or for a period in the past. —**retro'actively** *adv.* —**retroac'tivity** *n.*

retrochoir (ri'trəʊ,kwaɪə) *n.* the space in a large church or cathedral behind the high altar.

retrofire (ri'trəʊ,faɪə) *n.* 1. the act of firing a retro-rocket. 2. the moment at which it is fired.

retrograde (ri'trəʊ,gred) *adj.* 1. moving or bending backwards. 2. (esp. of order) reverse or inverse. 3. tending towards an earlier worse condition; declining or deteriorating. 4. *Astron. a.* occurring or orbiting in a direction opposite to that of the earth's motion around the sun. *Cf. direct* (sense 18). *b.* occurring or orbiting in a direction around a planet opposite to the planet's rotational direction. *c.* appearing to move in a clockwise direction due to the rotational period exceeding the period of revolution around the sun: *Venus has retrograde rotation*. ~*vb.* (*intr.*) 5. to move in a retrograde direction; retrogress. —**retrogra'dation** *n.* —**retro'gradely** *adv.*

retrogress (ri'trəʊ,gres) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. to go back to an earlier, esp. worse, condition; degenerate or deteriorate. 2. to move backwards; recede. —**retro'gression** *n.* —**retro'gressively** *adv.*

retrorocket (ri'trəʊ,rɒkit) *n.* a small auxiliary rocket engine on a larger rocket, missile, or spacecraft, that produces thrust in the opposite direction to the direction of flight in order to decelerate. Often shortened to **retro**.

retrospect (ri'trəʊ,spekt) *n.* the act of surveying things past (often in *in retrospect*). —**retro'spection** *n.*

retrospective (ri'trəʊ,spektiv) *adj.* 1. looking or directed backwards, esp. in time; characterized by retrospection. 2. applying to the past; retroactive. ~*n.* 3. an exhibition of an artist's life's work. —**retro'spectively** *adv.*

retroussé (rə'tru:seɪ) *adj.* (of a nose) turned up.

retsina (ret'si:nə) *n.* a Greek wine flavoured with resin.

return (ri'tʌ:n) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to come back to a former place or state. 2. (*tr.*) to give, take, or carry back; replace or restore. 3. (*tr.*) to repay or recompense, esp. with something of equivalent value: *return the compliment*. 4. (*tr.*) to earn or yield (profit or interest) as an income from an investment or venture. 5. (*intr.*) to come back or revert in thought or speech: *I'll return to that later*. 6. (*intr.*) to recur or reappear: *the symptoms have returned*. 7. to answer or reply. 8. (*tr.*) to vote into office; elect. 9. (*tr.*) *Law.* (of a jury) to deliver or render (a verdict). 10. (*tr.*) to submit (a report, etc.) about (someone or something) to someone in authority.

rethink *vb.*
rethink *n.*
retie *vb.*

retrain *vb.*
retiral *n.*
retry *vb.*

returf *vb.*

11. (tr.) *Cards*. to lead back (the suit led by one's partner). 12. (tr.) *Ball games*. to hit, throw, or play (a ball) back. 13. **return thanks**. (of Christians) to say grace before a meal. ~n. 14. the act or an instance of coming back. 15. something that is given or sent back, esp. unsatisfactory merchandise or a theatre ticket for resale. 16. the act or an instance of putting, sending, or carrying back; replacement or restoration. 17. (*often pl.*) the yield or profit from an investment or venture. 18. the act or an instance of reciprocation or repayment (esp. in **in return for**). 19. a recurrence or reappearance. 20. an official report, esp. of the financial condition of a company. 21. a. a form (a **tax return**) on which a statement of one's taxable income is made. b. the statement itself. 22. (*often pl.*) a statement of the votes counted at an election. 23. an answer or reply. 24. *Brit.* Also called: **return ticket**. a ticket entitling a passenger to travel to his destination and back. 25. *Archit.* a part of a building that forms an angle with the façade. 26. *Law*. a report by a bailiff or other officer on the outcome of a formal document such as a writ, summons, etc. 27. *Cards*. a lead of a card in the suit that one's partner has previously led. 28. *Ball games*. the act of playing or throwing a ball, etc., back. 29. (*modifier*) of, relating to, or characterized by a return: a **return visit**. 30. **by return (of post)**. *Brit.* by the next post. 31. **many happy returns (of the day)**. a conventional birthday greeting. —**re'turnable** adj. —**re'turner** n.

returning officer n. (in Britain, Canada, Australia, etc.) an official in charge of conducting an election.

return ticket n. *Brit.* a ticket entitling a passenger to travel to his destination and back.

reunify (ri:'ju:nɪ,faɪ) vb. -fying, -fied. (tr.) to bring together again (something, esp. a country previously divided). —**reunifi'cation** n.

reunion (ri:'ju:njən) n. 1. the act of coming together again. 2. the state or condition of having been brought together again. 3. a gathering of relatives, friends, or former associates.

Reuters ('rɔɪtəz) n. a private news agency in London that distributes news to member newspapers. It was founded by Baron Paul Julius von Reuter, a 19th-century telegrapher.

rev (rev) inf. ~n. 1. revolution per minute. ~vb. **revving**, **revved**. 2. (often foll. by *up*) to increase the speed of revolution of (an engine).

rev. abbrev. for: 1. revenue. 2. reverse(d). 3. review. 4. revised(d). 5. revision. 6. revolution. 7. revolving.

Rev. abbrev. for: 1. *Bible*. Revelation (of Saint John the Divine). 2. Reverend.

revamp (ri:'væmp) vb. (tr.) 1. to patch up or renovate; repair or restore. ~n. 2. something that has been renovated or revamped. 3. the act or process of revamping.

Revd. abbrev. for Reverend.

reveal (ri'vi:l) vb. (tr.) 1. (*may take a clause as object or an infinitive*) to disclose (a secret); divulge. 2. to expose to view or show (something concealed). 3. (of God) to disclose (divine truths). ~n. 4. *Archit.* the vertical side of an opening in a wall, esp. the side of a window or door between the frame and the front of the wall. —**re'vealable** adj. —**re'vealer** n. —**re'vealingly** adv. —**re'vealment** n.

reveille (ri'væli) n. 1. a signal, given by a bugle, drum, etc., to awaken soldiers or sailors in the morning. 2. the hour at which this takes place.

revel ('revl) vb. -elling, -elled or U.S. -eling, -eled. (intr.) 1. (foll. by *in*) to take pleasure or wallow: *to revel in success*. 2. to take part in noisy festivities; make merry. ~n. 3. (*often pl.*) an occasion of noisy merrymaking. —**reveller** n. —**revelry** n.

revelation (ri'velə'leɪʃən) n. 1. the act or process of disclosing something previously secret or obscure, esp. something true. 2. a fact disclosed or revealed, esp. in a dramatic or surprising way. 3. *Christianity*. God's disclosure of his own nature and his purpose for mankind. —**reve'la'tional** adj.

Revelation (ri'velə'leɪʃən) n. (*often pl.*) the last book of the New Testament, containing visionary descriptions of heaven, and of the end of the world. Also called: the *Apocalypse*, the *Revelation of Saint John the Divine*.

revenge (ri'vendʒ) n. 1. the act of retaliating for wrongs or injury received; vengeance. 2. something done as a means of vengeance. 3. the desire to take

vengeance. 4. a return match, regarded as a loser's opportunity to even the score. ~vb. (tr.) 5. to inflict equivalent injury or damage for (injury received). 6. to take vengeance for (oneself or another); avenge. —**re'vengeful** adj. —**re'venger** n. —**re'vengingly** adv.

revenue ('revɪnju:) n. 1. the income accruing from taxation to a government. 2. a. a government department responsible for the collection of government revenue. b. (*as modifier*): *revenue men*. 3. the gross income from a business enterprise, investment, etc. 4. a particular item of income. 5. a source of income.

reverberate (ri'vɜ:bə'reɪt) vb. 1. (intr.) to resound or re-echo. 2. to reflect or be reflected many times. 3. (intr.) to rebound or recoil. 4. (intr.) (of the flame or heat in a reverberatory furnace) to be deflected onto the metal or ore on the hearth. 5. (tr.) to heat, melt, or refine (a metal or ore) in a reverberatory furnace. —**re'verberate** adj. —**re'verberantly** adv. —**re'verber'ation** n.

revere (ri'viə) vb. (tr.) to be in awe of and respect deeply; venerate.

reverence ('revərəns) n. 1. a feeling or attitude of profound respect, usually reserved for the sacred or divine. 2. an outward manifestation of this feeling, esp. a bow or act of obeisance. 3. the state of being revered or commanding profound respect. ~vb. 4. (tr.) to revere or venerate.

Reverence ('revərəns) n. (preceded by *Your* or *His*) a title sometimes used to address or refer to a Roman Catholic priest.

reverend ('revərənd) adj. 1. worthy of reverence. 2. relating to or designating a clergyman. ~n. 3. *Inf.* a clergyman.

Reverend ('revərənd) adj. a title of respect for a clergyman. Abbrev.: **Rev.** or **Revd.**

▷ **Usage**. *Reverend* with a surname alone (*Reverend Smith*), as a term of address ("Yes, *Reverend*"), or in the salutation of a letter (*Dear Rev. Mr. Smith*) are all considered to be wrong usage. Preferred are (*the*) *Reverend John Smith* or *Reverend Mr. Smith* and *Dear Mr. Smith*.

revert ('revərənt, 'revrənt) adj. feeling, expressing, or characterized by reverence. —**reve'rential** adj. —**re'verently** adv.

reverie ('revəri) n., pl. -eries. 1. an act or state of absent-minded daydreaming: *to fall into a reverie*. 2. a piece of instrumental music suggestive of a daydream. 3. *Arch.* a fanciful or visionary notion; daydream.

revers (ri'viə) n., pl. -vers ('viəz). (*usually pl.*) the turned-back lining of part of a garment, esp. of a lapel or cuff.

reverse (ri'vɜ:s) vb. (*mainly tr.*) 1. to turn or set in an opposite direction, order, or position. 2. to change into something different or contrary; alter completely: *reverse one's policy*. 3. (*also intr.*) to move or cause to move backwards or in an opposite direction: *to reverse a car*. 4. to run (machinery, etc.) in the opposite direction to normal. 5. to turn inside out. 6. *Law*. to revoke or set aside (a judgment, decree, etc.); annul. 7. **reverse the charge(s)**. to make a telephone call at the recipient's expense. ~n. 8. the opposite or contrary of something. 9. the back or rear side of something. 10. a change to an opposite position, state, or direction. 11. a change for the worse; setback or defeat. 12. a. the mechanism or gears by which machinery, a vehicle, etc., can be made to reverse its direction. b. (*as modifier*): *reverse gear*. 13. the side of a coin bearing a secondary design. 14. a. printed matter in which normally black or coloured areas, esp. lettering, appear white, and vice versa. b. (*as modifier*): *reverse plates*. 15. in **reverse**. in an opposite or backward direction. 16. the reverse of, emphatically not; not at all: *he was the reverse of polite when I called*. ~adj. 17. opposite or contrary in direction, position, order, nature, etc.; turned backwards. 18. back to front; inverted. 19. operating or moving in a manner contrary to that which is usual. 20. denoting or relating to a mirror image. —**re'versal** n. —**re'versely** adv. —**re'verser** n.

reversible (ri'vɜ:səbəl) adj. 1. capable of being reversed: a *reversible decision*. 2. capable of returning to an original condition. 3. *Chem., physics*. capable of assuming or producing either of two possible states and changing from one to the other: a *reversible reaction*. 4. (of a fabric or garment) woven, printed, or finished so

that either side may be used as the outer side. ~*n.* 5. a reversible garment, esp. a coat. —*re'versibility n.* —*re'versibly adv.*

reversing light *n.* a light on the rear of a motor vehicle to provide illumination when the vehicle is being reversed.

reversion (ri'vɜ:ʃən) *n.* 1. a return to an earlier condition, practice, or belief; act of reverting. 2. *Biol.* the return of individuals, organs, etc., to a more primitive condition or type. 3. *Property law.* a. an interest in an estate that reverts to the grantor or his heirs at the end of a period, esp. at the end of the life of a grantee. b. an estate so reverting. c. the right to succeed to such an estate. 4. the benefit payable on the death of a life-insurance policyholder. —*re'versionary or re'versional adj.*

revert (ri'vɜ:t) *vb.* (*intr.*, foll. by *to*). 1. to go back to a former practice, condition, belief, etc.: *he reverted to his old wicked ways.* 2. to take up again or come back to a former topic. 3. *Biol.* (of individuals, organs, etc.) to return to a more primitive, earlier, or simpler condition or type. 4. *Property law.* (of an estate or interest in land) to return to its former owner or his heirs. 5. *revert to type.* to resume characteristics that were thought to have disappeared. —*re'verter n.* —*re'vertible adj.*

review (ri'vjʊ:z) *vb.* (*mainly tr.*) 1. to look at or examine again: *to review a situation.* 2. to look back upon (a period of time, sequence of events, etc.); remember: *he reviewed his achievements with pride.* 3. to inspect, esp. formally or officially: *the general reviewed his troops.* 4. *Law.* to re-examine (a decision) judicially. 5. to write a critical assessment of (a book, film, play, concert, etc.), esp. as a profession. ~*n.* 6. Also called: *reviewal.* the act or an instance of reviewing. 7. a general survey or report: *a review of the political situation.* 8. a critical assessment of a book, film, play, concert, etc., esp. one printed in a newspaper or periodical. 9. a publication containing such articles. 10. a second consideration; re-examination. 11. a retrospective survey. 12. a formal or official inspection. 13. a U.S. word for *revision* (sense 2). 14. *Law.* judicial re-examination of a case, esp. by a superior court. 15. a less common spelling of *revue*. —*re'viewer n.*

revile (ri'vail) *vb.* to use abusive or scornful language against (someone or something). —*re'verily n.* —*re'verily adv.*

revise (ri'vaiz) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to change or amend: *to revise one's opinion.* 2. *Brit.* to reread (a subject or notes on it) so as to memorize it, esp. for an examination. 3. (*tr.*) to prepare a new version or edition of (a previously printed work). ~*n.* 4. the act, process, or result of revising; revision. —*re'visal n.* —*re'viser n.*

Revised Version *n.* a revision of the Authorized Version of the Bible by two committees of British scholars, the New Testament being published in 1881 and the Old in 1885.

revision (ri'viʒən) *n.* 1. the act or process of revising. 2. *Brit.* the process of rereading a subject or notes on it, esp. for an examination. 3. a corrected or new version of a book, article, etc. —*re'visional or re'visionary adj.*

revisory (ri'vaizəri) *adj.* of, relating to, or having the power to revise.

revitalize or -lize (ri'vait', laiz) *vb.* (*tr.*) to restore vitality or animation to.

revival (ri'vaɪvəl) *n.* 1. the act or an instance of reviving or the state of being revived. 2. an instance of returning to life or consciousness; restoration of vigour or vitality. 3. a renewed use, acceptance of, or interest in (past customs, styles, etc.): *the Gothic revival.* 4. a new production of a play that has not been recently performed. 5. a reawakening of faith. 6. an evangelistic meeting or meetings intended to effect such a reawakening in those present.

revive (ri'vaɪv) *vb.* 1. to bring or be brought back to life, consciousness, or strength: *revived by a drop of whisky.* 2. to give or assume new vitality; flourish again or cause to flourish again. 3. to make or become operative or active again: *the youth movement was revived.* 4. to bring or come back to mind. 5. (*tr.*) *Theatre.* to mount a new production of (an old play). —*re'vivable adj.* —*re,viva'bility n.* —*re'viver n.*

revivify (ri'vɪvɪfaɪ) *vb.* -*fying*, -*fied.* (*tr.*) to give new life or spirit to. —*re,vivifi'cation n.*

revoke (ri'vəʊk) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to take back or withdraw;

cancel; rescind. 2. (*intr.*) *Cards.* to break a rule by failing to follow suit when able to do so. ~*n.* 3. *Cards.* the act of revoking. —*revo'cation n.* —*re'voker n.*

revolt (ri'vɔʊlt) *n.* 1. a rebellion or uprising against authority. 2. *in revolt.* in the process or state of rebelling. ~*vb.* 3. (*intr.*) to rise up in rebellion against authority. 4. (*usually passive*) to feel or cause to feel revulsion, disgust, or abhorrence.

revolting (ri'vɔʊltɪŋ) *adj.* 1. causing revulsion; nauseating, disgusting, or repulsive. 2. *Inf.* unpleasant or nasty. —*re'vertingly adv.*

revolution (ri'vɔʊlʃən) *n.* 1. the overthrow or repudiation of a regime or political system by the governed. 2. (in Marxist theory) the inevitable, violent transition from one system of production in a society to the next. 3. a far-reaching and drastic change, esp. in ideas, methods, etc. 4. a movement in or as if in a circle. b. one complete turn in such a circle: *33 revolutions per minute.* 5. a. the orbital motion of one body, such as a planet, around another. b. one complete turn in such motion. 6. a cycle of successive events or changes.

revolutionary (ri'vɔʊlʃənəri) *n., pl. -aries.* 1. a person who advocates or engages in revolution. ~*adj.* 2. relating to or characteristic of a revolution. 3. advocating or engaged in revolution. 4. radically new or different: *a revolutionary method of making plastics.*

Revolutionary (ri'vɔʊlʃənəri) *adj.* 1. Chiefly U.S. of or relating to the War of American Independence (1775-83). 2. of or relating to any of various other Revolutions, esp. the *Russian Revolution* (1917) or the *French Revolution* (1789).

revolutionize or -ise (ri'vɔʊlʃənaɪz) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to bring about a radical change in: *science has revolutionized civilization.* 2. to inspire or infect with revolutionary ideas: *they revolutionized the common soldiers.* 3. to cause a revolution in (a country, etc.). —*revo'lution, -izer or -iser n.*

revolve (ri'vɔlv) *vb.* 1. to move or cause to move around a centre or axis; rotate. 2. (*intr.*) to occur periodically or in cycles. 3. to consider or be considered. 4. (*intr.*, foll. by *around* or *about*) to be centred or focused (upon): *Juliet's thoughts revolved around Romeo.* —*re'volvable adj.*

revolver (ri'vɔlvə) *n.* a pistol having a revolving multichambered cylinder that allows several shots to be discharged without reloading.

revolving door *n.* a door that rotates about a vertical axis, esp. one with four leaves at right angles to each other, thereby excluding draughts.

revue or review (ri'vjʊ:z) *n.* a light entertainment consisting of topical sketches, songs, dancing, etc.

revulsion (ri'vʌlʃən) *n.* 1. a sudden violent reaction in feeling, esp. one of extreme loathing. 2. the act or an instance of drawing back or recoiling from something. 3. the diversion of disease from one part of the body to another by cupping, counterirritants, etc.

reward (ri'wɔ:d) *n.* 1. something given in return for a deed or service rendered. 2. a sum of money offered, esp. for help in finding a criminal or for the return of lost or stolen property. 3. profit or return. ~*vb.* 4. (*tr.*) to give (something) to (someone), esp. in gratitude for a service rendered; recompense. —*re'wardless adj.*

rewarding (ri'wɔ:diŋ) *adj.* giving personal satisfaction; gratifying.

rewind *vb.* (ri'waɪnd), -*winding*, -*wound.* 1. (*tr.*) to wind back, esp. a film or tape onto the original reel. ~*n.* ('ri:waɪnd, ri'waɪnd) 2. something rewound. 3. the act of rewinding. —*re'winder n.*

rewire (ri'waɪə) *vb.* (*tr.*) to provide (a house, engine, etc.) with new wiring. —*re'wirable adj.*

reword (ri'wɔ:d) *vb.* (*tr.*) to alter the wording of; express differently.

rewrite *vb.* (ri'raɪt), -*writing*, -*wrote*, -*written.* (*tr.*) 1. to write (material) again, esp. changing the words or form. ~*n.* ('ri:raɪt, ri'raɪt) 2. something rewritten.

Rex (reks) *n.* king: part of the official title of a king, now used chiefly in documents, legal proceedings, on coins, etc. Cf. *Regina*.

Rexine ('reksɪn) *n.* Trademark. a form of artificial leather.

Reynard or Renard ('renəd, 'renəd) *n.* a name for a fox, used in fables, etc.

RF *abbrev.* for radio frequency.

R.F.C. *abbrev.* for Rugby Football Club.

R.G.S. *abbrev.* for Royal Geographical Society.

Rh 1. the chemical symbol for rhodium. 2. *abbrev.* for rhesus (esp. in **Rh** factor).

r.h. or **R.H.** *abbrev.* for right hand.

rhabdomanancy ('ræbdə,mænsi) *n.* divination for water or mineral ore by means of a rod or wand. —'rhabdō-,mantist or 'rhabdō,mancer *n.*

rhapsodize or **-ise** ('ræpsə,dəiz) *vb.* 1. to speak or write (something) with extravagant enthusiasm. 2. (*intr.*) to recite or write rhapsodies. —'rhapsodist *n.*

rhapsody ('ræpsədi) *n., pl. -dies*. 1. *Music.* a composition, free in structure and highly emotional in character. 2. an expression of ecstatic enthusiasm. 3. (in ancient Greece) an epic poem or part of an epic recited by a rhapsodist. 4. a literary work composed in an intense or exalted style. 5. rapturous delight or ecstasy. —'rhap-'sodic *adj.*

rhea ('riə) *n.* either of two large fast-running flightless birds inhabiting the open plains of S South America. They are similar to but smaller than the ostrich.

Rhenish ('rɛnʃ, 'ri:-) *adj.* 1. of or relating to the River Rhine or the lands adjacent to it. ~*n.* 2. another word for **hock** (the wine).

rhodium ('ri:nɪəm) *n.* a dense silvery-white metallic element that has a high melting point. Symbol: Re; atomic no.: 75; atomic wt.: 186.2.

rheostat ('riə,stæt) *n.* a variable resistance, usually a coil of wire with a terminal at one end and a sliding contact that moves along the coil to tap off the current. —'rheo'static *adj.*

rhesus factor *n.* See **Rh** factor.

rhesus monkey *n.* a macaque monkey of S Asia.

rhetoric ('rɛtərɪk) *n.* 1. the study of the technique of using language effectively. 2. the art of using speech to persuade, influence, or please; oratory. 3. excessive ornamentation and contrivance in spoken or written discourse; bombast. 4. speech or discourse that pretends to significance but lacks true meaning: *mere rhetoric*. —'rhe'torical *adj.* —'rhe'torically *adv.*

rhetorical question *n.* a question to which no answer is required: used esp. for dramatic effect. An example is *Who knows?* (with the implication *Nobody knows*).

rheum ('ru:m) *n.* a watery discharge from the eyes or nose. —'rheumy *adj.*

rheumatic ('ru:mætɪk) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or afflicted with rheumatism. ~*n.* 2. a person afflicted with rheumatism. —'rheu'matically *adv.*

rheumatic fever *n.* a disease characterized by inflammation and pain in the joints.

rheumatics ('ru:mætɪks) *n.* *Inf.* rheumatism.

rheumatism ('ru:mə,tɪzəm) *n.* any painful disorder of joints, muscles, or connective tissue.

rheumatoid ('ru:mə,tɔɪd) or **rheumatoidal** *adj.* (of symptoms) resembling rheumatism.

rheumatoid arthritis *n.* a chronic disease characterized by inflammation and swelling of joints (esp. in the hands, wrists, knees, and feet), muscle weakness, and fatigue.

Rh factor *n.* an antigen commonly found in human blood: the terms **Rh** positive and **Rh** negative are used to indicate its presence or absence. It may cause a haemolytic reaction, esp. during pregnancy or following transfusion of blood that does not contain this antigen. Full name: **rhesus factor**.

rhinal ('raɪnəl) *adj.* of or relating to the nose.

rhinestone ('raɪn,stəʊn) *n.* an imitation gem made of paste.

rhino ('raɪməʊ) *n., pl. -nos* or **-no.** short for **rhinoceros**.

rhinoceros ('raɪnəsərəs, 'rɪnəsɪs) *n., pl. -oses* or **-os.** any of several mammals constituting a family of SE Asia and Africa and having either one horn, like the **Indian rhinoceros**, or two horns, like the African **white rhinoceros**. They have a very thick skin and a massive body.

rhizome ('raɪzəm) *n.* a thick horizontal underground stem whose buds develop into new plants. Also called: **rootstock**, **rootstalk**. —'rhizomatous ('raɪzəmətəs, 'zɔ:ʊ-) *adj.*

rho (rəʊ) *n., pl. rhos.* the 17th letter in the Greek alphabet (P, p).

Rhodes scholarship ('rəʊdz) *n.* one of 72 scholarships founded by Cecil Rhodes, (1853-1902), English statesman, awarded annually to Commonwealth and U.S. students to study at Oxford University. —'Rhodes scholar *n.*

rhodium ('rəʊdiəm) *n.* a hard silvery-white element of the platinum metal group. Used as an alloying agent to

harden platinum and palladium. Symbol: Rh; atomic no.: 45; atomic wt.: 102.90.

rhododendron ('rəʊdə'dendrən) *n.* any of various shrubs native to S Asia but widely cultivated in N temperate regions. They are mostly evergreen and have clusters of showy red, purple, pink, or white flowers.

rhombohedron ('rɒmbəʊ'hɪdrən) *n.* a six-sided prism whose sides are parallelograms.

rhomboid ('rɒmbɔɪd) *n.* 1. a parallelogram having adjacent sides of unequal length. ~*adj.* also **rom'boidal**. 2. having such a shape.

rhombus ('rɒmbəs) *n., pl. -buses* or **-bi** (-baɪ). an oblique-angled parallelogram having four equal sides. Also called: **rhomb**. —'rhombic *adj.*

R.H.S. *abbrev. for:* 1. Royal Historical Society. 2. Royal Horticultural Society. 3. Royal Humane Society.

rhubarb ('ru:bə:b) *n.* 1. any of several temperate and subtropical plants, esp. **common garden rhubarb**, which has long green and red acid-tasting edible leafstalks, usually eaten sweetened and cooked. 2. the leafstalks of this plant. 3. a related plant of central Asia, having a bitter-tasting underground stem that can be dried and used as a laxative or astringent. 4. *U.S. sl.* a heated discussion or quarrel. ~*interj., n., vb.* 5. the noise made by actors to simulate conversation, esp. by repeating the word **rhubarb**.

rhumba ('rʌmbə, 'rum-) *n., pl. -bas.* a variant spelling of **rumba**.

rhyme or **rime** (raɪm) *n.* 1. identity of the terminal sounds in lines of verse or in words. 2. a word that is identical to another in its terminal sound: "*while*" is a rhyme for "*mile*". 3. a piece of poetry, esp. having corresponding sounds at the ends of the lines. 4. **rhyme** or **reason**. sense, logic, or meaning. ~*vb.* 5. to use (a word) or (of a word) to be used so as to form a rhyme. 6. to render (a subject) into rhyme. 7. to compose (verse) in a metrical structure. ~See also **eye rhyme**. —'rhymeless or 'rimeless *adj.*

rhymester, **rimester** ('raɪmstə), **rhymmer**, or **rim-er** ('raɪmə) *n.* a poet, esp. one considered to be mediocre; poetaster or versifier.

rhyming slang *n.* slang in which a word is replaced by another word or phrase that rhymes with it; e.g., *apples and pears* meaning *stairs*.

rhythm ('rɪðm) *n.* 1. a. the arrangement of the durations of and accents on the notes of a melody, usually laid out into regular groups (**bars**) of beats. b. any specific arrangement of such groupings; time: *quadruple rhythm*. 2. (in poetry) a. the arrangement of words into a sequence of stressed and unstressed or long and short syllables. b. any specific such arrangement; metre. 3. (in painting, sculpture, etc.) a harmonious sequence or pattern of masses alternating with voids, of light alternating with shade, of alternating colours, etc. 4. any sequence of regularly recurring functions or events, such as certain physiological functions of the body. —'rhythmical or 'rhythmic *adj.* —'rhythmically *adv.*

rhythm-and-blues *n.* any of various kinds of popular music derived from or influenced by the blues. Abbrev.: **R & B**.

rhythm method *n.* a method of contraception by restricting sexual intercourse to those days in a woman's menstrual cycle when conception is considered least likely to occur.

rialto ('ri:əltəʊ) *n., pl. -tos.* a market or exchange.

rib ('rɪb) *n.* 1. any of the 24 elastic arches of bone that together form the chest wall in man. All are attached behind to the thoracic part of the spinal column. 2. the corresponding bone in other vertebrates. 3. a cut of meat including one or more ribs. 4. a part or element similar in function or appearance to a rib, esp. a structural member or a ridge. 5. a structural member in an aerofoil that extends from the leading edge to the trailing edge. 6. a projecting moulding or band on the underside of a vault or ceiling. 7. one of a series of raised rows in knitted fabric. 8. a raised ornamental line on the spine of a book where the stitching runs across it. 9. any of the transverse stiffening timbers or joists forming the frame of a ship's hull. 10. any of the larger veins of a leaf. 11. a vein of ore in rock. 12. a projecting ridge of a mountain; spur. ~*vb.* **ribbing**, **ribbed**. (tr.) 13. to furnish or support with a rib or ribs. 14. to mark with or form into ribs or ridges. 15. to knit plain and purl stitches alternately in order to make raised rows in (knitting). —'ribless *adj.*

rib ('rɪb) *vb.* **ribbing**, **ribbed**. (tr.) *Inf.* to tease or ridicule.

R.I.B.A. abbrev. for Royal Institute of British Architects.

ribald ('ribld) *adj.* 1. coarse, obscene, or licentious, usually in a humorous or mocking way. ~*n.* 2. a ribald person. —**ribaldry** *n.*

riband or **ribbon** ('ribənd) *n.* a ribbon, esp. one awarded for some achievement.

ribbing ('ribɪŋ) *n.* 1. a framework or structure of ribs. 2. a pattern of ribs in woven or knitted material. 3. *Inf.* teasing.

ribbon ('ribn) *n.* 1. a narrow strip of fine material, esp. silk, used for trimming, tying, etc. 2. something resembling a ribbon; a long strip. 3. a long thin flexible band of metal used as a graduated measure, spring, etc. 4. a long narrow strip of ink-impregnated cloth for making the impression of type characters on paper in a type-writer, etc. 5. (*pl.*) ragged strips or shreds (esp. in **to be torn to ribbons**). 6. a small strip of coloured cloth signifying membership of an order or award of military decoration, prize, etc. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 7. to adorn with a ribbon or ribbons. 8. to mark with narrow ribbon-like marks.

ribbon development *n.* *Brit.* the building of houses in a continuous row along a main road.

riboflavin or **riboflavine** (ˌraɪbəʊˈfleɪvɪn) *n.* a vitamin of the B complex that occurs in green vegetables, milk, fish, egg yolk, liver, and kidney. Also called: **vitamin B₂**.

ribonucleic acid (ˌraɪbəʊnjuːˈkleɪk, -ˈkleɪ-) *n.* the full name of RNA.

rice (raɪs) *n.* 1. an erect grass that grows in East Asia on wet ground and has yellow oblong edible grains that become white when polished. 2. the grain of this plant. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) U.S. to sieve (potatoes or other vegetables) to a coarse mashed consistency.

rice paper *n.* 1. a thin edible paper made from the straw of rice, on which macaroons and similar cakes are baked. 2. a thin delicate Chinese paper made from the **rice-paper plant**, the pith of which is pared and flattened into sheets.

rich (rɪʃ) *adj.* 1. a. well supplied with wealth, property, etc.; owning much. b. (*as collective n.*): the rich. 2. (*when postpositive, usually foll. by in*) having an abundance of natural resources, minerals, etc.: a land rich in metals. 3. producing abundantly; fertile: rich soil. 4. (*when postpositive, foll. by in or with*) well supplied (with desirable qualities); abundant (*in*): a country rich with cultural interest. 5. of great worth or quality: a rich collection of antiques. 6. luxuriant or prolific: a rich growth of weeds. 7. expensively elegant, elaborate, or fine; costly: a rich display. 8. (of food) having a large proportion of flavoursome or fatty ingredients. 9. having a full-bodied flavour: a rich ruby port. 10. (of a smell) pungent or fragrant. 11. (of colour) intense or vivid; deep: a rich red. 12. (of sound or a voice) full, mellow, or resonant. 13. (of a fuel-air mixture) containing a relatively high proportion of fuel. 14. very amusing or ridiculous: a rich joke. ~*n.* 15. See riches. —**richness** *n.*

riches ('rɪʃɪz) *pl. n.* wealth; an abundance of money, valuable possessions, or property.

Richter scale ('rɪktə) *n.* a scale for expressing the intensity of an earthquake, ranging from 0 to over 8.

rick (rɪk) *n.* 1. a large stack of hay, corn, etc., built in a regular-shaped pile, esp. with a thatched top. ~*vb.* 2. (*tr.*) to stack into ricks.

rick (rɪk) *n.* 1. a wrench or sprain, as of the back. ~*vb.* 2. (*tr.*) to wrench or sprain (a joint, limb, the back, etc.).

rickets ('rɪkɪts) *n.* a disease mainly of children, characterized by softening of developing bone, and hence bow legs, caused by a deficiency of vitamin D.

rickettsia (rɪˈkɛtsɪə) *n.* *pl.* -siae (-sɪː), or -sias. any of a group of parasitic microorganisms, that live in the tissues of ticks, mites, etc. and cause disease when transmitted to man. —**rickettsial** *adj.*

rickety ('rɪkɪti) *adj.* 1. (of a structure, piece of furniture, etc.) likely to collapse or break. 2. feeble. 3. resembling or afflicted with rickets. —**ricketiness** *n.*

rickrack or **ricrac** ('rɪk,ræk) *n.* a zigzag braid used for trimming.

rickshaw ('rɪkʃə) or **ricksha** ('rɪkʃə) *n.* 1. Also called: **jirikisha**, a small two-wheeled passenger vehicle drawn by one or two men, used in parts of Asia. 2. Also called: **trishaw**, a similar vehicle with three wheels, propelled by a man pedalling as on a tricycle.

ricochet ('rɪkəʃeɪ, -rɪkəʃet) *vb.* -cheting (-ˌʃetɪŋ), -cheted (-ˌʃetɪd) or -chetting (-ˌʃetɪŋ), -chettled (-ˌʃetɪd).

1. (*intr.*) (esp. of a bullet) to rebound from a surface, usually with a whining or zipping sound. ~*n.* 2. the motion or sound of a rebounding object, esp. a bullet.

R.I.C.S. abbrev. for Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

rid (rɪd) *vb.* **riding**, **rid** or **ridded**. (*tr.*) 1. (*foll. by of*) to relieve from something disagreeable or undesirable; make free (of). 2. **get rid of**, to relieve or free oneself of (something unpleasant or undesirable).

riddance ('rɪdn̩s) *n.* the act of getting rid of something; removal (esp. in **good riddance**).

ridden ('rɪdn̩) *vb.* 1. the past participle of **ride**. ~*adj.* 2. (*in combination*) afflicted or dominated by something specified: disease-ridden.

riddle ('rɪdl̩) *n.* 1. a question, puzzle, or verse so phrased that ingenuity is required for elucidation of the answer or meaning. 2. a person or thing that puzzles, perplexes, or confuses. ~*vb.* 3. to solve, explain, or interpret (a riddle). 4. (*intr.*) to speak in riddles. —**rid-dler** *n.*

riddle ('rɪdl̩) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. (usually *foll. by with*) to pierce or perforate with numerous holes: riddled with bullets. 2. to put through a sieve; sift. ~*n.* 3. a sieve, esp. a coarse one used for sand, grain, etc. —**riddler** *n.*

ride (raɪd) *vb.* **riding**, **rode**, **ridden**. 1. to sit on and control the movements of (a horse or other animal). 2. (*tr.*) to sit on and propel (a bicycle or similar vehicle). 3. (*intr.*; often *foll. by on or in*) to be carried along or travel on or in a vehicle: she rides to work on the bus. 4. (*tr.*) to travel over or traverse: they rode the countryside in search of shelter. 5. (*tr.*) to take part in by riding: to ride a race. 6. to travel through or be carried across (sea, sky, etc.): the small boat rode the waves; the moon was riding high. 7. (*tr.*) U.S. to cause to be carried: to ride someone out of town. 8. (*intr.*) to be supported as if floating: the candidate rode to victory on his new policies. 9. (*intr.*) (of a vessel) to lie at anchor. 10. (*tr.*) (of a vessel) to be attached to (an anchor). 11. (*tr.*) (esp. of a male animal) to copulate with; mount. 12. (*tr.*; usually *passive*) to tyrannize over or dominate: ridden by fear. 13. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to persecute, esp. by constant or petty criticism: don't ride me so hard. 14. (*intr.*) *Inf.* to continue undisturbed: let it ride. 15. (*intr.*; often *foll. by on*) (of a bet) to remain placed: let your winnings ride on the same number. 16. **ride roughshod over**, to act with complete disregard (for). 17. **ride for a fall**, to act in such a way as to invite disaster. 18. **ride again**, *Inf.* to return to a former activity or scene. 19. **riding high**, confident, popular, and successful. ~*n.* 20. a journey or outing on horseback or in a vehicle. 21. a path specially made for riding on horseback. 22. transport in a vehicle; lift: can you give me a ride to the station? 23. a device or structure, such as a roller coaster at a fairground, in which people ride for pleasure or entertainment. 24. **take for a ride**, *Inf.* a. to cheat, swindle, or deceive. b. to take (someone) away in a car and murder him. ~See also **ride out**, **ride up**. —**ridable** or **rideable** *adj.*

ride out *vb.* (*tr.*, *adv.*) to endure successfully; survive (esp. in **ride out the storm**).

riders ('raɪdə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that rides. 2. an additional clause, amendment, or stipulation added to a document, esp. (in Britain) a legislative bill at its third reading. 3. *Brit.* a statement made by a jury in addition to its verdict, such as a recommendation for mercy. 4. *Maths.* a problem arising out of a theorem. 5. any of various objects or devices resting on or strengthening something else. —**ridersless** *adj.*

ride up *vb.* (*intr.*, *adv.*) to work away from the proper position: her new skirt rode up.

ridge (rɪdʒ) *n.* 1. a long narrow raised land formation with sloping sides. 2. any long narrow raised strip or elevation, as on a fabric or in ploughed land. 3. *Anat.* any elongated raised margin or border on a bone, tissue etc. 4. a. the top of a roof at the junction of two sloping sides. b. (*as modifier*): a ridge tile. 5. *Meteorol.* an elongated area of high pressure, esp. an extension of an anticyclone. Cf. **trough** (sense 4). ~*vb.* 6. to form into a ridge or ridges. —**ridge, like** *adj.* —**ridgy** *adj.*

ridgepole ('rɪdʒ,pəʊl) *n.* 1. a timber along the ridge of a roof, to which the rafters are attached. 2. the horizontal pole at the apex of a tent.

ridicule ('rɪdɪ,kju:l) *n.* 1. language or behaviour intended to humiliate or mock. ~*vb.* 2. (*tr.*) to make fun of or mock.

ridiculous ('rɪdɪkjʊləs) *adj.* worthy of or exciting ridicule; absurd, preposterous, laughable, or contemptible. —**ridiculousness** *n.*

riding ('raɪdɪŋ) *n.* 1. a. the art or practice of horseman-

ship. **b.** (as modifier): a riding school. **2.** a track for riding.

riding¹ ('raɪdɪŋ) *n.* (cap. when part of a name) any of the three former administrative divisions of Yorkshire: North Riding, East Riding, and West Riding

riding crop *n.* a short whip with a handle at one end for opening gates.

riesling ('ri:zlɪŋ, 'raɪz-) *n.* **1.** a dry white wine from the Rhine valley in Germany and from certain districts in Austria, Hungary, and Yugoslavia. **2.** the grape used to make this wine.

rife (raɪf) *adj.* (postpositive) **1.** of widespread occurrence; current. **2.** very plentiful; abundant. **3.** (foll. by *with*) rich or abounding (in): a garden rife with flowers. —'rifully adv. —'rifeness *n.*

riffle ('rɪfl) *vb.* **1.** (when *intr.*, often foll. by *through*) to flick rapidly through (pages of a book, etc.). **2.** to shuffle (cards) by halving the pack and flicking the corners together. **3.** to make or become a riffle. ~*n.* **4.** U.S. a. a rapid in a stream. **b.** a rocky shoal causing a rapid. **c.** a ripple on water. **5.** Mining. a contrivance on the bottom of a sluice, containing grooves for trapping particles of gold. **6.** the act or an instance of riffing.

riffruff ('rɪf,rʌf) *n.* (sometimes functioning as *pl.*) worthless people, esp. collectively; rabble.

rifle¹ ('raɪfl) *vb.* **1.** a. a firearm having a long barrel with a spirally grooved interior, which imparts to the bullet spinning motion and thus greater accuracy over a longer range. **b.** (as modifier): rifle fire. **2.** (formerly) a large cannon with a rifled bore. **3.** one of the grooves in a rifled bore. **4.** (pl.) a. a unit of soldiers equipped with rifles. **b.** (cap. as part of a name): the King's Own Rifles. ~*vb.* (tr.) **5.** to make spiral grooves inside the barrel of (a gun).

rifle² ('raɪfl) *vb.* (tr.) **1.** to search (a house, safe, etc.) and steal from it; ransack. **2.** to steal and carry off: to rifle goods. —'rifler *n.*

rifling ('raɪflɪŋ) *n.* **1.** the cutting of spiral grooves on the inside of a firearm's barrel. **2.** the series of grooves so cut.

rift (rɪft) *n.* **1.** a gap or space made by cleaving or splitting. **2.** Geol. a fault produced by tension on either side of the fault plane. **3.** a gap between two cloud masses; break or chink. **4.** a break in friendly relations between people, nations, etc. ~*vb.* **5.** to burst or cause to burst open; split.

rift valley *n.* a long narrow valley resulting from the subsidence of land between two faults.

rig (rɪg) *vb.* **rigging, rigged.** (tr.) **1.** Naut. to equip (a vessel, mast, etc.) with (sails, rigging, etc.). **2.** Naut. to set up or prepare ready for use. **3.** to put the components of (an aircraft, etc.) into their correct positions. **4.** to manipulate in a fraudulent manner, esp. for profit: to rig prices. ~*n.* **5.** Naut. the distinctive arrangement of the sails, masts, etc., of a vessel. **6.** the installation used in drilling for and exploiting petroleum and natural gas deposits: an oil rig. **7.** apparatus or equipment. **8.** U.S. an articulated lorry. ~See also **rig out**, **rig up**.

-rigged *adj.* (in combination) (of a sailing vessel) having a rig of a certain kind: ketch-rigged; schooner-rigged.

rigging ('rɪɡɪŋ) *n.* **1.** the shrouds, stays, etc., of a vessel. **2.** the bracing wires, struts, and lines of a biplane, etc. **3.** any form of lifting gear.

right (raɪt) *adj.* **1.** in accordance with accepted standards of moral or legal behaviour, justice, etc.: right conduct. **2.** correct or true: the right answer. **3.** appropriate, suitable, or proper: the right man for the job. **4.** most favourable or convenient: the right time to act. **5.** in a satisfactory condition: things are right again now. **6.** indicating or designating the correct time: the clock is right. **7.** correct in opinion or judgment. **8.** sound in mind or body. **9.** (usually *prepositional*) of, designating, or located near the side of something or someone that faces east when the front is turned towards the north. **10.** (usually *prepositional*) worn on a right hand, foot, etc. **11.** (sometimes *cap.*) of, designating, belonging to, or relating to the political or intellectual right (see sense 34). **12.** (sometimes *cap.*) conservative: the right wing of the party. **13.** Geom. a. formed by or containing a line or plane perpendicular to another line or plane. **b.** having the axis perpendicular to the base: a right circular cone. **c.** straight: a right line. **14.** relating to or designating the side of cloth worn or facing outwards. **15.** in one's right mind. sane. **16.** the right side of: a. in favour with: you'd better stay on the right side of him. **b.** younger than: she's still on the right side of fifty. ~*adv.* **17.** in accordance with correctness or truth: to guess right. **18.**

in the appropriate manner: do it right next time! **19.** in a straight line: right to the top. **20.** in the direction of the east from the point of view of a person or thing facing north. **21.** absolutely or completely: he went right through the floor. **22.** without delay: I'll be right over. **23.** exactly or precisely: right here. **24.** in a manner consistent with a legal or moral code: do right by me. **25.** in accordance with propriety; fittingly: it serves you right. **26.** to good or favourable advantage: it all came out right in the end. **27.** (esp. in religious titles) most or very: right reverend. **28.** right, left, and centre, on all sides. **29.** she'll be right. Austral. & N.Z. inf. that's all right; not to worry. ~*n.* **30.** any claim, title, etc., that is morally just or legally granted as allowable or due to a person: I know my rights. **31.** anything that accords with the principles of legal or moral justice. **32.** the fact or state of being in accordance with reason, truth, or accepted standards (esp. in *in the right*). **33.** the right side, direction, position, area, or part: the right of the army. **34.** (often *cap.* and preceded by *the*) the supporters or advocates of social, political, or economic conservatism or reaction. **35.** Boxing. a. a punch with the right hand. **b.** the right hand. **36.** Finance. (often *pl.*) the privilege of a company's shareholders to subscribe for new issues of the company's shares on advantageous terms. **37.** by right (or rights). properly: by rights you should be in bed. **38.** in one's own right, having a claim or title oneself rather than through marriage or other connection. **39.** to rights, consistent with justice or orderly arrangement: he put the matter to rights. ~*vb.* (mainly *tr.*) **40.** (also *intr.*) to restore to or attain a normal, esp. an upright, position: the raft righted in a few seconds. **41.** to make (something) accord with truth or facts. **42.** to restore to an orderly state or condition. **43.** to compensate for or redress (esp. in *right a wrong*). ~*interj.* **44.** an expression of agreement or compliance. —'rightable *adj.* —'righter *n.* —'rightness *n.*

right angle *n.* **1.** the angle between two perpendicular lines; an angle of 90°. **2.** at right angles, perpendicular or perpendicularly. —'right-angled *adj.*

right-angled triangle *n.* a triangle one angle of which is a right angle. U.S. name: right triangle.

right away *adv.* without delay.

righteous ('raɪtʃəs) *adj.* **1.** a. characterized by, proceeding from, or in accordance with accepted standards of morality, justice, or uprightness: a righteous man. **b.** (as *n.*): the righteous. **2.** morally justifiable or right: righteous indignation. —'righteously *adv.* —'righteousness *n.*

rightful ('raɪtfl) *adj.* **1.** in accordance with what is right. **2.** (*prepositional*) having a legally or morally just claim: the rightful owner. **3.** (*prepositional*) held by virtue of a legal or just claim: my rightful property. —'rightfully *adv.*

right-hand *adj.* (*prepositional*) **1.** of, located on, or moving towards the right: a right-hand bend. **2.** for use by the right hand. **3.** right-hand man. one's most valuable assistant.

right-handed *adj.* **1.** using the right hand with greater skill or ease than the left. **2.** performed with the right hand. **3.** made for use by the right hand. **4.** turning from left to right. —'right-handedness *n.*

rightist ('raɪtɪst) *adj.* **1.** of, tending towards, or relating to the political right or its principles. ~*n.* **2.** a person who supports or belongs to the political right. —'rightism *n.*

rightly ('raɪthl) *adv.* **1.** in accordance with the true facts. **2.** in accordance with principles of justice or morality. **3.** with good reason: he was rightly annoyed with her. **4.** properly or suitably. **5.** (used with a negative) Inf. with certainty (usually in *I don't rightly know*).

right-minded *adj.* holding opinions or principles that accord with what is right or with the opinions of the speaker.

right of way *n.*, *pl.* rights of way. **1.** the right of one vehicle or vessel to take precedence over another, as laid down by law or custom. **2.** a. the legal right of someone to pass over another's land, acquired by grant or by long usage. **b.** the path used by this right. **3.** U.S. the strip of land over which a power line, road, etc., extends.

Right Reverend *adj.* a title of respect for a bishop, esp. an Anglican bishop.

rightward ('raɪtwəd) *adj.* **1.** situated on or directed towards the right. ~*adv.* **2.** to the right —'rightwards *adv.*

right whale *n.* a large whalebone whale which is grey

or black, has a large head and no dorsal fin, and is hunted as a source of whalebone and oil.

right wing *n.* 1. (*often cap.*) the conservative faction of an assembly, party, etc. 2. the part of an army or field of battle on the right from the point of view of one facing the enemy. 3. *a.* the right-hand side of the field of play from the point of view of a team facing its opponent's goal. *b.* a player positioned in this area in any of various games. ~*adj.* **right-wing.** 4. of, belonging to, or relating to the right wing. —'**right-winger** *n.*

rigid ('rɪdʒd) *adj.* 1. physically inflexible or stiff: *a rigid piece of plastic.* 2. rigorously strict: *rigid rules.* —'**rigidly** *adv.* —'**rigidity** *n.*

rigmarole ('rɪgmə,rəʊl) or **rigamarole** ('rɪgəmə,rəʊl) *n.* 1. any long complicated procedure. 2. a set of incoherent or pointless statements.

rigor mortis ('rɪgə 'mɔːtɪs) *n.* *Pathol.* the stiffness of joints and muscular rigidity of a dead body.

rigorous ('rɪgərəs) *adj.* 1. harsh, strict, or severe: *rigorous discipline.* 2. severely accurate: *rigorous book-keeping.* 3. (esp. of weather) extreme or harsh. 4. *Maths., logic.* logically valid or correct. —'**rigorously** *adv.*

rigour or **U.S. rigor** ('rɪgə) *n.* 1. harsh but just treatment or action. 2. a severe or cruel circumstance: *the rigours of famine.* 3. strictness, harshness, or severity of character. 4. strictness in judgment or conduct.

rig out *vb.* 1. (*tr., adv.*; *often foll. by with*) to equip or fit out (with): *his car is rigged out with gadgets.* 2. to dress or be dressed: *rigged out smartly.* ~*n.* **rigout.** 3. *Inf.* a person's clothing or costume, esp. a bizarre outfit.

rig up *vb.* (*tr., adv.*) to erect or construct, esp. as a temporary measure: *cameras were rigged up to televise the event.*

rile (rail) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. *Inf.* to annoy or anger. 2. *U.S.* to agitate (water, etc.).

rill (rɪl) *n.* 1. a brook or stream. 2. a small channel or gully, such as one formed during soil erosion. 3. Also *rille.* one of many winding cracks on the moon.

rim (rɪm) *n.* 1. the raised edge of an object, esp. of something more or less circular such as a cup or crater. 2. the peripheral part of a wheel, to which the tyre is attached. 3. *Basketball.* the hoop from which the net is suspended. ~*vb.* **rimming, rimmed.** (*tr.*) 4. to put a rim on (a pot, cup, wheel, etc.).

rime¹ ('raɪm) *n.* 1. frost formed by the freezing of water droplets in fog onto solid objects. ~*vb.* 2. (*tr.*) to cover with rime or something resembling rime. —'**rimy** *adj.*

rime² ('raɪm) *n.* a variant spelling of **rhyme**.

rind ('raɪnd) *n.* 1. a hard outer layer or skin on bacon, cheese, etc. 2. the outer layer of a fruit or of the spore-producing body of certain fungi. 3. the outer layer of the bark of a tree.

rinderpest ('rɪndə,pest) *n.* an acute contagious viral disease of cattle, characterized by severe inflammation of the intestinal tract and diarrhoea.

ring¹ ('rɪŋ) *n.* 1. a circular band of a precious metal often set with gems and worn upon the finger as an adornment or as a token of engagement or marriage. 2. any object or mark that is circular in shape. 3. a circular path or course: *to run around in a ring.* 4. a group of people or things standing or arranged so as to form a circle: *a ring of spectators.* 5. an enclosed space, usually circular in shape, where circus acts are performed. 6. a square raised platform, marked off by ropes, in which contestants box or wrestle. 7. *the ring,* the sport of boxing. 8. *throw one's hat in the ring,* to announce one's intention to be a candidate or contestant. 9. a group of people, usually illegal, cooperating for the purpose of controlling the market in antiques, etc. 10. (esp. at county fairs) an enclosure where horses, cattle, and other livestock are paraded and auctioned. 11. an area reserved for betting at a racecourse. 12. a circular strip of bark cut from a tree or branch. 13. a single turn in a spiral. 14. *Geom.* the area of space lying between two concentric circles. 15. *Maths.* a set that is subject to two binary operations, addition and multiplication, such that the set is a commutative group under addition and is closed under multiplication, this latter operation being associative. 16. Also called: **annual ring.** *Bot.* a ring indicating one year's growth, seen in the cross section of stems and roots of woody plants. 17. *Chem.* a closed loop of atoms in a molecule. 18. one of the system of circular bands orbiting the planet Saturn. 19. *to run rings around.* *Inf.* to outclass completely. ~*vb.* **ringing, ringed.** (*tr.*) 20. to surround with, or as if with, or form a ring. 21. to mark a bird with a ring or clip for subsequent identification. 22. to fit a ring in the nose of (a

bull, pig, etc.) so that it can be led easily. 23. *to ringbark.* —'**ringed** *adj.*

ring² ('rɪŋ) *vb.* **ringing, rang, rung.** 1. to emit or cause to emit a resonant sound, characteristic of certain metals when struck. 2. to cause (a bell, etc.) to emit a ringing sound by striking it once or repeatedly or (of a bell) to emit such a sound. 3. *a.* (*tr.*) to cause (a large bell) to emit a ringing sound by pulling on a rope that is attached to a wheel on which the bell swings back and forth, being sounded by a clapper inside it. *b.* (*intr.*) (of a bell) to sound by being swung in this way. 4. (*intr.*) (of a building, place, etc.) to be filled with sound: *the church rang with singing.* 5. (*intr.*; *foll. by for*) to call by means of a bell, etc.: *to ring for the butler.* 6. Also: **ring up.** *Chiefly Brit.* to call (a person) by telephone. 7. (*tr.*) to strike or tap (a coin) in order to assess its genuineness by the sound produced. 8. (*intr.*) (of the ears) to have or give the sensation of humming or ringing. 9. **ring a bell.** to bring something to the mind or memory: *that rings a bell.* 10. **ring down the curtain.** *a.* to lower the curtain at the end of a theatrical performance. *b.* (*foll. by on*) to put an end (to). 11. **ring false.** to give the impression of being false. 12. **ring the bell.** *a.* to do, say, or be the right thing. *b.* to reach the pinnacle of success. 13. **ring the changes.** to vary the manner or performance of an action that is often repeated. 14. **ring true.** to give the impression of being true. ~*n.* 15. the act of or a sound made by ringing. 16. a sound produced by or suggestive of a bell. 17. any resonant or metallic sound: *the ring of trumpets.* 18. *Inf., chiefly Brit.* a telephone call. 19. the complete set of bells in a tower or belfry: *a ring of eight bells.* 20. an inherent quality or characteristic: *his explanation has the ring of sincerity.* ~*See also* **ring in,** etc.

▷ **Usage.** *Rang* and *sang* are the correct forms of the past tenses of *ring* and *sing*, although *rung* and *sung* are still heard informally and dialectally: *he rung (rang) the bell.*

ringdove ('rɪŋ,dəv) *n.* 1. another name for **wood pigeon**. 2. an Old World turtle dove, having a black band around the neck.

ring finger *n.* the third finger, esp. of the left hand, on which a wedding ring is worn.

ring in *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. (*intr.*) *Chiefly Brit.* to report to someone by telephone. 2. (*tr.*) to accompany the arrival of with bells (esp. in **ring in the new year**). ~*n.* **ring-in.** 3. *Austral. & N.Z. sl.* a person or thing that is not normally a member of a particular group; outsider.

ringleader ('rɪŋ,lɪdə) *n.* a person who leads a riot or mutiny.

ringlet ('rɪŋlɪt) *n.* 1. a lock of hair hanging down in a spiral curl. 2. a butterfly that occurs in S Europe and has dark brown wings marked with small black-and-white eyespots. —'**ringleted** *adj.*

ring main *n.* a domestic electrical supply in which outlet sockets are connected to the mains supply through a continuous closed circuit (**ring circuit**).

ringmaster ('rɪŋ,mɑːstə) *n.* the master of ceremonies in a circus.

ring off *vb.* (*intr., adv.*) *Chiefly Brit.* to terminate a telephone conversation by replacing the receiver; hang up.

ring out *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. (*tr.*) to accompany the departure of with bells (esp. in **ring out the old year**). 2. (*intr.*) to send forth a loud resounding noise.

ring road *n.* a main road that bypasses a town or town centre. *U.S. names:* **belt, beltway.**

ringside ('rɪŋ,sɑɪd) *n.* 1. the row of seats nearest a boxing or wrestling ring. 2. *a.* any place affording a close uninterrupted view. *b.* (as modifier): *a ringside seat.*

ring up *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. *Chiefly Brit.* to make a telephone call (to). 2. (*tr.*) to record on a cash register. 3. **ring up the curtain.** *a.* to begin a theatrical performance. *b.* (*often foll. by on*) to make a start (on).

ringworm ('rɪŋ,wɜːm) *n.* any of various fungal infections of the skin or nails, often appearing as itching circular patches. Also called: **tinea.**

rink ('rɪŋk) *n.* 1. an expanse of ice for skating on, esp. one that is artificially prepared and under cover. 2. an area for roller skating on. 3. a building or enclosure for ice skating or roller skating. 4. *Bowls.* a strip of the green on which a game is played. 5. *Curling.* the strip of ice on which the game is played. 6. (in bowls and curling) the players on one side in a game.

rinse ('rɪns) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to remove soap from (clothes, etc.) by applying clean water in the final stage in washing. 2. to wash lightly, esp. without using soap. 3. to give a light tint to (hair). ~*n.* 4. the act or an

instance of rinsing. 5. *Hairdressing*, a liquid preparation put on the hair when wet to give a tint to it: a *blue rinse*. — *rinsers* *n.*

riot ('raɪət) *n.* 1. **a.** a disturbance made by an unruly mob or (in law) three or more persons. **b.** (as modifier): a *riot shield*. 2. unrestrained revelry. 3. an occasion of boisterous merriment. 4. *Sl.* a person who occasions boisterous merriment. 5. a dazzling display: a *riot of colour*. 6. *Hunting*, the indiscriminate following of any scent by hounds. 7. *Arch.* wanton lasciviousness. 8. **run riot**. **a.** to behave without restraint. **b.** (of plants) to grow profusely. — *vb.* 9. (*intr.*) to take part in a riot. 10. (*intr.*) to indulge in unrestrained revelry. 11. (*tr.*, foll. by *away*) to spend (time or money) in wanton or loose living. — *rioters* *n.*

riotous ('raɪətəs) *adj.* 1. proceeding from or of the nature of riots or rioting. 2. characterized by wanton revelry: *riotous living*. 3. characterized by unrestrained merriment: *riotous laughter*. — *riotously* *adv.* — *riotousness* *n.*

rip¹ ('rɪp) *vb.* **ripping**, **ripped**. 1. to tear or be torn violently or roughly. 2. (*intr.*) *Inf.* to move violently or precipitously. 3. (*intr.*, foll. by *into*) *Inf.* to pour violent abuse (on). 4. (*tr.*) to saw or split (wood) in the direction of the grain. 5. **let rip**. to act or speak without restraint. — *n.* 6. a tear or split. 7. short for *ripsaw*. — See also *rip off*.

rip² ('rɪp) *n.* 1. a stretch of turbulent water. 2. a strong current, esp. one in an estuary.

rip³ ('rɪp) *n.* *Inf.*, *arch.* 1. a debauched person. 2. an old worn-out horse.

R.I.P. *abbrev.* for *requiescat* or *requiescant* in pace: may he, she, or they rest in peace.

riparian ('raɪpəriən) *adj.* 1. of, inhabiting, or situated on the bank of a river. 2. denoting or relating to the legal rights of the owner of land on a river bank, such as fishing. — *n.* 3. *Property law*, a person who owns land on a river bank.

rip cord ('rɪp,kɔ:d) *n.* 1. a cord that when pulled opens a parachute from its pack. 2. a cord on the gas bag of a balloon that when pulled enables gas to escape and the balloon to descend.

ripe (raɪp) *adj.* 1. (of fruit, grain, etc.) mature and ready to be eaten or used. 2. mature enough to be eaten or used: *ripe cheese*. 3. fully developed in mind or body. 4. resembling ripe fruit, esp. in redness or fullness: a *ripe complexion*. 5. (*postpositive*; foll. by *for*) ready or eager (to undertake or undergo an action). 6. (*postpositive*; foll. by *for*) suitable: *the time is not yet ripe*. 7. mature in judgment or knowledge. 8. advanced but healthy (esp. in a *ripe old age*). — *ripenly* *adv.* — *ripeness* *n.*

ripen ('raɪp'n) *vb.* to make or become ripe.

rip off *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to tear roughly (from). 2. (*adv.*) *Sl.* to steal from or cheat (someone). — *n.* **rip-off**. 3. *Sl.* a grossly overpriced article. 4. *Sl.* the act of stealing or cheating.

riposte (rɪ'pɒst, rɪ'pəʊst) *n.* 1. a swift sharp reply in speech or action. 2. *Fencing*, a counterattack made immediately after a successful parry. — *vb.* 3. (*intr.*) to make a riposte.

ripple ('rɪpəl) *n.* 1. a slight wave or undulation on the surface of water. 2. a small wave or undulation in fabric, hair, etc. 3. a sound reminiscent of water flowing quietly in ripples: a *ripple of laughter*. 4. *Electronics*, an oscillation of small amplitude superimposed on a steady value. 5. *U.S.* a small rapid. — *vb.* 6. (*intr.*) to form ripples or flow with an undulating motion. 7. (*tr.*) to stir up (water) so as to form ripples. 8. (*tr.*) to make ripple marks. 9. (*intr.*) (of sounds) to rise and fall gently. — *ripley* *n.* — *ripleyly* *adj.*

rip-roaring *adj.* *Inf.* characterized by excitement, intensity, or boisterous behaviour.

ripsaw ('rɪp,sɔ:) *n.* a handsaw for cutting along the grain of timber.

rise (raɪz) *vb.* **rising**, **rose**, **risen**. (*mainly intr.*) 1. to get up from a lying, sitting, kneeling, or prone position. 2. to get out of bed, esp. to begin one's day: *he always rises early*. 3. to move from a lower to a higher position or place. 4. to ascend or appear above the horizon: *the sun is rising*. 5. to increase in height or level: *the water rose above the normal level*. 6. to attain higher rank, status, or reputation: *he will rise in the world*. 7. to be built or erected: *those blocks of flats are rising fast*. 8. to appear: *new troubles rose to afflict her*. 9. to increase in strength, degree, etc.: *the wind is rising*. 10. to increase in amount or value: *house prices are always rising*. 11. to swell up: *dough rises*. 12. to become erect, stiff, or rigid: *the hairs on his neck rose in fear*. 13. (of one's

stomach or gorge) to manifest or feel nausea. 14. to revolt: *the people rose against their oppressors*. 15. to slope upwards: *the ground rises beyond the lake*. 16. to be resurrected. 17. to originate: *that river rises in the mountains*. 18. (of a session of a court, legislative assembly, etc.) to come to an end. 19. *Angling*, (of fish) to come to the surface of the water. 20. (often foll. by *to*) *Inf.* to respond (to teasing, etc.). — *n.* 21. the act or an instance of rising. 22. an increase in height. 23. an increase in rank, status, or position. 24. an increase in amount, cost, or value. 25. an increase in degree or intensity. 26. *Brit.* an increase in salary or wages. *U.S.* word: **raise**. 27. the vertical height of a step or of a flight of stairs. 28. the vertical height of a roof above the walls or columns. 29. *Angling*, the act or instance of fish coming to the surface of the water to take flies, etc. 30. the beginning, origin, or source. 31. a piece of rising ground; incline. 32. **get a rise out of**. *Sl.* to provoke an angry or petulant reaction from. 33. **give rise to**. to cause the development of.

riser ('raɪzə) *n.* 1. a person who rises, esp. from bed: *an early riser*. 2. the vertical part of a stair. 3. a vertical pipe, esp. one within a building.

risible ('rɪzɪbəl) *adj.* 1. having a tendency to laugh. 2. causing laughter; ridiculous. — *risibility* *n.* — *risibly* *adv.*

rising ('raɪzɪŋ) *n.* 1. a rebellion; revolt. 2. the leaven used to make dough rise in baking. — *adj.* (*prepositional*) 3. increasing in rank, status, or reputation: *a rising young politician*. 4. growing up to adulthood: *the rising generation*. 5. *Inf.* approaching: *he's rising 50*.

rising damp *n.* capillary movement of moisture from the ground into the walls of buildings, resulting in damage up to a level of 3 feet.

risk (rɪsk) *n.* 1. the possibility of incurring misfortune or loss. 2. *Insurance*. **a.** chance of a loss or other event on which a claim may be filed. **b.** the type of such an event, such as fire or theft. **c.** the amount of the claim should such an event occur. **d.** a person or thing considered with respect to the characteristics that may cause an insured event to occur. 3. **take or run a risk**. to proceed in an action without regard to the possibility of danger involved. — *vb.* (*tr.*) 4. to expose to danger or loss. 5. to act in spite of the possibility of (injury or loss): *to risk a fall in climbing*. — *riskily* *adj.*

risotto (rɪ'zɒtəʊ) *n.* a dish of rice cooked in stock and served usually with tomatoes, cheese, chicken, etc.

risqué ('rɪskeɪ) *adj.* bordering on impropriety or indecency: *a risqué joke*.

rissole ('rɪsəʊl) *n.* a mixture of minced cooked meat coated in egg and breadcrumbs, often covered with pastry, and fried.

ritardando (rɪ'tɑ:dəndəʊ) *adj.*, *adv.* another word for *rallentando*. *Abbrev.*: *rit.*

rite (raɪt) *n.* 1. a formal act prescribed or customary in religious ceremonies: *the rite of baptism*. 2. a particular body of such acts, esp. of a particular Christian Church: *the Latin rite*. 3. a Christian Church: *the Greek rite*.

ritual ('rɪtʃʊəl) *n.* 1. the prescribed or established form of a religious or other ceremony. 2. such prescribed forms in general or collectively. 3. stereotyped activity or behaviour. 4. any formal act, institution, or procedure that is followed consistently: *the ritual of the law*. — *adj.* 5. of or characteristic of religious, social, or other rituals. — *ritually* *adv.*

ritualism ('rɪtʃʊəlɪzəm) *n.* 1. exaggerated emphasis on the importance of rites and ceremonies. 2. the study of rites and ceremonies, esp. magical or religious ones. — *ritualist* *n.* — *ritualistic* *adj.* — *ritualistically* *adv.*

ritzy ('rɪtzi) *adj.* **ritzier**, **ritziest**. *Sl.* luxurious or elegant. — *ritzily* *adv.* — *ritziness* *n.*

rival ('raɪvəl) *n.* 1. a person, organization, team, etc., that competes with another for the same object or in the same field. **b.** (as modifier): *rival suitors*. — *vb.* — *valling*, *-valled* or *U.S.* *-valing*, *-valed*. (*tr.*) 2. to be the equal or near equal of: *an empire that rivalled Rome*. 3. to try to equal or surpass.

rivalry ('raɪvəlri) *n.*, *pl.* **-ries**. 1. the act of rivaling. 2. the state of being a rival or rivals.

rive (raɪv) *vb.* **riiving**, **rived**, **rived** or **riven** ('rɪv'n). (*usually passive*) 1. to split asunder: *a tree riven by lightning*. 2. to tear apart: *riven to shreds*.

river ('rɪvə) *n.* 1. **a.** a large natural stream of fresh water flowing along a definite course, usually into the sea, being fed by tributary streams. **b.** (as modifier): *river traffic*. **c.** (in combination): *river-side*; *riverbed*. Related *adj.*: *fluvial*. 2. any abundant stream or flow: *a*

river of blood. 3. **sell down the river.** *Inf.* to betray. —'riverless *adj.*

rivet ('rivɪt) *n.* 1. a short metal pin for fastening two or more pieces together, having a head at one end, the other end being hammered flat after being passed through holes in the pieces. —*vb.* (*tr.*) 2. to join by riveting. 3. to hammer in order to form into a head. 4. (*often passive*) to cause to be fixed, as in fascinated attention, horror, etc.: *to be riveted to the spot.* —'riveter *n.*

rivulet ('rivjʊlət) *n.* a small stream.

rly. abbrev. for railway.

R.M. abbrev. for: 1. Royal Mail. 2. Royal Marines. 3. (in Canada) Rural Municipality.

rm. abbrev. for: 1. room. 2. room.

R.M.A. abbrev. for Royal Military Academy (Sandhurst).

Rn the chemical symbol for radon.

R.N. abbrev. for: 1. Royal Navy. 2. (in Canada) Registered Nurse.

RNA *n.* *Biochem.* ribonucleic acid; any of a group of nucleic acids, present in all living cells, that play an essential role in the synthesis of proteins.

R.N.A.S. abbrev. for: 1. Royal Naval Air Service(s). 2. Royal Naval Air Station.

R.N.L.I. abbrev. for Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

roach (rəʊtʃ) *n., pl.* roaches or roach. a European freshwater food fish having a deep compressed body and reddish ventral and tail fins.

road (rəʊd) *n.* 1. a. an open way, usually surfaced with tarmac or concrete, providing passage from one place to another. *b.* (*as modifier*): *road traffic; a road sign.* *c.* (*in combination*): *the roadside.* 2. a. a street. *b.* (*cap. as part of a name*): *London Road.* 3. *Brit.* one of the tracks of a railway. 4. a way, path, or course: *the road to fame.* 5. (*often pl.*) Also called: **roadstead.** *Naut.* a partly sheltered anchorage. 6. a drift or tunnel in a mine, esp. a level one. 7. **hit the road.** *Sl.* to start or resume travelling. 8. **on the road.** *a.* travelling about. *b.* leading a wandering life. 9. **take (to) the road.** to begin a journey or tour. 10. **one for the road.** *Inf.* a last alcoholic drink before leaving. —'roadless *adj.*

roadblock ('rəʊd,blɒk) *n.* a barrier set up across a road by the police or military, in order to stop a fugitive, inspect traffic, etc.

road-fund licence *n.* *Brit.* a licence showing that the tax payable in respect of a motor vehicle has been paid.

road hog *n.* *Inf.* a selfish or aggressive driver.

roadholding ('rəʊd,həʊldɪŋ) *n.* the extent to which a motor vehicle is stable and does not skid, esp. on sharp bends or wet roads.

roadhouse ('rəʊd,haʊs) *n.* a pub, restaurant, etc., that is situated at the side of a road.

road show *n.* 1. *Radio.* a live programme, usually with some audience participation, transmitted from a radio van taking a particular show on the road. 2. a group of entertainers on tour.

roadstead ('rəʊd,sted) *n.* *Naut.* another word for **road** (sense 5).

roadster ('rəʊdstə) *n.* 1. *Arch.* an open car, esp. one seating only two. 2. a kind of bicycle.

road test *n.* 1. a test to ensure that a vehicle is roadworthy, esp. after repair or servicing, by driving it on roads. —*vb.* **road-test.** (*tr.*) 2. to test a vehicle in this way.

roadway ('rəʊd,wei) *n.* 1. the surface of a road. 2. the part of a road that is used by vehicles.

road works *pl. n.* repairs to a road or cable under a road, esp. when forming a hazard or obstruction to traffic.

roadworthy ('rəʊd,wɜːðɪ) *adj.* (of a motor vehicle) mechanically sound; fit for use on the roads. —'road,worthiness *n.*

roam (rəʊm) *vb.* 1. to travel or walk about with no fixed purpose or direction. —*n.* 2. the act of roaming. —'roamer *n.*

roan (rəʊn) *adj.* 1. (of a horse) having a bay (red roan), chestnut (strawberry roan), or black (blue roan) coat sprinkled with white hairs. —*n.* 2. a horse having such a coat. 3. a soft sheepskin leather used in bookbinding, etc.

roar (rɔː) *vb.* (*mainly intr.*) 1. (of lions and other animals) to utter characteristic loud growling cries. 2. (*also tr.*) (of people) to utter (something) with a loud deep cry, as in anger or triumph. 3. to laugh in a loud hearty unrestrained manner. 4. (of horses) to breathe

with laboured rasping sounds. 5. (of the wind, waves, etc.) to blow or break loudly and violently, as during a storm. 6. (of a fire) to burn fiercely with a roaring sound. 7. (*tr.*) to bring (oneself) into a certain condition by roaring: *to roar oneself hoarse.* —*n.* 8. a loud deep cry, uttered by a person or crowd, esp. in anger or triumph. 9. a prolonged loud cry of certain animals, esp. lions. 10. any similar noise made by a fire, the wind, waves, an engine, etc. —'roarer *n.*

roaring ('rɔːɪŋ) *adj.* 1. *Inf.* very brisk and profitable (esp. in a roaring trade). —*adv.* 2. noisily or boisterously (esp. in roaring drunk). —*n.* 3. a loud prolonged cry. —'roaringly *adv.*

roast (rəʊst) *vb.* (*mainly tr.*) 1. to cook (meat or other food) by dry heat, usually with added fat and esp. in an oven. 2. to brown or dry (coffee, etc.) by exposure to heat. 3. *Metallurgy.* to heat (an ore) in order to produce a concentrate that is easier to smelt. 4. to heat (oneself or something) to an extreme degree, as when sunbathing, etc. 5. (*intr.*) to be excessively and uncomfortably hot. 6. *Inf.* to criticize severely. —*n.* 7. something that has been roasted, esp. meat. —'roaster *n.*

rob (rɒb) *vb.* robbing, robbed. 1. to take something from (someone) illegally, as by force. 2. (*tr.*) to plunder (a house, etc.). 3. (*tr.*) to deprive unjustly: *to be robbed of an opportunity.* —'robber *n.*

robbery ('rɒbəri) *n., pl.* -beries. 1. *Criminal law.* the stealing of property from a person by using or threatening to use force. 2. the act or an instance of robbing.

robe (rəʊb) *n.* 1. any loose flowing garment, esp. the official vestment of a peer, judge, or academic. 2. a dressing gown or bathrobe. —*vb.* 3. to put a robe, etc., on (oneself or someone else).

robin ('rɒbɪn) *n.* 1. Also called: **robin redbreast.** a small Old World songbird related to the thrushes. The male has a brown back, orange-red breast and face, and grey underparts. 2. a North American thrush similar to but larger than the Old World robin.

Robin Hood *n.* a legendary English outlaw of the reign of Richard I, who lived in Sherwood Forest and robbed the rich to give to the poor.

robot ('rəʊbɒt) *n.* 1. any automated machine programmed to perform specific mechanical functions in the manner of a man. 2. (*modifier*) automatic: *a robot pilot.* 3. a person who works or behaves like a machine. 4. *S. African.* a set of traffic lights. —'robotism or 'robotry *n.* —'robot-,like *adj.*

robust (rəʊ'bʌst, 'rəʊbʌst) *adj.* 1. strong in constitution. 2. sturdily built: *a robust shelter.* 3. requiring or suited to physical strength: *a robust sport.* 4. (esp. of wines) having a full-bodied flavour. 5. rough or boisterous. 6. (of thought, intellect, etc.) straightforward. —*ro'bustly* *adv.* —*ro'bustness* *n.*

robustious (rəʊ'bʌstʃəs) *adj.* *Arch.* 1. rough; boisterous. 2. strong, robust, or stout. —*ro'bustiously* *adv.* —*ro'bustiousness* *n.*

roc (rɒk) *n.* (in Arabian legend) a bird of enormous size and power.

R.O.C. abbrev. for Royal Observer Corps.

rochet ('rɒtʃɪt) *n.* a white surplice with tight sleeves, worn by bishops, abbots, and certain other Church dignitaries.

rock¹ (rɒk) *n.* 1. *Geol.* any aggregate of minerals that makes up part of the earth's crust. It may be unconsolidated, such as a sand, clay, or mud, or consolidated, such as granite, limestone, or coal. 2. any hard mass of consolidated mineral matter, such as a boulder. 3. *U.S., Austral.* a stone. 4. a person or thing suggesting a rock, esp. in being dependable, unchanging, or providing firm foundation. 5. *Brit.* a hard sweet, typically a long brightly coloured peppermint-flavoured stick, sold esp. in holiday resorts. 6. *Sl.* a jewel, esp. a diamond. 7. **on the rocks.** a. in a state of ruin or destitution. *b.* (of drinks, esp. whisky) served with ice.

rock² (rɒk) *vb.* 1. to move or cause to move from side to side or backwards and forwards. 2. to reel or sway or cause (someone) to reel or sway, as with a violent shock or emotion. 3. (*tr.*) to shake or move (something) violently. 4. (*intr.*) to dance in the rock-and-roll style. 5. **rock the boat.** to create a disturbance. —*n.* 6. a rocking motion. 7. short for **rock-and-roll**. 8. Also called: **rock music.** any of various styles of pop music having a heavy beat, derived from rock-and-roll. —'rockingly *adv.*

Rock (rɒk) *n.* the, an informal name for Gibraltar, after the Western end of the Mediterranean.

rock-and-roll or **rock-'n'-roll** *n.* 1. a. a type of pop music originating in the 1950s as a blend of rhythm-and-

blues and country-and-western. **b.** (as modifier): the rock-and-roll era. **2.** dancing performed to such music, with exaggerated body movements stressing the beat. ~vb. **3.** (intr.) to perform this dance. —**rock-and-roller** or **rock-'n'-roller** *n.*

rock bottom *n.* **a.** the lowest possible level. **b.** (as modifier): rock-bottom prices.

rock-bound *adj.* hemmed in or encircled by rocks. Also (poetic): **rock-girt**.

rock cake *n.* a small cake containing dried fruit and spice, with a rough surface supposed to resemble a rock.

rock crystal *n.* a pure transparent colourless quartz, used in electronic and optical equipment.

rock dove or **pigeon** *n.* a common dove from which domestic and feral pigeons are descended.

rock ('rɒk) *n.* **1.** any of various devices that transmit or operate with a rocking motion. **2.** another word for **rocking chair**. **3.** either of two curved supports on the legs of a chair on which it may rock. **4.** *a.* an ice skate with a curved blade. *b.* the curve itself. **5.** *Brit.* a member of a group of teenagers in the mid-1960s who characteristically wore leather jackets and rode powerful motorcycles. **6.** *off one's rocker.* *Sl.* crazy.

rockery ('rɒkəri) *n.*, *pl.* -eries. a garden constructed with rocks, esp. one where alpine plants are grown.

rocket ('rɒkɪt) *n.* **1.** a self-propelling device, esp. a cylinder containing a mixture of solid explosives, used as a firework, distress signal, etc. **2.** *a.* any vehicle propelled by a rocket engine, esp. one used to carry a spacecraft, etc. *b.* (as modifier): **rocket launcher**. **3.** *Brit. inf.* a severe reprimand (esp. in **get a rocket**). ~vb. **4.** (tr.) to propel (a missile, spacecraft, etc.) by means of a rocket. **5.** (intr.; foll. by *off, away*, etc.) to move off at high speed. **6.** (intr.) to rise rapidly: *he rocketed to the top*.

rocketry ('rɒkɪtri) *n.* the science and technology of the design, operation, maintenance, and launching of rockets.

rock garden *n.* a garden featuring rocks or rockeries.

rocking chair *n.* a chair set on curving supports so that the sitter may rock backwards and forwards.

rocking horse *n.* a toy horse mounted on a pair of rockers on which a child can rock to and fro in a seesaw movement.

rock plant *n.* any plant that grows on rocks or in rocky ground.

rock rabbit *n.* *S. African.* another name for **dassie**. See **hyrax**.

rock salmon *n.* *Brit.* any of several coarse fishes when used as food, esp. the dogfish.

rock salt *n.* sodium chloride occurring in sedimentary beds and dried salt lakes; an important source of table salt.

rocky¹ ('rɒki) *adj.* **rockier**, **rockiest**. **1.** consisting of or abounding in rocks: *a rocky shore*. **2.** unyielding: *rocky determination*. **3.** hard like rock: *rocky muscles*. —**rockiness** *n.*

rocky² ('rɒki) *adj.* **rockier**, **rockiest**. **1.** weak or unstable. **2.** *Inf.* (of a person) dizzy; nauseated. —**rockily** *adv.* —**rockiness** *n.*

rococo ('rɒkəʊ) *n.* (often *cap.*) **1.** a style of architecture and decoration that originated in France in the early 18th century, characterized by elaborate but graceful ornamentation. **2.** an 18th-century style of music characterized by prettiness and extreme use of ornamentation. **3.** any florid or excessively ornamental style. ~*adj.* **4.** denoting, being in, or relating to the rococo. **5.** florid or excessively elaborate.

rod (rɒd) *n.* **1.** a slim cylinder of metal, wood, etc. **2.** a switch or bundle of switches used to administer corporal punishment. **3.** any of various staffs of insignia or office. **4.** power, esp. of a tyrannical kind: *a dictator's iron rod*. **5.** a straight slender shoot, stem, or cane of a woody plant. **6.** See **fishing rod**. **7.** Also called: **pole**, **perch**. *a.* a unit of length equal to 5½ yards. *b.* a unit of square measure equal to 30¼ square yards. **8.** *Surveying.* another name (esp. U.S.) for **staff** (sense 8). **9.** Also called: **retinal rod**, any of the elongated cylindrical cells in the retina of the eye, which are sensitive to dim light but not to colour. **10.** any rod-shaped bacterium. **11.** U.S. a slang name for **pistol**. **12.** short for **hot rod**. —**rod, like** *adj.*

rode (rɒd) *vb.* the past tense of **ride**.

rodent ('rɒdnt) *n.* **a.** any of the relatively small placental mammals having constantly growing incisor teeth specialized for gnawing. The group includes rats, mice,

squirrels, etc. **b.** (as modifier): *rodent characteristics*. —**rodent-like** *adj.*

rodeo ('rɒdi,ʊ) *n.*, *pl.* -os. *Chiefly U.S.* **1.** a display of the skills of cowboys, including bareback riding, etc. **2.** the rounding up of cattle for branding, etc. **3.** an enclosure for cattle that have been rounded up.

rodomontade ('rɒdɒmɒnt'etɪd, -'tɒd) *Literary.* ~*n.* **1.** **a.** boastful words or behaviour. **b.** (as modifier): *rodomontade behaviour*. ~vb. **2.** (intr.) to boast or rant.

roe¹ ('rəʊ) *n.* **1.** Also called: **hard roe**, the ovary of a female fish filled with mature eggs. **2.** Also called: **soft roe**, the testis of a male fish filled with mature sperm.

roe² ('rəʊ) *n.*, *pl.* **roes** or **roe**. short for **roe deer**.

roe deer *n.* a small graceful deer of woodlands of Europe and Asia. The antlers are small and the summer coat is reddish-brown.

rogation ('rəʊ'geɪʃn) *n.* (usually *pl.*) *Christianity.* a solemn supplication, esp. in a form of ceremony prescribed by the Church.

Rogation Days *pl. n.* April 25 (the **Major Rogation**) and the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday before Ascension Day, observed by Christians as days of solemn supplication and marked by processions and special prayers.

roger ('rɒdʒə) *interj.* **1.** (used in signalling, telecommunications, etc.) message received and understood. **2.** an expression of agreement.

rogue ('rəʊɡ) *n.* **1.** a dishonest or unprincipled person, esp. a man. **2.** *Often jocular.* a mischievous or wayward person, often a child. **3.** any inferior or defective specimen, esp. a defective crop plant. **4.** *Arch.* a vagrant. **5.** *a.* an animal of vicious character that leads a solitary life. *b.* (as modifier): *a rogue elephant*. ~vb. **6.** (tr.) to remove (plants) from the main crop. —**roguish** *adj.*

roguey ('rəʊɡəri) *n.*, *pl.* -gueries. **1.** behaviour characteristic of a rogue. **2.** a roguish or mischievous act.

rogues' gallery *n.* a collection of portraits of known criminals kept by the police for identification purposes.

roister ('rɔɪstə) *vb.* (intr.) **1.** to engage in noisy or unrestrained merrymaking. **2.** to brag, bluster, or swagger. —**roisterer** *n.* —**roisterous** *adj.* —**roisterously** *adv.*

role or **rôle** ('rəʊl) *n.* **1.** a part or character in a play, film, etc., to be played by an actor or actress. **2.** *Psychol.* the part played by a person in a particular social setting, influenced by his expectation of what is appropriate. **3.** usual function: *what is his role in the organization?*

roll ('rəʊl) *vb.* **1.** to move or cause to move along by turning over and over. **2.** to move or cause to move along on wheels or rollers. **3.** to flow or cause to flow onwards in an undulating movement. **4.** (intr.) (of animals, etc.) to turn onto the back and kick. **5.** (intr.) to extend in undulations: *the hills roll down to the sea*. **6.** (intr.; usually foll. by *around*) to move or occur in cycles. **7.** (intr.) (of a planet, the moon, etc.) to revolve in an orbit. **8.** (intr.; foll. by *on, by*, etc.) to pass or elapse: *the years roll by*. **9.** to rotate or cause to rotate wholly or partially: *to roll one's eyes*. **10.** to curl, cause to curl, or admit of being curled, so as to form a ball, tube, or cylinder. **11.** to make or form by shaping into a ball, tube, or cylinder: *to roll a cigarette*. **12.** (often foll. by *out*) to spread or cause to spread out flat or smooth under or as if under a roller: *to roll pastry*. **13.** to emit or utter with a deep prolonged reverberating sound: *the thunder rolled continuously*. **14.** to trill or cause to be trilled: *to roll one's r's*. **15.** (intr.) (of a vessel, aircraft, rocket, etc.) to turn from side to side around the longitudinal axis. **16.** to cause (an aircraft) to execute a roll or (of an aircraft) to execute a roll (sense 35). **17.** (intr.) to walk with a swaying gait, as when drunk. **18.** *Chiefly U.S.* to throw (dice). **19.** (intr.) to operate or begin to operate: *the presses rolled*. **20.** *Inf.* to make progress: *let the good times roll*. **21.** (tr.) *Sl., chiefly U.S. & N.Z.* to rob (a helpless person). **22.** *start the ball rolling.* *Inf.* to open or initiate (an action, discussion, etc.). ~*n.* **23.** the act or an instance of rolling. **24.** anything rolled up in a cylindrical form: *a roll of newspaper*. **25.** an official list or register, esp. of names: *an electoral roll*. **26.** a rounded mass: *rolls of flesh*. **27.** a cylinder used to flatten something; roller. **28.** a small cake of bread for one person. **29.** a flat pastry or cake rolled up with a meat (**sausage roll**), jam (**jam roll**), or other filling. **30.** a swell or undulation on a surface: *the roll of the hills*. **31.** a swaying, rolling, or unsteady movement or gait. **32.** a deep prolonged reverberating sound: *the roll of thunder*. **33.** a trilling sound; trill. **34.** a very rapid beating of the sticks on a drum. **35.** a flight manoeuvre in which an

aircraft makes one complete rotation about its longitudinal axis without loss of height or change in direction. **36.** *Sl.* an act of sexual intercourse or petting (esp. in a **roll in the hay**). **37.** *U.S.* *sl.* an amount of money, esp. a wad of paper money. **38.** **strike off the roll(s).** *a.* to expel from membership. *b.* to debar (a solicitor) from practising, usually because of dishonesty. ~See also **roll in, roll on**, etc.

roll call *n.* the reading aloud of an official list of names, those present responding when their names are read out.

rolled gold *n.* a metal, such as brass, coated with a thin layer of gold. Also called (U.S.): **filled gold**.

roller ('rəʊlə) *n.* **1.** a cylinder having an absorbent surface and a handle, used for spreading paint. **2.** Also called: **garden roller.** a heavy cast-iron cylinder on an axle to which a handle is attached; used for flattening lawns. **3.** a long heavy wave of the sea, advancing towards the shore. **4.** a hardened cylinder of precision-ground steel that forms one of the rolling components of a roller bearing or of a linked driving chain. **5.** a cylinder fitted on pivots, used to enable heavy objects to be easily moved. **6.** *Printing.* a cylinder, usually of hard rubber, used to ink a plate before impression. **7.** any of various other cylindrical devices that rotate about a cylinder, used for any of various purposes. **8.** a small cylinder onto which a woman's hair may be rolled to make it curl. **9.** *Med.* a bandage consisting of a long strip of muslin rolled tightly into a cylindrical form before application. **10.** any of various Old World birds, such as the **European roller**, that have a blue, green, and brown plumage, a slightly hooked bill, and an erratic flight. **11.** (*often cap.*) a variety of tumbler pigeon. **12.** a person or thing that rolls. **13.** short for **steamroller**.

roller coaster *n.* (at a fair, etc.) a narrow railway with open carriages that run over sharp bends and steep inclines. Also called: **big dipper**.

roller skate *n.* **1.** a device having straps for fastening to a shoe and four small wheels that enable the wearer to glide swiftly over a floor. ~*vb.* **roller-skate.** **2.** (*intr.*) to move on roller skates. —**roller skater** *n.*

roller towel *n.* a towel with the two ends sewn together, hung on a roller.

rollick ('rɒlɪk) *vb.* **1.** (*intr.*) to behave in a carefree or boisterous manner. ~*n.* **2.** a boisterous or carefree escapade. —**rollicking** *adj.*

roll in *vb.* (*mainly intr.*) **1.** (*adv.*) to arrive in abundance or in large numbers. **2.** (*adv.*) *Inf.* to arrive at one's destination. **3.** **be rolling in.** (*prep.*) *Sl.* to abound or luxuriate in (wealth, money, etc.).

rolling ('rɒlɪŋ) *adj.* **1.** having gentle rising and falling slopes: *rolling country*. **2. reverberating: *rolling thunder*. **3.** that may be turned up or down: *a rolling hat brim*. **4. *Sl.* extremely rich. ~*adv.* **5. *Sl.* swaying or staggering (*in rolling drunk*).******

rolling mill *n.* **1.** a mill or factory where ingots of heated metal are passed between rollers to produce sheets or bars of a required cross section and form. **2.** a machine having rollers that may be used for this purpose.

rolling pin *n.* a cylinder with handles at both ends used for rolling dough, pastry, etc., out flat.

rolling stock *n.* the wheeled vehicles collectively used on a railway, including the locomotives, passenger coaches, etc.

rolling stone *n.* a restless or wandering person.

rollmop ('rɒl,mɒp) *n.* a herring fillet rolled, usually around onion slices, and pickled in spiced vinegar.

rollneck ('rɒl,nɛk) *adj.* **1.** (of a garment) having a high neck that may be rolled over. ~*n.* **2.** a rollneck sweater or other garment.

roll on *vb.* *Brit.* used to express the wish that an eagerly anticipated event or date will come quickly: *roll on Saturday*. ~*adj.* **roll-on.** **2.** (of a deodorant, etc.) dispensed by means of a revolving ball fitted into the neck of the container. ~*n.* **3.** a woman's foundation garment, made of elasticized material and having no fastenings.

roll-top desk *n.* a desk having a slatted wooden panel that can be pulled down over the writing surface when not in use.

roll up *vb.* (*adv.*) **1.** to form or cause to form a cylindrical shape. **2.** (*tr.*) to wrap (an object) round on itself or on an axis: *to roll up a map*. **3.** (*intr.*) *Inf.* to arrive, esp. in a vehicle. **4.** *Austral.* to assemble; congregate. ~*n.* **roll-up.** **5.** *Austral.* the number attending a meeting, etc.

roly-poly ('rɒlɪ'pɒli) *adj.* **1.** plump, buxom, or rotund.

~*n.*, *pl.* **-lies.** **2.** *Brit.* a strip of suet pastry spread with jam, fruit, or a savoury mixture, rolled up, and baked or steamed.

ROM (rɒm) *n.* *Computers.* acronym for read only memory.

rom. *Printing.* abbrev. for roman (type).

Rom. abbrev. for: **1.** Roman. **2.** Romance (languages). **3.** Bible. Romans.

roman ('rəʊmən) *adj.* **1.** of, relating to, or denoting a vertical style of printing type: the usual form of type for most printed matter. *Cf. italic.* ~*n.* **2.** roman type.

Roman ('rəʊmən) *adj.* **1.** of or relating to Rome or its inhabitants in ancient or modern times. **2.** of or relating to Roman Catholicism or the Roman Catholic Church. ~*n.* **3.** a citizen or inhabitant of ancient or modern Rome.

Roman alphabet *n.* the alphabet evolved by the ancient Romans for the writing of Latin, derived ultimately from the Phoenicians. The alphabet serves for writing most of the languages of W Europe.

Roman candle *n.* a firework that produces a continuous shower of sparks punctuated by coloured balls of fire.

Roman Catholic *adj.* **1.** of or relating to the Roman Catholic Church. ~*n.* **2.** a member of this Church. ~Often shortened to **Catholic**. —**Roman Catholicism** *n.*

Roman Catholic Church *n.* the Christian Church over which the pope presides, with administrative headquarters in the Vatican. Also called: **Catholic Church**, **Church of Rome**.

romance ('rɒ'mæns, 'rəʊmæns). **1.** a love affair. **2.** love, esp. romantic love idealized for its purity or beauty. **3.** a spirit of or inclination for adventure or mystery. **4.** a mysterious, exciting, sentimental, or nostalgic quality, esp. one associated with a place. **5.** a narrative in verse or prose, written in a vernacular language in the Middle Ages, dealing with adventures of chivalrous heroes. **6.** any similar narrative work dealing with events and characters remote from ordinary life. **7.** a story, novel, film, etc., dealing with love, usually in an idealized or sentimental way. **8.** an extravagant, absurd, or fantastic account. **9.** a lyrical song or short instrumental composition having a simple melody. ~*vb.* ('rɒ'mæns). **10.** (*intr.*) to tell, invent, or write extravagant or romantic fictions. **11.** (*intr.*) to tell extravagant or improbable lies. —**ro'mancer** *n.*

Romance ('rɒ'mæns, 'rəʊmæns) *adj.* **1.** denoting, relating to, or belonging to the languages derived from Latin, including Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, French, and Rumanian. **2.** denoting a word borrowed from a Romance language. ~*n.* **3.** this group of languages.

Romanesque ('rɒmɒ'nesk) *adj.* **1.** denoting or having the style of architecture used in W and S Europe from the 9th to the 12th century, characterized by the rounded arch and massive-masonry wall construction. **2.** denoting a corresponding style in painting, sculpture, etc.

Roman nose *n.* a nose having a high prominent bridge.

Roman numerals *pl. n.* the letters used by the Romans for the representation of cardinal numbers, still used occasionally today. The integers are represented by the following letters: I (= 1), V (= 5), X (= 10), L (= 50), C (= 100), D (= 500), and M (= 1000). VI = 6 (V + I), but IV = 4 (V - I).

romantic ('rɒ'mæntɪk) *adj.* **1.** of, relating to, imbued with, or characterized by romance. **2.** evoking or given to thoughts and feelings of love, esp. idealized or sentimental love: *a romantic setting*. **3.** impractical, visionary, or idealistic: *a romantic scheme*. **4.** *Often euphemistic.* imaginary or fictitious: *a romantic account of one's war service*. **5.** (*often cap.*) of or relating to a movement in European art, music, and literature in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, characterized by an emphasis on feeling and content rather than order and form. ~*n.* **6.** a person who is romantic, as in being idealistic, amorous, or soulful. **7.** a person whose tastes in art, literature, etc., lie mainly in romanticism. **8.** (*often cap.*) a poet, composer, etc., of the romantic period or whose main inspiration is romanticism. —**ro'mantically** *adv.*

romanticism ('rɒ'mæntɪ'sɪzəm) *n.* **1.** (*often cap.*) the theory, practice, and style of the romantic art, music, and literature of the late 18th and early 19th centuries, usually opposed to classicism. **2.** romantic attitudes, ideals, or qualities. —**ro'manticist** *n.*

romanticize or **-cise** ('rɒ'mæntɪ'saɪz) *vb.* **1.** (*intr.*) to think or act in a romantic way. **2.** (*tr.*) to interpret

according to romantic precepts. **3.** to make or become romantic, as in style. —**ro,mantici'zation** or **-ci'sation** *n.*

Romany or **Rommany** ('rɒməni, 'rəʊ-) *n., pl. -nies.* **1.** a. another name for a **Gypsy**. **b.** (as modifier): *Romany customs*. **2.** the language of the Gypsies, belonging to the Indic branch of the Indo-European family.

Romeo ('rəʊmiəʊ) *n., pl. -os.* an ardent male lover.

romp ('rɒmp) *vb. (intr.)* **1.** to play or run about wildly, boisterously, or joyfully. **2. romp home (or in).** to win a race, etc., easily. ~*n.* **3.** a noisy or boisterous game or prank. **4. Arch.** a playful or boisterous child, esp. a girl. **5.** an easy victory. —**'rompingly** *adv.*

rompers ('rɒmpəz) *pl. n.* **1.** a one-piece baby garment consisting of trousers and a bib with straps. **2. N.Z.** a type of costume worn by schoolgirls for games and gymnastics.

rondeau ('rɒndəʊ) *n., pl. -deaux* (-dəʊ, -dəʊz). a poem consisting of 13 or 10 lines with two rhymes and having the opening words of the first line used as an unrhymed refrain.

rondo ('rɒndəʊ) *n., pl. -dos.* a piece of music in which a refrain is repeated between episodes: often constitutes the form of the last movement of a sonata or concerto.

rone (rɒn) *n. Scot.* a drainpipe for carrying rainwater from a roof.

rood (ru:d) *n.* **1. a.** a crucifix, esp. one set on a beam or screen at the entrance to the chancel of a church. **b.** (as modifier): *rood screen*. **2.** the Cross on which Christ was crucified. **3.** a unit of area equal to one quarter of an acre or 0.10117 hectares. **4.** a unit of area equal to one square rod.

roof (ru:f) *n., pl. roofs* (ru:fs, ru:vz). **1. a.** a structure that covers or forms the top of a building. **b.** (in combination): *the rooftop*. **c.** (as modifier): *a roof garden*. **2.** the top covering of a vehicle, oven, or other structure: *the roof of a car*. **3. Anat.** any structure that covers an organ or part: *the roof of the mouth*. **4.** a highest or topmost point or part: *Mount Everest is the roof of the world*. **5.** a house or other shelter: *a poor man's roof*. **6. hit (or raise or go through) the roof. *Inf.* to get extremely angry. ~*vb.* **7. (tr.)** to provide or cover with a roof or rooflike part. —**'roofer** *n.* —**'roofless** *adj.***

roof garden *n.* a garden on a flat roof of a building.

roofing ('ru:fin) *n.* **1.** material used to construct a roof. **2.** the act of constructing a roof.

roof rack *n.* a rack attached to the roof of a motor vehicle for carrying luggage, skis, etc.

rooftree ('ru:f,tri:) *n.* another name for **ridgepole**.

rook¹ ('ru:k) *n.* **1.** a large Eurasian passerine bird, with a black plumage and a whitish base to its bill. **2. Sl.** a swindler or cheat, esp. one who cheats at cards. ~*vb.* **3. (tr.) Sl.** to overcharge, swindle, or cheat.

rook² ('ru:k) *n.* a chess piece that may move any number of unoccupied squares in a straight line, horizontally or vertically. Also called: **castle**.

rookery ('ru:kəri) *n., pl. -eries.* **1.** a group of nesting rooks. **2.** a clump of trees containing rooks' nests. **3.** a group of breeding birds of certain other species, esp. penguins.

rookie ('ru:ki) *n. Inf.* a newcomer, esp. a raw recruit in the army.

room ('ru:m, rum) *n.* **1.** space or extent, esp. unoccupied or unobstructed space for a particular purpose: *is there room to pass?* **2.** an area within a building enclosed by a floor, a ceiling, and walls or partitions. **3. (functioning as sing. or pl.)** the people present in a room: *the whole room was laughing*. **4.** (foll. by *for*) opportunity or scope: *room for manoeuvre*. ~*vb.* **5. (intr.)** to occupy or share a room or lodging: *where does he room?* —**'roomer** *n.* —**'room,ful** *n.*

rooming house *n.* U.S. a house having self-contained furnished rooms or flats for renting.

roommate ('ru:m,meit, 'rum-) *n.* a person with whom one shares a room or lodging.

room service *n.* service in a hotel providing meals, etc., in guests' rooms.

roomy ('ru:mi, 'rumi) *adj.* **roomier, roomiest.** spacious. —**'roomily** *adv.* —**'roominess** *n.*

roost ('ru:st) *n.* **1.** a place, perch, branch, etc., where birds, esp. domestic fowl, rest or sleep. **2.** a temporary place to rest or stay. **3. rule the roost.** to be in charge or dominate. ~*vb.* **4. (intr.)** to rest or sleep on a roost. **5. (intr.)** to settle down or stay. **6. come home to roost.** to have unfavourable repercussions.

rooster ('ru:sta) *n.* Chiefly U.S. the male of the domestic fowl; a cock.

root¹ ('ru:t) *n.* **1. a.** the organ of a higher plant that anchors the rest of the plant in the ground and absorbs water and mineral salts from the soil. **b.** (loosely) any of the branches of such an organ. **2.** any plant part, such as a tuber, that is similar to a root in function or appearance. **3.** the essential part or nature of something: *your analysis strikes at the root of the problem*. **4. Anat.** the embedded portion of a tooth, nail, hair, etc. **5.** origin or derivation. **6. (pl.)** a person's sense of belonging in a community, place, etc., esp. the one in which he was born or brought up. **7. Bible.** a descendant. **8. Linguistics.** the form of a word that remains after removal of all affixes. **9. Maths.** a quantity that when multiplied by itself a certain number of times equals a given quantity: *3 is a cube root of 27*. **10.** Also called: **solution.** Maths. a number that when substituted for the variable satisfies a given equation. **11. Music.** (in harmony) the note forming the foundation of a chord. **12. Austral. taboo sl.** sexual intercourse. **13. root and branch.** (adv.) entirely; utterly. ~**Related adj.: radical.** ~*vb.* **14. (intr.)** Also: **take root.** to establish a root and begin to grow. **15. (intr.)** Also: **take root.** to become established, embedded, or effective. **16. (tr.)** to embed with or as if with a root or roots. **17. Austral. taboo sl.** to have sexual intercourse (with). ~**See also root out.** —**'rooter** *n.* —**'root,like** *adj.* —**'rooty** *adj.* —**'rootiness** *n.*

root² ('ru:t) *vb. (intr.)* **1.** (of a pig) to burrow in or dig up the earth in search of food, using the snout. **2.** (foll. by *about, around, in,* etc.) *Inf.* to search vigorously but unsystematically. —**'rooter** *n.*

root canal *n.* the passage in the root of a tooth through which its nerves and blood vessels enter the pulp cavity.

root crop *n.* a crop, as of turnips or beets, cultivated for the food value of its roots.

root for *vb. (intr., prep.) U.S. Inf.* to give support to (a contestant, team, etc.), as by cheering.

rootle ('ru:tl) *vb. (intr.) Brit.* another word for **root**¹.

rootless ('ru:tlis) *adj.* having no roots, esp. (of a person) having no ties with a particular place.

root mean square *n.* the square root of the average of the squares of a set of numbers or quantities: *the root mean square of 1, 2, and 4 is $\sqrt{1^2 + 2^2 + 4^2} = \sqrt{21}$* . Abbrev.: **rms**

root out *vb. (tr., adv.)* to remove or eliminate completely: *we must root out inefficiency*.

rootstock ('ru:t,stɒk) *n.* **1.** another name for **rhizome**. **2.** another name for **stock** (sense 7). **3. Biol.** a basic structure from which offshoots have developed.

rope ('rəʊp) *n.* **1. a.** a fairly thick cord made of intertwined hemp or other fibres or of wire or other strong material. **b.** (as modifier): *a rope ladder*. **2.** a row of objects fastened to form a line: *a rope of pearls*. **3.** a quantity of material wound in the form of a cord. **4.** filament or strand, esp. of something viscous or glutinous: *a rope of slime*. **5. the rope.** a. a rope halter used for hanging. **b.** death by hanging. **6. give (someone) enough rope to hang himself or plenty of rope.** to allow (a person) to accomplish his own downfall by his own foolish acts. **7. know the ropes.** to have a thorough understanding of a particular sphere of activity. **8. on the ropes.** a. **Boxing.** driven against the ropes enclosing the ring by an opponent's attack. **b.** in a hopeless position. ~*vb.* **9. (tr.)** to bind or fasten with or as if with a rope. **10. (tr., usually foll. by off)** to enclose or divide by means of a rope. **11. (when intr., foll. by up)** *Mountaineering.* to tie (climbers) together with a rope.

rope in *vb. (tr., adv.)* **1. Brit.** to persuade to take part in some activity. **2. U.S.** to trick or entice into some activity.

ropewalk ('rəʊp,wɔ:k) *n.* a long narrow usually covered path or shed where ropes are made.

ropy ('rəʊpi) *adj.* **ropier, ropiest.** **1.** Also: **ropey.** *Brit. inf.* inferior. **2.** (of a viscous or sticky substance) forming strands. **3.** resembling a rope. —**'ropily** *adv.* —**'ropiness** *n.*

Roquefort ('rɒkfɔ:t) *n.* a blue-veined cheese with a strong flavour, made from ewe's and goat's milk.

rorqual ('rɒkwəl) *n.* any of several whalebone whales that have a dorsal fin and a series of grooves along the throat and chest. Also called: **finback**.

Rorschach test ('rɔ:ʃɔ:k) *n. Psychol.* a personality test consisting of a number of unstructured ink blots presented for interpretation.

rosaceous ('rəʊzeɪʃəs) *adj.* **1.** of or belonging to the *Rosaceae*, a family of plants typically having white, yellow, pink, or red five-petaled flowers. The family

includes the rose, strawberry, blackberry, and many fruit trees. 2. like a rose, esp., rose-coloured.

rosary ('rəʊzəri) *n.*, *pl.* -saries. 1. *R.C. Church.* a. a series of prayers counted on a string of beads, usually five or 15 decades of Aves, each decade beginning with a Paternoster and ending with a Gloria. b. a string of 55 or 165 beads used to count these prayers as they are recited. 2. (in other religions) a similar string of beads used in praying. 3. an archaic word for a **garland** (of flowers, etc.).

rose¹ ('rəʊz) *n.* 1. a. a shrub or climbing plant having prickly stems, compound leaves, and fragrant flowers. b. (in combination): **rosebush**. 2. the flower of any of these plants. 3. any of various similar plants, such as the Christmas rose. 4. a purplish-pink colour. 5. a. a cut for a gemstone, having a hemispherical faceted crown and a flat base. b. a gem so cut. 6. a perforated cap fitted to a watering can or hose, causing the water to issue in a spray. 7. a design or decoration shaped like a rose; **rosette**. 8. **bed of roses**, a situation of ease and luxury. 9. **under the rose**, in secret; privately; sub rosa. ~*vb.* 10. (tr.) to make rose-coloured; cause to blush or redden. —'rose, like *adj.*

rose² ('rəʊz) *vb.* the past tense of **rise**.

rosé ('rəʊzeɪ) *n.* any pink wine, made either by removing the skins of red grapes after only a little colour has been extracted or by mixing red and white wines.

roseate ('rəʊzi,eɪt) *adj.* 1. of the colour rose or pink. 2. excessively or idealistically optimistic.

rosebay ('rəʊz,beɪ) *n.* 1. *U.S.* any of several rhododendrons. 2. **rosebay willowherb**, a perennial plant that has spikes of deep pink flowers and is widespread in N temperate regions. 3. another name for **oleander**.

rosebud ('rəʊz,bʌd) *n.* 1. the bud of a rose. 2. *Literary.* a pretty young woman.

rose-coloured *adj.* 1. of the colour rose; rosy. 2. excessively optimistic. 3. **see through rose-coloured glasses (or spectacles)**, to view in an excessively optimistic light.

rosemary ('rəʊzməri) *n.*, *pl.* -maries. an aromatic European shrub widely cultivated for its grey-green evergreen leaves, which are used in cookery and in the manufacture of perfumes. It is the traditional flower of remembrance.

rose of Sharon ('færən) *n.* a creeping shrub native to SE Europe but widely cultivated, having large yellow flowers. Also called: **Aaron's beard**.

rosette ('rəʊzɪt) *n.* 1. a decoration resembling a rose, esp. an arrangement of ribbons in a rose-shaped design worn as a badge or presented as a prize. 2. another name for **rose window**. 3. *Bot.* a circular cluster of leaves growing from the base of a stem.

rose-water *n.* 1. scented water made by the distillation of rose petals or by impregnation with oil of roses. 2. (modifier) elegant or delicate, esp. excessively so.

rose window *n.* a circular window, esp. one that has ornamental tracery radiating from the centre to form a symmetrical roselike pattern. Also called: **wheel window**, **rosette**.

rosewood ('rəʊz,wʊd) *n.* the hard dark wood of any of various tropical trees. It has a roselike scent and is used in cabinetwork.

rosin ('rəʊzɪn) *n.* 1. Also called: **colophony**, a translucent brittle amber substance produced in the distillation of crude turpentine oleoresin and used in making varnishes, printing inks, and sealing waxes and for treating the bows of stringed instruments. 2. another name for **resin** (sense 1). ~*vb.* 3. (tr.) to treat or coat with rosin. —'rosiny *adj.*

ROSPA ('rəʊspə) *n.* (in Britain) acronym for Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents.

roster ('rəʊstə) *n.* 1. a list or register, esp. one showing the order of people enrolled for duty. ~*vb.* 2. (tr.) to place on a roster.

rostrum ('rəʊstrəm) *n.*, *pl.* -trums or -tra (-trə). 1. any platform on which public speakers stand to address an audience. 2. a platform in front of an orchestra on which the conductor stands. 3. another word for **ram** (sense 5). 4. the prow of an ancient Roman ship. 5. *Biol.* a beak or beaklike part. —'rostral *adj.*

rosy ('rəʊzi) *adj.* rosier, **rosiest**. 1. of the colour rose or pink. 2. having a healthy pink complexion: **rosy cheeks**. 3. optimistic, esp. excessively so: a **rosy view of social improvements**. 4. resembling or abounding in roses. —'rosily *adv.* —'rosiness *n.*

rot (rɒt) *vb.* **rotting**, **rotted**. 1. to decay or cause to decay as a result of bacterial or fungal action. 2. (intr.; usually foll. by *off* or *away*) to crumble (off) or break

(away), as from decay or long use. 3. (intr.) to become weak or depressed through inertia, confinement, etc.; languish: **rotting in prison**. 4. to become or cause to become morally degenerate. ~*n.* 5. the process of rotting or the state of being rotten. 6. something decomposed. Related *adj.*: **putrid**. 7. short for **dry rot**. 8. *Pathol.* any putrefactive decomposition of tissues. 9. a condition in plants characterized by decay of tissues, caused by bacteria, fungi, etc. 10. *Vet. science.* a contagious fungal disease of sheep. 11. (also *interj.*) nonsense; rubbish.

rota ('rəʊtə) *n.* *Chiefly Brit.* a register of names showing the order in which people take their turn to perform certain duties.

rotary ('rəʊtəri) *adj.* 1. operating by rotation. 2. turning; revolving. ~*n.*, *pl.* -ries. 3. a part of a machine that rotates about an axis. 4. *U.S. & Canad.* another term for **roundabout** (sense 2).

Rotary Club *n.* any of the local clubs that form **Rotary International**, an international association of professional and business men founded in the U.S. in 1905 to promote community service. —**Rotarian** ('rəʊ'tɜəriən) *n.*, *adj.*

rotate *vb.* ('rəʊ'teɪt). 1. to turn or cause to turn around an axis; revolve or spin. 2. to follow or cause to follow a set sequence. ~*adj.* ('rəʊ'teɪt). 3. *Bot.* designating a corolla the petals of which radiate like the spokes of a wheel. —'rotatable *adj.* —'rotation *n.*

rote ('rəʊt) *n.* 1. a habitual or mechanical routine or procedure. 2. **by rote**, by repetition; by heart (often in **learn by rote**).

rotgut ('rɒt,gʌt) *n.* *Facetious sl.* alcoholic drink, esp. spirits, of inferior quality.

rotisserie ('rəʊ'tisəri) *n.* 1. a rotating spit on which meat, poultry, etc., can be cooked. 2. a shop or restaurant where meat is roasted to order.

rotor ('rəʊtə) *n.* 1. the rotating member of a machine or device, such as the revolving arm of the distributor of an internal-combustion engine. 2. a system of rotating parts, esp. the assembly of aerofoils of a helicopter.

rotovator ('rəʊtə,vəɪtə) *n.* a mechanical cultivator with rotary blades. —'roto,vate *vb.*

rotten ('rɒt'n) *adj.* 1. decomposing, decaying, or putrid. 2. breaking up, esp. through age or hard use: **rotten ironwork**. 3. morally corrupt. 4. disloyal or treacherous. 5. *Inf.* unpleasant: **rotten weather**. 6. *Inf.* unsatisfactory or poor: **rotten workmanship**. —'rottenly *adv.* —'rotteness *n.*

rotter ('rɒtə) *n.* *Sl., chiefly Brit.* a worthless, unpleasant, or despicable person.

rotund ('rəʊ'tʌnd) *adj.* 1. rounded or spherical in shape. 2. plump. 3. sonorous or grandiloquent. —'rotundity *n.* —'rotundly *adv.*

rotunda ('rəʊ'tʌndə) *n.* a circular building or room, esp. one that has a dome.

rouble or ruble ('ru:b'l) *n.* the standard monetary unit of the Soviet Union.

roué ('ru:ei) *n.* a debauched or lecherous man; rake.

rouge (ru:ʒ) *n.* 1. a red powder or cream, used as a cosmetic for adding redness to the cheeks. 2. *Canad. football.* a score of one point gained by the kicking team when the defending team fails to run a kickoff or a punt back from their own end zone. ~*vb.* (tr.) 3. to apply rouge to. 4. to score a rouge.

rough (rʌf) *adj.* 1. (of a surface) not smooth; uneven or irregular. 2. (of ground) covered with scrub, boulders, etc. 3. denoting or taking place on uncultivated ground: **rough grazing**. 4. shaggy or hairy. 5. turbulent: a **rough sea**. 6. (of performance or motion) uneven; irregular: a **rough engine**. 7. (of behaviour or character) rude, coarse, or violent. 8. harsh or sharp: **rough words**. 9. *Inf.* severe or unpleasant: a **rough lesson**. 10. (of work, etc.) requiring physical rather than mental effort. 11. *Inf. ill:* he felt **rough** after an evening of heavy drinking. 12. unfair: **rough luck**. 13. harsh or grating to the ear. 14. without refinement, luxury, etc. 15. not perfected in any detail; rudimentary: **rough workmanship**; **rough justice**. 16. not prepared or dressed: **rough gemstones**. 17. (of a guess, etc.) approximate. 18. having the sound of *h*; aspirated. 19. **rough on**. *Inf., chiefly Brit.* a. severe towards. b. unfortunate for (a person). 20. **the rough side of one's tongue**, harsh words; a rebuke. ~*n.* 21. rough ground. 22. a sketch or preliminary piece of artwork. 23. unfinished or crude state (esp. in **in the rough**). 24. **the rough**, *Golf.* the part of the course bordering the fairways where the grass is untrimmed. 25. *Inf.* a violent person; thug. 26. the unpleasant side of something (esp. in **take the rough with the smooth**).

~adv. 27. roughly. 28. **sleep rough**, to spend the night in the open; be without shelter. ~vb. 29. (tr.) to make rough; roughen. 30. (tr.; foll. by *out, in*, etc.) to prepare (a sketch, report, etc.) in preliminary form. 31. **rough it**. *Inf.* to live without the usual comforts of life. ~See also **rough up**. —'roughish adj. —'roughly adv. —'roughness *n*.

roughage ('rʌfɪdʒ) *n*. 1. the coarse indigestible constituents of food, which provide bulk to the diet and aid digestion. 2. any rough material.

rough-and-ready adj. 1. crude, unpolished, or hastily prepared, but sufficient for the purpose. 2. (of a person) without formality or refinement.

rough-and-tumble *n*. 1. a fight or scuffle without rules. ~adj. 2. characterized by disorderliness and disregard for rules.

roughcast ('rʌf,kɑ:st) *n*. 1. a coarse plaster used to cover the surface of an external wall. 2. any rough or preliminary form, model, etc. ~adj. 3. covered with roughcast. ~vb. -casting, -cast. 4. to apply roughcast to (a wall, etc.). 5. to prepare in rough. —'rough, caster *n*.

rough diamond *n*. 1. an unpolished diamond. 2. an intrinsically trustworthy or good person with uncouth manners or dress.

rough-dry adj. 1. (of clothes or linen) dried ready for pressing. ~vb. -drying, -dried. 2. (tr.) to dry (clothes, etc.) without ironing them.

roughen ('rʌfn) *vb*. to make or become rough.

rough-hew *vb*. -hewing, -hewed; hewed or -hewn. (tr.) to cut or shape roughly without finishing the surface.

roughhouse ('rʌf,haʊs) *n*. *Sl.* rough, disorderly, or noisy behaviour.

roughneck ('rʌf,nɛk) *n*. *Sl.* 1. a rough or violent person; thug. 2. a worker in an oil-drilling operation.

roughshod ('rʌf,ʃɒd) adj. 1. (of a horse) shod with rough-bottomed shoes to prevent sliding. ~adv. 2. **ride roughshod over**, to treat harshly and without consideration.

rough up *vb*. (tr., adv.) 1. to treat violently; beat up. 2. to cause (feathers, hair, etc.) to stand up by rubbing against the grain.

roulette (ru:'let) *n*. 1. a gambling game in which a ball is dropped onto a spinning horizontal wheel divided into numbered slots, with players betting on the slot into which the ball will fall. 2. a toothed wheel for making a line of perforations. 3. a curve generated by a point on one curve rolling on another. ~vb. (tr.) 4. to use a roulette on (something), as in engraving, making stationery, etc.

round (raʊnd) adj. 1. having a flat circular shape, as a hoop. 2. having the shape of a ball. 3. curved; not angular. 4. involving or using circular motion. 5. (*pre-nominal*) complete: a round dozen. 6. *Maths.* a. forming or expressed by a whole number, with no fraction. b. expressed to the nearest ten, hundred, or thousand: *in round figures*. 7. (of a sum of money) considerable. 8. fully depicted or developed, as a character in a book. 9. (of sound) full and sonorous. 10. (of pace) brisk; lively. 11. (*prenominal*) (of speech) candid; unmodified: a round assertion. 12. (of a vowel) pronounced with rounded lips. ~*n*. 13. a round shape or object. 14. **in the round**, a. in full detail. b. *Theatre*. with the audience all round the stage. 15. a session, as of a negotiation: a round of talks. 16. a series: a giddy round of parties. 17. the daily round, the usual activities of one's day. 18. a stage of a competition: he was eliminated in the first round. 19. (*often pl.*) a series of calls: a milkman's round. 20. a playing of all the holes on a golf course. 21. a single turn of play by each player, as in a card game. 22. one of a number of periods in a boxing, wrestling, or other match. 23. a single discharge by a gun. 24. a bullet or other charge of ammunition. 25. a number of drinks bought at one time for a group of people. 26. a single slice of bread. 27. a general outburst of applause, etc. 28. movement in a circle. 29. *Music*. a part; song in which the voices follow each other at equal intervals at the same pitch. 30. a sequence of bells rung in order of treble to tenor. 31. a cut of beef from the thigh. 32. **go or make the rounds**, a. to go from place to place, as in making social calls. b. (of information, rumour, etc.) to be passed around, so as to be generally known. ~prep., adv. 33. a less formal word for **around**. 34. **all year round**, throughout the year. ~vb. 35. to make or become round. 36. (tr.) to encircle; surround. 37. to move or cause to move with turning motion: to round a bend. 38. (tr.) a. to pronounce (a speech sound) with

rounded lips. b. to purse (the lips). ~See also **round down**, **round off**, etc. —'roundish adj. —'roundness *n*. ▷ Usage. See **around**.

roundabout ('raʊndə,bɔ:t) *n*. 1. *Brit.* a revolving circular platform provided with wooden animals, seats, etc., on which people ride for amusement; merry-go-round. 2. a road junction in which traffic streams circulate around a central island. *US* name: **traffic circle**. ~adj. 3. indirect; devious. ~adv., prep. **round about**. 4. on all sides: *spectators standing round about*. 5. approximately: *at round about 5 o'clock*.

round dance *n*. 1. a dance in which the dancers form a circle. 2. a ballroom dance, such as the waltz, in which couples revolve.

round down *vb*. (tr., adv.) to lower (a number) to the nearest whole number or ten, hundred, or thousand below it.

roundel ('raʊndl) *n*. 1. a form of rondeau consisting of three stanzas each of three lines with a refrain after the first and the third. 2. a circular mark of red, white, and blue on British military aircraft. 3. a small circular window, medallion, etc. 4. a round plate of armour used to protect the armpit. 5. another word for **roundelay**.

roundelay ('raʊndl,eɪ) *n*. 1. Also called: **roundel**. a slow medieval dance performed in a circle. 2. a song in which a line or phrase is repeated as a refrain.

rounders ('raʊndəz) *n*. *Brit.* a ball game in which players run between bases after hitting the ball, scoring a **rounder** if they run round all four before the ball is retrieved.

Roundhead ('raʊnd,hed) *n*. *English history*, a supporter of Parliament against Charles I during the Civil War.

roundhouse ('raʊnd,haʊs) *n*. 1. *US*. a building in which railway locomotives are serviced, radial tracks being fed by a central turntable. 2. *US*. *Boxing* sl. a swinging punch or style of punching. 3. an obsolete word for jail. 4. *Obs.* a cabin on the quarter-deck of a sailing ship.

roundly ('raʊndli) adv. 1. frankly, bluntly, or thoroughly: *to be roundly criticized*. 2. in a round manner or so as to be round.

round off *vb*. (tr., adv.) 1. (*often foll. by with*) to complete, esp. agreeably: *we rounded off the evening with a brandy*. 2. to make less jagged.

round on *vb*. (*intr., prep.*) to attack or reply to (someone) with sudden irritation or anger.

round robin *n*. 1. a petition or protest having the signatures in a circle to disguise the order of signing. 2. *US*. a tournament in which each player plays against every other player.

round-shouldered adj. denoting a faulty posture characterized by drooping shoulders and a slight forward bending of the back.

round table *n*. a. a meeting of parties or people on equal terms for discussion. b. (*as modifier*): a round-table conference.

Round Table *n*. the. 1. (in Arthurian legend) the table of King Arthur, shaped so that his knights could sit around it without any having precedence. 2. Arthur and his knights collectively. 3. one of an organization of clubs of young business and professional men who meet in order to further charitable work.

round-the-clock adj. (*or as adv.* **round the clock**) throughout the day and night.

round trip *n*. a trip to a place and back again, esp. returning by a different route.

roundup ('raʊnd,ʌp) *n*. 1. the act of gathering together livestock, esp. cattle, so that they may be branded, counted, or sold. 2. *Inf.* any similar act of bringing together: a roundup of today's news. ~vb. **round up**. (tr., adv.) 3. to gather together: *to round ponies up*. 4. to raise (a number) to the nearest whole number or ten, hundred, or thousand above it.

roundworm ('raʊnd,wɜ:m) *n*. a nematode worm that is a common intestinal parasite of man and pigs.

rouse (raʊz) *vb*. 1. to bring (oneself or another person) out of sleep, unconsciousness, etc., or (of a person) to come to consciousness in this way. 2. (tr.) to provoke: *to rouse someone's anger*. 3. **rouse oneself**, to become energetic. 4. to start or cause to start from cover: *to rouse game birds*. 5. (*intr.; foll. by on*) *Austral.* to scold or rebuke. —'rouser *n*.

roustabout ('raʊstə,bɔ:t) *n*. an unskilled labourer on an oil rig.

rout! ('raʊt) *n*. 1. an overwhelming and disorderly defeat. 2. a noisy rabble. 3. *Law*. a group of three or more people proceeding to commit an illegal act. 4. *Arch.* a

large party or social gathering. ~vb. 5. (tr.) to defeat and cause to flee in confusion.

root¹ (rəʊt) vb. 1. to dig over or turn up (something), esp. (of an animal) with the snout; root. 2. (tr.; usually foll. by out or up) to find by searching. 3. (tr.; usually foll. by out) to drive out: *they rooted him out of bed at midnight*. 4. (tr.; often foll. by out) to hollow or gouge out. 5. (intr.) to search, poke, or rummage.

route (ru:t) n. 1. the choice of roads taken to get to a place. 2. a regular journey travelled. ~vb. (tr.) 3. to plan the route of; send by a particular route.

route-march ('ru:t,mɑ:tʃ) n. 1. Mil. a long training march. 2. Inf. any long exhausting walk.

routine (ru:'ti:n) n. 1. a usual or regular method of procedure, esp. one that is unvarying. 2. Computers. a program or part of a program performing a specific function: *an input routine*. 3. a set sequence of dance steps. 4. Inf. a hackneyed or insincere speech. ~adj. 5. relating to or characteristic of routine. —**rou'tinely** adv. —**rou'tinism** n.

roux (ru:) n. a mixture of equal amounts of fat and flour, heated, blended, and used as a basis for sauces.

rove¹ (rəʊv) vb. 1. to wander about (a place) with no fixed direction; roam. 2. (intr.) (of the eyes) to look around; wander. ~n. 3. the act of roving.

rove² (rəʊv) vb. a past tense or past participle of reeve².

rover ('rəʊvə) n. 1. a person who roves. 2. Archery. a mark selected at random for use as a target. 3. Australian Rules football. a player without a fixed position who, with the ruckmen, forms the ruck.

row¹ (rəʊ) n. 1. an arrangement of persons or things in a line: *a row of chairs*. 2. Chiefly Brit. a street, esp. a narrow one lined with identical houses. 3. a line of seats, as in a cinema, theatre, etc. 4. Maths. a horizontal linear arrangement of numbers, quantities, or terms. 5. a horizontal rank of squares on a chessboard or draught-board. 6. in a row, in succession; one after the other: *he won two gold medals in a row*. 7. a hard row to hoe. a difficult task or assignment.

row² (rəʊ) vb. 1. to propel (a boat) by using oars. 2. (tr.) to carry (people, goods, etc.) in a rowing boat. 3. to be propelled by means of (oars or oarsmen). 4. (intr.) to take part in the racing of rowing boats as a sport. 5. (tr.) to race against in a boat propelled by oars: *Oxford row Cambridge every year*. ~n. 6. an act, instance, period, or distance of rowing. 7. an excursion in a rowing boat. —**rower** n.

row³ (raʊ) Inf. ~n. 1. a noisy quarrel. 2. a noisy disturbance: *we couldn't hear the music for the row next door*. 3. a reprimand. ~vb. 4. (intr.; often foll. by with) to quarrel noisily. 5. (tr.) Arch. to reprimand.

rowan ('rəʊən, 'rəʊ-) n. another name for the (European) mountain ash.

rowdy ('rəʊdi) adj. -dier, -diest. 1. tending to create noisy disturbances; rough, loud, or disorderly: *a rowdy gang of football supporters*. ~n., pl. -dies. 2. a person who behaves in such a fashion. —**rowdily** adv. —**rowdiness** or **'rowdysm** n.

rowel ('rəʊəl) n. 1. a small spiked wheel attached to a spur. 2. Vet. science. a piece of leather inserted under the skin of a horse to cause a discharge. ~vb. -elling, -elled or U.S. -eling, -eled. (tr.) 3. to goad (a horse) using a rowel. 4. Vet. science. to insert a rowel in (the skin of a horse) to cause a discharge.

rowing boat ('rəʊɪŋ) n. Chiefly Brit. a small pleasure boat propelled by one or more pairs of oars. Usual U.S. word: **rowboat**.

rowlock ('rɒlək) n. a swivelling device attached to the gunwale of a boat that holds an oar in place. Usual U.S. word: **oarlock**.

royal ('rɔɪəl) adj. 1. of, relating to, or befitting a king, queen, or other monarch; regal. 2. (prenominal; often cap.) established by, chartered by, under the patronage of, or in the service of royalty: *the Royal Society of St. George*. 3. being a member of a royal family. 4. above the usual or normal in standing, size, quality, etc. 5. Inf. unusually good or impressive; first-rate. 6. Naut. just above the topgallant (in **royal mast**). ~n. 7. Naut. a sail set next above the topgallant, on a royal mast. 8. a size of printing paper, 20 by 25 inches. 9. Also: **royal stag**. a stag with antlers having 12 or more branches. —**royally** adv.

Royal Air Force n. the airforce of Great Britain. Abbrevs: **RAF**, **R.A.F.**

royal blue n., adj. a. a deep blue colour. b. (as adj.): *a royal-blue carpet*.

royalist ('rɔɪəlɪst) n. 1. a supporter of a monarch or monarchy, esp. during the English Civil War. 2. Inf. an

extreme reactionary; *an economic royalist*. ~adj. also **royalistic**. 3. of or relating to royalists. —**'royalism** n.

royal jelly n. a substance secreted by the pharyngeal glands of worker bees and fed to all larvae when very young and to larvae destined to become queens throughout their development.

Royal Marines pl. n. Brit. a corps of soldiers specially trained in amphibious warfare.

Royal Navy n. the navy of Great Britain. Abbrev.: **R.N.**

royal palm n. any of several palm trees of tropical America, having a tall trunk with a tuft of feathery pinnate leaves.

royalty ('rɔɪəlti) n., pl. -ties. 1. the rank, power, or position of a king or queen. 2. a. royal persons collectively. b. one who belongs to the royal family. 3. any quality characteristic of a monarch. 4. a percentage of the revenue from the sale of a book, performance of a theatrical work, use of a patented invention or of land, etc., paid to the author, inventor, or proprietor.

royal warrant n. an authorization to a tradesman to supply goods to a royal household.

rozzor ('rɒzə) n. Sl. a policeman.

r.p.m. abbrev. for: 1. revolutions per minute. 2. resale price maintenance.

R.R. abbrev. for: 1. Right Reverend. 2. *Canad. & U.S.* rural route.

r-RNA abbrev. for ribosomal RNA.

R.S. (in Britain) abbrev. for Royal Society.

R.S.A. abbrev. for: 1. Republic of South Africa. 2. Royal Scottish Academy. 3. Royal Scottish Academician. 4. Royal Society of Arts. 5. (in New Zealand) Returned Services Association.

RSFSR abbrev. for Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic.

R.S.M. abbrev. for: 1. regimental sergeant major. 2. Royal School of Music. 3. Royal Society of Medicine.

R.S.P.C.A. (in Britain) abbrev. for Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

R.S.V. abbrev. for Revised Standard Version (of the Bible).

R.S.V.P. abbrev. for répondez s'il vous plaît: please reply.

Rt. Hon. abbrev. for Right Honourable.

Ru the chemical symbol for ruthenium.

R.U. abbrev. for Rugby Union.

rub (rʌb) vb. **rubbing**, **rubbed**. 1. to apply pressure and friction to (something) with a backward and forward motion. 2. to move (something) with pressure along, over, or against (a surface). 3. to chafe or fray. 4. (tr.) to bring into a certain condition by rubbing: *rub it clean*. 5. (tr.) to spread with pressure, esp. in order to cause to be absorbed: *she rubbed ointment into his back*. 6. (tr.) to mix (fat) into flour with the fingertips, as in making pastry. 7. (foll. by off, out, away, etc.) to remove or be removed by rubbing: *the mark would not rub off the chair*. 8. Bowls. (of a bowl) to be slowed or deflected by an uneven patch on the green. 9. (tr.; often foll. by together) to move against each other with pressure and friction (esp. in **rub one's hands**, often a sign of glee, keen anticipation, or satisfaction, and **rub noses**, a greeting among Eskimos). 10. **rub (someone's) nose in (something)**, to harp insistently on (something distasteful or distressing to a person). 11. **rub (up) the wrong way**, to arouse anger (in); annoy. 12. **rub shoulders with**, to mix with socially. ~n. 13. the act of rubbing. 14. (preceded by *the*) an obstacle or difficulty (esp. in **there's the rub**). 15. something that hurts the feelings or annoys; cut; rebuke. 16. Bowls. an uneven patch in the green. ~See also **rub along**, **rub down**, etc.

rub along vb. (intr., adv.) Brit. 1. to continue in spite of difficulties. 2. to maintain an amicable relationship; not quarrel.

rubato (ru:'bɑ:təʊ) Music. ~n., pl. -tos. 1. flexibility of tempo in performance. ~adj., adv. 2. to be played with a flexible tempo.

rubber¹ ('rʌbə) n. 1. Also called: **India rubber**, **gum elastic**, **caoutchouc**. a cream to dark brown elastic material obtained by coagulating and drying the latex from certain plants, esp. the rubber tree. 2. any of a large variety of elastomers produced from natural rubber or by synthetic means. 3. Chiefly Brit. a piece of rubber used for erasing something written; eraser. 4. a cloth, pad, etc., used for polishing. 5. a person who rubs something in order to smooth, polish, or massage. 6. (often pl.) Chiefly U.S. a rubberized waterproof article, such as a mackintosh or overshoe. 7. Sl. a male contra-

ceptive; condom. **8. (modifier)** made of or producing rubber: a *rubber ball*; a *rubber factory*. — **'rubbery** *adj.*

rubber? ('rʌb) *n.* **1.** *Bridge, whist, etc.* **a.** a match of three games. **b.** the deal that wins such a match. **2.** a series of matches or games in any of various sports.

rubber band *n.* a continuous loop of thin rubber, used to hold papers, etc., together. Also called: **elastic band**.

rubberize or **-ise** ('rʌbɪz,raɪz) *vb. (tr.)* to coat or impregnate with rubber.

rubberneck ('rʌb,nek) *sl.* ~*n.* **1.** a person who stares or gapes inquisitively. **2.** a sightseer or tourist. ~*vb.* **3. (intr.)** to stare in a naive or foolish manner.

rubber plant *n.* **1.** a plant with glossy leathery leaves that grows as a tall tree in India and Malaya but is cultivated as a house plant in Europe and North America. **2.** any of several tropical trees, the sap of which yields crude rubber.

rubber stamp *n.* **1.** a device used for imprinting dates, etc., on forms, invoices, etc. **2.** automatic authorization of a payment, proposal, etc. **3.** a person who makes such automatic authorizations; a cipher or person of little account. ~*vb.* **rubber-stamp.** (*tr.*) **4.** to imprint (forms, invoices, etc.) with a rubber stamp. **5. Inf.** to approve automatically.

rubbing ('rʌbɪŋ) *n.* an impression taken of an incised or raised surface by laying paper over it and rubbing with wax, graphite, etc.

rubbish ('rʌbɪʃ) *n.* **1.** worthless, useless, or unwanted matter. **2.** discarded or waste matter; refuse. **3.** foolish words or speech; nonsense. ~*vb.* **4. (tr.) Inf.** to criticize; attack verbally. — **'rubbishy** *adj.*

rubble ('rʌbəl) *n.* **1.** fragments of broken stones, bricks, etc. **2.** debris from ruined buildings. **3.** Also called: **rubblework**, masonry constructed of broken pieces of rock, stone, etc. — **'rubbly** *adj.*

rub down *vb. (adv.)* **1.** to dry or clean (a horse, athlete, oneself, etc.) vigorously, esp. after exercise. **2.** to make or become smooth by rubbing. **3. (tr.)** to prepare (a surface) for painting by rubbing it with sandpaper. ~*n.* **rubdown.** **4.** the act of rubbing down.

rubella ('ru:'bɛlə) *n.* a mild contagious viral disease, somewhat similar to measles, characterized by cough, sore throat, and skin rash. Also called: **German measles**.

Rubicon ('ru:'bɪkən) *n.* **1.** a stream in N Italy: in ancient times the boundary between Italy and Cisalpine Gaul. By leading his army across it and marching on Rome in 49 B.C. Julius Caesar committed himself to civil war with the senatorial party. **2. (sometimes not cap.)** a point of no return. **3.** a penalty in piquet by which the score of a player who fails to reach 100 points in six hands is added to his opponent's. **4. cross (or pass) the Rubicon.** to commit oneself irrevocably to some course of action.

rubicund ('ru:'bɪkənd) *adj.* of a reddish colour; ruddy; rosy. — **'rubicundity** (*pl.* 'rubi:kəndɪtɪ) *n.*

rubidium ('ru:'bɪdɪəm) *n.* a soft highly reactive radioactive element of the alkali metal group. It is used in electronic valves, photocells, and special glass. Symbol: Rb; atomic no.: 37; atomic wt.: 85.47; half-life of ⁸⁷Rb: 5 × 10¹¹ years. — **'rubidic** *adj.*

rub in *vb. (tr., adv.)* **1.** to spread with pressure, esp. in order to cause to be absorbed. **2. Inf.** to harp on (something distasteful to a person).

ruble ('ru:'bəl) *n.* a variant spelling of **rouble**.

rub off *vb.* **1.** to remove or be removed by rubbing. **2. (intr.; often foll. by on or onto)** to have an effect through close association or contact: *her crude manners have rubbed off on you.*

rub out *vb. (tr., adv.)* **1.** to remove or be removed with a rubber. **2. U.S. sl.** to murder.

rubric ('ru:'brɪk) *n.* **1.** a title, heading, or initial letter in a book, manuscript, or section of a legal code, esp. one printed or painted in red ink or in some similarly distinguishing manner. **2.** a set of rules of conduct or procedure. **3.** a set of directions for the conduct of Christian church services, often printed in red in a prayerbook or missal. — **'rubrical** *adj.* — **'rubrically** *adv.*

ruby ('ru:'bi) *n., pl. -bies.* **1.** a deep red transparent precious variety of corundum: used as a gemstone, in lasers, and for bearings and rollers in watchmaking. **2. a.** the deep-red colour of a ruby. **b. (as adj.):** *ruby lips*. **3.** a. something resembling, made of, or containing a ruby. **b. (as modifier):** *ruby necklace*. **4. (modifier)** denoting a fortieth anniversary: *our ruby wedding*.

ruche (ru:ʃ) *n.* a strip of pleated or frilled lawn, lace, etc., used to decorate blouses, dresses, etc.

ruck¹ ('rʌk) *n.* **1.** a large number or quantity; mass, esp. of undistinguished people or things. **2. (in a race)** a group of competitors who are well behind the leaders. **3. Rugby.** a loose scrummage or maul for the ball. **4. Australian Rules football.** a group of three players who follow the ball closely. ~*vb.* **5. (intr.)** *Rugby.* to try to win the ball by mauling and scrummaging.

ruck² ('rʌk) *n.* **1.** a wrinkle, crease, or fold. ~*vb.* **2. (usually foll. by up)** to become or make wrinkled, creased, or puckered.

rucksack ('rʌk,sæk) *n.* a large bag, usually having two straps, carried on the back and often used to carry camping equipment, etc. Also called: **back pack**.

ruction ('rʌkʃən) *n. Inf.* an uproar; noisy or quarrelsome disturbance.

rudder ('rʌðə) *n.* **1. Naut.** a pivoted vertical vane that projects into the water at the stern and can be used to steer a vessel. **2.** a vertical control surface attached to the rear of the fin used to steer an aircraft. **3.** anything that guides or directs. — **'rudderless** *adj.*

ruddy ('rʌdi) *adj. -dier, -diest.* **1. (of the complexion)** having a healthy reddish colour. **2.** coloured red or pink: *a ruddy sky*. ~*adv., adj. Inf., chiefly Brit.* **3. (intensifier)** bloody; damned: *a ruddy fool*. — **'ruddily** *adv.* — **'ruddiness** *n.*

rude ('ru:d) *adj.* **1.** insulting or uncivil; discourteous; impolite. **2.** lacking refinement; coarse or uncouth. **3.** vulgar or obscene: *a rude joke*. **4.** roughly or crudely made: *we made a rude shelter on the island*. **5.** rough or harsh in sound, appearance, or behaviour. **6.** humble or lowly. **7. (prenominal)** robust or sturdy: *in rude health*. **8. (prenominal)** approximate or imprecise: *a rude estimate*. — **'rudely** *adv.* — **'rudeness** or **'rudery** *n.*

rudiment ('ru:dɪmənt) *n.* **1. (often pl.)** the first principles or elementary stages of a subject. **2. (often pl.)** a partially developed version of something. **3. Biol.** an organ or part in an embryonic or vestigial state. — **'rudimentary** *adj.*

rue¹ ('ru:) *vb. ruing, rued.* **1.** to feel sorrow, remorse, or regret for (one's own wrongdoing, past events, etc.). ~*n.* **2. Arch.** sorrow, pity, or regret. — **'ruer** *n.*

rue² ('ru:) *n.* an aromatic Eurasian shrub with small yellow flowers and evergreen leaves which yield an acrid volatile oil, formerly used medicinally as a narcotic and stimulant. Archaic name: **herb of grace**.

rueful ('ru:fəl) *adj.* **1.** feeling or expressing sorrow or regret: *a rueful face*. **2.** inspiring sorrow or pity. — **'ruefully** *adv.* — **'ruefulness** *n.*

ruff¹ ('rʌf) *n.* **1.** a circular pleated or fluted collar of lawn, muslin, etc., worn by both men and women in the 16th and 17th centuries. **2.** a natural growth of long or coloured hair or feathers around the necks of certain animals or birds. **3.** an Old World shore bird of the sandpiper family, the male of which has a large erectile ruff of feathers in the breeding season. — **'ruff,like** *adj.*

ruff² ('rʌf) *n.* **Cards.** **1. (also vb.)** another word for **trump**. **2.** an old card game similar to whist.

ruffian ('rʌfɪən) *n.* a violent or lawless person; hoodlum. — **'ruffianism** *n.* — **'ruffianly** *adj.*

ruffle ('rʌfl) *vb.* **1.** to make, be, or become irregular or rumpled: *a breeze ruffling the water*. **2.** to annoy, irritate, or be annoyed or irritated. **3. (tr.)** to make into a ruffle; pleat. **4. (of a bird)** to erect (its feathers) in anger, display, etc. **5. (tr.)** to flick (cards, pages, etc.) rapidly. ~*n.* **6.** an irregular or disturbed surface. **7.** a strip of pleated material used as a trim. **8. Zool.** another name for **ruff**¹ (sense 2). **9.** annoyance or irritation.

rufous ('ru:fəs) *adj.* reddish brown.

rug ('rʌg) *n.* **1.** a floor covering, smaller than a carpet and made of thick wool or of other material, such as an animal skin. **2. Chiefly Brit.** a blanket, esp. one used for travellers. **3. pull the rug out from under.** to betray, expose, or leave defenceless.

ruge ('ru:gə) *n., pl. -gae (-dʒi:).* (usually *pl.*) *Anat.* a fold, wrinkle, or crease.

rugby or **rugby football** ('rʌgbɪ) *n.* **1.** a form of football played with an oval ball in which the handling and carrying of the ball is permitted. Also called: **rugger**. See also **rugby league**, **rugby union**. **2. (in Canada)** football.

rugby league *n.* a form of rugby football played between teams of 13 players, professionalism being allowed.

rugby union *n.* a form of rugby football played only by amateurs, in teams of 15.

rugged ('rʌɡɪd) *adj.* 1. having an uneven or jagged surface. 2. rocky or steep: *rugged scenery*. 3. (of the face) strong-featured or furrowed. 4. rough, severe, or stern in character. 5. without refinement or culture: *rugged manners*. 6. involving hardship; harsh: *he leads a rugged life in the mountains*. 7. difficult or hard: *a rugged test*. 8. Chiefly U.S. sturdy or strong; robust. —**ruggedly** *adv.* —**ruggedness** *n.*

rugger ('rʌɡə) *n.* Chiefly Brit. an informal name for rugby.

ruin ('ruːn) *n.* 1. a destroyed or decayed building or town. 2. the state of being destroyed or decayed. 3. loss of wealth, position, etc., or something that causes such loss; downfall. 4. something that is severely damaged: *his life was a ruin*. 5. a person who has suffered a downfall, bankruptcy, etc. 6. Arch. loss of her virginity by a woman outside marriage. ~vb. 7. (tr.) to bring to ruin; destroy. 8. (tr.) to injure or spoil: *the town has been ruined with tower blocks*. 9. (intr.) Arch. or poetic. to fall into ruins; collapse. 10. (tr.) Arch. to seduce and abandon (a woman).

ruination ('ruːni'eɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of ruining or the state of being ruined. 2. something that causes ruin.

ruinous ('ruːniəs) *adj.* causing, tending to cause, or characterized by ruin or destruction. —**ruinously** *adv.* —**ruinousness** *n.*

rule ('ruːl) *n.* 1. an authoritative regulation or direction concerning method or procedure, as for a court of law, legislative body, game, or other activity: *judges' rules*; *play according to the rules*. 2. the exercise of governmental authority or control: *the rule of Caesar*. 3. the period of time in which a monarch or government has power: *his rule lasted 100 days*. 4. a customary form or procedure: *he made a morning swim his rule*. 5. (usually preceded by *the*) the common order of things: *violence was the rule rather than the exception*. 6. a prescribed method or procedure for solving a mathematical problem. 7. any of various devices with a straight edge for guiding or measuring; ruler: *a carpenter's rule*. 8. *Printing*. a. a printed or drawn character in the form of a long thin line. b. another name for *dash* (sense 12): *en rule*; *em rule*. c. a strip of metal used to print such a line. 9. *Christianity*. a systematic body of prescriptions followed by members of a religious order. 10. Law. an order by a court or judge. 11. as a rule. normally or ordinarily. ~vb. 12. to exercise governing or controlling authority over (a people, political unit, individual, etc.). 13. (when *tr.*, often takes a clause as object) to decide authoritatively; decree: *the chairman ruled against the proposal*. 14. (tr.) to mark with straight parallel lines or one straight line. 15. (tr.) to restrain or control. 16. (intr.) to be customary or prevalent: *chaos rules in this school*. 17. (intr.) to be pre-eminent or superior: *football rules in the field of sport*. 18. *rule the roost* (or *roast*). to be pre-eminent; be in charge. —**ruleable** *adj.*

rule of thumb *n.* a. a rough and practical approach, based on experience, rather than theory. b. (as modifier): *a rule-of-thumb decision*.

rule out *vb.* (tr., *adv.*) 1. to dismiss from consideration. 2. to make impossible; preclude.

ruler ('ruːlə) *n.* 1. a person who rules or commands. 2. Also called: *rule*. a strip of wood, metal, or other material, having straight edges, used for measuring and drawing straight lines.

ruling ('ruːlɪŋ) *n.* 1. a decision of someone in authority, such as a judge. 2. one or more parallel ruled lines. ~adj. 3. controlling or exercising authority. 4. predominant.

rum¹ ('rʌm) *n.* spirit made from sugar cane.

rum² ('rʌm) *adj.* **rummer**, **rummest**. *Brit. sl.* strange; peculiar; odd. —**rumly** *adv.* —**rumness** *n.*

rum³ ('rʌm) *n.* short for **rummy**.

Rumanian ('ruːmeɪniən) or **Romanian** *n.* 1. the official language of Rumania, in SE Europe. 2. a native, citizen, or inhabitant of Rumania. ~adj. 3. relating to, denoting, or characteristic of Rumania, its people, or their language.

rumba or **rhumba** ('rʌmbə, 'rʌm-) *n.* 1. a rhythmic and syncopated Cuban dance in duple time. 2. a ballroom dance derived from this. 3. a piece of music composed for or in the rhythm of this dance.

rumble ('rʌmbəl) *vb.* 1. to make or cause to make a deep resonant sound: *thunder rumbled in the sky*. 2. to move with such a sound: *the train rumbled along*. 3. (tr.) to utter with a rumbling sound: *he rumbled an order*. 4. (tr.) *Brit. sl.* to find out about (someone or something): *the police rumbled their plans*. 5. (intr.)

U.S. *sl.* to be involved in a gang fight. ~n. 6. a deep resonant sound. 7. a widespread murmur of discontent. 8. U.S. & N.Z. *sl.* a gang fight. —**rumbler** *n.* —**rumbly** *adv.*

rumbustious ('rʌm'bʌstjəs) *adj.* boisterous or unruly. —**rum'bustiously** *adv.* —**rum'bustiousness** *n.*

ruminant ('ruːmɪnənt) *n.* 1. any of a suborder of artiodactyl mammals which chew the cud and have a stomach of four compartments. The suborder includes deer, antelopes, cattle, sheep, and goats. 2. any other animal that chews the cud, such as a camel. ~adj. 3. of, relating to, or belonging to this suborder. 4. (of members of this suborder and related animals, such as camels) chewing the cud; ruminating. 5. meditating or contemplating in a slow quiet way. —**ruminantly** *adv.*

ruminate ('ruːmɪneɪt) *vb.* 1. (of ruminants) to chew (the cud). 2. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *upon*, *on*, etc.) to meditate or ponder (upon). —**rumi'nation** *n.* —**rumi-native** *adj.* —**ruminatively** *adv.* —**rumi'nator** *n.*

rummage ('rʌmɪdʒ) *vb.* 1. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *through*) to search (through) while looking for something, often causing disorder. ~n. 2. an act of rummaging. 3. a jumble of articles. —**rummager** *n.*

rummage sale *n.* 1. the U.S. term for **jumble sale**. 2. U.S. a sale of unclaimed property.

rummy ('rʌmi) or **rum** *n.* a card game based on collecting sets and sequences.

rumour or U.S. **rumor** ('ruːmə) *n.* 1. a. information, often a mixture of truth and untruth, passed around verbally. b. (in combination): *a rumour-monger*. 2. gossip or hearsay. ~vb. 3. (tr.; usually passive) to pass around or circulate in the form of a rumour: *it is rumoured that the Queen is coming*.

rump ('rʌmp) *n.* 1. the hindquarters of a mammal, not including the legs. 2. the rear part of a bird's back, nearest to the tail. 3. a person's buttocks. 4. Also called: **rump steak**. a cut of beef from behind the loin. 5. an inferior remnant. —**rumpless** *adj.*

rumple ('rʌmpəl) *vb.* 1. to make or become crumpled or dishevelled. ~n. 2. a wrinkle, fold, or crease. —**rumply** *adj.*

rumpus ('rʌmpəs) *n.*, pl. **-puses**. a noisy, confused, or disruptive commotion.

run ('rʌn) *vb.* **running**, **ran**, **run**. 1. (intr.) a. (of a two-legged creature) to move on foot at a rapid pace so that both feet are off the ground for part of each stride. b. (of a four-legged creature) to move at a rapid gait. 2. (tr.) to pass over (a distance, route, etc.) in running: *to run a mile*. 3. (intr.) to run in or finish a race as specified, esp. in a particular position: *John is running third*. 4. (tr.) to perform as by running: *to run an errand*. 5. (tr.) to bring into a specified state by running: *to run oneself to a standstill*. 6. (tr.) to track down or hunt (an animal): *to run a fox to tatter*. 7. (tr.) to set (animals) loose on (a field or tract of land) so as to graze freely: *he ran stock on that pasture last year*. 8. (intr.; often foll. by *over*, *round*, or *up*) to make a short trip or brief visit: *I'll run over this afternoon*. 9. to move quickly and easily on wheels by rolling, or in any of certain other ways: *a sledge running over snow*. 10. to move or cause to move with a specified result: *to run a ship aground*; *run into a tree*. 11. (often foll. by *over*) to move or pass or cause to move or pass quickly: *to run one's eyes over a page*. 12. (tr.; foll. by *into*, *out of*, *through*, etc.) to force, thrust, or drive: *she ran a needle into her finger*. 13. (tr.) to drive or maintain and operate (a vehicle). 14. (tr.) to give a lift to (someone) in a vehicle: *he ran her to the station*. 15. to ply or cause to ply between places on a route: *the bus runs from Piccadilly to Golders Green*. 16. to function or cause to function: *the engine is running smoothly*. 17. (tr.) to manage: *to run a company*. 18. to extend or continue or cause to extend or continue in a particular direction, for a particular duration or distance, etc.: *the road runs north*; *the play ran for two years*. 19. (intr.) Law. to have legal force or effect: *the lease runs for two more years*. 20. (tr.) to be subjected to, be affected by, or incur: *to run a risk*; *run a temperature*. 21. (intr.; often foll. by *to*) to be characterized (by); tend or incline: *to run to fat*. 22. (intr.) to recur persistently or be inherent: *red hair runs in my family*. 23. to cause or allow (liquids) to flow or (of liquids) to flow: *the well has run dry*. 24. (intr.) to melt and flow: *the wax grew hot and began to run*. 25. *Metallurgy*. a. to melt or fuse. b. (tr.) to cast (molten metal): *to run lead into ingots*. 26. (intr.) (of waves, tides, rivers, etc.) to rise high, surge, or be at a specified height: *a high sea was running that night*. 27. (intr.) to be diffused: *the colours in my dress ran when I washed it*. 28. (intr.) (of

stitches) to unravel or come undone or (of a garment) to have stitches unravel or come undone. **29.** (*intr.*) (of growing creepers, etc.) to trail, spread, or climb: *ivy running over a cottage wall*. **30.** (*intr.*) to spread or circulate quickly: *a rumour ran through the town*. **31.** (*intr.*) to be stated or reported: *his story runs as follows*. **32.** to publish or print or be published or printed in a newspaper, magazine, etc.: *they ran his story in the next issue*. **33.** (often foll. by *for*) *Chiefly U.S.* to be a candidate or present as a candidate for political or other office: *Jones is running for president*. **34.** (*tr.*) to get past or through: *to run a blockade*. **35.** (*tr.*) to deal in (arms, etc.), esp. by importing illegally: *he runs guns for the rebels*. **36.** *Naut.* to sail (a vessel, esp. a sailing vessel) or (of such a vessel) to be sailed with the wind coming from astern. **37.** (*intr.*) (of fish) to migrate upstream from the sea, esp. in order to spawn. **38.** (*tr.*) *Cricket.* to score (a run or number of runs) by hitting the ball and running between the wickets. **39.** (*tr.*) *Billiards, etc.* to make (a number of successful shots) in sequence. **40.** (*tr.*) *Golf.* to hit (the ball) so that it rolls along the ground. **41.** (*tr.*) *Bridge.* to cash (all one's winning cards in a long suit) successively. **~n.** **42.** an act, instance, or period of running. **43.** a gait, pace, or motion faster than a walk: *she went off at a run*. **44.** a distance covered by running or a period of running: *a run of ten miles*. **45.** an instance or period of travelling in a vehicle, esp. for pleasure: *to go for a run in the car*. **46.** free and unrestricted access: *we had the run of the house*. **47. a.** a period of time during which a machine, computer, etc., operates. **b.** the amount of work performed in such a period. **48.** a continuous or sustained period: *a run of good luck*. **49.** a continuous sequence of performances: *the play had a good run*. **50.** *Cards.* a sequence of winning cards in one suit: *a run of spades*. **51.** tendency or trend: *the run of the market*. **52.** type, class, or category: *the usual run of graduates*. **53.** (usually foll. by *on*) a continuous and urgent demand: *a run on the dollar*. **54.** a series of unravelled stitches, esp. in tights; ladder. **55.** the characteristic pattern or direction of something: *the run of the grain on wood*. **56. a.** a period during which water or other liquid flows. **b.** the amount of such a flow. **57.** a pipe, channel, etc., through which water or other liquid flows. **58.** *U.S.* a small stream. **59.** a steeply inclined course, esp. a snow-covered one used for skiing. **60.** an enclosure for domestic fowls or other animals: *a chicken run*. **61.** (esp. in Australia and New Zealand) a tract of land for grazing livestock. **62.** the migration of fish upstream in order to spawn. **63.** *Mil.* a mission in a warplane. **b.** Also called: **bombing run.** an approach by a bomber to a target. **64.** the movement of an aircraft along the ground during takeoff or landing. **65.** *Music.* a rapid scalelike passage of notes. **66.** *Cricket.* a score of one, normally achieved by both batsmen running from one end of the wicket to the other after one of them has hit the ball. **67.** *Baseball.* an instance of a batter touching all four bases safely, thereby scoring. **68.** *Golf.* the distance that a ball rolls after hitting the ground. **69. a run for (one's) money.** *Inf.* a. a close competition. **b.** pleasure derived from an activity. **70. in the long run.** as the eventual outcome of a series of events, etc. **71. in the short run.** as the immediate outcome of a series of events, etc. **72. on the run.** a. escaping from arrest; fugitive. **b.** in rapid flight; retreating: *the enemy is on the run*. **c.** hurrying from place to place. **73. the runs.** *Sl.* diarrhoea. **~See also** **run across, run along, etc.**

runabout (ˈrʌnəˌbaʊt) *n.* 1. a small light vehicle or aeroplane. **~vb.** **run about.** 2. (*intr., adv.*) to move busily from place to place.

run across *vb.* (*intr., prep.*) to meet unexpectedly; encounter by chance.

run along *vb.* (*intr., adv.*) (often said patronizingly) to go away; leave.

run away *vb.* (*intr., adv.*) 1. to take flight; escape. 2. to go away; depart. 3. (of a horse) to gallop away uncontrollably. 4. **run away with.** a. to abscond or elope with: *he ran away with his boss's daughter*. **b.** to make off with; steal. **c.** to escape from the control of: *his enthusiasm ran away with him*. **d.** to win easily or be assured of victory in (a competition): *he ran away with the race*. **~n.** **runaway.** 5. a. a person or animal that runs away. **b.** (as modifier): *a runaway horse*. 6. the act or an instance of running away. 7. (modifier) rising rapidly, as prices: *runaway inflation*. 8. (modifier) (of a race, victory, etc.) easily won.

run down *vb.* (*mainly adv.*) 1. to allow (an engine, etc.) to lose power gradually and cease to function or (of an engine, etc.) to do this. 2. to decline or reduce in

number or size: *the firm ran down its sales force*. 3. (*tr., usually passive*) to tire, sap the strength of, or exhaust: *he was thoroughly run down*. 4. (*tr.*) to criticize adversely; decry. 5. (*tr.*) to hit and knock to the ground with a moving vehicle. 6. (*tr.*) *Naut.* to collide with and cause to sink. 7. (*tr.*) to pursue and find or capture: *to run down a fugitive*. 8. (*tr.*) to read swiftly or perfunctorily: *he ran down their list of complaints*. **~adj.** **run-down.** 9. tired; exhausted. 10. worn-out, shabby, or dilapidated. **~n.** **rundown.** 11. a brief review, résumé, or summary. 12. the process of a mechanism coming gradually to a standstill after the power is removed. 13. a reduction in number or size.

rune (ru:n) *n.* 1. any of the characters of an ancient Germanic alphabet, in use, esp. in Scandinavia, from the 3rd century A.D. to the end of the Middle Ages. 2. any obscure piece of writing using mysterious symbols. 3. a kind of Finnish poem or a stanza in such a poem. **—'runic** *adj.*

rung (rʌŋ) *n.* 1. one of the bars or rods that form the steps of a ladder. 2. a crosspiece between the legs of a chair, etc. 3. *Naut.* a spoke on a ship's wheel or a handle projecting from the periphery. **—'rungless** *adj.*

rung (rʌŋ) *vb.* the past participle of **ring**².

▷ **Usage.** See at **ring**².

run in *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. to run (an engine) gently, usually when it is new. 2. (*tr.*) to insert or include. 3. (*intr.*) (of an aircraft) to approach a point or target. 4. (*tr.*) *Sl.* to take into custody; arrest. **~n.** **run-in.** 5. *Inf.* an argument or quarrel. 6. *Printing.* matter inserted in an existing paragraph.

run into *vb.* (*prep.; mainly intr.*) 1. (also *tr.*) to collide with or cause to collide with: *her car ran into a tree*. 2. to encounter unexpectedly. 3. (also *tr.*) to be beset by: *the project ran into financial difficulties*. 4. to extend to; be of the order of: *debts running into thousands*.

runnel (ˈrʌnəl) *n.* *Literary.* a small stream.

runner (ˈrʌnə) *n.* 1. a person who runs, esp. an athlete. 2. a messenger for a bank, etc. 3. a person engaged in the solicitation of business. 4. a person on the run; fugitive. 5. a. a person or vessel engaged in smuggling. **b.** (in combination): *a gun-runner*. 6. a person who operates, manages, or controls something. 7. a. either of the strips of metal or wood on which a sledge runs. **b.** the blade of an ice skate. 8. a roller or guide for a sliding component. 9. *Bot.* a. Also called: **stolon**, a slender horizontal stem, as of the strawberry, that grows along the surface of the soil and propagates by producing roots and shoots at the nodes or tip. **b.** a plant that propagates in this way. 10. a strip of lace, linen, etc., placed across a table or dresser for protection and decoration. 11. another word for **rocker** (on a rocking chair).

runner bean *n.* a climbing bean plant with long green edible pods.

runner-up *n., pl. runners-up.* a contestant finishing a race or competition in second place.

running (ˈrʌnɪŋ) *adj.* 1. maintained continuously; incessant: *running commentary*. 2. (postpositive) without interruption; consecutive: *he lectured for two hours running*. 3. denoting or relating to the scheduled operation of a public vehicle: *the running time of a train*. 4. accomplished at a run: *a running jump*. 5. moving or slipping easily, as a rope or a knot. 6. (of a wound, etc.) discharging pus. 7. prevalent; current: *running prices*. 8. repeated or continuous: *a running design*. 9. (of plants, plant stems, etc.) creeping along the ground. 10. flowing: *running water*. 11. (of handwriting) having the letters run together. **~n.** 12. management or organization: *the running of a company*. 13. operation or maintenance: *the running of a machine*. 14. competition or competitive situation (in the running, out of the running). 15. **make the running.** to set the pace in a competition or race.

running board *n.* a ledge beneath the doors of certain old cars.

running head or title *n.* *Printing.* a heading printed at the top of every page of a book.

running repairs *pl.* *n.* repairs that do not, or do not greatly, interrupt operations.

runny (ˈrʌni) *adj.* **~nier, ~niest.** 1. tending to flow; liquid. 2. (of the nose) exuding mucus.

run off *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. (*intr.*) to depart in haste. 2. (*tr.*) to produce quickly, as copies on a duplicating machine. 3. to drain (liquid) or (of liquid) to be drained. 4. (*tr.*) to decide (a race) by a run-off. 5. **run off with.** a. to steal; purloin. **b.** to elope with. **~n.** **run-off.** 6. an extra race to decide the winner after a tie. 7. *N.Z.* grazing land for

store cattle. 8. that portion of rainfall that runs into streams as surface water rather than being absorbed by the soil. 9. the overflow of a liquid from a container.

run-of-the-mill *adj.* ordinary, average, or undistinguished in quality, character, or nature.

run on *vb. (adv.)* 1. (*intr.*) to continue without interruption. 2. to handwrite with linked-up characters. 3. *Printing*, to compose text matter without indentation or paragraphing. ~*n.* **run-on**. 4. *Printing*, a. text matter composed without indenting. b. an additional quantity required in excess of the originally stated amount, whilst the job is being produced. 5. a. a word added at the end of a dictionary entry whose meaning can be easily inferred from the definition of the headword. b. (*as modifier*): a *run-on* entry.

run out *vb. (adv.)* 1. (*intr.*; often foll. by *of*) to exhaust (a supply of something) or (of a supply) to become exhausted. 2. **run out on**. *Inf.* to desert or abandon. 3. (*tr.*) *Cricket*, to dismiss (a running batsman) by breaking the wicket with the ball, or with the ball in the hand, while he is out of his ground. ~*n.* **run-out**. 4. *Cricket*, dismissal of a batsman by running him out.

run over *vb.* 1. (*tr., adv.*) to knock down (a person) with a moving vehicle. 2. (*intr.*) to overflow the capacity of (a container). 3. (*intr., prep.*) to examine hastily or make a rapid survey of. 4. (*intr., prep.*) to exceed (a limit): *we've run over our time*.

runt (*rʌnt*) *n.* 1. the smallest and weakest young animal in a litter, esp. the smallest piglet in a litter. 2. *Derog.* an undersized or inferior person. 3. a large pigeon, originally bred for eating. —**runtish** *adj.* —**runtly** *adj.* —**runtiness** *n.*

run through *vb.* 1. (*tr., adv.*) to pierce with a sword or other weapon. 2. (*intr., prep.*) to exhaust (money) by wasteful spending. 3. (*intr., prep.*) to practise or rehearse: *let's run through the plan*. 4. (*intr., prep.*) to examine hastily. ~*n.* **run-through**. 5. a practice or rehearsal. 6. a brief survey.

run to *vb. (intr., prep.)* to be sufficient for: *my income doesn't run to luxuries*.

run up *vb. (tr., adv.)* 1. to amass; incur: *to run up debts*. 2. to make by sewing together quickly. 3. to hoist: *to run up a flag*. ~*n.* **run-up**. 4. an approach run by an athlete for a long jump, pole vault, etc. 5. a preliminary or preparatory period: *the run-up to the election*.

runway ('rʌn,wei) *n.* 1. a hard level roadway from which aircraft take off and on which they land. 2. *Forestry, North American*, a chute for sliding logs down. 3. a narrow ramp extending from the stage into the audience in a theatre, etc.

rupee (ru:'pi:) *n.* the standard monetary unit of India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Mauritius, the Seychelles, and Nepal.

rupture ('rʌptʃə) *n.* 1. the act of breaking or bursting or the state of being broken or burst. 2. a breach of peaceful or friendly relations. 3. *Pathol.* a. the breaking or tearing of a bodily structure or part. b. another word for *hernia*. ~*vb.* 4. to break or burst. 5. to be affected with a rupture or hernia. 6. to undergo a breach in relations or friendship. —**rupturable** *adj.*

rural ('rʊərəl) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or characteristic of the country or country life. 2. living in the country. 3. of, relating to, or associated with farming. ~*Cf.* **urban**. —**ruralism** *n.* —**ruralist** *n.* —**ru'rality** *n.* —**rural-ly** *adv.*

rural dean *n.* *Chiefly Brit.* a clergyman having authority over a group of parishes.

rural district *n.* (formerly), a rural division of a county.

ruse (ru:z) *n.* an action intended to mislead, deceive, or trick; stratagem.

rush¹ ('rʌʃ) *vb.* 1. to hurry or cause to hurry; hasten. 2. (*tr.*) to make a sudden attack upon (a fortress, position, person, etc.). 3. (*when intr.*, often foll. by *at, in, or into*) to proceed or approach in a reckless manner. 4. **rush one's fences**, to proceed with precipitate haste. 5. (*intr.*) to come, flow, swell, etc., quickly or suddenly: *tears rushed to her eyes*. 6. *Sl.* to charge (somebody) an exorbitant price. 7. (*tr.*) *U.S.* to make a concerted effort to secure the agreement, participation, etc., of (a person). 8. (*tr.*) *Rugby*, (of a pack) to move (the ball) forwards by short kicks and runs. ~*n.* 9. the act or condition of rushing. 10. a sudden surge towards someone or something: *a gold rush*. 11. a sudden demand. 12. (*usually pl.*) (in film-making) the initial prints of a scene before editing. ~*adj. (prenominal)* 13. requiring

speed or urgency: *a rush job*. 14. characterized by much movement, business, etc.: *a rush period*. —**rusher** *n.*

rush² ('rʌʃ) *n.* 1. an annual or perennial plant growing in wet places and typically having grasslike cylindrical leaves and small green or brown flowers. 2. something valueless; a trifle; straw: *not worth a rush*. 3. short for **rush light**. —**rush, like** *adj.* —**rushy** *adj.*

rush hour *n.* a period at the beginning and end of the working day when large numbers of people are travelling to or from work.

rush light or candle *n.* a narrow candle, formerly in use, made of the pith of various types of rush dipped in tallow.

rusk ('rʌsk) *n.* 1. a kind of light biscuit. 2. a light bread dough, sweet or plain, baked twice until it is brown, hard, and crisp.

Russ, *abbrev. for* Russia(*n.*)

russet ('rʌsɪt) *n.* 1. brown with a yellowish or reddish tinge. 2. a rough homespun fabric, reddish-brown in colour, formerly in use for clothing. 3. any of various apples with rough brownish-red skins. ~*adj.* 4. *Arch.* simple; homely; rustic: *a russet life*. 5. of the colour russet: *russet hair*. —**russet-, like** *adj.* —**russety** *adj.*

Russian ('rʌʃjən) *n.* 1. the official language of the Soviet Union: an Indo-European language belonging to the East Slavonic branch. 2. a native or inhabitant of Russia or the Soviet Union. ~*adj.* 3. of, relating to, or characteristic of Russia or the Soviet Union, its people, or their language.

Russian roulette *n.* 1. an act of bravado in which each person in turn spins the cylinder of a revolver loaded with only one cartridge and presses the trigger with the barrel against his own head. 2. any foolish or potentially suicidal undertaking.

Russo- ('rʌsʊ-) *combining form.* Russia or Russian: *Russo-Japanese*.

rust ('rʌst) *n.* 1. a reddish-brown oxide coating formed on iron or steel by the action of oxygen and moisture. 2. Also called: **rust fungus**. *Plant pathol.* a. a fungus which is parasitic on cereal plants, conifers, etc. b. any of various plant diseases characterized by reddish-brown discoloration of the leaves and stem, esp. that caused by the rust fungi. 3. a. a strong brown colour, sometimes with a reddish or yellowish tinge. b. (*as adj.*): *a rust carpet*. 4. any corrosive or debilitating influence, esp. lack of use. ~*vb.* 5. to become coated with a layer of rust. 6. to deteriorate or cause to deteriorate through some debilitating influence or lack of use: *he allowed his talent to rust over the years*. —**rustless** *adj.*

rustic ('rʌstɪk) *adj.* 1. of, characteristic of, or living in the country; rural. 2. having qualities ascribed to country life or people; simple; unsophisticated: *rustic pleasures*. 3. crude, awkward, or uncouth. 4. made of untrimmed branches: *a rustic seat*. 5. (of masonry, etc.) having a rough or irregular surface and chamfered or recessed joints. ~*n.* 6. a person who comes from or lives in the country. 7. an unsophisticated, simple, or clownish person from the country. 8. Also called: **rusticwork**, brick or stone having a rough finish. —**rustically** *adv.* —**rusticity** ('rʌ'stɪsɪtɪ) *n.*

rusticate ('rʌstɪ,keɪt) *vb.* 1. to banish or retire to the country. 2. to make or become rustic in style, etc. 3. (*tr.*) to construct (brickwork or masonry) in a rustic manner. 4. (*tr.*) *Brit.* to send down from university for a specified time as a punishment. —**rustification** *n.* —**rusti, cator** *n.*

rustle¹ ('rʌʃl) *vb.* 1. to make or cause to make a low crisp whispering or rubbing sound, as of dry leaves or paper. 2. to move with such a sound. ~*n.* 3. such a sound or sounds.

rustle² ('rʌʃl) *vb.* *U.S.* 1. to steal (cattle, horses, etc.). 2. *Inf.* to move swiftly and energetically. —**rustler** *n.*

rustle up *vb. (tr., adv.)* 1. to prepare (a meal, etc.) rapidly, esp. at short notice. 2. to forage for and obtain.

rustproof ('rʌst,pru:f) *adj.* treated against rusting.

rusty ('rʌstɪ) *adj.* **rustier, rustiest**. 1. covered with, affected by, or consisting of rust: *a rusty machine*. 2. of the colour rust. 3. discoloured by age: *a rusty coat*. 4. (of the voice) tending to croak. 5. old-fashioned in appearance: *a rusty old gentleman*. 6. impaired in skill or knowledge by inaction or neglect. 7. (of plants) affected by the rust fungus. —**rustily** *adv.* —**rustiness** *n.*

rut¹ ('rʌt) *n.* 1. a groove or furrow in a soft road, caused by wheels. 2. a narrow or predictable way of life; dreary or undeviating routine (esp. in *a rut*). ~*vb.* **rutting**, **rutted**. 3. (*tr.*) to make a rut in. —**rutty** *adj.*

rut² ('rʌt) *n.* 1. a recurrent period of sexual excitement

and reproductive activity in certain male ruminants. ~vb. **rutting**, **rutt**. **2.** (*intr.*) (of male ruminants) to be in a period of sexual excitement and activity.

ruthenium (ru:'θi:nɪəm) *n.* a hard brittle white element of the platinum metal group. It is used to harden platinum and palladium. Symbol: Ru; atomic no.: 44; atomic wt.: 101.07.

rutherford ('rʌðəfəd) *n.* a unit of activity equal to the quantity of a radioactive nuclide required to produce one million disintegrations per second. Abbrev.: rd.

ruthless ('ru:θlis) *adj.* feeling or showing no mercy; hard-hearted. —'ruthlessly *adv.* —'ruthlessness *n.*

ruttish ('rʌtɪʃ) *adj.* **1.** (of an animal) in a condition of rut. **2.** lascivious or salacious. —'ruttishly *adv.* —'ruttishness *n.*

R.V. *abbrev. for* Revised Version (of the Bible).

Rwy. or Ry. *abbrev. for* railway.

rye (rai) *n.* **1.** a tall hardy widely cultivated annual grass having bristly flower spikes and light brown grain. **2.** the grain of this grass, used in making flour and whisky, and as a livestock food. **3.** Also called: **rye whiskey**, whisky distilled from rye.

rye bread *n.* any of various breads made entirely or partly from rye flour, often with caraway seeds.

rye-grass *n.* any of various grasses native to Europe, N Africa, and Asia, and widely cultivated as forage crops. They have flattened flower spikes and hairless leaves.

S

s or **S** (ɛs) *n.*, *pl.* **s's**, **S's**, or **Ss**. 1. the 19th letter of the English alphabet. 2. a speech sound represented by this letter, either voiceless, as in *sit*, or voiced, as in *dogs*. 3. **a.** something shaped like an **S**. **b.** (in combination): an *S-bend* in a road.

S *symbol for:* 1. Society. 2. South. 3. Chem. sulphur. 4. Physics. *a.* entropy. *b.* siemens. 5. Physics. strangeness.

s. *abbrev. for:* 1. second (of time). 2. shilling. 3. singular. 4. son. 5. succeeded.

S. *abbrev. for:* 1. sabbath. 2. (pl. **SS**) Saint. 3. Saturday. 4. Saxon. 5. Currency. schilling. 6. school. 7. September. 8. Signor. 9. Sunday.

-s' or -es *suffix* forming the plural of most nouns: *boys*; *boxes*.

-s' or -es *suffix* forming the third person singular present indicative tense of verbs: *he runs*.

-s *suffix.* 1. forming the possessive singular of nouns and some pronouns: *man's*; *one's*. 2. forming the possessive plural of nouns whose plurals do not end in *-s*: *children's*. 3. forming the plural of numbers, letters, or symbols: *20's*. 4. *Inf.* contraction of *is* or *has*: *it's gone*. 5. *Inf.* contraction of *us* with *let*: *let's*. 6. *Inf.* contraction of *does* in some questions: *what's he do?*

-s' *suffix* forming the possessive of plural nouns ending in the sound *s* or *z* and of some singular nouns: *girls'*; *for goodness' sake*.

S.A. *abbrev. for:* 1. Salvation Army. 2. South Africa. 3. South America. 4. South Australia.

Sabbatarian (ˌsæbə'teəriən) *n.* 1. a person advocating the strict religious observance of Sunday. 2. a person who observes Saturday as the Sabbath. ~*adj.* 3. of the Sabbath or its observance. —**Sabba'tarianism** *n.*

Sabbath ('sæbəθ) *n.* 1. the seventh day of the week, Saturday, devoted to worship and rest from work in Judaism and in certain Christian Churches. 2. Sunday, observed by Christians as the day of worship and rest. 3. (not *cap.*) a period of rest. 4. Also called: **sabbat**, **witches' Sabbath**, a midnight meeting for practitioners of witchcraft or devil worship.

sabbatical (sə'bætɪkəl) *adj.* 1. denoting a period of leave granted to university staff, teachers, etc., esp. originally every seventh year: a *sabbatical year*. ~*n.* 2. any sabbatical period.

Sabbatical (sə'bætɪkəl) *adj.* of, relating to, or appropriate to the Sabbath as a day of rest and religious observance.

S.A.B.C. *abbrev. for* South African Broadcasting Corporation.

Sabine ('sæbain) *n.* 1. a member of an ancient people who lived in central Italy. ~*adj.* 2. of or relating to this people or their language.

sable ('seɪbəl) *n.*, *pl.* **-bles** or **-ble**. 1. a marten of N Asian forests, with dark brown luxuriant fur. 2. **a.** the highly valued fur of this animal. **b.** (as *modifier*): a *sable coat*. 3. **American sable**, the brown, slightly less valuable fur of the American marten. 4. a dark brown to yellowish-brown colour. ~*adj.* 5. of the colour of sable fur. 6. black; dark. 7. (usually *postpositive*) *Heraldry*, of the colour black.

sabot ('sæbəʊ) *n.* 1. a shoe made from a single block of wood. 2. a shoe with a wooden sole and a leather or cloth upper. 3. *Austral.* a small yacht with a shortened bow.

sabotage ('sæbəʊtɜːʒ) *n.* 1. the deliberate destruction, disruption, or damage of equipment, a public service, etc., as by enemy agents, dissatisfied employees, etc. 2. any similar action. ~*vb.* 3. (tr.) to destroy or disrupt, esp. by secret means.

saboteur (ˌsæbəʊ'tɜː) *n.* a person who commits sabotage.

sabre or **U.S. saber** ('seɪbə) *n.* 1. a stout single-edged cavalry sword, having a curved blade. 2. a sword used in fencing, having a narrow V-shaped blade. ~*vb.* 3. (tr.) to injure or kill with a sabre.

sac (sæk) *n.* a pouch, bag, or pouchlike part in an animal or plant. —**sacate** ('sækit, -et) *adj.* —**sac, like** *adj.*

saccharin ('sæʃkərɪn) *n.* a very sweet white crystalline

slightly soluble powder used as a nonfattening sweetener.

saccharine ('sæʃkə,rɪn) *adj.* 1. excessively sweet; sugary: a *saccharine smile*. 2. of the nature of or containing sugar or saccharin.

saccharo- or before a vowel **sacchar-** *combining form.* sugar.

sacerdotal (ˌsæʃə'dəʊtəl) *adj.* of, relating to, or characteristic of priests. —**sacer'dota,lism** *n.* —**sacer'dotally** *adv.*

sachem ('seɪtʃəm) *n.* U.S. a leader of a political party or organization.

sachet ('sæʃet) *n.* 1. a small sealed envelope, usually made of plastic, for containing shampoo, etc. 2. **a.** a small soft bag containing perfumed powder, placed in drawers to scent clothing. **b.** the powder contained in such a bag.

sack¹ (sæk) *n.* 1. a large bag made of coarse cloth, thick paper, etc., used as a container. 2. Also called: **sackful**, the amount contained in a sack. 3. Also called: **sacque** (sæk). **a.** a woman's full loose hip-length jacket. **b.** a woman's loose tube-shaped dress. 4. a slang word for **bed**. 5. **the sack**, *Inf.* dismissal from employment. 6. **hit the sack**, *Sl.* to go to bed. ~*vb.* (tr.) 7. *Inf.* to dismiss from employment. 8. to put into a sack or sacks. —**sack, like** *adj.*

sack² (sæk) *n.* 1. the plundering of a place by an army or mob. ~*vb.* 2. (tr.) to plunder and partially destroy (a place). —**sacker** *n.*

sack³ (sæk) *n.* Arch. except in trademarks. any dry white wine from SW Europe.

sackbut ('sæk,bʌt) *n.* a medieval form of trombone.

sackcloth ('sæk,klɒð) *n.* 1. coarse cloth such as sack-ing. 2. garments made of such cloth, worn formerly to indicate mourning. 3. **sackcloth and ashes**, a public display of extreme grief.

sacking ('sækɪŋ) *n.* coarse cloth used for making sacks, woven from flax, hemp, jute, etc.

sacrament ('sækrəmənt) *n.* 1. an outward sign combined with a prescribed form of words and regarded as conferring grace upon those who receive it. The Protestant sacraments are baptism and the Lord's Supper. In the Roman Catholic and Eastern Churches they are baptism, penance, confirmation, the Eucharist, holy orders, matrimony, and extreme unction. 2. (often *cap.*) the Eucharist. 3. the consecrated elements of the Eucharist, esp. the bread. 4. something regarded as possessing a sacred significance. 5. a pledge.

sacred ('seɪkrɪd) *adj.* 1. exclusively devoted to a deity or to some religious ceremony or use. 2. worthy of or regarded with reverence, awe, or respect. 3. connected with or intended for religious use: *sacred music*. 4. **sacred to**, dedicated to. —**sacredly** *adv.* —**sacredness** *n.*

sacred cow *n.* *Inf.* a person, custom, etc., held to be beyond criticism.

sacrifice ('sækrɪ,fɪs) *n.* 1. a surrender of something of value as a means of gaining something more desirable or of preventing some evil. 2. a ritual killing of a person or animal with the intention of propitiating or pleasing a deity. 3. a symbolic offering of something to a deity. 4. the person, animal, or object killed or offered. 5. loss entailed by giving up or selling something at less than its value. 6. Chess, the act or an instance of sacrificing a piece. ~*vb.* 7. to make a sacrifice (of). 8. Chess, to permit or force one's opponent to capture a piece freely, as in playing a gambit: *he sacrificed his queen and checkmated his opponent on the next move*. —**sacri-ficer** *n.* —**sacri-ficial** ('sækrɪ'fɪʃəl) *adj.*

sacrilège ('sækrɪlɪdʒ) *n.* 1. the misuse or desecration of anything regarded as sacred or as worthy of extreme respect. 2. the act or an instance of taking anything sacred for secular use. —**sacri-legist** ('sækrɪ'li:dʒɪst) *n.* —**sacri'legious** *adj.* —**sacri'legiously** *adv.*

sacristan ('sækrɪstən) or **sacrist** ('sækrɪst, 'seɪ-) *n.* 1. a person who has charge of the contents of a church. 2. a less common word for **sexton**.

sacristy ('sækrɪstɪ) *n.*, *pl.* **-ties**. a room attached to a

church or chapel where the sacred vessels, etc., are kept.

sacrosanct ('sækrəʊ,sæŋkt) *adj.* very sacred or holy. —**sacro**'sanctity *n.*

sacrum ('seikrəm) *n.*, *pl.* -**cræ** (-krə). the large wedge-shaped bone, consisting of five fused vertebrae, in the lower part of the back. —**sacral** *adj.*

sad (sæd) *adj.* **sadder**, **saddest**. 1. feeling sorrow; unhappy. 2. causing, suggestive, or expressive of such feelings: a sad story. 3. unfortunate; shabby: her clothes were in a sad state. —**sadly** *adv.* —**sadness** *n.*

sadden ('sædn̩) *vb.* to make or become sad.

saddle ('sædl̩) *n.* 1. a seat for a rider, usually made of leather, placed on a horse's back and secured with a girth under the belly. 2. a similar seat on a bicycle, tractor, etc. 3. a back pad forming part of the harness of a packhorse. 4. anything that resembles a saddle in shape, position, or function. 5. a cut of meat, esp. mutton, consisting of both loins. 6. the part of a horse or similar animal on which a saddle is placed. 7. the part of the back of a domestic chicken that is nearest to the tail. 8. Also called: **saddleback**, a pass or ridge that slopes gently between two peaks. 9. **in the saddle**, in a position of control. ~*vb.* 10. (sometimes foll. by *up*) to put a saddle on (a horse). 11. (*intr.*) to mount into the saddle. 12. (*tr.*) to burden: I didn't ask to be saddled with this job. —**saddle**-'like *adj.*

saddleback ('sædl̩,bæk) *n.* a marking resembling a saddle on the backs of various animals. —**saddle**-'backed *adj.*

saddlebag ('sædl̩,bæg) *n.* a pouch or small bag attached to the saddle of a horse, bicycle, etc.

saddle horse *n.* a lightweight horse kept for riding only.

saddler ('sædlə) *n.* a person who makes, deals in, or repairs saddles and other leather equipment for horses.

saddlery ('sædləri) *n.*, *pl.* -**dleries**. 1. saddles, harness, and other leather equipment for horses collectively. 2. the business, work, or place of work of a saddler.

saddle soap *n.* a soft soap containing neat's-foot oil used to preserve and clean leather.

saddletree ('sædl̩,tri) *n.* the frame of a saddle.

Sadducee ('sædjʊ,si) *n.* **Judaism**, a member of an ancient Jewish sect that was opposed to the Pharisees, denying the resurrection of the dead and the validity of oral tradition. —**Saddu**'cean *adj.*

sadhu or **saddhu** ('sædʊ:; 'sædʊ:; *n.* a Hindu wandering holy man.

sadism ('seɪdɪzəm) *n.* the gaining of pleasure or sexual gratification from the infliction of pain and mental suffering on another person. Cf. **masochism**. —**sadist** *n.* —**sadistic** (sə'dɪstɪk) *adj.* —**sa**'distically *adv.*

sadomasochism (,seɪdɒ'mæsoʊ,kɪzəm) *n.* the combination of sadistic and masochistic elements in one person. —**sadomaso**'chistic *adj.*

s.a.e. *abbrev.* for stamped addressed envelope.

safari (sə'fɑ:ri) *n.*, *pl.* -**ris**. 1. an overland journey or hunting expedition, esp. in Africa. 2. the people, animals, etc., that go on the expedition.

safari park *n.* an enclosed park in which lions and other wild animals are kept in the open and can be viewed by the public in cars, etc.

safe (seɪf) *adj.* 1. affording security or protection from harm: a safe place. 2. (*postpositive*) free from danger, etc.: you'll be safe here. 3. secure from risk: a safe investment. 4. worthy of trust: a safe companion. 5. tending to avoid controversy or risk: a safe player. 6. not dangerous: water safe to drink. 7. **on the safe side**, as a precaution. ~*adv.* 8. in a safe condition: the children are safe in bed now. 9. **play safe**, to act in a way least likely to cause danger, controversy, or defeat. ~*n.* 10. a strong container, usually of metal and provided with a secure lock, for storing money or valuables. 11. a container for storing food. —**safely** *adv.* —**safeness** *n.*

safe-conduct *n.* 1. a document giving official permission to travel through a region, esp. in time of war. 2. the protection afforded by such a document.

safe-deposit or **safety-deposit** *n.* a. a place with facilities for the safe storage of money. b. (*as modifier*): a safe-deposit box.

safeguard ('seɪf,gɑ:d) *n.* 1. a person or thing that ensures protection against danger, injury, etc. 2. a safe-conduct. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to protect.

safety ('seɪfti) *n.*, *pl.* -**ties**. 1. the quality of being safe. 2. freedom from danger or risk of injury. 3. a contrivance designed to prevent injury. 4. **American football**.

Also called: **safetyman**, the defensive player furthest back in the field.

safety belt *n.* 1. another name for seat belt. 2. a belt or strap worn by a person working at a great height to prevent him from falling.

safety curtain *n.* a curtain made of fireproof material that can be lowered to separate the auditorium and stage in a theatre to prevent the spread of a fire.

safety lamp *n.* an oil-burning miner's lamp in which the flame is surrounded by a metal gauze to prevent it from igniting combustible gas.

safety match *n.* a match that will light only when struck against a specially prepared surface.

safety pin *n.* a spring wire clasp with a covering catch, made so as to shield the point when closed.

safety razor *n.* a razor with a guard over the blade or blades to prevent accidental cutting of the skin.

safety valve *n.* 1. a valve in a pressure vessel that allows fluid to escape at excess pressure. 2. a harmless outlet for emotion, etc.

safflower ('sæfləʊ) *n.* 1. a thistle-like Eurasian annual plant having large heads of orange-yellow flowers and yielding a dye and an oil used in paints, medicines, etc. 2. a red dye used for cotton and for colouring foods and cosmetics.

saffron ('sæfrən) *n.* 1. an Old World crocus having purple or white flowers with orange stigmas. 2. the dried stigmas of this plant, used to flavour or colour food. 3. **meadow saffron**, another name for autumn crocus. 4. an orange to orange-yellow colour.

sag (sæg) *vb.* (*mainly intr.*) **sagging**, **sagged**. 1. (*also tr.*) to sink or cause to sink in parts, as under weight or pressure: the bed sags in the middle. 2. to fall in value: prices sagged to a new low. 3. to hang unevenly. 4. (of courage, etc.) to weaken. ~*n.* 5. the act or an instance of sagging: a sag in profits. 6. **Naut.** the extent to which a vessel's keel sags at the centre. —**saggy** *adj.*

saga ('sɑ:gə) *n.* 1. any of several medieval prose narratives written in Iceland and recounting the exploits of a hero or a family. 2. any similar heroic narrative. 3. a series of novels about several generations or members of a family. 4. *Inf.* a series of events or a story stretching over a long period.

sagacious (sə'geɪʃəs) *adj.* having or showing sagacity; wise. —**sa**'gaciously *adv.* —**sagacity** (-'gæs-) *n.*

sage¹ ('seɪdʒ) *n.* 1. a man revered for his profound wisdom. ~*adj.* 2. profoundly wise or prudent. —**sage**-ly *adv.* —**sageness** *n.*

sage² ('seɪdʒ) *n.* 1. a perennial Mediterranean plant having grey-green leaves and purple, blue, or white flowers. 2. the leaves of this plant, used in cooking for flavouring. 3. short for **sagebrush**.

sagebrush ('seɪdʒ,bʁʌʃ) *n.* any of a genus of aromatic plants of W North America, having silver-green leaves and large clusters of small white flowers.

Sagittarius (,sædʒɪ'teəriəs) *n.*, **Latin genitive Sagittarii** (,sædʒɪ'teərii,aɪ). 1. **Astron.** a S constellation. 2. **Astrol.** the ninth sign of the zodiac. The sun is in this sign between Nov. 22 and Dec. 21. —**Sagittarian** (,sædʒɪ'teəriən) *adj.*

sago ('seɪgəʊ) *n.* a starchy cereal obtained from the powdered pith of a palm (**sago palm**), used for puddings and as a thickening agent.

sahib ('sɑ:hib) *n.* (in India) a form of address placed after a man's name, used as a mark of respect.

said (sed) *adj.* 1. (*prenominal*) (in contracts, etc.) aforesaid. ~*vb.* 2. the past tense or past participle of say.

sail (seɪl) *n.* 1. an area of fabric, usually Terylene or nylon (formerly canvas), with fittings for holding it in any suitable position to catch the wind, used for propelling certain kinds of vessels, esp. over water. 2. a voyage on such a vessel: a sail down the river. 3. a vessel with sails or such vessels collectively: to travel by sail. 4. a ship's sails collectively. 5. something resembling a sail in shape, position, or function, such as the part of a windmill that is turned by the wind. 6. **in sail**, having the sail set. 7. **make sail**, a. to run up the sail or to run up more sail. b. to begin a voyage. 8. **set sail**, a. to embark on a voyage by ship. b. to hoist sail. 9. **under sail**, a. with sail hoisted. b. under way. ~*vb.* (*mainly intr.*) 10. to travel in a boat or ship: we sailed to Le Havre. 11. to begin a voyage: we sail at 5 o'clock. 12. (of a vessel) to move over the water. 13. (*tr.*) to manoeuvre or navigate a vessel: he sailed the schooner up the channel. 14. (*tr.*) to sail over: she sailed the Atlantic single-handed. 15. (often foll. by *over*, *through*, etc.) to move fast or effortlessly: we sailed through

customs. **16.** to move along smoothly; glide. **17.** (often foll. by *in* or *into*) *Inf.* a. to begin (something) with vigour. *b.* to make an attack (on) violently. — **'sailable** *adj.* — **'sailless** *adj.*

sailcloth ('seil,kloth) *n.* **1.** any of various fabrics from which sails are made. **2.** a canvas-like cloth used for clothing, etc.

sailer ('seila) *n.* a vessel, with specified sailing characteristics: *a good sailer.*

sailfish ('seil,fɪʃ) *n.*, *pl.* **-fish** or **-fishes.** any of several large game fishes of warm and tropical seas. They have an elongated upper jaw and a long sail-like dorsal fin.

sailor ('seila) *n.* **1.** any member of a ship's crew, esp. one below the rank of officer. **2.** a person who sails, esp. with reference to the likelihood of his becoming seaskick: *a good sailor.*

sainfoin ('seinfɔin) *n.* a Eurasian perennial plant, widely grown as a forage crop, having pale pink flowers and curved pods.

saint (seint; *unstressed* sɔnt) *n.* **1.** a person who after death is formally recognized by a Christian Church as having attained a specially exalted place in heaven entitling him to veneration. **2.** a person of exceptional holiness. **3.** (*pl.*) *Bible.* the collective body of those who are righteous in God's sight. ~*vb.* **4.** (*tr.*) to recognize formally as a saint. — **'sainthood** *n.* — **'saintlike** *adj.*

Saint Bernard ('bɔ:nbɜ:nd) *n.*, usually abbreviated to **St. Bernard.** a large breed of dog with a dense red-and-white coat, often used as a rescue dog in mountainous areas.

sainted ('seintɪd) *adj.* **1.** canonized. **2.** like a saint in character or nature. **3.** hallowed or holy.

Saint John's wort ('dʒɔnz) *n.*, usually abbreviated to **St. John's wort.** any of a genus of shrubs or herbaceous plants, having yellow flowers.

Saint Leger ('ledʒə) *n.*, usually abbreviated to **St. Leger.** the annual horse race run at Doncaster, England, since 1776.

saintly ('seintlɪ) *adj.* like, relating to, or suitable for a saint. — **'saintlily** *adv.* — **'saintliness** *n.*

Saint Vitus's dance ('vaɪtʊsɪz) *n.*, usually abbreviated to **St. Vitus's dance.** *Pathol.* a nontechnical name for chorea.

saithe (seθ) *n.* *Brit.* another name for coalfish.

sake ('seik) *n.* **1.** benefit or interest (esp. in for someone's or one's own sake). **2.** the purpose of obtaining or achieving (esp. in for the sake of something). **3.** used in various exclamations of impatience, urgency, etc.: *for heaven's sake.*

sake, saké, or saki ('sɑ:kɪ) *n.* a Japanese alcoholic drink made of fermented rice.

salaam ('sɑ:lɑ:m) *n.* **1.** a Muslim form of salutation consisting of a deep bow with the right palm on the forehead. **2.** a salutation signifying peace. ~*vb.* **3.** to make a salaam (to).

salacious ('sɑ:lɪʃəs) *adj.* **1.** having an excessive interest in sex. **2.** (of books, etc.) erotic, bawdy, or lewd. — **'salaciously** *adv.* — **'salaciousness** or **salacity** ('sɑ:ləsɪtɪ) *n.*

salad ('sæləd) *n.* **1.** a dish of raw vegetables, such as lettuce, tomatoes, etc., served as a separate course with cold meat, eggs, etc., or as part of a main course. **2.** any dish of cold vegetables or fruit served with a dressing: *potato salad.* **3.** any green vegetable or herb used in such a dish.

salad days *pl.* *n.* a period of youth and inexperience.

salad dressing *n.* a sauce for salad, such as oil and vinegar or mayonnaise.

salamander ('sælə,mændə) *n.* **1.** any of various amphibians of central and S Europe. They have an elongated body, and only return to water to breed. **2.** *Chiefly* *U.S.* any amphibian with a tail, as the newt. **3.** a mythical reptilian creature supposed to live in fire. **4.** an elemental fire-inhabiting being.

salami ('sɑ:lɑ:mi) *n.* a highly seasoned type of sausage, usually flavoured with garlic.

salaried ('sælərɪd) *adj.* earning or yielding a salary: *a salaried worker; salaried employment.*

salary ('sæləri) *n.*, *pl.* **-ries.** **1.** a fixed payment made by an employer, often monthly, for professional or office work. *Cf.* *wage.* ~*vb.* **-rying, -ried.** **2.** (*tr.*) to pay a salary to.

sale (seɪl) *n.* **1.** the exchange of goods, property, or services for an agreed sum of money or credit. **2.** the amount sold. **3.** the opportunity to sell: *there was no sale for luxuries.* **4.** a. an event at which goods are sold at

reduced prices, usually to clear old stocks. *b.* (as modifier): *sale bargains.* **5.** an auction.

saleable or **U.S. salable** ('seɪləbəl) *adj.* fit for selling or capable of being sold. — **'saleability** or **U.S. 'salability** *n.*

sale of work *n.* a sale of articles, often handmade, the proceeds of which benefit a charity or charities.

saleroom ('seɪl,rʊm) *n.* *Chiefly* *Brit.* a room where objects are displayed for sale, esp. by auction.

salesman ('seɪlzmən) *n.*, *pl.* **-men.** **1.** Also called: **salesperson** or *fem.* **saleswoman, salesgirl,** a person who sells merchandise or services in a shop. **2.** short for **travelling salesman.**

salesmanship ('seɪlzmən,ʃɪp) *n.* **1.** the technique of, skill, or ability in selling. **2.** the work of a salesman.

sales talk or **pitch** *n.* an argument or other persuasion used in selling.

Salic law ('sælk) *n.* *History.* **1.** the code of laws of the Salian Franks and other Germanic tribes. **2.** a law excluding women from succession to the throne in certain countries, such as France and Spain.

salicylic acid ('sæli,sɪk) *n.* a white crystalline substance with a sweet taste and bitter aftertaste, used in the manufacture of aspirin, and as a fungicide.

salient ('seɪlənt) *adj.* **1.** conspicuous or striking: *a salient feature.* **2.** projecting outwards at an angle of less than 180°. **3.** (esp. of animals) leaping. ~*n.* **4.** *Mil.* a projection of the forward line into enemy-held territory. **5.** a salient angle. — **'salience** or **'salieny** *n.* — **'saliently** *adv.*

saline ('seɪlən) *adj.* **1.** of, consisting of, or containing common salt: *a saline taste.* **2.** *Med.* of or relating to a saline. **3.** of, consisting of, or containing any chemical salt, esp. sodium chloride. ~*n.* **4.** *Med.* a solution of sodium chloride and water. — **'salinity** ('sɑ:lɪnɪtɪ) *n.*

saliva ('sɑ:lɪvə) *n.* the secretion of salivary glands, consisting of a clear usually slightly acid aqueous fluid of variable composition. — **'salivary** ('sɑ:lɪvəri) *adj.*

salivate ('sæli,veɪt) *vb.* **1.** (*intr.*) to secrete saliva, esp. an excessive amount. **2.** (*tr.*) to cause (an animal, etc.) to produce saliva, as by the administration of mercury. — **'salivation** *n.*

Salk vaccine ('sɔ:lk) *n.* a vaccine against poliomyelitis.

sallow¹ ('sæləʊ) *adj.* **1.** (esp. of human skin) of an unhealthy pale or yellowish colour. ~*vb.* **2.** (*tr.*) to make fallow. — **'sallowish** *adj.* — **'sallowness** *n.*

sallow² ('sæləʊ) *n.* **1.** any of several small willow trees, esp. the common salwillow, which has large catkins that appear before the leaves. **2.** a twig or the wood of any of these trees. — **'sallowy** *adj.*

sally ('sæli) *n.*, *pl.* **-lies.** **1.** a sudden sortie, esp. by troops. **2.** a sudden outburst or emergence into action or expression. **3.** an excursion. **4.** a jocular retort. ~*vb.* **-lying, -lied.** (*intr.*) **5.** to make a sudden violent sortie. **6.** (often foll. by *forth*) to go out on an expedition, etc. **7.** to come or set out in an energetic manner. **8.** to rush out suddenly.

Sally Lunn ('lʌn) *n.* a flat round cake made from a sweet yeast dough.

salmagundi ('sælmə'gʌndi) *n.* **1.** a mixed salad dish of cooked meats, eggs, beetroot, etc., popular in 18th-century England. **2.** a miscellany.

salmon ('sæmən) *n.*, *pl.* **-ons** or **-on.** **1.** a soft-finned fish of the Atlantic and the Pacific, which is an important food fish. Salmon occur in cold and temperate waters and many species migrate to fresh water to spawn. **2.** *Austral.* any of several unrelated fish. — **'salmo,noid** *adj.*

salmonella ('sælmə'nelə) *n.*, *pl.* **-lae** (-li:). any of a genus of rod-shaped aerobic bacteria including many species causing food poisoning.

salmon ladder *n.* a series of steps designed to enable salmon to move upstream to their breeding grounds.

salon ('sælən) *n.* **1.** a room in a large house in which guests are received. **2.** an assembly of guests in a fashionable household, esp. a gathering of major literary, artistic, and political figures. **3.** a commercial establishment in which hairdressers, etc., carry on their businesses. **4.** a hall for exhibiting works of art. *b.* such an exhibition, esp. one showing the work of living artists.

saloon ('sɑ:lun) *n.* **1.** Also called: **saloon bar.** *Brit.* another word for **lounge** (sense 5). **2.** a large public room on a passenger ship. **3.** any large public room used for a purpose: *a dancing saloon.* **4.** *U.S.* a place where alcoholic drink is sold and consumed. **5.** a closed two-door or four-door car with four to six seats. *U.S.* name: **sedan.**

salopette ('sælə'pet) *n.* a garment worn for skiing, consisting of quilted trousers held up by shoulder straps.

salsify ('sælsɪf) *n.*, *pl.* -fies. 1. Also called: **oyster plant**, **vegetable oyster**. a Mediterranean plant having grasslike leaves, purple flower heads, and a long white edible taproot. 2. the root of this plant, which tastes of oysters and is eaten as a vegetable.

SALT (sɔlt) *n.* acronym for Strategic Arms Limitation Talks or Treaty.

salt (sɔlt) *n.* 1. a white powder or colourless crystalline solid, consisting mainly of sodium chloride and used for seasoning and preserving food. 2. (modifier) preserved in, flooded with, containing, or growing in salt or salty water: *salt pork*. 3. *Chem.* any of a class of crystalline solid compounds that are formed from, or can be regarded as formed from, an acid and a base. 4. liveliness or pungency: *his wit added salt to the discussion*. 5. dry or laconic wit. 6. an experienced sailor. 7. short for **saltcellar**. 8. **rub salt into someone's wounds**, to make someone's pain, shame, etc., even worse. 9. **salt of the earth**, a person or group of people regarded as the finest of their kind. 10. **with a grain (or pinch) of salt**, with reservations. 11. **worth one's salt**, worthy of one's pay. ~*vb.* (tr.) 12. to season or preserve with salt. 13. to scatter salt over (an iced road, etc.) to melt the ice. 14. to add zest to. 15. (often foll. by *down* or *away*) to preserve or cure with salt. 16. *Chem.* to treat with salt. 17. to give a false appearance of value to, esp. to introduce valuable or fraudulently into (a mine, sample, etc.). ~*adj.* 18. not sour, sweet, or bitter; salty. ~*See also salt away, salts.* —*salt, like adj.* —*saltiness n.*

salt away or down *vb.* (tr., adv.) to hoard or save (money, valuables, etc.).

saltcellar ('sɔlt,selə) *n.* 1. a small container for salt used at the table. 2. *Brit. inf.* either of the two hollows formed above the collarbones.

salt lick *n.* 1. a place where wild animals go to lick salt deposits. 2. a block of salt given to domestic animals to lick. 3. *Austral. & N.Z.* a soluble cake of minerals used to supplement the diet of farm animals.

saltpetre or **U.S. saltpeter** ('sɔlt'pitə) *n.* another name for **potassium nitrate**.

salts ('sɔlts) *pl. n.* 1. *Med.* any of various mineral salts, such as magnesium sulphate, for use as a cathartic. 2. short for **smelling salts**.

saltwater ('sɔlt,wɔ:tə) *adj.* of or inhabiting salt water, esp. the sea: *saltwater fishes*.

salty ('sɔlti) *adj.* **saltier**, **saltiest**. 1. of, tasting of, or containing salt. 2. (esp. of humour) sharp. 3. relating to life at sea. —*saltiness n.*

salubrious ('sælju:brɪəs) *adj.* conducive or favourable to health. —*sa-lu-bri-ously adv.* —*salubrity* ('sælju:brɪti) *n.*

Saluki ('sæluki) *n.* a tall breed of hound with a smooth coat and long fringes on the ears and tail.

salutary ('sælju:təri) *adj.* 1. promoting or intended to promote an improvement: *a salutary warning*. 2. promoting or intended to promote health. —*salutarily adv.*

salutation ('sælju:'teɪʃən) *n.* 1. an act, phrase, gesture, etc., that serves as a greeting. 2. a form of words used as an opening to a speech or letter, such as *Dear Sir*.

salute ('sælut) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to address or welcome with friendly words or gestures of respect, such as bowing. 2. (tr.) to acknowledge with praise: *we salute your gallantry*. 3. *Mil.* to pay formal respect, as by presenting arms or raising the right arm. ~*n.* 4. the act of saluting. 5. a formal military gesture of respect. —*sa-luter n.*

salvage ('sælvɪdʒ) *n.* 1. the act, process, or business of rescuing vessels or their cargoes from loss at sea. 2. a. the act of saving any goods or property in danger of damage or destruction. b. (as modifier): *a salvage operation*. 3. the goods or property so saved. 4. compensation paid for the salvage of a vessel or its cargo. 5. the proceeds from the sale of salvaged goods. ~*vb.* (tr.) 6. to save or rescue (goods or property) from fire, shipwreck, etc. 7. to gain (something beneficial) from a failure. —*salvageable adj.* —*salvager n.*

salvation ('sæl'veɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of preserving or the state of being preserved from harm. 2. a person or thing that is the means of preserving from harm. 3. *Christian theol.* deliverance by redemption from the power of sin.

Salvation Army *n.* a Christian body founded in 1865 by William Booth and organized on quasi-military lines for evangelism and social work among the poor.

salve ('sælv, sɔ:v) *n.* 1. an ointment for wounds, etc. 2. anything that heals or soothes. ~*vb.* (tr.) 3. to apply salve to (a wound, etc.). 4. to soothe, comfort, or appease.

salver ('sælvə) *n.* a tray, esp. one of silver, on which food, letters, visiting cards, etc., are presented.

salvia ('sælvɪə) *n.* any of a genus of herbaceous plants or small shrubs, such as the sage, grown for their medicinal or culinary properties or for ornament.

salvo ('sælvəʊ) *n.*, *pl.* -vos or -voes. 1. a discharge of fire from weapons in unison, esp. on a ceremonial occasion. 2. concentrated fire from many weapons, as in a naval battle. 3. an outburst, as of applause.

sal volatile ('vɒ'lætlɪ) *n.* Also called: **spirits of ammonia**. a solution of ammonium carbonate in alcohol and aqueous ammonia, used as smelling salts.

SAM (sæm) *n.* acronym for surface-to-air missile.

Sam. *Bible. abbrev.* for Samuel.

samara ('sə'mɑ:rə) *n.* a dry winged one-seeded fruit: occurs in the ash, maple, etc. Also called: **key fruit**.

Samaritan ('sə'mærɪt'n) *n.* 1. a native or inhabitant of Samaria, a kingdom in ancient Palestine. 2. short for **Good Samaritan**. 3. a member of a voluntary organization (the Samaritans) whose aim is to help people in distress or despair.

samarium ('sə'mærɪəm) *n.* a silvery metallic element of the lanthanide series used in carbon-arc lighting, as a doping agent in laser crystals, and as a neutron-absorber. Symbol: Sm; atomic no.: 62; atomic wt.: 150.35.

same (seɪm) *adj.* (usually preceded by *the*) 1. being the very one: *she is wearing the same hat*. 2. a. being the one previously referred to. b. (as *n.*): *a note received about same*. 3. a. identical in kind, quantity, etc.: *two girls of the same age*. b. (as *n.*): *we'd like the same*. 4. unchanged in character or nature: *his attitude is the same as ever*. 5. **all the same**, **a. Also: just the same**, nevertheless; yet. b. immaterial: *it's all the same to me*. ~*adv.* 6. in an identical manner. —*sameness n.*

▷ **Usage.** The use of *same* exemplified in *if you send us your order for the materials, we will deliver same tomorrow* is common in business and official English. In general English, however, this use of the word is avoided: *may I borrow your book? I'll return it (not same) tomorrow*.

samite ('sæmaɪt) *n.* a heavy fabric of silk, often woven with gold or silver threads, used in the Middle Ages.

samizdat ('sæmɪz'dat) *n.* (in the Soviet Union) a. a system of clandestine printing and distribution of banned literature. b. (as modifier): *a samizdat publication*.

samoosa ('sə'mu:sə) *n.*, *pl.* -sas. *S. African.* a small spiced meat pastry.

samovar ('sæmə,və:) *n.* (esp. in Russia) a metal urn for making tea, in which the water is usually heated by an inner container.

Samoyed (for 1 & 2, 'sæmə'jed, for 3, 'sə'mɔɪed) *n.* 1. (*pl.* -yed or -yeds) a member of a people who live chiefly in the area of the N Urals; related to the Finns. 2. the language of this people. 3. a white or cream breed of dog having a dense coat and a tightly curled tail.

samp ('sæmp) *n.* *S. African.* crushed maize used for porridge.

sampan ('sæmpən) *n.* a small skiff, widely used in the Orient, that is propelled by oars.

samphire ('sæm,fəɪə) *n.* 1. an umbelliferous plant of Eurasian coasts, having fleshy divided leaves and clusters of small white flowers. 2. **golden samphire**, a Eurasian coastal plant with fleshy leaves and yellow flower heads. 3. any of several other plants of coastal areas.

sample ('sæmp'l) *n.* 1. a. a small part of anything, intended as representative of the whole. b. (as modifier): *a sample bottle*. 2. Also called: **sampling**. *Statistics.* a set of individuals or items selected at random from a population and analysed to test hypotheses about the population. ~*vb.* 3. (tr.) to take a sample or samples of.

sampler ('sɑ:mp'lə) *n.* 1. a person who takes samples. 2. a piece of embroidery in which many different stitches are used.

Samson ('sæmsən) *n.* 1. a judge of Israel, who performed herculean feats of strength until he was betrayed by his mistress Delilah (Judges 13-16). 2. any man of outstanding physical strength.

samurai ('sæmu,rəɪ) *n.*, *pl.* -rai. 1. the Japanese warrior caste from the 11th to the 19th centuries. 2. a member of this aristocratic caste.

sanatorium ('sænə'tɔ:rɪəm) or **U.S. sanitarium** *n.*, *pl.* -riums or -ria (-rɪə). 1. an institution for the medical care and recuperation of persons who are chronically ill.

2. *Brit.* a room as in a boarding school where sick pupils may be treated in isolation.

sanctify ('sæŋktɪ, faɪ) *vb.* **-fying, -fied.** (tr.) 1. to make holy. 2. to free from sin. 3. to sanction (an action or practice) as religiously binding: *to sanctify a marriage*. 4. to declare or render (something) productive or conductive to holiness or grace. — **sanctifi'cation** *n.* — **'sancti, fier** *n.*

sanctimonious ('sæŋktɪ'məniəs) *adj.* affecting piety or making a display of holiness. — **'sancti'moniously** *adv.* — **'sancti'moniousness** or **'sancti'mony** *n.*

sanction ('sæŋkʃən) *n.* 1. authorization. 2. aid or encouragement. 3. something, such as an ethical principle, that imparts binding force to a rule, oath, etc. 4. the penalty laid down in a law for contravention of its provisions. 5. (often *pl.*) a coercive measure, esp. one taken by one or more states against another guilty of violating international law. ~*vb.* (tr.) 6. to give authority to. 7. to confirm.

sanctity ('sæŋktɪ) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. the condition of being sanctified; holiness. 2. anything regarded as sanctified or holy.

sanctuary ('sæŋktʃuəri) *n., pl. -aries.* 1. a holy place. 2. a consecrated building or shrine. 3. *Old Testament.* a. the Israelite temple at Jerusalem. b. the tabernacle in which the Ark was enshrined. 4. the chancel, or that part of a sacred building surrounding the main altar. 5. a. a sacred building where fugitives were formerly entitled to immunity from arrest or execution. b. the immunity so afforded. 6. a place of refuge. 7. a place, protected by law, where animals can live and breed without interference.

sanctum ('sæŋktəm) *n., pl. -tums or -ta (-tə).* 1. a sacred or holy place. 2. a room or place of total privacy.

Sanctus ('sæŋktəs) *n.* 1. *Liturgy.* the hymn that occurs immediately after the preface in the celebration of the Eucharist. 2. a musical setting of this.

sand (sænd) *n.* 1. loose material consisting of rock or mineral grains, esp. rounded grains of quartz. 2. (often *pl.*) a sandy area, esp. on the seashore or in a desert. 3. a greyish-yellow colour. 4. the grains of sandlike material in an hourglass. 5. *U.S. inf.* courage. 6. the sands are running out. time is passing quickly. ~*vb.* 7. (tr.) to smooth or polish the surface of with sandpaper or sand. 8. (tr.) to sprinkle or cover with or as if with sand. 9. to fill or cause to fill with sand: *the channel sanded up.* — **'sand, like** *adj.*

sandal ('sændl) *n.* 1. a light shoe consisting of a sole held on the foot by thongs, straps, etc. 2. a strap passing over the instep or around the ankle to keep a low shoe on the foot. 3. another name for **sandalwood**. — **'sandalled** *adj.*

sandalwood ('sændl, wud) or **sandal** *n.* 1. any of a genus of evergreen trees, esp. the **white sandalwood**, of S Asia and Australia, having hard light-coloured heartwood. 2. the wood of any of these trees, which is used for carving, is burned as incense, and yields an aromatic oil used in perfumery. 3. any of various similar trees or their wood, esp. a leguminous tree of SE Asia having dark red wood used as a dye.

sandbag ('sænd, bæɡ) *n.* 1. a sack filled with sand used for protection against gunfire, floodwater, etc., or as ballast in a balloon, etc. 2. a bag filled with sand and used as a weapon. ~*vb.* **bagging, bagged.** (tr.) 3. to protect or strengthen with sandbags. 4. to hit with or as if with a sandbag. — **'sand, bagger** *n.*

sand bar *n.* a ridge of sand in a river or sea, built up by the action of tides, etc., and often exposed at low tide.

sandblast ('sænd, blæst) *n.* 1. a jet of sand blown from a nozzle under air or steam pressure. ~*vb.* 2. (tr.) to clean or decorate (a surface) with a sandblast. — **'sand-, blaster** *n.*

sandboy ('sænd, bɔɪ) *n.* **happy (or jolly) as a sandboy.** very happy; high-spirited.

sand castle *n.* a mass of sand moulded into a castle-like shape, esp. as made by a child on the seashore.

sander ('sændə) *n.* 1. a power-driven tool for smoothing surfaces by rubbing with an abrasive disc. 2. a person who uses such a device.

sanderling ('sændəlɪŋ) *n.* a small sandpiper that frequents sandy shores.

sandman ('sænd, mæn) *n., pl. -men.* (in folklore) a magical person supposed to put children to sleep by sprinkling sand in their eyes.

sand martin *n.* a small brown European songbird with white underparts: it nests in tunnels bored in sand, river banks, etc.

sandpaper ('sænd, peɪpə) *n.* 1. a strong paper coated

with sand or other abrasive material for smoothing and polishing. ~*vb.* 2. (tr.) to polish or grind (a surface) with or as if with sandpaper.

sandpiper ('sænd, paɪpə) *n.* 1. any of numerous N hemisphere shore birds having a long slender bill and legs and cryptic plumage. 2. any other bird of the family which includes snipes and woodcocks.

sandpit ('sænd, pɪt) *n.* 1. a shallow pit or container holding sand for children to play in. 2. a pit from which sand is extracted.

sandshoes ('sænd, ʃuːz) *pl. n.* light canvas shoes with rubber soles.

sandstone ('sænd, stəʊn) *n.* any of a group of common sedimentary rocks consisting of sand grains consolidated with such materials as quartz, haematite, and clay minerals.

sandstorm ('sænd, stɔːm) *n.* a strong wind that whips up clouds of sand, esp. in a desert.

sandwich ('sænwɪdʒ, -wɪʃ) *n.* 1. two or more slices of bread, usually buttered, with a filling of meat, cheese, etc. 2. anything that resembles a sandwich in arrangement. ~*vb.* (tr.) 3. to insert tightly between two other things. 4. to put into a sandwich. 5. to place between two dissimilar things.

sandwich board *n.* one of two connected boards that are hung over the shoulders in front of and behind a person to display advertisements.

sandwich course *n.* any of several courses consisting of alternate periods of study and industrial work.

sandwich man *n.* a man who carries sandwich boards.

sandy ('sændɪ) *adj.* **sandier, sandiest.** 1. consisting of, containing, or covered with sand. 2. (esp. of hair) reddish-yellow. 3. resembling sand in texture. — **'sandi-** *ness* *n.*

sand yacht *n.* a wheeled boat with sails, built to be propelled over sand by the wind.

sane (seɪ) *adj.* 1. free from mental disturbance. 2. having or showing reason or sound sense. — **'sanely** *adv.* — **'sane** *ness* *n.*

sang (sæŋ) *vb.* the past tense of **sing**.

▷ **Usage.** See at **ring**.

sang-froid (French sə 'frwa) *n.* composure; self-possession.

sangoma (sæŋ'gəʊmə) *n., pl. -mas.* S. African. a witchdoctor.

Sangraal (sæŋ'greɪl), **Sangraal** or **Sangreal** ('sæŋgreɪl) *n.* another name for the **Holy Grail**.

sangria (sæŋ'grɪə) *n.* a Spanish drink of red wine, sugar, and orange or lemon juice, sometimes laced with brandy.

sanguinary ('sæŋgwɪnəri) *adj.* 1. accompanied by much bloodshed. 2. bloodthirsty. 3. consisting of or stained with blood. — **'sanguinarily** *adv.* — **'sanguinari-** *ness* *n.*

sanguine ('sæŋwɪn) *adj.* 1. cheerful and confident; optimistic. 2. (esp. of the complexion) ruddy in appearance. 3. blood-red. ~*n.* 4. a red pencil containing ferric oxide, used in drawing. — **'sanguinely** *adv.* — **'sanguine** *ness* *n.*

Sanhedrin ('sænidrɪn) *n.* *Judaism.* the supreme judicial, ecclesiastical, and administrative council of the Jews in New Testament times.

sanitary ('sænitəri) *adj.* 1. of or relating to health and measures for the protection of health. 2. free from dirt, germs, etc.; hygienic. — **'sanitarian** ('sænitəriən) *n.* — **'sanitariness** *n.*

sanitary towel or esp. *U.S.* **napkin** *n.* an absorbent pad worn externally by women during menstruation to absorb the menstrual flow.

sanitation ('sæni'teɪʃən) *n.* the study and use of practical measures for the preservation of public health.

sanity ('sæntɪ) *n.* 1. the state of being sane. 2. good sense or soundness of judgment.

sank (sæŋk) *vb.* the past tense of **sink**.

sans (sænz) *prep.* an archaic word for **without**.

Sans. or **Sansk.** *abbrev. for Sanskrit.*

sans-culotte ('sæŋkjʊ'lɒt) *n.* 1. (during the French Revolution) a. (originally) a revolutionary of the poorer class. b. (later) any revolutionary. 2. any revolutionary extremist.

Sanskrit ('sænskɪt) *n.* an ancient language of India. It is the oldest recorded member of the Indic branch of the Indo-European family of languages. Although it is used only for religious purposes, it is one of the official languages of India. — **'San'skritic** *adj.*

sans serif or **sanserif** (sæn'serif) *n.* a style of printer's typeface in which the characters have no serifs.

Santa ('sæntə) *n.* *Inf.* short for **Santa Claus**.

Santa Claus ('sæntə, klɔ:z) *n.* the legendary patron saint of children, commonly identified as Saint Nicholas, who brings presents to children on Christmas Eve. Also called: **Father Christmas**.

sap¹ ('sæp) *n.* 1. a solution of mineral salts, sugars, etc., that circulates in a plant. 2. any vital body fluid. 3. energy; vigour. 4. *Sl.* a gullible person. ~*vb.* **sapping**, **sapped**. (tr.) 5. to drain of sap.

sap² ('sæp) *n.* 1. a deep and narrow trench used to approach or undermine an enemy position. ~*vb.* **sapping**, **sapped**. 2. to undermine (a fortification, etc.) by digging saps. 3. (tr.) to weaken.

sapid ('sæpid) *adj.* 1. having a pleasant taste. 2. agreeable or engaging. —**sapidity** ('sæpidɪti) *n.*

sapient ('seɪpiənt) *adj.* Often used ironically. wise or sagacious. —**sapience** *n.* —**sapiently** *adv.*

sapling ('sæplɪŋ) *n.* 1. a young tree. 2. *Literary.* a youth.

saponify ('səpɒni,faɪ) *vb.* **-fying**, **-fied**. *Chem.* 1. to undergo or cause to undergo a process in which a fat is converted into a soap by treatment with alkali. 2. to undergo or cause to undergo a reaction in which an ester is converted to an acid and an alcohol as a result of treatment with an alkali. —**sa,ponifi,cation** *n.*

sapper ('sæpə) *n.* 1. a soldier who digs trenches, etc. 2. (in the British Army) a private of the Royal Engineers.

Sapphic ('sæfɪk) *adj.* 1. *Prosody.* denoting a metre associated with Sappho, 6th-century B.C. Greek poetess. 2. of or relating to Sappho or her poetry. 3. of or denoting a lesbian relationship. ~*n.* 4. *Prosody.* a verse, line, or stanza written in the Sapphic form.

sapphire ('sæfəɪə) *n.* 1. *a.* any precious corundum gemstone that is not red, esp. the highly valued transparent blue variety. *b.* (as modifier): a sapphire ring. 2. the blue colour of sapphire. 3. (modifier) denoting a forty-fifth anniversary: our sapphire wedding.

sappy ('sæpi) *adj.* **-pier**, **-plest**. 1. (of plants) full of sap. 2. full of energy or vitality.

sap- or before a vowel **sapr-** combining form. indicating dead or decaying matter: *saprogenic*.

saprophyte ('sæprəʊ,faɪt) *n.* any plant, esp. a fungus, that lives and feeds on dead organic matter. —**sapro-phytic** ('sæprəʊ'fɪtɪk) *adj.*

saraband or **sarabande** ('særə,bænd) *n.* 1. a decorative 17th-century courtly dance. 2. *Music.* a piece of music composed for or in the rhythm of this dance, in slow triple time.

Saracen ('særə'sn) *n.* 1. *History.* a member of one of the nomadic Arabic tribes, esp. of the Syrian desert. 2. *a.* a Muslim, esp. one who opposed the crusades. *b.* (in later use) any Arab. ~*adj.* 3. of or relating to Arabs of either of these periods, regions, or types. —**Saracenic** ('særə'senɪk) *adj.*

sarcasm ('sɑ:kəzəm) *n.* 1. mocking or ironic language intended to convey scorn or insult. 2. the use or tone of such language.

sarcastic ('sɑ:kæstɪk) *adj.* 1. characterized by sarcasm. 2. given to the use of sarcasm. —**sar'castically** *adv.*

sarco- or before a vowel **sarc-** combining form. indicating flesh: *sarcoma*.

sarcoma ('sɑ:kəʊmə) *n.* *Pathol.* a usually malignant tumour arising from connective tissue. —**sar'comatous** *adj.*

sarcophagus ('sɑ:kəfəgəs) *n.*, *pl.* **-gi** (-,gaɪ) or **-guses**. a stone or marble coffin or tomb, esp. one bearing sculpture or inscriptions.

sard ('sɑ:d) or **sardius** ('sɑ:dɪəs) *n.* a red or brown variety of chalcedony.

sardine ('sɑ:dɪn) *n.*, *pl.* **-dine** or **-dines**. 1. any of various small food fishes of the herring family, esp. a young pilchard. 2. *like sardines.* very closely crowded together.

sardonic ('sɑ:dənɪk) *adj.* characterized by irony, mockery, or derision. —**sar'donically** *adv.*

sardonian ('sɑ:dənɪks) *n.* a variety of chalcedony with alternating reddish-brown and white parallel bands.

sargassum ('sɑ:gəsəm) *n.* a floating brown seaweed having ribbon-like fronds containing air sacs, esp. abundant in the **Sargasso Sea** in the N Atlantic.

sarge ('sɑ:dʒ) *n.* *Inf.* sergeant.

sari ('sɑ:rɪ) *n.*, *pl.* **-ris**. the traditional dress of women of India, Pakistan, etc., consisting of a very long piece of cloth swathed around the body.

sarong ('sɑ:rɒŋ) *n.* a skirtlike garment worn by men and women in the Malay Archipelago, Sri Lanka, etc.

sarsaparilla ('sɑ:səpə'ri:lə) *n.* 1. any of a genus of tropical American prickly climbing plants having large aromatic roots and heart-shaped leaves. 2. the dried roots of any of these plants, formerly used in medicine to treat psoriasis, etc. 3. a nonalcoholic drink prepared from these roots.

sartorial ('sɑ:tɔ:riəl) *adj.* of or relating to a tailor or to tailoring. —**sar'torially** *adv.*

sash¹ ('sæʃ) *n.* a long piece of ribbon, etc., worn around the waist or over one shoulder, as a symbol of rank.

sash² ('sæʃ) *n.* 1. a frame that contains the panes of a window or door. 2. a complete frame together with panes of glass. ~*vb.* 3. (tr.) to furnish (a house, etc.) with a sash, sashes, or sash windows.

sash cord *n.* a strong cord connecting a sash weight to a sliding sash.

sash window *n.* a window consisting of two sashes placed one above the other so that they can be slid past each other.

sasquatch ('sæs,kwætʃ) *n.* (in Canadian folklore) in British Columbia, a hairy beast or manlike monster said to leave huge footprints.

sassafras ('sæsə,fræs) *n.* 1. an aromatic deciduous tree of North America, having three-lobed leaves and dark blue fruits. 2. the aromatic dried root bark of this tree, used as a flavouring, and yielding **sassafras oil**. 3. *Austral.* any of several unrelated trees having a similar fragrant bark.

Sassenach ('sæsən,næx) *n.* *Scot. & occasionally Irish.* an English person.

sat (sæt) *vb.* the past tense or past participle of **sit**.

Sat. *abbrev. for:* 1. Saturday. 2. Saturn.

Satan ('seɪtən) *n.* the devil, adversary of God, and tempter of mankind: sometimes identified with Lucifer (Luke 4:5-8).

satanic ('sə:tænɪk) *adj.* 1. of or relating to Satan. 2. supremely evil or wicked. —**sa'tanically** *adv.*

Satanism ('seɪt,nɪzəm) *n.* 1. the worship of Satan. 2. a form of such worship which includes blasphemous parodies of Christian prayers, etc. 3. a satanic disposition. —**Satanist** *n.*, *adj.*

S.A.T.B. *abbrev. for* soprano, alto, tenor, bass: a combination of voices in choral music.

satchel ('sætʃəl) *n.* a rectangular bag, usually made of leather or cloth and provided with a shoulder strap, used for carrying school books. —**'satchelled** *adj.*

sate ('seɪt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to satisfy (a desire or appetite) fully. 2. to supply beyond capacity or desire.

sateen ('seɪtɪn) *n.* a glossy linen or cotton fabric that resembles satin.

satellite ('sætə'lait) *n.* 1. a celestial body orbiting around a planet or star: *the earth is a satellite of the sun*. 2. a man-made device orbiting around the earth, moon, or another planet transmitting to earth scientific information or used for communication. 3. a country or political unit under the domination of a foreign power. 4. a subordinate area that is dependent upon a larger adjacent town. 5. (modifier) *a.* of or relating to a satellite: *satellite communications*. *b.* dependent upon another: *a satellite nation*.

satiable ('seɪjəbəl) *adj.* capable of being satiated. —**sa'tiabilty** *n.* —**'satiably** *adv.*

satiolate ('seɪjə,leɪt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to fill or supply beyond capacity or desire. 2. to supply to capacity. —**sa'ti'ation** *n.*

satiety ('sə'taɪti) *n.* the state of being satiated.

satin ('sætɪn) *n.* 1. a fabric of silk, rayon, etc., closely woven to show much of the warp, giving a smooth glossy appearance. 2. (modifier) like satin in texture: *a satin finish*. —**'satiny** *adj.*

satinwood ('sætɪn,wud) *n.* 1. a tree that occurs in the East Indies and has hard wood with a satiny texture. 2. the wood of this tree, used in veneering, marquetry, etc.

satire ('sætaɪə) *n.* 1. a novel, play, etc., in which topical issues, folly, or evil are held up to scorn by means of ridicule. 2. the genre constituted by such works. 3. the use of ridicule, irony, etc., to create such an effect. —**sa'tirical** *adj.*

satirist ('sætə'rɪst) *n.* 1. a person who writes satire. 2. a person given to the use of satire.

satirize or **-rise** ('sætaɪ,raɪz) *vb.* to deride (a person or thing) by means of satire. —**sa'tiri'zation** or **-ri'sa-tion** *n.*

satisfaction ('sætɪs'fækʃən) *n.* 1. the act of satisfying or state of being satisfied. 2. the fulfilment of a desire.

3. the pleasure obtained from such fulfilment. 4. a source of fulfilment. 5. compensation for a wrong done or received. 6. *R.C. Church, Church of England*, the performance of a penance. 7. *Christianity*, the atonement for sin by the death of Christ.

satisfactory (ˌsætɪsˈfæktəri) *adj.* 1. adequate or suitable; acceptable. 2. giving satisfaction. 3. constituting or involving atonement or expiation for sin. — **satisˈfactorily** *adv.*

satisfy (ˌsætɪsˈfaɪ) *vb.* **-fying, -fied.** (mainly *tr.*) 1. (also *intr.*) to fulfil the desires or needs of (a person). 2. to provide amply for (a need or desire). 3. to convince. 4. to dispel (a doubt). 5. to make reparation to or for. 6. to discharge or pay off (a debt) to (a creditor). 7. to fulfil the requirements of, comply with: *you must satisfy the terms of your lease*. 8. *Maths. a.* to reduce (an equation or set of equations) to an identity, following substitution: $x = 3$ satisfies $x^2 - 4x + 3 = 0$. **b.** to fulfil conditions of (a theorem, inequality, etc.). — **satisˈfiable** *adj.* — **satisˈfying** *adj.* — **satisˈfyingly** *adv.*

satrap (ˈsætrəp) *n.* 1. (in ancient Persia) a provincial governor. 2. a subordinate ruler.

satsuma (sætˈsu:mə) *n.* 1. a small citrus tree cultivated, esp. in Japan, for its edible fruit. 2. the fruit of this tree, which has easily separable segments.

saturate *vb.* (ˈsætʃəˌreɪt). 1. to fill, soak, or imbue totally. 2. to make (a chemical compound, solution, etc.) saturated or (of a compound, etc.) to become saturated. 3. (*tr.*) *Mil.* to bomb or shell heavily. ~*adj.* (ˈsætʃəˌrɪt, -reɪt). 4. saturated.

saturation (ˌsætʃəˌreɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of saturating or the state of being saturated. 2. *Chem.* the state of a chemical compound, solution, or vapour when it is saturated. 3. *Meteorol.* the state of the atmosphere when it can hold no more water vapour at its particular temperature and pressure. 4. the attribute of a colour that enables an observer to judge its proportion of pure chromatic colour.

Saturday (ˈsætədi) *n.* the seventh and last day of the week: the Jewish Sabbath.

Saturn (ˈsætɜ:n) *n.* the Roman god of agriculture and vegetation.

Saturn (ˈsætɜ:n) *n.* 1. the sixth planet from the sun, around which revolve planar concentric rings (**Saturn's rings**) consisting of small frozen particles. 2. the alchemical name for lead. — **Saturnian** (sætˈtɜ:nɪən) *adj.*

Saturnalia (sætəˈneɪliə) *n., pl. -lia or -lias.* 1. an ancient Roman festival celebrated in December: renowned for its general merrymaking. 2. (*sometimes not cap.*) a period or occasion of wild revelry. — **Saturˈnalian** *adj.*

saturnine (ˈsætəˌnaɪn) *adj.* 1. having a gloomy temperament. 2. *Arch. a.* of or relating to lead. **b.** having lead poisoning. — **saturˈninely** *adv.*

satyr (ˈsætaɪ) *n.* 1. *Greek myth.* one of a class of sylvan deities, represented as goatlike men who drank and danced in the train of Dionysus and chased the nymphs. 2. a man who has strong sexual desires. 3. any of various butterflies, having dark wings often marked with eyespots. — **satyric** (səˈtɪrɪk) *adj.*

sauce (sɔ:s) *n.* 1. any liquid or semiliquid preparation eaten with food to enhance its flavour. 2. anything that adds piquancy. 3. *U.S.* stewed fruit. 4. *U.S. dialect.* vegetables eaten with meat. 5. *Inf.* impudent language or behaviour. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 6. to prepare (food) with sauce. 7. to add zest to. 8. *Inf.* to be saucy to.

saucepan (ˈsɔ:spən) *n.* a metal or enamel pan with a long handle and often a lid, used for cooking food.

saucer (ˈsɔ:sə) *n.* 1. a small round dish on which a cup is set. 2. any similar dish. — **saucerful** *n.*

saucy (ˈsɔ:si) *adj.* **-cier, -ciest.** 1. impertinent. 2. pert; sprightly: a saucy hat. — **saucily** *adv.* — **sauciness** *n.*

sauerkraut (ˈsauˌkraʊt) *n.* finely shredded and pickled cabbage.

sauger (ˈsɔ:gə) *n.* a small North American pikeperch with a spotted dorsal fin: valued as a food and game fish.

sault (su:) *n.* *Canad.* a waterfall or rapids.

sauna (ˈsɔ:nə) *n.* 1. an invigorating bath originating in Finland in which the bather is subjected to hot steam, usually followed by a cold plunge. 2. the place in which such a bath is taken.

saunter (ˈsɔ:ntə) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to walk in a casual manner; stroll. ~*n.* 2. a leisurely pace or stroll. — **saunterer** *n.*

-saur or -saurus *n.* combining form. lizard: dinosaur.

saurian (ˈsɔ:riən) *adj.* 1. of or resembling a lizard. ~*n.* 2. a former name for lizard.

sausage (ˈsɔ:sɪdʒ) *n.* 1. finely minced meat, esp. pork or beef, mixed with fat, cereal, and seasonings (**sausage meat**), and packed into a tube-shaped animal intestine or synthetic casing. 2. *Scot.* sausage meat. 3. an object shaped like a sausage. 4. **not a sausage.** nothing at all.

sausage roll *n.* *Brit.* a roll of sausage meat in pastry.

sauté (ˈsɔ:teɪ) *vb.* **-téeing or -téeing, -tèed.** 1. to fry (food) quickly in a little fat. ~*n.* 2. a dish of sautéed food, esp. meat that is browned and then cooked in a sauce. ~*adj.* 3. sautéed until lightly brown: sauté potatoes.

Sauternes (səʊˈtɜ:n) *n.* a sweet white wine from the Sauternes district of southern Bordeaux.

savage (ˈsævɪdʒ) *adj.* 1. wild; untamed: *savage beasts*. 2. ferocious in temper: a *savage dog*. 3. uncivilized; crude: *savage behaviour*. 4. (of peoples) nonliterate or primitive: a *savage tribe*. 5. (of terrain) rugged and uncultivated. ~*n.* 6. a member of a nonliterate society, esp. one regarded as primitive. 7. a fierce or vicious person or animal. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 8. to criticize violently. 9. to attack ferociously and wound. — **savagely** *adv.* — **savageness** *n.*

savagery (ˈsævɪdʒəri) *n., pl. -ries.* 1. an uncivilized condition. 2. a savage act or nature. 3. savages collectively.

savanna or savannah (səˈvænə) *n.* open grasslands, usually with scattered bushes or trees, characteristic of much of tropical Africa.

savant (ˈsævənt) *n.* a man of great learning; sage. — **savante** *fem. n.*

save (seɪv) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to rescue, preserve, or guard (a person or thing) from danger or harm. 2. to avoid the spending, waste, or loss of (money, possessions, etc.). 3. (*tr.*) *Theol.* to deliver from sin; redeem. 4. (often foll. by *up*) to set aside or reserve (money, goods, etc.) for future use. 5. (*tr.*) to treat with care so as to avoid or lessen wear or degeneration. 6. (*tr.*) to prevent the necessity for; obviate the trouble of. 7. (*tr.*) *Soccer, hockey, etc.* to prevent (a goal) by stopping (a struck ball or puck). ~*n.* 8. *Soccer, hockey, etc.* the act of saving a goal. — **savable** or **saveable** *adj.* — **saver** *n.*

save (seɪv) *Arch. ~prep.* 1. (often foll. by *for*) Also: **saving.** with the exception of. ~*conj.* 2. but.

save as you earn *n.* (in Britain) a savings scheme operated by the government, in which monthly contributions earn tax-free interest. Abbrev.: **S.A.Y.E.**

saveloy (ˈsævɪˌlɔɪ) *n.* a smoked sausage made from salted pork, coloured red with saltpetre.

saving (ˈseɪvɪŋ) *adj.* 1. tending to save or preserve. 2. redeeming or compensating (esp. in **saving grace**). 3. thrifty or economical. 4. *Law.* denoting or relating to an exception or reservation: a *saving clause* in an agreement. ~*n.* 5. preservation or redemption. 6. economy or avoidance of waste. 7. reduction in cost or expenditure. 8. anything saved. 9. (*pl.*) money saved for future use. ~*prep.* 10. with the exception of. ~*conj.* 11. except. — **savingly** *adv.*

saviour or U.S. savior (ˈseɪvjə) *n.* a person who rescues another person or a thing from danger or harm.

Saviour or U.S. Savior (ˈseɪvjə) *n.* *Christianity.* Jesus Christ regarded as the saviour of men from sin.

savoir-faire (ˈsævwaːˈfeɪ; *French* savwaːˈfɛr) *n.* the ability to do the right thing in any situation.

savory (ˈseɪvəri) *n., pl. -vories.* 1. any of numerous aromatic plants, including the **winter savory** and **summer savory**, of the Mediterranean region, having narrow leaves and white, pink, or purple flowers. 2. the leaves of any of these plants, used as a potherb.

savour or U.S. savor (ˈseɪvə) *n.* 1. the quality in a substance that is perceived by the sense of taste or smell. 2. a specific taste or smell: the *savour of lime*. 3. a slight but distinctive quality or trace. 4. the power to excite interest: the *savour of wit* has been lost. ~*vb.* 5. (*intr.*; often foll. by *of*) to possess the taste or smell (of). 6. (*intr.*; often foll. by *of*) to have a suggestion (of). 7. (*tr.*) to season. 8. (*tr.*) to taste or smell, esp. appreciatively. 9. (*tr.*) to relish or enjoy. — **savourless** or **U.S. 'savorless** *adj.*

savoury or U.S. savory (ˈseɪvəri) *adj.* 1. attractive to the sense of taste or smell. 2. salty or spicy: a *savoury dish*. 3. pleasant. 4. respectable. ~*n., pl. -vouries.* 5. *Chiefly Brit.* a savoury dish served as an hors d'oeuvre or dessert. — **savouriness** or **U.S. 'savoriness** *n.*

savoy (səˈvɔɪ) *n.* a cultivated variety of cabbage having a compact head and wrinkled leaves.

savvy ('sævi) *Sl.* ~vb. -vy-ing, -vied. 1. to understand or get the sense of (an idea, etc.). ~n. 2. comprehension. ~adj. -vier, -viest. 3. Chiefly U.S. shrewd.

saw¹ (sɔː) *n.* 1. any of various hand tools for cutting wood, metal, etc., having a blade with teeth along one edge. 2. any of various machines or devices for cutting by use of a toothed blade, such as a power-driven toothed band of metal. ~vb. **sawing**, **sawed**; **sawed** or **sawn**. 3. to cut with a saw. 4. to form by sawing. 5. to cut as if wielding a saw: to **saw** the air. 6. to move (an object) from side to side as if moving a saw. —**sawer** *n.* —**saw, like** *adj.*

saw² (sɔː) *vb.* the past tense of **see**¹.

saw³ (sɔː) *n.* a wise saying, maxim, or proverb.

sawbones ('sɔː,baʊnz) *n., pl.* -bones or -boneses. *Sl.* a surgeon or doctor.

sawdust ('sɔː,dʌst) *n.* particles of wood formed by sawing.

sawfish ('sɔː,fɪʃ) *n., pl.* -fish or -fishes. a sharklike ray of subtropical coastal waters, having a serrated blade-like mouth.

sawhorse ('sɔː,hɔːs) *n.* a stand for timber during sawing.

sawmill ('sɔː,mɪl) *n.* an industrial establishment where timber is sawn into planks, etc.

sawn (sɔːn) *vb.* a past participle of **saw**¹.

sawn-off *adj. (prenominal)* (of a shotgun) having the barrel cut short, mainly to facilitate concealment of the weapon.

sawyer ('sɔːjə) *n.* a person who saws timber for a living.

sax (sæks) *n. Inf.* short for **saxophone**.

saxifrage ('sæksɪ,freɪdʒ) *n.* a plant having small white, yellow, purple, or pink flowers.

Saxon ('sæksən) *n.* 1. a member of a West Germanic people who raided and settled parts of S Britain in the fifth and sixth centuries A.D. 2. a native or inhabitant of Saxony, in Germany. 3. a. the Low German dialect of Saxony. b. any of the West Germanic dialects spoken by the ancient Saxons. ~adj. 4. of or characteristic of the ancient Saxons, the Anglo-Saxons, or their descendants. 5. of or characteristic of Saxony, its inhabitants, or their Low German dialect.

saxophone ('sæksə,fəʊn) *n.* a keyed wind instrument of mellow tone colour, used mainly in jazz and dance music. Often shortened to **sax**. —**saxophonic** ('sæksə-'fɒnik) *adj.* —**saxophonist** ('sæksə'fɒnɪst) *n.*

say (sei) *vb.* **saying**, **said**. (mainly tr.) 1. to speak, pronounce, or utter. 2. (also intr.) to express (an idea, etc.) in words; tell. 3. (also intr.; may take a clause as object) to state (an opinion, fact, etc.) positively. 4. to recite: to **say** grace. 5. (may take a clause as object) to report or allege: they **say** we shall have rain today. 6. (may take a clause as object) to suppose: let us **say** that he is lying. 7. (may take a clause as object) to convey by means of artistic expression. 8. to make a case for: there is much to be **said** for it. 9. go without **saying**. to be so obvious as to need no explanation. 10. I **say**! Chiefly Brit. *inf.* an exclamation of surprise. 11. not to **say**, even. 12. that is to **say**, in other words. 13. to **say** the least, at the very least. ~adv. 14. approximately: there were, **say**, 20 people present. 15. for example: choose a number, **say**, four. ~n. 16. the right or chance to speak: let him have his **say**. 17. authority, esp. to influence a decision: he has a lot of **say**. 18. a statement of opinion: you've had your **say**. ~interj. 19. U.S. *inf.* an exclamation to attract attention or express surprise. —**sayer** *n.*

S.A.Y.E. *abbrev.* for save as you earn.

saying ('seɪn) *n.* a maxim, adage, or proverb.

Sb the chemical symbol for antimony.

Sc the chemical symbol for scandium.

s.c. *Printing. abbrev.* for small capitals.

S.C. *abbrev. for:* 1. Austral. & N.Z. School Certificate.

2. Signal Corps. 3. Canad. Social Credit.

scab (skæb) *n.* 1. the dried crusty surface of a healing skin wound or sore. 2. a contagious disease of sheep resembling mange, caused by a mite. 3. a fungal disease of plants characterized by crusty spots on the fruits, leaves, etc. 4. *Derog.* a. Also called: **blackleg**, a person who refuses to support a trade union's actions, esp. strikes. b. (as modifier): **scab** labour. 5. a despicable person. ~vb. (intr.) **scabbing**, **scabbed**. 6. to become covered with a scab. 7. to replace a striking worker.

scabbard ('skæbəd) *n.* a holder for a bladed weapon such as a sword or bayonet.

scabby ('skæbi) *adj.* -bier, -blest. 1. *Pathol.* having an area of the skin covered with scabs. 2. *Pathol.* having

scabies. 3. *Inf.* despicable. —**'scabbily** *adv.* —**'scabbi-**
ness *n.*

scabies ('skeɪbɪz) *n.* a contagious skin infection caused by a mite, characterized by intense itching and inflammation.

scabious¹ ('skeɪbiəs) *adj.* 1. having or covered with scabs. 2. of, relating to, or resembling scabies.

scabious² ('skeɪbiəs) *n.* any of a genus of plants of the Mediterranean region, having blue, red, or whitish dome-shaped flower heads.

scabrous ('skeɪbrəs) *adj.* 1. roughened because of small projections. 2. indecent or salacious: *scabrous* humour. 3. difficult to deal with. —**'scabrously** *adv.*

scaffold ('skæfəld) *n.* 1. a temporary framework that is used to support workmen and materials during the erection, repair, etc., of a building. 2. a raised wooden platform on which plays are performed, tobacco, etc., is dried, or (esp. formerly) criminals are executed. ~vb. (tr.) 3. to provide with a scaffold. 4. to support by means of a scaffold. —**'scaffolder** *n.*

scaffolding ('skæfəldɪŋ) *n.* 1. a scaffold or system of scaffolds. 2. the building materials used to make scaffolds.

scalar ('skeɪlə) *n.* 1. a variable quantity, such as time or temperature, that has magnitude but not direction. ~adj. 2. having magnitude but not direction.

scalawag ('skælə,wæg) *n.* a variant spelling of **scallywag**.

scald (skɔːld) *vb.* 1. to burn or be burnt with or as if with hot liquid or steam. 2. (tr.) to subject to the action of boiling water, esp. so as to sterilize. 3. (tr.) to heat (a liquid) almost to boiling point. ~n. 4. the act or result of scalding. 5. an abnormal condition in plants, caused by exposure to excessive sunlight, gases, etc. —**'scaldier** *n.*

scale¹ (skeɪl) *n.* 1. any of the numerous plates, made of various substances, covering the bodies of fishes. 2. a. any of the horny or chitinous plates covering a part or the entire body of certain reptiles and mammals. b. any of the numerous minute structures covering the wings of lepidoptera. 3. a thin flat piece or flake. 4. a thin flake of dead epidermis shed from the skin. 5. a specialized leaf or bract, esp. the protective covering of a bud or the dry membranous bract of a catkin. 6. See **scale insect**. 7. any oxide formed on a metal when heated. 8. tartar formed on the teeth. ~vb. 9. (tr.) to remove the scales or coating from. 10. to peel off or cause to peel off in flakes or scales. 11. (intr.) to shed scales. 12. to cover or become covered with scales, incrustation, etc.

scale² (skeɪl) *n.* 1. (often pl.) a machine or device for weighing. 2. one of the pans of a balance. 3. **tip the scales**. a. to exercise a decisive influence. b. (foll. by at) to amount in weight (to). ~vb. (tr.) 4. to weigh with or as if with scales.

scale³ (skeɪl) *n.* 1. a sequence of marks at regular intervals, used as a reference in making measurements. 2. a measuring instrument having such a scale. 3. a. the ratio between the size of something real and that of a representation of it. b. (as modifier): a *scale* model. 4. a line, numerical ratio, etc., for showing this ratio. 5. a progressive or graduated table of things, wages, etc.: a *wage scale* for carpenters. 6. an established standard. 7. a relative degree or extent: he *entered* on a *grand scale*. 8. *Music*. a group of notes taken in ascending or descending order, esp. within the compass of one octave. 9. *Maths*. the notation of a given number system: the *decimal scale*. ~vb. 10. to climb to the top of (a height) by or as if by a ladder. 11. (tr.) to make or draw (a model, etc.) according to a particular ratio of proportionate reduction. 12. (tr.; usually foll. by up or down) to increase or reduce proportionately in size, etc. 13. (intr.) *Austral. inf.* to ride on public transport without paying a fare. —**'scaly** *adj.*

scale insect *n.* a small insect which typically lives and feeds on plants and secretes a protective scale around itself. Many species are pests.

scalene ('skeɪlɪn) *adj.* 1. *Maths.* (of a triangle) having all sides of unequal length. 2. *Anat.* of or relating to any of the scalenus muscles.

scallion ('skæljən) *n.* any of various onions, such as the spring onion, that have a small bulb and long leaves and are eaten in salads.

scallop ('skɒləp, 'skæl-) *n.* 1. any of various marine bivalves having a fluted fan-shaped shell. 2. the edible adductor muscle of certain of these molluscs. 3. either of the shell valves of any of these molluscs. 4. a scallop shell in which fish, esp. shellfish, is cooked and served. 5. one of a series of curves along an edge. 6. the shape

of a scallop shell used as the badge of a pilgrim, esp. in the Middle Ages. 7. *Chiefly Austral.* a slice of potato fried in batter. ~vb. 8. (tr.) to decorate (an edge) with scallops. 9. to bake (food) in a scallop shell or similar dish. —**scallop** *n.* —**scalloping** *n.*

scallywag ('skæli,wæg) *n.* Inf. a scamp; rascal. ~Also: **scalawag**, **scalawag**.

scalp (skælp) *n.* 1. *Anat.* the skin and subcutaneous tissue covering the top of the head. 2. (among North American Indians) a part of this removed as a trophy from a slain enemy. 3. a trophy or token signifying conquest. 4. *Scot. dialect.* a projection of bare rock from vegetation, etc. ~vb. (tr.) 5. to cut the scalp from. 6. *Inf., chiefly U.S.* to purchase and resell (securities) quickly so as to make several small profits. 7. *Inf.* to buy (tickets) cheaply and resell at an inflated price. —**scalper** *n.*

scalpel ('skæpl) *n.* a surgical knife with a short thin blade.

scamp¹ (skæmp) *n.* 1. an idle mischievous person. 2. a mischievous child. —**scampish** *adj.*

scamp² (skæmp) *vb.* a less common word for **skimp**. —**scamper** *n.*

scamper ('skæmpə) *vb.* 1. (intr.) to run about playfully. ~n. 2. the act of scampering.

scampi ('skæmpi) *n.* (functioning as *sing.* or *pl.*) large prawns, usually eaten fried in batter.

scan (skæn) *vb.* **scanning**, **scanned**. 1. (tr.) to scrutinize minutely. 2. (tr.) to glance at quickly. 3. (tr.) *Prosody.* to read or analyse (verse) according to the rules of metre and versification. 4. (intr.) *Prosody.* to conform to the rules of metre and versification. 5. (tr.) *Electronics.* to move a beam of light, electrons, etc., in a predetermined pattern over (a surface or region) to obtain information, esp. to reproduce a television image. 6. (tr.) to examine data stored on (magnetic tape, etc.), usually in order to retrieve information. 7. to examine or search (a prescribed region) by systematically varying the direction of a radar or sonar beam. ~n. 8. the act or an instance of scanning. —**scannable** *adj.*

scandal ('skændl) *n.* 1. a disgraceful action or event: *his negligence was a scandal.* 2. censure or outrage arising from an action or event. 3. a person whose conduct causes reproach or disgrace. 4. malicious talk, esp. gossip. 5. *Law.* a libellous action or statement. —**scandalous** *adj.* —**scandalously** *adv.*

scandalize or **-ise** ('skændə,ləɪz) *vb.* (tr.) to shock, as by improper behaviour. —**scandalization** or **-isation** *n.*

scandalmonger ('skændl,mʌŋgə) *n.* a person who spreads or enjoys scandal, gossip, etc.

Scandinavian ('skændi'neɪvɪən) *adj.* 1. of or characteristic of Scandinavia, (Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and Iceland), its inhabitants, or their languages. ~n. 2. a native or inhabitant of Scandinavia. 3. the group of Germanic languages, consisting of Swedish, Danish, Norwegian, Icelandic, and Faeroese.

scandium ('skændiəm) *n.* a rare silvery-white metallic element occurring in minute quantities in numerous minerals. Symbol: Sc; atomic no.: 21; atomic wt.: 44.96.

scanner ('skænə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that scans. 2. a device, usually electronic, used to measure or sample the distribution of some quantity or condition in a particular system, region, or area. 3. an aerial or similar device designed to transmit or receive signals, esp. radar signals, inside a given solid angle of space.

scansion ('skænʃən) *n.* the analysis of the metrical structure of verse.

scant (skænt) *adj.* 1. scarcely sufficient: *he paid her scant attention.* 2. (prenominal) bare: *a scant ten inches.* 3. (postpositive; foll. by *of*) having a short supply (of). ~vb. (tr.) 4. to limit in size or quantity. 5. to provide with a limited supply of. 6. to treat in an inadequate manner. ~adv. 7. scarcely; barely. —**scantly** *adv.*

scanty ('skænti) *adj.* **scantier**, **scantiest**. 1. limited; barely enough. 2. inadequate. 3. lacking fullness. —**scantily** *adv.* —**scantiness** *n.*

scape or **scape** (skeɪp) *vb., n.* an archaic word for escape.

-scape *suffix forming nouns.* indicating a scene or view of something: *seascape*.

scapegoat ('skeɪp,gəʊt) *n.* 1. a person made to bear the blame for others. 2. *Bible.* a goat symbolically laden with the sins of the Israelites and sent into the wilderness.

scapegrace ('skeɪp,greɪs) *n.* a mischievous person.

scapula ('skæpjʊlə) *n., pl. -lae (-li-) or -las.* either of two large flat triangular bones, one on each side of the back part of the shoulder in man. Nontechnical name: **shoulder blade**.

scapular ('skæpjʊlə) *adj.* 1. *Anat.* of or relating to the scapula. ~n. 2. part of the monastic habit worn by members of many Christian religious orders, consisting of a piece of woollen cloth worn over the shoulders, and hanging down to the ankles. 3. two small rectangular pieces of cloth joined by tapes passing over the shoulders and worn in token of affiliation to a religious order. 4. any of the small feathers of a bird that lie along the shoulder. ~Also called (for senses 2 and 3): **scapulary**.

scar¹ (ska:) *n.* 1. any mark left on the skin or other tissue following the healing of a wound, etc. 2. a permanent change in a person's character resulting from emotional distress. 3. the mark on a plant indicating the former point of attachment of a part. 4. a mark of damage. ~vb. **scarring**, **scarred**. 5. to mark or become marked with a scar. 6. (intr.) to heal leaving a scar.

scar² (ska:) *n.* a bare craggy rock formation.

scarab ('skærəb) *n.* 1. any scarabaeid beetle, esp. the **sacred scarab**, regarded by the ancient Egyptians as divine. 2. the scarab as represented on amulets, etc.

scarce (skeəs) *adj.* 1. rarely encountered. 2. insufficient to meet the demand. 3. **make oneself scarce.** *Inf.* to go away. ~adv. 4. *Arch. or literary.* scarcely. —**scarceness** *n.*

scarcely ('skeəsli) *adv.* 1. hardly at all. 2. *Often used ironically.* probably or definitely not: *that is scarcely justification for your actions.*

▷ **Usage.** See at **hardly**.

scarcity ('skeəsɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. inadequate supply. 2. rarity or infrequent occurrence.

scare (skeə) *vb.* 1. to fill or be filled with fear or alarm. 2. (tr.; often foll. by *away* or *off*) to drive (away) by frightening. ~n. 3. a sudden attack of fear or alarm. 4. a period of general fear or alarm. —**scarer** *n.*

scarecrow ('skeə,kraʊ) *n.* 1. an object, usually in the shape of a man, made out of sticks and old clothes to scare birds away from seeds, etc. 2. a person or thing that appears frightening. 3. *Inf.* an untidy-looking person.

scaremonger ('skeə,mʌŋgə) *n.* a person who delights in spreading rumours of disaster. —**scare, mongering** *n.*

scarf¹ (ska:f) *n., pl. scarfs* or **scarves** (ska:vz). a rectangular, triangular, or long narrow piece of cloth worn around the head, neck, or shoulders for warmth or decoration.

scarf² (ska:f) *n., pl. scarfs.* 1. Also called: **scarf joint**, **scarfed joint** a lapped joint between two pieces of timber made by notching the ends and strapping or gluing the two pieces together. 2. the end of a piece of timber shaped to form such a joint. 3. *Whaling.* an incision made along a whale before stripping off the blubber. ~vb. (tr.) 4. to join (two pieces of timber) by means of a scarf. 5. to make a scarf on (a piece of timber). 6. to cut a scarf in (a whale).

scarify ('skeəri,fai, 'skæri- *vb. -fying, -fied.* (tr.) 1. *Surgery.* to make tiny punctures or superficial incisions in (the skin or other tissue), as for inoculating. 2. *Agriculture.* to break up and loosen (soil) to a shallow depth. 3. to wound with harsh criticism. —**scarification** *n.* —**scari, fier** *n.*

scarlatina ('ska:lə'tɪno) *n.* the technical name for scarlet fever.

scarlet ('skærlɪt) *n.* 1. a vivid orange-red colour. 2. cloth or clothing of this colour. ~adj. 3. of the colour scarlet. 4. sinful or immoral.

scarlet fever *n.* an acute communicable disease characterized by fever, strawberry-coloured tongue, and a rash starting on the neck and chest and spreading to the abdomen and limbs. Technical name: **scarlatina**.

scarp (ska:p) *n.* 1. a steep slope, esp. one formed by erosion or faulting. 2. **Fortifications.** the side of a ditch cut nearest to a rampart. ~vb. 3. (tr.; often passive) to wear or cut so as to form a steep slope.

scarper ('ska:pə) *Brit. sl. ~vb.* 1. (intr.) to depart in haste. ~n. 2. a hasty departure.

scarves (ska:vz) *n.* a plural of **scarf**¹.

scary ('skeəri) *adj.* **scarier**, **scariest.** *Inf.* 1. causing fear or alarm. 2. timid.

scat¹ (skæt) *vb.* **scatting**, **scatted.** (intr.; usually imperative) *Inf.* to go away in haste.

scat² (skæt) *n.* 1. a type of jazz singing characterized by

improvised vocal sounds instead of words. ~vb. **scatting**, **scatted**. 2. (*intr.*) to sing jazz in this way.

scathe ('skeɪð) vb. (*tr.*) 1. Rare. to attack with severe criticism. 2. *Arch. or dialect* to injure. ~n. 3. *Arch. or dialect* harm.

scathing ('skeɪðɪŋ) adj. 1. harshly critical; scornful. 2. damaging. —'scathingly adv.

scatology ('skæ'tɒlədʒɪ) n. 1. the scientific study of excrement, esp. in medicine and in palaeontology. 2. obscenity or preoccupation with obscenity, esp. in the form of references to excrement. —'scatological ('skæ'tɒlədʒɪkəl) adj.

scatter ('skætə) vb. 1. (*tr.*) to throw about in various directions. 2. to separate and move or cause to move in various directions. 3. to deviate or cause to deviate in many directions, as in the refraction of light. ~n. 4. the act of scattering. 5. a substance or a number of objects scattered about. —'scatterer n.

scatterbrain ('skætəbreɪn) n. a person who is incapable of serious thought or concentration. —'scatter-brained adj.

scatty ('skæti) adj. -tier, -tiest. *Brit. inf.* empty-headed or thoughtless. —'scattily adv. —'scattiness n.

scavenge ('skævɪndʒ) vb. 1. to search for (anything usable) among discarded material. 2. (*tr.*) to purify (a molten metal) by bubbling a suitable gas through it. 3. to clean up filth from (streets, etc.).

scavenger ('skævɪndʒə) n. 1. a person who collects things discarded by others. 2. any animal that feeds on decaying organic matter. 3. a person employed to clean the streets. —'scavengery n.

Sc.D. abbrev. for Doctor of Science.

S.C.E. abbrev. for Scottish Certificate of Education.

scenario ('si:nɑːrɪ,əʊ) n., pl. -narios. a summary of the plot of a play, etc., including information about its characters, scenes, etc.

scene (sɪn) n. 1. the place where an action or event, real or imaginary, occurs. 2. the setting for the action of a play, novel, etc. 3. an incident or situation, real or imaginary, esp. as described or represented. 4. a. a subdivision of an act of a play, in which the setting is fixed. b. a single event, esp. a significant one, in a play. 5. *Films*. a shot or series of shots that constitutes a unit of the action. 6. the backcloths, etc., for a play or film set. 7. the prospect of a place, landscape, etc. 8. a display of emotion. 9. *Inf.* the environment for a specific activity: *the fashion scene*. 10. *Inf.* interest or chosen occupation: *classical music is not my scene*. 11. *Rare*. the stage. 12. behind the scenes, out of public view.

scenery ('sɪnəri) n., pl. -eries. 1. the natural features of a landscape. 2. *Theatre*. the painted backcloths, etc., used to represent a location in a theatre or studio.

scenic ('sɪnɪk) adj. 1. of or relating to natural scenery. 2. having beautiful natural scenery: *a scenic drive*. 3. of or relating to the stage or stage scenery. 4. (in painting, etc.) representing a scene. —'scenically adv.

scent (sent) n. 1. a distinctive smell, esp. a pleasant one. 2. a smell left in passing, by which a person or animal may be traced. 3. a trail, clue, or guide. 4. an instinctive ability for detecting. 5. another word (esp. *Brit.*) for *perfume*. ~vb. 6. (*tr.*) to recognize by or as if by the smell. 7. (*tr.*) to have a suspicion of: *I scent foul play*. 8. (*tr.*) to fill with odour or fragrance. 9. (*intr.*) (of hounds, etc.) to hunt by the sense of smell. 10. to smell (at): *the dog scented the air*.

sceptic or **U.S. skeptic** ('skeptɪk) n. 1. a person who habitually doubts the authenticity of accepted beliefs. 2. a person who mistrusts people, ideas, etc., in general. 3. a person who doubts the truth of religion. —'sceptical or **U.S. 'skeptical** adj. —'sceptically or **U.S. 'skeptically** adv. —'scepticism or **U.S. 'scepticism** n.

sceptre or **U.S. scepter** ('septə) n. 1. a ceremonial staff held by a monarch as the symbol of authority. 2. imperial authority; sovereignty. —'sceptred or **U.S. 'sceptered** adj.

schedule ('ʃedʒul; also, esp. *U.S.* 'skedʒəl) n. 1. a plan of procedure for a project. 2. a list of items: *a schedule of fixed prices*. 3. a list of times; timetable. 4. a list of tasks to be performed, esp. within a set period. 5. *Law*. a list or inventory. ~vb. (*tr.*) 6. to make a schedule of or place in a schedule. 7. to plan to occur at a certain time.

schema ('ski:mə) n., pl. -mata (-mata). 1. a plan, diagram, or scheme. 2. (in the philosophy of Kant) a rule or principle that enables the understanding to unify experience. 3. *Logic*. a. a syllogistic figure. b. a representation of the form of an inference.

schematic ('ski:mætɪk) adj. 1. of or relating to the nature of a diagram, plan, or schema. ~n. 2. a sche-

matic diagram, esp. of an electrical circuit, etc. —'sche-matically adv.

schematize or **-ise** ('ski:mə'taɪz) vb. (*tr.*) to form into or arrange in a scheme. —'schemati'zation or **-i'sation** n. —'schema,tism n.

scheme ('ski:m) n. 1. a systematic plan for a course of action. 2. a systematic arrangement of parts. 3. a secret plot. 4. a chart, diagram, or outline. 5. an astrological diagram giving the aspects of celestial bodies. 6. *Chiefly Brit.* a plan formally adopted by a commercial enterprise or governmental body, as for pensions, etc. ~vb. 7. (*tr.*) to devise a system for. 8. to form intrigues (for) in an underhand manner. —'schem-er n.

scheming ('ski:mɪŋ) adj. 1. given to making plots; cunning. ~n. 2. intrigues.

scherzo ('ʃkætsəʊ) n., pl. -zos or -zi (-tʃi:). a brisk lively movement, developed from the minuet, with a contrastive middle section (a trio).

schilling ('ʃɪlɪŋ) n. 1. the standard monetary unit of Austria. 2. an old German coin of low denomination.

schism ('sɪzəm, 'skɪz-) n. 1. the division of a group into opposing factions. 2. the factions so formed. 3. division within or separation from an established Church, not necessarily involving differences in doctrine. —'schis-'matic or **schis'matical** adj.

schist ('ʃɪst) n. any metamorphic rock that can be split into thin layers.

schizo ('skɪtsəʊ) *Inf.* ~adj. 1. schizophrenic. ~n., pl. -os. 2. a schizophrenic person.

schizo- or before a vowel **schiz-** combining form. indicating a cleavage, split, or division: *schizophrenia*.

schizoid ('skɪtsɔɪd) adj. 1. of or characteristic of schizophrenia. 2. of or characteristic of a personality that is inwardly directed. ~n. 3. a person who has a schizoid personality.

schizophrenia ('skɪtsəʊ'frɪ:nɪə) n. any of a group of psychotic disorders characterized by progressive deterioration of the personality, withdrawal from reality, hallucinations, emotional instability, etc. —'schizo-'phrenic adj., n.

schmaltz or **schmalz** ('ʃmæltz, 'ʃmɔ:ltz) n. *Sl.* excessive sentimentality, esp. in music. —'schmaltzy adj.

schnapps or **schnaps** ('næps) n. 1. a Dutch spirit distilled from potatoes. 2. (in Germany) any strong spirit.

schnitzel ('ʃnɪtsəl) n. a thin slice of meat, esp. veal.

snorkle ('ʃnɔ:kəl) n. a less common variant of **snorkel**.

scholar ('skɒlə) n. 1. a learned person, esp. in the humanities. 2. a person, esp. a child, who studies; pupil. 3. a student receiving a scholarship. —'scholarly adj. —'scholarliness n.

scholarship ('skɒləʃɪp) n. 1. academic achievement; learning. 2. a. financial aid provided for a scholar because of academic merit. b. the position of a student who gains this financial aid. c. (as modifier): *a scholarship student*. 3. the qualities of a scholar.

scholastic ('skɒ'læstɪk) adj. 1. of or befitting schools, scholars, or education. 2. pedantic or precise. 3. (*often cap.*) characteristic of or relating to the medieval Schoolmen. ~n. 4. a student or pupil. 5. a person who is given to logical subtleties. 6. (*often cap.*) a disciple or adherent of scholasticism; Schoolman. 7. a Jesuit student who is undergoing a period of probation prior to commencing his theological studies. —'scho'lastically adv.

scholasticism ('skɒ'læstɪsɪzəm) n. (*sometimes cap.*) the system of philosophy, theology, and teaching that dominated medieval western Europe and was based on the writings of the Church Fathers and Aristotle.

school ('sku:l) n. 1. a. an institution or building at which children and young people receive education. b. (as modifier): *school day*. c. (in combination): *schoolwork*. 2. any educational institution or building. 3. a faculty or department specializing in a particular subject: *a law school*. 4. the staff and pupils of a school. 5. the period of instruction in a school or one session of this: *he stayed after school to do extra work*. 6. a place or sphere of activity that instructs: *the school of hard knocks*. 7. a body of people or pupils adhering to a certain set of principles, doctrines, or methods. 8. a group of artists, writers, etc., linked by the same style, teachers, or aims. 9. a style of life: *a gentleman of the old school*. 10. *Austral. & N.Z.* a group assembled for a common purpose, esp. gambling or drinking. ~vb. (*tr.*) 11. to train or educate in or as in a school. 12. to discipline or control.

school ('sku:l) *n.* 1. a group of fish or other aquatic animals that swim together. ~*vb.* 2. (*intr.*) to form such a group.

schoolboy ('sku:l,bɔɪ) or (*fem.*) **schoolgirl** *n.* a child attending school.

schoolhouse ('sku:l,haʊs) *n.* 1. a building used as a school. 2. a house attached to a school.

schooling ('sku:lɪŋ) *n.* 1. education, esp. when received at school. 2. the process of teaching or being taught in a school. 3. the training of an animal, esp. of a horse for dressage.

schoolman ('sku:l,mən) *n., pl. -men.* (*sometimes cap.*) a scholar versed in the learning of the **Schoolmen**, the masters in the universities of the Middle Ages who were versed in scholasticism.

schoolmarm ('sku:l,mɑ:m) *n. Inf.* 1. a woman schoolteacher. 2. any woman considered to be prim or old-fashioned. — **school, marmish** *adj.*

schoolmaster ('sku:l,mɑ:stə) or (*fem.*) **schoolmistress** *n.* 1. a person who teaches in or runs a school. 2. a person or thing that acts as an instructor.

Schools ('sku:lz) *pl. n.* 1. **the.** the medieval **Schoolmen** collectively. 2. (at Oxford University) **a.** the University building in which examinations are held. **b. Inf.** the Second Public Examination for the degree of Bachelor of Arts.

schoolteacher ('sku:l,titʃə) *n.* a person who teaches in a school.

school year *n.* 1. a twelve-month period, usually of three terms, during which pupils remain in the same class. 2. the time during this period when the school is open.

schooler ('sku:nə) *n.* 1. a sailing vessel with at least two masts, with lower sails rigged fore-and-aft. 2. *Brit.* a large glass for sherry. 3. *U.S., Austral.* a large glass for beer.

schottische ('ʃɒtɪʃ) *n.* 1. a 19th-century German dance resembling a slow polka. 2. a piece of music composed for or in the manner of this dance.

schuss ('ʃʊs) *Skiing.* ~*n.* 1. a straight high-speed downhill run. ~*vb.* 2. (*intr.*) to perform a schuss.

schwa or **shwa** ('ʃwɑ:) *n.* 1. a central vowel represented in the International Phonetic Alphabet by (ə). The sound occurs in unstressed syllables in English, as in *around* and *sofa*. 2. the symbol (ə) used to represent this sound.

sci. *abbrev. for:* 1. science. 2. scientific.

sciatic ('saɪˈætɪk) *adj.* 1. *Anat.* of or relating to the hip or the hipbone. 2. of or afflicted with sciatica.

sciatica ('saɪˈætɪkə) *n.* a form of neuralgia characterized by intense pain along the body's longest nerve (**sciatic nerve**), extending from the back of the thigh down to the calf of the leg.

science ('saɪəns) *n.* 1. the systematic study of the nature and behaviour of the material and physical universe, based on observation, experiment, and measurement. 2. the knowledge so obtained or the practice of obtaining it. 3. any particular branch of this knowledge: *the applied sciences*. 4. any body of knowledge organized in a systematic manner. 5. skill or technique. 6. *Arch.* knowledge.

science fiction *n. a.* a literary genre that makes imaginative use of scientific knowledge. **b. (as modifier):** *a science fiction writer.*

scientific ('saɪəntɪfɪk) *adj.* 1. (*prenominal*) of, derived from, or used in science: *scientific equipment*. 2. (*prenominal*) occupied in science: *scientific manpower*. 3. conforming with the methods used in science. — **scientifically** *adv.*

scientist ('saɪəntɪst) *n.* a person who studies or practises any of the sciences or who uses scientific methods.

sci-fi ('saɪˈfaɪ) *n.* short for **science fiction**.

scilicet ('sɪlɪ,ʃet) *adv.* namely: used esp. in explaining a text that is obscure or supplying a missing word.

scimitar ('sɪmɪtə) *n.* an oriental sword with a curved blade.

scintilla ('sɪntɪlə) *n.* *Rare.* a minute amount; hint, trace, or particle.

scintillate ('sɪntɪ,lɪt) *vb. (mainly intr.)* 1. (*also tr.*) to give off (sparks); sparkle. 2. to be animated or brilliant. 3. *Physics.* to give off flashes of light as a result of the impact of photons. — **scintillant** *adj.* — **scintillation** *n.*

scintillation counter *n.* an instrument for detecting and measuring the intensity of high-energy radiation. It consists of a phosphor with which particles collide producing flashes of light that are converted into pulses of

electric current that are counted by electronic equipment.

sciolism ('saɪə,lɪzəm) *n.* *Rare.* the practice of opinionating on subjects of which one has only superficial knowledge. — **sciolist** *n.* — **scio'listic** *adj.*

scion ('saɪən) *n.* 1. a descendant or young member of a family. 2. a shoot of a plant used to form a graft.

scissors ('sɪzəz) *pl. n.* 1. Also called: **pair of scissors.** a cutting instrument used for cloth, hair, etc., having two crossed pivoted blades that cut by a shearing action. 2. a wrestling hold in which a wrestler wraps his legs round his opponent's body or head and squeezes. 3. any gymnastic feat in which the legs cross and uncross in a scissor-like movement.

sclera ('sklɪərə) *n.* the firm white fibrous membrane that forms the outer covering of the eyeball. Also called: **sclerotic**. — **scler'itis** *n.*

sclero- or before a vowel **scler-** *combining form.* 1. indicating hardness: *sclerosis*. 2. of the sclera: *sclerotomy*.

sclerosis ('skliərəʊsɪs) *n., pl. -ses (-sɪz).* 1. *Pathol.* a hardening or thickening of organs, tissues, or vessels from inflammation, degeneration, or (esp. on the inner walls of arteries) deposition of fatty plaques. 2. the hardening of a plant cell wall or tissue.

sclerotic ('skliərəʊtɪk) *adj.* 1. of or relating to the sclera. 2. of, relating to, or having sclerosis. ~*n.* 3. another name for **sclera**.

scoff ('skɒf) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*; often foll. by *at*) to speak contemptuously (about); mock. 2. (*tr.*) *Obs.* to regard with derision. ~*n.* 3. an expression of derision. 4. an object of derision. — **scoffer** *n.*

scoff ('skɒf) *Sl., chiefly Brit.* ~*vb.* 1. to eat (food) fast and greedily. ~*n.* 2. food or rations.

scold ('skəʊld) *vb.* 1. to find fault with or reprimand (a person) harshly. 2. (*intr.*) to use harsh or abusive language. ~*n.* 3. a person, esp. a woman, who constantly finds fault. — **scolder** *n.* — **scolding** *n.*

scollop ('skɒləp) *n., vb.* a variant spelling of **scallop**.

score ('skɒns) *n.* 1. a bracket fixed to a wall for holding candles or lights. 2. a flat candlestick with a handle.

score ('skɒns) *n.* a small protective fortification, such as an earthwork.

scone ('skəʊn, skɒn) *n.* a light plain doughy cake made from flour with very little fat, cooked in an oven or (esp. originally) on a griddle.

scoop ('sku:p) *n.* 1. a utensil used as a shovel or ladle, esp. a small shovel with deep sides and a short handle, used for taking up flour, etc. 2. a utensil with a long handle and round bowl used for dispensing liquids, etc. 3. anything that resembles a scoop in action, such as the bucket on a dredge. 4. a utensil used for serving mashed potatoes, ice cream, etc. 5. a spoonlike surgical instrument for extracting foreign matter, etc., from the body. 6. the quantity taken up by a scoop. 7. the act of scooping, dredging, etc. 8. a hollow cavity. 9. *Sl.* a large quick gain, as of money. 10. a news story reported in one newspaper, etc., before all the others. ~*vb. (mainly tr.)* 11. (often foll. by *up*) to take up and remove (an object or substance) with or as if with a scoop. 12. (often foll. by *out*) to hollow out with or as if with a scoop. 13. to make (a large sudden profit). 14. to beat (rival newspapers, etc.) in uncovering a news item. — **scooper** *n.* — **scoop,ful** *n.*

scout ('sku:t) *vb.* 1. to go or cause to go quickly or hastily; dart or cause to dart off or away. ~*n.* 2. the act of scouting.

scooter ('sku:tə) *n.* 1. a child's vehicle consisting of a low footboard mounted between two small wheels with a handlebar. 2. See **motor scooter**.

scope ('skəʊp) *n.* 1. opportunity for exercising the faculties or abilities. 2. range of view or grasp. 3. the area covered by an activity, topic, etc.: *the scope of his thesis* was vast. 4. *Naut.* slack left in an anchor cable. 5. *Logic.* the part of a formula that follows a quantifier or an operator. 6. *Inf.* short for **telescope, microscope, oscilloscope**, etc. 7. *Arch.* purpose.

-scope *n. combining form.* indicating an instrument for observing or detecting: *microscope*. — **scopic** *adj. combining form.*

scopolamine ('skəʊpə,lə,mɪ:n) *n.* a colourless viscous liquid alkaloid extracted from certain plants, such as henbane: used in preventing travel sickness and as a sedative and truth serum. Also called: **hyoscine**.

-scopy *n. combining form.* indicating a viewing or observation: *microscopy*.

scorbutic (skɔː'bjʊ:tɪk) or **scorbutical** *adj.* of or having scurvy. —**scorbutically** *adv.*

scorch (skɔːtʃ) *vb.* 1. to burn or become burnt, esp. so as to affect the colour, taste, etc. 2. to wither or parch or cause to wither from exposure to heat. 3. (*intr.*) *Inf.* to be very hot: *it is scorching outside.* 4. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to criticize harshly. ~*n.* 5. a slight burn. 6. a mark caused by the application of too great heat. 7. *Horticulture.* a mark on fruit, etc., caused by pests or insecticides. —**'scorching** *adj.*

scorcher ('skɔːtʃə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that scorches. 2. something caustic. 3. *Inf.* a very hot day. 4. *Brit. inf.* something remarkable.

score (skɔː) *n.* 1. a numerical record of a competitive game or match. 2. the total number of points made by a side or individual in a game. 3. the act of scoring, esp. a point or points. 4. *the score.* *Inf.* the actual situation. 5. a group or set of twenty: *three score years and ten.* 6. (*usually pl.*; foll. by *of*) lots: *I have scores of things to do.* 7. *Music.* a. the printed form of a composition in which the instrumental or vocal parts appear on separate staves vertically arranged on large pages (**full score**) or in a condensed version, usually for piano (**short score**) or voices and piano (**vocal score**). b. the incidental music for a film or play. c. the songs, music, etc., for a stage or film musical. 8. a mark or notch, esp. one made in keeping a tally. 9. an account of amounts due. 10. an amount recorded as due. 11. a reason: *the book was rejected on the score of length.* 12. a grievance. 13. a. a line marking a division or boundary. b. (*as modifier*): *score line.* 14. **settle or pay off a score.** a. to avenge a wrong. b. to repay a debt. ~*vb.* 15. to gain (a point or points) in a game or contest. 16. (*tr.*) to make a total score of. 17. to keep a record of the score (*of*). 18. (*tr.*) to be worth (a certain amount) in a game. 19. (*tr.*) to record by making notches in. 20. to make (cuts, lines, etc.) in or on. 21. (*intr.*) *Sl.* to obtain something desired, esp. to purchase an illegal drug. 22. (*intr.*) *Sl.* (*of men*) to be successful in seducing a person. 23. (*tr.*) a. to arrange (a piece of music) for specific instruments or voices. b. to write the music for (a film, play, etc.). 24. to achieve (success or an advantage): *your idea scored with the boss.* —**'scorer** *n.*

scoreboard ('skɔː,bɔɪd) *n.* *Sport, etc.* a board for displaying the score of a game or match.

scorecard ('skɔː,kɑːd) *n.* 1. a card on which scores are recorded, as in golf. 2. a card identifying the players in a sports match, esp. cricket.

score off *vb.* (*intr., prep.*) to gain an advantage at someone else's expense.

scoria ('skɔːrɪə) *n., pl. -riae* (-rɪ.ɪ). 1. a mass of solidified lava containing many cavities. 2. refuse obtained from smelted ore.

scorn (skɔːn) *n.* 1. open contempt for a person or thing. 2. an object of contempt or derision. ~*vb.* 3. to treat with contempt or derision. 4. (*tr.*) to reject with contempt. —**'scorner** *n.* —**'scornful** *adj.* —**'scornfully** *adv.*

Scorpio ('skɔːpɪ,əʊ) *n.* 1. Also called: **Scorpius.** *Astron.* a large S constellation. 2. *Astrol.* the eighth sign of the zodiac. The sun is in this sign between about Oct. 23 and Nov. 21.

scorpion ('skɔːpɪən) *n.* 1. an arachnid of warm dry regions, having a segmented body with a long tail terminating in a venomous sting. 2. **false scorpion.** a small nonvenomous arachnid that superficially resembles the scorpion but lacks the long tail. 3. *Bible.* a barbed scourge (I Kings 12:11).

Scorpion ('skɔːpɪən) *n. the.* the constellation Scorpio, the eighth sign of the zodiac.

Scot (skɔt) *n.* 1. a native or inhabitant of Scotland. 2. a member of a tribe of Celtic raiders from northern Ireland who eventually settled in N Britain during the 5th and 6th centuries.

Scot. *abbrev. for:* 1. Scotch (whisky). 2. Scotland. 3. Scottish.

scotch (skɔtʃ) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to put an end to; crush: *bad weather scotched our plans.* 2. *Obs.* to cut or score. ~*n.* 3. *Arch.* a gash. 4. a line marked down, as for hopscotch.

Scotch¹ (skɔtʃ) *adj.* 1. another word for **Scottish**. ~*n.* 2. the Scots or their language.

▷ **Usage.** In the north of England and in Scotland, *Scotch* is not used outside fixed expressions such as *Scotch whisky*. The use of *Scotch* for *Scots* or *Scottish* is otherwise felt to be incorrect, esp. when applied to persons.

Scotch² (skɔtʃ) *n.* Also called: **Scotch whisky.** whisky

distilled from fermented malted barley and made in Scotland.

Scotch broth *n. Brit.* a thick soup made from beef stock, vegetables, and pearl barley.

Scotch egg *n. Brit.* a hard-boiled egg enclosed in a layer of sausage meat, covered in egg and crumbs, and fried.

Scotch mist *n.* 1. a heavy wet mist. 2. drizzle.

Scotch terrier *n.* another name for **Scottish terrier**.

scot-free *adv., adj. (predicative)* without harm, loss, or penalty.

Scotland Yard ('skɔtlənd) *n.* the headquarters of the police force of metropolitan London. Official name: **New Scotland Yard.**

Scots (skɔts) *adj.* 1. of or characteristic of Scotland, its people, their English dialect, or their Gaelic language. ~*n.* 2. any of the English dialects spoken or written in Scotland.

Scotsman ('skɔtsmən) *n., pl. -men.* a native or inhabitant of Scotland. —**'Scotswoman** *fem. n.*

Scots pine or **Scotch pine** *n.* 1. a coniferous tree of Europe and W and N Asia, having blue-green needle-like leaves and brown cones with a small prickle on each scale. 2. the wood of this tree.

Scotticism ('skɔtɪsɪzəm) *n.* a Scottish idiom, word, etc.

Scottie or **Scotty** ('skɔti) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. See **Scottish terrier**. 2. *Inf.* a Scotsman.

Scottish ('skɔtɪʃ) *adj.* of, relating to, or characteristic of Scotland, its people, their Gaelic language, or their English dialect.

Scottish terrier *n.* a small long-haired breed of terrier, usually with a black coat.

scoundrel ('skaʊndrəl) *n.* a worthless or villainous person.

scour¹ (skaʊə) *vb.* 1. to clean or polish (a surface) by washing and rubbing. 2. to remove dirt from or have the dirt removed from. 3. (*tr.*) to clear (a channel) by the force of water. 4. (*tr.*) to remove by or as if by rubbing. 5. (*tr.*) to cause (livestock) to purge their bowels. ~*n.* 6. the act of scouring. 7. the place scoured, esp. by running water. 8. something that scours, such as a cleansing agent. 9. (*often pl.*) prolonged diarrhoea in livestock, esp. cattle. —**'scourer** *n.*

scour² (skaʊə) *vb.* 1. to range over (territory), as in making a search. 2. to move swiftly or energetically over (territory).

scourge ('skɔːdʒ) *n.* 1. a whip used for inflicting punishment or torture. 2. a means of inflicting punishment or suffering. 3. a person who harasses or causes destruction. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 4. to whip. 5. to punish severely. —**'scourger** *n.*

scouse (skaʊs) *n. Liverpool dialect.* a stew made from left-over meat.

Scouse (skaʊs) *Brit. inf.* ~*n.* 1. a person who comes from Liverpool. 2. the dialect spoken by such a person. ~*adj.* 3. of or from Liverpool.

scout¹ (skaut) *n.* 1. a person, ship, or aircraft sent out to gain information. 2. *Mil.* a person or unit despatched to reconnoitre the position of the enemy, etc. 3. the act or an instance of scouting. 4. (esp. at Oxford University) a college servant. 5. (in Britain) a patrolman of a motoring organization. 6. *Inf.* a fellow. ~*vb.* 7. to examine or observe (anything) in order to obtain information. 8. (*tr.*; sometimes foll. by *out* or *up*) to seek. 9. (*intr.*, foll. by *about* or *around*) to go in search (for). —**'scouter** *n.*

scout² (skaut) *vb. Arch.* to reject (a person, etc.) with contempt.

Scout (skaut) *n. (sometimes not cap.)* a boy or (in the U.S.) a girl who is a member of a worldwide movement (the **Scout Association**) founded as the Boy Scouts in England in 1908 by Lord Baden-Powell. British female counterpart: **Guide**. —**'Scouting** *n.*

Scouter ('skaʊtə) *n.* the leader of a troop of Scouts. Also called (esp. formerly): **Scoutmaster**.

scow (skau) *n.* an unpowered barge used for freight, etc.; lighter.

scowl (skau) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to contract the brows in a threatening or angry manner. ~*n.* 2. a gloomy or threatening expression. —**'scowler** *n.*

scrabble ('skræbl̩) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*; often foll. by *about* or *at*) to scrape (at) or grope (for), as with hands or claws. 2. to struggle (with). 3. (*intr.*; often foll. by *for*) to struggle to gain possession. 4. to scribble. ~*n.* 5. the act or an instance of scrabbling. 6. scribble. 7. a disorderly struggle. —**'scrabbler** *n.*

Scrabble ('skræbl̩) *n. Trademark.* a game in which

words are formed in a pattern similar to a crossword puzzle.

scrag (skræg) *n.* 1. a thin or scrawny person or animal. 2. the lean end of a neck of veal or mutton. 3. *Inf.* the neck of a human being. ~vb. **scragging**, **scragged**. 4. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to wring the neck of.

scraggly ('skræglɪ) *adj.* -glier, -gliest. untidy or irregular.

scraggy ('skrægi) *adj.* -glier, -gliest. 1. lean or scrawny. 2. rough; unkempt. —'scraggly *adv.* —'scragginess *n.*

scram (skræm) *vb.* **scramming**, **scrammed**. (*intr.*; of *ten imperative*) *Inf.* to go away hastily.

scramble ('skræmbəl) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to climb, crawl, or proceed hurriedly. 2. (*intr.*; often foll. by *for*) to compete with others, esp. in a disordered manner. 3. (*intr.*; foll. by *through*) to deal with hurriedly. 4. (*tr.*) to throw together in a haphazard manner. 5. (*tr.*) to collect in a hurried or disorganized manner. 6. (*tr.*) to cook (eggs that have been whisked up with milk) in a pan containing a little melted butter. 7. *Mil.* to order (a crew or aircraft) to take off immediately or (of a crew or aircraft) to take off immediately. 8. (*tr.*) to render (speech) unintelligible during transmission by means of an electronic scrambler. ~n. 9. the act of scrambling. 10. a climb or trek over difficult ground. 11. a disorderly struggle, esp. to gain possession. 12. *Mil.* an immediate preparation for action, as of crew, aircraft, etc. 13. *Brit.* a motorcycle rally in which competitors race across rough open ground.

scrambler ('skræmblə) *n.* an electronic device that renders speech unintelligible during transmission.

scrap (skræp) *n.* 1. a small piece of something larger; fragment. 2. an extract from something written. 3. a. waste material or used articles, esp. metal, often collected and reprocessed. b. (*as modifier*): **scrap iron**. 4. (*pl.*) pieces of discarded food. ~vb. **scrapping**, **scrapped**. (*tr.*) 5. to discard as useless.

scrap (skræp) *Inf.* ~n. 1. a fight or argument. ~vb. **scrapping**, **scrapped**. 2. (*intr.*) to quarrel or fight.

scrapbook ('skræpbʊk) *n.* a book or album of blank pages in which to mount newspaper cuttings, pictures, etc.

scrape (skreɪp) *vb.* 1. to move (a rough or sharp object) across (a surface), esp. to smooth or clean. 2. (*tr.*, often foll. by *away* or *off*) to remove (a layer) by rubbing. 3. to produce a harsh or grating sound by rubbing against (a surface, etc.). 4. (*tr.*) to injure or damage by rough contact: *to scrape one's knee*. 5. (*intr.*) to be very economical (esp. in **scrimp and scrape**). 6. (*intr.*) to draw the foot backwards in making a bow. 7. **bow and scrape**. to behave with excessive humility. 8. **scrape acquaintance with**. to contrive an acquaintance with. ~n. 9. the act of scraping. 10. a scraped place. 11. a harsh or grating sound. 12. *Inf.* an awkward or embarrassing predicament. 13. *Inf.* a conflict or struggle. —'scrapper *n.*

scrape through *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. (*intr.*) to manage or survive with difficulty. 2. to succeed in with difficulty or by a narrow margin.

scrape together or up *vb.* (*tr.*, *adv.*) to collect with difficulty: *to scrape together money for a new car*.

scrappy ('skræpi) *adj.* -pier, -piest. fragmentary; disjointed. —'scrappily *adv.*

scratch (skrætʃ) *vb.* 1. to mark or cut (the surface of something) with a rough or sharp instrument. 2. (often foll. by *at*, *out*, *off*, etc.) to scrape (the surface of something), as with claws, nails, etc. 3. to scrape (the surface of the skin) with the nails, as to relieve itching. 4. to chafe or irritate (a surface, esp. the skin). 5. to make or cause to make a grating sound. 6. (*tr.*; sometimes foll. by *out*) to erase by or as if by scraping. 7. (*tr.*) to write or draw awkwardly. 8. (*intr.*; sometimes foll. by *along*) to earn a living, manage, etc., with difficulty. 9. to withdraw (an entry) from a race, (U.S.) election, etc. ~n. 10. the act of scratching. 11. a slight injury. 12. a mark made by scratching. 13. a slight grating sound. 14. (in a handicap sport) a competitor or the status of a competitor who has no allowance. 15. a. the line from which competitors start in a race. b. (formerly) a line drawn on the floor of a prize ring at which the contestants stood to begin fighting. 16. *Billiards*, etc. a lucky shot. 17. **from scratch**. *Inf.* from the very beginning. 18. **up to scratch**. (*usually used with a negative*) *Inf.* up to standard. ~adj. 19. *Sport.* (of a team) assembled hastily. 20. (in a handicap sport) with no allowance or penalty. 21. *Inf.* rough or haphazard. —'scratcher *n.* —'scratchy *adj.*

scrawl (skrɔ:l) *vb.* 1. to write or draw (words, etc.)

carelessly or hastily. ~n. 2. careless or scribbled writing or drawing. —'scrawly *adj.*

scrawny ('skrɔ:ni) *adj.* **scrawnier**, **scrawniest**. 1. very thin and bony. 2. meagre or stunted. —'scrawnlily *adv.* —'scrawniness *n.*

scream (skri:m) *vb.* 1. to utter or emit (a sharp piercing cry or similar sound), esp. as of fear, pain, etc. 2. (*intr.*) to laugh wildly. 3. (*intr.*) to speak, shout, or behave in a wild manner. 4. (*tr.*) to bring (oneself) into a specified state by screaming: *she screamed herself hoarse*. 5. (*intr.*) to be extremely conspicuous: *the colours in the room screamed*. ~n. 6. a sharp piercing cry or sound, esp. one denoting fear or pain. 7. *Inf.* a person or thing that causes great amusement.

scree (skri:) *n.* an accumulation of rock fragments at the foot of a cliff or hillside, often forming a sloping heap.

screech ('skri:tʃ) *n.* 1. a shrill or high-pitched sound or cry. ~vb. 2. to utter with or produce a screech. —'screecher *n.* —'screechy *adj.*

screech² ('skri:tʃ) *n.* *Canad. sl.* 1. a dark rum. 2. any strong cheap drink.

screech owl *n.* 1. a small North American owl having a reddish-brown or grey plumage. 2. *Brit.* any owl that utters a screeching cry.

screed (skri:d) *n.* 1. a long or prolonged speech or piece of writing. 2. a strip of wood, plaster, or metal placed on a surface to act as a guide to the thickness of the cement or plaster coat to be applied. 3. a mixture of cement, sand, and water applied to a concrete slab, etc., to give a smooth surface finish.

screen (skri:n) *n.* 1. a light movable frame, panel, or partition serving to shelter, divide, hide, etc. 2. anything that serves to shelter, protect, or conceal. 3. a frame containing a mesh that is placed over a window to keep out insects. 4. a decorated partition, esp. in a church around the choir. 5. a sieve. 6. the wide end of a cathode-ray tube, esp. in a television set, on which a visible image is formed. 7. a white or silvered surface, placed in front of a projector to receive the enlarged image of a film or of slides. 8. **the screen**. the film industry or films collectively. 9. *Photog.* a plate of ground glass in some types of camera on which the image of a subject is focused. 10. men or ships deployed around and ahead of a larger military formation to warn of attack. ~vb. (*tr.*) 11. (sometimes foll. by *off*) to shelter, protect, or conceal. 12. to sieve or sort. 13. to test or check (an individual or group) so as to determine suitability for a task, etc. 14. to examine for the presence of a disease, weapons, etc. 15. to provide with a screen or screens. 16. to project (a film) onto a screen, esp. for public viewing. —'screenable *adj.* —'screen-er *n.*

screenplay ('skri:n,pleɪ) *n.* the script for a film, including instructions for sets and camera work.

screen process *n.* a method of printing using a fine mesh of silk, nylon, etc., treated with an impermeable coating except in the areas through which ink is subsequently forced onto the paper behind. Also called: **silk-screen printing**.

screw (skru:) *n.* 1. a device used for fastening materials together, consisting of a threaded shank that has a slotted head by which it may be rotated so as to cut its own thread. 2. a threaded cylindrical rod that engages with a similarly threaded cylindrical hole. 3. a thread in a cylindrical hole corresponding with that on the screw with which it is designed to engage. 4. anything resembling a screw in shape or spiral form. 5. a twisting movement of or resembling that of a screw. 6. Also called: **screw-back**. *Billiards*, etc. a stroke in which the cue ball moves backward after striking the object ball. 7. another name for **propeller** (sense 1). 8. *Sl.* a prison guard. 9. *Brit. sl.* salary, wages, or earnings. 10. *Brit.* a small amount of salt, tobacco, etc., in a twist of paper. 11. *Sl.* a person who is mean with money. 12. *Sl.* an old or worthless horse. 13. (*often pl.*) *Sl.* force or compulsion (esp. in **put the screws on**). 14. *Taboo sl.* sexual intercourse. 15. **have a screw loose**. *Sl.* to be insane. ~vb. 16. (*tr.*) to rotate (a screw or bolt) so as to drive it into or draw it out of a material. 17. (*tr.*) to cut a screw thread in (a rod or hole) with a tap or die or on a lathe. 18. to turn or cause to turn in the manner of a screw. 19. (*tr.*) to attach or fasten with a screw or screws. 20. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to take advantage of; cheat. 21. (*tr.*; often foll. by *up*) *Inf.* to distort or contort: *he screwed his face into a scowl*. 22. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to coerce or force. 23. *Taboo sl.* to have sexual intercourse (with). 24. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to burgle.

25. have one's head screwed on the right way. *Inf.* to be sensible. —See also **screw up**. —**'screw** *n.*

screwball ('skru:bɔ:l) *U.S. sl.* ~*n.* 1. an odd or eccentric person. —*adj.* 2. odd; eccentric.

screwdriver ('skru:draɪvə) *n.* 1. a tool used for turning screws, usually having a steel shank with a flattened square-cut tip that fits into a slot in the head of the screw. 2. an alcoholic beverage consisting of orange juice and vodka.

screwed (skru:d) *adj.* 1. fastened by a screw or screws. 2. having spiral grooves like a screw. 3. twisted or distorted. 4. *Brit. sl.* drunk.

screw top *n.* a bottle top that screws onto the bottle, allowing the bottle to be resealed after use. —**'screw-top** *adj.*

screw up *vb.* (*tr., adv.*) 1. to twist out of shape or distort. 2. to summon up: to **screw up** one's courage. 3. *Inf.* to mishandle or bungie.

screwy ('skru:ɪ) *adj.* **screwier**, **screwiest.** *Inf.* odd, crazy, or eccentric.

scribble ('skribl) *vb.* 1. to write or draw in a hasty or illegible manner. 2. to make meaningless or illegible marks (on). 3. *Derog. or facetious.* to write poetry, novels, etc. ~*n.* 4. hasty careless writing or drawing. 5. meaningless or illegible marks. —**'scribbler** *n.* —**'scribbly** *adj.*

scribe ('skraɪb) *n.* 1. a person who copies documents, esp. a person who made handwritten copies before the invention of printing. 2. a clerk or public copyist. 3. *Bible.* a recognized scholar and teacher of the Jewish Law ~*vb.* 4. to score a line on (a surface) with a pointed instrument, as in metalworking. —**'scribal** *adj.*

scrim ('skrim) *n.* a fine open-weave fabric, used in the theatre to create the illusion of a solid wall.

scrimmage ('skrimɪdʒ) *n.* 1. a rough or disorderly struggle. 2. *American football.* the period of a game from the time the ball goes into play to the time it is declared dead. ~*vb.* 3. (*intr.*) to engage in a scrimmage. 4. (*tr.*) to put (the ball) into a scrimmage. —**'scrimmager** *n.*

scrimp ('skrimp) *vb.* 1. (when *intr.*, sometimes *fol.* by *on*) to be very sparing in the use (of) (esp. in **scrimp and scrape**). 2. (*tr.*) to treat meanly: he is **scrumping** his children. —**'scrimpy** *adj.* —**'scrimpiness** *n.*

scrip ('skrip) *n.* 1. a written certificate, list, etc. 2. a small scrap, esp. of paper with writing on it. 3. *Finance.* a. a certificate representing a claim to part of a share of stock. b. the shares issued by a company (**scrip or bonus issue**) without charge and distributed among existing shareholders.

script ('skript) *n.* 1. handwriting as distinguished from print. 2. the letters, characters, or figures used in writing by hand. 3. any system or style of writing. 4. written copy for the use of performers in films and plays. 5. *Law.* an original or principal document. 6. an answer paper in an examination. ~*vb.* 7. (*tr.*) to write a script (for).

scripture ('skriptʃə) *n.* a sacred, solemn, or authoritative book or piece of writing. —**'scriptural** *adj.*

Scripture ('skriptʃə) *n.* 1. Also called: **Holy Scripture**, **Holy Writ**, **the Scriptures**. *Christianity.* the Old and New Testaments. 2. any book or body of writings, esp. when regarded as sacred by a particular religious group.

scriptwriter ('skript,raɪtə) *n.* a person who prepares scripts, esp. for a film. —**'script, writing** *n.*

scrivener ('skrivnə) *n.* *Arch.* 1. a person who writes out deeds, etc. 2. a notary.

scrofula ('skrofjʊlə) *n.* *Pathol.* (no longer in technical use) tuberculosis of the lymphatic glands. Also called (formerly): (the) **king's evil**. —**'scrofulous** *adj.*

scroll ('skroul) *n.* 1. a roll of parchment, etc., usually inscribed with writing. 2. an ancient book in the form of a roll of parchment, papyrus, etc. 3. a decorative carving or moulding resembling a scroll. ~*vb.* 4. (*tr.*) to saw into scrolls. 5. to roll up like a scroll.

Scrooge ('skru:dʒ) *n.* a mean or miserly person.

scrotum ('skrɒtəm) *n., pl. -ta* (-tə) or *-tums*. the pouch of skin containing the testes in most mammals. —**'scrotal** *adj.*

scrounge ('skraundʒ) *vb.* *Inf.* 1. (when *intr.*, sometimes *fol.* by *around*) to search in order to acquire (something) without cost. 2. to obtain or seek to obtain (something) by begging. —**'scrounger** *n.*

scrub ('skrʌb) *vb.* **scrubbing**, **scrubbed**. 1. to rub (a surface, etc.) hard, with or as if with a brush, soap, and water, in order to clean it. 2. to remove (dirt) by rubbing with a brush, etc., and water. 3. (*intr.*; *fol.* by

up) (of a surgeon) to wash the hands and arms thoroughly before operating. 4. (*tr.*) to purify (a gas) by removing impurities. 5. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to delete or cancel. ~*n.* 6. the act of or an instance of scrubbing.

scrub ('skrʌb) *n.* 1. a. vegetation consisting of stunted trees, bushes, and other plants growing in an arid area. b. (*as modifier*): **scrub vegetation**. 2. an area of arid land covered with such vegetation. 3. a. an animal of inferior breeding or condition. b. (*as modifier*): a **scrub bull**. 4. a small person. 5. anything stunted or inferior. 6. *Sport, U.S.* a. a player not in the first team. b. a team composed of such players. 7. **the scrub.** *Austral. inf.* a remote or uncivilized place. ~*adj.* (*prenominal*) 8. small or inferior. 9. *Sport, U.S.* a. (of a player) not in the first team. b. (of a team) composed of such players.

scrubber ('skrʌbə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that scrubs. 2. an apparatus for purifying a gas. 3. *Derog. sl.* a promiscuous girl.

scrubby ('skrʌbi) *adj.* -**bier**, -**biest**. 1. covered with or consisting of scrub. 2. (of trees, etc.) stunted in growth. 3. *Brit. inf.* messy.

scruff ('skɹʌf) *n.* the nape of the neck (esp. in **by the scruff of the neck**).

scruffy ('skrʌfi) *adj.* **scruffier**, **scruffiest**. unkempt or shabby.

scrum ('skɹʌm) *n.* 1. *Rugby.* the act or method of restarting play when the two opposing packs of forwards group together with heads down and arms interlocked and push to gain ground while the scrum half throws the ball in and the hookers attempt to scoop it out to their own team. 2. *Inf.* a disorderly struggle. ~*vb.* **scrumping**, **scrummed**. 3. (*intr.*; usually *fol.* by *down*) *Rugby.* to form a scrum.

scrum half *n.* *Rugby.* 1. a player who puts in the ball at scrums and tries to get it away to his three-quarter backs. 2. this position in a team.

scrummage ('skɹʌmɪdʒ) *n., vb.* 1. *Rugby.* another word for **scrum**. 2. a variant of **scrimmage**.

scrump ('skɹʌmp) *vb.* *Brit. dialect.* to steal (apples) from an orchard or garden.

scrumptious ('skɹʌmpjʊəs) *adj.* *Inf.* very pleasing; delicious. —**'scrumptiously** *adv.*

scrumpy ('skɹʌmpi) *n.* a rough dry cider, brewed esp. in the West Country of England.

scrunch ('skɹʌntʃ) *vb.* 1. to crumple or crunch or to be crumpled or crunched. ~*n.* 2. the act or sound of scrunching.

scruple ('skru:pʃl) *n.* 1. a doubt or hesitation as to what is morally right in a certain situation. 2. *Arch.* a very small amount. 3. a unit of weight equal to 20 grains (1.296 grams). ~*vb.* 4. (*obs. when tr.*) to have doubts (about), esp. from a moral compunction.

scrupulous ('skru:pjʊləs) *adj.* 1. characterized by careful observation of what is morally right. 2. very careful or precise. —**'scrupulously** *adv.* —**'scrupulousness** *n.*

scrutinize or -nise ('skru:tɪnaɪz) *vb.* (*tr.*) to examine carefully or in minute detail. —**'scruti, nizer** or **-niser** *n.*

scrutiny ('skru:tɪni) *n., pl. -nies*. 1. close or minute examination. 2. a searching look. 3. (in the early Christian Church) a formal testing that catechumens had to undergo before being baptized.

scuba ('skju:bə) *n.* an apparatus used in skin diving, consisting of a cylinder or cylinders containing compressed air attached to a breathing apparatus.

scud ('skʌd) *vb.* **scudding**, **scudded**. (*intr.*) 1. (esp. of clouds) to move along swiftly and smoothly. 2. *Naut.* to run before a gale. ~*n.* 3. the act of scudding. 4. a. a formation of low ragged clouds driven by a strong wind beneath rain-bearing clouds. b. a sudden shower or gust of wind.

scuff ('skʌf) *vb.* 1. to drag (the feet) while walking. 2. to scratch (a surface) or (of a surface) to become scratched. 3. (*tr.*) *U.S.* to poke at (something) with the foot. ~*n.* 4. the act or sound of scuffing. 5. a rubbed place caused by scuffing. 6. a backless slipper.

scuffle ('skʌfl) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. to fight in a disorderly manner. 2. to move by shuffling. ~*n.* 3. a disorderly struggle. 4. the sound made by scuffling.

scull ('skʌl) *n.* 1. a single oar moved from side to side over the stern of a boat to propel it. 2. one of a pair of short-handled oars, both of which are pulled by one oarsman. 3. a racing shell propelled by a single oarsman pulling two oars. 4. an act, instance, period, or distance of sculling. ~*vb.* 5. to propel (a boat) with a scull. —**'sculler** *n.*

scullery ('skʌləri) *n.*, *pl.* **-eries**. *Chiefly Brit.* a small room or part of a kitchen where kitchen utensils are kept and pans are washed.

scullion ('skʌljən) *n.* **1.** a mean or despicable person. **2.** *Arch.* a servant employed to work in a kitchen.

sculpt (skʌlpt) *vb.* **1.** a variant of **sculpture**. **2.** (*intr.*) to practise sculpture. ~Also: **sculp**.

sculptor ('skʌlptə) or (*fem.*) **sculptress** *n.* a person who practises sculpture.

sculpture ('skʌlptʃə) *n.* **1.** the art of making figures or designs in relief or the round by carving wood, moulding plaster, etc., or casting metals, etc. **2.** works or a work made in this way. **3.** ridges or indentations as on a shell, formed by natural processes. ~*vb.* (*mainly tr.*) **4.** (*also intr.*) to carve, cast, or fashion (stone, bronze, etc.) three-dimensionally. **5.** to portray (a person, etc.) by means of sculpture. **6.** to form in the manner of sculpture. **7.** to decorate with sculpture. —**sculptural** *adj.*

scum (skʌm) *n.* **1.** a layer of impure matter that forms on the surface of a liquid, often as the result of boiling or fermentation. **2.** the greenish film of algae and similar vegetation surface of a stagnant pond. **3.** the skin of oxides or impurities on the surface of a molten metal. **4.** waste matter. **5.** a worthless person or group of people. ~*vb.* **scumming**, **scummed**. **6.** (*tr.*) to remove scum from. **7.** (*intr.*) *Rare.* to form a layer of or become covered with scum. —**scummy** *adj.*

scumble ('skʌmbʌl) *vb.* **1.** (in painting and drawing) to soften or blend (an outline or colour) with an upper coat of opaque colour, applied very thinly. **2.** to produce an effect of broken colour on doors, panelling, etc. by exposing coats of paint below the top coat. ~*n.* **3.** the upper layer of colour applied in this way.

scunner ('skʌnə) *Dialect, chiefly Scot.* ~*vb.* **1.** (*intr.*) to feel aversion. **2.** (*tr.*) to produce a feeling of aversion in. ~*n.* **3.** a strong aversion (often in **take a scunner**). **4.** an object of dislike.

scupper¹ ('skʌpə) *n.* *Naut.* a drain or spout allowing water on the deck of a vessel to flow overboard.

scupper² ('skʌpə) *vb.* (*tr.*) *Brit. sl.* to overwhelm, ruin, or disable.

scurf (skɜːf) *n.* **1.** another name for **dandruff**. **2.** flaky or scaly matter adhering to or peeling off a surface. —**scurfy** *adj.*

scurrilous ('skʌrɪləs) *adj.* **1.** grossly or obscenely abusive or defamatory. **2.** characterized by gross or obscene humour. —**scurrility** (skɜːrɪlɪtɪ) *n.* —**scurrilously** *adv.*

scurry ('skʌrɪ) *vb.* **-rying**, **-ried**. **1.** to move about hurriedly. **2.** (*intr.*) to whirl about. ~*n.*, *pl.* **-ries**. **3.** the act or sound of scurrying. **4.** a brisk light whirling movement, as of snow.

scurvy ('skɜːvɪ) *n.* **1.** a disease caused by a lack of vitamin C, characterized by anaemia, spongy gums, and bleeding beneath the skin. ~*adj.* **-vier**, **-viest**. **2.** mean or despicable. —**scurvily** *adv.* —**scurviness** *n.*

scut (skʌt) *n.* the short tail of animals such as the deer and rabbit.

scuttle¹ ('skʌtl) *n.* **1.** See **coal scuttle**. **2.** *Dialect, chiefly Brit.* a shallow basket for carrying vegetables, etc. **3.** the part of a motorcar body lying immediately behind the bonnet.

scuttle² ('skʌtl) *vb.* **1.** (*intr.*) to run or move about with short hasty steps. ~*n.* **2.** a hurried pace or run.

scuttle³ ('skʌtl) *vb.* **1.** (*tr.*) *Naut.* to cause (a vessel) to sink by opening the sea cocks or making holes in the bottom. **2.** (*tr.*) to give up (hopes, plans, etc.). ~*n.* **3.** *Naut.* a small hatch or its cover.

Scylla ('sɪlə) *n.* **1.** *Greek myth.* a sea nymph transformed into a sea monster believed to drown sailors navigating the Straits of Messina. Cf. **Charybdis**. **2.** between **Scylla** and **Charybdis**, in a predicament in which avoidance of either of two dangers means exposure to the other.

scythe (saɪð) *n.* **1.** a long-handled implement for cutting grass, etc., having a curved sharpened blade that moves in a plane parallel to the ground. ~*vb.* **2.** (*tr.*) to cut (grass, etc.) with a scythe.

SDP *abbrev.* for Social Democratic Party.

Se *the chemical symbol for selenium.*

SE *abbrev.* for southeast(ern).

sea (siː) *n.* **1.** *a.* (usually preceded by *the*) the mass of salt water on the earth's surface as differentiated from the land. Related adjs.: **marine**, **maritime**. *b.* (as modifier): **sea air**. **2.** (*cap. when part of place name*) *a.* one of the smaller areas of ocean: *the Irish Sea*. *b.* a large inland area of water: *the Caspian Sea*. **3.** turbulence or

swell: *heavy seas*. **4.** (*cap. when part of a name*) *Astron.* any of many huge dry plains on the surface of the moon: *Sea of Serenity*. See also **mare**¹. **5.** anything resembling the sea in size or apparent limitlessness. **6.** *at sea*. *a.* on the ocean. *b.* in a state of confusion. **7.** *go to sea*. to become a sailor. **8.** **put (out) to sea**. to embark on a sea voyage.

sea anchor *n.* *Naut.* any device, such as a bucket, dragged in the water to slow a vessel.

sea anemone *n.* any of various coelenterates having a polypoid body with oral rings of tentacles.

sea bird *n.* a bird such as a gull, that lives on the sea.

seaboard ('siːbɔːd) *n.* *Chiefly U.S.* land bordering on the sea.

seaborne ('siːbɔːn) *adj.* **1.** carried on or by the sea. **2.** transported by ship.

sea breeze *n.* a wind blowing from the sea to the land, esp. during the day when the land surface is warmer.

seacoast ('siːkəʊst) *n.* land bordering on the sea; a coast.

sea cow *n.* **1.** a dugong or manatee. **2.** an archaic name for **walrus**.

sea dog *n.* an experienced or old sailor.

seafarer ('siːfəɹə) *n.* **1.** a traveller who goes by sea. **2.** a sailor.

seafaring ('siːfəɹɪŋ) *adj.* (*prepositional*) **1.** travelling by sea. **2.** working as a sailor. ~*n.* **3.** the act of travelling by sea. **4.** the work of a sailor.

seafood ('siːfuːd) *n.* edible saltwater fish or shellfish.

sea-girt *adj.* *Literary.* surrounded by the sea.

seagoing ('siːgəʊɪŋ) *adj.* intended for or used at sea.

sea green *n.*, *adj.* (of) a moderate green colour, sometimes with a bluish or yellowish tinge.

sea gull *n.* **1.** a popular name for the **gull** (the bird). **2.** *N.Z. inf.* a casual dock worker.

sea horse *n.* **1.** a marine teleost fish of temperate and tropical waters, having a bony-plated body, a prehensile tail, and a horselike head and swimming in an upright position. **2.** an archaic name for the **walrus**. **3.** a fabled sea creature with the tail of a fish and the front parts of a horse.

sea kale *n.* a European coastal plant with broad fleshy leaves and white flowers: cultivated for its edible asparagus-like shoots. Cf. **kale**.

seal¹ (siːl) *n.* **1.** a device impressed on a piece of wax, etc., fixed to a letter, etc., as a mark of authentication. **2.** a stamp, ring, etc., engraved with a device to form such an impression. **3.** a substance, esp. wax, so placed over an envelope, etc., that it must be broken before the object can be opened or used. **4.** any substance or device used to close or fasten tightly. **5.** a small amount of water contained in the trap of a drain to prevent the passage of foul smells. **6.** anything that gives a pledge or confirmation. **7.** a token; sign: *seal of death*. **8.** a decorative stamp sold in aid of charity. **9.** *R.C. Church.* Also called: **seal of confession**, the obligation never to reveal anything said in confession. **10.** **set one's seal on** (*or to*). *a.* to mark with one's sign or seal. *b.* to endorse. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) **11.** to affix a seal to, as proof of authenticity, etc. **12.** to stamp with or as if with a seal. **13.** to approve or authorize. **14.** (sometimes foll. by *up*) to close or secure with or as if with a seal: *to seal one's lips*. **15.** (foll. by *off*) to enclose (a place) with a fence, etc. **16.** to decide irrevocably. **17.** to close tightly so as to render airtight or watertight. **18.** to subject (the outside of meat, etc.) to fierce heat so as to retain the juices during cooking. **19.** to paint (a porous material) with a nonporous coating. **20.** *Austral.* to cover (a road) with bitumen, asphalt, tarmac, etc. —**sealable** *adj.*

seal² (siːl) *n.* **1.** a fish-eating mammal with four flippers which is aquatic but comes on shore to breed. **2.** sealskin. ~*vb.* **3.** (*intr.*) to hunt for seals. —**sealer** *n.* —**seal-like** *adj.*

sealant ('siːlənt) *n.* **1.** any substance, such as wax, used for sealing documents, bottles, or the like. **2.** any of a number of substances used for waterproofing wood, etc.

sea legs *pl. n. Inf.* **1.** the ability to maintain one's balance on board ship. **2.** the ability to resist seasickness.

sea level *n.* the level of the surface of the sea with respect to the land, taken to be the mean level between high and low tide.

sealing wax *n.* a hard material made of shellac, turpentine, and pigment that softens when heated.

sea lion *n.* any of various large eared seals, such as the **California sea lion**, of the N Pacific, often used as a performing animal.

Sea Lord *n.* (in Britain) either of the two serving naval officers (**First** and **Second Sea Lords**) who sit on the admiralty board of the Ministry of Defence.

seal ring *n.* another term for **signet ring**.

sealskin ('si:l;skin) *n.* **a.** the skin or pelt of a fur seal, esp. when dressed with the outer hair removed and the underfur dyed dark brown. **b.** (as modifier): a *sealskin coat*.

seam (si:m) *n.* **1.** the line along which pieces of fabric, etc., are joined, esp. by stitching. **2.** a ridge or line made by joining two edges. **3.** a stratum of coal, ore, etc. **4.** a linear indentation, such as a wrinkle or scar. **5.** (modifier) *Cricket*, of or relating to a style of bowling in which the bowler utilizes the stitched seam round the ball in order to make it swing in flight and after touching the ground: a *seam bowler*. **6.** **bursting at the seams**, full to overflowing. —*vb.* **7.** (tr.) to join or sew together by or as if by a seam. **8.** to mark or become marked with or as if with a seam or wrinkle. —*seamer n.* —*seamless adj.*

seaman ('si:mən) *n., pl. -men.* **1.** a naval rating trained in seamanship. **2.** a man who serves as a sailor. **3.** a person skilled in seamanship. —*seamantly adj., adv.* —*seaman-like adj.*

seamanship ('si:mənʃɪp) *n.* skill in and knowledge of the work of navigating, maintaining, and operating a vessel.

seamstress ('semstris) or **sempstress** ('sempstris) *n.* a woman who sews and makes clothes, esp. professionally.

seamy ('si:mi) *adj.* **seamier, seamiest.** showing the least pleasant aspect; sordid. —*seaminess n.*

seance ('seɪns) *n.* a meeting at which spiritualists attempt to receive messages from the spirits of the dead.

seaplane ('si:,pleɪn) *n.* any aircraft that lands on and takes off from water.

seaport ('si:,pɔ:t) *n.* **1.** a port or harbour accessible to seagoing vessels. **2.** a town or city located at such a place.

sear (sɪə) *vb.* (tr.) **1.** to scorch or burn the surface of. **2.** to brand with a hot iron. **3.** to cause to wither. **4.** *Rare.* to make unfeeling. —*adj.* **5.** *Poetic.* dried up.

search (sɜ:tʃ) *vb.* **1.** to look through (a place, etc.) thoroughly in order to find someone or something. **2.** (tr.) to examine (a person) for concealed objects. **3.** to look at or examine (something) closely: *to search one's conscience*. **4.** (tr.; foll. by *out*) to discover by investigation. **5.** *Surgery.* to probe (a wound, etc.). **6.** *Arch.* to penetrate. **7.** **search me.** *Inf.* I don't know. —*n.* **8.** the act or an instance of searching. **9.** the examination of a vessel by the right of search. **10.** **right of search.** *International law.* the right possessed by the warships of a belligerent state to search merchant vessels to ascertain whether ship or cargo is liable to seizure. —*searchable adj.* —*searcher n.*

searching ('sɜ:tʃɪŋ) *adj.* keenly penetrating: a *searching look*. —*searchingly adv.*

searchlight ('sɜ:tʃlaɪt) *n.* **1.** a device that projects a powerful beam of light in a particular direction. **2.** the beam of light produced by such a device.

search warrant *n.* a written order issued by a justice of the peace authorizing a constable to enter and search premises for stolen goods, etc.

Sea Scout *n.* a Scout belonging to any of a number of Scout troops whose main activities are canoeing, sailing, etc.

seashell ('si:,ʃel) *n.* the empty shell of a marine mollusc.

seashore ('si:,ʃɔ:) *n.* **1.** land bordering on the sea. **2.** *Law.* the land between the marks of high and low water.

seasick ('si:,sɪk) *adj.* suffering from nausea and dizziness caused by the motion of a ship at sea. —*sea,sickness n.*

seaside ('si:,saɪd) *n.* **a.** any area bordering on the sea, esp. one regarded as a resort. **b.** (as modifier): a *seaside hotel*.

season ('si:zən) *n.* **1.** one of the four equal periods into which the year is divided by the equinoxes and solstices. These periods (spring, summer, autumn, and winter) have characteristic weather conditions, and occur at opposite times of the year in the N and S hemispheres. **2.** a period of the year characterized by particular conditions or activities: *the rainy season*. **3.** the period during which any particular species of animal, bird, or fish is legally permitted to be caught or killed: *open season on red deer*. **4.** any definite or indefinite period. **5.** any of the major periods into which the ecclesiastical

calendar is divided, such as Lent or Easter. **6.** fitting or proper time. **7.** in **good season**, early enough. **8.** in **season**, **a.** (of game) permitted to be killed. **b.** (of fresh food) readily available. **c.** (of some female mammals) sexually receptive. **d.** appropriate. —*vb.* **9.** (tr.) to add herbs, salt, pepper, or spice to (food). **10.** (tr.) to add zest to. **11.** (in the preparation of timber) to undergo or cause to undergo seasoning. **12.** (tr.; usually passive) to make or become experienced: *seasoned troops*. **13.** (tr.) to mitigate or temper. —*seasoner n.*

seasonable ('si:zənəbəl) *adj.* **1.** suitable for the season: a *seasonable Christmas scene of a snow-covered village*. **2.** taking place at the appropriate time. —*seasonableness n.* —*seasonably adv.*

seasonal ('si:zənəl) *adj.* of, relating to, or occurring at a certain season or certain seasons of the year: *seasonal labour*. —*seasonally adv.*

seasoning ('si:zənɪŋ) *n.* **1.** something that enhances the flavour of food, such as salt or herbs. **2.** the processing of timber until it has a moisture content suitable for the purposes for which it is to be used.

season ticket *n.* a ticket for a series of events, number of journeys, etc., within a limited time, usually obtained at a reduced rate.

seat (si:t) *n.* **1.** a piece of furniture designed for sitting on, such as a chair or sofa. **2.** the part of a chair, bench, etc., on which one sits. **3.** a place to sit, esp. one that requires a ticket: *I have two seats for the film tonight*. **4.** the buttocks. **5.** the part of a garment covering the buttocks. **6.** the part or area serving as the base of an object. **7.** the part or surface on which the base of an object rests. **8.** the place or centre in which something is located: a *seat of government*. **9.** a place of abode, esp. a country mansion. **10.** a membership or the right to membership in a legislative or similar body. **11.** *Chiefly Brit.* a parliamentary constituency. **12.** the manner in which a rider sits on a horse. —*vb.* **13.** (tr.) to bring to or place on a seat. **14.** (tr.) to provide with seats. **15.** (tr.; often passive) to place or centre: *the ministry is seated in the capital*. **16.** (tr.) to set firmly in place. **17.** (tr.) to fix or install in a position of power. **18.** (intr.) (of garments) to sag in the area covering the buttocks: *your thin skirt has seated badly*. —*seater n.*

seat belt *n.* **1.** Also called: **safety belt**, a belt or strap worn in a car to restrain forward motion in the event of a collision. **2.** a similar belt or strap worn in an aircraft at takeoff and landing.

SEATO ('si:təʊ) *n.* acronym for South East Asia Treaty Organization; a former anti-Communist defence association for the Far East and the W Pacific (1954-77).

sea trout *n.* a silvery marine variety of the brown trout that migrates to fresh water to spawn.

sea urchin *n.* any echinoderm such as the **edible sea urchin**, having a globular body enclosed in a rigid spiny test and occurring in shallow marine waters.

seaward ('si:wəd) *adv.* **1.** Also called: **seawards**, towards the sea. —*adj.* **2.** directed or moving towards the sea. **3.** (esp. of a wind) coming from the sea.

seaway ('si:,wei) *n.* **1.** a waterway giving access to an inland port. **2.** a vessel's progress. **3.** a route across the sea.

seaweed ('si:,wi:d) *n.* any of numerous multicellular marine algae that grow on the seashore, in salt marshes, in brackish water, or submerged in the ocean.

seaworthy ('si:,wɜ:ði) *adj.* in a fit condition or ready for a sea voyage. —*sea,worthiness n.*

sebaceous (si'beɪʃəs) *adj.* **1.** of or resembling sebum, fat, or tallow. **2.** secreting fat.

sebaceous glands *pl. n.* the small glands in the skin that secrete sebum into hair follicles and onto most of the body surface except the soles of the feet and the palms of the hands.

sebum ('si:bəm) *n.* the oily secretion of the sebaceous glands that acts as a lubricant for the hair and skin and provides some protection against bacteria.

sec¹ (sek) *adj.* **1.** (of wines) dry. **2.** (of champagne) of medium sweetness.

sec² (sek) *n.* *Inf.* short for **second²**: *wait a sec.*

sec³ (sek) *abbrev.* for **secant**.

sec. *abbrev.* for: **1.** second (of time). **2.** secondary. **3.** secretary. **4.** section. **5.** sector.

secant ('si:kənt) *n.* **1.** (of an angle) a trigonometric function that in a right-angled triangle is the ratio of the length of the hypotenuse to that of the adjacent side; the reciprocal of cosine. *Abbrev.: sec* **2.** a line that intersects a curve.

secateurs ('sekəteɪz) *pl. n.* *Chiefly Brit.* a small pair of

shears for pruning, having a pair of pivoted handles and a single cutting blade that closes against a flat surface.

secede (si'sid) *vb.* (intr.; often foll. by *from*) (of a person, section, etc.) to make a formal withdrawal of membership, as from a political alliance, etc. —*se'ced-er n.*

secession (si'seʃən) *n.* 1. the act of seceding. 2. (*often cap.*) Chiefly U.S. the withdrawal in 1860-61 of 11 Southern states from the Union to form the Confederacy, precipitating the American Civil War. —*se'cession,ism n.* —*se'cessionist n.*

seclude (si'klud) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to remove from contact with others. 2. to shut off or screen from view.

secluded (si'kludid) *adj.* 1. kept apart from the company of others: a *secluded life*. 2. private. —*se'cludedly adv.* —*se'cludedness n.*

seclusion (si'kluzən) *n.* 1. the act of secluding or the state of being secluded. 2. a secluded place.

second¹ ('sekənd) *adj.* (*usually prenominal*) 1. a. coming directly after the first in numbering or counting order, position, time, etc.; being the ordinal number of two: often written 2nd. b. (*as n.*): the *second in line*. 2. graded or ranked between the first and third levels. 3. alternate: *every second Thursday*. 4. extra: a *second opportunity*. 5. resembling a person or event from an earlier period of history: a *second Wagner*. 6. of lower quality; inferior. 7. denoting the lowest but one forward ratio of a gearbox in a motor vehicle. 8. *Music*. denoting a musical part, voice, or instrument subordinate to or lower in pitch than another (the first): the *second violins*. 9. at *second hand*, by hearsay. —*n.* 10. *Brit. education*. an honours degree of the second class, usually further divided into an upper and lower designation. Full term: *second-class honours degree*. 11. the lowest but one forward ratio of a gearbox in a motor vehicle. 12. (in boxing, duelling, etc.) an attendant who looks after a competitor. 13. a speech seconding a motion or the person making it. 14. *Music*. the interval between one note and another lying next above or below it in the diatonic scale. 15. (*pl.*) goods of inferior quality. 16. (*pl.*) *Inf.* a second helping of food. 17. (*pl.*) the second course of a meal. —*vb.* (tr.) 18. to give aid or backing to. 19. (in boxing, etc.) to act as second to (a competitor). 20. to express formal support for (a motion already proposed). —*adv.* 21. Also: *secondly*, in the second place. 22. —*sentence connector*. Also: *secondly*, as the second point. —*1'second n.*

▷ **Usage.** See at **important**.

second² ('sekənd) *n.* 1. a. 1/60 of a minute of time. b. the basic SI unit of time: the duration of 9 192 631 770 periods of radiation corresponding to the transition between two hyperfine levels of the ground state of caesium-133. Symbol: " 2. 1/60 of a minute of angle. Symbol: 3. a very short period of time.

second³ (si'kɒnd) *vb.* (tr.) *Brit.* 1. to transfer (an employee) temporarily to another branch, etc. 2. *Mil.* to transfer (an officer) to another post. —*se'condment n.*

secondary ('sekəndəri) *adj.* 1. one grade or step after the first. 2. derived from or depending on what is primary or first: a *secondary source*. 3. below the first in rank, importance, etc. 4. (*prenominal*) of or relating to the education of young people between the ages of 11 and 18: *secondary education*. 5. (of the flight feathers of a bird's wing) growing from the ulna. 6. a. being the part of an electric circuit, such as a transformer or induction coil, in which a current is induced by a changing current in a neighbouring coil: a *secondary coil*. b. (of a current) flowing in such a circuit. 7. *Chem. a.* (of an amine) containing the group NH. b. (of a salt) derived from a tribasic acid by replacement of two acidic hydrogen atoms with metal atoms. —*n., pl. -aries*. 8. a person or thing that is secondary. 9. a subordinate, deputy, or inferior. 10. a secondary coil, winding, inductance, or current in an electric circuit. 11. *Ornithol.* any of the flight feathers that grow from the ulna of a bird's wing. 12. *Astron.* a celestial body that orbits around a specified primary body: the *moon is the secondary of the earth*. 13. short for *secondary colour*. —*1'secondarily adv.* —*1'secondariness n.*

secondary picketing *n.* the picketing by striking workers of a factory, distribution outlet, etc., that supplies goods to or distributes goods from their employer.

second-best *adj.* 1. next to the best. 2. *come off second best*, *Inf.* to be defeated in competition.

second chamber *n.* the upper house of a bicameral legislative assembly.

second childhood *n.* dotage; senility (esp. in *in his, her, etc., second childhood*).

second class *n.* 1. the class or grade next in value, quality, etc., to the first. —*adj.* (*second-class when prenominal*). 2. of the class or grade next to the best in quality, etc. 3. shoddy or inferior. 4. of or denoting the class of accommodation in a hotel or on an aircraft, etc., next in quality and price to first class. 5. (in Britain) of letters that are handled more slowly than first-class letters. 6. *Education*. See **second**¹ (sense 10). —*adv.* 7. by *second-class mail*, transport, etc.

Second Coming or Advent *n.* *Christian theol.* the prophesied return of Christ to earth at the Last Judgment.

second cousin *n.* the child of a first cousin of either of one's parents.

second-degree burn *n.* *Pathol.* a burn in which blisters appear on the skin.

second floor *n.* *Brit.* the storey of a building immediately above the first and two floors up from the ground. U.S. term: **third floor**.

second hand *n.* a pointer on the face of a timepiece that indicates the seconds.

second-hand *adj.* 1. previously owned or used. 2. not from an original source or experience. 3. dealing in or selling goods that are not new: a *second-hand car dealer*. —*adv.* 4. from a source of previously owned or used goods: *he prefers to buy second-hand*. 5. not directly: *he got the news second-hand*.

second lieutenant *n.* an officer holding the lowest commissioned rank in the armed forces of certain nations.

secondly ('sekəndli) *adv.* another word for **second**¹, usually used to precede the second item in a list of topics.

second nature *n.* a habit, characteristic, etc., long practised or acquired so as to seem innate.

second person *n.* a grammatical category of pronouns and verbs used when referring to or describing the individual or individuals being addressed.

second-rate *adj.* 1. not of the highest quality; mediocre. 2. second in importance, etc.

second sight *n.* the alleged ability to foresee the future, see actions taking place elsewhere, etc. —*1'second-1'sighted adj.*

second wind (wɪnd) *n.* 1. the return of the ability to breathe at a normal rate, esp. following a period of exertion. 2. renewed ability to continue in an effort.

secrecy ('si:krisi) *n., pl. -cies*. 1. the state or quality of being secret. 2. the state of keeping something secret. 3. the ability or tendency to keep things secret.

secret ('si:krit) *adj.* 1. kept hidden or separate from the knowledge of others. Related *adj.*: **cryptic**. 2. known only to initiates: a *secret password*. 3. hidden from general view or use: a *secret garden*. 4. able or tending to keep things private or to oneself. 5. operating without the knowledge of outsiders: a *secret society*. —*n.* 6. something kept or to be kept hidden. 7. something unrevealed; a mystery. 8. an underlying explanation, reason, etc.: the *secret of success*. 9. a method, plan, etc., known only to initiates. 10. *Liturg.* a prayer said by the celebrant of the Mass after the offertory and before the preface. —*1'secretly adv.*

secret agent *n.* a person employed in espionage.

secretariat ('sekri'teəriət) *n.* 1. a. an office responsible for the secretarial, clerical, and administrative affairs of a legislative body or international organization. b. the staff of such an office. 2. a body of secretaries. 3. a secretary's place of work; office. 4. the position of a secretary.

secretary ('sekretri) *n., pl. -taries*. 1. a person who handles correspondence, keeps records, and does general clerical work for an individual, organization, etc. 2. the official manager of the day-to-day business of a society or board. 3. (in the U.S.) the head of a government administrative department. 4. (in Britain) See **secretary of state**. 5. Also called (esp. *Brit.*): **secrétaire** ('sekri'teə). an enclosed writing desk, usually having an upper cabinet section. —*secretarial* ('sekri'teəriəl) *adj.* —*1'secretary,ship n.*

secretary bird *n.* a large African long-legged bird of prey having a crest and tail of long feathers and feeding chiefly on snakes.

secretary-general *n., pl. secretaries-general*. a chief administrative official, as of the United Nations.

secretary of state *n.* 1. (in Britain) the head of any of several government departments. 2. (in the U.S.) the head of the government department in charge of foreign affairs (**State Department**).

secrete (^{sɪˈkri:t}) *vb.* (of a cell, organ, etc.) to synthesize and release (a secretion). — **se'cretor** *n.*

secrete (^{sɪˈkri:t}) *vb.* (tr.) to put in a hiding place.

secretion (^{sɪˈkri:ʃən}) *n.* 1. a substance that is released from a cell, esp. a glandular cell. 2. the process involved in producing and releasing such a substance from the cell.

secretive (^{ˈsɪ:kri:tɪv}) *adj.* 1. inclined to secrecy. 2. another word for **secretory**. — **secretively** *adv.* — **se'cretiveness** *n.*

secretory (^{sɪˈkri:t(ə)rɪ}) *adj.* of, relating to, or producing a secretion: **secretory** function.

secret police *n.* a police force that operates relatively secretly to check subversion.

secret service *n.* a government agency or department that conducts intelligence or counterintelligence operations.

sect (^{sekt}) *n.* 1. a subdivision of a larger religious group (esp. the Christian Church as a whole) the members of which have to some extent diverged from the rest by developing deviating beliefs, practices, etc. 2. *Often disparaging.* a. a schismatic religious body. b. a religious group regarded as extreme or heretical. 3. a group of people with a common interest, doctrine, etc.

-sect *vb.* combining form. to cut or divide, esp. into a specified number of parts: **trisection**.

sectarian (^{sektəˈrɪən}) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or characteristic of sects or sectaries. 2. adhering to a particular sect, faction, or doctrine. 3. narrow-minded, esp. as a result of rigid adherence to a particular sect. ~*n.* 4. a member of a sect or faction, esp. one who is intolerant towards other sects, etc. — **sec'tarianism** *n.*

section (^{ˈseksjən}) *n.* 1. a part cut off or separated from the main body of something. 2. a part or subdivision of a piece of writing, book, etc.: *the sports section of the newspaper.* 3. one of several component parts. 4. a distinct part of a country, community, etc. 5. *U.S.* an area one mile square. 6. *N.Z.* a plot of land for building, esp. in a suburban area. 7. the section of a railway track that is controlled by a particular signal box. 8. the act or process of cutting or separating by cutting. 9. *Geom.* a. a plane surface formed by cutting through a solid. b. the shape or area of such a plane surface. 10. a thin slice of biological tissue, etc., prepared for examination by microscope. 11. a segment of an orange or other citrus fruit. 12. a small military formation. 13. *Austral. & N.Z.* a fare stage on a bus, tram, etc. 14. *Music.* a. an extended division of a composition or movement: *the development section.* b. a division in an orchestra, band, etc., containing instruments belonging to the same class: *the brass section.* 15. Also called: **signature, gathering.** a folded printing sheet or sheets ready for gathering and binding. ~*vb.* (tr.) 16. to cut or divide into sections. 17. to cut through so as to reveal a section. 18. (in drawing, esp. mechanical drawing) to shade so as to indicate sections.

sectional (^{ˈseksjənəl}) *adj.* 1. composed of several sections. 2. of or relating to a section. — **sectionalize** or **-ise** *vb.* (tr.). — **sectionally** *adv.*

sector (^{ˈsektə}) *n.* 1. a part or subdivision, esp. of a society or an economy: *the private sector.* 2. *Geom.* either portion of a circle included between two radii and an arc. 3. a measuring instrument consisting of two graduated arms hinged at one end. 4. a part or subdivision of an area of military operations. — **sectoral** *adj.*

secular (^{ˈsekjələ}) *adj.* 1. of or relating to worldly as opposed to sacred things. 2. not concerned with or related to religion. 3. not within the control of the Church. 4. (of an education, etc.) having no particular religious affinities. 5. (of clerics) not bound by religious vows to a monastic or other order. 6. occurring or appearing once in an age or century. 7. lasting for a long time. 8. *Astron.* occurring slowly over a long period of time. ~*n.* 9. a member of the secular clergy. — **secularity** (^{ˌsekjəˈlærɪti}) *n.* — **secularly** *adv.*

secularism (^{ˈsekjələˌrɪzəm}) *n.* 1. *Philosophy.* a doctrine that rejects religion, esp. in ethics. 2. the attitude that religion should have no place in civil affairs. — **secularist** *n.*

secularize or **-rise** (^{ˈsekjələˌraɪz}) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to change from religious or sacred to secular functions, etc. 2. to disengage from allegiance to a religious order. 3. *Law.* to transfer (property) from ecclesiastical to civil possession or use. — **secularization** or **-ri'sation** *n.*

secure (^{sɪˈkjʊə}) *adj.* 1. free from danger, damage, etc. 2. free from fear, care, etc. 3. in safe custody. 4. not likely to fail, become loose, etc. 5. able to be relied on: *a secure investment.* 6. *Arch.* overconfident. ~*vb.* 7.

(tr.) to obtain: *I will secure some good seats.* 8. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *against*) to make or become free from danger, fear, etc. 9. (tr.) to make fast or firm. 10. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *against*) to make or become certain: *this plan will secure your happiness.* 11. (tr.) to assure (a creditor) of payment, as by giving security. 12. (tr.) to make (a military position) safe from attack. 13. *Naut.* to make (a vessel or its contents) safe or ready by battening down hatches, etc. — **se'curable** *adj.* — **se'curely** *adv.* — **se'curement** *n.* — **se'curer** *n.*

security (^{sɪˈkjʊərɪti}) *n.* pl. **-ties**. 1. the state of being secure. 2. assured freedom from poverty or want: *he needs the security of a permanent job.* 3. a person or thing that secures, guarantees, etc. 4. precautions taken to ensure against theft, espionage, etc. 5. (*often pl.*) a. a certificate of creditorship or property carrying the right to receive interest or dividend, such as shares or bonds. b. the financial asset represented by such a certificate. 6. the specific asset that a creditor can claim in the event of default on an obligation. 7. something given or pledged to secure the fulfilment of a promise or obligation.

Security Council *n.* an organ of the United Nations established to maintain world peace.

security risk *n.* a person deemed to be a threat to state security in that he could be open to pressure, have subversive political beliefs, etc.

sedan chair *n.* a closed chair for one passenger, carried on poles by two bearers, commonly used in the 17th and 18th centuries.

sedate (^{sɪˈdeɪt}) *adj.* 1. habitually calm and composed in manner. 2. sober or decorous. — **se'dately** *adv.* — **se'dateness** *n.*

sedate (^{sɪˈdeɪt}) *vb.* (tr.) to administer a sedative to.

sedation (^{sɪˈdeɪʃən}) *n.* 1. a state of calm or reduced nervous activity. 2. the administration of a sedative.

sedative (^{ˈsedətɪv}) *adj.* 1. having a soothing or calming effect. 2. of or relating to sedation. ~*n.* 3. *Med.* a sedative drug or agent.

sedentary (^{ˈsedntərɪ}) *adj.* 1. characterized by or requiring a sitting position: *sedentary work.* 2. tending to sit about without taking much exercise. 3. (of animals) moving about very little. 4. (of birds) not migratory. — **sedentarily** *adv.* — **sedentariness** *n.*

sedge (^{sedʒ}) *n.* a grasslike plant growing on wet ground and having rhizomes, triangular stems, and minute flowers in spikelets. — **sedgy** *adj.*

sedge warbler *n.* a European songbird of reed beds and swampy areas, having a streaked brownish plumage with white eye stripes.

sediment (^{ˈsedɪmənt}) *n.* 1. matter that settles to the bottom of a liquid. 2. material that has been deposited from water, ice, or wind. — **sedimentary** *adj.* — **sedimentation** *n.*

sedition (^{sɪˈdɪʃən}) *n.* 1. speech or behaviour directed against the peace of a state. 2. an offence that tends to undermine the authority of a state. 3. an incitement to public disorder. — **se'ditionary** *n.* *adj.* — **se'ditious** *adj.*

seduce (^{sɪˈdju:s}) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to persuade to engage in sexual intercourse. 2. to lead astray, as from the right action. 3. to win over, attract, or lure. — **se'ducer** *n.* — **se'ducible** *adj.* — **se'duction** *n.*

seductive (^{sɪˈdʌktɪv}) *adj.* tending to seduce or capable of seducing; enticing; alluring. — **se'ductively** *adv.* — **se'ductiveness** *n.*

sedulous (^{ˈsedjʊləs}) *adj.* assiduous; diligent. — **sedulity** (^{sɪˈdjʊ:lɪti}) or **sedulousness** *n.* — **sedulously** *adv.*

sedum (^{ˈsi:dəm}) *n.* a rock plant having thick fleshy leaves and clusters of white, yellow, or pink flowers.

see (^{si:}) *vb.* **seeing, saw, seen.** 1. to perceive with the eyes. 2. (when *tr.*, may take a clause as object) to understand: *I explained the problem but he could not see it.* 3. (tr.) to perceive with any or all of the senses: *I hate to see you so unhappy.* 4. (tr.; may take a clause as object) to foresee: *I can see what will happen if you don't help.* 5. (when *tr.*, may take a clause as object) to ascertain or find out (a fact): *see who is at the door.* 6. (when *tr.*, takes a clause as object; when *intr.*, foll. by *to*) to make sure (of something) or take care (of something): *see that he gets to bed early.* 7. (when *tr.*, may take a clause as object) to consider, deliberate, or decide: *see if you can come next week.* 8. (tr.) to have experience of: *he had seen much unhappiness in his life.* 9. (tr.) to allow to be in a specified condition: *I cannot stand by and see a child in pain.* 10. (tr.) to be characterized by: *this period of history has seen much unrest.* 11. (tr.) to meet or pay a visit to: *to see one's solicitor.* 12. (tr.) to receive: *the Prime Minister will see the deputation now.*

13. (tr.) to frequent the company of: *she is seeing a married man*. 14. (tr.) to accompany: *I saw her to the door*. 15. (tr.) to refer to or look up for: *for further information see the appendix*. 16. (in gambling, esp. in poker) to match (another player's bet) or match the bet of (another player) by staking an equal sum. 17. **as far as I can see**, to the best of my judgment. 18. **see fit** (takes an infinitive) to consider proper, etc.: *I don't see fit to allow her to come here*. 19. **see (someone) hanged or damned first**. Inf. to refuse absolutely to do what one has been asked. 20. **see you, see you later, or be seeing you**, an expression of farewell. ~See also **see about, see into**, etc.

see' (si:) *n.* the diocese of a bishop, or the place within it where his cathedral is situated.

see about *vb.* (intr., prep.) 1. to take care of: *he couldn't see about the matter because he was ill*. 2. to investigate: *to see about a new car*.

seed (sid) *n.* 1. Bot. a mature fertilized plant ovule, consisting of an embryo and its food store surrounded by a protective seed coat (testa). Related adj. **seminal**. 2. the small hard seedlike fruit of plants such as wheat. 3. any propagative part of a plant, such as a tuber, spore, or bulb. 4. the source, beginning, or germ of anything: *the seeds of revolt*. 5. Chiefly Bible. descendants: *the seed of Abraham*. 6. an archaic term for **sperm** or **semen**. 7. Sport. a seeded player. 8. Chem. a small crystal added to a supersaturated solution to induce crystallization. 9. **go or run to seed**. a. (of plants) to produce and shed seeds. b. to lose vigour, usefulness, etc. ~vb. 10. to plant (seeds, grain, etc.) in (soil): *we seeded this field with oats*. 11. (intr.) (of plants) to form or shed seeds. 12. (tr.) to remove the seeds from (fruit, etc.). 13. (tr.) Chem. to add a small crystal to (a supersaturated solution) in order to cause crystallization. 14. (tr.) to scatter certain substances, such as silver iodide, in (clouds) in order to cause rain. 15. (tr.) to arrange (the draw of a tournament) so that outstanding teams or players will not meet in the early rounds. —'seedler *n.* —'seedless *adj.*

seedbed ('si:ð,bed) *n.* 1. a plot of land in which seedlings are grown before being transplanted. 2. the place where something develops.

seedling ('si:dlɪŋ) *n.* a plant produced from a seed, esp. a very young plant.

seed pearl *n.* a tiny pearl weighing less than a quarter of a grain.

seed pod *n.* a carpel or pistil enclosing the seeds of a plant, esp. a flowering plant.

seed vessel *n.* Bot. a dry fruit, such as a capsule.

seedy ('si:di) *adj.* **seedier, seediest**. 1. shabby in appearance: *seedy clothes*. 2. (of a plant) at the stage of producing seeds. 3. Inf. not physically fit. —'seedily *adv.* —'seediness *n.*

seeing ('si:ɪŋ) *n.* 1. the sense or faculty of sight. 2. Astron. the condition of the atmosphere with respect to observation of stars, planets, etc. ~*conj.* 3. *subordinating*; often foll. by *that* in light of the fact (that).

see into *vb.* (intr., prep.) 1. to examine or investigate. 2. to discover the true nature of: *I can't see into your thoughts*.

seek (sik) *vb.* **seeking, sought**. (mainly tr.) 1. (when intr., often foll. by *for* or *after*) to try to find by searching: *to seek a solution*. 2. (also intr.) to try to obtain or acquire: *to seek happiness*. 3. to attempt (to do something): *I'm only seeking to help*. 4. (also intr.) to enquire about or request (something). 5. to resort to: *to seek the garden for peace*. —'seeker *n.*

seek out *vb.* (tr., adv.) to search hard for and find a specific person or thing: *she sought out her friend from amongst the crowd*.

seem (si:m) *vb.* (may take an infinitive) 1. (copula) to appear to the mind or eye; look: *the car seems to be running well*. 2. to appear to be: *there seems no need for all this nonsense*. 3. used to diminish the force of a following infinitive to be polite, more noncommittal, etc.: *I can't seem to get through to you*.

seeming ('si:mɪŋ) *adj.* 1. (prenominal) apparent but not actual or genuine. ~*n.* 2. outward or false appearance. —'seemingly *adv.*

seemly ('si:mlɪ) *adj.* -lier, -liest. 1. proper or fitting. 2. Obs. pleasing in appearance. ~*adv.* 3. Arch. decorously.

seen (si:n) *vb.* the past participle of **see**.

see off *vb.* (tr., adv.) 1. to be present at the departure of (a person making a journey). 2. Inf. to cause to leave or depart, esp. by force.

seep (si:p) *vb.* 1. (intr.) to pass gradually or leak as if

through small openings. ~*n.* 2. a small spring or place where water, oil, etc., has oozed through the ground. —'seepage *n.*

seer (sɪə) *n.* 1. a person who can supposedly see into the future. 2. a person who professes supernatural powers. 3. a person who sees.

seersucker ('siə,sakə) *n.* a light cotton, linen, or other fabric with a crinkled surface and often striped.

seesaw ('si:s,so:) *n.* 1. a plank balanced in the middle so that two people seated on the ends can ride up and down by pushing on the ground with their feet. 2. the pastime of riding up and down on a seesaw. 3. an up-and-down or back-and-forth movement. ~*vb.* 4. (intr.) to move up and down or back and forth in such a manner.

seethe (si:ð) *vb.* 1. (intr.) to boil or to foam as if boiling. 2. (intr.) to be in a state of extreme agitation. 3. (tr.) to soak in liquid. 4. (tr.) Arch. to cook by boiling. —'seethingly *adv.*

see through *vb.* 1. (tr.) to help out in time of need or trouble. 2. (tr., adv.) to remain with until the end or completion: *let's see the job through*. 3. (intr., prep.) to perceive the true nature of: *I can see through your evasion*. ~*adj.* **see-through**. 4. partly or wholly transparent or translucent, esp. (of clothes) in a titillating way.

segment *n.* ('seɡmənt). 1. Maths. a. a part of a line or curve between two points. b. a part of a plane or solid figure cut off by an intersecting line, plane, or planes. 2. one of several parts or sections into which an object is divided. 3. Zool. any of the parts into which the body or appendages of an annelid or arthropod are divided. 4. Linguistics. a speech sound considered in isolation. ~*vb.* (seg'ment). 5. to cut or divide (a whole object) into segments. —'segmentary ('seɡməntəri) *adj.* —'segmental *adj.* —'segmentation *n.*

segregate ('seɡri,geɪt) *vb.* 1. to set or be set apart from others or from the main group. 2. (tr.) to impose segregation on (a racial or minority group). 3. Genetics. to undergo or cause to undergo segregation. —'segregate *adj.* —'segre,gator *n.*

segregation ('seɡri,geɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of segregating or state of being segregated. 2. Sociol. the practice or policy of creating separate facilities within the same society for the use of a particular group. 3. Genetics. the separation at meiosis of the two members of any pair of alleles into separate gametes. —'segre,gational *adj.* —'segre,gationist *n.*

Seidlitz powder or powders ('sedlɪts) *n.* a laxative consisting of two powders, tartaric acid and a mixture of sodium bicarbonate and Rochelle salt.

seigneur ('seɪnjɜ:) *n.* French se'njɔ:r) *n.* a feudal lord, esp. in France. —'sei'gneural *adj.*

seigneurie ('seɪnjəri) *n.*, pl. -gneuries. the estate of a seigneur.

seignior ('seɪnjə) *n.* 1. a less common name for a seigneur. 2. (in England) the lord of a seignory. —'seigniorial ('seɪnjɔ:riəl) *adj.*

seigniorie ('seɪnjəri) or **signory** ('sɪnjəri) *n.*, pl. -gnories or -gnories. 1. less common names for a seigneurie. 2. (in England) the fee or manor of a seignior; a feudal domain. 3. the authority of a seignior.

seine (sein) *n.* 1. a large fishing net that hangs vertically in the water by means of floats at the top and weights at the bottom. ~*vb.* 2. to catch (fish) using this net.

seismic ('saɪzmɪk) *adj.* relating to or caused by earthquakes or artificially produced earth tremors.

seismo- or before a vowel **seism-** combining form. earthquake: *seismology*.

seismograph ('saɪzmə,ɡrɑ:f) *n.* an instrument that registers and records earthquakes. A **seismogram** is the record from such an instrument. —'seismographic ('saɪzmə'ɡræfɪk) *adj.* —'seismographer ('saɪzmə'ɡrɑ:fə) *n.* —'seis'mography *n.*

seismology ('saɪzmələdʒɪ) *n.* the branch of geology concerned with the study of earthquakes. —'seismologic ('saɪzmə'lɒdʒɪk) or 'seismo'logical *adj.* —'seismo'logically *adv.* —'seis'mologist *n.*

seize (si:z) *vb.* (mainly tr.) 1. (also intr., foll. by *on*) to take hold of quickly; grab. 2. to grasp mentally, esp. rapidly: *she immediately seized his idea*. 3. to take mental possession of: *alarm seized the crowd*. 4. to take possession of rapidly and forcibly: *the thief seized the woman's purse*. 5. to take legal possession of. 6. to take by force or capture: *the army seized the undefended town*. 7. to take immediate advantage of: *to seize an opportunity*. 8. Naut. to bind (two ropes together). 9. (intr.; often foll. by *up*) (of mechanical parts) to become jammed, esp. because of excessive heat. —'seizable *adj.*

seizure ('si:ʒə) *n.* 1. the act or an instance of seizing or the state of being seized. 2. *Pathol.* a sudden manifestation or recurrence of a disease, such as an epileptic convulsion.

seldom ('seldəm) *adv.* rarely.

select (sɪ'lekt) *vb.* 1. to choose (someone or something) in preference to another or others. ~*adj.* also **selected**. 2. chosen in preference to others. 3. of particular quality. 4. limited as to membership or entry: a *select gathering*. —**se'lectness** *n.* —**se'lector** *n.*

select committee *n.* a parliamentary committee set up to study and report on a particular topic.

selection (sɪ'lektʃən) *n.* 1. the act or an instance of selecting or the state of being selected. 2. a thing or number of things that have been selected. 3. a range from which something may be selected: a *good selection of clothes*. 4. *Biol.* the process by which certain organisms or characters are reproduced and perpetuated in the species in preference to others.

selective (sɪ'lektɪv) *adj.* 1. of or characterized by selection. 2. tending to choose carefully or characterized by careful choice. 3. *Electronics.* occurring at or operating at a particular frequency or band of frequencies. —**se'lectively** *adv.* —**se'lec'tivity** *n.*

selenium (sɪ'li:məm) *n.* a nonmetallic element that exists in several allotropic forms. The common form is a grey crystalline solid that is photoconductive, photovoltaic, and semiconducting: used in photocells, solar cells, and in xerography. Symbol: Se; atomic no.: 34; atomic wt.: 78.96.

self (self) *n., pl. selves* (selvz). 1. distinct identity or character. 2. one's bodily make-up or personal characteristics: *her usual self*. 3. one's own welfare or interests: *he only thinks of self*. 4. an individual's consciousness of his own identity or being. 5. a bird, animal, etc., that is a single colour throughout. ~*pron.* 6. *Not standard.* myself, yourself, etc.: *seats for self and wife*. ~*adj.* 7. the same in colour or material as the rest; matching. 8. *Obs.* the same.

self- *combining form.* 1. of oneself or itself: *self-defence*. 2. by, to, in, due to, for, or from the self: *self-employed*; *self-respect*. 3. automatic or automatically: *self-propelled*.

self-abnegation *n.* the denial of one's own interests in favour of the interests of others.

self-absorption *n.* 1. preoccupation with oneself to the exclusion of others. 2. *Physics.* the process in which some of the radiation emitted by a material is absorbed by the material itself.

self-abuse *n.* 1. disparagement or misuse of one's own abilities, etc. 2. a censorious term for **masturbation** (see **masturbate**).

self-addressed *adj.* 1. addressed for return to the sender. 2. directed to oneself: a *self-addressed remark*.

self-aggrandizement *n.* the act of increasing one's own power, importance, etc. —**self-ag'gran,dizing** *adj.*

self-appointed *adj.* having assumed authority without the agreement of others: a *self-appointed critic*.

self-assertion *n.* the act or an instance of putting forward one's own opinions, etc., esp. in an aggressive or conceited manner. —**self-as'serting** *adj.* —**self-as'sertive** *adj.*

self-assurance *n.* confidence in the validity, value, etc., of one's own ideas, opinions, etc. —**self-as'sured** *adj.*

self-centred *adj.* totally preoccupied with one's own concerns. —**self-'centredness** *n.*

self-coloured *adj.* 1. having only a single and uniform colour: a *self-coloured dress*. 2. (of cloth, material, etc.) having the natural or original colour.

self-confessed *adj.* according to one's own testimony or admission: a *self-confessed liar*.

self-confidence *n.* confidence in one's own powers, judgment, etc. —**self-'confident** *adj.* —**self-'confidently** *adv.*

self-conscious *adj.* 1. unduly aware of oneself as the object of the attention of others. 2. conscious of one's existence. —**self-'consciously** *adv.* —**self-'consciousness** *n.*

self-contained *adj.* 1. containing within itself all parts necessary for completeness. 2. (of a flat) having its own kitchen, bathroom, and lavatory not shared by others. 3. able or tending to keep one's feelings, thoughts, etc., to oneself. —**self-con'tainedness** *n.*

self-control *n.* the ability to exercise restraint or control over one's feelings, emotions, reactions, etc. —**self-con'trolled** *adj.*

self-deception or **self-deceit** *n.* the act or an instance of deceiving oneself. —**self-de'ceptive** *adj.*

self-defence *n.* 1. the act of defending oneself, one's actions, ideas, etc. 2. boxing as a means of defending the person (esp. in **noble art of self-defence**). 3. *Law.* the right to defend one's person or property against attack or threat of attack. —**self-de'fensive** *adj.*

self-denial *n.* the denial or sacrifice of one's own desires. —**self-de'nying** *adj.*

self-determination *n.* 1. the ability to make a decision for oneself without influence from outside. 2. the right of a nation or people to determine its own form of government. —**self-de'termined** *adj.* —**self-de'termining** *adj.*

self-discipline *n.* the act of disciplining or power to discipline one's own feelings, desires, etc. —**self-'disciplined** *adj.*

self-educated *adj.* 1. educated through one's own efforts without formal instruction. 2. educated at one's own expense.

self-effacement *n.* the act of making oneself, one's actions, etc., inconspicuous, esp. because of timidity. —**self-ef'facing** *adj.*

self-employed *adj.* earning one's living in one's own business or through freelance work, rather than as the employee of another. —**self-em'ployment** *n.*

self-esteem *n.* a good, esp. unduly high, opinion of oneself.

self-evident *adj.* containing its own evidence or proof without need of further demonstration. —**self-'evident** *n.* —**self-'evidently** *adv.*

self-existent *adj.* *Philosophy.* existing independently of any other being or cause.

self-explanatory or **self-explaining** *adj.* understandable without explanation; self-evident.

self-expression *n.* the expression of one's own personality, feelings, etc., as in painting or poetry. —**self-ex'pressive** *adj.*

self-government *n.* 1. the government of a country, nation, etc., by its own people. 2. the state of being self-controlled. —**self-'governed** *adj.* —**self-'govern-ing** *adj.*

selfheal ('self,hi:l) *n.* 1. a low-growing European herbaceous plant with tightly clustered violet-blue flowers and reputedly having healing powers. 2. any of several other plants thought to have healing powers.

self-help *n.* the act or state of providing the means to help oneself without relying on the assistance of others.

self-important *adj.* having or showing an unduly high opinion of one's own abilities, importance, etc. —**self-im'portantly** *adv.* —**self-im'portance** *n.*

self-improvement *n.* the improvement of one's status, position, education, etc., by one's own efforts.

self-interest *n.* 1. one's personal interest or advantage. 2. the act or an instance of pursuing one's own interest. —**self-'interested** *adj.*

selfish ('selfɪʃ) *adj.* 1. chiefly concerned with one's own interest, advantage, etc., esp. to the exclusion of the interests of others. 2. relating to or characterized by self-interest. —**selfishly** *adv.* —**'selfishness** *n.*

self-justification *n.* the act or an instance of justifying or providing excuses for one's own behaviour, etc.

selfless ('selflɪs) *adj.* having little concern for one's own interests. —**'selflessly** *adv.* —**'selflessness** *n.*

self-made *adj.* 1. having achieved wealth, status, etc., by one's own efforts. 2. made by oneself.

self-opinionated *adj.* 1. having an unduly high regard for oneself or one's own opinions. 2. clinging stubbornly to one's own opinions.

self-pity *n.* the act or state of pitying oneself, esp. in

self-absorbed <i>adj.</i>	self-consistent <i>adj.</i>	self-fulfilment <i>n.</i>
self-adhesive <i>adj.</i>	self-content <i>n., adj.</i>	self-imposed <i>adj.</i>
self-catering <i>adj.</i>	self-defeating <i>adj.</i>	self-inflicted <i>adj.</i>
self-cleaning <i>adj.</i>	self-delusion <i>n.</i>	self-knowledge <i>n.</i>
self-closing <i>adj.</i>	self-doubt <i>n.</i>	self-portrait <i>n.</i>
self-complacent <i>adj.</i>	self-fertilization <i>n.</i>	

an exaggerated or self-indulgent manner. —, **self-pitying** *adj.* —, **self-pityingly** *adv.*

self-possessed *adj.* having control of one's emotions, etc. —, **self-pos'session** *n.*

self-preservation *n.* the preservation of oneself from danger or injury.

self-propelled *adj.* (of a vehicle) provided with its own source of tractive power rather than requiring an external means of propulsion. —, **self-pro'pelling** *adj.*

self-raising *adj.* (of flour) having a raising agent, such as bicarbonate of soda, already added.

self-realization *n.* the realization or fulfilment of one's own potential or abilities.

self-regard *n.* 1. concern for one's own interest. 2. proper esteem for oneself.

self-reliance *n.* reliance on one's own abilities, decisions, etc. —, **self-re'liant** *adj.*

self-reproach *n.* the act of finding fault with or blaming oneself. —, **self-re'proachful** *adj.*

self-respect *n.* a proper sense of one's own dignity and integrity. —, **self-re'spectful** or **self-re'specting** *adj.*

self-restraint *n.* restraint imposed by oneself on one's own feelings, desires, etc.

self-righteous *adj.* having an exaggerated awareness of one's own virtuousness. —, **self-righteously** *adv.* —, **self-righteousness** *n.*

self-sacrifice *n.* the sacrifice of one's own desires, etc., for the sake of duty or for the well-being of others. —, **self-sacri'ficing** *adj.*

selfsame ('self,seim) *adj.* (prenominal) the very same.

self-satisfied *adj.* having or showing a complacent satisfaction with oneself, one's own actions, behaviour, etc. —, **self-satis'faction** *n.*

self-sealing *adj.* (esp. of an envelope) designed to become sealed with the application of pressure only.

self-service *adj.* 1. of or denoting a shop, restaurant, etc., where the customer serves himself. ~*n.* 2. the practice of serving oneself, as in a shop, etc.

self-starter *n.* 1. an electric motor used to start an internal-combustion engine. 2. the switch that operates this motor.

self-styled *adj.* (prenominal) claiming to be of a specified nature, quality, profession, etc.: a *self-styled* expert.

self-sufficient or **self-sufficing** *adj.* 1. able to provide for or support oneself without the help of others. 2. Rare. having undue confidence in oneself. —, **self-suf'ficiency** *n.* —, **self-suf'ficiently** *adv.*

self-winding *adj.* (of a wrist watch) having a mechanism in which a rotating or oscillating weight rewinds the mainspring.

sell (sel) *vb.* **selling**, **sold**. 1. to dispose of or transfer or be disposed of or transferred to a purchaser in exchange for money or other consideration. 2. to deal in (objects, property, etc.): *he sells used cars*. 3. (tr.) to give up or surrender for a price or reward: *to sell one's honour*. 4. to promote or facilitate the sale of (objects, property, etc.): *publicity sells many products*. 5. to gain acceptance of: *to sell an idea*. 6. (intr.) to be in demand on the market: *these dresses sell well*. 7. (tr.) *Inf.* to deceive. 8. **sell down the river**. *Inf.* to betray. 9. **sell oneself**. *a.* to convince someone else of one's potential or worth. *b.* to give up one's moral standards, etc. 10. **sell short**. *a.* *Inf.* to belittle. *b.* *Finance*. to sell securities or goods without owning them in anticipation of buying them before delivery at a lower price. ~*n.* 11. the act or an instance of selling: *a soft sell*. 12. *Inf.* a hoax or deception. —, **seller** *n.*

selling race or **plate** *n.* a horse race in which the winner must be offered for sale at auction.

sell off *vb.* (tr., adv.) to sell (remaining or unprofitable items), esp. at low prices.

Sellotape ('sclə,təp) *n.* 1. *Trademark*. a type of adhesive tape. ~*vb.* (tr.) 2. to seal or stick using adhesive tape.

sell out *vb.* (adv.) 1. Also (chiefly *Brit.*): **sell up**. to dispose of (something) completely by selling. 2. (tr.) *Inf.* to betray. ~*n.* **sellout**. 3. *Inf.* a performance for which all tickets are sold. 4. a commercial success. 5. *Inf.* a betrayal.

sell up *vb.* (adv.) Chiefly *Brit.* 1. (tr.) to sell all (the possessions) of (a bankrupt debtor) in order to discharge his debts. 2. (intr.) to sell a business.

selvage or **selvedge** ('selvɪdʒ) *n.* 1. the finished nonfraying edge of a length of woven fabric. 2. a similar strip of material allowed in fabricating a metal or plastic article. —, **selvaged** *adj.*

selves (selvz) *n.* a. the plural of **self**. b. (in combination): *ourselves, yourselves, themselves*.

Sem. abbrev. for: 1. Seminary. 2. Semitic.

semantic (sɪ'mæntɪk) *adj.* 1. of or relating to the meanings of different words or symbols. 2. of or relating to semantics. —, **se'mantically** *adv.*

semantics (sɪ'mæntiks) *n.* (functioning as *sing.*) 1. the branch of linguistics that deals with the study of meaning. 2. the study of the relationships between signs and symbols and what they represent. 3. *Logic*. the principles that determine the truth-values of the formulas in a logical system. —, **se'manticist** *n.*

semaphore ('semə,fɔː) *n.* 1. an apparatus for conveying information by means of visual signals, as with flags, etc. 2. a system of signalling by holding a flag in each hand and moving the arms to designated positions for each letter of the alphabet. ~*vb.* 3. to signal (information) by means of semaphore. —, **semaphoric** ('semə'fɔːrɪk) *adj.*

semblance ('sembləns) *n.* 1. outward appearance, esp. without any inner substance. 2. a resemblance.

semen ('si:men) *n.* 1. the thick whitish fluid containing spermatozoa that is ejaculated from the male genital tract. 2. another name for **sperm**.

semester (sɪ'mestə) *n.* 1. Chiefly *U.S.* either of two divisions of the academic year. 2. (in German universities) a session of six months.

semi ('semi) *n.* *Inf.* 1. *Brit.* short for **semidetached** (house). 2. short for **semifinal**.

semi- *prefix.* 1. half: **semicircle**. 2. partially, partly, or almost: **semiprofessional**. 3. occurring twice in a specified period of time: **semiweekly**.

▷ **Usage.** See at **bi-**.

semiannual ('semi'ænjʊəl) *adj.* 1. occurring every half-year. 2. lasting for half a year. —, **semi-annual-ly** *adv.*

semibreve ('semi,bri:v) *n.* *Music*. a note, now the longest in common use, having a time value that may be divided by any power of 2 to give all other notes. Usual *U.S.* name: **whole note**.

semicircle ('semi,sɜ:k'l) *n.* 1. a. one half of a circle. b. half the circumference of a circle. 2. anything having the shape or form of half a circle. —, **semicircular** ('semi,sɜ:kjʊlə) *adj.*

semicircular canal *n.* *Anat.* any of the three looped fluid-filled membranous tubes, at right angles to one another, that comprise the labyrinth of the ear.

semicolon ('semi'kəʊlən) *n.* the punctuation mark (;) used to indicate a pause intermediate in value or length between that of a comma and that of a full stop.

semiconductor ('semi,kən'dʌktə) *n.* 1. a substance, such as germanium or silicon, that has an electrical conductivity that increases with temperature. 2. a device, such as a transistor or integrated circuit, that depends on the properties of such a substance. b. (as modifier): *a semiconductor diode*.

semiconscious ('semi'kənʃəs) *adj.* not fully conscious. —, **semi'consciously** *adv.* —, **semi'consciousness** *n.*

semidetached ('semi'dætʃtɪd) *adj.* a. (of a building) joined to another building on one side by a common wall. b. (as *n.*): *they live in a semidetached*.

semifinal ('semi'faɪnəl) *n.* a. the round before the final in a competition. b. (as modifier): *the semifinal draw*. —, **semi'finalist** *n.*

seminal ('semɪnəl) *adj.* 1. potentially capable of development. 2. highly original and important. 3. rudimentary or unformed. 4. of or relating to semen: *seminal fluid*. 5. *Biol.* of or relating to seed. —, **seminally** *adv.*

seminar ('semi,nɑː) *n.* 1. a small group of students meeting regularly under the guidance of a tutor, professor, etc. 2. one such meeting or the place in which it is held. 3. a higher course for postgraduates. 4. any group or meeting for holding discussions or exchanging information.

self-proclaimed *adj.*
self-righting *adj.*
self-taught *adj.*
semiagricultural *adj.*

semiautobiographical *adj.*
semiautonomous *adj.*
semiclassical *adj.*
semidarkness *n.*

semi-independent *adj.*
semi-invalid *n.*

seminary ('seminɔːri) *n.*, *pl.* **-naries**. 1. an academy for the training of priests, etc. 2. *Rare*. a private secondary school, esp. for girls. — **semi**'narial *adj.* — **seminarian** ('semin'neəriən) *n.*

semiotics ('semitɔːks) *n.* (*functioning as sing.*) 1. the study of signs and symbols, esp. the relations between written or spoken signs and their referents in the physical world or the world of ideas. 2. the scientific study of the symptoms of disease. ~Also called: **semiology**. — **semi**'otic *adj.*

semipermeable ('sempi'pɜːmiəbəl) *adj.* (esp. of a cell membrane) selectively permeable. — **semi**, **permea**'bility *n.*

semiprecious ('sempi'preʃəs) *adj.* (of certain stones) having less value than a precious stone.

semiprofessional ('sempi'rɒfɛʃənəl) *adj.* 1. (of a person) engaged in an activity or sport part-time but for pay. 2. (of an activity or sport) engaged in by semiprofessional people. 3. of or relating to a person whose activities are professional in some respects. ~*n.* 4. a semiprofessional person. — **semipro**'fessionally *adv.*

semiquaver ('semi,kweivə) *n.* *Music*. a note having the time value of one-sixteenth of a semibreve. Usual U.S. name: **sixteenth note**.

semirigid ('semi'rɪdʒɪd) *adj.* 1. partly but not wholly rigid. 2. (of an airship) maintaining shape by means of a main supporting keel and internal gas pressure.

semiskilled ('semi'skɪld) *adj.* partly skilled or trained but not sufficiently so to perform specialized work.

semisolid ('semi'sɒlɪd) *adj.* having a viscosity and rigidity intermediate between that of a solid and a liquid.

Semite ('siːmaɪt) *n.* a member of the group of peoples who speak a Semitic language, including the Jews and Arabs as well as the ancient Babylonians, Assyrians, and Phoenicians.

Semitic ('siːmɪtɪk) *n.* 1. a branch or subfamily of the Afro-Asiatic family of languages that includes Arabic, Hebrew, Aramaic, and such ancient languages as Phoenician. ~*adj.* 2. denoting or belonging to this group of languages. 3. denoting or characteristic of any of the peoples speaking a Semitic language, esp. the Jews or the Arabs. 4. another word for **Jewish**.

semitone ('semi,təʊn) *n.* an interval denoting the pitch difference between certain adjacent degrees of the diatonic scale (**diatonic semitone**) or between one note and its sharpened or flattened equivalent (**chromatic semitone**); minor second. Also called (U.S.): **half step**. — **semitonic** ('semi'tɒnɪk) *adj.*

semitrailer ('semi'treɪlə) *n.* a type of trailer or articulated lorry that has wheels only at the rear, the front end being supported by the towing vehicle.

semitropical ('semi'trɒpɪkəl) *adj.* partly tropical. — **semi**'tropics (*pl. n.*)

semivowel ('semi,vəʊəl) *n.* *Phonetics*. Also called: **glide**. a vowel-like sound that acts like a consonant. In English and many other languages the chief semivowels are (w) in *well* and (j), represented as *y*, in *yeil*.

semolina ('semo'liːnə) *n.* the large hard grains of wheat left after flour has been bolted, used for puddings, soups, etc.

sempiternal ('sempi'tɜːnəl) *adj.* *Literary*. everlasting; eternal. — **sempi**'ternally *adv.*

sempre ('sempri) *adv.* *Music*. (preceding a tempo or dynamic marking) always; consistently. It is used to indicate that a specified volume, tempo, etc., is to be sustained throughout a piece or passage.

sempstress ('sempstɪs) *n.* a rare word for **seamstress**.

S.E.N. (in Britain) *abbrev.* for State Enrolled Nurse.

Sen. or **sen.** *abbrev.* for: 1. senator. 2. senator. 3. senior.

senate ('senɪt) *n.* 1. any legislative body considered to resemble a Senate. 2. the main governing body at some universities.

Senate ('seɪnt) *n.* (*sometimes not cap.*) 1. the upper chamber of the legislatures of the U.S., Canada, Australia, and many other countries. 2. the legislative council of ancient Rome.

senator ('senətə) *n.* 1. (*often cap.*) a member of a Senate or senate. 2. any legislator. — **senatorial** ('senə'tɔːriəl) *adj.*

send (send) *vb.* **sending, sent.** 1. (*tr.*) to cause or order

(a person or thing) to be taken, directed, or transmitted to another place: to **send a letter**. 2. (when *intr.*, foll. by *for*; when *tr.*, takes an infinitive) to dispatch a request or command (for something or to do something): *he sent for a bottle of wine*. 3. (*tr.*) to direct or cause to go to a place or point: *his blow sent the champion to the floor*. 4. (*tr.*) to bring to a state or condition: *this noise will send me mad*. 5. (*tr.*; often foll. by *forth*, *out*, etc.) to cause to issue: *his cooking sent forth a lovely smell from the kitchen*. 6. (*tr.*) to cause to happen or come: *misery sent by fate*. 7. to transmit (a message) by radio. 8. (*tr.*) *SL* to move to excitement or rapture: *this music really sends me*. ~*n.* 9. another word for **swash** (sense 4). — **'sendable** *adj.* — **'sender** *n.*

send down *vb.* (*tr.*, *adv.*) 1. *Brit.* to expel from a university. 2. to send to prison.

sendoff ('send,ɒf) *n.* *Inf.* 1. a demonstration of good wishes to a person about to set off on a journey, etc. ~*vb.* **send off.** (*tr.*, *adv.*) 2. to cause to depart. 3. *Soccer, rugby, etc.* (of the referee) to dismiss (a player) from the field of play for some offence. 4. *Inf.* to give a sendoff to.

send up *SL*. ~*vb.* (*tr.*, *adv.*) 1. to send to prison. 2. *Brit.* to make fun of, esp. by doing an imitation or parody of. ~*n.* **send-up**. 3. *Brit.* a parody or imitation.

senescent ('siːnəs'nt) *adj.* 1. growing old. 2. characteristic of old age. — **se**'nescence *n.*

seneschal ('senʃəl) *n.* 1. a steward of the household of a medieval prince or nobleman. 2. *Brit.* a cathedral official.

senile ('siːnəl) *adj.* 1. of or characteristic of old age. 2. mentally or physically weak or infirm on account of old age. — **senility** ('siːnɪlɪti) *n.*

senior ('siːnjə) *adj.* 1. higher in rank or length of service. 2. older in years: *senior citizens*. 3. of or relating to maturity or old age: *senior privileges*. 4. *Education*. a. of or designating more advanced or older pupils. b. of or relating to a secondary school. c. *U.S.* denoting a student in the last year of school or university. ~*n.* 5. a senior person. 6. a senior pupil, student, etc.

Senior ('siːnjə) *adj.* Chiefly *U.S.* being the older: used to distinguish the father from the son: *Charles Parker, Senior*. *Abbrev.*: **Sr.**, **Sen.**

senior aircraftman *n.* a rank in the Royal Air Force comparable to that of a private in the army, though not the lowest rank in the Royal Air Force.

senior citizen *n.* *Brit.*, *Austral.* & *N.Z.*, *euphemistic*. an elderly person.

senior common room *n.* (in British universities, colleges, etc.) a common room for the use of academic staff.

seniority ('siːni'ɒrɪti) *n.*, *pl.* **-ties**. 1. the state of being senior. 2. precedence in rank, etc., due to senior status.

senior service *n.* *Brit.* the Royal Navy.

senna ('senə) *n.* 1. any of a genus of tropical plants having typically yellow flowers and long pods. 2. *senna leaf*, the dried leaflets of any of these plants, used as a cathartic and laxative. 3. *senna pods*, the dried fruits of any of these plants, used as a cathartic and laxative.

sennight or **se'nnight** ('senɪt) *n.* an archaic word for **week**.

señor ('seːnjɔː) *Spanish* se'ñor) *n.*, *pl.* **-ñors** or **-ñores** (*Spanish* -'ñores). a Spaniard: a title of address equivalent to *Mr.* when placed before a name or *sir* when used alone.

señora ('seːnjɔːrə; *Spanish* se'ñora) *n.*, *pl.* **-ras** (*Spanish* -ras). a married Spanish woman: a title of address equivalent to *Mrs.* when placed before a name or *madam* when used alone.

señorita ('seːnjɔːrɪtə; *Spanish* se'no'rita) *n.*, *pl.* **-tas** (*Spanish* -tas). an unmarried Spanish woman: a title of address equivalent to *Miss* when placed before a name or *madam* or *miss* when used alone.

sensation ('sen'seɪʃən) *n.* 1. the power of perceiving through the senses. 2. a physical experience resulting from the stimulation of one of the sense organs. 3. a general feeling or awareness: *a sensation of fear*. 4. a state of widespread public excitement: *his announcement caused a sensation*. 5. anything that causes such a state: *your speech was a sensation*.

sensational ('sen'seɪʃənəl) *adj.* 1. causing or intended to cause intense feelings, esp. of curiosity, horror, etc.:

seminude *adj.*
semiofficial *adj.*
sempermanent *adj.*

sempolitical *adj.*
semporous *adj.*
semiretired *adj.*

semirural *adj.*
semisweet *adj.*
semitransparent *adj.*

sensational disclosures in the press. 2. *Inf.* extremely good: a *sensational skater*. 3. of or relating to the faculty of sensation. —*sen'sationally adv.*

sensationalism (sen'seɪʃən,lɪzəm) *n.* 1. the use of sensational language, etc., to arouse an intense emotional response. 2. such sensational matter itself. 3. *Philosophy*, the theory that all knowledge derives from the senses. —*sen'sationalist n.* —*sen,sational'istic adj.*

sense (sens) *n.* 1. any of the five faculties of sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch, through which humans and animals perceive the external world. 2. the ability to perceive. 3. a feeling perceived through one of the senses: a *sense of warmth*. 4. a mental perception or awareness: a *sense of happiness*. 5. moral discernment: a *sense of right and wrong*. 6. (sometimes *pl.*) sound practical judgment or intelligence. 7. reason or purpose: *what is the sense of going out?* 8. meaning: *what is the sense of this proverb?* 9. an opinion or consensus. 10. *Maths.* one of two opposite directions in which a vector can operate. 11. *make sense*, to be understandable. 12. *take leave of one's senses*. *Inf.* to go mad. ~*vb.* (tr.) 13. to perceive through one or more of the senses. 14. to apprehend or detect without or in advance of the evidence of the senses. 15. to understand. 16. *Computers.* a. to test or locate the position of (a part of computer hardware). b. to read (data).

senseless ('senslɪs) *adj.* 1. foolish: a *senseless plan*. 2. lacking in feeling; unconscious. 3. lacking in perception. —*'senselessly adv.* —*'senselessness n.*

sense organ *n.* a structure in animals that is specialized for receiving external stimuli and transmitting them in the form of nervous impulses to the brain.

sensibility ('sensɪbɪlɪtɪ) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. the ability to perceive or feel. 2. (often *pl.*) the capacity for responding to emotion, etc. 3. (often *pl.*) the capacity for responding to aesthetic stimuli. 4. discernment; awareness. 5. (usually *pl.*) emotional or moral feelings: *cruelty offends most people's sensibilities*.

sensible ('sensɪbəl) *adj.* 1. having or showing good sense or judgment. 2. having the capacity for sensation; sensitive. 3. capable of being apprehended by the senses. 4. perceptible to the mind. 5. having perception; aware. 6. readily perceived. —*'sensibly adv.* —*'sensibleness n.*

sensitive ('sensɪtɪv) *adj.* 1. having the power of sensation. 2. easily irritated; delicate. 3. affected by external conditions or stimuli. 4. easily offended. 5. of or relating to the senses or the power of sensation. 6. capable of registering small differences or changes in amounts, etc.: a *sensitive instrument*. 7. *Photog.* responding readily to light: a *sensitive emulsion*. 8. *Chiefly U.S.* connected with matters affecting national security. 9. (of a stock market or prices) quickly responsive to external influences. —*'sensitive adv.* —*'sensit'ivity n.*

sensitize or -tise ('sensɪ,tʌɪz) *vb.* 1. to make or become sensitive. 2. (tr.) to render (an individual) sensitive to a drug, etc. 3. (tr.) *Photog.* to make (a material) sensitive to light by coating it with a photographic emulsion often containing special chemicals, such as dyes. —*'sensit'ization or -t'is'ation n.* —*'sensit'izer or -t'iser n.*

sensor ('sensɔ) *n.* anything, such as a photoelectric cell, that receives a signal or stimulus and responds to it.

sensory ('sensɔri) or **sensorial** (sen'sɔ:riəl) *adj.* of or relating to the senses or the power of sensation.

sensual ('sensjuəl) *adj.* 1. of or relating to any of the senses or sense organs; bodily. 2. strongly or unduly inclined to gratification of the senses. 3. tending to arouse the bodily appetites, esp. the sexual appetite. —*'sensually adv.*

sensualism ('sensjuəlɪzəm) *n.* 1. the quality or state of being sensual. 2. the doctrine that the ability to gratify the senses is the only criterion of goodness.

sensuality ('sensjuə'lɪtɪ) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. the quality or state of being sensual. 2. excessive indulgence in sensual pleasures. —*'sensualist ('sensjuəlɪst) n.*

sensuous ('sensjuəs) *adj.* 1. aesthetically pleasing to the senses. 2. appreciative of qualities perceived by the senses. 3. of or derived from the senses. —*'sensuously adv.* —*'sensuousness n.*

sent (sent) *vb.* the past tense or past participle of **send**.

sentence ('sentəns) *n.* 1. a sequence of words capable of standing alone to make an assertion, ask a question, or give a command, usually consisting of a subject and a predicate. 2. the judgment formally pronounced upon a person convicted in criminal proceedings, esp. the decision as to what punishment is to be imposed. 3. *Music*, a passage or division of a piece of music, usually consisting

of two or more contrasting musical phrases and ending in a cadence. 4. *Arch.* a proverb, maxim, or aphorism. ~*vb.* 5. (tr.) to pronounce sentence on (a convicted person) in a court of law. —*'sentential ('sent'enʃəl) adj.*

sententious (sen'tenʃəs) *adj.* 1. characterized by or full of aphorisms or axioms. 2. constantly using aphorisms, etc. 3. tending to indulge in pompous moralizing. —*'sent'entiously adv.* —*'sent'entiousness n.*

sentient ('sentɪənt) *adj.* 1. having the power of sense perception or sensation; conscious. ~*n.* 2. *Rare.* a sentient person or thing. —*'sentience ('senʃəns) n.*

sentiment ('sentɪmənt) *n.* 1. susceptibility to tender or romantic emotion: *she has too much sentiment to be successful*. 2. (often *pl.*) a thought, opinion, or attitude. 3. exaggerated or mawkish feeling or emotion. 4. an expression of response to deep feeling, esp. in art. 5. a feeling or awareness: a *sentiment of pity*. 6. a mental attitude determined by feeling: *there is a strong revolutionary sentiment in his country*.

sentimental ('sentɪ'mentl) *adj.* 1. tending to indulge the emotions excessively. 2. making a direct appeal to the emotions, esp. to romantic feelings. 3. relating to or characterized by sentiment. —*'sentimentalism n.* —*'sentimentalist n.* —*'sentimentally adv.*

sentimentality ('sentɪməntəlɪtɪ) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. the state, quality, or an instance of being sentimental. 2. an act, statement, etc., that is sentimental.

sentimentalize or -lize ('sentɪ'mentɪ,ləɪz) *vb.* to make sentimental or behave sentimentally. —*'sentimental'ization or -l'is'ation n.*

sentimental value *n.* the value of an article in terms of its sentimental associations for a particular person.

sentinel ('sentɪnl) *n.* 1. a person, such as a sentry, assigned to keep guard. ~*vb.* (tr.) 2. to guard as a sentinel. 3. to post as a sentinel.

sentry ('sentri) *n., pl. -tries.* a soldier who guards or prevents unauthorized access to a place, etc.

sentry box *n.* a small shelter with an open front in which a sentry may stand to be sheltered from the weather.

sepal ('sepəl) *n.* any of the separate parts of the calyx of a flower.

separable ('sepərəbəl) *adj.* able to be separated, divided, or parted. —*'separability or 'separableness n.* —*'separably adv.*

separate *vb.* ('sepə'reɪt). 1. (tr.) to act as a barrier between: a *range of mountains separates the two countries*. 2. to part or be parted from a mass or group. 3. (tr.) to discriminate between: *to separate the men and the boys*. 4. to divide or be divided into component parts. 5. to sever or be severed. 6. (intr.) (of a married couple) to cease living together. ~*adj.* ('sepɪrɪt, 'seprɪt). 7. existing or considered independently: *a separate problem*. 8. disunited or apart. 9. set apart from the main body or mass. 10. distinct, individual, or particular. 11. solitary or withdrawn. —*'separately adv.* —*'separateness n.* —*'separative adj.* —*'separator n.*

separates ('sepɪrɪts, 'seprɪts) *pl. n.* women's outer garments that only cover part of the body; skirts, blouses, jackets, trousers, etc.

separate school *n.* 1. (in certain Canadian provinces) a school for a large religious minority financed by provincial grants in addition to the education tax. 2. a Roman Catholic school.

separation ('sepə'reɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of separating or state of being separated. 2. the place or line where a separation is made. 3. a gap that separates. 4. *Family law*, the cessation of cohabitation between a man and wife, either by mutual agreement or under a decree of a court.

separatist ('sepə'reɪtɪst) *n. a.* a person who advocates secession from an organization, federation, union, etc. *b.* (as modifier) a *separatist movement*. —*'separatism n.*

Sephardi (sɪ'fɑ:di) *n., pl. -dim (-dɪm).* *Judaism.* 1. a Jew of Spanish, Portuguese, or North African descent. 2. the pronunciation of Hebrew used by these Jews, and of Modern Hebrew as spoken in Israel. ~*Cf.* *Ashkenazi*. —*'Se'phardic adj.*

sepia ('si:piə) *n.* 1. a dark reddish-brown pigment obtained from the inky secretion of the cuttlefish. 2. a brownish tone imparted to a photograph, esp. an early one. 3. a brownish-grey to dark yellowish-brown colour. 4. a drawing or photograph in sepia. ~*adj.* 5. of the colour sepia or done in sepia: a *sepia print*.

sepo ('si:pə) *n.* (formerly) an Indian soldier in the service of the British.

sepsis ('sepsis) *n.* the presence of pus-forming bacteria in the body.

sept (sept) *n.* 1. *Anthropol.* a clan that believes itself to be descended from a common ancestor. 2. a branch of a tribe, esp. in Ireland or Scotland.

Sept. *abbrev. for:* 1. September. 2. Septuagint.

September (sep'tembə) *n.* the ninth month of the year, consisting of 30 days.

septennial (sep'tenɪəl) *adj.* 1. occurring every seven years. 2. relating to or lasting seven years.

septet (sep'tet) *n.* 1. *Music.* a group of seven singers or instrumentalists or a piece of music composed for such a group. 2. a group of seven people or things.

septic ('septik) *adj.* 1. of or caused by sepsis. 2. of or caused by putrefaction. ~*n.* 3. *Austral. inf.* See **septic tank**. —**septicaemia** adv. —**septicity** (sep'tisiti) *n.*

septicaemia or **septicemia** (,septi'si:miə) *n.* any of various diseases caused by microorganisms in the blood. Nontechnical name: **blood poisoning**. —**septi'caemic** or **septi'cemic** *adj.*

septic tank *n.* a tank, usually below ground, for containing sewage to be decomposed by anaerobic bacteria. Also called (in Australia): **septic system**.

septillion (sep'tiljən) *n., pl. -lions or -lions.* 1. (in Britain and Germany) the number represented as one followed by 42 zeros (10⁴²). 2. (in the U.S. and France) the number represented as one followed by 24 zeros (10²⁴). *Brit. word: quadrillion.* —**sep'tillionth** *adj., n.*

septuagenarian (,septjuə'dʒɪəriən) *n.* 1. a person who is from 70 to 79 years old. ~*adj.* 2. being between 70 and 79 years old. 3. of or relating to a septuagenarian.

Septuagint ('septjuə'dʒɪnt) *n.* the principal Greek version of the Old Testament, including the Apocrypha, believed to have been translated by 70 or 72 scholars.

septum ('septəm) *n., pl. -ta (-tə).* *Biol., anat.* a dividing partition between two tissues or cavities.

septuple ('septjuəl) *adj.* 1. seven times as much or many. 2. consisting of seven parts or members. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to multiply by seven. —**septuplicate** (sep'tju:plikeɪt) *n., adj.*

sepulchral (si'pʌlkərəl) *adj.* 1. suggestive of a tomb; gloomy. 2. of or relating to a sepulchre. —**se'pulchrally** *adv.*

sepulchre or **U.S. sepulcher** ('sepʌkə) *n.* 1. a burial vault, tomb, or grave. 2. Also called: **Easter sepulchre**, an alcove in some churches in which the Eucharistic elements were kept from Good Friday until Easter. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to bury in a sepulchre.

sepulture ('sepʌltʃə) *n.* the act of placing in a sepulchre.

sequel ('si:kwl) *n.* 1. anything that follows from something else. 2. a consequence. 3. a novel, play, etc., that continues a previously related story.

sequence ('si:kwəns) *n.* 1. an arrangement of two or more things in a successive order. 2. the successive order of two or more things: *chronological sequence*. 3. an action or event that follows another or others. 4. *a. Cards.* a set of three or more consecutive cards, usually of the same suit. *b. Bridge.* a set of two or more consecutive cards. 5. *Music.* an arrangement of notes or chords repeated several times at different pitches. 6. *Maths.* an ordered set of numbers or other mathematical entities in one-to-one correspondence with the integers 1 to *n*. 7. a section of a film constituting a single continuous uninterrupted episode.

sequential (si'kwɛnʃəl) *adj.* characterized by or having a regular sequence. —**sequentiality** (si'kwɛnʃi'æltiti) *n.* —**se'quentially** *adv.*

sequential access *n.* a method of reading data from a computer file by reading through the file from the beginning.

sequester (si'kwɛstə) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to remove or separate. 2. (usually passive) to retire into seclusion. 3. *Law.* to take (property) temporarily out of the possession of its owner, esp. to hold a debtor's goods until his creditors are satisfied. 4. *International law.* to appropriate (enemy property).

sequester (si'kwɛstreɪt) *vb. (tr.)* *Law.* a variant of **sequester** (sense 3). —**sequester** (si'kwɛs'treɪtə) *n.*

sequestration (,si:kwɛ'streɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of sequestering or state of being sequestered. 2. *Law.* the sequestering of property. 3. *Chem.* the effective removal of ions from a solution by coordination with another type of ion or molecule to form complexes.

sequin ('si:kwɪn) *n.* 1. a small piece of shiny coloured

metal foil, usually round, used to decorate garments, etc. 2. a gold coin formerly minted in Italy. —**sequined** *adj.*

sequoia (si'kwɔɪə) *n.* either of two giant Californian coniferous trees, the **redwood**, or the **big tree** or **giant sequoia**.

seraglio (se'rɑ:lɪ,ʊ) or **serail** (sə'raɪ) *n., pl. -raglios or -ralls.* 1. the harem of a Muslim house or palace. 2. a sultan's palace, esp. in the former Turkish empire.

seraph ('serəf) *n., pl. -aphs or -aphim* (-(ə)fɪm). *Theol.* a member of the highest order of angels in the celestial hierarchies, often depicted as the winged head of a child. —**seraphic** (si'ræfɪk) *adj.*

Serb (sə:b) *n., adj.* another word for **Serbian**.

Serbian ('sɜ:biən) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or characteristic of Serbia, in Yugoslavia, its people, or their dialect of Serbo-Croatian. ~*n.* 2. the dialect of Serbo-Croatian spoken in Serbia. 3. a native or inhabitant of Serbia.

Serbo-Croatian or **Serbo-Croat** *n.* 1. the chief official language of Yugoslavia. The Serbian dialect is usually written in the Cyrillic alphabet, the Croatian in Roman. ~*adj.* 2. of or relating to this language.

sere (sɪə) *adj.* 1. *Arch.* dried up. ~*vb., n.* 2. a rare spelling of **sear**.

serenade (seri'neɪd) *n.* 1. a piece of music characteristically played outside the house of a woman. 2. a piece of music suggestive of this. 3. an extended composition in several movements similar to the modern suite. ~*vb.* 4. (*tr.*) to play a serenade for (someone). 5. (*intr.*) to play a serenade. —**se'renader** *n.*

serendipity (,serən'dɪpti) *n.* the faculty of making fortunate discoveries by accident.

serene (si'ri:n) *adj.* 1. peaceful or tranquil; calm. 2. clear or bright: a *serene sky*. 3. (often cap.) honoured: *His Serene Highness*. —**se'renely** *adv.* —**serenity** (si'renɪti) *n.*

serf (sɜ:f) *n.* (esp. in medieval Europe) an unfree person, esp. one bound to the land. —**serfdom** or **serfhood** *n.*

serge (sɜ:dʒ) *n.* 1. a twill-weave woollen or worsted fabric used for clothing. 2. a similar twilled cotton, silk, or rayon fabric.

sergeant ('sɜ:dʒənt) *n.* 1. a noncommissioned officer in certain armies, air forces, and marine corps, usually ranking immediately above a corporal. 2. *a.* (in Britain) a police officer ranking between constable and inspector. *b.* (in the U.S.) a police officer ranking below a captain. 3. a court or municipal officer who has ceremonial duties. ~*Also:* **serjeant**. —**sergeancy** ('sɜ:dʒənsɪ) or **'sergeant, ship** *n.*

sergeant at arms *n.* an officer of a legislative or fraternal body responsible for maintaining internal order. ~*Also:* **sergeant, sergeant at arms**.

sergeant major *n.* the chief administrative noncommissioned officer of a military headquarters. See also **warrant officer**.

Sergt. *abbrev. for* Sergeant.

serial ('siəriəl) *n.* 1. a novel, play, etc., presented in instalments at regular intervals. 2. a publication, regularly issued and consecutively numbered. ~*adj.* 3. of or resembling a series. 4. published or presented as a serial. 5. of or relating to such publication or presentation. 6. *Computers.* of or operating on items of information, etc., in the order in which they occur. 7. of or using the techniques of serialism. —**'serially** *adv.*

serialize or **-lise** ('siəriə,laɪz) *vb. (tr.)* to publish or present in the form of a serial. —**'seriali'zation** or **-li'sation** *n.*

serial number *n.* any of the consecutive numbers assigned to machines, tools, books, etc.

series ('siəri:z) *n., pl. -ries.* 1. a group or succession of related things, usually arranged in order. 2. a set of radio or television programmes having the same characters but different stories. 3. a set of books having the same format, related content, etc., published by one firm. 4. a set of stamps, coins, etc., issued at a particular time. 5. *Maths.* the sum of a finite or infinite sequence of numbers or quantities. 6. *Electronics.* a configuration of two or more components connected in a circuit so that the same current flows in turn through each of them (esp. in *in series*). Cf. **parallel** (sense 10). 7. *Geol.* a stratigraphical unit that represents the rocks formed during an epoch.

serif or **seriph** ('serɪf) *n.* *Printing.* a small line at the extremities of a main stroke in a type character.

seriocomic (,siəriəu'kɒmɪk) *adj.* mixing serious and comic elements. —**serio'comically** *adv.*

serious ('siəriəs) *adj.* 1. grave in nature or disposition: a *serious person*. 2. marked by deep feeling; sincere: *is*

he serious or joking? 3. concerned with important matters: *a serious conversation*. 4. requiring effort or concentration: *a serious book*. 5. giving rise to fear or anxiety: *a serious illness*. —'seriously adv. —'seriousness *n*.

serjeant ('sɜ:dʒənt) *n*. a variant spelling of **sergeant**.

sermon ('sɜ:mən) *n*. 1. a. an address of religious instruction or exhortation, often based on a passage from the Bible, esp. one delivered during a church service. b. a written version of such an address. 2. a serious speech, esp. one administering reproof.

Sermon on the Mount *n*. Bible. the first major discourse delivered by Christ (Matthew 5-7).

sero- combining form. indicating a serum: *serology*.

serous ('sɪərəs) *adj*. of, producing, or containing serum.

—**serosity** ('sɪrəsɪti) *n*.

serpent ('sɜ:pənt) *n*. 1. a literary word for **snake**. 2. Bible. a manifestation of Satan as a guileful tempter (Genesis 3:1-5). 3. a sly or unscrupulous person. 4. an obsolete wind instrument resembling a snake in shape.

serpentine¹ ('sɜ:pən,tain) *adj*. 1. of, relating to, or resembling a serpent. 2. twisting; winding.

serpentine² ('sɜ:pən,tain) *n*. any of several secondary minerals, consisting of hydrated magnesium silicate, that are green to black in colour and greasy to the touch.

serrate *adj*. ('sɜrɪt, -et). 1. (of leaves) having a margin of forward pointing teeth. 2. having a notched or sawlike edge. ~*vb*. ('se'reɪt). 3. (tr.) to make serrate. —**serrated** *adj*.

serration ('sɜ'reɪʃən) *n*. 1. the state or condition of being serrated. 2. a row of toothlike projections on an edge. 3. a single notch.

serried ('sɜrɪd) *adj*. in close or compact formation: *serried ranks of troops*.

serum ('sɪərəm) *n*, *pl.* -rums or -ra (-rə). 1. Also called: **blood serum**. blood plasma from which the clotting factors have been removed. 2. antitoxin obtained from the blood serum of immunized animals. 3. *Physiol., zool.* clear watery fluid, esp. that exuded by serous membranes. 4. a less common word for **whey**.

serum hepatitis *n*. an acute infectious viral disease characterized by inflammation of the liver, fever and jaundice; transmitted by means of injection with a contaminated needle or transfusion of contaminated blood.

servant ('sɜ:vənt) *n*. 1. a person employed to work for another, esp. one who performs household duties. 2. See **public servant**.

serve ('sɜ:v) *vb*. 1. to be in the service of (a person). 2. to render or be of service to (a person, cause, etc.); help. 3. to attend to (customers) in a shop, etc. 4. (tr.) to provide (guests, etc.) with food, drink, etc.: *she served her guests with cocktails*. 5. to distribute or provide (food, drink, etc.) for guests, etc.: *do you serve coffee?* 6. (tr., sometimes foll. by *up*) to present (food, drink, etc.) in a specified manner: *cauliflower served with cheese sauce*. 7. (tr.) to provide with a regular supply of. 8. (tr.) to work actively for: *to serve the government*. 9. (tr.) to pay homage to: *to serve God*. 10. to suit: *this will serve my purpose*. 11. (intr.; may take an infinitive) to function: *this wood will serve to build a fire*. 12. to go through (a period of service, enlistment, etc.). 13. (intr.) (of weather, conditions, etc.) to be suitable. 14. (tr.) Also: **service**. (of a male animal) to copulate with (a female animal). 15. **Tennis, squash, etc.** to put (the ball) into play. 16. (tr.) to deliver (a legal document) to (a person). 17. (tr.) **Naut.** to bind (a rope, etc.) with fine cord to protect it from chafing, etc. 18. **serve (a person) right**. *Inf.* to pay back, esp. for wrongful or foolish treatment or behaviour. ~*n*. 19. **Tennis, squash, etc.** short for **service**. 20. **Austral.** *Inf.* hostile or critical remarks. —'servable or 'serveable *adj*. —'server *n*.

service ('sɜ:vɪs) *n*. 1. an act of help or assistance. 2. an organized system of labour and material aids used to supply the needs of the public: *telephone service*. 3. the supply, installation, or maintenance of goods carried out by a dealer. 4. the state of availability for use by the public (esp. in **into** or **out of service**). 5. a periodic overhaul made on a car, etc. 6. the act or manner of serving guests, customers, etc., in a shop, hotel, etc. 7. a department of public employment and its employees: *civil service*. 8. employment in or performance of work for another: *in the service of his firm*. 9. a. one of the branches of the armed forces. b. (as *modifier*): *service life*. 10. the state or duties of a domestic servant (esp. in **in service**). 11. the act or manner of serving food. 12. a set of dishes, cups, etc. for use at table. 13. public worship carried out according to certain prescribed forms: *divine service*. 14. the prescribed form according

to which a specific kind of religious ceremony is to be carried out: *the burial service*. 15. **Tennis, squash, etc.** a. the act, manner, or right of serving a ball. b. the game in which a particular player serves: *he has lost his service*. 16. the serving of a writ, summons, etc., upon a person. 17. (of male animals) the act of mating. 18. (*modifier*) of or for the use of servants or employees. 19. (*modifier*) serving the public rather than producing goods: *service industry*. ~*vb*. (tr.) 20. to make fit for use. 21. to supply with assistance. 22. to overhaul (a car, machine, etc.). 23. (of a male animal) to mate with (a female). 24. **Brit.** to meet interest on (debt).

serviceable ('sɜ:vɪsəbəl) *adj*. 1. capable of or ready for service. 2. capable of giving good service. —'serviceability *n*. —'serviceably *adv*.

service area *n*. a place on a motorway providing garage services, restaurants, toilet facilities, etc.

service charge *n*. a percentage of a bill, as at a hotel, added to the total to pay for service.

serviceman ('sɜ:vɪs,mæn, -mən) *n*, *pl.* -men. 1. a person who serves in the armed services of a country. 2. a man employed to service and maintain equipment.

service road *n*. **Brit.** a narrow road running parallel to a main road and providing access to houses, shops, etc., situated along its length.

services ('sɜ:vɪsɪz) *pl. n*. 1. work performed for remuneration. 2. (usually preceded by *the*) the armed forces. 3. (*sometimes sing.*) *Econ.* commodities, such as banking, that are mainly intangible and usually consumed concurrently with their production. 4. a system of providing the public with gas, water, etc.

service station *n*. a place that supplies fuel, oil, etc., for motor vehicles and often carries out repairs, servicing, etc.

service tree *n*. 1. Also called: **sorb**. a Eurasian rosaceous tree, cultivated for its white flowers and brown edible apple-like fruits. 2. **wild service tree**. a similar and related Eurasian tree.

serviette ('sɜ:vɪ'eɪt) *n*. **Chiefly Brit.** a small square of cloth or paper used while eating to protect the clothes, etc.

servile ('sɜ:vəl) *adj*. 1. obsequious or fawning in attitude or behaviour. 2. of or suitable for a slave. 3. existing in or relating to a state of slavery. 4. (when *postpositive*, foll. by *to*) submitting or obedient. —**servility** ('sɜ:vɪlɪti) *n*.

serving ('sɜ:vɪŋ) *n*. a portion or helping of food or drink.

servitor ('sɜ:vɪtə) *n*. **Arch.** a person who serves another.

servitude ('sɜ:vɪtju:d) *n*. 1. the state or condition of a slave. 2. the state or condition of being subjected to or dominated by a person or thing. 3. *Law*. a burden attaching to an estate for the benefit of an adjoining estate or of some definite person. See also **easement**.

servomechanism ('sɜ:vəu,mekə,nɪzəm) *n*. a mechanism for converting a small mechanical force into a larger force, esp. for control purposes.

servomotor ('sɜ:vəu,məʊtə) *n*. any motor that supplies power to a servomechanism.

sesame ('sesəmi) *n*. 1. a tropical herbaceous plant of the East Indies, cultivated, esp. in India, for its small oval seeds. 2. the seeds of this plant, used in flavouring bread and yielding an edible oil (**benne oil** or **gingili**).

sessile ('sesəl) *adj*. 1. (of flowers or leaves) having no stalk. 2. (of animals such as the barnacle) permanently attached. —**sessility** ('se:sɪlɪti) *n*.

session ('seʃən) *n*. 1. the meeting of a court, legislature, judicial body, etc., for the execution of its function or the transaction of business. 2. a single continuous meeting of such a body. 3. a series or period of such meetings. 4. *Education*. a. the time during which classes are held. b. a school or university year. 5. *Presbyterian Church*. the body presiding over a local congregation and consisting of the minister and elders. 6. any period devoted to an activity. —'sessional *adj*.

sestet ('seʃet) *n*. 1. *Prosody*. the last six lines of a sonnet. 2. another word for **sextet** (sense 1).

set¹ ('set) *vb*. **setting, set.** (*mainly tr.*) 1. to put or place in position or into a specified state or condition: *to set someone free*. 2. (*also intr.*; foll. by *to* or *on*) to put or be put (to); apply or be applied: *he set fire to the house*. 3. to put into order or readiness for use: *to set the table for dinner*. 4. (*also intr.*) to put, form, or be formed into a jelled, firm, or rigid state: *the jelly set in three hours*. 5. (*also intr.*) to put or be put into a position that will restore a normal state: *to set a broken bone*. 6. to adjust (a clock or other instrument) to a position. 7. to establish: *we have set the date for our wedding*. 8. to prescribe (an undertaking, course of study, etc.): *the*

examiners have set "Paradise Lost". 9. to arrange in a particular fashion, esp. an attractive one: *she set her hair*. 10. Also: **set to music**. to provide music for (a poem or other text to be sung). 11. Also: **set up**. *Printing*. to arrange or produce (type, film, etc.) from (text or copy). 12. to arrange (a stage, television studio, etc.) with scenery and props. 13. to describe (a scene or the background to a literary work, etc.) in words: *his novel is set in Russia*. 14. to present as a model of good or bad behaviour (esp. in **set an example**). 15. (foll. by *on* or *by*) to value (something) at a specified price or estimation of worth: *he set a high price on his services*. 16. (also *intr.*) to give or be given a particular direction: *his course was set to the East*. 17. (also *intr.*) to rig (a sail) or (of a sail) to be rigged so as to catch the wind. 18. (*intr.*) (of the sun, moon, etc.) to disappear beneath the horizon. 19. to leave (dough, etc.) in one place so that it may prove. 20. to sink (the head of a nail) below the surface surrounding it by using a nail set. 21. *Computers*. to give (a binary circuit) the value 1, so that it can be operated when required. 22. (of plants) to produce (fruits, seeds, etc.) after pollination or (of fruits or seeds) to develop after pollination. 23. to plant (seeds, seedlings, etc.). 24. to place (a hen) on (eggs) for the purpose of incubation. 25. (*intr.*) (of a gun dog) to turn in the direction of game. 26. *Bridge*. to defeat (one's opponents) in their attempt to make a contract. 27. a dialect word for *sit*. 28. **set eyes on**. to see. ~*n*. 29. the act of setting or the state of being set. 30. a condition of firmness or hardness. 31. bearing, carriage, or posture: *the set of a gun dog when pointing*. 32. the scenery and other props used in a dramatic production. 33. Also called: **set width**. *Printing*. a. the width of the body of a piece of type. b. the width of the lines of type in a page or column. 34. *Psychol.* a temporary bias disposing an organism to react to a stimulus in one way rather than in others. 35. a seedling, cutting, or similar part that is ready for planting: *onion sets*. 36. a variant spelling of **sett**. ~*adj.* 37. fixed or established by authority or agreement: *set hours of work*. 38. (usually *postpositive*) rigid or inflexible: *she is set in her ways*. 39. unmoving; fixed: *a set expression on his face*. 40. conventional, artificial, or stereotyped: *she made her apology in set phrases*. 41. (*postpositive*; foll. by *on* or *upon*) resolute in intention: *he is set upon marrying*. 42. (of a book, etc.) prescribed for students' preparation for an examination. ~See also **set about**, **set against**, etc.

set² (set) *n*. 1. a number of objects or people grouped or belonging together, often having certain features or characteristics in common: *a set of coins*. 2. a group of people who associate together, etc.: *he's part of the jet set*. 3. *Maths*. a collection of numbers, objects, etc., that have at least one common property or characteristic: *the set of positive integers*. 4. any apparatus that receives or transmits television or radio signals. 5. *Tennis, squash, etc.* one of the units of a match, in tennis, one in which one player or pair of players must win at least six games. 6. a. the number of couples required for a formation dance. b. a series of figures that make up a formation dance. 7. **make a dead set at**. a. to attack by arguing or ridiculing. b. (of a woman) to try to gain the affections of (a man). ~*vb.* **setting**, **set**. 8. (*intr.*) (in square and country dancing) to perform a sequence of steps while facing towards another dancer. 9. (usually *tr.*) to divide into sets: *in this school we set our older pupils for English*.

set about *vb.* (*intr.*, *prep.*) 1. to start or begin. 2. to attack physically or verbally.

set against *vb.* (*tr.*, *prep.*) 1. to balance or compare. 2. to cause to be unfriendly to.

set aside *vb.* (*tr.*, *adv.*) 1. to reserve for a special purpose. 2. to discard or quash.

set back *vb.* (*tr.*, *adv.*) 1. to hinder; impede. 2. *Inf.* to cost (a person) a specified amount. ~*n.* **setback**. 3. anything that serves to hinder or impede. 4. a recession in the upper part of a high building. 5. a steplike shelf where a wall is reduced in thickness.

set down *vb.* (*tr.*, *adv.*) 1. to record. 2. to judge or regard: *he set him down as an idiot*. 3. (foll. by *to*) to attribute: *his attitude was set down to his illness*. 4. to rebuke. 5. to snub. 6. *Brit.* to allow (passengers) to alight from a bus, etc.

set forth *vb.* (*adv.*) *Formal or arch.* 1. (*tr.*) to state, express, or utter. 2. (*intr.*) to start out on a journey.

set in *vb.* (*intr.*, *adv.*) 1. to become established: *the winter has set in*. 2. (of wind) to blow or (of current) to move towards shore. ~*adj.* **set-in**. 3. (of a part) made

separately and then added to a larger whole: *a set-in sleeve*.

set off *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. (*intr.*) to embark on a journey. 2. (*tr.*) to cause (a person) to act or do something, such as laugh. 3. (*tr.*) to cause to explode. 4. (*tr.*) to act as a foil or contrast to: *that brooch sets your dress off well*. 5. (*tr.*) *Accounting*. to cancel a credit on (one account) against a debit on another. ~*n.* **setoff**. 6. anything that serves as a counterbalance. 7. anything that serves to contrast with or enhance something else; foil. 8. a cross claim brought by a debtor that partly offsets the creditor's claim.

set on *vb.* 1. (*prep.*) to attack or cause to attack: *they set the dogs on him*. 2. (*tr.*, *adv.*) to instigate or incite; urge.

set out *vb.* (*adv.*, *mainly tr.*) 1. to present, arrange, or display. 2. to give a full account of: *he set out the matter in full*. 3. to plan or lay out (a garden, etc.). 4. (*intr.*) to begin or embark on an undertaking, esp. a journey.

set piece *n*. 1. a work of literature, music, etc., often having a conventional or prescribed theme, intended to create an impressive effect. 2. a display of fireworks.

setscrow ('set,skru:) *n*. a screw that fits into the boss or hub of a wheel, coupling, cam, etc., and prevents motion of the part relative to the shaft on which it is mounted.

set square *n*. a thin flat piece of plastic, metal, etc., in the shape of a right-angled triangle, used in technical drawing.

sett or set (set) *n*. 1. a small rectangular paving block made of stone, such as granite. 2. the burrow of a badger. 3. a. a square in a pattern of tartan. b. the pattern itself.

settee ('set'ti:) *n*. a seat, for two or more people, with a back and usually with arms.

setter ('setə) *n*. any of various breeds of large long-haired Gundog trained to point out game by standing rigid.

setting ('setɪŋ) *n*. 1. the surroundings in which something is set. 2. the scenery, properties, or background used to create the location for a stage play, film, etc. 3. *Music*. a composition consisting of a certain text and music arranged for it. 4. the metal mounting and surround of a gem. 5. the tableware, cutlery, etc., for a single place at table.

settle¹ ('setl) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to put in order: *he settled his affairs before he died*. 2. to arrange or be arranged in a fixed or comfortable position: *he settled himself by the fire*. 3. (*intr.*) to come to rest or a halt: *a bird settled on the hedge*. 4. to take up or cause to take up residence: *the family settled in the country*. 5. to establish or become established in a way of life, job, etc. 6. (*tr.*) to migrate to and form a community; colonize. 7. to make or become quiet, calm, or stable. 8. to cause (sediment) to sink to the bottom, as in a liquid, or (of sediment) to sink thus. 9. to subside or cause to subside: *the dust settled*. 10. (sometimes foll. by *up*) to pay off or account for (a bill, debt, etc.). 11. (*tr.*) to decide or dispose of: *to settle an argument*. 12. (*intr.*; often foll. by *on* or *upon*) to agree or fix: *to settle upon a plan*. 13. (*tr.*; usually foll. by *on* or *upon*) to secure (title, property, etc.) to a person: *he settled his property on his wife*. 14. to determine (a legal dispute, etc.) by agreement of the parties without resort to court action (esp. in **settle out of court**). —'settleable *adj.*

settle² ('setl) *n*. a seat, for two or more people, usually made of wood with a high back and arms, and sometimes having a storage space in the boxlike seat.

settle down *vb.* (*adv.*, *mainly intr.*) 1. (also *tr.*) to make or become quiet and orderly. 2. (often foll. by *to*) to apply oneself diligently: *please settle down to work*. 3. to adopt an orderly and routine way of life, esp. after marriage.

settle for *vb.* (*intr.*, *prep.*) to accept or agree to in spite of dispute or dissatisfaction.

settlement ('setl'mənt) *n*. 1. the act or state of settling or being settled. 2. the establishment of a new region; colonization. 3. a place newly settled; colony. 4. a community formed by members of a group, esp. of a religious sect. 5. a public building used to provide educational and general welfare facilities for persons living in deprived areas. 6. a subsidence of all or part of a structure. 7. an agreement reached in matters of finance, business, etc. 8. *Law*. a. a conveyance, usually to trustees, of property to be enjoyed by several persons in succession. b. the deed conveying such property.

settler ('setlə) *n*. a person who settles in a new country or a colony.

set to *vb. (intr., adv.)* 1. to begin working. 2. to start fighting. ~*n. set-to*. 3. *Inf.* a brief disagreement or fight.

set up *vb. (adv., mainly tr.)* 1. (also *intr.*) to put into a position of power, etc. 2. (also *intr.*) to begin or enable (someone) to begin (a new venture), as by acquiring or providing means, etc. 3. to build or construct: *to set up a shed*. 4. to raise or produce: *to set up a wall*. 5. to advance or propose: *to set up a theory*. 6. to restore the health of: *the sea air will set you up again*. 7. to establish (a record). 8. *Inf.* to cause (a person) to be blamed, accused, etc. ~*n. setup*. 9. *Inf.* the way in which anything is organized or arranged. 10. *Sl.* chiefly U.S. an event, the result of which is prearranged: *it's a setup*. 11. a prepared arrangement of materials, machines, etc., for a job or undertaking. ~*adj. set-up*. 12. physically well-built.

seven ('sev'n) *n.* 1. the cardinal number that is the sum of six and one and is a prime number. 2. a numeral 7, VII, etc., representing this number. 3. the amount or quantity that is one greater than six. 4. anything representing, represented by, or consisting of seven units, such as a playing card with seven symbols on it. 5. Also called: **seven o'clock**. seven hours after noon or midnight. ~*determiner*. 6. a. amounting to seven: *seven swans a-swimming*. b. (as pronoun): *you've eaten seven already*. —**seventh** *adj.*

sevenfold ('sev'n,fəʊld) *adj.* 1. equal to or having seven times as many or as much. 2. composed of seven parts. ~*adv.* 3. by or up to seven times as many or as much.

sevens ('sev'nz) *n.* a Rugby Union match or competition played with seven players on each side.

seven seas *pl. n.* the oceans of the world considered as the N and S Pacific, the N and S Atlantic, and the Arctic, Antarctic, and Indian Oceans.

seventeen ('sev'n'ti:n) *n.* 1. the cardinal number that is the sum of ten and seven and is a prime number. 2. a numeral 17, XVII, etc., representing this number. 3. the amount or quantity that is seven more than ten. 4. something represented by, representing, or consisting of 17 units. ~*determiner*. 5. a. amounting to seventeen: *seventeen attempts*. b. (as pronoun): *seventeen were sold*. —**seven'teenth** *adj.*

seventh heaven *n.* 1. the final state of eternal bliss. 2. a state of supreme happiness.

seventy ('sev'n'ti) *n., pl. -ties*. 1. the cardinal number that is the product of ten and seven. 2. a numeral 70, LXX, etc., representing this number. 3. (*pl.*) the numbers 70–79, esp. the 70th to the 79th year of a person's life or of a particular century. 4. the amount or quantity that is seven times as big as ten. 5. something represented by, representing, or consisting of 70 units. ~*determiner*. 6. a. amounting to seventy: *the seventy varieties of fabric*. b. (as pronoun): *to invite seventy to the wedding*. —**seventieth** *adj.*

sever ('sevrə) *vb.* 1. to put or be put apart. 2. to divide or be divided into parts. 3. (*tr.*) to break off or dissolve (a tie, relationship, etc.). —**severable** *adj.* —**severance** *n.*

several ('sevrəl) *determiner*. 1. a. more than a few: *several people objected*. b. (as pronoun; functioning as *pl.*): *several of them know*. ~*adj.* 2. (*pronominal*) various; separate: *the members with their several occupations*. 3. (*pronominal*) distinct; different: *three several times*. 4. Law. capable of being dealt with separately.

severally ('sevrəli) *adv.* Arch. or literary. 1. separately or distinctly. 2. each in turn.

severance pay *n.* compensation paid by a firm to an employee on the termination of his contract.

severe ('si:vɪə) *adj.* 1. rigorous or harsh in the treatment of others: *a severe parent*. 2. serious in appearance or manner. 3. critical or dangerous: *a severe illness*. 4. causing discomfort by its harshness: *severe weather*. 5. strictly restrained in appearance: *a severe way of dressing*. 6. hard to perform or accomplish: *a severe test*. —**severely** *adv.* —**severity** ('si'verɪti) *n.*

Seville orange ('sɒ'vil) *n.* 1. an orange tree of tropical and semitropical regions: grown for its bitter fruit, which is used to make marmalade. 2. the fruit of this tree.

Sèvres (French 'sɛ:vʁ) *n.* porcelain ware manufactured at Sèvres, near Paris, from 1756, characterized by the use of clear colours and elaborate decorative detail.

sew (sou) *vb.* sewing, sewed; sewn or sewed. 1. to join or decorate (pieces of fabric, etc.) by means of a thread repeatedly passed through with a needle. 2. (*tr.*; often foll. by *on* or *up*) to attach, fasten, or close by sewing. 3.

(*tr.*) to make (a garment, etc.) by sewing. ~See also **sew up**.

sewage ('su:ɪdʒ) *n.* waste matter from domestic or industrial establishments that is carried away in sewers or drains.

sewage farm *n.* a place where sewage is treated, esp. for use as manure.

sewer¹ ('su:ə) *n.* 1. a drain or pipe, esp. one that is underground, used to carry away surface water or sewage. ~*vb.* 2. (*tr.*) to provide with sewers.

sewer² ('səʊə) *n.* a person or thing that sews.

sewerage ('su:ərɪdʒ) *n.* 1. an arrangement of sewers. 2. the removal of surface water or sewage by means of sewers. 3. another word for **sewage**.

sewing ('səʊɪŋ) *n.* a. a piece of cloth, etc., that is sewn or to be sewn. b. (as modifier): *sewing basket*.

sewing machine *n.* any machine designed to sew material. It is now usually driven by electric motor but is sometimes operated by a foot treadle or by hand.

sewn (səʊn) *vb.* a past participle of **sew**.

sew up *vb. (tr., adv.)* 1. to fasten or mend completely by sewing. 2. U.S. to acquire sole use or control of. 3. *Inf.* to complete or negotiate successfully: *to sew up a deal*.

sex (seks) *n.* 1. the sum of the characteristics that distinguish organisms on the basis of their reproductive function. 2. either of the two categories, male or female, into which organisms are placed on this basis. 3. *Inf.* short for **sexual intercourse**. 4. feelings or behaviour resulting from the urge to gratify the sexual instinct. 5. sexual matters in general. ~*modifier*. 6. of or concerning sexual matters: *sex education*. 7. based on or arising from the difference between the sexes: *sex discrimination*. ~*vb.* 8. (*tr.*) to ascertain the sex of.

sex- combining form. six: *sexcentenary*.

sexagenarian ('seksədʒɪ'neəriən) *n.* 1. a person from 60 to 69 years old. ~*adj.* 2. being from 60 to 69 years old. 3. of or relating to a sexagenarian.

sex appeal *n.* the quality or power of attracting the opposite sex.

sex chromosome *n.* either of the chromosomes determining the sex of animals.

sexed (seksɪd) *adj.* 1. (*in combination*) having a specified degree of sexuality: *under-sexed*. 2. of, relating to, or having sexual differentiation.

sex hormone *n.* an animal hormone affecting development and growth of reproductive organs and related parts.

sexism ('seksɪzəm) *n.* discrimination on the basis of sex, esp. the oppression of women by men. —**sexist** *n., adj.*

sexless ('seksləs) *adj.* 1. having or showing no sexual differentiation. 2. having no sexual desires. 3. sexually unattractive.

sex object *n.* someone, esp. a woman, regarded only from the point of view of someone else's sexual desires.

sexology ('seks'ɒlədʒɪ) *n.* the study of sexual behaviour in human beings. —**sex'ologist** *n.* —**sexological** ('seksə'lɒdʒɪkəl) *adj.*

sext (seksɪt) *n.* Chiefly R.C. Church. the fourth of the seven canonical hours of the divine office or the prayers prescribed for it.

sextant ('seks'tənt) *n.* 1. an instrument used in navigation and consisting of a telescope through which a sighting of a heavenly body is taken, with protractors for determining its angular distance above the horizon. 2. a sixth part of a circle.

sextet or sextette ('seks'tet) *n.* 1. Music. a group of six singers or instrumentalists or a piece of music composed for such a group. 2. a group of six people or things.

sextillion ('seks'tɪljən) *n., pl. -lions or -lion.* 1. (in Britain and Germany) the number represented as one followed by 36 zeros (10³⁶). 2. (in the U.S. and France) the number represented as one followed by 21 zeros (10²¹).

sexton ('seks'tən) *n.* a man employed to act as caretaker of a church and often also as a bell-ringer, gravedigger, etc.

sextuple ('seks'tju:pəl) *n.* 1. a quantity or number six times as great as another. ~*adj.* 2. six times as much or many. 3. consisting of six parts or members.

sextuplet ('seks'tju:plɪt) *n.* 1. one of six offspring at one birth. 2. a group of six. 3. Music. a group of six notes played in a time value of four.

sexual ('seksjuəl) *adj.* 1. of or characterized by sex. 2. (of reproduction) characterized by the union of male and

female gametes. Cf. **asexual** (sense 2). —**sexuality** (ˌsɛksjuːˈælɪti) *n.* —**sexually** *adv.*

sexual intercourse *n.* the act of sexual procreation in which the male's erect penis is inserted into the female's vagina; copulation; coitus.

sexy (ˈsɛksɪ) *adj.* **sexier**, **sexiest**. *Inf.* provoking or intended to provoke sexual interest: *a sexy dress.* —**sexily** *adv.* —**sexiness** *n.*

sf, **sf.**, **sfz.** or **sfz.** *Music.* *abbrev. for sforzando.*

SF or **sf** *abbrev. for science fiction.*

SFA *abbrev. for Scottish Football Association.*

sforzando (sfɔːtsʌndəʊ) or **sforzato** (sfɔːtsʌtəʊ) *Music.* ~*adj.*, *adv.* 1. to be played with strong initial attack. *Abbrev: sf* ~*n.* 2. a symbol, mark, etc., indicating this.

Sgt. *abbrev. for Sergeant.*

sh (spelling pron. [ʃ]) *interj.* an exclamation to request silence or quiet.

shabby (ˈʃæbi) *adj.* **-bier**, **-biest**. 1. threadbare or dilapidated in appearance. 2. wearing worn and dirty clothes. 3. mean or unworthy: *shabby treatment*. 4. dirty or squalid. —**shabbily** *adv.* —**shabbiness** *n.*

shack (ʃæk) *n.* 1. a roughly built hut. ~*vb.* 2. See **shack up**.

shackle (ˈʃækəl) *n.* 1. (often *pl.*) a metal ring or fastening, usually part of a pair used to secure a person's wrists or ankles. 2. (often *pl.*) anything that confines or restricts freedom. 3. a U-shaped bracket, the open end of which is closed by a bolt (**shackle pin**), used for securing ropes, chains, etc. ~*vb.* (tr.) 4. to confine with or as if with shackles. 5. to fasten or connect with a shackle. —**shackler** *n.*

shack up *vb.* (intr., *adv.*; usually foll. by *with*) *Sl.* to live, esp. with a lover.

shad (ʃæd) *n.*, *pl.* **shad** or **shads**. any of various herring-like food fishes that migrate from the sea to fresh water to spawn.

shade (ʃeɪd) *adj.* *n.* 1. relative darkness produced by the blocking out of light. 2. a place made relatively darker or cooler than other areas by the blocking of light, esp. sunlight. 3. a position of relative obscurity. 4. something used to provide a shield or protection from a direct source of light, such as a lampshade. 5. a darker area indicated in a painting, drawing, etc., by shading. 6. a colour that varies slightly from a standard colour: *a darker shade of green*. 7. a slight amount: *a shade of difference*. 8. *Literary.* a ghost. ~*vb.* (mainly *tr.*) 9. to screen or protect from heat, light, view, etc. 10. to make darker or dimmer. 11. to represent (a darker area) in (a painting, etc.), by means of hatching, etc. 12. (*also* *intr.*) to change or cause to change slightly. 13. to lower (a price). —**'shadeless** *adj.*

shades (ʃeɪdz) *pl. n.* 1. gathering darkness at nightfall. 2. *Sl.* sunglasses. 3. (often *cap*; preceded by *the*) a literary term for **Hades**. 4. (foll. by *of*) undertones: *shades of my father!*

shading (ˈʃeɪdɪŋ) *n.* the graded areas of tone, lines, dots, etc., indicating light and dark in a painting or drawing.

shadow (ˈʃædəʊ) *n.* 1. a dark image or shape cast on a surface by the interception of light rays by an opaque body. 2. an area of relative darkness. 3. the dark portions of a picture. 4. a hint or faint semblance: *beyond a shadow of a doubt*. 5. a remnant or vestige: *a shadow of one's past self*. 6. a reflection. 7. a threatening influence: *a shadow over one's happiness*. 8. a spectre. 9. an inseparable companion. 10. a person who trails another in secret, such as a detective. 11. *Med.* a dark area on an x-ray film representing an opaque structure or part. 12. *Arch.* shelter. 13. (*modifier*) *Brit.* designating a member or members of the main opposition party in Parliament who would hold ministerial office if their party were in power: *shadow cabinet*. ~*vb.* (tr.) 14. to cast a shadow over. 15. to make dark or gloomy. 16. to shade from light. 17. to follow or trail secretly. 18. (often foll. by *forth*) to represent vaguely. —**'shadower** *n.*

shadow-box *vb.* (intr.) *Boxing.* to practise blows and footwork against an imaginary opponent. —**'shadow-boxing** *n.*

shadowy (ˈʃædəʊ) *adj.* 1. dark; shady. 2. resembling a shadow in faintness. 3. illusory or imaginary. —**'shadowiness** *n.*

shady (ˈʃeɪdi) *adj.* **shadier**, **shadiest**. 1. shaded. 2. affording or casting a shade. 3. quiet or concealed. 4. *Inf.* questionable as to honesty or legality. —**'shadily** *adv.* —**'shadiness** *n.*

shaft (ʃɑːft) *n.* 1. the long narrow pole that forms the

body of a spear, arrow, etc. 2. something directed at a person in the manner of a missile. 3. a ray or streak, esp. of light. 4. a rod or pole forming the handle of a hammer, golf club, etc. 5. a revolving rod that transmits motion or power. 6. one of the two wooden poles by which an animal is harnessed to a vehicle. 7. *Anat.* the middle part of a long bone. 8. the middle part of a column or pier, between the base and the capital. 9. *Archit.* a column that supports a vaulting rib, sometimes one of a set. 10. a vertical passageway through a building, as for a lift. 11. a vertical passageway into a mine. 12. *Ornithol.* the central rib of a feather. 13. an archaic or literary word for **arrow**. ~*vb.* 14. *U.S. sl.* to trick or cheat.

shag (ʃæg) *n.* 1. a matted tangle, esp. of hair, etc. 2. a napped fabric, usually a rough wool. 3. shredded coarse tobacco.

shag (ʃæg) *n.* another name for **cormorant**.

shaggy (ˈʃæɡi) *adj.* **-gier**, **-giest**. 1. having or covered with rough unkempt fur, hair, wool, etc.: *a shaggy dog*. 2. rough or unkempt. —**'shaggily** *adv.* —**'shagginess** *n.*

shagreen (ʃæˈɡriːn) *n.* 1. the rough skin of certain sharks and rays, used as an abrasive. 2. a rough grainy leather made from certain animal hides.

shah (ʃɑː) *n.* a ruler of certain Middle Eastern countries, esp. formerly Iran. —**'shahdom** *n.*

shake (ʃeɪk) *vb.* **shaking**, **shook**, **shaken**. 1. to move or cause to move up and down or back and forth with short quick movements. 2. to sway or totter or cause to sway or totter. 3. to clasp or grasp (the hand) of (a person) in greeting, agreement, etc.: *he shook John's hand*. 4. **shake hands**. to clasp hands in greeting, agreement, etc. 5. **shake on it**. *Inf.* to shake hands in agreement, reconciliation, etc. 6. to bring or come to a specified condition by or as if by shaking: *he shook free and ran*. 7. (tr.) to wave or brandish: *he shook his sword*. 8. (tr., often foll. by *up*) to rouse or agitate. 9. (tr.) to undermine or weaken: *the crisis shook his faith*. 10. to mix (dice) by rattling in a cup or the hand before throwing. 11. *Austral. sl.* to steal. 12. (tr.) *U.S. inf.* to escape from. 13. *Music.* to perform a trill on (a note). 14. **shake a leg**. *Inf.* to hurry or hasten. 15. **shake in one's shoes**. to tremble with fear or apprehension. 16. **shake one's head**. to indicate disagreement or disapproval by moving the head from side to side. 17. **shake the dust from one's feet**. to depart gladly. ~*n.* 18. the act or an instance of shaking. 19. a tremor or vibration. 20. **the shakes**. *Inf.* a state of uncontrollable trembling or a condition that causes it, such as a fever. 21. *Inf.* a very short period of time: *in half a shake*. 22. a fissure or crack in timber or rock. 23. an instance of shaking dice before casting. 24. *Music.* another word for **trill** (sense 1). 25. an informal name for **earthquake**. 26. short for **milk shake**. 27. **no great shakes**. *Inf.* of no great merit or value. ~See also **shake down**, **shake off**, **shake up**. —**'shakable** or **'shakeable** *adj.*

shake down *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. to fall or settle or cause to fall or settle by shaking. 2. (tr.) *U.S. sl.* to extort money from, esp. by blackmail. 3. (tr.) *Inf.*, chiefly *U.S.* to submit (a vessel, etc.) to a shaken-down test. 4. (intr.) to go to bed, esp. to a makeshift bed. ~*n.* **shakedown**. 5. *U.S. sl.* a swindle or act of extortion. 6. a makeshift bed, esp. of straw, blankets, etc. 7. *Inf.*, chiefly *U.S. a.* a voyage to test the performance of a ship or aircraft or to familiarize the crew with their duties. *b.* (*as modifier*): *a shakedown run*.

shake off *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. to remove or be removed with or as if with a quick movement: *she shook off her depression*. 2. (tr.) to escape from; elude: *they shook off the police*.

shaker (ˈʃeɪkə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that shakes. 2. a container from which a condiment is shaken. 3. a container in which the ingredients of alcoholic drinks are shaken together.

Shakespearean or **Shakespearian** (ʃeɪkˈspɪəriən) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or characteristic of Shakespeare (1564-1616), English dramatist, or his works. ~*n.* 2. a student of or specialist in Shakespeare's works.

shake up *vb.* (tr., *adv.*) 1. to shake in order to mix. 2. to reorganize drastically. 3. to stir. 4. to restore the shape of (a pillow, etc.). 5. *Inf.* to shock mentally or physically. ~*n.* **shake-up**. 6. *Inf.* a radical reorganization.

shako (ˈʃækoʊ) *n.*, *pl.* **shakos** or **shakoes**. a tall usually cylindrical military headdress, having a plume and often a peak.

shaky (ˈʃeɪki) *adj.* **shakier**, **shakiest**. 1. tending to shake or tremble. 2. liable to prove defective. 3.

uncertain or questionable: *your arguments are very shaky.* — **shakily** adv. — **shakiness** *n.*

shale (ʃeɪl) *n.* a dark fine-grained sedimentary rock formed by compression of successive layers of clay. — **shaly** adj.

shale oil *n.* an oil distilled from shales and used as fuel.

shall (ʃæl; unstressed ʃəl) *vb.* **past should.** (takes an infinitive without to or an implied infinitive) used as an auxiliary: 1. (esp. with *I* or *we* as subject) to make the future tense: *we shall see you tomorrow.* Cf. **will** (sense 1). 2. (with *you*, *he*, *she*, *it*, *they*, or a noun as subject) *a.* to indicate determination on the part of the speaker, as in issuing a threat: *you shall pay for this!* *b.* to indicate compulsion, now esp. in official documents. *c.* to indicate certainty or inevitability: *our day shall come.* 3. (with any noun or pronoun as subject, esp. in conditional clauses or clauses expressing doubt) to indicate non-specific futurity: *I don't think I shall ever see her again.*

▷ **Usage.** The usual rule given for the use of *shall* and *will* is that where the meaning is one of simple futurity, *shall* is used for the first person of the verb and *will* for the second and third: *I shall go tomorrow; they will be there now.* Where the meaning involves command, obligation, or determination, the positions are reversed: *it shall be done; I will definitely go.* However, *shall* has come to be largely neglected in favour of *will*.

shallot (ʃə'lɒt) *n.* 1. an alliaceae plant cultivated for its edible bulb. 2. the bulb of this plant, which divides into small sections and is used in cooking for flavouring.

shallow (ʃæləʊ) *adj.* 1. having little depth. 2. lacking intellectual or mental depth or subtlety. ~*n.* 3. (often *pl.*) a shallow place in a body of water. ~*vb.* 4. to make or become shallow. — **shallowness** *n.*

sham (ʃæm) *n.* 1. anything that is not what it appears to be. 2. something false or fictitious that purports to be genuine. 3. a person who pretends to be something other than he is. ~*adj.* 4. counterfeit or false. ~*vb.* 5. **shamming, shammed.** 5. to assume the appearance of (something); counterfeit: *to sham illness.*

shaman (ʃæmən) *n.* 1. a priest of shamanism. 2. a medicine man of a similar religion, esp. among certain tribes of North American Indians.

shamanism (ʃæməˈnɪzəm) *n.* 1. the religion of certain peoples of northern Asia, based on the belief that the world is pervaded by good and evil spirits who can be influenced or controlled only by the shamans. 2. any similar religion involving forms of spiritualism. — **shamanist** *n., adj.*

shamble (ʃæmbəl) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to walk or move along in an awkward or unsteady way. ~*n.* 2. an awkward or unsteady walk.

shambles (ʃæmbəlz) *n.* (*functioning as sing. or pl.*) 1. a place of great disorder: *the room was a shambles after the party.* 2. a place where animals are brought to be slaughtered. 3. any place of slaughter or execution.

shame (ʃeɪm) *n.* 1. a painful emotion resulting from an awareness of having done something dishonourable, unworthy, etc. 2. capacity to feel such an emotion. 3. ignominy or disgrace. 4. a person or thing that causes this. 5. an occasion for regret, disappointment, etc.: *it's a shame you can't come with us.* 6. **put to shame.** *a.* to disgrace. *b.* to surpass totally. ~*vb.* (tr.) 7. to cause to feel shame. 8. to bring shame on. 9. (often foll. by *into*) to compel through a sense of shame. ~*interj.* 10. *S. African sl.* a general exclamation of delight, sympathy, etc. — **shamable** or **shameable** *adj.*

shamefaced (ʃeɪmˈfeɪst) *adj.* 1. bashful or modest. 2. showing a sense of shame. — **shamefacedly** (ʃeɪmˈfeɪstli) *adv.*

shameful (ʃeɪmˈfʊl) *adj.* causing or deserving shame. — **shamefully** *adv.* — **shamefulness** *n.*

shameless (ʃeɪmˈlis) *adj.* 1. having no sense of shame. 2. without decency or modesty. — **shamelessly** *adv.* — **shamelessness** *n.*

shammy (ʃæmi) *n., pl. -mies.* *Inf.* another word for **chamois** (sense 3). Also called: **shammy leather.**

shampoo (ʃæmˈpuː) *n.* 1. a preparation of soap or detergent to wash the hair. 2. a similar preparation for washing carpets, etc. 3. the process of shampooing. ~*vb.* -**poing, -pooed.** 4. (tr.) to wash (the hair, etc.) with such a preparation.

shamrock (ʃæmˈrɒk) *n.* a plant having leaves divided into three leaflets: the national emblem of Ireland.

shandy (ʃændi) or **U.S. shandygaff** (ʃændiˈgæf) *n., pl. dies or gaffs.* an alcoholic drink made of beer and ginger beer or lemonade.

shanghai (ʃæŋˈhaɪ, ʃæŋˈhɑː) *sl.* ~*vb.* -**haling, -haied.**

(tr.) 1. to kidnap (a man or seaman) for enforced service at sea. 2. to force or trick (someone) into doing something, etc. 3. *Austral. & N.Z.* to shoot with a catapult. ~*n.* 4. *Austral. & N.Z.* a catapult.

shank (ʃæŋk) *n.* 1. *Anat.* the shin. 2. the corresponding part of the leg in other vertebrates. 3. a cut of meat from the top part of an animal's shank. 4. the main part of a tool, between the working part and the handle. 5. the part of a bolt between the thread and the head. 6. the ring or stem on the back of some buttons. 7. the stem or long narrow part of a key, hook, spoon handle, nail, etc. 8. the band of a ring as distinguished from the setting. 9. the part of a shoe connecting the wide part of the sole with the heel. 10. **Printing.** the body of a piece of type. ~*vb.* 11. (*intr.*) (of fruits, roots, etc.) to show disease symptoms, esp. discoloration.

shanks's pony or **U.S. shanks's mare** (ʃæŋksɪz) *n.* *Inf.* one's own legs as a means of transportation.

shantung (ʃænˈtʌŋ) *n.* 1. a heavy silk fabric with a knobby surface. 2. a cotton or rayon imitation of this.

shanty (ʃænti) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. a ramshackle hut; crude dwelling. 2. *Austral. & N.Z.* a public house, esp. an unlicensed one.

shanty (ʃænti) or **chanty** *n., pl. -ties.* a song originally sung by sailors, esp. a rhythmical one forming an accompaniment to work.

shantytown (ʃæntiˈtaʊn) *n.* a town or section of a town or city inhabited by very poor people.

shape (ʃeɪp) *n.* 1. the outward form of an object defined by outline. 2. the figure or outline of the body of a person. 3. a phantom. 4. organized or definite form: *my plans are taking shape.* 5. the form that anything assumes. 6. pattern; mould. 7. *Inf.* condition or state of efficiency: *to be in good shape.* 8. **out of shape.** *a.* in bad physical condition. *b.* bent, twisted, or deformed. 9. **take shape.** to assume a definite form. ~*vb.* 10. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *into* or *up*) to receive or cause to receive shape or form. 11. (tr.) to mould into a particular pattern or form. 12. (tr.) to plan, devise, or prepare: *to shape a plan of action.* — **shapable** or **shapeable** *adj.* — **shaper** *n.*

SHAPE (ʃeɪp) *n.* acronym for Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe.

shapeless (ʃeɪplɪs) *adj.* 1. having no definite shape or form: *a shapeless mass.* 2. lacking a symmetrical or aesthetically pleasing shape: *a shapeless figure.* — **shapelessness** *n.*

shapely (ʃeɪpli) *adj.* -**lier, -liest.** (esp. of a woman's body or legs) pleasing or attractive in shape. — **shapeliness** *n.*

shape up *vb.* (*intr., adv.*) *Inf.* 1. to proceed or develop satisfactorily. 2. to develop a definite or proper form.

shard (ʃɑːd) or **sherd** *n.* 1. a broken piece or fragment of a brittle substance, esp. of pottery. 2. *Zool.* a tough sheath, scale, or shell, esp. the elytra of a beetle.

share (ʃeə) *n.* 1. a part or portion of something owned or contributed by a person or group. 2. (often *pl.*) any of the equal parts, usually of low par value, into which is divided the capital stock of a company. 3. **go shares.** *Inf.* to share (something) with another or others. ~*vb.* 4. (tr.; often foll. by *out*) to divide or apportion, esp. equally. 5. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *in*) to receive or contribute a portion of: *we can share the cost of the petrol.* 6. to join with another or others in the use of (something): *can I share your umbrella?* — **sharable** or **shareable** *adj.* — **sharer** *n.*

share (ʃeə) *n.* short for **ploughshare.**

sharecropper (ʃeəˈkrɒpə) *n.* *Chiefly U.S.* a farmer, esp. a tenant farmer, who pays over a proportion of a crop or crops as rent.

shareholder (ʃeəˈhəʊldə) *n.* the owner of one or more shares in a company.

shark (ʃɑːk) *n.* any of various usually ferocious fishes, with a long body, two dorsal fins, and rows of sharp teeth. — **shark, like** *adj.*

shark (ʃɑːk) *n.* a person who preys on or victimizes others, esp. by swindling or extortion.

sharkskin (ʃɑːkˈskɪn) *n.* a smooth glossy fabric of acetate rayon, used for sportswear, etc.

sharp (ʃɑːp) *adj.* 1. having a keen edge suitable for cutting. 2. having an edge or point. 3. involving a sudden change, esp. in direction: *a sharp bend.* 4. moving, acting, or reacting quickly, etc.: *sharp reflexes.* 5. clearly defined. 6. mentally acute; keen-witted; attentive. 7. sly or artful: *sharp practice.* 8. bitter or harsh: *sharp words.* 9. shrill or penetrating: *a sharp cry.* 10. having an acrid taste. 11. keen; biting: *a sharp wind.* 12. *Music.* *a.* (immediately postpositive) denoting a note that

has been raised in pitch by one chromatic semitone: *B sharp*. **b.** (of an instrument, voice, etc.) out of tune by being too high in pitch. Cf. *flat* (sense 19). ~adv. **13.** in a sharp manner. **14.** exactly: *six o'clock sharp*. **15.** *Music*. **a.** higher than a standard pitch. **b.** out of tune by being too high in pitch: *she sings sharp*. Cf. *flat* (sense 23). ~n. **16.** *Music*. **a.** an accidental that raises the pitch of the following note by one chromatic semitone. Usual symbol: # **b.** a note affected by this accidental. Cf. *flat* (sense 29). **17.** a thin needle with a sharp point. **18.** *Inf.* a sharper. ~vb. **19.** (tr.) *Music*. the usual U.S. word for sharpen. —'sharpish adj., adv. —'sharply adv. —'sharpness n.

sharpen ('ʃɑ:p'n) vb. **1.** to make or become sharp or sharper. **2.** *Music*. to raise the pitch of (a note), esp. by one semitone. —'sharpener n.

sharpener ('ʃɑ:pə) n. a person who cheats or swindles; fraud.

sharp-set adj. **1.** set to give an acute cutting angle. **2.** keenly hungry. **3.** keen or eager.

sharp-tongued adj. bitter or critical in speech; sarcastic.

sharp-witted adj. having or showing a keen intelligence; perceptive. —'sharp-'wittedly adv. —'sharp-'wittedness n.

shatter ('ʃætə) vb. **1.** to break or be broken into many small pieces. **2.** (tr.) to impair or destroy: *his nerves were shattered by the torture*. **3.** (tr.) to dumbfound or thoroughly upset: *she was shattered by the news*. —'shatteringly adv.

shave (ʃeɪv) vb. **shaving, shaved; shaven or shaven.** (mainly tr.) **1.** (also intr.) to remove (the beard, hair, etc.) from (the face, head, or body) by scraping the skin with a razor. **2.** to cut or trim very closely. **3.** to reduce to shavings. **4.** to remove thin slices from (wood, etc.) with a sharp cutting tool. **5.** to touch or graze in passing. **6.** *Inf.* to reduce (a price) by a slight amount. ~n. **7.** the act or an instance of shaving. **8.** any tool for scraping. **9.** a thin slice or shaving. **10.** close shave. *Inf.* a narrow escape. —'shavable or 'shaveable adj.

shaver ('ʃeɪvə) n. **1.** a person or thing that shaves. **2.** Also called: **electric razor, electric shaver.** an electrically powered implement for shaving, having rotating blades behind a fine metal comb. **3.** *Inf.* a youngster, esp. a young boy.

Shavian ('ʃeɪvɪən) adj. **1.** of or like George Bernard Shaw (1856–1950), Irish dramatist, his works, ideas, etc. ~n. **2.** an admirer of Shaw or his works.

shaving ('ʃeɪvɪŋ) n. **1.** a thin paring or slice, esp. of wood, that has been shaved from something. ~modifier. **2.** used when shaving the face, etc.: *shaving cream*.

shawl ('ʃɔ:l) n. a piece of fabric or knitted or crocheted material worn around the shoulders by women or wrapped around a baby.

she (ʃi:) pron. (subjective) **1.** refers to a female person or animal: *she is an actress*. **2.** refers to things personified as feminine, such as cars, ships, and nations. **3.** *Austral.* & *N.Z.* a pronoun often used instead of it, as in *she'll be right* it will be all right. ~n. **4.** a female person or animal.

sheaf ('ʃi:f) n. pl. **sheaves** (ʃi:vz). **1.** a bundle of reaped but unthreshed corn tied with one or two bonds. **2.** a bundle of objects tied together. **3.** the arrows contained in a quiver. ~vb. **4.** (tr.) to bind or tie into a sheaf.

shear (ʃiə) vb. **shearing, sheared or Austral. & N.Z. shore; sheared or shorn.** **1.** (tr.) to remove (the fleece or hair) of (sheep, etc.) by cutting or clipping. **2.** to cut or cut through (something) with shears or a sharp instrument. **3.** *Engineering.* to cause (a part, member, etc.) to deform or fracture or (of a part, etc.) to deform or fracture as a result of excess torsion. **4.** (tr.; often foll. by *off*) to strip or divest: *to shear someone of his power*. **5.** (when intr., foll. by *through*) to move through (something) by or as if by cutting. ~n. **6.** the act, process, or an instance of shearing. **7.** a shearing of a sheep or flock of sheep: *a sheep of two shears*. **8.** a form of deformation or fracture in which parallel planes in a body slide over one another. **9.** *Physics.* the deformation of a body, part, etc., expressed as the lateral displacement between two points in parallel planes divided by the distance between the planes. **10.** either one of the blades of a pair of shears, scissors, etc. —'shearer n.

shears (ʃiəz) pl. n. **1. a.** large scissors, as for cutting cloth, jointing poultry, etc. **b.** a large scissor-like and usually hand-held cutting tool with flat blades, as for cutting hedges. **2.** any of various analogous cutting implements.

shearwater ('ʃiə,wɔ:tə) n. any of several oceanic birds specialized for an aerial or aquatic existence.

sheath (ʃi:θ) n. pl. **sheaths** (ʃi:ðz). **1.** a case or covering for the blade of a knife, sword, etc. **2.** any similar close-fitting case. **3.** *Biol.* an enclosing or protective structure. **4.** the protective covering on an electric cable. **5.** a figure-hugging dress with a narrow tapering skirt. **6.** another name for **condom**.

sheathe (ʃi:ð) vb. (tr.) **1.** to insert (a knife, sword, etc.) into a sheath. **2.** (esp. of cats) to retract (the claws). **3.** to surface with or encase in a sheath or sheathing.

sheathing ('ʃi:ðɪŋ) n. **1.** any material used as an outer layer, as on a ship's hull. **2.** boarding, etc., used to cover a timber frame.

sheave (ʃi:v) vb. (tr.) to gather or bind into sheaves.

sheaves (ʃi:vz) n. the plural of **sheaf**.

shebeen or shebean ('ʃə:bi:n) n. **1.** *Irish, Scot., S. African.* a place where alcoholic drink is sold illegally. **2.** (in South Africa) a place where Black African men engage in social drinking.

shebeen king or (fem.) shebeen queen n. (in South Africa) the proprietor of a shebeen.

shed (ʃed) n. **1.** a small building or lean-to of light construction, used for storage, shelter, etc. **2.** a large roofed structure, esp. one with open sides, used for storage, repairing locomotives, etc. **3.** *Austral.* the building in which sheep are shorn.

shed (ʃed) vb. **shedding, shed.** (mainly tr.) **1.** to pour forth or cause to pour forth: *to shed tears*. **2.** **shed light on or upon.** to clarify (a problem, etc.). **3.** to cast off or lose: *the snake shed its skin*. **4.** to repel: *this coat sheds water*. **5.** *N.Z.* to separate or divide a group of sheep: *a good dog can shed his sheep in minutes*. ~n. **6.** short for **watershed**. **7.** *N.Z.* the action of separating or dividing a group of sheep: *the old dog was better at the shed than the young one*. —'shedable or 'shed-dable adj.

sheen (ʃi:n) n. **1.** a gleaming or glistening brightness; lustre. **2.** *Poetic.* splendid clothing. ~adj. **3.** *Rare.* beautiful. —'sheeny adj.

sheep (ʃi:p) n. pl. **sheep**. **1.** any of a genus of ruminant mammals having transversely ribbed horns and a narrow face. **2.** a meek or timid person. **3.** **separate the sheep from the goats.** to pick out the people who are superior in some respects. —'sheep, like adj.

sheep-dip n. **1.** any of several liquid disinfectants and insecticides in which sheep are immersed. **2.** a deep trough containing such a liquid.

sheepdog ('ʃi:p,dɒg) n. any of various breeds of dog reared originally for herding sheep. See **Old English sheepdog, Shetland sheepdog**.

sheepfold ('ʃi:p,fəʊld) n. a pen or enclosure for sheep.

sheepish ('ʃi:pʃɪ) adj. **1.** abashed or embarrassed, esp. through looking foolish. **2.** resembling a sheep in timidity. —'sheepishly adv. —'sheepishness n.

sheep's eyes pl. n. *Inf.* amorous or inviting glances.

sheepshank ('ʃi:p,ʃæŋk) n. a knot, hitch, or bend made in a rope to shorten it temporarily.

sheepskin ('ʃi:p,skɪn) n. **a.** the skin of a sheep, esp. when used for clothing, etc. **b.** (as modifier): *a sheep-skin coat*.

sheer (ʃiə) adj. **1.** perpendicular; very steep: *a sheer cliff*. **2.** (of textiles) so fine as to be transparent. **3.** (prenominal) absolute: *sheer folly*. **4.** Obs. bright. ~adv. **5.** steeply. **6.** completely or absolutely. —'sheerly adv. —'sheerness n.

sheer (ʃiə) vb. (foll. by *off* or *away* (from)). **1.** to deviate or cause to deviate from a course. **2.** (intr.) to avoid an unpleasant person, thing, topic, etc. ~n. **3.** *Naut.* the position of a vessel relative to its mooring.

sheet (ʃi:t) n. **1.** a large rectangular piece of cotton, linen, etc., generally one of a pair used as inner bedclothes. **2. a.** a thin piece of a substance such as paper, glass, or metal, usually rectangular in form. **b.** (as modifier): *sheet iron*. **3.** a broad continuous surface: *a sheet of water*. **4.** a newspaper, esp. a tabloid. **5.** a piece of printed paper to be folded into a section for a book. ~vb. **6.** (tr.) to provide with, cover, or wrap in a sheet.

sheet (ʃi:t) n. *Naut.* a line or rope for controlling the position of a sail relative to the wind.

sheet anchor n. *Naut.* a large strong anchor for use in emergency.

sheet bend n. a knot used esp. for joining ropes of different sizes.

sheeting ('ʃi:tɪŋ) n. fabric from which sheets are made.

sheet lightning *n.* lightning that appears as a broad sheet, caused by the reflection of more distant lightning.

sheet metal *n.* metal in the form of a sheet, the thickness being intermediate between that of plate and that of foil.

sheet music *n.* 1. the printed or written copy of a short composition or piece. 2. music in its written or printed form.

sheik or sheikh (ʃeɪk) *n.* (in Muslim countries) **a.** the head of an Arab tribe, village, etc. **b.** a religious leader. — **'sheikdom** or **'sheikhdom** *n.*

sheila (ʃi:lə) *n.* *Austral.* an old-fashioned word for **girl** or **woman**.

shekel (ʃekəl) *n.* 1. any of several former coins and units of weight of the Near East. 2. (often *pl.*) *Inf.* any coin or money.

shelduck (ʃel,dʌk) or (*masc.*) **sheldrake** (ʃel,dreɪk) *n., pl. -ducks, -duck* or **-drakes, -drake.** any of various large usually brightly coloured goose-like ducks of the Old World.

shelf (ʃelf) *n., pl. shelves* (ʃelvz). 1. a thin flat plank of wood, metal, etc., fixed horizontally against a wall, etc., for the purpose of supporting objects. 2. something resembling this in shape or function. 3. the objects placed on a shelf: a *shelf of books*. 4. a projecting layer of ice, rock, etc., on land or in the sea. 5. **on the shelf.** put aside or abandoned, used esp. of unmarried women considered to be past the age of marriage. — **'shelf, like** *adj.*

shelf life *n.* the length of time a packaged food, etc., will last without deteriorating.

shell (ʃel) *n.* 1. the protective outer layer of an egg, esp. a bird's egg. 2. the hard outer covering of many molluscs. 3. any other hard outer layer, such as the exoskeleton of many arthropods. 4. the hard outer layer of some fruits, esp. of nuts. 5. any hard outer case. 6. a hollow artillery projectile filled with explosive primed to explode either during flight or on impact. 7. a small-arms cartridge. 8. a pyrotechnic cartridge designed to explode in the air. 9. *Rowing.* a very light narrow racing boat. 10. the external structure of a building, esp. one that is unfinished. 11. *Physics.* a class of electron orbits in an atom in which the electrons have the same principal quantum number and little difference in their energy levels. 12. **come (or bring) out of one's shell.** to become (or help a person to become) less shy and reserved. ~*vb.* 13. to divest or be divested of a shell, husk, etc. 14. to separate or be separated from the ear, husk, etc. 15. (*tr.*) to bombard with artillery shells. ~**See also shell out.** — **'shell-less** *adj.* — **'shell-, like** *adj.* — **'shelly** *adj.*

she'll (ʃi:l; *unstressed* ʃil) *contraction* of **she will** or **she shall**.

shellac (ʃə'læk, ʃelæk) *n.* 1. a yellowish resin secreted by the lac insect, esp. a commercial preparation of this used in varnishes, polishes, etc. 2. Also called: **shellac varnish.** a varnish made by dissolving shellac in ethanol or a similar solvent. ~*vb.* **-lacking, -lacked.** (*tr.*) 3. to coat (an article, etc.) with a shellac varnish.

shellfire (ʃel,faɪə) *n.* the firing of artillery shells.

shellfish (ʃel,ʃɪʃ) *n., pl. -fish* or **-fishes.** any aquatic invertebrate having a shell or shell-like carapace, esp. such an animal used as human food. Examples are crustaceans such as crabs and lobsters and molluscs such as oysters.

shell out *vb. (adv.) Inf.* to pay out or hand over (money).

shellproof (ʃel,pru:f) *adj.* designed, intended, or able to resist shellfire.

shell shock *n.* loss of sight, etc., resulting from psychological strain during prolonged engagement in warfare. — **'shell-, shocked** *adj.*

Shelta (ʃelta) *n.* a secret language used by some itinerant tinkers in Ireland and parts of Britain, based on Gaelic.

shelter (ʃelta) *n.* 1. something that provides cover or protection, as from weather or danger. 2. the protection afforded by such a cover. 3. the state of being sheltered. ~*vb.* 4. (*tr.*) to provide with or protect by a shelter. 5. (*intr.*) to take cover, as from rain. 6. (*tr.*) to act as a shelter for. — **'shelterer** *n.*

sheltie or sheltie (ʃelti) *n., pl. -ties.* another name for **Shetland pony** or **Shetland sheepdog**.

shelve' (ʃelv) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to place on a shelf. 2. to provide with shelves. 3. to put aside or postpone from consideration. 4. to dismiss or cause to retire. — **'shelv-***er* *n.*

shelve' (ʃelv) *vb. (intr.)* to slope away gradually.

shelves (ʃelvz) *n.* the plural of **shelf**.

shelving (ʃelvɪŋ) *n.* 1. material for making shelves. 2. a set of shelves; shelves collectively.

shenanigan (ʃɪ'nænɪɡən) *n. Inf.* 1. (*usually pl.*) roguishness; mischief. 2. an act of treachery; deception.

shepherd (ʃepəd) *n.* 1. a person employed to tend sheep. *Fem. equivalent:* **shepherdess.** 2. a person, such as a clergyman, who watches over a group of people. ~*vb. (tr.)* 3. to guide or watch over in the manner of a shepherd. 4. *Austral. Rules football, Rugby, etc.* to prevent opponents from tackling (a member of one's own team) by blocking their path: illegal in Rugby.

shepherd's pie *n.* *Chiefly Brit.* a baked dish of minced meat covered with mashed potato.

Sheraton (ʃerətən) *adj.* denoting furniture made by or in the style of Thomas Sheraton (1751-1806), English furniture maker, characterized by lightness and elegance.

sherbet (ʃɜ:bət) *n.* 1. a fruit-flavoured slightly effervescent powder, eaten as a sweet or used to make a drink. 2. another word (esp. U.S.) for **sorbet** (sense 1).

sherd (ʃɜ:d) *n.* another word for **shard**.

sheriff (ʃerɪf) *n.* 1. (in the U.S.) the chief elected law-enforcement officer in a county. 2. (in Canada), a municipal official who enforces court orders, escorts convicted criminals to prison, etc. 3. (in England and Wales) the chief executive officer of the Crown in a county, having chiefly ceremonial duties. 4. (in Scotland) a judge in any of the sheriff courts.

sheriff court *n.* (in Scotland) a court having jurisdiction to try all but the most serious crimes and to deal with most civil actions.

Sherpa (ʃɜ:pə) *n., pl. -pas* or **-pa.** a member of a Tibetan people living on the southern slopes of the Himalayas in Nepal, noted as mountaineers.

sherry (ʃeri) *n., pl. -ries.* a fortified wine, originally only from the Jerez region of southern Spain.

she's (ʃi:z) *contraction* of **she is** or **she has**.

Shetland pony (ʃetlənd) *n.* a very small sturdy breed of pony with a long shaggy mane and tail.

Shetland sheepdog *n.* a small sheepdog similar in appearance to a collie.

shew (ʃəʊ) *vb. shewing, shewed; shewn* or **shewed.** an archaic spelling of **show**.

shibboleth (ʃɪbəleθ) *n.* a custom, phrase, or use of language that distinguishes members of a particular social class, profession, etc., from other people.

shied (ʃaɪd) *vb.* the past tense or past participle of **shy**.

shield (ʃɪld) *n.* 1. any protection used to intercept blows, missiles, etc., such as a tough piece of armour carried on the arm. 2. any similar protective device. 3. *Heraldry.* a pointed stylized shield used for displaying armorial bearings. 4. anything that resembles a shield in shape, such as a prize in a sports competition. 5. *Physics.* a structure of concrete, lead, etc., placed around a nuclear reactor. 6. a broad stable plateau of ancient Precambrian rocks forming the rigid nucleus of a particular continent. 7. **the shield.** *N.Z.* the Bledisloe shield, a trophy competed for by provincial rugby teams. ~*vb. (tr.)* 8. to protect, hide, or conceal (something) from danger or harm. — **'shield, like** *adj.*

Shield (ʃɪld) *n.* the *Canad.* another term for the **Canadian Shield**.

shieling (ʃi:lɪŋ) *n. Chiefly Scot.* 1. a temporary shelter used by people tending cattle on high ground. 2. pasture land for the grazing of cattle in summer.

shift (ʃɪft) *vb.* 1. to move or cause to move from one place or position to another. 2. (*tr.*) to change for another or others. 3. to change (gear) in a motor vehicle. 4. (*intr.*) (of a sound or set of sounds) to alter in a systematic way. 5. (*intr.*) to provide for one's needs (esp. in **shift for oneself**). 6. to remove or be removed, esp. with difficulty: *no detergent can shift these stains.* 7. *Sl.* to move quickly. ~*n.* 8. the act or an instance of shifting. 9. a group of workers who work for a specific period. 10. the period of time worked by such a group. 11. an expedient, contrivance, or artifice. 12. an undershirt or dress with little shaping. — **'shifter** *n.*

shiftless (ʃɪftlɪs) *adj.* lacking in ambition or initiative. — **'shiftlessness** *n.*

shifty (ʃɪftɪ) *adj. shiftier, shiftiest.* 1. given to evasions. 2. furtive in character or appearance. — **'shiftily** *adv.* — **'shiftiness** *n.*

shillelagh or **shillala** (ʃə'leɪlə, -li) *n.* (in Ireland) a stout club or cudgel.

shilling (ʃɪlɪŋ) *n.* 1. a British silver or (later) cupro-

nickel coin worth one twentieth of a pound, replaced by the 5p piece in 1970. Abbrev.: **s.**, **sh.** 2. the standard monetary unit of Kenya, Uganda, the Somali Republic, and Tanzania.

shillyshally ('ʃɪlɪ,ʃæli) *Inf.* ~vb. -lying, -lied. 1. (*intr.*) to be indecisive, esp. over unimportant matters. ~adv. 2. in an indecisive manner. ~adj. 3. indecisive or hesitant. ~n., *pl.* -lies. 4. vacillation. —'shilly-, -shallier *n.*

shim (ʃɪm) *n.* 1. a thin washer or strip often used with a number of similar washers or strips to adjust a clearance for gears, etc. ~vb. **shimming**, **shimmed**. 2. (*tr.*) to modify clearance (on a gear, etc.) by use of shims.

shimmer ('ʃɪmə) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to shine with a glistening or tremulous light. ~n. 2. a faint, glistening, or tremulous light. —'shimmeringly *adv.* —'shimmerly *adj.*

shimmy ('ʃɪmi) *n., pl.* -mies. 1. an American ragtime dance with much shaking of the hips and shoulders. 2. abnormal wobbling motion in a motor vehicle, esp. in the front wheels or steering. ~vb. -mying, -mied. (*intr.*) 3. to dance the shimmy. 4. to vibrate or wobble.

shin (ʃɪn) *n.* 1. the front part of the lower leg. 2. the front edge of the tibia. 3. *Chiefly Brit.* a cut of beef, the lower foreleg. ~vb. **shinning**, **shinned**. 4. (*when intr.*, often foll. by *up*) to climb (a pole, tree, etc.) by gripping with the hands or arms and the legs and hauling oneself up. 5. (*tr.*) to kick (a person) in the shins.

shinbone ('ʃɪn,bəʊn) *n.* the nontechnical name for **tibia** (sense 1).

shindig ('ʃɪn,dɪg) or **shindy** ('ʃɪndi) *n., pl.* -digs or -dies. *Sl.* 1. a noisy party, dance, etc. 2. a quarrel or commotion.

shine (ʃaɪn) *vb.* **shining**, **shone**. 1. (*intr.*) to emit light. 2. (*intr.*) to glow or be bright with reflected light. 3. (*tr.*) to direct the light of (a lamp, etc.): *he shone the torch in my eyes*. 4. (*tr.*; *p.t.* & *p.p.* **shined**) to cause to gleam by polishing: *to shine shoes*. 5. (*intr.*) to excel: *she shines at tennis*. 6. (*intr.*) to appear clearly. ~n. 7. the state or quality of shining; sheen; lustre. 8. **come rain or shine**, whatever the weather. 9. *Inf.* a liking or fancy (esp. in *take a shine to*).

shiner ('ʃaɪnə) *n.* 1. something that shines, such as a polishing device. 2. any of numerous small North American freshwater cyprinid fishes. 3. *Inf.* a black eye. 4. *N.Z. old-fashioned sl.* a tramp.

shingle ('ʃɪŋɡl) *n.* 1. a thin rectangular tile, esp. one made of wood, that is laid with others in overlapping rows to cover a roof or a wall. 2. a woman's short-cropped hair style. 3. *U.S. inf.* a small signboard fixed outside the office of a doctor, lawyer, etc. ~vb. (*tr.*) 4. to cover (a roof or a wall) with shingles. 5. to cut (the hair) in a short-cropped style. —'shingler *n.*

shingle ('ʃɪŋɡl) *n.* 1. coarse gravel, esp. the pebbles found on beaches. 2. a place or area strewn with shingle. —'shingly *adj.*

shingles ('ʃɪŋɡlz) *n.* an acute viral disease characterized by inflammation, pain, and skin eruptions along the course of affected nerves. Technical names: **herpes zoster**, **zoster**.

Shinto ('ʃɪntəʊ) *n.* the religion of Japan, polytheistic in character and incorporating the worship of a number of ethnic divinities. —'Shintoism *n.* —'Shintoist *n., adj.*

shinty ('ʃɪnti) *n., pl.* -ties. 1. a simple form of hockey played with a ball and sticks curved at the lower end. 2. the stick used in this game.

shiny ('ʃaɪni) *adj.* **shinier**, **shiniest**. 1. glossy or polished; bright. 2. (of clothes or material) worn to a smooth and glossy state, as by continual rubbing. —'shininess *n.*

ship (ʃɪp) *n.* 1. a vessel propelled by engines or sails for navigating on the water, esp. a large vessel. 2. *Naut.* a large sailing vessel with three or more square-rigged masts. 3. the crew of a ship. 4. short for **airship** or **spaceship**. 5. **when one's ship comes in (or home)**, when one has become successful. ~vb. **shipping**, **shipped**. 6. to place, transport, or travel on any conveyance, esp. aboard a ship. 7. (*tr.*) *Naut.* to take (water) over the side. 8. to bring or go aboard a vessel: *to ship oars*. 9. (*tr.*, often foll. by *off*) *Inf.* to send away: *they shipped the children off to boarding school*. 10. (*intr.*) to engage to serve aboard a ship: *I shipped aboard a Liverpool liner*. —'shippable *adj.*

-ship *suffix forming nouns.* 1. indicating state or condition: *fellowship*. 2. indicating rank, office, or position: *lordship*. 3. indicating craft or skill: *scholarship*.

shipboard ('ʃɪp,bɔ:d) *n.* (*modifier*) taking place, used, or intended for use aboard a ship: *a shipboard encounter*.

shipbuilder ('ʃɪp,bɪldə) *n.* a person or business engaged in the building of ships. —'ship,building *n.*

shipmaster ('ʃɪp,mɑ:stə) *n., pl.* -masters. the master or captain of a ship.

shipmate ('ʃɪp,meɪt) *n.* a sailor who serves on the same ship as another.

shipment ('ʃɪpmənt) *n.* 1. a. goods shipped together as part of the same lot: *a shipment of grain*. b. (*as modifier*): *a shipment schedule*. 2. the act of shipping cargo.

ship money *n.* *English history.* a tax levied to finance the fitting out of warships: abolished 1640.

shipowner ('ʃɪp,əʊnə) *n.* a person who owns or has shares in a ship or ships.

shipper ('ʃɪpə) *n.* a person or company in the business of shipping freight.

shipping ('ʃɪpɪŋ) *n.* 1. a. the business of transporting freight, esp. by ship. b. (*as modifier*): *a shipping magazine*. 2. ships collectively: *there is a lot of shipping in the Channel*.

shipshape ('ʃɪp,ʃeɪp) *adj.* 1. neat; orderly. ~adv. 2. in a neat and orderly manner.

shipwreck ('ʃɪp,rek) *n.* 1. the partial or total destruction of a ship at sea. 2. a wrecked ship or part of such a ship. 3. ruin or destruction: *the shipwreck of all my hopes*. ~vb. (*tr.*) 4. to wreck or destroy (a ship). 5. to bring to ruin or destruction.

shipwright ('ʃɪp,raɪt) *n.* an artisan skilled in one or more of the tasks required to build vessels.

shipyard ('ʃɪp,jɑ:d) *n.* a place or facility for the building, maintenance, and repair of ships.

shire (ʃaɪə) *n.* 1. a. one of the British counties. b. (*in combination*): *Yorkshire*. 2. (in Australia) a rural district having its own local council. 3. See **shire horse**. 4. the Shires, the Midland counties of England, famous for hunting, etc.

shire horse *n.* a large heavy breed of carthorse with long hair on the fetlocks.

shirk (ʃɜ:k) *vb.* 1. to avoid discharging (work, a duty, etc.); evade. ~n. **also shirker**. 2. a person who shirks.

shirk ('ʃɜ:k) *vb.* 1. to gather (fabric) into two or more parallel rows to decorate a dress, blouse, etc., often using elastic thread. 2. (*tr.*) to bake (eggs) out of their shells. ~n. **also shirring**. 3. a series of gathered rows decorating a dress, blouse, etc.

shirt (ʃɜ:t) *n.* 1. a garment worn on the upper part of the body, esp. by men, usually having a collar and sleeves and buttoning up the front. 2. short for **night-shirt**. 3. **keep your shirt on**. *Inf.* to refrain from losing one's temper. 4. **put or lose one's shirt on**. *Inf.* to bet or lose all one has on (a horse, etc.).

shirting ('ʃɜ:tɪŋ) *n.* fabric used in making men's shirts.

shirtsleeve ('ʃɜ:t,sli:v) *n.* 1. the sleeve of a shirt. 2. **in one's shirtsleeves**, not wearing a jacket.

shirt-tail *n.* the part of a shirt that extends below the waist.

shirtwaister ('ʃɜ:t,weɪstə) or **U.S. shirtwaist** *n.* a woman's dress with a tailored bodice resembling a shirt. **shirty** ('ʃɜ:tɪ) *adj.* **shirtier**, **shirtiest**. *Sl.*, *chiefly Brit.* bad-tempered or annoyed.

shish kebab ('ʃɪ:ʃ kə'bəb) *n.* the full term for **kebab**.

shit (ʃɪt) *vb.* **shitting**; **shitted** or **shit**. 1. to defecate. ~n. 2. faeces; excrement. 3. *Sl.* rubbish; nonsense. ~interj. 4. *Sl.* an exclamation expressing anger, disgust, etc. —'shitty *adj.*

shiver ('ʃɪvə) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. to shake or tremble, as from cold or fear. ~n. 2. the act of shivering; a tremulous motion. 3. the shivers, an attack of shivering, esp. through fear or illness. —'shiverer *n.* —'shivery *adj.*

shiver² ('ʃɪvə) *vb.* 1. to break or cause to break into fragments. ~n. 2. a splintered piece.

shoal¹ ('ʃəʊl) *n.* 1. a stretch of shallow water. 2. a sandbank or rocky area, esp. one that is visible at low water. ~vb. 3. to make or become shallow. 4. (*intr.*) *Naut.* to sail into shallower water. ~adj. **also shoaly**. 5. a less common word for **shallow**.

shoal² ('ʃəʊl) *n.* 1. a large group of fish. 2. a large group of people or things. ~vb. 3. (*intr.*) to collect together in such a group.

shock¹ ('ʃɒk) *vb.* 1. to experience or cause to experience extreme horror, disgust, surprise, etc.: *the atrocities shocked us*. 2. to cause a state of shock in (a person). 3. to come or cause to come into violent contact. ~n. 4. a sudden and violent jarring blow or impact. 5. something that causes a sudden and violent disturbance in the emotions. 6. *Pathol.* a state of bodily collapse, as from

severe bleeding, burns, fright, etc. 7. See **electric shock**.

—**shockable** *adj.* —**shockability** *n.* —**shocker** *n.*

shock' (ʃɒk) *n.* 1. a number of sheaves set on end in a field to dry. 2. a pile or stack of unthreshed corn. ~vb. 3. (tr.) to set up (sheaves) in shocks.

shock' (ʃɒk) *n.* a thick bushy mass, esp. of hair.

shock absorber *n.* any device designed to absorb mechanical shock, esp. one fitted to a motor vehicle to damp the recoil of the road springs.

shocking (ˈʃɒkɪŋ) *adj.* 1. causing shock, horror, or disgust. 2. **shocking pink**. a garish shade of pink. 3. *Inf.* very bad or terrible: **shocking weather**. —**shocking-ly** *adv.*

shockproof (ˈʃɒk,pru:f) *adj.* capable of absorbing shock without damage.

shock therapy or treatment *n.* the treatment of certain psychotic conditions by injecting drugs or by passing an electric current through the brain (**electroconvulsive therapy**) to produce convulsions and coma.

shod (ʃɒd) *vb.* a past participle of **shoe**.

shoddy (ˈʃɒdi) *adj.* -dier, -diest. 1. imitating something of better quality. 2. of poor quality. ~n. 3. a yarn or fabric made from wool waste or clippings. 4. anything of inferior quality that is designed to simulate superior quality. —**shoddily** *adv.* —**shoddiness** *n.*

shoe (ʃu:) *n.* 1. a. one of a matching pair of coverings shaped to fit the foot, esp. one ending below the ankle, having an upper of leather, plastic, etc., on a sole and heel of heavier material. b. (as modifier): **shoe cleaner**. 2. anything resembling a shoe in shape, function, position, etc., such as a horseshoe. 3. a band of metal or wood on the bottom of the runner of a sledge. 4. See **brake shoe**. 5. **be in (a person's) shoes**. *Inf.* to be in another person's situation. ~vb. **shoeing**, **shod**. (tr.) 6. to furnish with shoes. 7. to fit (a horse) with horseshoes. 8. to furnish with a hard cover, such as a metal plate, for protection against friction or bruising.

shoehorn (ˈʃu:,hɔ:n) *n.* a smooth curved implement of horn, metal, plastic, etc., inserted at the heel of a shoe to ease the foot into it.

shoelace (ˈʃu:,leɪs) *n.* a cord or lace for fastening shoes.

shoe leather *n.* 1. leather used to make shoes. 2. **save shoe leather**. to avoid wearing out shoes, as by taking a bus rather than walking.

shoemaker (ˈʃu:,meɪkə) *n.* a person who makes or repairs shoes or boots. —**shoe-making** *n.*

shoestring (ˈʃu:,striŋ) *n.* 1. another word for **shoelace**. 2. *Inf.* a very small or petty amount of money (esp. in on a shoestring).

shoetree (ˈʃu:,tri:) *n.* a wooden or metal form inserted into a shoe or boot to stretch it or preserve its shape.

shone (ʃɒn; U.S. ʃɔ:n) *vb.* the past tense or past participle of **shine**.

shoo (ʃu:) *interj.* 1. go away!: used to drive away unwanted or annoying people, animals, etc. ~vb. **shooing**, **shoed**. 2. (tr.) to drive away by or as if by crying "shoo". 3. (intr.) to cry "shoo".

shook (ʃuk) *vb.* the past tense of **shake**.

shoot (ʃu:t) *vb.* **shooting**, **shot**. 1. (tr.) to hit, wound, damage, or kill with a missile fired from a weapon. 2. to discharge (a missile or missiles) from a weapon. 3. to fire (a weapon) or (of a weapon) to be fired. 4. to send out or be sent out as if from a weapon: *he shot questions at her*. 5. (intr.) to move very rapidly. 6. (tr.) to slide or push into or out of a fastening: *to shoot a bolt*. 7. to emit (a ray of light) or (of a ray of light) to be emitted. 8. (tr.) to go or pass quickly over or through: *to shoot rapids*. 9. (intr.) to hunt game with a gun for sport. 10. (tr.) to pass over (an area) in hunting game. 11. (intr.) (of a plant) to produce (buds, branches, etc.). 12. to photograph or record (a sequence, etc.). 13. (tr.; usually passive) to variegate or streak, as with colour. 14. **Soccer, hockey**, etc. to hit or propel (the ball, etc.) towards the goal. 15. (tr.) **Sport**, chiefly U.S. to score (strokes, etc.): *he shot 72 on the first round*. 16. (tr.) to measure the altitude of (a celestial body). 17. (often foll. by *up*) *Sl.* to inject (someone, esp. oneself) with (a drug, esp. heroin). 18. **shoot a line**. *Sl.* a. to boast. b. to tell a lie. ~n. 19. the act of shooting. 20. the action or motion of something that is shot. 21. the first aerial part of a plant to develop from a germinating seed. 22. any new growth of a plant, such as a bud, etc. 23. *Chiefly Brit.* a meeting or party organized for hunting game with guns. 24. an area where game can be hunted with guns. 25. a steep descent in a stream; rapid. 26. **the whole shoot**. *Sl.* everything. ~interj. 27. U.S. an exclamation expressing disbelief, scepticism, etc. —**shooter** *n.*

shooting brake *n.* *Brit.* another name for **estate car**.

shooting star *n.* an informal name for **meteor**.

shooting stick *n.* a device that resembles a walking stick, having a spike at one end and a folding seat at the other.

shop (ʃɒp) *n.* 1. a place, esp. a small building, for the retail sale of goods and services. 2. a place for the performance of a specified type of work; workshop. 3. **all over the shop**. *Inf.* a. in disarray: *his papers were all over the shop*. b. in every direction: *I've searched for it all over the shop*. 4. **shut up shop**. to close business at the end of the day or permanently. 5. **talk shop**. *Inf.* to discuss one's business, profession, etc., esp. on a social occasion. ~vb. **shopping**, **shopped**. 6. (intr.; often foll. by *for*) to visit a shop or shops in search of (goods) with the intention of buying them. 7. (tr.) *Sl.*, chiefly *Brit.* to inform on (someone) to the police. —**shopping** *n.*

shop around *vb.* (intr., adv.) *Inf.* 1. to visit a number of shops or stores to compare goods and prices. 2. to consider a number of possibilities before making a choice.

shop assistant *n.* a person who serves in a shop.

shop floor *n.* 1. the part of a factory housing the machines and men directly involved in production. 2. workers, esp. factory workers organized in a union.

shopkeeper (ˈʃɒp,ki:pə) *n.* a person who owns or manages a shop or small store. —**shop-keeping** *n.*

shoplifter (ˈʃɒp,lɪftə) *n.* a person who steals goods from a shop. —**shop-lifting** *n.*

shopper (ˈʃɒpə) *n.* a person who buys goods in a shop.

shopping centre *n.* 1. the area of a town where most of the shops are situated. 2. a complex of stores, restaurants, etc. with an adjoining car park.

shopping mall *n.* U.S., *Canad.*, & *Austral.* a large enclosed shopping centre, often with central heating and air conditioning.

shopping plaza *n.* *Chiefly U.S. & Canad.* a shopping centre, esp. a small group of stores built as a strip.

shopsoiled (ˈʃɒp,sɔɪld) *adj.* worn, faded, etc., from being displayed in a shop or store.

shop steward *n.* an elected representative of the union workers in a shop, factory, etc.

shoptalk (ˈʃɒp,tɔ:k) *n.* conversation concerning one's work, esp. when carried on outside business hours.

shopwalker (ˈʃɒp,wɔ:kə) *n.* *Brit.* a person employed by a departmental store to supervise sales personnel, assist customers, etc.

shore¹ (ʃɔ:) *n.* 1. the land along the edge of a sea, lake, or wide river. Related *adj.*: **littoral**. 2. a land, as opposed to water. b. (as modifier): **shore duty**. 3. *Law*, the tract of coastland lying between the ordinary marks of high and low water. 4. (often *pl.*) a country: *his native shores*.

shore² (ʃɔ:) *n.* 1. a prop or beam used to support a wall, building, etc. ~vb. 2. (tr.; often foll. by *up*) to make safe with or as if with a shore. —**shoring** *n.*

shoreline (ˈʃɔ:,laɪn) *n.* the edge of a body of water.

shoreward (ˈʃɔ:wəd) *adj.* 1. near or facing the shore. ~adv. also **shorewards**. 2. towards the shore.

shorn (ʃɔ:n) *vb.* a past participle of **shear**.

short (ʃɔ:t) *adj.* 1. of little length; not long. 2. of little height; not tall. 3. of limited duration. 4. deficient: *the number of places laid at the table was short by four*. 5. (postpositive; often foll. by *of* or *on*) lacking (in) or needing (of): *I'm always short of money*. 6. concise; succinct. 7. (of drinks) consisting chiefly of a spirit, such as whisky. 8. **Cricket**. (of a fielding position) near the batsman: **short leg**. 9. lacking in the power of retentiveness: *a short memory*. 10. abrupt to the point of rudeness: *the salesgirl was very short with him*. 11. (of betting odds) almost even. 12. **Finance**. a. not possessing the securities or commodities that have been sold under contract and therefore obliged to make a purchase before the delivery date. b. of or relating to such sales, which depend on falling prices for profit. 13. **Phonetics**. a. denoting a vowel of relatively brief temporal duration. b. (in popular usage) denoting the qualities of the five English vowels represented orthographically in the words *pat*, *pet*, *pit*, *pot*, *put*, and *putt*. 14. **Prosody**. a. denoting a vowel that is phonetically short or a syllable containing such a vowel. b. (of a vowel or syllable in verse) not carrying emphasis or accent. 15. (of pastry) crumbly in texture. 16. **caught or taken short**. having a sudden need to urinate or defecate. 17. **short for**. an abbreviation for. 18. **short and sweet**. unexpectedly brief. 19. **in short supply**. scarce. ~adv. 20. abruptly: *to stop short*. 21. briefly or concisely. 22. rudely or curtly. 23. **fall short**. not to reach the required

mark or standard. **24. Finance.** without possessing the securities or commodities at the time of their contractual sale: *to sell short*. **25. go short.** not to have a sufficient amount, etc. **26. short of.** except: *nothing short of a miracle can save him now*. ~*n.* **27.** anything that is short. **28.** a drink consisting of a spirit, often with lime, soda, etc., added. **29. Phonetics, prosody.** a short vowel or syllable. **30. Finance.** a, a short contract or sale. *b.* a short seller. **31.** a short film, usually of a factual nature. **32.** See **short circuit**. **33. for short.** *Inf.* as an abbreviation: *he is called Jim for short*. **34. in short.** a, as a summary. *b.* in a few words. ~*vb.* **35.** See **short circuit**. — **shortness** *n.*

shortage ('ʃɔ:tɪdʒ) *n.* a deficiency or lack in the amount needed, expected, or due; deficit.

shortbread ('ʃɔ:t,bred) *n.* a rich crumbly biscuit made with a large proportion of butter.

shortcake ('ʃɔ:t,keɪk) *n.* **1.** shortbread. **2.** a dessert made of layers of biscuit or cake filled with fruit and cream.

short-change *vb. (tr.)* **1.** to give less than correct change to. **2. *Sl.*** to cheat or swindle.

short circuit *n.* **1.** a faulty or accidental connection between two points of different potential in an electric circuit, establishing a path of low resistance through which an excessive current can flow. ~*vb.* **short-circuit.** **2.** to develop or cause to develop a short circuit. **3. (tr.)** to bypass (a procedure, etc.). **4. (tr.)** to hinder or frustrate (plans, etc.). ~Sometimes (for senses 1, 2) shortened to **short**.

shortcoming ('ʃɔ:t,kʌmɪŋ) *n.* a failing, defect, or deficiency.

short cut *n.* **1.** a route that is shorter than the usual one. **2.** a means of saving time or effort. ~*vb.* **short-cut, -cutting, -cut.** **3.** to use a short cut.

shorten ('ʃɔ:t'n) *vb.* **1.** to make or become short or shorter. **2. (tr.)** *Naut.* to reduce the area of (sail). **3. (tr.)** to make (pastry, etc.) short, by adding fat to the dough. **4. Gambling.** to cause (the odds) to lessen or (of odds) to become less.

shortening ('ʃɔ:t'nɪŋ) *n.* butter, lard, or other fat, used in a dough, cake mixture, etc., to make the mixture short.

shortfall ('ʃɔ:t,fɔ:l) *n.* **1.** failure to meet a goal or a requirement. **2.** the amount of such a failure.

shorthand ('ʃɔ:t,hænd) *n. a.* a system of rapid handwriting employing simple strokes and other symbols to represent words or phrases. *b. (as modifier):* a *shorthand typist*.

shorthand typist *n* *Brit.* a person skilled in the use of shorthand and in typing. *U.S.* name **stenographer**.

short-handed *adj.* lacking the usual or necessary number of assistants, workers, etc.

shorthorn ('ʃɔ:t,hɔ:n) *n.* a short-horned breed of cattle with several regional varieties.

short list *Chiefly Brit.* ~*n.* **1.** a list of suitable applicants for a job, post, etc., from which the successful candidate will be selected. ~*vb. (tr.)* **short-list.** **2.** to put (someone) on a short list.

short-lived *adj.* living or lasting only for a short time.

shortly ('ʃɔ:tlɪ) *adv.* **1.** in a short time; soon. **2.** briefly. **3.** in a curt or rude manner.

shorts ('ʃɔ:ts) *pl. n.* **1.** trousers reaching the top of the thigh, worn by both sexes for sport, etc. **2. Chiefly U.S.** men's underpants that usually reach mid-thigh. **3.** shorted gilt-edged securities. **4.** short-term bonds. **5.** a livestock feed containing a large proportion of bran and wheat germ.

short shrift *n.* **1.** brief and unsympathetic treatment. **2.** (formerly) a brief period allowed to a condemned prisoner to make confession. **3. make short shrift of.** to dispose of quickly.

short-sighted *adj.* **1.** relating to or suffering from myopia. **2.** lacking foresight: a *short-sighted plan*. — **short-sightedly** *adv.* — **short-sightedness** *n.*

short-tempered *adj.* easily moved to anger.

short-term *adj.* **1.** of, for, or extending over a limited period. **2. Finance.** extending over or maturing within a short period of time, usually twelve months: *short-term credit*.

short ton *n.* the full name for **ton'** (sense 2).

short wave *n. a.* a radio wave with a wavelength in the range 10–100 metres. *b. (as modifier):* a *short-wave broadcast*.

short-winded *adj.* **1.** tending to run out of breath, esp. after exertion. **2.** (of speech or writing) terse or abrupt.

shot' (ʃɒt) *n.* **1.** the act or an instance of firing a projectile. **2. (pl. shot)** a solid missile, such as an iron ball or a lead pellet, discharged from a firearm. **3. a.** small round pellets of lead collectively, as used in cartridges. *b.* metal in the form of coarse powder or small pellets. **4.** the distance that a discharged projectile travels or is capable of travelling. **5.** a person who shoots, esp. with regard to his ability: *he is a good shot*. **6. *Inf.*** an attempt. **7. *Inf.*** a guess. **8.** any act of throwing or hitting something, as in certain sports. **9.** the launching of a rocket, etc., esp. to a specified destination: a *moon shot*. **10. a. a single photograph. *b.* a length of film taken by a single camera without breaks. **11. *Inf.*** an injection, as of a vaccine or narcotic drug. **12. *Inf.*** a glass of alcoholic drink, esp. spirits. **13. Sport.** a heavy metal ball used in the shot put. **14. call the shots. *Sl.*** to have control over an organization, etc. **15. have a shot at. *Inf.*** to attempt. **16. like a shot.** very quickly, esp. willingly. **17. shot in the arm. *Inf.*** anything that regenerates, increases confidence or efficiency, etc. **18. shot in the dark.** a wild guess.**

shot' (ʃɒt) *vb.* **1.** the past tense or past participle of **shoot**. ~*adj.* **2.** (of textiles) woven to give a changing colour effect. **3.** streaked with colour.

shotgun ('ʃɒt,gʌn) *n.* **1.** a shoulder firearm with unrifled bore used mainly for hunting small game. ~*adj.* **2. Chiefly U.S.** involving coercion or duress: a *shotgun merger*.

shot put *n.* an athletic event in which contestants hurl or put a heavy metal ball or shot as far as possible. — **shot-, putter** *n.*

should (ʃʊd) *vb.* the past of **shall**: used as an auxiliary verb to indicate that an action is considered by the speaker to be obligatory (*you should go*) or to form the subjunctive mood with *I* or *we* (*I should like to see you*).

▷ **Usage.** *Should* has, as its most common meaning in modern English, the sense ought to as in *I should go to the graduation, but I don't see how I can*. However, the older sense of the subjunctive of *shall* is often used with *I* or *we* to indicate a more polite form than *would*: *I should like to go, but I can't*. In much speech and writing, *should* has been replaced by *would* in contexts of this kind, but it remains in conditional subjunctives: *should (never would) I go, I should (or would) wear my black dress*.

shoulder ('ʃəʊldə) *n.* **1.** the part of the vertebrate body where the arm or a corresponding forelimb joins the trunk. **2.** the joint at the junction of the forelimb with the pectoral girdle. **3.** a cut of meat including the upper part of the foreleg. **4. Printing.** the flat surface of a piece of type from which the face rises. **5.** the part of a garment that covers the shoulder. **6.** anything that resembles a shoulder in shape or position. **7.** the strip of unpaved land that borders a road. **8. give (someone) the cold shoulder. *Inf.*** a. to treat in a cold manner; snub. *b.* to ignore or shun. **9. put one's shoulder to the wheel. *Inf.*** to work very hard. **10. rub shoulders with. *Inf.*** to associate with. **11. shoulder to shoulder. *a.*** side by side. *b.* in a corporate effort. ~*vb.* **12. (tr.)** to bear or carry (a burden, etc.) as if on one's shoulders. **13.** to push (something) with or as if with the shoulder. **14. (tr.)** to lift or carry on the shoulders. **15. shoulder arms. *Mil.*** to bring the rifle vertically close to the right side with the muzzle uppermost.

shoulder blade *n.* the nontechnical name for **scapula**.

shoulder strap *n.* a strap over the shoulders, as to hold up a garment or to support a bag, etc.

shout (ʃaʊt) *n.* **1.** a loud cry, esp. to convey emotion or a command. **2. *Inf.*** a round, esp. of drinks. ~*vb.* **3.** to utter (something) in a loud cry. **4. (intr.)** to make a loud noise. **5. (tr.)** *Austral. & N.Z. *inf.** to treat (someone) to (something), esp. a round of drinks. — **'shouter** *n.*

shout down *vb. (tr., adv.)* to drown, overwhelm, or silence by talking loudly.

shove (ʃʌv) *vb.* **1.** to give a thrust or push to (a person or thing). **2. (tr.)** to give a violent push to. **3. (tr.)** *Inf.* to put (something) somewhere: *shove it in the bin*. ~*n.* **4.** the act or an instance of shoving. ~See also **shove off**. — **'shover** *n.*

shovel ('ʃʌvəl) *n.* **1.** an instrument for lifting or scooping loose material, such as earth, coal, etc., consisting of a curved blade or a scoop attached to a handle. **2.** any machine or part resembling a shovel in action. **3.** Also called: **shovelful**, the amount that can be contained in a shovel. ~*vb.* **-elling, -elled or U.S. -eling, -eled.** **4.** to lift (earth, etc.) with a shovel. **5. (tr.)** to clear or dig (a path) with or as if with a shovel. **6. (tr.)** to gather, load,

or unload in a hurried or careless way. — **'shoveller** or **U.S. 'shoveler** *n.*

shove off *vb.* (*intr., adv.; often imperative*) 1. to move from the shore in a boat. 2. *Inf.* to go away; depart.

show (ʃəʊ) *vb.* **showing, showed; shown or showed.** 1. to make, be, or become visible or noticeable: *to show one's dislike.* 2. (*tr.*) to exhibit: *he showed me a picture.* 3. (*tr.*) to indicate or explain; prove: *to show that the earth moves round the sun.* 4. (*tr.*) to present (oneself or itself) in a specific character: *to show oneself to be trustworthy.* 5. (*tr.*) foll. by *how* and an infinitive to instruct by demonstration: *show me how to swim.* 6. (*tr.*) to indicate: *a barometer shows changes in the weather.* 7. (*tr.*) to grant or bestow: *to show favour to someone.* 8. (*intr.*) to appear: *to show to advantage.* 9. to exhibit, display, or offer (goods, etc.) for sale: *three artists were showing at the gallery.* 10. (*tr.*) to allege, as in a legal document: *to show cause.* 11. to present (a film, etc.) or (of a play, etc.) to be presented, as at a theatre or cinema. 12. (*tr.*) to guide or escort: *please show me to my room.* 13. **show in or out.** to conduct a person into or out of a room or building by opening the door for him. 14. (*intr.*) *Sl.* to arrive. ~*n.* 15. a display or exhibition. 16. a public spectacle. 17. an ostentatious display. 18. a theatrical or other entertainment. 19. a trace or indication. 20. **Obstetrics.** a discharge of blood at the onset of labour. 21. *Inf.* a chance (esp. in *give someone a show*). 22. *Sl., chiefly Brit.* a thing or affair (esp. in good show, bad show, etc.). 23. for **show**, in order to attract attention. 24. **run the show.** *Inf.* to take charge of or manage an affair, business, etc. 25. **steal the show.** *Inf.* to draw the most attention or admiration. ~*See also show off, show up.*

show business *n.* the entertainment industry, including theatres, films, television, and radio. Informal term: **show biz.**

showcase (ˈʃəʊ,keɪs) *n.* 1. a glass case used to display objects in a museum or shop. 2. a setting in which anything may be displayed to best advantage.

showdown (ˈʃəʊ,daʊn) *n.* 1. *Inf.* an action that brings matters to a head or acts as a conclusion. 2. *Poker.* the exposing of the cards in the players' hands at the end of the game.

shower (ˈʃəʊə) *n.* 1. a brief period of rain, hail, sleet, or snow. 2. a sudden abundant fall or downpour, as of tears, sparks, or light. 3. a rush: *a shower of praise.* 4. a. a kind of bath in which a person stands upright and is sprayed with water from a nozzle. b. the room, booth, etc., containing such a bath. Full name: **shower bath.** 5. *Brit. sl.* a derogatory term applied to a person or group. 6. **U.S. & N.Z.** a party held to honour and present gifts to a person, as to a prospective bride. 7. a large number of particles formed by the collision of a cosmic-ray particle with a particle in the atmosphere. 8. **N.Z.** a light fabric put over a tea table to protect the food from flies, etc. ~*vb.* 9. (*tr.*) to sprinkle or spray with or as if with a shower. 10. (often with *it* as subject) to fall or cause to fall in the form of a shower. 11. (*tr.*) to give (gifts, etc.) in abundance or present (a person) with (gifts, etc.): *they showered gifts on him.* 12. (*intr.*) to take a shower. — **'showery** *adj.*

showing (ˈʃəʊɪŋ) *n.* 1. a presentation, exhibition, or display. 2. manner of presentation.

showjumping (ˈʃəʊ,dʒʌmpɪŋ) *n.* the riding of horses in competitions to demonstrate skill in jumping over or between various obstacles. — **'show-jumper** *n.*

showman (ˈʃəʊmən) *n., pl. -men.* 1. a person who presents or produces a theatrical show, etc. 2. a person skilled at presenting anything in an effective manner. — **'showmanship** *n.*

shown (ʃəʊn) *vb.* a past participle of **show**.

show off *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. (*tr.*) to exhibit or display so as to invite admiration. 2. (*intr.*) *Inf.* to behave in such a manner as to make an impression. ~*n.* **show-off.** 3. *Inf.* a person who makes a vain display of himself.

showpiece (ˈʃəʊ,pɪs) *n.* 1. anything displayed or exhibited. 2. anything prized as a very fine example of its type.

showplace (ˈʃəʊ,pleɪs) *n.* a place exhibited or visited for its beauty, historic interest, etc.

showroom (ˈʃəʊ,rʊm, -rʊm) *n.* a room in which goods for sale, such as cars, are on display.

show up *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. to reveal or be revealed clearly. 2. (*tr.*) to expose or reveal the faults or defects of by comparison. 3. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to put to shame; embarrass. 4. (*intr.*) *Inf.* to appear or arrive.

showy (ˈʃəʊɪ) *adj.* **showier, showiest.** 1. gaudy or osten-

tatious. 2. making an imposing display. — **'showily** *adv.* — **'showiness** *n.*

shrank (fræŋk) *vb.* a past tense of **shrink**.

shrapnel (ˈʃræpnl) *n.* 1. a projectile containing a number of small pellets or bullets exploded before impact. 2. fragments from this type of shell.

shred (ʃred) *n.* 1. a long narrow strip or fragment torn or cut off. 2. a very small piece or amount. ~*vb.*

shredding, shredded or shred. 3. (*tr.*) to tear or cut into shreds. — **'shredder** *n.*

shrew (ʃruː) *n.* 1. Also called: **shrewmouse.** a small mouse-like long-snouted mammal. 2. a bad-tempered or mean-spirited woman. — **'shrewish** *adj.*

shrewd (ʃruːd) *adj.* 1. astute and penetrating, often with regard to business. 2. artful: *a shrewd politician.* 3. *Obs.* piercing: *a shrewd wind.* — **'shrewdly** *adv.* — **'shrewdness** *n.*

shriek (ʃriːk) *n.* 1. a shrill and piercing cry. ~*vb.* 2. to produce or utter (words, sounds, etc.) in a shrill piercing tone. — **'shrieker** *n.*

shriff (ʃrɪft) *n.* *Arch.* the act or an instance of shriving or being shriven. ~*See also short shrift.*

shrike (ʃraɪk) *n.* an Old World songbird having a heavy hooked bill and feeding on smaller animals which it sometimes impales on thorns, barbed wire, etc. Also called: **butcherbird.**

shrill (ʃrɪl) *adj.* 1. sharp and high-pitched in quality. 2. emitting a sharp high-pitched sound. ~*vb.* 3. to utter (words, sounds, etc.) in a shrill tone. — **'shrillness** *n.* — **'shrilly** *adv.*

shrimp (ʃrɪmp) *n.* 1. any of a genus of chiefly marine decapod crustaceans having a slender flattened body with a long tail and a single pair of pincers. 2. *Inf.* a diminutive person, esp. a child. ~*vb.* 3. (*intr.*) to fish for shrimps. — **'shrimper** *n.*

shrine (ʃraɪn) *n.* 1. a place of worship hallowed by association with a sacred person or object. 2. a container for sacred relics. 3. the tomb of a saint or other holy person. 4. a place or site venerated for its association with a famous person or event. 5. **R.C. Church.** a building, alcove, or shelf arranged as a setting for a statue, picture, etc. of Christ, the Virgin Mary, or a saint. ~*vb.* 6. short for **enshrine.** — **'shrine, like** *adj.*

shrink (ʃrɪŋk) *vb.* **shrinking; shrank or shrunk; shrunk or shrunk.** 1. to contract or cause to contract as from wetness, heat, cold, etc. 2. to become or cause to become smaller in size. 3. (*intr.*; often foll. by *from*) a. to recoil or withdraw: *to shrink from the sight of blood.* b. to feel great reluctance (at). ~*n.* 4. the act or an instance of shrinking. 5. **shrinking violet.** *Inf.* a shy person. 6. *Sl.* a psychiatrist. — **'shrinkable** *adj.* — **'shrinker** *n.*

shrinkage (ˈʃrɪŋkɪdʒ) *n.* 1. the act or fact of shrinking. 2. the amount by which anything decreases in size, value, weight, etc.

shrink-wrap *vb.* **-wrapping, -wrapped.** (*tr.*) to package a product in a flexible plastic wrapping designed to shrink about its contours to protect and seal it.

shrive (ʃraɪv) *vb.* **shriving; shrove or shrived; shriven or shrived.** Chiefly **R.C. Church.** 1. to hear the confession of (a penitent). 2. (*tr.*) to impose a penance upon (a penitent) and grant him absolution. 3. (*intr.*) to confess one's sins to a priest in order to obtain forgiveness. — **'shriver** *n.*

shrivel (ˈʃrɪvəl) *vb.* **-elling, -elled or U.S. -eling, -eled.** 1. to make or become shrunken and withered. 2. to lose or cause to lose vitality.

shroud (ʃraʊd) *n.* 1. a garment or piece of cloth used to wrap a dead body. 2. anything that envelops like a garment: *a shroud of mist.* 3. a protective covering for a piece of equipment. 4. *Naut.* one of a pattern of ropes or cables used to stay a mast. ~*vb.* 5. (*tr.*) to wrap in a shroud. 6. (*tr.*) to cover, envelop, or hide. — **'shroudless** *adj.*

shrove (ʃrəʊv) *vb.* a past tense of **shrive**.

Shrovetide (ˈʃrəʊv,taɪd) *n.* the Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, formerly a time when confessions were made for Lent.

shrub (ʃrʌb) *n.* a woody perennial plant, smaller than a tree, with several major branches arising from near the base of the main stem. — **'shrub, like** *adj.*

shrubbery (ˈʃrʌbəri) *n., pl. -beries.* 1. a place where a number of shrubs are planted. 2. shrubs collectively.

shrubby (ˈʃrʌbi) *adj.* **-bier, -biest.** 1. consisting of, planted with, or abounding in shrubs. 2. resembling a shrub. — **'shrubbiness** *n.*

shrug (ʃrʌɡ) *vb.* **shrugging, shrugged.** 1. to draw up

and drop (the shoulders) abruptly in a gesture expressing indifference, ignorance, etc. ~*n.* 2. the gesture so made.

shrug off *vb.* (*tr., adv.*) 1. to minimize the importance of; dismiss. 2. to get rid of.

shrunk ('ʃrʌŋk) *vb.* a past participle or past tense of **shrink**.

shrunk ('ʃrʌŋk'n) *vb.* 1. a past participle of **shrink**. ~*adj.* 2. (usually *prenominal*) reduced in size.

shudder ('ʃʌðə) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to shake or tremble suddenly and violently, as from horror, fear, aversion, etc. ~*n.* 2. a convulsive shiver. —**shudderingly** *adv.*

—**shuddery** *adj.*

shuffle ('ʃʌfl) *vb.* 1. to walk or move (the feet) with a slow dragging motion. 2. to change the position of (something), esp. in order to deceive others. 3. (*tr.*) to mix together in a careless manner: *he shuffled the papers nervously*. 4. to mix up (cards in a pack) to change their order. 5. (*intr.*) to behave in an evasive or underhand manner. 6. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *into* or *out of*) to move or cause to move clumsily: *he shuffled out of the door*. ~*n.* 7. the act or an instance of shuffling. 8. a rearrangement: *a Cabinet shuffle*. 9. a dance or dance step with short dragging movements of the feet. —**shuffler** *n.*

shuffy ('ʃufti, 'ʃafti) *n., pl. -ties.* *Brit. sl.* a look; peep.

shun (ʃʌn) *vb.* **shunning**, **shunned.** (*tr.*) to avoid deliberately.

shunt (ʃʌnt) *vb.* 1. to turn or cause to turn to one side. 2. *Railways.* to transfer (rolling stock) from track to track. 3. *Electronics.* to divert or be diverted through a shunt. 4. (*tr.*) to evade by putting off onto someone else. ~*n.* 5. the act or an instance of shunting. 6. a railway point. 7. *Electronics.* a low-resistance conductor connected in parallel across a part of a circuit to provide an alternative path for a known fraction of the current. 8. *Med.* a channel that bypasses the normal circulation of the blood. 9. *Sl.* a car crash. —**shunter** *n.*

shush (ʃʊʃ) *interj.* 1. be quiet! hush! ~*vb.* 2. to silence or calm (someone) by or as if by saying "shush".

shut (ʃʌt) *vb.* **shutting**, **shut.** 1. to move (something) so as to cover an aperture: *to shut a door*. 2. to close (something) by bringing together the parts: *to shut a book*. 3. (*tr.*, often foll. by *up*) to close or lock the doors of: *to shut up a house*. 4. (*tr.*; foll. by *in*, *out*, etc.) to confine, enclose, or exclude. 5. (*tr.*) to prevent (a business, etc.) from operating. 6. **shut one's eyes** *to*. to ignore deliberately. 7. **shut the door on** *a.* to refuse to think about. *b.* to render impossible. ~*adj.* 8. closed or fastened. ~*n.* 9. the act or time of shutting. ~*See* also **shutdown**, **shut-off**, **shutout**, **shut up**.

shutdown ('ʃʌt,daʊn) *n.* 1. the closing of a factory, shop, etc. ~*vb.* **shut down.** (*adv.*) 2. to cease or cause to cease operation. 3. (*tr.*) to close by lowering.

shuteye ('ʃʌt,ai) *n.* a slang term for **sleep**.

shut-in *n.* *a.* Chiefly *U.S.* a person confined indoors by illness. *b.* (as *modifier*): *a shut-in patient*.

shut-off *n.* 1. a device that shuts something off, esp. a machine control. 2. a stoppage or cessation. ~*vb.* **shut off.** (*tr., adv.*) 3. to stem the flow of. 4. to block off the passage through. 5. to isolate or separate.

shutout ('ʃʌt,aut) *n.* 1. a less common word for a **lockout**. ~*vb.* **shut out.** (*tr., adv.*) 2. to keep out or exclude. 3. to conceal from sight: *we planted trees to shut out the view of the road*.

shutter ('ʃʌtə) *n.* 1. a hinged doorlike cover, often louvred and usually one of a pair, for closing off a window. 2. **put up the shutters.** to close business at the end of the day or permanently. 3. *Photog.* an opaque shield in a camera that, when tripped, admits light to expose the film or plate for a predetermined period, usually a fraction of a second. 4. *Music.* one of the louvred covers over the mouths of organ pipes, operated by the swell pedal. 5. a person or thing that shuts. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 6. to close with a shutter or shutters. 7. to equip with a shutter or shutters.

shuttle ('ʃʌtl) *n.* 1. a bobbin-like device used in weaving for passing the weft thread between the warp threads. 2. a small bobbin-like device used to hold the thread in a sewing machine, etc. 3. a bus, train, aircraft, etc., that plies between two points. 4. *a.* the movement between various countries of a diplomat in order to negotiate with rulers who refuse to meet each other. *b.* (as *modifier*): *shuttle diplomacy*. 5. *Badminton, etc.* short for **shuttlecock**. ~*vb.* 6. to move or cause to move by or as if by a shuttle.

shuttlecock ('ʃʌtl,kɒk) *n.* 1. a light cone consisting of a cork stub with feathered flights, struck to and fro in

badminton and battledore. 2. anything moved to and fro, as in an argument.

shut up *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. (*tr.*) to prevent all access to. 2. (*tr.*) to confine or imprison. 3. *Inf.* to cease to talk or make a noise or cause to cease to talk or make a noise: often used in commands.

shy ('ʃai) *adj.* **shyer**, **shyest** or **shier**, **shiest**. 1. not at ease in the company of others. 2. easily frightened; timid. 3. (often foll. by *of*) watchful or wary. 4. *Inf.* short of. 5. (in combination) showing reluctance or disinclination: *work-shy*. ~*vb.* **shying**, **shied.** (*intr.*) 6. to move suddenly, as from fear: *the horse shied at the snake in the road*. 7. (usually foll. by *off* or *away*) to draw back. ~*n., pl. shies*. 8. a sudden movement, as from fear. —**shyer** *n.* —**shyly** *adv.* —**shyness** *n.*

shy? ('ʃai) *vb.* **shying**, **shied.** 1. to throw (something) with a sideways motion. ~*n., pl. shies*. 2. a quick throw. 3. *Inf.* a gibe. 4. *Inf.* an attempt. —**shyer** *n.*

Shylock ('ʃai,lɒk) *n.* a heartless or demanding creditor.

si (si) *n.* *Music.* a variant of *te*.

Si the chemical symbol for silicon.

SI see **SI unit**.

Siamese (saɪə'mi:z) *n., pl. -mese*. 1. See **Siamese cat**. ~*adj.* 2. characteristic of, relating to, or being a Siamese twin. ~*adj., n.* 3. another word for **Thai**.

Siamese cat *n.* a short-haired breed of cat with a tapering tail, blue eyes, and dark ears, mask, tail, and paws.

Siamese twins *pl. n.* twin babies born joined together at some point, such as at the hips.

sibilant ('sɪblənt) *adj.* 1. *Phonetics.* relating to or denoting the consonants (s, z, ʃ, ʒ), all pronounced with a characteristic hissing sound. 2. having a hissing sound. ~*n.* 3. a sibilant consonant. —**sibilance** or **'sibilarity** *n.* —**sibilantly** *adv.*

sibling ('sɪblɪŋ) *n.* *a.* a person's brother or sister. *b.* (as *modifier*): *sibling rivalry*.

sibyl ('sɪbl) *n.* 1. (in ancient Greece and Rome) any of a number of women believed to be oracles or prophetesses. 2. a witch, fortune-teller, or sorceress. —**sibylline** ('sɪbɪ,lɪn) *adj.*

sic ('sɪk) *adv.* so or thus: inserted in brackets in a text to indicate that an odd or questionable reading is in fact accurate.

sic? ('sɪk) *vb.* **sicking**, **sicked.** (*tr.*) 1. to attack: used only in commands, as to a dog. 2. to urge (a dog) to attack.

sick ('sɪk) *adj.* 1. inclined or likely to vomit. 2. *a.* suffering from ill health. *b.* (as *n.*): *the sick*. 3. *a.* of or used by people who are unwell: *sick benefits*. *b.* (in combination): *a sickroom*. 4. deeply affected with a mental or spiritual feeling akin to physical sickness: *sick at heart*. 5. mentally or spiritually disturbed. 6. *Inf.* delighting in or catering for the macabre: *sick humour*. 7. (often foll. by *of*) *Inf.* disgusted or weary: *I am sick of his everlasting laughter*. 8. (often foll. by *for*) weary with longing: *I am sick for my own country*. 9. pallid or sickly. 10. not in working order. ~*n., vb.* 11. an informal word for **vomit**. —**sickish** *adj.*

sickbay ('sɪk,bei) *n.* a room for the treatment of the sick or injured, as on board a ship.

sicken ('sɪkən) *vb.* 1. to make or become sick, nauseated, or disgusted. 2. (*intr.*; often foll. by *for*) to show symptoms (of an illness).

sickening ('sɪkənɪŋ) *adj.* 1. causing sickness or revulsion. 2. *Inf.* extremely annoying. —**sickeningly** *adv.*

sickle ('sɪkl) *n.* an implement for cutting grass, corn, etc., having a curved blade and a short handle.

sick leave *n.* leave of absence from work through illness.

sickle cell anaemia *n.* an inherited form of anaemia occurring mainly in Negroes, in which a large number of red blood cells become sickle-shaped.

sickly ('sɪkli) *adj. -lier, -liest*. 1. disposed to frequent ailments; not healthy; weak. 2. of or caused by sickness. 3. (of a smell, taste, etc.) causing revulsion or nausea. 4. (of light or colour) faint or feeble. 5. mawkish; insipid. ~*adv.* 6. in a sick or sickly manner. —**sickliness** *n.*

sickness ('sɪknɪs) *n.* 1. an illness or disease. 2. nausea or queasiness. 3. the state or an instance of being sick.

side (saɪd) *n.* 1. a line or surface that borders anything. 2. *Geom.* *a.* any line segment forming part of the perimeter of a plane geometric figure. *b.* another name for *face* (sense 13). 3. either of two parts into which an object, surface, area, etc., can be divided: *the right side and the left side*. 4. either of the two surfaces of a flat object: *the right and wrong side of the cloth*. 5. *a*

surface or part of an object that extends vertically: *the side of a cliff*. 6. either half of a human or animal body, esp. the area around the waist: *I have a pain in my side*. 7. the area immediately next to a person or thing: *he stood at her side*. 8. a district, point, or direction within an area identified by reference to a central point: *the south side of the city*. 9. the area at the edge of a room, road, etc. 10. aspect or part: *look on the bright side*. 11. one of two or more contesting factions, teams, etc. 12. a page in an essay, etc. 13. a position, opinion, etc., held in opposition to another in a dispute. 14. line of descent: *he gets his brains from his mother's side*. 15. *Inf.* a television channel. 16. *Billiards, etc.* spin imparted to a ball by striking it off-centre with the cue. 17. *Brit. sl.* insolence or pretentiousness: *to put on side*. 18. **on one side**. set apart from the rest, as provision for emergencies, etc. 19. **on the side**. a. apart from or in addition to the main object. b. as a sideline. 20. **take sides**. to support one group, opinion, etc., as against another. ~*adj.* 21. being on one side; lateral. 22. from or viewed as if from one side. 23. directed towards one side. 24. subordinate or incidental: *side road*. ~*vb.* 25. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *with*) to support or associate oneself with a faction, interest, etc.

side arms *pl. n.* weapons carried on the person, by belt or holster, such as a sword, pistol, etc.

sideboard ('said,bɔ:d) *n.* a piece of furniture intended to stand at the side of a dining room, with drawers, cupboards, and shelves to hold silver, china, linen, etc.

sideboards ('said,bɔ:dz) *pl. n.* *Brit.* a man's whiskers grown down either side of the face in front of the ears. *U.S. term:* **sideburns**.

sideburns ('said,bɜ:nz) *pl. n.* another term (*esp. U.S.*) for **sideboards**.

sidecar ('said,kɑ:) *n.* a small car attached on one side to a motorcycle, the other side being supported by a single wheel.

-sided *adj. (in combination)* having a side or sides as specified: *three-sided; many-sided*.

side effect *n.* 1. any unwanted nontherapeutic effect caused by a drug. 2. any secondary effect, esp. an undesirable one.

sidekick ('said,kɪk) *n.* *Sl., chiefly U.S.* a close friend or follower who accompanies another on adventures, etc.

sidelight ('said,lait) *n.* 1. light coming from the side. 2. a side window. 3. either of the two navigational running lights used by vessels at night, a red light on the port and a green on the starboard. 4. *Brit.* either of two small lights on the front of a motor vehicle. 5. additional or incidental information.

sideline ('said,lain) *n.* 1. *Sport.* a line that marks the side boundary of a playing area. 2. a subsidiary interest or source of income. 3. an auxiliary business activity or line of merchandise. ~*vb.* 4. (*tr.*) *Chiefly U.S.* to prevent (a player) from taking part in a game.

sidelines ('said,lainz) *pl. n.* 1. *Sport.* the area immediately outside the playing area, where substitute players sit. 2. the peripheral areas of any region, organization, etc.

sidelong ('said,lɒŋ) *adj. (prenominal)* 1. directed or inclining to one side. 2. indirect or oblique. ~*adv.* 3. from the side; obliquely.

sidereal (saɪ'diəriəl) *adj.* 1. of or involving the stars. 2. determined with reference to one or more stars: *the sidereal day*. —*si'dereally adv.*

sidero- or before a vowel **sider-** combining form. indicating iron: *siderolite*.

side-saddle *n.* 1. a riding saddle originally designed for women riders in skirts who sit with both legs on the near side of the horse. ~*adv.* 2. on or as if on a side-saddle.

sideshow ('said,ʃəʊ) *n.* 1. a small show or entertainment offered in conjunction with a larger attraction, as at a circus or fair. 2. a subordinate event or incident.

sidelap ('said,slɪp) *n.* 1. a sideways skid, as of a motor vehicle. ~*vb.* **slipping, slipped**. 2. another name for **slip** (sense 11).

sidesman ('saidzmən) *n., pl. -men.* *Church of England.* a man elected to help the parish church warden.

side-splitting *adj.* 1. producing great mirth. 2. (of laughter) uproarious or very hearty.

sidestep ('said,step) *vb.* **stepping, stepped**. 1. to step aside from or out of the way of (something). 2. (*tr.*) to dodge or circumvent. ~*n.* **side step**. 3. a movement to one side, as in dancing, boxing, etc. —*'side, stepper n.*

sideswipe ('said,swaɪp) *n.* 1. a glancing blow or hit

along or from the side. ~*vb.* 2. to strike (someone) with such a blow. —*'side, swiper n.*

sidetrack ('said,træk) *vb.* 1. to distract or be distracted from a main subject or topic. ~*n.* 2. *U.S.* a railway siding. 3. a digression.

sidewalk ('said,wɜ:k) *n.* the *U.S.* word for **pavement**.

sideways ('said,weɪz) *adv.* 1. moving, facing, or inclining towards one side. 2. from one side; obliquely. 3. with one side forward. ~*adj. (prenominal)* 4. moving or directed to or from one side. 5. towards or from one side.

side whiskers *pl. n.* another name for **sideboards**.

siding ('sɑɪdɪŋ) *n.* 1. a short stretch of railway track connected to a main line, used to enable trains on the same line to pass. 2. a short railway line giving access to the main line for freight from a factory, etc. 3. *U.S.* material attached to the outside of a building to make it weatherproof.

sidle ('saidl) *vb. (intr.)* 1. to move in a furtive or stealthy manner. 2. to move along sideways.

SIDS *abbrev. for* sudden infant death syndrome. See **cot death**.

siege (sɪdʒ) *n.* 1. a. the offensive operations carried out to capture a fortified place by surrounding it, and deploying weapons against it. b. (*as modifier*): *siege warfare*. 2. a persistent attempt to gain something. 3. *Obs.* a seat or throne. 4. **lay siege to**. to besiege.

siemens ('si:mənz) *n., pl. siemens.* the derived SI unit of electrical conductance equal to 1 reciprocal ohm. Symbol: S Formerly called: **mho**.

sienna (sɪ'ena) *n.* 1. a natural earth containing ferric oxide used as a yellowish-brown pigment when untreated (*raw sienna*) or a reddish-brown pigment when roasted (*burnt sienna*). 2. the colour of this pigment.

sierra (sɪ'ɛərə) *n.* a range of mountains with jagged peaks, esp. in Spain or America. —*sl'erran adj.*

siesta (sɪ'estə) *n.* a rest or nap, usually taken in the early afternoon, as in hot countries.

sieve (sɪv) *n.* 1. a device for separating lumps from powdered material, straining liquids, etc., consisting of a container with a mesh or perforated bottom through which the material is shaken or poured. 2. *Inf.* a person who gossips and spreads secrets. ~*vb.* 3. to pass or cause to pass through a sieve. 4. (*tr.*; often foll. by *out*) to separate or remove (lumps, materials, etc.) by use of a sieve. —*'sieve, like adj.*

sift (sɪft) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to sieve (sand, flour, etc.) in order to remove the coarser particles. 2. to scatter (something) over a surface through a sieve. 3. (*tr.*) to separate with or as if with a sieve. 4. (*tr.*) to examine minutely: *to sift evidence*. 5. (*intr.*) to move as if through a sieve. —*'sifter n.*

sigh (saɪ) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to draw in and exhale audibly a deep breath as an expression of weariness, relief, etc. 2. (*intr.*) to make a sound resembling this. 3. (*intr.*; often foll. by *for*) to yearn, long, or pine. 4. (*tr.*) to utter or express with sighing. ~*n.* 5. the act or sound of sighing. —*'sigher n.*

sight (saɪt) *n.* 1. the power or faculty of seeing; vision. Related *adj.*: **visual**. 2. the act or an instance of seeing. 3. the range of vision: *within sight of land*. 4. point of view; judgment: *in his sight she could do nothing wrong*. 5. a glimpse or view (*esp. in to catch sight of*). 6. anything that is seen. 7. (*often pl.*) anything worth seeing: *the sights of London*. 8. *Inf.* anything unpleasant or undesirable to see: *his room was a sight!* 9. any of various devices or instruments used to assist the eye in making alignments or directional observations, esp. such a device used in aiming a gun. 10. an observation or alignment made with such a device. 11. a **sight**. *Inf.* a great deal: *she's a sight too good for him*. 12. a **sight** for sore eyes. a person or thing that one is pleased or relieved to see. 13. **at (or on) sight**. a. as soon as seen. b. on presentation: *a bill payable at sight*. 14. **know by sight**. to be familiar with the appearance of without having personal acquaintance. 15. **not by a long sight**. *Inf.* on no account. 16. **set one's sights on**. to have (a specified goal) in mind. 17. **sight unseen**. without having seen the object at issue: *to buy a car sight unseen*. ~*vb.* 18. (*tr.*) to see, view, or glimpse. 19. (*tr.*) a. to furnish with a sight or sights. b. to adjust the sight of. 20. to aim (a firearm) using the sight. —*'sightable adj.* —*'sighter n.*

sighted ('saɪtɪd) *adj.* 1. not blind. 2. (*in combination*) having sight of a specified kind: *short-sighted*.

sightless ('saɪtlɪs) *adj.* 1. blind. 2. invisible. —*'sightlessly adv.* —*'sightlessness n.*

sightly ('saɪtli) *adj.* **-lier, -liest.** pleasing or attractive to see. — **'sightliness** *n.*

sight-read ('saɪt,rɪd) *vb.* **-reading, -read** (-,red). to sing or play (music in a printed or written form) without previous preparation. — **'sight-reader** *n.* — **'sight-reading** *n.*

sightscreen ('saɪt,skri:n) *n.* *Cricket.* a large white screen placed near the boundary behind the bowler to help the batsman see the ball.

sightsee ('saɪt,sɪ:) *vb.* **seeing, saw, seen.** *Inf.* to visit the famous or interesting sights of (a place). — **'sight,seer** *n.* — **'sight,seeing** *n.*

sigma ('sɪɡmə) *n.* 1. the 18th letter in the Greek alphabet (Σ, σ or, when final, ς), a consonant, transliterated as *S*. 2. *Maths.* the symbol Σ, indicating summation.

sign (saɪn) *n.* 1. something that indicates a fact, condition, etc., that is not immediately or outwardly observable. 2. an action or gesture intended to convey information, a command, etc. 3. *a.* a board, placard, etc., displayed in public and intended to inform, warn, etc. *b.* (as modifier): a sign painter. 4. an arbitrary mark or device that stands for a word, phrase, etc. 5. a symbol used to indicate a mathematical operation: a plus sign. 6. an indication or vestige: the house showed no signs of being occupied. 7. a portentous or significant event. 8. the scent or spoor of an animal. 9. *Med.* any objective evidence of the presence of a disease or disorder. 10. *Astrol.* See **sign of the zodiac**. ~*vb.* 11. to write (one's name) as a signature to (a document, etc.) in attestation, confirmation, etc. 12. (*intr.*; often foll. by *to*) to make a sign. 13. to engage or be engaged by written agreement, as a player for a team, etc. 14. (*tr.*) to outline in gestures a sign over, esp. the sign of the cross. 15. (*tr.*) to indicate by or as if by a sign; betoken. ~See also **sign away, sign in, sign off, etc.** — **'signable** *adj.* — **'signer** *n.*

signal ('sɪɡnəl) *n.* 1. any sign, gesture, etc., that serves to communicate information. 2. anything that acts as an incitement to action: the rise in prices was a signal for rebellion. 3. *a.* a variable parameter, such as a current or electromagnetic wave, by which information is conveyed through an electronic circuit, etc. *b.* the information so conveyed. *c.* (as modifier): a signal generator. ~*adj.* 4. distinguished or conspicuous. 5. used to give or act as a signal. ~*vb.* **-nalling, -nalled or U.S. -naling, -naled.** 6. to communicate (a message, etc.) to (a person). — **'signaller** *n.*

signal box *n.* 1. a building containing signal levers for all the railway lines in its section. 2. a control point for a large area of a railway system.

signalize or -lize ('sɪɡnə,ləɪz) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to make noteworthy. 2. to point out carefully.

signally ('sɪɡnəli) *adv.* conspicuously or especially.

signalman ('sɪɡnəl'mæn) *n., pl. -men.* a railway employee in charge of the signals and points within a section.

signatory ('sɪɡnətəri) *n., pl. -ries.* 1. a person who has signed a document such as a treaty or an organization, state, etc., on whose behalf such a document has been signed. ~*adj.* 2. having signed a document, treaty, etc.

signature ('sɪɡnɪʃə) *n.* 1. the name of a person or a mark or sign representing his name. 2. the act of signing one's name. 3. a distinctive mark, characteristic, etc., that identifies a person or thing. 4. *Music.* See **key signature, time signature**. 5. *Printing.* *a.* a sheet of paper printed with several pages that upon folding will become a section or sections of a book. *b.* such a sheet so folded. *c.* a mark, esp. a letter, printed on the first page of a signature.

signature tune *n.* *Brit.* a melody used to introduce or identify a television or radio programme, a dance band, a performer, etc.

sign away *vb.* (*tr., adv.*) to dispose of by or as if by signing a document.

signboard ('saɪn,bɔ:d) *n.* a board carrying a sign or notice, esp. one used to advertise a product, event, etc.

signet ('sɪɡnɪt) *n.* 1. a small seal, esp. one as part of a finger ring. 2. a seal used to stamp or authenticate documents. 3. the impression made by such a seal.

signet ring *n.* a finger ring bearing a signet.

significance (sɪɡ'nɪfɪkəns) *n.* 1. consequence or importance. 2. something expressed or intended. 3. the state or quality of being significant.

significant (sɪɡ'nɪfɪkənt) *adj.* 1. having or expressing a meaning. 2. having a covert or implied meaning. 3. important or momentous. 4. *Statistics.* of or relating to a difference between a result derived from a hypothesis and its observed value that is too large to be attributed to chance. — **sig'nificantly** *adv.*

significant figures *pl. n.* 1. the figures of a number that express a magnitude to a specified degree of accuracy: 3.141 59 to four significant figures is 3.142. 2. the number of such figures: 3.142 has four significant figures.

signify ('sɪɡni,fai) *vb.* **-fying, -fied.** (when *tr.*, may take a clause as object) 1. (*tr.*) to indicate or suggest. 2. (*tr.*) to imply or portend: the clouds signified the coming storm. 3. (*tr.*) to stand as a symbol, sign, etc. (*for*). 4. (*intr.*) to be important. — **'signifi'cation** *n.* — **'sig'nificative** *adj.* — **'signi,fier** *n.*

sign in *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. to sign or cause to sign a register, as at a hotel, club, etc. 2. to make or become a member, as of a club.

sign language *n.* any system of communication by manual signs or gestures, such as one used by the deaf.

sign off *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. (*intr.*) to announce the end of a radio or television programme, esp. at the end of a day. 2. (*tr.*) (of a doctor) to declare unfit for work, because of illness.

sign of the zodiac *n.* any of the twelve equal areas into which the zodiac can be divided, named after the 12 zodiacal constellations. In astrology, it is thought that a person's attitudes to life can be correlated with the sign in which the sun lay at the moment of his birth.

sign on *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. (*tr.*) to hire or employ. 2. (*intr.*) to commit oneself to a job, activity, etc. 3. (*intr.*) *Brit.* to register at an employment agency.

signor or **signior** ('sɪnjɔː; Italian sɪn'no:r) *n., pl. -gnors or -gnori* (Italian -'no:ri). an Italian man: usually used before a name as a title equivalent to *Mr.*

signora (sɪn'no:ɾə; Italian sɪn'no:ɾa) *n., pl. -ras or -re* (Italian -re). a married Italian woman: a title of address equivalent to *Mrs.* when placed before a name or *madam* when used alone.

signorina (sɪnjɔː'rɪnə; Italian sɪn'no:rɪ:nə) *n., pl. -nas or -ne* (Italian -ne). an unmarried Italian woman: a title of address equivalent to *Miss* when placed before a name or *madam* or *miss* when used alone.

sign out *vb.* (*adv.*) to sign (one's name) to indicate that one is leaving a place: he signed out for the evening.

signpost ('saɪn,pəʊst) *n.* 1. a post bearing a sign that shows the way, as at a roadside. 2. something that serves as a clue or indication. ~*vb.* (*tr.*; usually passive) 3. to mark with signposts. 4. to indicate direction towards.

sign up *vb.* (*adv.*) to enlist or cause to enlist, as for military service.

Sikh (sɪk) *n.* 1. a member of a Hindu sect, founded in the 16th century, that teaches monotheism and rejects the authority of the Vedas. ~*adj.* 2. of or relating to the Sikhs or their religious beliefs. — **'Sikh,ism** *n.*

silage ('saɪlɪdʒ) *n.* any crop harvested while green for fodder and kept succulent by partial fermentation in a silo. Also called: **ensilage**.

sild (sɪld) *n.* any of various small young herrings, esp. when prepared and canned in Norway.

silence ('saɪləns) *n.* 1. the state or quality of being silent. 2. the absence of sound or noise. 3. refusal or failure to speak, etc., when expected: his silence on their promotion was alarming. 4. a period of time without noise. 5. oblivion or obscurity. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 6. to bring to silence. 7. to put a stop to: to silence all complaint.

silencer ('saɪlənsə) *n.* 1. any device designed to reduce noise, esp. the device in the exhaust system of a motor vehicle. U.S. name: **muffler**. 2. a device fitted to the muzzle of a firearm to deaden the report. 3. a person or thing that silences.

silent ('saɪlənt) *adj.* 1. characterized by an absence or near absence of noise or sound: a silent house. 2. tending to speak very little or not at all. 3. unable to speak. 4. failing to speak, communicate, etc., when expected: the witness chose to remain silent. 5. not spoken or expressed. 6. (of a letter) used in the orthography of a word but no longer pronounced in that word: the "k" in "know" is silent. 7. denoting a film that has no accompanying soundtrack. — **'silently** *adv.* — **'silent-ness** *n.*

silhouette (sɪlu:'et) *n.* 1. the outline of a solid figure as cast by its shadow. 2. an outline drawing filled in with black, often a profile portrait cut out of black paper and mounted on a light ground. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to cause to appear in silhouette.

silica ('sɪlɪkə) *n.* the dioxide of silicon, occurring naturally as quartz. It is a refractory insoluble material used in the manufacture of glass, ceramics, and abrasives.

siliceous or silicious (sɪ'lɪʃəs) *adj.* 1. of, relating to,

or containing silica: a *siliceous* clay. **2.** (of plants) growing in soil rich in silica.

silicon ('silikən) *n.* a brittle metalloid element that exists in two allotropic forms; occurs principally in sand, quartz, granite, feldspar, and clay. It is usually a grey crystalline solid but is also found as a brown amorphous powder. It is used in transistors, solar cells, and in alloys. Its compounds are widely used in glass manufacture and the building industry. Symbol: Si; atomic no.: 14; atomic wt.: 28.09.

silicon chip *n.* another term for **chip** (sense 7).

silicone ('sili,kəʊn) *n.* *Chem.* **a.** any of a large class of polymeric synthetic materials that usually have resistance to temperature, water, and chemicals, and good insulating and lubricating properties, making them suitable for wide use as oils, water-repellents, resins, etc. **b.** (as modifier): *silicone* rubber.

silicosis ('sili,kəʊsɪs) *n.* *Pathol.* a form of pneumoconiosis caused by breathing in tiny particles of silica, quartz, or slate, and characterized by shortness of breath.

silk ('silk) *n.* **1.** the very fine soft lustrous fibre produced by a silkworm to make its cocoon. **2. a.** thread or fabric made from this fibre. **b.** (as modifier): a *silk* dress. **3.** a garment made of this. **4.** a very fine fibre produced by a spider to build its web, nest, or cocoon. **5.** the tuft of long fine styles on an ear of maize. **6. Brit.** a. the gown worn by a Queen's (or King's) Counsel. **b. Inf.** a Queen's (or King's) Counsel. **c. take silk.** to become a Queen's (or King's) Counsel. —'silk,like adj.

silken ('silkən) *adj.* **1.** made of silk. **2.** resembling silk in smoothness or gloss. **3.** dressed in silk. **4.** soft and delicate.

silk hat *n.* a man's top hat covered with silk.

silk-screen printing *n.* another name for **screen process**.

silkworm ('silk,wɜ:m) *n.* **1.** the larva of the Chinese moth that feeds on the leaves of the mulberry tree: widely cultivated as a source of silk. **2.** any of various similar or related larvae.

silky ('silkɪ) *adj.* **silkiest, silkier.** **1.** resembling silk in texture; glossy. **2.** made of silk. **3.** (of a voice, manner, etc.) suave; smooth. **4. Bot.** covered with long fine soft hairs: *silky* leaves. —'silkyly adv. —'silkinness *n.*

sill ('sɪl) *n.* **1.** a shelf at the bottom of a window inside a room. **2.** a horizontal piece along the outside lower member of a window, that throws water clear of the wall below. **3.** the lower horizontal member of a window or door frame. **4.** a horizontal member placed on top of a foundation wall in order to carry a timber framework. **5.** a mass of igneous rock, situated between two layers of older sedimentary rock.

syllabub ('sɪlə,bʌb) *n.* a variant spelling of **syllabub**.

silly ('sɪli) *adj.* **-lier, -liest.** **1.** lacking in good sense; absurd. **2.** frivolous, trivial, or superficial. **3.** feeble-minded. **4. Inf.** dazed, as from a blow. ~*n.* **5.** (modifier) *Cricket.* (of a fielding position) near the batsman's wicket: *silly mid-on*. **6.** Also called: *silly-billy.* *Inf.* a foolish person. —'silliness *n.*

silo ('saɪlə) *n.* **pl. -los.** **1.** a pit, trench, or tower, often cylindrical in shape, in which silage is made and stored. **2.** an underground position in which missile systems are sited for protection.

silt ('sɪlt) *n.* **1.** a fine deposit of mud, clay, etc., esp. one in a river or lake. ~*vb.* **2.** (usually foll. by *up*) to fill or become filled with silt; choke. —'siltation *n.* —'silty *adj.*

Silurian ('saɪ'lʊəriən) *adj.* **1.** of or formed in the third period of the Palaeozoic era, during which fishes first appeared. ~*n.* **2.** the Silurian period or rock system.

silvan ('sɪlvən) *adj.* a variant spelling of **syvan**.

silver ('sɪlvə) *n.* **1. a.** a ductile malleable brilliant greyish-white element having the highest electrical and thermal conductivity of any metal. It occurs free and in argentite and other ores: used in jewellery, tableware, coinage, electrical contacts, and in electroplating. Symbol: Ag; atomic no.: 47; atomic wt.: 107.870. **b.** (as modifier): a *silver* coin. Related *adj.*: **argent.** **2.** coin made of this metal. **3.** cutlery, whether made of silver or not. **4.** any household articles made of silver. **5.** short for **silver medal**. **6. a.** a brilliant or light greyish-white colour. **b. (as adj.):** *silver* hair. ~*adj.* **7.** well-articulated: *silver* speech. **8. (prenominal)** denoting the 25th in a series: a *silver* wedding anniversary. ~*vb.* **9. (tr.)** to coat with silver or a silvery substance: to *silver* a spoon. **10.** to become or cause to become silvery in colour. —'silvering *n.*

silver birch *n.* a tree of N temperate regions of the Old World, having silvery-white peeling bark.

silverfish ('sɪlvə,fɪʃ) *n.* **pl. -fish or -fishes.** **1.** a silver variety of the goldfish. **2.** any of various other silvery fishes, such as the moonfish. **3.** any of various small primitive wingless insects, that have long antennae and tail appendages and occur in buildings, feeding on food scraps, book bindings, etc.

silver lining *n.* a hopeful aspect of an otherwise desperate or unhappy situation.

silver medal *n.* a medal of silver awarded to a competitor who comes second in a contest or race.

silver plate *n.* **1.** a thin layer of silver deposited on a base metal. **2.** articles, esp. tableware, made of silver plate. ~*vb.* **silver-plate.** **3. (tr.)** to coat (a metal, object, etc.) with silver, as by electroplating.

silver screen *n.* **the. Inf.** **1.** films collectively or the film industry. **2.** the screen onto which films are projected.

silverside ('sɪlvə,sɪd) *n.* **1. Brit.** a cut of beef below the aitchbone and above the leg. **2.** a small marine or freshwater teleost fish related to the grey mullets.

silversmith ('sɪlvə,smɪθ) *n.* a craftsman who makes or repairs articles of silver. —'silver,smithing *n.*

silverware ('sɪlvə,wɛə) *n.* articles, esp. tableware, made of or plated with silver.

silvery ('sɪlvəri) *adj.* **1.** of or having the appearance of silver: *the silvery* moon. **2.** containing or covered with silver. **3.** having a clear ringing sound. —'silveriness *n.*

silviculture ('sɪlvi,kʌltʃə) *n.* the branch of forestry that is concerned with the cultivation of trees. —'silvi'cultural *adj.* —'silvi'culturist *n.*

simian ('sɪmiən) *adj.* **1.** of or resembling a monkey or ape. ~*n.* **2.** a monkey or ape.

similar ('sɪmlə) *adj.* **1.** showing resemblance in qualities, characteristics, or appearance. **2. Geom.** (of two or more figures) having corresponding angles equal and all corresponding sides in the same ratio. —'similarity ('sɪmlɪərɪti) *n.* —'similarly *adv.*

▷ **Usage.** Careful writers prefer not to use *similarly* where *correspondingly* would be appropriate: if our competitors raise their prices, we must correspondingly (not similarly) make increases in ours.

simile ('sɪmɪli) *n.* a figure of speech that expresses the resemblance of one thing to another of a different category, usually introduced by *as* or *like*. Cf. **metaphor**.

similitude (sɪ'mɪli,tju:d) *n.* **1.** likeness. **2.** a thing or sometimes a person that is like or the counterpart of another. **3. Arch.** a simile or parable.

simmer ('sɪmə) *vb.* **1.** to cook (food) gently at or just below the boiling point. **2. (intr.)** to be about to break out in rage or excitement. ~*n.* **3.** the act, sound, or state of simmering. —'simmeringly *adv.*

simmer down *vb. (adv.)* **1. (intr.)** *Inf.* to grow calmer, as after intense rage. **2. (tr.)** to reduce the volume of (a liquid) by boiling slowly.

simnel cake ('sɪmnəl) *n.* *Brit.* a fruit cake covered with a layer of marzipan, traditionally eaten in Lent or at Easter.

simony ('sɪməni) *n.* *Ecclesiast.* the practice, now usually regarded as a sin, of buying or selling spiritual or Church benefits such as pardons, relics, etc. —'simonist *n.*

simoom ('sɪmu:m) or **simoon** ('sɪmu:n) *n.* a strong suffocating sand-laden wind of the deserts of Arabia and North Africa.

simper ('sɪmpə) *vb.* **1. (intr.)** to smile coyly, affectedly, or in a silly self-conscious way. **2. (tr.)** to utter (something) in such a manner. ~*n.* **3.** a simpering smile; smirk. —'simperingly *adv.*

simple ('sɪmpəl) *adj.* **1.** easy to understand or do: a *simple* problem. **2.** plain; unadorned: a *simple* dress. **3.** not combined or complex: a *simple* mechanism. **4.** unaffected or unpretentious: *although he became famous, he remained a simple* man. **5.** sincere; frank: *her simple* explanation was readily accepted. **6.** of humble condition or rank: *the peasant* was of *simple* birth. **7.** feeble-minded. **8. (prenominal)** without additions or modifications: *the witness* told the *simple* truth. **9. (prenominal)** straightforward: a *simple* case of mumps. **10. Chem.** (of a substance) consisting of only one chemical compound. **11. Maths.** (of an equation) containing variables to the first power only. **12. Biol.** a. not divided into parts: a *simple* leaf. **b.** formed from only one ovary: *simple* fruit. **13. Music.** relating to or denoting a time where the number of beats per bar may be two, three, or four. ~*n.* *Arch.* **14.** a simpleton. **15.** a plant having medicinal properties. —'simplicity (sɪm'plɪsɪti) *n.*

simple fraction *n.* a fraction in which the numerator and denominator are both integers. Also called: **common fraction**, **vulgar fraction**.

simple fracture *n.* a fracture in which the broken bone does not pierce the skin.

simple interest *n.* interest paid on the principal alone. Cf. **compound interest**.

simple-minded *adj.* 1. stupid; foolish; feeble-minded. 2. mentally defective. 3. unsophisticated; artless. — **simple-mindedly** *adv.* — **simple-mindedness** *n.*

simple sentence *n.* a sentence consisting of a single main clause.

simpleton ('sɪmp'lɪtən) *n.* a foolish or ignorant person.

simplify ('sɪmplɪfaɪ) *vb.* **-fying, -fied.** (tr.) 1. to make less complicated or easier. 2. *Maths.* to reduce (an equation, fraction, etc.) to its simplest form. — **simplification** *n.*

simplistic ('sɪm'plɪstɪk) *adj.* 1. characterized by extreme simplicity. 2. making unrealistically simple judgments or analyses. — **simplism** *n.* — **simplistically** *adv.*

simply ('sɪmplɪ) *adv.* 1. in a simple manner. 2. merely. 3. absolutely; altogether: *a simply wonderful holiday*. 4. (sentence modifier) frankly.

simulacrum ('sɪmjʊləkrəm) *n.*, pl. **-cra** (-krə). Arch. 1. any image or representation of something. 2. a superficial likeness.

simulate *vb.* ('sɪmjʊleɪt). (tr.) 1. to make a pretence of: *to simulate anxiety*. 2. to reproduce the conditions of (a situation, etc.), as in carrying out an experiment: *to simulate weightlessness*. 3. to have the appearance of. ~ *adj.* ('sɪmjʊlɪt, -leɪt). 4. Arch. assumed. — **simulation** *n.* — **simulative** *adj.*

simulator ('sɪmjʊleɪtə) *n.* 1. any device that simulates specific conditions for the purposes of research or operator training: *space simulator*. 2. a person who simulates.

simultaneous ('sɪmʊl'teɪniəs) *adj.* occurring, existing, or operating at the same time. — **simultaneously** *adv.* — **simultaneity** ('sɪmʊl'teɪnɪti) *n.*

▷ **Usage.** See at **unique**.

sin¹ ('sɪn) *n.* 1. *Theol.* a. transgression of God's known will or any principle or law regarded as embodying this. b. the condition of estrangement from God arising from such transgression. 2. any serious offence, as against a religious or moral principle. 3. any offence against a principle or standard. 4. *live in sin.* *Inf.* (of an unmarried couple) to live together. ~ *vb.* (intr.) **sinning**, **sinned**. 5. *Theol.* to commit a sin. 6. (usually foll. by *against*) to commit an offence (against a person, etc.). — **sinner** *n.*

sin² *Maths.* abbrev. for *sine*.

SIN (in Canada) abbrev. for Social Insurance Number.

sin bin *n.* *Canad. sl.* the penalty box used in ice hockey.

since ('sɪns) *prep.* 1. during or throughout the period of time after: *since May it has only rained once*. ~ *conj.* (subordinating) 2. (sometimes preceded by *ever*) continuously from or starting from the time when. 3. seeing that; because. ~ *adv.* 4. since that time: *I haven't seen him since*.

▷ **Usage.** See at **ago**.

sincere ('sɪn'sɪə) *adj.* 1. not hypocritical or deceitful; genuine: *sincere regret*. 2. Arch. pure; unmixed. — **sincerely** *adv.* — **sincereness** or **sincerity** ('sɪn'serɪti) *n.*

sine ('saɪn) *n.* (of an angle) a trigonometric function that in a right-angled triangle is the ratio of the length of the opposite side to that of the hypotenuse.

sinecure ('saɪnɪkʃʊə) *n.* 1. a paid office or post involving minimal duties. 2. a Church benefice to which no spiritual charge is attached. — **sinecurism** *n.* — **sinecurist** *n.*

sine curve ('saɪn kʌrv) *n.* a curve of the equation $y = \sin x$. Also called: **sinusoid**.

sine die *Latin.* ('saɪnɪ 'daɪ) *adv.*, *adj.* without a day fixed.

sine qua non *Latin.* ('saɪnɪ kweɪ 'non) *n.* an essential requirement.

sinew ('sɪnjuː) *n.* 1. *Anat.* another name for **tendon**. 2. (often pl.) a. a source of strength or power. b. a literary word for **muscle**. — **sinewless** *adj.*

sinewy ('sɪnjuː) *adj.* 1. consisting of or resembling a tendon or tendons. 2. muscular. 3. (esp. of language, style, etc.) forceful. 4. (of meat, etc.) tough. — **sinewiness** *n.*

sinful ('sɪnfʊl) *adj.* 1. having committed or tending to commit sin: *a sinful person*. 2. characterized by or being a sin: *a sinful act*. — **sinfully** *adv.* — **sinfulness** *n.*

sing ('sɪŋ) *vb.* **singing, sang, sung.** 1. to produce or

articulate (sounds, words, a song, etc.) with musical intonation. 2. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *to*) to perform (a song) to the accompaniment (of): *to sing to a guitar*. 3. (*intr.*; foll. by *of*) to tell a story in song (about): *I sing of a maiden*. 4. (*intr.*) to perform songs for a living. 5. (*intr.*) (esp. of certain birds and insects) to utter calls or sounds reminiscent of music. 6. (when *intr.*, usually foll. by *of*) to tell (something), esp. in verse: *the poet who sings of the Trojan dead*. 7. (*intr.*) to make a whining, ringing, or whistling sound: *the arrow sang past his ear*. 8. (*intr.*) (of the ears) to experience a continuous ringing. 9. (tr.) to bring to a given state by singing: *to sing a child to sleep*. 10. (*intr.*) *Sl.*, chiefly U.S. to confess or act as an informer. ~ *n.* 11. *Inf.* an act or performance of singing. ~ See also **sing out**. — **singable** *adj.* — **singer** *n.* — **singingly** *adv.*

▷ **Usage.** See at **ring**.

sing. abbrev. for **singular**.

singe ('sɪndʒ) *vb.* 1. to burn or be burnt superficially; scorch: *to singe one's clothes*. 2. (tr.) to burn the ends of (hair, etc.). 3. (tr.) to expose (a carcass) to flame to remove bristles or hair. ~ *n.* 4. a superficial burn.

Singh ('sɪŋ) *n.* a title assumed by a Sikh when he becomes a full member of the community.

single ('sɪŋɡl) *adj.* (usually *prenominal*) 1. existing alone; solitary: *upon the hill stood a single tower*. 2. distinct from other things. 3. composed of one part. 4. designed or sufficient for one user: *a single bed*. 5. (also *postpositive*) unmarried. 6. connected with the condition of being unmarried: *he led a single life*. 7. (esp. of combat) involving two individuals. 8. even one: *there wasn't a single person on the beach*. 9. (of a flower) having only one set or whorl of petals. 10. single-minded: *a single devotion to duty*. 11. Rare, honest or sincere. ~ *n.* 12. something forming one individual unit. 13. a gramophone record with a short recording, usually of pop music, on each side. 14. (often pl.) a. an unmarried, usually young, person. b. (as modifier): *singles bar*. 15. *Cricket.* a hit from which one run is scored. 16. a. *Brit.* a pound note. b. U.S. a dollar note. 17. See **single ticket**. ~ *vb.* 18. (tr.; usually foll. by *out*) to select from a group of people or things: *he singled him out for special mention*. — **singleness** *n.*

single-breasted *adj.* (of a garment) having the fronts overlapping only slightly and with one row of fastenings.

single-decker *n.* *Brit. inf.* a bus with only one passenger deck.

single entry *n.* a. a book-keeping system in which transactions are entered in one account only. b. (as modifier): *a single-entry account*.

single file *n.* a line of persons, animals, or things ranged one behind the other.

single-handed *adj.*, *adv.* 1. unaided or working alone: *a single-handed crossing of the Atlantic*. 2. having or operated by one hand or one person only. — **single-handedly** *adv.* — **single-handedness** *n.*

single-lens reflex *n.* See **reflex camera**.

single-minded *adj.* having but one aim or purpose; dedicated. — **single-mindedly** *adv.* — **single-mindedness** *n.*

singles ('sɪŋɡlɪz) *pl. n.* *Tennis, etc.* a match played with one person on each side.

singlestick ('sɪŋɡlɪstɪk) *n.* 1. a wooden stick used instead of a sword for fencing. 2. fencing with such a stick. 3. any short heavy stick.

singlet ('sɪŋɡlɪt) *n.* *Chiefly Brit.* 1. a man's sleeveless vest. 2. a garment worn with shorts by athletes, boxers, etc.

single ticket *n.* *Brit.* a ticket entitling a passenger to travel only to his destination, without returning.

singleton ('sɪŋɡlɪtən) *n.* 1. *Bridge, etc.* an original holding of one card only in a suit. 2. a single object, etc., distinguished from a pair or group. 3. *Maths.* a set containing only one member.

singly ('sɪŋɡli) *adv.* 1. one at a time; one by one. 2. apart from others; separately; alone.

sing out *vb.* (tr., *adv.*) to call out in a loud voice; shout.

singsong ('sɪŋɡsɒŋ) *n.* 1. an accent or intonation that is characterized by an alternately rising and falling rhythm, such as in a person's voice. 2. *Brit.* an informal session of singing, esp. of popular songs. ~ *adj.* 3. having a monotonous rhythm: *a singsong accent*.

singular ('sɪŋɡjʊlə) *adj.* 1. remarkable; extraordinary: *a singular feat*. 2. unusual; odd: *a singular character*. 3. unique. 4. denoting a word or an inflected form of a word indicating that one referent is being referred to or described. 5. *Logic.* (of a proposition) referring to a specific thing or person. ~ *n.* 6. *Grammar.* a. the

singular number. **b.** a singular form of a word. — **singularity** *n.* — **singularly** *adv.*

Sinhalese (ˌsɪnhəˈleɪz) or **Singhalese** *n., pl. -leses* or *-lese*. former words for **Sri Lankan**.

sinister (ˈsɪnɪstə) *adj.* 1. threatening or suggesting evil or harm: a *sinister* glance. 2. evil or treacherous. 3. (usually postpositive) *Heraldry*. of, on, or starting from the left side from the bearer's point of view. 4. *Arch.* located on the left side. — **sinisterly** *adv.* — **sinisterness** *n.*

sink (sɪŋk) *vb.* **sinking, sank** or **sunk; sunk** or **sunken**. 1. to descend or cause to descend, esp. beneath the surface of a liquid. 2. (*intr.*) to appear to move down towards or descend below the horizon. 3. (*intr.*) to slope downwards. 4. (*intr.*; often foll. by *in* or *into*) to pass into a specified lower state or condition: to *sink into* apathy. 5. to make or become lower in volume, pitch, etc. 6. to make or become lower in value, price, etc. 7. (*intr.*) to become weaker in health, strength, etc. 8. (*intr.*) to seep or penetrate. 9. (*tr.*) to dig, cut, drill, bore, or excavate (a hole, shaft, etc.). 10. (*tr.*) to drive into the ground: to *sink a* stake. 11. (*tr.*; usually foll. by *in* or *into*) a. to invest (money). b. to lose (money) in an unwise investment. 12. (*tr.*) to pay (a debt). 13. (*intr.*) to become hollow: his cheeks had *sunk* during his illness. 14. (*tr.*) to hit or propel (a ball) into a hole, pocket, etc.: he *sank* a 15-foot putt. 15. **sink** or **swim**. to take risks where the alternatives are loss or success. ~ *n.* 16. a fixed basin, esp. in a kitchen, made of stone, metal, etc., used for washing. 17. a place of vice or corruption. 18. an area of ground below that of the surrounding land, where water collects. 19. *Physics*. a device by which energy is removed from a system: a *heat sink*. — **sinkable** *adj.*

sinker (ˈsɪŋkə) *n.* 1. a weight attached to a fishing line, net, etc., to cause it to sink in water. 2. a person who sinks shafts, etc.

sink in *vb. (intr., adv.)* to enter or penetrate the mind: eventually the news *sank in*.

sinking fund *n.* a fund accumulated out of a business enterprise's earnings or a government's revenue and invested to repay a long-term debt.

sinless (ˈsɪnlɪs) *adj.* free from sin or guilt; pure. — **sinlessly** *adv.* — **sinlessness** *n.*

Sinn Fein (ˈfɪn ˈfeɪn) *n.* an Irish republican political movement founded about 1905 and linked to the revolutionary Irish Republican Army. — **Sinn Féiner** *n.* — **Sinn Féinism** *n.*

Sino- *combining form.* Chinese: **Sino-Tibetan**; **Sinology**.

Sinology (saɪˈnɒlədʒɪ) *n.* the study of Chinese history, language, culture, etc. — **Sinological** (saɪˈnɒlədʒɪkəl) *adj.* — **Sinologist** *n.* — **Sinologue** (ˈsɪnəˌlɒɡ) *n.*

sinter (ˈsɪntə) *n.* 1. a whitish porous incrustation, usually consisting of silica, that is deposited from hot springs. 2. the product of a sintering process. ~ *vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to form large particles, lumps, or masses from (metal powders) by heating or pressure or both.

sinuous (ˈsɪnjuəs) *adj.* 1. full of turns or curves. 2. devious; not straightforward. 3. supple. — **sinuously** *adv.* — **sinuosity** (ˈsɪnjuˈɒsɪti) *n.*

sinus (ˈsaɪnəs) *n., pl. -nuses*. 1. *Anat.* a. any bodily cavity or hollow space. b. a large channel for venous blood, esp. between the brain and the skull. c. any of the air cavities in the cranial bones. 2. *Pathol.* a passage leading to a cavity containing pus.

sinusitis (saɪˈnʌsɪtɪs) *n.* inflammation of the membrane lining a sinus, esp. a nasal sinus.

Sion (ˈsaɪən) *n.* a variant spelling of **Zion**.

sip (sɪp) *vb.* **sipping, sipped**. 1. to drink (a liquid) by taking small mouthfuls. ~ *n.* 2. a small quantity of a liquid taken into the mouth and swallowed. 3. an act of sipping. — **sipper** *n.*

siphon or **syphon** (ˈsaɪfən) *n.* 1. a tube placed with one end at a certain level in a vessel of liquid and the other end outside the vessel below this level, so that atmospheric pressure forces the liquid through the tube and out of the vessel. 2. See **soda siphon**. 3. *Zool.* any of various tubular organs in different aquatic animals, such as molluscs, through which water passes. ~ *vb.* 4. (often foll. by *off*) to draw off through or as if through a siphon. — **siphonal** or **siphonic** (ˈsaɪfənɪk) *adj.*

sir (sɜː) *n.* 1. a polite term of address for a man. 2. *Arch.* a gentleman of high social status.

Sir (sɜː) *n.* 1. a title of honour placed before the name of a knight or baronet: *Sir Walter Raleigh*. 2. *Arch.* a title placed before the name of a figure from ancient history.

sire (saɪə) *n.* 1. a male parent, esp. of a horse or other domestic animal. 2. a respectful term of address, now

used only in addressing a male monarch. ~ *vb.* 3. (*tr.*) (esp. of a domestic animal) to father.

siren (ˈsaɪərən) *n.* 1. a device for emitting a loud wailing sound, esp. as a warning or signal, consisting of a rotating perforated metal drum through which air or steam is passed under pressure. 2. (sometimes *cap.*) *Greek myth.* one of several sea nymphs whose singing was believed to lure sailors to destruction on the rocks the nymphs inhabited. 3. a woman considered to be dangerously alluring or seductive. 4. an aquatic eel-like salamander of North America, having external gills, no hind limbs, and reduced forelimbs.

Sirius (ˈsɪrɪəs) *n.* the brightest star in the sky, lying in the constellation Canis Major. Also called: the **Dog Star**.

sirloin (ˈsɜːlɒɪn) *n.* a prime cut of beef from the loin, esp. the upper part.

sirocco (sɪˈrɒkʊ) *n., pl. -cos*. a hot oppressive and often dusty wind usually occurring in spring, beginning in N Africa and reaching S Europe.

sirrah (ˈsɪrə) *n.* *Arch.* a contemptuous term used in addressing a man or boy.

sis (sɪs) *n.* *Inf.* short for **sister**.

sisal (ˈsaɪsəl) *n.* 1. a Mexican agave plant cultivated for its large fleshy leaves, which yield a stiff fibre used for making rope. 2. the fibre of this plant. ~ Also called: **sisal hemp**.

siskin (ˈsɪskɪn) *n.* 1. a yellow-and-black Eurasian finch. 2. **pine siskin**. a North American finch, having a streaked yellowish-brown plumage.

sissy (ˈsɪsi) *n., pl. -sies*. 1. an effeminate, weak, or cowardly boy or man. ~ *adj.* 2. effeminate, weak, or cowardly. — **sissiness** *adj.*

sister (ˈsɪstə) *n.* 1. a female person having the same parents as another person. 2. a female person who belongs to the same group, trade union, etc., as another or others. 3. a senior nurse. 4. *Chiefly R.C. Church*. a nun or a title given to a nun. 5. a woman fellow member of a religious body. 6. (*modifier*) belonging to the same class, fleet, etc., as another or others: a *sister ship*.

sisterhood (ˈsɪstəˌhʊd) *n.* 1. the state of being related as a sister or sisters. 2. a religious body or society of sisters.

sister-in-law *n., pl. sisters-in-law*. 1. the sister of one's husband or wife. 2. the wife of one's brother. 3. the wife of the brother of one's husband or wife.

sisterly (ˈsɪstəli) *adj.* of or suitable to a sister, esp. in showing kindness. — **sisterliness** *n.*

Sisyphæan (ˈsɪsɪˈfiːən) *adj.* 1. relating to Sisyphus, in Greek myth doomed to roll a stone uphill eternally. 2. actually or seemingly endless and futile.

sit (sɪt) *vb.* **sitting, sat**. (*mainly intr.*) 1. (*also tr.*; when *intr.*, often foll. by *down*, *in*, or *on*) to adopt a posture in which the body is supported on the buttocks and the torso is more or less upright: to *sit on* a chair. 2. (*tr.*) to cause to adopt such a posture. 3. (of an animal) to adopt or rest in a posture with the hindquarters lowered to the ground. 4. (of a bird) to perch or roost. 5. (of a hen or other bird) to cover eggs to hatch them. 6. to be situated or located. 7. (of the wind) to blow from the direction specified. 8. to adopt and maintain a posture for one's portrait to be painted, etc. 9. to occupy or be entitled to a seat in some official capacity, as a judge, etc. 10. (of a deliberative body) to be in session. 11. to remain inactive or unused: his car *sat in* the garage. 12. (of a garment) to fit or hang as specified: that dress *sits well on* you. 13. to weigh, rest, or lie as specified: greatness *sits easily on* him. 14. (*tr.*) *Chiefly Brit.* to take (an examination): he's *sitting his bar finals*. 15. (usually foll. by *for*) *Chiefly Brit.* to be a candidate (for a qualification): he's *sitting for* a B.A. 16. to keep watch over an invalid, a baby, etc. 17. (*tr.*) to have seating capacity for. 18. **sitting pretty**. *Inf.* well placed financially, socially, etc. 19. **sit tight**. *Inf.* to wait patiently. ~ See *also* **sit back**, **sit down**, **sit on**, etc.

sitar (sɪˈtɑː) *n.* a stringed musical instrument, esp. of India, having a long neck, a rounded body, and movable frets. — **sitarist** *n.*

sit back *vb. (intr., adv.)* to relax, as when action should be taken: many people just *sit back and ignore* the problems of today.

sitcom (ˈsɪtˌkɒm) *n.* an informal term for **situation comedy**.

sit down *vb. (adv.)* 1. to adopt or cause (oneself or another) to adopt a sitting posture. 2. (*intr.*; foll. by *under*) to suffer (insults, etc.) without protests or resistance. ~ *n.* **sit-down**. 3. a form of civil disobedience in which demonstrators sit down in a public place. 4. See **sit-down strike**. ~ *adj.* **sit-down**. 5. (of a meal, etc.)

eaten while sitting down at a table.

sit-down strike *n.* a strike in which workers refuse to leave their place of employment until a settlement is reached.

site (saɪt) *n.* 1. a. the piece of land where something was, is, or is intended to be located: a *building site*. **b.** (as modifier): *site office*. ~*vb.* 2. (tr.) to locate or install (something) in a specific place.

sit-in *n.* 1. a form of civil disobedience in which demonstrators occupy seats in a public place and refuse to move. ~*vb.* **sit in.** (intr., adv.) 2. (often foll. by *for*) to deputize (for). 3. (foll. by *on*) to take part (in) as a visitor or guest. 4. to organize or take part in a sit-in.

sitkamer ('sit,kɑ:mə) *n.* S. African. a sitting room.

sitka spruce ('sitkə) *n.* a tall North American spruce tree having yellowish-green needle-like leaves.

sit on *vb.* (intr., prep.) 1. to be a member of (a committee, etc.). 2. *Inf.* to suppress. 3. *Inf.* to check or rebuke.

sit out *vb.* (adv.) 1. (tr.) to endure to the end: *I sat out the play although it was terrible*. 2. (tr.) to remain seated throughout (a dance, etc.).

sitter ('sitə) *n.* 1. a person or animal that sits. 2. a person who is posing for his or her portrait to be painted, etc. 3. a broody hen that is sitting on its eggs to hatch them. 4. *See* **baby-sitter**.

sitting ('sitɪŋ) *n.* 1. a continuous period of being seated: *I read his novel at one sitting*. 2. such a period in a restaurant, canteen, etc.: *dinner will be served in two sittings*. 3. the act or period of posing for one's portrait to be painted, etc. 4. a meeting, esp. of an official body, to conduct business. 5. the incubation period of a bird's eggs during which the mother sits on them.

sitting duck *n.* *Inf.* a person or thing in a defenceless or precarious position.

sitting room *n.* a room in a private house or flat used for relaxation and entertainment of guests.

sitting tenant *n.* a tenant occupying a house, flat, etc.

situate ('sitju,eɪt) *vb.* 1. (tr.; often passive) to place. ~*adj.* 2. (now used esp. in legal contexts) situated.

situation (,sitju'eɪʃn) *n.* 1. physical placement, esp. with regard to the surroundings. 2. a. state of affairs. **b.** a complex or critical state of affairs in a novel, play, etc. 3. social or financial status, position, or circumstances. 4. a position of employment. —, *situ'ational adj.*

▷ **Usage.** *Situation* is often used in contexts in which it is redundant or imprecise. Typical examples are: *the company is in a crisis situation or people in a job situation*. In the first example, *situation* does not add to the meaning and should be omitted. In the second example, it would be clearer and more concise to substitute a phrase such as *people at work*.

situation comedy *n.* comedy based on the humorous situations that could arise in day-to-day life.

sit up *vb.* (adv.) 1. to raise (oneself or another) from a recumbent to an upright posture. 2. (intr.) to remain out of bed and awake, esp. until a late hour. 3. (intr.) *Inf.* to become suddenly interested: *devaluation of the dollar made the money market sit up*.

sitz bath (sɪts, zɪts) *n.* a bath in which the buttocks and hips are immersed in hot water.

SI unit *n.* any of the units adopted for international use under the *Système International d'Unités*, now employed for all scientific and most technical purposes. There are seven fundamental units: the metre, kilogram, second, ampere, kelvin, candela, and mole; and two supplementary units: the radian and the steradian. All other units are derived by multiplication or division of these units.

six (sɪks) *n.* 1. the cardinal number that is the sum of five and one. 2. a numeral, 6, VI, etc., representing this number. 3. something representing, represented by, or consisting of six units, such as a playing card with six symbols on it. 4. Also: **six o'clock**, six hours after noon or midnight. 5. *Cricket*. a. a shot that crosses the boundary without bouncing. **b.** the six runs scored for such a shot. 6. a division of a *Brownie Guide* or *Cub Scout* pack. 7. at **sixes and sevens**, a. in disagreement. **b.** in a state of confusion. 8. **knock (someone) for six**. *Inf.* to upset or overwhelm completely. 9. **six of one and half a dozen of the other**, a situation in which the alternatives are considered equivalent. ~*determiner*. 10. a. amounting to six: **six nations**. **b.** (as pronoun): *set the table for six*. —**sixth adj.**

sixfold ('sɪks,fəʊld) *adj.* 1. equal to or having six times as many or as much. 2. composed of six parts. ~*adv.* 3. by or up to six times as many or as much.

sixpence ('sɪkspəns) *n.* a small British cupronickel coin

with a face value of six pennies, worth 2½ (new) pence, not minted since 1970.

six-shooter *n.* U.S. *inf.* a revolver with six chambers. Also called: **six-gun**.

sixteen ('sɪks'ti:n) *n.* 1. the cardinal number that is the sum of ten and six. 2. a numeral, 16, XVI, etc., representing this number. 3. something represented by, representing, or consisting of 16 units. ~*determiner*. 4. a. amounting to sixteen: **sixteen tons**. **b.** (as pronoun): *sixteen are known to the police*. —**six'teenth adj.**

sixth form *n.* a. the most senior level in a secondary school to which pupils, usually above the legal leaving age, may proceed to take A levels, retake O levels, etc. **b.** (as modifier): a **sixth-form college**. —**sixth-, former n.**

sixth sense *n.* any supposed means of perception, such as intuition, other than the five senses of sight, hearing, touch, taste, and smell.

sixty ('sɪksɪ) *n., pl. -ties*. 1. the cardinal number that is the product of ten and six. 2. a numeral, 60, LX, etc., representing sixty. 3. something represented by, representing, or consisting of 60 units. ~*determiner*. 4. a. amounting to sixty: **sixty soldiers**. **b.** (as pronoun): *sixty are dead*. —**sixtieth adj.**

sizeable or **sizeable** ('saɪzəbəl) *adj.* quite large. —**sizeably** or **sizeably adv.**

size ('saɪz) *n.* 1. the dimensions, amount, or extent of something. 2. large dimensions, etc. 3. one of a series of graduated measurements, as of clothing: *she takes size 4 shoes*. 4. *Inf.* state of affairs as summarized: *he's bankrupt, that's the size of it*. ~*vb.* 5. to sort according to size. 6. (tr.) to cut to a particular size or sizes. —**sizer n.**

size ('saɪz) *n.* 1. Also called: **sizing**, a thin gelatinous mixture, made from glue, clay, or wax, that is used as a sealer on paper or plaster surfaces. ~*vb.* 2. (tr.) to treat or coat (a surface) with size.

sized (saɪzd) *adj.* of a specified size: *medium-sized*.

size up *vb.* (adv.) 1. (tr.) *Inf.* to make an assessment of (a person, problem, etc.). 2. to conform to or make so as to conform to certain specifications of dimension.

sizzle ('sɪzl) *vb.* (intr.) 1. to make the hissing sound characteristic of frying fat. 2. *Inf.* to be very hot. 3. *Inf.* to be very angry. ~*n.* 4. a hissing sound. —**sizzler n.**

SJA *abbrev. for* Saint John's Ambulance (Brigade or Association).

skate ('skeɪt) *n.* 1. *See* **roller skate, ice skate**. 2. the steel blade or runner of an ice skate. 3. such a blade fitted with straps for fastening to a shoe. 4. **get one's skates on**, to hurry. ~*vb.* (intr.) 5. to glide swiftly on skates. 6. to slide smoothly over a surface. 7. **skate on thin ice**, to place oneself in a dangerous situation. —**skater n.**

skate ('skeɪt) *n., pl. skate or skates*. any of a family of large rays of temperate and tropical seas, having two dorsal fins, a short spineless tail, and a long snout.

skateboard ('skeɪt,bɔ:d) *n.* 1. a plank mounted on roller-skate wheels, usually ridden while standing up. ~*vb.* 2. (intr.) to ride on a skateboard. —**skate, boarder n.**

skate over *vb.* (intr., prep.) 1. to cross on or as if on skates. 2. to avoid dealing with (a matter) fully.

skedaddle (ski'dædəl) *Inf.* ~*vb.* 1. (intr.) to run off hastily. ~*n.* 2. a hasty retreat.

skein (skeɪn) *n.* 1. a length of yarn, etc., wound in a long coil. 2. something resembling this, such as a lock of hair. 3. a flock of geese flying.

skeleton ('skelɪtən) *n.* 1. a hard framework consisting of inorganic material that supports and protects the soft parts of an animal's body: may be internal, as in vertebrates, or external, as in arthropods. 2. *Inf.* a very thin emaciated person or animal. 3. the essential framework of any structure, such as a building or leaf. 4. an outline consisting of bare essentials: *the skeleton of a novel*. 5. (modifier) reduced to a minimum: *a skeleton staff*. 6. **skeleton in the cupboard** or (U.S.) **closet**, a scandalous fact or event in the past that is kept secret. —**skeletal adj.** —**'skeleton-, like adj.**

skeleton key *n.* a key with the serrated edge filed down so that it can open numerous locks. Also called: **passkey**.

skeptic ('skeptɪk) *n., adj.* the usual U.S. spelling of **sceptic**.

sketch (sketʃ) *n.* 1. a rapid drawing or painting. 2. a brief usually descriptive essay or other literary composition. 3. a short play, often comic, forming part of a revue. 4. a short evocative piece of instrumental music. 5. any brief outline. ~*vb.* 6. to make (a rough drawing,

etc.) (of). 7. (tr.; often foll. by *out*) to make a brief description of. — **'sketcher** *n.*

sketchbook ('sketʃbʊk) *n.* 1. a book of plain paper containing sketches or for making sketches in. 2. a book of literary sketches.

sketchy ('sketʃi) *adj.* **sketchier, sketchiest.** 1. existing only in outline. 2. superficial or slight. — **'sketchily** *adv.* — **'sketchiness** *n.*

skew (sku:) *adj.* 1. placed in or turning into an oblique position or course. 2. **Machinery.** having a component that is at an angle to the main axis of an assembly: a skew bevel gear. 3. **Maths.** composed of or being elements that are neither parallel nor intersecting. 4. (of a statistical distribution) not having equal probabilities above and below the mean. 5. distorted or biased. ~*n.* 6. an oblique, slanting, or indirect course or position. ~*vb.* 7. to take or cause to take an oblique course or direction. 8. (intr.) to look sideways. 9. (tr.) to distort. — **'skewness** *n.*

skewbald ('skju:bɔ:ld) *adj.* 1. marked or spotted in white and any colour except black. ~*n.* 2. a horse with this marking.

skewer ('skju:) *n.* 1. a long pin for holding meat in position while being cooked, etc. 2. a similar pin having some other function. ~*vb.* 3. (tr.) to drive a skewer through or fasten with a skewer.

skewwhiff ('skju:'wɪf) *adj.* (*postpositive*) *Brit. inf.* not straight.

ski (ski: *n.*, *pl.* **skis** or **ski**. 1. a. one of a pair of wood, metal, or plastic runners that are used for gliding over snow. *b.* (*as modifier*): a ski boot. 2. a water-ski. ~*vb.* **skiing; skied** or **ski'd.** 3. (*intr.*) to travel on skis. — **'skier** *n.*

skibob ('ski:bɒb) *n.* a vehicle made of two short skis, the forward one having a steering handle and the rear one supporting a low seat, for gliding down snow slopes. — **'skibobber** *n.*

skid (skɪd) *vb.* **skidding, skidded.** 1. to cause (a vehicle) to slide sideways or (of a vehicle) to slide sideways while in motion, esp. out of control. 2. (*intr.*) to slide without revolving, as the wheel of a moving vehicle after sudden braking. ~*n.* 3. an instance of sliding, esp. sideways. 4. a support on which heavy objects may be stored and moved short distances by sliding. 5. a shoe or drag used to apply pressure to the metal rim of a wheel to act as a brake.

skidoo ('skɪdu:) *Canad.* ~*n.* 1. a snowmobile. ~*vb.* (*intr.*) 2. to travel using a snowmobile.

skid row (rəʊ) or **skid road** *n.* *Sl., chiefly U.S.* a dilapidated section of a city inhabited by vagrants, etc.

skiff (skɪf) *n.* any of various small boats propelled by oars, sail, or motor.

ski jump *n.* 1. a high ramp overhanging a slope from which skiers compete to make the longest jump. ~*vb.* **ski-jump.** 2. (*intr.*) to perform a ski jump. — **'ski jumper** *n.*

skilful or **U.S. skillful** ('skɪlfʊl) *adj.* 1. possessing or displaying accomplishment or skill. 2. involving or requiring accomplishment or skill. — **'skilfully** or **U.S. 'skillfully** *adv.*

ski lift *n.* a device for carrying skiers up a slope, usually consisting of seats suspended from a moving cable.

skill (skɪl) *n.* 1. special ability in a sport, etc., esp. ability acquired by training. 2. something, esp. a trade or technique, requiring special training or manual proficiency. — **'skill-less** or **'skillless** *adj.* — **'skilled** *adj.*

skillet ('skɪlt) *n.* 1. a small frying pan. 2. *Chiefly Brit.* a saucpan.

skim (skɪm) *vb.* **skimming, skimmed.** 1. (tr.) to remove floating material from the surface of (a liquid), as with a spoon: *to skim milk.* 2. to glide smoothly or lightly over (a surface). 3. (tr.) to throw (something) in a path over a surface, so as to bounce or ricochet: *to skim stones over water.* 4. (when *intr.*, usually foll. by *through*) to read (a book) in a superficial manner. ~*n.* 5. the act or process of skimming. 6. material skimmed off a liquid, esp. off milk. 7. any thin layer covering a surface.

skim milk *n.* milk from which the cream has been removed. Also called: **skimmed milk.**

skimp (skɪmp) *vb.* 1. to be extremely sparing or supply (someone) sparingly. 2. to perform (work, etc.) carelessly or with inadequate materials.

skimpy ('skɪmpi) *adj.* **skimpier, skimpiest.** 1. made of too little material. 2. excessively thrifty; mean. — **'skimpily** *adv.* — **'skimpiness** *n.*

skin (skɪn) *n.* 1. a. the tissue forming the outer covering

of the vertebrate body: it consists of two layers, the outermost of which may be covered with hair, scales, feathers, etc. *b.* (*as modifier*): a skin disease. 2. any similar covering in a plant or lower animal. 3. any coating or film, such as one that forms on the surface of a liquid. 4. the outer covering of a fur-bearing animal, dressed and finished with the hair on. 5. a container made from animal skin. 6. the outer covering surface of a vessel, rocket, etc. 7. a person's skin regarded as his life: *to save one's skin.* 8. (*often pl.*) *Inf.* (in jazz or pop use) a drum. 9. *by the skin of one's teeth.* only just. 10. *get under one's skin.* *Inf.* to irritate. 11. **no skin off one's nose.** *Inf.* not a matter that affects one adversely. 12. **skin and bone.** extremely thin. 13. **thick** (or **thin**) **skin.** an insensitive (or sensitive) nature. ~*vb.* **skinning, skinned.** 14. (tr.) to remove (the outer covering) from (fruit, etc.). 15. (tr.) to scrape a small piece of skin from (a part of oneself) in falling, etc.: *he skinned his knee.* 16. (*often foll. by over*) to cover (something) with skin or a skinlike substance or (of something) to become covered in this way. 17. (tr.) *Sl.* to swindle. — **'skinless** *adj.* — **'skin,like** *adj.*

skin-deep *adj.* 1. superficial; shallow. ~*adv.* 2. superficially.

skin diving *n.* the sport or activity of underwater swimming using breathing apparatus. — **'skin-diver** *n.*

skin flick *n.* a film containing much nudity and explicit sex for sensational purposes.

skinfliint ('skɪn,flɪnt) *n.* an ungenerous or niggardly person.

skin graft *n.* a piece of skin removed from one part of the body and surgically grafted at the site of a severe burn or similar injury.

skinhead ('skɪn,hed) *n.* *Brit.* one of a gang of boys characterized by closely cropped hair and distinctive clothes.

skinned (skɪnd) *adj.* 1. stripped of the skin. 2. *a.* having a skin as specified. *b.* (*in combination*): **thick-skinned.** 3. **keep one's eyes skinned** (or **peeled**). to watch carefully.

skinny ('skɪni) *adj.* **-nier, -niest.** 1. lacking in flesh; thin. 2. consisting of or resembling skin.

skint (skɪnt) *adj.* (*usually postpositive*) *Brit. sl.* without money.

skintight ('skɪn'taɪt) *adj.* (of garments) fitting tightly over the body; clinging.

skip! (skɪp) *vb.* **skipping, skipped.** 1. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *over, along, into*, etc.) to spring or move lightly, esp. to move by hopping from one foot to the other. 2. (*intr.*) to jump over a skipping-rope. 3. to cause (a stone, etc.) to skim over a surface or (of a stone) to move in this way. 4. to omit (intervening matter): *he skipped a chapter of the book.* 5. (*intr.*; foll. by *through*) *Inf.* to read or deal with quickly or superficially. 6. **skip it!** *Inf.* it doesn't matter! 7. (tr.) *Inf.* to miss deliberately: *to skip school.* 8. (tr.) *Inf., chiefly U.S.* to leave (a place) in haste: *to skip town.* ~*n.* 9. a skipping movement or gait. 10. the act of passing over or omitting.

skip! (skɪp) *n.* 1. a large open container for transporting building materials, etc. 2. a cage used as a lift in mines, etc.

ski pants *pl. n.* stretch trousers worn for skiing, kept taut by a strap under the foot.

skipper ('skɪpə) *n.* 1. the captain of any vessel. 2. the captain of an aircraft. 3. a leader, as of a sporting team. ~*vb.* 4. to act as skipper (of).

skipping-rope *n.* *Brit.* a cord, usually having handles at each end, that is held in the hands and swung round and down so that the holder or others can jump over it.

skirl (skɜ:l) *vb.* 1. *Northern Brit. dialect.* (esp. of a bagpipe) to emit a shrill sound. ~*n.* 2. the sound of a bagpipe.

skirmish ('skɜ:mɪʃ) *n.* 1. a minor short-lived military engagement. 2. any brisk clash or encounter. ~*vb.* 3. (*intr.*; often foll. by *with*) to engage in a skirmish. — **'skirmisher** *n.*

skirt (skɜ:t) *n.* 1. a garment hanging from the waist, worn chiefly by women and girls. 2. the part of a dress below the waist. 3. Also called: **apron.** a circular flap, as round the base of a hovercraft. 4. the flaps on a saddle. 5. *Brit.* a cut of beef from the flank. 6. (*often pl.*) an outlying area. 7. **bit of skirt.** *Sl.* a girl or woman. ~*vb.* 8. (tr.) to form the edge of. 9. (tr.) to provide with a border. 10. (when *intr.*, foll. by *around, along*, etc.) to pass (by) or be situated (near) the outer edge of (an area, etc.). 11. (tr.) to avoid (a difficulty, etc.): *he skirted the issue.* 12. *Chiefly Austral.* to trim the ragged edges from (a fleece). — **'skirted** *adj.*

skirting board *n.* a skirting made of wood.

ski stick or pole *n.* a stick, usually with a metal point, used by skiers to gain momentum and maintain balance.

skit (skit) *n.* 1. a brief satirical theatrical sketch. 2. a short satirical piece of writing.

ski tow *n.* a device for pulling skiers uphill, usually a motor-driven rope grasped by the skier while riding on his skis.

skittish ('skɪtʃl) *adj.* 1. playful, lively, or frivolous. 2. difficult to handle or predict. —'skittishly *adv.* —'skittishness *n.*

skittle ('skɪtl) *n.* 1. a wooden or plastic pin, typically widest just above the base. 2. (*pl.*, functioning as *sing.*) Also called (esp. U.S.): **ninepins**, a bowling game in which players knock over as many skittles as possible by rolling a wooden ball at them. 3. **beer and skittles**. *Sl.* amusement.

skive¹ ('skav) *vb.* (*tr.*) to shave or remove the surface of (leather). —'skiver *n.*

skive² ('skav) *vb.* (when *intr.*, often foll. by *off*) *Brit. sl.* to evade (work or responsibility). —'skiver *n.*

skivvy ('skɪvi) *n.*, *pl.* -vies. 1. *Chiefly Brit.*, often contemptuous, a servant, esp. a female; drudge. 2. *Austral.* a close-fitting lightweight sweater with long sleeves and a round neck. —*vb.* -vying, -vied. 3. (*intr.*) *Brit.* to work as a skivvy.

skua ('sku:jə) *n.* a predatory aquatic gull-like bird having a dark plumage and long tail.

skulduggery or **U.S. skullduggery** ('skʌl'dʌɡəri) *n.* *Inf.* underhand dealing; trickery.

skulk ('skʌlk) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. to move stealthily so as to avoid notice. 2. to lie in hiding; lurk. 3. to shirk duty or evade responsibilities. —*n.* 4. a person who skulks. 5. *Obs.* a pack of foxes. —'skulker *n.*

skull ('skʌl) *n.* 1. the bony skeleton of the head of vertebrates. 2. *Often derog.* the head regarded as the mind or intelligence: to have a dense skull. 3. a picture of a skull used to represent death or danger.

skull and crossbones *n.* a picture of the human skull above two crossed thigh bones, formerly on the pirate flag, now used as a warning of danger or death.

skullcap ('skʌl,kæp) *n.* 1. a rounded brimless hat fitting the crown of the head. 2. the top part of the skull. 3. any of a genus of perennial plants, that have helmet-shaped flowers.

skunk ('skʌŋk) *n.*, *pl.* **skunk** or **skunks**. 1. any of various American mammals having a black-and-white coat and bushy tail: they eject an unpleasant-smelling fluid from the anal gland when attacked. 2. *Inf.* a despicable person.

sky ('skai) *n.*, *pl.* **skies**. 1. (*sometimes pl.*) the apparently dome-shaped expanse extending upwards from the horizon that is blue or grey during the day and black at night. 2. outer space, as seen from the earth. 3. (*often pl.*) weather, as described by the appearance of the upper air: sunny skies. 4. heaven. 5. *Inf.* the highest level of attainment: the sky's the limit. 6. to the skies, extravagantly. —*vb.* **skying**, **skied**. 7. *Rowing*, to lift (the blade of an oar) too high before a stroke. 8. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to hit (a ball) high in the air.

sky blue *n.*, *adj.* (of) a light or pale blue colour.

skydiving ('skai,davɪŋ) *n.* the sport of parachute jumping, in which participants perform manoeuvres before opening the parachute. —'sky,dive *vb.* —'sky,diver *n.*

Skye terrier ('skai) *n.* a short-legged breed of terrier with long wiry hair and erect ears.

sky-high *adj.*, *adv.* 1. at or to an unprecedented level: prices rocketed sky-high. —*adv.* 2. high into the air. 3. **blow sky-high**, to destroy.

skyjack ('skai,dʒæk) *vb.* (*tr.*) to commandeer an aircraft, usually during flight, forcing the pilot to fly somewhere other than to its scheduled destination.

skylark ('skai,lɑ:k) *n.* 1. an Old World lark, noted for singing while hovering at a great height. —*vb.* 2. (*intr.*) *Inf.* to romp or play jokes.

skylight ('skai,lait) *n.* a window placed in a roof or ceiling to admit daylight. Also called: **fanlight**.

skyline ('skai,lam) *n.* 1. the line at which the earth and sky appear to meet. 2. the outline of buildings, trees, etc., seen against the sky.

skyrocket ('skai,rɒkɪt) *n.* 1. another word for **rocket** (sense 1). —*vb.* 2. (*intr.*) *Inf.* to rise rapidly, as in price.

skyscraper ('skai,skreɪpə) *n.* a very tall multistorey building.

skyward ('skai,wəd) *adj.* 1. directed or moving towards the sky. —*adv.* 2. Also: **skywards**, towards the sky.

slab ('slæb) *n.* 1. a broad flat thick piece of wood, stone,

or other material. 2. a thick slice of cake, etc. 3. any of the outside parts of a log that are sawn off while the log is being made into planks. 4. *Austral. & N.Z.* a. a rough-hewn wooden plank. *b.* (*as modifier*): a slab hut. 5. *Inf.*, *chiefly Brit.* an operating or mortuary table. —*vb.* **slabbing**, **slabbed**. (*tr.*) 6. to cut or make into a slab or slabs. 7. to saw slabs from (a log).

slack¹ ('slæk) *adj.* 1. not tight, tense, or taut. 2. negligent or careless. 3. (*esp.* of water, etc.) moving slowly. 4. (*of trade, etc.*) not busy. 5. *Phonetics*, another term for **lax** (sense 4). —*adv.* 6. in a slack manner. —*n.* 7. a part of a rope, etc., that is slack: take in the slack. 8. a period of decreased activity. —*vb.* 9. to neglect (one's duty, etc.). 10. (*often foll. by off*) to loosen. —'slackly *adv.* —'slackness *n.*

slack² ('slæk) *n.* small pieces of coal with a high ash content.

slacken ('slækən) *vb.* (*often foll. by off*) 1. to make or become looser. 2. to make or become slower, less intense, etc.

slacker ('slækə) *n.* a person who evades work or duty; shirker.

slacks ('slæks) *pl. n.* informal trousers worn by both sexes.

slack water *n.* the period of still water around the turn of the tide, esp. at low tide.

slag ('slæg) *n.* 1. Also called: **cinder**, the fused material formed during the smelting or refining of metals. It usually consists of a mixture of silicates with calcium, phosphorus, sulphur, etc. 2. the mass of rough fragments of rock derived from volcanic lava. 3. a mixture of shale, clay, coal dust, etc., produced during coal-mining. —*vb.* **slagging**, **slagged**. 4. to convert into or become slag. —'slaggy *adj.*

slag heap *n.* a hillock of waste matter from coal-mining, etc.

slain ('sleɪn) *vb.* the past participle of **slay**.

slake ('sleɪk) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) *Literary*, to satisfy (thirst, desire, etc.). 2. (*tr.*) *Poetic*, to cool or refresh. 3. to undergo or cause to undergo the process in which lime reacts with water to produce calcium hydroxide. 4. (*tr.*) to mix flour, arrowroot, etc., to a thin paste using water. —'slakable or 'slakeable *adj.*

slaked lime *n.* another name for **calcium hydroxide**.

slalom ('slæləm) *n.* *Skiing*, etc. a race, esp. one downhill, over a winding course marked by artificial obstacles.

slam¹ ('slæm) *vb.* **slamming**, **slammed**. 1. to cause (a door or window) to close noisily or (of a door, etc.) to close in this way. 2. (*tr.*) to throw (something) down violently. 3. (*tr.*) *Sl.* to criticize harshly. 4. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *into* or *out of*) *Inf.* to go (into or out of a room, etc.) in violent haste or anger. 5. (*tr.*) to strike with violent force. 6. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to defeat easily. —*n.* 7. the act or noise of slamming.

slam² ('slæm) *n.* a. the winning of all (**grand slam**) or all but one (**little or small slam**) of the 13 tricks at bridge or whist. *b.* the bid to do so in bridge.

slander ('slændə) *n.* 1. *Law*, a defamation in some transient form, as by spoken words, gestures, etc. *b.* a slanderous statement, etc. 2. any defamatory words spoken about a person. —*vb.* 3. to utter or circulate slander (about). —'slanderer *n.* —'slanderous *adj.*

slang ('slæŋ) *n.* 1. a. vocabulary, idiom, etc., that is not appropriate to the standard form of a language or to formal contexts and may be restricted as to social status or distribution. *b.* (*as modifier*): a slang word. —*vb.* 2. to abuse (someone) with vituperative language. —'slangy *adj.* —'slangily *adv.* —'slanginess *n.*

slant ('slænt) *vb.* 1. to incline or be inclined at an oblique or sloping angle. 2. to write or present (news, etc.) with a bias. 3. (*intr.*; foll. by *towards*) (of a person's opinions) to be biased. —*n.* 4. an inclined or oblique line or direction. 5. a way of looking at something. 6. a bias or opinion, as in an article. 7. on a (or the) slant, sloping. —*adj.* 8. oblique, sloping. —'slanting *adj.*

slap ('slæp) *n.* 1. a sharp blow or smack, as with the open hand, something flat, etc. 2. the sound made by or as if by such a blow. 3. (*a bit of*) **slap and tickle**. *Brit. inf.* sexual play. 4. a slap in the face, an insult or rebuff. 5. a slap on the back, congratulation. —*vb.* **slapping**, **slapped**. 6. (*tr.*) to strike (a person or thing) sharply, as with the open hand or something flat. 7. (*tr.*) to bring down (the hand, etc.) sharply. 8. (when *intr.*, usually foll. by *against*) to strike (something) with or as if with a slap. 9. (*tr.*) *Inf.*, *chiefly Brit.* to apply in large quantities, haphazardly, etc.: she slapped butter on the bread. 10. **slap on the back**, to congratulate. —*adv.* *Inf.* 11.

exactly: *slap on time*. **12.** forcibly or abruptly: *to fall slap on the floor*.

slapdash ('slæp,dæʃ) *adv., adj.* **1.** in a careless, hasty, or haphazard manner. **~n.** **2.** slapdash activity or work.

slaphappy ('slæp,hæpi) *adj.* **-pier, -piest.** *Inf.* **1.** cheerfully irresponsible or careless. **2.** dazed or giddy from or as if from repeated blows.

slapstick ('slæp,stɪk) *n.* **1. a.** comedy characterized by horseplay and physical action. **b. (as modifier):** *slapstick humour*. **2.** a pair of paddles formerly used in pantomime to strike a blow with a loud sound but without injury.

slap-up *adj. (prenominal) Brit. inf.* (esp. of meals) lavish; excellent; first-class.

slash (slæʃ) *vb. (tr.)* **1.** to cut or lay about (a person or thing) with sharp sweeping strokes, as with a sword, etc. **2.** to lash with a whip. **3.** to make large gashes in: *to slash tyres*. **4.** to reduce (prices, etc.) drastically. **5.** to criticize harshly. **6.** to slit (the outer fabric of a garment) so that the lining material is revealed. **~n.** **7.** a sharp, sweeping stroke, as with a sword or whip. **8.** a cut or rent made by such a stroke. **9.** a decorative slit in a garment revealing the lining material. **10.** *North American.* littered wood chips that remain after trees have been cut down. **11.** another name for *solidus* (sense 1). **12.** *Brit. sl.* the act of urinating. —'slasher *n.*

slat (slæt) *n.* **1.** a narrow thin strip of wood or metal, as used in a Venetian blind, etc. **2.** a movable or fixed aerofoil attached to the leading edge of an aircraft wing to increase lift.

slate¹ (sleɪt) *n.* **1. a.** a smooth fine-grained metamorphic rock that can be split into thin layers and is used as a roofing and paving material. **b. (as modifier):** *a slate tile*. **2.** a roofing tile of slate. **3.** (formerly) a writing tablet of slate. **4.** a dark grey colour. **5.** *U.S.* a list of candidates in an election. **6.** *clean slate*, a record without dishonour. **7. on the slate.** *Brit. inf.* on credit. **~vb. (tr.)** **8.** to cover (a roof) with slates. **9.** *Chiefly U.S.* to enter (a person's name) on a list, esp. on a political slate. **~adj.** **10.** of the colour slate. —'slaty *adj.*

slate² (sleɪt) *vb. (tr.)* *Inf., chiefly Brit.* to criticize harshly. —'slating *n.*

slattern ('slætən) *n.* a slovenly woman or girl. —'slatternly *adj.* —'slatternliness *n.*

slaughter ('slɔ:tə) *n.* **1.** the killing of animals, esp. for food. **2.** the savage killing of a person. **3.** the indiscriminate or brutal killing of large numbers of people, as in war. **~vb. (tr.)** **4.** to kill (animals), esp. for food. **5.** to kill in a brutal manner. **6.** to kill indiscriminately or in large numbers. —'slaughterer *n.* —'slaughterous *adj.*

slaughterhouse ('slɔ:tə,haʊs) *n.* a place where animals are butchered for food; abattoir.

Slav (slɑ:v) *n.* a member of any of the peoples of E Europe or Soviet Asia who speak a Slavonic language.

slave (sleɪv) *n.* **1.** a person legally owned by another and having no freedom of action or right to property. **2.** a person who is forced to work for another against his will. **3.** a person under the domination of another person or some habit or influence. **4.** a drudge. **5.** a device that is controlled by or that duplicates the action of another similar device. **~vb.** **6. (intr.)** to work like a slave.

slave-driver *n.* **1.** (esp. formerly) a person forcing slaves to work. **2.** an employer who demands excessively hard work from his employees.

slaver¹ ('sleɪvə) *n.* an owner of or dealer in slaves.

slaver² ('sleɪvə) *vb. (intr.)* **1.** to dribble saliva. **2.** (often foll. by *over*) **a.** to fawn or drool (over someone). **b.** to show great desire (for). **~n.** **3.** saliva dribbling from the mouth. **4.** *Inf.* drivel. —'slaverer *n.*

slavery ('sleɪvəri) *n.* **1.** the state or condition of being a slave. **2.** the subjection of a person to another person, esp. in being forced into work. **3.** the condition of being subject to some influence or habit. **4.** work done in harsh conditions for low pay.

slavish ('sleɪvɪʃ) *adj.* **1.** of or befitting a slave. **2.** being or resembling a slave. **3.** unoriginal; imitative. —'slavishly *adv.*

Slavonic (slə'vɒnɪk) or **Slavic** *n.* **1.** a branch of the Indo-European family of languages, usually divided into three subbranches: **South Slavonic** (including Old Church Slavonic, Bulgarian, etc.), **East Slavonic** (including Russian, etc.), and **West Slavonic** (including Polish, Czech, etc.). **~adj.** **2.** of or relating to this group of languages. **3.** of or relating to the people who speak these languages. —'Slavonically *adv.*

slay (sleɪ) *vb.* *slaying, slew, slain.* (tr.) **1.** *Arch.* or

literary. to kill, esp. violently. **2.** *Inf.* to impress (someone of the opposite sex). —'slayer *n.*

sleazy ('sli:zi) *adj. -zier, -ziest.* **1.** disreputable: *a sleazy nightclub*. **2.** flimsy, as cloth. —'sleazily *adv.* —'sleaziness *n.*

sledge¹ (sledʒ) or (esp. U.S.) **sled** (sled) *n.* **1.** a vehicle mounted on runners, drawn by horses or dogs, for transporting people or goods, esp. over snow. **2.** a light wooden frame used, esp. by children, for sliding over snow. **~vb.** **3.** to convey or travel by sledge.

sledge² (sledʒ) *n.* short for **sledgehammer**.

sledgehammer ('sledʒ,hæmə) *n.* **1.** a large heavy hammer with a long handle used with both hands for heavy work such as breaking rocks, etc. **2. (modifier)** resembling the action of a sledgehammer in power, etc.: *a sledgehammer blow*.

sleek (sli:k) *adj.* **1.** smooth and shiny. **2.** polished in speech or behaviour. **3.** (of an animal or bird) having a shiny healthy coat or feathers. **4. (of a person)** having a prosperous appearance. **~vb. (tr.)** **5.** to make smooth and glossy, as by grooming, etc. **6.** (usually foll. by *over*) to gloss (over). —'sleekly *adv.* —'sleekness *n.* —'sleeky *adj.*

sleep (sli:p) *n.* **1.** a periodic state of physiological rest during which consciousness is suspended. **2. Bot.** the nontechnical name for **nyctitropism**. **3.** a period spent sleeping. **4.** a state of quiescence or dormancy. **5.** a poetic word for **death**. **~vb.** **sleeping, slept.** **6. (intr.)** to be in or as in the state of sleep. **7. (intr.)** (of plants) to show nyctitropism. **8. (intr.)** to be inactive or quiescent. **9. (tr.)** to have sleeping accommodation for (a certain number): *the boat could sleep six*. **10. (tr.; foll. by away) to pass (time) sleeping. **11. (intr.)** *Poetic.* to be dead. **12. sleep on it.** to give (something) extended consideration, esp. overnight. **~See also** **sleep around, sleep in, sleep off, etc.****

sleep around *vb. (intr., adv.)* *Inf.* to be sexually promiscuous.

sleep² ('sli:pə) *n.* **1.** a person, animal, or thing that sleeps. **2.** a railway sleeping car or compartment. **3. Brit.** one of the blocks supporting the rails on a railway track. **4.** a heavy timber beam, esp. one that is laid horizontally on the ground. **5. Chiefly Brit.** a small plain gold circle worn in a pierced ear lobe to prevent the hole from closing up. **6. Inf., chiefly U.S.** a person or thing that achieves unexpected success. **7.** a spy planted in advance for future use.

sleep in *vb. (intr., adv.)* **1. Brit.** to sleep longer than usual. **2.** to sleep at the place of one's employment.

sleeping bag *n.* a large well-padded bag designed for sleeping in, esp. outdoors.

sleeping car *n.* a railway car fitted with compartments containing bunks for people to sleep in.

sleeping partner *n.* a partner in a business who does not play an active role. Also called: **silent partner**.

sleeping pill *n.* a pill or tablet containing a sedative drug, such as a barbiturate, used to induce sleep.

sleeping policeman *n.* a bump built across roads, esp. in housing estates, to deter motorists from speeding.

sleeping sickness *n.* **1.** Also called: **African sleeping sickness**, an African disease transmitted by the bite of tsetse fly, characterized by fever and sluggishness. **2.** an epidemic viral form of encephalitis characterized by extreme drowsiness. Technical name: **encephalitis lethargica**.

sleepless ('sli:plɪs) *adj.* **1.** without sleep or rest: *a sleepless journey*. **2.** unable to sleep. **3.** always alert. **4. Chiefly poetic.** always active or moving. —'sleeplessly *adv.* —'sleeplessness *n.*

sleep off *vb. (tr., adv.)* *Inf.* to lose by sleeping: *to sleep off a hangover*.

sleep out *vb. (intr., adv.)* **1.** (esp. of a tramp) to sleep in the open air. **2.** to sleep away from the place of work. **~n. sleep-out.** **3. Austral.** an area of a verandah partitioned off so that it may be used as a bedroom.

sleepwalk ('sli:p,wɔ:k) *vb. (intr.)* to walk while asleep. —'sleep,walker *n.* —'sleep,walking *n., adj.*

sleep with *vb. (intr., prep.)* to have sexual intercourse and (usually) spend the night with. Also: **sleep together**.

sleepy ('sli:pɪ) *adj.* **sleepier, sleepest.** **1.** inclined to or needing sleep. **2.** characterized by or exhibiting drowsiness, etc. **3.** conducive to sleep. **4.** without activity or bustle: *a sleepy town*. —'sleepily *adv.* —'sleepiness *n.*

sleet (sli:t) *n.* **1.** partly melted falling snow or hail or (esp. U.S.) partly frozen rain. **2. Chiefly U.S.** the thin coat of ice that forms when sleet or rain freezes on cold surfaces. **~vb.** **3. (intr.)** to fall as sleet. —'sleety *adj.*

sleeve (sli:v) *n.* 1. the part of a garment covering the arm. 2. a tubular piece that is shrunk into a cylindrical bore to reduce its bore or to line it with a different material. 3. a tube fitted externally over two cylindrical parts in order to join them. 4. a wrapping for a gramophone record. 5. (have a few tricks) up one's sleeve. (to have options, etc.) secretly ready. 6. roll up one's sleeves. to prepare oneself for work, a fight, etc. ~vb. 7. (tr.) to provide with a sleeve or sleeves. —'sleeveless *adj.* —'sleeve, like *adj.*

sleigh (sler) *n.* 1. another name for sledge¹ (sense 1). ~vb. 2. (intr.) to travel by sleigh.

sleight (slart) *n.* Arch. 1. skill; dexterity. 2. a trick or stratagem. 3. cunning.

sleight of hand *n.* 1. manual dexterity used in performing conjuring tricks. 2. the performance of such tricks.

slender ('slendə) *adj.* 1. of small width relative to length or height. 2. (esp. of a person's figure) slim and well-formed. 3. small or inadequate in amount, size, etc.: slender resources. 4. (of hopes, etc.) feeble. 5. very small: a slender margin. —'slenderly *adv.* —'slenderness *n.*

slept (slept) *vb.* the past tense or past participle of sleep.

sleuth (slu:θ) *n.* 1. an informal word for detective. ~vb. 2. (tr.) to track or follow.

slew¹ (slu:) *vb.* the past tense of slay.

slew² or slue (slu:) *vb.* 1. to twist or be twisted sideways, esp. awkwardly. 2. Naut. to cause (a mast) to rotate in its step or (of a mast) to rotate in its step. ~n. 3. the act of slewing.

slice (sleis) *n.* 1. a thin flat piece cut from something having bulk: a slice of pork. 2. a share or portion: a slice of the company's revenue. 3. any of various utensils having a broad flat blade and resembling a spatula. 4. (in golf, tennis, etc.) a. the flight of a ball that travels obliquely. b. the action of hitting such a shot. c. the shot so hit. ~vb. 5. to divide or cut (something) into parts or slices. 6. (when intr., usually foll. by through) to cut in a clean and effortless manner. 7. (when intr., foll. by into or through) to move or go (through something) like a knife. 8. (usually foll. by off, from, away, etc.) to cut or be cut (from) a larger piece. 9. (tr.) to remove by use of a slicing implement. 10. to hit (a ball) with a slice. —'sliceable *adj.* —'slicer *n.*

slick (slik) *adj.* 1. flattering and glib: a slick salesman. 2. adroitly devised or executed: a slick show. 3. Inf., chiefly U.S. shrewd; sly. 4. Inf. superficially attractive: a slick publication. 5. Chiefly U.S. slippery. ~n. 6. a slippery area, esp. a patch of oil floating on water. ~vb. (tr.) 7. Chiefly U.S. to make smooth or sleek. —'slickly *adv.* —'slickness *n.*

slide (slaɪd) *vb.* sliding, slid; *slid* or *slidden*. 1. to move or cause to move smoothly along a surface in continual contact with it: doors that slide open. 2. (intr.) to lose grip or balance: he slid on his back. 3. (intr.; usually foll. by into, out of, away from, etc.) to pass or move unobtrusively: she slid into the room. 4. (intr.; usually foll. by into) to go (into a specified condition) by degrees, etc.: he slid into loose living. 5. (foll. by in, into, etc.) to move (an object) unobtrusively or (of an object) to move in this way: he slid the gun into his pocket. 6. let slide. to allow to deteriorate: to let things slide. ~n. 7. the act or an instance of sliding. 8. a smooth surface, as of ice or mud, for sliding on. 9. a construction incorporating an inclined smooth slope for sliding down in playgrounds, etc. 10. a small glass plate on which specimens are mounted for microscopical study. 11. Also called: transparency. a positive photograph on a transparent base, mounted in a frame, that can be viewed by means of a slide projector. 12. Also called: hair slide. Chiefly Brit. an ornamental clip to hold hair in place. 13. Machinery. a sliding part or member. 14. Music. a. the sliding curved tube of a trombone that is moved in or out. b. a portamento. 15. Geol. a. the downward movement of a large mass of earth, rocks, etc. b. the mass of material involved in this descent. See also landslide. —'slidable *adj.* —'slider *n.*

slide rule *n.* a mechanical calculating device consisting of two strips, one sliding along a central groove in the other, each strip graduated in two or more logarithmic scales of numbers, trigonometric functions, etc.

sliding scale *n.* a variable scale according to which specified wages, prices, etc., fluctuate in response to changes in some other factor.

slight (slart) *adj.* 1. small in quantity or extent. 2. of small importance. 3. slim and delicate. 4. lacking in

strength or substance. ~vb. (tr.) 5. to show disregard for (someone); snub. 6. to devote inadequate attention to (work, duties, etc.). 7. to treat as unimportant or trifling. ~n. 8. an act or omission indicating supercilious neglect. —'slightly *adv.* —'slightly *adv.* —'slightness *n.*

slim (slɪm) *adj.* slimmer, slimmest. 1. small in width relative to height or length. 2. small in amount: slim chances of success. ~vb. 3. to make or become slim, esp. by diets and exercise. 4. to reduce in size: the workforce was slimmed. —'slimly *adv.* —'slimmer *n.* —'slimness *n.*

slime (slam) *n.* 1. soft thin runny mud or filth. 2. any moist viscous fluid, esp. when noxious or unpleasant. 3. a mucous substance produced by various organisms, such as fish, slugs, and fungi. ~vb. (tr.) 4. to cover with slime.

slimy ('slaim) *adj.* slimier, slimiest. 1. characterized by, covered with, secreting, or resembling slime. 2. offensive or repulsive. 3. Chiefly Brit. characterized by servility.

sling (slɪŋ) *n.* 1. a simple weapon consisting of a loop of leather, etc., in which a stone is whirled and then let fly. 2. a rope or strap by which something may be secured or lifted. 3. Med. a wide piece of cloth suspended from the neck for supporting an injured hand or arm. 4. a loop or band attached to an object for carrying. 5. the act of slinging. ~vb. slinging, slung. 6. (tr.) to hurl with or as if with a sling. 7. to attach a sling or slings to (a load, etc.). 8. (tr.) to carry or hang loosely from or as if from a sling: to sling washing from the line. —'slinger *n.*

sling² (slɪŋ) *n.* a mixed drink with a spirit base, usually sweetened.

slingback ('slɪŋ,bæk) *n.* a shoe with a strap instead of a full covering for the heel.

slink (slɪŋk) *vb.* slinking, slunk. 1. (intr.) to move or act in a furtive manner from or as if from fear, guilt, etc. 2. (intr.) to move in a sinuous alluring manner. 3. (tr.) (of animals, esp. cows) to give birth to prematurely. ~n. 4. an animal, esp. a calf, born prematurely.

slinky ('slɪŋki) *adj.* slinkier, slinkiest. Inf. 1. moving in a sinuously graceful or provocative way. 2. (of clothes, etc.) figure-hugging. —'slinkily *adv.* —'slinkiness *n.*

slip¹ (slɪp) *vb.* slipping, slipped. 1. to move or cause to move smoothly and easily. 2. (tr.) to place, insert, or convey quickly or stealthily. 3. (tr.) to put on or take off easily or quickly: to slip on a sweater. 4. (intr.) to lose balance and slide unexpectedly: he slipped on the ice. 5. to let loose or be let loose. 6. to be released from (something). 7. (tr.) to let go (mooring or anchor lines) over the side. 8. (when intr., often foll. by from or out of) to pass out of (the mind or memory). 9. (intr.) to move or pass swiftly or unperceived: to slip quietly out of the room. 10. (intr.; sometimes foll. by up) to make a mistake. 11. Also: sideslip. to cause (an aircraft) to slide sideways or (of an aircraft) to slide sideways. 12. (intr.) to decline in health, mental ability, etc. 13. (intr.) (of an intervertebral disc) to become displaced from the normal position. 14. (tr.) to dislocate (a bone). 15. (of animals) to give birth to (offspring) prematurely. 16. (tr.) to pass (a stitch) from one needle to another without knitting it. 17. a. (tr.) to operate (the clutch of a motor vehicle) so that it partially disengages. b. (intr.) (of the clutch of a motor vehicle) to fail to engage, esp. as a result of wear. 18. let slip. a. to allow to escape. b. to say unintentionally. ~n. 19. the act or an instance of slipping. 20. a mistake or oversight: a slip of the pen. 21. a moral lapse or failing. 22. a woman's sleeveless undergarment, worn as a lining for a dress. 23. a pillowcase. 24. See slipway. 25. Cricket. a. the position of the fielder who stands a little way behind and to the offside of the wicketkeeper. b. the fielder himself. 26. the relative movement of rocks along a fault plane. 27. Metallurgy, crystallog. the deformation of a metallic crystal caused when one part glides over another part along a plane. 28. Austral. & N.Z. a landslide. 29. the deviation of a propeller from its helical path through a fluid. 30. another name for sideslip (sense 1). 31. give someone the slip. to elude or escape from someone. ~See also slip up. —'slippage *n.* —'slipless *adj.* —'slippingly *adv.*

slip² (slɪp) *n.* 1. a narrow piece; strip. 2. a small piece of paper: a receipt slip. 3. a part of a plant that, when detached from the parent, will grow into a new plant; cutting. 4. a young slender person: a slip of a child. 5. Printing. a. a long galley. b. a galley proof. ~vb.

slipping, slipped. 6. (*tr.*) to detach (portions of stem, etc.) from (a plant) for propagation.

slip¹ ('slɪp) *n.* clay mixed with water to a creamy consistency, used for decorating or patching a ceramic piece.

slipknot ('slɪp,nɒt) *n.* 1. Also called: **running knot**. a nooselike knot tied so that it will slip along the rope round which it is made. 2. a knot that can be easily untied by pulling one free end.

slip-on *adj.* 1. (of a garment or shoe) made so as to be easily and quickly put on or taken off. ~*n.* 2. a slip-on garment or shoe.

slipped disc *n. Pathol.* a herniated intervertebral disc, often resulting in pain because of pressure on the spinal nerves.

slipper ('slɪpə) *n.* 1. a light shoe of some soft material, for wearing around the house. 2. a woman's evening shoe. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to hit or beat with a slipper. —'slipped *adj.*

slippery ('slɪpəri, -prɪ) *adj.* 1. causing or tending to cause objects to slip: a **slippery road**. 2. liable to slip from the grasp, etc. 3. not to be relied upon: a **slippery character**. 4. (esp. of a situation) unstable. —'slipperiness *n.*

slippery elm *n.* 1. a North American tree, having notched winged fruits and a mucilaginous inner bark. 2. the bark of this tree, used medicinally as a demulcent. ~Also called: **red elm**.

slippery ('slɪpɪ) *adj.* **pier, piest.** 1. *Inf.* or *dialect.* another word for **slippery** (senses 1, 2). 2. *Brit. inf.* alert; quick. —'slipperiness *n.*

slip road *n. Brit.* a relatively narrow road giving access to a motorway, etc.

slipshod ('slɪpʃɒd) *adj.* 1. (of an action) negligent; careless. 2. (of a person's appearance) slovenly; down-at-heel.

slip-slop *n. S. African.* a sandal attached to the foot by a thong between the big toe and the next toe.

slipstream ('slɪp,stri:m) *n.* Also called: **airstream**. a. the stream of air forced backwards by an aircraft propeller. b. a stream of air behind any moving object.

slip up *vb. (intr., adv.)* 1. *Inf.* to make a blunder or mistake. ~*n.* **slip-up.** 2. *Inf.* a mistake or mishap.

slipway ('slɪp,weɪ) *n.* 1. the sloping area in a shipyard, containing the ways. 2. the ways on which a vessel is launched.

slit (slɪt) *vb.* **slitting, slit.** (*tr.*) 1. to make a straight long incision in. 2. to cut into strips lengthwise. ~*n.* 3. a long narrow cut. 4. a long narrow opening. —'slitter *n.*

slither ('slɪðə) *vb.* 1. to move or slide or cause to move or slide unsteadily, as on a slippery surface. 2. (*intr.*) to travel with a sliding motion. ~*n.* 3. a slithering motion. —'slithery *adj.*

sliver ('slɪvə) *n.* 1. a thin piece that is cut or broken off lengthwise. 2. a loose fibre obtained by carding. ~*vb.* 3. to divide or be divided into splinters. 4. (*tr.*) to form (wool, etc.) into slivers. —'sliverer *n.*

slob (slob) *n.* 1. *Sl.* a stupid or coarse person. 2. *Irish.* mire.

slobber ('slobə) or **slabber** *vb.* 1. to dribble (saliva, food, etc.) from the mouth. 2. (*intr.*) to speak or write mawkishly. 3. (*tr.*) to smear with matter dribbling from the mouth. ~*n.* 4. liquid or saliva spilt from the mouth. 5. maudlin language or behaviour. —'slobberer or 'slabberer *n.* —'slobbery or 'slabbery *adj.*

sloe (sləu) *n.* 1. the small sour black-black fruit of the blackthorn. 2. another name for **blackthorn**.

sloe-eyed *adj.* having dark slanted or almond-shaped eyes.

slog (slog) *vb.* **slogging, slogged.** 1. to hit with heavy blows, as in boxing. 2. (*intr.*) to work hard; toil. 3. (*intr.*; foll. by *down, up, along*, etc.) to move with difficulty. 4. *Cricket.* to take large swipes at the ball. ~*n.* 5. a tiring walk. 6. long exhausting work. 7. a heavy blow or swipe. —'slogger *n.*

slogan ('slogən) *n.* 1. a distinctive or topical phrase used in politics, advertising, etc. 2. *Scot. history.* a Highland battle cry.

sloop (sloop) *n.* a single-masted sailing vessel, rigged fore-and-aft.

slop (slop) *vb.* **slopping, slopped.** 1. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *about*) to cause (liquid) to splash or spill or (of liquid) to splash or spill. 2. (*intr.*; foll. by *along, through*, etc.) to tramp (through) mud or slush. 3. (*tr.*) to feed slop or swill to: *to slop the pigs*. 4. (*tr.*) to ladle or serve, esp. clumsily. 5. (*intr.*; foll. by *over*) *Inf.*, chiefly U.S. to be unpleasantly effusive. ~*n.* 6. a puddle of spilled

liquid. 7. (*pl.*) wet feed, esp. for pigs, made from kitchen waste, etc. 8. (*pl.*) waste food or liquid refuse. 9. (*often pl.*) *Inf.* liquid or semiliquid food of low quality. 10. soft mud, snow, etc.

slope (sloʊp) *vb.* 1. to lie or cause to lie at a slanting or oblique angle. 2. (*intr.*) (esp. of natural features) to follow an inclined course: *many paths sloped down the hillside*. 3. (*intr.*; foll. by *off, away*, etc.) to go furtively. 4. (*tr.*) *Mil.* to hold (a rifle) in the slope position. ~*n.* 5. an inclined portion of ground. 6. (*pl.*) hills or foothills. 7. any inclined surface or line. 8. the degree or amount of such inclination. 9. *Maths.* (of a line) the tangent of the angle between the line and another line parallel to the x-axis. 10. the position adopted for military drill when the rifle is rested on the shoulder. —'sloper *n.* —'sloping *adj.*

slop out *vb. (intr., adv.)* (of prisoners) to empty chamber pots and collect water for washing.

sloppy ('slopi) *adj.* **pier, piest.** 1. (esp. of the ground, etc.) wet; slushy. 2. *Inf.* careless; untidy. 3. *Inf.* mawkishly sentimental. 4. (of food or drink) watery and unappetizing. 5. splashed with slops. 6. (of clothes) loose; baggy. —'sloppily *adv.* —'sloppiness *n.*

slosh (sloʃ) *n.* 1. watery mud, snow, etc. 2. *Brit. sl.* a heavy blow. 3. the sound of splashing liquid. ~*vb.* 4. (*tr.*; foll. by *around, on, in*, etc.) *Inf.* to throw or pour (liquid). 5. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *about* or *around*) *Inf.* a. to shake or stir (something) in a liquid. b. (of a person) to splash (around) in water, etc. 6. (*tr.*) *Brit. sl.* to deal a heavy blow to. 7. (usually foll. by *about* or *around*) *Inf.* to shake (a container of liquid) or (of liquid within a container) to be shaken. —'sloshy *adj.*

sloshed (sloʃt) *adj.* Chiefly *Brit. sl.* drunk.

slot (slɒt) *n.* 1. an elongated aperture or groove, such as one in a vending machine for inserting a coin. 2. *Inf.* a place in a series or scheme. ~*vb.* **slotting, slotted.** 3. (*tr.*) to furnish with a slot or slots. 4. (usually foll. by *in* or *into*) to fit or adjust in a slot. 5. *Inf.* to situate or be situated in a series. —'slotter *n.*

sloth (sləʊθ) *n.* 1. any of a family of shaggy-coated arboreal edentate mammals, such as the three-toed sloth or ai or the two-toed sloth or unau, of Central and South America. They are slow-moving, hanging upside down by their long arms and feeding on vegetation. 2. reluctance to exert oneself.

slothful ('sləʊθfʊl) *adj.* lazy; indolent. —'slothfully *adv.* —'slothfulness *n.*

slot machine *n.* a machine, esp. one for gambling, activated by placing a coin in a slot.

slouch (slautʃ) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to sit or stand with a drooping bearing. 2. (*intr.*) to walk or move with an awkward slovenly gait. 3. (*tr.*) to cause (the shoulders) to droop. ~*n.* 4. a drooping carriage. 5. (usually used in *negative constructions*) *Inf.*, chiefly U.S. & N.Z. an incompetent or slovenly person: *he's no slouch at football*. —'slouchy *adj.*

slouch hat *n.* any soft hat with a brim that can be pulled down over the ears, esp. an Australian army hat with the left side of the brim turned up.

slough¹ (slau) *n.* 1. a hollow filled with mud; bog. 2. (*slu:*) *North American.* a large hole where water collects or a marshy inlet. 3. despair or degradation. —'sloughy *adj.*

slough² (slaf) *n.* 1. any outer covering that is shed, such as the dead outer layer of the skin of a snake, the cellular debris in a wound, etc. ~*vb.* 2. (often foll. by *off*) to shed (a skin, etc.) or (of a skin, etc.) to be shed. —'sloughy *adj.*

slough off (slaf) *vb. (tr., adv.)* to cast off (cares, etc.).

sloven ('sləvən) *n.* a person who is habitually negligent in appearance, hygiene, or work.

slovenly ('sləvənli) *adj.* 1. frequently or habitually unclean or untidy. 2. negligent and careless: *slovenly manners*. ~*adv.* 3. in a negligent or slovenly manner. —'slovenliness *n.*

slow (sləu) *adj.* 1. performed or occurring during a comparatively long interval of time. 2. lasting a comparatively long time: *a slow journey*. 3. characterized by lack of speed: *a slow walker*. 4. (*prepositional*) adapted to or productive of slow movement: *the slow lane of a motorway*. 5. (of a clock, etc.) indicating a time earlier than the correct time. 6. not readily responsive to stimulation: *a slow mind*. 7. dull or uninteresting: *the play was very slow*. 8. not easily aroused: *a slow temperament*. 9. lacking promptness or immediacy: *a slow answer*. 10. unwilling to perform an action or enter into a state: *slow to anger*. 11. behind the times. 12. (of trade, etc.) unproductive; slack. 13. (of a fire) burning

weakly. **14.** (of an oven) cool. **15. Photog.** requiring a relatively long time of exposure to produce a given density: a *slow lens*. **16. Sport.** (of a court, track, etc.) tending to reduce the speed of the ball or the competitors. **17. Cricket.** (of a bowler, etc.) delivering the ball slowly, usually with spin. ~adv. **18.** in a manner characterized by lack of speed; slowly. ~vb. **19.** (often foll. by *up, down*, etc.) to decrease or cause to decrease in speed, efficiency, etc. —'slowly adv. —'slowness n.

slowcoach ('sləʊ,kəʊtʃ) n. *Brit. inf.* a person who moves or works slowly. U.S. equivalent: **slowpoke**.

slow motion n. **1.** *Films, television, etc.* action that appears to have occurred at a slower speed than normal, usually achieved by cranking the film at a faster rate. ~adj. **slow-motion.** **2.** of or relating to such action. **3.** moving or functioning at considerably less than usual speed.

slowworm ('sləʊ,wɜ:m) n. a Eurasian legless lizard with a brownish-grey snakelike body. Also called: **blind-worm**.

sludge (slʌdʒ) n. **1.** soft mud, snow, etc. **2.** any deposit or sediment. **3.** a surface layer of ice that is not frozen solid but has a slushy appearance. **4.** (in sewage disposal) the solid constituents of sewage that are removed for subsequent purification. —'sludgy adj.

slue (slu:) n, vb. a variant spelling (esp. U.S.) of **slew**¹.

slug¹ (slʌg) n. **1.** any of various terrestrial gastropod molluscs in which the body is elongated and the shell is absent or very much reduced. **2.** any of various other invertebrates having a soft slimy body, esp. the larvae of certain sawflies.

slug² (slʌg) n. **1.** an fps unit of mass; the mass that will acquire an acceleration of 1 foot per second per second when acted upon by a force of 1 pound. **2. Metallurgy.** a metal blank from which small forgings are worked. **3.** a bullet. **4. Chiefly U.S.** a metal token for use in slot machines, etc. **5. Printing.** a. a thick strip of type metal that is used for spacing. b. a metal strip containing a line of characters as produced by a linotype machine. **6.** a draught of alcoholic drink, esp. spirits.

slug³ (slʌg) vb. **slugging, slugged.** **1.** to hit very hard and solidly, as in boxing or baseball. **2.** (tr.) *Austral. & N.Z. inf.* to charge (someone) an exorbitant price. ~n. **3.** a heavy blow. **4. Austral. & N.Z. inf.** an exorbitant price. —'slugger n.

luggard ('slʌgəd) n. **1.** a person who is habitually indolent. ~adj. **2. lazy.** —'luggardly adj.

sluggish ('slʌgɪʃ) adj. **1.** lacking energy; inactive. **2.** functioning at below normal rate or level. **3.** exhibiting poor response to stimulation. —'sluggishly adv. —'sluggishness n.

sluice (slu:ɪs) n. **1.** Also called: **sluiceway**, a channel that carries a rapid current of water, esp. one that has a sluiceway to control the flow. **2.** the body of water controlled by a sluiceway. **3. Mining,** an inclined trough for washing ore. **4.** an artificial channel through which logs can be floated. ~vb. **5.** (tr.) to draw out or drain (water, etc.) from (a pond, etc.) by means of a sluice. **6.** (tr.) to wash or irrigate with a stream of water. **7.** (tr.) *Mining.* to wash in a sluice. **8.** (tr.) to send (logs, etc.) down a sluice. **9.** (intr.; often foll. by *away* or *out*) (of water, etc.) to run or flow from or as if from a sluice. **10.** (tr.) to provide with a sluice. —'sluice, like adj.

slum (slʌm) n. **1.** a squalid overcrowded house, etc. **2.** (often pl.) a squalid section of a city, characterized by inferior living conditions. **3.** (modifier) of or characteristic of slums: *slum conditions*. ~vb. **slumming, slummed.** (intr.) **4.** to visit slums, esp. for curiosity. **5.** Also: **slum it.** to suffer conditions below those to which one is accustomed. —'slummy adj.

slumber ('slʌmbə) vb. **1.** (intr.) to sleep, esp. peacefully. **2.** (intr.) to be quiescent or dormant. **3.** (tr.; foll. by *away*) to spend (time) sleeping. ~n. **4.** (sometimes pl.) sleep. **5.** a dormant or quiescent state. —'slumberer n.

slump (slʌmp) vb. (intr.) **1.** to sink or fall heavily and suddenly. **2.** to relax ungracefully. **3.** (of business activity, etc.) to decline suddenly. **4.** (of health, interest, etc.) to deteriorate or decline suddenly. ~n. **5.** a sudden or marked decline or failure, as in progress or achievement. **6.** a decline in commercial activity, prices, etc.; depression. **7.** the act of slumping.

slung (slʌŋ) vb. the past tense or past participle of **sling**.

slunk (slʌŋk) vb. the past tense or past participle of **slink**.

slur (slɜ:) vb. **slurring, slurred.** (mainly tr.) **1.** (often foll. by *over*) to read superficially, hastily, or without due deliberation. **2.** (also intr.) to pronounce or utter (words, etc.) indistinctly. **3.** to speak disparagingly of. **4. Music.**

to execute (a melodic interval of two or more notes) smoothly, as in legato performance. ~n. **5.** an indistinct sound or utterance. **6.** a slighting remark. **7.** a stain or disgrace, as upon one's reputation. **8. Music.** a. a performance or execution of a melodic interval of two or more notes in a part. b. the curved line (— or —) indicating this.

slurp (slɜ:p) Inf. ~vb. **1.** to eat or drink (something) noisily. ~n. **2.** a sound produced in this way.

slurry ('slʌrɪ) n, pl. -ries. a suspension of solid particles in a liquid, as in a mixture of cement, clay, or coal dust with water.

slush (slʌʃ) n. **1.** any watery muddy substance, esp. melting snow. **2. Inf.** sloppily sentimental language. ~vb. **3.** (intr.; often foll. by *along*) to make one's way through or as if through slush. —'slushiness n. —'slushy adj.

slush fund n. U.S. a fund for financing political corruption, such as buying votes.

slut (slʌt) n. **1.** a dirty slatternly woman. **2.** an immoral woman. —'sluttish adj. —'sluttishness n.

sly (slʌɪ) adj. **slyer, slyest** or **slier, sliest.** **1.** crafty; artful: a *sly dodge*. **2.** insidious; furtive: a *sly manner*. **3.** roguish: *sly humour*. ~n. **4.** on the sly, in a secretive manner. —'slyly or 'slyly adv. —'slyness n.

Sm the chemical symbol for samarium.

smack¹ ('smæk) n. **1.** a smell or flavour that is distinctive though faint. **2.** a distinctive trace: *the smack of corruption*. **3.** a small quantity, esp. a taste. **4.** a slang word for **heroin**. ~vb. (intr.; foll. by *of*) **5.** to have the characteristic smell or flavour (of something): *smack of the sea*. **6.** to have an element suggestive (of something): *his speeches smacked of bigotry*.

smack² ('smæk) vb. **1.** (tr.) to strike or slap smartly, with or as if with the open hand. **2.** to strike or send forcibly or loudly or to be struck or sent forcibly or loudly. **3.** to open and close (the lips) loudly, esp. to show pleasure. ~n. **4.** a sharp resounding slap or blow with something flat, or the sound of such a blow. **5.** a loud kiss. **6.** a sharp sound made by the lips, as in enjoyment. **7.** have a **smack at** Inf., chiefly Brit. to attempt. **8. smack in the eye.** Inf., chiefly Brit. a snub or setback. ~adv. **9.** Inf. directly; squarely. **10.** Inf. sharply and unexpectedly.

smack³ ('smæk) n. a sailing vessel, usually sloop-rigged, used in coasting and fishing along the British coast.

smacker ('smækə) n. *Sl.* **1.** a loud kiss; smack. **2.** a pound note or dollar bill.

small ('smɔ:l) adj. **1.** limited in size, number, importance, etc. **2.** of little importance or on a minor scale: a *small business*. **3.** lacking in moral or mental breadth or depth: a *small mind*. **4.** modest or humble: *small beginnings*. **5.** of low or inferior status, esp. socially. **6.** (of a child or animal) young; not mature. **7.** unimportant; trivial: a *small matter*. **8.** of or designating the ordinary modern minuscule letter used in printing and cursive writing. **9.** lacking great strength or force: a *small effort*. **10.** in fine particles: *small gravel*. ~adv. **11.** into small pieces: *cut it small*. **12.** in a small or soft manner. **13.** feel **small.** to be humiliated. ~n. **14.** (often preceded by *the*) an object, person, or group considered to be small: *the small or the large?* **15.** a small slender part, esp. of the back. **16.** (pl.) Inf., chiefly Brit. items of personal laundry, such as underwear. —'smallish adj. —'smallness n.

small beer n. **1.** Inf., chiefly Brit. people or things of no importance. **2.** Now rare. weak beer.

small change n. **1.** coins, esp. those of low value. **2.** Rare. a person or thing that is not outstanding or important.

small fry pl. n. **1.** people or things regarded as unimportant. **2.** young children. **3.** young or small fishes.

smallholding ('smɔ:l,həʊldɪŋ) n. a holding of agricultural land smaller than a small farm. —'small,holder n.

small hours pl. n. the early hours of the morning, after midnight and before dawn.

small intestine n. the longest part of the alimentary canal, in which digestion is completed. Cf. **large intestine**.

small-minded adj. narrow-minded; petty; intolerant; mean. —,small-'mindedly adv. —,small-'mindedness n.

smallpox ('smɔ:l,pɒks) n. a highly contagious viral disease characterized by high fever and a rash changing to pustules, which dry up and form scabs that are cast off, leaving pitted depressions. Technical name: **varicella**.

small print *n.* matter in a contract, etc., printed in small type, esp. when considered to be a trap for the unwary.

small-scale *adj.* 1. of limited size or scope. 2. (of a map, model, etc.) giving a relatively small representation of something.

small talk *n.* light conversation for social occasions.

small-time *adj. Inf.* insignificant; minor: a *small-time criminal*. — '**small-timer** *n.*

smarm (smɑ:m) *vb. Brit. inf.* 1. (tr.; often foll. by *down*) to flatten (the hair, etc.) with grease. 2. (when *intr.*, foll. by *up to*) to ingratiate oneself (with). — '**smarmy** *adj.*

smart (smɑ:t) *adj.* 1. astute, as in business. 2. quick, witty, and often impertinent in speech: a *smart talker*. 3. fashionable; chic: a *smart hotel*. 4. well-kept; neat. 5. causing a sharp stinging pain. 6. vigorous or brisk. ~*vb.* (mainly *intr.*) 7. to feel, cause, or be the source of a sharp stinging physical pain or keen mental distress: *he smarted under their abuse*. 8. (often foll. by *for*) to suffer a harsh penalty. ~*n.* 9. a stinging pain or feeling. ~*adv.* 10. in a smart manner. — '**smartingly** *adv.* — '**smartly** *adv.* — '**smartness** *n.*

smart aleck ('ælik) or **smarty** ('smɑ:ti) *n., pl. smart alecks or smarties.* *Inf.* an irritatingly oversmart person. — '**smart-alecky** *adj.*

smarten ('smɑ:t'n) *vb.* (usually foll. by *up*) 1. (*intr.*) to make oneself neater. 2. (tr.) to make quicker or livelier.

smash (smæʃ) *vb.* 1. to break into pieces violently and usually noisily. 2. (when *intr.*, foll. by *against*, *through*, *into*, etc.) to throw or crash (against) vigorously, causing shattering: *he smashed the equipment*. 3. (tr.) to hit forcefully and suddenly. 4. (tr.) *Tennis*, etc. to hit (the ball) fast and powerfully, esp. with an overhead stroke. 5. (tr.) to defeat (persons, theories, etc.). 6. to make or become bankrupt. 7. (*intr.*) to collide violently; crash. ~*n.* 8. an act, instance, or sound of smashing or the state of being smashed. 9. a violent collision, esp. of vehicles. 10. a total failure or collapse, as of a business. 11. *Tennis*, etc. a fast and powerful overhead stroke. 12. *Inf.* a. something having popular success. b. (in combination): *smash-hit*. ~*adv.* 13. with a smash. — '**smashable** *adj.*

smashing ('smæʃɪŋ) *adj. Inf.*, chiefly *Brit.* excellent or first-rate: *we had a smashing time*.

smash-up *Inf.* ~*n.* 1. a bad collision, esp. of cars. ~*vb.* **smash up**. 2. (tr., *adv.*) to damage to the point of complete destruction: *they smashed the place up*.

smattering ('smætərɪŋ) *n.* 1. a slight or superficial knowledge. 2. a small amount. — '**smatteringly** *adv.*

smear (smiə) *vb.* (mainly *tr.*) 1. to bedaub or cover with oil, grease, etc. 2. to rub over or apply thickly. 3. to rub so as to produce a smudge. 4. to slander. 5. (*intr.*) to be or become smeared or dirtied. ~*n.* 6. a dirty mark or smudge. 7. a. a slanderous attack. b. (as modifier): *smear tactics*. 8. a preparation of blood, secretions, etc., smeared onto a glass slide for examination under a microscope. — '**smearer** *n.* — '**smearly** *adj.* — '**smeariness** *n.*

smear test *n. Med.* another name for **Pap test**.

smell (smel) *vb.* **smelling**, **smelt** or **smelled**. 1. (tr.) to perceive the scent of (a substance) by means of the olfactory nerves. 2. (*copula*) to have a specified smell: *the beaches smell of seaweed*. 3. (*intr.*; often foll. by *of*) to emit an odour (of): *the park smells of flowers*. 4. (*intr.*) to emit an unpleasant odour. 5. (tr.; often foll. by *out*) to detect through shrewdness or instinct. 6. (*intr.*) to have or use the sense of smell; sniff. 7. (*intr.*; foll. by *of*) to give indications (of): *he smells of money*. 8. (*intr.*; foll. by *around*, *about*, etc.) to search, investigate, or pry. 9. (*copula*) to be or seem to be untrustworthy. 10. **smell a rat**. *Inf.* to detect something suspicious. ~*n.* 11. that sense (olfaction) by which scents or odours are perceived. Related *adj.*: **olfactory**. 12. anything detected by the sense of smell. 13. a trace or indication. 14. the act or an instance of smelling. — '**smeller** *n.*

▷ **Usage.** *Smell* in its neutral sense of emitting an odour is followed by an adjective rather than by an adverb: *this flower smells good* (rather than *well*). *Smell* in the sense of emitting an unpleasant odour is followed by an adverb.

smelling salts *pl. n.* a pungent preparation containing crystals of ammonium carbonate that has a stimulant action when sniffed in cases of faintness, headache, etc.

smelly ('smeli) *adj.* **smellier**, **smelliest**. having a strong or nasty smell. — '**smelliness** *n.*

smelt' ('smelt) *vb.* (tr.) to extract (a metal) from (an ore) by heating.

smelt' ('smelt) *n., pl. smelt* or *smelts*. a marine or

freshwater salmonoid food fish having a long silvery body and occurring in temperate and cold northern waters.

smelt' ('smelt) *vb.* a past tense or past participle of **smell**.

smelter ('smeltə) *n.* 1. a person engaged in smelting. 2. Also called **smeltery**, an industrial plant in which smelting is carried out.

smew (smju:) *n.* a merganser of N Europe and Asia, having a male plumage of white with black markings.

smilax ('smaileks) *n.* 1. any of a genus of climbing shrubs having slightly lobed leaves, small greenish or yellow flowers, and berry-like fruits: includes the sarsaparilla plant and greenbrier. 2. a fragile, much branched vine of southern Africa: cultivated for its glossy green foliage.

smile (smail) *n.* 1. a facial expression characterized by an upturning of the corners of the mouth, usually showing amusement, friendliness, etc. 2. favour or blessing: *the smile of fortune*. ~*vb.* 3. (*intr.*) to wear or assume a smile. 4. (*intr.*; foll. by *at*) a. to look (at) with a kindly expression. b. to look derisively (at). c. to bear (troubles, etc.) patiently. 5. (*intr.*; foll. by *on* or *upon*) to show approval. 6. (tr.) to express by means of a smile: *she smiled a welcome*. 7. (tr.; often foll. by *away*) to drive away or change by smiling. 8. **come up smiling**, to recover cheerfully from misfortune. — '**smiler** *n.* — '**smilingly** *adv.*

smirch (smɜ:tʃ) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to dirty; soil. ~*n.* 2. the act of smirching or state of being smirched. 3. a smear or stain.

smirk (smɜ:k) *n.* 1. a smile expressing scorn, smugness, etc., rather than pleasure. ~*vb.* 2. (*intr.*) to give such a smile. 3. (tr.) to express with such a smile. — '**smirker** *n.* — '**smirkingly** *adv.*

smite (smait) *vb.* **smiting**, **smote**; **smitten** or **smit**. (mainly *tr.*) *Now arch. in most senses.* 1. to strike with a heavy blow. 2. to damage with or as if with blows. 3. to affect severely: *smitten with flu*. 4. to afflict in order to punish. 5. (*intr.*; foll. by *on*) to strike forcibly or abruptly: *the sun smote down on him*. — '**smiter** *n.*

smith (smiθ) *n.* 1. a. a person who works in metal. b. (in combination): a *silversmith*. 2. See **blacksmith**.

smithereens ('smiðə'ri:nz) *pl. n.* little shattered pieces or fragments.

smithy ('smiθi) *n., pl. smithies.* a place in which metal, usually iron or steel, is worked by heating and hammering; forge.

smitten ('smit'n) *vb.* the past participle of **smite**.

smock (smɒk) *n.* 1. any loose protective garment, worn by artists, laboratory technicians, etc. 2. a woman's loose blouse-like garment, reaching to below the waist, worn over slacks, etc. 3. Also called: **smock frock**, a loose protective overgarment decorated with smocking, worn formerly esp. by farm workers. 4. *Arch.* a woman's loose undergarment. ~*vb.* 5. to ornament (a garment) with smocking. — '**smock-like** *adj.*

smocking ('smɒkɪŋ) *n.* ornamental needlework used to gather and stitch material in a honeycomb pattern so that the part below the gathers hangs in even folds.

smog (smɒg) *n.* a mixture of smoke and fog. — '**smoggy** *adj.*

smoke (sməʊk) *n.* 1. the product of combustion, consisting of fine particles of carbon carried by hot gases and air. 2. any cloud of fine particles suspended in a gas. 3. a. the act of smoking tobacco, esp. as a cigarette. b. the duration of smoking such substances. 4. *Inf.* a cigarette or cigar. 5. something with no concrete or lasting substance: *everything turned to smoke*. 6. a thing or condition that obscures. 7. **go or end up in smoke**. a. to come to nothing. b. to burn up vigorously. c. to flare up in anger. ~*vb.* 8. (*intr.*) to emit smoke or the like, sometimes excessively or in the wrong place. 9. to draw in (on a burning cigarette, etc.) and exhale the smoke. 10. (tr.) to bring (oneself) into a specified state by smoking. 11. (tr.) to subject or expose to smoke. 12. (tr.) to cure (meat, fish, etc.) by treating with smoke. 13. (tr.) to fumigate or purify the air of (rooms, etc.). 14. (tr.) to darken (glass, etc.) by exposure to smoke. ~*See also smoke out*. — '**smokable** or '**smokeable** *adj.*

Smoke (sməʊk) *n. the Brit.* a slang name for London.

smokeless ('sməʊkɪs) *adj.* having or producing little or no smoke: *smokeless fuel*.

smokeless zone *n.* an area designated by the local authority where only smokeless fuels are permitted.

smoke out *vb.* (tr., *adv.*) 1. to subject to smoke in order to drive out of hiding. 2. to bring into the open: *they smoked out the plot*.

smoker ('sməʊkə) *n.* 1. a person who habitually smokes tobacco. 2. Also called: **smoking compartment**. a compartment of a train where smoking is permitted. 3. an informal social gathering, as at a club.

smoke screen *n.* 1. *Mil.* a cloud of smoke produced to obscure movements. 2. something said or done in order to hide the truth.

smokestack ('sməʊk,stæk) *n.* a tall chimney that conveys smoke into the air.

smoky ('sməʊki) *adj.* **smokier, smokiest.** 1. emitting or resembling smoke. 2. emitting smoke excessively or in the wrong place: a **smoky fireplace**. 3. having the flavour or having been cured by smoking. 4. made dirty or hazy by smoke. —'smokily *adv.* —'smokiness *n.*

smolt (sməʊlt) *n.* a young salmon at the stage when it migrates from fresh water to the sea.

smooch (smu:tʃ) *Sl.* ~vb. (*intr.*) 1. Also (*Austral.*): **smodge**. (of two people) to kiss and cuddle. 2. *Brit.* to dance very slowly and amorously with one's arms around another person, or (of two people) to dance together in such a way. ~n. 3. the act of smooching.

smooth (smu:ð) *adj.* 1. without bends or irregularities. 2. silky to the touch: **smooth velvet**. 3. lacking roughness of surface; flat. 4. tranquil or unruffled: **smooth temper**. 5. lacking obstructions or difficulties. 6. a. suave or persuasive, esp. as suggestive of insincerity. b. (*in combination*): **smooth-tongued**. 7. (of the skin) free from hair. 8. of uniform consistency: **smooth batter**. 9. free from jolts: **smooth driving**. 10. not harsh or astringent: a **smooth wine**. 11. having all projections worn away: **smooth tyres**. 12. *Phonetics*. without preliminary aspiration. 13. *Physics*. (of a plane, etc.) regarded as being frictionless. ~adv. 14. in a calm or even manner. ~vb. (*mainly tr.*) 15. (*also intr.*; often foll. by *down*) to make or become flattened or without roughness. 16. (often foll. by *out* or *away*) to take or rub (away) in order to make smooth: *she smoothed out the creases in her dress*. 17. to make calm; soothe. 18. to make easier: *smooth his path*. ~n. 19. the smooth part of something. 20. the act of smoothing. 21. *Tennis*, etc. the side of a racket on which the binding strings form a continuous line. —'smoothen *vb.* —'smoother *n.* —'smoothly *adv.* —'smoothness *n.*

smoothie or **smoothy** ('smu:ði) *n.*, pl. **smoothies**. *Sl.*, usually *derog.* a person, esp. a man, who is suave or slick, esp. in speech, dress, or manner.

smoothing iron *n.* a former name for **iron** (sense 3). **smooth over** *vb.* (*tr.*) to ease or gloss over: *to smooth over a situation*.

smooth-spoken *adj.* speaking or spoken in a gently persuasive or competent manner.

smooth-tongued *adj.* suave or persuasive in speech.

smorgasbord ('smɔ:ɡas,bɔ:d) *n.* a variety of cold or hot savoury dishes served in Scandinavia as hors d'oeuvres or as a buffet meal.

smote (sməʊt) *vb.* the past tense of **smite**.

smother ('sməʊðə) *vb.* 1. to suffocate or stifle by cutting off or being cut off from the air. 2. (*tr.*) to surround (with) or envelop (in): *he smothered her with love*. 3. (*tr.*) to extinguish (a fire) by covering so as to cut it off from the air. 4. to be or cause to be suppressed or stifled: *smother a giggle*. 5. (*tr.*) to cook or serve (food) thickly covered with sauce, etc. ~n. 6. anything, such as a cloud of smoke, that stifles. 7. a profusion or turmoil. —'smothery *adj.*

smoulder or *U.S.* **smolder** ('sməʊldə) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. to burn slowly without flame, usually emitting smoke. 2. (esp. of anger, etc.) to exist in a suppressed state. 3. to have strong repressed feelings, esp. anger. ~n. 4. a smouldering fire.

smudge (smadz) *vb.* 1. to smear or soil or cause to do so. 2. (*tr.*) *Chiefly U.S.* to fill (an area) with smoke in order to drive insects away. ~n. 3. a smear or dirty mark. 4. a blurred form or area: *that smudge in the distance is a quarry*. 5. *Chiefly U.S.* a smoky fire for driving insects away or protecting plants from frost. —'smudgy *adj.* —'smudgily *adv.* —'smudginess *n.*

smug (smʌɡ) *adj.* **smugger, smuggest.** excessively self-satisfied or complacent. —'smugly *adv.* —'smugness *n.*

smuggle ('smʌɡl) *vb.* 1. to import or export (prohibited or dutiable goods) secretly. 2. (*tr.*; often foll. by *into* or *out of*) to bring or take secretly, as against the law or rules. —'smuggler *n.* —'smuggling *n.*

smut (smʌt) *n.* 1. a small dark smudge or stain, esp. one caused by soot. 2. a speck of soot or dirt. 3. something obscene or indecent. 4. a. any of various fungal diseases of flowering plants, esp. cereals, in which black sooty masses of spores cover the affected parts. b. any

parasitic fungus that causes such a disease. ~vb. **smutting, smutted**. 5. to mark or become marked or smudged, as with soot. 6. to affect (grain, etc.) or (of grain) to be affected with smut. —'smutty *adj.* —'smuttily *adv.* —'smuttiness *n.*

Sn *the chemical symbol for tin.*

snack (snæk) *n.* 1. a light quick meal eaten between or in place of main meals. 2. a sip or bite. ~vb. 3. (*intr.*) to eat a snack.

snack bar *n.* a place where light meals or snacks can be obtained, often with a self-service system.

snaffle ('snæfl) *n.* 1. Also called: **snaffle bit**. a simple jointed bit for a horse. ~vb. (*tr.*) 2. *Brit. inf.* to steal or take for oneself. 3. to equip or control with a snaffle.

snafu (snæfu:) *U.S. sl., chiefly mil.* ~n. 1. confusion or chaos regarded as the normal state. ~adj. 2. (*postpositive*) confused or muddled up, as usual. ~vb. -fu^{ing}, -fued. 3. (*tr.*) to throw into chaos.

snag (snæg) *n.* 1. a difficulty or disadvantage: *the snag is that I have nothing suitable to wear*. 2. a sharp protuberance, such as a tree stump. 3. a small loop or hole in a fabric caused by a sharp object. 4. a tree stump in a riverbed that is dangerous to navigation. 5. *Austral. sl.* a sausage. ~vb. **snagging, snagged**. 6. (*tr.*) to hinder or impede. 7. (*tr.*) to tear or catch (fabric). 8. (*intr.*) to develop a snag. 9. (*intr.*) *Chiefly U.S.* (of a boat) to strike a snag. 10. (*tr.*) to clear (a stretch of water) of snags. 11. (*tr.*) *U.S.* to seize (an opportunity, etc.). —'snaggy *adj.*

snail (sneɪl) *n.* 1. any of numerous terrestrial or freshwater gastropod molluscs with a spirally coiled shell, esp. the **garden snail**. 2. any other gastropod with a spirally coiled shell, such as a whelk. 3. a slow-moving person or animal. —'snail-like *adj.*

snail's pace *n.* a very slow or sluggish speed or rate.

snake (sneɪk) *n.* 1. a reptile having a scaly cylindrical limbless body, fused eyelids, and a jaw modified for swallowing large prey: includes venomous forms such as cobras and rattlesnakes, large nonvenomous constrictors (boas and pythons), and small harmless types such as the grass snake. 2. Also: **snake in the grass**. a deceitful or treacherous person. 3. anything resembling a snake in appearance or action. 4. a group of currencies, any one of which can only fluctuate within narrow limits, but each can fluctuate more against other currencies. 5. a tool in the form of a long flexible wire for unblocking drains. ~vb. 6. (*intr.*) to glide or move like a snake. 7. (*tr.*) to move in or follow (a sinuous course). —'snake, like *adj.*

snake charmer *n.* an entertainer, esp. in Asia, who charms or appears to charm snakes by playing music.

snakes and ladders *n.* (*functioning as sing.*) a board game in which players move counters along a series of squares by means of dice. A ladder provides a short cut to a square nearer the finish and a snake obliges a player to return to a square nearer the start.

snaky ('sneɪki) *adj.* **snakier, snakiest.** 1. of or like a snake. 2. treacherous or insidious. 3. infested with snakes. 4. *Austral. sl.* angry or bad-tempered. —'snakily *adv.* —'snakiness *n.*

snap (snæp) *vb.* **snapping, snapped.** 1. to break or cause to break suddenly, esp. with a sharp sound. 2. to make or cause to make a sudden sharp cracking sound. 3. (*intr.*) to give way or collapse suddenly, esp. from strain. 4. to move, close, etc., or cause to move, close, etc., with a sudden sharp sound. 5. to move or cause to move in a sudden or abrupt way. 6. (*intr.*; often foll. by *at* or *up*) to seize something suddenly or quickly. 7. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *at*) to bite at (something) bringing the jaws rapidly together. 8. to speak (words) sharply or abruptly. 9. to take a snapshot (of something). 10. (*tr.*) *American football*. to put (the ball) into play by sending it back from the line of scrimmage. 11. **snap one's fingers at**. *Inf.* a. to dismiss with contempt. b. to defy. 12. **snap out of it**. *Inf.* to recover quickly, esp. from depression or anger. ~n. 13. the act of breaking suddenly or the sound produced by a sudden breakage. 14. a sudden sharp sound, esp. of bursting, popping, or cracking. 15. a catch, clasp, or fastener that operates with a snapping sound. 16. a sudden grab or bite. 17. a thin crisp biscuit: *ginger snaps*. 18. *Inf.* See **snapshot**. 19. *Inf.* vigour, liveliness, or energy. 20. *Inf.* a task or job that is easy or profitable to do. 21. a short spell or period, esp. of cold weather. 22. *Brit.* a card game in which the word **snap** is called when two cards of equal value are turned up on the separate piles dealt by each player. 23. (*modifier*) done on the spur of the moment: *a snap decision*. 24. (*modifier*) closed or fastened with a

snap, ~adv. 25. with a snap. ~interj. 26. a. Cards. the word called while playing snap. b. an exclamation used to draw attention to the similarity of two things. ~See also **snap up**. —'snapless adj. —'snappily adv.

snappoint ('snæp,dræŋ) n. any of several plants of the genus *Antirrhinum* having spikes of showy white, yellow, pink, red, or purplish flowers. Also called: **antirrhinum**.

snap fastener n. another name for **press stud**.

snapper ('snæpə) n., pl. -pers. 1. any large sharp-toothed percoid food fish of warm and tropical coastal regions. 2. an Australian spard food fish that has a pinkish body covered with blue spots. 3. a person or thing that snaps. ~Also (for sense 1, 2): **schnapper**.

snappy ('snæpi) adj. -pier, -piest. 1. Also: **snappish**. apt to speak sharply or irritably. 2. Also: **snappish**. apt to snap or bite. 3. crackling in sound: a **snappy fire**. 4. brisk, sharp, or chilly: a **snappy pace**. 5. smart and fashionable: a **snappy dresser**. 6. make it **snappy**. Sl. hurry up! —'snappily adv. —'snappiness n.

snapshot ('snæp,ʃɒt) n. an informal photograph taken with a simple camera. Often shortened to **snap**.

snap up vb. (tr., adv.) 1. to avail oneself of eagerly and quickly: she **snapped up** the bargains. 2. to interrupt abruptly.

snare¹ ('sneə) n. 1. a device for trapping birds or small animals, esp. a flexible loop that is drawn tight around the prey. 2. a surgical instrument for removing certain tumours, consisting of a wire loop that may be drawn tight around their base to sever them. 3. anything that traps or entangles someone or something unawares. ~vb. (tr.) 4. to catch birds or small animals with a snare. 5. to catch or trap in or as if in a snare. —'snarer n. —'snaringly adv.

snare² ('sneə) n. Music. a set of gut strings wound with wire fitted against the lower drumhead of a snare drum. They produce a rattling sound when the drum is beaten.

snare drum n. Music. a cylindrical drum with two drumheads, the upper of which is struck and the lower fitted with a snare. See **snare**³.

snarl¹ ('sna:l) vb. 1. (intr.) (of an animal) to growl viciously, baring the teeth. 2. to speak or express (something) viciously. ~n. 3. a vicious growl or facial expression. 4. the act of snarling. —'snarler n. —'snarly adj.

snarl² ('sna:l) n. 1. a tangled mass of thread, hair, etc. 2. a complicated or confused state or situation. 3. a knot in wood. ~vb. 4. (often foll. by up) to be, become, or make tangled or complicated. 5. (tr., often foll. by up) to confuse mentally. 6. (tr.) to emboss (metal) by hammering on a tool held against the under surface. —'snarler n. —'snarly adj.

snarl-up n. Inf., chiefly Brit. a confusion, obstruction, or tangle, esp. a traffic jam.

snatch ('snætʃ) vb. 1. (tr.) to seize or grasp (something) suddenly or peremptorily: he **snatched** the chocolate. 2. (intr., usually foll. by at) to seize or attempt to seize suddenly. 3. (tr.) to take hurriedly: to **snatch** some sleep. 4. (tr.) to remove suddenly: she **snatched** her hand away. 5. (tr.) to gain, win, or rescue, esp. narrowly: they **snatched** victory in the closing seconds. ~n. 6. an act of snatching. 7. a fragment or incomplete part: **snatches** of conversation. 8. a brief spell: **snatches** of time off. 9. Weightlifting. a lift in which the weight is raised in one quick motion from the floor to an overhead position. 10. Sl., chiefly U.S. an act of kidnapping. 11. Brit. sl. a robbery: a **diamond snatch**. —'snatcher n. —'snatchy adj.

snazzy ('snezi) adj. -zier, -ziest. Inf. (esp. of clothes) stylishly and often flashily attractive. —'snazzily adv. —'snazziness n.

sneak ('sni:k) vb. 1. (intr., often foll. by along, off, in, etc.) to move furtively. 2. (intr.) to behave in a cowardly or underhand manner. 3. (tr.) to bring, take, or put stealthily. 4. (intr.) Inf., chiefly Brit. to tell tales (esp. in schools). 5. (tr.) to steal. 6. (intr., foll. by off, out, away, etc.) Inf. to leave unobtrusively. ~n. 7. a person who acts in an underhand or cowardly manner, esp. as an informer. 8. a. a stealthy act. b. (as modifier): a **sneak attack**. —'sneaky adj. —'sneakily adv. —'sneakiness n.

sneakers ('sni:kəz) pl. n. Chiefly U.S. canvas shoes with rubber soles worn informally.

sneaking ('sni:kiŋ) adj. 1. acting in a furtive or cowardly way. 2. secret: a **sneaking desire** to marry a millionaire. 3. slight but nagging (esp. in a **sneaking suspicion**). —'sneakingly adv.

sneak thief n. a person who steals paltry articles

from premises, which he enters through open doors, windows, etc.

sneer ('sniə) n. 1. a facial expression of scorn or contempt, typically with the upper lip curled. 2. a scornful or contemptuous remark or utterance. ~vb. 3. (intr.) to assume a facial expression of scorn or contempt. 4. to say or utter (something) in a scornful manner. —'sneerer n. —'sneeringly adv. n.

sneeze ('sni:z) vb. 1. (intr.) to expel air from the nose involuntarily, esp. as the result of irritation of the nasal mucous membrane. ~n. 2. the act or sound of sneezing. —'sneezee n. —'sneezily adv.

sneeze at vb. (intr., prep., usually with a negative) Inf. to dismiss lightly: his offer is not to be **sneezed at**.

sneezewood ('sni:z,wud) n. 1. a South African tree. 2. its exceptionally hard wood, used for furniture, gateposts and railway sleepers.

snick ('snik) n. 1. a small cut; notch. 2. Cricket. a. a glancing blow off the edge of the bat. b. the ball so hit. ~vb. (tr.) 3. to cut a small corner or notch in (material, etc.). 4. Cricket. to hit (the ball) with a snick.

snicker ('snika) n., vb. 1. another word, esp. U.S., for **snigger**. ~vb. 2. (of a horse) to whinny. —'snickeringly adv.

snide ('snaid) adj. 1. (of a remark, etc.) maliciously derogatory. 2. counterfeit. ~n. 3. Sl. sham jewellery. —'snideness n.

sniff ('snif) vb. 1. to inhale through the nose, usually in short rapid audible inspirations, as for clearing a congested nasal passage. 2. (when intr., often foll. by at) to perceive or attempt to perceive (a smell) by inhaling through the nose. ~n. 3. the act or sound of sniffing. 4. a smell perceived by sniffing, esp. a faint scent. —'sniffer n. —'sniffingly adv.

sniff at vb. (intr., prep.) to express contempt or dislike for.

sniffle ('snifl) vb. 1. (intr.) to breathe audibly through the nose, as when the nasal passages are congested. ~n. 2. the act, sound, or an instance of sniffing. —'sniffler n.

sniffles ('sniflz) or **snuffles** n. Inf. the. a cold in the head.

sniff out vb. (tr., adv.) to detect through shrewdness or instinct.

sniffy ('snifi) adj. -fier, -fiest. Inf. contemptuous or disdainful. —'sniffily adv. —'sniffiness n.

snifter ('sniftə) n. 1. a pear-shaped glass with a bowl that narrows towards the top so that the aroma of brandy or some other liqueur is retained. 2. Inf. a small quantity of alcoholic drink.

snigger ('sniɡə) n. 1. a sly or disrespectful laugh, esp. one partly stifled. ~vb. (intr.) 2. to utter such a laugh. —'sniggeringly adv.

snip ('snip) vb. **snipping**, **snipped**. 1. to cut or clip with a small quick stroke or a succession of small quick strokes, esp. with scissors or shears. ~n. 2. the act of snipping. 3. the sound of scissors or shears closing. 4. Also called: **snipping**, a small piece of anything. 5. a small cut made by snipping. 6. Chiefly Brit. an informal word for **bargain**. 7. Inf. something easily done; cinch.

snipe ('snaip) n., pl. **snipe** or **snipes**. 1. any of a genus of birds, such as the common or Wilson's snipe, of marshes and river banks, having a long straight bill. 2. a shot, esp. a gunshot, fired from a place of concealment. ~vb. 3. (when intr., often foll. by at) to attack (a person or persons) with a rifle from a place of concealment. 4. (intr., often foll. by at) to criticize a person or persons from a position of security. 5. (intr.) to hunt or shoot snipe. —'sniper n.

snippet ('snipt) n. a small scrap or fragment. —'snippily adv. —'snippiness or 'snippetiness n.

snitch ('snitʃ) Sl. ~vb. 1. (tr.) to steal; take, esp. in an underhand way. 2. (intr.) to act as an informer. ~n. 3. an informer.

snivel ('snivl) vb. -elling, -elled or U.S. -eling, -eled. 1. (intr.) to snifle as a sign of distress. 2. to utter (something) tearfully; whine. 3. (intr.) to have a runny nose. ~n. 4. an instance of snivelling. —'sniveller n. —'snivellingly adv. n.

snob ('snɒb) n. 1. a person who strives to associate with those of higher social status and who behaves condescendingly to others. 2. a person having similar pretensions with regard to his tastes, etc.: an **intellectual snob**. —'snobbery n. —'snobbish adj. —'snobbishly adv.

SNOBOL ('snoʊbɒl) n. String Oriented Symbolic Language: a computer-programming language for handling strings of symbols.

snook (snuk) *n.* a South African edible marine fish.

snog (snog) *Brit. sl. ~vb. snogging, snogged.* 1. (*intr.*) to kiss and cuddle. *~n.* 2. the act of kissing and cuddling.

snood (snu:d) *n.* 1. a pouchlike hat, often of net, loosely holding a woman's hair at the back. 2. a headband, esp. one formerly worn by young unmarried women in Scotland.

snook¹ (snu:k) *n., pl. snook or snooks.* any of a genus of large game fishes of tropical American marine and fresh waters.

snook² (snu:k) *n. Brit.* a rude gesture, made by putting one thumb to the nose with the fingers of the hand outstretched (esp. in **cock a snook**).

snooker ('snu:kə) *n.* 1. a game played on a billiard table with 15 red balls, six balls of other colours, and a white cue ball. The object is to pot the balls in a certain order. 2. a shot in which the cue ball is left in a position such that another ball blocks the object ball. *~vb. (tr.)* 3. to leave (an opponent) in an unfavourable position by playing a snooker. 4. to place (someone) in a difficult situation.

snook (snu:p) *Inf. ~vb. 1. (intr.; often foll. by about or around)* to pry into the private business of others. *~n. 2.* a person who pries into the business of others. 3. an act or instance of snooping. *—'snooper n. —'snoopy adj.*

snoot (snu:t) *n. Sl.* the nose.

snooty ('snu:tɪ) *adj. snootier, snootiest. Inf. 1.* aloof or supercilious. 2. snobbish: *a snooty restaurant.* *—'snootily adv. —'snootiness n.*

snooze (snu:z) *Inf. ~vb. 1. (intr.)* to take a brief light sleep. *~n. 2.* a nap. *—'snoozer n. —'snoozy adj.*

snore (sno:) *vb. 1. (intr.)* to breathe through the mouth and nose while asleep with snoring sounds caused by the soft palate vibrating. *~n. 2.* the act or sound of snoring. *—'snorer n.*

snorkel ('snɔ:kəl) *n. 1.* a device allowing a swimmer to breathe while face down on the surface of the water, consisting of a bent tube fitting into the mouth and projecting above the surface. 2. (on a submarine) a retractable vertical device containing air-intake and exhaust pipes for the engines and general ventilation. *~vb. 3. (intr.)* to swim with a snorkel.

snort (sno:t) *vb. 1. (intr.)* to exhale forcibly through the nostrils, making a characteristic noise. 2. (*intr.*) (of a person) to express contempt or annoyance by such an exhalation. 3. (*tr.*) to utter in a contemptuous or annoyed manner. *~n. 4.* a forcible exhalation of air through the nostrils, esp. (of persons) as a noise of contempt. *—'snorting adv.*

snorter ('sno:tə) *n. 1.* a person or animal that snorts. 2. *Brit. sl.* something outstandingly impressive or difficult.

snot (snot) *n. (usually considered vulgar)* 1. nasal mucus or discharge. 2. *Sl.* a contemptible person.

snotty ('sno:tɪ) (*considered vulgar*) *~adj. -tier, -tiest.* 1. dirty with nasal discharge. 2. *Sl.* contemptible; nasty. 3. snobbish; conceited. *~n., pl. ties.* 4. a slang word for **midshipman**. *—'snottily adv. —'snottiness n.*

snout (snaʊt) *n. 1.* the part of the head of a vertebrate, esp. a mammal, consisting of the nose, jaws, and surrounding region. 2. the corresponding part of the head of such insects as weevils. 3. anything projecting like a snout, such as a nozzle. 4. *Sl.* a person's nose. 5. *Brit. sl.* a cigarette or tobacco. *—'snouted adj. —'snoutless adj.*

snow (snoʊ) *n. 1.* precipitation from clouds in the form of flakes of ice crystals formed in the upper atmosphere. 2. a layer of snowflakes on the ground. 3. a fall of such precipitation. 4. anything resembling snow in whiteness, softness, etc. 5. the random pattern of white spots on a television or radar screen, occurring when the signal is weak. 6. *Sl.* a. cocaine crystals. b. heroin in powder form. *~vb. 7. (intr., with it as subject)* to be the case that snow is falling. 8. (*tr.; usually passive, foll. by over, under, in, or up*) to cover or confine with a heavy fall of snow. 9. (often with *it* as subject) to fall or cause to fall as or like snow. 10. (*tr.*) *U.S. sl.* to overwhelm with elaborate often insincere talk. 11. *be snowed under.* to be overwhelmed, esp. with paperwork. *—'snowless adj. —'snow, like adj. —'snowy adj.*

snowball ('snoʊ,bɔ:l) *n. 1.* snow pressed into a ball for throwing, as in play. 2. a drink made of advocaat and lemonade. *~vb. 3. (intr.)* to increase rapidly in size, importance, etc. 4. (*tr.*) to throw snowballs at.

snowberry ('sneʊbəri) *n., pl. -ries.* 1. a shrub cultivated for its small pink flowers and white berries. 2. Also called: **waxberry.** any of the berries of such a plant.

snow-blind *adj.* temporarily unable to see or having impaired vision because of the intense reflection of sunlight from snow. *—'snow blindness n.*

snowblower ('snoʊ,bləʊə) *n.* a snow-clearing machine that draws the snow in and blows it away.

snowbound ('snoʊ,baʊnd) *adj.* confined to one place by heavy falls or drifts of snow; snowed-in.

snow bunting *n.* a bunting of northern and arctic regions, having a white plumage with dark markings on the wings, back, and tail.

snowcap ('snoʊ,kæp) *n.* a cap of snow, as on top of a mountain. *—'snow, capped adj.*

snowdrift ('snoʊ,drɪft) *n.* a bank of deep snow driven together by the wind.

snowdrop ('snoʊ,drɒp) *n.* an amaryllidaceous plant having drooping white bell-shaped flowers that bloom in early spring.

snowfall ('snoʊ,fɔ:l) *n. 1.* a fall of snow. 2. *Meteorol.* the amount of snow received in a specified place and time.

snow fence *n.* a lath and wire fence put up in winter beside windy roads to prevent snowdrifts.

snowflake ('snoʊ,fleɪk) *n. 1.* one of the mass of small thin delicate arrangements of ice crystals that fall as snow. 2. any of various European amaryllidaceous plants that have white nodding bell-shaped flowers.

snow goose *n.* a North American goose, having a white plumage with black wing tips.

snow lily *n. Canad.* another name for **dogtooth violet**.

snow line *n.* the altitudinal or latitudinal limit of permanent snow.

snowman ('snoʊ,mæn) *n., pl. -men.* a figure resembling a man, made of packed snow.

snowmobile ('snoʊ,məʊbəl) *n.* a motor vehicle for travelling on snow, esp. one with caterpillar tracks and front skis.

snowplough ('snoʊ,plau) *n.* an implement or vehicle for clearing away snow.

snowshoe ('snoʊ,ʃu:) *n. 1.* a device to facilitate walking on snow, esp. a racket-shaped frame with a network of thongs stretched across it. *~vb. shoeing, shoed. 2. (intr.)* to walk or go using snowshoes. *—'snow, shoer n.*

snowstorm ('snoʊ,stɔ:m) *n.* a storm with heavy snow.

SNP *abbrev. for* Scottish National Party.

snub (snab) *vb. snubbing, snubbed. (tr.) 1.* to insult (someone) deliberately. 2. to stop or check the motion of (a boat, horse, etc.) by taking turns of a rope around a post. *~n. 3.* a deliberately insulting act or remark. 4. *Naut.* an elastic shock absorber attached to a mooring line. *~adj. 5.* short and blunt. See also **snub-nosed**. *—'snubber n. —'snubbingly adv. —'snubby adj.*

snub-nosed *adj. 1.* having a short turned-up nose. 2. (of a pistol) having an extremely short barrel.

snuff¹ (snaf) *vb. 1. (tr.)* to inhale through the nose. 2. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *at*) (esp. of an animal) to examine by sniffing. *~n. 3.* an act or the sound of sniffing. *—'snuffer n.*

snuff² (snaf) *n. 1.* finely powdered tobacco, esp. for sniffing up the nostrils. 2. a small amount of this. 3. *up to snuff.* *Inf. a.* in good health or in good condition. b. *Chiefly Brit.* not easily deceived. *~vb. 4. (intr.)* to use or inhale snuff. *—'snuffer n. —'snuffy adj.*

snuff³ (snaf) *vb. (tr.) 1.* (often foll. by *out*) to extinguish (a light from a candle). 2. to cut off the charred part of (the wick of a candle, etc.). 3. (usually foll. by *out*) *Inf.* to put an end to. 4. **snuff it.** *Brit. inf.* to die. *~n. 5.* the burned portion of the wick of a candle.

snuffbox ('snaf,bɒks) *n.* a container, often of elaborate ornamental design, for holding small quantities of snuff.

snuffer ('snafə) *n. 1.* a cone-shaped implement for extinguishing candles. 2. (*pl.*) an instrument resembling a pair of scissors for trimming the wick or extinguishing the flame of a candle. 3. *Rare.* a person who takes snuff.

snuffle ('snafəl) *vb. 1. (intr.)* to breathe noisily or with difficulty. 2. to say or speak in a nasal tone. 3. (*intr.*) to snivel. *~n. 4.* an act or the sound of sniffing. 5. a nasal voice. 6. *the snuffles.* a condition characterized by sniffing. *—'snuffly adj.*

snug (snag) *adj. snuggly, snuggest. 1.* comfortably warm and well-protected; cosy: *the children were snug in bed.* 2. small but comfortable: *a snug cottage.* 3. well-ordered; compact: *a snug boat.* 4. sheltered and secure: *a snug anchorage.* 5. fitting closely and comfortably. 6. offering safe concealment. *~n. 7.* (in Britain and Ireland) one of the bars in certain pubs, offering intimate seating for only a few persons. *~vb. snugging,*

snugged. 8. to make or become comfortable and warm. — **'snugly** adv. — **'snuggness** *n.*

snuggery ('snʌgəri) *n., pl. -eries.* 1. a cosy and comfortable place or room. 2. another name for **snug** (sense 7).

snuggle ('snʌɡl) *vb.* 1. (usually *intr.*; usually *fol.* by *down, up, or together*) to nestle into or draw close to (somebody or something) for warmth or from affection. ~*n.* 2. the act of snuggling.

so' (səʊ) *adv.* 1. (fol. by an adjective or adverb and a comparative clause often introduced by *that*) to such an extent: *the river is so dirty that it smells.* 2. (used with a negative; it replaces the first as in an equative comparison) to the same extent as: *she is not so old as you.* 3. (intensifier): *it's so lovely.* 4. in the state or manner expressed or implied: *they're happy and will remain so.* 5. (not used with a negative; fol. by an auxiliary verb or *do, have, or be* used as main verbs) also: *I can speak Spanish and so can you.* 6. Arch. provided that. 7. and so on or forth, and continuing similarly. 8. just so, arranged with precision. 9. or so, approximately: *fifty or so people came to see me.* 10. quite so, I agree. 11. so be it, used to express agreement or resignation. 12. so much, a. a certain degree or amount (of). b. a lot (of): *it's just so much nonsense.* 13. so much for, a. no more can or need be said about. b. used to express contempt for something that has failed. ~*conj.* (subordinating; often fol. by *that*) 14. in order (that): *to die so that you might live.* 15. with the consequence (that): *he was late home, so that there was trouble.* 16. so as, (takes an infinitive) in order (to): *to die so as to lose weight.* ~*sentence connector.* 17. in consequence: *she wasn't needed, so she left.* 18. thereupon: *and so we ended up in France.* 19. so what! *Inf.* what importance does that have? ~*pron.* 20. used to substitute for a clause or sentence, which may be understood: *you'll stop because I said so.* ~*adj.* 21. (used with *is, was, etc.*) factual: it can't be so. ~*interj.* 22. an exclamation of surprise, etc.

▷ **Usage.** Careful writers of formal English consider it poor style to use *so* as a conjunction, to indicate either purpose (*he did it so he could feel happier*) or result (*he could not do it so he did not try*). In the former case *in order* to should be used instead and in the latter case *and so* or *and therefore* would be more acceptable.

so' (səʊ) *n.* Music. a variant spelling of **soh**.

So. abbrev. for south(ern).

soak (sɔːk) *vb.* 1. to make, become, or be thoroughly wet or saturated, esp. by immersion in a liquid. 2. (when *intr.*, usually *fol.* by *in* or *into*) (of a liquid) to penetrate or permeate. 3. (*tr.*; usually *fol.* by *in* or *up*) (of a permeable solid) to take in (a liquid) by absorption: *the earth soaks up rainwater.* 4. (*tr.*; *fol.* by *out* or *out of*) to remove by immersion in a liquid: *she soaked the stains out of the dress.* 5. *Inf.* to drink excessively or make or become drunk. 6. (*tr.*) *Sl.* to overcharge. ~*n.* 7. the act of immersing in a liquid or the period of immersion. 8. the liquid in which something may be soaked. 9. *Austral.* a natural depression holding rainwater, esp. just beneath the surface of the ground. 10. *Sl.* a person who drinks to excess. — **'soaker** *n.* — **'soakingly** *adv.*

soakaway ('sɔːkə,wei) *n.* a pit filled with rubble, etc., into which waste water drains.

so-and-so *n., pl. so-and-sos. Inf.* 1. a person whose name is forgotten or ignored. 2. *Euphemistic.* a person or thing regarded as unpleasant: *which so-and-so broke my razor?*

soap (səʊp) *n.* 1. a cleaning agent made by reacting animal or vegetable fats or oils with potassium or sodium hydroxide. Soaps act by emulsifying grease and lowering the surface tension of water, so that it more readily penetrates open materials such as textiles. 2. any metallic salt of a fatty acid, such as palmitic or stearic acid. 3. *Sl.* flattery or persuasive talk (esp. in *soft soap*). 4. no soap. *Sl.* not possible. ~*vb.* 5. (*tr.*) to apply soap to. 6. (*tr.*; often *fol.* by *up*) *Sl.* to flatter. — **'soapless** *adj.* — **'soap,like** *adj.*

soapbox ('sɔːp,bɒks) *n.* 1. a box or crate for packing soap. 2. a crate used as a platform for speech-making. 3. a child's home-made racing cart.

soap opera *n.* a serialized drama, usually dealing with domestic themes, broadcast on radio or television.

soapstone ('sɔːp,stəʊn) *n.* a massive compact variety of talc, used for making tabletops, hearths, ornaments, etc. Also called **steatite**.

soapsuds ('sɔːp,sʌdz) *pl. n.* foam or lather made from soap. — **'soap,sudsy** *adj.*

soapy ('sɔːpi) *adj.* **soapier, soapiest.** 1. containing or

covered with soap: *soapy water.* 2. resembling or characteristic of soap. 3. *Sl.* flattering. — **'soapily** *adv.* — **'soapiness** *n.*

soar (sɔː) *vb. (intr.)* 1. to rise or fly upwards into the air. 2. (of a bird, aircraft, etc.) to glide while maintaining altitude by the use of ascending air currents. 3. to rise or increase in volume, size, etc.: *soaring prices.* — **'soarer** *n.* — **'soaringly** *adv.*

sob (sɒb) *vb. sobbing, sobbed.* 1. (*intr.*) to weep with convulsive gasps. 2. (*tr.*) to utter with sobs. 3. to cause (oneself) to be in a specified state by sobbing: *to sob oneself to sleep.* ~*n.* 4. a convulsive gasp made in weeping. — **'sobber** *n.* — **'sobbingly** *adv.*

sober ('səʊbə) *adj.* 1. not drunk. 2. not given to excessive indulgence in drink or any other activity. 3. sedate and rational: *a sober attitude to a problem.* 4. (of colours) plain and dull or subdued. 5. free from exaggeration or speculation: *he told us the sober truth.* ~*vb.* 6. (usually *fol.* by *up*) to make or become less intoxicated. — **'soberingly** *adv.* — **'soberly** *adv.*

sobriety ('səʊbrɪəti) *n.* 1. the state or quality of being sober. 2. the quality of refraining from excess. 3. the quality of being serious or sedate.

sobriquet or **soubriquet** ('səʊbrɪ,keɪ) *n.* a humorous epithet, assumed name, or nickname.

sob story *n.* a tale of personal distress intended to arouse sympathy.

Soc. or soc. abbrev. for: 1. socialist. 2. society.

so-called *adj.* a. (*prenominal*) designated or styled by the name or word mentioned, esp. (in the speaker's opinion) incorrectly: *a so-called genius.* b. (also used parenthetically after a noun): *these experts, so-called, are no help.*

soccer ('sɒkə) *n.* a. a game in which two teams of eleven players try to kick or head a ball into their opponents' goal, only the goalkeeper on either side being allowed to touch the ball with his hands and arms, except in the case of throw-ins. b. (as *modifier*): *a soccer player.* Also called: **Association Football**.

sociable ('səʊjəbəl) *adj.* 1. friendly or companionable. 2. (of an occasion) providing the opportunity for friendliness and conviviality. ~*n.* 3. Chiefly U.S. a social. 4. a type of open carriage with two seats facing each other. — **'social'ability** *n.* — **'sociably** *adv.*

social ('səʊʃəl) *adj.* 1. living or preferring to live in a community rather than alone. 2. denoting or relating to human society or any of its subdivisions. 3. of or characteristic of the behaviour and interaction of persons forming groups. 4. relating to or having the purpose of promoting companionship, communal activities, etc.: *a social club.* 5. relating to or engaged in social services: *a social worker.* 6. relating to or considered appropriate to a certain class of society. 7. (esp. of certain species of insects) living together in organized colonies: *social bees.* 8. (of plant species) growing in clumps. ~*n.* 9. an informal gathering, esp. of an organized group. — **'socially** *adv.*

social anthropology *n.* the branch of anthropology that deals with cultural and social phenomena such as kinship systems or beliefs.

social contract or **compact** *n.* (in the theories of Rousseau and others) an agreement, entered into by individuals, that results in the formation of the state, the prime motive being the desire for protection, which entails the surrender of some personal liberties.

Social Credit *n.* 1. (esp. in Canada) a right-wing Populist political party, movement, or doctrine. 2. **Social Credit League.** (in New Zealand) a middle-of-the-road political party, in favour of free enterprise. 3. **Social Credit Rally.** (in Canada) a political party formed in 1963 from a splinter group of the Social Credit Party.

social democrat *n.* any socialist who believes in the gradual transformation of capitalism into democratic socialism.

Social Insurance Number *n.* *Canad.* an identification number issued to individuals by the government in connection with income tax and social insurance.

socialism ('səʊʃəlɪzəm) *n.* 1. an economic theory or system in which the means of production, distribution, and exchange are owned by the community collectively, usually through the state. Cf. **capitalism.** 2. any of various social or political theories or movements in which the common welfare is to be achieved through the establishment of a socialist economic system. 3. (in Marxist theory) a transitional stage in the development of a society from capitalism to communism: characterized by the distribution of income according to work rather than need.

socialite ('səʊʃə,laɪt) *n.* a person who is or seeks to be prominent in fashionable society.

socialize or -lize ('səʊʃə,laɪz) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to behave in a friendly or sociable manner. 2. (*tr.*) to prepare for life in society. 3. (*tr.*) *Chiefly U.S.* to alter or create so as to be in accordance with socialist principles.

social science *n.* the study of society and of the relationship of individual members within society, including economics, history, political science, psychology, anthropology, and sociology. —**social scientist** *n.*

social security *n.* 1. public provision for the economic welfare of the aged, unemployed, etc., esp. through pensions and other monetary assistance. 2. (*often cap.*) a government programme designed to provide such assistance.

social services *pl. n.* welfare activities organized by the state and carried out by trained personnel.

social studies *n.* (*functioning as sing.*) the study of how people live and organize themselves in society, embracing geography, history, economics, and other subjects.

social work *n.* any of various social services designed to alleviate the conditions of the poor and aged and to increase the welfare of children. —**social worker** *n.*

society ('səʊsəti) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. the totality of social relationships among organized groups of human beings or animals. 2. a system of human organizations generating distinctive cultural patterns and institutions. 3. such a system with reference to its mode of social and economic organization or its dominant class: *middle-class society*. 4. those with whom one has companionship. 5. an organized group of people associated for some specific purpose or on account of some common interest: *a learned society*. 6. a. the privileged class of people in a community, esp. as considered superior or fashionable. b. (*as modifier*): *a society woman*. 7. the social life and intercourse of such people: *to enter society*. 8. companionship: *I enjoy her society*. 9. *Ecology*. a small community of plants within a larger association. —**so'cietal** *adj.*

Society of Friends *n.* the official name for the Quakers.

Society of Jesus *n.* the religious order of the Jesuits, founded by Ignatius Loyola.

socio- *combining form.* denoting social or society: *socioeconomic*; *sociopolitical*; *sociology*.

socioeconomic ('səʊsiəʊ,i:kə'nɒmɪk) *adj.* of, relating to, or involving both economic and social factors. —**socio,eco'nomicall** *adv.*

sociology ('səʊsiə'lɒdʒɪ) *n.* the study of the development, organization, functioning, and classification of human societies. —**sociological** ('səʊsiə'lɒdʒɪkəl) *adj.* —**soci'ologist** *n.*

sociopolitical ('səʊsiəʊpə'lɪtɪkəl) *adj.* of or involving both political and social factors.

sock¹ (sɒk) *n.* 1. a cloth covering for the foot, reaching to between the ankle and knee and worn inside a shoe. 2. an insole put in a shoe, as to make it fit better. 3. a light shoe worn by actors in ancient Greek and Roman comedy. 4. **pull one's socks up.** *Brit. inf.* to make a determined effort, esp. in order to regain control of a situation. 5. **put a sock in it.** *Brit. sl.* be quiet!

sock² (sɒk) *sl.* ~*vb.* 1. (*usually tr.*) to hit with force. 2. **sock it to.** *sl.* to make a forceful impression on. ~*n.* 3. a forceful blow.

socket ('sɒkɪt) *n.* 1. a device into which an electric plug can be inserted in order to make a connection in a circuit. 2. *Chiefly Brit.* such a device mounted on a wall and connected to the electricity supply. 3. a part with an opening or hollow into which some other part can be fitted. 4. *Anat.* a. a bony hollow into which a part or structure fits: *an eye socket*. b. the receptacle of a ball-and-socket joint. ~*vb.* 5. (*tr.*) to furnish with or place into a socket.

Socratic ('sɒ'krætɪk) *adj. also Socratical.* 1. of or relating to Socrates, his methods, etc. ~*n.* 2. a person who follows the teachings of Socrates. —**So'cratically** *adv.*

Socratic method *n.* *Philosophy.* the method of instruction by question and answer used by Socrates in order to elicit from his pupils truths he considered to be implicitly known by all rational beings.

sod¹ (sɒd) *n.* 1. a piece of grass-covered surface soil held together by the roots of the grass; turf. 2. *Poetic.* the ground. ~*vb.* **sodding, sodded.** 3. (*tr.*) to cover with sods.

sod² (sɒd) *n. sl., chiefly Brit.* 1. a person considered to

be obnoxious. 2. a jocular word for a person. ~*interj.* 3. a strong exclamation of annoyance. —**'sodding** *adj.*

soda ('səʊdə) *n.* 1. any of a number of simple inorganic compounds of sodium, such as sodium carbonate (**washing soda**), sodium bicarbonate (**baking soda**), and sodium hydroxide (**caustic soda**). 2. See **soda water**. 3. *U.S.* a fizzy drink.

soda bread *n.* a doughy bread leavened with sodium bicarbonate combined with milk and cream of tartar.

soda fountain *n. U.S.* 1. a counter that serves drinks, snacks, etc. 2. an apparatus dispensing soda water.

sodality ('səʊdəlɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. *R.C. Church.* a religious society. 2. fellowship.

soda siphon *n.* a sealed bottle containing and dispensing soda water. The water is forced up a tube reaching to the bottom of the bottle by the pressure of gas above the water.

soda water *n.* an effervescent beverage made by charging water with carbon dioxide under pressure. Sometimes shortened to **soda**.

sodden ('sɒdɪn) *adj.* 1. completely saturated. 2. a. dulled, esp. by excessive drinking. b. (*in combination*): *a drink-sodden mind*. 3. doughy, as bread is when improperly cooked. ~*vb.* 4. to make or become sodden. —**'soddenness** *n.*

sodium ('səʊdɪəm) *n. a.* a very reactive soft silvery-white element of the alkali metal group occurring principally in common salt, Chile saltpetre, and cryolite. It is used in the production of chemicals, in metallurgy, and, alloyed with potassium, as a cooling medium in nuclear reactors. Symbol: Na; atomic no. 11; atomic wt.: 22.99. b. (*as modifier*): *sodium light*.

sodium bicarbonate *n.* a white crystalline soluble compound used in effervescent drinks, baking powders, fire-extinguishers, and in medicine as an antacid; sodium hydrogen carbonate. Formula: NaHCO₃. Also called: **bicarbonate of soda, baking soda**.

sodium carbonate *n.* a colourless or white odourless soluble crystalline compound used in the manufacture of glass, ceramics, soap, and paper, and as a cleansing agent. Formula: Na₂CO₃.

sodium chloride *n.* common table salt; a soluble colourless crystalline compound widely used as a seasoning and preservative for food and in the manufacture of chemicals, glass, and soap. Formula: NaCl. Also called: **salt**.

Sodom ('sɒdəm) *n.* 1. *Old Testament.* a city destroyed by God for its wickedness that, with Gomorrah, traditionally typifies depravity (Genesis 19:24). 2. this city as representing homosexuality. 3. any place notorious for depravity.

sodomite ('sɒdə,maɪt) *n.* a person who practises sodomy.

sodomy ('sɒdəmi) *n.* anal intercourse committed by a man with another man or a woman.

soever ('səʊəvə) *adv.* in any way at all: used to emphasize or make less precise a word or phrase, usually in combination with *what, where, when, how, etc.*, or else separated by intervening words. Cf. **whatsoever**.

sofa ('səʊfə) *n.* an upholstered seat with back and arms for two or more people.

soft (sɒft) *adj.* 1. easy to dent, work, or cut without shattering; malleable. 2. not hard; giving little or no resistance to pressure or weight. 3. fine, light, smooth, or fluffy to the touch. 4. gentle; tranquil. 5. (of music, sounds, etc.) low and pleasing. 6. (of light, colour, etc.) not excessively bright or harsh. 7. (of a breeze, climate, etc.) temperate, mild, or pleasant. 8. slightly blurred; not sharply outlined: **soft focus**. 9. (of a diet) consisting of easily digestible foods. 10. kind or lenient, often excessively so. 11. easy to influence or impose upon. 12. *Inf.* feeble or silly; simple (often in **soft in the head**). 13. unable to endure hardship, esp. through pampering. 14. physically out of condition; flabby: **soft muscles**. 15. loving; tender: **soft words**. 16. *Inf.* requiring little exertion; easy: **a soft job**. 17. *Chem.* (of water) relatively free of mineral salts and therefore easily able to make soap lather. 18. (of a drug such as cannabis) nonaddictive. 19. *Phonetics.* (not in technical usage) denoting the consonants *c* and *g* in English when they are pronounced as palatal or alveolar fricatives or affricates (*s, dʒ, ʃ, ʈ, tʃ*) before *e* and *i*, rather than as velar stops (*k, g*). 20. *Finance, chiefly U.S.* (of prices, a market, etc.) unstable and tending to decline. 21. (of money or currency) a. relatively unstable in exchange value. b. in paper rather than coin. 22. (of radiation, such as x-rays and ultraviolet radiation) having low energy and not capable of deep penetration of materials. 23. **soft on or about, a.**

gentle, sympathetic, or lenient towards. **b.** feeling affection or infatuation for. ~*adv.* **24.** in a soft manner: *To speak soft.* ~*n.* **25.** a soft object, part, or piece. **26.** *Inf.* See **softy**. ~*interj.* *Arch.* **27.** quiet! **28.** wait! —'softly *adv.* —'softness *n.*

soft ball *n.* *Cookery.* a term used for sugar syrup boiled to a consistency at which it may be rubbed into balls after dipping in cold water.

soft-boiled *adj.* (of an egg) boiled for a short time so that the yolk is still soft.

soft coal *n.* another name for **bituminous coal**.

soft drink *n.* a nonalcoholic drink.

soften ('sɒfn) *vb.* to make or become soft or softer. —'softener *n.*

soft furnishings *pl. n. Brit.* curtains, hangings, rugs, etc.

softhearted (ˌsɒft'hɑːtɪd) *adj.* easily moved to pity. —'soft'heartedly *adv.* —'soft'heartedness *n.*

soft palate *n.* the posterior fleshy portion of the roof of the mouth.

soft-pedal *vb.* -alling, -alled or *U.S.* -aling, -aled. (tr.) **1.** to mute the tone of (a piano) by depressing the soft pedal. **2.** *Inf.* to make (something, esp. something unpleasant) less obvious by deliberately failing to emphasize or allude to it. ~*n.* **soft pedal.** **3.** a foot-operated lever on a piano, the left one of two, that either moves the whole action closer to the strings so that the hammers strike with less force or causes fewer of the strings to sound.

soft sell *n.* Chiefly *U.S.* a method of selling based on indirect suggestion or inducement.

soft soap *n.* **1.** *Med.* Also called: **green soap**, a soft or liquid alkaline soap used in treating certain skin disorders. **2.** *Inf.* flattering, persuasive, or cajoling talk. ~*vb.* **soft-soap.** **3.** to use such talk on (a person).

soft-spoken *adj.* **1.** speaking or said with a soft gentle voice. **2.** able to persuade or impress by glibness of tongue.

soft spot *n.* a sentimental fondness (esp. in **have a soft spot** for).

soft touch *n. Inf.* a person easily persuaded or imposed on, esp. to lend money.

software ('sɒft,weɪ) *n.* Computers. the programs that can be used with a particular computer system, esp. those supplied by the manufacturers. Cf. **hardware** (sense 2).

softwood ('sɒft,wʊd) *n.* **1.** the open-grained wood of any of numerous coniferous trees, such as pine and cedar. **2.** any tree yielding this wood.

softy or **softie** ('sɒftɪ) *n., pl. softies.* *Inf.* a person who is sentimental, weakly foolish, or lacking in physical endurance.

SOGAT ('sɒgət) *n.* (in Britain) *acronym* for Society of Graphical and Allied Trades.

soggy ('sɒgi) *adj.* -gier, -giest. **1.** soaked with liquid. **2.** (of bread, pastry, etc.) moist and heavy. **3.** *Inf.* lacking in spirit or positiveness. —'soggily *adv.* —'sogginess *n.*

soh or **so** ('səʊ) *n. Music.* (in tonic sol-fa) the name used for the fifth note or dominant of any scale.

soigné or (*fem.*) **soignée** ('swɑːnʒeɪ) *adj.* well-groomed; elegant.

soil¹ ('sɔɪl) *n.* **1.** the top layer of the land surface of the earth that is composed of disintegrated rock particles, humus, water, and air. **2.** a type of this material having specific characteristics: *loamy soil.* **3.** land, country, or region: *one's native soil.* **4.** the soil. life and work on a farm; land: *he belonged to the soil.* **5.** any place or thing encouraging growth or development.

soil² ('sɔɪl) *vb.* **1.** to make or become dirty or stained. **2.** (tr.) to pollute with sin or disgrace; sully; defile. ~*n.* **3.** the state or result of soiling. **4.** refuse, manure, or excrement.

soil pipe *n.* a pipe that conveys sewage or waste water from a toilet, etc., to a soil drain or sewer.

soiree ('swaɪreɪ) *n.* an evening party or gathering, usually at a private house, esp. where guests listen to, play, or dance to music.

sojourn ('sɒdʒɜːn, 'sɒdʒ-) *n.* **1.** a temporary stay. ~*vb.* **2.** (intr.) to stay or reside temporarily. —'sojourner *n.*

sol¹ ('sɒl) *n. Music.* another name for **soh**.

sol² ('sɒl) *n.* a colloid that has a continuous liquid phase, esp. one in which a solid is suspended in a liquid.

soia *Latin.* ('sɔɪə) *adj.* the feminine form of **solus**.

solace ('sɒləs) *n.* **1.** comfort in misery, disappointment, etc. **2.** something that gives comfort or consolation. ~*vb.* (tr.) **3.** to give comfort or cheer to (a person) in

time of sorrow, distress, etc. **4.** to alleviate (sorrow, misery, etc.). —'solacer *n.*

solan or **solan goose** ('sɒlən) *n.* an archaic name for the gannet.

solar ('sɒlə) *adj.* **1.** of or relating to the sun. **2.** operating by or utilizing the energy of the sun: *solar cell.* **3.** *Astron.* determined from the motion of the earth relative to the sun: *solar year.* **4.** *Astrol.* subject to the influence of the sun.

solarium ('sɒləʀiəm) *n., pl. -laria* (-leəriə) or **-lariums.** **1.** a room built largely of glass to afford exposure to the sun. **2.** a bed equipped with ultraviolet lights used for acquiring an artificial suntan. **3.** an establishment offering such facilities.

solar plexus *n.* **1.** *Anat.* the network of nerves situated behind the stomach that supply the abdominal organs. **2.** (not in technical usage) the part of the stomach beneath the diaphragm; pit of the stomach.

solar system *n.* the system containing the sun and the bodies held in its gravitational field, including the planets (Mercury, Venus, earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, Pluto), the asteroids, and comets.

sold ('sɒld) *vb.* **1.** the past tense or past participle of **sell**. ~*adj.* **2.** **sold on.** *Sl.* uncritically attached to or enthusiastic about.

solder ('sɒldə; *U.S.* 'sɒdər) *n.* **1.** an alloy for joining two metal surfaces by melting the alloy so that it forms a thin layer between the surfaces. **2.** something that joins things together firmly; a bond. ~*vb.* **3.** to join or mend or be joined or mended with or as if with solder. —'solderable *adj.* —'solderer *n.*

soldering iron *n.* a hand tool consisting of a handle fixed to an iron or copper tip that is heated and used to melt and apply solder.

soldier ('sɒldɪə) *n.* **1. a.** a person who serves in an army. **b.** Also called: **common soldier**, a noncommissioned member of an army as opposed to a commissioned officer. **2.** a man with military skill or experience, but no longer serving in an army: *an old soldier.* **3.** a person who works diligently for a cause. **4.** *Zool.* an individual in a colony of social insects, esp. ants, that has powerful jaws adapted for defending the colony, crushing food, etc. ~*vb.* (intr.) **5.** to serve as a soldier. **6.** to mangle or shirk. —'soldierly *adj.*

soldier of fortune *n.* a man who seeks money or adventure as a soldier; mercenary.

soldier on *vb.* (intr., adv.) to persist in one's efforts in spite of difficulties, pressure, etc.

sole¹ ('sɔɪl) *adj.* **1.** (prenominal) being the only one; only. **2.** (prenominal) of or relating to one individual or group and no other: *sole rights.* **3.** *Law.* having no wife or husband. **4.** an archaic word for **solitary**. —'sole-ness *n.*

sole² ('sɔɪl) *n.* **1.** the underside of the foot. **2.** the underside of a shoe. **3. a.** the bottom of a furrow. **b.** the bottom of a plough. **4.** the underside of a golf club head. ~*vb.* (tr.) **5.** to provide (a shoe) with a sole.

sole³ ('sɔɪl) *n., pl. sole* or **soles.** any of various tongue-shaped flatfishes, esp. the **European sole**; most common in warm seas and highly valued as food fishes.

solecism ('sɒlɪ,sɪzəm) *n.* **1. a.** the nonstandard use of a grammatical construction. **b.** any mistake, incongruity, or absurdity. **2.** a violation of good manners. —'solecist *n.* —'sole'cistic *adj.* —'sole'cistically *adv.*

solely ('sɒli) *adv.* **1.** only; completely. **2.** without others; singly; alone. **3.** for one thing only.

solemn ('sɒləm) *adj.* **1.** characterized or marked by seriousness or sincerity: *a solemn vow.* **2.** characterized by pomp, ceremony, or formality. **3.** serious, glum, or pompous. **4.** inspiring awe: *a solemn occasion.* **5.** performed with religious ceremony. **6.** gloomy or sombre: *solemn colours.* —'solemnify ('sɒləmni,fai) *vb.* —'solemnly *adv.* —'solemnness or 'solemnness *n.*

solemnity ('sɒləmnɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* **1.** the state or quality of being solemn. **2.** (often pl.) solemn ceremony, observance, etc. **3.** *Law.* a formality necessary to validate a deed, contract, etc.

solemnize or **-ise** ('sɒləm,naɪz) *vb.* (tr.) **1.** to celebrate or observe with rites or formal ceremonies, as a religious occasion. **2.** to celebrate or perform the ceremony of (marriage). **3.** to make solemn or serious. **4.** to perform or hold (ceremonies, etc.) in due manner. —'solemnization or 'i-sation *n.* —'solem,nizer or -iser *n.*

solenoid ('sɒli,nɔɪd) *n.* **1.** a coil of wire, usually cylindrical, in which a magnetic field is set up by passing a current through it. **2.** a coil of wire, partially surrounding an iron core, that is made to move inside the coil by

the magnetic field set up by a current: used to convert electrical to mechanical energy, as in the operation of a switch. —**sole** *noid* *adj.*

sol-fa ('sɒl'fɑː) *n.* 1. short for **tonic sol-fa**. ~*vb.* -**faing**, -**faed**. 2. *U.S.* to use tonic sol-fa syllables in singing (a tune).

solicit (sə'lisɪt) *vb.* 1. (when *intr.*, foll. by *for*) to make a request, application, or entreaty to (a person for business, support, etc.). 2. to accost (a person) with an offer of sexual relations in return for money. 3. to provoke or incite (a person) to do something wrong or illegal. —**solici'tation** *n.*

solicitor (sə'lisɪtə) *n.* 1. (in Britain) a lawyer who advises clients on matters of law, draws up legal documents, prepares cases for barristers, etc. 2. (in the U.S.) an officer responsible for the legal affairs of a town, city, etc. 3. a person who solicits. —**solici'tor**, **ship** *n.*

Solicitor General *n.*, *pl.* **Solicitors General**. (in Britain) the law officer of the Crown ranking next to the Attorney General (in Scotland to the Lord Advocate) and acting as his assistant.

solicitous (sə'lisɪtəs) *adj.* 1. showing consideration, concern, attention, etc. 2. keenly anxious or willing; eager. —**solici'tousness** *n.*

solicitude (sə'lisɪ,tjuːd) *n.* 1. the state or quality of being solicitous. 2. (often *pl.*) something that causes anxiety or concern. 3. anxiety or concern.

solid ('sɒlɪd) *adj.* 1. of, concerned with, or being a substance in a physical state in which the force of attraction between its molecules or atoms is large enough to hold them in fixed positions and cause the substance to resist changes in size and shape. 2. consisting of matter all through. 3. of the same substance all through: **solid rock**. 4. sound; proved or provable: **solid facts**. 5. reliable or sensible; upstanding: a **solid citizen**. 6. firm, strong, compact, or substantial: a **solid table**; **solid ground**. 7. (of a meal or food) substantial. 8. (often *postpositive*) without interruption or respite: **solid bombardment**. 9. financially sound or solvent: a **solid institution**. 10. strongly linked or consolidated: a **solid relationship**. 11. *Geom.* having three dimensions. 12. (of a word composed of two or more elements) written or printed as a single word without a hyphen. 13. *Geom.* of or relating to three-dimensional bodies or objects. 14. *Printing*, with no space or leads between lines of type. 15. **solid for**, unanimously in favour of. 16. (of a writer, work, etc.) adequate; sensible. 17. of or having a single uniform colour or tone. 18. *Austral. sl.* excessively severe or unreasonable. ~*n.* 19. *Geom.* a. a closed surface in three-dimensional space. b. such a surface together with the volume enclosed by it. 20. a solid substance, such as wood, iron, or diamond. —**solidity** (sə'lidɪtɪ) *n.* —**solidly** *adv.* —**solidness** *n.*

solidarity (sɒlɪ'dærntɪ) *n.*, *pl.* -**ties**. unity of interests, sympathies, etc., as among members of the same class.

solid geometry *n.* the branch of geometry concerned with solid geometric figures.

solidify (sə'lidɪ,fai) *vb.* -**fying**, -**fied**. 1. to make or become solid or hard. 2. to make or become strong, united, determined, etc. —**sol'idifi'cation** *n.* —**sol'idifi'er** *n.*

solid-state *n.* 1. (*modifier*) (of an electronic component or device) consisting chiefly or exclusively of semiconductor materials or components and operating or controlled by means of their electrical properties. 2. (*modifier*) of, concerned with, characteristic of, or consisting of solid matter.

solidus ('sɒlɪdəs) *n.*, *pl.* -**di** (-,daɪ). 1. Also called: **diagonal**, **separatrix**, **shilling mark**, **slash**, **stroke**, **virgule**. a short oblique stroke used in text to separate items of information, such as days, months, and years in dates (18/7/80), alternative words (and/or), numerator from denominator in fractions (55/103), etc. 2. a gold coin of the Byzantine empire.

soliloquy (sə'li'ləkwɪ) *n.*, *pl.* -**quies**. 1. the act of speaking alone or to oneself, esp. as a theatrical device. 2. a speech in a play that is spoken in soliloquy.

solipsism ('sɒlɪp,sɪzəm) *n.* *Philosophy*. the theory that the self is the only thing that can be known to exist. —**solipsist** *n.*, *adj.* —**solip'sistic** *adj.*

solitaire ('sɒli,tɛə, 'sɒli'tɛə) *n.* 1. Also called: **peg-board**. a game played by one person, esp. one involving moving and taking pegs in a pegboard with the object of being left with only one. 2. the U.S. name for **patience** (the card game). 3. a gem, esp. a diamond, set alone in a ring. 4. any of several extinct birds related to the dodo. 5. any of several dull grey North American songbirds.

solitary ('sɒlɪtəri, -trɪ) *adj.* 1. following or enjoying a life of solitude: a **solitary disposition**. 2. experienced or performed alone: a **solitary walk**. 3. (of a place) unfrequented. 4. (*prenominal*) single; sole: a **solitary cloud**. 5. having few companions; lonely. 6. (of animals) not living in organized colonies or large groups: **solitary bees**. 7. (of flowers) growing singly. ~*n.*, *pl.* -**taries**. 8. a person who lives in seclusion; hermit. 9. *Inf.* short for **solitary confinement**. —**solitari'ly** *adv.* —**solitari'ness** *n.*

solitary confinement *n.* isolation imposed on a prisoner, as by confinement in a special cell.

solitude ('sɒli,tjuːd) *n.* 1. the state of being solitary or secluded. 2. *Poetic*. a solitary place. —**sol'i'tudi'nous** *adj.*

solo ('səʊləʊ) *n.*, *pl.* -**los**. 1. (*pl.* -**los** or -**li** (-li:)). a musical composition for one performer with or without accompaniment. 2. any of various card games in which each person plays on his own, such as solo whist. 3. a flight in which an aircraft pilot is unaccompanied. 4. a. any performance carried out by an individual without assistance. b. (*as modifier*): a **solo attempt**. ~*adj.* 5. *Music*. unaccompanied: a **sonata for cello solo**. ~*adv.* 6. by oneself; alone: to fly **solo**. ~*vb.* 7. (*intr.*) to operate an aircraft alone. —**soloist** ('səʊləʊɪst) *n.*

Solomon ('sɒləmən) *n.* a 10th-century B.C. king of Israel, credited with great wisdom. —**Solomonic** ('sɒlə'mɒnɪk) *adj.*

Solomon's seal *n.* 1. another name for **Star of David**. 2. any of several plants of N temperate regions, having greenish or yellow paired flowers, long narrow waxy leaves, and prominent leaf scars.

so long *sentence substitute* 1. *Inf.* farewell; goodbye. ~*adv.* 2. *S. African sl.* for the time being; meanwhile.

solstice ('sɒlstɪs) *n.* 1. either the shortest day of the year (**winter solstice**), or the longest day of the year (**summer solstice**). 2. either of the two points on the ecliptic at which the sun is overhead at the tropic of Cancer or Capricorn at the summer and winter solstices. —**solstital** ('sɒl'stɪʃəl) *adj.*

soluble ('sɒljʊb'l) *adj.* 1. (of a substance) capable of being dissolved, esp. easily dissolved. 2. capable of being solved or answered. —**solu'bility** *n.* —**solu'bly** *adv.*

solus *Latin*. ('səʊlʊs) or (*fem.*) **sola** *adj.* alone; by oneself (formerly used in stage directions).

solute ('sɒljʊt) *n.* 1. the substance in a solution that is dissolved. ~*adj.* 2. *Bot.* loose or unattached; free.

solution ('sɒljʊ:ʃən) *n.* 1. a homogeneous mixture of two or more substances in which the molecules or atoms of the substances are completely dispersed. 2. the act or process of forming a solution. 3. the state of being dissolved (esp. in **in solution**). 4. a mixture of substances in which one or more components are present as small particles with statement when substituted for the variables in an equation.

solve (sɒlv) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to find the explanation for or solution to (a mystery, problem, etc.). 2. *Maths.* a. to work out the answer to (a problem). b. to obtain the roots of (an equation). —**solvable** *adj.*

solvent ('sɒlvənt) *adj.* 1. capable of meeting financial obligations. 2. (of a substance, esp. a liquid) capable of dissolving another substance. ~*n.* 3. a liquid capable of dissolving another substance. 4. something that solves. —**solvency** *n.*

Som. *abbrev.* for **Somerset**.

somatic (səʊ'mætɪk) *adj.* 1. of or relating to the soma: **somatic cells**. 2. of or relating to an animal body or body wall as distinct from the viscera, limbs, and head. 3. of or relating to the human body as distinct from the mind: a **somatic disease**. —**so'matically** *adv.*

somato- or before a vowel **somat-** *combining form*. body: **somatotype**.

sombre or *U.S.* **somber** ('sɒmbə) *adj.* 1. dismal; melancholy: a **sombre mood**. 2. dim, gloomy, or shadowy. 3. (of colour, clothes, etc.) sober, dull, or dark. —**'sombrely** or *U.S.* **'somerly** *adv.* —**'sombreness** or *U.S.* **'somberness** *n.* —**sombrous** ('sɒmbrəs) *adj.*

sombrero ('sɒm'bri:əʊ) *n.*, *pl.* -**ros**. a hat with a wide brim, as worn in Mexico.

some (səm; *unstressed* səm) *determiner*. 1. a. (a) certain unknown or unspecified: *some people never learn*. b. (*as pronoun; functioning as sing. or pl.*): *some can teach and others can't*. 2. a. an unknown or unspecified quantity or amount of: *there's some rice on the table; he owns some horses*. b. (*as pronoun; functioning as sing. or pl.*): *we'll buy some*. 3. a. a considerable number or amount of: *he lived some years afterwards*. b. a little:

show him some respect. **4.** (usually stressed) *Inf.* an impressive or remarkable: *that was some game!* **5.** about; approximately: *some thirty pounds.* ~adv. **6.** a certain amount (more) (in **some more** and **and then some**). **7.** U.S., not standard. to a certain degree or extent: *I like him some.*

-some' suffix forming adjectives. characterized by; tending to: *awesome; tiresome.*

-some' suffix forming nouns. indicating a group of a specified number of members: *threesome.*

-some' (səʊm) *n.* combining form. a body: *chromosome.*

somebody ('sʌmbədɪ) *pron.* **1.** some person; someone. ~n., pl. **-bodies.** **2.** a person of great importance: *he is somebody in this town.*

▷ **Usage.** See at **everyone.**

somebody ('sʌm,deɪ) *adv.* at some unspecified time in the (distant) future.

somehow ('sʌm,haʊ) *adv.* **1.** in some unspecified way. **2.** Also: **somehow or other.** by any means that are necessary.

someone ('sʌm,wʌn, -wən) *pron.* some person; somebody.

▷ **Usage.** See at **everyone.**

someplace ('sʌm,pleɪs) *adv.* U.S. *inf.* in, at, or to some unspecified place or region.

somersault or **somersault** ('sʌmə,sɔːlt) *n.* **1. a.** a forward roll in which the head is placed on the ground and the trunk and legs are turned over it. **b.** a similar roll in a backward direction. **2.** an acrobatic feat in which either of these rolls is performed in midair, as in diving or gymnastics. **3.** a complete reversal of opinion, policy, etc. ~vb. **4.** (*intr.*) to perform a somersault.

something ('sʌm,θɪŋ) *pron.* **1.** an unspecified or unknown thing; some thing: *take something warm with you.* **2. something or other.** one unspecified thing or an alternative thing. **3.** an unspecified or unknown amount: *something less than a hundred.* **4.** an impressive or important person, thing, or event: *isn't that something?* ~adv. **5.** to some degree; a little; somewhat: *to look something like me.* **6.** (foll. by an *adj.*) *Inf.* (intensifier): *it hurts something awful.* **7. something else.** *Sl.*, chiefly U.S. a remarkable person or thing.

sometime ('sʌm,tʌɪm) *adv.* **1.** at some unspecified point of time. ~adj. **2.** (prenominal) having been at one time; former: *the sometime President.*

sometimes ('sʌm,tʌɪmz) *adv.* **1.** now and then; from time to time. **2.** *Obs.* formerly; sometime.

someway ('sʌm,weɪ) *adv.* in some unspecified manner.

somewhat ('sʌm,wɒt) *adv.* (not used with a negative) rather; a bit: *she found it somewhat odd.*

somewhere ('sʌm,weə) *adv.* **1.** in, to, or at some unknown or unspecified place or point: *somewhere in England; somewhere between 3 and 4 o'clock.* **2. get somewhere.** *Inf.* to make progress.

somnambulate (sɒm'næmbjuː,leɪt) *vb.* (*intr.*) to walk while asleep. —**som'nambulance** *n.* —**som'nambulant** *adj.* *n.* —**som,nambu'lation** *n.* —**som'nambu,lator** *n.*

somnambulism (sɒm'næmbjuː,lɪzəm) *n.* a condition characterized by walking while asleep or in a hypnotic trance. Also called: **noctambulism.** —**som'nambulist** *n.*

somnolent ('sɒmnələnt) *adj.* **1.** drowsy; sleepy. **2.** causing drowsiness. —**'somnolence** or **'somnolency** *n.* —**'somnolently** *adv.*

son (sʌn) *n.* **1.** a male offspring: a boy or man in relation to his parents. **2.** a male descendant. **3.** (often *cap.*) a familiar term of address for a boy or man. **4.** a male from a certain country, environment, etc.: *a son of the circus.* Related *adj.*: **filial.** —**'sonless** *adj.*

Son (sʌn) *n.* **Christianity.** the second person of the Trinity, Jesus Christ.

sonar ('səʊnɑː) *n.* another name for an **echo sounder.**

sonata ('sɒːnɑːtə) *n.* **1.** an instrumental composition, usually in three or more movements, for piano alone (**piano sonata**) or for any other instrument with or without piano accompaniment (**violin sonata**, **cello sonata**, etc.). **2.** a one-movement keyboard composition of the baroque period.

son et lumière ('sɒn eɪ 'luːmi,ɛə) *n.* an entertainment staged at night at a famous building, historical site, etc., whereby the history of the location is presented by means of lighting effects, sound effects, and narration.

song (sɒŋ) *n.* **1. a.** a piece of music, usually employing a verbal text, composed for the voice, esp. one intended for performance by a soloist. **b.** the whole repertoire of such pieces. **c.** (as *modifier*): *a song book.* **2.** poetical composition; poetry. **3.** the characteristic tuneful call or sound made by certain birds or insects. **4.** the act or

process of singing: *they raised their voices in song.* **5. for a song.** at a bargain price. **6. on song.** *Brit. inf.* performing at peak efficiency or ability.

songbird ('sɒŋ,bɜːd) *n.* **1.** any of a suborder of passerine birds having highly developed vocal organs and, in most, a musical call. **2.** any bird having a musical call.

songster ('sɒŋstə) *n.* **1.** a singer or poet. **2.** a singing bird; songbird. —**'songstress** *fem. n.*

song thrush *n.* a common Old World thrush with a spotted breast, noted for its song.

sonic ('sɒnɪk) *adj.* **1.** of, involving, or producing sound. **2.** having a speed about equal to that of sound in air.

sonic barrier *n.* another name for **sound barrier.**

sonic boom *n.* a loud explosive sound caused by the shock wave of an aircraft, etc., travelling at supersonic speed.

son-in-law *n., pl. sons-in-law.* the husband of one's daughter.

sonnet ('sɒnɪt) *Prosody.* ~*n.* **1.** a verse form consisting of 14 lines in iambic pentameter with a fixed rhyme scheme, usually divided into octave and sestet or, in the English form, into three quatrains and a couplet. ~vb. **2.** (*intr.*) to compose sonnets. **3.** (*tr.*) to celebrate in a sonnet.

sonny ('sʌni) *n., pl. -nies.* Often *patronizing.* a familiar term of address to a boy or man.

sonorous ('sɒnərəs, 'sɒnərəs) *adj.* **1.** producing or capable of producing sound. **2.** (of language, sound, etc.) deep or resonant. **3.** (esp. of speech) high-flown; grandiloquent. —**'sonority** ('sɒnərɪti) *n.* —**'sonorously** *adv.* —**'sonorousness** *n.*

sonsy or **sonsie** ('sɒnsɪ) *adj.* —**'sier, -siest.** *Irish, Scot., & English dialect.* **1.** plump; buxom. **2.** cheerful.

soon (suːn) *adv.* **1.** in or after a short time; in a little while; before long. **2. as soon as.** at the very moment that: *as soon as she saw him.* **3. as soon...as.** used to indicate that the second alternative is not preferable to the first: *I'd just as soon go by train as drive.*

sooner ('suːnə) *adv.* **1.** the comparative of **soon**: *he came sooner than I thought.* **2.** rather; in preference: *I'd sooner die than give up.* **3. no sooner...than.** immediately after or when: *no sooner had he got home than the rain stopped.* **4. sooner or later.** eventually; inevitably.

soot (sut) *n.* **1.** finely divided carbon deposited from flames during the incomplete combustion of organic substances such as coal. ~vb. **2.** (*tr.*) to cover with soot. —**'sooty** *adj.*

sooth (suːθ) *Arch. or poetic.* ~*n.* **1.** truth or reality (esp. in **sooth**). ~adj. **2.** true or real.

soothe (suːð) *vb.* **1.** (*tr.*) to make calm or tranquil. **2.** (*tr.*) to relieve or assuage (pain, longing, etc.). **3.** (*intr.*) to bring tranquillity or relief. —**'soother** *n.* —**'soothingly** *adv.* —**'soothingness** *n.*

soothsayer ('suːð,seɪə) *n.* a seer or prophet.

sop (sɒp) *n.* **1.** (often *pl.*) food soaked in a liquid before being eaten. **2.** a concession, bribe, etc., given to placate or mollify: *a sop to one's feelings.* **3.** *Inf.* a stupid or weak person. ~vb. **sopping, sopped.** **4.** (*tr.*) to dip or soak (food) in liquid. **5.** (when *intr.*, often foll. by *in*) to soak or be soaked. **6.** (*tr., adv.*) to mop or absorb (liquid) as with a sponge.

sop. abbrev. for **soprano.**

sophism ('sɒfɪzəm) *n.* an argument that is invalid, specious, or misleading.

sophist ('sɒfɪst) *n.* **1.** (often *cap.*) **a.** any of a group of pre-Socratic professional philosophers. **b.** any of a group of later philosophers who made an art of effective but misleading argument. **2.** a person who uses clever or quibbling but unsound arguments.

sophisticate *vb.* ('sɒfɪstɪ,keɪt). **1.** (*tr.*) to make (someone) less natural or innocent, as by education. **2.** to pervert or corrupt (an argument, etc.) by sophistry. **3.** (*tr.*) to make more complex or refined. **4.** *Rare.* to falsify (a text, etc.) by alterations. ~*n.* ('sɒfɪstɪ,keɪt, -kɪt). **5.** a sophisticated person. —**'so'phisti,cator** *n.*

sophisticated ('sɒfɪstɪ,keɪtɪd) *adj.* **1.** having refined or cultured tastes and habits. **2.** appealing to sophisticates: *a sophisticated restaurant.* **3.** unduly refined or cultured. **4.** pretentiously or superficially wise. **5.** (of machines, methods, etc.) complex and refined.

sophistry ('sɒfɪstri) *n., pl. -ries.* **1. a.** a method of argument that is seemingly plausible though actually invalid and misleading. **b.** the art of using such arguments. **2.** subtle but unsound or fallacious reasoning. **3.** an instance of this.

sophomore ('sɒfə,mɔː) *n.* Chiefly U.S. a second-year student.

-sophy *n.* combining form. indicating knowledge or an intellectual system: *philosophy*. —**sophic** or **-sophical** (*adj.*) combining form.

soporific (ˌsɒpəˈrɪfɪk) *adj.* also **soporiferous**. 1. inducing sleep. 2. drowsy; sleepy. ~*n.* 3. a drug or other agent that induces sleep.

sopping ('sɒpɪŋ) *adj.* completely soaked; wet through. Also: **sopping wet**.

soppy ('sɒpi) *adj.* **-pier, -piest**. 1. wet or soggy. 2. *Brit. inf.* silly or sentimental. 3. **soppy on**. *Brit. inf.* foolishly charmed or affected by. —**soppily** *adv.* —**soppiness** *n.*

soprano (səˈprænəʊ) *n. pl.* **-pranos** or **-prani** (ˈpræniː). 1. the highest adult female voice. 2. the voice of a young boy before puberty. 3. a singer with such a voice. 4. the highest part of a piece of harmony. 5. *a.* the highest or second highest instrument in a family of instruments. *b.* (as modifier): a *soprano saxophone*. —See also **treble**.

sorbet ('sɔːbɪt, -bei) *n.* 1. a water ice made from fruit juice, egg whites, milk, etc. 2. a U.S. word for *sherbet* (sense 1).

sorcerer ('sɔːsərə) or (*fem.*) **sorceress** ('sɔːsəris) *n.* a person who seeks to control and use magic powers; a wizard or magician.

sorcery ('sɔːsəri) *n. pl.* **-ceries**. the art, practices, or spells of magic, esp. black magic.

sordid ('sɔːdɪd) *adj.* 1. dirty, foul, or squalid. 2. degraded; vile; base. 3. selfish and grasping: *sordid avarice*. —**sordidly** *adv.* —**sordidness** *n.*

sore (sɔː) *adj.* 1. (esp. of a wound, injury, etc.) painfully sensitive; tender. 2. causing annoyance: a *sore point*. 3. urgent; pressing: *in sore need*. 4. (*postpositive*) grieved; distressed. 5. causing grief or sorrow. ~*n.* 6. a painful or sensitive wound, injury, etc. 7. any cause of distress or vexation. ~*adv.* 8. *Arch.* direly; sorely (now only in such phrases as *sore pressed*, *sore afraid*). —**soreness** *n.*

sorely ('sɔːli) *adv.* 1. painfully or grievously: *sorely wounded*. 2. pressingly or greatly: *to be sorely taxed*.

sorghum ('sɔːgəm) *n.* any grass of the Old World genus *Sorghum*, having glossy seeds: cultivated for grain, hay, and as a source of syrup.

soroptimist (səˈrɒptɪmɪst) *n.* a member of Soroptimist International, an organization of clubs for professional and executive businesswomen.

sorority (səˈrɒrɪti) *n. pl.* **-ties**. Chiefly U.S. a social club or society for university women.

sorrel ('sɒrəl) *n.* 1. *a.* a light brown to brownish-orange colour. *b.* (as *adj.*): a *sorrel carpet*. 2. a horse of this colour.

sorrel ('sɒrəl) *n.* 1. any of several plants of Eurasia and North America, having acid-tasting leaves used in salads and sauces. 2. short for *wood sorrel*.

sorrow ('sɒrəʊ) *n.* 1. the feeling of sadness, grief, or regret associated with loss, bereavement, sympathy for another's suffering, etc. 2. a particular cause or source of this. 3. Also called: **sorrowing**, the outward expression of grief or sadness. —*vb.* 4. (*intr.*) to mourn or grieve. —**sorrowful** *adj.* —**sorrowfully** *adv.* —**sorrowfulness** *n.*

sorry ('sɒri) *adj.* **-rier, -riest**. 1. (usually *postpositive*; often foll. by *for*) feeling or expressing pity, sympathy, grief, or regret: *I feel sorry for him*. 2. pitiful, wretched, or deplorable: a *sorry sight*. 3. poor; paltry: a *sorry excuse*. 4. affected by sorrow; sad. 5. causing sorrow or sadness. ~*interj.* 6. an exclamation expressing apology. —**sorriily** *adv.* —**sorriiness** *n.*

sort (sɔːt) *n.* 1. a class, group, kind, etc., as distinguished by some common quality or characteristic. 2. a type of character, nature, etc.: *he's a good sort*. 3. *Austral. sl.* a person, esp. a girl. 4. a more or less definable or adequate example (of): *it's a sort of review*. 5. (*often pl.*) *Printing*. any of the individual characters making up a fount of type. 6. *Arch.* manner; way: *in this sort we struggled home*. 7. *after a sort*. to some extent. 8. of *sorts* or of a *sort*. *a.* of an inferior kind. *b.* of an indefinite kind. 9. *out of sorts*. not in normal good health, temper, etc. 10. *sort of*. in some way or other; as it were; rather. ~*vb.* 11. (*tr.*) to arrange according to class, type, etc. 12. (*tr.*) *Sl.*, chiefly *Brit.* to put (a car, etc.) into working order. 13. (*intr.*) *Arch.* to agree; accord. —**sortable** *adj.* —**sorter** *n.*

sortie ('sɔːti) *n.* 1. *a.* (of troops, etc.) the act of emerging from a contained or besieged position. *b.* the troops doing this. 2. an operational flight made by one aircraft. ~*vb.* **-tieng, -tied**. 3. (*intr.*) to make a sortie.

sort out *vb.* (*tr., adv.*) 1. to take or separate, as from a larger group: *to sort out the likely ones*. 2. *Inf.* to find a solution to (a problem, etc.), esp. to make clear or tidy: *to sort out the mess*. 3. *Inf.* to organize into an orderly and disciplined group. 4. *Inf.* to beat or punish.

SOS *n.* 1. an internationally recognized distress signal in which the letters SOS are repeatedly spelt out, as by radio telegraphy: used esp. by ships and aircraft. 2. *Inf.* a call for help.

sosatie ('səʊsətiː) *n.* S. African. curried meat on skewers.

so-so *Inf.* ~*adj.* 1. (*postpositive*) neither good nor bad. ~*adv.* 2. in an average or indifferent manner.

sostenuto (ˌsɒstəˈnuːtəʊ) *adj.*, *Adv. Music.* to be performed in a smooth sustained manner.

sot (sɒt) *n.* 1. a habitual or chronic drunkard. 2. a person stupefied by or as if by drink. —**sottish** *adj.*

sotto voce ('sɒtəʊˈvɒʊtʃi) *adv.* in an undertone.

sou (suː) *n.* 1. a former French coin of low denomination. 2. a very small amount of money: *I haven't a sou*.

soubrette (suːˈbret) *n.* 1. a minor female role in comedy, often that of a pert lady's maid. 2. any pert or flirtatious girl.

soubriquet ('səʊbrɪˌkeɪ) *n.* a variant spelling of *sobriquet*.

soufflé ('suːfleɪ) *n.* 1. a light fluffy dish made with beaten egg whites combined with cheese, fish, etc. 2. a similar sweet or savoury cold dish, set with gelatine. ~*adj.* also **souffléed**. 3. made light and puffy, as by beating and cooking.

sough (sau) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) (esp. of the wind) to make a sighing sound. ~*n.* 2. a soft continuous murmuring sound.

sought (sɔːt) *vb.* the past tense or past participle of **seek**.

souk (suːk) *n.* an open-air marketplace in Muslim countries, esp. North Africa and the Middle East.

soul (səʊl) *n.* 1. the spirit or immaterial part of man, the seat of human personality, intellect, will, and emotions: regarded as an entity that survives the body after death. 2. *Christianity*, the spiritual part of a person, capable of redemption from sin through divine grace. 3. the essential part or fundamental nature of anything. 4. a person's feelings or moral nature. 5. *a.* Also called: **soul music**, a type of Black music resulting from the addition of jazz, gospel, and pop elements to the urban blues style. *b.* (as modifier): a *soul singer*. 6. nobility of spirit or temperament: *a man of great soul*. 7. an inspiring or leading figure, as of a movement. 8. **the life and soul**. *Inf.* a person regarded as the main source of gaiety, merriment, etc.: *the life and soul of the party*. 9. a person regarded as typifying some characteristic or quality: *the soul of discretion*. 10. a person; individual: *an honest soul*. 11. **upon my soul!** an exclamation of surprise.

soul-destroying *adj.* (of an occupation, situation, etc.) unremittingly monotonous.

soul food *n.* *Inf.* food, such as chitterlings, yams, etc., traditionally eaten by U.S. Negroes.

soulful ('səʊfl) *adj.* expressing profound thoughts or feelings. —**soulfully** *adv.* —**soulfulness** *n.*

soulless ('səʊlɪs) *adj.* 1. lacking humanizing qualities or influences; mechanical: *soulless work*. 2. (of a person) lacking in sensitivity or nobility. —**soullessness** *n.*

soul mate *n.* a person for whom one has a deep affinity, esp. a lover, wife, husband, etc.

soul-searching *n.* 1. deep or critical examination of one's motives, actions, beliefs, etc. ~*adj.* 2. displaying the characteristics of this.

sound¹ (saʊnd) *n.* 1. *a.* a periodic disturbance in the pressure or density of a fluid or in the elastic strain of a solid, produced by a vibrating object. It travels as longitudinal waves. *b.* (as modifier): a *sound wave*. 2. the sensation produced by such a periodic disturbance in the organs of hearing. 3. anything that can be heard. 4. (modifier): of or relating to radio as distinguished from television: *sound broadcasting*. 5. a particular instance or type of sound: *the sound of running water*. 6. volume or quality of sound: a *radio with poor sound*. 7. the area or distance over which something can be heard: *within the sound of Big Ben*. 8. impression or implication: *I don't like the sound of that*. 9. (*often pl.*) *Sl.* music, esp. rock, jazz, or pop. ~*vb.* 10. to cause (an instrument, etc.) to make a sound or (of an instrument, etc.) to emit a sound. 11. to announce or be announced by a sound: *to sound the alarm*. 12. (*intr.*) (of a sound) to be heard. 13. (*intr.*) to resonate with a certain quality or intensity: *to*

sound loud 14. (*copula*) to give the impression of being as specified: to *sound reasonable*. 15. (*tr.*) to pronounce distinctly or audibly: to *sound one's consonants*. — **'soundable** *adj.* — **'soundless** *adj.*

sound¹ (saʊnd) *adj.* 1. free from damage, injury, decay, etc. 2. firm; substantial: a *sound basis*. 3. financially safe or stable: a *sound investment*. 4. showing good judgment or reasoning; wise: *sound advice*. 5. valid, logical, or justifiable: a *sound argument*. 6. Now rare. ethically correct; honest. 7. (of sleep) deep; peaceful; unbroken. 8. thorough: a *sound examination*. ~*adv.* 9. soundly; deeply: now archaic except when applied to sleep. — **'soundly** *adv.* — **'soundness** *n.*

sound² (saʊnd) *vb.* 1. to measure the depth of (a well, the sea, etc.) by plumb line, sonar, etc. 2. to seek to discover (someone's views, etc.), as by questioning. 3. (*intr.*) (of a whale, etc.) to dive downwards swiftly and deeply. 4. *Med. a.* to probe or explore (a bodily cavity or passage) by means of a sound. 5. to examine (a patient) by means of percussion and auscultation. ~*n.* 5. *Med.* an instrument for insertion into a bodily cavity or passage to dilate strictures, dislodge foreign material, etc. ~See also **sound out**. — **'sunder** *n.*

sound³ (saʊnd) *n.* 1. a relatively narrow channel between two larger areas of sea or between an island and the mainland. 2. an inlet or deep bay of the sea. 3. the air bladder of a fish.

sound barrier *n.* (*not in technical usage*) a hypothetical barrier to flight at or above the speed of sound, when a sudden large increase in drag occurs. Also called: **sonic barrier**.

sounding ('saʊndɪŋ) *n.* 1. (*sometimes pl.*) the act or process of measuring depth of water or examining the bottom of a river, lake, etc., as with a sounding line. 2. an observation or measurement of atmospheric conditions, as made using a sonde. 3. (*often pl.*) measurements taken by sounding. 4. (*pl.*) a place where a sounding line will reach the bottom, esp. less than 100 fathoms in depth.

sounding board *n.* 1. Also called: **soundboard**. a thin wooden board in a violin, piano, etc., serving to amplify the vibrations produced by the strings passing across it. 2. Also called: **soundboard**. a thin screen suspended over a pulpit, stage, etc., to reflect sound towards an audience. 3. a person, group, experiment, etc., used to test a new idea, policy, etc.

sound out *vb.* (*tr., adv.*) to question (someone) in order to discover (opinions, facts, etc.).

soundproof ('saʊnd,pru:f) *adj.* 1. not penetrable by sound. ~*vb.* 2. (*tr.*) to render soundproof.

soundtrack ('saʊnd,træk) *n.* 1. the recorded sound accompaniment to a film. 2. a narrow strip along the side of a spool of film, which carries the sound accompaniment.

sound wave *n.* a wave that propagates sound.

soup (sʊp) *n.* 1. a liquid food made by boiling or simmering meat, fish, vegetables, etc. 2. *Inf.* a photographic developer. 3. *Inf.* anything resembling soup, esp. thick fog. 4. a slang name for **nitroglycerin**. 5. *in the soup*. *Sl.* in trouble or difficulties. — **'soupy** *adj.*

soupçon French. (sʊp'sɔ̃) *n.* a slight amount; dash.

soup kitchen *n.* 1. a place or mobile stall where food and drink, esp. soup, is served to destitute people. 2. *Mil.* a mobile kitchen.

soup up *vb.* (*tr., adv.*) *Sl.* to modify (a car or motorcycle engine) in order to increase its power. Also: **hot up** (or *esp.* U.S.) **hop up**.

sour (saʊə) *adj.* 1. having or denoting a sharp biting taste like that of lemon juice or vinegar. 2. made acid or bad, as in the case of milk, by the action of microorganisms. 3. having a rancid or unwholesome smell. 4. (of a person's temperament) sullen, morose, or disagreeable. 5. (esp. of the weather) harsh and unpleasant. 6. disagreeable; distasteful: a *sour experience*. 7. (of land, etc.) lacking in fertility; esp. due to excessive acidity. 8. (of petrol) containing a relatively large amount of sulphur compounds. 9. *go or turn sour*. to become unfavourable or inharmonious: *his marriage went sour*. ~*n.* 10. something sour. 11. *Chiefly U.S.* an iced drink usually made with spirits, lemon juice, and ice: a *whiskey sour*. 12. an acid used in bleaching clothes or in curing skins. ~*vb.* 13. to make or become sour. — **'sourish** *adj.* — **'sourly** *adv.* — **'sourness** *n.*

source (sɔ:s) *n.* 1. the point or place from which something originates. 2. *a.* a spring that forms the starting point of a stream. *b.* the area where the headwaters of a river rise. 3. a person, group, etc., that creates, issues, or originates something: *the source of a*

complaint. 4. *a.* any person, book, organization, etc., from which information, evidence, etc., is obtained. *b.* (*as modifier*): *source material*. 5. anything, such as a story or work of art, that provides a model or inspiration for a later work. 6. *at source*. at the point of origin.

sourdough ('saʊ,dəʊ) *Western U.S., Canada, & Alaska.* ~*adj.* 1. (of bread) made with fermented dough used as leaven. ~*n.* 2. an old-time prospector or pioneer.

sour grapes *n.* the attitude of despising something because one cannot have it oneself.

sourpuss ('saʊ,pʊs) *n.* *Inf.* a person who is habitually gloomy or sullen.

sourveld ('saʊ,vɛlt) *n.* (in South Africa) a particular type of grazing.

souse (saʊs) *vb.* 1. to plunge (something) into water or other liquid. 2. to drench or be drenched. 3. (*tr.*) to pour or dash (liquid) over (a person or thing). 4. to steep or cook (food) in a marinade. 5. *Sl.* to make or become drunk. ~*n.* 6. the liquid used in pickling. 7. the act or process of sousing. 8. *Sl.* a drunkard.

soutane (su:'tæn) *n.* *R.C. Church.* a priest's cassock.

south (saʊθ) *n.* 1. one of the four cardinal points of the compass, at 180° from north and 90° clockwise from east and anticlockwise from west. 2. the direction along a meridian towards the South Pole. 3. **the south**. (*often cap.*) any area lying in or towards the south. ~*adj.* 4. in, towards, or facing the south. 5. (esp. of the wind) from the south. ~*adv.* 6. in, to, towards, or (esp. of the wind) from the south.

South (saʊθ) *n.* **the.** 1. the southern part of England, generally regarded as lying to the south of an imaginary line between the Wash and the Severn. 2. (in the U.S.) *a.* the states south of the Mason-Dixon Line that formed the Confederacy during the Civil War. *b.* the Confederacy itself. ~*adj.* 3. of or denoting the southern part of a specified country, area, etc.

southeast ('saʊθ'ist; *Naut.* ,saʊ'ist) *n.* 1. the point of the compass or the direction midway between south and east. ~*adj.* also, **south-eastern**. 2. (*sometimes cap.*) of or denoting the southeastern part of a specified country, area, etc. 3. in, towards, or facing the southeast. 4. (esp. of the wind) from the southeast. ~*adv.* 5. in, to, towards, or (esp. of the wind) from the southeast — **'south-easterly** *adj., adv., n.* — **'south-easternmost** *adj.* — **'south-eastward** *adj.*

Southeast ('saʊθ'ist) *n.* (usually preceded by *the*) the southeastern part of Britain, esp. the London area.

southeaster ('saʊθ'istə; *Naut.* ,saʊ'istə) *n.* a strong wind or storm from the southeast.

southerly ('sʌðəli) *adj.* 1. of or situated in the south. ~*adv., adj.* 2. towards the south. 3. from the south. ~*n., pl. -lies*. 4. a wind from the south. — **'southerliness** *n.*

southern ('sʌðən) *adj.* 1. in or towards the south. 2. (of a wind, etc.) coming from the south. 3. native to or inhabiting the south. — **'southernmost** *adj.*

Southern ('sʌðən) *adj.* of, relating to, or characteristic of the south of a particular region or country.

Southern Cross *n.* a small constellation in the S hemisphere whose four brightest stars form a cross. It is represented on the national flags of Australia and New Zealand.

Southerner ('sʌðənə) *n.* (*sometimes not cap.*) a native or inhabitant of the south of any specified region, esp. the South of England or the Southern states of the U.S.

southern hemisphere *n.* (*often caps.*) that half of the earth lying south of the equator.

southern lights *n.* another name for **aurora australis**.

southpaw ('saʊθ,pɔ:) *Inf.* ~*n.* 1. a left-handed boxer. 2. any left-handed person. ~*adj.* 3. of or relating to a southpaw.

South Pole *n.* 1. the southernmost point on the earth's axis, at the latitude of 90°S. 2. *Astron.* the point of intersection of the earth's extended axis and the southern half of the celestial sphere.

South Seas *pl. n.* the seas south of the equator.

south-southeast *n.* 1. the point on the compass or the direction midway between southeast and south. ~*adj., adv.* 2. in, from, or towards this direction.

south-southwest *n.* 1. the point on the compass or the direction midway between south and southwest. ~*adj., adv.* 2. in, from, or towards this direction.

southward ('saʊθwəd; *Naut.* 'sʌðəd) *adj.* 1. situated, directed, or moving towards the south. ~*n.* 2. the southward part, direction, etc. ~*adv.* 3. Also: **southwards**. towards the south.

southwest (ˌsauθˈwest; *Naut.* ˌsauˈwest) *n.* 1. the point of the compass or the direction midway between west and south. ~*adj.* also **southwestern**. 2. (sometimes *cap.*) of or denoting the southwestern part of a specified country, area, etc.: *southwest Italy*. 3. in or towards the southwest. 4. (esp. of the wind) from the southwest. ~*adv.* 5. in, to, towards, or (esp. of the wind) from the southwest —**southwesterly** *adj.*, *adv.*, *n.* —**southwesternmost** *adj.* —**southwestward** *adj.*

Southwest (ˌsauθˈwest) *n.* (usually preceded by *the*) the southwestern part of Britain, esp. Cornwall, Devon, and Somerset.

southwester (ˌsauθˈwestə; *Naut.* ˌsauˈwestə) *n.* a strong wind or storm from the southwest.

souvenir (ˌsuːvəˈniːr, ˌsuːvəˈniːr) *n.* 1. an object that recalls a certain place, occasion, or person; memento. 2. Rare. a thing recalled. ~*vb.* 3. (tr.) *Austral.* & *N.Z.*, *sl.* to steal or keep for one's own use; purloin.

sou'wester (ˌsauˈwestə) *n.* a waterproof hat having a very broad rim behind, worn esp. by seamen.

sovereign (ˈsɒvrɪn) *n.* 1. a person exercising supreme authority, esp. a monarch. 2. a former British gold coin worth one pound sterling. ~*adj.* 3. supreme in rank or authority: a *sovereign lord*. 4. excellent or outstanding: a *sovereign remedy*. 5. of or relating to a sovereign. 6. independent of outside authority: a *sovereign state*. —**sovereignly** *adv.*

sovereignty (ˈsɒvrənti) *n.*, *pl.* **-ties**. 1. supreme and unrestricted power, as of a state. 2. the position, dominion, or authority of a sovereign. 3. an independent state.

soviet (ˈsəʊviət, ˈsɒv-) *n.* 1. (in the Soviet Union) an elected government council at the local, regional, and national levels, culminating in the Supreme Soviet. ~*adj.* 2. of or relating to a soviet. —**sovietism** *n.*

Soviet (ˈsəʊviət, ˈsɒv-) *adj.* of or relating to the Soviet Union, its people, or its government.

sow¹ (səʊ) *vb.* **sowing**, **sowed**; **sown** or **sowed**. 1. to scatter or place (seed, a crop, etc.) in or on (a piece of ground, field, etc.) so that it may grow: *to sow wheat*; *to sow a strip of land*. 2. (tr.) to implant or introduce: *to sow a doubt in someone's mind*. —**sower** *n.*

sow² (sau) *n.* 1. a female adult pig. 2. the female of certain other animals, such as the mink. 3. *Metallurgy*. a. the channels for leading molten metal to the moulds in casting pig iron. b. iron that has solidified in these channels.

soya bean (ˈsɔɪə) or *U.S. soybean* (ˈsɔɪˌbiːn) *n.* 1. an Asian bean plant cultivated for its nutritious seeds, for forage, and to improve the soil. 2. the seed, used as food, forage, and as the source of an oil.

soy sauce (sɔɪ) *n.* a salty dark brown sauce made from fermented soya beans, used esp. in Chinese cookery. Also called: **soya sauce**.

sozzled (ˈsɒzld) *adj.* an informal word for **drunk**.

sp. *abbrev. for:* 1. special. 2. (*pl.* **spp.**) species. 3. specific. 4. specimen. 5. spelling.

Sp. *abbrev. for:* 1. Spain. 2. Spaniard. 3. Spanish.

spa (spɑː) *n.* a mineral spring or a place or resort where such a spring is found.

space (speɪs) *n.* 1. the unlimited three-dimensional expanse in which all material objects are located. Related *adj.*: **spatial**. 2. an interval of distance or time between two points, objects, or events. 3. a blank portion or area. 4. a. unoccupied area or room: *there is no space for a table*. b. (in combination): *space-saving*. Related *adj.*: **spacious**. 5. a. the region beyond the earth's atmosphere containing other planets, stars, galaxies, etc.; universe. b. (as modifier): a *space probe*. 6. a seat or place, as on a train, aircraft, etc. 7. *Printing*. a piece of metal, less than type-high, used to separate letters or words. 8. *Music*. any of the gaps between the lines that make up the staff. 9. Also called: **spacing**. *Telegraphy*. the period of time that separates characters in Morse code. ~*vb.* (tr.) 10. to place or arrange at intervals or with spaces between. 11. to divide into or by spaces: *to space one's time evenly*. 12. *Printing*. to separate (letters, words, or lines) by the insertion of spaces. —**spac***er* *n.*

space age *n.* 1. the period in which the exploration of space has become possible. ~*adj.* **space-age**. 2. (usually *prenominal*) futuristic or ultramodern.

space-bar *n.* a horizontal bar on a typewriter that is depressed in order to leave a space between words, letters, etc.

space capsule *n.* a vehicle, sometimes carrying men or animals, designed to obtain scientific information

from space, planets, etc., and be recovered on returning to earth.

spacecraft (ˈspeɪsˌkrɑːft) *n.* a manned or unmanned vehicle designed to orbit the earth or travel to celestial objects.

spaceman (ˈspeɪsˌmæn) or (*fem.*) **spacewoman** *n.*, *pl.* **-men** or (*fem.*) **-women**. a person who travels in outer space.

space probe *n.* a vehicle, such as a satellite, equipped to obtain scientific information, normally transmitted back to earth by radio, about a planet, conditions in space, etc.

spaceship (ˈspeɪsˌʃɪp) *n.* a manned spacecraft.

space shuttle *n.* a vehicle designed to be used for at least 100 space flights, carrying men and materials to space stations or bases on the moon, etc.

space station *n.* any large manned artificial satellite designed to orbit the earth during a long period of time thus providing a base for scientific research in space and a construction site, launching pad, and docking arrangements for spacecraft.

spacesuit (ˈspeɪsˌsuːt, ˌsjuːt) *n.* a sealed and pressurized suit worn by astronauts providing an artificial atmosphere, acceptable temperature, radio-communication link, and protection from radiation.

space-time or **space-time continuum** *n.* *Physics*. the four-dimensional continuum having three spatial coordinates and one time coordinate that together completely specify the location of a particle or an event.

spacious (ˈspeɪʃəs) *adj.* having a large capacity or area. —**spaciously** *adv.* —**spaciousness** *n.*

spade¹ (speɪd) *n.* 1. a tool for digging, typically consisting of a flat rectangular steel blade attached to a long wooden handle. 2. something resembling a spade. 3. a cutting tool for stripping the blubber from a whale or skin from a carcass. 4. **call a spade a spade**. to speak plainly and frankly. ~*vb.* 5. (tr.) to use a spade on. —**spader** *n.*

spade² (speɪd) *n.* 1. a. the black symbol on a playing card resembling a heart-shaped leaf with a stem. b. a card with one or more of these symbols or (*when pl.*) the suit of cards so marked, usually the highest ranking of the four. 2. a derogatory word for a Negro. 3. in **spades**. *U.S. inf.* in an extreme or emphatic way.

spadework (ˈspeɪdˌwɜːk) *n.* dull or routine preparatory work.

spadix (ˈspeɪdɪks) *n.*, *pl.* **spadices** (speɪˈdæsɪz). a spike of small flowers on a fleshy stem, the whole being enclosed in a spathe.

spaghetti (spəˈɡetʃi) *n.* pasta in the form of long strings.

spaghetti junction *n.* a junction, usually between motorways, in which there are a large number of intersecting roads used by a large volume of high-speed traffic.

spaghetti western *n.* a cowboy film made by an Italian director in Europe.

spake (speɪk) *vb.* *Arch.* a past tense of **speak**.

Spam (spæm) *n.* *Trademark*. a kind of tinned luncheon meat, made largely from pork.

span¹ (spæn) *n.* 1. the interval, space, or distance between two points, such as the ends of a bridge or arch. 2. the complete duration or extent: *the span of his life*. 3. short for **wingspan**. 4. a unit of length based on the width of an expanded hand, usually taken as nine inches. ~*vb.* **spanning**, **spanned**. (tr.) 5. to stretch or extend across, over, or around. 6. to provide with something that spans: *to span a river with a bridge*. 7. to measure or cover, esp. with the extended hand.

span² (spæn) *n.* a team of horses or oxen, esp. two matched animals.

span³ (spæn) *vb.* *Arch. or dialect*. a past tense of **spin**.

Span. *abbrev. for* Spanish.

spandrel or **spandril** (ˈspændrəl) *n.* *Archit.* 1. an approximately triangular surface bounded by the outer curve of an arch and the adjacent wall. 2. the surface area between two adjacent arches and the horizontal cornice above them.

spangle (ˈspæŋɡl) *n.* 1. a small thin piece of metal or other shiny material used as a decoration, esp. on clothes; sequin. 2. any glittering or shiny spot or object. ~*vb.* 3. (*intr.*) to glitter or shine with or like spangles. 4. (tr.) to cover with spangles. —**spangly** *adj.*

Spaniard (ˈspænjəd) *n.* a native or inhabitant of Spain.

spaniel (ˈspænjəl) *n.* 1. a breed of Gundog with long frilled ears and a silky coat. 2. an obsequiously devoted person.

Spanish (ˈspæniʃ) *n.* 1. the official language of Spain,

Mexico, and most countries of South and Central America except Brazil. Spanish is an Indo-European language belonging to the Romance group. **2. the Spanish.** (*functioning as pl.*) Spaniards collectively. *~adj.* **3.** of or relating to the Spanish language or its speakers. **4.** of or relating to Spain or Spaniards.

Spanish fly *n.* **1.** a European blister beetle, the dried bodies of which yield cantharides. **2.** another name for cantharides.

Spanish Main *n.* **1.** the mainland of Spanish America, esp. the N coast of South America. **2.** the Caribbean Sea, the S part of which in colonial times was the haunt of pirates.

spank¹ ('spæŋk) *vb.* **1.** (*tr.*) to slap with the open hand, esp. on the buttocks. *~n.* **2.** one of a series of these slaps.

spank² ('spæŋk) *vb.* (*intr.*) to go at a quick and lively pace.

spanking¹ ('spæŋkɪŋ) *n.* a series of spanks, usually as a punishment for children.

spanking² ('spæŋkɪŋ) *adj.* (*prepositional*) **1.** *Inf.* outstandingly fine, smart, large, etc. **2.** quick and energetic. **3.** (esp. of a breeze) fresh and brisk.

spanner ('spænə) *n.* **1.** a steel hand tool with jaws or a hole, designed to grip a nut or bolt head. **2.** *spanner in the works.* *Brit. inf.* an impediment or annoyance.

span roof *n.* a roof consisting of two equal sloping sides.

spanspek ('spæn,spɛk) *n.* *S. African.* the sweet melon.

spar¹ ('spɑː) *n.* **1.** any piece of nautical gear resembling a pole and used as a mast, boom, gaff, etc. **2.** a principal supporting structural member of an aerofoil that runs from tip to tip or root to tip.

spar² ('spɑː) *vb.* **spar, sparred.** (*intr.*) **1.** *Boxing.* to box using light blows, as in training. **2.** to dispute or argue. **3.** (of gamecocks, etc.) to fight with the feet or spurs. *~n.* **4.** an unaggressive fight.

spar³ ('spɑː) *n.* any of various minerals, such as feldspar, that are light-coloured, crystalline, and easily cleavable.

spare ('speə) *vb.* **1.** (*tr.*) to refrain from killing, punishing, or injuring. **2.** (*tr.*) to release or relieve, as from pain, suffering, etc. **3.** (*tr.*) to refrain from using: *spare the rod, spoil the child.* **4.** (*tr.*) to be able to afford or give: *I can't spare the time.* **5.** (*usually passive*) (esp. of Providence) to allow to survive: *I'll see you next year if we are spared.* **6.** (*intr.*) *Now rare.* to act or live frugally. **7.** *not spare oneself.* to exert oneself to the full. **8.** *to spare.* more than is required: *two minutes to spare.* *~adj.* **9.** (*often immediately postpositive*) in excess of what is needed; additional. **10.** able to be used when needed: *a spare part.* **11.** (of a person) thin and lean. **12.** scanty or meagre. **13.** (*postpositive*) *Brit. sl.* upset, angry, or distracted (esp. in *go spare*). *~n.* **14.** a duplicate kept as a replacement in case of damage or loss. **15.** a spare tyre. **16.** *Tenpin bowling.* **a.** the act of knocking down all the pins with the two bowls of a single frame. **b.** the score thus made. *~sparingly* *adv.* *~spareness* *n.* *~sparer* *n.*

sparerib ('speə,ri:b) *n.* a cut of pork ribs with most of the meat trimmed off.

spare tyre *n.* **1.** an additional tyre carried by a motor vehicle in case of puncture. **2.** *Brit. sl.* a deposit of fat just above the waist.

sparing ('speəriŋ) *adj.* **1.** (sometimes foll. by *of*) economical or frugal (with). **2.** scanty; meagre. **3.** merciful or lenient. *~sparingly* *adv.* *~sparingness* *n.*

spark¹ ('spɑːk) *n.* **1.** a fiery particle thrown out or left by burning material or caused by the friction of two hard surfaces. **2. a.** a momentary flash of light accompanied by a sharp crackling noise, produced by a sudden electrical discharge through the air or some other insulating medium between two points. **b.** the electrical discharge itself. **c.** (*as modifier*): *a spark gap.* **3.** anything that serves to animate or kindle. **4.** a trace or hint: *a spark of interest.* **5.** vivacity, enthusiasm, or humour. **6.** a small piece of diamond, as used in cutting glass. *~vb.* **7.** (*intr.*) to give off sparks. **8.** (of the sparking plug or ignition system of an internal-combustion engine) to produce a spark. **9.** (*tr.*; often foll. by *off*) to kindle or animate.

spark² ('spɑːk) *Rare (except for sense 2).* *~n.* **1.** a fashionable or gallant young man. **2.** *bright spark.* *Brit., usually ironic.* a person who appears clever or witty. *~vb.* **3.** to woo (a person). *~sparkish* *adj.*

sparking plug *n.* a device screwed into the cylinder head of an internal-combustion engine to ignite the explosive mixture by means of an electric spark. Also called: **spark plug.**

sparkle ('spɑːkəl) *vb.* **1.** to issue or reflect or cause to issue or reflect bright points of light. **2.** (*intr.*) (of wine, mineral water, etc.) to effervesce. **3.** (*intr.*) to be vivacious or witty. *~n.* **4.** a point of light, spark, or gleam.

sparkler ('spɑːklə) *n.* **1.** a type of firework that throws out sparks. **2.** *Inf.* a sparkling gem.

sparring partner ('spɔːrɪŋ) *n.* a person who practises with a boxer during training.

sparrow ('spɛərəʊ) *n.* any of various weaverbirds, esp. the house sparrow, having a brown or grey plumage and feeding on seeds or insects. **2.** *U.S.* any of various North American finches, such as the chipping sparrow, that have a dullish streaked plumage.

sparrowhawk ('spɛərəʊ,hɔːk) *n.* any of several small hawks of Eurasia and N Africa that prey on smaller birds.

spare ('spɔːs) *adj.* scattered or scanty; not dense. *~sparsely* *adv.* *~sparseness* or *~sparsity* *n.*

Spartan ('spɑːtɪn) *adj.* **1.** of or relating to the ancient Greek city of Sparta or its citizens. **2.** (*sometimes not cap.*) very strict or austere: *a Spartan upbringing.* **3.** (*sometimes not cap.*) possessing courage and resolve. *~n.* **4.** a citizen of Sparta. **5.** (*sometimes not cap.*) a disciplined or brave person.

spasm ('spæzəm) *n.* **1.** an involuntary muscular contraction, esp. one resulting in cramp or convulsion. **2.** a sudden burst of activity, emotion, etc.

spasmodic ('spæzəmɒdɪk) or **spasmodical** *adj.* **1.** taking place in sudden brief spells. **2.** of or characterized by spasms. *~spasmodically* *adv.*

spastic ('spæstɪk) *adj.* **1.** affected by or resembling spasms. **2.** *Derog. sl.* clumsy, incapable or incompetent. *~n.* **3.** a person who has cerebral palsy. **4.** *Derog. sl.* a clumsy, incapable, or incompetent person. *~spastically* *adv.*

spat¹ ('spæt) *n.* **1.** *Now rare.* a slap or smack. **2.** a slight quarrel. *~vb.* **spatting, spatting.** **3.** *Rare.* to slap (someone). **4.** (*intr.*) *U.S.* to have a slight quarrel.

spat² ('spæt) *vb.* a past tense or past participle of **spit**¹.

spat³ ('spæt) *n.* another name for **gaiter** (sense 2).

spat⁴ ('spæt) *n.* **1.** a larval oyster or similar bivalve mollusc. **2.** such oysters or other molluscs collectively.

spate ('speɪt) *n.* **1.** a fast flow, rush, or outpouring: *a spate of words.* **2.** *Chiefly Brit.* a sudden flood: *the rivers were in spate.* **3.** *Chiefly Brit.* a sudden heavy downpour.

spathe ('speɪd) *n.* a large bract that encloses the inflorescence of several members of the lily family. *~spatheaceous* ('spæθeɪʃəs) *adj.*

spatial or **spacial** ('speɪʃəl) *adj.* **1.** of or relating to space. **2.** existing or happening in space. *~spatiality* ('speɪʃəlɪtɪ) *n.* *~spatially* *adv.*

spatter ('spætə) *vb.* **1.** to scatter or splash (a substance, esp. a liquid) or (of a substance) to splash (something) in scattered drops: *to spatter mud on the car; mud spattered in her face.* **2.** (*tr.*) to sprinkle, cover, or spot (with a liquid). **3.** (*tr.*) to slander or defame. **4.** (*intr.*) to shower or rain down: *bullets spattered around them.* *~n.* **5.** the sound of spattering. **6.** something spattered, such as a spot or splash. **7.** the act or an instance of spattering.

spatula ('spætjʊlə) *n.* a utensil with a broad flat blade, used for lifting, spreading, or stirring foods, etc. *~spatular* *adj.*

spavin ('spævɪn) *n.* enlargement of the hock of a horse by a bony growth (**bony spavin**) or distension of the ligament (**bog spavin**), often resulting in lameness. *~spavined* *adj.*

spawn ('spɔːn) *n.* **1.** the mass of eggs deposited by fish, amphibians, or molluscs. **2.** *Often* *derog.* offspring, product, or yield. **3.** *Bot.* the nontechnical name for **mycelium**. *~vb.* **4.** (of fish, amphibians, etc.) to produce or deposit (eggs). **5.** *Often derog.* (of people) to produce (offspring). **6.** to produce or engender. *~spawn* *n.*

spay ('speɪ) *vb.* (*tr.*) to remove the ovaries from (a female animal).

speak ('spiːk) *vb.* **speaking, spoke, spoken.** **1.** to make (verbal utterances); utter (words). **2.** to communicate or express (something) in or as if in words. **3.** (*intr.*) to deliver a speech, discourse, etc. **4.** (*tr.*) to know how to talk in (a language or dialect): *he does not speak German.* **5.** (*intr.*) to make a characteristic sound: *the clock spoke.* **6.** (*intr.*) (of hounds used in hunting) to give tongue; bark. **7.** (*tr.*) *Naut.* to hail and communicate with (another vessel) at sea. **8.** (*intr.*) (of a musical instrument) to produce a sound. **9.** (*tr.*; foll. by *for*) to be representative or advocate (of). **10.** *on speaking*

terms. on good terms; friendly. 11. **so to speak**. in a manner of speaking; as it were. 12. **speak one's mind**. to express one's opinions frankly and plainly. 13. **to speak of**. of a significant or worthwhile nature: *no support to speak of*. ~See also **speak for**, **speak out**, **speak up**. —**speakeable** *adj.*

speakeasy ('spɪk,i:zi) *n.*, *pl.* **-easies**. *U.S.* a place where alcoholic drink was sold illicitly during Prohibition.

speaker ('spɪ:kə) *n.* 1. a person who speaks, esp. at a formal occasion. 2. See **loudspeaker**. —**speaker, ship** *n.*

Speaker ('spɪ:kə) *n.* the presiding officer in any of numerous legislative bodies, including the House of Commons in Britain and Canada and the House of Representatives in the U.S., Australia, and New Zealand.

speak for *vb.* (*intr.*, *prep.*) 1. to speak as a representative of (other people). 2. **speak for itself**. to be so evident that no further comment is necessary. 3. **speak for yourself**. *Inf.* (used as an imperative) do not presume that other people agree with you.

speaking ('spɪ:kɪŋ) *adj.* 1. (*prenominal*) eloquent, impressive, or striking. 2. *a.* able to speak. *b.* (*in combination*) able to speak a particular language: *French-speaking*.

speaking clock *n.* *Brit.* a telephone service that gives a verbal statement of the time.

speak out *vb.* (*intr.*, *adv.*) 1. to state one's beliefs, objections, etc., bravely and firmly. 2. to speak more loudly and clearly.

speak up *vb.* (*intr.*, *adv.*) 1. to speak more loudly. 2. to state one's beliefs, objections, etc., bravely and firmly.

spear¹ (spɪə) *n.* 1. a weapon consisting of a long shaft with a sharp pointed end of metal, stone, or wood that may be thrown or thrust. 2. a similar implement used to catch fish. ~*vb.* 3. to pierce (something) with or as if with a spear.

spear² ('spɪə) *n.* a shoot, stalk, or blade, as of grass.

spearhead ('spɪə,hed) *n.* 1. the pointed head of a spear. 2. the leading force in a military attack. 3. any person or thing that leads or initiates an attack, campaign, etc. ~*vb.* 4. (*tr.*) to lead or initiate (an attack, campaign, etc.).

spearmint ('spɪə,mɪnt) *n.* a purple-flowered mint plant of Europe, having leaves that yield an oil used for flavouring.

spec (spek) *n.* 1. **on spec**. *Inf.* as a speculation or gamble: *all the tickets were sold so I went to the theatre on spec*. ~*adj.* 2. (*prenominal*) *Austral.* & *N.Z.* *inf.* speculative: *a spec developer*.

spec. *abbrev. for:* 1. special. 2. specification. 3. speculation.

special ('speʃəl) *adj.* 1. distinguished from, set apart from, or excelling others of its kind. 2. (*prenominal*) designed or reserved for a particular purpose. 3. not usual or commonplace. 4. (*prenominal*) particular or primary: *his special interest was music*. 5. of or relating to the education of handicapped children: *a special school*. ~*n.* 6. a special person or thing, such as an extra edition of a newspaper or a train reserved for a particular purpose. 7. a dish or meal given prominence, esp. at a low price, in a café, etc. 8. short for **special constable**. —**specially** *adv.* —**specialness** *n.*

▷ **Usage.** See at **especial**.

Special Branch *n.* (in Britain) the department of the police force that is concerned with political security.

special constable *n.* a person recruited for temporary or occasional police duties, esp. in time of emergency.

special delivery *n.* the delivery of a piece of mail outside the time of a scheduled delivery.

specialist ('speʃəlɪst) *n.* a person who specializes in a particular area of activity, field of research, etc. —**specialism** *n.* —**special'istic** *adj.*

speciality ('speʃi'ælti) or **specialty** ('speʃəlti) *n.*, *pl.* **-ties**. 1. a special interest or skill. 2. *a.* a service or product specialized in, as at a restaurant. *b.* (*as modifier*): *a speciality dish*. 3. a special feature or characteristic.

specialize or -ise ('speʃə,laɪz) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to train in or devote oneself to a particular area of study, occupation, or activity. 2. (*usually passive*) to cause (organisms or parts) to develop in a way most suited to a particular environment or way of life or (of organisms, etc.) to develop in this way. 3. (*tr.*) to modify for a special use or purpose. —**specialization or -isation** *n.*

special licence *n.* *Brit.* a licence permitting a mar-

riage to take place by dispensing with the usual legal conditions.

specialty ('speʃəlti) *n.*, *pl.* **-ties**. 1. *Law.* a formal contract or obligation expressed in a deed. 2. the usual U.S. spelling of **speciality**.

specie ('spi:ʃi) *n.* 1. coin money, as distinguished from bullion or paper money. 2. **in specie**. *a.* (of money) in coin. *b.* in kind.

species ('spi:ʃi:z; *Latin* 'spi:ʃi,i:z) *n.*, *pl.* **-cies**. 1. *Biol.* *a.* any of the taxonomic groups into which a genus is divided, the members of which are capable of interbreeding. *b.* the animals of such a group. *c.* any group of related animals or plants not necessarily of this taxonomic rank. 2. *Logic.* a group of objects or individuals, all sharing common attributes, that forms a subdivision of a genus. 3. a kind, sort, or variety: *a species of treachery*. 4. *Chiefly R.C. Church.* the outward form of the bread and wine in the Eucharist. 5. *Obs.* an outward appearance or form.

specif. *abbrev. for* specifically.

specific ('spi'sɪfɪk) *adj.* 1. explicit, particular, or definite. 2. relating to a specified or particular thing: *a specific treatment for arthritis*. 3. of or relating to a biological species. 4. (of a disease) caused by a particular pathogenic agent. 5. *Physics.* *a.* characteristic of a property of a substance, esp. in relation to the same property of a standard reference substance: *specific gravity*. *b.* characteristic of a property of a substance per unit mass, length, area, volume, etc.: *specific heat*. *c.* (of an extensive physical quantity) divided by mass: *specific volume*. 6. denoting a tariff levied at a fixed sum per unit of weight, quantity, volume, etc., irrespective of value. ~*n.* 7. (*sometimes pl.*) a designated quality, thing, etc. 8. *Med.* any drug used to treat a particular disease. —**specifically** *adv.* —**specificity** ('speʃi'fɪsɪti) *n.*

specification ('speʃɪfɪ'keɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act or an instance of specifying. 2. (in patent law) a written statement accompanying an application for a patent that describes the nature of an invention. 3. (*usually pl.*) a detailed description of the criteria for the constituents, construction, appearance, performance, etc., of a material, apparatus, etc., or of the standard of workmanship required in its manufacture. 4. an item, detail, etc., specified.

specific gravity *n.* the ratio of the density of a substance to that of water.

specify ('speʃɪ,fai) *vb.* **-fying, -fied.** (*tr.*; *may take a clause as object*) 1. to refer to or state specifically. 2. to state as a condition. 3. to state or include in the specification of. —**specifiable** *adj.* —**specificative** ('speʃɪfɪ'keɪtɪv) *adj.*

specimen ('spesɪmɪn) *n.* 1. *a.* an individual, object, or part regarded as typical of its group or class. *b.* (*as modifier*): *a specimen page*. 2. *Med.* a sample of tissue, blood, urine, etc., taken for diagnostic examination or evaluation. 3. the whole or a part of an organism, plant, rock, etc., collected and preserved as an example of its class, species, etc. 4. *Inf.* *often derog.* a person.

specious ('spi:ʃəs) *adj.* 1. apparently correct or true, but actually wrong or false. 2. deceptively attractive in appearance. —**speciously** *adv.* —**speciosity** ('spi:ʃi'bsɪti) or **speciousness** *n.*

speck (spek) *n.* 1. a very small mark or spot. 2. a small or tiny piece of something. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to mark with specks or spots.

speckle ('spekʔl) *n.* 1. a small mark usually of a contrasting colour, as on the skin, a bird's plumage, or eggs. ~*vb.* 2. (*tr.*) to mark with or as if with speckles.

specs (speks) *pl. n.* *Inf.* 1. short for **spectacles**. 2. short for **specifications** (see **specification** (sense 3)).

spectacle ('spektəkl̩) *n.* 1. a public display or performance, esp. a showy or ceremonial one. 2. a thing or person seen, esp. an unusual or ridiculous one: *he makes a spectacle of himself*. 3. a strange or interesting object or phenomenon.

spectacles ('spektəkl̩'ɪz) *pl. n.* 1. a pair of glasses for correcting defective vision. Often (informal) shortened to **specs**. 2. **pair of spectacles.** *Cricket.* a score of 0 in each innings of a match. —**spectacled** *adj.*

spectacular ('spek'tækjʊlə) *adj.* 1. of or resembling a spectacle; impressive, grand, or dramatic. 2. unusually marked or great: *a spectacular increase*. ~*n.* 3. a lavishly produced performance. —**spectacularly** *adv.*

spectator ('spek'tetə) *n.* a person viewing anything; onlooker; observer.

spectra ('spektə) *n.* the plural of **spectrum**.

spectral ('spektrəl) *adj.* 1. of or like a spectrum. 2. of or

relating to a spectrum. — **spectrality** (spek'træliti) *n.*
— **spectrally** *adv.*

spectre or **U.S. specter** ('spektə) *n.* 1. a ghost; phantom; apparition. 2. an unpleasant or menacing mental image: *the spectre of redundancy.*

spectro- combining form. indicating a spectrum: *spectrogram.*

spectroscope ('spektrə,skəʊp) *n.* any of a number of instruments for dispersing electromagnetic radiation and thus forming or recording a spectrum. — **spectroscopic** ('spektrə'skɒpik) or **spectroscopical** *adj.*

spectroscopy ('spek'trɒskəpi) *n.* the science and practice of using spectrometers and spectroscopes and of analysing spectra. — **spectroscopist** *n.*

spectrum ('spektrəm) *n., pl -tra (-trə).* 1. the distribution of colours produced when white light is dispersed by a prism or diffraction grating. There is a continuous change in wavelength from red, the longest wavelength, to violet, the shortest. Seven colours are usually distinguished: violet, indigo, blue, green, yellow, orange, and red. 2. the whole range of electromagnetic radiation with respect to its wavelength or frequency. 3. any particular distribution of electromagnetic radiation often showing lines or bands characteristic of the substance emitting the radiation or absorbing it. 4. any similar distribution or record of the energies, velocities, masses, etc., of atoms, ions, electrons, etc.: *a mass spectrum.* 5. any range or scale, as of capabilities, emotions, or moods.

speculate ('spekju,leit) *vb.* 1. (when *tr.*, takes a clause as object) to conjecture without knowing the complete facts. 2. (*intr.*) to buy or sell securities, property, etc., in the hope of deriving capital gains. 3. (*intr.*) to risk loss for the possibility of considerable gain. 4. (*intr.*) *N.Z.* in rugby football, to make an emergency undirected kick at the ball. — **speculation** *n.* — **speculator** *n.*

sped (sped) *vb.* a past tense or past participle of **speed**.

speech (spi:tʃ) *n.* 1. *a.* the act or faculty of speaking. *b.* (as modifier): *speech therapy.* 2. that which is spoken; utterance. 3. a talk or address delivered to an audience. 4. a person's characteristic manner of speaking. 5. a national or regional language or dialect. 6. *Linguistics.* another word for **parole** (sense 3).

speech day *n. Brit.* (in schools) an annual day on which prizes are presented, speeches are made by guest speakers, etc.

speechify ('spi:tʃi,faɪ) *vb. -fying, -fied.* (*intr.*) 1. to make a speech or speeches. 2. to talk pompously and boringly. — **speechifier** *n.*

speechless ('spi:tʃlis) *adj.* 1. not able to speak. 2. temporarily deprived of speech. 3. not expressed or able to be expressed in words: *speechless fear.* — **speechlessly** *adv.* — **speechlessness** *n.*

speed (spi:d) *n.* 1. the act or quality of acting or moving fast; rapidity. 2. the rate at which something moves, is done, or acts. 3. *Physics.* *a.* a scalar measure of the rate of movement of a body expressed either as the distance travelled divided by the time taken (*average speed*) or the rate of change of position with respect to time at a particular point (*instantaneous speed*). *b.* another word for **velocity** (sense 2). 4. a rate of rotation, usually expressed in revolutions per unit time. 5. *a.* a gear ratio in a motor vehicle, bicycle, etc. *b.* (*in combination*): *a three-speed gear.* 6. *Photog.* a numerical expression of the sensitivity to light of a particular type of film, paper, or plate. 7. *Photog.* a measure of the ability of a lens to pass light from an object to the image position. 8. a slang word for **amphetamine**. 9. *Arch.* prosperity or success. — *vb.* **speeding**; **sped** or **speeded**. 10. to move or go or cause to move or go quickly. 11. (*intr.*) to drive (a motor vehicle) at a high speed, esp. above legal limits. 12. (*tr.*) to help further the success or completion of. 13. (*intr.*) *Sl.* to take or be under the influence of amphetamines. 14. (*intr.*) to operate or run at a high speed. 15. *Arch. a.* (*intr.*) to prosper or succeed. *b.* (*tr.*) to wish success to. — **speeder** *n.*

speedboat ('spi:d,bəʊt) *n.* a high-speed motorboat.

speed limit *n.* the maximum permitted speed at which a vehicle may travel on certain roads.

speedo ('spi:doʊ) *n., pl. -os.* an informal name for **speedometer**.

speedometer ('spɪdɒmɪtə) *n.* a device fitted to a vehicle to measure and display the speed of travel. See also **mileometer**.

speed up *vb. (adv.)* 1. to increase or cause to increase in speed or rate; accelerate. ~ *n.* **speed-up**. 2. an instance of this; acceleration.

speedway ('spi:d,wei) *n.* 1. the sport of racing on light

powerful motorcycles round cinder tracks. 2. the track or stadium where such races are held. 3. *U.S. a.* a racetrack for cars. *b.* a road on which fast driving is allowed.

speedwell ('spi:d,wel) *n.* any of various temperate plants, such as the common **speedwell** and the **germander speedwell**, having small blue or pinkish-white flowers.

speedy ('spi:di) *adj. -ier, -iest.* 1. characterized by speed. 2. done or decided without delay. — **speedily** *adv.* — **speediness** *n.*

spek (spek) *n. S. African.* bacon.

speleology or **spelaeology** (,spi:l'elɒdʒi) *n.* 1. the scientific study of caves. 2. the sport or pastime of exploring caves. — **speleological** or **spelaeological** (,spi:l'elɒdʒɪkəl) *adj.* — **speleologist** or **spelaeologist** *n.*

spell¹ (spel) *vb. spelling; spelt or spelled.* 1. to write or name in correct order the letters that comprise the conventionally accepted form of (a word). 2. (*tr.*) (of letters) to go to make up the conventionally established form of (a word) when arranged correctly: *d-o-g spells dog.* 3. (*tr.*) to indicate or signify: *such actions spell disaster.* — See also **spell out**. — **spellable** *adj.*

spell² (spel) *n.* 1. a verbal formula considered as having magical force. 2. any influence that can control the mind or character; fascination. 3. a state induced as by the pronouncing of a spell; trance: *to break the spell.* 4. *under a spell*, held in or as if in a spell.

spell³ (spel) *n.* 1. an indeterminate, usually short, period of time: *a spell of cold weather.* 2. a period or tour of duty after which one person or group relieves another. 3. *Austral.* a period or interval of rest. ~ *vb.* 4. (*tr.*) to take over from (a person) for an interval of time; relieve temporarily.

spellbind ('spel,baind) *vb. -binding, -bound.* to cause to be spellbound; entrance or enthral. — **spellbinder** *n.*

spell out *vb. (tr., adv.)* 1. to make clear, distinct, or explicit; clarify in detail: *let me spell out the implications.* 2. to read laboriously or with difficulty, working out each word letter by letter. 3. to discern by study; puzzle out.

spelt¹ (spelt) *vb.* a past tense or past participle of **spell**¹.

spelt² (spelt) *n.* a species of wheat that was formerly much cultivated and was used to develop present-day cultivated wheats.

spelunker ('spɪlŋkə) *n.* a person whose hobby is the exploration of caves. — **spelunking** *n.*

spend (spend) *vb. spending, spent.* 1. to pay out (money, wealth, etc.). 2. (*tr.*) to concentrate (time, effort, etc.) upon an object, activity, etc. 3. (*tr.*) to pass (time) in a specific way, place, etc. 4. (*tr.*) to use up completely: *the hurricane spent its force.* 5. (*tr.*) to give up (one's blood, life, etc.) in a cause. 6. (*intr.*) *Obs.* to be used up or exhausted. 7. *spend a penny.* *Brit. inf.* to urinate. — **spendable** *adj.* — **spender** *n.*

spendthrift ('spend,θrɪft) *n.* 1. a person who spends money in an extravagant manner. ~ *adj.* 2. (usually *prenominal*) of or like a spendthrift.

spent (spent) *vb.* 1. the past tense or past participle of **spend**. ~ *adj.* 2. used up or exhausted; consumed.

sperm (spɜ:m) *n.* 1. another name for **semen**. 2. a male reproductive cell; male gamete.

spermaceti (,spɜ:mə'setɪ, -sɪtɪ) *n.* a white waxy substance obtained from oil from the head of the sperm whale.

spermato-, **spermo-** or before a vowel **spermat-**, **sperm-** combining form. 1. indicating sperm: *spermatogenesis*. 2. indicating seed: *spermatophyte*.

spermatozoon (,spɜ:mə'tɒzəʊn) *n., pl. -zoa (-zəʊə).* any of the male reproductive cells released in the semen during ejaculation. Also called: **sperm**, **zoosperm**. — **spermatozoal**, **spermatozoan**, or **spermatozoic** *adj.*

spermicide ('spɜ:mɪ,said) *n.* any agent that kills spermatozoa. — **spermicidal** *adj.*

sperm oil *n.* an oil obtained from the head of the sperm whale, used as a lubricant.

sperm whale *n.* a large toothed whale, having a square-shaped head and hunted for sperm oil, spermaceti, and ambergris. Also called: **cachalot**.

spew (spju:) *vb.* 1. to eject (the contents of the stomach) involuntarily through the mouth; vomit. 2. to spit (spittle, phlegm, etc.) out of the mouth. 3. (usually foll. by *out*) to send or be sent out in a stream: *flames spewed out.* ~ *n.* 4. something ejected from the mouth. ~ Also (archaic): **spue**. — **spewer** *n.*

sp. gr. *abbrev. for specific gravity.*

sphagnum ('sfægŋm) *n.* any moss of the genus *Sphagnum*, of temperate bogs; layers of these mosses decay to form peat. Also called: **peat moss**, **bog moss**. — **'sphagnous adj.**

sphere ('sfɪə) *n.* 1. *Maths.* a. a three-dimensional closed surface such that every point on the surface is equidistant from a given point, the centre. b. the solid figure bounded by this surface or the space enclosed by it. 2. any object having approximately this shape; a globe. 3. the night sky considered as a vaulted roof; firmament. 4. any heavenly object such as a planet, natural satellite, or star. 5. (in the Ptolemaic or Copernican systems of astronomy) one of a series of revolving hollow globes, arranged concentrically, on whose transparent surfaces the sun, the moon, the planets, and fixed stars were thought to be set. 6. a particular field of activity; environment. 7. a social class or stratum of society. ~*vb.* (tr.) *Chiefly poetic.* 8. to surround or encircle. 9. to place aloft or in the heavens. — **'spherical adj.**

spherical ('sfɪərɪkl) or **spheric** *adj.* 1. shaped like a sphere. 2. of or relating to a sphere: *spherical geometry*. 3. *Geom.* formed on the surface of or inside a sphere: a *spherical triangle*. 4. a. of or relating to heavenly bodies. b. of or relating to the spheres of the Ptolemaic or the Copernican system. — **'spherically adv.** — **'sphericalness n.**

spheroid ('sfɪərɔɪd) *n.* 1. Also called: **ellipsoid of revolution**, a geometric surface produced by rotating an ellipse about one of its two axes and having circular plane sections perpendicular to the axis of revolution. ~*adj.* 2. shaped like but not exactly a sphere. — **'spheroidal adj.** — **'spheroidicity n.**

sphincter ('sfɪŋktə) *n.* *Anat.* a ring of muscle surrounding the opening of a hollow organ or body and contracting to close it. — **'sphincteral adj.**

sphinx ('sfɪŋks) *n.* *pl. sphinxes or sphinges* ('sfɪŋdʒɪz). 1. any of a number of huge stone statues built by the ancient Egyptians, having the body of a lion and the head of a man. 2. an inscrutable person.

Sphinx ('sfɪŋks) *n.* *the.* 1. *Greek myth.* a monster with a woman's head and a lion's body. She lay outside Thebes, asking travellers a riddle and killing them when they failed to answer it. Oedipus answered the riddle and the Sphinx then killed herself. 2. the huge statue of a sphinx near the pyramids at Giza in Egypt.

spice ('speɪs) *n.* 1. a. any of a variety of aromatic vegetable substances, such as ginger, cinnamon, or nutmeg, used as flavourings. b. these substances collectively. 2. something that represents or introduces zest, charm, or gusto. 3. *Rare.* a small amount. ~*vb.* (tr.) 4. to prepare or flavour (food) with spices. 5. to introduce charm or zest into.

spice-and-span or **spic-and-span** ('spɪkən'spæn) *adj.* 1. extremely neat and clean. 2. new and fresh.

spicy ('speɪsi) *adj.* **-ler**, **-iest**. 1. seasoned with or containing spice. 2. highly flavoured; pungent. 3. *Inf.* suggestive of scandal or sensation. — **'spicily adv.** — **'spiciness n.**

spider ('spɪdə) *n.* 1. any of various predatory silk-producing arachnids, having four pairs of legs and a rounded unsegmented body. 2. any of various similar or related arachnids. 3. any implement or tool having the shape of a spider. 4. any part of a machine having a number of radiating spokes, tines, or arms. 5. Also called: **octopus**. *Brit.* a cluster of elastic straps fastened at a central point and used to hold a load on a car rack, motorcycle, etc. 6. *Snooker, etc.* a rest having long legs, used to raise the cue above the level of the height of the ball. — **'spiderly adj.**

spider monkey *n.* 1. any of several arboreal New World monkeys of Central and South America, having very long legs, a long prehensile tail, and a small head. 2. **woolly spider monkey**, a rare related monkey of SE Brazil.

spiel (ʃpi:l) *Sl.*, *chiefly U.S.* ~*n.* 1. glib plausible talk, associated esp. with salesmen. ~*vb.* 2. (intr.) to deliver a prepared spiel. 3. (tr.; usually foll. by *off*) to recite (a prepared oration). — **'spieler n.**

spigot ('spɪɡɪt) *n.* 1. a stopper for the vent hole of a cask. 2. a tap, usually of wood, fitted to a cask. 3. a U.S. name for **tap** (sense 1). 4. a short projection on one component designed to fit into a hole on another, esp. the male part of a joint between two pipes.

spike ('spaɪk) *n.* 1. a sharp point. 2. any sharp-pointed object, esp. one made of metal. 3. a long metal nail. 4. (pl.) shoes with metal projections on the sole and heel for greater traction, as used by athletes. ~*vb.* (tr.) 5. to

secure or supply with or as with spikes. 6. to render ineffective or block the intentions of; thwart. 7. to impale on a spike. 8. to add (alcohol) to a drink. 9. *Volleyball.* to hit (a ball) sharply downwards with an overarm motion from the front of one's own court into the opposing court. 10. (formerly) to render (a cannon) ineffective by blocking its vent with a spike. 11. **spike someone's guns**, to thwart someone's purpose. — **'spiky adj.**

spike ('spaɪk) *n.* *Bot.* 1. an inflorescence consisting of a raceme of sessile flowers. 2. an ear of wheat, barley, etc.

spikelet ('spaɪklɪt) *n.* *Bot.* a small spike, esp. the inflorescence of most grasses and sedges.

spikenard ('spaɪknɑ:d, 'spaɪkə,nɑ:d) *n.* 1. an aromatic Indian plant, having rose-purple flowers. 2. an aromatic ointment obtained from this plant. 3. any of various similar or related plants. 4. a North American plant having small green flowers and an aromatic root. ~Also called (for senses 1, 2): **nard**.

spill ('spɪl) *vb.* **spilling**; **spilt** or **spilled**. (*mainly tr.*) 1. (when intr., usually foll. by *from*, *out of*, etc.) to fall or cause to fall from or as from a container, esp. unintentionally. 2. to disgorge (contents, occupants, etc.) or (of contents, occupants, etc.) to be disgorged. 3. to shed (blood). 4. Also: **spill the beans**. *Inf.* to reveal (a secret). 5. *Naut.* to let (wind) escape from a sail or (of the wind) to escape from a sail. ~*n.* 6. *Inf.* a fall or tumble. 7. short for **spillway**. 8. a spilling of liquid, etc., or the amount spilt. 9. *Austral.* the declaring of several political jobs vacant when one higher up becomes so. — **'spillage n.** — **'spiller n.**

spill ('spɪl) *n.* a splinter of wood or strip of twisted paper with which pipes, fires, etc., are lit.

spillikin, **spilikin** ('spɪlɪkən), or **spellican** ('speɪl-kən) *n.* a thin strip of wood, cardboard, or plastic, esp. one used in spillikins.

spill over *vb.* 1. (intr., adv.) to overflow or be forced out of an area, container, etc. ~*n.* **spillover**. 2. *Chiefly U.S.* the act of spilling over. 3. *Chiefly U.S.* the excess part of something.

spillway ('spɪl,weɪ) *n.* a channel that carries away surplus water, as from a dam.

spin ('spɪn) *vb.* **spinning**, **spun**. 1. to rotate or cause to rotate rapidly, as on an axis. 2. a. to draw out and twist (natural fibres, as of silk or cotton) into a long continuous thread. b. to make such a thread or filament from (synthetic resins, etc.), usually by forcing through a nozzle. 3. (of spiders, silkworms, etc.) to form (webs, cocoons, etc.) from a silky fibre exuded from the body. 4. (tr.) to shape (metal) into a rounded form on a lathe. 5. (tr.) *Inf.* to tell (a tale, story, etc.) by drawing it out at great length (esp. in **spin a yarn**). 6. to bowl, pitch, hit, or kick (a ball) so that it rotates in the air and changes direction or speed on bouncing, or (of a ball) to be projected in this way. 7. (intr.) (of wheels) to revolve rapidly without causing propulsion. 8. to cause (an aircraft) to dive in a spiral descent or (of an aircraft) to dive in a spiral descent. 9. (intr.; foll. by *along*) to drive or travel swiftly. 10. (tr.) Also: **spin-dry**, to rotate (clothes) in a washing machine in order to extract surplus water. 11. (intr.) to reel or grow dizzy, as from turning around: *my head is spinning*. 12. (intr.) to fish by drawing a revolving lure through the water. ~*n.* 13. a swift rotating motion; instance of spinning. 14. *Physics.* a. the intrinsic angular momentum of an elementary particle or atomic nucleus. b. a quantum number determining values of this angular momentum. 15. a condition of loss of control of an aircraft or an intentional flight manoeuvre in which the aircraft performs a continuous spiral descent. 16. a spinning motion imparted to a ball, etc. 17. *Inf.* a short or fast drive, ride, etc., esp. in a car, for pleasure. 18. *Inf.*, *chiefly Brit.* a state of agitation or confusion. 19. *Austral. & N.Z. inf.* a period of a specified kind of fortune: a *bad spin*. ~See also **spin out**.

spina bifida ('spaɪnə 'bɪfɪdə) *n.* a congenital condition in which the meninges of the spinal cord protrude through a gap in the backbone, sometimes causing enlargement of the skull and paralysis.

spinach ('spɪnɪdʒ, -ɪf) *n.* 1. an annual plant cultivated for its dark green edible leaves. 2. the leaves, eaten boiled as a vegetable.

spinal ('spaɪnəl) *adj.* of or relating to the spine or the spinal cord. — **'spinally adv.**

spinal column *n.* a series of contiguous or interconnecting bony or cartilaginous segments that surround

and protect the spinal cord. Also called: **spine**, **vertebral column**. Nontechnical name: **backbone**.

spinal cord *n.* the thick cord of nerve tissue within the spinal canal, which together with the brain forms the central nervous system.

spin bowler *n.* *Cricket.* a bowler who specializes in bowling balls with a spinning motion.

spindle ('spɪndl) *n.* 1. a rod or stick that has a notch in the top, used to draw out natural fibres for spinning into thread, and a long narrow body around which the thread is wound when spun. 2. one of the thin rods or pins bearing bobbins upon which spun thread is wound in a spinning machine. 3. any of various parts in the form of a rod, esp. a rotating rod that acts as an axle, etc. 4. a piece of wood that has been turned, such as a table leg. 5. a small square metal shaft that passes through the lock of a door and to which the door knobs or handles are fixed. 6. *Biol.* a spindle-shaped bundle of nuclear fibres that is formed in a cell during mitosis and meiosis and along which chromosomes migrate to opposite ends of the cell. 7. a device consisting of a sharp upright spike on a pedestal on which bills, order forms, etc., are impaled. ~*vb.* 8. (*tr.*) to form into a spindle or equip with spindles. 9. (*intr.*) *Rare.* (of a plant, stem, shoot, etc.) to grow rapidly and become elongated and thin.

spindlegs ('spɪndl,legz) or **spindleshanks** *pl. n.* 1. long thin legs. 2. (*functioning as sing.*) a person who has such legs.

spindly ('spɪndli) *adj.* **-dlier, -dliest.** tall, slender, and frail; attenuated.

spindrift ('spɪn,drɪft) or **spoon-drift** *n.* spray blown up from the sea.

spin-dry *vb.* **-drying, -dried.** (*tr.*) to dry (clothes, etc.) in a spin-dryer.

spin-dryer *n.* a device that extracts water from clothes, etc., by spinning them in a perforated drum.

spine (spain) *n.* 1. the spinal column. 2. the sharply pointed tip or outgrowth of a leaf, stem, etc. 3. *Zool.* a hard pointed process or structure, such as the quill of a porcupine. 4. Also called: **backbone**, a bound edge or back of a book. 5. a ridge, esp. of a hill. 6. strength of endurance, will, etc. 7. anything resembling the spinal column in function or importance; main support or feature. —**spined** *adj.*

spineless ('spɪnɪləs) *adj.* 1. lacking a backbone. 2. having no spiny processes: **spineless stems**. 3. lacking character, resolution, or courage. —**'spinelessly** *adv.* —**'spinelessness** *n.*

spinnet ('spɪnɪt, 'spɪnɪt) *n.* a small type of harpsichord having one manual.

spinnaker ('spɪnəkə; *Naut.* 'spæŋkə) *n.* a large light triangular racing sail set from the foremast of a yacht.

spinner ('spɪnə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that spins. 2. *Cricket.* a. a ball that is bowled with a spinning motion. b. a bowler who specializes in bowling such balls. 3. a streamlined fairing that fits over the hub of an aircraft propeller. 4. a fishing lure with a fin or wing that revolves.

spinneret ('spɪnə,ret) *n.* 1. any of several organs in spiders and certain insects through which silk threads are exuded. 2. a finely perforated dispenser through which a liquid is extruded in the production of synthetic fibres.

spinney ('spɪni) *n.* *Chiefly Brit.* a small wood or copse.

spinning ('spɪnɪŋ) *n.* 1. the act or process of spinning. 2. the act or technique of casting and drawing a revolving lure through the water so as to imitate a live fish, etc.

spinning jenny *n.* an early type of spinning frame with several spindles, invented in 1764.

spinning wheel *n.* a wheel-like machine for spinning at home, having one hand- or foot-operated spindle.

spin-off *n.* any product or development derived incidentally from the application of existing knowledge or enterprise.

spin out *vb.* (*tr., adv.*) 1. to extend or protract (a story, etc.) by including superfluous detail. 2. to spend or pass (time). 3. to contrive to cause (money, etc.) to last as long as possible.

spinster ('spɪnstə) *n.* 1. an unmarried woman regarded as being beyond the age of marriage. 2. (formerly) a woman who spins thread for her living. —**'spinster, hood** *n.* —**'spinsterish** *adj.*

spiny ('spɪni) *adj.* **-ier, -iest.** 1. (of animals) having or covered with quills or spines. 2. (of plants) covered with spines; thorny. 3. troublesome; puzzling. —**'spinness** *n.*

spiracle ('spɪərəkl, 'spɪərə-) *n.* 1. any of several paired apertures in the cuticle of an insect, by which air

enters and leaves the trachea. 2. a small paired rudimentary gill slit in skates, rays, and related fishes. 3. any similar respiratory aperture, such as the blowhole in whales. —**'spiracular** ('spɪrækjʊlə) *adj.* —**'spiraculate** *adj.*

spiraea or *esp.* **U.S. spirea** ('spɪəriə) *n.* any of various rosaceous plants, having sprays of small white or pink flowers. See also **meadowsweet** (sense 2).

spiral ('spɪərəl) *n.* 1. *Geom.* one of several plane curves formed by a point winding about a fixed point at an ever-increasing distance from it. 2. a curve that lies on a cylinder or cone, at a constant angle to the line segments making up the surface; helix. 3. something that pursues a winding, usually upward, course or that displays a twisting form or shape. 4. a flight manoeuvre in which an aircraft descends describing a helix of comparatively large radius with the angle of attack within the normal flight range. 5. *Econ.* a continuous upward or downward movement in economic activity or prices, caused by interaction between prices, wages, demand, and production. —**adj.** 6. having the shape of a spiral. ~*vb.* **-railing, -ralled** or **U.S. -railing, -raled.** 7. to assume or cause to assume a spiral course or shape. 8. (*intr.*) to increase or decrease with steady acceleration: **prices continue to spiral.** —**'spirally** *adv.*

spirant ('spɪərənt) *adj.* 1. *Phonetics.* another word for **fricative**. ~*n.* 2. a fricative consonant.

spire ('spɪə) *n.* 1. Also called: **steeple**, a tall structure that tapers upwards to a point, esp. one on a tower or roof or one that forms the upper part of a steeple. 2. a slender tapering shoot or stem, such as a blade of grass. 3. the apical part of any tapering formation; summit. ~*vb.* 4. (*intr.*) to assume the shape of a spire; point up. 5. (*tr.*) to furnish with a spire or spires. —**'spiry** *adj.*

spirit ('spɪrɪt) *n.* 1. the force or principle of life that animates the body of living things. 2. temperament or disposition: **truculent in spirit**. 3. liveliness; mettle: *they set to it with spirit*. 4. the fundamental, emotional, and activating principle of a person; will: *the experience broke his spirit*. 5. a sense of loyalty or dedication: *team spirit*. 6. the prevailing element; feeling: *a spirit of joy pervaded the atmosphere*. 7. state of mind or mood; attitude: *he did it in the wrong spirit*. 8. (*pl.*) an emotional state, esp. with regard to exaltation or dejection: *in high spirits*. 9. a person characterized by some activity, quality, or disposition: *a leading spirit of the movement*. 10. the deeper more significant meaning as opposed to a pedantic interpretation: *the spirit of the law*. 11. that which constitutes a person's intangible being as contrasted with his physical presence: *I shall be with you in spirit*. 12. a. an incorporeal being, esp. the soul of a dead person. b. (as modifier): *spirit world*. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 13. (usually foll. by *away* or *off*) to carry off mysteriously or secretly. 14. (often foll. by *up*) to impart animation or determination to. —**'spiritless** *adj.*

spirit ('spɪrɪt) *n.* 1. (often *pl.*) any distilled alcoholic liquor such as whisky or gin. 2. *Chem.* a. an aqueous solution of ethanol, esp. one obtained by distillation. b. the active principle or essence of a substance, extracted as a liquid, esp. by distillation. 3. *Pharmacol.* a solution of a volatile substance, esp. a volatile oil, in alcohol. 4. *Alchemy.* any of the four substances sulphur, mercury, sal ammoniac, or arsenic.

Spirit ('spɪrɪt) *n.* the. a. another name for the **Holy Ghost**. b. God, esp. when regarded as transcending material limitations.

spirited ('spɪrɪtɪd) *adj.* 1. displaying animation, vigour, or liveliness. 2. (*in combination*) characterized by mood, temper, or disposition as specified: **high-spirited; public-spirited**. —**'spiritedly** *adv.* —**'spiritedness** *n.*

spirit gum *n.* a glue made from gum dissolved in ether used to affix a false beard, etc.

spirit lamp *n.* a lamp that burns methylated or other spirits instead of oil.

spirit level *n.* a device for setting horizontal surfaces, consisting of a block of material in which a sealed tube partially filled with liquid is set so that the air bubble rests between two marks on the tube when the block is horizontal.

spiritual ('spɪrɪtʃʊəl) *adj.* 1. relating to the spirit or soul and not to physical nature or matter; intangible. 2. of or relating to sacred things, the Church, religion, etc. 3. standing in a relationship based on communication between souls or minds: *a spiritual father*. 4. having a mind or emotions of a high and delicately refined quality. ~*n.* 5. Also called: **Negro spiritual**, a type of religious song originating among Negro slaves in the American South. 6. (often *pl.*) the sphere of religious,

spiritual, or ecclesiastical matters, or such matters in themselves. —*'spirituality* *n.* —*'spiritually* *adv.*

spiritualism ('spɪrɪtʃʊəlɪzəm) *n.* 1. the belief that the disembodied spirits of the dead, surviving in another world, can communicate with the living in this world, esp. through mediums. 2. the doctrines and practices associated with this belief. 3. *Philosophy*. the belief that because reality is to some extent immaterial it is therefore spiritual. 4. any doctrine that prefers the spiritual to the material. —*'spiritualist* *n.*

spirituous ('spɪrɪtʃʊəs) *adj.* 1. characterized by or containing alcohol. 2. (of a drink) being a spirit. —*'spirituosity* ('spɪrɪtʃʊəsbɪti) or *'spirituousness* *n.*

spirt (spɜ:t) *n.* a variant spelling of **spurt**.

spit¹ (spɪt) *vb.* **spitting**, **spat** or **spit**. 1. (*intr.*) to expel saliva from the mouth; expectorate. 2. (*intr.*) *Inf.* to show disdain or hatred by spitting. 3. (of a fire, hot fat, etc.) to eject (sparks, etc.) violently and with an explosive sound. 4. (*intr.*) to rain very lightly. 5. (*tr.*; often foll. by *out*) to eject or discharge (something) from the mouth: *he spat the food out*. 6. (*tr.*; often foll. by *out*) to utter (short sharp words or syllables), esp. in a violent manner. 7. **spit it out!** *Brit. sl.* a command given to someone that he should speak forthwith. ~*n.* 8. another name for **spittle** (sense 1). 9. a light or brief fall of rain, snow, etc. 10. the act or an instance of spitting. 11. *Inf.*, chiefly *Brit.* another word for **spitting image**. —*'spitter* *n.*

spit² (spɪt) *n.* 1. a pointed rod on which meat is skewered and roasted before or over an open fire. 2. Also called: **rotisserie**, **rotating spit**. a similar device fitted onto a cooker. 3. an elongated often hooked strip of sand or shingle projecting from a shore. ~*vb.* **spitting**, **spitted**. 4. (*tr.*) to impale on or transfix with or as if with a spit.

spit and polish *n. Inf.* punctilious attention to neatness, discipline, etc., esp. in the armed forces.

spite (spaɪt) *n.* 1. maliciousness; venomous ill will. 2. an instance of such malice; grudge. 3. *in spite of* (*prep.*) in defiance of; regardless of; notwithstanding. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 4. to annoy in order to vent spite. —*'spiteful* *adj.*

spitfire ('spɪt,faɪə) *n.* a person given to outbursts of spiteful temper, esp. a woman or girl.

spitting image *n. Inf.* a person who bears a strong physical resemblance to another. Also called: **spit, spit and image**.

spittle ('spɪtl̩) *n.* 1. the fluid secreted in the mouth; saliva. 2. Also called: **cuckoo spit**, **frog spit**. the frothy substance secreted on plants by the larvae of certain froghoppers.

spittoon ('spɪ:tʊn) *n.* a receptacle for spit, usually in a public place.

spiv (spɪv) *n. Brit. sl.* a person who makes a living by underhand dealings or swindling; black-marketeer. —*'spivvy* *adj.*

splake (spleɪk) *n.* a type of hybrid trout bred by Canadian zoologists.

splash (splæʃ) *vb.* 1. to scatter (liquid) about in blobs; spatter. 2. to descend or cause to descend upon in scattered blobs: *he splashed his jacket*; *rain splashed against the window*. 3. to make (one's way) by or as if by splashing: *he splashed through the puddle*. 4. (*tr.*) to print (a story or photograph) prominently in a newspaper. ~*n.* 5. an instance or sound of splashing. 6. an amount splashed. 7. a mark or patch created by or as if by splashing. 8. *Inf.* an extravagant display, usually for effect (esp. in **make a splash**). 9. a small amount of soda water, etc., added to an alcoholic drink. —*'splashy* *adj.*

splashdown ('splæʃ,daʊn) *n.* 1. the controlled landing of a spacecraft on water at the end of a space flight. 2. the time scheduled for this event. ~*vb.* **splash down**. 3. (*intr.*, *adv.*) (of a spacecraft) to make a splashdown.

spatter ('splætə) *vb.* 1. to splash with small blobs. ~*n.* 2. a splash of liquid, mud, etc.

splay (spleɪ) *adj.* 1. spread out; broad and flat. 2. turned outwards in an awkward manner. ~*vb.* 3. to spread out; turn out or expand. ~*n.* 4. a surface of a wall that forms an oblique angle to the main flat surfaces, esp. at a doorway or window opening.

splayfoot ('spleɪ,fʊt) *n. pl. feet.* *Pathol.* another word for **flatfoot**. —*'splay, footed* *adj.*

spleen (splɪn) *n.* 1. a spongy highly vascular organ situated near the stomach in mammals. It forms lymphocytes, produces antibodies, and filters bacteria and foreign particles from the blood. 2. the corresponding organ in other animals. 3. spitefulness or ill humour: *to*

vent one's spleen. 4. *Arch.* the organ in the human body considered to be the seat of the emotions. 5. *Arch.* another word for **melancholy**. —*'spleenish* or *'spleeny* *adj.*

spleenwort ('splɪn,wɜ:t) *n.* any of various ferns that often grow on walls.

splendid ('splendɪd) *adj.* 1. brilliant or fine, esp. in appearance. 2. characterized by magnificence. 3. glorious or illustrious: *a splendid reputation*. 4. brightly gleaming; radiant: *splendid colours*. 5. very good or satisfactory: *a splendid time*. —*'splendidly* *adv.* —*'splendidness* *n.*

splendiferous (splɪn'dɪfərəs) *adj.* *Facetious*. grand; splendid: *a really splendiferous meal*.

splendour or **U.S. splendor** ('splɛndə) *n.* 1. the state or quality of being splendid. 2. **sun in splendour**. *Heraldry*. a representation of the sun with rays and a human face.

splenetic (sph'netɪk) *adj.* also *sple'netical*. 1. of or relating to the spleen. 2. spiteful or irritable; peevish. ~*n.* 3. a spiteful or irritable person. —*sple'netically* *adv.*

splenic ('splɛnɪk, 'splɪ-) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or in the spleen. 2. having a disease or disorder of the spleen.

splice (splaɪs) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to join (two ropes) by intertwining the strands. 2. to join up the trimmed ends of (two pieces of wire, film, etc.) with solder or an adhesive material. 3. to join (timbers) by overlapping and binding or bolting the ends together. 4. (*usually passive*) *Inf.* to enter into marriage: *the couple got spliced*. 5. **splice the mainbrace**. *Naut.* to issue and partake of alcoholic spirits. ~*n.* 6. a join made by splicing. 7. the place where such a join occurs. 8. the wedge-shaped end of a cricket-bat handle that fits into the blade. —*'splicer* *n.*

splint (splɪnt) *n.* 1. a rigid support for restricting movement of an injured part, esp. a broken bone. 2. a thin sliver of wood, esp. one used to light cigars, a fire, etc. 3. a thin strip of wood woven with others to form a chair seat, basket, etc. 4. *Vet. science*. a bony enlargement of the cannon bone of a horse. ~*vb.* 5. to apply a splint to (a broken arm, etc.).

splinter ('splɪntə) *n.* 1. a small thin sharp piece of wood, glass, metal, etc., broken off from a whole. 2. a metal fragment from a shell, bomb, etc., thrown out during an explosion; piece of shrapnel. ~*vb.* 3. to reduce or be reduced to sharp fragments. 4. to break or be broken off in small sharp fragments. —*'splintery* *adj.*

splinter group *n.* a number of members of an organization, political party, etc., who split from the main body and form an independent association of their own.

split (splɪt) *vb.* **splitting**, **split**. 1. to break or cause to break, esp. forcibly, by cleaving into separate pieces, often into two roughly equal pieces. 2. to separate or be separated from a whole: *he split a piece of wood from the block*. 3. to separate or be separated into factions, usually through discord. 4. (often foll. by *up*) to separate or cause to separate through a disagreement. 5. (when *tr.*, often foll. by *up*) to divide or be divided among two or more persons: *split up the pie among us*. 6. *Sl.* to depart; leave: *let's split*. 7. (*tr.*) to separate (something) into its components by interposing something else: *to split a word with hyphens*. 8. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *on*) *Sl.* to betray; inform: *he split on me to the cops*. 9. (*tr.*) *U.S. politics*. to mark (a ballot, etc.) so as to vote for the candidates of more than one party: *he split the ticket*. 10. **split hairs**. to make a fine but needless distinction. 11. **split one's sides**. to laugh very heartily. 12. **split the difference**. to settle a dispute by compromise. ~*n.* 13. the act or process of splitting. 14. a gap or rift caused or a piece removed by the process of splitting. 15. a breach or schism in a group or the faction resulting from such a breach. 16. a dessert of sliced fruit and ice cream, covered with whipped cream, nuts, etc.: *banana split*. 17. **Tenpin bowling**. a formation of the pins after the first bowl in which there is a large gap between two pins or groups of pins. 18. *Inf.* an arrangement or process of dividing up loot or money. See also **split up**. —*'splitter* *n.*

split infinitive *n.* (in English grammar) an infinitive used with another word between *to* and the verb itself, as in *to really finish it*.

▷ **Usage**. The traditional rule against placing an adverb between *to* and its verb is gradually disappearing. Although it is true that a split infinitive may result in a clumsy sentence, this is not enough to justify the absolute condemnation that this practice has attracted. Indeed, very often the most natural position of the adverb

is between *to* and the verb (*he decided to really try*) and to change it would result in an artificial and awkward construction (*he really decided to try*). The current view is therefore that the split infinitive is not a grammatical error. Nevertheless, many writers prefer to avoid splitting infinitives in formal English, since readers with a more traditional point of view are likely to interpret this as incorrect.

split-level *adj.* (of a house, room, etc.) having the floor level of one part about half a storey above the floor level of an adjoining part.

split pea *n.* a pea dried and split and used in soups, pea pudding, or as a vegetable.

split personality *n.* 1. the tendency to change rapidly in mood or temperament. 2. a nontechnical term for **multiple personality** or **schizophrenia**.

splits (splɪts) *n.* (in gymnastics, etc.) the act of sinking to the floor to achieve a sitting position in which both legs are straight, pointing in opposite directions, and at right angles to the body.

split second *n.* 1. an infinitely small period of time; instant. ~*adj.* **split-second**. (*prepositional*) 2. made or arrived at in an infinitely short time: a *split-second* decision. 3. depending upon minute precision: *split-second* timing.

splitting ('splɪtɪŋ) *adj.* 1. (of a headache) intolerably painful; acute. 2. (of the head) assailed by an overpowering unbearable pain.

split up *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. (*tr.*) to separate out into parts; divide. 2. (*intr.*) to become parted through disagreement: *they split up after years of marriage*. 3. to break down or be capable of being broken down into constituent parts. ~*n.* **split-up**. 4. an act or the instance of separating.

spodge ('splɒdʒ) *n.* 1. a large irregular spot or blot. ~*vb.* 2. (*tr.*) to mark (something) with such a blot or blots. —'spodgy *adj.*

splootch ('splɒtʃ) *n., vb.* the usual U.S. word for **spodge**. —'splochy *adj.*

spurge ('splɜːdʒ) *n.* 1. an ostentatious display, esp. of wealth. 2. a bout of unrestrained extravagance. ~*vb.* 3. (often foll. by *on*) to spend (money) extravagantly.

splutter ('splʌtə) *vb.* 1. to spit out (saliva, food particles, etc.) from the mouth in an explosive manner, as through choking or laughing. 2. to utter (words) with spitting sounds, as through rage or choking. 3. to eject or be ejected in an explosive manner: *sparks spluttered from the fire*. 4. (*tr.*) to bespatter (a person) with tiny particles explosively ejected. ~*n.* 5. the process or noise of spluttering. 6. spluttering incoherent speech. 7. anything ejected through spluttering. —'splutterer *n.*

spode ('spɒd) *n.* (*sometimes cap.*) china or porcelain manufactured by Josiah Spode, English potter (1754–1827), or his company.

spoil ('spɔɪl) *vb.* **spoiling**, **spoilt** or **spoiled**. 1. (*tr.*) to cause damage to (something), in regard to its value, beauty, usefulness, etc. 2. (*tr.*) to weaken the character of (a child) by complying unrestrainedly with its desires. 3. (*intr.*) (of perishable substances) to become unfit for consumption or use. 4. (*intr.*) *Sport*. to disrupt the play or style of an opponent, as to prevent him from settling into a rhythm. 5. *Arch.* to strip (a person or place) of (property) by force. 6. **be spoiling for**. to have an aggressive desire for (a fight, etc.). ~*n.* 7. waste material thrown up by an excavation. 8. any treasure accumulated by a person. 9. *Obs.* the act of plundering.

spoilage ('spɔɪlɪdʒ) *n.* 1. the act or an instance of spoiling or the state or condition of being spoilt. 2. an amount of material that has been wasted by being spoilt: *considerable spoilage*.

spoiler ('spɔɪlə) *n.* 1. plunderer or robber. 2. a person or thing that causes spoilage or corruption. 3. a device fitted to an aircraft wing to increase drag and reduce lift. 4. a similar device fitted to a car. 5. *Sport*. a competitor who adopts spoiling tactics.

spoils ('spɔɪlz) *pl. n.* 1. (*sometimes sing.*) valuables seized by violence, esp. in war. 2. *Chiefly U.S.* the rewards and benefits of public office regarded as plunder for the winning party or candidate. See also **spoils** *sport*.

spoilsport ('spɔɪl,spɔːt) *n.* *Inf.* a person who spoils the pleasure of other people.

spoils system *n.* *Chiefly U.S.* the practice of filling appointive public offices with friends and supporters of the ruling political party.

spoke ('spəʊk) *vb.* 1. the past tense of **speak**. 2. *Arch. or dialect.* a past participle of **speak**.

spoke ('spəʊk) *n.* 1. a radial member of a wheel, joining

the hub to the rim. 2. a radial projection from the rim of a wheel, as in a ship's wheel. 3. a rung of a ladder. 4. **put a spoke in someone's wheel**. *Brit.* to thwart the plans of a person. ~*vb.* 5. (*tr.*) to equip with or as if with spokes.

spoken ('spəʊkən) *vb.* 1. the past participle of **speak**. ~*adj.* 2. uttered in speech. 3. (*in combination*) having speech as specified: *soft-spoken*. 4. **spoken for**. engaged or reserved.

spokeshave ('spəʊk,ʃeɪv) *n.* a small plane with two handles, one on each side of its blade, used for shaping or smoothing cylindrical wooden surfaces, such as spokes.

spokesman ('spəʊksmən) *n., pl. -men.* a person authorized to speak on behalf of another person or group. —'spokes, woman *fem. n.*

spoliation ('spəʊli'eɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act or an instance of despoiling or plundering. 2. the authorized plundering of neutral vessels on the seas by a belligerent state in time of war. 3. *Law*. the material alteration of a document so as to render it invalid. 4. *English ecclesiastical law*. the taking of the fruits of a benefice by a person not entitled to them. —'spoliatory *adj.*

spondee ('spɒndiː) *n.* *Prosody*. a metrical foot consisting of two long syllables ('-). —'spondaic (spɒn-'denk) *adj.*

sponge ('spʌndʒ) *n.* 1. any of various multicellular typically marine animals, usually occurring in complex sessile colonies in which the porous body is supported by a fibrous, calcareous, or siliceous skeletal framework. 2. a piece of the light porous highly absorbent elastic skeleton of certain sponges, used in bathing, cleaning, etc. 3. any of a number of materials resembling a sponge. 4. another word for **sponger**. 5. *Inf.* a person who indulges in heavy drinking. 6. leavened dough, esp. before kneading. 7. See **sponge cake**. 8. Also called: **sponge pudding**. *Brit.* a light steamed or baked spongy pudding. 9. porous metal capable of absorbing large quantities of gas: *platinum sponge*. 10. a rub with a sponge. 11. **throw in (or up) the sponge (or towel)**. *a.* (in boxing) to concede defeat by the throwing of a sponge or towel into the ring by a second. *b.* to give up after considerable effort. ~*vb.* 12. (*tr.*; often foll. by *off* or *down*) to clean (something) by wiping or rubbing with a damp or wet sponge. 13. (*tr.*; usually foll. by *off*, *away*, *out*, etc.) to remove (marks, etc.) by rubbing with a damp or wet sponge or cloth. 14. (when *tr.*, often foll. by *up*) to absorb (liquids, esp. when spilt) in the manner of a sponge. 15. (*intr.*) to go collecting sponges. 16. *a.* (foll. by *off*) to get something from (someone) by presuming on his generosity: *to sponge a meal off someone*. *b.* (foll. by *off* or *on*) to obtain one's subsistence, etc., unjustifiably from: *he sponges off his friends*. —'spongy *adj.*

sponge bag *n.* a small bag made of plastic or sponge rubber that holds toilet articles, used esp. when travelling.

sponge cake *n.* a light porous cake, made of eggs, sugar, flour, and flavourings without any fat.

sponger ('spʌndʒə) *n.* 1. *Inf.* a person who lives off other people by continually taking advantage of their generosity; parasite or scrounger. 2. a person or ship employed in collecting sponges.

sponsor ('spɒnsə) *n.* 1. a person or group that promotes either another person or group in an activity or the activity itself, either for profit or charity. 2. *Chiefly U.S.* a person or business firm that pays the costs of a radio or television programme in return for advertising time. 3. a legislator who presents and supports a bill, motion, etc. 4. Also called: **godparent**. *a.* an authorized witness who makes the required promises on behalf of a person to be baptized and thereafter assumes responsibility for his Christian upbringing. *b.* a person who presents a candidate for confirmation. ~*vb.* 5. (*tr.*) to act as a sponsor for. —'sponsorial (spɒn'sɔːriəl) *adj.* —'sponsor, ship *n.*

spontaneity ('spɒntə'nɪti, -'nei-) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. the state or quality of being spontaneous. 2. (*often pl.*) the exhibiting of spontaneous actions, impulses, or behaviour.

spontaneous (spɒn'teməs) *adj.* 1. occurring, produced, or performed through natural processes without external influence. 2. arising from an unforced personal impulse; voluntary; unpremeditated. 3. (of plants) growing naturally; indigenous. —'spontaniously *adv.* —'spontanousness *n.*

spontaneous combustion *n.* the ignition of a substance or body as a result of internal oxidation processes, without the application of an external source of heat.

spooft (spu:f) *Inf.* ~*n.* 1. a mildly satirical mockery or parody; lampoon. 2. a good-humoured deception or trick. ~*vb.* 3. to indulge in a spoof of (a person or thing). —**spoofers** *n.*

spook (spu:k) *Inf.* ~*n.* 1. a ghost or a person suggestive of this. 2. *U.S. sl.* a spy. ~*vb.* (tr.) 3. *U.S.* to frighten: to spook horses; to spook a person. 4. *U.S.* (of a ghost) to haunt. —**spooky** *adj.*

spool (spu:l) *n.* 1. a device around which magnetic tape, film, cotton, etc., can be wound, with plates at top and bottom to prevent it from slipping off. 2. anything round which other materials, esp. thread, are wound. ~*vb.* 3. (sometimes foll. by *up*) to wind or be wound onto a spool.

spoon (spu:n) *n.* 1. a utensil having a shallow concave part, usually elliptical in shape, attached to a handle, used in eating or serving food, stirring, etc. 2. Also called: **spoonbait**, an angling lure consisting of a bright piece of metal which swivels on a trace to which are attached a hook or hooks. 3. a golf club with a shorter shaft and shallower face than a brassie. 4. **be born with a silver spoon in one's mouth**, to inherit wealth or social standing. 5. **wooden spoon**, *Brit.* another name for **booby prize**. 6. **Rowing**, a type of oar blade that is curved at the edges and tip. ~*vb.* 7. (tr.) to scoop up or transfer (food, liquid, etc.) from one container to another with or as if with a spoon. 8. (intr.) *Old-fashioned sl.* to kiss and cuddle. 9. **Sport**, to hit (a ball) with a weak lifting motion, as in golf, cricket, etc. —**spoon,ful** *n.*

spoonbill ('spu:n,bil) *n.* any of several wading birds of warm regions, having a long horizontally flattened bill.

spoonerism ('spu:n,ri:zm) *n.* the transposition of the initial consonants or consonant clusters of a pair of words, often resulting in an amusing ambiguity, such as *hush my brat for brush my hat*.

spoon-feed *vb.* **-feeding, -fed.** (tr.) 1. to feed with a spoon. 2. to overindulge or spoil. 3. to provide (a person) with ready-made opinions, judgments, etc.

spoor (spu:, spu:) *n.* 1. the trail of an animal or person, esp. as discernible to the eye. ~*vb.* 2. to track (an animal) by following its trail.

sporadic (spə'reɪdɪk) or **sporadically** *adj.* 1. occurring at irregular points in time; intermittent: *sporadic firing*. 2. scattered; isolated: *a sporadic disease*. —**spo-radical-ly** *adv.*

sporangium (spə'rændʒiəm) *n.*, *pl.* -gia (-dʒiə) any organ, esp. in fungi, in which asexual spores are produced. —**spo-rangial** *adj.*

spore (spɔ:) *n.* 1. a reproductive body, produced by some protozoans and many plants, that develops into a new individual. A **sexual spore** is formed after the fusion of gametes and an **asexual spore** is the result of asexual reproduction. 2. a germ cell, seed, dormant bacterium, or similar body. ~*vb.* 3. (intr.) to produce, carry, or release spores.

spore case *n.* the nontechnical name for **sporangium**.

sporran ('spɒrən) *n.* a large pouch, usually of fur, worn hanging from a belt in front of the kilt in Scottish Highland dress.

sport (spɔ:t) *n.* 1. an individual or group activity pursued for exercise or pleasure, often taking a competitive form. 2. such activities considered collectively. 3. any pastime indulged in for pleasure. 4. the pleasure derived from a pastime, esp. hunting, shooting, or fishing. 5. playful or good-humoured joking: to say a thing in sport. 6. derisive mockery or the object of such mockery: to make sport of someone. 7. someone or something that is controlled by external influences: the sport of fate. 8. *Inf.* (sometimes qualified by *good, bad*, etc.) a person who reacts cheerfully in the face of adversity, esp. a good loser. 9. *Inf.* a person noted for being scrupulously fair and abiding by the rules of a game. 10. *Inf.* a person who leads a merry existence, esp. a gambler: *he's a bit of a sport*. 11. *Austral. & N.Z. inf.* a form of address used esp. between males. 12. *Biol.* a. an animal or plant that differs conspicuously from other organisms of the same species, usually because of a mutation. b. an anomalous characteristic of such an organism. ~*vb.* 13. (tr.) *Inf.* to wear or display in an ostentatious or proud manner: *she was sporting a new hat*. 14. (intr.) to skip about or frolic happily. 15. to amuse (oneself), esp. in outdoor physical recreation. 16. (intr.; often foll. by *with*) *Arch.* to make fun (of). 17. (intr.) *Biol.* to produce or undergo a mutation. —**sporter** *n.* —**sportful** *adj.* —**sportfully** *adv.* —**sportful-ness** *n.*

sporting ('spɔ:tɪŋ) *adj.* 1. (prepositional) of, relating to, or used or engaged in a sport or sports. 2. relating or

conforming to sportsmanship; fair. 3. of or relating to gambling. 4. willing to take a risk. —**sportingly** *adv.*

sportive ('spɔ:tɪv) *adj.* 1. playful or joyous. 2. done in jest rather than seriously. —**sportively** *adv.* —**sport-iveness** *n.*

sports (spɔ:ts) *n.* 1. (modifier) relating to, concerned with, or used in sports: *sports equipment*. 2. Also called: **sports day**, *Brit.* a meeting held at a school or college for competitions in various athletic events.

sports car *n.* a production car designed for speed and manoeuvrability, having a low body and usually seating only two persons.

sportscast ('spɔ:ts,kɑ:st) *n.* *U.S.* a radio or television broadcast consisting of sports news. —**sports,caster** *n.*

sports jacket *n.* a man's informal jacket, made esp. of tweed.

sportsman ('spɔ:tsmən) *n.*, *pl.* -men. 1. a man who takes part in sports, esp. of the outdoor type. 2. a person who exhibits fairness, generosity, observance of the rules, and good humour when losing. —**sportsman-like** or **sportsmanly** *adj.* —**sportsman,ship** *n.*

sportswear ('spɔ:ts,wɛə) *n.* clothes worn for sport or outdoor leisure wear.

sportswoman ('spɔ:ts,wʊmən) *n.*, *pl.* women. a woman who takes part in sports, esp. of the outdoor type.

sporty ('spɔ:tɪ) *adj.* -ier, -iest. 1. vulgarly ostentatious; stylish, loud, or gay. 2. relating to or appropriate to a sportsman or sportswoman. 3. (of women) amorous or wanton; lusty. —**sportily** *adv.* —**sportiness** *n.*

spot (spɒt) *n.* 1. a small mark on a surface, such as a circular patch or stain, differing in colour or texture from its surroundings. 2. a location: *this is the exact spot*. 3. a blemish of the skin, esp. a pimple or one occurring through some disease. 4. a blemish on the character of a person; moral flaw. 5. *Inf.* a place of entertainment: *a night spot*. 6. *Inf.*, chiefly *Brit.* a small quantity or amount: *a spot of lunch*. 7. *Inf.* an awkward situation: *that puts me in a spot*. 8. a short period between regular television or radio programmes that is used for advertising. 9. a position or length of time in a show assigned to a specific performer. 10. short for **spotlight**. 11. (in billiards) *a.* Also called: **spot ball**, the white ball that is distinguished from the plain by a mark or spot. *b.* the player using this ball. 12. (modifier) *a.* to be paid or delivered immediately: *spot cash*. *b.* involving immediate cash payment: *spot sales*. 13. **change one's spots**, (used mainly in negative constructions) to reform one's character. 14. **high spot**, an outstanding event: *the high spot of the holiday*. 15. **knock spots off**, to outstrip or outdo with ease. 16. **on the spot**, *a.* immediately. *b.* at the place in question. *c.* in the best position to deal with a situation. *d.* in an awkward predicament. *e.* (as modifier): *our on-the-spot reporter*. 17. **soft spot**, a special sympathetic affection or weakness for a person or thing. 18. **tight spot**, a serious, difficult, or dangerous situation. 19. **weak spot**, *a.* some aspect of a character or situation that is susceptible to criticism. *b.* a flaw in a person's knowledge. ~*vb.* **spotting, spotted**. 20. (tr.) to observe or perceive suddenly; discern. 21. to put stains or spots upon (something). 22. (intr.) (of some fabrics) to be susceptible to spotting by or as if by water: *silk spots easily*. 23. (tr.) to place here and there: *they spotted observers along the border*. 24. (tr.) *Billiards*, to place (a ball) on one of the table spots. 25. to look out for and note (trains, talent, etc.). 26. (intr.) to rain slightly; spit. —**spotless** *adj.*

spot check *n.* 1. a quick random examination. ~*vb.* **spot-check**. 2. (tr.) to perform a spot check on.

spotlight ('spɒt,lait) *n.* 1. a powerful light focused so as to illuminate a small area. 2. *the.* the focus of attention. ~*vb.* **-lighting, -lit or -lighted.** (tr.) 3. to direct a spotlight on. 4. to focus attention on.

spot-on *adj.* *Brit. inf.* absolutely correct; very accurate.

spotted ('spɒtɪd) *adj.* 1. characterized by spots or marks, esp. in having a pattern of spots. 2. stained or blemished; soiled or bespattered.

spotted dick or dog *n.* *Brit.* a steamed or boiled suet pudding containing dried fruit and shaped into a roll.

spotter ('spɒtə) *n.* 1. *a.* a person or thing that watches or observes. *b.* (as modifier): *a spotter plane*. 2. a person who makes a hobby of watching for and noting numbers or types of trains, buses, etc.: *a train spotter*. 3. *Mil.* a person who advises adjustment of fire on a target by observations. 4. a person, esp. one engaged in civil defence, who watches for enemy aircraft.

spotty ('spɒtɪ) *adj.* -tier, -tiest. 1. abounding in or characterized by spots or marks, esp. on the skin. 2. not

consistent or uniform; irregular or uneven. —**'spottily** adv. —**'spottiness** n.

spouse *n.* (spaus, spauz). 1. a person's partner in marriage. Related adj.: **spousal**. ~vb. (spauz, spaus). 2. (tr.) Obs. to marry.

spout (spaut) vb. 1. to discharge (a liquid) in a continuous jet or in spurts, esp. through a narrow gap or under pressure, or (of a liquid) to gush thus. 2. (of a whale, etc.) to discharge air through the blowhole in a spray at the surface of the water. 3. *Inf.* to utter (a stream of words) on a subject. ~n. 4. a tube, pipe, chute, etc., allowing the passage or pouring of liquids, grain, etc. 5. a continuous stream or jet of liquid. 6. short for **water-spout**. 7. *up the spout*. *Sl.* a. ruined or lost: *any hope of rescue is right up the spout*. b. pregnant. —**'spouter** n.

sprain (sprein) vb. 1. (tr.) to injure (a joint) by a sudden twisting or wrenching of its ligaments. ~n. 2. the injury, characterized by swelling and temporary disability.

sprang (spræŋ) vb. the past tense of **spring**.

sprat (spræt) n. 1. Also called: **bristling**. a small marine food fish of the herring family. 2. any of various small or young herrings.

sprawl (sprɔ:l) vb. 1. (intr.) to sit or lie in an ungainly manner with one's limbs spread out. 2. to fall down or knock down with the limbs spread out in an ungainly way. 3. to spread out or cause to spread out in a straggling fashion: *his handwriting sprawled all over the paper*. ~n. 4. the act or an instance of sprawling. 5. a sprawling posture or arrangement of items. —**'sprawly** adj.

spray¹ (sprei) n. 1. fine particles of a liquid. 2. a. a liquid, such as perfume, paint, etc., designed to be discharged from an aerosol or atomizer: *hair spray*. b. the aerosol or atomizer itself. 3. a quantity of small objects flying through the air: *a spray of bullets*. ~vb. 4. to scatter (liquid) in the form of fine particles. 5. to discharge (a liquid) from an aerosol or atomizer. 6. (tr.) to treat or bombard with a spray: *to spray the lawn*. —**'sprayer** n.

spray² (sprei) n. a single slender shoot, twig, or branch that bears buds, leaves, flowers, or berries, either growing on or detached from a plant.

spray gun n. a device that sprays a fluid in a finely divided form by atomizing it in an air jet.

spread (spred) vb. **spreading**, **spread**. 1. to extend or unfold or be extended or unfolded to the fullest width: *she spread the map*. 2. to extend or cause to extend over a larger expanse: *the milk spread all over the floor*; *the economic unrest spread over several years*. 3. to apply or be applied in a coating: *butter does not spread very well when cold*. 4. to distribute or be distributed over an area or region. 5. to display or be displayed in its fullest extent: *the landscape spread before us*. 6. (tr.) to prepare (a table) for a meal. 7. (tr.) to lay out (a meal) on a table. 8. to send or be sent out in all directions; disseminate or be disseminated: *someone was spreading rumours*; *the disease spread quickly*. 9. (of rails, wires, etc.) to force or be forced apart. 10. to increase the breadth of (a part), esp. to flatten the head of a rivet by pressing, hammering, or forging. 11. (tr.) *Agriculture*. a. to lay out (hay) in a relatively thin layer to dry. b. to scatter (seed, manure, etc.) over an area. 12. (tr.; often foll. by *around*) *Inf.* to make (oneself) agreeable to a large number of people. ~n. 13. the act or process of spreading; diffusion, dispersion, expansion, etc. 14. *Inf.* the wingspan of an aircraft. 15. an extent of space or time; stretch: *a spread of 50 years*. 16. *Inf.*, chiefly U.S. a ranch or large tract of land. 17. the limit of something fully extended: *the spread of a bird's wings*. 18. a covering for a table or bed. 19. *Inf.* a large meal or feast, esp. when it is laid out on a table. 20. a food which can be spread on bread, etc.: *salmon spread*. 21. two facing pages in a book or other publication. 22. a widening of the hips and waist: *middle-age spread*. ~adj. 23. extended or stretched out, esp. to the fullest extent. —**'spreadable** adj. —**'spreader** n.

spread-eagle adj. also **spread-eagled**. 1. lying or standing with arms and legs outstretched. ~vb. 2. to assume or cause to assume the shape of a spread eagle.

spre (spri:) n. 1. a session of considerable overindulgence, esp. in drinking, squandering money, etc. 2. a romp.

sprig (sprig) n. 1. a shoot, twig, or sprout of a tree, shrub, etc.; spray. 2. an ornamental device resembling a spray of leaves or flowers. 3. Also called: **dowel pin**. a small wire nail without a head. 4. *Inf.*, rare. a youth. 5. *Inf.*, rare. a person considered as the descendant of an

established family, social class, etc. ~vb. **sprigging**, **sprigged**. (tr.) 6. to fasten or secure with sprigs. 7. to ornament (fabric, etc.) with a design of sprigs. —**'sprigger** n. —**'spriggy** adj.

sprightly ('spraitli) adj. **-lier**, **-liest**. 1. full of vitality; lively and gay. ~adv. 2. Obs. in a gay or lively manner. —**'sprightliness** n.

spring (spring) vb. **springing**, **sprang** or **sprung**; **sprung**. 1. to move or cause to move suddenly upwards or forwards in a single motion. 2. to release or be released from a forced position by elastic force: *the bolt sprang back*. 3. (tr.) to leap or jump over. 4. (intr.) to come or arise suddenly. 5. (intr.) (of a part of a mechanism, etc.) to jump out of place. 6. to make (wood, etc.) warped or split or (of wood, etc.) to become warped or split. 7. to happen or cause to happen unexpectedly: *to spring a surprise*. 8. (intr.; usually foll. by *from*) to originate; be descended: *the idea sprang from a chance meeting*; *he sprang from peasant stock*. 9. (intr.; often foll. by *up*) to come into being or appear suddenly: *factories springing up*. 10. (intr.) (of game or quarry) to start or rise suddenly from cover. 11. to explode (a mine) or (of a mine) to explode. 12. (tr.) to provide with a spring or springs. 13. (tr.) *Inf.* to arrange the escape of (someone) from prison. 14. (intr.) *Arch. or poetic*. (of daylight or dawn) to begin to appear. ~n. 15. the act or an instance of springing. 16. a leap, jump, or bound. 17. a. the quality of resilience; elasticity. b. (as modifier): *spring steel*. 18. the act or an instance of moving rapidly back from a position of tension. 19. a. a natural outflow of ground water, as forming the source of a stream. b. (as modifier): *spring water*. 20. a. a device, such as a coil or strip of steel, that stores potential energy when it is compressed, stretched, or bent and releases it when the restraining force is removed. b. (as modifier): *a spring mattress*. 21. a structural defect such as a warp or bend. 22. a. (sometimes cap.) the season of the year between winter and summer, astronomically from the March equinox to the June solstice in the N hemisphere and from the September equinox to the December solstice in the S hemisphere. b. (as modifier): *spring showers*. Related adj.: **vernal**. 23. the earliest or freshest time of something. 24. a source or origin. 25. Also called: **spring line**. *Naut.* a mooring line, usually one of a pair that cross amidships. —**'springless** adj. —**'spring, like** adj.

spring balance or esp. U.S. **spring scale** n. a device in which an object to be weighed is attached to the end of a helical spring, the extension of which indicates the weight of the object on a calibrated scale.

springboard ('sprɪŋ,bɔ:d) n. 1. a flexible board, usually projecting low over the water, used for diving. 2. a similar board used for gaining height or momentum in gymnastics. 3. *Austral.* a board inserted into the trunk of a tree at some height above the ground on which a lumberjack stands to chop down the tree. 4. anything that serves as a point of departure or initiation.

springbok or **springbuck** ('sprɪŋ,bʌk) n., pl. **-boks**, **-boks** or **-buck**, **-bucks**. an antelope of semidesert regions of southern Africa, which moves in leaps.

Springbok ('sprɪŋ,bʌk, -bɒk) n. an amateur athlete who has represented South Africa in international competitions, esp. in cricket or rugby.

spring chicken n. 1. Chiefly U.S. a young chicken, tender for cooking, esp. one from two to ten months old. 2. *Inf.* a young, inexperienced, or unsophisticated person.

spring-clean vb. 1. to clean (a house) thoroughly: *traditionally at the end of the winter*. ~n. 2. an instance of this. —**'spring-cleaning** n.

springer ('sprɪŋə) n. 1. a person or thing that springs. 2. short for **springer spaniel**. 3. *Archit.* a. the first and lowest stone of an arch. b. the impost of an arch.

springer spaniel n. a breed of spaniel with a silky coat, usually black or liver and white.

spring onion n. an immature form of the onion, widely cultivated for its tiny bulb and long green leaves which are eaten in salads, etc. Also called: **scallion**.

spring tide n. 1. either of the two tides that occur at or just after new moon and full moon: the greatest rise in tidal level. Cf. **neap tide**. 2. any great rush or flood.

springtime ('sprɪŋ,tam) n. 1. Also called: **springtide** ('sprɪŋ,taid). the season of spring. 2. the earliest, usually the most attractive, period of the existence of something.

springy ('sprɪŋi) adj. **-ier**, **-iest**. 1. possessing or characterized by resilience or bounce. 2. (of a place) having many springs of water. —**'springily** adv. —**'springiness** n.

sprinkle ('sprɪŋkl) *vb.* 1. to scatter (liquid, powder, etc.) in tiny particles or droplets over (something). 2. (*tr.*) to distribute over (something): *the field was sprinkled with flowers*. 3. (*intr.*) to drizzle slightly. ~*n.* 4. the act or an instance of sprinkling or a quantity that is sprinkled. 5. a slight drizzle. —'sprinkler *n.*

sprinkling ('sprɪŋklɪŋ) *n.* a small quantity or amount: *a sprinkling of common sense*.

sprint ('sprɪnt) *n.* 1. *Athletics.* a. a short race run at top speed. b. a fast finishing run at the end of a longer race. 2. any quick run. —*vb.* 3. (*intr.*) to go at top speed, as in running, cycling, etc. —'sprinter *n.*

sprit ('sprɪt) *n.* *Naut.* a light spar pivoted at the mast and crossing a fore-and-aft quadrilateral sail diagonally to the peak.

sprite ('sprɪt) *n.* 1. (in folklore) a nimble elflike creature, esp. one associated with water. 2. a small dainty person.

spritsail ('sprɪtseɪl; *Naut.* 'sprɪtsəl) *n.* *Naut.* a sail extended by a sprit.

sprocket ('sprɒkɪt) *n.* 1. Also called: **sprocket wheel**. a relatively thin wheel having teeth projecting radially from the rim, esp. one that drives or is driven by a chain. 2. an individual tooth on such a wheel. 3. a cylindrical wheel with teeth on one or both rims for pulling film through a camera or projector.

sprout ('spraut) *vb.* 1. (of a plant, seed, etc.) to produce (new leaves, shoots, etc.). 2. (*intr.*; often foll. by *up*) to begin to grow or develop. ~*n.* 3. a newly grown shoot or bud. 4. something that grows like a sprout. 5. See **Brussels sprout**.

spruce ('spru:s) *n.* 1. any coniferous tree of a N temperate genus, cultivated for timber and for ornament. They grow in a pyramidal shape and have needle-like leaves and light-coloured wood. 2. the wood of any of these trees.

spruce ('spru:s) *adj.* neat, smart, and trim. —'sprucely *adv.* —'spruceness *n.*

spruce up *vb.* (*adv.*) to make (oneself, a person, or thing) smart and neat.

sprung ('sprʌŋ) *vb.* the past participle or a past tense of **spring**.

spry ('sprɪ) *adj.* spryer, spryest or sprier, spriest. active and brisk; nimble. —'sprily *adv.* —'spryness *n.*

spud ('spʌd) *n.* 1. an informal word for **potato**. 2. a narrow-bladed spade for cutting roots, digging up weeds, etc. ~*vb.* **spudding, spudded.** 3. (*tr.*) to eradicate (weeds) with a spud. 4. (*intr.*) to drill the first foot of an oil well.

spue ('spju:) *vb.* **spuing, spued.** an archaic spelling of **spew**. —'spuer *n.*

spume ('spju:m) *n.* 1. foam or surf, esp. on the sea; froth. ~*vb.* 2. (*intr.*) to foam or froth. —'spumous or 'spummy *adj.*

spun ('spʌn) *vb.* 1. the past tense or past participle of **spin**. —*adj.* 2. formed or manufactured by spinning: *spun gold; spun glass*.

spunk ('spʌŋk) *n.* 1. *Inf.* courage or spirit. 2. touchwood or tinder. —'spunky *adj.* —'spunkily *adv.*

spur ('spɜ:) *n.* 1. a pointed device or sharp spiked wheel fixed to the heel of a rider's boot to enable him to urge his horse on. 2. anything serving to urge or encourage. 3. a sharp horny projection from the leg in male birds, such as the domestic cock. 4. a pointed process in any of various animals. 5. a tubular extension at the base of the corolla in flowers such as larkspur. 6. a short or stunted branch of a tree. 7. a ridge projecting laterally from a mountain or mountain range. 8. another name for **groyne**. 9. Also called: **spur track**. a railway branch line or siding. 10. a sharp cutting instrument attached to the leg of a gamecock. 11. on the spur of the moment. on impulse. 12. win one's spurs. a. *History.* to earn knighthood. b. to prove one's ability; gain distinction. ~*vb.* **spurring, spurred.** 13. (*tr.*) to goad or urge with or as if with spurs. 14. (*intr.*) to go or ride quickly; press on. 15. (*tr.*) to provide with a spur or spurs.

spurge ('spɜ:dʒ) *n.* any of various plants that have milky sap and small flowers typically surrounded by conspicuous bracts.

spurious ('spjuəriəs) *adj.* 1. not genuine or real. 2. (of a plant part or organ) resembling another part in appearance only; false: *a spurious fruit*. 3. Rare. illegitimate. —'spuriously *adv.* —'spurioussness *n.*

spurn ('spɜ:n) *vb.* 1. to reject (a person or thing) with contempt. 2. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *against*) *Arch.* to kick (at). ~*n.* 3. an instance of spurning. 4. *Arch.* a kick or thrust. —'spurner *n.*

spurt or spirt ('spɜ:t) *vb.* 1. to gush or cause to gush forth in a sudden stream or jet. 2. to make a sudden effort. ~*n.* 3. a sudden stream or jet. 4. a short burst of activity, speed, or energy.

sputnik ('spʊtnɪk, 'spʌt-) *n.* any of a series of Soviet artificial satellites, **Sputnik 1** (launched in 1957) being the first man-made satellite to orbit the earth.

sputter ('spʌtə) *vb.* 1. another word for **splutter** (senses 1-3). 2. *Physics.* a. to undergo or cause to undergo a process in which atoms of a solid are removed from its surface by the impact of high-energy ions. b. to coat (a metal) onto (a solid surface) by this process. ~*n.* 3. the process or noise of sputtering. 4. incoherent stammering speech. 5. something ejected while sputtering. —'sputterer *n.*

sputum ('spju:təm) *n.*, *pl.* -ta (-tə). saliva ejected from the mouth, esp. mixed with mucus.

spy ('spai) *n.*, *pl.* spies. 1. a person employed by a state or institution to obtain secret information from rival countries, organizations, companies, etc. 2. a person who keeps secret watch on others. 3. *Obs.* a close view. ~*vb.* **spying, spied.** 4. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *on*) to keep a secret or furtive watch (on). 5. (*intr.*) to engage in espionage. 6. (*tr.*) to catch sight of; descry.

spyglass ('spai,glɑ:s) *n.* a small telescope.

spy out *vb.* (*tr.*, *adv.*) 1. to discover by careful observation. 2. to make a close scrutiny of.

sq. *abbrev. for:* 1. sequence. 2. square. 3. (*pl.* sqq.) the following one.

Sq. *abbrev. for:* 1. Squadron. 2. Square.

squab ('skwɒb) *n.*, *pl.* squabs or squab. 1. a young unfledged bird, esp. a pigeon. 2. a short fat person. 3. a. a well-stuffed bolster or cushion. b. a sofa. ~*adj.* 4. (of birds) unfledged. 5. short and fat. —'squabby *adj.*

squabble ('skwɒbəl) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to quarrel over a small matter. ~*n.* 2. a petty quarrel. —'squabbler *n.*

squad ('skwɒd) *n.* 1. the smallest military formation, typically a dozen soldiers, esp. a drill formation. 2. any small group of people engaged in a common pursuit. 3. *Sport.* a number of players from which a team is to be selected.

squadron ('skwɒdrən) *n.* 1. a subdivision of a naval fleet detached for a particular task. 2. a cavalry unit comprising two or more troops. 3. the basic tactical and administrative air force unit comprising two or more flights.

squadron leader *n.* an officer holding commissioned rank, between flight lieutenant and wing commander in the air forces of Britain and certain other countries.

squalid ('skwɒlɪd) *adj.* 1. dirty and repulsive, esp. as a result of neglect or poverty. 2. sordid. —'squalidity ('skwɒ'lɪdɪ) or 'squalidness *n.* —'squalidly *adv.*

squall¹ ('skwɒ:l) *n.* 1. a sudden strong wind or brief turbulent storm. 2. any sudden commotion. ~*vb.* 3. (*intr.*) to blow in a squall. —'squally *adj.*

squall² ('skwɒ:l) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to cry noisily; yell. ~*n.* 2. a shrill or noisy yell or howl. —'squaller *n.*

squalor ('skwɒlə) *n.* the condition or quality of being squalid; disgusting filth.

squander ('skwɒndə) *vb.* (*tr.*) to spend wastefully or extravagantly; dissipate. —'squanderer *n.* —'squanderingly *adv.*

square ('skweɪ) *n.* 1. a plane geometric figure having four equal sides and four right angles. 2. any object, part, or arrangement having this or a similar shape. 3. an open area in a town, sometimes including the surrounding buildings, which may form a square. 4. *Maths.* the product of two equal factors; the second power: *the square of 2 is written 2²*. 5. an instrument having two strips of wood, metal, etc., set in the shape of a T or L, used for constructing or testing right angles. 6. *Inf.* a person who is old-fashioned in views, customs, appearance, etc. 7. *Obs.* a standard, pattern, or rule. 8. back to square one. indicating a return to the starting point because of failure, lack of progress, etc. 9. on the square. a. at right angles. b. *Inf.* honestly and openly. 10. out of square. a. not at right angles or not having a right angle. b. not in order or agreement. ~*adj.* 11. being a square in shape or section. 12. having or forming one or more right angles or being at right angles to something. 13. a. (*prepositional*) denoting a measure of area of any shape: *a circle of four square feet*. b. (*immediately postpositive*) denoting a square having a specified length on each side: *a board four feet square*. 14. fair and honest (esp. in a square deal). 15. straight, even, or level: *a square surface*. 16. *Cricket.* at right angles to the wicket: *square leg*. 17. *Soccer, hockey, etc.* in a straight line across the pitch: *a square*

pass. 18. *Naut.* (of the sails of a square-rigged ship) set at right angles to the keel. 19. *Inf.* old-fashioned. 20. stocky or sturdy: *square shoulders*. 21. (*postpositive*) having no remaining debts or accounts to be settled. 22. (*prenominal*) unequivocal or straightforward: *a square contradiction*. 23. (*postpositive*) neat and tidy. 24. *all square*, on equal terms; even in score. 25. *square meal*, a meal consisting of enough food to satisfy. 26. *square peg (in a round hole)*, a person or thing that is a misfit. ~*vb.* (*mainly tr.*) 27. to make into a square or similar shape. 28. *Maths.* to raise (a number or quantity) to the second power. 29. to test or adjust for deviation with respect to a right angle, plane surface, etc. 30. (sometimes foll. by *off*) to divide into squares. 31. to position so as to be rectangular, straight, or level: *to square the shoulders*. 32. (sometimes foll. by *up*) to settle (debts, accounts, etc.). 33. to level (the score) in a game, etc. 34. (*also intr.*; often foll. by *with*) to agree or cause to agree: *your ideas don't square with mine*. 35. to arrange (something) or come to an arrangement with (someone) as by bribery: *he squared the speeding summons*. 36. *square the circle*, to attempt the impossible (in reference to the insoluble problem of constructing a square having exactly the same area as a given circle). ~*adv.* 37. in order to be square. 38. at right angles. 39. *Soccer, hockey, etc.* in a straight line across the pitch: *to pass the ball square*. 40. *Inf.* squarely. ~*See also square off, square up.* —*'squareness n.* —*'squarer n.*

square-bashing *n.* *Brit. mil. sl.* drill on a barrack square.

square bracket *n.* 1. either of a pair of characters [], used to enclose a section of writing or printing to separate it from the main text. 2. Also called: *bracket*. either of these characters used as a sign of aggregation in mathematical or logical expressions.

square dance *n.* 1. any of various formation dances in which the couples form squares. ~*vb.* *square-dance*. 2. (*intr.*) to perform such a dance. —*'square-dancer n.*

square leg *n.* *Cricket.* 1. a fielding position on the on side approximately at right angles to the batsman. 2. a person who fields in this position.

squarely ('skwɛəli) *adv.* 1. in a direct way; straight: *he hit me squarely on the nose*. 2. in an honest, frank, and just manner. 3. at right angles.

square measure *n.* a unit or system of units for measuring areas.

square off *vb.* (*intr., adv.*) to assume a posture of offence or defence, as in boxing.

square-rigged *adj.* *Naut.* rigged with square sails.

square root *n.* a number or quantity that when multiplied by itself gives a given number or quantity: 2 is the square root of 4.

square up *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. to pay or settle (bills, debts, etc.). 2. *Inf.* to arrange or be arranged satisfactorily. 3. (*intr.*; foll. by *to*) to prepare to be confronted (with), esp. courageously.

squash¹ ('skwɒʃ) *vb.* 1. to press or squeeze or be pressed or squeezed in or down so as to crush, distort, or pulp. 2. (*tr.*) to suppress or overcome. 3. (*tr.*) to humiliate or crush (a person), esp. with a disconcerting retort. 4. (*intr.*) to make a sucking, splashing, or squelching sound. 5. (often foll. by *in* or *into*) to enter or insert in a confined space. ~*n.* 6. *Brit.* a still drink made from fruit juice or fruit syrup diluted with water. 7. a crush, esp. of people in a confined space. 8. something squashed. 9. the act or sound of squashing or the state of being squashed. 10. Also called: *squash rackets*, a game for two or four players played in an enclosed court with a small rubber ball and light long-handled rackets. 11. Also called: *squash tennis*, a similar game played with larger rackets and a larger pneumatic ball. —*'squasher n.*

squash² ('skwɒʃ) *n.*, *pl. squashes* or *squash*. 1. *U.S.* any of various marrow-like plants, the fruits of which have a hard rind surrounding edible flesh. 2. the fruit, eaten as a vegetable.

squashy ('skwɒʃi) *adj.* -ier, -iest. 1. easily squashed; pulpy: *a squashy peach*. 2. soft and wet; marshy. —*'squashily adv.* —*'squashiness n.*

squat ('skwɒt) *vb.* *squatting, squatted.* (*intr.*) 1. to rest in a crouching position with the knees bent and the weight on the feet. 2. to crouch down, esp. in order to hide. 3. *Law.* to occupy land to which the occupant has no legal title. ~*adj.* 4. Also: *squatty* ('skwɒti) short and broad. ~*n.* 5. a squatting position. 6. a house occupied by squatters. —*'squatly adv.* —*'squateness n.*

squatter ('skwɒtə) *n.* 1. (in Britain) a person who occupies land wrongfully. 2. (in Australia) a grazier

with extensive holdings. **b. History.** a person occupying land as tenant of the Crown.

squaw (skwɔː) *n.* 1. a North American Indian woman. 2. *Sl.*, usually facetious, a woman or wife.

squawk (skwɔːk) *n.* 1. a loud raucous cry; screech. 2. *Inf.* a loud complaint. ~*vb.* 3. to utter (with) a squawk. 4. (*intr.*) *Inf.* to complain loudly. —*'squawker n.*

squeak (skwi:k) *n.* 1. a short shrill cry or high-pitched sound. 2. *Inf.* an escape (esp. in narrow squeak, near squeak). ~*vb.* 3. to make or cause to make a squeak. 4. *U.S.* to pass with only a narrow margin: *to squeak through an examination*. 5. (*intr.*) *Inf.* to confess information about oneself or another. 6. (*tr.*) to utter with a squeak. —*'squeaker n.* —*'squeaky adj.*

squeal (skwi:l) *n.* 1. a high shrill yelp, as of pain. 2. a screaming sound. ~*vb.* 3. to utter (with) a squeal. 4. (*intr.*) *Sl.* to confess information about another. 5. (*intr.*) *Inf.*, chiefly *Brit.* to complain loudly. —*'squealer n.*

squeamish ('skwi:mʃ) *adj.* 1. easily sickened or nauseated. 2. easily shocked; prudish. 3. easily frightened: *squeamish about spiders*. —*'squeamishly adv.* —*'squeamishness n.*

squeegee ('skwi:dʒi) or **squigee** *n.* 1. an implement with a rubber blade used for wiping away surplus water from a surface, such as a windowpane. 2. any of various similar devices used in photography for pressing water out of wet prints or negatives or for squeezing prints onto a glazing surface. ~*vb.* -*geeing, -geed*. 3. to remove (liquid) from (something) by use of a squeegee.

squeeze (skwi:z) *vb.* (*mainly tr.*) 1. to grip or press firmly, esp. so as to crush or distort. 2. to crush or press (something) so as to extract (a liquid): *to squeeze juice from an orange; to squeeze an orange*. 3. to apply gentle pressure to, as in affection or reassurance: *he squeezed her hand*. 4. to push or force in a confined space: *to squeeze six lettuce into one box; to squeeze through a crowd*. 5. to hug closely. 6. to oppress with exacting demands, such as excessive taxes. 7. to exert pressure on (someone) in order to extort (something): *to squeeze money out of a victim by blackmail*. 8. (*tr.*) *Bridge, whist.* to lead a card that forces (opponents) to discard potentially winning cards. ~*n.* 9. the act or an instance of squeezing or of being squeezed. 10. a hug or hand-clasp. 11. a crush of people in a confined space. 12. Chiefly *Brit.* a condition of restricted credit imposed by a government to counteract price inflation. 13. an amount extracted by squeezing: *a squeeze of lemon juice*. 14. *Inf.* pressure brought to bear in order to extort something (esp. in *put the squeeze on*). 15. Also called: *squeeze play*. *Bridge, whist.* a manoeuvre that forces opponents to discard potentially winning cards. —*'squeezeable adj.* —*'squeezer n.*

squelch (skwelʃ) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to walk laboriously through soft wet material or with wet shoes, making a sucking noise. 2. (*intr.*) to make such a noise. 3. (*tr.*) to crush completely; squash. 4. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to silence, as by a crushing retort. ~*n.* 5. a squelching sound. 6. something that has been squelched. 7. *Inf.* a crushing remark. —*'squelcher n.*

squib (skwɪb) *n.* 1. a firework that burns with a hissing noise and culminates in a small explosion. 2. a short witty attack; lampoon. 3. *damp squib*, something intended but failing to impress. ~*vb.* *squibbing, squibbed*. 4. (*intr.*) to sound, move, or explode like a squib. 5. (*intr.*) to let off or shoot a squib. 6. to write a squib against (someone).

squid (skwid) *n.*, *pl. squid* or *squids*. any of various ten-limbed pelagic cephalopod molluscs of most seas, having a torpedo-shaped body ranging from about 10 centimetres to 16.5 metres long. See also *cuttlefish*.

squiffy ('skwɪfi) *adj.* -fier, -fiest. *Brit. inf.* slightly drunk.

squiggle ('skwigl) *n.* 1. a mark or movement in the form of a wavy line; curlicue. 2. an illegible scrawl. ~*vb.* 3. (*intr.*) to wriggle. 4. (*intr.*) to form or draw squiggles. 5. (*tr.*) to make into squiggles. —*'squiggler n.* —*'squiggly adj.*

squill (skwil) *n.* 1. Also called: *sea squill*, a Mediterranean plant of the lily family. 2. any of various related Old World plants. 3. the bulb of the sea squill, which is sliced, dried, and used medicinally, as an expectorant.

squant (skwɪnt) *vb.* 1. (*usually intr.*) to cross or partly close (the eyes). 2. (*intr.*) to have a squint. 3. (*intr.*) to look or glance sideways or askance. ~*n.* 4. the non-technical name for *strabismus*. 5. the act or an instance of squinting; glimpse. 6. a narrow oblique opening in a wall or pillar of a church to permit a view of the

main altar from a side aisle or transept. ~*adj.* 7. having a squint. —**'squinter** *n.* —**'squinty** *adj.*

squire (skwaɪə) *n.* 1. a country gentleman in England, esp. the main landowner in a rural community. 2. *Feudal history.* a young man of noble birth, who attended upon a knight. 3. *Rare.* a man who courts or escorts a woman. 4. *Inf., chiefly Brit.* a term of address used by one man to another. ~*vb.* 5. (*tr.*) (of a man) to escort a woman.

squirearchy or **squirarchy** ('skwaɪə,rɑ:kɪ) *n., pl. -chies.* 1. government by squires. 2. squires collectively, esp. as a political or social force. —**'squire'archal**, **squir'archal** or **squire'archical**, **squir'archical** *adj.*

squirm (skwɜ:m) *vb. (intr.)* 1. to move with a wriggling motion; writhe. 2. to feel deep mental discomfort, guilt, embarrassment, etc. ~*n.* 3. a squirming movement. —**'squirmer** *n.* —**'squirmy** *adj.*

squirrel ('skwɪrəl) *n., pl. -rels or -rel.* 1. any of various arboreal rodents having a bushy tail and feeding on nuts, seeds, etc. 2. any of various related rodents, such as a ground squirrel or a marmot. 3. the fur of such an animal. 4. *Inf.* a person who hoards things.

squirt (skwɜ:t) *vb.* 1. to force (a liquid) or (of a liquid) to be forced out of a narrow opening. 2. to cover or spatter with liquid so ejected. ~*n.* 3. a jet or amount of liquid so ejected. 4. the act or an instance of squirting. 5. an instrument used for squirting. 6. *Inf. a.* a person regarded as insignificant or contemptible. *b.* a short person. —**'squirter** *n.*

squish (skwɪʃ) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to crush, esp. so as to make a soft splashing noise. 2. (*intr.*) (of mud, etc.) to make a splashing noise. ~*n.* 3. a soft squashing sound. —**'squishy** *adj.*

Sr the chemical symbol for strontium.

Sr. or **Sr** *abbrev. for:* 1. (after a name) senior. 2. Señor. 3. Sir. 4. Sister (religious).

S.R.C. (in Britain) *abbrev. for* Science Research Council.

Sri Lankan (sri 'læŋkən) *adj.* 1. of Sri Lanka, a republic in S Asia, or its inhabitants. ~*n.* 2. an inhabitant of Sri Lanka.

S.R.N. (in Britain) *abbrev. for* State Registered Nurse.

SS *abbrev. for:* 1. Saints. 2. a paramilitary organization within the Nazi party that provided Hitler's bodyguard, security forces, concentration camp guards, etc. 3. steamship.

S.S. *abbrev. for* steamship.

SSE *abbrev. for* south-southeast.

SSR *abbrev. for* Soviet Socialist Republic.

S.S.R.C. (in Britain) *abbrev. for* Social Science Research Council.

SSW *abbrev. for* south-southwest.

st. *abbrev. for:* 1. stanza. 2. statute. 3. Cricket. stumped by. 4. stone.

St. or **St** *abbrev. for:* 1. Saint (all entries that are usually preceded by *St.* are in this dictionary listed alphabetically under *Saint*). 2. statute. 3. Strait. 4. Street.

-st *suffix.* a variant of **-est**.

stab (stæb) *vb.* **stabbing**, **stabbed.** 1. (*tr.*) to pierce or injure with a sharp pointed instrument. 2. (*tr.*) (of a sharp pointed instrument) to pierce or wound. 3. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *at*) to make a thrust; jab. 4. (*tr.*) to inflict with a sharp pain. 5. **stab in the back.** *a. (vb.)* to damage (the reputation, etc., of a person, esp. a friend) in a surreptitious way. *b. (n.)* a treacherous action or remark that causes the downfall or injury to a person. ~*n.* 6. the act or an instance of stabbing. 7. an injury or rift made by stabbing. 8. a sudden sensation, esp. an unpleasant one: *a stab of pity.* 9. an attempt (esp. in *make a stab at*). —**'stabber** *n.*

stable ('steɪbəl) *n.* 1. Arts. a stationary abstract construction, usually of wire, metal, wood, etc. ~*adj.* 2. fixed; stable. 3. resistant to chemical change.

stability (stə'bilɪtɪ) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. the quality of being stable. 2. the ability of an aircraft to resume its original flight path after inadvertent displacement.

stabilize or **-ise** ('steɪbɪ,ləɪz) *vb.* 1. to make or become stable or more stable. 2. to keep or be kept stable. 3. (*tr.*) to put or keep (an aircraft, vessel, etc.) in equilibrium by one or more special devices, or (of an aircraft, etc.) to become stable. —**'stabilization** or **-isation** *n.*

stabilizer or **-iser** ('steɪbɪ,ləɪzə) *n.* 1. any device for stabilizing an aircraft. 2. a substance added to something to maintain it in a stable or unchanging state. 3. *Naut. a.* a system of pairs of fins projecting from the hull

of a ship and controllable to counteract roll. *b.* See **gyrostabilizer**. 4. a person or thing that stabilizes.

stable ('steɪbəl) *n.* 1. a building, usually consisting of stalls, for the lodging of horses or other livestock. 2. the animals lodged in such a building, collectively. 3. *a.* the racehorses belonging to a particular establishment or owner. *b.* the establishment itself. *c. (as modifier): stable companion.* 4. *Inf.* a source of training, such as a school, theatre, etc.: *the two athletes were out of the same stable.* 5. a number of people considered as a source of a particular talent: *a stable of writers.* 6. (*modifier*) of, relating to, or suitable for a stable: *stable door.* ~*vb.* 7. to put, keep, or be kept in a stable.

stable ('steɪbəl) *adj.* 1. steady in position or balance; firm. 2. lasting: *a stable relationship.* 3. steadfast or firm of purpose. 4. (of an elementary particle, etc.) not undergoing decay; not radioactive. 5. (of a chemical compound) not readily partaking in a chemical change. —**'stability** *n.* —**'stably** *adv.*

staccato (stə'kætəʊ) *adj.* 1. *Music.* (of notes) short, clipped, and separate. 2. characterized by short abrupt sounds, as in speech: *a staccato command.* ~*adv.* 3. (esp. used as a musical direction) in a staccato manner.

stack (stæk) *n.* 1. an ordered pile or heap. 2. a large orderly pile of hay, straw, etc., for storage in the open air. 3. (*often pl.*) compactly spaced bookshelves, used to house collections of books in an area usually prohibited to library users. 4. a number of aircraft circling an airport at different altitudes, awaiting their signal to land. 5. a large amount. 6. *Mil.* a pile of rifles or muskets in the shape of a cone. 7. *Brit.* a measure of coal or wood equal to 108 cubic feet. 8. *a.* In full chimney stack, the part of a chimney that rises above the roof of a building. *b.* short for **smokestack**. 9. a vertical pipe, such as the funnel of a ship or the soil pipe attached to the side of a building. 10. a high column of rock, esp. one isolated from the mainland by the erosive action of the sea. 11. an area in a computer memory for temporary storage. ~*vb. (tr.)* 12. to place in a stack; pile. 13. to load or fill up with piles of something: *to stack a lorry with bricks.* 14. to control a number of aircraft waiting to land at an airport so that each flies at a different altitude. 15. **stack the cards.** to prearrange the order of a pack of cards secretly so as to cheat. —**'stacker** *n.*

stadium ('steɪdɪəm) *n., pl. -diums or -dia* (-diə). 1. a sports arena with tiered seats for spectators. 2. (in ancient Greece) a course for races, usually located between two hills providing slopes for tiers of seats. 3. an ancient Greek measure of length equivalent to about 607 feet or 184 metres.

staff (stɑ:f) *n., pl. staffs for senses 1-3; staves or staves (steɪvz) for senses 4-9.* 1. *a.* a group of people employed by a company, individual, etc., for executive, clerical, sales work, etc. *b. (as modifier): a staff doctor.* 2. the body of teachers or lecturers of an educational institution. 3. *Mil.* the officers appointed to assist a commander, service, or central headquarters organization. 4. a stick with some special use, such as a walking stick or an emblem of authority. 5. something that sustains or supports: *bread is the staff of life.* 6. a pole on which a flag is hung. 7. a pole used as a handle. 8. *Chiefly Brit.* a graduated rod used in surveying, esp. for sighting to with a levelling instrument. 9. Also called: **stave**. *Music.* *a.* the system of horizontal lines grouped into sets of five (four in plainsong) upon which music is written. The spaces between them are employed in conjunction with a clef in order to give a graphic indication of pitch. *b.* any set of five lines in this system together with its clef: *the treble staff.* ~*vb.* 10. (*tr.*) to employ or provide with a staff.

staff nurse *n.* a qualified nurse ranking immediately below a sister.

staff officer *n.* a commissioned officer serving on the staff of a commander, service, or central headquarters.

Staffs. (stæfs) *abbrev. for* Staffordshire.

staff sergeant *n.* *Mil.* 1. *Brit.* a noncommissioned officer holding sergeant's rank and carrying out certain special duties. 2. *U.S.* a noncommissioned officer who ranks: *a.* (in the Army) above sergeant and below sergeant first class. *b.* (in the Air Force) above airman first class and below technical sergeant. *c.* (in the Marine Corps) above sergeant and below gunnery sergeant.

stag (stæg) *n.* 1. the adult male of a deer. 2. a man unaccompanied by a woman at a social gathering. 3. *Stock exchange, Brit.* a speculator who buys heavily on a new share issue in anticipation of a rise in its price and

thus an opportunity for quick profit on resale. 4. (*modifier*) of a social gathering attended by men only. ~adv. 5. without a female escort.

stag beetle *n.* any of various beetles, the males of which have large branched mandibles.

stage (steɪdʒ) *n.* 1. a distinct step or period of development, growth, or progress. 2. a raised area or platform. 3. the platform in a theatre where actors perform. 4. the theatre as a profession. 5. any scene regarded as a setting for an event or action. 6. a portion of a journey or a stopping-place after such a portion. 7. short for **stagecoach**. 8. *Brit.* a division of a bus route for which there is a fixed fare. 9. one of the separate propulsion units of a rocket that can be jettisoned when it has burnt out. 10. a small stratigraphical unit; a subdivision of a rock series or system. 11. the platform on a microscope on which the specimen is mounted for examination. 12. *Electronics.* a part of a complex circuit, esp. a transistor with the associated elements required to amplify a signal in an amplifier. 13. *by or in easy stages, not hurriedly: he learnt French by easy stages.* ~vb. 14. (*tr.*) to perform (a play), esp. on a stage: to stage 'Hamlet'. 15. (*tr.*) to set the action of a play in a particular time or place. 16. (*tr.*) to plan, organize, and carry out (an event).

stagecoach ('steɪdʒ,kəʊtʃ) *n.* a large four-wheeled horse-drawn vehicle formerly used to carry passengers, mail, etc., on a regular route.

stage direction *n.* an instruction to an actor or director, written into the script of a play.

stage door *n.* a door at a theatre leading backstage.

stage fright *n.* nervousness or panic that may beset a person about to appear in front of an audience.

stagehand ('steɪdʒ,hænd) *n.* a person who sets the stage, moves props, etc., in a theatrical production.

stage-manager vb. 1. to work as stage manager (for a play, etc.). 2. (*tr.*) to arrange, present, or supervise from behind the scenes.

stage manager *n.* a person who supervises the stage arrangements of a theatrical production.

stage-struck *adj.* infatuated with the glamour of theatrical life, esp. with the desire to act.

stage whisper *n.* 1. a loud whisper from one actor to another onstage intended to be heard by the audience. 2. any loud whisper that is intended to be overheard.

stagflation (stæɡˈfleɪʃən) *n.* an inflationary economic situation characterized by a decline in industrial output.

stagger ('stæɡə) vb. 1. (*usually intr.*) to walk or cause to walk unsteadily as if about to fall. 2. (*tr.*) to astound or overwhelm, as with shock: *I am staggered by his ruthlessness.* 3. (*tr.*) to place or arrange in alternating or overlapping positions or time periods to prevent confusion or congestion: a staggered junction; to stagger holidays. 4. (*intr.*) to falter or hesitate: *his courage staggered in the face of the battle.* ~n. 5. the act or an instance of staggering. —'staggerer *n.* —'staggering *adj.* —'staggeringly *adv.*

staggers ('stæɡəz) *n.* 1. a form of vertigo associated with decompression sickness. 2. Also called: **blind staggers**, a disease of horses and some other domestic animals characterized by a swaying unsteady gait, caused by infection or lesions of the central nervous system.

staging ('steɪdʒɪŋ) *n.* any temporary structure used in the process of building, esp. the horizontal platforms supported by scaffolding.

stagnant ('stæɡnənt) *adj.* 1. (of water, etc.) standing still; without flow or current. 2. brackish and foul from standing still. 3. stale, sluggish, or dull from inaction. 4. not growing or developing; static. —'stagnancy *n.*

stagnate (stæɡˈneɪt) vb. (*intr.*) to be or become stagnant. —'stagˈnation *n.*

stag party *n.* a party for men only, esp. one held for a man just before he is married.

stagy or **U.S. stagey** ('steɪdʒɪ) *adj.* stagier, stagiest, theatrical or dramatic. —'stagily *adv.* —'staginess *n.*

staid (steɪd) *adj.* of a settled, sedate, and steady character. —'staidly *adv.* —'staidness *n.*

stain (steɪn) vb. (*mainly tr.*) 1. to mark or discolour with patches of something that dirties. 2. to dye with a penetrating dyestuff or pigment. 3. to bring disgrace or shame on: to stain one's honour. 4. to colour (specimens) for microscopic study by treatment with a dye or similar reagent. 5. (*intr.*) to produce indelible marks or discoloration: *does ink stain?* ~n. 6. a spot, mark, or discoloration. 7. a moral taint; blemish or slur. 8. a dye or similar reagent, used to colour specimens for micro-

scopic study. 9. a solution or liquid used to penetrate the surface of a material, esp. wood, and impart a rich colour without covering up the surface or grain. 10. any dye used to colour textiles and hides. —'stainable *adj.* —'stainability *n.* —'stainer *n.*

stained glass *n.* a. glass that has been coloured, as by fusing with a film of metallic oxide or burning pigment into the surface. b. (*as modifier*): a stained-glass window.

stainless ('steɪnlɪs) *adj.* 1. resistant to discoloration, esp. that resulting from corrosion; rust-resistant: *stainless steel*. 2. having no blemish: *stainless reputation.* —'stainlessly *adv.*

stainless steel *n.* a. a type of steel resistant to corrosion as a result of the presence of large amounts of chromium. b. (*as modifier*): *stainless-steel cutlery.*

stair (steə) *n.* 1. one of a flight of stairs. 2. a series of steps: a narrow stair.

staircase ('steə,keɪs) *n.* a flight of stairs, its supporting framework, and, usually, a handrail or banisters.

stairs (steəz) *pl. n.* 1. a flight of steps leading from one storey or level to another, esp. indoors. 2. below stairs. *Brit.* in the servants' quarters.

stairway ('steə,weɪ) *n.* a means of access consisting of stairs; staircase or flight of steps.

stairwell ('steə,wel) *n.* a vertical shaft or opening that contains a staircase.

stake¹ (steɪk) *n.* 1. a stick or metal bar driven into the ground as a marker, part of a fence, support for a plant, etc. 2. one of a number of vertical posts that fit into sockets around a flat truck or railway wagon to hold the load in place. 3. a method or the practice of executing a person by binding him to a stake in the centre of a pile of wood that is then set on fire. 4. pull up stakes. to leave one's home or resting-place and move on. ~vb. (*tr.*) 5. to tie, fasten, or tether with or to a stake. 6. (often foll. by out or off) to fence or surround with stakes. 7. (often foll. by out) to lay (a claim) to land, rights, etc. 8. to support with a stake.

stake² (steɪk) *n.* 1. the money or valuables that a player must hazard in order to buy into a gambling game or make a bet. 2. an interest, often financial, held in something: a stake in the company's future. 3. (often pl.) the money that a player has available for gambling. 4. (often pl.) a prize in a race, etc., esp. one made up of contributions from contestants or owners. 5. (pl.) a horse race in which all owners of competing horses contribute to the prize. 6. at stake. at risk: *lives are at stake.* ~vb. (*tr.*) 7. to hazard (money, etc.) on a result. 8. to invest in or support with money, etc.: to stake a business.

stakeout ('steɪkaʊt) *U.S. sl.* ~n. 1. a police surveillance. 2. an area or house kept under such surveillance. ~vb. stake out. 3. (*tr., adv.*) to keep under surveillance.

Stakhanovism (stæˈkənoʊvɪzəm) *n.* (in the Soviet Union) a system designed to raise production by offering incentives to efficient workers. —'Staˈkhanov,ite *n.*

stalactite ('stælək,tɪt) *n.* a cylindrical mass of calcium carbonate hanging from the roof of a limestone cave: formed by precipitation from continually dripping water. Cf. **stalagmite**. —'stalactiform (stɔˈlæktɪfɔːm) *adj.* —'stalactitic (ˈstæləkˈtɪtɪk) or 'stalacˈtitical *adj.*

stalagmite ('stæləɡ,mɪt) *n.* a cylindrical mass of calcium carbonate projecting upwards from the floor of a limestone cave: formed by precipitation from continually dripping water. Cf. **stalactite**. —'stalagmitic (ˈstæləɡˈmɪtɪk) or 'stalagˈmitical *adj.*

stale (steɪl) *adj.* 1. (esp. of food) hard, musty, or dry from being kept too long. 2. (of beer, etc.) flat and tasteless from being kept open too long. 3. (of air) stagnant; foul. 4. uninteresting from overuse: *stale clichés.* 5. no longer new: *stale news.* 6. lacking in energy or ideas through overwork or lack of variety. 7. Law. (of a claim, etc.) having lost its effectiveness or force, as by failure to act or by the lapse of time. ~vb. 8. to make or become stale. —'staleness *n.*

stalemate ('steɪl,mɛnt) *n.* 1. a chess position in which any of a player's possible moves would place his king in check: in this position the game ends in a draw. 2. a situation in which two opposing forces find that further action is impossible or futile; deadlock. ~vb. 3. (*tr.*) to subject to a stalemate.

Stalinism ('stɑːlɪnɪzəm) *n.* the theory and form of government associated with Joseph Stalin (1879–1953), general secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union 1922–53: a variant of Marxism-Leninism characterized by totalitarianism, rigid bureaucracy, and loyalty to the Soviet state. —'Stalinist *n., adj.*

stalk¹ (stɔ:k) *n.* 1. the main stem of a herbaceous plant. 2. any of various subsidiary plant stems, such as a leafstalk or flower stalk. 3. a slender supporting structure in animals such as crinoids and barnacles. 4. any long slender supporting shaft or column. —**stalked** *adj.* —**stalk, like** *adj.*

stalk² (stɔ:k) *vb.* 1. to follow or approach (game, prey, etc.) stealthily and quietly. 2. to spread over (a place) in a menacing or grim manner: *fever stalked the camp*. 3. (*intr.*) to walk in a haughty, stiff, or threatening way. 4. to search (a piece of land) for prey. ~*n.* 5. the act of stalking. 6. a stiff or threatening stride. —**stalker** *n.*

stalking-horse *n.* 1. a horse or an imitation one used by a hunter to hide behind while stalking. 2. something serving as a means of concealing plans; pretext. 3. *Chiefly U.S.* a candidate put forward to divide the opposition or mask the candidacy of another person for whom the stalking-horse would then withdraw.

stall¹ (stɔ:l) *n.* 1. a. a compartment in a stable or shed for a single animal. b. another name for **stable**¹. 2. a small often temporary stand or booth for the sale of goods. 3. (in a church) a. one of a row of seats usually divided by armrests or a small screen, for the choir or clergy. b. a pen. 4. an instance of an engine stalling. 5. a condition of an aircraft in flight in which a reduction in speed or an increase in the aircraft's angle of attack causes a sudden loss of lift resulting in a downward plunge. 6. any small room or compartment. 7. *Brit.* a. a seat in a theatre or cinema, usually fixed to the floor. b. (*pl.*) the area of seats on the ground floor of a theatre or cinema nearest to the orchestra pit or screen. 8. a tubelike covering for a finger, as in a glove. 9. (*pl.*) in full **starting stalls**. *Brit.* a line of stalls in which horses are enclosed at the start of a race and from which they are released by simultaneous springing open of retaining barriers at the front of each stall. ~*vb.* 10. to cause (a motor vehicle or its engine) to stop, usually by incorrect use of the clutch or incorrect adjustment of the fuel mixture, or (of an engine or motor vehicle) to stop, usually for these reasons. 11. to cause (an aircraft) to go into a stall or (of an aircraft) to go into a stall. 12. to stick or cause to stick fast, as in mud or snow. 13. (*tr.*) to confine (an animal) in a stall.

stall² (stɔ:l) *vb.* 1. to employ delaying tactics towards (someone); be evasive. ~*n.* 2. an evasive move; pretext.

stallion ('stæljən) *n.* an uncastrated male horse, esp. one used for breeding.

stalwart ('stɔ:lwɔ:t) *adj.* 1. strong and sturdy; robust. 2. solid, dependable, and courageous. 3. resolute and firm. ~*n.* 4. a stalwart person, esp. a supporter. —**stalwartly** *adv.* —**stalwartness** *n.*

stamen ('steɪmən) *n., pl. stamens or stamina ('stæmɪnə). the male reproductive organ of a flower, consisting of a stalk (filament) bearing an anther in which pollen is produced. —**stamiferous** ('stæmɪ'nɪfərəs) *adj.**

stamina ('stæmɪnə) *n.* enduring energy, strength, and resilience.

stamina² ('stæmɪnə) *n.* a plural of **stamen**.

stammer ('stæmə) *vb.* 1. to speak or say (something) in a hesitant way, esp. as a result of a speech disorder or through fear, stress, etc. ~*n.* 2. a speech disorder characterized by involuntary repetitions and hesitations. —**stammerer** *n.* —**stammeringly** *adv.*

stamp (stæmp) *vb.* 1. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *on*) to bring (the foot) down heavily (on the ground, etc.). 2. (*intr.*) to walk with heavy or noisy footsteps. 3. (*intr.*; foll. by *on*) to repress or extinguish: *he stamped on criticism*. 4. (*tr.*) to impress or mark (a device or sign) on (something). 5. to mark (something) with an official seal or device: *stamp a passport*. 6. (*tr.*) to fix or impress permanently: *the date was stamped on her memory*. 7. (*tr.*) to affix a postage stamp to. 8. (*tr.*) to distinguish or reveal: *that behaviour stamps him as a cheat*. 9. to pound or crush (ores, etc.). ~*n.* 10. the act or an instance of stamping. 11. a. See **postage stamp**. b. a mark applied to postage stamps for cancellation. 12. a similar piece of gummed paper used for commercial or trading purposes. 13. a block, die, etc., used for imprinting a design or device. 14. a design, device, or mark that has been stamped. 15. a characteristic feature or trait; hallmark: *the stamp of authenticity*. 16. a piece of gummed paper or other mark applied to official documents to indicate payment, validity, ownership, etc. 17. *Brit. inf.* a national insurance contribution, formerly recorded by means of a stamp on an official card. 18. type or class: *men of his stamp*. 19. an instrument or

machine for crushing or pounding ores, etc., or the pestle in such a device. —**stamper** *n.*

stampede (stæm'pɪd) *n.* 1. an impulsive headlong rush of startled cattle or horses. 2. headlong rush of a crowd. 3. any sudden large-scale action, such as a rush of people to support a candidate. 4. *Canad.* a rodeo. ~*vb.* 5. to run away or cause to run away in a stampede. —**stampeder** *n.*

stamping ground *n.* a habitual or favourite meeting or gathering place.

stamp out *vb.* (*tr., adv.*) 1. to put out or extinguish by stamping: *stamp out a fire*. 2. to suppress by force: *to stamp out a rebellion*.

stance (stæns, stɔ:ns) *n.* 1. the manner and position in which a person or animal stands. 2. *Sport.* the posture assumed when about to play the ball, as in golf, cricket, etc. 3. emotional or intellectual attitude: *a leftist stance*. 4. *Chiefly Scot.* a place where a vehicle waits: *taxi stance*.

stanch (stɑ:ntʃ) or **staunch** (stɔ:ntʃ) *vb.* 1. to stem the flow of (a liquid, esp. blood) or (of a liquid) to stop flowing. 2. to prevent the flow of a liquid, esp. blood, from (a hole, wound, etc.). —**stanchable** or **'staunchable** *adj.* —**stancher** or **'stauncher** *n.*

stanchion ('stɑ:ntʃən) *n.* 1. any vertical pole, beam, rod, etc., used as a support. ~*vb.* 2. (*tr.*) to provide or support with a stanchion or stanchions.

stand (stænd) *vb.* **standing, stood.** (*mainly intr.*) 1. (*also tr.*) to be or cause to be in an erect or upright position. 2. to rise to, assume, or maintain an upright position. 3. (*copula*) to have a specified height when standing: *to stand six feet*. 4. to be situated or located: *the house stands in the square*. 5. to be in a specified state or condition: *to stand in awe of someone*. 6. to adopt or remain in a resolute position or attitude. 7. (*may take an infinitive*) to be in a specified position: *I stand to lose money in this venture*. 8. to remain in force or continue in effect: *my orders stand*. 9. to come to a stop or halt, esp. temporarily. 10. (of water, etc.) to collect and remain without flowing. 11. (often foll. by *at*) (of a score, account, etc.) to indicate the specified position: *the score stands at 20 to 1*. 12. (*also tr.*; when *intr.*, foll. by *for*) to tolerate or bear: *I won't stand for your nonsense; I can't stand spiders*. 13. (*tr.*) to resist; survive: *to stand the test of time*. 14. (*tr.*) to submit to: *to stand trial*. 15. (often foll. by *for*) *Chiefly Brit.* to be or become a candidate: *stand for Parliament*. 16. to navigate in a specified direction: *we were standing for Madeira*. 17. (of a gun dog) to point at game. 18. to halt, esp. to give action, repel attack, or disrupt an enemy advance when retreating. 19. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to bear the cost of; pay for: *to stand someone a drink*. 20. **stand a chance.** to have a hope or likelihood of winning, succeeding, etc. 21. **stand fast.** to maintain one's position firmly. 22. **stand one's ground.** to maintain a stance or position in the face of opposition. 23. **stand still.** a. to remain motionless. b. (foll. by *for*) *U.S.* to tolerate: *I won't stand still for your threats*. ~*n.* 24. the act or an instance of standing. 25. an opinion, esp. a resolutely held one: *he took a stand on capital punishment*. 26. a halt or standstill. 27. a place where a person or thing stands. 28. *Austral.* a. a position on the floor of a shearing shed allocated to one shearer. b. the shearer's equipment. 29. a structure on which people can sit or stand. 30. a frame or rack on which such articles as coats and hats may be hung. 31. a small table or piece of furniture where articles may be placed or stored: *a music stand*. 32. a supporting framework, esp. for a tool or instrument. 33. a stall, booth, or counter from which goods may be sold. 34. a halt to give action, etc., esp. during a retreat and having some duration or success. 35. *Cricket.* an extended period at the wicket by two batsmen. 36. a growth of plants in a particular area, esp. trees in a forest or a crop in a field. 37. a stop made by a touring theatrical company, pop group, etc., to give a performance (esp. in **one-night stand**). 38. (of a gun dog) the act of pointing at game. ~See also **stand by, stand down**, etc. —**'stander** *n.*

standard ('stændəd) *n.* 1. an accepted or approved example of something against which others are judged or measured. 2. (*often pl.*) a principle of propriety, honesty, and integrity. 3. a level of excellence or quality. 4. any distinctive flag or device etc., as of a nation, sovereign, or special cause, etc., or the colours of a cavalry regiment. 5. a flag or emblem formerly used to show the central or rallying point of an army in battle. 6. the commodity or commodities in which is stated the value of a basic monetary unit: *the gold standard; the*

silver standard. 7. an authorized model of a unit of measure or weight. 8. a unit of board measure equal to 1980 board feet. 9. (in coinage) the prescribed proportion by weight of precious metal and base metal that each coin must contain. 10. an upright pole or beam, esp. one used as a support. 11. a. a piece of furniture consisting of an upright pole or beam on a base or support. b. (as modifier): a *standard lamp*. 12. a. a plant, esp. a fruit tree, that is trained so that it has an upright stem free of branches. b. (as modifier): a *standard cherry*. 13. a song or piece of music that has remained popular for many years. 14. S. African. a form or grade in school. ~adj. 15. of the usual, regularized, medium, or accepted kind: a *standard size*. 16. of recognized authority, competence, or excellence: the *standard work on Greece*. 17. denoting or characterized by idiom, vocabulary, etc., that is regarded as correct and acceptable by educated native speakers. 18. Brit. (formerly) (of eggs) of a size that is smaller than *large* and larger than *medium*.

standard-bearer *n.* 1. a man who carries a standard. 2. a leader of a cause or party.

standard gauge *n.* 1. a railway track with a distance of 56½ inches between the lines; used on most railways. ~adj. *standard-gauge* or *standard-gauged*. 2. of, relating to, or denoting a railway with a standard gauge.

standardize or -ise ('stændə,daiz) *vb.* 1. to make or become standard. 2. (tr.) to test by or make a comparison with a standard. —*standardization* or *-isation* *n.* —*standardizer* or *-iser* *n.*

standard of living *n.* a level of subsistence or material welfare of a community, class, or person.

standard time *n.* the official local time of a region or country determined by the distance from Greenwich of a line of longitude passing through the area.

stand by *vb.* 1. (intr., adv.) to be available and ready to act if needed. 2. (intr., adv.) to be present as an onlooker or without taking any action: *he stood by at the accident*. 3. (intr., prep.) to be faithful to: *to stand by one's principles*. ~*n.* *stand-by*. 4. a. a person or thing that is ready for use or can be relied on in an emergency. b. (as modifier): *stand-by provisions*.

stand down *vb.* (adv.) 1. (intr.) to resign or withdraw, esp. in favour of another. 2. (intr.) to leave the witness box in a court of law after giving evidence. 3. Chiefly Brit. to go or be taken off duty.

stand for *vb.* (intr., prep.) 1. to represent or mean. 2. Chiefly Brit. to be or become a candidate for. 3. to support or recommend. 4. Inf. to tolerate or bear: *he won't stand for it*.

stand in *vb.* 1. (intr., adv.; usually foll. by *for*) to act as a substitute. 2. *stand (someone) in good stead*. to be of benefit or advantage to. ~*n.* *stand-in*. 3. a. a person or thing that serves as a substitute. b. (as modifier): a *stand-in teacher*. 4. a person who substitutes for an actor during intervals of waiting or in dangerous stunts.

standing ('stændɪŋ) *n.* 1. social or financial position, status, or reputation: a man of *some standing*. 2. length of existence, experience, etc. 3. (modifier) used to stand in or on: *standing room*. ~adj. 4. *Athletics*. a. (of the start of a race) begun from a standing position. b. (of a jump, leap, etc.) performed from a stationary position without a run-up. 5. (prenominal) permanent, fixed, or lasting. 6. (prenominal) still or stagnant: a *standing pond*. 7. *Printing*. (of type) set and stored for future use.

standing order *n.* 1. Also called: *banker's order*. an instruction to a bank by a depositor to pay a stated sum at regular intervals. 2. a rule or order governing the procedure, conduct, etc., of a legislative body. 3. Mil. one of a number of orders which have long-term validity.

standoff ('stænd,ɒf) *n.* 1. U.S. the act or an instance of standing off or apart. 2. a deadlock or stalemate. ~*vb.* *stand off* (adv.). 3. (intr.) to navigate a vessel so as to avoid the shore, an obstruction, etc. 4. (tr.) to keep or cause to keep at a distance. 5. (intr.) to reach a deadlock or stalemate. 6. (tr.) to dismiss (workers), esp. temporarily.

standoffish ('stænd'ɒfɪʃ) *adj.* reserved, haughty, or aloof.

stand out *vb.* (intr., adv.) 1. to be distinctive or conspicuous. 2. to refuse to agree or comply: *they stood out for a better price*. 3. to protrude or project. 4. to navigate a vessel away from a port, harbour, etc. ~*n.* *standout*. 5. U.S. inf. a person or thing that is distinctive or outstanding.

standpipe ('stænd,paɪp) *n.* a vertical pipe, open at the

upper end, attached to a pipeline or tank serving to limit the pressure head to that of the height of the pipe.

standpoint ('stænd,point) *n.* a physical or mental position from which things are viewed.

standstill ('stænd,stɪl) *n.* a complete cessation of movement; halt: *come to a standstill*.

stand to *vb.* 1. (adv.) Mil. to assume positions or cause to assume positions to resist a possible attack. 2. *stand to reason*. to conform with the dictates of reason: *it stands to reason*.

stand up *vb.* (adv.) 1. (intr.) to rise to the feet. 2. (intr.) to resist or withstand wear, criticism, etc. 3. (tr.) Inf. to fail to keep an appointment with, esp. intentionally. 4. *stand up for*. to support, side with, or defend. 5. *stand up to*. a. to confront or resist courageously. b. to withstand or endure (wear, criticism, etc.). ~adj. *stand-up*. (prenominal) 6. having or being in an erect position: a *stand-up collar*. 7. done, taken, etc., while standing: a *stand-up meal*. 8. (of a comedian) performing solo.

stank (stæŋk) *vb.* a past tense of *stink*.

stannary ('stænnəri) *n.* pl. *-ries*. a place or region where tin is mined or worked.

stanza ('stænzə) *n.* *Prosody*. a fixed number of verse lines arranged in a definite metrical pattern, forming a unit of a poem. —*'stanzaed* *adj.* —*stanzaic* (stæn'zenk) *adj.*

staphylo- combining form. 1. uvula: *staphyloplasty*. 2. resembling a bunch of grapes: *staphylococcus*.

staphylococcus ('stæfləʊ'kɒkəs) *n.* pl. *-cocci* ('-kɒksə). any spherical Gram-positive bacterium of the genus *Staphylococcus*, typically occurring in clusters and causing boils, infection in wounds, and septicaemia. Often shortened to *staph*. —*staphylococcal* ('stæfləʊ'kɒkəl) *adj.*

staple¹ ('steɪpəl) *n.* 1. a short length of thin wire bent into a square U-shape, used to fasten papers, cloth, etc. 2. a short length of stiff wire formed into a U-shape with pointed ends, used for holding a hasp to a post, securing electric cables, etc. ~*vb.* 3. (tr.) to secure (papers, wire, etc.) with staples. —*stapler* *n.*

staple² ('steɪpəl) *adj.* 1. of prime importance; principal: *staple foods*. 2. (of a commodity) forming a predominant element in the product, consumption, or trade of a nation, region, etc. ~*n.* 3. a staple commodity. 4. a main constituent; integral part. 5. Chiefly U.S. a principal raw material produced or grown in a region. 6. the fibre of wool, cotton, etc., graded as to length and degree of fineness. ~*vb.* 7. (tr.) to arrange or sort (wool, cotton, etc.) according to length and fineness.

star (stɑː) *n.* 1. any of a vast number of celestial objects visible in the clear night sky as points of light. 2. a hot gaseous mass, such as the sun, that radiates energy, esp. as heat and light, and in some cases as radio waves and x-rays. b. (as modifier): a *star catalogue*. Related adjs.: *astral*, *sidereal*, *stellar*. 3. *Astrol.* a celestial body, esp. a planet, supposed to influence events, personalities, etc. b. (pl.) another name for *horoscope* (sense 1). 4. an emblem shaped like a conventionalized star, often used as a symbol of rank, an award, etc. 5. a small white blaze on the forehead of an animal, esp. a horse. 6. a. a distinguished or glamorous celebrity, often from the entertainment world. b. (as modifier): *star quality*. 7. another word for *asterisk*. 8. *see stars*. to see or seem to see bright moving pinpoints of light, as from a blow on the head, increased blood pressure, etc. ~*vb.* *starring*, *starred*. 9. (tr.) to mark or decorate with a star or stars. 10. to feature or be featured as a star: "*Greed*" *starred* *Erich von Stroheim*; *Olivier starred in "Hamlet"*. —*'starless* *adj.* —*'star,like* *adj.*

starboard ('stɑːbɔːd, -bɔːd) *n.* 1. the right side of an aeroplane or vessel when facing the nose or bow. Cf. *port*. ~adj. 2. relating to or on the starboard. ~*vb.* 3. to turn or be turned towards the starboard.

starch (stɑːtʃ) *n.* 1. a polysaccharide composed of glucose units that occurs widely in plant tissues in the form of storage granules. 2. a starch obtained from potatoes and some grain: it is fine white powder that, in solution with water, is used to stiffen fabric. 3. any food containing a large amount of starch, such as rice and potatoes. 4. stiff or pompous formality. ~*vb.* 5. (tr.) to stiffen with or soak in starch. —*'starcher* *n.*

starchy ('stɑːtʃɪ) *adj.* -ier, -iest. 1. of or containing starch. 2. Inf. extremely formal, stiff, or conventional: a *starchy manner*. 3. stiffened with starch. —*'starchily* *adv.* —*'starchiness* *n.*

star-crossed *adj.* dogged by ill luck; destined to misfortune.

stardom ('stɑːdəm) *n.* 1. the fame and prestige of

being a star in films, sport, etc. 2. the world of celebrities.

stare (steə) *vb. (intr.)* 1. (often foll. by *at*) to look or gaze fixedly, often with hostility or rudeness. 2. to stand out as obvious; glare. 3. **stare one in the face**, to be glaringly obvious or imminent. ~*n.* 4. the act or an instance of staring. —'stare *n.*

starfish ('sta:ʃɪ) *n., pl. -fish or -fishes.* any of various echinoderms, typically having a flattened body covered with a flexible test and five arms radiating from a central disc.

stargaze ('sta:geɪz) *vb. (intr.)* 1. to observe the stars. 2. to daydream. —'star, **gazer** *n.* —'star, **gazing** *n., adj.*

stark (sta:k) *adj.* 1. (usually *prenominal*) devoid of any elaboration; blunt: *the stark facts.* 2. grim; desolate: *a stark landscape.* 3. (usually *prenominal*) utter; absolute: *stark folly.* 4. Arch. severe; violent. 5. Arch. or poetic. rigid, as in death (esp. in *stiff and stark, stark dead*). 6. short for **stark-naked**. ~*adv.* 7. completely: *stark mad.* 8. Rare. starkly. —'starkly *adv.* —'starkness *n.*

stark-naked *adj.* completely naked. Informal word (*postpositive*): **starkers** ('sta:kəz).

starlet ('sta:lɪt) *n.* 1. a young actress who is projected as a potential star. 2. a small star.

starlight ('sta:lɪt) *n.* 1. the light emanating from the stars. ~*adj.* also **starlighted**. 2. of or like starlight. 3. Also: **starlit** ('sta:lɪt), illuminated by starlight.

starling ('sta:lɪŋ) *n.* any gregarious passerine songbird of an Old World family, esp. the **common starling**, which has a blackish iridescent plumage and a short tail.

Star of David ('deɪvɪd) *n.* an emblem symbolizing Judaism and consisting of a six-pointed star formed by superimposing one equilateral triangle upon another of equal size.

starry ('sta:ri) *adj. -rier, -riest.* 1. filled, covered with, or illuminated by stars. 2. of, like, or relating to a star or stars. —'starriness *n.*

starry-eyed *adj.* given to naive wishes, judgments, etc.; full of unsophisticated optimism.

Stars and Stripes *n. the.* the national flag of the United States of America, consisting of 50 white stars representing the present states on a blue field and seven red and six white horizontal stripes representing the original states. Also called: the **Star-Spangled Banner**.

Star-Spangled Banner *n. the.* 1. the national anthem of the United States of America. 2. another term for the **Stars and Stripes**.

star-studded *adj.* featuring a large proportion of well-known performers: *a star-studded cast.*

start (sta:t) *vb.* 1. to begin or cause to begin (something or to do something); come or cause to come into being, operation, etc.: *he started a quarrel; they started to work.* 2. (when *intr.*, sometimes foll. by *on*) to make or cause to make a beginning of (a process, series of actions, etc.): *they started on the project.* 3. (sometimes foll. by *up*) to set or be set in motion: *he started up the machine.* 4. (*intr.*) to make a sudden involuntary movement, as from fright; jump. 5. (*intr.*; sometimes foll. by *up*, *away*, etc.) to spring or jump suddenly from a position or place. 6. to establish or be established; set up: *to start a business.* 7. (*tr.*) to support (someone) in the first part of a venture, career, etc. 8. to work or cause to work loose. 9. to enter or be entered in a race. 10. (*intr.*) to flow violently from a source: *wine started from a hole in the cask.* 11. (*tr.*) to rouse (game) from a hiding place, lair, etc. 12. (*intr.*) *Brit. inf.* to commence quarrelling or causing a disturbance. 13. **to start with**, in the first place. ~*n.* 14. the first or first part of a series of actions, a journey, etc. 15. the place or time of starting, as of a race or performance. 16. a signal to proceed, as in a race. 17. a lead or advantage, either in time or distance, in a competitive activity: *he had an hour's start on me.* 18. a slight involuntary movement, as through fright, surprise, etc.: *she gave a start as I entered.* 19. an opportunity to enter a career, undertake a project, etc. 20. *Inf.* a surprising incident. 21. by fits and starts, spasmodically; without concerted effort. 22. **for a start**, in the first place. ~See also **start off**, **start on**, etc.

starter ('sta:tə) *n.* 1. Also called: **self-starter**, a device for starting an internal-combustion engine, usually consisting of a powerful electric motor that engages with the flywheel. 2. a person who supervises and signals the start of a race. 3. a competitor who starts in a race or contest. 4. *Austral. inf.* an acceptable or practicable proposition, plan, idea, etc. 5. *Chiefly Brit.* the first course of a meal. 6. **for starters**, *Sl.* in the first place.

startle ('sta:tʃl) *vb.* to be or cause to be surprised or

frightened, esp. so as to start involuntarily. —'startler *n.* —'startling *adj.*

start off *vb. (adv.)* 1. (*intr.*) to set out on a journey. 2. to be or make the first step in an activity; initiate: *he started the show off with a lively song.* 3. (*tr.*) to cause (a person) to act or do something, such as to laugh, to tell stories, etc.

start on *vb. (intr., prep.)* *Brit. inf.* to pick a quarrel with; upbraid.

start out *vb. (intr., adv.)* 1. to set out on a journey. 2. to take the first steps, as in life, one's career, etc.: *he started out as a salesman.* 3. to take the first actions in an activity in a particular way or with a specified aim: *they started out wanting a house, but eventually bought a flat.*

start up *vb. (adv.)* 1. to come or cause to come into being for the first time; originate. 2. (*intr.*) to spring or jump suddenly. 3. to set in motion, activity, etc.: *he started up the engine.*

starve ('sta:v) *vb.* 1. to die or cause to die from lack of food. 2. to deprive (a person or animal) or (of a person, etc.) to be deprived of food. 3. (*intr.*) *Inf.* to be very hungry. 4. (foll. by *of* or *for*) to deprive or be deprived (of something), esp. so as to cause suffering or malfunctioning: *the engine was starved of fuel.* 5. (*tr.*; foll. by *into*) to bring (to) a specified condition by starving: *to starve someone into submission.* 6. Arch. or dialect. to be or cause to be extremely cold. —'starvation *n.*

starveling ('sta:vɪŋ) Arch. ~*n.* 1. a. a starving or poorly fed person, animal, etc. b. (as *modifier*): *a starveling child.* ~*adj.* 2. insufficient; meagre; scant.

stash (stæʃ) *Inf. ~vb.* 1. (*tr.*; often foll. by *away*) to put or store (money, valuables, etc.) in a secret place, as for safekeeping. ~*n.* 2. *Chiefly U.S.* a secret store or the place where this is hidden.

stasis ('steɪsɪs) *n.* 1. *Pathol.* a stagnation in the normal flow of bodily fluids, such as the blood or urine. 2. a state or condition in which there is no action or progress.

-stat *n. combining form.* indicating a device that causes something to remain stationary or constant: *thermostat.*

state (steɪt) *n.* 1. the condition of a person, thing, etc., with regard to main attributes. 2. the structure or form of something: *a solid state.* 3. any mode of existence. 4. position in life or society; estate. 5. ceremonious style, as befitting wealth or dignity: *to live in state.* 6. a sovereign political power or community. 7. the territory occupied by such a community. 8. the sphere of power in such a community: *affairs of state.* 9. (*often cap.*) one of a number of areas or communities having their own governments and forming a federation under a sovereign government, as in the U.S. 10. (*often cap.*) the body politic of a particular sovereign power, esp. as contrasted with a rival authority such as the Church. 11. Obs. a class or order; estate. 12. *Inf.* a nervous, upset, or excited condition (esp. in *a state*). 13. **lie in state**, (of a body) to be placed on public view before burial. 14. **state of affairs**, a situation; circumstances or condition. ~*modifier.* 15. controlled or financed by a state: *state university.* 16. of, relating to, or concerning the State: *State trial.* 17. involving ceremony or concerned with a ceremonious occasion: *state visit.* ~*vb. (tr.; may take a clause as object)* 18. to articulate in words; utter. 19. to declare formally or publicly. —'statabe or 'stateable *adj.* —'statehood *n.*

stateless ('steɪtlɪs) *adj.* 1. without nationality: *stateless persons.* 2. without a state or states. —'statelessness *n.*

stately ('steɪlɪ) *adj. -lier, -liest.* 1. characterized by a graceful, dignified, and imposing appearance or manner. ~*adv.* 2. in a stately manner. —'stateliness *n.*

stately home *n. Brit.* a large mansion, esp. one open to the public.

statement ('steɪtmənt) *n.* 1. the act of stating. 2. something that is stated, esp. a formal prepared announcement or reply. 3. *Law.* a declaration of matters of fact. 4. an account containing a summary of bills or invoices and displaying the total amount due. 5. an account prepared by a bank for a client, usually at regular intervals, to show all credits and debits and the balance at the end of the period. 6. a computer instruction written in a source language, such as FORTRAN, which is converted into one or more machine code instructions by a compiler.

state-of-the-art *adj. (prenominal)* (of hi-fi equipment, recordings, etc.) the most recent and therefore considered the best; up-to-the-minute: *a state-of-the-art amplifier.*

State Registered Nurse *n.* a nurse who has had

extensive training and passed examinations enabling her to perform all nursing services.

stateroom ('steɪt,rʊm, -rʊm) *n.* 1. a private cabin or room on a ship, train, etc. 2. *Chiefly Brit.* a large room in a palace or other building for use on state occasions.

state school *n.* any school maintained by the state, in which education is free.

statesman ('steɪtsmən) *n., pl. -men.* 1. a political leader whose wisdom, integrity, etc., win great respect. 2. a person active and influential in the formulation of high government policy. —'statesman-like or 'statesmanly *adj.* —'statesmanship *n.* —'stateswoman *fem. n.*

static ('stætɪk) *adj. also statical.* 1. not active or moving; stationary. 2. (of a weight, force, or pressure) acting but causing no movement. 3. of or concerned with forces that do not produce movement. 4. relating to or causing stationary electric charges; electrostatic. 5. of or relating to interference in the reception of radio or television transmissions. 6. of or concerned with statics. 7. *Computers.* (of a memory) not needing its contents refreshed periodically. ~*n.* 8. random hissing or crackling or a speckled picture caused by interference in the reception of radio or television transmissions. 9. electric sparks or crackling produced by friction. —'statically *adv.*

static electricity *n.* electricity that is not dynamic or flowing as a current.

statics ('stætɪks) *n. (functioning as sing.)* the branch of mechanics concerned with the forces that produce a state of equilibrium in a system.

station ('steɪʃən) *n.* 1. the place or position at which a thing or person stands. 2. *a.* a place along a route or line at which a bus, train, etc., stops for fuel or to pick up or let off passengers or goods, esp. one with ancillary buildings and services. *b. (as modifier):* a station buffet. 3. *a.* the headquarters or local offices of an organization such as the police or fire services. *b. (as modifier):* a station sergeant. See **police station**, **fire station**. 4. a building, depot, etc., with special equipment for some particular purpose: power station; petrol station. 5. *Mil.* a place of duty: an action station. 6. *Navy.* *a.* a location to which a ship or fleet is assigned for duty. *b.* an assigned location for a member of a ship's crew. 7. *Inf.* a television or radio channel. 8. a position or standing, as in a particular society or organization. 9. the type of one's occupation; calling. 10. (in British India) a place where the British district officials or garrison officers resided. 11. *Biol.* the habitat occupied by a particular animal or plant. 12. *Austral. & N.Z.* a large sheep or cattle farm. 13. (sometimes *cap.*) *R.C. Church.* *a.* one of the stations of the Cross. *b.* any of the churches (station churches) in Rome used as points of assembly for religious processions and ceremonies on particular days (station days). ~*vb.* 14. (tr.) to place in or assign to a station.

stationary ('steɪʃənəri) *adj.* 1. not moving; standing still. 2. not able to be moved. 3. showing no change: the doctors said his condition was stationary. 4. tending to remain in one place.

stationer ('steɪʃənə) *n.* a person who sells stationery or a shop where stationery is sold.

stationery ('steɪʃənəri) *n.* any writing materials, such as paper, envelopes, pens, ink, rulers, etc.

stationmaster ('steɪʃən,mɑ:stə) *n.* the senior official in charge of a railway station.

station wagon *n.* another name for **estate car**.

statism ('steɪtɪzəm) *n.* the theory or practice of concentrating economic and political power in the state. —'statist *n.*

statistic (stə'tɪstɪk) *n.* a datum capable of exact numerical representation, such as the correlation coefficient of two series or the standard deviation of a sample. —'statistical *adj.* —'statistically *adv.* —'statistician (stætɪ'stɪʃən) *n.*

statistics (stə'tɪstɪks) *n.* 1. (functioning as *sing.*) a science concerned with the collection, classification, and interpretation of quantitative data and with the application of probability theory to the analysis and estimation of population parameters. 2. the quantitative data themselves.

statuary ('stætʃʊəri) *n., pl. -aries.* 1. statues collectively. 2. the art of making statues. ~*adj.* 3. of or for statues.

statue ('stætʃu:) *n.* a wooden, stone, metal, plaster, or other sculpture of a human or animal figure, usually life-size or larger.

statuesque (stætʃu'esk) *adj.* like a statue, esp. in

possessing great formal beauty or dignity. —,statuesquely *adv.* —,statuesqueness *n.*

statuette (stætʃu'eɪt) *n.* a small statue.

stature ('stætʃə) *n.* 1. height, esp. of a person or animal when standing. 2. the degree of development of a person: the stature of a champion. 3. intellectual or moral greatness: a man of stature.

status ('steɪtəs) *n., pl. -tuses.* 1. a social or professional position, condition, or standing. 2. the relative position or standing of a person or thing. 3. a high position or standing: he has acquired a new status in that job. 4. the legal standing or condition of a person. 5. a state of affairs.

status quo (kwəʊ) *n.* (usually preceded by *the*) the existing state of affairs.

status symbol *n.* a possession which is regarded as proof of the owner's social position, wealth, prestige, etc.

statute ('stætʃu:t) *n.* 1. *a.* an enactment of a legislative body expressed in a formal document. *b.* this document. 2. a permanent rule made by a body or institution.

statute law *n.* 1. a law enacted by a legislative body. 2. a particular example of this. ~*Cf.* **common law**, **equity**.

statutory ('stætʃutəri, -trɪ) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or having the nature of a statute. 2. prescribed or authorized by statute. 3. (of an offence, etc.) *a.* recognized by statute. *b.* subject to a punishment or penalty prescribed by statute. —'statutorily *adv.*

staunch ('stɔ:ntʃ) *adj.* 1. loyal, firm, and dependable: a staunch supporter. 2. solid or substantial in construction. 3. *Rare.* (of a ship, etc.) watertight; seaworthy. —'staunchly *adv.* —'staunchness *n.*

staunch ('stɔ:ntʃ) *vb., n.* a variant of **stanch**.

stave (steɪv) *n.* 1. any one of a number of long strips of wood joined together to form a barrel, bucket, boat hull, etc. 2. any of various bars, slats, or rods, usually of wood, such as a rung of a ladder. 3. any stick, staff, etc. 4. a stanza or verse of a poem. 5. *Music. a.* *Brit.* an individual group of five lines and four spaces used in staff notation. *b.* another word for **staff** (sense 9). ~*vb.* **staving**, **staved** or **stove**. 6. (often foll. by *in*) to break or crush (the staves of a boat, barrel, etc.) or (of the staves of a boat) to be broken or crushed. 7. (tr.; usually foll. by *in*) to burst or force (a hole in something). 8. (tr.) to provide (a ladder, chair, etc.) with staves.

stave off *vb. (tr., adv.)* to avert or hold off, esp. temporarily: to stave off hunger.

staves (steɪvz) *n.* the plural of **staff** or **stave**.

stay¹ (steɪ) *vb.* 1. (intransitive) to continue or remain in a certain place, position, etc.: to stay outside. 2. (copula) to continue to be; remain: to stay awake. 3. (intransitive; often foll. by *at*) to reside temporarily: to stay at a hotel. 4. (transitive) to remain for a specified period: to stay the weekend. 5. (intransitive) *Central Scot. dialect.* to reside permanently or habitually: she stays on a housing scheme. 6. to stop or cause to stop. 7. (intransitive) to wait, pause, or tarry. 8. (transitive) to delay or hinder. 9. (transitive) *a.* to discontinue or suspend (a judicial proceeding). *b.* to hold in abeyance or restrain from enforcing (an order, decree, etc.). 10. to endure (something testing or difficult, such as a race): stay the course. 11. (transitive) to hold back or restrain: to stay one's anger. 12. (transitive) to satisfy or appease (an appetite, etc.) temporarily. 13. **stay put**. See **put** (sense 18). ~*n.* 14. the act of staying or sojourning in a place or the period during which one stays. 15. the act of stopping or restraining or state of being stopped, etc. 16. the suspension of a judicial proceeding, etc.: stay of execution. —'stayer *n.*

stay² (steɪ) *n.* 1. anything that supports or steadies, such as a prop or buttress. 2. a thin strip of metal, plastic, bone, etc., used to stiffen corsets, etc. ~*vb. (tr.) Arch.* 3. (often foll. by *up*) to prop or hold. 4. (often foll. by *up*) to comfort or sustain. 5. (foll. by *on* or *upon*) to cause to rely or depend.

stay³ (steɪ) *n.* a rope, cable, or chain, usually one of a set, used for bracing uprights, such as masts, funnels, flagpoles, chimneys, etc.; guy.

stay-at-home *adj.* 1. (of a person) enjoying a quiet, settled, and unadventurous use of leisure. ~*n.* 2. a stay-at-home person.

staying power *n.* endurance; stamina.

staysail ('steɪ,seɪl; Naut. 'steɪs'l) *n.* an auxiliary sail, often triangular, set on a stay.

S.T.D. *abbrev.* for Doctor of Sacred Theology.

STD code *n.* *Brit.* a code of two or more digits, other than those comprising a subscriber's local telephone number, that determines the routing of a call.

stead (sted) *n.* 1. (preceded by *in*) *Rare.* the place, function, or position that should be taken by another: *to come in someone's stead.* 2. **stand (someone) in good stead.** to be useful or of good service to (someone). ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) *Arch.* to help or benefit.

steadfast or stedfast ('stedfəst, -fəst) *adj.* 1. (esp. of a person's gaze) fixed in intensity or direction; steady. 2. unwavering or determined in purpose, loyalty, etc.: *steadfast resolve.* —'**steadfastly** or '**stedfastly** *adv.* —'**steadfastness** or '**stedfastness** *n.*

steady ('stedɪ) *adj.* -*ier*, -*iest*. 1. not able to be moved or disturbed easily; stable. 2. free from fluctuation. 3. not easily excited; imperturbable. 4. staid; sober. 5. regular; habitual: *a steady drinker.* 6. continuous: *a steady flow.* 7. *Naut.* (of a vessel) keeping upright, as in heavy seas. ~*vb.* **steading, steadied.** 8. to make or become steady. ~*adv.* 9. in a steady manner. 10. **go steady.** *Inf.* to date one person regularly. ~*n., pl.* **steadies.** 11. *Inf.* one's regular boyfriend or girlfriend. ~*interj.* 12. *Naut.* an order to the helmsman to stay on a steady course. 13. a warning to keep calm, be careful, etc. 14. *Brit.* a command to get set to start, as in a race: *ready, steady, go!* —'**steadily** *adv.* —'**steadiness** *n.*

steady state *n.* *Physics.* the condition of a system when some or all of the quantities describing it are independent of time but not necessarily in thermodynamic or chemical equilibrium.

steak (steik) *n.* 1. In full: **beefsteak.** a lean piece of beef that can be grilled, fried, etc. 2. any of various cuts of beef, for braising, stewing, etc. 3. a thick slice of pork, veal, cod, salmon, etc. 4. minced meat prepared in the same way as steak: *hamburger steak.*

steakhouse ('steik,haus) *n.* a restaurant that has steaks as its speciality.

steak tartare or tartar *n.* raw minced steak, mixed with onion, seasonings, and raw egg. Also called: **tartare steak, tartar steak.**

steal (stil) *vb.* **stealing, stole, stolen.** 1. to take (something) from (someone, etc.) without permission or unlawfully, esp. in a secret manner. 2. (*tr.*) to obtain surreptitiously. 3. (*tr.*) to appropriate (ideas, etc.) without acknowledgment, as in plagiarism. 4. to move or convey stealthily: *they stole along the corridor.* 5. (*intr.*) to pass unnoticed: *the hours stole by.* 6. (*tr.*) to win or gain by strategy or luck, as in various sports: *to steal a few yards.* 7. **steal a march on.** to obtain an advantage over, esp. by a trick. 8. **steal someone's thunder.** to detract from the attention due to another. 9. **steal the show.** to be looked upon as the most interesting, popular, etc., esp. unexpectedly. ~*n.* 10. *Inf.* the act of stealing. 11. *U.S. inf.* something stolen or acquired easily or at little cost. —'**stealer** *n.*

stealth (steðl) *n.* 1. the act or characteristic of moving with extreme care and quietness, esp. so as to avoid detection. 2. cunning or underhand procedure or dealing. —'**stealthy** *adj.*

steam (stim) *n.* 1. the gas or vapour into which water is changed when boiled. 2. the mist formed when such gas or vapour condenses in the atmosphere. 3. any vaporous exhalation. 4. *Inf.* power, energy, or speed. 5. **get up steam.** (a. of a ship, etc.) to work up a sufficient head of steam in a boiler to drive an engine. *b. Inf.* to go quickly. 6. **let (or blow) off steam.** *Inf.* to release pent-up energy, feelings, etc., esp. when angry. 7. **under one's own steam.** without the assistance of others. 8. (*modifier*) driven, operated, heated, powered, etc., by steam: *a steam radiator.* 9. (*modifier*) treated by steam: *steam ironed.* ~*vb.* 10. to emit or be emitted as steam. 11. (*intr.*) to generate steam, as a boiler, etc. 12. (*intr.*) to move or travel by steam power, as a ship, etc. 13. (*intr.*) *Inf.* to proceed quickly and sometimes forcefully. 14. to cook or be cooked in steam. 15. (*tr.*) to treat with steam or apply steam to, as in cleaning, pressing clothes, etc. ~*See also steam up.*

steam-engine *n.* an engine that uses steam to produce mechanical work, esp. one in which steam from a boiler is expanded in a cylinder to drive a reciprocating piston.

steamer ('stima) *n.* 1. a boat or ship driven by steam engines. 2. a vessel used to cook food by steam.

steam iron *n.* an electric iron that emits steam from channels in the iron face to facilitate pressing and ironing, the steam being produced from water contained within the iron.

steam radio *n. Inf.* radio considered as different from and (sometimes) more old-fashioned than television.

steamroller ('stim,rəʊl) *n.* 1. a steam-powered vehicle with heavy rollers used for compressing road sur-

faces during road-making. 2. *a.* an overpowering force or person that overcomes all opposition. *b. (as modifier): steamroller tactics.* ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to crush (opposition, etc.) by overpowering force.

steamship ('sti:m,ʃip) *n.* a ship powered by one or more steam engines.

steam up *vb. (adv.)* 1. to cover (windows, etc.) or (of windows, etc.) to become covered with a film of condensed steam. 2. (*tr.; usually passive*) *Sl.* to excite or make angry: *he's all steamed up about the delay.*

steamy ('sti:mɪ) *adj.* -*ier*, -*iest*. 1. of, resembling, full of, or covered with steam. 2. *Inf.* lustful or erotic: *steamy nightlife.* —'**steaminess** *n.*

stearic (sti:'ærik) *adj.* 1. of or relating to suet or fat. 2. of, consisting of, containing, or derived from stearic acid. **stearic acid** *n.* a colourless odourless insoluble waxy carboxylic acid used for making candles and suppositories.

stearin or stearine ('sti:ɹɪn) *n.* 1. Also called: **tristearin.** a colourless crystalline ester of glycerol and stearic acid, present in fats and used in soap and candles. 2. fat in its solid form.

seattleite ('sti:tə,tart) *n.* another name for **soapstone**. —'**seattleite** ('sti:tə'titɪk) *adj.*

steed (sti:d) *n. Arch. or literary.* a horse, esp. one that is spirited or swift.

steel (stil) *n.* 1. *a.* any of various alloys based on iron containing carbon and often small quantities of other elements such as phosphorus, sulphur, manganese, chromium, and nickel. Steels exhibit a variety of properties, such as strength, machinability, malleability, etc., depending on their composition and the way they have been treated. *b. (as modifier): steel girders.* See also **stainless steel.** 2. something that is made of steel. 3. a steel stiffener in a corset, etc. 4. a ridged steel rod used for sharpening knives. 5. the quality of hardness, esp. with regard to a person's character or attitudes. 6. *Canad.* a railway track or line. 7. **cold steel.** bladed weapons. ~*vb. (tr.)* 8. to fit, plate, edge, or point with steel. 9. to make hard and unfeeling: *he steeled his heart against her sorrow; he steeled himself for the blow.* —'**steely** *adj.* —'**steeliness** *n.*

steel band *n. Music.* a type of band, popular in the Caribbean Islands, consisting mainly of percussion instruments made from oil drums, hammered or embossed to obtain different notes.

steel blue *n., adj.* *a.* a dark bluish-grey colour. *b. (as adj.): steel-blue eyes.*

steel wool *n.* a tangled or woven mass of fine steel fibres, used for cleaning or polishing.

steelworks ('sti:l,wɜ:ks) *n.* a plant in which steel is made from iron ore and rolled or forged into bars, sheets, etc. —'**steel,worker** *n.*

steelyard ('sti:l,jɑ:d) *n.* a portable balance consisting of a pivoted bar with two unequal arms. The load is suspended from the shorter one and the bar is returned to the horizontal by adding weights to the longer one.

steep ('sti:p) *adj.* 1. *a.* having or being a slope or gradient approaching the perpendicular. *b. (as n.): the steep.* 2. *Inf.* (of a fee, price, demand, etc.) unduly high; unreasonable (esp. in *that's a bit steep*). 3. *Inf.* excessively demanding or ambitious: *a steep task.* 4. *Brit. inf.* (of a statement) extreme or far-fetched. —'**steeply** *adv.* —'**steepness** *n.*

steep ('sti:p) *vb.* 1. to soak or be soaked in a liquid in order to soften, cleanse, extract an element, etc. 2. (*tr.; usually passive*) to saturate; imbue: *steeped in ideology.* ~*n.* 3. an instance or the process of steeping or the condition of being steeped. 4. a liquid or solution used for the purpose of steeping something. —'**steeper** *n.*

steepen ('sti:p'n) *vb.* to become or cause to become steep or steeper.

steeple ('sti:p'l) *n.* 1. a tall ornamental tower that forms the superstructure of a church, temple, etc. 2. such a tower with the spire above it. 3. any spire or pointed structure. —'**steeped** *adj.*

steeplechase ('sti:p'l,tʃeis) *n.* 1. a horse race over a course equipped with obstacles to be jumped. 2. a track race in which the runners have to leap hurdles, a water jump, etc. 3. *Arch.* a horse race across a stretch of open countryside including obstacles to be jumped. *b.* a rare word for **point-to-point**. ~*vb.* 4. (*intr.*) to take part in a steeplechase. —'**steeple, chasing** *n.* —'**steeple, chaser** *n.*

steeplejack ('sti:p'l,dʒæk) *n.* a person trained and skilled in the construction and repair of steeples, chimneys, etc.

steer' (stiə) *vb.* 1. to direct the course of (a vehicle or vessel) with a steering wheel, rudder, etc. 2. (*tr.*) to guide with tuition: *his teachers steered him through his exams.* 3. (*tr.*) to direct the movements or course of (a person, conversation, etc.). 4. to pursue (a specified course). 5. (*intr.*) (of a vessel, vehicle, etc.) to admit of being guided in a specified fashion: *this boat does not steer properly.* 6. **steer clear of.** to keep away from; shun. —'steerable *adj.* —'steerer *n.*

steer' (stiə) *n.* a castrated male ox or bull; bullock.

steerage ('stɔɪdʒ) *n.* 1. the cheapest accommodation on a passenger ship, originally the compartments containing steering apparatus. 2. an instance or the practice of steering and its effect on a vessel or vehicle.

steering committee *n.* a committee set up to prepare and arrange topics to be discussed, the order of business, etc., for a legislative assembly or other body.

steering wheel *n.* a wheel turned by the driver of a motor vehicle, ship, etc., when he wishes to change direction.

steersman ('stɔɪzmən) *n., pl. -men.* the helmsman of a vessel.

stein (stain) *n.* an earthenware beer mug, esp. of a German design.

steinbok ('stain,bok) or **steenbok** *n., pl. -boks or -bok.* 1. a small antelope of central and southern Africa, having a reddish-brown coat and straight horns. 2. another name for **ibex**.

stela ('sti:lɪ, sti:l) *n., pl. stelae* ('sti:lɪ) or **steles** ('sti:lɪz, sti:lɪz). 1. an upright stone slab or column decorated with figures or inscriptions, common in prehistoric times. 2. a prepared vertical surface that has a commemorative inscription or design, esp. one on the face of a building. 3. the conducting tissue of the stems and roots of plants, which is in the form of a cylinder. ~Also called (for senses 1, 2): **stela** ('sti:lə). —**stelar** ('sti:lə) *adj.*

stellar ('stɛlə) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or resembling a star or stars. 2. of or relating to star entertainers.

stem' (stem) *n.* 1. the main axis of a plant, which bears the leaves, axillary buds, and flowers and contains a hollow cylinder of vascular tissue. 2. any similar subsidiary structure in such plants that bears a flower, fruit, or leaf. 3. a corresponding structure in algae and fungi. 4. any long slender part, such as the hollow part of a tobacco pipe between the bit and the bowl. 5. the main line of descent or branch of a family. 6. any shank or cylindrical pin or rod, such as the pin that carries the winding knob on a watch. 7. **Linguistics.** the form of a word that remains after removal of all inflectional affixes. 8. the main, usually vertical, stroke of a letter or of a musical note such as a minim. 9. *a.* the main upright timber or structure at the bow of a vessel. *b.* the very forward end of a vessel (esp. in **from stem to stern**). ~*vb.* **stemming, stemmed.** 10. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *from*) to be derived; originate. 11. (*tr.*) to make headway against (a tide, wind, etc.). 12. (*tr.*) to remove or disengage the stem or stems from. —'stem,like *adj.*

stem' (stem) *vb.* **stemming, stemmed.** 1. (*tr.*) to restrain or stop (the flow of something) by or as if by damming up. 2. (*tr.*) to pack tightly or stop up. 3. **Skiing.** to manoeuvre (a ski or skis), as in performing a stem. ~*n.* 4. Also called: **stem turn.** **Skiing.** a technique in which the heel of one ski or both skis is forced outwards from the direction of movement in order to slow down or turn.

stemmed (stɛmd) *adj.* 1. *a.* having a stem. *b.* (*in combination*): a long-stemmed glass. 2. having had the stem or stems removed.

stench (stɛntʃ) *n.* a strong and extremely offensive odour; stink.

stencil ('stɛnsɪl) *n.* 1. a device for applying a design, characters, etc., to a surface, consisting of a thin sheet of plastic, metal, etc. in which the design or characters have been cut so that ink or paint can be applied through the incisions onto the surface. 2. a design or characters produced in this way. ~*vb.* **-cilling, -cilled or U.S. -ciling, -ciled.** (*tr.*) 3. to mark (a surface) with a stencil. 4. to produce (characters or a design) with a stencil.

Sten gun (sten) *n.* a light sub-machine-gun formerly used in the British Army.

steno- or before a vowel **sten-** combining form. indicating narrowness or contraction: *stenography*; *stenosis*.

stenographer (stə'nɒgrəfə) *n.* the U.S. name for **short-hand typist**.

stenography (stə'nɒgrəfi) *n.* 1. the act or process of

writing in shorthand by hand or machine. 2. matter written in shorthand. —**stenographic** (stə'nɒ'græfɪk) *adj.*

stentorian (stɛn'tɔ:riən) *adj.* (of the voice, etc.) uncommonly loud: *stentorian tones.*

step (step) *n.* 1. the act of raising the foot and setting it down again in coordination with the transference of the weight of the body. 2. the distance or space covered by such a motion. 3. the sound made by such a movement. 4. the impression made by such movement of the foot; footprint. 5. the manner of walking or moving the feet; gait: *a proud step.* 6. a sequence of foot movements that make up a particular dance or part of a dance: *the steps of the waltz.* 7. any of several paces or rhythmic movements in marching, dancing, etc.: *the goose step.* 8. (*pl.*) a course followed by a person in walking or as walking: *they followed in their leader's steps.* 9. one of a sequence of separate consecutive stages in the progression towards some goal. 10. a rank or grade in a series or scale. 11. an object or device that offers support for the foot when ascending or descending. 12. (*pl.*) a flight of stairs, esp. out of doors. 13. (*pl.*) another name for **stepladder**. 14. a very short easily travelled distance: *it is only a step.* 15. **Music.** a melodic interval of a second. 16. an offset or change in the level of a surface similar to the step of a stair. 17. a strong block or frame bolted on the keel of a vessel and fitted to receive the base of a mast. 18. a ledge cut in mining or quarrying excavations. 19. **break step.** to cease to march in step. 20. **keep step.** to remain walking, marching, dancing, etc., in unison or in a specified rhythm. 21. **in step.** *a.* marching, dancing, etc., in conformity with a specified pace or moving in unison with others. *b.* *Inf.* in agreement or harmony. 22. **out of step.** *a.* not moving in conformity with a specified pace or in accordance with others. *b.* *Inf.* not in agreement; out of harmony. 23. **step by step.** with care and deliberation; gradually. 24. **take steps.** to undertake measures (to do something). 25. **watch one's step.** *a.* *Inf.* to conduct oneself with caution and good behaviour. *b.* to walk or move carefully. ~*vb.* **stepping, stepped.** 26. (*intr.*) to move by raising the foot and then setting it down in a different position, transferring the weight of the body to this foot and repeating the process with the other foot. 27. (*intr.*; often foll. by *in, out, etc.*) to move or go on foot, esp. for a short distance: *step this way.* 28. (*intr.*) *Inf., chiefly U.S.* to move, often in an attractive graceful manner, as in dancing: *he can really step around.* 29. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *on or upon*) to place or press the foot; tread: *to step on the accelerator.* 30. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *into*) to enter (into a situation) apparently with ease: *she stepped into a life of luxury.* 31. (*tr.*) to walk or take (a number of paces, etc.): *to step ten paces.* 32. (*tr.*) to perform the steps of: *they step the tango well.* 33. (*tr.*) to set or place (the foot). 34. (*tr.*; usually foll. by *off or out*) to measure (some distance of ground) by stepping. 35. (*tr.*) to arrange in or supply with a series of steps so as to avoid coincidence or symmetry. 36. (*tr.*) to raise (a mast) and fit it into its step. ~See also **step down, step in, etc.** —'step,like *adj.*

step- combining form. indicating relationship through the previous marriage of a spouse or parent: *stepson*; *stepfather*.

stepbrother ('step,bɹədə) *n.* a son of one's stepmother or stepfather by a union with someone other than one's father or mother.

stepchild ('step,tʃaɪld) *n., pl. -children.* a stepson or stepdaughter.

stepdaughter ('step,dɔ:tə) *n.* a daughter of one's husband or wife by a former union.

step down *vb. (adv.)* 1. (*tr.*) to reduce gradually. 2. (*intr.*) *Inf.* to resign or abdicate (from a position). 3. (*intr.*) *Inf.* to assume an inferior or less senior position. ~*adj.* **step-down. (prenominal)** 4. (of a transformer) reducing a high voltage to a lower voltage. Cf. **step-up** (sense 3). ~*n.* **step-down.** 5. *Inf.* a decrease in quantity or size.

stepfather ('step,fɑ:də) *n.* a man who has married one's mother after the death or divorce of one's father.

stephanotis (stɛfə'nɒʊtɪs) *n.* any of various climbing shrubs of Madagascar and Malaya, cultivated for their fragrant white waxy flowers.

step in *vb.* 1. (*intr., adv.*) *Inf.* to intervene or involve oneself. ~*adj.* **step-in.** 2. (*prepositional*) (of garments, etc.) put on by being stepped into; without fastenings. 3. (of a ski binding) engaging automatically when the boot is positioned on the ski. ~*n.* **step-in.** 4. (*often pl.*) a step-in garment, esp. underwear.

stepladder ('step,lædə) *n.* a folding portable ladder that is made of broad flat steps fixed to a supporting frame hinged at the top to another supporting frame.

stepmother ('step,mʌðə) *n.* a woman who has married one's father after the death or divorce of one's mother.

step on *vb.* (*intr.*, *prep.*) 1. to place or press the foot on. 2. *Inf.* to behave harshly or contemptuously towards. 3. **step on it.** *Inf.* to go more quickly; hurry up.

step out *vb.* (*intr.*, *adv.*) 1. to go outside or leave a room, etc., esp. briefly. 2. to begin to walk more quickly and take longer strides. 3. *U.S. inf.* to withdraw from involvement.

step-parent ('step,pæərənt) *n.* a stepfather or stepmother.

steppe (step) *n.* (*often pl.*) an extensive grassy plain usually without trees.

stepping stone *n.* 1. one of a series of stones acting as footrests for crossing streams, marshes, etc. 2. a circumstance that assists progress towards some goal.

stepsister ('step,sɪstə) *n.* a daughter of one's stepmother or stepfather by a union with someone other than one's father or mother.

stepson ('step,sən) *n.* a son of one's husband or wife by a former union.

step up *vb.* (*adv.*) *Inf.* 1. (*tr.*) to increase or raise by stages; accelerate. 2. (*intr.*) to make progress or effect an advancement; be promoted. *~adj.* **step-up.** (*pre-nominal*) 3. (of a transformer) increasing a low voltage to a higher voltage. Cf. **step-down** (sense 4). *~n.* **step-up.** 4. *Inf.* an increment in quantity, size, etc.

-ster *suffix forming nouns.* 1. indicating a person who is engaged in a certain activity: *prankster*; *songster*. 2. indicating a person associated with or being something specified: *mobster*; *youngster*.

stere (stə) *n.* a unit used to measure volumes of stacked timber equal to one cubic metre (35.315 cubic feet).

stereo ('steriəʊ, 'stɪər-) *adj.* 1. stereophonic. 2. stereoscopic. *~n.*, *pl.* **stereos.** 3. stereophonic sound: *to broadcast in stereo.* 4. *Inf.* a stereophonic gramophone, tape recorder, etc. 5. *Photog.* a stereoscopic photograph. *b.* a stereoscopic photograph. 6. *Printing.* short for **stereotype**.

stereo- or sometimes before a vowel **stere-** *combining form.* indicating three-dimensional quality or solidity: *stereoscopic*.

stereophonic ('steriə'fɒnik, 'stɪər-) *adj.* (of a system for recording, reproducing, or broadcasting sound) using two or more separate microphones to feed two or more loudspeakers through separate channels in order to give a spatial effect to the sound. Sometimes shortened to **stereo**. *~stereo'phonically adv.* *~stereophony* ('steriə'fɒni, 'stɪər-) *n.*

stereoscopic ('steriə'skəʊp, 'stɪər-) *n.* an optical instrument for viewing two-dimensional pictures, giving an illusion of depth and relief. It has a binocular eyepiece through which two slightly different pictures of an object are viewed, one with each eye. *~stereoscopic* ('steriə'skɒpɪk, 'stɪər-) *adj.*

stereotype ('steriə'taɪp, 'stɪər-) *n.* 1. *a.* a method of producing cast-metal printing plates from a mould made from a forme of type. *b.* the plate so made. 2. an idea, convention, etc., that has grown stale through fixed usage. 3. a standardized image or conception of a type of person, etc. *~vb.* (*tr.*) 4. *a.* to make a stereotype of. *b.* to print from a stereotype. 5. to impart a fixed usage or convention to. *~stereo, typer* or *stereo, typist n.*

stereotyped ('steriə'taɪpt, 'stɪər-) *adj.* 1. lacking originality or individuality; conventional; trite. 2. reproduced from or on a stereotype printing plate.

sterile ('sterail) *adj.* 1. unable to produce offspring; infertile. 2. free from living, esp. pathogenic, microorganisms. 3. (of plants or their parts) not producing or bearing seeds, fruit, spores, stamens, or pistils. 4. lacking inspiration or vitality; fruitless. *~sterilely adv.* *~sterility* ('ste'rɪlɪti) *n.*

sterilize or **-ise** ('sterɪ,ləɪz) *vb.* (*tr.*) to render sterile; make infertile or barren. *~sterilization* or *-isation n.* *~sterilizer* or *-iser n.*

sterling ('stɜ:lɪŋ) *n.* 1. *a.* British money: *pound sterling.* *b.* (as modifier): *sterling reserves.* 2. the official standard of fineness of British coins: for gold 0.91666 and for silver 0.925. 3. *a.* short for **sterling silver. *b.* (as modifier): *a sterling bracelet.* 4. an article or articles manufactured from sterling silver. *~adj.* 5. (*pre-nominal*) of excellent quality; first-class: *sterling bravery.***

sterling area *n.* a group of countries that use sterling

as a medium of international payments. Also called: **scheduled territories.**

sterling silver *n.* 1. an alloy containing not less than 92.5 per cent of silver. 2. sterling-silver articles collectively.

stern ('stɜ:n) *adj.* 1. showing uncompromising or inflexible resolve; firm or authoritarian. 2. lacking leniency or clemency. 3. relentless; unyielding: *the stern demands of parenthood.* 4. having an austere or forbidding appearance or nature. *~sternly adv.* *~sternness n.*

stern ('stɜ:n) *n.* 1. the rear or after part of a vessel, opposite the bow or stem. 2. the rear part of any object. *~adj.* 3. relating to or located at the stern.

sternum ('stɜ:nəm) *n.*, *pl.* **-na** (-nə) or **-nums.** 1. (in man) a long flat vertical bone in front of the thorax, to which are attached the collarbone and the first seven pairs of ribs. Nontechnical name: **breastbone.** 2. the corresponding part in many other vertebrates. *~sternal adj.*

steroid ('sterɔɪd) *n.* *Biochem.* any of a large group of organic compounds containing a characteristic chemical ring system, including sterols, bile acids, many hormones, and the D vitamins. *~steroidal adj.*

sterol ('sterɔl) *n.* *Biochem.* any of a group of natural steroid alcohols, such as cholesterol, that are waxy insoluble substances.

stertorous ('stɜ:tərəs) *adj.* 1. marked by heavy snoring. 2. breathing in this way. *~stertorously adv.* *~stertorousness n.*

stet (stet) *n.* 1. a word or mark indicating that certain deleted typeset or written matter is to be retained. *~vb.* **stetting, stetched.** 2. (*tr.*) to mark (matter) thus.

stethoscope ('steθə'skəʊp) *n.* *Med.* an instrument for listening to the sounds made within the body, typically consisting of a hollow disc that transmits the sound through hollow tubes to earpieces. *~stethoscopic* ('steθə'skɒpɪk) *adj.* *~stethoscopy* ('steθə'skɒpi) *n.*

stetson ('stetsn) *n.* a man's felt slouch hat with a broad brim and high crown.

stevedore ('sti:vɪ,dɔ:) *n.* 1. a person employed to load or unload ships. *~vb.* 2. to load or unload (a ship, ship's cargo, etc.).

stew (stju:) *n.* 1. *a.* a dish of meat, fish, or other food, cooked by stewing. *b.* (as modifier): *stew pot.* 2. *Inf.* a difficult or worrying situation or a troubled state (esp. in *in a stew*). 3. a heterogeneous mixture: *a stew of people of every race.* 4. (*usually pl.*) *Arch.* a brothel. *~vb.* 5. to cook or cause to cook by long slow simmering. 6. (*intr.*) *Inf.* to be troubled or agitated. 7. (*intr.*) *Inf.* to be oppressed with heat or crowding. 8. to cause (tea) to become bitter or (of tea) to become bitter through infusing for too long. 9. *stew in one's own juice.* to suffer unaided the consequences of one's actions.

steward ('stjuəd) *n.* 1. a person who administers the property, house, finances, etc., of another. 2. a person who manages the eating arrangements, staff, or service at a club, hotel, etc. 3. a waiter on a ship or aircraft. 4. a mess attendant in a naval mess. 5. a person who helps to supervise some event or proceedings in an official capacity. 6. short for **shop steward.** *~vb.* 7. to act or serve as a steward (of something). *~steward, ship n.*

stewardess ('stjuədəs, 'stjuə'des) *n.* a woman steward on an aircraft or ship.

stewed ('stju:d) *adj.* 1. (of meat, fish, etc.) cooked by stewing. 2. *Brit.* (of tea) bitter through having been left to infuse for too long. 3. a slang word for **drunk**.

stick ('stɪk) *n.* 1. a small thin branch of a tree. 2. *a.* any long thin piece of wood. *b.* such a piece of wood having a characteristic shape for a special purpose: *a walking stick*; *a hockey stick.* *c.* a baton, wand, staff, or rod. 3. an object or piece shaped like a stick: *a stick of celery.* 4. in full: **control stick.** the lever by which a pilot controls the movements of an aircraft. 5. *Inf.* the lever used to change gear in a motor vehicle. 6. *Naut.* a mast or yard. 7. *a.* a group of bombs arranged to fall at intervals across a target. *b.* a number of paratroops jumping in sequence. 8. (*usually pl.*) a piece of furniture: *these few sticks are all I have.* 9. (*pl.*) *Inf.* a rural area considered remote or backward (esp. in *in the sticks*). 10. (*pl.*) *Hockey.* a declaration made by the umpire if a player's stick is above the shoulders. 11. *Inf.* a dull boring person. 12. (*usually preceded by old*) *Inf.* a familiar name for a person: *not a bad old stick.* 13. punishment; beating. 14. in a cleft stick, in a difficult position. 15. **wrong end of the stick.** a complete misunderstanding of a situation, explanation, etc. *~vb.*

sticking, stuck. 16. to support (a plant) with sticks; stake.

stick¹ (stik) *vb.* **sticking, stuck.** 1. (tr.) to pierce or stab with or as if with something pointed. 2. to thrust or push (a sharp or pointed object) or (of a sharp or pointed object) to be pushed into or through another object. 3. (tr.) to fasten in position by pushing or forcing a point into something: *to stick a peg in a hole.* 4. (tr.) to fasten in position by or as if by pins, nails, etc.: *to stick a picture on the wall.* 5. (tr.) to transfix or impale on a pointed object. 6. (tr.) to cover with objects piercing or set in the surface. 7. (when intr., foll. by out, up, through, etc.) to put forward or be put forward; protrude or cause to protrude: *to stick one's head out.* 8. (tr.) Inf. to place or put in a specified position: *stick your coat on this chair.* 9. to fasten or be fastened by or as if by an adhesive substance: *stick the pages together; they won't stick.* 10. (tr.) Inf. to cause to become sticky. 11. (when tr., usually passive) to come or cause to come to a standstill: *stuck in a traffic jam; the wheels stuck.* 12. (intr.) to remain for a long time: *the memory sticks in my mind.* 13. *Sl.*, chiefly Brit. to tolerate; abide: *I can't stick that man.* 14. (intr.) to be reluctant. 15. (tr.; usually passive) Inf. to cause to be at a loss; baffle or puzzle: *I was totally stuck for an answer.* 16. (tr.) *Sl.* to force or impose something unpleasant on: *they stuck me with the bill.* 17. (tr.) to kill by piercing or stabbing. 18. **stick in one's throat.** Inf. to be difficult or impossible for one to accept. 19. **stick to the ribs.** Inf. (of food) to be hearty and satisfying. ~n. 20. the state or condition of adhering. 21. Inf. a substance causing adhesion. 22. Obs. something that causes delay or stoppage. ~See also **stick around, stick by**, etc.

stick around or about *vb.* (intr., adv.) Inf. to remain in a place, esp. awaiting something.

stick by *vb.* (intr., prep.) to remain faithful to; adhere to.

sticker ('stika) *n.* 1. an adhesive label, poster, or paper. 2. a person or thing that sticks. 3. a persevering or industrious person. 4. something prickly, such as a thorn, that clings to one's clothing, etc. 5. Inf. something that perplexes. 6. Inf. a knife used for stabbing or piercing.

sticking plaster *n.* a thin cloth with an adhesive substance on one side, used for covering slight or superficial wounds.

stick insect *n.* any of various mostly tropical insects that have an elongated cylindrical body and long legs and resemble twigs.

stick-in-the-mud *n.* Inf. a conservative person who lacks initiative or imagination.

stickleback ('stikl,bæk) *n.* any of various small fishes that have a series of spines along the back and occur in cold and temperate northern regions.

stickler ('stikla) *n.* 1. (usually foll. by for) a person who makes insistent demands: *a stickler for accuracy.* 2. a problem or puzzle.

stick out *vb.* (adv.) 1. to project or cause to project. 2. (tr.) Inf. to endure (something disagreeable) (esp. in stick it out). 3. **stick out a mile or like a sore thumb.** Inf. to be extremely obvious. 4. **stick out for.** (intr.) to insist on (a demand), refusing to yield until it is met.

stick to *vb.* (prep., mainly intr.) 1. (also tr.) to adhere or cause to adhere to. 2. to continue constantly at. 3. to remain faithful to. 4. not to move or digress from: *the speaker stuck closely to his subject.* 5. **stick to someone's fingers.** Inf. to be stolen by someone.

stick-up *n.* 1. *Sl.*, chiefly U.S. a robbery at gunpoint; hold-up. ~vb. **stick up.** (adv.) 2. (tr.) *Sl.*, chiefly U.S. to rob, esp. at gunpoint. 3. **stick up for.** (intr.) Inf. to support or defend: *stick up for oneself.*

sticky ('stiki) *adj.* -ier, -iest. 1. covered or daubed with an adhesive or viscous substance: *sticky fingers.* 2. having the property of sticking to a surface. 3. (of weather or atmosphere) warm and humid; muggy. 4. Inf. difficult, awkward, or painful: *a sticky business.* ~vb. 5. (tr.) Inf. to make sticky. —'stickily adv. —'stickiness *n.*

sticky wicket *n.* 1. a cricket pitch that is rapidly being dried by the sun after rain and is particularly conducive to spin. 2. Inf. a difficult or awkward situation.

stiff (stif) *adj.* 1. not easily bent; rigid; inflexible. 2. not working or moving easily or smoothly: *a stiff handle.* 3. difficult to accept in its severity or harshness: *a stiff punishment.* 4. moving with pain or difficulty; not supple: *a stiff neck.* 5. difficult; arduous: *a stiff climb.* 6. unrelaxed or awkward; formal. 7. firmer than liquid in

consistency; thick or viscous. 8. powerful; strong: *a stiff breeze; a stiff drink.* 9. excessively high: *a stiff price.* 10. lacking grace or attractiveness. 11. stubborn or stubbornly maintained: *a stiff fight.* 12. Obs. tightly stretched; taut. 13. *Sl.* intoxicated. 14. **stiff upper lip.** See **lip** (sense 7). 15. **stiff with.** Inf. amply provided with. ~n. 16. *Sl.* a corpse. ~adv. 17. completely or utterly: *bored stiff; frozen stiff.* —'stiffly adv. —'stiffness *n.*

stiffen ('stifn) *vb.* 1. to make or become stiff or stiffer. 2. (intr.) to become suddenly tense or unyielding. —'stiffener *n.*

stiff-necked *adj.* haughtily stubborn or obstinate.

stifle ('staifl) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to smother or suppress: *stifle a cough.* 2. to feel or cause to feel discomfort and difficulty in breathing. 3. to prevent or be prevented from breathing so as to cause death. 4. (tr.) to crush or stamp out.

stigma ('stigma) *n.*, pl. **stigmas** or **stigmata** ('stigmata, stig'mata) 1. a distinguishing mark of social disgrace: *the stigma of having been in prison.* 2. a small scar or mark such as a birthmark. 3. Pathol. any mark on the skin, such as one characteristic of a specific disease. 4. Bot. the terminal part of the ovary, at the end of the style, where deposited pollen enters the gynoecium. 5. Zool. a. a pigmented eyespot in some invertebrates. b. the spiracle of an insect. 6. Arch. a mark branded on the skin. 7. (pl.) Christianity. marks resembling the wounds of the crucified Christ, believed to appear on the bodies of certain individuals.

stigmatize or **-ise** ('stigma,tai) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to mark out or describe as bad. 2. to mark with a stigma or stigmata. —'stigmatization or -i'sation *n.* —'stigmatizer or -iser *n.*

stile (stail) *n.* 1. a set of steps or rungs in a wall or fence to allow people, but not animals, to pass over. 2. short for **turnstile**.

stiletto ('stiletu) *n.*, pl. **-tos.** 1. a small dagger with a slender tapered blade. 2. a sharply pointed tool used to make holes in leather, cloth, etc. 3. Also called: **spike heel, stiletto heel.** a very high heel on a woman's shoe, tapering to a very narrow tip. ~vb. **-toeing, -toed.** 4. (tr.) to stab with a stiletto.

still¹ (sti) *adj.* 1. (usually predicative) motionless; stationary. 2. undisturbed or tranquil; silent and calm. 3. not sparkling or effervescent. 4. gentle or quiet; subdued. 5. Obs. (of a child) dead at birth. ~adv. 6. continuing now or in the future as in the past: *do you still love me?* 7. up to this or that time; yet: *I still don't know your name.* 8. (often used with a comparative) even or yet: *still more insults.* 9. quiet or without movement: *sit still.* 10. Poetic & dialect. always. ~n. 11. Poetic. silence or tranquillity: *the still of the night.* 12. a. a still photograph, esp. of a scene from a film. b. (as modifier): *a still camera.* ~vb. 13. to make or become still, quiet, or calm. 14. (tr.) to allay or relieve: *her fears were stilled.* ~sentence connector. 15. even then; nevertheless: *the child has some new toys and still cries.* —'stillness *n.*

still² (sti) *n.* an apparatus for carrying out distillation, used esp. in the manufacture of spirits.

stillborn ('stil,bɔ:n) *adj.* 1. (of a foetus) dead at birth. 2. (of an idea, plan, etc.) fruitless; abortive; unsuccessful. —'stillbirth *n.*

still life *n.*, pl. **still lifes.** 1. a. a painting or drawing of inanimate objects, such as fruit, flowers, etc. b. (as modifier): *a still-life painting.* 2. the genre of such paintings.

still room *n.* Brit. 1. a room in which distilling is carried out. 2. a pantry or storeroom, as in a large house.

stilt (stilt) *n.* 1. either of a pair of two long poles with footrests on which a person stands and walks, as used by circus clowns. 2. a long post or column that is used with others to support a building above ground level. 3. any of several shore birds similar to the avocets but having a straight bill. ~vb. 4. (tr.) to raise or place on or as if on stilts.

stilted ('stiltid) *adj.* 1. (of speech, writing, etc.) formal, pompous, or bombastic. 2. not flowing continuously or naturally: *stilted conversation.* 3. Archit. (of an arch) having vertical piers between the impost and the springing. —'stiltedly adv. —'stiltedness *n.*

Stilton ('stilton) *n.* either of two rich cheeses, blue-veined (**blue Stilton**) or white (**white Stilton**), both very strong in flavour.

stimulant ('stimjulənt) *n.* 1. a drug or similar substance that increases physiological activity, esp. of a

particular organ. **2.** any stimulating agent or thing. ~adj. **3.** stimulating.

stimulate ('stɪmjʊ,leɪt) *vb.* **1.** (tr.) to arouse or quicken the activity or senses of. **2.** (tr.) *Physiol.* to excite (a nerve, organ, etc.) with a stimulus. **3.** (intr.) to act as a stimulant or stimulus. —,stim'ulation *n.* —stimulative *adj.*, *n.* —stim'ulator or 'stimu,lator *n.*

stimulus ('stɪmjʊləs) *n.*, *pl.* -li (-,lai, -li:). **1.** something that stimulates or acts as an incentive. **2.** any drug, agent, electrical impulse, or other factor able to cause a response in an organism.

sting (stɪŋ) *vb.* **stinging**, **stung**. **1.** (of certain animals and plants) to inflict a wound on (an organism) by the injection of poison. **2.** to feel or cause to feel a sharp mental or physical pain. **3.** (tr.) to goad or incite (esp. in **sting into action**). **4.** (tr.) *Inf.* to cheat, esp. by overcharging. ~*n.* **5.** a skin wound caused by the poison injected by certain insects or plants. **6.** pain caused by or as if by the sting of a plant or animal. **7.** a mental pain or pang: *a sting of conscience*. **8.** a sharp pointed organ, such as the ovipositor of a wasp, by which poison can be injected. **9.** the ability to sting: *a sharp sting in his criticism*. **10.** something as painful or swift of action as a sting: *the sting of death*. **11.** a sharp stimulus or incitement. —'stinger *n.* —'stingingness *n.*

stinging nettle *n.* See *nettle* (sense 1).

stingray ('stɪŋ,rei) *n.* any of various rays having a whiplike tail bearing a serrated venomous spine capable of inflicting painful weals.

stingy ('stɪndʒi) *adj.* -gier, -giest. **1.** unwilling to spend or give. **2.** insufficient or scanty. —'stingily *adv.* —'stinginess *n.*

stink (stɪŋk) *n.* **1.** a strong foul smell; stench. **2.** *Sl.* a great deal of trouble (esp. in **to make or raise a stink**). **3.** like stink, intensely; furiously. ~*vb.* **stinking**, **stank** or **stunk**; **stunk**. (mainly intr.) **4.** to emit a foul smell. **5.** *Sl.* to be thoroughly bad or abhorrent: *this town stinks*. **6.** *Inf.* to have a very bad reputation: *his name stinks*. **7.** to be of poor quality. **8.** (foll. by *of or with*) *Sl.* to have or appear to have an excessive amount (of money). **9.** (tr.; usually foll. by *up*) *Inf.* to cause to stink. ~See also **stink out**.

stink bomb *n.* a small bomb, used by practical jokers, containing a liquid with an offensive smell.

stinker ('stɪŋkə) *n.* **1.** a person or thing that stinks. **2.** *Sl.* a difficult or very unpleasant person or thing. **3.** *Sl.* something of very poor quality. **4.** *Inf.* any of several fulmars or related birds that feed on carrion.

stinking ('stɪŋkɪŋ) *adj.* **1.** having a foul smell. **2.** *Inf.* unpleasant or disgusting. **3.** (postpositive) *Sl.* very drunk. **4.** **cry stinking fish**, to decry something, esp. one's own products. ~adv. **5.** *Inf.* (intensifier, expressing contempt): *stinking rich*. —'stinkingly *adv.* —'stink-ingness *n.*

stink out *vb.* (tr., adv.) **1.** to drive out or away by a foul smell. **2.** *Brit.* to cause to stink: *the smell of orange peel stinks out the room*.

stinkwood ('stɪŋk,wʊd) *n.* **1.** any of various trees having offensive-smelling wood, esp. a southern African lauraceous tree yielding a hard wood used for furniture. **2.** the heavy durable wood of any of these trees.

stint (stɪnt) *vb.* **1.** to be frugal or miserly towards (someone) with (something). **2.** *Arch.* to stop or check (something). ~*n.* **3.** an allotted or fixed amount of work. **4.** a limitation or check. —'stinter *n.*

stipend ('staipeɪnd) *n.* a fixed or regular amount of money paid as a salary or allowance, as to a clergyman.

stipendiary ('stai'pendiəri) *adj.* **1.** receiving or working for regular pay: *a stipendiary magistrate*. **2.** paid for by a stipend. ~*n.*, *pl.* -aries. **3.** a person who receives regular payment.

stipple ('stɪpəl) *vb.* **1.** (tr.) to draw, engrave, or paint using dots or flecks. ~*n.* also **stippling**. **2.** the technique of stippling or a picture produced by or using stippling. —'stippler *n.*

stipulate ('stɪpjʊ,leɪt) *vb.* **1.** (tr.; may take a clause as object) to specify, often as a condition of an agreement. **2.** (intr.; foll. by *for*) to insist (on) as a term of an agreement. **3.** (tr.; may take a clause as object) to guarantee or promise. —,stipu'lation *n.* —'stipu,lator *n.*

stipule ('stɪpjʊ:l) *n.* a small paired usually leaflike outgrowth occurring at the base of a leaf or its stalk. —stipular ('stɪpjʊlə) *adj.*

stir¹ ('stɜː) *vb.* **stirring**, **stirred**. **1.** to move an implement such as a spoon around in (a liquid) so as to mix up the constituents. **2.** to change or cause to change position; disturb or be disturbed. **3.** (intr.; often foll. by

from) to venture or depart (from one's usual or preferred place). **4.** (intr.) to be active after a rest; be up and about. **5.** (tr.) to excite or stimulate, esp. emotionally. **6.** to move (oneself) briskly or vigorously; exert (oneself). **7.** (tr.) to rouse or awaken: *to stir someone from sleep*; *to stir memories*. **8.** (when tr., foll. by *up*) to cause or incite others to cause (trouble, arguments, etc.). **9.** **stir one's stumps**, to move or become active. ~*n.* **10.** the act or an instance of stirring or the state of being stirred. **11.** a strong reaction, esp. of excitement: *his publication caused a stir*. **12.** a slight movement. ~See also **stir up**. —'stirrer *n.*

stir² ('stɜː) *n.* **1.** a slang word for **prison**: *in stir*. **2.** *N.Z. sl.* a noisy party. **3.** **stir-crazy**, *U.S. sl.* mentally disturbed as a result of being in prison.

stirk ('stɜːk) *n.* **1.** a heifer of 6 to 12 months old. **2.** a yearling heifer or bullock.

stirring ('stɜːrɪŋ) *adj.* **1.** exciting the emotions; stimulating. **2.** active, lively, or busy. —'stirringly *adv.*

stirrup ('stɪrʊp) *n.* **1.** Also called: **stirrup iron**, either of two metal loops on a riding saddle, with a flat footpiece through which a rider puts his foot for support. They are attached to the saddle by **stirrup leathers**. **2.** a U-shaped support or clamp. **3.** *Naut.* one of a set of ropes fastened to a yard at one end and having a thimble at the other through which a footrope is rove for support.

stirrup cup *n.* a cup containing an alcoholic drink offered to a horseman ready to ride away.

stirrup pump *n.* a hand-operated pump, the base of the cylinder of which is placed in a bucket of water: used in fighting fires.

stir up *vb.* (adv.) to set or be set in motion; instigate or be instigated: *he stirred up trouble*.

stitch (stɪtʃ) *n.* **1.** a link made by drawing a thread through material by means of a needle. **2.** a loop of yarn formed around an implement used in knitting, crocheting, etc. **3.** a particular method of stitching or shape of stitch. **4.** a sharp spasmodic pain in the side resulting from running or exercising. **5.** (usually used with a negative) *Inf.* the least fragment of clothing: *he wasn't wearing a stitch*. **6.** *Agriculture*, the ridge between two furrows. **7.** in **stitches**, laughing uncontrollably. **8.** **drop a stitch**, to allow a loop of wool to fall off a knitting needle accidentally while knitting. ~*vb.* **9.** (tr.) to sew, fasten, etc., with stitches. **10.** (intr.) to be engaged in sewing. **11.** (tr.) to bind together (the leaves of a book, pamphlet, etc.) with wire staples or thread. ~*n.*, *vb.* **12.** an informal word for **suture** (senses 1b, 5). —'stitcher *n.*

stoat (stəʊt) *n.* a small Eurasian mammal, closely related to the weasels, having a brown coat and a black-tipped tail: in the northern parts of its range it has a white winter coat and is then known as an ermine.

stock (stɒk) *n.* **1.** a. (sometimes *pl.*) the total goods or raw material kept on the premises of a shop or business. b. (as modifier) a **stock book**. **2.** a supply of something stored for future use. **3.** *Finance*, a. the capital raised by a company through the issue and subscription of shares entitling their holders to dividends, partial ownership, and usually voting rights. b. the proportion of such capital held by an individual shareholder. c. the shares of a specified company or industry. **4.** standing or status. **5.** a. farm animals, such as cattle and sheep, bred and kept for their meat, skins, etc. b. (as modifier) **stock farming**. **6.** the trunk or main stem of a tree or other plant. **7.** *Horticulture*, a. a rooted plant into which a scion is inserted during grafting. b. a plant or stem from which cuttings are taken. **8.** the original type from which a particular race, family, group, etc., is derived. **9.** a race, breed, or variety of animals or plants. **10.** (often *pl.*) a small pen in which a single animal can be confined. **11.** a line of descent. **12.** any of the major subdivisions of the human species; race or ethnic group. **13.** a. the handle of a handgun. b. the part of a machine gun that connects the slide to the shoulder piece. **14.** the handle of something, such as a whip or fishing rod. **15.** the main body of a tool, such as the block of a plane. **16.** short for **gunstock** or **rolling stock**. **17.** (formerly) the part of a plough to which the irons and handles were attached. **18.** the main upright part of a supporting structure. **19.** a liquid or broth in which meat, fish, bones, or vegetables have been simmered for a long time. **20.** film material before exposure and processing. **21.** Also called: **gillyflower**, any of several cruciferous plants such as **evening** or **night-scented stock**, of the Mediterranean region: cultivated for their brightly coloured flowers. **22.** **Virginian stock**, a similar and related North American plant. **23.** a long usually white neckcloth wrapped around the neck, worn in the 18th

century and as part of modern riding dress. **24. a.** the repertoire of plays available to a repertory company. **b.** (as modifier): a stock play. **25. a.** log or block of wood. **26. See** **laughing stock**. **27. in stock. a.** stored on the premises or available for sale or use. **b.** supplied with goods of a specified kind. **28. out of stock. a.** not immediately available for sale or use. **b.** not having goods of a specified kind immediately available. **29. take stock. a.** to make an inventory. **b.** to make a general appraisal, esp. of prospects, resources, etc. **30. take stock in.** to attach importance to. **31. lock, stock, and barrel. See** **lock** (sense 7). ~adj. **32. stapie;** standard: stock sizes in clothes. **33. (prenominal)** being a cliché; hackneyed: a stock phrase. ~vb. **34. (tr.)** to keep (goods) for sale. **35. (intr.; usually foll. by up or up on)** to obtain a store of (something) for future use or sale: to stock up on beer. **36. (tr.)** to supply with live animals, fish, etc.: to stock a farm. **37. (tr.)** to fasten or supply with a stock. **38. (intr.)** (of a plant) to put forth new shoots. **39. (tr.) Obs.** to punish by putting in the stocks. —'stocker *n.*

stockade ('stɒkəɪd) *n.* **1.** an enclosure or barrier of stakes and timbers. ~vb. **2. (tr.)** to surround with a stockade.

stockbreeder ('stɒk,briːdər) *n.* a person who breeds or rears livestock as an occupation. —'stock, breeding *n.*

stockbroker ('stɒk,broʊkər) *n.* a person who buys and sells securities on a commission basis for customers. Cf. **stockjobber**. —**stockbrokerage** ('stɒk,broʊkərɪdʒ) or 'stock, broking *n.*

stock car *n.* **1.** a car, usually a production saloon, strengthened and modified for a form of racing in which the cars often collide. **2. U.S.** a railway wagon for carrying livestock.

stock exchange *n.* **1.** Also called: **stock market. a.** a highly organized market facilitating the purchase and sale of securities and operated by professional stockbrokers and stockjobbers according to fixed rules. **b.** a place where securities are regularly traded. **c. (as modifier):** a stock-exchange operator; stock-exchange prices. **2.** the prices or trading activity of a stock exchange: the stock exchange fell heavily today.

stockholder ('stɒk,həʊldər) *n.* **1.** an owner of corporate capital stock. **2. Austral.** a person who keeps livestock. —'stock, holding *n.*

stockinet ('stɒkɪ'net) *n.* a machine-knitted elastic fabric used, esp. formerly, for stockings, undergarments, etc.

stocking ('stɒkɪŋ) *n.* **1.** one of a pair of close-fitting garments made of knitted yarn to cover the foot and part or all of the leg. **2.** something resembling this in position, function, appearance, etc. **3. in (one's) stocking feet.** wearing stockings or socks but no shoes.

stock in trade *n.* **1.** goods in stock necessary for carrying on a business. **2.** anything constantly used by someone as a part of his profession, occupation, or trade: friendliness is the salesman's stock in trade.

stockist ('stɒkɪst) *n.* **Commerce, Brit.** a dealer who undertakes to maintain stocks of a specified product at or above a certain minimum in return for favourable buying terms granted by the manufacturer of the product.

stockjobber ('stɒk,dʒɒbə) *n.* **1. Brit.** a wholesale dealer on a stock exchange who operates as an intermediary between brokers without transacting directly with the public and derives his income from the spread between the bid and offered prices. Cf. **stockbroker**. **2. U.S., disparaging.** a stockbroker, esp. one dealing in worthless securities. —'stock, jobbery or 'stock, jobbing *n.*

stock market *n.* another name for **stock exchange**.

stockpile ('stɒk,pail) *vb.* **1.** to acquire and store a large quantity of (something). ~*n.* **2.** a large store or supply accumulated for future use. —'stock, piler *n.*

stockpot ('stɒk,pɒt) *n.* **Chiefly Brit.** a pot in which stock for soup, etc., is made.

stockroom ('stɒk,rʊ:m, -rʊm) *n.* a room in which a stock of goods is kept, as in a shop or factory.

stocks (stɒks) *pl. n.* **1. History.** an instrument of punishment consisting of a heavy wooden frame with holes in which the feet, hands, or head of an offender were locked. **2.** a frame used to support a boat while under construction. **3. on the stocks.** in preparation or under construction.

stock-still *adv.* absolutely still; motionless.

stocktaking ('stɒk,tetkɪŋ) *n.* **1.** the examination, counting, and valuing of goods on hand in a shop, etc. **2.** a reassessment of one's current situation, progress, prospects, etc.

stocky ('stɒki) *adj.* -ier, -iest. (usually of a person) thickset; sturdy. —'stockily *adv.* —'stockiness *n.*

stockyard ('stɒk,jɑːd) *n.* a large yard with pens or covered buildings where farm animals are assembled, sold, etc.

stodge (stɒdʒ) *Inf.* ~*n.* **1.** heavy filling starchy food. **2.** a dull person or subject. ~*vb.* **3.** to stuff (oneself or another) with food.

stodgy ('stɒdʒɪ) *adj.* -ier, -iest. **1.** (of food) heavy or uninteresting. **2.** excessively formal and conventional. —'stodgily *adv.* —'stodginess *n.*

stoep (stʊ:p) *n.* (in South Africa) a verandah.

stoic ('stɔɪk) *n.* **1.** a person who maintains stoical qualities. ~*adj.* **2.** a variant of **stoical**.

Stoic ('stɔɪk) *n.* **1.** a member of the ancient Greek school of philosophy founded by Zeno of Citium (?336–?264 B.C.), holding that virtue and happiness can be attained only by submission to destiny and the natural law. ~*adj.* **2.** of or relating to the doctrines of the Stoics.

stoical ('stɔɪkəl) *adj.* characterized by impassivity or resignation. —'stoically *adv.*

stoicism ('stɔɪ,sɪzəm) *n.* **1.** indifference to pleasure and pain. **2. (cap.)** the philosophy of the Stoics.

stoke (stəʊk) *vb.* **1.** to feed, stir, and tend (a fire, furnace, etc.). **2. (tr.)** to tend the furnace of; act as a stoker for.

stokehold ('stəʊk,həʊld) *n.* **Naut.** **1.** a coal bunker for a ship's furnace. **2.** the hold for a ship's boilers; fire room.

stokehole ('stəʊk,həʊl) *n.* **1.** another word for **stokehold**. **2.** a hole in a furnace through which it is stoked.

stoker ('stəʊkə) *n.* a person employed to tend a furnace, as on a steamship.

stoke up *vb. (adv.)* **1.** to feed and tend (a fire, etc.) with fuel. **2. (intr.)** to fill oneself with food.

stole (stəʊl) *vb.* the past tense of **steal**.

stole ('stəʊl) *n.* **1.** a long scarf or shawl, worn by women. **2.** a long narrow scarf worn by various officiating clergymen.

stolen ('stəʊlən) *vb.* the past participle of **steal**.

stolid ('stɒlɪd) *adj.* showing little or no emotion or interest. —'stolidity (stɒ'lɪdɪtɪ) or 'stolidness *n.* —'stolidly *adv.*

stoma ('stəʊmə) *n., pl. stomata* ('stəʊmətə, 'stɒm-, 'stəʊ-'mætə). **1. Bot.** an epidermal pore in plant leaves, that controls the passage of gases into and out of a plant. **2. Zool., anat.** a mouth or mouthlike part.

stomach ('stamək) *n.* **1.** (in vertebrates) the enlarged muscular saclike part of the alimentary canal in which food is stored until it has been partially digested. Related *adj.*: **gastric**. **2.** the corresponding organ in invertebrates. **3.** the abdominal region. **4.** desire, appetite, or inclination: I have no stomach for arguments. ~*vb.* (*tr.*; used mainly in negative constructions) **5.** to tolerate; bear: I can't stomach his bragging. **6.** to eat or digest: he cannot stomach oysters.

stomachache ('stamək,eɪk) *n.* pain in the stomach, as from acute indigestion. Also called: **stomach upset, upset stomach**.

stomacher ('staməkə) *n.* a decorative V-shaped panel of stiff material worn over the chest and stomach by men and women in the 16th century, later only by women.

stomach pump *n.* **Med.** a suction device for removing stomach contents via an orally-inserted tube.

—**stome** *n. combining form.* indicating a mouth or opening resembling a mouth: **peristome**.

—**stomous** *adj. combining form.* having a specified type of mouth.

stomp (stɒmp) *vb.* **1. (intr.)** to tread or stamp heavily. ~*n.* **2.** a rhythmical stamping jazz dance. —'stomper *n.*

—**stomy** *n. combining form.* indicating a surgical operation performed to make an artificial opening into or for a specified part: **cytostomy**.

stone (stəʊn) *n.* **1.** the hard compact nonmetallic material of which rocks are made. **2.** a small lump of rock; pebble. **3. In full: gemstone.** a precious or semiprecious stone esp. one cut and polished. **4. a.** a piece of rock designed or shaped for some particular purpose. **b. (in combination):** gravestone; millstone. **5. a.** something that resembles a stone. **b. (in combination):** hailstone. **6.** the woody central part of such fruits as the peach and plum, that contains the seed; endocarp. **7.** any similar hard part of a fruit, such as the stony seed of a date. **8. (pl. stone) Brit.** a unit of weight, used esp. to express human body weight, equal to 14 pounds or 6.350 kilograms. **9.** Also called: **granite.** the rounded heavy mass

of granite or iron used in the game of curling. 10. *Pathol.* a nontechnical name for **calculus**. 11. *Printing.* a table with a very flat iron or stone surface upon which pages are composed. 12. (*modifier*) relating to or made of stone: a **stone house**. 13. (*modifier*) made of stone-ware: a **stone jar**. 14. **cast a stone** (at), cast aspersions (upon). 15. **heart of stone**, an obdurate or unemotional nature. 16. **leave no stone unturned**, to do everything possible to achieve an end. ~*adv.* 17. (*intensifier*): **stone cold**; **stone deaf**. ~*vb.* (tr.) 18. to throw stones at, esp. to kill. 19. to remove the stones from. 20. to furnish or provide with stones. 21. **stone the crows**. *Brit. inf.* an expression of surprise or dismay. —*'stoner* *n.*

Stone Age *n.* a period in human culture identified by the use of stone implements.

stonechat ('stəʊn,tʃæt) *n.* an Old World songbird having a black plumage with a reddish-brown breast.

stone-cold *adj.* 1. completely cold. 2. **stone-cold sober**, completely sober.

stonecrop ('stəʊn,krɒp) *n.* any of various N temperate plants having fleshy leaves and typically red, yellow, or white flowers.

stonecutter ('stəʊn,kʌtə) *n.* 1. a person who is skilled in cutting and carving stone. 2. a machine used to dress stone. —*'stone, cutting* *n.*

stoned ('stəʊnd) *adj.* *Sl.* in a state of intoxication, stupor, or euphoria induced by drugs or alcohol.

stone fruit *n.* the nontechnical name for **drupe**.

stonemason ('stəʊn,meɪsən) *n.* a person who is skilled in preparing stone for building. —*'stone, masonry* *n.*

stone's throw *n.* a short distance.

stonewall ('stəʊn,wɔɪl) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) *Cricket.* (of a batsman) to play defensively. 2. to obstruct or hinder (parliamentary business). —*'stone, waller* *n.*

stoneware ('stəʊn,wɛə) *n.* 1. a hard opaque pottery, fired at a very high temperature. ~*adj.* 2. made of stoneware.

stonework ('stəʊn,wɜ:k) *n.* 1. any construction made of stone. 2. the process of dressing or setting stones. —*'stone, worker* *n.*

stony or **stone** ('stəʊni) *adj.* -ier, -iest. 1. of or resembling stone. 2. abounding in stone or stones. 3. unfeeling or obdurate. 4. short for **stony-broke**. —*'stonily* *adv.* —*'stoniness* *n.*

stony-broke *adj.* *Brit. sl.* completely without money; penniless.

stood (stʊd) *vb.* the past tense or past participle of **stand**.

stooge (stu:dʒ) *n.* 1. an actor who feeds lines to a comedian or acts as his butt. 2. *Sl.* someone who is taken advantage of by another. ~*vb.* 3. (*intr.*) *Sl.* to act as a stooge.

stool (stʊ:l) *n.* 1. a simple seat or footrest consisting of a small flat piece of wood, etc., resting on three or four legs, a pedestal, etc. 2. a rootstock or base of a plant from which shoots, etc., are produced. 3. a cluster of shoots growing from such a base. 4. *Chiefly U.S.* a decoy used in hunting. 5. waste matter evacuated from the bowels. 6. a lavatory seat. 7. (in W Africa, esp. Ghana) a chief's throne. 8. **fall between two stools**, to fail through vacillation between two alternatives. ~*vb.* (*intr.*) 9. (of a plant) to send up shoots from the base of the stem, rootstock, etc. 10. to lure wildfowl with a decoy.

stool ball *n.* a game resembling cricket, still played by girls and women in Sussex, England.

stool pigeon *n.* 1. a living or dummy pigeon used to decoy others. 2. an informer for the police. 3. *U.S. sl.* a person acting as a decoy.

stoop ('stʊ:p) *vb.* (*mainly intr.*) 1. (*also tr.*) to bend (the body) forward and downward. 2. to carry oneself with head and shoulders habitually bent forward. 3. (often foll. by *to*) to abase or degrade oneself. 4. (often foll. by *to*) to condescend; deign. 5. (of a bird of prey) to swoop down. ~*n.* 6. the act, position, or characteristic of stooping. 7. a lowering from a position of dignity or superiority. 8. a downward swoop, esp. of a bird of prey.

stoop ('stʊ:p) *n.* *U.S.* an open porch or small platform with steps leading up to it at the entrance to a building.

stop (stɒp) *vb.* **stopping, stopped.** 1. to cease from doing or being (something); discontinue. 2. to cause (something moving) to halt or (of something moving) to come to a halt. 3. (*tr.*) to prevent the continuance or completion of. 4. (*tr.*; often foll. by *from*) to prevent or restrain: *to stop George from fighting*. 5. (*tr.*) to keep back: *to stop supplies*. 6. (*tr.*) to intercept or hinder in

transit: *to stop a letter*. 7. (*tr.*; often foll. by *up*) to block or plug, esp. so as to close: *to stop up a pipe*. 8. (*tr.*; often foll. by *up*) to fill a hole or opening in: *to stop up a wall*. 9. (*tr.*) to staunch or stem: *to stop a wound*. 10. (*tr.*) to instruct a bank not to honour (a cheque). 11. (*tr.*) to deduct (money) from pay. 12. (*tr.*) *Brit.* to provide with punctuation. 13. (*tr.*) *Boxing.* to beat (an opponent) by a knockout. 14. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to receive (a blow, hit, etc.). 15. (*intr.*) to stay or rest: *we stopped at the Robinsons'*. 16. (*tr.*) *Rare.* to defeat, beat, or kill. 17. (*tr.*) *Music.* a. to alter the vibrating length of (a string on a violin, guitar, etc.) by pressing down on it at some point with the finger. b. to alter the vibrating length of an air column in a wind instrument by closing (a finger hole, etc.). c. to produce (a note) in this manner. 18. *Bridge.* to have a protecting card or winner in (a suit in which one's opponents are strong). 19. **stop at nothing**, to allow no doubts or scruples to hinder one. ~*n.* 20. an arrest of movement or progress. 21. the act of stopping or the state of being stopped. 22. a place where something halts or pauses: a **bus stop**. 23. a stay in or as if in the course of a journey. 24. the act or an instance of blocking or obstructing. 25. a plug or stopper. 26. a block, screw, etc. that prevents, limits, or terminates the motion of a mechanism or moving part. 27. *Brit.* a punctuation mark, esp. a full stop. 28. *Music.* a. the act of stopping the string, finger hole, etc., of an instrument. b. a set of organ pipes or harpsichord strings that may be allowed to sound as a group by muffling or silencing all other such sets. c. a knob, lever, or handle on an organ, etc., that is operated to allow sets of pipes to sound. d. an analogous device on a harpsichord or other instrument with variable registers, such as an electrophonic instrument. 29. **pull out all the stops**, a. to play at full volume. b. to spare no effort. 30. Also called: **stop consonant**. *Phonetics.* any of a class of consonants articulated by first making a complete closure at some point of the vocal tract and then releasing it abruptly with audible plosion. 31. Also called: **f-stop**. *Photog.* a. a setting of the aperture of a camera lens, calibrated to the corresponding f-number. b. another name for **diaphragm** (sense 4). 32. Also called: **stopper**. *Bridge.* a protecting card or winner in a suit in which one's opponents are strong. ~*See also stop off, stopover.* —*'stopable* *adj.*

stopcock ('stɒp,kɒk) *n.* a valve used to control or stop the flow of a fluid in a pipe.

stopgap ('stɒp,gæp) *n.* a. a temporary substitute. b. (*as modifier*): a **stopgap programme**.

stop off, stop in, or **esp. U.S. stop by** *vb.* (*intr.*, *adv.*; often foll. by *at*) to halt and call somewhere, as on a visit or errand, esp. en route to another place.

stopover ('stɒp,əʊvə) *n.* 1. a stopping place on a journey. ~*vb.* **stop over.** 2. (*intr.*, *adv.*) to make a stopover.

stoppage ('stɒpɪdʒ) *n.* 1. the act of stopping or the state of being stopped. 2. something that stops or blocks. 3. a deduction of money, as from pay. 4. an organized cessation of work, as during a strike.

stopper ('stɒpə) *n.* 1. Also called: **'stopple**, a plug or bung for closing a bottle, pipe, duct, etc. 2. a person or thing that stops or puts an end to something. 3. *Bridge.* another name for **stop** (sense 32). ~*vb.* 4. (*tr.*) Also: **'stopple**, to close or fit with a stopper.

stop press *n.* *Brit.* 1. news items inserted into a newspaper after the printing has been started. 2. the space regularly left blank for this.

stopwatch ('stɒp,wɒtʃ) *n.* a type of watch used for timing sporting events, etc., accurately, having a device for stopping the hands instantly.

storage ('stɔ:ɪdʒ) *n.* 1. the act of storing or the state of being stored. 2. space or area reserved for storing. 3. a charge made for storing. 4. *Computers.* a. the act or process of storing information in a computer memory or on magnetic tape, etc. b. (*as modifier*): **storage capacity**.

storage battery *n.* another name (esp. U.S.) for **accumulator** (sense 1).

storage device *n.* a piece of computer equipment, such as a magnetic tape, disk, drum, etc., in or on which information can be stored.

storage heater *n.* an electric device capable of accumulating and radiating heat generated by off-peak electricity.

store (stɔ:) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to keep, set aside, or accumulate for future use. 2. (*tr.*) to place in a warehouse, depository, etc., for safekeeping. 3. (*tr.*) to supply, provide, or stock. 4. (*intr.*) to be put into storage. 5. *Computers.* to

enter or retain (information) in a storage device. ~*n.*
6. a. an establishment for the retail sale of goods and services. **b.** (in combination): *storefront*. **7.** a large supply or stock kept for future use. **8.** short for **department store**. **9. a.** a storage place such as a warehouse or depository. **b.** (in combination): *storeman*. **10.** the state of being stored (esp. in **in store**). **11.** a large amount or quantity. **12.** *Computers, chiefly Brit.* another name for **memory** (sense 7). **13. in store.** forthcoming or imminent. **14. lay, put, or set store by.** to value or reckon as important. ~*adj.* **15.** (of cattle, sheep, etc.) bought lean to be fattened up for market. —'**storeable adj.**

storehouse ('stɔː,haus) *n.* a place where things are stored.

storeroom ('stɔː,ru:m, -rum) *n.* **1.** a room in which things are stored. **2.** room for storing.

stores (stɔːz) *pl. n.* supply or stock of something, esp. essentials, for a specific purpose.

storey or **U.S. story** ('stɔːri) *n., pl. -reys or -ries.* **1.** a floor or level of a building. **2.** a set of rooms on one level.

storied ('stɔːriəd) *adj.* **1.** recorded in history or in a story. **2.** decorated with narrative scenes.

stork (stɔːk) *n.* any of a family of large wading birds, chiefly of warm regions of the Old World, having very long legs and a long stout pointed bill, and typically having a white-and-black plumage.

storm (stɔːm) *n.* **1. a.** a violent weather condition of strong winds, rain, hail, thunder, lightning, blowing sand, snow, etc. **b.** (as modifier): *storm cloud*. **c.** (in combination): *stormproof*. **2. Meteorol.** a wind of force 10 on the Beaufort scale, reaching speeds of 55 to 63 m.p.h. **3.** a violent disturbance or quarrel. **4.** a direct assault on a stronghold. **5.** a heavy discharge or rain, as of bullets or missiles. **6. storm in a teacup.** *Brit.* a violent fuss or disturbance over a trivial matter. **7. take by storm.** *a.* to capture or overrun by a violent assault. **b. to overwhelm and enthral. ~*vb.* **8.** to attack or assault (something) suddenly and violently. **9. (intr.)** to be vociferously angry. **10. (intr.)** to move or rush violently or angrily. **11. (intr.; with it as subject)** to rain, hail, or snow hard and be very windy, often with thunder and lightning.**

storm centre *n.* **1.** the centre of a cyclonic storm, etc., where pressure is lowest. **2.** the centre of any disturbance or trouble.

storm door *n.* an additional door outside an ordinary door, providing extra insulation against wind, cold, rain, etc.

storm-trooper *n.* **1.** a member of the Nazi S.A. **2.** a member of a force of shock troops.

stormy ('stɔːmi) *adj. -ier, -iest.* **1.** characterized by storms. **2.** involving or characterized by violent disturbance or emotional outburst. —'**stormily adv.** —'**storminess n.**

stormy petrel *n.* **1.** Also called: **storm petrel.** any of various small petrels typically having dark plumage and paler underparts. **2.** a person who brings or portends trouble.

story¹ ('stɔːri) *n., pl. -ries.* **1.** a narration of a chain of events told or written in prose or verse. **2.** Also called: **short story.** a piece of fiction, briefer and usually less detailed than a novel. **3.** Also called: **story line.** the plot of a book, film, etc. **4.** an event that could be the subject of a narrative. **5.** a report or statement on a matter or event. **6.** the event or material for such a report. **7. Inf.** a lie, fib, or untruth. **8. cut (or make) a long story short.** to leave out details in a narration. **9. the same old story.** the familiar or regular course of events. **10. the story goes. it is commonly said or believed. ~*vb.* **-rying, -ried.** (tr.) **11.** to decorate (a pot, wall, etc.) with scenes from history or legends.**

story² ('stɔːri) *n., pl. -ries.* another spelling (esp. U.S.) of **storey**.

storybook ('stɔːri,bʊk) *n.* **1.** a book containing stories, esp. for children. ~*adj.* **2.** unreal or fantastic: *a storybook world*.

stoup or **stoop** (stʊ:p) *n.* **1.** a small basin for holy water. **2. Brit. dialect.** a bucket or cup.

stout (staʊt) *adj.* **1.** solidly built or corpulent. **2. (pre-nominal)** resolute or valiant: *stout fellow*. **3.** strong, substantial, and robust. **4. a stout heart.** courage; resolution. ~*n.* **5.** strong porter highly flavoured with malt. —'**stoutly adv.** —'**stoutness n.**

stouthearted (ˈstaʊtˈhɑːtɪd) *adj.* valiant; brave. —'**stoutheartedly adv.** —'**stoutheartedness n.**

stove¹ (stəʊv) *n.* another word for **cooker** (sense 1). **2.** any heating apparatus, such as a kiln.

stove² (stəʊv) *vb.* a past tense or past participle of **stave**.

stovepipe ('stəʊv,paɪp) *n.* **1.** a pipe that serves as a flue to a stove. **2.** Also called: **stovepipe hat.** a man's tall silk hat.

stow (stəʊ) *vb. (tr.)* **1.** (often foll. by **away**) to pack or store. **2.** to fill by packing. **3. Naut.** to pack or put away (cargo, sails, etc.). **4.** to have enough room for. **5. (usually imperative) Brit. sl.** to cease from: *stow your noise!*

stowage ('stəʊɪdʒ) *n.* **1.** space, room, or a charge for stowing goods. **2.** the act or an instance of stowing or the state of being stowed. **3.** something that is stowed.

stowaway ('stəʊə,wei) *n.* **1.** a person who hides aboard a vehicle, ship, or aircraft in order to gain free passage. ~*vb.* **stow away.** **2. (intr., adv.)** to travel in such a way.

S.T.P. *abbrev. for:* **1. Trademark.** scientifically treated petroleum: an oil substitute promising renewed power for an internal-combustion engine. **2.** standard temperature and pressure. **3.** Professor of Sacred Theology. ~*n.* **4.** a synthetic hallucinogenic drug related to mescaline.

strabismus (strəˈbɪzməs) *n.* abnormal parallel alignment of one or both eyes, characterized by a turning inwards or outwards from the nose: caused by paralysis of an eye muscle, etc. Also called: **squint**. —'**stra'bismal, stra'bismic, or stra'bismical adj.**

straddle ('strædl̩) *vb.* **1. (tr.)** to have one leg, part, or support on each side of. **2. (tr.) U.S. inf.** to be in favour of both sides of (something). **3. (intr.)** to stand, walk, or sit with the legs apart. **4. (tr.)** to spread (the legs) apart. **5. Gunnery.** to fire a number of shots slightly beyond and slightly short of (a target) to determine the correct range. **6. (intr.)** (in poker, of the second player after the dealer) to double the ante before looking at one's cards. ~*n.* **7.** the act or position of straddling. **8.** a noncommittal attitude or stand. **9. Stock Exchange.** a contract or option permitting its purchaser either to sell securities to or buy securities from the maker of the contract within a specified period of time. **10. Athletics.** a high-jumping technique in which the body is parallel with the bar and the legs straddle it at the highest point of the jump. **11. (in poker)** the stake put up after the ante in poker by the second player after the dealer. —'**straddler n.**

Stradivarius (ˌstrædɪˈvɛəriəs) *n.* any of a number of violins manufactured in Italy by Antonio Stradivari (?1644–1737), or his family. Often shortened to (informal) **Strad**.

strafe (streɪf, strɑːf) *vb. (tr.)* **1.** to bombard (troops, etc.) from the air. **2. Sl.** to punish harshly. ~*n.* **3.** an act or instance of strafing. —'**straffer n.**

straggle ('strægl̩) *vb. (intr.)* **1.** to go, come, or spread in a rambling or irregular way. **2.** to linger behind or wander from a main line or part. —'**straggler n.** —'**straggly adj.**

straight (streɪt) *adj.* **1.** not curved or crooked; continuing in the same direction without deviating. **2.** straightforward, outright, or candid: *a straight rejection*. **3.** even, level, or upright. **4.** in keeping with the facts; accurate. **5.** honest, respectable, or reliable. **6.** accurate or logical: *straight reasoning*. **7.** continuous; uninterrupted. **8.** (esp. of an alcoholic drink) undiluted; neat. **9.** not crisp, kinked, or curly: *straight hair*. **10.** correctly arranged; orderly. **11.** (of a play, acting style, etc.) straightforward or serious. **12. Boxing.** (of a blow, etc.) delivered with an unbent arm: *a straight left*. **13.** (of the cylinders of an internal-combustion engine) in line, rather than in a V-formation or in some other arrangement: *a straight eight*. **14.** a slang word for **heterosexual**. **15. Inf.** no longer owing or being owed something: *if you buy the next round we'll be straight*. **16. Sl.** conventional in views, customs, appearance, etc. ~*adv.* **17.** in a straight line or direct course. **18.** immediately; at once: *he came straight back*. **19.** in an even, level, or upright position. **20.** without cheating, lying, or unreliability: *tell it to me straight*. **21.** continuously; uninterruptedly. **22.** (often foll. by **out**) frankly; candidly: *he told me straight out*. **23. go straight. Inf.** to reform after having been dishonest or a criminal. ~*n.* **24.** the state of being straight. **25.** a straight line, form, part, or position. **26. Brit.** a straight part of a racetrack. **27. Poker.** a. five cards that are in sequence irrespective of suit. **b.** a hand containing such a sequence. **c.** (as modifier): *a straight flush*. **28. Sl.** a conventional person. **29. Sl.** a cigarette containing only tobacco, without drugs. —'**straightly adv.** —'**straightness n.**

straightaway (ˌstreɪtəˈwei) *adv. also straight away.* **1.** at once. ~*n.* **2.** the U.S. word for **straight** (sense 26).

straightedge ('streit,edʒ) *n.* a stiff strip of wood or metal with one edge straight, used for ruling straight lines. — **'straight, edged** *adj.*

straighten ('streit'n) *vb.* (sometimes foll. by *up* or *out*) 1. to make or become straight. 2. to make neat or tidy. — **'straightener** *n.*

straighten out *vb. (adv.)* 1. to make or become less complicated or confused. 2. *U.S.* to reform or become reformed.

straight face *n.* a serious facial expression, esp. one that conceals the impulse to laugh. — **'straight-faced** *adj.*

straight fight *n.* a contest between two candidates only.

straightforward ('streit'fɔ:wəd) *adj.* 1. (of a person) honest, frank, or simple. 2. *Chiefly Brit.* (of a task, etc.) simple; easy. ~*adv.*, *adj.* 3. in a straight course. — **'straight'forwardly** *adv.* — **'straight'forwardness** *n.*

straightjacket ('streit,dʒækɪt) *n.* a less common spelling of **straitjacket**.

straight man *n.* a subsidiary actor who acts as stooge to a comedian.

straight-out *adj. U.S. inf.* 1. complete; thoroughgoing. 2. frank or honest.

straightway ('streit,wei) *adv. Arch.* at once.

strain¹ ('streɪn) *vb.* 1. to draw or be drawn taut; stretch tight. 2. to exert, tax, or use (resources) to the utmost extent. 3. to injure or damage or be injured or damaged by overexertion: *he strained himself*. 4. to deform or be deformed as a result of a stress. 5. (*intr.*) to make intense or violent efforts; strive. 6. to subject or be subjected to mental tension or stress. 7. to pour or pass (a substance) or (of a substance) to be poured or passed through a sieve, filter, or strainer. 8. (*tr.*) to draw off or remove (one part of a substance or mixture from another) by or as if by filtering. 9. (*tr.*) to clasp tightly; hug. 10. (*intr.*; foll. by *at*) to push, pull, or work with violent exertion (upon). ~*n.* 11. the act or an instance of straining. 12. the damage resulting from excessive exertion. 13. an intense physical or mental effort. 14. *Music. (often pl.)* a theme, melody, or tune. 15. a great demand on the emotions, resources, etc. 16. a way of speaking; tone of voice: *don't go on in that strain*. 17. *Physics.* the change in dimension of a body under load expressed as the ratio of the total deflection or change in dimension to the original unloaded dimension.

strain² ('streɪn) *n.* 1. the main body of descendants from one ancestor. 2. a group of organisms within a species or variety, distinguished by one or more minor characteristics. 3. a variety of bacterium or fungus, esp. one used for a culture. 4. a streak; trace. 5. *Arch.* a kind, type, or sort.

strained ('streɪnd) *adj.* 1. (of an action, performance, etc.) not natural or spontaneous. 2. (of an atmosphere, relationship, etc.) not relaxed; tense. — **'strainedness** *n.*

strainer ('streɪnə) *n.* 1. a sieve used for straining sauces, vegetables, tea, etc. 2. a gauze or simple filter used to strain liquids.

strait ('streɪt) *n.* 1. (*often pl.*) a narrow channel of the sea linking two larger areas of sea. 2. (*often pl.*) a position of acute difficulty (*often in in dire or desperate straits*). 3. *Arch.* a narrow place or passage. ~*adj.* 4. *Arch.* (of spaces, etc.) affording little room. — **'straitly** *adv.* — **'straitness** *n.*

straiten ('streɪt'n) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*; usually *passive*) to embarrass or distress, esp. financially. 2. (*tr.*) to limit, confine, or restrict. 3. *Arch.* to make or become narrow.

straitjacket or straightjacket ('streit,dʒækɪt) *n.* a jacket made of strong canvas material with long sleeves for binding the arms of violent prisoners or mental patients.

strait-laced or straight-laced *adj.* prudish or puritanical.

strand¹ ('strænd) *vb.* 1. to leave or drive (ships, fish, etc.) aground or ashore or (of ships etc.) to be left or driven ashore. 2. (*tr.*; usually *passive*) to leave helpless, as without transport or money, etc. ~*n.* *Chiefly poetic.* 3. a shore or beach.

strand² ('strænd) *n.* 1. a set of or one of the individual fibres or threads of string, wire, etc., that form a rope, cable, etc. 2. a single length of string, hair, wool, wire, etc. 3. a string of pearls or beads. 4. a constituent element of something. ~*vb.* 5. (*tr.*) to form (a rope, cable, etc.) by winding strands together.

strange ('streɪndʒ) *adj.* 1. odd, unusual, or extraordinary; peculiar. 2. not known, seen, or experienced before; unfamiliar. 3. not easily explained. 4. (usually

foll. by *to*) inexperienced (in) or unaccustomed (to): *strange to a task*. 5. not of one's own kind, locality, etc.; alien; foreign. 6. shy; distant; reserved. 7. **strange to say**, it is unusual or surprising that. ~*adv.* 8. *Not standard.* in a strange manner. — **'strangely** *adv.*

stranger ('streɪndʒə) *n.* 1. any person whom one does not know. 2. a person who is new to a particular locality, from another region, town, etc. 3. a guest or visitor. 4. (foll. by *to*) a person who is unfamiliar (with) or new (to) something: *he is no stranger to computers*.

strangle ('stræŋɡl) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to kill by compressing the windpipe; throttle. 2. (*tr.*) to prevent or inhibit the growth or development of: *to strangle originality*. 3. (*tr.*) to suppress (an utterance) by or as if by swallowing suddenly: *to strangle a cry*. — **'strangler** *n.*

stranglehold ('stræŋɡl'həʊld) *n.* 1. a wrestling hold in which a wrestler's arms are pressed against his opponent's windpipe. 2. complete power or control over a person or situation.

strangulate ('stræŋɡjuːleɪt) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to constrict (a hollow organ, vessel, etc.) so as to stop the flow of air, blood, etc., through it. 2. another word for **strangle**. — **'strangulation** *n.*

strap ('stræp) *n.* 1. a long strip of leather or similar material, for binding trunks, baggage, etc. 2. a strip of leather or similar material used for carrying, lifting, or holding. 3. a loop of leather, rubber, etc., suspended from the roof in a bus or train for standing passengers to hold on to. 4. a razor strap. 5. **the strap**, a beating with a strap as a punishment. 6. short for **shoulder strap**. ~*vb.* **strapping, strapped.** (*tr.*) 7. to tie or bind with a strap. 8. to beat with a strap. 9. to sharpen with a strap or strip.

straphanger ('stræp,hæŋɡə) *n. Inf.* a passenger in a bus, train, etc., who has to travel standing, esp. holding on to a strap. — **'strap, hanging** *n.*

strapping ('stræpiŋ) *adj. (prenominal)* tall and sturdy.

strata ('strætə) *n.* the plural of **stratum**.

▷ **Usage.** In careful usage, *strata* is the standard plural of *stratum* and is not treated as singular.

stratagem ('strætɪdʒəm) *n.* a plan or trick, esp. to deceive an enemy.

strategic ('strætɪdʒɪk) or **strategical** *adj.* 1. of or characteristic of strategy. 2. important to strategy. 3. (of weapons, esp. missiles) directed against an enemy's homeland rather than used on a battlefield. Cf. **tactical**. — **'strategically** *adv.*

strategies ('strætɪdʒɪks) *n.* strategy, esp. in a military sense.

strategy ('strætɪdʒɪ) *n., pl. -gies*. 1. the art or science of the planning and conduct of a war. 2. the practice or art of using stratagems, as in politics, business, etc. 3. a plan or stratagem. — **'strategist** *n.*

strath ('stræθ) *n. Scot.* a broad valley or glen.

strathspey ('stræθ'speɪ) *n.* a slow Scottish reel with gliding steps.

strati- *combining form.* indicating stratum or strata: **stratigraphy**.

stratify ('strætɪ,faɪ) *vb. -fying, -fied*. 1. to form or be formed in layers or strata. 2. *Sociol.* to divide (a society) into status groups or (of a society) to develop such groups. — **'stratification** *n.*

stratocumulus ('strætəʊ'kjuːmjʊləs) *n., pl. -li* (-,laɪ). *Meteorol.* a uniform stretch of cloud containing dark grey globular masses.

stratosphere ('strætəʊ'sfɪə) *n.* the atmospheric layer lying between the troposphere and the mesosphere, in which temperature generally increases with height. — **'stratospheric** ('strætəʊ'sferɪk) or **'strato'spherical** *adj.*

stratum ('strætəm) *n., pl. -ta* (-tə) or **-tums**. 1. (*usually pl.*) any of the distinct layers into which sedimentary rocks are divided. 2. *Biol.* a single layer of tissue or cells. 3. a layer of any material, esp. one of several parallel layers. 4. a layer of ocean or atmosphere either naturally or arbitrarily demarcated. 5. a level of a social hierarchy. — **'stratal** *adj.*

stratus ('streɪtəs) *n., pl. -ti* (-taɪ). a grey layer cloud.

straw (strɔː) *n.* 1. a. stalks of threshed grain, esp. of wheat, rye, oats, or barley, used in plaiting hats, baskets, etc., or as fodder. b. (*as modifier*): a **straw hat**. 2. a single dry or ripened stalk, esp. of a grass. 3. a long thin hollow paper or plastic tube, used for sucking up liquids into the mouth. 4. (*usually used with a negative*) anything of little value or importance: *I wouldn't give a straw for our chances*. 5. a measure or remedy that one turns to in desperation (esp. in **clutch or grasp at a straw or straws**). 6. a. a pale yellow colour. b. (*as*

adj.: straw hair. 7. the last straw. a final blow or calamity. 8. straw in the wind. a hint or indication. —'strawy *adj.*

strawberry ('strɔ:bəri, -brɪ) *n.*, *pl.* -ries. 1. any of various low-growing rosaceous plants which have red edible fruits and spread by runners. 2. a. the fruit of any of these plants, consisting of a sweet fleshy receptacle bearing small seedlike parts (the true fruits). *b.* (as modifier): strawberry ice cream. 3. a. a purplish-red colour. *b.* (as *adj.*): strawberry shoes.

strawberry blonde *adj.* 1. (of hair) reddish blonde. ~*n.* 2. a woman with such hair.

strawberry mark *n.* a soft vascular red birthmark. Also called: **strawberry**.

strawflower ('strɔ:flaʊə) *n.* an Australian plant in which the coloured bracts retain their colour when the plant is dried.

straw vote or poll *n.* Chiefly U.S. an unofficial poll or vote taken to determine the opinion of a group or the public on some issue.

stray (streɪ) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. to wander away, as from the correct path or from a given area. 2. to wander haphazardly. 3. to digress from the point, lose concentration, etc. 4. to deviate from certain moral standards. ~*n.* 5. a. a domestic animal, fowl, etc., that has wandered away from its place of keeping and is lost. *b.* (as modifier): stray dogs. 6. a lost or homeless person, esp. a child: waifs and strays. 7. an occurrence, specimen, etc., that is out of place or outside the usual pattern. ~*adj.* 8. scattered, random, or haphazard. —'strayer *n.*

streak (stri:k) *n.* 1. a long thin mark, stripe, or trace of some contrasting colour. 2. (of lightning) a sudden flash. 3. an element or trace, as of some quality or characteristic. 4. a strip, vein, or layer. 5. a short stretch or run, esp. of good or bad luck. 6. *Inf.* an act or the practice of running naked through a public place. ~*vb.* 7. (*tr.*) to mark or daub with a streak or streaks. 8. (*intr.*) to form streaks or become streaked. 9. (*intr.*) to move rapidly in a straight line. 10. (*intr.*) *Inf.* to run naked through a public place in order to shock or amuse. —'streaked *adj.* —'streaker *n.* —'streak, like *adj.* —'streaky *adj.*

stream (stri:m) *n.* 1. a small river; brook. 2. any steady flow of water or other fluid. 3. something that resembles a stream in moving continuously in a line or particular direction. 4. a rapid or unbroken flow of speech, etc.: a stream of abuse. 5. *Brit.* any of several parallel classes of schoolchildren, or divisions of children within a class, grouped together because of similar ability. 6. *go (or drift) with the stream.* to conform to the accepted standards. ~*vb.* 7. to emit or be emitted in a continuous flow: his nose streamed blood. 8. (*intr.*) to move in unbroken succession, as a crowd of people, vehicles, etc. 9. (*intr.*) to float freely or with a waving motion: bunting streamed in the wind. 10. (*tr.*) to unfurl (a flag, etc.). 11. *Brit. education.* to group or divide (children) in streams.

streamer ('stri:mə) *n.* 1. a long narrow flag or part of a flag. 2. a long narrow coiled ribbon of coloured paper that becomes unrolled when tossed. 3. a stream of light, esp. one appearing in some forms of the aurora. 4. *Journalism.* a large heavy headline printed across the width of a page.

streamline ('stri:m,laɪn) *n.* 1. a contour on a body that offers the minimum resistance to a gas or liquid flowing around it. ~*vb.* 2. (*tr.*) to make streamlined.

streamlined ('stri:m,laɪnd) *adj.* 1. offering or designed to offer the minimum resistance to the flow of a gas or liquid. 2. made more efficient, esp. by simplifying.

stream of consciousness *n.* 1. *Psychol.* the continuous flow of ideas, thoughts, and feelings forming the content of an individual's consciousness. 2. a literary technique that reveals the flow of thoughts and feelings of characters through long passages of soliloquy.

street (stri:t) *n.* 1. a. a public road that is usually lined with buildings, esp. in a town: Oxford Street. *b.* (as modifier): a street directory. 2. the buildings lining a street. 3. the part of the road between the pavements, used by vehicles. 4. the people living, working, etc., in a particular street. 5. man in the street. an ordinary or average citizen. 6. on the streets. earning a living as a prostitute. 7. (right) up one's street. (just) what one knows or likes best. 8. streets ahead of. superior to, more advanced than, etc. 9. streets apart. markedly different.

street Arab *n.* a homeless child, esp. one who survives by begging and stealing; urchin.

streetcar ('stri:t,kɑ:) *n.* the usual U.S. name for tram (sense 1).

streetwalker ('stri:t,wɔ:kə) *n.* a prostitute who solicits on the streets. —'street,walking *n.*, *adj.*

strength (streŋθ) *n.* 1. the state or quality of being physically or mentally strong. 2. the ability to withstand or exert great force, stress, or pressure. 3. something regarded as beneficial or a source of power: their chief strength is technology. 4. potency, as of a drink, drug, etc. 5. power to convince; cogency: the strength of an argument. 6. degree of intensity or concentration of colour, light, sound, flavour, etc. 7. (of an army, group, etc.) having part of the full complement as specified: at full strength; below strength. 8. from strength to strength. with ever-increasing success. 9. in strength. in large numbers. 10. on the strength of. on the basis of or relying upon. 11. the strength of. *Austral. inf.* the essential facts about.

strengthen ('streŋθən) *vb.* to make or become stronger. —'strengthened *n.*

strenuous ('strenjuəs) *adj.* 1. requiring or involving the use of great energy or effort. 2. characterized by great activity, effort, or endeavour. —'strenuousness *n.* —'strenuously *adv.*

strepto- combining form. 1. indicating a shape resembling a twisted chain: streptococcus. 2. indicating streptococcus.

streptococcus (,streptəʊ'kɒkəs) *n.*, *pl.* -cocci (-'kɒksai). any spherical bacterium of the genus *Streptococcus*, typically occurring in chains and including many pathogenic species. Often shortened to **strep.** —'streptococcal (,streptəʊ'kɒkəl) or 'streptococcic (,streptəʊ'kɒksɪk) *adj.*

streptomycin (,streptəʊ'maɪsɪn) *n.* an antibiotic obtained from the bacterium *Streptomyces griseus*: used in the treatment of tuberculosis and other bacterial infections.

stress (stres) *n.* 1. special emphasis or significance. 2. emphasis placed upon a syllable by pronouncing it more loudly than those that surround it. 3. such emphasis as part of a rhythm in music or poetry. 4. a syllable so emphasized. 5. *Physics.* a. force or a system of forces producing deformation or strain. *b.* the force acting per unit area. 6. mental, emotional, or physical strain or tension. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 7. to give emphasis or prominence to. 8. to pronounce (a word or syllable) more loudly than those that surround it. 9. to subject to stress. —'stressful *adj.*

stretch (stretʃ) *vb.* 1. to draw out or extend or be drawn out or extended in length, area, etc. 2. to extend or be extended to an undue degree, esp. so as to distort or lengthen permanently. 3. to extend (the limbs, body, etc.). 4. (*tr.*) to reach or suspend (a rope, etc.) from one place to another. 5. (*tr.*) to draw tight; tighten. 6. (often foll. by *out, forward*, etc.) to reach or hold (out); extend. 7. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *over*) to extend in time: the course stretched over three months. 8. (*intr.*; foll. by *for, over*, etc.) (of a region, etc.) to extend in length or area. 9. (*intr.*) (esp. of a garment) to be capable of expanding, as to a larger size: socks that will stretch. 10. (*tr.*) to put a great strain upon or extend to the limit. 11. to injure (a muscle, tendon, etc.) by means of a strain or sprain. 12. (*tr.*; often foll. by *out*) to make do with (limited resources): to stretch one's budget. 13. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to expand or elaborate (a story, etc.) beyond what is credible or acceptable. 14. (*tr.*; often passive) to extend, as to the limit of one's abilities or talents. 15. *Arch. or sl.* to hang or be hanged by the neck. 16. stretch a point. a. to make a concession or exception not usually made. *b.* to exaggerate. 17. stretch one's legs. to take a walk, esp. after a period of inactivity. ~*n.* 18. the act of stretching or state of being stretched. 19. a large or continuous expanse or distance: a stretch of water. 20. extent in time, length, area, etc. 21. a. capacity for being stretched, as in some garments. *b.* (as modifier): stretch pants. 22. the section or sections of a racecourse that are straight, esp. the final section leading to the finishing line. 23. *Sl.* a term of imprisonment. 24. at a stretch. Chiefly *Brit.* a. with some difficulty; by making a special effort. *b.* if really necessary or in extreme circumstances. *c.* at one time: he sometimes read for hours at a stretch. —'stretchable *adj.* —'stretchability *n.* —'stretchy *adj.*

stretcher ('stretʃə) *n.* 1. a device for transporting the ill, wounded, or dead, consisting of a sheet of canvas stretched between two poles. 2. a strengthening often decorative member joining the legs of a chair, table, etc. 3. the wooden frame on which canvas is stretched and

fixed for oil painting. 4. a tie beam or brace used in a structural framework. 5. a brick or stone laid horizontally with its length parallel to the length of a wall. 6. *Rowing*, a fixed board across a boat on which an oarsman braces his feet. 7. *Austral*, a camp bed.

stretcher-bearer *n.* an attendant who helps to carry a stretcher or litter, esp. in wartime.

strew (stru:) *vb.* **strewing, strewed; strewn or strewed.** to spread or scatter or be spread or scattered, as over a surface or area. —**'strewer** *n.*

strewth (stru:θ) *interj.* an expression of surprise or dismay.

stria ('striə) *n., pl. striae* ('stri:). (*often pl.*) 1. Also called: **striation**. *Geol.* any of the parallel scratches or grooves on the surface of a rock over which a glacier has flowed or on the surface of a crystal. 2. *Biol., anat.* a narrow band of colour or a ridge, groove, or similar linear mark. 3. *Archit.* a narrow channel, such as a flute on the shaft of a column.

striation (stri'eɪʃən) *n.* 1. an arrangement or pattern of striae. 2. the condition of being striate. 3. another word for **stria** (sense 1).

stricken ('stri:kən) *adj.* 1. laid low, as by disease or sickness. 2. deeply affected, as by grief, love, etc. 3. *Arch.* wounded or injured. 4. **stricken in years.** made feeble by age. —**'strickenly** *adv.*

strict (strikt) *adj.* 1. adhering closely to specified rules, ordinances, etc. 2. complied with or enforced stringently; rigorous: *a strict code of conduct*. 3. severely correct in attention to conduct or morality: *a strict teacher*. 4. (of a punishment, etc.) harsh; severe. 5. (*prenominal*) complete; absolute: *strict secrecy*. —**'strictly** *adv.* —**'strictness** *n.*

stricture ('striktʃə) *n.* 1. a severe criticism; censure. 2. *Pathol.* an abnormal constriction of a tubular organ or part. —**'strictured** *adj.*

stride (straɪd) *n.* 1. a long step or pace. 2. the space measured by such a step. 3. a striding gait. 4. an act of forward movement by a horse, etc. 5. progress or development (esp. in **make rapid strides**). 6. a regular pace or rate of progress: *to get into one's stride; to be put off one's stride*. 7. (*pl.*) *Austral. inf.* men's trousers. 8. **take (something) in one's stride.** to do (something) without difficulty or effort. ~*vb.* **striding, strode, strident.** 9. (*intr.*) to walk with long regular or measured paces, as in haste, etc. 10. (*tr.*) to cover or traverse by striding: *he strode thirty miles*. 11. (often foll. by *over*, *across*, etc.) to cross (over a space, obstacle, etc.) with a stride. 12. *Arch. or poetic.* to straddle or bestride. —**'strider** *n.*

strident ('straɪdnt) *adj.* 1. (of a shout, voice, etc.) loud or harsh. 2. urgent, clamorous, or vociferous: *strident demands*. —**'stridence** or **'stridency** *n.* —**'stridently** *adv.*

strife (straɪf) *n.* 1. angry or violent struggle; conflict. 2. rivalry or contention, esp. of a bitter kind. 3. *Austral. & N.Z. inf.* trouble or discord of any kind. 4. *Arch.* striving.

strike (straɪk) *vb.* **striking, struck.** 1. to deliver (a blow or stroke) to (a person). 2. to come or cause to come into sudden or violent contact (with). 3. (*tr.*) to make an attack on. 4. to produce (fire, sparks, etc.) or (of fire, sparks, etc.) to be produced by ignition. 5. to cause (a match) to light by friction or (of a match) to be lighted. 6. to press (the key of a piano, organ, etc.) or to sound (a specific note) in this or a similar way. 7. to indicate (a specific time) by the sound of a hammer striking a bell or by any other percussive sound. 8. (of a venomous snake) to cause injury by biting. 9. (*tr.*) to affect or cause to affect deeply, suddenly, or radically: *her appearance struck him as strange*. 10. (*past participle struck or stricken*) (*tr.; passive*; usually foll. by *with*) to render incapable or nearly so: *stricken with grief*. 11. (*tr.*) to enter the mind of: *it struck me that he had become very quiet*. 12. (*past participle struck or stricken*) to render: *struck dumb*. 13. (*tr.*) to be perceived by; catch: *the glint of metal struck his eye*. 14. to arrive at or come upon (something), esp. suddenly or unexpectedly: *to strike the path for home; to strike upon a solution*. 15. (*intr.*; sometimes foll. by *out*) to set (out) or proceed, esp. upon a new course: *to strike out for the coast*. 16. (*tr.*; usually *passive*) to afflict with a disease, esp. unexpectedly: *he was struck with polio*. 17. (*tr.*) to discover or come upon a source of (ore, petroleum, etc.). 18. (*tr.*) (of a plant) to produce or send down (a root or roots). 19. (*tr.*) to take apart or pack up; break (esp. in **strike camp**). 20. (*tr.*) to take down or dismantle (a stage set). 21. (*tr.*) *Naut. a.* to lower or remove (a specified piece of

gear). *b.* to haul down or dip (a flag, sail, etc.) in salute or in surrender. 22. to attack (an objective). 23. to impale the hook in the mouth of (a fish) by suddenly tightening or jerking the line after the bait has been taken. 24. (*tr.*) to form or impress (a coin, metal, etc.) by or as if by stamping. 25. to level (a surface) by use of a flat board. 26. (*tr.*) to assume or take up (an attitude, posture, etc.). 27. (*intr.*) (of workers in a factory, etc.) to cease work collectively as a protest against working conditions, low pay, etc. 28. (*tr.*) to reach by agreement: *to strike a bargain*. 29. (*tr.*) to form (a jury, esp. a special jury) by cancelling certain names among those nominated for jury service until only the requisite number remains. 30. **strike home.** *a.* to deliver an effective blow. *b.* to achieve the intended effect. 31. **strike it rich.** *Inf. a.* to discover an extensive deposit of a mineral, petroleum, etc. *b.* to have an unexpected financial success. ~*n.* 32. an act or instance of striking. 33. a cessation of work, as a protest against working conditions or low pay: *on strike*. 34. a military attack, esp. an air attack on a surface target: *air strike*. 35. *Baseball.* a pitched ball judged good but missed or not swung at, three of which cause a batter to be out. 36. Also called: **ten-strike.** *Tenpin bowling.* *a.* the act or an instance of knocking down all the pins with the first bowl of a single frame. *b.* the score thus made. 37. a sound made by striking. 38. the mechanism that makes a clock strike. 39. the discovery of a source of ore, petroleum, etc. 40. the horizontal direction of a fault, rock stratum, etc. 41. *Angling.* the act or an instance of striking. 42. *Inf.* an unexpected or complete success, esp. one that brings financial gain. 43. **take strike.** *Cricket.* (of a batsman) to prepare to play a ball delivered by the bowler. ~*See also strike off, strike out, etc.*

strikebreaker ('straɪk,breɪkə) *n.* a person who tries to make a strike ineffectual by working or by taking the place of those on strike. —**'strike, breaking** *n., adj.*

strike off *vb. (tr.)* 1. to remove or erase from (a list, record, etc.) by or as if by a stroke of the pen. 2. (*adv.*) to cut off or separate by or as if by a blow: *she was struck off from the inheritance*.

strike out *vb. (adv.)* 1. (*tr.*) to remove or erase. 2. (*intr.*) to start out or begin: *to strike out on one's own*. 3. *Baseball.* to put out or be put out on strikes. 4. (*intr.*) *U.S. inf.* to fail utterly.

strike pay *n.* money paid to strikers from the funds of a trade union.

striker ('straɪkə) *n.* 1. a person who is on strike. 2. the hammer in a timepiece that rings a bell or alarm. 3. any part in a mechanical device that strikes something, such as the firing pin of a gun. 4. *Soccer, inf.* an attacking player, esp. one who generally positions himself near his opponent's goal in the hope of scoring. 5. *Cricket.* the batsman who is about to play a ball.

strike up *vb. (adv.)* 1. (of a band, orchestra, etc.) to begin to play or sing. 2. (*tr.*) to bring about; cause to begin: *to strike up a friendship*.

striking ('straɪkɪŋ) *adj.* 1. attracting attention; fine; impressive: *a striking beauty*. 2. conspicuous; noticeable: *a striking difference*. —**'strikingly** *adv.* —**'strikingness** *n.*

Strine (straɪn) *n.* a humorous transliteration of Australian pronunciation, as in *Gloria Soame for glorious home*.

string (strɪŋ) *n.* 1. a thin length of cord, twine, fibre, or similar material used for tying, hanging, binding, etc. 2. a group of objects threaded on a single strand: *a string of beads*. 3. a series or succession of things, events, etc.: *a string of oaths*. 4. a number, chain, or group of similar things, animals, etc., owned by or associated with one person or body: *a string of girlfriends*. 5. a tough fibre or cord in a plant. 6. *Music.* a tightly stretched wire, cord, etc., found on stringed instruments, such as the violin, guitar, and piano. 7. short for **bowstring**. 8. *Archit.* short for **string course** or **stringer** (sense 1). 9. (*pl.*; usually preceded by *the*) *a.* violins, violas, cellos, and double basses collectively. *b.* the section of a symphony orchestra constituted by such instruments. 10. (*pl.*) complications or conditions (esp. in **strings attached**). 11. (*modifier*) composed of string-like strands woven in a large mesh: *a string bag; string vest*. 12. **first (second, etc.) string.** a person or thing regarded as a primary (secondary, etc.) source of strength. 13. **keep on a string.** to have control or a hold over (a person), esp. emotionally. 14. **pull strings.** *Inf.* to exert power or influence, esp. secretly or unofficially. 15. **pull the strings.** to have real or ultimate control of something. ~*vb.* **stringing, strung.** 16. (*tr.*) to provide with a string or strings. 17. (*tr.*) to suspend or stretch from one point

to another. **18.** (tr.) to thread on a string. **19.** (tr.) to form or extend in a line or series. **20.** (foll. by *out*) to space or spread out at intervals. **21.** (tr.; usually foll. by *up*) *Inf.* to kill (a person) by hanging. **22.** (tr.) to remove the stringy parts from (vegetables, esp. beans). **23.** (intr.) (esp. of viscous liquids) to become stringy or ropy. **24.** (tr.; often foll. by *up*) to cause to be tense or nervous. — **'string-like** adj.

string along *vb.* (adv.) *Inf.* **1.** (intr.; often foll. by *with*) to agree or appear to be in agreement (with). **2.** (intr.; often foll. by *with*) to accompany. **3.** to deceive or hoax, esp. in order to gain time.

stringboard ('strɪŋ,bɔ:d) *n.* a skirting that covers the ends of the steps in a staircase. Also called: **stringer**.

string course *n.* *Archit.* an ornamental projecting band or continuous moulding along a wall. Also called: **cordon**.

stringed (strɪŋd) *adj.* (of musical instruments) having or provided with strings.

stringent ('strɪŋdʒənt) *adj.* **1.** requiring strict attention to rules, procedure, detail, etc. **2.** *Finance.* characterized by or causing a shortage of credit, loan capital, etc. — **'stringency** *n.* — **'stringently** *adv.*

stringer ('strɪŋgə) *n.* **1.** *Archit.* a. a long horizontal timber beam that is used for structural purposes. b. another name for **stringboard**. **2.** *Naut.* a longitudinal structural brace for strengthening the hull of a vessel. **3.** a journalist retained by a newspaper or news service on a part-time basis to cover a particular town or area.

string quartet *n.* *Music.* **1.** an instrumental ensemble consisting of two violins, one viola, and one cello. **2.** a piece of music for such a group.

stringy ('strɪŋgi) *adj.* **-ier, -iest.** **1.** made of strings or resembling strings. **2.** (of meat, etc.) fibrous. **3.** (of a person's build) wiry; sinewy. **4.** (of liquids) forming in strings. — **'stringily** *adv.* — **'stringiness** *n.*

strip¹ (stri:p) *vb.* **stripping, stripped.** **1.** to take or pull (the covering, clothes, etc.) off (oneself, another person, or thing). **2.** (intr.) a. to remove all one's clothes. b. to perform a striptease. **3.** (tr.) to denude or empty completely. **4.** (tr.) to deprive of: *he was stripped of his pride*. **5.** (tr.) to rob or plunder. **6.** a. to remove the leaves from the stalks of (tobacco, etc.). b. to separate the leaves from the stems of (tobacco, etc.). **7.** (tr.) *Agriculture.* to draw the last milk from (a cow). **8.** to dismantle (an engine, mechanism, etc.). **9.** to tear off or break (the thread) from (a screw, bolt, etc.) or (the teeth) from (a gear). **10.** (often foll. by *down*) to remove the accessories from (a motor vehicle): *his car was stripped down*. ~*n.* **11.** the act or an instance of undressing or of performing a striptease.

strip² (stri:p) *n.* **1.** a relatively long, flat, narrow piece of something. **2.** short for **airstrip**. **3.** *Inf.* the clothes worn by the members of a team, esp. a football team. **4.** **tear (someone) off a strip.** to rebuke (someone) angrily. ~*vb.* **stripping, stripped.** **5.** to cut or divide into strips.

strip cartoon *n.* a sequence of drawings in a newspaper, magazine, etc., relating a humorous story or an adventure. Also called: **comic strip**.

strip club *n.* a small club in which striptease performances take place.

stripe¹ (stri:p) *n.* **1.** a relatively long band of colour or texture that differs from the surrounding material or background. **2.** a fabric having such bands. **3.** a strip, band, or chevron worn on a military uniform, etc., esp. to indicate rank. **4.** *Chiefly U.S. kind; type:* *a man of a certain stripe*. ~*vb.* **5.** (tr.) to mark with stripes. — **'striped** *adj.*

stripe² (stri:p) *n.* a stroke from a whip, rod, cane, etc.

strip lighting *n.* electric lighting by means of long glass tubes that are fluorescent lamps or that contain long filaments.

stripling ('stripliŋ) *n.* a lad.

stripper ('stri:pə) *n.* **1.** a striptease artist. **2.** a person or thing that strips. **3.** a device or substance for removing paint, varnish, etc.

striptease ('stri:p,tiz) *n.* a. a form of erotic entertainment in which a person gradually undresses to music. b. (as modifier): *a striptease club*. — **'strip, teaser** *n.*

stripy ('stri:pɪ) *adj.* **striplier, stripiest.** marked by or with stripes; striped.

strive (straɪv) *vb.* **striving, strove, striven.** **1.** (may take a clause as object or an infinitive) to make a great and tenacious effort. **2.** (intr.) to fight; contend. — **'striver** *n.*

strobe (strəʊb) *n.* short for **strobe lighting** or **stroboscope**.

strobe lighting *n.* **1.** a high-intensity flashing beam of light produced by rapid electrical discharges in a tube or by a perforated disc rotating in front of an intense light source. **2.** the use of or the apparatus for producing such light. Sometimes shortened to **strobe**.

stroboscope ('strəʊbə,skəʊp) *n.* **1.** an instrument producing an intense flashing light, the frequency of which can be synchronized with some multiple of the frequency of rotation, vibration, or operation of an object, etc., making it appear stationary. Sometimes shortened to **strobe**. **2.** a similar device synchronized with the shutter of a camera so that a series of still photographs can be taken of a moving object. — **'stroboscopic** ('strəʊbə'skɒpɪk) or **'stroboscopic** ('strəʊbə'skɒpɪk) *adj.* — **'stroboscopically** *adv.*

strode (strəʊd) *vb.* the past tense of **stride**.

stroganoff ('strɒgə,nɒf) *n.* a dish of sliced beef cooked with onions and mushrooms, served in a sour-cream sauce. Also called: **beef stroganoff**.

stroke (strəʊk) *n.* **1.** the act or an instance of striking; a blow, knock, or hit. **2.** a sudden action, movement, or occurrence: *a stroke of luck*. **3.** a brilliant or inspired act or feat: *a stroke of genius*. **4.** *Pathol.* apoplexy; rupture of a blood vessel in the brain resulting in loss of consciousness, often followed by paralysis, or embolism or thrombosis affecting a cerebral vessel. **5.** a. the striking of a clock. b. the hour registered by this: *on the stroke of three*. **6.** a mark made by a writing implement. **7.** another name for **solisud**, used esp. when dictating or reading aloud. **8.** a light touch or caress, as with the fingers. **9.** a pulsation, esp. of the heart. **10.** a single complete movement or one of a series of complete movements. **11.** *Sport.* the act or manner of striking the ball with a racket, club, bat, etc. **12.** any one of the repeated movements used by a swimmer. **13.** a manner of swimming, esp. one of several named styles such as the crawl. **14.** a. any one of a series of linear movements of a reciprocating part, such as a piston. b. the distance travelled by such a part from one end of its movement to the other. **15.** a single pull on an oar or oars in rowing. **16.** manner or style of rowing. **17.** the oarsman who sits nearest the stern of a shell, facing the cox, and sets the rate of rowing. **18.** **a stroke (of work).** (usually used with a negative) a small amount of work. **19.** **off one's stroke.** performing or working less well than usual. **20.** on the stroke. punctually. **21.** at a stroke. with one action. ~*vb.* **22.** (tr.) to touch, brush, or caress lightly or gently. **23.** (tr.) to mark a line or a stroke on or through. **24.** to act as the stroke of (a racing shell). **25.** (tr.) *Sport.* to strike (a ball) with a smooth swinging blow.

stroll (strəʊl) *vb.* **1.** to walk about in a leisurely manner. **2.** (intr.) to wander about. ~*n.* **3.** a leisurely walk.

strong (strɒŋ) *adj.* **stronger** ('strɒŋgə), **strongest** ('strɒŋɪst). **1.** involving or possessing strength. **2.** solid or robust; not easily broken or injured. **3.** resolute or morally firm. **4.** intense in quality; not faint or feeble: *a strong voice; a strong smell*. **5.** easily defensible; incontestable or formidable. **6.** concentrated; not weak or diluted. **7.** a. (postpositive) containing or having a specified number: *a navy 40 000 strong*. b. (in combination): *a 40 000-strong navy*. **8.** having an unpleasantly powerful taste or smell. **9.** having an extreme or drastic effect: *strong discipline*. **10.** emphatic or immoderate: *strong language*. **11.** convincing, effective, or cogent. **12.** (of a colour) having a high degree of saturation or purity; produced by a concentrated quantity of colouring agent. **13.** *Grammar.* a. of or denoting a class of verbs, in certain languages including the Germanic languages, whose conjugation shows vowel gradation, as *sing, sang, sung*. b. belonging to any part-of-speech class, in various languages, whose inflections follow the less regular of two possible patterns. Cf. **weak** (sense 9). **14.** (of a wind, current, etc.) moving fast. **15.** (of a syllable) accented or stressed. **16.** (of an industry, market, etc.) firm in price or characterized by firm or increasing prices. **17.** (of certain acids and bases) producing high concentrations of hydrogen or hydroxide ions in aqueous solution. **18.** **have a strong stomach.** not to be prone to nausea. ~*adv.* **19.** *Inf.* in a strong way; effectively: *going strong*. **20.** **come on strong.** to speak or act forcefully or persuasively. — **'strongly** *adv.* — **'strongness** *n.*

strong-arm *Inf.* ~*n.* **1.** (modifier) of or involving physical force or violence: *strong-arm tactics*. ~*vb.* **2.** (tr.) to show violence towards.

strongbox ('strɒŋ,bɒks) *n.* a box or safe in which valuables are locked for safety.

strong drink *n.* alcoholic drink.

stronghold ('strɒŋ,həʊld) *n.* 1. a defensible place; fortress. 2. a major centre or area of predominance.

strong-minded *adj.* having strength of mind; resolute and determined. —**strong-mindedly** *adv.* —**strong-mindedness** *n.*

strongroom ('strɒŋ,rʊm, -rʊm) *n.* a specially designed room in which valuables are locked for safety.

strontium ('strɒntiəm) *n.* a soft silvery-white element of the alkaline earth group of metals. The radioisotope **strontium-90**, with a half-life of 28.1 years, is used in nuclear power sources and is a hazardous nuclear fallout product. Symbol: Sr; atomic no.: 38; atomic wt.: 87.62.

strop (strɒp) *n.* 1. a leather strap or an abrasive strip for sharpening razors. 2. a rope or metal band around a block or deadeye for support. ~*vb.* **stropping, stropped.** 3. (*tr.*) to sharpen (a razor, etc.) on a strop.

stropy ('strɒpi) *adj.* -**pier**, -**piest.** *Brit. sl.* angry or awkward.

strove (strəʊv) *vb.* the past tense of **strive**.

struck (strʌk) *vb.* 1. the past tense or past participle of **strike**. ~*adj.* 2. **Chiefly U.S.** (of an industry, factory, etc.) shut down or otherwise affected by a labour strike.

structural ('strʌktʃərəl) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or having structure or a structure. 2. of or relating to the structure of the earth's crust. 3. of or relating to the structure of organisms. 4. *Chem.* of or involving the arrangement of atoms in molecules. —**structurally** *adv.*

structuralism ('strʌktʃərəlɪzəm) *n.* 1. an approach to social sciences and to literature in terms of oppositions, contrasts, and hierarchical structures, esp. as they might reflect universal mental characteristics or organizing principles. 2. an approach to linguistics that analyses and describes the structure of language, as distinguished from its comparative and historical aspects. —**'structuralist** *n., adj.*

structure ('strʌktʃə) *n.* 1. a complex construction or entity. 2. the arrangement and interrelationship of parts in a construction. 3. the manner of construction or organization. 4. *Chem.* the arrangement of atoms in a molecule of a chemical compound. 5. *Geol.* the way in which a mineral, rock, etc., is made up of its component parts. ~*vb.* 6. to impart a structure to.

strudel ('strʊdʌl) *n.* a thin sheet of filled dough rolled up and baked: *apple strudel*.

struggle ('strʌɡl) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *for* or *against*; *may take an infinitive*) to exert strength, energy, and force; work or strive. 2. (*intr.*) to move about strenuously so as to escape from something confining. 3. (*intr.*) to contend, battle, or fight. 4. (*intr.*) to go or progress with difficulty. ~*n.* 5. a laboured or strenuous exertion or effort. 6. a fight or battle. 7. the act of struggling. —**'struggler** *n.*

strum (strʌm) *vb.* **strumming, strummed.** 1. to sound (the strings of a guitar, etc.) with a downward or upward sweep of the thumb or of a plectrum. 2. to play (chords, a tune, etc.) in this way. —**'strummer** *n.*

strumpet ('strʌmpɪt) *n.* a prostitute or promiscuous woman.

string (strɪŋ) *vb.* 1. a past tense and past participle of **string**. ~*adj.* 2. *a.* (of a piano, etc.) provided with strings. *b.* (*in combination*): *gut-string*. 3. **highly stringy**, very nervous or volatile in character.

strung up *adj.* (*postpositive*) *Inf.* tense or nervous.

strut (strʌt) *vb.* **strutting, strutted.** 1. (*intr.*) to walk in a pompous manner; swagger. 2. (*tr.*) to support or provide with struts. ~*n.* 3. a structural member, esp. as part of a framework. 4. an affected, proud, or stiff walk. —**'strutter** *n.* —**'struttingly** *adv.*

strychnine ('strɪkniːn) *n.* a white crystalline very poisonous alkaloid, obtained from the plant *nux vomica*: used in small quantities as a stimulant.

stub (stʌb) *n.* 1. a short piece remaining after something has been cut, removed, etc.: *a cigar stub*. 2. the residual piece or section of a receipt, ticket, cheque, etc. 3. the usual U.S. word for **counterfoil**. 4. any short projection or blunted end. 5. the stump of a tree or plant. ~*vb.* **stopping, stubbed.** (*tr.*) 6. to strike (one's toe, foot, etc.) painfully against a hard surface. 7. (usually foll. by *out*) to put (out a cigarette or cigar) by pressing the end against a surface. 8. to clear (land) of stubs. 9. to dig up (the roots) of (a tree or bush).

stubble ('stʌbl) *n.* 1. *a.* the stubs of stalks left in a field where a crop has been harvested. *b.* (*as modifier*): *a stubble field*. 2. any bristly growth. —**'stubbled** or **'stubbly** *adj.*

stubborn ('stʌb'n) *adj.* 1. refusing to comply, agree, or give in. 2. difficult to handle, treat, or overcome. 3.

persistent and dogged. —**'stubbornly** *adv.* —**'stubbornness** *n.*

stubby ('stʌbi) *adj.* -**bier**, -**biest.** 1. short and broad; stumpy or thickset. 2. bristling and stiff. ~*n.* *Austral. sl.* 3. a small bottle of beer. —**'stubbly** *adv.* —**'stubbiness** *n.*

stucco ('stʌkəʊ) *n., pl. -coes or -cos.* 1. a weather-resistant mixture of dehydrated lime, powdered marble, and glue, used in decorative mouldings on buildings. 2. any of various types of cement or plaster used for coating outside walls. 3. Also called: **stuccowork**, decorative work moulded in stucco. ~*vb.* -**coing**, -**coed.** 4. (*tr.*) to apply stucco to.

stuck (stʌk) *vb.* 1. the past tense or past participle of **stick**. ~*adj.* 2. *Inf.* baffled or nonplussed. 3. (*coll.* by *on*) *Sl.* keen (*on*) or infatuated (*with*). 4. **get stuck in or into.** *Inf.* *a.* to perform (a task) with determination. *b.* to attack (a person).

stuck-up *adj.* *Inf.* conceited, arrogant, or snobbish. —**'stuck-upness** *n.*

stud ('stʌd) *n.* 1. a large-headed nail or other projection protruding from a surface, usually as decoration. 2. a type of fastener consisting of two discs at either end of a short shank, used to fasten shirtfronts, collars, etc. 3. a vertical member used with others to construct the framework of a wall. 4. the cross bar in the centre of a link of a heavy chain. 5. one of a number of rounded projections on the sole of a boot or shoe to give better grip, as on a football boot. ~*vb.* **studding, studded.** (*tr.*) 6. to provide, ornament, or make with studs. 7. to dot or cover with: *the park was studded with daisies*. 8. to provide or support (a wall, partition, etc.) with studs.

stud ('stʌd) *n.* 1. a group of pedigree animals, esp. horses, kept for breeding purposes. 2. any male animal kept principally for breeding purposes, esp. a stallion. 3. a farm or stable where a stud is kept. 4. the state or condition of being kept for breeding purposes: *at stud*; *put to stud*. 5. (*modifier*) of or relating to such animals or the place where they are kept: *a stud farm*; *a stud horse*. 6. *Sl.* a virile or sexually active man.

studbook ('stʌd,bʊk) *n.* a written record of the pedigree of a purebred stock, esp. of racehorses.

student ('stju:dnt) *n.* 1. a person following a course of study, as in a school, college, university, etc. 2. a person who makes a thorough study of a subject.

studied ('stʌdɪd) *adj.* carefully practised, designed, or premeditated: *a studied reply*. —**'studiedly** *adv.* —**'studiedness** *n.*

studio ('stju:diəʊ) *n., pl. -dios.* 1. a room in which an artist, photographer, or musician works. 2. a room used to record television or radio programmes, make films, etc. 3. (*pl.*) the premises of a radio, television, or film company.

studio couch *n.* an upholstered couch, usually backless, convertible into a double bed.

studious ('stju:diəs) *adj.* 1. given to study. 2. of a serious, thoughtful, and hard-working character. 3. showing deliberation, care, or precision. —**'studiously** *adv.* —**'studiousness** *n.*

study ('stʌdi) *vb.* **studying, studied.** 1. to apply the mind to the learning or understanding of (a subject), esp. by reading. 2. (*tr.*) to investigate or examine, as by observation, research, etc. 3. (*tr.*) to look at minutely; scrutinize. 4. (*tr.*) to give much careful or critical thought to. 5. to take a course in (a subject), as at a college. 6. (*tr.*) to try to memorize: *to study a part for a play*. 7. (*intr.*) to meditate or contemplate; reflect. ~*n., pl. studies.* 8. *a.* the act or process of studying. *b.* (*as modifier*): *study group*. 9. a room used for studying, reading, writing, etc. 10. (*often pl.*) work relating to a particular discipline: *environmental studies*. 11. a product of studying, such as a written paper or book. 12. a drawing, sculpture, etc., executed for practice or in preparation for another work. 13. a musical composition intended to develop one aspect of performing technique. 14. *in a brown study*, in a reverie or daydream.

stuff (stʌf) *vb.* (*mainly tr.*) 1. to pack or fill completely; cram. 2. (*intr.*) to eat large quantities. 3. to force, shove, or squeeze: *to stuff money into a pocket*. 4. to fill (food such as poultry or tomatoes) with a stuffing. 5. to fill (an animal's skin) with material so as to restore the shape of the live animal. 6. *Taboo sl.* to have sexual intercourse with (a woman). 7. *U.S.* to fill (a ballot box) with fraudulent votes. ~*n.* 8. the raw material or fabric of something. 9. woollen cloth or fabric. 10. any general or unspecified substance or accumulation of objects. 11. stupid or worthless actions, speech, etc. 12. a slang word for **money**. 13. *Sl.* a drug, esp. cannabis.

14. Inf. do one's stuff. to do what is expected of one. **15. that's the stuff.** that is what is needed. **16. Taboo sl. offensive.** a girl or woman considered sexually (esp. in bit of stuff). — **stuffer** *n.*

stuffed shirt *n.* **Inf.** a pompous person.

stuffing ('stʌfɪŋ) *n.* **1.** the material with which something is stuffed. **2.** a mixture of ingredients with which poultry, meat, etc., is stuffed before cooking. **3. knock the stuffing out of (someone).** to defeat (someone) utterly.

stuffy ('stʌfɪ) *adj.* **-ier, -iest.** **1.** lacking fresh air. **2.** excessively dull, staid, or conventional. **3.** (of the nasal passages) blocked with mucus. — **stuffyly** *adv.* — **stuffyness** *n.*

stultify ('stʌltɪ, faɪ) *vb.* **-fying, -fied.** (*tr.*) **1.** to make useless, futile, or ineffectual, esp. by routine. **2.** to cause to appear absurd or inconsistent. — **stultification** *n.* — **stultifier** *n.*

stumble ('stʌmbəl) *vb.* (*intr.*) **1.** to trip or fall while walking or running. **2.** to walk in an awkward, unsteady, or unsure way. **3.** to make mistakes or hesitate in speech or actions. **4.** (foll. by *across* or *upon*) to come (across) by accident. **~n.** **5.** a false step, trip, or blunder. **6.** the act of stumbling. — **stumbler** *n.* — **stumblingly** *adv.*

stumbling block *n.* any impediment or obstacle.

stump ('stʌmp) *n.* **1.** the base of a tree trunk left standing after the tree has been felled or has fallen. **2.** the part of something, such as a tooth, limb, or blade, that remains after a larger part has been removed. **3.** (often *pl.*) **Inf.** a leg (esp. in *stir one's stumps*). **4.** *Cricket.* any of three upright wooden sticks that, with two balls laid across them, form a wicket (the *stumps*). **5.** Also called: **tortillon.** a short sharply-pointed stick of cork or rolled paper or leather, used in drawing and shading. **6.** a heavy tread or the sound of heavy footsteps. **7.** a platform used by an orator when addressing a meeting. **~vb.** **8.** (*tr.*) to stop, confuse, or puzzle. **9.** (*intr.*) to plod or trudge heavily. **10.** (*tr.*) *Cricket.* to dismiss (a batsman) by breaking his wicket with the ball or with the ball in the hand while he is out of his crease. **11.** *Chiefly U.S.* to campaign or canvass (an area), esp. by political speech-making. — **stumper** *n.*

stump up *vb.* (*adv.*) *Brit. inf.* to give (the money required).

stumpy ('stʌmpi) *adj.* **-ier, -iest.** **1.** like a stump. **2.** full of stumps. — **stumpiness** *n.*

stun ('stʌn) *vb.* **stunning, stunned.** (*tr.*) **1.** to render unconscious, as by a heavy blow or fall. **2.** to shock or overwhelm. **3.** to surprise or astound. **~n.** **4.** the state or effect of being stunned.

stung ('stʌŋ) *vb.* the past tense or past participle of *sting*.

stunk ('stʌŋk) *vb.* a past tense or past participle of *stink*.

stunner ('stʌnə) *n.* **Inf.** a person or thing of great beauty, quality, size, etc.

stunning ('stʌniŋ) *adj.* **Inf.** very attractive, impressive, astonishing, etc. — **stunningly** *adv.*

stunt ('stʌnt) *vb.* **1.** (*tr.*) to prevent or impede (the growth or development) of (a plant, animal, etc.). **~n.** **2.** the act or an instance of stunting. **3.** a person, animal, or plant that has been stunted. — **stunted** *adj.* — **stuntedness** *n.*

stunt ('stʌnt) *n.* **1. a.** a feat of daring or skill. **b.** (as modifier): a *stunt man*. **2.** anything spectacular or unusual done for attention. **~vb.** **3.** (*intr.*) to perform a stunt or stunts.

stupefactive ('stju:pi'feɪktɪv) or **stupefactive** ('stju:pi'fæktɪv) *n.* **1.** a drug that causes stupor. **~adj.** **2.** of, relating to, or designating this type of drug.

stupefaction ('stju:pi'fækʃən) *n.* **1.** astonishment. **2.** the act of stupefying or the state of being stupefied.

stupefy ('stju:pi, faɪ) *vb.* **-fying, -fied.** (*tr.*) **1.** to render insensitive or lethargic. **2.** to confuse or astound. — **stupeflier** *n.*

stupendous ('stju:pəndəs) *adj.* astounding, wonderful, huge, etc. — **stu'pendously** *adv.* — **stu'pendousness** *n.*

stupid ('stju:pid) *adj.* **1.** lacking in common sense, perception, or intelligence. **2.** (usually postpositive) dazed or stupefied: *stupid from lack of sleep*. **3.** slow-witted. **4.** trivial, silly, or frivolous. — **stu'pidity** or **stupidness** *n.*

stupor ('stju:pə) *n.* **1.** a state of unconsciousness. **2.** mental dullness; torpor. — **stuporous** *adj.*

sturdy ('stɜ:di) *adj.* **-dier, -diest.** **1.** healthy, strong, and vigorous. **2.** strongly built; stalwart. — **sturdily** *adv.* — **sturdiness** *n.*

sturgeon ('stɜ:dʒən) *n.* any of various primitive bony fishes of temperate waters of the N hemisphere, having an elongated snout and rows of spines along the body.

stutter ('stʌtə) *vb.* **1.** to speak (a word, phrase, etc.) with recurring repetition of consonants, esp. initial ones. **2.** to make (an abrupt sound) repeatedly: *the gun stuttered*. **~n.** **3.** the act or habit of stuttering. **4.** a stuttering sound. — **stutterer** *n.* — **stuttering** *n., adj.* — **stutteringly** *adv.*

sty ('stai) *n., pl. sties.* **1.** a pen in which pigs are housed. **2.** any filthy or corrupt place. **~vb.** **styng, stied.** **3.** to enclose or be enclosed in a sty.

sty or **stye** ('stai) *n., pl. sties* or **styes.** inflammation of a sebaceous gland of the eyelid.

Stygian ('stɜ:dʒiən) *adj.* **1.** of or relating to the Styx, a river in Hades. **2.** *Chiefly literary.* dark, gloomy, or hellish.

style ('stail) *n.* **1.** a form of appearance, design, or production; type or make. **2.** the way in which something is done: *good style*. **3.** the manner in which something is expressed or performed, considered as separate from its intrinsic content, meaning, etc. **4.** a distinctive, formal, or characteristic manner of expression in words, music, painting, etc. **5.** elegance or refinement of manners, dress, etc. **6.** prevailing fashion in dress, looks, etc. **7.** a fashionable or ostentatious mode of existence: *to live in style*. **8.** the particular mode of orthography, punctuation, design, etc., followed in a book, journal, etc., or in a printing or publishing house. **9.** *Chiefly Brit.* the distinguishing title or form of address of a person or firm. **10.** *Bot.* the long slender extension of the ovary, bearing the stigma. **11.** a method of expressing or calculating dates. **12.** another word for *stylus* (sense 1). **13.** the arm of a sundial. **~vb.** (*mainly tr.*) **14.** to design, shape, or tailor: *to style hair*. **15.** to adapt or make suitable for. **16.** to make consistent or correct according to a printing or publishing style. **17.** to name or call; designate: *to style a man a fool*. — **styler** *adj.* — **styler** *n.*

stylish ('stailɪ) *adj.* having style; smart; fashionable. — **stylishly** *adv.* — **stylishness** *n.*

stylist ('stailst) *n.* **1.** a person who performs, writes, or acts with attention to style. **2.** a designer of clothes, décor, etc. **3.** a hairdresser who styles hair.

stylistic ('stailstɪk) *adj.* of or relating to style, esp. artistic or literary style. — **stylistically** *adv.*

stylize or **-ise** ('stailaɪz) *vb.* (*tr.*) to give a conventional or established stylistic form to. — **stylization** or **-i-sation** *n.*

stylo- or **before a vowel styl-** *combining form.* **1.** (in biology) a style. **2.** indicating a column or point: *stylobate*; *stylograph*.

stylus ('stailəs) *n., pl. -li (-ləi) or -luses.* **1.** Also called: *style*, a pointed instrument for engraving, drawing or writing. **2.** a tool used in ancient times for writing on wax tablets, which was pointed at one end and blunt at the other for erasing. **3.** a device attached to the cartridge in the pickup arm of a gramophone that rests in the groove in the record, transmitting the vibrations to the sensing device in the cartridge.

stymie or **stymy** ('staimi) *vb.* **-mieing, -mied** or **-mying, -mied.** (*tr.; often passive*) **1.** to hinder or thwart. **2.** *Golf.* to impede with a stymie. **~n., pl. -mies.** **3.** *Golf.* a situation in which an opponent's ball is blocking the line between the hole and the ball about to be played. **4.** a situation of obstruction.

styptic ('stɪptɪk) *adj.* also **styptical.** **1.** contracting the blood vessels or tissues. **~n.** **2.** a styptic drug.

styrene ('stairɪn) *n.* a colourless oily volatile flammable liquid made from ethylene and benzene. It readily polymerizes and is used in making synthetic plastics and rubbers.

suasion ('swerʒən) *n.* a rare word for **persuasion**. — **suasive** *adj.*

suave ('swɑ:v) *adj.* (esp. of a man) displaying smoothness and sophistication in manner; urbane. — **suavely** *adv.* — **suavity** ('swɑ:vɪtɪ) or **'suaveness** *n.*

sub ('sʌb) *n.* **1.** short for several words beginning with *sub*, such as *subeditor*, *submarine*, *subordinate*, *subscription*, and *substitute*. **2.** *Brit. inf.* an advance payment of wages or salary. **~vb.** **subbing, subbed.** **3.** (*intr.*) to serve as a substitute. **4.** *Brit. inf.* to grant or receive (an advance payment of wages or salary).

sub- *prefix.* **1.** situated under or beneath: *subterranean*. **2.** secondary in rank; subordinate: *subeditor*. **3.** falling short of; less than or imperfectly: *subarctic*; *subhuman*. **4.** forming a subdivision or subordinate part: *subcommittee*. **5.** (in chemistry) *a.* indicating that a

compound contains a relatively small proportion of a specified element: *suboxide*. **b.** indicating that a salt is basic salt: *subacetate*.

subaltern ('sʌb'ɔltən) *n.* **1.** a commissioned officer below the rank of captain in certain armies, esp. the British. **~adj.** **2.** of inferior position or rank. **3.** *Logic.* (of a proposition) particular, esp. in relation to a universal of the same quality.

subaqua (,sʌb'ækwə) *adj.* of or relating to underwater sport: *subaqua swimming*.

subaqueous (sʌb'ækwɪəs, -'ækwɪ-) *adj.* occurring, formed, or used under water.

subconscious (sʌb'kɒnʃəs) *adj.* **1.** acting or existing without one's awareness. **~n.** **2.** *Psychol.* that part of the mind considered to be outside or only partly within one's conscious awareness. **—sub'consciously** *adv.* **—sub'consciousness** *n.*

subcontinent (sʌb'kɒntɪnənt) *n.* a large land mass that is a distinct part of a continent, such as India is of Asia. **—subcontinental** (,sʌb'kɒntɪ'nentl) *adj.*

subcontract *n.* (sʌb'kɒntrækt). **1.** a subordinate contract under which the supply of materials, services, or labour is let out to someone other than a party to the main contract. **~vb.** (,sʌb'kɒn'trækt). **2.** (*intr.*; often foll. by *for*) to enter into or make a subcontract. **3.** (*tr.*) to let out (work) on a subcontract. **—subcon'tractor** *n.*

subculture ('sʌb,kʌltʃə) *n.* a subdivision of a national culture or an enclave within it with a distinct integrated network of behaviour, beliefs, and attitudes. **—sub'cultural** *adj.*

subcutaneous (,sʌbkju:'teɪniəs) *adj.* *Med.* situated, used, or introduced beneath the skin. **—subcu'taneous-ly** *adv.*

subdivide (,sʌbdɪ'vaɪd, 'sʌbdɪ'vaɪd) *vb.* to divide (something) resulting from an earlier division. **—subdi'vision** *n.*

subdominant (sʌb'dɒmɪnənt) *Music.* **~n.** **1.** the fourth degree of a major or minor scale. **2.** a key or chord based on this. **~adj.** **3.** of or relating to the subdominant.

subdue (sʌb'dju:) *vb.* **—duing, —dued.** (*tr.*) **1.** to establish ascendancy over by force. **2.** to overcome and bring under control, as by intimidation or persuasion. **3.** to hold in check or repress (feelings, etc.). **4.** to render less intense or less conspicuous. **—sub'duable** *adj.* **—sub'dual** *n.*

subeditor (sʌb'edɪtə) *n.* a person who checks and edits copy, esp. on a newspaper.

subfusc ('sʌbfʌsk) *adj.* **1.** devoid of brightness or appeal; drab, dull, or dark. **~n.** **2.** (at Oxford University) formal academic dress.

subhuman (sʌb'hju:mən) *adj.* **1.** of or designating animals below man (*Homo sapiens*) in evolutionary development. **2.** less than human.

subj. *abbrev. for:* **1.** subject. **2.** subjective(ly). **3.** subjunctive.

subjacent (sʌb'dʒeɪsnt) *adj.* **1.** forming a foundation; underlying. **2.** lower than. **—sub'jacency** *n.* **—sub'jacent-ly** *adv.*

subject *n.* ('sʌbdʒɪkt). **1.** the predominant theme or topic, as of a book, discussion, etc. **2.** any branch of learning considered as a course of study. **3.** *Grammar.* a word or phrase about which something is predicated or stated in a sentence; for example, *the cat* in the sentence *The cat catches mice*. **4.** a person or thing that undergoes experiment, treatment, etc. **5.** a person under the rule of a monarch, government, etc. **6.** an object, figure, scene, etc., as portrayed by an artist or photographer. **7.** *Philosophy.* a. that which thinks or feels as opposed to the object of thinking and feeling; the self or the mind. **b.** the essential nature or substance of something as opposed to its attributes. **8.** Also called: **theme.** *Music.* the principal motif of a fugue, the basis from which the musical material is derived in a sonata-form movement, or the recurrent figure in a rondo. **9.** *Logic.* the term of a proposition about which something is asserted. **10.** an originating motive. **11.** **change the subject.** to select a new topic of conversation. **~adj.** ('sʌbdʒɪkt). (*usually postpositive* and foll. by *to*) **12.** being under the power or sovereignty of a ruler, government, etc.: *subject peoples*. **13.** showing a tendency (towards): *a child*

subject to indiscipline. **14.** exposed or vulnerable: *subject to ribaldry*. **15.** conditional upon: *the results are subject to correction*. **~adv.** ('sʌbdʒɪkt). **16.** **subject to.** (*prep.*) under the condition that: *we accept, subject to her agreement*. **~vb.** (sʌb'dʒekt). (*tr.*) **17.** (foll. by *to*) to cause to undergo: *they subjected him to torture*. **18.** (*often passive*; foll. by *to*) to expose or render vulnerable or liable (to some experience): *he was subjected to great danger*. **19.** (foll. by *to*) to bring under the control or authority (of): *subject a soldier to discipline*. **20.** *Rare.* to present for consideration; submit. **—sub'jectable** *adj.* **—sub'jection** *n.*

subjective (sʌb'dʒektɪv) *adj.* **1.** of, proceeding from, or relating to the mind of the thinking subject and not the nature of the object being considered. **2.** of, relating to, or emanating from a person's emotions, prejudices, etc. **3.** relating to the inherent nature of a person or thing; essential. **4.** existing only as perceived and not as a thing in itself. **5.** *Med.* (of a symptom, condition, etc.) experienced only by the patient and incapable of being recognized or studied by anyone else. **6.** *Grammar.* denoting a case of nouns and pronouns, esp. in languages having only two cases, that identifies the subject of a finite verb and (in formal use in English) is selected for predicate complements, as in *it is I*. **~n.** **7.** *Grammar.* a. the subjective case. **b.** a subjective word or speech element. *Cf.* **objective.** **—sub'jectively** *adv.* **—subject-ivity or sub'jectiveness** *n.*

subjoin (sʌb'dʒɔɪn) *vb.* (*tr.*) to add or attach at the end of something spoken, written, etc. **—sub'joinder** *n.*

subjudice ('dʒu:dɪsɪ) *adj.* (*usually postpositive*) before a court of law or a judge; under judicial consideration.

subjugate ('sʌbdʒu:geɪt) *vb.* (*tr.*) **1.** to bring into subjection. **2.** to make subservient or submissive. **—subju-gable** ('sʌbdʒʊgəbəl) *adj.* **—subju'gation** *n.* **—subju-gator** *n.*

subjunctive (sʌb'dʒʌŋktɪv) *adj.* **1.** *Grammar.* denoting a mood of verbs used when the content of the clause is being doubted, supposed, feared true, etc., rather than being asserted. In the following sentence, *were* is in the subjunctive: *I'd think very seriously about that if I were you*. *Cf.* **indicative.** **~n.** **2.** *Grammar.* a. the subjunctive mood. **b.** a verb in this mood. **—sub'junctively** *adv.*

sublease *n.* ('sʌb,lɪ:s). **1.** a lease of property made by a lessee or tenant of that property. **~vb.** (sʌb'lɪ:s). **2.** to grant a sublease (of property); sublet. **3.** (*tr.*) to obtain or hold by sublease. **—sublessee** (,sʌblɪ'si:) *n.* **—sub-lessor** (,sʌblɪ'sɔ:) *n.*

sublet (sʌb'let) *vb.* **—letting, —let.** **1.** to grant a sublease (of property). **2.** to let out (work, etc.) under a subcontract.

sublieutenant (,sʌblɔ:'tenənt) *n.* the most junior commissioned officer in the Royal Navy and certain other navies. **—sublieu'tenancy** *n.*

sublimate ('sʌblɪ,meɪt) *vb.* **1.** *Psychol.* to direct the energy of (a primitive impulse) into activities that are considered to be socially more acceptable. **2.** (*tr.*) to make purer; refine. **3.** *Chem.* a less common word for **sublime** (senses 8, 9). **~n.** **4.** *Chem.* the material obtained when a substance is sublimed. **—subli'mation** *n.*

sublime (sə'blaɪm) *adj.* **1.** of high moral, intellectual, or spiritual value; noble; exalted. **2.** inspiring deep veneration or awe: *sublime beauty*. **3.** *Poetic.* of proud bearing or aspect. **4.** *Arch.* raised up. **~n.** **the sublime.** **5.** something that is sublime. **6.** the ultimate degree or perfect example: *the sublime of folly*. **~vb.** **7.** (*tr.*) to make higher or purer. **8.** to change or cause to change directly from a solid to a vapour or gas without first melting. **9.** to undergo or cause to undergo this process followed by a reverse change directly from a vapour to a solid: *to sublime iodine onto glass*. **—sub'limely** *adv.* **—sublimity** (sə'blɪmɪtɪ) *n.*

subliminal (sʌb'lɪmɪnl) *adj.* **1.** resulting from processes of which the individual is not aware. **2.** (of stimuli) less than the minimum intensity or duration required to elicit a response. **—sub'liminally** *adv.*

sub-machine-gun *n.* a portable automatic or semi-automatic gun with a short barrel, designed to be fired from the hip or shoulder.

submarine ('sʌbmə,rɪn, ,sʌbmə'rɪn) *n.* **1.** a vessel,

subaquaic *adj.*

subaverage *adj.*

subbranch *n.*

subcategory *n.*

subchapter *n.*

subclause *n.*

subcommittee *n.*

subcranial *adj.*

subdepot *n.*

subentry *n.*

subforeman *n.*

subfreezing *adj.*

subfunction *n.*

subgroup *n.*

esp. a warship, capable of operating below the surface of the sea. 2. (*modifier*) a. of or relating to a submarine: a *submarine captain*. b. below the surface of the sea: a *submarine cable*. —**submariner** (səb'mærɪnə) *n.*

submerge (səb'mɜːdʒ) or **submerse** (səb'mɜːs) *vb.* 1. to plunge, sink, or dive or cause to plunge, sink, or dive below the surface of water, etc. 2. (*tr.*) to cover with water or other liquid. 3. (*tr.*) to hide; suppress. 4. (*tr.*) to overwhelm, as with work, etc. —**submergence** or **submersion** (səb'mɜːʃn) *n.*

submersible (səb'mɜːsɪbəl) or **submergible** (səb'mɜːdʒɪbəl) *adj.* 1. able to be submerged. 2. capable of operating under water, etc. ~*n.* 3. a warship designed to operate under water for short periods. —**submersibility** or **submergibility** *n.*

submission (səb'mɪʃən) *n.* 1. an act or instance of submitting. 2. something submitted; a proposal, etc. 3. the quality or condition of being submissive. 4. the act of referring a document, etc., for the consideration of someone else.

submissive (səb'mɪsɪv) *adj.* of, tending towards, or indicating submission, humility, or servility. —**submissively** *adv.* —**submissiveness** *n.*

submit (səb'mɪt) *vb.* —**mitting**, —**mitted**. 1. (often foll. by *to*) to yield (oneself), as to the will of another person, a superior force, etc. 2. (foll. by *to*) to subject or be voluntarily subjected (to analysis, treatment, etc.). 3. (*tr.*, often foll. by *to*) to refer (something to someone) for judgment or consideration. 4. (*tr.*; *may take a clause as object*) to state, contend, or propose deferentially. 5. (*intr.*; often foll. by *to*) to defer or accede (to the decision, etc., of another). —**submittable** or **submissible** *adj.* —**submital** *n.* —**submitter** *n.* —**submittingly** *adv.*

subnormal (səb'nɔːməl) *adj.* 1. less than the normal. 2. having a low intelligence. ~*n.* 3. a subnormal person. —**subnormality** (səb'nɔːməliːti) *n.*

subordinate *adj.* (sə'bɔːdɪnɪt). 1. of lesser order or importance. 2. under the authority or control of another: a *subordinate functionary*. ~*n.* (sə'bɔːdɪnɪt). 3. a person or thing that is subordinate. ~*vb.* (sə'bɔːdɪneɪt). (*tr.*; usually foll. by *to*) 4. to put in a lower rank or position (than). 5. to make subservient: *to subordinate mind to heart*. —**subordinately** *adv.* —**subordination** *n.* —**sub'ordinative** *adj.*

subordinate clause *n.* *Grammar.* a clause with an adjectival, adverbial, or nominal function, rather than one that functions as a separate sentence in its own right.

suborn (sə'bɔːn) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to bribe, incite, or instigate (a person) to commit a wrongful act. 2. *Law.* to induce (a witness) to commit perjury. —**subornation** (sə'bɔːneɪʃən) *n.* —**subornative** (sə'bɔːnətɪv) *adj.* —**sub'orn-er** *n.*

subplot ('sʌb,plɒt) *n.* a subordinate or auxiliary plot in a novel, play, film, etc.

subpoena (səb'piːnə) *n.* 1. a writ issued by a court of justice requiring a person to appear before the court at a specified time. ~*vb.* —**naing**, —**naed**. 2. (*tr.*) to serve with a subpoena.

sub rosa ('rɒʊzə) *adv.* in secret.

subroutine ('sʌbrʊːtɪn) *n.* a section of a computer program that is stored only once but can be used at several different points in the program. Also called: **procedure**.

subscribe (səb'skraɪb) *vb.* 1. (usually foll. by *to*) to pay or promise to pay (money) as a contribution (to a fund, for a magazine, etc.), esp. at regular intervals. 2. to sign (one's name, etc.) at the end of a document. 3. (*intr.*; foll. by *to*) to give support or approval: *to subscribe to the theory of transubstantiation*. —**subscriber** *n.*

subscriber trunk dialling *n.* *Brit.* a service by which telephone subscribers can obtain trunk calls by dialling direct without the aid of an operator. Abbrev.: **STD**

subscript ('sʌbskrɪpt) *adj.* 1. *Printing.* (of a character) written or printed below the base line. Cf. **superscript**. ~*n.* 2. Also called: **subindex**, a subscript character.

subscription (səb'skrɪpʃən) *n.* 1. a payment or promise of payment for consecutive issues of a magazine, newspaper, book, etc., over a specified period of time. 2. money paid or promised, as to a charity, or the fund raised in this way. 3. an offer to buy shares or bonds issued by a company. 4. the act of signing one's name to

a document, etc. 5. a signature or other appendage attached to the bottom of a document, etc. 6. agreement or acceptance expressed by or as if by signing one's name. 7. a signed document, statement, etc. 8. *Chiefly Brit.* the membership dues or fees paid to a society or club. 9. an advance order for a new product. 10. a. the sale of books, etc., prior to publishing. b. (*as modifier*): a *subscription edition*. —**sub'scriptive** *adj.* —**sub'scriptively** *adv.*

subsequent ('sʌbsɪkwənt) *adj.* occurring after; succeeding. —**subsequence** or **subsequentness** *n.* —**subsequently** *adv.*

subservient (səb'sɜːviənt) *adj.* 1. obsequious. 2. serving as a means to an end. 3. a less common word for **subordinate** (sense 2). —**sub'serviently** *adv.* —**sub'servience** or **sub'serviency** *n.*

subset ('sʌb,seɪt) *n.* a mathematical set contained within a larger set.

subside (səb'saɪd) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. to become less loud, excited, violent, etc.; abate. 2. to sink or fall to a lower level. 3. (of the surface of the earth, etc.) to cave in; collapse. 4. (of sediment, etc.) to sink or descend to the bottom; settle. —**sub'sidence** *n.* —**sub'sider** *n.*

subsidiary (səb'sɪdiəri) *adj.* 1. serving to aid or supplement; auxiliary. 2. of lesser importance; subordinate. ~*n.*, *pl.* —**aries**. 3. a subsidiary person or thing. 4. Also called: **subsidiary company**, a company with at least half of its capital stock owned by another company. —**sub'sidiarily** *adv.* —**sub'sidiariness** *n.*

subsidize or **-ise** ('sʌbsɪ,daɪz) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to aid or support with a subsidy. 2. to obtain the aid of by means of a subsidy. —**sub'sidization** or **-i'sation** *n.* —**sub'sidizer** or **-i'ser** *n.*

subsidy ('sʌbsɪdɪ) *n.*, *pl.* —**dies**. 1. a financial aid supplied by a government, as to industry, for public welfare, the balance of payments, etc. 2. *English history.* a financial grant made originally for special purposes by Parliament to the Crown. 3. any monetary aid, grant, or contribution.

subsist (səb'sɪst) *vb.* (*mainly intr.*) 1. (often foll. by *on*) to be sustained; manage to live: *to subsist on milk*. 2. to continue in existence. 3. (foll. by *in*) to lie or reside by virtue (of); consist. 4. (*tr.*) *Obs.* to provide with support. —**sub'sistent** *adj.*

subsistence (səb'sɪstəns) *n.* 1. the means by which one maintains life. 2. the act or condition of subsisting.

subsistence farming *n.* a type of farming in which most of the produce is consumed by the farmer and his family.

subsoil ('sʌb,sɔɪl) *n.* 1. Also called: **undersoil**, the layer of soil beneath the surface soil and overlying the bedrock. ~*vb.* 2. (*tr.*) to plough (land) to a depth so as to break up the subsoil.

subsonic (səb'sɒnɪk) *adj.* being, having, or travelling at a velocity below that of sound.

substance ('sʌbstəns) *n.* 1. the tangible basic matter of which a thing consists. 2. a specific type of matter, esp. a homogeneous material with definite or fairly definite chemical composition. 3. the essence, meaning, etc., of a discourse, thought, or written article. 4. solid or meaningful quality: *an education of substance*. 5. material density or body: *a vacuum has no substance*. 6. material possessions or wealth: *a man of substance*. 7. *in substance*, with regard to the salient points.

substandard (səb'stændəd) *adj.* below an established or required standard.

substantial (səb'stænʃəl) *adj.* 1. of a considerable size or value: *substantial funds*. 2. worthwhile; important; telling: *a substantial reform*. 3. having wealth or importance: *a substantial member of the community*. 4. (of food or a meal) sufficient and nourishing. 5. solid or strong: *a substantial door*. 6. real; actual; true: *substantial evidence*. 7. of or relating to the basic or fundamental substance or aspects of a thing. ~*n.* 8. (*often pl.*) Rare, an essential or important element. —**sub'stanti-ality** (səb'stænʃi'ælɪti) or **sub'sstantialness** *n.* —**sub'stanti-ally** *adv.*

substantiate (səb'stænʃi,eɪt) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to establish as valid or genuine. 2. to give form or real existence to. —**sub'stanti-ation** *n.*

substantive ('sʌbstəntɪv) *n.* 1. *Grammar.* a noun or pronoun used in place of a noun. ~*adj.* 2. of, relating to, containing, or being the essential element of a thing. 3. having independent function, resources, or existence.

4. of substantial quantity. 5. solid in foundation or basis. 6. *Grammar*. denoting, relating to, or standing in place of a noun. 7. (of a dye or colour) staining the material directly without use of a mordant. —**substantial** (ˌsʌbstənˈtʃəl) *adj.* —**substantially** *adv.* —**'substantively** *adv.*

substitute (ˈsʌbstɪtjuːt) *vb.* 1. (often foll. by *for*) to serve or cause to serve in place of another person or thing. 2. *Chem.* to replace (an atom or group in a molecule) with (another atom or group). ~*n.* 3. a. a person or thing that serves in place of another, such as a player in a game who takes the place of an injured colleague. b. (as *modifier*): a *substitute goalkeeper*. —**substitutable** *adj.* —**substitution** *n.* —**'substitutive** *adj.*

subsume (səbˈsjuːm) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to incorporate (an idea, case, etc.) under a comprehensive or inclusive classification. 2. to consider (an instance of something) as part of a general rule. —**subsumable** *adj.* —**subsumption** (səbˈsʌmpʃən) *n.*

subtenant (səbˈtenənt) *n.* a person who rents or leases property from a tenant. —**subtenancy** *n.*

subtend (səbˈtend) *vb.* (tr.) 1. *Geom.* to be opposite to and delimit (an angle or side). 2. (of a bract, stem, etc.) to have (a bud or similar part) growing in its axil.

subterfuge (ˈsʌbtəˌfjuːdʒ) *n.* a stratagem employed to conceal something, evade an argument, etc.

subterranean (ˌsʌbtəˈreɪniən) *adj.* 1. Also: **subterrestrial**. situated, living, or operating below the surface of the earth. 2. existing or operating in concealment. —**subterraneanly** or **subterranously** *adv.*

subtitle (ˈsʌbˌtaɪtl̩) *n.* 1. an additional subordinate title given to a literary or other work. 2. (often *pl.*) Also called: **caption**. *Films*. a. a written translation superimposed on a film that has foreign dialogue. b. explanatory text on a silent film. ~*vb.* 3. (tr.; usually *passive*) to provide a subtitle for.

subtle (ˈsʌtl̩) *adj.* 1. not immediately obvious or comprehensible. 2. difficult to detect or analyse, often through being delicate or highly refined: a *subtle scent*. 3. showing or making or capable of showing or making fine distinctions of meaning. 4. marked by or requiring mental acuteness or ingenuity; discriminating. 5. delicate or faint: a *subtle shade*. 6. cunning or wily: a *subtle rogue*. 7. operating or executed in secret: a *subtle intrigue*. —**'subtleness** *n.* —**'subtly** *adv.*

subtlety (ˈsʌtl̩ti) *n.*, *pl.* **-ties**. 1. the state or quality of being subtle; delicacy. 2. a fine distinction. 3. something subtle.

subtonic (səbˈtɒnik) *n.* *Music*. the seventh degree of a major or minor scale.

subtract (səbˈtrækt) *vb.* 1. to calculate the difference between (two numbers or quantities) by subtraction. 2. to remove (a part of a thing, quantity, etc.) from the whole. —**subtractive** *adj.* —**subtractor** *n.*

subtraction (səbˈtrækʃən) *n.* 1. the act or process of subtracting. 2. a mathematical operation in which the difference between two numbers or quantities is calculated.

suburb (ˈsʌbɜːb) *n.* a residential district situated on the outskirts of a city or town.

suburban (səˈbɜːbən) *adj.* 1. of, in, or inhabiting a suburb or the suburbs. 2. characteristic of a suburb or the suburbs. 3. *Mildly derog.* narrow or unadventurous in outlook. ~*n.* 4. Also called: **suburbanite**. a person who lives in a suburb. —**suburbane**, **-ize** or **-ise** *vb.*

suburbia (səˈbɜːbiə) *n.* 1. suburbs or the people living in them considered as an identifiable community or class in society. 2. the life, customs, etc., of suburbanites.

subvention (səbˈvenʃən) *n.* a grant, aid, or subsidy, as from a government.

subversion (səbˈvɜːʃən) *n.* 1. the act or an instance of subverting a legally constituted government, institution, etc. 2. the state of being subverted; destruction or ruin.

subversive (səbˈvɜːsɪv) *adj.* 1. liable to subvert or overthrow a government, legally constituted institution, etc. ~*n.* 2. a person engaged in subversive activities, etc. —**subversively** *adv.* —**subversiveness** *n.*

subvert (səbˈvɜːt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to bring about the complete downfall or ruin of (something existing by a system of law, etc.). 2. to undermine the moral principles of (a person, etc.). —**subverter** *n.*

subway (ˈsʌbˌweɪ) *n.* 1. *Brit.* an underground tunnel enabling pedestrians to cross a road, railway, etc. 2. an

underground tunnel for traffic, power supplies, etc. 3. an underground railway.

succeed (səkˈsɪd) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to accomplish an aim, esp. in the manner desired. 2. (*intr.*) to happen in the manner desired: *the plan succeeded*. 3. (*intr.*) to acquire oneself satisfactorily or do well, as in a specified field. 4. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *to*) to come next in order (after someone or something). 5. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *to*) to take over an office, post, etc. (from a person). 6. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *to*) to come into possession (of property, etc.); inherit. 7. (*intr.*) to have a result according to a specified manner: *the plan succeeded badly*. —**suc'ceder** *n.* —**suc'ceedingly** *adv.*

success (səkˈses) *n.* 1. the favourable outcome of something attempted. 2. the attainment of wealth, fame, etc. 3. an action, performance, etc., that is characterized by success. 4. a person or thing that is successful.

successful (səkˈsesfʊl) *adj.* 1. having succeeded in one's endeavours. 2. marked by a favourable outcome. 3. having obtained fame, wealth, etc. —**suc'cessfully** *adv.* —**suc'cessfulness** *n.*

succession (səkˈseʃən) *n.* 1. the act or an instance of one person or thing following another. 2. a number of people or things following one another in order. 3. the act, process, or right by which one person succeeds to the office, etc., of another. 4. the order that determines how one person or thing follows another. 5. a line of descent to a title, etc. 6. in **succession**, in a manner such that one thing is followed uninterruptedly by another. —**suc'cessional** *adj.*

successive (səkˈsesɪv) *adj.* 1. following another without interruption. 2. of or involving succession: a *successive process*. —**suc'cessively** *adv.* —**suc'cessiveness** *n.*

successor (səkˈsesə) *n.* a person or thing that follows, esp. a person who succeeds another.

succinct (səkˈsɪŋkt) *adj.* marked by brevity and clarity; concise. —**suc'cinctly** *adv.* —**suc'cinctness** *n.*

succour or **U.S. succor** (ˈsʌkə) *n.* 1. help or assistance, esp. in time of difficulty. 2. a person or thing that provides help. ~*vb.* 3. (tr.) to give aid to.

succubus (ˈsʌkjʊbəs) *n.*, *pl.* **-bi** (-ˌbaɪ). 1. Also called: **succuba**. a female demon fabled to have sexual intercourse with sleeping men. Cf. **incubus**. 2. any evil demon.

succulent (ˈsʌkjʊlənt) *adj.* 1. juicy. 2. (of plants) having thick fleshy leaves or stems. ~*n.* 3. a plant that can exist in arid conditions by using water stored in its fleshy tissues. —**'succulence** or **'succulency** *n.* —**'succulently** *adv.*

succumb (səˈkʌm) *vb.* (*intr.*; often foll. by *to*) 1. to give way to the force (of) or desire (for). 2. to be fatally overwhelmed (by disease, etc.); die (of).

such (sʌʃ) (*often foll. by a corresponding subordinate clause introduced by that or as*) ~*determiner*. 1. a. of the sort specified or understood: *such books*. b. (as *pronoun*): *such is life; robbers, rapists, and such*. 2. so great; so much: *such a help*. 3. a. as **such**. in the capacity previously specified or understood: *a judge as such hasn't so much power*. b. in itself or themselves: *intelligence as such can't guarantee success*. 4. **such and such**. specific, but not known or named: *at such and such a time*. 5. **such as**. a. for example: *animals, such as tigers*. b. of a similar kind as; like: *people such as your friend*. c. of the (usually small) amount, etc.: *the food, such as there was, was excellent*. 6. **such that**. so that: *used to express purpose or result: power such that it was effortless*. ~*adv.* 7. (intensifier): *such nice people; such a nice person*.

suck (sʌk) *vb.* 1. to draw (a liquid or other substance) into the mouth by creating a partial vacuum in the mouth. 2. to draw in (fluid, etc.) by or as if by a similar action: *plants suck moisture from the soil*. 3. to drink milk from (a mother's breast); suckle. 4. (tr.) to extract fluid content from (a solid food): *to suck a lemon*. 5. (tr.) to take into the mouth and moisten, dissolve, or roll around with the tongue: *to suck one's thumb*. 6. (tr.; often foll. by *down*, *in*, etc.) to draw by using irresistible force. 7. (*intr.*) (of a pump) to draw in air because of a low supply level or leaking valves, etc. 8. (tr.) to assimilate or acquire (knowledge, comfort, etc.). ~*n.* 9. the act or an instance of sucking. 10. something that is sucked, esp. milk from the mother's breast. 11. **give suck to**. to give (a baby or young animal) milk from the breast or udder. 12. an attracting or sucking force. 13.

a sound caused by sucking. ~See also **suck in**, **suck up** to.

sucker ('sʌkə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that sucks. 2. *Sl.* a person who is easily deceived or swindled. 3. *Sl.* a person who cannot resist the attractions of a particular type of person or thing: *he's a sucker for blondes*. 4. a young animal that is not yet weaned. 5. *Zool.* an organ specialized for sucking or adhering. 6. a cup-shaped device, generally made of rubber, that may be attached to articles allowing them to adhere to a surface by suction. 7. *Bot. a.* a strong shoot that arises in a mature plant from a root, rhizome, or the base of the main stem. *b.* a short branch of a parasitic plant that absorbs nutrients from the host. 8. a pipe or tube through which a fluid is drawn by suction. 9. any of various small mainly North American cyprinoid fishes having a large sucking mouth. 10. any of certain fishes that have sucking discs, esp. the sea snail. 11. a piston in a suction pump or the valve in such a piston. ~*vb.* 12. (*tr.*) to strip the suckers from (a plant). 13. (*intr.*) (of a plant) to produce suckers.

suck in *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. (*tr.*) to attract by using an inexorable force, inducement, etc. 2. to draw in (one's breath) sharply.

suckle ('sʌkəl) *vb.* 1. to give (a baby or young animal) milk from the breast or (of a baby, etc.) to suck milk from the breast. 2. (*tr.*) to bring up; nurture. —'suckler *n.*

suckling ('sʌklɪŋ) *n.* 1. an infant or young animal that is still taking milk from the mother. 2. a very young child.

sucks (saks) *interj. Sl.* 1. an expression of disappointment. 2. an exclamation of defiance or derision (esp. in *yah boo sucks to you*).

suck up to *vb.* (*intr.*, *adv.* + *prep.*) *Inf.* to flatter for one's own profit; toady.

sucrose ('sjʊkrəʊz, -krəʊs) *n.* the technical name for sugar (sense 1).

suction ('sʌkʃən) *n.* 1. the act or process of sucking. 2. the force produced by a pressure difference, as the force holding a suction cap onto a surface. 3. the act or process of producing such a force. —'suctional *adj.*

Sudanese ('sʊdʌˈniːz) *adj.* 1. of or relating to the Sudan, in NE Africa. ~*n.* 2. a native or inhabitant of the Sudan.

sudatory ('sjʊːdətəri, -tri) *adj.* 1. relating to or producing sweating. ~*n.*, *pl.* -ries. 2. a sudatory agent.

sudden ('sʌdn) *adj.* 1. occurring or performed quickly and without warning. 2. marked by haste; abrupt. 3. Rare. rash; precipitate. ~*n.* 4. *Arch.* an abrupt occurrence (in *on a sudden*). 5. *all of a sudden*, without warning; unexpectedly. —'suddenly *adv.* —'suddenness *n.*

sudden infant death syndrome *n.* a technical name for cot death.

sudorific ('sjʊdəˈrɪfɪk) *adj.* 1. producing or causing sweating. ~*n.* 2. a sudorific agent.

suds (sadz) *pl. n.* 1. the bubbles on the surface of water in which soap, detergents, etc., have been dissolved; lather. 2. soapy water. —'sudsy *adj.*

sue (sjʊ, suː) *vb.* *suing*, *sued*. 1. to institute legal proceedings (against). 2. to make suppliant requests of (someone for something). —'suer *n.*

suede (sweɪd) *n. a.* a leather with a fine velvet-like nap on the flesh side, produced by abrasive action. *b.* (as *modifier*): a suede coat.

suet ('suːt, 'sjʊːt) *n.* a hard waxy fat around the kidneys and loins in sheep, cattle, etc., used in cooking and making tallow. —'suetly *adj.*

suet pudding *n. Brit.* any of a variety of puddings made with suet and steamed or boiled.

suffer ('sʌfə) *vb.* 1. to undergo or be subjected to (pain, punishment, etc.). 2. (*tr.*) to undergo or experience (anything): *to suffer a change of management*. 3. (*intr.*) to be set at a disadvantage: *this author suffers in translation*. 4. (*tr.*) *Arch.* to tolerate; permit (someone to do something): *suffer the little children to come unto me*. 5. *suffer from*, *a.* to be ill with, esp. recurrently. *b.* to be given to: *he suffers from a tendency to exaggerate*. —'sufferer *n.* —'suffering *n.*

suffrance ('sʌfrəns, 'sʌfrəns) *n.* 1. tolerance arising from failure to prohibit; tacit permission. 2. capacity to endure pain, injury, etc. 3. the state or condition of suffering. 4. *on suffrance*, tolerated with reluctance.

suffice (sə'faɪs) *vb.* 1. to be adequate or satisfactory for (something). 2. *suffice it to say that*, (takes a clause as *object*) let us say no more than that; I shall just say that.

sufficiency (sə'fɪʃənsɪ) *n.*, *pl.* -cies. 1. the quality or condition of being sufficient. 2. an adequate amount. 3. *Arch.* efficiency.

sufficient (sə'fɪʃənt) *adj.* 1. enough to meet a need or purpose; adequate. 2. *Logic.* (of a condition) assuring the truth of a statement, fact, etc., logically following from the condition once that condition has been fulfilled. *Cf.* **necessary** (sense 3b). 3. *Arch.* competent; capable. ~*n.* 4. a sufficient quantity. —'sufficiently *adv.*

suffix ('sʌfɪks) *n.* 1. *Grammar.* an affix that follows the stem to which it is attached, as for example -s and -ness in *dogs* and *softness*. *Cf.* **prefix** (sense 1). 2. anything added at the end of something else. ~*vb.* ('sʌfɪks, sɔ'fɪks). 3. (*tr.*) *Grammar.* to add (a morpheme) as a suffix to a word.

suffocate ('sʌfəˌkeɪt) *vb.* 1. to kill or be killed by the deprivation of oxygen, as by obstruction of the air passage or inhalation of noxious gases. 2. to block the air passages or have the air passages blocked. 3. to feel or cause to feel discomfort from heat and lack of air. —'suffocation *n.*

suffragan ('sʌfrəɡən) *adj.* 1. *a.* (of any bishop of a diocese) subordinate to and assisting his superior archbishop or metropolitan. *b.* (of any assistant bishop) assisting the bishop of his diocese but having no ordinary jurisdiction in that diocese. ~*n.* 2. a suffragan bishop. —'suffragan,ship *n.*

suffrage ('sʌfrɪdʒ) *n.* 1. the right to vote, esp. in public elections; franchise. 2. the exercise of such a right; casting a vote. 3. a short intercessory prayer.

suffragette ('sʌfrəˈdʒet) *n.* a female advocate of the extension of the franchise to women, esp. a militant one, as in Britain at the beginning of the 20th century.

suffuse (sə'fjuːz) *vb.* (*tr.*; usually *passive*) to spread or flood through or over (something). —'suffusion (sə'fjuːʒən) *n.* —'suf'fusive *adj.*

sugar ('ʃʊɡə) *n.* 1. Also called: **sucrose**, **saccharose**. a white crystalline sweet carbohydrate, a disaccharide, found in many plants: used esp. as a sweetening agent in food and drinks. Related *adj.*: **saccharine**. 2. any of a class of simple water-soluble carbohydrates, such as sucrose, lactose, and fructose. 3. *Inf.*, chiefly *U.S.* a term of affection, esp. for one's sweetheart. ~*vb.* 4. (*tr.*) to add sugar to; make sweet. 5. (*tr.*) to cover or sprinkle with sugar. 6. (*intr.*) to produce sugar. 7. **sugar the pill** or **medicine**, to make something unpleasant more agreeable by adding something pleasant. —'sugared *adj.*

sugar beet *n.* a variety of beet cultivated for its white roots from which sugar is obtained.

sugar cane *n.* a coarse perennial grass of Old World tropical regions, having tall stout canes that yield sugar: cultivated chiefly in the West Indies and the southern U.S.

sugaring off *n. Canad.* the boiling down of maple sap to produce sugar, traditionally a social event in early spring.

sugar loaf *n.* 1. a large conical mass of hard refined sugar. 2. something resembling this.

sugar maple *n.* a North American maple tree, grown as a source of sugar, which is extracted from the sap, and for its hard wood.

sugary ('ʃʊɡəri) *adj.* 1. of, like, or containing sugar. 2. excessively sweet. 3. deceptively pleasant; insincere. —'sugariness *n.*

suggest (sə'dʒest) *vb.* (*tr.*; may take a clause as *object*) 1. to put forward (a plan, idea, etc.) for consideration: *I suggest Smith for the post; a plan suggested itself*. 2. to evoke (a person, thing, etc.) in the mind by the association of ideas: *that painting suggests home to me*. 3. to give an indirect or vague hint of: *his face always suggests his peace of mind*. —'sug'gester *n.*

suggestible (sə'dʒestɪbəl) *adj.* 1. easily influenced by ideas provided by other persons. 2. characteristic of something that can be suggested. —'sug'gestibility *n.*

suggestion (sə'dʒestʃən) *n.* 1. something that is suggested. 2. a hint or indication: *a suggestion of the odour of violets*. 3. *Psychol.* the process whereby the mere presentation of an idea to a receptive individual leads to the acceptance of that idea. See also **autosuggestion**.

suggestive (sə'dʒestɪv) *adj.* 1. (*postpositive*; foll. by *of*) conveying a hint (of something). 2. tending to suggest something improper or indecent. —'sug'gestively *adv.* —'sug'gestiveness *n.*

suicidal (suːɪ'saɪdəl, 'sjʊː-) *adj.* 1. involving, indicating, or tending towards suicide. 2. liable to result in suicide: *a suicidal attempt*. 3. liable to destroy one's own interests or prospects; dangerously rash. —'suicidally *adv.*

suicide ('su:ɪ,saɪd, 'sju:ɪ) *n.* 1. the act or an instance of killing oneself intentionally. 2. the self-inflicted ruin of one's own prospects or interests: a *merger would be financial suicide*. 3. a person who kills himself intentionally. 4. (modifier) reckless; extremely dangerous: a *suicide mission*.

suit (su:t, sju:t) *n.* 1. any set of clothes of the same or similar material designed to be worn together, now usually (for men) a jacket with matching trousers or (for women) a jacket with matching or contrasting skirt or trousers. 2. (in combination) any outfit worn for a specific purpose: a *spacesuit*. 3. any set of items, such as parts of personal armour. 4. any of the four sets of 13 cards in a pack of playing cards, being spades, hearts, diamonds, and clubs. 5. a civil proceeding; lawsuit. 6. the act or process of suing in a court of law. 7. a petition or appeal made to a person of superior rank or status or the act of making such a petition. 8. a man's courting of a woman. 9. follow *suit*. a. to play a card of the same suit as the card played immediately before it. b. to act in the same way as someone else. 10. **strong or strongest suit**. something that one excels in. ~*vb.* 11. to make or be fit or appropriate for: *that dress suits your figure*. 12. to meet the requirements or standards (of). 13. to be agreeable or acceptable to (someone). 14. **suit oneself**. to pursue one's own intentions without reference to others.

suitable ('su:təbəl, 'sju:t-) *adj.* appropriate; proper; fit. — *suitability* or *suitableness* *n.* — *suitably* *adv.*

suitcase ('su:t,keɪs, 'sju:t-) *n.* a portable rectangular travelling case for clothing, etc.

suite (swi:t) *n.* 1. a series of items intended to be used together; set. 2. a set of connected rooms in a hotel. 3. a matching set of furniture, esp. of two armchairs and a settee. 4. a number of attendants or followers. 5. *Music*. a. an instrumental composition consisting of several movements in the same key based on or derived from dance rhythms, esp. in the baroque period. b. an instrumental composition in several movements less closely connected than a sonata.

suitor ('su:tə, 'sju:t-) *n.* 1. a man who courts a woman; wooer. 2. Law. a person who brings a suit in a court of law; plaintiff.

sulk (sɒlk) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to be silent and resentful because of a wrong done to one; brood sullenly: *the child sulked after being slapped*. ~*n.* 2. (often *pl.*) a state or mood of feeling resentful or sullen: *he's in a sulk; he's got the sulks*. 3. Also called *sulker*, a person who sulks.

sulky¹ ('sɒlki) *adj.* -ier, -iest. 1. sullen, withdrawn, or moody, through or as if through resentment. 2. dull or dismal: *sulky weather*. — *sulkily* *adv.* — *sulkiness* *n.*

sulky² ('sɒlki) *n.*, *pl.* *sulkies*. a light two-wheeled vehicle for one person, usually drawn by one horse.

sullen ('sʌlən) *adj.* 1. unwilling to talk or be sociable; sulky; morose. 2. sombre; gloomy: *a sullen day*. ~*n.* 3. (*pl.*) Arch. a sullen mood. — *sullenly* *adv.* — *sullenness* *n.*

sully ('sʌli) *vb.* -lying, -lied. (*tr.*) to stain or tarnish (a reputation, etc.) or (of a reputation) to become stained or tarnished.

sulph- or **U.S. sulf-** combining form. containing sulphur: *sulphate*.

sulpha drug ('sʌlfə) *n.* any of a group of sulphonamides that inhibit the activity of bacteria and are used to treat bacterial infections.

sulphate ('sʌlfetɪ) *n.* 1. any salt or ester of sulphuric acid. ~*vb.* 2. (*tr.*) to treat with a sulphate or convert into a sulphate. 3. to undergo or cause to undergo the formation of a layer of lead sulphate on the plates of an accumulator. — *sulphation* *n.*

sulphide ('sʌlfəɪd) *n.* a compound of sulphur with a more electropositive element.

sulphite ('sʌlfatɪ) *n.* any salt or ester of sulphurous acid. — *sulphitic* ('sʌlfɪtɪk) *adj.*

sulphonamide ('sʌlfənə,maɪd) *n.* any of a class of organic compounds containing the group -SO₂NH₂ or a group derived from this. An important class of sulphonamides is the sulpha drugs.

sulphur or **U.S. sulfur** ('sʌlfə) *n.* a. an allotropic nonmetallic element, occurring free in volcanic regions and in combined state in gypsum, pyrite, and galena. It is used in the production of sulphuric acid, in the vulcanization of rubber, and in fungicides. Symbol: S; atomic no.: 16; atomic wt.: 32.064. b. (as modifier): *sulphur springs*. — *sulphuric* or *U.S. sulfuric* ('sʌlfjʊərɪk) *adj.*

sulphureous ('sʌlfjʊərəs) *n.* 1. another word for *sulphurous* (sense 1). ~*adj.* 2. of the yellow colour of sulphur.

sulphuric acid *n.* a colourless dense oily corrosive liquid used in accumulators and in the manufacture of fertilizers, dyes, and explosives. Formula: H₂SO₄.

sulphurize or **-ise** ('sʌlfjʊ,raɪz) *vb.* (*tr.*) to combine or treat with sulphur or a sulphur compound. — *sulphurization* or *-isation* *n.*

sulphurous ('sʌlfərəs) *adj.* 1. Also: *sulphureous*, of, relating to, or resembling sulphur: *a sulphurous colour*. 2. of or containing sulphur in the divalent state: *sulphurous acid*. 3. of or relating to hellfire. 4. hot-tempered. — *sulphurously* *adv.* — *sulphurousness* *n.*

sultan ('sʌltən) *n.* 1. the sovereign of a Muslim country, esp. of the former Ottoman Empire. 2. a small domestic fowl with a white crest and heavily feathered legs and feet: originated in Turkey.

sultana ('sʌl'tɑ:nə) *n.* 1. a. the dried fruit of a small white seedless grape, originally produced in SW Asia; seedless raisin. b. the grape itself. 2. Also called: *sultaness*. a wife, concubine, or female relative of a sultan. 3. a mistress; concubine.

sultanate ('sʌltə,neɪt) *n.* 1. the territory or a country ruled by a sultan. 2. the office, rank, or jurisdiction of a sultan.

sultry ('sʌltri) *adj.* -trier, -triest. 1. (of weather or climate) oppressively hot and humid. 2. characterized by or emitting oppressive heat. 3. displaying or suggesting passion; sensual: *sultry eyes*. — *sultrily* *adv.* — *sultriness* *n.*

sum (sʌm) *n.* 1. the result of the addition of numbers, quantities, objects, etc. 2. one or more columns or rows of numbers to be added, subtracted, multiplied, or divided. 3. *Maths.* the limit of the first *n* terms of a converging infinite series as *n* tends to infinity. 4. a quantity, esp. of money: *he borrows enormous sums*. 5. the essence or gist of a matter (esp. in *in sum*, *in sum and substance*). 6. a less common word for *summary*. 7. (modifier) complete or final (esp. in *sum total*). ~*vb.* **summing, summed**. 8. (often foll. by *up*) to add or form a total of (something). 9. (*tr.*) to calculate the sum of (the terms in a sequence). — See also *sum up*.

Sumerian ('su:mɪəriən, '-meər-) *n.* 1. a member of a people who established a civilization in Sumer, in SW Asia, during the 4th millennium B.C. 2. the extinct language of this people. ~*adj.* 3. of or relating to ancient Sumer, its inhabitants, or their language or civilization.

summarize or **-ise** ('sʌmə,raɪz) *vb.* (*tr.*) to make or be a summary of; express concisely. — *summarization* or *-isation* *n.* — *summarizer, -iser*, or *summarist* *n.*

summary ('sʌməri) *n.*, *pl.* -maries. 1. a brief account giving the main points of something. ~*adj.* (usually *prepositional*). 2. performed arbitrarily and quickly, without formality: *a summary execution*. 3. (of legal proceedings) short and free from the complexities and delays of a full trial. 4. **summary jurisdiction**. the right a court has to adjudicate immediately upon some matter. 5. giving the gist or essence. — *summarily* *adv.* — *summariness* *n.*

summation ('sʌmɪ'eɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act or process of determining a sum. 2. the result of such an act or process. 3. *U.S. law.* the concluding statements made by opposing counsel in a case before a court. — *summatinal* *adj.*

summer ('sʌmə) *n.* 1. (sometimes *cap.*) a. the warmest season of the year, between spring and autumn, astronomically from the June solstice to the September equinox in the N hemisphere and at the opposite time of year in the S hemisphere. b. (as modifier): *summer flowers*. Related *adj.*: *aestival*. 2. the period of hot weather associated with the summer. 3. a time of blossoming, greatest happiness, etc. 4. *Chiefly poetic*. a year represented by this season: *a child of nine summers*. ~*vb.* 5. (*intr.*) to spend the summer (at a place). 6. (*tr.*) to keep or feed (farm animals) during the summer: *they summered their cattle on the mountain slopes*. — *summerly* *adj.*

summerhouse ('sʌmə,haʊs) *n.* a small building in a garden or park, used for shade or recreation in the summer.

summersault ('sʌmə,ɔ:lt) *n.*, *vb.* a variant spelling of *somersault*.

summer school *n.* a school, academic course, etc., held during the summer.

summer solstice *n.* 1. the time at which the sun is at its northernmost point in the sky (southernmost point in the S hemisphere). It occurs about June 21 (December 22 in the S hemisphere). 2. *Astron.* the point on the celestial sphere, opposite the *winter solstice*, at which the ecliptic is furthest north from the celestial equator.

summertime ('sʌmə,tʌm) *n.* 1. the period or season of summer. 2. *Brit.* any daylight-saving time, esp. British Summer Time.

summing-up *n.* 1. a review or summary of the main points of an argument, speech, etc. 2. concluding statements made by a judge to the jury before they retire to consider their verdict.

summit ('sʌmɪt) *n.* 1. the highest point or part, esp. of a mountain; top. 2. the highest possible degree or state; peak or climax: *the summit of ambition.* 3. the highest level, importance, or rank: *a meeting at the summit.* 4. a. a meeting of chiefs of governments or other high officials. b. (as modifier): *a summit conference.*

summon ('sʌmənz) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to order to come; send for, esp. to attend court, by issuing a summons. 2. to order or instruct (to do something) or call (to something): *the bell summoned them to their work.* 3. to call upon to meet or convene. 4. (often foll. by *up*) to muster or gather (one's strength, courage, etc.). 5. *Arch.* to call upon to surrender.

summons ('sʌmənz) *n., pl. -monses.* 1. a call, signal, or order to do something, esp. to attend at a specified place or time. 2. a. an official order requiring a person to attend court, either to answer a charge or to give evidence. b. the writ making such an order. 3. a call or command given to the members of an assembly to convene a meeting. ~*vb.* 4. to take out a summons against (a person).

sumptuary ('sʌmptʃʊəri) *adj.* relating to or controlling expenditure or extravagance.

sumptuous ('sʌmptʃʊəs) *adj.* 1. expensive or extravagant: *sumptuous costumes.* 2. magnificent; splendid: *a sumptuous scene.* —*'sumptuously* *adv.* —*'sumptuousness* *n.*

sum up *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. to summarize (the main points of an argument, etc.). 2. (tr.) to form a quick opinion of: *I summed him up in five minutes.*

sun (sʌn) *n.* 1. the star that is the source of heat and light for the planets in the solar system. Related *adj.*: **solar.** 2. any star around which a planetary system revolves. 3. the sun as it appears at a particular time or place: *the winter sun.* 4. the radiant energy, esp. heat and light, received from the sun; sunshine. 5. a person or thing considered as a source of radiant warmth, glory, etc. 6. a pictorial representation of the sun, often depicted with a human face. 7. *Poetic.* a year or a day. 8. *Poetic.* a climate. 9. *Arch.* sunrise or sunset (esp. in *from sun to sun*). 10. *catch the sun.* to become slightly sunburnt. 11. *place in the sun.* a prominent or favourable position. 12. *take or shoot the sun.* *Naut.* to measure the altitude of the sun in order to determine latitude. 13. *touch of the sun.* slight sunstroke. 14. *under or beneath the sun.* on earth; at all: *nobody under the sun eats more than you do.* ~*vb.* **sunning, sunned.** 15. to expose (oneself) to the sunshine. 16. (tr.) to expose to the sunshine in order to warm, tan, etc.

Sun. *abbrev.* for Sunday.

sun bath *n.* the exposure of the body to the rays of the sun or a sun lamp, esp. in order to get a suntan.

sunbathe ('sʌn,bəɪð) *vb.* (intr.) to bask in the sunshine, esp. in order to get a suntan. —*'sun, bather* *n.*

sunbeam ('sʌn,bɪ:m) *n.* a beam, ray, or stream of sunlight.

sunburn ('sʌn,bɜ:n) *n.* 1. inflammation of the skin caused by overexposure to the sun. 2. another word for **suntan**. —*'sun, burnt* or *'sun, burned* *adj.*

sunburst ('sʌn,bɜ:st) *n.* 1. a burst of sunshine, as through a break in the clouds. 2. a pattern or design resembling that of the sun. 3. a jewelled brooch with this pattern.

sundae ('sʌndi,-dei) *n.* ice cream topped with a sweet sauce, nuts, whipped cream, etc.

Sunday ('sʌndi) *n.* the first day of the week and the Christian day of worship.

Sunday best *n.* one's best clothes, esp. regarded as those most suitable for churchgoing.

Sunday school *n.* 1. a. a school for the religious instruction of children on Sundays, usually held in a church. b. (as modifier): *a Sunday-school outing.* 2. the members of such a school.

sunder ('sʌndə) *Arch. or literary.* ~*vb.* 1. to break or cause to break apart or in pieces. ~*n.* 2. in **sunder**. into pieces; apart.

sundial ('sʌn,daiəl) *n.* a device indicating the time during the hours of sunlight by means of a stationary arm (the **gnomon**) that casts a shadow onto a plate or surface marked in hours.

sundown ('sʌn,daʊn) *n.* another name for **sunset**.

sundowner ('sʌn,daʊnə) *n.* 1. *Austral. sl.* a tramp, esp. one who seeks food and lodging at sundown when it is too late to work. 2. *Inf., chiefly Brit.* an alcoholic drink taken at sunset.

sundry ('sʌndri) *determiner.* 1. several or various; miscellaneous. ~*pron.* 2. **all** and **sundry.** everybody. ~*n., pl. -dries.* 3. (pl.) miscellaneous unspecified items. 4. *Austral. (in cricket)* an extra; a bye, leg bye, wide, or no ball.

sunfish ('sʌn,fɪʃ) *n., pl. -fish or -fishes.* 1. any of various large fishes of temperate and tropical seas, esp. one which has a large rounded compressed body, long pointed dorsal and anal fins, and a fringelike tail fin. 2. any of various small predatory North American freshwater percoid fishes, typically having a compressed brightly coloured body.

sunflower ('sʌn,flaʊə) *n.* 1. any of several American plants having very tall thick stems, large flower heads with yellow rays, and seeds used as food, esp. for poultry. See also **Jerusalem artichoke**. 2. **sunflower seed oil.** the oil extracted from sunflower seeds, used as a salad oil, in margarine, etc.

sung (sʌŋ) *vb.* 1. the past participle of **sing**. ~*adj.* 2. produced by singing: *a sung syllable.*

▷ **Usage.** See at **ring**.

sunglasses ('sʌn,glɑ:sɪz) *pl. n.* glasses with darkened or polarizing lenses that protect the eyes from the sun's glare.

sun-god *n.* 1. the sun considered as a personal deity. 2. a deity associated with the sun or controlling its movements.

sunk (sʌŋk) *vb.* 1. a past tense or past participle of **sink**. ~*adj.* 2. *Inf.* with all hopes dashed; ruined.

sunken ('sʌŋkən) *vb.* 1. a past participle of **sink**. ~*adj.* 2. unhealthily hollow: *sunken cheeks.* 3. situated at a lower level than the surrounding or usual one: *a sunken bath.* 4. situated under water; submerged. 5. depressed; low: *sunken spirits.*

sunk fence *n.* a ditch, one side of which is made into a retaining wall so as to enclose an area of land while remaining hidden in the total landscape. Also called: **ha-ha**.

sun lamp *n.* 1. a lamp that generates ultraviolet rays, used for obtaining an artificial suntan, for muscular therapy, etc. 2. a lamp used in film studios, etc., to give an intense beam of light by means of parabolic mirrors.

sunless ('sʌnlɪs) *adj.* 1. without sun or sunshine. 2. gloomy; depressing. —*'sunlessly* *adv.*

sunlight ('sʌnlaɪt) *n.* 1. the light emanating from the sun. 2. an area or the time characterized by sunshine. —*'sunlit* *adj.*

sun lounge or **U.S. sun parlor** *n.* a room with large windows positioned to receive as much sunlight as possible.

sunny ('sʌni) *adj.* ~*nier, -niest.* 1. full of or exposed to sunlight. 2. radiating good humour. 3. of or resembling the sun. —*'sunnily* *adv.* —*'sunniness* *n.*

sunrise ('sʌn,raɪz) *n.* 1. the daily appearance of the sun above the horizon. 2. the atmospheric phenomena accompanying this appearance. 3. Also called (esp. U.S.): **sunup.** the time at which the sun rises at a particular locality.

sunset ('sʌn,set) *n.* 1. the daily disappearance of the sun below the horizon. 2. the atmospheric phenomena accompanying this disappearance. 3. Also called: **sundown.** the time at which the sun sets at a particular locality. 4. the final stage or closing period, as of a person's life.

sunshade ('sʌn,ʃeɪd) *n.* a device, esp. a parasol or awning, serving to shade from the sun.

sunshine ('sʌn,ʃaɪn) *n.* 1. the light received directly from the sun. 2. the warmth from the sun. 3. a sunny area. 4. a light-hearted term of affection. —*'sun-shiny* *adj.*

sunshine roof or **sunroof** ('sʌn,ru:f) *n.* a panel in the roof of a car that may be opened by sliding it back.

sunspot ('sʌn,spɒt) *n.* 1. any of the dark cool patches that appear on the surface of the sun and last about a week. 2. *Inf.* a sunny holiday resort. 3. *Austral.* a small cancerous spot produced by overexposure to the sun.

sunstroke ('sʌn,straʊk) *n.* heatstroke caused by prolonged exposure to intensely hot sunlight.

suntan ('sʌn,tæn) *n.* a. a brownish colouring of the skin caused by the formation of the pigment melanin within the skin on exposure to the ultraviolet rays of the sun or

a sunlamp. — Often shortened to **tan**. **b.** (as modifier): *suntan oil*. — '**sun, tanned** *adj.*

sup¹ ('sʌp) *vb.* **supping, supped.** (*intr.*) Arch. to have supper.

sup² (sʌp) *vb.* **supping, supped.** **1.** to partake of (liquid) by swallowing a little at a time. **2. N. English dialect.** to drink. ~*n.* **3.** a sip.

sup. *abbrev. for:* **1.** above. **2.** superior. **3.** Grammar. superlative. **4.** supplement. **5.** supplementary. **6.** superly.

super ('su:pə, 'sju:pə) *adj.* **1. Inf. a.** outstanding; super-fine; superb. **b. (in combination):** *superstar*. ~*n.* **2. a.** a product of superior quality, size, etc. **b.** such quality, etc. ~*interj.* **3.** Chiefly Brit. good! excellent!

super- *prefix.* **1.** placed above or over: *superscript*. **2.** of greater size, extent, quality, etc.: *supermarket*. **3.** beyond a standard or norm: *supersonic*. **4.** indicating that a chemical compound contains a specified element in a higher proportion than usual: *superphosphate*.

superable ('su:pərabl, 'sju:-) *adj.* able to be surmounted or overcome. — '**supera**' *bility* or '**superableness** *n.* — '**superably** *adv.*

superannuate ('su:pər'ænju,ert, 'sju:-) *vb.* (*tr.*) **1.** to pension off. **2.** to discard as obsolete or old-fashioned.

superannuated ('su:pər'ænju,etɪd, 'sju:-) *adj.* **1.** discharged, esp. with a pension, owing to age or illness. **2.** too old to serve usefully. **3.** obsolete.

superannuation ('su:pər'ænju'eɪʃən, 'sju:-) *n.* **1. a.** the amount deducted regularly from employees' incomes in a contributory pension scheme. **b.** the pension finally paid. **2.** the act or process of superannuating or the condition of being superannuated.

superb ('su:pəb, 'sju:-) *adj.* **1.** surpassingly good; excellent. **2.** majestic or imposing. **3.** magnificently rich; luxurious. — '**superbly** *adv.* — '**superbness** *n.*

supercargo ('su:pə'kɑ:gəʊ, 'sju:-) *n., pl. -goes.* an officer on a merchant ship who supervises commercial matters and is in charge of the cargo.

supercharge ('su:pə'tʃɑ:dʒ, 'sju:-) *vb.* (*tr.*) **1.** to increase the intake pressure of (an internal-combustion engine) with a supercharger; boost. **2.** to charge (the atmosphere, a remark, etc.) with an excess amount of (tension, emotion, etc.). **3.** to apply pressure to (a fluid); pressurize.

supercharger ('su:pə'tʃɑ:dʒə, 'sju:-) *n.* a device that increases the mass of air drawn into an internal-combustion engine by raising the intake pressure. Also called: **blower, booster**.

supercilious ('su:pə'sɪliəs, 'sju:-) *adj.* displaying arrogant pride, scorn, or indifference. — '**super**' *ciliously* *adv.* — '**super**' *ciliousness* *n.*

superconductivity ('su:pə'kɒndʌk'tɪvɪti, 'sju:-) *n.* *Physics.* the property of certain substances that have almost no electrical resistance at temperatures close to absolute zero. — **superconduction** ('su:pəkən'dʌkʃən, 'sju:-) *n.* — '**supercon**' *ductive* or '**supercon**' *ducting* *adj.* — '**supercon**' *ductor* *n.*

supercool ('su:pə'ku:l, 'sju:-) *vb.* *Chem.* to cool or be cooled without freezing or crystallization to a temperature below that at which freezing or crystallization should occur.

superego ('su:pər'i:ɡəʊ, 'i:ɡəʊ, 'sju:-) *n., pl. -gos.* *Psychoanal.* that part of the unconscious mind that acts as a conscience for the ego.

supererogation ('su:pər'erə'geɪʃən, 'sju:-) *n.* **1.** the performance of work in excess of that required or expected. **2. R.C. Church.** supererogatory prayers, devotions, etc.

superficial ('su:pə'fɪʃəl, 'sju:-) *adj.* **1.** of, near, or forming the surface: *superficial bruising*. **2.** displaying a lack of thoroughness or care: *a superficial inspection*. **3.** only outwardly apparent rather than genuine or actual: *the similarity was merely superficial*. **4.** of little substance or significance; trivial: *superficial differences*. **5.** lacking profundity: *the film's plot was quite superficial*. **6.** (of measurements) involving only the surface area. — '**superficiality** ('su:pə'fɪʃəlɪti) *n.* — '**super**' *ficially* *adv.*

superfine ('su:pə'fam, 'sju:-) *adj.* **1.** of exceptional fineness or quality. **2.** excessively refined. — '**super**' *fineness* *n.*

superfluous ('su:pə'flu:əs, 'sju:-) *adj.* **1.** exceeding what is sufficient or required. **2.** not necessary or relevant; uncalled for. — '**super**' *fluity* or '**super**' *fluously* *n.* — '**super**' *fluously* *adv.*

superheat ('su:pə'hɪ:t, 'sju:-) *vb.* (*tr.*) **1.** to heat (a vapour, esp. steam) to a temperature above its satura-

tion point for a given pressure. **2.** to heat (a liquid) to a temperature above its boiling point without boiling occurring. **3.** to heat excessively; overheat. — '**super**' *heat* *n.*

superhuman ('su:pə'hju:mən, 'sju:-) *adj.* **1.** having powers above and beyond those of mankind. **2.** exceeding normal human ability or experience. — '**super**' *humanly* *adv.*

superimpose ('su:pərɪm'pəʊz, 'sju:-) *vb.* (*tr.*) **1.** to set or place on or over something else. **2.** (usually foll. by *on* or *upon*) to add (to). — '**super**' *impo*' *sition* *n.*

superinduce ('su:pərɪndʒu:s, 'sju:-) *vb.* (*tr.*) to introduce as an additional feature, factor, etc. — '**superinduc**' *tion* ('su:pərɪndʌkʃən, 'sju:-) *n.*

superintend ('su:pərɪnt'end, 'sju:-) *vb.* to undertake the direction or supervision (of); manage. — '**superin**' *tendence* *n.*

superintendent ('su:pərɪnt'endənt, 'sju:-) *n.* **1.** a person who directs and manages an organization, office, etc. **2.** (in Britain) a senior police officer higher in rank than an inspector but lower than a chief superintendent. **3.** (in the U.S.) the head of a police department. **4.** Chiefly U.S. a caretaker. ~*adj.* **5.** of or relating to supervision; superintending. — '**superin**' *tendency* *n.*

superior ('su:pɪərɪə, 'sju:-) *adj.* **1.** greater in quality, quantity, etc. **2.** of high or extraordinary worth, merit, etc. **3.** higher in rank or status. **4.** displaying a conscious sense of being above or better than others; supercilious. **5. (often postpositive; foll. by to)** not susceptible (to) or influenced (by). **6.** placed higher up; further from the base. **7. Astron.** (of a planet) having an orbit further from the sun than the orbit of the earth. **8.** (of a plant ovary) situated above the calyx and other floral parts. **9. Printing.** (of a character) written or printed above the line; superscript. ~*n.* **10.** a person or thing of greater rank or quality. **11. Printing.** a character set in a superior position. **12. (often cap.)** the head of a community in a religious order. — '**superi**' *oriouse* *fem. n.* — '**superiority** ('su:pɪərɪ'ɒrɪti, 'sju:-) *n.*

superlative ('su:pələtɪv, 'sju:-) *adj. pl.* **1.** of outstanding quality, degree, etc.; supreme. **2. Grammar.** denoting the form of an adjective or adverb that expresses the highest or a very high degree of quality. In English this is usually marked by the suffix *-est* or the word *most*, as in *loudest* or *most loudly*. **3.** (of language or style) excessive; exaggerated. ~*n.* **4.** a thing that excels all others or is of the highest quality. **5. Grammar.** the superlative form of an adjective. **6.** the highest degree; peak. — '**super**' *latively* *adv.* — '**super**' *lativeness* *n.*

superman ('su:pə'mæn, 'sju:-) *n., pl. -men.* **1.** (in the philosophy of Nietzsche) an ideal man who would rise above good and evil and who represents the goal of human evolution. **2.** any man of apparently superhuman powers.

supermarket ('su:pə'mɑ:kɪt, 'sju:-) *n.* a large self-service store retailing food and household supplies.

supernal ('su:pə'nɪl, 'sju:-) *adj.* *Literary.* **1.** divine; celestial. **2.** of, from above, or from the sky. — '**sup**' *ernally* *adv.*

supernatural ('su:pə'nætʃərəl, 'sju:-) *adj.* **1.** of or relating to things that cannot be explained according to natural laws. **2.** of or caused as if by a god; miraculous. **3.** of or involving occult beings. **4.** exceeding the ordinary; abnormal. ~*n.* **5. the.** supernatural forces, occurrences, and beings collectively. — '**super**' *natural* *adv.* — '**super**' *naturalness* *n.*

supernova ('su:pə'nəʊvə, 'sju:-) *n., pl. -vae (-vi) or -vas.* a star that explodes owing to instabilities following the exhaustion of its nuclear fuel, becoming for a few days up to one hundred million times brighter than the sun. Cf. *nova*.

supernumery ('su:pə'nju:mərəri, 'sju:-) *adj.* **1.** exceeding a regular or proper number; extra. **2.** functioning as a substitute or assistant with regard to a regular body or staff. ~*n., pl. -aries.* **3.** a person or thing that exceeds the required or regular number. **4.** a substitute or assistant. **5.** an actor who has no lines, esp. a nonprofessional one.

superphosphate ('su:pə'fɒsfet, 'sju:-) *n.* **1.** a mixture of the diacid calcium salt of orthophosphoric acid with calcium sulphate and small quantities of other phosphates; used as a fertilizer. **2.** a salt of phosphoric acid formed by incompletely replacing its acidic hydrogen atoms.

superpose ('su:pə'pəʊz, 'sju:-) *vb.* (*tr.*) *Geom.* to place (one figure) upon another so that their perimeters coincide.

superpower ('su:pə'paʊə, 'sju:-) *n.* **1.** an extremely

powerful state, such as the U.S. **2.** extremely high power, esp. electrical or mechanical. —**'super, powered** *adj.*

superscribe (ˌsuːpə'skraɪb, ˌsjuː-) *vb. (tr.)* to write (an inscription, name, etc.) above, on top of, or outside. —**superscription** (ˌsuːpə'skrɪpʃən, ˌsjuː-) *n.*

superscript (ˌsuːpə'skrɪpt, ˌsjuː-) *adj.* **1.** *Printing.* (of a character) written or printed above the line; superior. *Cf.* **subscript**. —*n.* **2.** a superscript or superior character.

supersede (ˌsuːpə'siːd, ˌsjuː-) *vb. (tr.)* **1.** to take the place of (something old-fashioned or less appropriate); supplant. **2.** to replace in function, office, etc.; succeed. **3.** to discard or set aside or cause to be set aside as obsolete or inferior. —**super'sedence** *n.* —**super'sedure** (ˌsuːpə'siːdʒə, ˌsjuː-) *n.* —**super'session** (ˌsuːpə'seʃən, ˌsjuː-) *n.*

supersonic (ˌsuːpə'sɒnɪk, ˌsjuː-) *adj.* being, having, or capable of a velocity in excess of the velocity of sound. —**super'sonically** *adv.*

supersonics (ˌsuːpə'sɒnɪks, ˌsjuː-) *n. (functioning as sing.)* **1.** the study of supersonic motion. **2.** a less common name for **ultrasonics**.

superstition (ˌsuːpə'stɪʃən, ˌsjuː-) *n.* **1.** irrational belief usually founded on ignorance or fear and characterized by obsessive reverence for omens, charms, etc. **2.** a notion, act or ritual that derives from such belief. **3.** any irrational belief, esp. with regard to the unknown. —**super'stitious** *adj.*

superstore (ˌsuːpə'stɔː) *n.* a large supermarket.

superstructure (ˌsuːpə'strʌktʃə, ˌsjuː-) *n.* **1.** the part of a building above its foundation. **2.** any structure or concept erected on something else. **3.** *Naut.* any structure above the main deck of a ship with sides flush with the sides of the hull. **4.** the part of a bridge supported by the piers and abutments. —**super, structural** *adj.*

supertanker (ˌsuːpə'tæŋkə, ˌsjuː-) *n.* a large fast tanker of more than 275 000 tons capacity.

supertax (ˌsuːpə'tæks, ˌsjuː-) *n.* a tax levied in addition to the basic or normal tax, esp. a surtax on incomes above a certain level.

supervene (ˌsuːpə'viːn, ˌsjuː-) *vb. (intr.)* **1.** to follow closely; ensue. **2.** to occur as an unexpected or extraneous development. —**super'venience** or **super'venition** (ˌsuːpə'venɪʃən, ˌsjuː-) *n.* —**super'venient** *adj.*

supervise (ˌsuːpə'vaɪz, ˌsjuː-) *vb. (tr.)* **1.** to direct or oversee the performance or operation of. **2.** to watch over so as to maintain order, etc. —**super'vision** (ˌsuːpə'vɪʒən, ˌsjuː-) *n.* —**super, visor** *n.*

supine *adj.* (suː'paɪn, ˌsjuː-) **1.** lying or resting on the back with the face, palm, etc., upwards. **2.** displaying no interest or animation; lethargic. —*n.* (ˌsuːpaɪn, ˌsjuː-) **3.** *Grammar.* a noun form derived from a verb in Latin, often used to express purpose with verbs of motion. —**su'pinely** *adv.* —**su'pineness** *n.*

supper ('sʌpə) *n.* **1.** an evening meal, esp. a light one. **2.** an evening social event featuring a supper. **3.** *sing* for **one's supper**. to obtain something by performing a service. —**'supperless** *adj.*

supplant (sə'plʌnt) *vb. (tr.)* to take the place of, often by trickery or force. —**sup'planter** *n.*

supple ('sʌpəl) *adj.* **1.** bending easily without damage. **2.** capable of or showing easy or graceful movement; lithe. **3.** mentally flexible; responding readily. **4.** disposed to agree, sometimes to the point of servility. —*vb.* **5.** *Rare.* to make or become supple. —**'suppleness** *n.*

supplement *n.* (ˌsʌplɪmənt) **1.** an addition designed to complete, make up for a deficiency, etc. **2.** a section appended to a publication to supply further information, correct errors, etc. **3.** a magazine or section inserted into a newspaper or periodical, such as one issued every week. **4.** *Geom.* a. either of a pair of angles whose sum is 180°. b. an arc of a circle that when added to another arc forms a semicircle. —*vb.* (ˌsʌplɪ'ment). **5.** (tr.) to provide a supplement to, esp. in order to remedy a deficiency. —**supple'mentary** *adj.* —**supplemen'tation** *n.*

supplementary angle *n.* either of two angles whose sum is 180°.

supplementary benefit *n.* (in Britain) a weekly allowance paid to various groups of people by the state to bring their incomes up to minimum levels established by law.

suppliant ('sʌplɪənt) *adj.* **1.** expressing entreaty or supplication. —*n., adj.* **2.** another word for **suppliant**. —**'suppliantly** *adv.*

supplicant ('sʌplɪkənt) or **suppliant** *n.* **1.** a person

who supplicates. —*adj.* **2.** entreating humbly; supplicating.

supplicate ('sʌplɪ'keɪt) *vb.* **1.** to make a humble request to (someone); plead. **2.** (tr.) to ask for or seek humbly. —**'suppli'cation** *n.* —**'suppli, catory** *adj.*

supply ('sʌplai) *vb. -plying, -plied.* **1.** (tr.; often foll. by *with*) to furnish with something required. **2.** (tr.; often foll. by *to* or *for*) to make available or provide (something desired or lacking): *to supply books to the library.* **3.** (tr.) to provide for adequately; satisfy: *who will supply their needs?* **4.** to serve as a substitute, usually temporary, in (another's position, etc.): *there are no clergymen to supply the pulpit.* **5.** (tr.) Brit. to fill (a vacancy, position, etc.). —*n., pl. -plies.* **6. a.** the act of providing or something provided. **b.** (as modifier): *a supply dump.* **7. (often pl.)** an amount available for use; stock. **8. (pl.)** food, equipment, etc., needed for a campaign or trip. **9. Econ. a.** willingness and ability to offer goods and services for sale. **b.** the amount of a commodity that producers are willing and able to offer for sale at a specified price. *Cf.* **demand** (sense 9). **10. Mil. a.** the management and disposal of food and equipment. **b.** (as modifier): *supply routes.* **11. (often pl.)** a grant of money voted by a legislature for government expenses. **12.** (in Parliament and similar legislatures) the money voted annually for the expenses of the civil service and armed forces. **13. a.** a person who acts as a temporary substitute, esp. a clergyman. **b.** (as modifier): *a supply teacher.* **14.** a source of electrical energy, gas, etc. —**sup'pliable** *adj.* —**sup'plier** *n.*

supply² ('sʌplɪ) or **supplely** ('sʌplɪ) *adv.* in a supply manner.

support ('sʌpɔːt) *vb. (tr.)* **1.** to carry the weight of. **2.** to bear (pressure, weight, etc.). **3.** to provide the necessities of life for (a family, person, etc.). **4.** to tend to establish (a theory, statement, etc.) by providing new facts. **5.** to speak in favour of (a motion). **6.** to give aid or courage to. **7.** to give approval to (a cause, principle, etc.); subscribe to. **8.** to endure with forbearance: *I will no longer support bad behaviour.* **9.** to give strength to; maintain: *to support a business.* **10. Films, theatre. a.** to play a subordinate role to. **b.** to accompany (the feature) in a film programme. **11.** to act or perform (a role or character). —*n.* **12.** the act of supporting or the condition of being supported. **13.** a thing that bears the weight or part of the weight of a construction. **14.** a person who or thing that furnishes aid. **15.** the means of maintenance of a family, person, etc. **16.** (often preceded by *the*) an actor or group of actors playing subordinate roles. **17. Med.** an appliance worn to ease the strain on an injured bodily structure or part. **18.** Also: **athletic support.** a more formal term for **jockstrap**. —**sup'portable** *adj.* —**sup'portive** *adj.*

supporter (sə'pɔːtə) *n.* **1.** a person who or thing that acts as a support. **2.** a person who backs a sports team, politician, etc. **3.** a garment or device worn to ease the strain on or restrict the movement of a bodily structure or part. **4. Heraldry.** a figure or beast in a coat of arms depicted as holding up the shield.

suppose (sə'pəʊz) *vb. (tr.; may take a clause as object)* **1.** to presume (something) to be true without certain knowledge: *I suppose he meant to kill her.* **2.** to consider as a possible suggestion for the sake of discussion, etc.: *suppose that he wins.* **3.** (of theories, propositions, etc.) to imply the inference or assumption (of): *your policy supposes full employment.* —**sup'posable** *adj.* —**sup'poser** *n.*

supposed (sə'pəʊzd, -'pəʊzɪd) *adj.* **1.** (prenominal) presumed to be true without certain knowledge. **2.** (prenominal) believed to be true on slight grounds; highly doubtful. **3.** (sə'pəʊzd). (postpositive; foll. by *to*) expected or obliged (to): *I'm supposed to be there.* **4.** (postpositive; used in negative; foll. by *to*) expected or obliged not (to): *you're not supposed to walk on the grass.* —**suppos'edly** (sə'pəʊzɪdli) *adv.*

supposition (ˌsʌpə'zɪʃən) *n.* **1.** the act of supposing. **2.** a fact, theory, etc., that is supposed. —**'suppo'sitional** *adj.* —**'suppo'sitionally** *adv.*

suppositious (ˌsʌpə'zɪʃəs) or **supposititious** (sə'pɔːzɪ'tɪʃəs) *adj.* **1.** deduced from supposition; hypothetical. **2.** substituted with intent to mislead or deceive. —**suppo'sitiously** or **sup, pos'i'titiously** *adv.* —**'suppo'sitiousness** or **sup, pos'i'titiousness** *n.*

suppository (sə'pɔːzɪtəri, -tri) *n., pl. -ries.* *Med.* a solid medication for insertion into the vagina, rectum, or urethra, where it melts and releases the active substance.

suppress (sə'pres) *vb. (tr.)* **1.** to put an end to; prohibit.

2. to hold in check; restrain: *I was obliged to suppress a smile.* 3. to withhold from circulation or publication: *to suppress seditious pamphlets.* 4. to stop the activities of; crush: *to suppress a rebellion.* 5. *Electronics.* a. to reduce or eliminate (unwanted oscillations) in a circuit. b. to eliminate (a particular frequency or frequencies) in a signal. 6. *Psychiatry.* to resist consciously an idea or a desire entering one's mind. —**sup'pressible** *adj.* —**sup'pression** *n.* —**sup'pressive** *adj.* —**sup'pressor** or **sup'presser** *n.*

suppurate ('sɒpjʊreɪt) *vb.* (*intr.*) *Pathol.* (of a wound, sore, etc.) to discharge pus; fester. —**suppu'ration** *n.* —**suppurative** *adj.*

supra- *prefix.* over, above, beyond, or greater than: *supranational.*

supranational (,su:prə'næʃnəl, ,sju:-) *adj.* involving or relating to more than one nation. —**supra'nationalism** *n.*

supremacy (su'preməsi, sju-) *n.* 1. supreme power; authority. 2. the quality or condition of being supreme.

supreme (su'pri:m, sju-) *adj.* 1. of highest status or power. 2. (usually *prenominal*) of highest quality, importance, etc. 3. greatest in degree; extreme: *supreme folly.* 4. (*prenominal*) final or last, ultimate: *the supreme judgment.* —**sup'remely** *adv.* —**sup'preme-ness** *n.*

Supreme Being *n.* God.

supremo (su'pri:məʊ, sju-) *n., pl. -mos.* *Brit. inf.* a person in overall authority.

Supt. or supt. *abbrev. for* superintendent.

sur- *prefix.* over; above; beyond: *surcharge; surrealism.* Cf. **super-**.

sur- *prefix.* variant of **sub-** before *r*: *surrogate.*

surcease (sɜ:'si:s) *Arch. ~n.* 1. cessation or intermission. ~*vb.* 2. to desist from (some action). 3. to cease or cause to cease.

surcharge *n.* ('sɜ:tʃɑ:dʒ). 1. a charge in addition to the usual payment, tax, etc. 2. an excessive sum charged, esp. when unlawful. 3. an extra and usually excessive burden or supply. 4. an overprint that alters the face value of a postage stamp. ~*vb.* ('sɜ:tʃɑ:dʒ, 'sɜ:tʃɑ:dʒ). (*tr.*) 5. to charge an additional sum, tax, etc. 6. to overcharge (a person) for something. 7. to put an extra physical burden upon; overload. 8. to fill to excess; overwhelm. 9. *Law.* to insert credits that have been omitted in (an account). 10. to overprint a surcharge on (a stamp).

surcoat ('sɜ:kəʊt) *n.* 1. a tunic, often embroidered with heraldic arms, worn by a knight over his armour during the Middle Ages. 2. an outer coat or other garment.

surd (sɜ:d) *n.* 1. *Maths.* a number containing an irrational root, such as $2\sqrt{3} + 3\sqrt{2} + 6$. 2. *Phonetics.* a voiceless consonant, such as (*t*). ~*adj.* 3. of or relating to a surd.

sure (ʃʊə, fɔ:) *adj.* 1. (sometimes foll. by *of*) free from hesitancy or uncertainty (with regard to a belief, conviction, etc.): *we are sure of the accuracy of the data; I am sure that he is lying.* 2. (foll. by *of*) having no doubt, as of the occurrence of a future state or event: *sure of success.* 3. always effective; unfailing: *a sure remedy.* 4. reliable in indication or accuracy: *a sure criterion.* 5. (of persons) worthy of trust or confidence: *a sure friend.* 6. not open to doubt: *sure proof.* 7. admitting of no vacillation or doubt: *he is sure in his beliefs.* 8. bound to be or occur; inevitable: *victory is sure.* 9. (*postpositive*) bound inevitably (to be or do something); certain: *she is sure to be there.* 10. physically secure or dependable: *a sure footing.* 11. *be sure.* (usually *imperative* or *dependent imperative*; takes a clause as *object* or an *infinitive*, sometimes with *to* replaced by *and*) to be careful or certain: *be sure and shut the door; be sure to shut the door.* 12. *for sure.* without a doubt; surely. 13. *make sure.* a. (takes a clause as *object*) to make certain; ensure. b. (foll. by *of*) to establish or confirm power or possession (over). 14. *sure enough.* *Inf.* as might have been confidently expected; definitely: often used as a sentence substitute. 15. *to be sure.* a. without doubt; certainly. b. it has to be acknowledged; admittedly. ~*adv.* 16. (*sentence modifier*) *U.S. inf.* without question; certainly. 17. (*sentence substitute*) *U.S. inf.* willingly; yes. —**sureness** *n.*

sure-fire *adj.* (usually *prenominal*) *Inf.* certain to succeed or meet expectations; assured.

sure-footed *adj.* 1. unlikely to fall, slip, or stumble. 2. not likely to err or fail. —**sure-'footedly** *adv.* —**sure-'footedness** *n.*

surely ('ʃʊəli, 'fɔ:-) *adv.* 1. without doubt; assuredly. 2.

without fail; inexorably (esp. in **slowly but surely**). 3. (*sentence modifier*) am I not right in thinking that?; I am sure that: *surely you don't mean it?* 4. *Rare.* in a sure manner. 5. *Arch.* safely; securely. 6. (*sentence substitute*) *Chiefly U.S.* willingly; yes.

surety ('ʃʊəri, 'ʃʊəri) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. a person who assumes legal responsibility for the fulfilment of another's debt or obligation and himself becomes liable if the other defaults. 2. security given against loss or damage or as a guarantee that an obligation will be met. 3. *Obs.* the quality or condition of being sure. 4. *stand surety.* to act as a surety. —**surety,ship** *n.*

surf (sɜ:f) *n.* 1. waves breaking on the shore or on a reef. 2. foam caused by the breaking of waves. ~*vb.* 3. (*intr.*) to take part in surfing. —**surfy** *adj.*

surface ('sɜ:fis) *n.* 1. a. the exterior face of an object or one such face. b. (*as modifier*): *surface gloss.* 2. the area or size of such a face. 3. material resembling such a face, with length and width but without depth. 4. a. the superficial appearance as opposed to the real nature. b. (*as modifier*): *a surface resemblance.* 5. *Geom.* a. the complete boundary of a solid figure. b. a continuous two-dimensional configuration. 6. a. the uppermost level of the land or sea. b. (*as modifier*): *surface transportation.* 7. come to the surface, to emerge; become apparent. 8. on the surface, to all appearances. ~*vb.* 9. to rise or cause to rise to or as if to the surface (of water, etc.). 10. (*tr.*) to treat the surface of, as by polishing, smoothing, etc. 11. (*tr.*) to furnish with a surface. 12. (*intr.*) to become apparent; emerge. —**sur-facer** *n.*

surface tension *n.* 1. a property of liquids caused by intermolecular forces near the surface leading to the apparent presence of a surface film and to capillarity, etc. 2. a measure of this.

surfboard ('sɜ:f,bɔ:d) *n.* a long narrow board used in surfing.

surfeit ('sɜ:fit) *n.* 1. (usually foll. by *of*) an excessive amount. 2. overindulgence, esp. in eating or drinking. 3. disgust, nausea, etc., caused by such overindulgence. ~*vb.* 4. (*tr.*) to supply or feed excessively; satiate. 5. (*intr.*) *Arch.* to eat, drink, or be supplied to excess.

surfing ('sɜ:fɪŋ) *n.* the sport of riding towards shore on the crest of a wave by standing or lying on a surfboard. —**surfer** or **surf, rider** *n.*

surg. *abbrev. for:* 1. surgeon. 2. surgery. 3. surgical.

surge (sɜ:dʒ) *n.* 1. a strong rush or sweep; sudden increase: *a surge of anger.* 2. the rolling swell of the sea. 3. a heavy rolling motion or sound: *the surge of the trumpets.* 4. an undulating rolling surface, as of hills. 5. a billowing cloud or volume. 6. *Naut.* a temporary release or slackening of a rope or cable. 7. a large momentary increase in the voltage or current in an electric circuit. 8. an instability or unevenness in the power output of an engine. ~*vb.* 9. (*intr.*) (of waves, the sea, etc.) to rise or roll with a heavy swelling motion. 10. (*intr.*) to move like a heavy sea. 11. *Naut.* to slacken or temporarily release (a rope or cable) from a capstan or (of a rope, etc.) to be slackened or released and slip back. 12. (*intr.*) (of an electric current or voltage) to undergo a large momentary increase. 13. (*tr.*) *Rare.* to cause to move in or as if in a wave or waves. —**'surg-er** *n.*

surgeon ('sɜ:dʒən) *n.* 1. a medical practitioner who specializes in surgery. 2. a medical officer in the Royal Navy.

surgery ('sɜ:dʒəri) *n., pl. -geries.* 1. the branch of medicine concerned with manual or operative procedures, esp. incision into the body. 2. the performance of such procedures by a surgeon. 3. *Brit.* a place where a doctor, dentist, etc., can be consulted. 4. *U.S.* an operating theatre.

surgical ('sɜ:dʒɪkəl) *adj.* of, relating to, involving, or used in surgery. —**surgically** *adv.*

surgical boot *n.* a specially designed boot or shoe that compensates for deformities of the foot or leg.

surgical spirit *n.* methylated spirit used medically for sterilizing.

surly ('sɜ:li) *adj. -lier, -liest.* 1. sullenly ill-tempered or rude. 2. (of an animal) ill-tempered or refractory. —**surlyly** *adv.* —**surliness** *n.*

surmise *vb.* (sɜ:'maɪz). 1. (when *tr.*, may take a clause as *object*) to infer (something) from incomplete or uncertain evidence. ~*n.* (sɜ:'maɪz, 'sɜ:maɪz). 2. an idea inferred from inconclusive evidence. —**surmisedly** (sɜ:'maɪzɪdli) *adv.*

surmount (sɜ:'maʊnt) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to prevail over; overcome. 2. to ascend and cross to the opposite side of.

3. to lie on top of or rise above. 4. to put something on top of or above. —**sur'mountable** *adj.*

surname ('sɜːneɪm) *n.* 1. a family name as opposed to a Christian name. 2. (formerly) a descriptive epithet attached to a person's name to denote a personal characteristic, profession, etc.; nickname. ~*vb.* 3. (tr.) to furnish with or call by a surname. —**sur'namer** *n.*

surpass ('sɜːpɑːs) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to be greater than in degree, extent, etc. 2. to be superior to in achievement or excellence. 3. to overstep the limit or range of: *the theory surpasses my comprehension.* —**sur'passable** *adj.*

surplice ('sɜːplɪs) *n.* a loose wide-sleeved liturgical vestment of linen, reaching to the knees, worn over the cassock by clergymen, choristers, and acolytes.

surplus ('sɜːplʌs) *n., pl. -pluses.* 1. a quantity or amount in excess of what is required. 2. *Accounting.* a. an excess of total assets over total liabilities. b. an excess of actual net assets over the nominal value of capital stock. c. an excess of revenues over expenditures. 3. *Econ.* a. an excess of government revenues over expenditures. b. an excess of receipts over payments on the balance of payments. ~*adj.* 4. being in excess; extra.

surprise ('sɜːpraɪz) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to cause to feel amazement or wonder. 2. to encounter or discover unexpectedly or suddenly. 3. to capture or assault suddenly and without warning. 4. to present with something unexpected, such as a gift. 5. (foll. by *into*) to provoke (someone) to unintended action by a trick, etc. 6. (often foll. by *from*) to elicit by unexpected behaviour or by a trick: *to surprise information from a prisoner.* ~*n.* 7. the act or an instance of surprising; the act of taking unawares. 8. a sudden or unexpected event, gift, etc. 9. the feeling or condition of being surprised; astonishment. 10. (*modifier*) causing, characterized by, or relying upon surprise: *a surprise move.* 11. **take by surprise.** a. to come upon suddenly and without warning. b. to capture unexpectedly or catch unprepared. c. to astonish; amaze. —**sur'prising** *adj.*

surrealism ('sɜːrɪə,lɪzəm) *n.* (*sometimes cap.*) a movement in art and literature in the 1920s, which developed esp. from dada, characterized by the evocative juxtaposition of incongruous images in order to include unconscious and dream elements. —**sur'real** *adj.* —**sur'realist** *n., adj.* —**sur,real'istic** *adj.*

surrender ('sɜːrɛndə) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to relinquish to another under duress or on demand: *to surrender a city.* 2. (tr.) to relinquish or forego (an office, position, etc.), esp. as a voluntary concession to another: *he surrendered his place to a lady.* 3. to give (oneself) up physically, as to an enemy. 4. to allow (oneself) to yield, as to a temptation, influence, etc. 5. (tr.) to give up (hope, etc.) 6. (tr.) *Law.* to give up or restore (an estate), esp. to give up a lease before expiration of the term. 7. **surrender to bail**, to present oneself at court at the appointed time after having been on bail. ~*n.* 8. the act or instance of surrendering. 9. *Insurance.* the voluntary discontinuation of a life policy by its holder in return for a consideration (the **surrender value**). 10. *Law.* a. the yielding up or restoring of an estate, esp. the giving up of a lease before its term has expired. b. the giving up to the appropriate authority of a fugitive from justice. c. the act of surrendering or being surrendered to bail. d. the deed by which a legal surrender is effected.

surreptitious (,sʌrəp'tɪʃəs) *adj.* 1. done, acquired, etc., in secret or by improper means. 2. operating by stealth. —**surrep'titiously** *adv.* —**surrep'titiousness** *n.*

surrogate *n.* ('sʌrəɡɪt). 1. a person or thing acting as a substitute. 2. *Chiefly Brit.* a deputy, such as a clergyman appointed to deputize for a bishop in granting marriage licences. 3. (in some U.S. states) a judge with jurisdiction over the probate of wills, etc. 4. (*modifier*) of, relating to, or acting as a surrogate: *a surrogate pleasure.* ~*vb.* ('sʌrə,ɡeɪt). (tr.) 5. to put in another's position as a deputy, substitute, etc. —**surrogate,ship** *n.* —**surro'gation** *n.*

surround ('sʌraʊnd) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to encircle or enclose or cause to be encircled or enclosed. 2. to deploy forces on all sides of (a place or military formation), so preventing access or retreat. 3. to exist around: *the people who surround her.* ~*n.* 4. *Chiefly Brit.* a border, esp. the area of uncovered floor between the walls of a room and the carpet or around an opening or panel. 5. *Chiefly U.S.* a. a method of capturing wild beasts by encircling the area in which they are believed to be. b. the area so encircled. —**sur'rounding** *adj.*

surroundings ('sɜːraʊndɪŋz) *pl. n.* the conditions, scenery, etc., around a person, place, or thing; environment.

surtax ('sɜːtæks) *n.* 1. a tax, usually highly progressive, levied on the amount by which a person's income exceeds a specific level. 2. an additional tax on something that has already been taxed. ~*vb.* 3. (tr.) to assess for liability to surtax; charge with an extra tax.

surtout ('sɜːtaʊt) *n.* a man's overcoat resembling a frock coat, popular in the late 19th century.

surveillance ('sɜːveɪləns) *n.* close observation or supervision over a person, group, etc., esp. one in custody or under suspicion. —**sur'veillant** *adj., n.*

survey *vb.* ('sɜːveɪ, 'sɜːveɪ). 1. (tr.) to view or consider in a comprehensive or general way. 2. (tr.) to examine carefully, as or as if to appraise value. 3. to plot a detailed map of (an area of land) by measuring or calculating distances and height. 4. *Brit.* to inspect a building to determine its condition and value. 5. to examine a vessel thoroughly in order to determine its seaworthiness. 6. (tr.) to run a statistical survey on (incomes, opinions, etc.). ~*n.* ('sɜːveɪ). 7. a comprehensive or general view. 8. a critical, detailed, and formal inspection. 9. *Brit.* an inspection of a building to determine its condition and value. 10. a report incorporating the results of such an inspection. 11. a. a body of surveyors. b. an area surveyed.

surveying ('sɜːveɪŋ) *n.* 1. the study or practice of making surveys of land. 2. the setting out on the ground of the positions of proposed construction or engineering works.

surveyor ('sɜːveɪə) *n.* 1. a person whose occupation is to survey land or buildings. See also **quantity surveyor**. 2. *Chiefly Brit.* a person concerned with the official inspection of something for purposes of measurement and valuation. 3. a person who carries out surveys, esp. of ships (**marine surveyor**) to determine seaworthiness, etc. 4. a customs official. 5. *Arch.* a supervisor. —**sur'veyor,ship** *n.*

survival ('sɜːvaɪvəl) *n.* 1. a person or thing that survives, such as a custom. 2. a. the act or fact of surviving or condition of having survived. b. (*as modifier*): *survival kit.*

survive ('sɜːvaɪv) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to live after the death of (another). 2. to continue in existence or use after (a passage of time, adversity, etc.). 3. *Inf.* to endure (something): *I don't know how I survive such an awful job.* —**sur'vivor** *n.*

sus (sʌs) *Brit. sl.* ~*n.* 1. short for **suspicion**, with reference to police powers (**sus laws**) of detaining for questioning, searching, etc. any person suspected of criminal intent: *he was picked up on sus.* ~*vb.* 2. a variant spelling of **suss**.

susceptibility (sə'septə'bɪlɪtɪ) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. the quality or condition of being susceptible. 2. the ability or tendency to be impressed by emotional feelings. 3. (*pl.*) emotional sensibilities; feelings. 4. *Physics.* a. Also called: **electric susceptibility**. (of a dielectric) the amount by which the relative permittivity differs from unity. b. Also called: **magnetic susceptibility**. (of a magnetic medium) the amount by which the relative permeability differs from unity.

susceptible ('sɜːseptəbəl) *adj.* 1. (*postpositive*; foll. by of or to) yielding readily (to); capable (of): *hypotheses susceptible of refutation*; *susceptible to control*. 2. (*postpositive*; foll. by to) liable to be afflicted (by): *susceptible to colds*. 3. easily impressed emotionally. —**sus'ceptibly** *adv.*

suspect *vb.* ('sɜːspekt). 1. (tr.) to believe guilty of a specified offence without proof. 2. (tr.) to think false, questionable, etc.: *she suspected his sincerity.* 3. (tr.; may take a clause as object) to surmise to be the case; think probable: *to suspect fraud*. 4. (*intr.*) to have suspicion. ~*n.* ('sʌspekt). 5. a person under suspicion. ~*adj.* ('sʌspekt). 6. causing or open to suspicion.

suspend ('sɜːspend) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to hang from above. 2. (tr.; passive) to cause to remain floating or hanging: *a cloud of smoke was suspended over the town.* 3. (tr.) to render inoperative or cause to cease, esp. temporarily. 4. (tr.) to hold in abeyance; postpone action on. 5. (tr.) to debar temporarily from privilege, office, etc., as a punishment. 6. (tr.) *Chem.* to cause (particles) to be held in suspension in a fluid. 7. (tr.) *Music.* to continue (a note) until the next chord is sounded, with which it usually forms a dissonance. See **suspension** (sense 11). 8. (*intr.*) to cease payment, as from incapacity to meet financial obligations. —**sus'pendible** or **sus'pensible** *adj.* —**sus,pendi'bility** *n.*

suspended animation *n.* a temporary cessation of the vital functions, as by freezing an organism.

suspended sentence *n.* a sentence of imprisonment that is not served by an offender unless he commits a further offence during its currency.

suspender (sə'spɛndə) *n.* 1. (*often pl.*) *Brit.* a. an elastic strap attached to a belt or corset having a fastener at the end, for holding up women's stockings. b. a similar fastener attached to a garter worn by men in order to support socks. 2. (*pl.*) the U.S. name for **braces**. 3. a person or thing that suspends, such as one of the vertical cables in a suspension bridge.

suspender belt *n.* a belt with suspenders hanging from it to hold up women's stockings.

suspense (sə'spens) *n.* 1. the condition of being insecure or uncertain. 2. mental uncertainty; anxiety: *their father's illness kept them in a state of suspense*. 3. excitement felt at the approach of the climax: *a play of terrifying suspense*. 4. the condition of being suspended. —*sus'penseful adj.*

suspension (sə'spenʃən) *n.* 1. an interruption or temporary revocation: *the suspension of a law*. 2. a temporary debarment, as from position, privilege, etc. 3. a deferment, esp. of a decision, judgment, etc. 4. *Law*, a postponement of execution of a sentence or the deferring of a judgment, etc. 5. cessation of payment of business debts, esp. as a result of insolvency. 6. the act of suspending or the state of being suspended. 7. a system of springs, shock absorbers, etc., that supports the body of a wheeled vehicle and insulates it from shocks transmitted by the wheels. 8. a device or structure, usually a wire or spring, that serves to suspend or support something, such as the pendulum of a clock. 9. *Chem.* a dispersion of fine solid or liquid particles in a fluid, the particles being supported by buoyancy. See also **colloid**. 10. the process by which eroded particles of rock are transported in a river. 11. *Music*. one or more notes of a chord that are prolonged until a subsequent chord is sounded, usually to form a dissonance.

suspension bridge *n.* a bridge suspended from cables or chains that hang between two towers and are anchored at both ends.

suspicion (sə'spɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act or an instance of suspecting; belief without sure proof, esp. that something is wrong. 2. the feeling of mistrust of a person who suspects. 3. the state of being suspected: *to be shielded from suspicion*. 4. a slight trace. 5. **above suspicion**, in such a position that no guilt may be thought or implied, esp. through having an unblemished reputation. 6. **on suspicion**, as a suspect. 7. **under suspicion**, regarded with distrust. —*sus'picious adj.*

suspicious (sə'spɪʃəs) *adj.* 1. exciting or liable to excite suspicion; questionable. 2. disposed to suspect something wrong. 3. indicative or expressive of suspicion. —*sus'piciously adv.* —*sus'piciousness n.*

suss (səs) *vb.* (*tr.*) *Brit. sl.* 1. (*often foll. by out*) to attempt to work out (a situation, person's character, etc.), esp. using one's intuition. 2. to become aware of; suspect (esp. in **suss it**).

sustain (sə'steɪn) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to hold up under; withstand: *sustain great provocation*. 2. to undergo (an injury, loss, etc.); suffer: *to sustain a broken arm*. 3. to maintain or prolong: *to sustain a discussion*. 4. to support physically from below. 5. to provide for or give support to, esp. by supplying necessities: *to sustain one's family*. 6. to keep up the vitality or courage of. 7. to uphold or affirm the justice or validity of: *to sustain a decision*. 8. to establish the truth of; confirm. —*sus'tainable adj.* —*sustainably* (sə'steɪndli) *adv.* —*sus'tainer n.* —*sus'tainment n.*

sustenance ('sʌstəns) *n.* 1. means of sustaining health or life; nourishment. 2. means of maintenance; livelihood. 3. Also: **sustention** (sə'stenʃən) the act or process of sustaining or the quality of being sustained.

susurrate ('sju:sə'reɪt) *vb.* (*intr.*) *Literary.* to make a soft rustling sound; whisper; murmur. —*susur'ration or 'susurrus n.*

sutler ('sʌtlə) *n.* (formerly) a merchant who accompanied an army in order to sell provisions to the soldiers.

suttee (sa'ti:, 'sati:) *n.* 1. the former Hindu custom whereby a widow burnt herself to death on her husband's funeral pyre. 2. a widow performing this. —*sut'teism n.*

suture ('su:tʃə) *n.* 1. *Surgery*. a. catgut, silk thread, or wire used to stitch together two bodily surfaces. b. the surgical seam formed after stitching. 2. *Anat.* a type of immovable joint, esp. between the bones of the skull (**cranial suture**). 3. a seam or joining, as in sewing. 4.

Zool. a line of junction in a mollusc shell. ~*vb.* 5. (*tr.*) *Surgery.* to join (the edges of a wound, etc.) by means of sutures. —*sutural adj.*

suzerain ('su:zə'reɪn) *n.* 1. a. a state or sovereign exercising some degree of dominion over a dependent state, usually controlling its foreign affairs. b. (*as modifier*): *a suzerain power*. 2. a. a feudal overlord. b. (*as modifier*): *suzerain lord*. —*'suzə,raɪnti n.*

svelte (svelt, sfelt) *adj.* attractively or gracefully slim; slender.

SW *abbrev. for southwest(ern).*

Sw. *abbrev. for: 1. Sweden. 2. Swedish.*

swab (swɒb) *n.* 1. *Med.* a. a small piece of cotton, gauze, etc., for use in applying medication, cleansing a wound, or obtaining a specimen of a secretion, etc. b. the specimen so obtained. 2. a mop for cleaning floors, decks, etc. 3. a brush used to clean a firearm's bore. 4. *Sl.* an uncouth or worthless fellow. ~*vb.* **swabbing, swabbed.** 5. (*tr.*) to clean or medicate with or as if with a swab. 6. (*tr.*; *coll.* by *up*) to take up with a swab. —*'swabber n.*

swaddle ('swɒdl) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to wind a bandage round. 2. to wrap (a baby) in swaddling clothes. 3. to restrain as if by wrapping with bandages; smother. ~*n.* 4. *Chiefly U.S.* swaddling clothes.

swag (swæg) *n.* 1. *Sl.* property obtained by theft or other illicit means. 2. *Sl.* goods; valuables. 3. an ornamental festoon of fruit, flowers, or drapery or a representation of this. 4. a swaying movement; lurch. 5. *Austral. inf.* a swagman's pack containing personal belongings, etc. ~*vb.* **swagging, swagged.** 6. *Chiefly Brit.* to lurch or sag or cause to lurch or sag. 7. (*tr.*) to adorn or arrange with swags.

swagger ('swæɡə) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to walk or behave in an arrogant manner. 2. (*intr.*; *often foll. by about*) to brag loudly. ~*n.* 3. arrogant gait or manner. ~*adj.* 4. *Brit. inf., rare.* elegantly fashionable. —*'swaggerer n.* —*'swaggeringly adv.*

swagger stick or *esp. Brit.* **swagger cane** *n.* a short cane or stick carried on occasion mainly by army officers.

swagman ('swæg,mæn, -mən) *n., pl. -men.* *Austral. inf. & N.Z. obs.* a tramp or vagrant worker who carries his possessions on his back. Also called: **swaggie**.

Swahili (swə:'hi:lɪ) *n.* 1. a language of E Africa that is an official language of Kenya and Tanzania and is widely used as a lingua franca throughout E and central Africa. 2. (*pl. -lis or -li*) a member of a people speaking this language, living chiefly in Zanzibar. —*Swa'hilian adj.*

swain (sweɪn) *n.* *Arch. or poetic.* 1. a male lover or admirer. 2. a country youth.

swallow ('swɒləʊ) *vb.* (*mainly tr.*) 1. to pass (food, drink, etc.) through the mouth to the stomach by means of the muscular action of the oesophagus. 2. (*often foll. by up*) to engulf or destroy as if by ingestion. 3. *Inf.* to believe gullibly: *he will never swallow such an excuse*. 4. to refrain from uttering or manifesting: *to swallow one's disappointment*. 5. to endure without retaliation. 6. to enunciate (words, etc.) indistinctly; mutter. 7. (*often foll. by down*) to eat or drink reluctantly. 8. (*intr.*) to perform or simulate the act of swallowing, as in gulping. 9. **swallow one's words**, to retract a statement, argument, etc., often in humiliating circumstances. ~*n.* 10. the act of swallowing. 11. the amount swallowed at any single time; mouthful. 12. *Rare.* another word for **throat** or **gullet**. —*'swallowable adj.* —*'swallower n.*

swallow² ('swɒləʊ) *n.* any of various passerine songbirds having long pointed wings, a forked tail, short legs, and a rapid flight.

swallow dive *n.* a type of dive in which the diver arches back while in the air, keeping his legs straight and together and his arms outstretched, finally entering the water headfirst. U.S. equivalent: **swan dive**.

swallowtail ('swɒləʊ,tel) *n.* 1. any of various butterflies of Europe, having a tail-like extension of each hind wing. 2. the forked tail of a swallow or similar bird. —*'swallow-,tailed adj.*

swam (swəm) *vb.* the past tense of **swim**.

swami ('swɑ:mɪ) *n., pl. -mies or -mis.* (in India) a title of respect for a Hindu saint or religious teacher.

swamp (swɒmp) *n.* 1. permanently waterlogged ground that is usually overgrown and sometimes partly forested. Cf. **marsh**. ~*vb.* 2. to drench or submerge or be drenched or submerged. 3. *Naut.* to cause (a boat) to sink or fill with water or (of a boat) to sink or fill with water. 4. to overburden or overwhelm or be overburdened or overwhelmed, as by excess work or great

numbers. 5. (tr.) to render helpless. Related adj.: **paludal**. —'swampy adj.

swan (swɒn) *n.* 1. any of various large aquatic birds having a long neck and usually a white plumage. 2. *Rare, literary.* a. a poet. *b. (cap. when part of a title or epithet): the Swan of Avon (Shakespeare).* ~vb. **swanning**, **swanned**. 3. (intr.; usually foll. by *around* or *about*) *Inf.* to wander idly. —'swan,like adj.

swank (swæŋk) *Inf.* ~vb. 1. (intr.) to show off or swagger. ~n. 2. Also called: **swankpot**. *Brit.* a swaggering or conceited person. 3. *Chiefly U.S.* showy elegance or style. 4. swagger; ostentation. —'swanky adj.

swan's-down *n.* 1. the fine soft down feathers of a swan, used to trim powder puffs, clothes, etc. 2. a thick soft fabric of wool with silk, cotton, or rayon, used for infants' clothing, etc. 3. a cotton fabric with a heavy nap.

swan song *n.* 1. the last act, publication, etc. of a person before retirement or death. 2. the song that a dying swan is said to sing.

swan-upping *n. Brit.* 1. the practice or action of marking nicks in swans' beaks as a sign of ownership. 2. the annual swan-upping of royal cygnets on the River Thames.

swap or swop (swɒp) *Inf.* ~vb. **swapping**, **swapped** or **swopping**, **swopped**. 1. to trade or exchange (something or someone) for another. ~n. 2. an exchange. 3. something that is exchanged. —'swapper or 'swopper *n.*

sward (swɔ:d) or **swarth** (swɔ:θ) *n.* 1. turf or grass or a stretch of turf or grass. ~vb. 2. to cover or become covered with grass.

swarm (swɔ:m) *n.* 1. a group of bees, led by a queen, that has left the parent hive to start a new colony. 2. a large mass of small animals, esp. insects. 3. a throng or mass, esp. when moving or in turmoil. ~vb. 4. (intr.) (of small animals, esp. bees) to move in or form a swarm. 5. (intr.) to congregate, move about or proceed in large numbers. 6. (when intr., often foll. by *with*) to overrun or be overrun (with): *the house swarmed with rats.* 7. (tr.) to cause to swarm.

swarm (swɔ:m) *vb.* (when intr., usually foll. by *up*) to climb (a ladder, etc.) by gripping with the hands and feet: *the boys swarmed up the rigging.*

swarthy ('swɔ:θi) *adj.* -ier, -iest. dark-hued or dark-complexioned. —'swarthyly *adv.* —'swarthinness *n.*

swash (swɒʃ) *vb.* 1. (intr.) (esp. of water or things in water) to wash or move with noisy splashing. 2. (tr.) to dash (a liquid, esp. water) against or upon. 3. (intr.) *Arch.* to swagger. ~n. 4. Also called: **send**, the dashing movement or sound of water, as of waves on a beach. 5. Also called: **swash channel**, a channel of moving water cutting through or running behind a sandbank. 6. *Arch.* swagger or bluster.

swashbuckler ('swɒʃ,bʌklə) *n.* a swaggering or dare-devil adventurer or bully.

swastika ('swɒstɪkə) *n.* 1. a primitive religious symbol or ornament in the shape of a Greek cross, usually having the ends of the arms bent at right angles. 2. this symbol with clockwise arms, the emblem of Nazi Germany.

swat (swɒt) *vb.* **swatting**, **swatted**. (tr.) 1. to strike or hit sharply: *to swat a fly.* ~n. 2. a sharp or violent blow. —'swatter *n.*

swatch (swɒʃ) *n.* 1. a sample of cloth or other material. 2. a number of such samples, usually fastened together in book form.

swath (swɔ:θ) or **swathe** (sweɪð) *n., pl. swaths* (swɔ:ðz) or **swathes**. 1. the width of one sweep of a scythe or of the blade of a mowing machine. 2. the strip cut by these in one course. 3. the quantity of cut grass, hay, etc. left in one such course. 4. a long narrow strip or belt.

swathe (sweɪð) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to bandage (a wound, limb, etc.), esp. completely. 2. to wrap a band, garment, etc., around, esp. so as to cover completely; swaddle. 3. to envelop. ~n. 4. a bandage or wrapping. 5. a variant spelling of **swath**.

sway (sweɪ) *vb.* 1. (usually intr.) to swing or cause to swing to and fro: *the door swayed in the wind.* 2. (usually intr.) to lean or incline or cause to lean or incline to one side or in different directions in turn. 3. (usually intr.) to vacillate or cause to vacillate between two or more opinions. 4. to be influenced or swerve or influence or cause to swerve to or from a purpose or opinion. 5. *Arch. or poetic.* to rule or wield power (over). ~n. 6. control; power. 7. a swinging or leaning movement. 8. *Arch.* dominion; governing authority. 9. **hold sway**, to be master; reign.

swear (sweə) *vb.* **swearing**, **swore**, **sworn**. 1. to declare or affirm (a statement) as true, esp. by invoking a deity, etc., as witness. 2. (foll. by *by*) a. to invoke (a deity, etc.) by name as a witness or guarantee to an oath. b. to trust implicitly; have complete confidence (in). 3. (intr.; often foll. by *at*) to curse, blaspheme, or use swearwords. 4. (when tr., may take a clause as object or an infinitive) to promise solemnly on oath; vow. 5. (tr.) to assert or affirm with great emphasis or earnestness. 6. (intr.) to give evidence or make any statement or solemn declaration on oath. 7. to take an oath in order to add force or solemnity to (a statement or declaration). ~n. 8. a period of swearing. —'swearer *n.*

swear in *vb. (tr., adv.)* to administer an oath to (a person) on his assuming office, entering the witness box to give evidence, etc.

swear off *vb. (intr., prep.)* to promise to abstain from something: *to swear off drink.*

swearword ('sweə,wɔ:d) *n.* a socially taboo word of a profane, obscene, or insulting character.

sweat (swet) *n.* 1. the secretion from the sweat glands, esp. when profuse and visible, as during strenuous activity, from excessive heat, etc.; perspiration. 2. the act or process of secreting this fluid. 3. the act of inducing the exudation of moisture. 4. drops of moisture given forth or gathered on the surface of something. 5. *Inf.* a state or condition of worry or eagerness (esp. in a sweat). 6. *Inf.* drudgery or hard labour: *mowing lawns is a real sweat!* 7. **no sweat!** (interj.) *Sl.* an expression conveying consent or assurance. ~vb. **sweats**, **sweating**; **sweat** or **sweated**. 8. to secrete (sweat) through the pores of the skin, esp. profusely; perspire. 9. (tr.) to make wet or stain with perspiration. 10. to give forth or cause to give forth (moisture) in droplets: *the maple sweats sap.* 11. (intr.) to collect and condense moisture on an outer surface: *a glass of beer sweating.* 12. (intr.) (of a liquid) to pass through a porous surface in droplets. 13. (of tobacco leaves, hay, etc.) to exude moisture and, sometimes, begin to ferment or to cause (tobacco leaves, etc.) to exude moisture. 14. (tr.) to heat (food, esp. vegetables) slowly in butter in a tightly closed saucepan. 15. (tr.) to join (pieces of metal) by pressing together and heating. 16. (tr.) to heat (solder) until it melts. 17. (tr.) to heat (partially fused metal) to extract an easily fusible constituent. 18. *Inf.* to suffer anxiety, impatience, or distress. 19. *Inf.* to overwork or be overworked. 20. (tr.) *Inf.* to employ at very low wages and under bad conditions. 21. (tr.) *Inf.* to extort, esp. by torture: *to sweat information out of a captive.* 22. (intr.) *Inf.* to suffer punishment: *you'll sweat for this!* 23. **sweat blood**. *Sl.* a. to work very hard. b. to be filled with anxiety or impatience. —'sweaty *adj.*

sweatband ('swet,bænd) *n.* 1. a band of material set in a hat or cap to protect it from sweat. 2. a piece of cloth tied around the forehead to keep sweat out of the eyes or around the wrist to keep the hands dry, as in sports.

sweated ('swetɪd) *adj.* 1. made by exploited labour: *sweated goods.* 2. (of workers, etc.) forced to work in poor conditions for low pay.

sweater ('swetə) *n.* 1. a garment made of knitted or crocheted material covering the upper part of the body, esp. a heavy one worn for warmth. 2. a person or thing that sweats. 3. an employer who overworks and underpays his employees.

sweat off or away *vb. (tr., adv.)* *Inf.* to get rid of (weight) by strenuous exercise or sweating.

sweat out *vb. (tr., adv.)* 1. to cure or lessen the effects of (a cold, respiratory infection, etc.) by sweating. 2. *Inf.* to endure (hardships) for a time (often in sweat it out). 3. **sweat one's guts out**. *Inf.* to work extremely hard.

sweat shirt *n.* a long-sleeved knitted cotton sweater worn by athletes, etc.

sweatshop ('swet,ʃɒp) *n.* a workshop where employees work long hours under bad conditions for low wages.

sweat suit *n.* a suit worn by athletes for training comprising knitted cotton trousers and a light cotton sweater.

swede (swi:d) *n.* 1. a Eurasian plant cultivated for its bulbous edible root, which is used as a vegetable and as cattle fodder. 2. the root. ~Also called: **Swedish turnip**.

Swede (swi:d) *n.* a native, citizen, or inhabitant of Sweden, a kingdom in E Scandinavia.

Swedish ('swi:diʃ) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or characteristic of Sweden, its people, or their language. ~n. 2. the official language of Sweden.

sweep (swi:p) *vb.* **sweeping, swept.** 1. to clean or clear (a space, chimney, etc.) with a brush, broom, etc. 2. (often foll. by *up*) to remove or collect (dirt, rubbish, etc.) with a brush, broom, etc. 3. to move in a smooth or continuous manner, esp. quickly or forcibly: *cars swept along the road.* 4. to move in a proud or dignified fashion: *she swept past.* 5. (tr.) to spread or pass rapidly across, through, or along (a region, area, etc.): *the news swept through the town.* 6. (tr.) to direct (the gaze, line of fire, etc.) over; survey. 7. (tr.; foll. by *away* or *off*) to overwhelm emotionally: *she was swept away by his charm.* 8. (tr.) to brush or lightly touch (a surface, etc.): *the dress swept along the ground.* 9. (tr.; often foll. by *away*) to convey, clear, or abolish, esp. with strong or continuous movements: *the sea swept the sandcastle away; secondary modern schools were swept away.* 10. (intr.) to extend gracefully or majestically, esp. in a wide circle: *the plains sweep down to the sea.* 11. to search (a body of water) for mines, etc., by dragging. 12. (tr.) to win overwhelmingly, esp. in an election: *Labour swept the country.* 13. (tr.) to propel (a boat) with sweeps. 14. **sweep the board, a.** (in gambling) to win all the cards or money. **b.** to achieve a triumphant success. 15. **sweep (something) under the carpet.** to conceal (something, esp. a problem) in the hope that it will be overlooked by others. *~n.* 16. the act or an instance of sweeping; removal by or as if by a brush or broom. 17. a swift or steady movement, esp. in an arc. 18. the distance, arc, etc., through which something, such as a pendulum, moves. 19. a wide expanse or scope: *the sweep of the plains.* 20. any curving line or contour. 21. short for **sweepstake**. 22. **a.** a long oar used on an open boat. **b.** *Austral.* a person steering a surf boat with such an oar at the stern. 23. any of the sails of a windmill. 24. *Electronics.* a steady horizontal or circular movement of an electron beam across or around the fluorescent screen of a cathode-ray tube. 25. a curving driveway. 26. *Chiefly Brit.* See **chimney sweep**. 27. another name for **swipe** (sense 4). 28. **clean sweep, a.** an overwhelming victory or success. **b.** a complete change; purge: *to make a clean sweep.* — **'sweepy** *adj.*

sweeper ('swi:pə) *n.* 1. a person employed to sweep, such as a roadsweeper. 2. any device for sweeping: *a carpet sweeper.* 3. *Inf.* soccer. a player who supports the main defenders, as by intercepting loose balls, etc.

sweeping ('swi:pɪŋ) *adj.* 1. comprehensive and wide-ranging: *sweeping reforms.* 2. indiscriminate or without reservations: *sweeping statements.* 3. decisive or overwhelming: *a sweeping victory.* 4. taking in a wide area: *a sweeping glance.* 5. driving steadily onwards, esp. over a large area: *a sweeping attack.* — **'sweepingly** *adv.* — **'sweepingness** *n.*

sweepstake ('swi:p,steɪk) or *esp. U.S.* **sweepstakes** *n.* 1. **a.** a lottery in which the stakes of the participants constitute the prize. **b.** the prize itself. 2. any event involving such a lottery, esp. a horse race. — Often shortened to **sweep**.

sweet ('swi:t) *adj.* 1. having or denoting a pleasant taste like that of sugar. 2. agreeable to the senses or the mind: *sweet music.* 3. having pleasant manners; gentle: *a sweet child.* 4. (of wine, etc.) having a relatively high sugar content; not dry. 5. (of foods) not decaying or rancid: *sweet milk.* 6. not salty: *sweet water.* 7. free from unpleasant odours: *sweet air.* 8. containing no corrosive substances: *sweet soil.* 9. (of petrol) containing no sulphur compounds. 10. sentimental or unrealistic. 11. Jazz. performed with a regular beat, with the emphasis on clearly outlined melody and little improvisation. 12. *Arch.* respected; dear (used in polite forms of address): *sweet sir.* 13. effortlessly done: *a sweet shot.* 14. *sweet on*, fond of or infatuated with. 15. *at one's own sweet will*, as it suits oneself alone. 16. **keep (someone) sweet**, to ingratiate oneself in order to ensure cooperation. *~adv.* 17. *Inf.* in a sweet manner. *~n.* 18. a sweet taste or smell; sweetness in general. 19. (*often pl.*) *Brit.* any of numerous kinds of confectionery consisting wholly or partly of sugar, esp. of sugar boiled and crystallized (**boiled sweets**). 20. *Brit.* any sweet dish served as a dessert. 21. dear; sweetheart (used as a form of address). 22. anything that is sweet. 23. (*often pl.*) a pleasurable experience, state, etc.: *the sweets of success.* — **'sweetish** *adj.* — **'sweetly** *adv.* — **'sweetness** *n.*

sweet-and-sour *adj.* (of food) cooked in a sauce made from sugar and vinegar and other ingredients.

sweetbread ('swi:t,bred) *n.* the pancreas or the thymus gland of an animal, used for food.

sweetbrier ('swi:t,braɪə) *n.* a Eurasian rose having a

tall bristly stem, fragrant leaves, and single pink flowers. Also called: **eglantine**.

sweet corn *n.* 1. a variety of maize whose kernels are rich in sugar and eaten as a vegetable when young. 2. the unripe ears of maize, esp. the sweet kernels removed from the cob, cooked as a vegetable.

sweeten ('swi:tən) *vb.* (*mainly tr.*) 1. (*also intr.*) to make or become sweet or sweeter. 2. to mollify or soften (a person). 3. to make more agreeable. 4. (*also intr.*) *Chem.* to free or be freed from unpleasant odours, acidic or corrosive substances, or the like.

sweetener ('swi:tənə) *n.* 1. a sweetening agent, esp. one that does not contain sugar. 2. a slang word for **bribe**.

sweetheart ('swi:t,ha:t) *n.* 1. a person loved by another. 2. *Inf.* a lovable, generous, or obliging person. 3. a term of endearment.

sweetie ('swi:tɪ) *n. Inf.* 1. sweetheart; darling; used as a term of endearment. 2. *Brit.* a child's word for **sweet** (sense 19). 3. *Chiefly Brit.* an endearing person.

sweetmeat ('swi:t,mɪt) *n.* a sweetened delicacy, such as a preserve, sweet, or, formerly, a cake or pastry.

sweet pea *n.* a climbing plant of S Europe, widely cultivated for its butterfly-shaped fragrant flowers of delicate pastel colours.

sweet pepper *n.* 1. a pepper plant with large bell-shaped fruits that are eaten unripe (**green pepper**) or ripe (**red pepper**). 2. the fruit.

sweet potato *n.* 1. a twining plant of tropical America, cultivated in the tropics for its edible fleshy yellow root. 2. the root.

sweet-talk *U.S. Inf.* *~vb.* 1. to coax, flatter, or cajole (someone). *~n.* **sweet talk.** 2. cajolery; coaxing.

sweet tooth *n.* a strong liking for sweet foods.

sweetveld ('swi:t,felt) *n.* (in South Africa) a particular type of grazing.

sweet william ('wi:ljəm) *n.* a widely cultivated Eurasian plant with flat clusters of white, pink, red, or purple flowers.

swell (swel) *vb.* **swelling, swelled; swollen or swelled.** 1. to grow or cause to grow in size, esp. as a result of internal pressure. 2. to expand or cause to expand at a particular point or above the surrounding level; protrude. 3. to grow or cause to grow in size, amount, intensity, or degree: *the party is swelling with new recruits.* 4. to puff or be puffed up with pride or another emotion. 5. (*intr.*) (of seas or lakes) to rise in waves. 6. (*intr.*) to well up or overflow. 7. (tr.) to make (a musical phrase) increase gradually in volume and then diminish. *~n.* 8. **a.** the undulating movement of the surface of the open sea. **b.** a succession of waves or a single large wave. 9. a swelling or being swollen; expansion. 10. an increase in quantity or degree; inflation. 11. a bulge; protuberance. 12. a gentle hill. 13. *Inf.* a person very fashionably dressed. 14. *Inf.* a man of high social or political standing. 15. *Music.* a crescendo followed by an immediate diminuendo. 16. Also called: **swell organ.** *Music.* a set of pipes on an organ housed in a box (**swell box**) fitted with a shutter operated by a pedal, which can be opened or closed to control the volume. **b.** the manual on an organ controlling this. *~adj.* 17. *Inf.* stylish or grand. 18. *Sl.* excellent; first-class.

swelled head or swollen head *n. Inf.* an inflated view of one's own worth, often caused by sudden success.

swelling ('swelɪŋ) *n.* 1. the act of expansion or inflation. 2. the state of being or becoming swollen. 3. a swollen or inflated part or area. 4. an abnormal enlargement of a bodily structure or part, esp. as the result of injury. Related *adj.*: **tumescant**.

swelter ('sweltə) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to suffer under oppressive heat, esp. to perspire and feel faint. 2. (tr.) *Rare.* to cause to suffer under oppressive heat. *~n.* 3. a sweltering condition (esp. in in a swelter). 4. oppressive humid heat.

sweltering ('sweltərɪŋ) *adj.* oppressively hot and humid: *a sweltering day.* — **'swelteringly** *adv.*

swept (swept) *vb.* the past tense of **sweep**.

sweptwing ('swept,wɪŋ) *adj.* (of an aircraft, missile, etc.) having wings swept backwards.

swerve (swɜ:v) *vb.* 1. to turn or cause to turn aside, usually sharply or suddenly, from a course. *~n.* 2. the act, instance, or degree of swerving. — **'swervable** *adj.* — **'swerver** *n.* — **'swervingly** *adv.*

swift (swɪft) *adj.* 1. moving or able to move quickly; fast. 2. occurring or performed quickly or suddenly; instant. 3. (*postpositive*; foll. by *to*) prompt to act or respond: *swift to take revenge.* *~adv.* 4. **a.** swiftly or

quickly. **b.** (in combination): *swift-moving*. ~*n.* 5. any of various insectivorous birds of the Old World. They have long narrow wings and spend most of the time on the wing. 6. any of certain North American lizards of the iguana family that can run very rapidly. 7. the main cylinder in a carding machine. 8. an expanding reel used to hold skeins of silk. —*swiftly* *adv.* —*'swiftness* *n.*

swig (swig) *Inf.* ~*n.* 1. a large swallow or deep drink, esp. from a bottle. —*vb.* **swigging, swigged.** 2. to drink (some liquid) deeply, esp. from a bottle. —*'swigger* *n.*

swill (swil) *vb.* 1. to drink large quantities of (liquid, esp. alcoholic drink); guzzle. 2. (*tr.*; often foll. by *out*) *Chiefly Brit.* to drench or rinse in large amounts of water. 3. (*tr.*) to feed swill to (pigs, etc.). ~*n.* 4. wet feed, esp. for pigs, consisting of kitchen waste, skim milk, etc. 5. refuse, esp. from a kitchen. 6. a deep drink, esp. beer. 7. any liquid mess. 8. the act of swilling. —*'swiller* *n.*

swim (swim) *vb.* **swimming, swam, swum.** 1. (*intr.*) to move along in water, etc., by means of movements of the body, esp. the arms and legs, or (in the case of fish) tail and fins. 2. (*tr.*) to cover (a distance or stretch of water) in this way. 3. (*tr.*) to compete in (a race) in this way. 4. (*intr.*) to be supported by and on a liquid; float. 5. (*tr.*) to use (a particular stroke) in swimming. 6. (*intr.*) to move smoothly, usually through air or over a surface. 7. (*intr.*) to reel or seem to reel: *my head swam; the room swam around me.* 8. (*intr.*; often foll. by *in* or *with*) to be covered or flooded with water or other liquid. 9. (*intr.*; often foll. by *in*) to be liberally supplied (with): *he's swimming in money.* 10. (*tr.*) to cause to float or swim. 11. **swim with** (or **against**) **the stream or tide.** to conform to (or resist) prevailing opinion. ~*n.* 12. the act, an instance, or period of swimming. 13. any graceful gliding motion. 14. a condition of dizziness; swoon. 15. a pool in a river good for fishing. 16. **in the swim.** *Inf.* fashionable or active in social or political activities. —*'swimmable* *adj.* —*'swimmer* *n.* —*'swimming* *n.*, *adj.*

swim bladder *n.* *Ichthyol.* another name for **air bladder** (sense 1).

swimming bath *n.* (often *pl.*) an indoor swimming pool.

swimming costume or bathing costume *n.* *Chiefly Brit.* any garment worn for swimming or sunbathing, such as a woman's one-piece garment covering most of the torso but not the limbs. *Usual U.S. term* **bathing suit**.

swimmingly ('swimɪŋli) *adv.* successfully, effortlessly, or well (esp. in **go swimmingly**).

swimming pool *n.* an artificial pool for swimming.

swimsuit ('swim,su:t, -sju:t) *n.* a woman's one-piece swimming garment that leaves the arms and legs bare.

swindle ('swɪndl) *vb.* 1. to cheat (someone) of money, etc.; defraud. 2. (*tr.*) to obtain (money, etc.) by fraud. ~*n.* 3. a fraudulent scheme or transaction. —*'swindler* *n.*

swine (swain) *n.*, *pl.* **swine.** 1. a coarse or contemptible person. 2. another name for a **pig**. —*'swinish* *adj.* —*'swinishly* *adv.* —*'swinishness* *n.*

swine fever *n.* an infectious viral disease of pigs, characterized by fever and diarrhoea.

swineherd ('swain,hɜ:d) *n.* a person who looks after pigs.

swing (swɪŋ) *vb.* **swinging, swung.** 1. to move or cause to move rhythmically to and fro, as a free-hanging object; sway. 2. (*intr.*) to move, walk, etc., with a relaxed and swaying motion. 3. to pivot or cause to pivot, as on a hinge. 4. to move or cause to move in a curve: *the car swung around the bend.* 5. to move or cause to move by suspending or being suspended. 6. to hang or be hung so as to be able to turn freely. 7. (*intr.*) *Sl.* to be hanged: *he'll swing for it.* 8. to alter or cause to alter habits, a course, etc. 9. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to influence or manipulate successfully: *I hope he can swing the deal.* 10. (*tr.*; foll. by *up*) to raise or hoist, esp. in a sweeping motion. 11. (*intr.*; often foll. by *at*) to hit out or strike (*at*), esp. with a sweeping motion. 12. (*tr.*) to wave (a weapon, etc.) in a sweeping motion; flourish. 13. to arrange or play (music) with the rhythmically flexible and compulsive quality associated with jazz. 14. (*intr.*) (of popular music, esp. jazz, or of the musicians who play it) to have this quality. 15. *Sl.* to be lively and modern. 16. (*intr.*) *Cricket.* to bowl (a ball) with swing or (of a ball) to move with a swing. 17. **swing the lead.** to mangle or make up excuses. ~*n.* 18. the act or manner of swinging or the distance covered while swinging: *a wide swing.* 19. a sweeping stroke or blow. 20.

Boxing. a wide punch from the side similar to but longer than a hook. 21. *Cricket.* the lateral movement of a bowled ball through the air. 22. any free swaying motion. 23. any curving movement; sweep. 24. something that swings or is swung, esp. a suspended seat on which a person may swing back and forth. 25. a kind of popular dance music influenced by jazz, usually played by big bands and originating in the 1930s. 26. *Prosody.* a steady distinct rhythm or cadence in prose or verse. 27. *Inf.* the normal round or pace: *the swing of things.* 28. a fluctuation, as in some business activity, voting pattern, etc. 29. *Canad.* in the North, a train of freight sleighs or canoes. 30. *Chiefly U.S.* a circular tour. 31. **in full swing.** operating with full vigour.

swingboat ('swɪŋ,bəʊt) *n.* a piece of fairground equipment consisting of a boat-shaped carriage for swinging in.

swingeing ('swɪŋdʒɪŋ) *adj.* *Chiefly Brit.* punishing; severe.

swingle ('swɪŋɡl) *n.* 1. a flat-bladed wooden instrument used for beating and scraping flax or hemp to remove coarse matter from it. ~*vb.* 2. to use a swingle on.

swingletree ('swɪŋɡl,tri:) *n.* a crossbar in a horse's harness to which the ends of the traces are attached.

swipe (swaɪp) *vb.* 1. (when *intr.*, usually foll. by *at*) to hit hard with a sweeping blow. 2. (*tr.*) *Sl.* to steal. ~*n.* 3. *Inf.* a hard blow. 4. Also called: **sweep.** a type of lever for raising and lowering a weight, such as a bucket in a well.

swirl (swɜ:l) *vb.* 1. to turn or cause to turn in a twisting spinning fashion. 2. (*intr.*) to be dizzy; swim: *my head was swirling.* ~*n.* 3. a whirling or spinning motion, esp. in water. 4. a whorl; curl. 5. the act of swirling or stirring. 6. dizzy confusion or disorder. —*'swirling* *adj.* —*'swirly* *adj.*

swish (swɪʃ) *vb.* 1. to move with or make or cause to move with or make a whistling or hissing sound. 2. (*intr.*) (esp. of fabrics) to rustle. 3. (*tr.*) *Sl.*, now rare. to whip; flog. 4. (*tr.*; foll. by *off*) to cut with a swishing blow. ~*n.* 5. a hissing or rustling sound or movement. 6. a rod for flogging or a blow from this. ~*adj.* 7. *Inf.*, *chiefly Brit.* fashionable; smart. —*'swishy* *adj.*

Swiss (swɪs) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or characteristic of Switzerland, a republic in W central Europe, its inhabitants, or their dialects of German, French, and Italian. ~*n.* 2. a native or inhabitant of Switzerland.

swiss roll *n.* a sponge cake spread with jam, cream, or some other filling, and rolled up.

switch (swɪtʃ) *n.* 1. a mechanical, electrical, or electronic device for opening or closing a circuit or for diverting a current from one part of a circuit to another. 2. a swift and usually sudden shift or change. 3. an exchange or swap. 4. a flexible rod or twig, used esp. for punishment. 5. the sharp movement or blow of such an instrument. 6. a tress of false hair used to give added length or bulk to a woman's own hair style. 7. the tassellike tip of the tail of cattle and certain other animals. 8. any of various card games in which the suit is changed during play. 9. *U.S.* a railway siding. 10. *U.S.* a railway point. 11. *Austral. inf.* short for **switchboard** (sense 1). ~*vb.* 12. to shift, change, turn aside, or change the direction of (something). 13. to exchange (places); replace (something by something else). 14. *Chiefly U.S.* to transfer or be transferred from one railway track to another. 15. (*tr.*) to cause (an electric current) to start or stop flowing or to change its path by operating a switch. 16. (*tr.*) to lash or whip with or as if with a switch. —*'switcher* *n.*

switchback ('swɪtʃ,bæk) *n.* 1. a steep mountain road, railway, or track with hairpin bends or a hairpin bend on such a road, etc. 2. another word (esp. *Brit.*) for **roller coaster**.

switchboard ('swɪtʃ,bɔ:d) *n.* 1. an installation in a telephone exchange, office, etc., at which the interconnection of telephone lines is manually controlled. 2. a similar installation by which certain electrical equipment is operated.

switch off *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. to cause (a device) to stop operating as by moving a switch, knob, or lever. 2. *Inf.* to cease to interest or be interested; make or become bored, alienated, etc.

switch on *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. to cause (a device) to operate as by moving a switch, knob, or lever. 2. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to produce (charm, tears, etc.) suddenly or automatically. 3. (*tr.*) *Inf.* (now dated) to make up-to-date, esp. outlook, dress, etc. 4. (*tr.*) *Sl.* to arouse emotionally or sexually.

5. (*intr.*) *Sl.* to take or become intoxicated by drugs. 6. (*tr.*) *Sl.* to introduce (someone) to drugs.

swither ('swɪðə) *Scot. dialect. vb. (intr.)* 1. to hesitate; be perplexed. ~*n.* 2. hesitation; perplexity; agitation.

swivel ('swɪvl̩) *n.* 1. a coupling device which allows an attached object to turn freely. 2. such a device made of two parts which turn independently, such as a compound link of a chain. 3. a. a pivot on which is mounted a gun that may be swung horizontally from side to side. b. Also called: **swivel gun**, the gun itself. ~*vb.* -*elling*, -*elled* or *U.S. -eling, -eled*. 4. to turn or swing on or as if on a pivot. 5. (*tr.*) to provide with, secure by, or support with a swivel.

swivel chair *n.* a chair, the seat of which is joined to the legs by a swivel and which thus may be spun round.

swizz or **swiz** ('swɪz) *n. Inf.* a swindle; fraud.

swizzle ('swɪzl̩) *n.* 1. an alcoholic drink containing gin or rum. 2. Also called: **swizz**, *Brit. inf.* a swindle or disappointment. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to stir a swizzle stick in (a drink).

swizzle stick *n.* a small rod used to agitate an effervescent drink to facilitate the escape of carbon dioxide.

swob ('swɒb) *n., vb., swobbing, swobbed.* a less common spelling of **swab**.

swollen ('swɒlən) *vb.* 1. the past participle of **swell**. ~*adj.* 2. tumid or enlarged as by swelling. 3. turgid or bombastic. —'swollenness *n.*

swoon ('swu:n) *vb. (intr.)* 1. a literary word for **faint**. 2. to become ecstatic. ~*n.* 3. an instance of fainting. ~Also (archaic or dialect): **swound** ('swaʊnd).

swoop ('swu:p) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *down, on, or upon*) to sweep or pounce suddenly. 2. (*tr.*; often foll. by *up, away, or off*) to seize or scoop suddenly. ~*n.* 3. the act of swooping. 4. a swift descent.

swoosh ('swʊʃ) *vb.* 1. to make or cause to make a rustling or swirling sound, esp. when moving or pouring out. ~*n.* 2. a swirling or rustling sound or movement.

swop ('swɒp) *n., vb., swopping, swopped.* a variant spelling of **swap**.

sword ('sɔ:d) *n.* 1. a thrusting, striking, or cutting weapon with a long blade having one or two cutting edges, a hilt, and usually a crosspiece or guard. 2. such a weapon worn on ceremonial occasions as a symbol of authority. 3. something resembling a sword, such as the snout of a swordfish. 4. **cross swords**, to argue or fight. 5. the **sword**, a. violence or power, esp. military power. b. death; destruction: *to put to the sword*.

swordbearer *n.* an official who carries a ceremonial sword.

sword dance *n.* a dance in which the performers dance nimbly over swords on the ground or brandish them in the air. —**sword dancer** *n.* —**sword dancing** *n.*

swordfish ('sɔ:d,fɪʃ) *n., pl. -fish or -fishes.* a large fish with a very long upper jaw: valued as a food and game fish.

Sword of Damocles ('dæmə,kli:z) *n.* a closely impending disaster.

swordplay ('sɔ:d,pleɪ) *n.* 1. the action or art of fighting with a sword. 2. verbal sparring.

swordsman ('sɔ:dzmən) *n., pl. -men.* one who uses or is skilled in the use of a sword. —'swordsman,ship *n.*

swordstick ('sɔ:d,stɪk) *n.* a hollow walking stick containing a short sword or dagger.

swore ('swɔ:) *vb.* the past tense of **swear**.

sworn ('swɔ:n) *vb.* 1. the past participle of **swear**. ~*adj.* 2. bound, pledged, or made inveterate, by or as if by an oath: *a sworn statement; he was sworn to God*.

swot ('swɒt) *Brit. inf.* ~*vb.* **swotting, swotted**. 1. (often foll. by *up*) to study (a subject) intensively, as for an examination; cram. ~*n.* 2. Also called: **swotter** ('swɒtə), a person who works or studies hard. 3. hard work or grind.

swot? ('swɒt) *vb.* **swotting, swotted**, *n.* a variant of **swat**.

swum ('swʌm) *vb.* the past participle of **swim**.

swung ('swʌŋ) *vb.* the past tense or past participle of **swing**.

sybarite ('sɪbə,raɪt) *n.* 1. (*sometimes cap.*) a devotee of luxury and the sensual vices. ~*adj.* 2. luxurious; sensuous. —**sybaritic** ('sɪbə'rtɪk) *adj.* —,syba'ritically *adv.* —'sybaritism *n.*

sycamore ('sɪkə,mɔ:) *n.* 1. a Eurasian maple tree, naturalized in Britain and North America, having five-lobed leaves and two-winged fruits. 2. *U.S.* an American plane tree. 3. a tree of N Africa and W Asia, having an edible figlike fruit.

sycophant ('sɪkəfənt) *n.* a person who uses flattery to

win favour from individuals wielding influence; toady. —'sycophancy *n.* —**sycophantic** ('sɪkə'fæntɪk) or, **sycophantish** *adj.* —,syc'o'phanically or, syc'o'phan'tishly *adv.*

syllabic ('sɪləbɪk) *adj.* 1. of or relating to syllables or the division of a word into syllables. 2. denoting a kind of verse line based on a specific number of syllables rather than being regulated by stresses or quantities. 3. (of a consonant) constituting a syllable. ~*n.* 4. a syllabic consonant. —syl'labically *adv.*

syllabify ('sɪləbɪ,faɪ) or **syllabicate** *vb.* -*fying, -fied* or -*cating, -cated.* (*tr.*) to divide (a word) into its constituent syllables. —syl'labifi'cation or syl'labi'cation *n.*

syllable ('sɪləbəl) *n.* 1. a combination or set of one or more units of sound in a language that must consist of a sonorous element (a sonant or vowel) and may or may not contain less sonorous elements (consonants or semi-vowels) flanking it on either or both sides: for example "paper" has two syllables. 2. (in the writing systems of certain languages, esp. ancient ones) a symbol or set of symbols standing for a syllable. 3. the least mention: *don't breathe a syllable of it*. 4. in words of one syllable, simply; bluntly. ~*vb.* 5. to pronounce syllables of (a text); articulate. 6. (*tr.*) to write down in syllables.

syllabub or **sillabub** ('sɪlə,bʌb) *n.* 1. a spiced drink made of milk with rum, port, brandy, or wine, often hot. 2. *Brit.* a cold dessert made from milk or cream beaten with sugar, wine, and lemon juice.

syllabus ('sɪləbəs) *n., pl. -buses or -bi* (-baɪ). 1. an outline of a course of studies, text, etc. 2. *Brit.* a. the subjects studied for a particular course. b. a list of these subjects.

sylogism ('sɪlə,dʒɪzəm) *n.* 1. a deductive inference by which a conclusion is derived from two propositions, the **major premiss** and the **minor premiss**. The subject of the conclusion, the **minor term** (H), appears in the minor premiss, the predicate of the conclusion, the **major term** (G), appears in the major premiss, and the **middle term** (F), appears in both premisses, but not in the conclusion. The most common type of syllogism consists of categorical statements, such as *all F are G, all H are F, therefore all H are G*. 2. a piece of deductive reasoning from the general to the particular. —,sylo'gistic *adj.* —'sylo,gize or -ise *vb.*

sylyph ('sɪlf) *n.* 1. a slender graceful girl or young woman. 2. any of a class of imaginary beings assumed to inhabit the air. —'sylyph,like *adj.*

syllan or **silvan** ('sɪlvən) *Chiefly poetic.* ~*adj.* 1. of or consisting of woods or forests. 2. in woods or forests. 3. idyllically rural or rustic. ~*n.* 4. an inhabitant of the woods, esp. a spirit.

sym- *prefix.* variant of **syn-** before *b, p,* and *m.*

symbiosis ('sɪmbɪ'əʊsɪs) *n.* 1. a close association of two interdependent animal or plant species. 2. a similar relationship between persons or groups. —,symbi'otic *adj.*

symbol ('sɪmbəl) *n.* 1. something that represents or stands for something else, usually by convention or association, esp. a material object used to represent something abstract. 2. an object, person, idea, etc., used in a literary work, film, etc., to stand for or suggest something else with which it is associated. 3. a letter, figure, or sign used in mathematics, science, music, etc. to represent a quantity, phenomenon, operation, function, etc. ~*vb.* -*boling, -bolled* or *U.S. -boling, -boled*. 4. (*tr.*) another word for **symbolize**.

symbolic ('sɪm'bɒlɪk) or **symbolical** *adj.* 1. of or relating to a symbol or symbols. 2. serving as a symbol. 3. characterized by the use of symbols or symbolism. —sym'bolically *adv.*

symbolism ('sɪmbə,lɪzəm) *n.* 1. the representation of something in symbolic form or the attribution of symbolic character to something. 2. a system of symbols or symbolic representation. 3. a symbolic significance or quality. 4. (*often cap.*) a late 19th-century movement in art that sought to express mystical or abstract ideas through the symbolic use of images. —'symbolist *n., adj.*

symbolize or -**ise** ('sɪmbə,ləɪz) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to serve as or be a symbol of. 2. (*tr.*; usually foll. by *by*) to represent by a symbol or symbols. 3. (*intr.*) to use symbols. 4. (*tr.*) to treat or regard as symbolic. —,symboli'zation or -i'sation *n.*

symmetry ('sɪmɪtri) *n., pl. -tries.* 1. similarity, correspondence, or balance among systems or parts of a system. 2. *Maths.* an exact correspondence in position

or form about a given point, line, or plane. **3.** beauty or harmony of form based on a proportionate arrangement of parts. —**sym'metrical** adj.

sympathetic ('sɪmpəθetɪk) or **sympathetical** adj. **1.** characterized by, feeling, or showing sympathy; understanding. **2.** in accord with the subject's personality or mood; congenial: *a sympathetic atmosphere*. **3.** (when *postpositive*, often foll. by *to* or *towards*) showing agreement (with) or favour (towards). **4.** *Anat., physiol.* of or relating to the division of the autonomic nervous system that acts in opposition to the parasympathetic system accelerating the heartbeat, dilating the bronchi, inhibiting the smooth muscles of the digestive tract, etc. **5.** relating to vibrations occurring as a result of similar vibrations in a neighbouring body: *sympathetic strings on a sitar*. —**sympa'thetically** adv.

sympathetic magic *n.* a type of magic in which it is sought to produce a large-scale effect, often at a distance, by performing some small-scale ceremony resembling it, such as the pouring of water on an altar to induce rainfall.

sympathize or **-ise** ('sɪmpəθaɪz) vb. (*intr.*; often foll. by *with*) **1.** to feel or express compassion or sympathy (for); commiserate: *he sympathized with my troubles*. **2.** to share or understand the sentiments or ideas (of); be in sympathy (with). —**sympa'thizer** or **-iser** *n.* —**sympa'thizingly** or **-isingly** adv.

sympathy ('sɪmpəθi) *n.*, *pl.* **-thies**. **1.** the sharing of another's emotions, esp. of sorrow or anguish; compassion. **2.** affinity or harmony, usually of feelings or interests, between persons or things: *to be in sympathy with someone*. **3.** mutual affection or understanding arising from such a relationship. **4.** the condition of a physical system or body when its behaviour is similar or corresponds to that of a different system that influences it, such as the vibration of sympathetic strings. **5.** (*sometimes pl.*) a feeling of loyalty, support, or accord, as for an idea, cause, etc. **6.** *Physiol.* the relationship between two organs or parts whereby a change in one affects the other.

symphonic poem *n.* *Music.* an extended orchestral composition, originated by Liszt, based on nonmusical material, such as a work of literature or folk tale. Also called: **tone poem**.

symphony ('sɪmfəni) *n.*, *pl.* **-nies**. **1.** an extended large-scale orchestral composition, usually with several movements, at least one of which is in sonata form. **2.** a piece of instrumental music in up to three very short movements, used as an overture to or interlude in a baroque opera. **3.** any purely orchestral movement in a vocal work, such as a cantata or oratorio. **4.** short for **symphony orchestra**. **5.** anything distinguished by a harmonious composition: *the picture was a symphony of green*. **6.** *Arch.* harmony in general; concord. —**symphonic** ('sɪm'fɒnik) adj. —**sym'phonically** adv.

symphony orchestra *n.* *Music.* an orchestra capable of performing symphonies, esp. a large orchestra comprising strings, brass, woodwind, harp and percussion.

symposium ('sɪm'pɔziəm) *n.*, *pl.* **-siums** or **-sia** (-ziə). **1.** a conference or meeting for the discussion of some subject, esp. an academic topic or social problem. **2.** a collection of scholarly contributions on a given subject. **3.** (in classical Greece) a drinking party with intellectual conversation, music, etc.

symptom ('sɪmptəm) *n.* **1.** *Med.* any sensation or change in bodily function experienced by a patient that is associated with a particular disease. **2.** any phenomenon or circumstance accompanying something and regarded as evidence of its existence; indication. —**sympto'matic** adj.

syn. abbrev. for synonym (ous).

syn- prefix. **1.** with or together: *synecology*. **2.** fusion: *syngamy*.

synagogue ('sɪnəgɒg) *n.* **1.** *a.* a building for Jewish religious services and religious instruction. *b.* (*as modifier*): *synagogue services*. **2.** a congregation of Jews who assemble for worship or religious study. **3.** the religion of Judaism as organized in such congregations. —**synagogical** ('sɪnə'gɒdʒɪkəl) or **synagoga** ('sɪnə'gɒgəl) adj.

sync (sɪŋk) *Films, television, computers. Inf.* ~vb. **1.** to synchronize. ~n. **2.** synchronization.

synchro- combining form. indicating synchronization: *synchromesh*.

synchromesh ('sɪŋkrəʊmɛʃ) adj. **1.** (of a gearbox, etc.) having a system of clutches that synchronizes the speeds of the driving and driven members before engagement to avoid shock in gear changing and to reduce

noise and wear. ~n. **2.** a gear system having these features.

synchronism ('sɪŋkrə'nɪzəm) *n.* **1.** the quality or condition of being synchronous. **2.** a chronological list of historical persons and events, arranged to show parallel or synchronous occurrence. **3.** the representation in a work of art of one or more incidents that occurred at separate times. —**synchro'nistic** or **synchro'nistical** adj. —**synchro'nistically** adv.

synchronize or **-ise** ('sɪŋkrə'naɪz) vb. **1.** (when *intr.*, usually foll. by *with*) to occur or recur or cause to occur or recur at the same time or in unison. **2.** to indicate or cause to indicate the same time: *synchronize your watches*. **3.** (*tr.*) *Films.* to establish (the picture and soundtrack records) in their correct relative position. **4.** (*tr.*) to designate events as simultaneous. —**synchro'nization** or **-i'sation** *n.* —**synchro'nizer** or **-iser** *n.*

synchronous ('sɪŋkrənəs) adj. **1.** occurring at the same time. **2.** *Physics.* (of periodic phenomena, such as voltages) having the same frequency and phase. **3.** occurring or recurring exactly together and at the same rate. —**synchronously** adv. —**synchronousness** *n.* —**synchro'ny** *n.*

syncline ('sɪŋklaɪn) *n.* a downward fold of stratified rock in which the strata slope towards a vertical axis. —**syn'clinal** adj.

syncopate ('sɪŋkə'peɪt) vb. (*tr.*) **1.** *Music.* to modify or treat (a beat, rhythm, note, etc.) by syncopation. **2.** to shorten (a word) by omitting sounds or letters from the middle. —**synco'pation** *n.* —**synco'pator** *n.*

syncope ('sɪŋkəpi) *n.* **1.** a technical word for a faint. **2.** the omission of sounds or letters from the middle of a word. —**syncope** (sɪŋ'kɒpɪk) or **'syncope** adj.

syncretize or **-ise** ('sɪŋkri'taɪz) vb. to attempt to combine the characteristic teachings, beliefs, or practices of (differing systems of religion or philosophy). —**syncreti'zation** or **-i'sation** *n.*

syndic ('sɪndɪk) *n.* **1.** *Brit.* a business agent of some universities or other bodies. **2.** (in several countries) a government administrator or magistrate with varying powers. —**'syndical** adj.

syndicalism ('sɪndɪkəlɪzəm) *n.* **1.** a revolutionary movement and theory advocating seizure of the means of production and distribution by syndicates of workers, esp. by a general strike. **2.** an economic system resulting from such action. —**'syndical** adj. —**'syndicalist** adj., *n.* —**syndical'istic** adj.

syndicate *n.* ('sɪndɪkət). **1.** an association of business enterprises or individuals organized to undertake a joint project. **2.** a news agency that sells articles, photographs, etc., to a number of newspapers for simultaneous publication. **3.** any association formed to carry out an enterprise of common interest to its members. **4.** a board of syndics or the office of syndic. ~vb. ('sɪndɪ'keɪt). **5.** (*tr.*) to sell (articles, photographs, etc.) to several newspapers for simultaneous publication. **6.** to form a syndicate of (people). —**syndi'cation** *n.*

syndrome ('sɪndrəm) *n.* **1.** *Med.* any combination of signs and symptoms that are indicative of a particular disease or disorder. **2.** a symptom, characteristic, or set of symptoms or characteristics indicating the existence of a condition, problem, etc. —**syndromic** ('sɪndrəmɪk) adj.

synecdoche ('sɪn'ekdɒki) *n.* a figure of speech in which a part is substituted for a whole or a whole for a part, as in *50 head of cattle for 50 cows*, or *the army for a soldier*. —**synecdochic** ('sɪn'ekdɒkɪk) or **synec'dochical** adj.

synod ('sɪnəd, 'sɪnɒd) *n.* **1.** a local or special ecclesiastical council, esp. of a diocese, formally convened to discuss ecclesiastical affairs. **2.** *Rare.* any council, esp. for discussion. —**synodal** or **syn'odical** adj.

synonym ('sɪnənɪm) *n.* **1.** a word that means the same or nearly the same as another word, such as *bucket* and *pail*. **2.** a word or phrase used as another name for something, such as *Hellene* for a Greek. —**syno'nymic** or **syno'nymical** adj. —**syno'nymity** *n.*

synonymous ('sɪnənɪməs) adj. **1.** (often foll. by *with*) being a synonym (of). **2.** (*postpositive*; foll. by *with*) closely associated (with) or suggestive (of): *his name was synonymous with greed*. —**syn'onymously** adv. —**syn'onymousness** *n.*

synopsis ('sɪnɒpsɪs) *n.*, *pl.* **-ses** (-si:z). a brief review of a subject; summary.

synoptic ('sɪnɒptɪk) adj. **1.** of or relating to a synopsis. **2.** (*often cap.*) *Bible.* *a.* (of the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke) presenting the narrative of Christ's life, ministry, etc. from a point of view held in common by all three, and with close similarities in content, order, etc.

b. of or relating to these three Gospels. **3. Meteorol.** concerned with the distribution of meteorological conditions over a wide area at a given time: a *synoptic chart*. ~*n.* **4. (often cap.) Bible.** a. any of the three synoptic Gospels. **b.** any of the authors of these. —*syn'optically* *adv.* —*syn'optist* *n.*

synovia (sai'nəʊviə, si-) *n.* a transparent viscid lubricating fluid, secreted by the membrane lining joints, tendon sheaths, etc. —*syn'ovial* *adj.*

syntax ('sɪntæks) *n.* **1.** the branch of linguistics that deals with the grammatical arrangement of words and morphemes in sentences. **2.** the totality of facts about the grammatical arrangement of words in a language. **3.** a systematic statement of the rules governing the grammatical arrangement of words and morphemes in a language. **4.** a systematic statement of the rules governing the properly formed formulas of a logical system. —*syn'tactic* or *syn'tactical* *adj.* —*syn'tactically* *adv.*

synthesis ('sɪnθɪsɪs) *n., pl. -ses* (-,si:z). **1.** the process of combining objects or ideas into a complex whole. **2.** the combination or whole produced by such a process. **3.** the process of producing a compound by a chemical reaction or series of reactions, usually from simpler starting materials. **4. Linguistics.** the use of inflections rather than word order and function words to express the syntactic relations in a language. **5.** deductive reasoning from the general to the particular or from cause to effect. —*'synthesist* *n.*

synthesize ('sɪnθɪ,saɪz), **synthetize** or **-sise, -tise** *vb.* **1.** to combine or cause to combine into a whole. **2. (tr.)** to produce by synthesis. —*'synthesi'zation, 'syntheti'zation* or *-si'sation, -ti'sation* *n.*

synthesizer ('sɪnθɪ,saɪzə) *n.* **1.** short for *Moog synthesizer*. **2.** a person or thing that synthesizes.

synthetic (sɪn'θetɪk) *adj. also* *synthetical*. **1.** (of a substance or material) made artificially by chemical reaction. **2.** not genuine; insincere: *synthetic compassion*. **3.** denoting languages, such as Latin, whose morphology is characterized by synthesis. **4. Philosophy.** (of a proposition) having a truth value that is not determined solely by virtue of the meanings of the words, as in *all men are arrogant*. ~*n.* **5.** a synthetic substance or material. —*syn'thetically* *adv.*

syphilis ('sɪfɪlɪs) *n.* a venereal disease caused by infection with the microorganism *Treponema pallidum*: characterized by an ulcerating chancre, usually on the external genitals and progressing through the lymphatic system to nearly all tissues of the body, producing serious clinical manifestations. —*syphilitic* (sɪfɪ'lɪtɪk) *adj.* —*'syphi,lold* *adj.*

syphon ('saɪfɪn) *n.* a variant spelling of *siphon*.

Syriac ('sɪrɪ,æk) *n.* a dialect of Aramaic spoken in Syria until about the 13th century A.D.

Syrian ('sɪrɪən) *adj.* **1.** of or relating to Syria, a republic in W Asia, its people, or their dialect of Arabic. ~*n.* **2.** a native or inhabitant of Syria.

syringa (sɪ'rɪŋɡə) *n.* another name for *mock orange* and *lilac* (sense 1).

syringe ('sɪrɪndʒ, sɪ'rɪndʒ) *n.* **1. Med.** a hypodermic syringe or a rubber ball with a slender nozzle, for use in

withdrawing or injecting fluids, cleaning wounds, etc. **2.** any similar device for injecting, spraying, or extracting liquids by means of pressure or suction. ~*vb.* **3. (tr.)** to cleanse, inject, or spray with a syringe.

syrup ('sɪrəp) *n.* **1.** a solution of sugar dissolved in water and often flavoured with fruit juice: used for sweetening fruit, etc. **2.** any of various thick sweet liquids prepared for cooking or table use from molasses, sugars, etc. **3. Inf.** cloying sentimentality. **4.** a liquid medicine containing a sugar solution for flavouring or preservation. ~Also: *sirup*. —*'syrupy* *adj.*

system ('sɪstəm) *n.* **1.** a group or combination of interrelated, interdependent, or interacting elements forming a collective entity; a methodical or coordinated assemblage of parts, facts, concepts, etc. **2.** any scheme of classification or arrangement. **3.** a network of communications, transportation, or distribution. **4.** a method or complex of methods: *he has a perfect system at roulette*. **5.** orderliness; an ordered manner. **6. the system.** (often *cap.*) society seen as an environment exploiting, restricting, and repressing individuals. **7.** an organism considered as a functioning entity. **8.** any of various bodily parts or structures that are anatomically or physiologically related: *the digestive system*. **9.** one's physiological or psychological constitution: *get it out of your system*. **10.** any assembly of electronic, electrical, or mechanical components with interdependent functions, usually forming a self-contained unit: *a brake system*. **11.** a group of celestial bodies that are associated as a result of natural laws, esp. gravitational attraction: *the solar system*. **12.** a point of view or doctrine used to interpret a branch of knowledge. **13. Mineralogy.** one of a group of divisions into which crystals may be placed on the basis of the lengths and inclinations of their axes. **14. Geol.** a stratigraphical unit for the rock strata formed during a period of geological time.

systematic (,sɪstɪ'mætɪk) *adj.* **1.** characterized by the use of order and planning; methodical: *a systematic administrator*. **2.** comprising or resembling a system: *systematic theology*. **3. Also: systematical.** *Biol.* of or relating to taxonomic classification. —*'system'atically* *adv.* —*'systema,tism* *n.* —*'systematist* *n.*

systematize ('sɪstɪma,təɪz), **systemize** or **-tise, -mise** *vb. (tr.)* to arrange or order in a system. —*'systemati'zation, -i'sation* or *'systemi'zation, -i'sation* *n.* —*'systema,tizer, -lser* or *'system,lizer, -lser* *n.*

systemic (sɪ'stemɪk, -'sti-) *adj.* **1.** another word for *systematic* (senses 1, 2). **2. Physiol.** (of a poison, disease, etc.) affecting the entire body. **3.** (of an insecticide, fungicide, etc.) designed to be absorbed by a plant into its tissues. ~*n.* **4.** a systemic insecticide, fungicide, etc. —*sys'temically* *adv.*

systems analysis *n.* the analysis of the methods involved in scientific and industrial operations, usually with a computer so that an improved system can be designed.

systole ('sɪstəli) *n.* contraction of the heart, during which blood is pumped into the aorta and the arteries. —*systolic* (sɪ'stəliɪk) *adj.*

T

t or **T** (ti:) *n.*, *pl.* **t's**, **T's**, or **Ts**. 1. the 20th letter of the English alphabet. 2. a speech sound represented by this letter. 3. something shaped like a T. 4. **to a T**. in every detail; perfectly.

t *symbol for*: 1. ton(s). 2. tonne(s). 3. troy (weight). 4. *Statistics*. distribution.

T *symbol for*: 1. absolute temperature. 2. tera-. 3. *Chem.* tritium. 4. tesla. 5. surface tension.

t. *abbrev. for*: 1. *Commerce*. tare. 2. teaspoon(ful). 3. temperature. 4. *Music*. tempo. 5. *Music*. Also T. tenor. 6. *Grammar*. tense. 7. transitive.

ta (tə:) *interj.* *Brit. inf.* thank you.

Ta *the chemical symbol for tantalum.*

TA (in Britain) *abbrev. for* Territorial Army (now superseded by TAVR).

tab' (tæb) *n.* 1. a small flap of material, esp. one on a garment for decoration or for fastening to a button. 2. any similar flap, such as a piece of paper attached to a file for identification. 3. *Brit. mil.* the insignia on the collar of a staff officer. 4. *U.S.* a bill, esp. for a meal or drinks. 5. **keep tabs on**. *Inf.* to keep a watchful eye on. ~*vb.* **tabbing**, **tabbed**. 6. (tr.) to supply with a tab or tabs.

tab' (tæb) *n.* short for **tabulator** or **tablet**.

tabard ('tæbəd) *n.* a sleeveless or short-sleeved jacket, esp. one worn by a herald, bearing a coat of arms, or by a knight over his armour.

Tabasco (tə'bæskəu) *n.* *Trademark.* a very hot red sauce made from matured capsicums.

tabby ('tæbi) *adj.* 1. (esp. of cats) brindled with dark stripes or wavy markings on a lighter background. 2. having a wavy or striped pattern, particularly in colours of grey and brown. ~*n.*, *pl.* **-bies**. 3. a tabby cat. 4. any female domestic cat. 5. a fabric with a watered pattern, esp. silk or taffeta.

tabernacle ('tæbə,næk'l) *n.* 1. (often *cap.*) *Old Testament.* a. the portable sanctuary in which the ancient Israelites carried the Ark of the Covenant. b. the Jewish Temple. 2. any place of worship that is not called a church. 3. *R.C. Church* a receptacle in which the Blessed Sacrament is kept. 4. *Chiefly R.C. Church.* a canopied niche. 5. *Naut.* a strong framework for holding the foot of a mast, allowing it to be swung down to pass under low bridges, etc. — **taber'nacular** *adj.*

table ('teibl) *n.* 1. a flat horizontal slab or board supported by one or more legs. 2. a. such a slab or board on which food is served. b. (as *modifier*): *table linen*. 3. food as served in a particular household, etc.: a *good table*. 4. such a piece of furniture specially designed for any of various purposes: a *bird table*. 5. a. a company of persons assembled for a meal, game, etc. b. (as *modifier*): *table talk*. 6. any flat or level area, such as a plateau. 7. a rectangular panel set below or above the face of a wall. 8. *Archit.* another name for **string course**. 9. any of various flat surfaces, as an upper horizontal facet of a cut gem. 10. *Music*. the sounding board of a violin, guitar, etc. 11. a. an arrangement of words, numbers, or signs, usually in parallel columns. b. See **multiplication table**. 12. a tablet on which laws were inscribed by the ancient Romans, the Hebrews, etc. 13. **turn the tables**. to cause a complete reversal of circumstances. ~*vb.* (tr.) 14. to place on a table. 15. to submit (a bill, etc.) for consideration by a legislative body. 16. to suspend discussion of (a bill, etc.) indefinitely. 17. to enter or form into a list.

tableau ('tæbləu) *n.*, *pl.* **-leaux** (-ləu, -ləuz) or **-leaus**. 1. a pause on stage when all the performers briefly freeze in position. 2. any dramatic group or scene.

tablecloth ('teibl'kləθ) *n.* a cloth for covering the top of a table, esp. during meals.

table d'hôte ('tæbl' d'əut) *adj.* 1. (of a meal) consisting of a set number of courses with limited choice of dishes offered at a fixed price. Cf. **à la carte**. ~*n.*, *pl.* **tables d'hôte** ('tæbl'z 'd'əut). 2. a table d'hôte meal or menu.

tableland ('teibl'lænd) *n.* flat elevated land.

table licence *n.* a licence authorizing the sale of alcoholic drinks with meals only.

tablespoon ('teibl'spu:n) *n.* 1. a spoon, larger than a

dessertspoon, used for serving food, etc. 2. Also called: **tablespoonful**. the amount contained in such a spoon. 3. a unit of capacity used in cooking, medicine, etc., equal to half a fluid ounce.

tablet ('tæblɪt) *n.* 1. a pill made of a compressed medicinal substance. 2. a flattish cake of some substance, such as soap. 3. a slab of stone, wood, etc., esp. one used for inscriptions. 4. a. a rigid sheet, as of bark, etc., used for similar purposes. b. (often *pl.*) a set of these fastened together. 5. a pad of writing paper. 6. *Scot.* a sweet made from butter, sugar, and condensed milk, usually shaped into flat oblong cakes.

table tennis *n.* a miniature form of tennis played on a table with bats and a hollow ball.

tabloid ('tæblɔɪd) *n.* a newspaper with pages about 30 cm (12 inches) by 40 cm (16 inches), usually with many photographs and a concise and often sensational style.

taboo or **tabu** (tə'bu:) *adj.* 1. forbidden or disapproved of: *taboo words*. 2. (in Polynesia) marked off as sacred and forbidden. ~*n.*, *pl.* **-boos** or **-bus**. 3. any prohibition resulting from social or other conventions. 4. ritual restriction or prohibition, esp. of something that is considered holy or unclean. ~*vb.* 5. (tr.) to place under a taboo.

labor or **labour** ('teɪbə) *n.* a small drum used esp. in the Middle Ages, struck with one hand while the other held a pipe.

tabular ('tæbjulə) *adj.* 1. arranged in systematic or table form. 2. calculated from or by means of a table. 3. like a table in form; flat. — **'tabularly** *adv.*

tabulate *vb.* ('tæbjul'eɪt). (tr.) 1. to set out, arrange, or write in tabular form. 2. to form or cut with a flat surface. ~*adj.* ('tæbjulɪt, -leɪt). 3. having a flat surface. — **'tabulable** *adj.* — **'tabulation** *n.*

tabulator ('tæbjuleɪtə) *n.* 1. a device for setting the stops that locate the column margins on a typewriter. 2. *Computers.* a machine that reads data from one medium, such as punched cards, producing lists, tabulations, or totals.

tachograph ('tækə,grə:f) *n.* a tachometer that produces a record (**tachogram**) of its readings, esp. a device for recording the speed of and distance covered by a vehicle.

tachometer ('tækə'mɒɪtə) *n.* any device for measuring speed, esp. the rate of revolution of a shaft. Tachometers are often fitted to cars to indicate the number of revolutions per minute of the engine. — **ta'chometry** *n.*

tacit ('tæsɪt) *adj.* 1. implied without direct expression; understood: a *tacit agreement*. 2. silent. — **'tacitly** *adv.*

taciturn ('tæsi:tʃ:n) *adj.* habitually silent, reserved, or uncommunicative. — **'taci'turnity** *n.* — **'taci,turnly** *adv.*

tack' (tæk) *n.* 1. a short sharp-pointed nail, with a large flat head. 2. *Brit.* a long loose temporary stitch used in dressmaking, etc. 3. a temporary fastening. 4. stickiness. 5. *Naut.* the heading of a vessel sailing to windward, stated in terms of the side of the sail against which the wind is pressing. 6. *Naut.* a. a course sailed with the wind blowing from forward of the beam. b. one such course or a zigzag pattern of such courses. 7. *Naut.* a. a sheet for controlling the weather clew of a course. b. the weather clew itself. 8. *Naut.* the forward lower clew of a fore-and-aft sail. 9. a course of action or policy. 10. **on the wrong tack**. under a false impression. ~*vb.* 11. to secure by a tack or tacks. 12. *Brit.* to sew (something) with long loose temporary stitches. 13. (tr.) to attach or append. 14. *Naut.* to change the heading of (a sailing vessel) to the opposite tack. 15. *Naut.* to steer (a sailing vessel) on alternate tacks. 16. (intr.) *Naut.* (of a sailing vessel) to proceed on a different tack or to alternate tacks. 17. (intr.) to follow a zigzag route; keep changing one's course of action. — **'tacker** *n.*

tack' (tæk) *n.* riding harness for horses, such as saddles, bridles, etc.

tackle ('tækl) *n.* 1. an arrangement of ropes and pulleys designed to lift heavy weights. 2. the equipment required for a particular occupation, etc. 3. *Naut.* the halyards and other running rigging aboard a vessel. 4. *Sport.* a physical challenge to an opponent, as to prevent

his progress with the ball. ~vb. 5. (tr.) to undertake (a task, etc.). 6. (tr.) to confront (esp. an opponent) with a difficult proposition. 7. Sport. to challenge (an opponent) with a tackle. — **tackler** *n.*

tacky ('tæki) *adj.* tackier, tackiest. slightly sticky or adhesive. — **tackiness** *n.*

tacky ('tæki) *adj.* tackier, tackiest. U.S. inf. 1. shabby or shoddy. 2. ostentatious and vulgar. 3. (of a person) eccentric; crazy. — **tackiness** *n.*

tact ('tækt) *n.* 1. a sense of what is fitting and considerate in dealing with others, so as to avoid giving offence. 2. skill in handling difficult situations; diplomacy. — **tactful** *adj.* — **tactfulness** *n.* — **tactless** *adj.* — **tactlessness** *n.*

tactic ('tæktik) *n.* a piece of tactics; tactical move.

tactical ('tæktikl) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or employing tactics: a tactical error. 2. (of missiles, bombing, etc.) for use in or supporting limited military operations; short-range. 3. skilful, adroit, or diplomatic. — **tactically** *adv.*

tactics ('tæktiks) *pl. n.* 1. (functioning as sing.) Mil. the art and science of the detailed direction and control of movement or manoeuvre to achieve an aim or task. 2. the manoeuvres used to achieve an aim or task. 3. plans followed in order to achieve a certain aim. — **tac-tician** *n.*

tactile ('tæktail) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, affecting, or having a sense of touch. 2. Now rare. capable of being touched; tangible. — **tactility** ('tækt'ilti) *n.*

tadpole ('tæd,pəʊl) *n.* the aquatic larva of frogs, toads, etc., which develops from a limbless tailed form with external gills into a form with internal gills, limbs, and a reduced tail.

taffeta ('tæfɪtə) *n.* a thin crisp lustrous plain-weave fabric of silk, rayon, etc., used esp. for women's clothes.

taffrail ('tæf,rei) *n.* Naut. a rail at the stern of a vessel.

Taffy ('tæfi) *n., pl. -fies.* a slang word or nickname for a Welshman.

tag ('tæg) *n.* 1. a piece of paper, leather, etc., for attaching to something as a mark or label: a price tag. 2. a small piece of material hanging from a part or piece. 3. a point of metal, etc. at the end of a cord or lace. 4. an epithet or verbal appendage, the refrain of a song, the moral of a fable, etc. 5. a brief quotation. 6. an ornamental flourish. 7. the tip of an animal's tail. 8. a matted lock of wool or hair. ~vb. tagging, tagged. (mainly tr.) 9. to mark with a tag. 10. to add or append as a tag. 11. to supply prose or blank verse with rhymes. 12. (intr.; usually foll. by on or along) to trail (behind). 13. to name or call (someone something). 14. to cut the tags of wool or hair from (an animal).

tag ('tæg) *n.* 1. a children's game in which one player chases the others in an attempt to catch one of them who will then become the chaser. 2. the act of tagging one's partner in tag wrestling. 3. (modifier) denoting a wrestling contest between two teams of two wrestlers, in which only one from each team may be in the ring at one time. The contestant outside the ring may change places with his team-mate inside the ring after touching his hand. ~vb. tagging, tagged. (tr.) 4. to catch (another child) in the game of tag. 5. (in tag wrestling) to touch the hand of (one's partner).

Tagalog ('tæg:əlɒg) *n., pl. -logs or -log.* 1. a member of a people of the Philippines. 2. the language of this people. ~adj. 3. of or relating to this people or their language.

tag end *n.* 1. Chiefly U.S. the last part of something. 2. a loose end of cloth, thread, etc.

tagetes ('tæg:ɪtɪz) *n.* any of a genus of plants with yellow or orange flowers, including the French and African marigolds.

tagliatelle ('tæljə'telɪ) *n.* a form of pasta made in narrow strips.

tail ('teɪl) *n.* 1. the rear part of the vertebrate body that contains an elongation of the vertebral column, esp. forming a flexible appendage. 2. anything resembling such an appendage; the bottom, lowest, or rear part. 3. the last part or parts: the tail of the storm. 4. the rear part of an aircraft including the fin, tailplane, and control surfaces. 5. Astron. the luminous stream of gas and dust particles driven from the head of a comet when close to the sun. 6. the rear portion of a bomb, rocket, missile, etc., usually fitted with guiding or stabilizing vanes. 7. a line of people or things. 8. a long braid or tress of hair: a pigtail. 9. a final short line in a stanza. 10. Inf. a person employed to follow and spy upon another. 11. an informal word for buttocks. 12. Taboo sl., chiefly U.S. a. the female genitals. b. a woman

considered sexually (esp. in piece of tail, bit of tail). 13. the foot of a page. 14. the lower end of a pool or part of a stream. 15. Inf. the course or track of a fleeing person or animal. 16. (modifier) coming from or situated in the rear: a tail wind. 17. turn tail. to run away; escape. 18. with one's tail between one's legs. in a state of utter defeat or confusion. ~vb. 19. to form or cause to form the tail. 20. to remove the tail of (an animal). 21. (tr.) to remove the stalk of. 22. (tr.) to connect (objects, ideas, etc.) together by or as if by the tail. 23. (tr.) Inf. to follow stealthily. 24. (intr.) (of a vessel) to assume a specified position, as when at a mooring. 25. (tr.) to build the end of (a brick, joist, etc.) into a wall or (of a brick, etc.) to have one end built into a wall. ~See also tail off. — **tailless** *adj.*

tail' (teɪl) *Law.* ~n. 1. the limitation of an estate or interest to a person and the heirs of his body. ~adj. 2. (Immediately postpositive) limited in this way. — **tail-less** *adj.*

tailback ('teɪl,bæk) *n.* a queue of traffic stretching back from an obstruction.

tailboard ('teɪl,bɔ:d) *n.* a board at the rear of a lorry, etc., that can be removed or let down.

tail coat *n.* 1. a man's black coat having a horizontal cut over the hips and a tapering tail with a vertical slit up to the waist. 2. a cutaway frock coat, part of morning dress.

tail gate *n.* a gate that is used to control the flow of water at the lower end of a lock.

tailgate ('teɪl,geɪt) *n.* 1. another name (esp. U.S.) for tailboard. ~vb. 2. U.S. to drive very close behind (a vehicle).

taillight ('teɪl,lait) or **taillamp** *n.* the U.S. names for rear light.

tail off or away *vb. (adv., usually intr.)* to decrease or cause to decrease in quantity, degree, etc., esp. gradually.

taylor ('teɪlə) *n.* 1. a person who makes, repairs, or alters outer garments, esp. men's wear. Related adj.: **sartorial**. 2. Chiefly Austral. a voracious and active marine food fish. ~vb. 3. to cut or style (material, etc.) to satisfy certain requirements. 4. (tr.) to adapt so as to make suitable. 5. (intr.) to work as a tailor. — **tailored** *adj.*

tailorbird ('teɪlə,bɜ:d) *n.* any of several tropical Asian warblers that build nests by sewing together large leaves using plant fibres.

taylor-made *adj.* 1. made by a tailor to fit exactly. 2. perfectly meeting a particular purpose. ~n. 3. a tailor-made garment. 4. Inf. a factory-made cigarette.

tailpiece ('teɪl,pis) *n.* 1. an extension or appendage that lengthens or completes something. 2. a decorative design at the foot of a page or end of a chapter. 3. Music. a piece of wood to which the strings of a violin, etc., are attached at their lower end. 4. a short beam or rafter that has one end embedded in a wall.

tailpipe ('teɪl,paip) *n.* a pipe from which exhaust gases are discharged, esp. the terminal pipe of the exhaust system of a motor vehicle.

tailplane ('teɪl,plem) *n.* a horizontal aerofoil at the tail of an aircraft to provide longitudinal stability. Also called (chiefly U.S.): **horizontal stabilizer**.

tails (teɪlz) *pl. n.* 1. an informal name for tail coat. ~interj., adv. 2. with the reverse side of a coin uppermost.

tailspin ('teɪl,spin) *n.* 1. Aeronautics. another name for spin (sense 15). 2. Inf. a state of confusion or panic.

tailwind ('teɪl,wɪnd) *n.* a wind blowing in the same direction as the course of an aircraft or ship.

taint (teɪnt) *vb.* 1. to affect or be affected by pollution or contamination. 2. to tarnish (someone's reputation, etc.). ~n. 3. a defect or flaw. 4. a trace of contamination or infection. — **taintless** *adj.*

take (teɪk) *vb.* taking, took, taken. (mainly tr.) 1. (also intr.) to gain possession of (something) by force or effort. 2. to appropriate or steal. 3. to receive or accept into a relationship with oneself: to take a wife. 4. to pay for or buy. 5. to rent or lease. 6. to obtain by regular payment. 7. to win. 8. to obtain or derive from a source. 9. to assume the obligations of: to take office. 10. to endure, esp. with fortitude: to take punishment. 11. to adopt as a symbol of duty, etc.: to take the veil. 12. to receive in a specified way: she took the news very well. 13. to adopt as one's own: to take someone's part in a quarrel. 14. to receive and make use of: to take advice. 15. to receive into the body, as by eating, inhaling, etc. 16. to eat, drink, etc., esp. habitually. 17. to have or be engaged in for one's benefit or use: to take

a rest. 18. to work at or study: *to take economics at college*. 19. to make, do, or perform (an action). 20. to make use of: *to take an opportunity*. 21. to put into effect: *to take measures*. 22. (also *intr.*) to make a photograph of or admit of being photographed. 23. to act or perform. 24. to write down or copy: *to take notes*. 25. to experience or feel: *to take offence*. 26. to consider or regard: *I take him to be honest*. 27. to accept as valid: *I take your point*. 28. to hold or maintain in the mind: *his father took a dim view of his career*. 29. to deal or contend with. 30. to use as a particular case: *take hotels for example*. 31. (*intr.*; often foll. by *from*) to diminish or detract: *the actor's bad performance took from the effect of the play*. 32. to confront successfully: *the horse took the jump at the third attempt*. 33. (*intr.*) to have or produce the intended effect: *her vaccination took*. 34. (*intr.*) (of plants, etc.) to start growing successfully. 35. to aim or direct: *he took a swipe at his opponent*. 36. to deal a blow to in a specified place. 37. *Arch.* to have sexual intercourse with. 38. to remove from a place. 39. to carry along or have in one's possession. 40. to convey or transport. 41. to use as a means of transport: *I shall take the bus*. 42. to conduct or lead. 43. to escort or accompany. 44. to bring or deliver to a state, position, etc.: *his ability took him to the forefront*. 45. to seek: *to take cover*. 46. to ascertain by measuring, etc.: *to take a pulse*. 47. (*intr.*) (of a mechanism) to catch or engage (a part). 48. to put an end to: *she took her own life*. 49. to come upon unexpectedly. 50. to contract: *he took a chill*. 51. to affect or attack: *the fever took him one night*. 52. (copula) to become suddenly or be rendered (ill): *he was taken sick*. 53. (also *intr.*) to absorb or become absorbed by something: *to take a polish*. 54. (usually *passive*) to charm: *she was very taken with the puppy*. 55. (*intr.*) to be or become popular; win favour. 56. to require: *that task will take all your time*. 57. to subtract or deduct. 58. to hold: *the suitcase won't take all your clothes*. 59. to quote or copy. 60. to proceed to occupy: *to take a seat*. 61. (often foll. by *to*) to use or employ: *to take steps to ascertain the answer*. 62. to win or capture (a trick, piece, etc.). 63. *Sl.* to cheat, deceive, or victimize. 64. *take amiss*. to be annoyed or offended by. 65. *take at one's word*. to believe to be true or truthful. 66. *take five (or ten)*. *Inf.* chiefly *U.S.* to take a break of five (or ten) minutes. 67. *take heart*. to be encouraged. 68. *take it. Inf.* to stand up to or endure criticism, harsh treatment, etc. 69. *take one's time*. to use as much time as is needed. 70. *take place*. to happen or occur. 71. *take (someone's) name in vain*. a. to use a name, esp. of God, disrespectfully or irreverently. b. *Jocular*. to say a person's name. 72. *take upon oneself*. to assume the right to do or responsibility for something. ~n. 73. the act of taking. 74. the number of quarry killed or captured. 75. *Inf.* chiefly *U.S.* the amount of anything taken, esp. money. 76. *Films*. a. one of a series of recordings from which the best will be selected. b. the process of taking one such recording. c. a scene photographed without interruption. ~See also *take after*, *take back*, *take down*, etc. —*'takeable* or *'takeable adj.* —*'taker* n.

take after vb. (*intr.*, *prep.*) to resemble in appearance, character, behaviour, etc.

take apart vb. (*tr.*, *adv.*) 1. to separate (something) into component parts. 2. to criticize severely.

takeaway ('teikə,wei) *Brit.*, *Austral.* & *N.Z.* ~adj. 1. sold for consumption away from the premises: *a takeaway meal*. 2. selling food for consumption away from the premises: *a takeaway Indian restaurant*. ~n. 3. a shop or restaurant that sells such food. ~*U.S.* word: *takeout*.

take back vb. (*adv.*, *mainly tr.*) 1. to retract or withdraw (something said, written, promised, etc.). 2. to regain possession of. 3. to return for exchange. 4. (also *intr.*) *Printing*. to move (copy) to the previous line.

take down vb. (*tr.*, *adv.*) 1. to record in writing. 2. to dismantle or tear down. 3. to lower or reduce in power, arrogance, etc. (esp. in *to take down a peg*). ~adj. *take-down*. 4. made or intended to be disassembled.

take for vb. 1. (*tr.*, *prep.*) *Inf.* to consider or suppose to be, esp. mistakenly: *the fake coins were taken for genuine*; *who do you take me for?* 2. *take for granted*. a. to accept or assume without question. b. to fail to appreciate the value, merit, etc., of.

take-home pay n. the remainder of one's pay after all income tax and other compulsory deductions have been made.

take in vb. (*tr.*, *adv.*) 1. to understand. 2. to include. 3. to receive into one's house in exchange for payment:

to take in washing; *take in lodgers*. 4. to make (clothing, etc.) smaller by altering seams. 5. *Inf.* to cheat or deceive.

taken ('teikən) vb. 1. the past participle of **take**. ~adj. 2. (*postpositive* foll. by *with*) enthusiastically impressed (by); infatuated (with).

take off vb. (*adv.*) 1. (*tr.*) to remove (a garment). 2. (*intr.*) (of an aircraft) to become airborne. 3. *Inf.* to set out or cause to set out on a journey: *they took off for Spain*. 4. (*tr.*) (of a disease) to kill. 5. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to mimic. ~n. **takeoff**. 6. the act or process of making an aircraft airborne. 7. the stage of a country's economic development when rapid and sustained economic growth is first achieved. 8. *Inf.* an act of mimicry.

take on vb. (*adv.*, *mainly tr.*) 1. to employ or hire. 2. to assume or acquire: *his voice took on a plaintive note*. 3. to agree to do; undertake. 4. to compete against; fight. 5. (*intr.*) *Inf.* to exhibit great emotion, esp. of grief.

take out vb. (*tr.*, *adv.*) 1. to extract or remove. 2. to obtain or secure (a licence, patent, etc.). 3. to go out with; escort. 4. *Bridge*. to bid a different suit from (one's partner) in order to rescue him from a difficult contract. 5. *Austral. inf.* to win, esp. in sport. 6. *take it or a lot out of. Inf.* to sap the energy or vitality of. 7. *take out on. Inf.* to vent (anger, etc.) on. 8. *take someone out of himself. Inf.* to make a person forget his anxieties, problems, etc. ~adj. **takeout**. 9. *Bridge*. of or designating a conventional informatory bid, asking one's partner to bid another suit. ~adj. n. 10. an informal word (chiefly *U.S.*) for *takeaway*.

take over vb. (*adv.*) 1. to assume the control or management of. 2. *Printing*. to move (copy) to the next line. ~n. **takeover**. 3. the act of seizing or assuming power, control, etc.

take to vb. (*intr.*, *prep.*) 1. to make for; flee to: *to take to the hills*. 2. to have a liking for. 3. to have recourse to: *to take to the bottle*. 4. *take to heart*. to regard seriously.

take up vb. (*adv.*, *mainly tr.*) 1. to adopt the study, practice, or activity of: *to take up gardening*. 2. *N.Z.* to occupy and break in (uncultivated land): *he took up some hundreds of acres in the back country*. 3. to shorten (a garment). 4. to pay off (a note, mortgage, etc.). 5. to agree to or accept (an invitation, etc.). 6. to pursue further or resume (something): *he took up French where he left off*. 7. to absorb (a liquid). 8. to act as a patron to. 9. to occupy or fill (space or time). 10. to interrupt, esp. in order to contradict or criticize. 11. *take up on. a.* to argue with (someone): *can I take you up on two points in your talk?* b. to accept what is offered by (someone): *let me take you up on your invitation*. 12. *take up with. a.* to discuss with (someone); refer to. b. (*intr.*) to begin to keep company or associate with.

taking ('teikɪŋ) adj. 1. charming, fascinating, or intriguing. 2. *Inf.* infectious; catching. ~n. 3. something taken. 4. (*pl.*) receipts; earnings. —*'takingly* adv. —*'takingness* n.

talc (tælk) n. also **talcum**. 1. See **talcum powder**. 2. a soft mineral, consisting of magnesium silicate, used in the manufacture of ceramics and paints and as a filler in talcum powder, etc. ~vb. **talcing**, **talcked** or **talcing**, **talced**. 3. (*tr.*) to apply talc to. —*'talcose* or *'talcoous* adj.

talcum powder ('tælkəm) n. a powder made of purified talc, usually scented, used for perfuming the body and for absorbing excess moisture.

tale (teɪ) n. 1. a report, narrative, or story. 2. one of a group of short stories. 3. a. a malicious or meddlesome rumour or piece of gossip. b. (*in combination*): *alebearer*; *taleteller*. 4. a fictitious or false statement. 5. *tell tales*. a. to tell fanciful lies. b. to report malicious stories, trivial complaints, etc., esp. to someone in authority. 6. *tell a tale*. to reveal something important. 7. *tell its own tale*. to be self-evident. 8. *Arch.* a number; amount.

talent ('tælənt) n. 1. innate ability, aptitude, or faculty; above average ability: *a talent for cooking*; *a child with talent*. 2. a person or persons possessing such ability. 3. any of various ancient units of weight and money. 4. *Inf.* girls collectively: *the local talent*. —*'talented* adj.

talent scout n. a person whose occupation is the search for talented sportsmen, performers, etc., for engagements as professionals.

talisman ('tælɪzmən) n., *pl.* **-mans**. 1. a stone or other small object, usually inscribed or carved, believed to protect the wearer from evil influences. 2. anything thought to have magical or protective powers. —**talismanic** ('tælɪz'mænik) adj.

talk (tɔ:k) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*; often foll. by *to* or *with*) to express one's thoughts, feelings, or desires by means of words (to). 2. (*intr.*) to communicate by other means: *lovers talk with their eyes*. 3. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *about*) to exchange ideas or opinions (about). 4. (*intr.*) to articulate words. 5. (*tr.*) to give voice to; utter: *to talk rubbish*. 6. (*tr.*) to discuss: *to talk business*. 7. (*intr.*) to reveal information. 8. (*tr.*) to know how to communicate in (a language or idiom): *he talks English*. 9. (*intr.*) to spread rumours or gossip. 10. (*intr.*) to make sounds suggestive of talking. 11. (*intr.*) to be effective or persuasive: *money talks*. 12. *now you're talking*. *Inf.* at last you're saying something agreeable. 13. *talk big*, to boast. 14. *talk shop*, to speak about one's work, esp. when meeting socially. 15. *you can talk*. *Inf.* you don't have to worry about doing a particular thing yourself. 16. *you can or can't talk*. *Inf.* you yourself are guilty of offending in the very matter you are upholding or decrying. ~*n.* 17. a speech or lecture. 18. an exchange of ideas or thoughts. 19. idle chatter, gossip, or rumour. 20. a subject of conversation; theme. 21. (*often pl.*) a conference, discussion, or negotiation. 22. a specific manner of speaking: *children's talk*. ~See also **talk back**, **talk down**, etc. — **'talker** *n.*

talkative ('tɔ:kətɪv) *adj.* given to talking a great deal. — **'talkatively** *adv.* — **'talkativeness** *n.*

talk back *vb.* 1. (*intr.*, *adv.*) to answer boldly or impudently. ~*n.* **talkback**. 2. *Television, radio*, a system of telephone links enabling spoken directions to be given during the production of a programme.

talk down *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. (*intr.*; often foll. by *to*) to behave (towards) in a superior manner. 2. (*tr.*) to override (a person) by continuous or loud talking. 3. (*tr.*) to give instructions to (an aircraft) by radio to enable it to land.

talkie ('tɔ:ki) *n.* *U.S. inf.* an early film with a soundtrack. Full name: **talking picture**.

talking book *n.* a recording of a book, designed to be used by the blind.

talking-to *n.* *Inf.* a session of criticism, as of a subordinate by a person in authority.

talk into *vb.* (*tr.*, *prep.*) to persuade to by talking: *I talked him into buying the house*.

talk out *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. (*tr.*) to resolve or eliminate by talking. 2. (*tr.*) *Brit.* to block (a bill, etc.) in a legislative body by lengthy discussion. 3. *talk out of*. (*tr.*) to dissuade from by talking.

talk round *vb.* 1. (*tr.*, *adv.*) Also: **talk over**. to persuade to one's opinion. 2. (*intr.*, *prep.*) to discuss (a subject), esp. without coming to a conclusion.

tall (tɔ:l) *adj.* 1. of more than average height. 2. (*postpositive*) having a specified height: *five feet tall*. 3. *Inf.* exaggerated or incredible: *a tall story*. 4. *Inf.* difficult to accomplish: *a tall order*. — **'tallness** *n.*

tailboy ('tɔ:l,bɔɪ) *n.* a high chest of drawers made in two sections and placed one on top of the other.

tallow ('tæləʊ) *n.* 1. a fatty substance extracted chiefly from the suet of sheep and cattle; used for making soap, candles, food, etc. ~*vb.* 2. (*tr.*) to cover or smear with tallow. — **'tallowy** *adj.*

tally ('tæli) *vb.* -**lying**, -**lied**. 1. (*intr.*) to correspond one with the other: *the two stories don't tally*. 2. (*tr.*) to supply with an identifying tag. 3. (*intr.*) to keep score. 4. (*tr.*) *Obs.* to record or mark. ~*n.*, *pl.* -**lies**. 5. any record of debit, credit, the score in a game, etc. 6. *Austral. & N.Z.* the number of sheep shorn in a specified period. 7. an identifying label or mark. 8. a counterpart or duplicate of something. 9. a stick used (esp. formerly) as a record of the amount of a debt according to the notches cut in it. 10. a notch or mark made on such a stick. 11. a mark used to represent a certain number in counting.

tally-ho ('tæli'həʊ) *interj.* 1. the cry of a participant at a hunt when the quarry is sighted. ~*n.*, *pl.* -**hos**. 2. an instance of crying tally-ho. 3. another name for a **four-in-hand** (sense 1). ~*vb.* -**hoing**, -**hoed** or -**ho'd**. 4. (*intr.*) to make the cry of tally-ho.

Talmud ('tælmud) *n.* *Judaism*, the compilation of ancient Jewish law and tradition comprising the Mishnah and the Gemara. — **Tal'mudic** or **Tal'mudical** *adj.* — **Talmudism** *n.* — **'Talmudist** *n.*

talon ('tælən) *n.* 1. a sharply hooked claw, esp. of a bird of prey. 2. anything resembling this. 3. the part of a lock that the key presses on when it is turned. 4. *Piquet*, etc. the pile of cards left after the deal. 5. *Archit.* another name for **ogee**. — **'taloned** *adj.*

tam (tæm) *n.* short for **tam-o'-shanter**.

tamarind ('tæmarɪnd) *n.* 1. a tropical evergreen tree

having yellow flowers and brown pods. 2. the fruit of this tree, used as a food and to make beverages and medicines. 3. the wood of this tree.

tamarisk ('tæmərɪsk) *n.* any of a genus of trees and shrubs of the Mediterranean region and S and SE Asia, having scalelike leaves, slender branches, and feathery flower clusters.

tambour ('tæmbʊə) *n.* 1. *Real tennis*, the sloping buttress on one side of the receiver's end of the court. 2. a small embroidery frame, consisting of two hoops over which the fabric is stretched while being worked. 3. embroidered work done on such a frame. 4. a sliding door on desks, cabinets, etc., made of thin strips of wood glued onto a canvas backing. 5. *Archit.* a wall that is circular in plan, esp. one that supports a dome or one that is surrounded by a colonnade. 6. a drum. ~*vb.* 7. to embroider on a tambour.

tambourine ('tæmbʊərɪn) *n.* *Music*, a percussion instrument consisting of a single drumhead of skin stretched over a circular wooden frame hung with pairs of metal discs that jingle when it is struck or shaken. — **'tambou'rinist** *n.*

tame (teɪm) *adj.* 1. changed by man from a wild state into a domesticated or cultivated condition. 2. (of animals) not fearful of human contact. 3. meek or submissive. 4. flat, insipid, or uninspiring. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 5. to make tame; domesticate. 6. to break the spirit of, subdue, or curb. 7. to tone down, soften, or mitigate. — **'tamable** or **'tameable** *adj.* — **'tamely** *adv.* — **'tameless** *n.* — **'tamer** *n.*

Tamil ('tæmɪl) *n.*, *pl.* -**ils** or -**il**. 1. a member of a mixed Dravidian and Caucasoid people of S India and Sri Lanka. 2. the language of this people. ~*adj.* 3. of or relating to this people or their language.

tam-o'-shanter ('tæməʊ'ʃæntə) *n.* a Scottish brimless wool or cloth cap with a bobble in the centre.

tamp (tæmp) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to force or pack down firmly by repeated blows. 2. to pack sand, earth, etc. into (a drill hole) over an explosive.

tamper¹ ('tæmpə) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. (usually foll. by *with*) to interfere or meddle. 2. to use bribery or blackmail. 3. (usually foll. by *with*) to attempt to influence, esp. by bribery. — **'tamperer** *n.*

tamper² ('tæmpə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that tamps, esp. an instrument for packing down tobacco in a pipe. 2. a casing around the core of a nuclear weapon to increase its efficiency by reflecting neutrons and delaying the expansion.

tampon ('tæmpən) *n.* 1. a plug of lint, cotton wool, etc., inserted into a wound or body cavity to stop the flow of blood, absorb secretions, etc. ~*vb.* 2. (*tr.*) to plug (a wound, etc.) with a tampon. — **'tamponage** *n.*

tan¹ (tæn) *n.* 1. the brown colour produced by the skin after exposure to ultraviolet rays, esp. those of the sun. 2. a yellowish-brown colour. ~*vb.* **tanning**, **tanned**. 3. to go brown or cause to go brown after exposure to ultraviolet rays. 4. to convert (a skin or hide) into leather by treating it with a tanning agent. 5. (*tr.*) *Sl.* to beat or flog. ~*adj.* **tanner**, **tannest**. 6. of the colour tan. — **'tannable** *adj.* — **'tannish** *adj.*

tan² (tæn) *n.* *abbrev. for tangent* (sense 2).

tandem ('tændəm) *n.* 1. a bicycle with two sets of pedals and two saddles, arranged one behind the other for two riders. 2. a two-wheeled carriage drawn by two horses harnessed one behind the other. 3. a team of two horses so harnessed. 4. any arrangement of two things in which one is placed behind the other. ~*adj.* 5. *Brit.* used as, used in, or routed through an intermediate automatic telephone exchange. ~*adv.* 6. one behind the other.

Tandoori ('tændʊəri) *n.* an Indian method of cooking meat or vegetables on a spit in a clay oven.

tang (tæŋ) *n.* 1. a strong taste or flavour. 2. a pungent or characteristic smell. 3. a trace, touch, or hint of something. 4. the pointed end of a tool, such as a chisel, file, knife, etc., which is fitted into a handle, shaft, or stock.

tangent ('tændʒənt) *n.* 1. a geometric line, curve, plane, or curved surface that touches another curve or surface at one point but does not intersect it. 2. (of an angle) a trigonometric function that in a right-angled triangle is the ratio of the length of the opposite side to that of the adjacent side; the ratio of sine to cosine. *Abbrev.*: **tan**. 3. *Music*, a small piece of metal that strikes the string of a clavichord. 4. *on or at a tangent*, on a completely different or divergent course, esp. of thought. ~*adj.* 5. *a.* of or involving a tangent. *b.* touching at a single point. 6. touching. — **'tangency** *n.*

tangential (tæn'dʒenʃəl) *adj.* 1. of, being, or in the direction of a tangent. 2. *Astron.* (of velocity) in a direction perpendicular to the line of sight of a celestial object. 3. of superficial relevance only; digressive. —**tan-gen-ti-al-ity** *n.* —**tan-gen-tially** *adv.*

tangerine (tændʒə'ri:n) *n.* 1. an Asian citrus tree cultivated for its small orange-like fruits. 2. the fruit of this tree, having sweet spicy flesh. 3. a reddish-orange colour.

tangible ('tændʒəbəl) *adj.* 1. capable of being touched or felt. 2. capable of being clearly grasped by the mind. 3. having a physical existence: *tangible property*. —**tan-gi-bility** or **tangibleness** *n.* —**tangibly** *adv.*

tangle ('tæŋɡl) *n.* 1. a confused or complicated mass of hairs, lines, fibres, etc., knotted or coiled together. 2. a complicated problem, condition, or situation. —*vb.* 3. to become or cause to become twisted together in a confused mass. 4. (*intr.*; often foll. by *with*) to come into conflict; contend. 5. (*tr.*) to involve in matters which hinder or confuse. 6. (*tr.*) to ensnare or trap, as in a net. —**tangly** *adj.*

tango ('tæŋɡəʊ) *n., pl. -gos.* 1. a Latin-American dance characterized by long gliding steps and sudden pauses. 2. a piece of music composed for or in the rhythm of this dance. —*vb.* **-going, -goed.** 3. (*intr.*) to perform this dance.

tank (tæŋk) *n.* 1. a large container or reservoir for liquids or gases. 2. an armoured combat vehicle moving on tracks and armed with guns, etc. 3. *Brit. or U.S. dialect.* a reservoir, lake, or pond. 4. *Austral.* a reservoir formed by excavation and damming. 5. *Sl.*, chiefly *U.S.* a jail. 6. also called: **tankful**, the quantity contained in a tank. —*vb.* 7. (*tr.*) to put or keep in a tank. —See also **tank up**.

tankard ('tæŋkəd) *n.* a large one-handed drinking vessel sometimes fitted with a hinged lid.

tanker ('tæŋkə) *n.* a ship, lorry, or aeroplane designed to carry liquid in bulk, such as oil.

tank farming *n.* another name for **hydroponics**. —**tank farmer** *n.*

tank up *vb. (adv.)* Chiefly *Brit.* 1. to fill the tank of (a vehicle) with petrol. 2. *Sl.* to imbibe a large quantity of alcoholic drink.

tanner¹ ('tænə) *n.* a person who tans skins and hides.

tanner² ('tænə) *n. Brit.* an informal word for **sixpence**.

tannery ('tænəri) *n., pl. -eries.* a place or building where skins and hides are tanned.

tannic ('tænik) *adj.* of, relating to, containing, or produced from tan, tannin, or tannic acid.

tannin ('tænin) *n.* any of a class of yellowish compounds found in many plants and used as tanning agents, mordants, medical astringents, etc. Also called: **tannic acid**.

Tannoy ('tænoɪ) *n. Trademark.* a type of public address system.

tansy ('tænzɪ) *n., pl. -sies.* any of numerous plants having yellow flowers in flat-topped clusters and formerly used in medicine and for seasoning.

tantalize or -ise ('tæntə,ləɪz) *vb. (tr.)* to tease or make frustrated, as by tormenting with the sight of something desired but inaccessible. —**tanta,lizer or -iser** *n.* —**tanta,lizingly or -isingly** *adv.*

tantalum ('tæntələm) *n.* a hard greyish-white metallic element: used in electrolytic rectifiers and in alloys to increase hardness and chemical resistance, esp. in surgical instruments. Symbol: Ta; atomic no.: 73; atomic wt.: 180.95.

tantalus ('tæntələs) *n. Brit.* a case in which bottles may be locked with their contents tantalizingly visible.

tantamount ('tæntə,maʊnt) *adj. (postpositive; foll. by to)* as good (as); equivalent in effect (to).

tantrum ('tæntɾəm) *n. (often pl.)* a childish fit of rage; outburst of bad temper.

Taoism ('təʊ,ɪzəm) *n.* a system of religion and philosophy based on the teachings of Lao-tze, 6th-century B.C. Chinese philosopher, and advocating a simple honest life and noninterference with the course of natural events. —**Taoist** *n., adj.* —**Tao-istic** *adj.*

tap¹ ('tæp) *vb.* **tapping, tapped.** 1. to strike (something) lightly and usually repeatedly. 2. to produce by striking in this way: *to tap a rhythm*. 3. (*tr.*) to strike lightly with (something): *to tap one's finger on the desk*. 4. (*intr.*) to walk with a tapping sound. 5. (*tr.*) to attach reinforcing pieces to (the toe or heel of a shoe). —*n.* 6. a light blow or knock, or the sound made by it. 7. the metal piece attached to the toe or heel of a shoe used for tap dancing. 8. short for **tap-dancing**.

tap² ('tæp) *n.* 1. a valve by which a fluid flows from a pipe

can be controlled. *U.S. names:* **faucet, spigot.** 2. a stopper to plug a cask or barrel. 3. a particular quality of alcoholic drink, esp. when contained in casks: *an excellent tap*. 4. *Brit.* short for **taproom**. 5. the withdrawal of fluid from a bodily cavity. 6. a tool for cutting female screw threads. 7. *Electronics, chiefly U.S.* a connection made at some point between the end terminals of an inductor, resistor, etc. Usual *Brit. name:* **tapping**. 8. a concealed listening or recording device connected to a telephone or telegraph wire. 9. **on tap**. *a. Inf.* ready for use. *b. (of drinks)* on draught. —*vb.* **tapping, tapped.** (*tr.*) 10. to furnish with a tap. 11. to draw off with or as if with a tap. 12. *Brit. sl.* *a.* to ask (someone) for money: *he tapped me for a fiver*. *b.* to obtain (money) from someone. 13. to connect a tap to (a telephone or telegraph wire). 14. to make a connection to (a pipe, drain, etc.). 15. to cut a female screw thread in (an object or material) by use of a tap. —**tap-dancer** *n.*

tap dance *n.* 1. a step dance in which the performer wears shoes equipped with taps that make a rhythmic sound on the stage as he dances. —*vb. (intr.)* **tap-dance.** 2. to perform a tap dance. —**tap-dancer** *n.* —**tap-dancing** *n.*

tape (teɪp) *n.* 1. a long thin strip of cotton, linen, etc., used for binding, fastening, etc. 2. a long narrow strip of paper, metal, etc. 3. a string stretched across the track at the end of a race course. 4. See **magnetic tape, ticker tape, tape recording**. —*vb. (mainly tr.)* 5. to furnish with tapes. 6. to bind, measure, secure, or wrap with tape. 7. (*usually passive*) *Brit. inf.* to take stock of (a person or situation). 8. (*also intr.*) Also: **tape-record**, to record (speech, music, etc.). —**tape,like** *adj.* —**tap-er** *n.*

tape deck *n.* the platform supporting the spools, cassettes, or cartridges of a tape recorder, incorporating the motor and the playback, recording, and erasing heads.

tape machine *n.* a telegraphic device that records current stock quotations electronically or on ticker tape. *U.S. equivalent:* **ticker**.

tape measure *n.* a tape or length of metal marked off in inches, centimetres, etc., used for measuring. Also called (*esp. U.S.*): **tapeline**.

taper ('teɪpə) *vb.* 1. to become or cause to become narrower towards one end. 2. to become or cause to become smaller or less significant. —*n.* 3. a thin candle. 4. a thin wooden or waxed strip for transferring a flame; spill. 5. a narrowing. 6. any feeble light. —**taperer** *n.* —**taperingly** *adv.*

tape recorder *n.* an electrical device used for recording sounds on magnetic tape and usually also for reproducing them.

tape recording *n.* 1. the act of recording on magnetic tape. 2. the magnetized tape used for this. 3. the speech, music, etc., so recorded.

tapestry ('tæpɪstri) *n., pl. -tries.* 1. a heavy woven fabric, often in the form of a picture, used for wall hangings, furnishings, etc. 2. another word for **needlepoint**. —**tapestried** *adj.*

tapeworm ('teɪp,wɜ:m) *n.* any of a class of parasitic ribbon-like flatworms. The adults inhabit the intestines of vertebrates.

apioca ('tæpɪ,ʊkə) *n.* a beadlike starch obtained from cassava root, used in cooking as a thickening agent, esp. in puddings.

tapir ('teɪpə) *n., pl. -pirs or -pir.* any of various mammals of South and central America and SE Asia, having an elongated snout, three-toed hind legs, and four-toed forelegs.

tappet ('tæpɪt) *n.* a mechanical part that reciprocates to receive or transmit intermittent motion.

taproom ('tæp,rʊ:m, -rʊm) *n.* a bar, as in a hotel or pub.

taproot ('tæp,rʊ:t) *n.* the main root of plants such as the dandelion, which grows vertically downwards and bears smaller lateral roots.

taps (tæps) *n.* 1. (in army camps, etc.) a signal given on a bugle, drum, etc., indicating that lights are to be put out. 2. any similar signal, as at a military funeral.

tapster ('tæpstə) *n.* 1. *Rare.* a barman. 2. (in W Africa) a man who taps palm trees.

tar¹ ('tɑ:) *n.* 1. any of various dark viscid substances obtained by the destructive distillation of organic matter such as coal, wood, or peat. 2. another name for **coal tar**. —*vb.* **tarring, tarred.** (*tr.*) 3. to coat with tar. 4. **tar and feather**, to punish by smearing tar and feathers

over (someone). **5. tarred with the same brush.** having the same faults. —**'tarry** *adj.* —**'tarriness** *n.*

tar' (tɑː) *n.* an informal word for **seaman**.

taramasalata (ˌtærɒməsəˈlɑːtə) *n.* a creamy pale pink paté, made from the roe of grey mullet or smoked cod and served as an hors d'œuvre.

tarantella (ˌtærənˈtɛlə) *n.* **1.** a peasant dance from S Italy. **2.** a piece of music composed for or in the rhythm of this dance.

tarantula (ˌtærəntjʊlə) *n.* *pl.* **-las** or **-lae** (ˌliː). **1.** any of various large hairy spiders of tropical America. **2.** a large hairy spider of S Europe.

tarboosh (tɑːˈbuːʃ) *n.* a felt or cloth brimless cap, usually red and often with a silk tassel, worn by Muslim men.

tardy (ˈtɑːdi) *adj.* **-dier, -diest.** **1.** occurring later than expected. **2.** slow in progress, growth, etc. —**'tardily** *adv.* —**'tardiness** *n.*

tare' (tæ) *n.* **1.** any of various vetch plants of Eurasia and N Africa. **2.** the seed of any of these plants. **3. Bible.** a weed, thought to be the darnel.

tare' (tæ) *n.* **1.** the weight of the wrapping or container in which goods are packed. **2.** a deduction from gross weight to compensate for this. **3.** the weight of an unladen vehicle. ~*vb.* **4. (tr.)** to weigh (a package, etc.) in order to calculate the amount of tare.

target (ˈtɑːɡɪt) *n.* **1. a.** an object or area at which an archer or marksman aims, usually a round flat surface marked with concentric rings. **b. (as modifier):** *target practice.* **2. a.** any point or area aimed at. **b. (as modifier):** *target area.* **3.** a fixed goal or objective. **4.** a person or thing at which an action or remark is directed or the object of a person's feelings. **5.** a joint of lamb consisting of the breast and neck. **6. (formerly)** a small round shield. **7. Physics, electronics. a.** a substance subjected to bombardment by electrons or other particles, or to irradiation. **b.** an electrode in a television camera tube whose surface is scanned by the electron beam. **8. Electronics.** an object detected by the reflection of a radar or sonar signal, etc. ~*vb.* **9. (tr.)** to make a target of.

tariff (ˈtærɪf) *n.* **1. a.** a tax levied by a government on imports or occasionally exports. **b.** a system or list of such taxes. **2.** any schedule of prices, fees, fares, etc. **3. Chiefly Brit. a.** a method of charging for the supply of services such as gas and electricity. **b.** a schedule of such charges. **4. Chiefly Brit.** a bill of fare with prices listed; menu. ~*vb.* **5.** to set a tariff on. **6.** to price according to a schedule of tariffs.

tarlatan (ˈtɑːlətən) *n.* an open-weave cotton fabric, used for stiffening garments.

Tarmac (ˈtɑːmək) *n.* *Tradenam.* (often not *cap.*) a paving material that consists of crushed stone rolled and bound with a mixture of tar and bitumen, esp. as used for a road, airport runway, etc. Full name: **Tarmacadam** (ˌtɑːməˈkædəm). See also **macadam**.

tarn (tɑːn) *n.* a small mountain lake or pool.

tarnish (ˈtɑːnɪʃ) *vb.* **1.** to lose or cause to lose the shine, esp. by exposure to air or moisture resulting in surface oxidation; discolour. **2.** to stain or become stained; taint. ~*n.* **3.** a tarnished condition, surface, or film. —**'tarnishable** *adj.*

taro (ˈtɑːrəʊ) *n.* *pl.* **-ros.** **1.** an Asian plant, cultivated in the tropics for its large edible rootstock. **2.** the rootstock of this plant.

tarot (ˈtærəʊ) *n.* **1.** one of a special pack of cards, now used mainly for fortune-telling. **2.** a card in a tarot pack with distinctive symbolic design. ~*adj.* **3.** relating to tarot cards.

tarpaulin (tɑːpəˈlɪn) *n.* **1.** a heavy waterproof fabric made of canvas or similar material coated with tar, wax, or paint. **2.** a sheet of this fabric. **3.** a hat made of or covered with this fabric, esp. a sailor's hat. **4.** a rare word for seaman.

tarragon (ˈtærəɡən) *n.* **1.** an aromatic plant of the Old World, having leaves which are used as seasoning. **2.** the leaves of this plant.

tarry (ˈtærɪ) *vb.* **-rying, -ried.** **1. (intr.)** to delay; linger. **2. (intr.)** to remain temporarily or briefly. **3. (intr.)** to wait or stay. **4. (tr.)** *Arch. or poetic.* to await. —**'tarrier** *n.*

tarsal (ˈtɑːsəl) *adj.* **1.** of the tarsus or tarsi. ~*n.* **2.** a tarsal bone.

tarsus (ˈtɑːsəs) *n.* *pl.* **-si** (-sai). **1.** the bones of the ankle and heel, collectively. **2.** the corresponding part in other mammals and in amphibians and reptiles. **3.** the connective tissue supporting the free edge of each eye-

lid. **4.** the part of an insect's leg that lies distal to the tibia.

tart' (tɑːt) *n.* **1. Chiefly Brit.** a pastry case often having no top crust, with a filling of fruit, jam, custard, etc. **2. Chiefly U.S.** a small open pie with a fruit filling. **3. Inf.** a promiscuous woman, esp. a prostitute. ~*vb.* **4.** See **tart up**.

tart' (tɑːt) *adj.* **1. (of a flavour, etc.)** sour; acid. **2.** cutting; sharp: *a tart remark.* —**'tartily** *adv.* —**'tartness** *n.*

tartan (ˈtɑːtən) *n.* **1. a.** a design of straight lines, crossing at right angles to give a chequered appearance, esp. the distinctive design or designs associated with each Scottish clan. **b. (as modifier):** *a tartan kilt.* **2.** a fabric or garment with this design.

tartar' (ˈtɑːtə) *n.* **1.** a hard deposit on the teeth, consisting of food, cellular debris, and mineral salts. **2.** a brownish-red substance consisting mainly of potassium hydrogen tartrate, deposited during the fermentation of wine.

tartar' (ˈtɑːtə) *n.* (sometimes *cap.*) a fearsome or vindictive person, esp. a woman.

Tartar (ˈtɑːtə) *n.* *adj.* a variant spelling of **Tatar**.

tartaric (ˈtɑːtərɪk) *adj.* of, containing, or derived from tartar or tartaric acid.

tartaric acid *n.* a colourless crystalline acid which is found in many fruits: used in soft drinks, confectionery, and baking powders and in tanning and photography.

tartar sauce *n.* a mayonnaise sauce mixed with hard-boiled egg yolks, chopped herbs, capers, etc.

tart up *vb. (adv.)* *Brit. sl.* **1.** to dress and make (oneself) up in a provocative or promiscuous way. **2. (tr.)** to reissue or decorate in a cheap and flashy way: *to tart up a bar.*

Tarzan (ˈtɑːzən) *n.* (sometimes not *cap.*) *Inf., often ironical.* a man with great physical strength, agility, and virility.

task (tɑːsk) *n.* **1.** a specific piece of work required to be done. **2.** an unpleasant or difficult job or duty. **3.** any piece of work. **4. take to task.** to criticize or reprove. ~*vb. (tr.)* **5.** to assign a task to. **6.** to subject to severe strain; tax.

task force *n.* **1.** a military unit formed to undertake a specific mission. **2.** any organization set up to carry out a continuing task.

taskmaster (ˈtɑːsk,mɑːstə) *n.* a person, discipline, etc., that enforces work, esp. hard or continuous work. —**'task,mistress** *fem. n.*

Tasmanian devil (tæzˈmeɪniən) *n.* a small ferocious carnivorous marsupial of Tasmania.

tass (tæs) or **tassie** (ˈtæsi) *n.* *Northern Brit. dialect.* **1.** a cup or glass. **2.** its contents.

Tass (tæs) *n.* the principal news agency of the Soviet Union.

tassel (ˈtæsəl) *n.* **1.** a tuft of loose threads secured by a knot or knob, used to decorate soft furnishings, clothes, etc. **2.** anything resembling this, esp. the tuft of stamens at the tip of a maize inflorescence. ~*vb.* **-selling, -selled** or **U.S. -seling, -seled.** **3. (tr.)** to adorn with tassels. **4. (intr.)** (of maize) to produce stamens in a tuft.

taste (teɪst) *n.* **1.** the sense by which the qualities and flavour of a substance are distinguished by the taste buds. **2.** the sensation experienced by means of the taste buds. **3.** the act of tasting. **4.** a small amount eaten, drunk, or tried on the tongue. **5.** a brief experience of something: *a taste of the whip.* **6.** a preference or liking for something. **7.** the ability to make discerning judgments about aesthetic, artistic, and intellectual matters. **8.** judgment of aesthetic or social matters according to a generally accepted standard: *bad taste.* **9.** discretion; delicacy: *that remark lacks taste.* ~*vb.* **10.** to distinguish the taste of (a substance) by means of the taste buds. **11. (usually tr.)** to take a small amount of (a food, liquid, etc.) into the mouth, esp. in order to test the quality. **12. (often foll. by of)** to have a specific flavour or taste. **13. (when intr., usually foll. by of)** to have an experience of (something): *to taste success.* **14. (tr.)** an archaic word for **enjoy**. —**'tastable** *adj.*

taste bud *n.* any of the elevated sensory organs on the surface of the tongue, by means of which the sensation of taste is experienced.

tasteful (ˈteɪstfʊl) *adj.* indicating good taste: *a tasteful design.* —**'tastefully** *adv.* —**'tastefulness** *n.*

tasteless (ˈteɪstləs) *adj.* **1.** lacking in flavour; insipid. **2.** lacking social or aesthetic taste. —**'tastelessly** *adv.* —**'tastelessness** *n.*

taster (ˈteɪstə) *n.* **1.** a person who samples food or drink

for quality. 2. any device used in tasting or sampling. 3. a person employed, esp. formerly, to taste food and drink prepared for a king, etc., to test for poison.

tasty ('teɪsti) *adj.* **tastier**, **tastiest**. 1. having a pleasant flavour. 2. Rare. showing good taste. —**tastily** *adv.* —**tastiness** *n.*

tat' (tæt) *vb.* **tatting**, **tatted**. to make (something) by tatting.

tat' (tæt) *n.* 1. tatty articles or a tatty condition. 2. a tangled mass.

tat' (tæt) *n.* See **tit** for **tat**.

ta-ta ('tɑ:tɑ:) *sentence substitute*. *Brit. inf.* goodbye; farewell.

Tatar or **Tartar** ('tɑ:tɑ) *n.* 1. a. a member of a Mongoloid people who established a powerful state in central Asia in the 13th century. b. a descendant of this people, now scattered throughout the Soviet Union. 2. the Turkic language or dialects spoken by this people. ~*adj.* 3. of or relating to the Tatars. —**Tatarian** (tɑ:'tʃəriən), **Tar'tarian** or **Tataric** (tɑ:'tærɪk), **Tar'taric** *adj.*

tater ('teɪtə) *n.* a dialect word for potato.

tatter ('tætə) *vb.* 1. to make or become ragged or worn to shreds. ~*n.* 2. a torn or ragged piece, esp. of material.

tatting ('tætɪŋ) *n.* 1. an intricate type of lace made by looping a thread of cotton or linen by means of a hand shuttle. 2. the act or work of producing this.

tattle ('tætəl) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to gossip about another's personal matters. 2. (*tr.*) to reveal by gossiping. 3. (*intr.*) to talk idly; chat. ~*n.* 4. the act or an instance of tattling. 5. a scandal-monger or gossip. —**tattler** *n.*

tattle-tale ('tætəl'teɪl) *Chiefly U.S.* ~*n.* 1. a scandal-monger or gossip. ~*adj.* 2. telltale.

tattoo' (tæ'tu:) *n.*, *pl.* -**toos**. 1. (formerly) a signal by drum or bugle ordering the military to return to their quarters. 2. a military display or pageant. 3. any similar beating on a drum, etc.

tattoo' (tæ'tu:) *vb.* -**toom**, **-toosed**. 1. to make (pictures or designs) on (the skin) by pricking and staining with indelible colours. ~*n.*, *pl.* -**toos**. 2. a design made by this process. 3. the practice of tattooing. —**tat'tooer** or **tat'tooist** *n.*

tatty ('tætɪ) *adj.* -**tier**, -**tiest**. *Chiefly Brit.* worn out, shabby, or unkempt. —**tattiness** *n.*

tau (tɔ:, təu) *n.* the 19th letter in the Greek alphabet (Τ or τ).

taught (tɔ:t) *vb.* the past tense or past participle of **teach**.

taunt (tɔ:nt) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to provoke or deride with mockery, contempt, or criticism. 2. to tease; tantalize. ~*n.* 3. a jeering remark. —**taunter** *n.* —**tauntingly** *adv.*

taupe (təup) *n.* a. a brownish-grey colour. b. (*as modifier*) - a taupe coat.

Taurus ('tɔ:rɒs) *n.* 1. *Astron.* a constellation in the N hemisphere. 2. *Astrol.* Also called: the **Bull**. the second sign of the zodiac. The sun is in this sign between about April 20 and May 20.

taut (tɔ:t) *adj.* 1. tightly stretched; tense. 2. showing nervous strain; stressed. 3. *Chiefly naut.* in good order; neat. —**tautly** *adv.* —**tautness** *n.*

tauten ('tɔ:tɪn) *vb.* to make or become taut.

tautology (tɔ:'tɒlədʒi) *n.*, *pl.* -**gies**. 1. the use of words that merely repeat elements of the meaning already conveyed, as in *Will these supplies be adequate enough?* in place of *Will these supplies be adequate?* 2. *Logic*. a proposition that is always true, as in *either the sun is out or the sun is not out*. —**tautological** (tɔ:tɒ'lɒdʒɪkəl), **tauto'logic**, or **tautologous** *adj.*

tavern ('tævən) *n.* 1. a less common word for **pub**. 2. *U.S. & N.Z.* a place licensed for the sale and consumption of alcoholic drink.

tawdry ('tɔ:drɪ) *adj.* -**drier**, -**driest**. cheap, showy, and of poor quality: *tawdry jewellery*. —**tawdrily** *adv.* —**tawdriness** *n.*

tawny ('tɔ:ni) *n.* a. a light brown to brownish-orange colour. b. (*as adj.*): *tawny port*. —**tawnyness** *n.*

tawny owl *n.* a European owl having a reddish-brown plumage and a round head.

tawse or **taws** ('tɔ:z) *n.* *Scot.* a leather strap having one end cut into thongs, formerly used as an instrument of punishment by a schoolmaster.

tax (tæks) *n.* 1. a compulsory financial contribution imposed by a government to raise revenue, levied on income or property, on the prices of goods and services, etc. 2. a heavy demand on something; strain. ~*vb.* (*tr.*)

3. to levy a tax on (persons, companies, etc.). 4. to make heavy demands on; strain. 5. to accuse or blame. 6. *Law*. to determine (the amount legally chargeable or allowable to a party to a legal action): *to tax costs*. —**taxable** *adj.* —**taxer** *n.*

taxation (tæks'teɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act or principle of levying taxes or the condition of being taxed. 2. a. an amount assessed as tax. b. a tax rate. 3. revenue from taxes. —**tax'ational** *adj.*

tax avoidance *n.* reduction or minimization of tax liability by lawful methods.

tax-deductible *adj.* legally deductible from income or wealth before tax assessment.

tax evasion *n.* reduction or minimization of tax liability by illegal methods.

tax haven *n.* a country or state having a lower rate of taxation than elsewhere.

taxi ('tæksɪ) *n.*, *pl.* **taxis** or **taxies**. 1. Also called: **cab**, **taxicab**, a car, usually fitted with a taximeter, that may be hired to carry passengers to any specified destination. ~*vb.* **taxing** or **taxying**, **taxied**. 2. to cause (an aircraft) to move along the ground, esp. before takeoff and after landing, or (of an aircraft) to move along the ground in this way. 3. (*intr.*) to travel in a taxi.

taxidermy ('tæksɪ,dʒɜ:mi) *n.* the art or process of preparing, stuffing, and mounting animal skins so that they have a lifelike appearance. —**taxi'dermal** or **taxi'dermic** *adj.* —**taxi'dermist** *n.*

taximeter ('tæksɪ,mɪtə) *n.* a meter fitted to a taxi to register the fare, based on the length of the journey.

taxi rank *n.* a place where taxis wait to be hired.

taxonomy ('tæksɒnəmi) *n.* 1. the branch of biology concerned with the classification of organisms into groups based on similarities of structure, origin, etc. 2. the science or practice of classification. —**taxonomic** ('tæksɒ'nɒmɪk) or **taxo'nomical** *adj.* —**taxo'nomically** *adv.* —**tax'onomist** *n.*

taxpayer ('tæks,pɛə) *n.* a person or organization that pays taxes.

tax return *n.* a declaration of personal income used as a basis for assessing an individual's liability for taxation.

Tb the chemical symbol for terbium.

T.B. or **t.b.** *abbrev. for:* 1. tuberculosis. 2. torpedo-boat.

T-bone steak *n.* a large choice steak cut from the sirloin of beef, containing a T-shaped bone.

tbs. or **tbsp.** *abbrev. for* **tablespoon** (ful).

Tc the chemical symbol for technetium.

te or **ti** (ti) *n.* *Music.* (in tonic sol-fa) the syllable used for the seventh note or subtonic of any scale.

Te the chemical symbol for tellurium.

tea (ti) *n.* 1. an evergreen shrub of tropical and subtropical Asia, having white fragrant flowers: family *Theaceae*. 2. a. the dried leaves of this shrub, used to make a beverage by infusion in boiling water. b. such a beverage, served hot or iced. 3. a. any of various similar plants or any plants that are used to make a tea-like beverage. b. any such beverage. 4. Also called: **afternoon tea**. *Chiefly Brit.* a light meal eaten in midafternoon, usually consisting of tea and cakes, etc. 5. See **high tea**. 6. *U.S.* a slang word for **marijuana**.

tea bag *n.* a small bag containing tea leaves, infused in boiling water to make tea.

tea ball *n.* *Chiefly U.S.* a perforated metal ball filled with tea leaves and used to make tea.

teacake ('ti:,keɪk) *n.* *Brit.* a flat bun, usually eaten toasted and buttered.

teach ('ti:tʃ) *vb.* **teaching**, **taught**. 1. (*tr.*; *may take a clause as object or an infinitive*; often foll. by *how*) to help to learn; tell or show (how). 2. to give instruction or lessons in (a subject) to (a person or animal). 3. (*tr.*; *may take a clause as object or an infinitive*) to cause to learn or understand: *experience taught him that he could not be a journalist*. —**teachable** *adj.*

teacher ('ti:tʃə) *n.* a person whose occupation is teaching others, esp. children.

tea chest *n.* a large foil-lined plywood box used for shipping tea and frequently subsequently as a container for other items.

teaching ('ti:tʃɪŋ) *n.* 1. the art or profession of a teacher. 2. something taught; precept.

tea cosy *n.* a covering for a teapot to keep the contents hot.

teacup ('ti:,kʌp) *n.* 1. a cup out of which tea may be drunk. 2. Also called: **teacupful**. the amount a teacup will hold, about four fluid ounces.

teahouse ('ti:;haus) *n.* a restaurant, esp. in Japan or China, where tea and light refreshments are served.

teak (ti:k) *n.* 1. a large tree of the East Indies. 2. the hard resinous yellowish-brown wood of this tree, used for furniture making, etc.

teal (ti:l) *n., pl. teals or teal.* 1. any of various small freshwater ducks that are related to the mallard. 2. a greenish-blue colour.

team (ti:m) *n. (sometimes functioning as pl.)* 1. a group of people organized to work together. 2. a group of players forming one of the sides in a sporting contest. 3. two or more animals working together, as to pull a vehicle. 4. such animals and the vehicle. ~*vb.* 5. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *up*) to make or cause to make a team. 6. (*tr.*) *U.S.* to drag or transport in or by a team. 7. (*intr.*) *U.S.* to drive a team.

team-mate *n.* a fellow member of a team.

team spirit *n.* willingness to cooperate as part of a team.

teamster ('ti:mstə) *n.* 1. a driver of a team of horses. 2. *U.S.* the driver of a lorry.

teamwork ('ti:m,wɜ:k) *n.* 1. the cooperative work done by a team. 2. the ability to work efficiently as a team.

teapot ('ti:pɒt) *n.* a container with a lid, spout, and handle, in which tea is made and from which it is served.

tear¹ (tiə) *n.* 1. a drop of the secretion of the lacrimal glands. See **tears**. 2. something shaped like a falling drop: a *tear of amber*. ~Also called: **teardrop**. —**tearless** *adj.*

tear² (tiə) *vb.* **tearing, tore, torn.** 1. to cause to come apart or to come apart; rip. 2. (*tr.*) to make (a hole or split) in (something). 3. (*intr.*; often foll. by *along*) to hurry or rush. 4. (*tr.*; usually foll. by *away* or *from*) to remove or take by force. 5. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *at*) to cause pain, distress, or anguish (to). 6. **tear one's hair.** *Inf.* to be angry, frustrated, very worried, etc. ~*n.* 7. a hole, cut, or split. 8. the act of tearing. ~See also **tear away, tear down, etc.** —**tearable** *adj.* —**tearer** *n.*

tear away (tiə) *vb.* 1. (*tr., adv.*) to persuade (oneself or someone else) to leave. ~*n.* **tearaway.** 2. *Brit.* a reckless impetuous person.

tear down (tiə) *vb. (tr., adv.)* to destroy or demolish: *to tear down an argument.*

tear duct (tiə) *n.* a short tube in the inner corner of the eyelid through which tears drain into the nose. Technical name: **lacrimal duct**.

tearful ('ti:fəl) *adj.* 1. crying or about to cry. 2. tending to produce tears; sad. —**tearfully** *adv.* —**tearfulness** *n.*

tear gas (tiə) *n.* a gas that makes the eyes smart and water, causing temporary blindness; used in warfare and to control riots.

tearing ('tiəriŋ) *adj.* violent or furious (esp. in **tearing hurry** or **rush**). —**tearingly** *adv.*

tear into (tiə) *vb. (intr., prep.)* *Inf.* to attack vigorously and damagingly.

tear-jerker ('ti:dʒɜ:kə) *n.* *Inf.* an excessively sentimental film, play, book, etc.

tearoom ('ti:ru:m, -rum) *n.* *Brit.* a restaurant where tea and light refreshments are served. Also called: **tea-shop**.

tears (tiəz) *pl. n.* 1. the clear salty solution secreted by the lacrimal glands that lubricates and cleanses the surface of the eyeball. 2. a state of intense frustration (esp. in **bored to tears**). 3. in **tears**. weeping.

tease (ti:z) *vb.* 1. to annoy (someone) by deliberately offering something with the intention of delaying or withdrawing the offer. 2. to vex (someone) maliciously or playfully. 3. (*tr.*) to separate the fibres of; comb; card. 4. (*tr.*) to raise the nap of (a fabric) with a tease. 5. another word (esp. *U.S.*) for backcomb. 6. (*tr.*) to loosen or pull apart (biological tissues, etc.). ~*n.* 7. a person or thing that teases. 8. the act of teasing. —**teaser** *n.* —**teasingly** *adv.*

teasel, teazel, or teazle ('ti:zəl) *n.* 1. any of various plants (esp. the **fuller's teasel**) of Eurasia and N Africa, having prickly leaves and prickly heads of yellow or purple flowers. 2. a. the dried flower head of the fuller's teasel, used for teasing. b. any implement used for the same purpose. ~*vb.* **-selling, -selled** or *U.S.* **-seling, -seled.** 3. (*tr.*) to tease (a fabric). —**teaseller** *n.*

teaspoon ('ti:spu:n) *n.* 1. a small spoon used for stirring tea, etc. 2. Also called: **teaspoonful** the amount contained in such a spoon. 3. a unit of capacity used in cooking, medicine, etc., equal to about one fluid dram.

teat (ti:t) *n.* 1. a. the nipple of a mammary gland. b. (in

cows, etc.) any of the projections from the udder. 2. something resembling a teat such as the rubber mouth-piece of a feeding bottle.

tea towel or cloth *n.* a towel for drying dishes, etc. *U.S.* name: **dish towel**.

tech. *abbrev. for:* 1. technical. 2. technology. 3. *Inf.* technical college.

technetium (tek'nirjəm) *n.* a silvery-grey metallic element, artificially produced by bombardment of molybdenum by deuterons. The radioisotope **technetium-99m** is used in radiotherapy. Symbol: Tc; atomic no.: 43; half-life of most stable isotope, ⁹⁹Tc: 2.6 × 10⁵ years.

technic (tek'nik) *n.* another word for **technique**.

technical ('tekni:kəl) *adj.* 1. of or specializing in industrial, practical, or mechanical arts and applied sciences: a *technical institute*. 2. skilled in practical arts rather than abstract thinking. 3. relating to a particular field of activity: *the technical jargon of linguistics*. 4. existing by virtue of a strict application of the rules or a strict interpretation of the wording: a *technical loophole in the law*. 5. of or showing technique: *technical brilliance*. —**technically** *adv.* —**technicalness** *n.*

technicality ('tekni:kəli) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. a petty formal point arising from a strict interpretation of rules, etc. 2. the state or quality of being technical. 3. technical methods and vocabulary.

technical knockout *n.* **Boxing.** a judgment of a knockout given when a boxer is in the referee's opinion too badly beaten to continue without risk of serious injury.

technician (tek'nɪʃən) *n.* 1. a person skilled in mechanical or industrial techniques or in a particular technical field. 2. a person employed in a laboratory, etc., to do mechanical and practical work. 3. a person having specific artistic or mechanical skill, esp. if lacking flair.

Technicolor ('tekni:kələ) *n.* **Trademark.** the process of producing colour film by means of superimposing synchronized films of the same scene, each of which has a different colour filter.

technique (tek'nik) *n.* 1. a practical method, skill, or art applied to a particular task. 2. proficiency in a practical or mechanical skill. 3. special facility; knack.

techno- *combining form.* 1. craft or art: *technology; technography*. 2. technological or technical: *technocracy*.

technocracy (tek'nɒkrəsi) *n., pl. -cies.* government by scientists, engineers, and other such experts. —**technocrat** ('tekni:kɹət) *n.* —**techno'cratic** *adj.*

technology (tek'nɒlədʒi) *n., pl. -gies.* 1. the application of practical or mechanical sciences to industry or commerce. 2. the methods, theory, and practices governing such application. 3. the total knowledge and skills available to any human society. —**technological** ('tekni:lɒdʒikəl) *adj.* —**technologist** *n.*

tectonics (tek'toniks) *n. (functioning as sing.)* 1. the art and science of construction or building. 2. the study of the processes by which the earth's surface has attained its present structure.

ted¹ (ted) *vb.* **tedding, teded.** to shake out (hay), so as to dry it.

ted² (ted) *n.* *Inf.* short for **teddy boy**.

tedder ('tedə) *n.* 1. a machine equipped with a series of small rotating forks for tedding hay. 2. a person who teds.

teddy bear ('tedi) *n.* a stuffed toy bear. Often shortened to **teddy**.

teddy boy *n.* 1. (in Britain, esp. in the mid-1950s) one of a cult of youths who wore mock Edwardian fashions. 2. any tough or delinquent youth.

Te Deum (,ti: 'di:əm) *n.* 1. an ancient Latin hymn in rhythmic prose. 2. a musical setting of this hymn. 3. a service of thanksgiving in which the recital of this hymn forms a central part.

tedious ('ti:diəs) *adj.* causing fatigue or tedium; monotonous. —**tediously** *n.*

tedium ('ti:diəm) *n.* the state of being bored or the quality of being boring; monotony.

tee¹ (ti:; *n.* 1. a pipe fitting in the form of a letter T, used to join three pipes. 2. a metal section with a cross section in the form of a letter T.

tee² (ti:; *Golf.* ~*n.* 1. an area from which the first stroke of a hole is made. 2. a support for a golf ball, usually a small wooden or plastic peg, used when teeing off or in long grass, etc. ~*vb.* **teeing, teed.** 3. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *up*) to position (the ball) ready for striking, on or as if on a tee. ~See also **tee off**.

tee' (ti:) *n.* 1. a mark used as a target in certain games such as curling and quoits. 2. to a tee, perfectly or exactly.

tee-hee ('ti:hi:) *interj., n., vb.* a variant spelling of *tee-hee*.

teem' (ti:m) *vb. (intr., usually foll. by with)* to be prolific or abundant (in).

teem' (ti:m) *vb.* 1. (*intr.; often foll. by down or with rain*) to pour in torrents. 2. (*tr.*) to pour or empty out.

teen (ti:n) *adj. Inf.* another word for *teenage*.

teenage ('ti:n,eɪdʒ) *adj. also teenaged. (prenominal)* of or relating to the time in a person's life between the ages of 13 and 19.

teenager ('ti:n,eɪdʒ) *n.* a person between the ages of 13 and 19 inclusive.

teens (ti:nz) *pl. n.* 1. the years of a person's life between the ages of 13 and 19 inclusive. 2. all the numbers that end in *-teen*.

teeny ('ti:ni) *adj. -nier, -niest.* extremely small; tiny. Also: **teeny-weeny** ('ti:ni'wi:ni) or **teensy-weensy** ('ti:nzi'wi:nzi).

teenybopper ('ti:ni,bɒpə) *n. Sl.* a young teenager, usually a girl, who avidly follows fashions in clothes and pop music.

tee off *vb. (adv.)* 1. *Golf.* to strike (the ball) from a tee. 2. *Inf.* to begin; start.

teepee ('ti:pi:) *n.* a variant spelling of *tepee*.

tee-shirt *n.* a variant of *T-shirt*.

teeter ('ti:tə) *vb.* 1. to move or cause to move unsteadily; wobble. ~*n., vb.* 2. another word for *seesaw*.

teeth (ti:θ) *n.* 1. the plural of *tooth*. 2. the most violent part: *the teeth of the gale*. 3. the power to produce a desired effect: *that law has no teeth*. 4. *by the skin of one's teeth*. See *skin*. 5. *get one's teeth into*, to become engrossed in. 6. *in the teeth of*, in direct opposition to; against. 7. *to the teeth*, to the greatest possible degree: *armed to the teeth*. 8. *show one's teeth*, to threaten.

teethe (ti:ð) *vb. (intr.)* to cut one's baby (deciduous) teeth.

teething ring *n.* a hard ring on which babies may bite while teething.

teething troubles *pl. n.* the problems that arise during the initial stages of a project, etc.

teetotal ('ti:təʊtəl) *adj.* 1. of or practising abstinence from alcoholic drink. 2. *Inf.* complete. —**tee'totaler** *n.* —**tee'totalism** *n.*

te-hee ('ti:hi:) *interj.* 1. an exclamation of laughter, esp. when mocking. ~*n.* 2. a chuckle. ~*vb. -heeing, -heed.* 3. (*intr.*) to snigger or laugh, esp. derisively.

tel. *abbrev. for:* 1. telegram. 2. telegraph(ic). 3. telephone.

tel- *combining form.* a variant of *tele-* before a vowel.

tele- *combining form.* 1. at or over a distance; distant: *telescope; telekinesis*. 2. television: *teletext*.

teletcast ('telə,kɑ:st) *vb. -casting, -cast or -casted.* 1. to broadcast by television. ~*n.* 2. a television broadcast. —**tele,caster** *n.*

telecommunications ('telɪkə,mju:nɪ'keɪʃənz) *n.* (*functioning as sing.*) the science and technology of communications by telephony, radio, television, etc.

telegram ('telɪ,græm) *n.* a communication transmitted by telegraph.

telegraph ('telɪ,grɑ:f) *n.* 1. a. a device, system, or process by which information can be transmitted over a distance, esp. using radio signals or coded electrical signals sent along a transmission line. b. (*as modifier*): *telegraph pole*. ~*vb.* 2. to send a telegram to (a person or place); wire. 3. (*tr.*) to transmit or send by telegraph. 4. (*tr.*) to give advance notice of (anything), esp. unintentionally. 5. (*tr.*) *Canad. inf.* to cast (votes) illegally by impersonating registered voters. —**telegrapher** ('telɪ'grɑ:fə) or **telegraphist** *n.* —**tele'graphic** *adj.*

telegraphy ('telɪ'grɑ:fɪ) *n.* 1. a system of telecommunications involving any process providing reproduction at a distance of written, printed, or pictorial matter. 2. the skill or process of operating a telegraph.

telekinesis ('telɪkə'nɪsɪs) *n.* 1. the movement of a body caused by thought or willpower without the application of a physical force. 2. the ability to cause such movement. —**telekinetic** ('telɪkɪ'netɪk) *adj.*

telemeter ('telɪmɪtə) *n.* 1. any device for recording or measuring a distant event and transmitting the data to a receiver. 2. any device used to measure a distance without directly comparing it with a measuring rod, etc. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to obtain and transmit (data) from a distant source. —**telemetric** ('telɪ'metɪk) *adj.*

teleology ('telɪ'blɒdʒɪ, 'ti:lɪ-) *n.* 1. *Philosophy.* a. the

study of the evidence of design or purpose in nature. b. the ultimate purpose of things, esp. natural processes. c. the belief that final causes exist. 2. *Biol.* the belief that natural phenomena have a predetermined purpose and are not determined by mechanical laws. —**teleological** ('telə'lɒdʒɪkəl, 'ti:lɪ-) *adj.* —**tele'ologist** *n.*

telepathy ('telɪpəθi) *n.* the communication between people of thoughts, feelings, etc., involving mechanisms that cannot be understood in terms of known scientific laws. —**telepathic** ('telɪ'pæθɪk) *adj.* —**telepathist** *n.* —**telepa,thize or -ise** *vb. (intr.)*.

telephone ('telɪfəʊn) *n.* 1. an electrical device for transmitting speech, consisting of a microphone and receiver mounted on a handset. 2. a. a worldwide system of communications using telephones. The microphone in one telephone converts sound waves into electrical oscillations that are transmitted along a telephone wire or by radio to one or more distant sets. b. (*as modifier*): *a telephone exchange*. ~*vb.* 3. to call or talk to (a person) by telephone. 4. to transmit (a message, etc.) by telephone. —**tele'phoner** *n.*

telephone box *n.* a soundproof enclosure from which a paid telephone call can be made. Also called: **telephone kiosk, telephone booth**.

telephone directory *n.* a book listing the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of subscribers in a particular area.

telephonist ('telɪfənist) *n. Brit.* a person who operates a telephone switchboard. Also called (*esp. U.S.*): **telephone operator**.

telephony ('telɪfəni) *n.* a system of telecommunications for the transmission of speech or other sounds.

telephotography ('telɪfə'tɒɡrəfi) *n.* the process or technique of photographing distant objects using a telephoto lens.

telephoto lens ('telɪ,fəʊtəʊ) *n.* a lens system that can be attached to a camera to increase the effective focal length of the camera lens and thus produce a magnified image of a distant object.

teleprinter ('telɪ,prɪntə) *n.* 1. a telegraph apparatus consisting of a keyboard transmitter, which converts a typed message into coded pulses for transmission along a wire or cable, and a printing receiver, which converts incoming signals and prints out the message. U.S. name: **teletypewriter**. 2. a network of such devices. 3. a similar device used for direct input/output of data into a computer at a distant location.

Teleprompter ('telɪ,pʁɒptə) *n. Trademark.* a device for displaying a television script so that the speaker can read it while appearing to look at the camera.

telescope ('telɪ,skəʊp) *n.* 1. an optical instrument for making distant objects appear closer by use of a combination of lenses (**refracting telescope**) or lenses and curved mirrors (**reflecting telescope**). 2. any instrument, such as a radio telescope, for collecting, focusing, and detecting electromagnetic radiation from space. ~*vb.* 3. to crush together or be crushed together, as in a collision. 4. to fit together like a set of cylinders that slide into one another, thus allowing extension and shortening. 5. to make or become smaller or shorter. —**tele'scopic** *adj.*

teletext ('telɪ,tekst) *n.* a videotext service in which the consumer is not able to interact with the computer. Cf. **viewdata**.

Teletype ('telɪ,təɪp) *n.* 1. *Trademark.* a type of teleprinter. 2. (*sometimes not cap.*) a network of such devices. ~*vb.* 3. (*sometimes not cap.*) to transmit (a message) by Teletype.

televise ('telɪ,vəɪz) *vb.* 1. to put on television. 2. (*tr.*) to transmit by television.

television ('telɪ,vɪʒən) *n.* 1. the system or process of producing on a distant screen a series of transient visible images, usually with an accompanying sound signal. Electrical signals, converted from optical images by a camera tube, are transmitted by radio waves or by cable and reconverted into optical images by means of a television tube inside a television set. 2. Also called: **television set**, a device designed to receive and convert incoming electrical signals into a series of visible images on a screen together with accompanying sound. 3. the content, etc., of television programmes. 4. the occupation or profession concerned with any aspect of the broadcasting of television programmes. 5. (*modifier*) of, relating to, or used in the transmission or reception of video and audio UHF or VHF radio signals: *a television transmitter*. ~*Abbrev.* **TV**

telex ('teleks) *n.* 1. an international telegraph service in which teleprinters are rented out to subscribers. 2. a

teleprinter—used in such a service. **3.** a message transmitted or received by telex. ~vb. **4.** to transmit (a message) to (a person, etc.) by telex.

tell (tel) vb. **telling, told.** **1.** (when tr., may take a clause as object) to let know or notify. **2.** (tr.) to order or instruct. **3.** (when intr., usually foll. by of) to give an account or narration of. **4.** (tr.) to communicate by words; utter: *to tell the truth.* **5.** (tr.) to make known: *to tell fortunes.* **6.** (intr., often foll. by of) to serve as an indication: *her blush told of her embarrassment.* **7.** (tr.; used with can, etc.; may take a clause as object) to discover or discern: *I can tell what is wrong.* **8.** (tr.; used with can, etc.) to distinguish or discriminate: *he couldn't tell chalk from cheese.* **9.** (intr.) to have or produce an impact, effect, or strain: *every step told on his bruised feet.* **10.** (intr.; sometimes foll. by on) *Inf.* to reveal secrets or gossip (about). **11.** (tr.) to assure: *I tell you, I've had enough!* **12.** (tr.) to count (votes). **13.** tell the time, to read the time from a clock. **14.** you're telling me. *Sl.* I know that very well. —'tellable adj.

tell apart vb. (tr., adv.) to distinguish between.

teller ('telə) n. **1.** Chiefly U.S. a bank clerk. **2.** a person appointed to count votes. **3.** a person who tells; narrator.

telling ('telɪŋ) adj. **1.** having a marked effect or impact. **2.** revealing. —'tellingly adv.

tell off vb. (tr., adv.) **1.** *Inf.* to reprimand; scold. **2.** to count and select for duty.

telltale ('tel,tel) n. **1.** a person who tells tales about others. **2.** a. an outward indication of something concealed. **b.** (as modifier) a telltale paw mark. **3.** a device used to monitor a process, machine, etc.

teliurian (te'ljuəriən) adj. **1.** of the earth. ~n. **2.** (esp. in science fiction) an inhabitant of the earth.

tellurium (te'ljuəriəm) n. a brittle silvery-white nonmetallic element. Symbol: Te; atomic no.: 52; atomic wt.: 127.60.

telly ('telɪ) n., pl. -lies. *Inf.*, chiefly Brit. short for television.

temerity (ti'meriti) n. rashness or boldness. —'temerarious (,tɛmə'reɪəriəs) adj.

temp (temp) *Inf.* ~n. **1.** a person, esp. a typist or other office worker, employed on a temporary basis. ~vb. (intr.) **2.** to work as a temp.

temp. abbrev. for: **1.** temperature. **2.** temporary. **3.** tempore.

temper ('tempə) n. **1.** a frame of mind; mood or humour. **2.** a sudden outburst of anger. **3.** a tendency to exhibit anger; irritability. **4.** a mental condition of moderation and calm (esp. in keep one's temper or lose one's temper). **5.** the degree of hardness, elasticity, etc. of a metal. ~vb. (tr.) **6.** to make more acceptable or suitable by adding something else; moderate: *he tempered his criticism with sympathy.* **7.** to strengthen or toughen (a metal), as by heating and quenching. **8.** *Music.* a. to adjust the frequency differences between the notes of a scale on (a keyboard instrument). **b.** to make such an adjustment to the pitches of notes in (a scale). —'temperable adj. —'temperer n.

tempera ('tempərə) n. **1.** a painting medium for powdered pigments, consisting usually of egg yolk and water. **2.** a. any emulsion used as a painting medium, with casein, glue, wax, etc., as a base. **b.** the paint made from this. **3.** the technique of painting with tempera.

temperament ('tempərəmənt) n. **1.** a person's character, disposition, and tendencies. **2.** excitability, moodiness, or anger. **3.** the characteristic way an individual behaves, esp. towards other people. **4.** a. an adjustment made to the frequency differences between notes on a keyboard instrument to allow modulation to other keys. **b.** any of several systems of such adjustment, esp. equal temperament, a system giving a scale based on an octave divided into twelve exactly equal semitones. **5.** *Obs.* the characteristic way an individual behaves, viewed as the result of the influence of the four humours.

temperamental (,tɛmpərə'mentl) adj. **1.** easily upset or irritated; excitable. **2.** of or caused by temperament. **3.** *Inf.* working erratically and inconsistently; unreliable. —'temperamentally adv.

temperance ('tɛmpərəns) n. **1.** restraint or moderation, esp. in yielding to one's appetites or desires. **2.** abstinence from alcoholic drink.

temperate ('tɛmpərət) adj. **1.** having a climate intermediate between tropical and polar; moderate or mild in temperature. **2.** mild in quality or character; exhibiting temperance. —'temperately adv. —'temperateness n.

Temperate Zone n. those parts of the earth's surface lying between the Arctic Circle and the tropic of Cancer

and between the Antarctic Circle and the tropic of Capricorn.

temperature ('tɛmpɪtʃə) n. **1.** the degree of hotness of a body, substance, or medium, esp. as measured on a scale that has one or more fixed reference points. **2.** *Inf.* a body temperature in excess of the normal.

tempered ('tɛmpəd) adj. **1.** *Music.* adjusted in accordance with a system of temperament. **2.** (in combination) having a temper or temperament as specified: *ill-tempered.*

tempest ('tɛmpɪst) n. **1.** Chiefly literary. a violent wind or storm. **2.** a violent commotion, uproar, or disturbance.

tempestuous (tɛm'pestʃuəs) adj. **1.** of or relating to a tempest. **2.** violent or stormy. —tem'pestuously adv. —tem'pestuousness n.

template or templet ('tɛmplɪt) n. **1.** a gauge or pattern, cut out in wood or metal, used in woodwork, etc., to help shape something accurately. **2.** a pattern cut out in card or plastic, used to reproduce shapes. **3.** a short beam that is used to spread a load, as over a doorway. **4.** *Biochem.* the molecular structure of a compound that serves as a pattern for the production of another compound.

temple ('tɛmpəl) n. **1.** a building or place dedicated to the worship of a deity or deities. **2.** a Mormon church. **3.** U.S. another name for a synagogue. **4.** a Christian church. **5.** *Theol.* any place or object regarded as a shrine where God makes himself present. **6.** a building regarded as the focus of an activity, interest, or practice: *a temple of the arts.*

temple ('tɛmpəl) n. the region on each side of the head in front of the ear and above the cheek bone.

temple ('tɛmpəl) n. the part of a loom that keeps the cloth being woven stretched to the correct width.

Temple ('tɛmpəl) n. **1.** a building in London that belonged to the Templars; it now houses two law societies. **2.** any of three buildings erected by the Jews in ancient Jerusalem for the worship of Jehovah.

tempo ('tɛmpəʊ) n., pl. -pos or -pi (-pi:). **1.** the speed at which a piece of music is meant to be played. **2.** rate or pace.

temporal ('tɛmpərəl) adj. **1.** of or relating to time. **2.** of secular as opposed to spiritual or religious affairs. **3.** lasting for a relatively short time. **4.** *Grammar.* of or relating to tense or the linguistic expression of time. —'temporality n. —'temporally adv.

temporal ('tɛmpərəl) adj. *Anat.* of or near the temple or temples.

temporal bone n. either of two compound bones forming the sides of the skull.

temporary ('tɛmpərəri) adj. **1.** not permanent; provisional. **2.** lasting only a short time. ~n. **3.** a person employed on a temporary basis. —'temporarily adv. —'temporariness n.

temporize or -ise ('tɛmpə,raɪz) vb. (intr.) **1.** to delay, act evasively, or protract a negotiation, etc., esp. in order to gain time or effect a compromise. **2.** to adapt oneself to the circumstances, as by temporary or apparent agreement. —'temporization or -i'sation n. —'temporizer or -iser n.

tempt (tempt) vb. (tr.) **1.** to entice to do something, esp. something morally wrong or unwise. **2.** to allure or attract. **3.** to give rise to a desire in (someone) to do something; dispose. **4.** to risk provoking (esp. in tempt fate). —'temptable adj. —'tempter n. —'temptress fem. n.

temptation (tɛmp'teɪʃən) n. **1.** the act of tempting or the state of being tempted. **2.** a person or thing that tempts.

tempting ('tɛmpɪŋ) adj. attractive or inviting: *a tempting meal.* —'temptingly adv.

tempus fugit Latin. ('tɛmpəs 'fju:dʒɪt) time flies.

ten (ten) n. **1.** the cardinal number that is the sum of nine and one. It is the base of the decimal number system and the base of the common logarithm. **2.** a numeral 10, X, etc., representing this number. **3.** something representing or consisting of ten units. **4.** Also called: **ten o'clock.** ten hours after noon or midnight. ~determiner. **5.** amounting to ten. ~Related adj.: decimal. —tenth adj.

ten. *Music.* abbrev. for: **1.** tenor. **2.** tenuto.

tenable ('tenəbəl) adj. able to be upheld, believed, maintained, or defended. —'tenability or 'tenableness n. —'tenably adv.

tenacious (ti'neɪʃəs) adj. **1.** holding firmly: *a tenacious grip.* **2.** retentive: *a tenacious memory.* **3.** stubborn or

persistent. 4. holding together firmly; cohesive. 5. tending to stick or adhere. —*tenaciously* adv. —*tenaciousness* or *tenacity* (tɪˈnæsi) *n.*

tenancy ('tenənsi) *n.*, *pl.* -cies. 1. the temporary possession or holding by a tenant of lands or property owned by another. 2. the period of holding or occupying such property. 3. the period of holding office, a position, etc.

tenant ('tenənt) *n.* 1. a person who holds, occupies, or possesses land or property, esp. from a landlord. 2. a person who has the use of a house, etc., subject to the payment of rent. 3. any holder or occupant. ~vb. 4. (tr.) to hold as a tenant. —*'tenantable* adj. —*'tenantless* adj.

tenant farmer *n.* a person who farms land rented from another, the rent usually taking the form of crops or livestock.

tenantry ('tenəntri) *n.* 1. tenants collectively. 2. the status or condition of being a tenant.

tench (tentʃ) *n.* a European freshwater game fish of the carp family.

Ten Commandments *pl. n. the. Old Testament.* the commandments summarizing the basic obligations of man towards God and his fellow-men, delivered to Moses on Mount Sinai engraved on two tables of stone (Exodus 20:1-17).

tend (tend) *vb.* (when *intr.*, usually foll. by *to* or *towards*) 1. (when *tr.*, takes an infinitive) to have a general disposition (to do something); be inclined: *children tend to prefer sweets to meat*. 2. (*intr.*) to have or be an influence (towards a specific result). 3. (*intr.*) to go or move (in a particular direction): *to tend to the south*.

tend (tend) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to care for. 2. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *on* or *to*) to attend (to). 3. (tr.) to handle or control. 4. (*intr.*; often foll. by *to*) *Inf.*, chiefly U.S. to pay attention.

tendency ('tendənsi) *n.*, *pl.* -cies. 1. (often foll. by *to*) an inclination, predisposition, propensity, or leaning. 2. the general course, purport, or drift of something, esp. a written work.

tendentious or **tendencious** (ten'denʃəs) *adj.* having or showing an intentional tendency or bias, esp. a controversial one. —*ten'dentiously* or *ten'denciously* adv. —*ten'dentiousness* or *ten'denciousness* *n.*

tender¹ ('tendə) *adj.* 1. easily broken, cut, or crushed; soft. 2. easily damaged; vulnerable or sensitive: *at a tender age*. 3. having or expressing warm feelings. 4. kind or sympathetic: *a tender heart*. 5. arousing warm feelings; touching. 6. gentle and delicate: *a tender breeze*. 7. requiring care in handling: *a tender question*. 8. painful or sore. 9. sensitive to moral or spiritual feelings. 10. (*postpositive*; foll. by *of*) protective: *tender of one's emotions*. —*'tenderly* adv. —*'tenderness* *n.*

tender² ('tendə) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to give, present, or offer: *to tender a bid*. 2. Law. to offer (money or goods) in settlement of a debt or claim. ~*n.* 3. the act or an instance of tendering; offer. 4. a formal offer to supply specified goods or services at a stated cost or rate. 5. something, esp. money, used as an official medium of payment: *legal tender*. —*'tenderer* *n.*

tender³ ('tendə) *n.* 1. a small boat towed or carried by a ship. 2. a vehicle drawn behind a steam locomotive to carry the fuel and water. 3. a person who tends.

tenderfoot ('tendə,fʊt) *n.*, *pl.* -foots or -feet. 1. a newcomer, esp. to the mines or ranches of the south-western U.S. 2. (formerly) a beginner in the Scouts.

tenderize or **-ise** ('tendə,raɪz) *vb.* (tr.) to make (meat) tender, as by pounding it or adding a substance to break down the fibres. —*'tender,izer* or *-iser* *n.*

tenderloin ('tendə,lɔɪn) *n.* a tender cut of pork or other meat from between the sirloin and ribs.

tendon ('tendən) *n.* a cord or band of tough tissue that attaches a muscle to a bone or some other part; sinew.

tendrill ('tendrɪl) *n.* a threadlike leaf or stem that attaches climbing plants to a support by twining or adhering.

tenebrous ('tenəbrəs) or **tenebrious** (tə'nebrɪəs) *adj.* gloomy, shadowy, or dark.

tenement ('tenəmənt) *n.* 1. Also called: **tenement building**, a large building divided into rooms or flats. 2. a dwelling place or residence. 3. Chiefly Brit. a room or flat for rent. 4. Property law. any form of permanent property, such as land, dwellings, offices, etc. —*tenemental* (tenə'mentl) *adj.*

tenet ('tent, 'tɪnɪt) *n.* a belief, opinion, or dogma.

tenfold ('ten,fəʊld) *adj.* 1. equal to or having 10 times

as many or as much. 2. composed of 10 parts. ~adv. 3. by or up to 10 times as many or as much.

ten-gallon hat *n.* (in the U.S.) a cowboy's broad-brimmed felt hat with a very high crown.

tenner ('tenə) *n. Inf.* 1. Brit. a. a ten-pound note. b. the sum of ten pounds. 2. U.S. a ten-dollar bill.

tennis ('tenɪs) *n. a.* a racket game played between two players or pairs of players who hit a ball to and fro over a net on a rectangular court of grass, asphalt, clay, etc. See also **lawn tennis**, **real tennis**, **table tennis**. b. (*as modifier*): *tennis court*; *tennis racket*.

tennis elbow *n.* inflammation of the elbow caused by exertion in playing tennis, etc.

tenon ('tenən) *n.* 1. the projecting end of a piece of wood formed to fit into a corresponding mortise in another piece. ~vb. (tr.) 2. to form a tenon on (a piece of wood). 3. to join with a tenon and mortise. —*'tenoner* *n.*

tenon saw *n.* a small fine-toothed saw with a strong back, used esp. for cutting tenons.

tenor ('tenə) *n.* 1. Music. a. the male voice intermediate between alto and baritone. b. a singer with such a voice. c. a saxophone, horn, etc., intermediate between the alto and baritone or bass. 2. general drift of thought; purpose. 3. a settled course of progress. 4. Arch. general tendency. 5. Law. a. the exact words of a deed, etc. b. an exact copy.

tenpin bowling ('ten,pɪn) *n.* a bowling game in which bowls are rolled down a lane to knock over the ten target pins. Also called (*esp. U.S.*): **tenpins**.

tense¹ (tens) *adj.* 1. stretched or stressed tightly; taut or rigid. 2. under mental or emotional strain. 3. producing mental or emotional strain: *a tense day*. 4. Phonetics. pronounced with considerable muscular effort, as the vowel (i:) in "beam". ~vb. (often foll. by *up*) 5. to make or become tense. —*'tensely* adv. —*'tenseness* *n.*

tense² (tens) *n. Grammar.* a category of the verb or verbal inflections, such as present, past, and future, that expresses the temporal relations between what is reported in a sentence and the time of its utterance. —*'tenseless* *adj.*

tensile ('tensəl) *adj.* 1. of or relating to tension. 2. sufficiently ductile to be stretched or drawn out. —*ten'sility* (ten'sɪlɪti) or *ten'siliness* *n.*

tensile strength *n.* a measure of the ability of a material to withstand a longitudinal stress, expressed as the greatest stress that the material can stand without breaking.

tension ('tenʃən) *n.* 1. the act of stretching or the state or degree of being stretched. 2. mental or emotional strain; stress. 3. a situation or condition of hostility, suspense, or uneasiness. 4. Physics. a force that tends to produce an elongation of a body or structure. 5. Physics. voltage, electromotive force, or potential difference. 6. a device for regulating the tension in a part, string, thread, etc., as in a sewing machine. —*'tensional* *adj.* —*'tensionless* *adj.*

tent (tent) *n.* 1. a portable shelter of canvas, plastic, etc. supported on poles and fastened to the ground by pegs and ropes. 2. something resembling this in function or shape. ~vb. 3. (*intr.*) to camp in a tent. 4. (tr.) to cover with or as if with a tent or tents. 5. (tr.) to provide with a tent as shelter. —*'tentad* *adj.* —*'tentage* *n.*

tentacle ('tentəkl) *n.* 1. any of various elongated flexible organs that occur near the mouth in many invertebrates and are used for feeding, grasping, etc. 2. any of the hairs on the leaf of an insectivorous plant that are used to capture prey. —*'tentacled* *adj.* —*'tentacular* (ten'tækjʊlə) *adj.*

tentative ('tentətɪv) *adj.* 1. provisional or experimental. 2. hesitant, uncertain, or cautious. —*'tentatively* *adv.* —*'tentativeness* *n.*

tenter ('tentə) *n.* 1. a frame on which cloth is stretched in order that it may retain its shape while drying. 2. a person who stretches cloth on a tenter. ~vb. 3. (tr.) to stretch (cloth) on a tenter.

tenterhook ('tenta,hʊk) *n.* 1. one of a series of hooks used to hold cloth on a tenter. 2. on **tenterhooks**. in a state of tension or suspense.

tent stitch *n.* another term for **petit point**.

tenuous ('tenjuəs) *adj.* 1. insignificant or flimsy: *a tenuous argument*. 2. slim, fine, or delicate: *a tenuous thread*. 3. diluted or rarefied in consistency or density: *a tenuous fluid*. —*tenuity* (te'njuɪti) *n.* —*'tenuously* *adv.* —*'tenuousness* *n.*

tenure ('tenjʊə, 'tenjə) *n.* 1. the possession or holding of an office or position. 2. the length of time an office,

position, etc., lasts. **3.** *U.S.* the improved security status of a person after having been in the employ of the same company or institution for a specified period. **4.** a. the holding of property, esp. realty, in return for services rendered, etc. **b.** the duration of such holding. —**ten-urial** *adj.*

tenuto (tɪ'nju:təʊ) *adj., adv. Music.* (of a note) to be held for or beyond its full time value.

teepee or **teepee** (ˈti:pi:) *n.* a cone-shaped tent of animal skins used by American Indians.

tepid (ˈtɛpɪd) *adj.* 1. slightly warm; lukewarm. **2.** relatively unenthusiastic or apathetic. —**tepidity** (tɛˈpɪdɪti) or **tepidness** *n.* —**tepidly** *adv.*

tequila (tɪˈki:lə) *n.* **1.** a spirit that is distilled in Mexico from an agave plant and forms the basis of many mixed drinks. **2.** the plant from which this drink is made.

ter. *abbrev. for:* 1. terrace. 2. territory.

ter- *combining form.* three, third, or three times.

terbium (tɜːˈbiəm) *n.* a soft malleable silvery-grey element of the lanthanide series of metals. *Symbol:* Tb; *atomic no.:* 65; *atomic wt.:* 158.925. —**terbic** *adj.*

tercel (ˈtɜːsəl) or **tiercel** *n.* a male falcon or hawk, esp. as used in falconry.

tercentenary (tɜːˈsenˈti:nəri) or **tercentennial** *adj.* **1.** of a period of 300 years. **2.** of a 300th anniversary. *~n.*, **tenaries** or **tennials**. **3.** an anniversary of 300 years.

tercet (tɜːˈsɪt, tɜːˈsɛt) *n.* a group of three lines of verse that rhyme together or are connected by rhyme with adjacent groups of three lines.

teredo (tɪˈrɪdɔʊ) *n., pl. -dos or -dines* (-dɪˈni:z). any of a genus of marine bivalve molluscs.

tergiversate (tɜːˈdʒɪvəˌseɪt) *vb. (intr.)* **1.** to change sides or loyalties. **2.** to be evasive or ambiguous. —**tergiver'sation** *n.* —**tergiver, sator** *n.*

term (tɜːm) *n.* **1.** a name, expression, or word used for some particular thing, esp. in a specialized field of knowledge: *a medical term.* **2.** any word or expression. **3.** a limited period of time: *a prison term.* **4.** any of the divisions of the academic year during which a school, college, etc., is in session. **5.** a point in time determined for an event or for the end of a period. **6.** the period at which childbirth is imminent. **7. Law.** a. an estate or interest in land limited to run for a specified period. **b.** the duration of an estate, etc. **c.** a period of time during which sessions of courts of law are held. **d.** time allowed to a debtor to settle. **8. Maths.** any distinct quantity making up a fraction or proportion, or contained in a polynomial, sequence, series, etc. **9. Logic.** a. the word or phrase that forms either the subject or predicate of a proposition. **b.** any of the three subjects or predicates occurring in a syllogism. **10. Archit.** a sculptured post, esp. one in the form of an armless bust or an animal on the top of a square pillar. *~vb.* **11.** (tr.) to designate; call: *he was termed a thief.* —**termly** *adj., adv.*

termagant (tɜːˈmægənt) *n.* *Rare.* a shrewish woman; scold.

terminable (tɜːˈmɪnəbəl) *adj.* **1.** able to be terminated. **2.** terminating after a specific period or event. —**termina'bility** or **terminableness** *n.* —**terminably** *adv.*

terminal (tɜːˈmɪnəl) *adj.* **1.** of, being, or situated at an end, terminus, or boundary. **2.** of or occurring after or in a term: *terminal examinations.* **3.** (of a disease) terminating in death. **4.** of or relating to the storage or delivery of freight at a warehouse. *~n.* **5.** a terminating point, part, or place. **6.** a. a point at which current enters or leaves an electrical device, such as a battery or a circuit. **b.** a conductor by which current enters or leaves at such a point. **7. Computers.** a device having input/output links with a computer. **8. Archit.** a. an ornamental carving at the end of a structure. **b.** another name for **term** (sense 10). **9.** a. a point or station at the end of the line of a railway or at an airport, serving as an important access point for passengers or freight. **b.** a less common name for **terminus** (sense 2). —**terminally** *adv.*

terminal velocity *n.* **1.** the constant maximum velocity reached by a body falling under gravity through a fluid, esp. the atmosphere. **2.** the velocity of a missile or projectile when it reaches its target. **3.** the maximum velocity attained by a rocket, missile, or shell flying in a parabolic flight path. **4.** the maximum velocity that an aircraft can attain.

terminate (tɜːˈmɪˌneɪt) *vb.* (when *intr.* often foll. by *in* or *with*) to form, be, or put an end to; conclude. —**terminative** *adj.* —**termini, nator** *n.*

termination (tɜːˈmɪˌneɪʃən) *n.* **1.** the act of terminat-

ing or the state of being terminated. **2.** something that terminates. **3.** a final result. —**terminational** *adj.*

terminology (tɜːˈmɪˌnɒlədʒɪ) *n., pl. -gies.* **1.** the body of specialized words relating to a particular subject. **2.** the study of terms. —**terminological** (tɜːˈmɪnɒˈlədʒɪkəl) *adj.* —**terminologist** *n.*

terminus (tɜːˈmɪnəs) *n., pl. -ni* (-nəɪ) or **-nuses.** **1.** the last or final part or point. **2.** either end of a railway, bus route, etc., or a station or town at such a point. **3.** a goal aimed for. **4.** a boundary or boundary marker. **5. Archit.** another name for **term** (sense 10).

termite (tɜːˈmaɪt) *n.* any of an order of whitish ant-like social insects of warm and tropical regions. Some species feed on wood, causing damage to buildings, trees, etc. —**termitic** (tɜːˈmɪtɪk) *adj.*

terms (tɜːˈmz) *pl. n.* **1.** (usually specified prenominal) the actual language or mode of presentation used: *he described the project in loose terms.* **2.** conditions of an agreement. **3.** a sum of money paid for a service. **4.** (usually preceded by *on*) mutual relationship or standing: *they are on affectionate terms.* **5. bring to terms.** to cause to agree or submit. **6.** in terms of, as expressed by; regarding: *in terms of money he was no better off.* **7. come to terms.** to reach acceptance or agreement.

tern (tɜːn) *n.* any of several aquatic birds related to the gulls, having a forked tail, long narrow wings, and a typically black-and-white plumage.

ternary (tɜːˈnəri) *adj.* **1.** consisting of three or groups of three. **2. Maths.** (of a number system) to the base three.

Terpsichore (tɜːˈpɪsɪkəri) *n.* the Muse of the dance and of choral song.

Terpsichorean (tɜːˈpsɪkəˈrɪən, -kɔːrɪən) *Often used facetiously. ~adj, also Terpsichoreal.* **1.** of or relating to dancing. *~n.* **2.** a dancer.

terrace (tɜːˈrɛs) *n.* **1.** a horizontal flat area of ground, often one of a series in a slope. **2. a.** a row of houses, usually identical and having common dividing walls, or the street onto which they face. **b. (cap. when part of a street name): Grosvenor Terrace.** **3.** a paved area alongside a building, serving partly as a garden. **4.** a balcony or patio. **5.** the flat roof of a house built in a Spanish or Oriental style. **6.** a flat area bounded by a short steep slope formed by the down-cutting of a river or by erosion. **7. (usually pl.)** unroofed tiers around a football pitch on which the spectators stand. *~vb. (tr.)* **8.** to make into or provide with a terrace or terraces.

terraced house *n. Brit.* a house that is part of a terrace. *U.S. name:* row house.

terra cotta (tɜːˈrɒˈkɒtə) *n.* **1.** a hard unglazed brownish-red earthenware, or the clay from which it is made. **2.** something made of terra cotta, such as a sculpture. **3.** a strong reddish-brown to brownish-orange colour. —**terra-cotta** *adj.*

terra firma (tɜːˈfɪrmə) *n.* the solid earth; firm ground.

terrain (tɜːˈreɪn) *n.* a piece of ground, esp. with reference to its physical character or military potential: *a rocky terrain.*

terra incognita *Latin.* (tɜːˈrɒˈmɪˌkɒɡnɪtə) *n.* an unexplored or unknown land, region, or area.

terrapin (tɜːˈræpɪn) *n.* any of various web-footed reptiles that live on land and in fresh water and feed on small aquatic animals. Also called: water tortoise.

terrarium (tɜːˈreəriəm) *n., pl. -rariums or -raria* (-ˈreəriə), a closed container in which small terrestrial animals or plants are kept.

terrazzo (tɜːˈrætsəʊ) *n.* a floor made by setting marble chips into a layer of mortar and polishing the surface.

terrestrial (tɜːˈrestriəl) *adj.* **1.** of the earth. **2.** of the land as opposed to the sea or air. **3.** (of animals and plants) living or growing on the land. **4.** earthly, worldly, or mundane. *~n.* **5.** an inhabitant of the earth. —**ter'restrially** *adv.*

terrible (tɜːˈrəbəl) *adj.* **1.** very serious or extreme. **2. Inf.** of poor quality; unpleasant or bad. **3.** causing terror. **4.** causing awe. —**terribleness** *n.* —**terribly** *adv.*

terrier (tɜːˈriəri) *n.* any of several usually small, active, and short-bodied breeds of dog, originally trained to hunt animals living underground.

terrific (tɜːˈrɪfɪk) *adj.* **1.** very great or intense. **2. Inf.** very good; excellent. **3.** very frightening. —**ter'rificaly** *adv.*

terrify (tɜːˈrɪˌfaɪ) *vb. -fying, -fied.* (tr.) to inspire fear or dread in; frighten greatly. —**terri, fier** *n.* —**terri, fy-ingly** *adv.*

terrine (tɜːˈri:n) *n.* **1.** an oval earthenware cooking dish

with a tightly fitting lid used for patés, etc. 2. the food cooked or served in such a dish, esp. paté.

territorial (ˌtɛrɪˈtɔːriəl) *adj.* 1. of or relating to a territory or territories. 2. restricted to or owned by a particular territory. 3. local or regional. 4. *Zool.* establishing and defending a territory. 5. pertaining to a territorial army, providing a reserve of trained men for use in emergency. — **terri,tori'ality** *n.* — **terri'torial-ly** *adv.*

Territorial (ˌtɛrɪˈtɔːriəl) *n.* a member of a territorial army.

Territorial Army *n.* (in Britain) a standing reserve army originally organized between 1907 and 1908. Full name: **Territorial and Volunteer Reserve.**

territorial waters *pl. n.* the waters over which a nation exercises jurisdiction and control.

territory (ˈtɛrɪtɔːri) *n., pl. -ries.* 1. any tract of land; district. 2. the geographical domain under the jurisdiction of a political unit, esp. of a sovereign state. 3. the district for which an agent, etc., is responsible. 4. an area inhabited and defended by an animal or a pair of animals. 5. an area of knowledge. 6. (in football, hockey, etc.) the area defended by a team. 7. (*often cap.*) a region of a country, esp. of a federal state, that enjoys less autonomy and a lower status than most constituent parts of the state. 8. (*often cap.*) a protectorate or other dependency of a country.

terror (ˈtɛrə) *n.* 1. great fear, panic, or dread. 2. a person or thing that inspires great dread. 3. *Inf.* a troublesome person or thing, esp. a child. 4. terrorism. — **terrorful** *adj.* — **terrorless** *adj.*

terrorism (ˈtɛrəˌrɪzəm) *n.* 1. the act of terrorizing. 2. the systematic use of violence and intimidation to achieve some goal. 3. the state of being terrorized. 4. government or opposition to government by means of terror. — **terrorist** *n., adj.*

terrorize or **-ise** (ˈtɛrəˌraɪz) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to coerce or control by violence, fear, threats, etc. 2. to inspire with dread; terrify. — **terrorization** or **-isation** *n.* — **terrorizer** or **-iser** *n.*

terry (ˈtɛrɪ) *n., pl. -ries.* 1. an uncut loop in the pile of towelling or a similar fabric. 2. a fabric with such a pile.

terse (tɜːs) *adj.* 1. neatly brief and concise. 2. curt; abrupt. — **tersely** *adv.* — **terseness** *n.*

tertiary (ˈtɜːʃɪ) *adj.* 1. third in degree, order, etc. 2. (of an industry) involving services as opposed to production or manufacture, such as transport, finance, etc. 3. *R.C. Church.* of or relating to a Third Order. 4. *Chem. a.* (of an organic compound) having a functional group attached to a carbon atom that is attached to three other groups. *b.* (of an amine) having three organic groups attached to a nitrogen atom. *c.* (of a salt) derived from a tribasic acid by replacement of all its acidic hydrogen atoms with metal atoms or electropositive groups. 5. *Ornithol., rare.* of or designating any of the small flight feathers attached to the part of the humerus nearest to the body. ~*n., pl. -tiaries.* 6. *Ornithol., rare.* any of the tertiary feathers. 7. *R.C. Church.* a member of a Third Order.

Tertiary (ˈtɜːʃɪ) *adj.* 1. of, denoting, or formed in the first period of the Cenozoic era. ~*n.* 2. *the.* the Tertiary period or rock system.

Terylene (ˈtɛrəˌliːn) *n.* *Trademark.* a synthetic polyester fibre or fabric. *U.S. name (trademark):* **Dacron.**

tessellate (ˈtɛsɪˌleɪt) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to construct, pave, or inlay with a mosaic of small tiles. 2. (*intr.*) (of identical shapes) to fit together exactly.

tessera (ˈtɛsərə) *n., pl. -serrae* (ˌsɛərəɪ). 1. a small square tile of stone, glass, etc., used in mosaics. 2. a die, tally, etc., used in classical times, made of bone or wood. — **tesseral** *adj.*

test (tɛst) *vb.* 1. to ascertain (the worth, capability, or endurance) of (a person or thing) by subjection to certain examinations, etc.; try. 2. (often foll. by *for*) to carry out an examination on (a substance, material, or system) to indicate the presence of a substance or the possession of a property: *to test food for arsenic.* ~*n.* 3. a method, practice, or examination designed to test a person or thing. 4. a series of questions or problems designed to test a specific skill or knowledge. 5. a standard of judgment; criterion. 6. *a.* a chemical reaction or physical procedure for testing a substance, material, etc. *b.* a chemical reagent used in such a procedure. *c.* the result of the procedure or the evidence gained from it. 7. *Sport.* See **test match.** 8. *Arch.* a declaration of truth, loyalty, etc. 9. (*modifier*) performed as a test: *test drive.* — **testable** *adj.* — **tester** *n.*

test² (tɛst) *n.* the hard outer covering of certain invertebrates and tunicates.

testa (ˈtɛstə) *n., pl. -tae* (-ti:). the hard outer layer of a seed.

testaceous (tɛˈsteɪʃəs) *adj. Biol.* 1. of or possessing a test or testa. 2. of the reddish-brown colour of terra cotta.

testament (ˈtɛstəmənt) *n.* 1. *Law.* a will (esp. in **last will and testament**). 2. a proof, attestation, or tribute. 3. *a.* a covenant instituted between God and man. *b.* a copy of either the Old or the New Testament, or of the complete Bible. — **testa'mental** *adj.* — **testa'mentary** *adj.*

Testament (ˈtɛstəmənt) *n.* 1. either of the two main parts of the Bible: the Old Testament or the New Testament. 2. the New Testament as distinct from the Old.

testate (ˈtɛstet, ˈtɛstɪt) *adj.* 1. having left a legally valid will at death. ~*n.* 2. a person who dies testate. — **testacy** (ˈtɛstəsi) *n.*

testator (tɛˈsteɪtə) or (*fem.*) **testatrix** (tɛˈsteɪtrɪks) *n.* a person who makes a will, esp. one who dies testate.

test case *n.* a legal action that serves as a precedent in deciding similar succeeding cases.

testicle (ˈtɛstɪkl) *n.* either of the two male reproductive glands, in most mammals enclosed within the scrotum, that produce spermatozoa. — **testicular** (tɛˈstɪkjələ) *adj.*

testify (ˈtɛstɪˌfaɪ) *vb. -fying, -fied.* 1. (when *tr.*, may take a clause as object) to state (something) formally as a declaration of fact. 2. *Law.* to declare or give (evidence) under oath, esp. in court. 3. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *to*) to be evidence (of); serve as witness (to). 4. (*tr.*) to declare or acknowledge openly. — **testifi'cation** *n.* — **testi,fier** *n.*

testimonial (ˈtɛstɪˌmɔːniəl) *n.* 1. a recommendation of the character, ability, etc., of a person or of the quality of a product or service. 2. a formal statement of truth or fact. 3. a tribute given for services or achievements. ~*adj.* 4. of or relating to a testimony or testimonial.

testimony (ˈtɛstɪməni) *n., pl. -nies.* 1. a declaration of truth or fact. 2. *Law.* evidence given by a witness, esp. in court under oath. 3. evidence testifying to something: *her success was a testimony to her good luck.* 4. *Old Testament.* the Ten Commandments.

testis (ˈtɛstɪs) *n., pl. -tes* (-tiz). another word for **testicle.**

test match *n.* (in various sports, esp. cricket) any of a series of international matches.

testosterone (tɛˈstɒstəˌrɔːn) *n.* a potent steroid hormone secreted mainly by the testes.

test paper *n.* 1. *Chem.* paper impregnated with an indicator for use in chemical tests. 2. *a.* the question sheet of a test. *b.* the paper completed by a test candidate.

test pilot *n.* a pilot who flies aircraft of new design to test their performance in the air.

test tube *n.* 1. a cylindrical round-bottomed glass tube open at one end: used in scientific experiments. 2. (*modifier*) made synthetically in, or as if in, a test tube: *a test-tube product.*

test-tube baby *n.* 1. a foetus that has developed from an ovum fertilized in an artificial womb. 2. a baby conceived by artificial insemination.

testy (ˈtɛstɪ) *adj. -tier, -tiest.* irritable or touchy. — **testily** *adv.* — **testiness** *n.*

tetanus (ˈtɛtəˌnəs) *n.* 1. Also called: **lockjaw.** an acute infectious disease in which sustained muscular spasm, contraction, and convulsion are caused by the release of toxins from a bacterium. 2. *Physiol.* any tense contraction of a muscle. — **tetanal** *adj.* — **teta,noid** *adj.*

tetchy (ˈtɛtʃɪ) *adj. tetchier, tetchiest.* being or inclined to be cross, irritable, or touchy. — **tetchily** *adv.* — **tetchiness** *n.*

tête-à-tête (ˈtɛtəˌtɛt) *n., pl. -têtes or -tête.* 1. *a.* a private conversation between two people. *b.* (*as modifier*): *a tête-à-tête conversation.* 2. a small sofa for two people, esp. one that is S-shaped in plan so that the sitters are almost face to face. ~*adv.* 3. intimately; in private.

tether (ˈtɛðə) *n.* 1. a rope, chain, etc., by which an animal is tied to a particular spot. 2. the range of one's endurance, etc. 3. *at the end of one's tether.* distressed or exasperated to the limit of one's endurance. ~*vb.* 4. (*tr.*) to tie with or as if with a tether.

tetra- or **before a vowel tetra-** *combining form.* four: **tetrameter.**

tetrad (ˈtɛtrəd) *n.* a group or series of four.

tetraethyl lead (ˌtetrəˈi:l lɛd) *n.* a colourless oily insoluble liquid used in petrol to prevent knocking.

tetragon (ˈtetrəˌɡɒn) *n.* a less common name for quadrilateral.

tetrahedron (ˌtetrəˈhɪdrən) *n.*, *pl.* **-drons** or **-dra** (-drə), a solid figure having four plane faces. A regular tetrahedron has faces that are equilateral triangles. — **tetra'hedral** *adj.*

tetralogy (tɛˈtrælədʒi) *n.*, *pl.* **-gies**, a series of four related works, as in drama or opera.

tetrameter (tɛˈtræmɪtə) *n.* *Prosody.* 1. a line of verse consisting of four metrical feet. 2. a verse composed of such lines.

Teut. *abbrev. for Teuton(ic).*

Teuton (ˈtju:tən) *n.* 1. a member of an ancient Germanic people from Jutland who migrated to S Gaul in the 2nd century B.C. 2. a member of any people speaking a Germanic language, esp. a German. — **adj.** 3. Teutonic.

Teutonic (tjuːˈtɒnɪk) *adj.* 1. characteristic of or relating to the German people. 2. of the ancient Teutons. 3. (not used in linguistics) of or relating to the Germanic languages.

text (tekst) *n.* 1. the main body of a printed or written work as distinct from commentary, notes, illustrations, etc. 2. the words of something printed or written. 3. the original exact wording of a work as distinct from a revision or translation. 4. a short passage of the Bible used as a starting point for a sermon. 5. the topic or subject of a discussion or work. 6. short for **textbook**. 7. any novel, play, etc. prescribed as part of a course of study.

textbook (ˈtekstˌbʊk) *n.* a book used as a standard source of information on a particular subject. — **text-, bookish** *adj.*

textile (ˈtekstail) *n.* 1. any fabric or cloth, esp. woven. 2. raw material suitable to be made into cloth. — **adj.** 3. of or relating to fabrics.

textual (ˈtekstʃʊəl) *adj.* 1. of or relating to a text or texts. 2. based on a text. — **textually** *adv.*

textualism (ˈtekstʃʊəlɪzəm) *n.* 1. doctrinaire adherence to a text, esp. of the Bible. 2. textual criticism, esp. of the Bible. — **textualist** *n.*, *adj.*

texture (ˈtekstʃə) *n.* 1. the surface of a material, esp. as perceived by the sense of touch. 2. the structure, appearance, and feel of a woven fabric. 3. the general structure and disposition of the constituent parts of something: the texture of a cake. 4. the distinctive character or quality of something: the texture of life in America. — *vb.* 5. (tr.) to give a distinctive texture to. — **textural** *adj.* — **texturally** *adv.*

T.G.W.U. (in Britain) *abbrev. for* Transport and General Workers' Union.

Th the chemical symbol for thorium.

Th. *abbrev. for* Thursday.

Thai (tai) *adj.* 1. of Thailand, its people, or their language. — *n.* 2. (pl. **Thais** or **Thai**) a native or inhabitant of Thailand. 3. the language of Thailand, sometimes classified as belonging to the Sino-Tibetan family.

thalidomide (θəˈlɪdɒˌmaɪd) *n.* a. a drug formerly used as a sedative and hypnotic but withdrawn from use when found to cause abnormalities in developing foetuses. b. (as modifier): a thalidomide baby.

thallium (ˈθæliəm) *n.* a soft malleable highly toxic white metallic element. Symbol: Tl; atomic no.: 81; atomic wt.: 204.37.

than (ðæn; unstressed ðən) *conj.* (coordinating), *prep.* 1. used to introduce the second element of a comparison, the first element of which expresses difference: *shorter than you*. 2. used after adverbs such as *rather* or *sooner* to introduce a rejected alternative in an expression of preference: *rather than be imprisoned, I shall die*. 3. **other than**, besides; in addition to.

▷ **Usage.** In sentences such as *he does it far better than I*, *than* is usually regarded in careful usage as a conjunction governing an unexpressed verb: *he does it far better than I (do it)*. The case of any pronoun therefore depends on whether it is the subject or the object of that unexpressed verb: *she likes him more than I (like him)*; *she likes him more than (she likes) me*. However, in informal usage *than* is often treated as a preposition and any pronoun is therefore used in its objective form, so that *she likes him more than me* is ambiguous.

thane or **thegn** (θeɪn) *n.* 1. (in Anglo-Saxon England) a member of an aristocratic class who held land from the king or from another nobleman in return for certain

services. 2. (in medieval Scotland) a person of rank holding land from the king. — **thanage** (ˈθeɪndʒ) *n.*

thank (θæŋk) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to convey feelings of gratitude to. 2. to hold responsible: *he has his creditors to thank for his bankruptcy*.

thankful (ˈθæŋkfl) *adj.* grateful and appreciative. — **thankfully** *adv.* — **thankfulness** *n.*

thankless (ˈθæŋkɪs) *adj.* 1. receiving no thanks or appreciation. 2. ungrateful. — **thanklessly** *adv.* — **thanklessness** *n.*

thanks (θæŋks) *pl. n.* 1. an expression of appreciation or gratitude. 2. thanks to, because of: *thanks to him we lost the match*. — *interj.* 3. *Inf.* an exclamation expressing gratitude or appreciation.

thanksgiving (ˈθæŋksˌɡɪvɪŋ) *n.* 1. the act of giving thanks. 2. a formal public expression of thanks to God.

that (ðæt; unstressed ðət) *determiner.* (used before a *sing. n.*) 1. a. used preceding a noun that has been mentioned or is understood: *that idea of yours*. b. (as *pronoun*): *don't eat that*. 2. a. used preceding a noun that denotes something more remote or removed: *that building over there is for sale*. b. (as *pronoun*): *that is John and this is his wife*. 3. used to refer to something that is familiar: *that old chap from across the street*. 4. and (all) **that**. *Inf.* everything connected with the subject mentioned: *he knows a lot about building and that*. 5. **at that**. (completive-intensive) additionally, all things considered, or nevertheless: *I might decide to go at that*. 6. **like that**. a. effortlessly: *he gave me the answer just like that*. b. of such a nature, character, etc.: *he paid for all our tickets—he's like that*. 7. **that is**, a. to be precise. b. in other words. c. for example. 8. **that's** that. there is no more to be done, discussed, etc. 9. **with** (or **at**) **that**. thereupon. — *conj.* (subordinating) 10. used to introduce a noun clause: *I believe that you'll come*. 11. used to introduce: a. a clause of purpose: *they fought that others might have peace*. b. a clause of result: *he laughed so hard that he cried*. c. a clause after an understood sentence expressing desire, indignation, or amazement: *oh, that I had never lived!* — *adv.* 12. used to reinforce the specification of a precise degree already mentioned: *go just that fast and you should be safe*. 13. Also: **all that**. (usually used with a negative) *Inf.* (intensifier): *he wasn't that upset at the news*. 14. *Brit. dialect.* (intensifier): *the cat was that weak after the fight*. — *pron.* 15. used to introduce a restrictive relative clause: *the book that we want*. 16. used to introduce a clause with the verb to be to emphasize the extent to which the preceding noun is applicable: *genius that she is, she outwitted the computer*.

▷ **Usage.** Precise stylists maintain a distinction between *that* and *which*: *that* is used as a relative pronoun in restrictive clauses and *which* in nonrestrictive clauses. In the book *that is on the table is mine*, the clause *that is on the table* is used to distinguish one particular book (the one on the table) from another or others (which may be anywhere, but not on the table). In the book, *which is on the table, is mine*, the *which* clause is merely descriptive or incidental. The more formal the level of language, the more important it is to preserve the distinction between the two relative pronouns; but in informal or colloquial usage, the words are often used interchangeably.

thatch (θætʃ) *n.* 1. a. Also called: **thatching**, a roofing material that consists of straw, reed, etc. b. a roof made of such a material. 2. anything resembling this, such as the hair of the head. 3. Also called: **thatch palm**, any of various palms with leaves suitable for thatching. — *vb.* 4. to cover with thatch. — **thatcher** *n.*

thaw (θɔː) *vb.* 1. to melt or cause to melt: *the snow thawed*. 2. to become or cause to become unfrozen; defrost. 3. to be the case that the ice or snow is melting: *it's thawing fast*. 4. (intr.) to become more relaxed or friendly. — *n.* 5. the act or process of thawing. 6. a spell of relatively warm weather, causing snow or ice to melt. 7. an increase in relaxation or friendliness.

Th.D. *abbrev. for* Doctor of Theology.

the' (stressed or emphatic ði; unstressed before a consonant ðə; unstressed before a vowel ðɪ) *determiner.* (article) 1. used preceding a noun that has been previously specified: *the pain should disappear soon*. Cf. *a'*. 2. used to indicate a particular person, object, etc.: *ask the man standing outside*. Cf. *a'*. 3. used preceding certain nouns associated with one's culture, society, or community: *to go to the doctor; to listen to the news*. 4. used preceding present participles and adjectives when they function as nouns: *the singing is awful*. 5. used preceding titles and certain uniquely specific or proper nouns:

the United States; the Chairman. **6.** used preceding a qualifying adjective or noun in certain names or titles: *Edward the First*. **7.** used preceding a noun to make it refer to its class generically: *the white seal is hunted for its fur*. **8.** used instead of *my, your, her*, etc., with parts of the body: *take me by the hand*. **9.** (usually stressed) the best, only, or most remarkable: *Harry's is the club in this town*. **10.** used with proper nouns when qualified: *written by the young Hardy*. **11.** another word for *per*: *fifty pence the pound*. **12.** Often facetious or derog. *my; our: the wife goes out on Thursdays*. **13.** used preceding a unit of time in phrases or titles indicating an outstanding person, event, etc.: *housewife of the year*.

the' (ðə, ði) *adv.* **1.** (often foll. by *for*) used before comparative adjectives or adverbs for emphasis: *she looks the happier for her trip*. **2.** used correlatively before each of two comparative adjectives or adverbs to indicate equality: *the sooner you come, the better; the more I see you, the more I love you*.

theatre or **U.S. theater** ('θi:ə) *n.* **1.** a building designed for the performance of plays, operas, etc. **2.** a large room or hall, usually with a raised platform and tiered seats for an audience. **3.** a room in a hospital equipped for surgical operations. **4.** plays regarded collectively as a form of art. **5.** the theatre, the world of actors, theatrical companies, etc. **6.** a setting for dramatic or important events. **7.** writing that is suitable for dramatic presentation: *a good piece of theatre*. **8.** *Austral. & N.Z.* the usual word for cinema. **9.** a major area of military activity. **10.** a circular or semicircular open-air building with tiers of seats.

theatrical ('θi:ətrɪkəl) *adj.* **1.** of or relating to the theatre or dramatic performances. **2.** exaggerated and affected in manner or behaviour; histrionic. —**theatricality** or **theatricalness** *n.* —**theatrically** *adv.*

theatricals ('θi:ətrɪkəlz) *pl. n.* dramatic performances, esp. as given by amateurs.

thee (ði:) *pron.* **1.** the objective form of *thou*. **2.** (subjective) Rare. refers to the person addressed: used mainly by members of the Society of Friends.

theft (ðeɪt) *n.* **1.** the dishonest taking of property belonging to another person with the intention of depriving the owner permanently of its possession. **2.** Rare. something stolen.

their (ðeə) *determiner.* **1.** of or associated in some way with them: *their own clothes; she tried to combat their mocking her*. **2.** belonging to or associated with people in general: *in many countries they wash their clothes in the river*. **3.** Not standard. belonging to or associated with an indefinite antecedent such as *one, whoever, or anybody*: *everyone should bring their own lunch*.

theirs (ðeəz) *pron.* **1.** something or someone belonging to or associated with them: *theirs is difficult*. **2.** Not standard. something or someone belonging to or associated with an indefinite antecedent such as *one, whoever, or anybody*: *everyone thinks theirs is best*. **3.** of *theirs*. belonging to or associated with them.

theism ('θi:zəm) *n.* **1.** the belief in one God as the creator and ruler of the universe. **2.** the belief in the existence of a God or gods. —**theist** *n., adj.* —**theistic** or **theistical** *adj.*

them (ðəm; unstressed ðəm) *pron.* **1.** (objective) refers to things or people other than the speaker or people addressed: *I'll kill them; what happened to them?* ~*determiner.* **2.** a nonstandard word for those: *three of them oranges*.

▷ **Usage.** See at *me*.

theme ('θi:m) *n.* **1.** an idea or topic expanded in a discourse, discussion, etc. **2.** (in literature, music, art, etc.) a unifying idea, image, or motif, repeated or developed throughout a work. **3.** *Music.* a. a group of notes forming a recognizable melodic unit, often used as the basis of the musical material in a composition. **4.** a short essay, esp. one set as an exercise for a student. **5.** *Grammar.* another word for *root* or *stem* (sense 7). —**thematic** ('θi:mætɪk) *adj.*

themselves ('ðəm'selvz) *pron.* **1.** a. the reflexive form of *they* or *them*. **b.** (intensifier): *the team themselves voted on it*. **2.** (preceded by a *copula*) their normal or usual selves: *they don't seem themselves any more*. **3.** Also **themselves**. Not standard. a reflexive form of an indefinite antecedent such as *one, whoever, or anybody*: *everyone has to look after themselves*.

▷ **Usage.** See at *myself*.

then (ðen) *adv.* **1.** at that time; over that period of time. **2.** (sentence modifier) in that case; that being so: *then why don't you ask her? go on then, take it*. ~ **3.** sentence connector. after that; with that: *then John left*

the room. ~*n.* **4.** that time: *from then on*. ~*adj.* **5.** (prenominal) existing, functioning, etc., at that time: *the then prime minister*.

thence (ðens) *adv.* **1.** from that place. **2.** Also: **thenceforth** ('ðens'fɔ:ð). from that time or event; thereafter. **3.** therefore.

theocracy ('θi:əkrəsi) *n., pl. -cies.* **1.** government by a deity or by a priesthood. **2.** a community under such government. —**theocrat** *n.* —**theocratic** *adj.*

theodolite ('θi:ədə'laɪt) *n.* a surveying instrument for measuring horizontal and vertical angles, consisting of a small tripod-mounted telescope. Also called (in the U.S.): **transit**. —**theodolitic** ('θi:ədə'laɪtɪk) *adj.*

theol. *abbrev. for:* **1.** theologian. **2.** theological. **3.** theology.

theologian ('θi:ə'lɒdʒiən) *n.* a person versed in or engaged in the study of theology.

theology ('θi:ələdʒi) *n., pl. -gies.* **1.** the systematic study of the existence and nature of the divine and its relationship to other beings. **2.** the systematic study of Christian revelation concerning God's nature and purpose. **3.** a specific system, form, or branch of this study. —**theological** *adj.* —**theologist** *n.*

theorem ('θi:ərəm) *n.* a proposition or formula, esp. one that can be deduced from axioms or previously proved propositions. —**theorematic** ('θi:ərə'mætɪk) or **theoremic** ('θi:ə'remɪk) *adj.*

theoretical ('θi:ə'retɪkəl) or **theoretic** *adj.* **1.** of or based on theory. **2.** lacking practical application or actual existence; hypothetical. **3.** using or dealing in theory; impractical. —**theoretically** *adv.*

theoretician ('θi:əri'tɪʃən) *n.* a student or user of the theory rather than the practical aspects of a subject.

theorize or **-ise** ('θi:ə'raɪz) *vb. (intr.)* to produce or use theories; speculate. —**theorist** *n.* —**theorizer** or **-iser** *n.*

theory ('θi:əri) *n., pl. -ries.* **1.** a plan formulated in the mind only. **2.** a system of rules, procedures, and assumptions used to produce a result. **3.** abstract knowledge or reasoning. **4.** a set of hypotheses related by logical or mathematical arguments to explain a wide variety of connected phenomena in general terms: *the theory of relativity*. **5.** a nontechnical name for hypothesis.

theosophy ('θi:əsəfi) *n.* **1.** any of various religious or philosophical systems claiming to be based on or to express an intuitive insight into the divine nature. **2.** the system of beliefs of the Theosophical Society founded in 1875, claiming to be derived from the sacred writings of Brahmanism and Buddhism. —**theosophic** ('θi:əsəfɪk) or **theosophical** *adj.* —**theosophist** *n.*

therapeutic ('θi:ə'pjʊ:tɪk) *adj.* **1.** of or relating to the treatment of disease; curative. **2.** serving or performed to maintain health: *therapeutic abortion*. —**therapeutically** *adv.*

therapeutics ('θi:ə'pjʊ:tɪks) *n. (functioning as sing.)* the branch of medicine concerned with the treatment of disease.

therapy ('θi:əpi) *n., pl. -pies.* **a.** the treatment of disorders or disease. **b.** (in combination): *physiotherapy*. —**therapist** *n.*

there (ðeə) *adv.* **1.** in, at, or to that place, point, case, or respect: *we never go there; I agree with you there*. ~*pron.* **2.** used as a grammatical subject with some verbs, esp. *be*, when the true subject follows the verb: *there is a girl in that office*. ~*adj.* **3.** (postpositive) who or which is in that place or position: *that boy there did it*. **4.** all **there**. (predicative) of normal intelligence. **5.** so **there**. an exclamation that usually follows a declaration of refusal or defiance. **6.** **there you are.** an expression used when handing a person something requested or desired. **b.** an exclamation of triumph. ~*n.* **7.** that place: *near there*. ~*interj.* **8.** an expression of sympathy, as in consoling a child.

▷ **Usage.** Careful writers and speakers ensure that the verb agrees with the number of the subject in such constructions as *there is a man waiting* and *there are several people waiting*. However, where the subject is compound even careful speakers frequently use the singular as in *there is a pen and a book on the table*.

thereabouts ('ði:əə'baʊts) or **thereabout** *adv.* near that place, time, amount, etc.

thereafter ('ði:əə'ɑ:ftə) *adv.* from that time on or after that time.

thereby ('ði:əə'baɪ, 'ði:ə'baɪ) *adv.* **1.** by that means; because of that. **2.** *Arch.* thereabouts.

therefore ('ði:ə'fɔ:) sentence connector. **1.** thus; hence: *those people have their umbrellas up; therefore, it must be raining*. **2.** consequently; as a result.

therefrom (ˈðeəˈfrɒm) *adv.* *Arch.* from that or there: *the roads that lead therefrom.*

therein (ˈðeəˈɪn) *adv.* *Formal or law.* in or into that place, thing, etc.

thereof (ˈðeəˈɒv) *adv.* *Formal or law.* 1. of or concerning that or it. 2. from or because of that.

thereon (ˈðeəˈɒn) *adv.* *Arch.* thereupon.

thereto (ˈðeəˈtuː) *adv.* 1. *Formal or law.* to that or it. 2. *Obs.* in addition to that.

thereunder (ˈðeəˈʌndə) *adv.* *Formal or law.* 1. (in documents, etc.) below that or it; subsequently in that; thereafter. 2. under the terms or authority of that.

thereupon (ˈðeəˈpʊn) *adv.* 1. immediately after that; at that point. 2. *Formal or law.* upon that thing, point, subject, etc.

therm (θɜːm) *n.* *Brit.* a unit of heat equal to 100 000 British thermal units. One therm is equal to 1.055 056 × 10⁸ joules.

thermal (ˈθɜːmə) *adj.* 1. Also: **thermic.** of, caused by, or generating heat. 2. hot or warm: *thermal baths.* 3. (of garments) specially made so as to have exceptional heat-retaining qualities: *thermal underwear.* ~*n.* 4. a column of rising air caused by local unequal heating of the land surface, and used by gliders and birds to gain height. — **thermally** *adv.*

thermionic (ˈθɜːmɪˈɒnɪk) *adj.* of, relating to, or operated by electrons emitted from materials at high temperatures: *a thermionic valve.*

thermionic valve or *esp. U.S. tube* *n.* an electronic valve in which electrons are emitted from a heated rather than a cold cathode.

thermo- or *before a vowel therm-* *combining form.* related to, caused by, or measuring heat: *thermodynamics; thermophile.*

thermobarograph (ˈθɜːməʊˈbærəˌɡraːf, -ˌgræf) *n.* a device that simultaneously records the temperature and pressure of the atmosphere.

thermobarometer (ˈθɜːməʊˈbærəˌmɪtə) *n.* an apparatus that provides a measurement of pressure by observation of the change in the boiling point of a fluid.

thermochemistry (ˈθɜːməʊˈkɛmɪstri) *n.* the branch of chemistry concerned with the study and measurement of the heat evolved or absorbed during chemical reactions. — **thermochemical** *adj.* — **thermochemist** *n.*

thermocline (ˈθɜːməʊˌklaɪn) *n.* a temperature gradient in a thermally stratified body of water, such as a lake.

thermocouple (ˈθɜːməʊˌkʌpl) *n.* 1. a device for measuring temperature consisting of a pair of wires of different metals joined at both ends. One junction is at the temperature to be measured, the second at a lower fixed temperature. The current generated in the circuit is proportional to the temperature difference. 2. a similar device with only one junction between two dissimilar metals.

thermodynamics (ˈθɜːməʊˌdaɪˈnæmɪks) *n.* (*functioning as sing.*) the branch of physical science concerned with the interrelationship and interconversion of different forms of energy. — **thermodynamic** *adj.*

thermoelectric (ˈθɜːməʊˌlektrɪk) or **thermoelectrical** *adj.* 1. of, relating to, used in, or operated by the conversion of heat energy to electrical energy. 2. of, relating to, used in, or operated by the conversion of electrical energy.

thermoelectricity (ˈθɜːməʊˌlektrɪsɪti) *n.* 1. electricity generated by a thermocouple. 2. the study of the relationship between heat and electrical energy.

thermoelectron (ˈθɜːməʊˌlektrɒn) *n.* an electron emitted at high temperature, such as one produced in a thermionic valve.

thermograph (ˈθɜːməʊˌɡraːf) *n.* a type of thermometer that produces a continuous record (*thermogram*) of a fluctuating temperature.

thermojunction (ˈθɜːməʊˌdʒʌŋkʃən) *n.* a point of electrical contact between two dissimilar metals across which a voltage appears, the magnitude of which depends on the temperature of the contact and the nature of the metals.

thermomagnetic (ˈθɜːməʊˌmæɡˈnetɪk) *adj.* of or concerned with the relationship between heat and magnetism, esp. the change in temperature of a body when it is magnetized or demagnetized.

thermometer (θəˈmɒmɪtə) *n.* an instrument used to measure temperature, esp. one in which a thin column of liquid, such as mercury, expands and contracts within a graduated sealed tube. — **thermometry** *n.*

thermonuclear (ˈθɜːməʊˌnjuːklɪə) *adj.* 1. involving nuclear fusion. 2. involving thermonuclear weapons.

thermoplastic (θɜːməʊˌplæstɪk) *adj.* 1. (of a material, esp. a synthetic plastic) becoming soft when heated and reharden on cooling without appreciable change of properties. ~*n.* 2. a synthetic plastic or resin, such as polystyrene, with these properties.

Thermos or **Thermos flask** (θɜːməs) *n.* *Trademark.* a type of stoppered vacuum flask, esp. one used to keep beverages or soup hot.

thermosetting (θɜːməʊˌsetɪŋ) *adj.* (of a material, esp. a synthetic plastic) hardening permanently after one application of heat and pressure.

thermostat (θɜːməˌstæt) *n.* 1. a device that maintains a system at a constant temperature. 2. a device that sets off a sprinkler, etc. at a certain temperature. — **thermo'static** *adj.* — **thermo'statically** *adv.*

thesaurus (θɪˈsɔːrəs) *n.* *pl. -ri (-rai) or -ruses.* 1. a book containing systematized lists of synonyms and related words. 2. a dictionary of selected words or topics. 3. *Rare.* a treasury.

these (ðiːz) *determiner.* a. the form of **this** used before a plural noun: *these men.* b. (*as pronoun*): *I don't much care for these.*

thesis (θɪˈsɪs) *n.* *pl. -ses (-sɪz).* 1. a dissertation resulting from original research, esp. when submitted for a degree or diploma. 2. a theory maintained in argument. 3. a subject for a discussion or essay. 4. an unproved statement put forward as a premiss in an argument.

Thespian (θɛspɪən) *adj.* 1. of or relating to Thespis, 6th-century B.C. Greek poet. 2. of or relating to drama and the theatre; dramatic. ~*n.* 3. *Often facetious.* an actor or actress.

Thess. *Bible, abbrev. for* Thessalonians.

theta (θɪˈtə) *n.* the eighth letter of the Greek alphabet (Θ, θ).

they (ðeɪ) *pron. (subjective)* 1. refers to people or things other than the speaker or people addressed: *they fight among themselves.* 2. refers to people in general: *in Australia they have Christmas in the summer.* 3. *Not standard.* refers to an indefinite antecedent such as *one, whoever, or anybody*: *if anyone objects, they can go.*

they'd (ðeɪd) *contraction of* they would or they had.

they'll (ðeɪl) *contraction of* they will or they shall.

they're (ðeə, 'ðeɪə) *contraction of* they are.

they've (ðeɪv) *contraction of* they have.

thiamine (θaɪˌmɪn, -mɪn) or **thiamin** (θaɪˌmɪn) *n.* a white crystalline vitamin that occurs in the outer coat of rice and other grains. It forms part of the vitamin B complex; deficiency leads to nervous disorders and to the disease beriberi. Also called: **vitamin B₁**, **aneurin**.

thick (θɪk) *adj.* 1. of relatively great extent from one surface to the other: *a thick slice of bread.* 2. a. (*postpositive*) of specific fatness: *ten centimetres thick.* b. (*in combination*): *a six-inch-thick wall.* 3. having a dense consistency: *thick soup.* 4. abundantly covered or filled: *a piano thick with dust.* 5. impenetrable; dense: *a thick fog.* 6. stupid, slow, or insensitive. 7. throaty or badly articulated: *a voice thick with emotion.* 8. (of accents, etc.) pronounced. 9. *Inf.* very friendly (esp. in *thick as thieves*). 10. *a bit thick.* *Brit.* unfair or excessive. 11. *a thick ear.* *Inf.* a blow on the ear. ~*adv.* 12. in order to produce something thick: *to slice bread thick.* 13. profusely; in quick succession (esp. in *thick and fast*). 14. *lay it on thick.* *Inf.* a. to exaggerate a story, etc. b. to flatter excessively. ~*n.* 15. a thick piece or part. 16. **the thick.** the most intense or active part. 17. **through thick and thin.** in good times and bad. — **'thickish** *adj.* — **'thickly** *adv.*

thicken (θɪkən) *vb.* 1. to make or become thick or thicker. 2. (*intr.*) to become more involved: *the plot thickened.* — **'thickener** *n.*

thickening (θɪkənɪŋ) *n.* 1. something added to a liquid to thicken it. 2. a thickened part or piece.

thicket (θɪkɪt) *n.* a dense growth of small trees, shrubs, and similar plants.

thickhead (θɪkˌhed) *n.* 1. a stupid or ignorant person; fool. 2. any of a family of Australian and SE Asian songbirds. — **'thick-headed** *adj.* — **'thick-headedness** *n.*

thickness (θɪkɪns) *n.* 1. the state or quality of being thick. 2. the dimension through an object, as opposed to length or width. 3. a layer.

thickset (θɪkˌset) *adj.* 1. stocky in build; sturdy. 2. densely planted or placed. ~*n.* 3. a rare word for thickset.

thick-skinned *adj.* insensitive to criticism or hints; not easily upset or affected.

thick-witted or **thick-skulled** *adj.* stupid, dull, or

slow to learn. —, **thick-wittedly** *adv.* —, **thick-wittedness** *n.*

thief (θi:f) *n.*, *pl.* **thieves** (θi:vz), a person who steals something from another. — **thievish** *adj.*

thieve (θi:v) *vb.* to steal (someone's possessions).

— **thievery** *n.* — **thievishly** *adv.*

thigh (θaɪ) *n.* 1. the part of the leg between the hip and the knee in man. 2. the corresponding part in other vertebrates and insects. Related *adj.*: **femoral**.

thighbone ('θaɪ,bəʊn) *n.* a nontechnical name for the femur.

thimble ('θɪmb'l) *n.* 1. a cap of metal, plastic, etc., used to protect the end of the finger when sewing. 2. any small metal cap resembling this. 3. *Naut.* a loop of metal having a groove at its outer edge for a rope or cable.

thimble-rog ('θɪmb'l,rɪg) *n.* a game in which the operator rapidly moves about three inverted thimbles, one of which conceals a token, the other player betting on which thimble the token is under. — **thimble-rigger** *n.*

thin (θɪn) *adj.* **thinner**, **thinnest**. 1. of relatively small extent from one side or surface to the other. 2. slim or lean. 3. sparsely placed; meagre: *thin hair*. 4. of low density: *a thin liquid*. 5. weak; poor: *a thin disguise*. 6. **thin on the ground**, few in number; scarce. ~ *adv.* 7. in order to produce something thin: *to cut bread thin*. ~ *vb.* **thinning**, **thinned**. 8. to make or become thin or sparse. — **thinly** *adv.* — **thinness** *n.*

thine (ðæm) *determiner*. *Arch. a.* (preceding a vowel) of or associated with you (thou): *thine eyes*. *b.* (as pronoun): *thine is the greatest burden*.

thing (θɪŋ) *n.* 1. an object, fact, affair, circumstance, or concept considered as being a separate entity. 2. any inanimate object. 3. an object or entity that cannot or need not be precisely named. 4. *Inf.* a person or animal: *you poor thing*. 5. an event or act. 6. a thought or statement. 7. Law. property. 8. a device, means, or instrument. 9. (often *pl.*) a possession, article of clothing, etc. 10. *Inf.* a preoccupation or obsession (esp. in **have a thing about**). 11. an activity or mode of behaviour satisfying to one's personality (esp. in **do one's (own) thing**). 12. **the thing**, the latest fashion. 13. **make a thing of**, exaggerate the importance of.

thingumabob or **thingamabob** ('θɪŋəmə,bɒb) *n.* *Inf.* a person or thing the name of which is unknown, temporarily forgotten, or deliberately overlooked. Also: **thingumajig**, **thingamajig**, or **thingummy**.

think (θɪŋk) *vb.* **thinking**, **thought**. 1. (*tr.*; *may take a clause as object*) to consider, judge, or believe: *he thinks my ideas impractical*. 2. (*intr.*; often *fol.* by *about*) to exercise the mind as in order to make a decision; ponder. 3. (*intr.*) to be capable of conscious thought: *man is the only animal that thinks*. 4. to remember; recollect. 5. (*intr.*; *fol.* by *of*) to make the mental choice (*of*): *think of a number*. 6. (*may take a clause as object or an infinitive*) *a.* to expect; suppose. *b.* to be considerable enough (to do something): *he did not think to thank them*. 7. (*intr.*) to focus the attention on being: *think big*. 8. **think better of**. *a.* to change one's mind about (a course of action, decision, etc.). *b.* to have a more favourable opinion of (a person). 9. **think nothing of**. *a.* to regard as routine or natural. *b.* to have no compunction or hesitation about. 10. **think twice**, to consider carefully before deciding. ~ *n.* 11. *Inf.* a careful, open-minded assessment. 12. (*modifier*) *Inf.* characterized by or involving thinkers, thinking, or thought. — **thinkable** *adj.* — **thinker** *n.*

thinking ('θɪŋkɪŋ) *n.* 1. opinion or judgment. 2. the process of thought. ~ *adj.* 3. (*prenominal*) using or capable of using intelligent thought: *thinking people*. 4. **put on one's thinking cap**, to ponder a matter or problem.

think over *vb.* (*tr.*, *adv.*) to ponder or consider.

think-tank *n.* *Inf.* a group of specialists commissioned to undertake intensive study and research into specified problems.

think up *vb.* (*tr.*, *adv.*) to invent or devise.

thinner ('θɪnə) *n.* a solvent, such as turpentine, added to paint or varnish to dilute it, reduce its opacity or viscosity, or increase its penetration.

thin-skinned *adj.* sensitive to criticism or hints; easily upset or affected.

third (θɜ:ɖ) *adj.* (usually *prenominal*) 1. *a.* coming after the second in numbering, position, etc.; being the ordinal number of three: often written 3rd. *b.* (as *n.*): *the third got a prize*. 2. rated, graded, or ranked below the second level. 3. denoting the third from lowest forward ratio of a gearbox in a motor vehicle. ~ *n.* 4. *a.* one of three

equal parts of an object, quantity, etc. *b.* (as *modifier*): *a third part*. 5. the fraction equal to one divided by three (1/3). 6. the forward ratio above second of a gearbox in a motor vehicle. 7. *a.* the interval between one note and another three notes away from it counting inclusively along the diatonic scale. *b.* one of two notes constituting such an interval in relation to the other. 8. *Brit.* an honours degree of the third and usually the lowest class. Full term: **third class honours degree**. ~ *adv.* 9. Also: **thirdly**, in the third place. — **thirdly** *adv.*

third class *n.* 1. the class or grade next in value, quality, etc., to the second. ~ *adj.* (**third-class** when *prenominal*). 2. of the class or grade next in value, quality, etc., to the second. ~ *adv.* 3. by third-class transport, etc.

third degree *n.* *Inf.* torture or bullying, esp. used to extort confessions or information.

third-degree burn *n.* *Pathol.* the most severe type of burn, involving the destruction of both epidermis and dermis.

third dimension *n.* the dimension of depth by which a solid object may be distinguished from a two-dimensional drawing or picture of it.

third man *n.* *Cricket*, a fielding position on the off side near the boundary behind the batsman's wicket.

third party *n.* 1. a person who is involved by chance or only incidentally in a legal proceeding, agreement, or other transaction. ~ *adj.* 2. *Insurance*, providing protection against liability caused by accidental injury or death of other persons.

third person *n.* a grammatical category of pronouns and verbs used when referring to objects or individuals other than the speaker or his addressee or addressees.

third-rate *adj.* mediocre or inferior.

Third World *n.* the countries of Africa, Asia, and Latin America collectively, esp. when viewed as underdeveloped.

thirst (θɜ:st) *n.* 1. a craving to drink, accompanied by a feeling of dryness in the mouth and throat. 2. an eager longing, craving, or yearning. ~ *vb.* (*intr.*) 3. to feel a thirst.

thirsty ('θɜ:stɪ) *adj.* **thirstier**, **thirstiest**. 1. feeling a desire to drink. 2. dry; arid. 3. (*fol.* by *for*) feeling an eager desire. 4. causing thirst. — **thirstily** *adv.* — **thirstiness** *n.*

thirteen ('θɜ:tin) *n.* 1. the cardinal number that is the sum of ten and three and is a prime number. 2. a numeral 13, XIII, etc., representing this number. 3. something representing or consisting of 13 units. ~ *determiner*. 4. *a.* amounting to thirteen. *b.* (as pronoun): *thirteen of them fell*. — **thirteenth** *adj.*

thirty ('θɜ:ti) *n.*, *pl.* **-ties**. 1. the cardinal number that is the product of ten and three. 2. a numeral 30, XXX, etc., representing this number. 3. (*pl.*) the numbers 30-39, esp. the 30th to the 39th year of a person's life or of a century. 4. the amount or quantity that is three times as big as ten. 5. something representing or consisting of 30 units. ~ *determiner*. 6. *a.* amounting to thirty. *b.* (as pronoun): *thirty are broken*. — **thirtieth** *adj.*

Thirty-nine Articles *pl. n.* a set of formulas defining the doctrinal position of the Church of England, drawn up in the 16th century.

this (ðɪs) *determiner*. (*used before a sing. n.*) 1. *a.* used preceding a noun referring to something or someone that is closer: *look at this picture*. *b.* (as pronoun): *take this*. 2. *a.* used preceding a noun that has just been mentioned or is understood: *this plan of yours won't work*. *b.* (as pronoun): *I first saw this on Sunday*. 3. *a.* used to refer to something about to be said, read, etc.: *consider this argument*. *b.* (as pronoun): *listen to this*. 4. *a.* the present or immediate: *this time you'll know better*. *b.* (as pronoun): *before this, I was mistaken*. 5. *Inf.* an emphatic form of *a* or *the*: *I saw this big brown bear*. 6. **this and that**, various unspecified and trivial actions, matters, objects, etc. 7. **with (or at) this**, after this; thereupon. ~ *adv.* 8. used with adjectives and adverbs to specify a precise degree that is about to be mentioned: *go just this fast and you'll be safe*.

thistle ('θɪsl) *n.* 1. any of a genus of plants of the composite family, having prickly-edged leaves, dense flower heads, and feathery hairs on the seeds. 2. any of various similar or related plants. — **thistly** *adj.*

thistledown ('θɪsl,daʊn) *n.* the mass of feathery plumed seeds produced by a thistle.

thither ('θɪðə) or **thitherward** *adv.* *Obs.* to or towards that place; in that direction.

tho or **tho'** (ðəʊ) *U.S. or poetic*, a variant spelling of **though**.

thole¹ (θəʊl) or **tholepin** (ˈθəʊl,pɪn) *n.* a wooden pin or one of a pair, set upright in the gunwales of a rowing boat to serve as a fulcrum in rowing.

thole² (θəʊl) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) *N. Brit. dialect.* to put up with; bear. 2. an archaic word for **suffer**.

Thompson sub-machine-gun (ˈtɒmsən) *n.* Trade-mark. a .45 calibre sub-machine-gun.

thong (θɒŋ) *n.* 1. a thin strip of leather or other material. 2. a whip or whiplash, esp. one made of leather. 3. *Chiefly U.S., Austral. & N.Z.* the usual name for **flip-flop** (sense 5).

thoracic (θɔːrækɪk) or **thoracal** (ˈθɔːrəkəl) *adj.* of, near, or relating to the thorax.

thorax (θɔːræks) *n., pl. thoraxes or thoraces (θɔːræˈsɪz, θɔːrɪsɪz). 1. the part of the human body enclosed by the ribs. 2. the corresponding part in other vertebrates. 3. the part of an insect's body between the head and abdomen.*

thorium (θɔːrɪəm) *n.* a silvery-white radioactive metallic element. It is used in electronic equipment and as a nuclear power source. Symbol: Th; atomic no.: 90; atomic wt.: 232.04. — **thoric** *adj.*

thorn (θɔːn) *n.* 1. a sharp pointed woody extension of a stem or leaf. Cf. **prickle** (sense 1). 2. any of various trees or shrubs having thorns, esp. the hawthorn. 3. a Germanic character of runic origin (þ) used in Icelandic to represent the sound of *th*, as in *thin*, *bath*. 4. this same character as used in Old and Middle English as an alternative to *edh*. 5. a source of irritation (esp. in a **thorn in one's side** or **flesh**). — **thornless** *adj.*

thorny (θɔːni) *adj.* thornier, thorniest. 1. bearing or covered with thorns. 2. difficult or unpleasant. 3. sharp. — **thornily** *adv.* — **thorniness** *n.*

thorough (ˈθʌrə) *adj.* 1. carried out completely and carefully. 2. (*prenominal*) utter: a thorough bore. 3. painstakingly careful. — **thoroughly** *adv.* — **thoroughness** *n.*

thoroughbred (ˈθʌrə,bred) *adj.* 1. purebred. ~*n.* 2. a pedigree animal; purebred. 3. a person regarded as being of good breeding.

Thoroughbred (ˈθʌrə,bred) *n.* a British breed of horse the ancestry of which can be traced to English mares and Arab sires.

thoroughfare (ˈθʌrə,feə) *n.* 1. a road from one place to another, esp. a main road. 2. way through, access, or passage: no thoroughfare.

thoroughgoing (ˈθʌrə,ɡəʊɪŋ) *adj.* 1. extremely thorough. 2. (*usually prenominal*) absolute; complete: thoroughgoing incompetence.

those (ðəʊz) *determiner.* the form of **that** used before a plural noun.

thou¹ (ðəʊ) *pron. (subjective)* 1. *Arch. or Brit. dialect.* refers to the person addressed: used mainly in familiar address. 2. (*usually cap.*) refers to God when addressed in prayer, etc.

▶ **Usage.** Although *thou* has now disappeared from general use in English and is restricted to certain dialects, it was part of standard English until the 18th century. *Thou* was a form of address reserved for God, friends, family, and those inferior in age and status and was therefore similar in meaning and use to the modern French *tu*. *You* was the more formal mode of address until the disappearance of *thou*.

thou² (ðəʊ) *n., pl. thous or thou.* 1. one thousandth of an inch. 2. *Inf.* short for thousand.

though (ðəʊ) *conj. (subordinating)* 1. (sometimes preceded by *even*) despite the fact that: *though he tries hard, he always fails.* 2. **as though**, as if: *he looked as though he'd seen a ghost.* ~*adv.* 3. nevertheless; however: *he can't dance; he sings well, though.*

thought (θɔːt) *vb.* 1. the past tense or past participle of **think**. ~*n.* 2. the act or process of thinking. 3. a concept, opinion, or idea. 4. ideas typical of a particular time or place: *German thought in the 19th century.* 5. application of mental attention; consideration. 6. purpose or intention: *I have no thought of giving up.* 7. expectation: *no thought of reward.* 8. a small amount; trifle: *you could be a thought more enthusiastic.* 9. kindness or regard.

thoughtful (ˈθɔːtful) *adj.* 1. considerate in the treatment of other people. 2. showing careful thought. 3. pensive; reflective. — **thoughtfully** *adv.* — **thoughtfulness** *n.*

thoughtless (ˈθɔːtlɪs) *adj.* 1. inconsiderate. 2. having or showing lack of thought. — **thoughtlessly** *adv.* — **thoughtlessness** *n.*

thousand (ˈθaʊzənd) *n.* 1. the cardinal number that is

the product of 10 and 100. 2. a numeral 1000, 10³, M, etc., representing this number. 3. (*often pl.*) a very large but unspecified number, amount, or quantity. 4. something representing or consisting of 1000 units. ~*determiner.* 5. **a.** amounting to a thousand. **b.** (*as pronoun*): a thousand is hardly enough. ~*Related adj.:* millenary. — **thousandth** *adj.*

thrall (θrɔːl) *n.* 1. Also: **thraldom** or **thralldom** (ˈθrɔːldəm), the state or condition of being in the power of another person. 2. a person who is in such a state. 3. a person totally subject to some need, desire, appetite, etc. ~*vb.* 4. (*tr.*) to enslave or dominate.

thrash (θræʃ) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to beat soundly, as with a whip or stick. 2. (*tr.*) to defeat totally; overwhelm. 3. (*intr.*) to beat or plunge about in a wild manner. 4. to sail (a boat) against the wind or tide or (of a boat) to sail in this way. 5. another word for **thresh**. ~*n.* 6. the act of thrashing; blow; beating.

thrashing (ˈθræʃɪŋ) *n.* a physical assault; flogging.

thrash out *vb. (tr., adv.)* to discuss fully or vehemently, esp. in order to come to an agreement.

thread (θred) *n.* 1. a fine strand, filament or fibre of some material. 2. a fine cord of twisted filaments, esp. of cotton, used in sewing, etc. 3. any of the filaments of which a spider's web is made. 4. any fine line, stream, mark, or piece. 5. the helical ridge on a screw, bolt, nut, etc. 6. a very thin seam of coal or vein of ore. 7. something acting as the continuous link or theme of a whole: *the thread of the story.* 8. the course of an individual's life believed in Greek mythology to be spun, measured, and cut by the Fates. ~*vb.* 9. (*tr.*) to pass (thread, film, tape, etc.) through (something). 10. (*tr.*) to string on a thread: *she threaded the beads.* 11. to make (one's way) through or over (something). 12. (*tr.*) to produce a screw thread. 13. (*tr.*) to pervade: *hysteria threaded his account.* 14. (of boiling syrup) to form a fine thread when poured from a spoon. — **threader** *n.* — **thread, like** *adj.*

threadbare (ˈθred,bɛə) *adj.* 1. (of cloth, clothing, etc.) having the nap worn off so that the threads are exposed; worn out. 2. meagre or poor. 3. hackneyed: *a threadbare argument.* 4. wearing threadbare clothes; shabby.

threadworm (ˈθred,wɜːm) *n.* any of various nematodes, esp. the pinworm.

threat (θret) *n.* 1. a declaration of the intention to inflict harm, pain, or misery. 2. an indication of imminent harm, danger, or pain. 3. a person or thing that is regarded as dangerous or likely to inflict pain or misery.

threaten (ˈθret'n) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to be a threat to. 2. to be a menacing indication of (something); portend. 3. (when *tr.*, may take a clause as object) to express a threat to (a person or people). — **threatener** *n.* — **threateningly** *adv.*

three (θriː) *n.* 1. the cardinal number that is the sum of two and one and is a prime number. 2. a numeral 3, III, (iii), representing this number. 3. something representing or consisting of three units. 4. Also called: **three o'clock**, three hours after noon or midnight. ~*determiner.* 5. **a.** amounting to three. **b.** (*as pronoun*): *three were killed.* ~*Related adjs.:* ternary, tertiary, treble, triple.

three-decker *n.* 1. **a.** anything having three levels or layers. **b.** (*as modifier*): *a three-decker sandwich.* 2. a warship with guns on three decks.

three-dimensional *adj.* 1. of, having, or relating to three dimensions. 2. simulating the effect of depth. 3. having volume. 4. lifelike.

threefold (ˈθriː,fəʊld) *adj.* 1. equal to or having three times as many or as much; triple. 2. composed of three parts. ~*adv.* 3. by or up to three times as many or as much.

three-legged race *n.* a race in which pairs of competitors run with their adjacent legs tied together.

threepenny bit or **thrupenny bit** (ˈθræpni, -oni, ˈθrep-) *n.* a twelve-sided British coin valued at three old pence, obsolete since 1971.

three-ply *adj.* 1. having three layers or thicknesses. 2. (of wool, etc.) three-stranded.

three-point turn *n.* a complete turn of a motor vehicle using forward and reverse gears.

three-quarter *adj.* 1. being three quarters of something. 2. being of three quarters the normal length. ~*n.* 3. *Rugby.* any of the players between the full back and the forwards.

threescore (ˈθriːˈskɔː) *determiner.* an archaic word for sixty.

threesome (ˈθriːsəm) *n.* 1. a group of three. 2. *Golf.* a match in which a single player playing his own ball

competes against two others playing on the same ball. 3. any game, etc., for three people. 4. (*modifier*) performed by three.

threnody ('θrenədi, 'θri:-) or **threnode** ('θri:nəud, 'θren-) *n.*, *pl.* **threnodies** or **threnodes**. an ode, song, or speech of lamentation, esp. for the dead. — **threnodic** ('θri:nədik) *adj.* — **threnodist** ('θrenədɪst, 'θri:-) *n.*

thresh (θreʃ) *vb.* 1. to beat or rub stalks of ripe corn, etc. either with a hand implement or a machine to separate the grain from the husks and straw. 2. (*tr.*) to beat or strike. 3. (*intr.*; often foll. by *about*) to toss and turn; thrash.

thresher ('θreʃə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that threshes, esp. a machine for threshing crops. 2. any of a genus of large sharks occurring in tropical and temperate seas. They have a very long whiplike tail.

threshold ('θreʃhəld, 'θreʃ,həld) *n.* 1. a sill, esp. one made of stone or hardwood, placed at a doorway. 2. any doorway or entrance. 3. the starting point of an experience, event, or venture. 4. *Psychol.* the strength at which a stimulus is just perceived: *the threshold of pain*. 5. the minimum intensity or value of a signal, etc., that will produce a response or specified effect. 6. (*modifier*) of a pay agreement, clause, etc., that raises wages to compensate for increases in the cost of living. ~Related *adj.*: **liminal**.

threw (θru:) *vb.* the past tense of **throw**.

thrice ('θraɪs) *adv.* 1. three times. 2. threefold. 3. *Arch.* greatly.

thrift ('θrɪt) *n.* 1. wisdom and caution in the management of money. 2. Also called: **sea pink**. any of a genus of perennial low-growing plants of Europe, W Asia, and North America, having narrow leaves and round heads of pink or white flowers. — **thrifless** *adj.* — **thriflessly** *adv.*

thrifty ('θrɪftɪ) *adj.* **thrifter**, **thriftest**. 1. showing thrift; economical or frugal. 2. *Rare.* thriving or prospering. — **thriftily** *adv.* — **thriftness** *n.*

thrill ('θrɪl) *n.* 1. a sudden sensation of excitement and pleasure. 2. a situation producing such a sensation. 3. a trembling sensation caused by fear or emotional shock. 4. *Pathol.* an abnormal slight tremor. ~*vb.* 5. to feel or cause to feel a thrill. 6. to tremble or cause to tremble; vibrate or quiver. — **thrilling** *adj.*

thriller ('θrɪlə) *n.* a book, film, play, etc., depicting crime, mystery, or espionage in an atmosphere of excitement and suspense.

thrips ('θrɪps) *n.*, *pl.* **thrips**. any of various small slender-bodied insects typically having piercing mouthparts and feeding on plant sap.

thrive ('θraɪv) *vb.* **thriving**; **thrived** or **throve**; **thrived** or **thriven** ('θraɪv'n). (*intr.*) 1. to grow strongly and vigorously. 2. to do well; prosper.

thro' or **thro** (θru:) *prep.*, *adv.* *Poetic.* variant spellings of **through**.

throat ('θrəʊt) *n.* 1. *a.* that part of the alimentary and respiratory tracts extending from the back of the mouth to just below the larynx. *b.* the front part of the neck. 2. something resembling a throat, esp. in shape or function: *the throat of a chimney*. 3. **cut one's (own) throat**. to bring about one's own ruin. 4. **jump down someone's throat**. to be quick to criticize someone. 5. **ram or force (something) down someone's throat**. to insist that someone listen to or accept (something). 6. **stick in one's throat**. to be difficult for one to utter or believe, esp. because of reluctance or dislike. ~Related *adjs.*: **guttural**, **laryngeal**.

throaty ('θrəʊti) *adj.* **throatier**, **throatiest**. 1. indicating a sore throat; hoarse: *a throaty cough*. 2. of or produced in the throat. 3. deep, husky, or guttural. — **throatily** *adv.*

throb ('θrɒb) *vb.* **throbbing**, **throbbled**. (*intr.*) 1. to pulsate or beat repeatedly, esp. with increased force. 2. (of engines, drums, etc.) to have a strong rhythmic vibration or beat. ~*n.* 3. a throbbing, esp. a rapid pulsation as of the heart: *a throb of pleasure*.

throes ('θrəʊz) *pl. n.* 1. a condition of violent pangs, pain, or convulsions: *death throes*. 2. in the throes of. struggling with great effort with.

thrombosis ('θrɒm'bəʊsɪs) *n.*, *pl.* **-boses** (-bəʊsɪz). 1. the formation or presence of a thrombus. 2. *Inf.* short for **coronary thrombosis**. — **thrombotic** ('θrɒm-'bɒtɪk) *adj.*

throne ('θrəʊn) *n.* 1. the ceremonial seat occupied by a monarch, bishop, etc. on occasions of state. 2. the power or rank ascribed to a royal person. 3. a person holding royal rank. 4. (*pl.*; often *cap.*) the third of the nine orders into which the angels are divided in medi-

eval angelology. ~*vb.* 5. to place or be placed on a throne.

throng ('θrɒŋ) *n.* 1. a great number of people or things crowded together. ~*vb.* 2. to gather in or fill (a place) in large numbers; crowd. 3. (*tr.*) to hem in (a person); jostle.

throstle ('θrɒstl) *n.* 1. a poetic name for the song thrush. 2. a spinning machine for wool or cotton in which the fibres are twisted and wound continuously.

throttle ('θrɒtl) *n.* 1. Also called: **throttle valve**. any device that controls the quantity of fuel or fuel and air mixture entering an engine. 2. an informal or dialect word for throat. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 3. to kill or injure by squeezing the throat. 4. to suppress. 5. to control or restrict (a flow of fluid) by means of a throttle valve. — **throttler** *n.*

through ('θru:) *prep.* 1. going in at one side and coming out at the other side of: *a path through the wood*. 2. occupying or visiting several points scattered around in (an area). 3. as a result of; by means of. 4. *Chiefly U.S.* up to and including: *Monday through Friday*. 5. during: *through the night*. 6. at the end of; having completed. 7. **through with**. having finished with (esp. when dissatisfied with). ~*adj.* 8. (*postpositive*) having successfully completed some specified activity. 9. (on a telephone line) connected. 10. (*postpositive*) no longer able to function successfully in some specified capacity: as *a journalist, you're through*. 11. (*prepositional*) (of a route, journey, etc.) continuous or unbroken: *a through train*. ~*adv.* 12. through some specified thing, place, or period of time. 13. **through and through**. thoroughly; completely.

throughout ('θru:'aʊt) *prep.* 1. right through; through the whole of (a place or a period of time): *throughout the day*. ~*adv.* 2. throughout some specified period or area.

throughput ('θru:'put) *n.* the quantity of raw material processed in a given period, esp. by a computer.

throve ('θrəʊv) *vb.* a past tense of **thrive**.

throw ('θrəʊ) *vb.* **throwing**, **threw**, **thrown**. (*mainly tr.*) 1. (*also intr.*) to project (something) through the air, esp. with a rapid motion of the arm. 2. (foll. by *in*, *on*, *onto*, etc.) to put or move suddenly, carelessly, or violently. 3. to bring to or cause to be in a specified state or condition, esp. suddenly: *the news threw them into a panic*. 4. to direct or cast (a shadow, light, etc.). 5. to project (the voice) so as to make it appear to come from other than its source. 6. to give or hold (a party). 7. to cause to fall or be upset: *the horse threw his rider*. 8. *a.* to tip (dice) out onto a flat surface. *b.* to obtain (a specified number) in this way. 9. to shape on a potter's wheel. 10. to move (a switch or lever) to engage or disengage a mechanism. 11. to be subjected to (a fit). 12. to turn (wood, etc.) on a lathe. 13. *Inf.* to baffle or astonish; confuse: *the question threw me*. 14. *Boxing.* to deliver (a punch). 15. *Wrestling.* to hurl (an opponent) to the ground. 16. *Inf.* to lose (a contest, etc.) deliberately. 17. *a.* to play (a card). *b.* to discard (a card). 18. (of an animal) to give birth to (young). 19. to twist or spin (filaments) into thread. 20. *Austral. inf.* (often foll. by *at*) to mock or poke fun. 21. **throw cold water on**. *Inf.* to discourage or disparage. 22. **throw oneself at**. to strive actively to attract the attention or affection of. 23. **throw oneself into**. to involve oneself enthusiastically in. 24. **throw oneself on**. to rely entirely upon. ~*n.* 25. the act or an instance of throwing. 26. the distance over which anything may be thrown: *a stone's throw*. 27. *Inf.* a chance or try. 28. an act or result of throwing dice. 29. *a.* the eccentricity of a cam. *b.* the radial distance between the central axis of a crankshaft and the axis of a crankpin forming part of the shaft. 30. *U.S.* a decorative blanket or cover. 31. *Geol.* the vertical displacement of rock strata at a fault. 32. *Physics.* the deflection of a measuring instrument as a result of a fluctuation. ~See also **throwaway**, **throwback**, **throw in**, etc. — **thrower** *n.*

throwaway ('θrəʊ,weɪ) *adj.* 1. (*prepositional*) *Chiefly Brit.* said or done incidentally, esp. for rhetorical effect; casual: *a throwaway remark*. ~*n.* 2. *a.* anything that can be thrown away or discarded. *b.* (as *modifier*): *a throwaway carton*. 3. *Chiefly U.S.* a handbill. ~*vb.* **throw away**. (*tr.*, *adv.*) 4. to get rid of; discard. 5. to fail to make good use of; waste.

throwback ('θrəʊ,bæk) *n.* 1. *a.* a person, animal, or plant that has the characteristics of an earlier or more primitive type. *b.* a reversion to such an organism. ~*vb.* **throw back**. (*adv.*) 2. (*intr.*) to revert to an earlier or more primitive type. 3. (*tr.*; foll. by *on*) to force to

depend (on); *the crisis threw her back on her faith in God.*

throw in *vb. (tr., adv.)* 1. to add at no additional cost. 2. to contribute or interpose (a remark, argument, etc.).
3. throw in the towel (or sponge). to give in; accept defeat. ~*n.* **throw-in.** 4. *Soccer.* the method of putting the ball into play after it has gone into touch by throwing it to a teammate.

throw off *vb. (tr., adv.)* 1. to free oneself of; discard. 2. to produce or utter in a casual manner. 3. to escape from or elude. 4. to confuse or disconcert. 5. (often foll. by *at*) *Austral. inf.* to deride or ridicule.

throw out *vb. (tr., adv.)* 1. to discard or reject. 2. to expel or dismiss, esp. forcibly. 3. to construct (something projecting or prominent). 4. to put forward or offer. 5. to utter in a casual or indirect manner. 6. to confuse or disconcert. 7. to give off or emit. 8. *Cricket.* (of a fielder) to put (the batsman) out by throwing the ball to hit the wicket. 9. *Baseball.* to make a throw to a teammate who in turn puts out (a base runner).

throw over *vb. (tr., adv.)* to forsake or abandon; jilt.
throw together *vb. (tr., adv.)* 1. to assemble hurriedly. 2. to cause to become casually acquainted.

throw up *vb. (adv., mainly tr.)* 1. to give up; abandon. 2. to construct hastily. 3. to reveal; produce. 4. (also *intr.*) *Inf.* to vomit.

thru (θru:) *prep., adv., adj.* *U.S. not standard.* a variant spelling of **through**.

thrum¹ (θrʌm) *vb.* **thrumming, thrummed.** 1. to strum rhythmically but without expression on (a musical instrument). 2. (*intr.*) to drum incessantly: *rain thrummed on the roof.* ~*n.* 3. a repetitive strumming.

thrum² (θrʌm) *n.* 1. *a.* any of the unwoven ends of warp thread remaining on the loom when the web has been removed. *b.* such ends of thread collectively. 2. a fringe or tassel of short unwoven threads. ~*vb.* **thrumming, thrummed.** 3. (*tr.*) to trim with thrums.

thrush¹ (θrʌʃ) *n.* any of a subfamily of songbirds esp. those having a brown plumage with a spotted breast, such as the mistle thrush and song thrush.

thrush² (θrʌʃ) *n.* 1. a fungal disease, esp. of infants, characterized by the formation of whitish spots. 2. a vaginal infection caused by the same fungus. 3. a softening of the frog of a horse's hoof characterized by inflammation and a thick foul discharge.

thrust (θrʌst) *vb.* 1. to put with force into (something); push through or against. 2. to force (oneself or another) into some condition or situation. 3. to make a stab or lunge at. ~*n.* 4. a forceful drive, push, stab, or lunge. 5. a force, esp. one that produces motion. 6. *a.* a propulsive force produced by the fluid pressure or the change of momentum of the fluid in a jet engine, rocket engine, etc. *b.* a similar force produced by a propeller. 7. a continuous pressure exerted by one part of an object, structure, etc., against another. 8. force, impetus, or drive.

thruster (θrʌstə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that thrusts. 2. a small rocket engine, esp. one used to correct the altitude or course of a spacecraft.

thud (θʌd) *n.* 1. a dull heavy sound. 2. a blow or fall that causes such a sound. ~*vb.* **thudding, thudded.** 3. to make or cause to make such a sound.

thug (θʌg) *n.* 1. a tough and violent man, esp. a criminal. 2. (sometimes *cap.*) (formerly) a member of an organization of robbers and assassins in India. —*thuggery n.* —*thuggish adj.*

thulium (θju:liəm) *n.* a malleable ductile silvery-grey element. The radioisotope **thulium-170** is used as an electron source in portable x-ray units. Symbol: Tm; atomic no.: 69; atomic wt.: 168.93.

thumb (θʌm) *n.* 1. the first and usually shortest and thickest of the digits of the hand. 2. the corresponding digit in other vertebrates. 3. the part of a glove shaped to fit the thumb. 4. **all thumbs.** clumsy. 5. **thumbs down.** an indication of refusal or disapproval. 6. **thumbs up.** an indication of encouragement or approval. 7. **under someone's thumb.** at someone's mercy or command. ~*vb.* 8. (*tr.*) to touch, mark, or move with the thumb. 9. to attempt to obtain (a lift or ride) by signalling with the thumb. 10. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *through*) to flip the pages of (a book, etc.) in order to glance at the contents. 11. **thumb one's nose at.** to deride or mock, esp. by placing the thumb on the nose with fingers extended.

thumb index *n.* 1. a series of indentations cut into the fore-edge of a book to facilitate quick reference. ~*vb.* **thumb-index.** 2. (*tr.*) to furnish with a thumb index.

thumbnail (θʌm,neɪl) *n.* 1. the nail of the thumb. 2. (*modifier*) concise and brief: *a thumbnail sketch.*

thumbscrew (θʌm,skru:) *n.* 1. an instrument of torture that pinches or crushes the thumbs. 2. a screw with projections on its head enabling it to be turned by the thumb and forefinger.

thump (θʌmp) *n.* 1. the sound of a heavy solid body hitting a comparatively soft surface. 2. a heavy blow with the hand. ~*vb.* 3. (*tr.*) to strike or beat heavily; pound. 4. (*intr.*) to throb, beat, or pound violently. —*thumper n.*

thumping (θʌmpɪŋ) *adj. (prenominal)* *Sl.* huge or excessive: *a thumping loss.*

thunder (θʌndə) *n.* 1. a loud cracking or deep rumbling noise caused by the rapid expansion of atmospheric gases which are suddenly heated by lightning. 2. any loud booming sound. 3. *Rare.* a violent threat or denunciation. 4. **steal someone's thunder.** to lessen the effect of someone's idea or action by anticipating it. ~*vb.* 5. to make (a loud sound) or utter (words) in a manner suggesting thunder. 6. (*intr.*; with *it* as subject) to be the case that thunder is being heard. 7. (*intr.*) to move fast and heavily: *the bus thundered downhill.* 8. (*intr.*) to utter vehement threats or denunciations; rail. —*thunderous adj.* —*thunderer n.*

thunderbolt (θʌndə,bɔʊlt) *n.* 1. a flash of lightning accompanying thunder. 2. the imagined agency of destruction produced by a flash of lightning. 3. (in mythology) the destructive weapon wielded by several gods, esp. the Greek god Zeus. 4. something very startling.

thunderclap (θʌndə,klæp) *n.* 1. a loud outburst of thunder. 2. something as violent or unexpected as a clap of thunder.

thundercloud (θʌndə,klaʊd) *n.* a towering electrically charged cumulonimbus cloud associated with thunderstorms.

thundering (θʌndərɪŋ) *adj. (prenominal)* *Sl.* very great or excessive: *a thundering idiot.*

thunderous (θʌndərəs) *adj.* 1. producing thunder. 2. resembling thunder, esp. in loudness. —*thunderously adv.*

thunderstorm (θʌndə,stɔ:m) *n.* a storm with thunder and lightning and usually heavy rain or hail.

thunderstruck (θʌndə,straɪk) or **thunderstricken** (θʌndə,stri:kən) *adj.* 1. completely taken aback; amazed or shocked. 2. *Rare.* struck by lightning.

thurable (θjʊərɪbəl) *n.* another word for **censer**.

Thurs. *abbrev.* for **Thursday**.

Thursday (θɜ:zdi) *n.* the fifth day of the week; fourth day of the working week.

thus (ðʌs) *adv.* 1. Also: **thusly.** in this manner: *do it thus.* 2. to such a degree: *thus far and no further.* ~ 3. *sentence connector.* therefore: *We have failed. Thus we have to take the consequences.*

thwack (θwæk) *vb.* 1. to beat, esp. with something flat. ~*n.* 2. *a.* a blow with something flat. *b.* the sound made by it.

thwart (θwɔ:t) *vb.* 1. to oppose successfully or prevent; frustrate. 2. *Obs.* to be or move across. ~*n.* 3. an oarsman's seat lying across a boat. ~*adj.* 4. passing or being situated across. ~*prep., adv.* 5. *Obs.* across.

thy (ðai) *determiner.* (usually preceding a consonant) *Arch. or Brit. dialect.* belonging to or associated in some way with you (thou): *thy goodness and mercy.*

thyme (taɪm) *n.* any of various small shrubs having a strong odour, small leaves, and white, pink, or red flowers. —*thymic adj.* —*thymy adj.*

thymol (θaimɒl) *n.* a white crystalline substance obtained from thyme and used as a fungicide, antiseptic, in perfumery, etc.

thymus (θaiməs) *n., pl. -muses or -mi (-mai).* a glandular organ of vertebrates, consisting in man of two lobes situated below the thyroid. It atrophies with age and is almost nonexistent in the adult.

thyroid (θaiɔɪd) *adj.* 1. of or relating to the thyroid gland. 2. of or relating to the largest cartilage of the larynx. ~*n.* 3. see **thyroid gland**. 4. a preparation of the thyroid gland of certain animals, used to treat hypothyroidism.

thyroid gland *n.* an endocrine gland of vertebrates, consisting in man of two lobes near the base of the neck. It secretes hormones that control metabolism and body growth.

thyself (ðai'self) *pron. Arch.* 1. *a.* the reflexive form of *thou* or *thee*. *b.* (intensifier): *thou, thyself, wouldst know.* 2. (preceded by a *copula*) your (thy) normal or usual self.

ti (ti:) *n.* *Music.* a variant spelling of *te*.

Ti the chemical symbol for titanium.

tiara (ti'arə) *n.* 1. a woman's semicircular jewelled headdress for formal occasions. 2. a high headdress worn by Persian kings in ancient times. 3. a headdress worn by the pope, consisting of a beehive-shaped diadem surrounded by three coronets. —**ti'araed** *adj.*

tibia ('tibɪə) *n.*, *pl.* **tibiae** ('tibɪ:ɪ) or **tibias**. 1. the inner and thicker of the two bones of the human leg below the knee; shinbone. 2. the corresponding bone in other vertebrates. 3. the fourth segment of an insect's leg. —**tibial** *adj.*

tic (tik) *n.* spasmodic twitching of a particular group of muscles.

tick¹ (tik) *n.* 1. a recurrent metallic tapping or clicking sound, such as that made by a clock. 2. *Brit. Inf.* a moment or instant. 3. a mark (✓) used to check off or indicate the correctness of something. ~*vb.* 4. to produce or indicate by a recurrent tapping sound: *the clock ticked the minutes away*. 5. (when *tr.*, often foll. by *off*) to mark or check with a tick. 6. **what makes someone tick**, the basic drive or motivation of a person. ~See also **tick off**, **tick over**.

tick² (tik) *n.* any of a large group of small parasitic arachnids typically living on the skin of warm-blooded animals and feeding on the blood and tissues of their hosts.

tick³ (tik) *n.* 1. the strong covering of a pillow, mattress, etc. 2. *Inf.* short for **ticking**.

tick⁴ (tik) *n.* *Brit. Inf.* account or credit (esp. in **on tick**).

ticker ('tɪkə) *n.* 1. *Sl.* a. the heart. b. a watch. 2. a person or thing that ticks. 3. the U.S. word for **tape machine**.

ticker tape *n.* a continuous paper ribbon on which a tape machine prints current stock quotations.

ticket ('tɪkɪt) *n.* 1. a. a piece of paper, cardboard, etc., showing that the holder is entitled to certain rights, such as travel on a train or bus, entry to a place of public entertainment, etc. b. (modifier) concerned with the issue, sale, or checking of tickets: *a ticket collector*. 2. a piece of card, cloth, etc., attached to an article showing information such as its price, size, etc. 3. a summons served for a parking or traffic offence. 4. *Inf.* the certificate of competence issued to a ship's captain or an aircraft pilot. 5. *U.S.* the group of candidates nominated by one party in an election; slate. 6. *Chiefly U.S.* the declared policy of a political party at an election. 7. *Brit. Inf.* a certificate of discharge from the armed forces. 8. *Inf.* the right or appropriate thing: *that's the ticket*. 9. **have (got) tickets on oneself**. *Austral. Inf.* to be conceited. ~*vb.* (tr.) 10. to issue or attach a ticket or tickets to.

ticking ('tɪkɪŋ) *n.* a strong cotton fabric, often striped, used esp. for mattress and pillow covers.

tickle ('tɪklɪ) *vb.* 1. to touch or stroke, so as to produce pleasure, laughter, or a twitching sensation. 2. (tr.) to excite pleasurably; gratify. 3. (tr.) to delight or entertain (often in **tickle one's fancy**). 4. (intr.) to itch or tingle. 5. (tr.) to catch (a fish, esp. a trout) with the hands. 6. **tickle pink** or **to death**, to please greatly. ~*n.* 7. a sensation of light stroking or itching. 8. the act of tickling. 9. *Canad.* in the Atlantic Provinces, a narrow strait.

tickler ('tɪklə) *n.* 1. Also called: **tickler file**. *U.S.* a memorandum book. 2. *U.S.* a single-entry business journal. 3. a person or thing that tickles. 4. *Inf.*, *chiefly Brit.* a difficult problem.

ticklish ('tɪkliʃ) *adj.* 1. sensitive to being tickled. 2. delicate or difficult. 3. easily upset or offended. —**'ticklishly** *adv.* —**'ticklishness** *n.*

tick off *vb.* (tr., *adv.*) 1. to mark with a tick. 2. *Inf.*, *chiefly Brit.* to scold; reprimand.

tick over *vb.* (intr., *adv.*) 1. Also: **idle**. *Brit.* (of an engine) to run at low speed with the throttle control closed and the transmission disengaged. 2. to run smoothly without any major changes.

ticktack ('tɪk,tæk) *n.* 1. **Brit.** a system of sign language, mainly using the hands, by which bookmakers transmit their odds to each other at race courses. 2. *U.S.* a ticking sound.

ticktock ('tɪk,tɒk) *n.* 1. a ticking sound as made by a clock. ~*vb.* 2. (intr.) to make a ticking sound.

tidal ('tɪdli) *adj.* 1. relating to, characterized by, or affected by tides. 2. dependent on the tide: *a tidal ferry*. —**'tidally** *adv.*

tidal wave *n.* 1. a nontechnical name for **tsunami**. 2. an unusually large incoming wave, often caused by

high winds and spring tides. 3. a forceful and widespread movement in public opinion, action, etc.

tiddler ('tɪdlə) *n.* *Brit. Inf.* 1. a very small fish, esp. a stickleback. 2. a small child.

tiddly ('tɪdlɪ) *adj.* *Brit.* small; tiny.

tiddly² ('tɪdlɪ) *adj.* *Sl.*, *chiefly Brit.* slightly drunk.

tiddlywinks ('tɪdlɪ,wɪŋks) *n.* a game in which players try to flick discs of plastic into a cup by pressing them with other larger discs.

tide (taɪd) *n.* 1. the cyclic rise and fall of sea level caused by the gravitational pull of the sun and moon. There are usually two high tides and two low tides in each lunar day. 2. the current, ebb, or flow of water at a specified place resulting from these changes in level. 3. See **ebb** (sense 3) and **flood** (sense 3). 4. a widespread tendency or movement. 5. a critical point in time; turning point. 6. *Arch.* except in combination, a season or time: *Christmastide*. 7. *Arch.* a favourable opportunity. ~*vb.* 8. to carry or be carried with or as if with the tide. 9. (intr.) to ebb and flow like the tide. —**'tideless** *adj.*

tidemark ('taɪd,mɑ:k) *n.* 1. a mark left by the highest or lowest point of a tide. 2. *Chiefly Brit.* a mark showing a level reached by a liquid: *a tidemark on the bath*. 3. *Inf.*, *chiefly Brit.* a dirty mark on the skin, indicating the extent to which someone has washed.

tide over *vb.* (tr.) to help to get through (a period of difficulty, distress, etc.).

tidings ('taɪdɪŋz) *pl.* *n.* information or news.

tidy ('taɪdɪ) *adj.* **-dier, -diest**. 1. characterized by or indicating neatness and order. 2. *Inf.* considerable: *a tidy sum of money*. ~*vb.* **-dying, -died**. 3. (when intr., usually foll. by *up*) to put (things) in order; neat. ~*n.*, *pl.* **-dies**. 4. a. a small container for odds and ends. b. **sink tidy**, a container to retain rubbish that might clog the plug hole. 5. *Chiefly U.S.* an ornamental protective covering for the back or arms of a chair. —**'tidily** *adv.* —**'tidiness** *n.*

tie (taɪ) *vb.* **tying, tied**. 1. (when *tr.*, often foll. by *up*) to fasten or be fastened with string, thread, etc. 2. to make (a knot or bow) in (something). 3. (tr.) to restrict or secure. 4. to equal (the score) of (a competitor, etc.). 5. (tr.) *Inf.* to unite in marriage. 6. *Music.* a. to execute (two successive notes) as though they formed one note. b. to connect (two printed notes) with a tie. ~*n.* 7. a bond, link, or fastening. 8. a restriction or restraint. 9. a string, wire, etc., with which something is tied. 10. a long narrow piece of material worn, esp. by men, under the collar of a shirt, tied in a knot close to the throat with the ends hanging down the front. *U.S.* name: **necktie**. 11. a. an equality in score, attainment, etc., in a contest. b. the match or competition in which such a result is attained. 12. a structural member such as a tie beam or tie rod. 13. *Sport, Brit.* a match or game in an eliminating competition: *a cup tie*. 14. (usually *pl.*) a shoe fastened by means of laces. 15. the *U.S.* name for **sleeper** (on a railway track). 16. *Music.* a slur connecting two notes of the same pitch indicating that the sound is to be prolonged for their joint time value. ~See also **tie in**, **tie up**.

tie beam *n.* a horizontal beam that serves to prevent two other structural members from separating, esp. one that connects two corresponding rafters in a roof or roof truss.

tied (taɪd) *adj.* *Brit.* 1. (of a public house, etc.) obliged to sell only the beer, etc., of a particular brewery. 2. (of a house) rented out to the tenant for as long as he is employed by the owner.

tie-dyeing, tie-dye or tie and dye *n.* a method of dyeing textiles to produce patterns by tying sections of the cloth together so that they will not absorb the dye. —**'tie-dyed** *adj.*

tie in *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. to come or bring into a certain relationship; coordinate. ~*n.* **tie-in**. 2. a link, relationship, or coordination. 3. publicity material, a book, etc., linked to a film, etc. 4. *U.S.* a. a sale or advertisement offering products of which a purchaser must buy one or more in addition to his purchase. b. an item sold or advertised in this way. c. (as modifier): *a tie-in sale*.

tiepin ('taɪ,pɪn) *n.* an ornamental pin of various shapes used to pin the two ends of a tie to a shirt.

tier¹ (taɪə) *n.* 1. one of a set of rows placed one above and behind the other, such as theatre seats. 2. a. a layer or level. b. (in combination): *a three-tier cake*. ~*vb.* 3. to be or arrange in tiers.

tier² ('taɪə) *n.* a person or thing that ties.

tiercel ('taɪsəl) *n.* a variant of **tercel**.

tie up *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. (tr.) to bind securely with or as if

with string, rope, etc. 2. to moor (a vessel). 3. (*tr.*; often *passive*) to engage the attentions of. 4. (*tr.*; often *passive*) to conclude (the organization of something). 5. to come or bring to a complete standstill. 6. (*tr.*) to commit (funds, etc.) and so make unavailable for other uses. 7. (*tr.*) to subject (property) to conditions that prevent sale, alienation, etc. ~*n.* **tie-up**. 8. a link or connection. 9. *Chiefly U.S.* a standstill. 10. *Chiefly U.S.* an informal term for **traffic jam**.

tiff (tɪf) *n.* 1. a petty quarrel. 2. a fit of ill humour. ~*vb.* 3. (*intr.*) to have or be in a tiff.

tiffin ('tɪfn) (*n.* in India) a light meal, esp. at midday.

tiger ('taɪɡə) *n.* 1. a large feline mammal of forests in most of Asia, having a tawny yellow coat with black stripes. 2. a dynamic, forceful, or cruel person. — **tigerish** or **'tigrish** *adj.*

tiger lily *n.* a lily plant of China and Japan cultivated for its flowers, which have black-spotted orange petals.

tiger moth *n.* any of various moths having wings that are conspicuously marked with stripes and spots.

tiger's-eye ('taɪɡəz,ai) or **tigereye** *n.* a semi-precious golden-brown stone.

tight (taɪt) *adj.* 1. stretched or drawn so as not to be loose; taut. 2. fitting in a close manner. 3. held, made, fixed, or closed firmly and securely: a **tight knot**. 4. *a.* of close and compact construction or organization, esp. so as to be impervious to water, air, etc. *b.* (*in combination*): **airtight**. 5. unyielding or stringent. 6. cramped or constricted: a **tight fit**. 7. mean or miserly. 8. difficult and problematic: a **tight situation**. 9. hardly profitable: a **tight bargain**. 10. *Econ. a.* (of a commodity) difficult to obtain. *b.* (of funds, money, etc.) difficult and expensive to borrow. *c.* (of markets) characterized by excess demand or scarcity. 11. (of a match or game) very close or even. 12. *Inf. drunk*. 13. *Inf.* (of a person) showing tension. 14. **sit tight**, to maintain one's position, stand, or opinion firmly. ~*adv.* 15. in a close, firm, or secure way. — **tightly** *adv.* — **tightness** *n.*

tighten ('taɪtn) *vb.* 1. to make or become tight or tighter. 2. **tighten one's belt**, to economize.

tightfisted ('taɪt'fɪstɪd) *adj.* mean; miserly.

tightknit ('taɪt'knɪt) *adj.* 1. closely integrated: a **tight-knit community**. 2. organized carefully.

tight-lipped *adj.* 1. secretive or taciturn. 2. with the lips pressed tightly together, as through anger.

tightrope ('taɪt,rəʊp) *n.* a rope stretched taut on which acrobats walk or perform balancing feats. — **tightrope walker** *n.*

tights (taɪts) *pl. n.* 1. Also called (esp. U.S. and Austral.): **pantihose**, a one-piece clinging garment covering the body from the waist to the feet, worn by women and also by acrobats, dancers, etc. 2. a similar garment formerly worn by men, as in the 16th century with a doublet.

tigress ('taɪgrɪs) *n.* 1. a female tiger. 2. a fierce, cruel, or wildly passionate woman.

tike (taɪk) *n.* a variant spelling of **tyke**.

tilde ('tɪldə) *n.* the diacritical mark (˜) placed over a letter to indicate a nasal sound, as in Spanish *señor*.

tile (taɪl) *n.* 1. a flat thin slab of fired clay, rubber, linoleum, etc. used with others to cover a roof, floor, wall, etc. 2. a short pipe made of earthenware, plastic, etc., used with others to form a drain. 3. tiles collectively. 4. a rectangular block used as a playing piece in mahjong and other games. 5. **on the tiles**, *Inf.* on a spree, esp. of drinking or debauchery. ~*vb.* 6. (*tr.*) to cover with tiles. — **tiler** *n.*

tiling ('taɪlɪŋ) *n.* 1. tiles collectively. 2. something made of or surfaced with tiles.

till (tɪl) *conj., prep.* short for **until**. Also (not standard): **'til**.

▷ **Usage.** *Till* is a variant of *until* that is acceptable at all levels of language. *Until* is, however, often preferred at the beginning of a sentence in formal writing.

tillp (tɪl) *vb.* 1. to cultivate and work (land) for the raising of crops. 2. (*tr.*) to plough. — **tillable** *adj.* — **tiller** *n.*

tillp (tɪl) *n.* 1. a box, case, or drawer in which money is kept, esp. in a shop. 2. another term for **cash register**.

tillage ('tɪlɪdʒ) *n.* 1. the act, process, or art of tilling. 2. tilled land.

tiller ('tɪlə) *n.* *Naut.* a handle fixed to the top of a rudderpost to serve as a lever in steering it. — **tillerless** *adj.*

tilt (tɪlt) *vb.* 1. to incline or cause to incline at an angle. 2. (*usually intr.*) to attack or overthrow (a person) in a tilt or joust. 3. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *at*) to aim or thrust: to **tilt a lance**. 4. (*tr.*) to forge with a tilt hammer.

~*n.* 5. a slope or angle: *at a tilt*. 6. the act of tilting. 7. (esp. in medieval Europe) *a.* a jousting contest. *b.* a thrust with a lance or pole delivered during a tournament. 8. any dispute or contest. 9. (*at*) **full tilt**, at full speed or force. — **'tilter** *n.*

tilth (tɪlθ) *n.* 1. the act or process of tilling land. 2. the condition of soil or land that has been tilled.

Tim. *Bible.* abbrev. for Timothy.

timber ('tɪmbə) *n.* 1. *a.* wood, esp. when regarded as a construction material. *b.* (*as modifier*): a **timber cottage**. Usual U.S. word: **lumber**. 2. *a.* trees collectively. *b.* *Chiefly U.S.* woodland. 3. a piece of wood used in a structure. 4. *Naut.* a frame in a wooden vessel. ~*vb.* 5. (*tr.*) to provide with timbers. ~*interj.* 6. a lumberjack's shouted warning when a tree is about to fall. — **'timbered** *adj.* — **'timbering** *n.*

timber line *n.* the altitudinal or latitudinal limit of tree growth. Also called: **tree line**.

timbre ('tɪmbə, 'tæmbə) *n.* 1. *Phonetics.* the distinctive tone quality differentiating one vowel or sonant from another. 2. *Music.* tone colour or quality of sound.

timbrel ('tɪmbəl) *n.* *Chiefly biblical.* a tambourine.

Timbuktu ('tɪmbʌk'tuː) *n.* 1. a town in central Mali: terminus of a trans-Saharan caravan route. 2. any distant or outlandish place: *from here to Timbuktu*.

time (taɪm) *n.* 1. the continuous passage of existence in which events pass from a state of potentiality in the future, through the present, to a state of finality in the past. Related *adj.*: **temporal**. 2. *Physics.* a quantity measuring duration, usually with reference to a periodic process such as the rotation of the earth or the vibration of electromagnetic radiation emitted from certain atoms. Time is considered as a fourth coordinate required to specify an event. 3. a specific point on this continuum expressed in hours and minutes: *the time is four o'clock*. 4. a system of reckoning for expressing time: *Greenwich mean time*. 5. *a.* a definite and measurable portion of this continuum. *b.* (*as modifier*): **time limit**. 6. *a.* an accepted period such as a day, season, etc. *b.* (*in combination*): **springtime**. 7. an unspecified interval; a while. 8. (*often pl.*) a period or point marked by specific attributes or events: *the Victorian times*. 9. a sufficient interval or period: *have you got time to help me?* 10. an instance or occasion: *I called you three times*. 11. an occasion or period of specified quality: *have a good time*. 12. the duration of human existence. 13. the heyday of human life: *in her time she was a great star*. 14. a suitable moment: *it's time I told you*. 15. the expected interval in which something is done. 16. a particularly important moment, esp. childbirth or death: *her time had come*. 17. (*pl.*) indicating a degree or amount calculated by multiplication with the number specified: *ten times three is thirty*. 18. (*often pl.*) the fashions, thought, etc., of the present age (esp. in **ahead of one's time**, **behind the times**). 19. *Brit.* Also: **closing time**, the time at which bars, pubs, etc. are legally obliged to stop selling alcoholic drinks. 20. *Inf.* a term in jail (esp. in **do time**). 21. *a.* a customary or full period of work. *b.* the rate of pay for this period. 22. Also (esp. U.S.): **metre**, *a.* the system of combining beats or pulses in music into successive groupings by which the rhythm of the music is established. *b.* a specific system having a specific number of beats in each grouping or bar: **duple time**. 23. *Music.* short for **time value**. 24. **against time**, in an effort to complete something in a limited period. 25. **ahead of time**, before the deadline. 26. **at one time**, *a.* once; formerly. *b.* simultaneously. 27. **at the same time**, *a.* simultaneously. *b.* nevertheless; however. 28. **at times**, sometimes. 29. **beat time**, to indicate the tempo of a piece of music by waving a baton or a hand, etc. 30. **for the time being**, for the moment; temporarily. 31. **from time to time**, at intervals; occasionally. 32. **have no time for**, to have no patience with; not tolerate. 33. **in good time**, *a.* early. *b.* quickly. 34. **in no time**, very quickly. 35. **in one's own time**, *a.* outside paid working hours. *b.* at one's own rate. 36. **in time**, *a.* early or at the appointed time. *b.* *Music.* at a correct metrical or rhythmical pulse. 37. **keep time**, to observe correctly the accent or rhythmical pulse of a piece of music in relation to tempo. 38. **make time** (with), *U.S. inf.* to succeed in seducing. 39. **in the nick of time**, at the last possible moment. 40. **on time**, *a.* at the expected or scheduled time. *b.* *U.S.* payable in instalments. 41. **pass the time of day**, to exchange casual greetings (with an acquaintance). 42. **time and again**, frequently. 43. **time off**, a period when one is absent from work for a holiday, through sickness, etc. 44. **time out of mind**, from time immemorial. 45. **time of one's life**, a very

enjoyable or memorable period of time. **46. (modifier)** operating automatically at or for a set time: *time lock; time switch*. ~*vb. (tr.)* **47.** to ascertain the duration or speed of. **48.** to set a time for. **49.** to adjust to keep accurate time. **50.** to pick a suitable time for. **51. Sport.** to control the execution or speed of (an action). ~*interj.* **52.** the word called out by a publican signalling that it is closing time.

time and a half *n.* the rate of pay equalling one and a half times the normal rate, often offered for overtime work.

time and motion study *n.* the analysis of industrial or work procedures to determine the most efficient methods of operation. Also: **time and motion, time study, motion study.**

time bomb *n.* a bomb containing a timing mechanism that determines the time at which it will detonate.

time capsule *n.* a container holding articles, documents, etc., representative of the current age, buried for discovery in the future.

time clock *n.* a clock which records, by punching or stamping **timecards** inserted into it, the time of arrival or departure of people, such as employees in a factory.

time exposure *n.* **1.** an exposure of a photographic film for a relatively long period, usually a few seconds. **2.** a photograph produced by such an exposure.

time-honoured *adj.* having been observed for a long time and sanctioned by custom.

timekeeper ('taim,ki:pə) *n.* **1.** a person or thing that keeps or records time. **2.** an employee who maintains a record of the hours worked by the other employees. **3.** an employee whose record of punctuality is of a specified nature: *a bad timekeeper*. —'time,keeping *n.*

timeless ('taimlis) *adj.* **1.** unaffected or unchanged by time; ageless. **2.** eternal. —'timelessly *adv.* —'timelessness *n.*

timely ('taimli) *adj.* -lier, -liest, *adv.* at the right or an opportune or appropriate time.

time-out *n.* Chiefly U.S. **1. Sport.** an interruption in play during which players rest, discuss tactics, etc. **2.** a period of rest; break.

timepiece ('taim,pi:s) *n.* any of various devices, such as a clock, watch, or chronometer, which measure and indicate time.

timer ('taimə) *n.* **1.** a device for measuring, recording, or indicating time. **2.** a switch or regulator that causes a mechanism to operate at a specific time. **3.** a person or thing that times.

timeserver ('taim,sɜ:və) *n.* a person who compromises and changes his opinions, way of life, etc., to suit the current fashions.

time sharing *n.* **1.** a system by which users at different terminals of a computer can, because of its high speed, apparently communicate with it at the same time. **2.** a system of part-ownership of a property, such as a flat or villa, for use as a holiday home, whereby each participant owns the property for a particular period every year.

time signature *n.* *Music.* a sign usually consisting of two figures, one above the other, the upper figure representing the number of beats per bar and the lower one the time value of each beat: it is placed after the key signature.

timetable ('taim,teib'l) *n.* a list or table of events arranged according to the time when they take place; schedule.

time value *n.* *Music.* the duration of a given printed note relative to other notes in a composition and to the basic tempo.

timeworn ('taim,wɔ:n) *adj.* **1.** showing the adverse effects of overlong use or of old age. **2.** hackneyed; trite.

time zone *n.* a region throughout which the same standard time is used. There are 24 time zones in the world, demarcated approximately by meridians at 15° intervals, an hour apart.

timid ('timid) *adj.* **1.** easily frightened or upset, esp. by human contact; shy. **2.** indicating shyness or fear. —'timidity or 'timidness *n.* —'timidly *adv.*

timing ('taimɪŋ) *n.* the regulation of actions or remarks in relation to others to produce the best effect, as in music, the theatre, etc.

timorous ('timərəs) *adj.* **1.** fearful or timid. **2.** indicating fear or timidity. —'timorously *adv.* —'timorousness *n.*

timpani or tympani ('timpəni) *pl. n.* (sometimes functioning as *sing.*) a set of kettledrums. —'timpanist or 'tympanist *n.*

tin (tɪn) *n.* **1.** a malleable silvery-white metallic element, used extensively in alloys, esp. bronze and pewter, and as a noncorroding coating for steel. Symbol: Sn; atomic no.: 50; atomic wt.: 118.69. **2.** Also called (esp. U.S.): **can.** an airtight sealed container of thin sheet metal coated with tin, used for preserving and storing food or drink. **3.** any container made of metallic tin. **4.** Also called: **tinful.** the contents of a tin. **5. N.Z. & Austral.** galvanized iron: *a tin roof*. **6.** any metal regarded as cheap or flimsy. **7. Brit.** a loaf of bread with a rectangular shape. **8. N.Z.** a receptacle for home-baked biscuits, etc. (esp. in **to fill her tins** to bake a supply of biscuits, etc.). ~*vb.* **tinning, tinned.** (tr.) **9.** to put (food, etc.) into a tin or tins; preserve in a tin. **10.** to plate or coat with tin. **11.** to prepare (a metal) for soldering or brazing by applying a thin layer of solder to the surface. ~Related adjs.: **stannic, stannous.**

tin can *n.* a metal food container, esp. when empty.

tinctor ('tɪŋktʃə) *n.* **1.** a medicinal extract in a solution of alcohol. **2.** a tint, colour, or tinge. **3.** a slight flavour, aroma, or trace. **4.** a colour or metal used on heraldic arms. **5. Obs.** a dye. ~*vb.* **6. (tr.)** to give a tint or colour to.

tinder ('tɪndə) *n.* **1.** dry wood or other easily combustible material used for lighting a fire. **2.** anything inflammatory or dangerous. —'tindery *adj.*

tinderbox ('tɪndə,bɒks) *n.* **1.** a box used formerly for holding tinder, esp. one fitted with a flint and steel. **2.** a person or thing that is particularly touchy or explosive.

tine (taɪn) *n.* **1.** a slender prong, esp. of a fork. **2.** any of the sharp terminal branches of a deer's antler. —tined *adj.*

tin foil ('tɪn'fɔɪl) *n.* **1.** thin foil made of tin or an alloy of tin and lead. **2.** thin foil made of aluminium; used for wrapping foodstuffs.

ting (tɪŋ) *n.* **1.** a high metallic sound such as that made by a small bell. ~*vb.* **2.** to make or cause to make such a sound.

ting-a-ling ('tɪŋə'liŋ) *n.* the sound of a small bell.

tinge (tɪndʒ) *n.* **1.** a slight tint or colouring. **2.** any slight addition. ~*vb.* **tingeing or tinging, tinged.** (tr.) **3.** to colour or tint faintly. **4.** to impart a slight trace to: *her thoughts were tinged with nostalgia*.

tingle ('tɪŋɡl) *vb.* **1. (usually intr.)** to feel or cause to feel a prickling, itching, or stinging sensation of the flesh, as from a cold plunge. ~*n.* **2.** a sensation of tingling. —'tingler *n.* —'tingly *adj.*

tin god *n.* **1.** a self-important person. **2.** a person erroneously regarded as holy or venerable.

tinker ('tɪŋkə) *n.* **1.** (esp. formerly) a travelling mender of pots and pans. **2.** a clumsy worker. **3.** a person who enjoys playing with mechanical things. ~*vb.* **4. (intr.; foll. by with)** to play, fiddle, or meddle (with machinery, etc.), esp. while undertaking repairs. **5.** to mend (pots and pans) as a tinker. —'tinkerer *n.*

tinker's damn or cuss *n. Sl.* the slightest heed (esp. in *not give a tinker's damn or cuss*).

tinkle ('tɪŋkəl) *vb.* **1.** to ring with a high tinny sound like a small bell. **2. (tr.)** to announce or summon by such a ringing. **3. (intr.)** *Brit. inf.* to urinate. ~*n.* **4.** a high clear ringing sound. **5.** the act of tinkling. **6. Brit. inf. a telephone call. —'tinkly *adj.***

tin lizzie ('lɪzi) *n. Inf.* an old or decrepit car.

tinny ('tɪni) *adj.* -nier, -niest. **1.** of or resembling tin. **2.** cheap or shoddy. **3.** (of a sound) high, thin, and metallic. **4.** (of food or drink) flavoured with metal, as from a container. **5. Austral. inf. lucky. ~*n.* **6. Austral. sl. a can of beer. —'tinnily *adv.* —'tinniness *n.*****

tin-opener *n.* a small tool for opening tins.

tin plate *n.* **1.** thin steel sheet coated with a layer of tin that protects the steel from corrosion. ~*vb.* **tin-plate.** **2. (tr.)** to coat with a layer of tin.

tinpot ('tɪn,pɒt) *adj. (prenominal)* *Brit. inf.* inferior, cheap, or worthless.

tinse ('tɪnsəl) *n.* **1.** a decoration consisting of a piece of string with thin strips of metal foil attached along its length. **2.** a yarn or fabric interwoven with strands of glittering thread. **3.** anything cheap, showy, and gaudy. ~*vb.* -selling, -selled or U.S. -seling, -seled. (tr.) **4.** to decorate with or as if with tinsel: *snow tinsels the trees*. **5.** to give a gaudy appearance to.

tinsmith ('tɪn,smɪθ) *n.* a person who works with tin or tin plate.

tint (tɪnt) *n.* **1.** a shade of a colour, esp. a pale one. **2.** a colour that is softened by the addition of white. **3.** a tinge. **4.** a dye for the hair. **5.** a trace or hint. **6. Engraving.** uniform shading, produced esp. by hatching.

~vb. 7. (tr.) to colour or tinge. 8. (intr.) to acquire a tint. —**tinter** *n.*

tinnabulation (ˌtɪntɪˌnæbjʊˈleɪʃən) *n.* the act or an instance of the ringing or pealing of bells.

tiny (ˈtaɪni) *adj.* -nier, -niest. very small. —**tinily** *adv.* —**tininess** *n.*

tip (tɪp) *n.* 1. a narrow or pointed end of something. 2. the top or summit. 3. a small piece forming an end: a metal tip on a cane. ~vb. **tippling, tipped.** (tr.) 4. to adorn or mark the tip of. 5. to form or cause to form a tip. —**tipless** *adj.*

tip (tɪp) *vb.* **tippling, tipped.** 1. to tilt or cause to tilt. 2. (tr.; usually foll. by *over* or *up*) to tilt or cause to tilt, so as to overturn or fall. 3. *Brit.* to dump (rubbish, etc.). 4. **tip one's hat**, to raise one's hat in salutation. ~*n.* 5. a tipping or being tipped. 6. *Brit.* a dump for refuse, etc. —**tipper** *n.*

tip (tɪp) *n.* 1. a payment given for services in excess of the standard charge; gratuity. 2. a helpful hint or warning. 3. a piece of inside information, esp. in betting or investing. ~vb. **tippling, tipped.** 4. to give a tip to. —**tipper** *n.*

tip (tɪp) *vb.* **tippling, tipped.** (tr.) 1. to hit or strike lightly. ~*n.* 2. a light blow.

tip-off *n.* 1. a warning or hint, esp. given confidentially and based on inside information. 2. *Basketball.* the act or an instance of putting the ball in play by the referee throwing it high between two opposing players. ~vb. **tip off.** 3. (tr., *adv.*) to give a hint or warning to.

tipplet (ˈtɪptɪt) *n.* 1. a woman's fur cape for the shoulders. 2. the long stole of Anglican clergy worn during a service. 3. a long streamer-like part to a sleeve, hood, etc., esp. in the 16th century.

tipple (ˈtɪpəl) *vb.* 1. to make a habit of taking (alcoholic drink), esp. in small quantities. ~*n.* 2. alcoholic drink. —**tippler** *n.*

tipstaff (ˈtɪpˌstɑːf) *n.* 1. a court official. 2. a metal-tipped staff formerly used as a symbol of office.

tipster (ˈtɪpstə) *n.* a person who sells tips on horse racing, the stock market, etc.

tipsy (ˈtɪpsɪ) *adj.* -sier, -siest. 1. slightly drunk. 2. slightly tilted or tipped; askew. —**tipsily** *adv.* —**tipsiness** *n.*

tiptoe (ˈtɪptəʊ) *vb.* **toeing, toed.** (intr.) 1. to walk with the heels off the ground. 2. to walk silently or stealthily. ~*n.* 3. **on tiptoe**, a. on the tips of the toes or on the ball of the foot and the toes. b. eagerly anticipating something. c. stealthily or silently. ~*adv.* 4. on tiptoe. ~*adj.* 5. walking or standing on tiptoe.

tiptop (ˌtɪpˈtɒp) *adj.*, *adv.* 1. at the highest point of health, excellence, etc. 2. at the topmost point. ~*n.* 3. the best in quality. 4. the topmost point.

tip-up *adj.* (*prenominal*) able to be turned upwards around a hinge or pivot: a tip-up seat.

TIR *abbrev.* for *Transports Internationaux Routiers*.

tirade (ˈtaɪreɪd) *n.* a long angry speech or denunciation.

tire (ˈtaɪə) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to reduce the energy of, esp. by exertion; weary. 2. (tr.; often *passive*) to reduce the tolerance of; bore or irritate: *I'm tired of the children's chatter.* 3. (intr.) to become wearied or bored; flag.

tire (ˈtaɪə) *n.*, *vb.* the U.S. spelling of *tyre*.

tired (ˈtaɪəd) *adj.* 1. weary; fatigued. 2. no longer fresh; hackneyed.

tireless (ˈtaɪələs) *adj.* unable to be tired. —**tirelessly** *adv.* —**tirelessness** *n.*

tiresome (ˈtaɪəsm) *adj.* boring and irritating. —**tiresomely** *adv.* —**tiresomeness** *n.*

tiro (ˈtaɪəʊ) *n.*, *pl.* *ros.* a variant spelling of *tyro*.

tissue (ˈtɪʃuː, ˈtʃuː) *n.* 1. a part of an organism consisting of a large number of cells having a similar structure and function: nerve tissue. 2. a thin piece of soft absorbent paper used as a disposable handkerchief, towel, etc. 3. See **tissue paper**. 4. an interwoven series: a tissue of lies. 5. a woven cloth, esp. of a light gauzy nature. ~vb. (tr.) 6. to decorate or clothe with tissue or tissue paper.

tissue paper *n.* very thin soft delicate paper used to wrap breakable goods, as decoration, etc.

tit (tɪt) *n.* any of numerous small active Old World songbirds, esp. the bluetit, great tit, etc. They have a short bill and feed on insects and seeds.

tit (tɪt) *n.* 1. *Sl.* a female breast. 2. a teat or nipple. 3. *Derog.* a young woman. 4. *Taboo sl.* a despicable or unpleasant person.

Tit. *Bible.* *abbrev.* for *Titus*.

titan (ˈtaɪtən) *n.* a person of great strength or size.

titanic (ˈtaɪtənɪk) *adj.* huge.

titanium (taɪˈteɪniəm) *n.* a strong malleable white metallic element, which is very corrosion-resistant. It is used in the manufacture of strong lightweight alloys, esp. aircraft parts. Symbol: Ti; atomic no.: 22; atomic wt.: 47.90.

titbit (ˈtɪt,bɪt) or *esp.* U.S. **tidbit** *n.* 1. a tasty small piece of food; dainty. 2. a pleasing scrap of anything, such as scandal.

tifter (ˈtɪtə) *n.* *Cockney rhyming sl.* a hat.

tit for tat *n.* an equivalent given in return or retaliation; blow for blow.

tithe (taɪð) *n.* 1. (*often pl.*) a tenth part of produce, income, or profits, contributed for the support of the church or clergy. 2. any levy, esp. of one tenth. 3. a tenth or very small part of anything. ~vb. 4. (tr.) a. to exact or demand a tithe from. b. to levy a tithe upon. 5. (intr.) to pay a tithe or tithes. —**tithable** *adj.*

tithe barn *n.* a large barn where, formerly, the agricultural tithe of a parish was stored.

titillate (ˈtɪtɪˌleɪt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to arouse or excite pleasurable. 2. to cause a tickling or tingling sensation in, esp. by touching. —**titillatingly** *adv.* —**titillation** *n.*

titivate or **titivate** (ˈtɪtɪˌveɪt) *vb.* to smarten up; spruce up. —**titivation** or **titivation** *n.*

title (ˈtaɪtl) *n.* 1. the distinctive name of a work of art, musical or literary composition, etc. 2. a descriptive name or heading of a section of a book, speech, etc. 3. See **title page**. 4. a name or epithet signifying rank, office, or function. 5. a formal designation, such as *Mr.* 6. an appellation designating nobility. 7. *Films.* a. short for **subtitle**. b. written material giving credits in a film or television programme. 8. *Sport.* a championship. 9. *Law.* a. the legal right to possession of property, esp. real property. b. the basis of such right. c. the documentary evidence of such right: **title deeds**. 10. a. any customary or established right. b. a claim based on such a right. 11. a definite spiritual charge or office in the church as a prerequisite for ordination. 12. *R.C. Church.* a titular church. ~vb. 13. (tr.) to give a title to.

title deed *n.* a document evidencing a person's legal right or title to property, esp. real property.

titleholder (ˈtaɪtlˌhəʊldə) *n.* a person who holds a title, esp. a sporting championship.

title page *n.* the page in a book that gives the title, author, publisher, etc.

title role *n.* the role of the character after whom a play, etc., is named.

titmouse (ˈtɪtˌmaʊs) *n.*, *pl.* -mice. another name for **tit**.

titrate (ˈtaɪtreɪt) *vb.* (tr.) to measure the volume or concentration of (a solution) by titration. —**titratable** *adj.*

titration (taɪˈtreɪʃən) *n.* an operation in which a measured amount of one solution is added to a known quantity of another solution until the reaction between the two is complete. If the concentration of one solution is known, that of the other can be calculated.

titter (ˈtɪtə) *vb.* (intr.) 1. to snigger, esp. derisively or in a suppressed way. ~*n.* 2. a suppressed laugh, chuckle, or snigger. —**titterer** *n.* —**titteringly** *adv.*

title (ˈtɪtl) *n.* 1. a small mark in printing or writing, esp. a diacritic. 2. a jot; particle.

title-tattle *n.* 1. idle chat or gossip. ~vb. 2. (intr.) to chatter or gossip. —**title-tattler** *n.*

titup (ˈtɪtʌp) *vb.* -tupping, -tupped or U.S. -tuping, -tuped. 1. (intr.) to prance or frolic. ~*n.* 2. a caper.

titular (ˈtɪtʃʊlə) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or of the nature of a title. 2. in name only. 3. bearing a title. 4. *R.C. Church.* designating any of certain churches in Rome to whom cardinals or bishops are attached as their nominal incumbents. ~*n.*, *pl.* -lars or -laries. 5. the bearer of a title. 6. the bearer of a nominal office.

tizzy (ˈtɪzɪ) *n.*, *pl.* -zies. a state of confusion or excitement. Also called: **tiz-woz**.

T-junction *n.* a road junction in which one road joins another at right-angles but does not cross it.

Tl *the chemical symbol for thallium.*

Tm *the chemical symbol for thulium.*

T. M. *abbrev.* for *transcendental meditation*.

TNT *n.* 2,4,6-trinitrotoluene; a yellow solid: used chiefly as a high explosive.

to (tuː; unstressed tu, tə) *prep.* 1. used to indicate the destination of the subject or object of an action: *he climbed to the top*. 2. used to mark the indirect object of a verb: *telling stories to children*. 3. used to mark the infinitive of a verb: *he wanted to go*. 4. as far as; until: *working from Monday to Friday*. 5. used to indicate equality: *16 ounces to the pound*. 6. against; upon; onto:

put your ear to the wall. 7. before the hour of: five to four. 8. accompanied by: dancing to loud music. 9. as compared with, as against: the score was eight to three. 10. used to indicate a resulting condition: they starved to death. ~adv. 11. towards a fixed position, esp. (of a door) closed.

▷ **Usage.** In formal usage, *to* is always used with an infinitive and never omitted as in *come see the show*. The use of *and* instead of *to* (*try and come*) is very common in informal speech but is avoided by careful writers.

toad (təʊd) *n.* 1. any of a group of amphibians similar to frogs but more terrestrial, having a drier warty skin. 2. a loathsome person. —**toadish** *adj.*

toadflax (təʊd,flæks) *n.* a perennial plant having narrow leaves and spurred two-lipped yellow-orange flowers. Also called: **butter-and-eggs**.

toad-in-the-hole *n.* *Brit.* a dish made of sausages baked in a batter.

toadstool (təʊd,stu:l) *n.* (not in technical use) any basidiomycetous fungus with a capped spore-producing body that is poisonous. Cf. **mushroom**.

toady (təʊdi) *n., pl. toadies.* 1. Also **toadeater**, a person who flatters and ingratiates himself in a servile way; sycophant. ~vb. **toadying**, **toadied**. 2. to fawn on and flatter (someone). —**toadyish** *adj.* —**toadyism** *n.*

to and fro *adj., to-and-fro adv.* 1. back and forth. 2. here and there. —**toing and froing** *n.*

toast¹ (təʊst) *n.* 1. a. sliced bread browned by exposure to heat. b. (as modifier): a toast rack. ~vb. 2. (tr.) to brown under a grill or over a fire; to toast cheese. 3. to warm or be warmed: to toast one's hands by the fire.

toast² (təʊst) *n.* 1. a tribute or proposal of health, success, etc., given to a person or thing and marked by people raising glasses and drinking together. 2. a person or thing honoured by such a tribute or proposal. 3. (esp. formerly) an attractive woman to whom such tributes are frequently made. ~vb. 4. to propose or drink a toast to (a person or thing).

toaster (təʊstə) *n.* a person or thing that toasts, esp. an electrical device for toasting bread.

toastmaster (təʊst,mɑ:stə) *n.* a person who introduces speakers, proposes toasts, etc., at public dinners. —**toast**, **mistress** *fern. n.*

tobacco (təʊbækəʊ) *n., pl. -cos or -coes.* 1. any of a genus of plants having mildly narcotic properties, one species of which is cultivated as the chief source of commercial tobacco. 2. the leaves of certain of these plants dried and prepared for snuff, chewing, or smoking.

tobacconist (təʊbækənɪst) *n.* *Chiefly Brit.* a person or shop that sells tobacco, cigarettes, pipes, etc.

-to-be *adj. (in combination)* about to be; future: a mother-to-be; the president-to-be.

toboggan (təʊbɒɡən) *n.* 1. a light wooden frame on runners used for sliding over snow and ice. 2. a long narrow sledge made of a thin board curved upwards at the front. ~vb. (intr.). 3. to ride on a toboggan. —**to-bogganer** or **to-bogganist** *n.*

toby jug (təʊbi) *n.* a beer mug or jug in the form of a stout seated man wearing a three-cornered hat and smoking a pipe. Also called: **toby**.

toccata (təʊkɑ:tə) *n.* a rapid keyboard composition for organ, harpsichord, etc., usually in a rhythmically free style.

Toc H (tɒk 'eɪtʃ) *n.* a society formed after World War I to encourage Christian comradeship.

tocsin (tɒksɪn) *n.* 1. an alarm or warning signal, esp. one sounded on a bell. 2. an alarm bell.

tod (tɒd) *n.* on one's tod. *Brit. sl.* on one's own.

today (tə'deɪ) *n.* 1. this day, as distinct from yesterday or tomorrow. 2. the present age. ~adv. 3. during or on this day. 4. nowadays.

toddle (tɒdʒl) *vb. (intr.)* 1. to walk with short unsteady steps, as a child. 2. (foll. by off) Jocular. to depart. 3. (foll. by round, over, etc.) Jocular. to stroll. ~n. 4. the act or an instance of toddling.

toddler (tɒdlə) *n.* a young child, usually between the ages of one and two and a half.

toddy (tɒdi) *n., pl. -dies.* 1. any hot sweet drink made with whisky. 2. the sap of various palm trees used as a beverage.

to-do *n., pl. -dos.* a commotion, fuss, or quarrel.

toe (təʊ) *n.* 1. any one of the digits of the foot. 2. the corresponding part in other vertebrates. 3. the part of a shoe, etc., covering the toes. 4. anything resembling a toe in shape or position. 5. on one's toes. alert. 6. tread

on someone's toes. to offend a person, esp. by trespassing on his field of responsibility. ~vb. **toeing**, **toed**. 7. (tr.) to touch, kick, or mark with the toe. 8. (tr.) to drive (a nail, etc.) obliquely. 9. (intr.) to walk with the toes pointing in a specified direction: to toe inwards. 10. toe the line or mark. to conform strictly to rules.

toecap (təʊ,kæp) *n.* a reinforced covering for the toe of a boot or shoe.

toed (təʊd) *adj.* 1. having a part resembling a toe. 2. fixed by nails driven in at the foot. 3. (in combination) having a toe or toes as specified: five-toed; thick-toed.

toehold (təʊ,həʊld) *n.* 1. a small foothold to facilitate climbing. 2. any means of gaining access, support, etc. 3. a wrestling hold in which the opponent's toe is held and his leg twisted.

toenail (təʊ,neɪl) *n.* 1. a thin horny translucent plate covering part of the surface of the end joint of each toe. 2. Carpentry. a nail driven obliquely. ~vb. 3. (tr.) Carpentry. to join (beams) by driving nails obliquely.

toff (tɒf) *n. Brit. sl.* a well-dressed or upper-class person, esp. a man.

toffee or **toffy** (tɒfi) *n., pl. -fees or -fies.* 1. a sweet made from sugar or treacle boiled with butter, nuts, etc. 2. for toffee. (preceded by can't) Inf. to be incompetent at: he can't sing for toffee.

toffee-apple *n.* an apple fixed on a stick and coated with a thin layer of toffee.

toffee-nosed *adj. Sl., chiefly Brit.* pretentious or supercilious; used esp. of snobbish people.

tog (tɒɡ) *n.* 1. (usually pl.) a garment, esp. for sport or swimming. ~vb. **togging**, **togged**. 2. (often foll. by up or out) to dress, esp. in smart clothes.

toga (təʊɡə) *n.* 1. a garment worn by citizens of ancient Rome, consisting of a piece of cloth draped around the body. 2. a robe of office. —**togaed** (təʊɡəd) *adj.*

together (tə'ɡeðə) *adv.* 1. with cooperation and interchange between constituent elements, members, etc.: we worked together. 2. in or into contact with each other: to stick papers together. 3. in or into one place; with each other: the people are gathered together. 4. at the same time. 5. considered collectively: all our wages put together couldn't buy that car. 6. continuously: working for eight hours together. 7. closely or compactly united or held: water will hold the dough together. 8. mutually or reciprocally: to multiply seven and eight together. 9. Inf. organized: to get things together. ~adj. 10. *Sl., chiefly U.S.* (of a person) calm and collected; organized. 11. together with, in addition to.

▷ **Usage.** See at plus.

togetherness (tə'ɡeðəns) *n.* a feeling of closeness or affection from being united with other people.

toggle (tɒɡəl) *n.* 1. a peg or rod at the end of a rope, chain, or cable, for fastening by insertion through an eye in another rope, chain, etc. 2. a bar-shaped button inserted through a loop for fastening. 3. a toggle joint or a device having such a joint. ~vb. 4. (tr.) to supply or fasten with a toggle.

toggle joint *n.* a device consisting of two arms pivoted at a common joint and at their outer ends and used to apply pressure by straightening the angle between the two arms.

toggle switch *n.* an electric switch having a projecting lever that is manipulated in a particular way to open or close a circuit.

toil (tɔɪl) *n.* 1. hard or exhausting work. ~vb. (intr.) 2. to labour. 3. to progress with slow painful movements. —**toiler** *n.*

toilet (tɔɪlɪt) *n.* 1. another word for **lavatory**. 2. the act of dressing and preparing oneself. 3. a dressing table. 4. Rare. costume. 5. the cleansing of a wound, etc., after an operation or childbirth.

toilet paper or **tissue** *n.* thin absorbent paper, often wound in a roll round a cardboard cylinder (**toilet roll**), used for cleaning oneself after defecation or urination.

toiletry (tɔɪlɪtri) *n., pl. -ries.* an object or cosmetic used in making up, dressing, etc.

toilette (twə:'let) *n.* another word for **toilet** (sense 2).

toilet training *n.* the training of an infant to use toilet facilities properly.

toilet water *n.* a form of liquid perfume lighter than cologne.

toilsome (tɔɪlsəm) or **toilful** *adj.* laborious. —**toilsomely** *adv.* —**toilsomeness** *n.*

Tokay (təʊ'keɪ) *n.* 1. a sweet wine made near Tokaj, Hungary. 2. a variety of grape used to make this. 3. a similar wine made elsewhere.

token ('təʊkən) *n.* 1. an indication, warning, or sign of something. 2. a symbol or visible representation of something. 3. something that indicates authority, proof, etc. 4. a metal or plastic disc, such as a substitute for currency for use in slot machines. 5. a memento. 6. a gift voucher that can be used as payment for goods of a specified value. 7. (modifier) as a matter of form only; nominal: a *token increase in salary*. ~vb. 8. (tr.) to act or serve as a warning or symbol of; betoken.

tokenism ('təʊkənɪzəm) *n.* the practice of making only a token effort or doing no more than the minimum, esp. in order to comply with a law.

token strike *n.* a brief strike intended to convey strength of feeling on a disputed issue.

told (təʊld) *vb.* 1. the past tense or past participle of tell. ~adj. 2. all told. in all: *there were seven all told*.

tolerable ('tɒlərəbəl) *adj.* 1. able to be tolerated; endurable. 2. permissible. 3. *Inf.* fairly good. —tolerability *n.* —tolerably *adv.*

tolerance ('tɒlərəns) *n.* 1. the state or quality of being tolerant. 2. capacity to endure something, esp. pain or hardship. 3. the permitted variation in some characteristic of an object or workpiece. 4. the capacity to endure the effects of a poison or other substance, esp. when taken over a prolonged period.

tolerant ('tɒlərənt) *adj.* 1. able to tolerate the beliefs, actions, etc., of others. 2. permissible. 3. able to withstand extremes. 4. exhibiting tolerance to a drug. —tolerantly *adv.*

tolerate ('tɒlə,reit) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to treat with indulgence or forbearance. 2. to permit. 3. to be able to bear; put up with. 4. to have tolerance for (a drug, etc.). —tolerator *n.*

toleration ('tɒlə'reɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act or practice of tolerating. 2. freedom to hold religious opinions that differ from the established religion of a country. —tolerationist *n.*

toll (təʊl) *vb.* 1. to ring slowly and recurrently. 2. (tr.) to summon or announce by tolling. 3. *U.S.* to decoy (game, esp. ducks). ~*n.* 4. the act or sound of tolling.

toll (təʊl, tɒl) *n.* 1. a. an amount of money levied, esp. for the use of certain roads, bridges, etc. b. (as modifier): *toll road; toll bridge*. 2. loss or damage incurred through a disaster, etc.: *the war took its toll of the inhabitants*. 3. (formerly) the right to levy a toll.

tollgate ('təʊl,geɪt, 'tɒl-) *n.* a gate across a toll road or bridge at which travellers must pay.

tolu (tə'lu:) *n.* an aromatic balsam obtained from a South American tree.

toluene ('tɒljʊ:ɪn) *n.* a colourless volatile flammable liquid obtained from petroleum and coal tar and used as a solvent and in the manufacture of many organic chemicals.

tom (tɒm) *n.* a. the male of various animals, esp. the cat. b. (as modifier): *a tom turkey*. c. (in combination): *a tomcat*.

tomahawk ('tɒmə,hɔ:k) *n.* a fighting axe with a stone or iron head, used by the North American Indians.

tomato (tə'mɑ:təʊ) *n.* pl. -atoes. 1. a South American plant widely cultivated for its red fleshy many-seeded fruits. 2. the fruit of this plant, eaten in salads, as a vegetable, etc.

tomb (tu:m) *n.* 1. a place, esp. a vault beneath the ground, for the burial of a corpse. 2. a monument to the dead. 3. the tomb. a poetic term for death.

tombola ('tɒmbəʊlə) *n.* *Brit.* a type of lottery, esp. at a fête, in which tickets are drawn from a revolving drum.

tomboy ('tɒm,bɔɪ) *n.* a girl who acts or dresses in a boyish way, liking rough outdoor activities. —tomboyish *adj.* —tomboyishly *adv.*

tombstone ('tɒm,stəʊn) *n.* another word for gravestone.

tome (təʊm) *n.* 1. a large weighty book. 2. one of the several volumes of a work.

tomfool ('tɒm'fu:l) *n.* a. a fool. b. (as modifier): *tomfool ideas*. —tomfoolishness *n.*

tomfoolery ('tɒm'fu:ləri) *n.* pl. -eries. 1. foolish behaviour. 2. utter nonsense; rubbish.

tommy ('tɒmi) *n.* pl. -mies. (often cap.) *Brit. inf.* a private in the British Army.

Tommy gun *n.* an informal name for Thompson sub-machine-gun.

tommyrot ('tɒmi,rot) *n.* utter nonsense.

tomorrow ('tɒmərəʊ) *n.* 1. the day after today. 2. the future. ~adv. 3. on the day after today. 4. at some time in the future.

Tom Thumb *n.* a dwarf; midget.

tomtit ('tɒm'tɪt) *n.* *Brit.* any of various tits, esp. the bluetit.

tom-tom or tam-tam *n.* a drum usually beaten with the hands as a signalling instrument.

-tomy *n.* combining form. indicating a surgical cutting of a specified part or tissue: *lobotomy*.

ton¹ (tʌn) *n.* 1. Also called: **long ton**. *Brit.* a unit of weight equal to 2240 pounds or 1016.046 909 kilograms. 2. Also called: **short ton, net ton**. *U.S. & Canad.* a unit of weight equal to 2000 pounds or 907.184 kilograms. 3. See **metric ton, tonne**. a unit of weight equal to 1000 kilograms. 4. Also called: **freight ton, measurement ton**. a unit of volume or weight used for charging or measuring freight in shipping. It is usually equal to 40 cubic feet, 1 cubic metre, or 1000 kilograms. 5. Also called: **displacement ton**. a unit used for measuring the displacement of a ship, equal to 35 cubic feet of sea water or 2240 pounds. 6. Also called: **register ton**. a unit of internal capacity of ships equal to 100 cubic feet. ~adv. 7. **tons**. (intensifier) *the new flat is tons better than the old one*.

ton² (tʌn) *n.* *Sl.*, chiefly *Brit.* a score or achievement of a hundred, esp. a hundred miles per hour, as on a motorcycle.

tonal ('təʊnəl) *adj.* 1. of or relating to tone. 2. of or utilizing the diatonic system; having an established key. 3. (of an answer in a fugue) not having the same melodic intervals as the subject, so as to remain in the original key. —tonally *adv.*

tonality ('təʊnəlɪti) *n.*, pl. -ties. 1. *Music.* a. the presence of a musical key in a composition. b. the system of major and minor keys prevalent in Western music. 2. the overall scheme of colours and tones in a painting.

tone (təʊn) *n.* 1. sound with reference to quality, pitch, or volume. 2. *U.S.* another word for **note** (sense 10). 3. an interval of a major second; whole tone. 4. Also called: **Gregorian tone**. any of several plainsong melodies or other chants used in the singing of psalms. 5. *Linguistics.* any of the pitch levels or pitch contours at which a syllable may be pronounced, such as high tone, falling tone, etc. 6. the quality or character of a sound: *a nervous tone of voice*. 7. general aspect, quality, or style. 8. high quality or style: *to lower the tone of a place*. 9. the quality of a given colour, as modified by mixture with white or black; shade; tint. 10. *Physiol.* a. the normal tension of a muscle at rest. b. the natural firmness of the tissues and normal functioning of bodily organs in health. 11. the overall effect of the colour values and gradations of light and dark in a picture. 12. *Photog.* a colour of a particular area on a negative or positive that can be distinguished from surrounding areas. ~vb. 13. (*intr.*; often foll. by *with*) to be of a matching or similar tone (to). 14. (tr.) to give a tone to or correct the tone of. 15. (tr.) *Photog.* to soften or change the colour of the tones of (a photographic image). ~See also **tone down**, **tone up**. —toneless *adj.* —tonelessly *adv.* —toner *n.*

tone-deaf *adj.* unable to distinguish subtle differences in musical pitch. —tone deafness *n.*

tone down *vb.* (adv.) to moderate or become moderated in tone: *tone down an argument*.

tone poem *n.* another term for **symphonic poem**.

tone up *vb.* (adv.) to make or become more vigorous, healthy, etc.

tong (tɒŋ) *n.* (formerly) a secret society of Chinese Americans.

tongs (tɒŋz) *pl.* *n.* an instrument for grasping or lifting, consisting of a hinged, sprung, or pivoted pair of arms or levers, joined at one end. Also called: **pair of tongs**.

tongue (tʌŋ) *n.* 1. a movable mass of muscular tissue attached to the floor of the mouth in most vertebrates. It is used in tasting, eating, and (in man) speaking. Related *adj.*: **lingual**. 2. an analogous organ in invertebrates. 3. the tongue of certain animals used as food. 4. a language, dialect, or idiom: *the English tongue*. 5. the ability to speak: *to lose one's tongue*. 6. a manner of speaking: *a glib tongue*. 7. utterance or voice (esp. in **give tongue**). 8. anything which resembles a tongue in shape or function. 9. a promontory or spit of land. 10. a flap of leather on a shoe. 11. *Music.* the reed of an oboe or similar instrument. 12. the clapper of a bell. 13. the harnessing pole of a horse-drawn vehicle. 14. a projection on a machine part that serves as a guide for assembly, etc. 15. a projecting strip along an edge of a board that is made to fit a groove in another board. 16. **hold one's tongue**. to keep quiet. 17. **on the tip of one's tongue**. about to come to mind. 18. **with (one's) tongue in (one's) cheek**. Also: **tongue in cheek**, with insincere or ironical intent. ~vb. **tonguing**, **tongued**. 19. to

articulate (notes on a wind instrument) by tonguing. **20.** (tr.) to lick, feel, or touch with the tongue. **21.** (tr.) to provide (a board) with a tongue. **22.** (intr.) (of a piece of land) to project into a body of water. —'tongueless adj. —'tongue, like adj.

tongue-tie *n.* a congenital condition in which the tongue has restricted mobility as the result of an abnormally short frenum.

tongue-tied *adj.* 1. speechless, esp. with embarrassment or shyness. 2. having a condition of tongue-tie.

tongue twister *n.* a sentence or phrase that is difficult to articulate clearly and quickly, such as *Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled pepper*.

tonguing ('tʌŋŋ) *n.* a technique of playing (any nonlegato passage) on a wind instrument by obstructing and uncovering the air passage through the lips with the tongue.

tonic ('tɒnɪk) *n.* 1. a medicinal preparation that improves the functioning of the body or increases the feeling of well-being. 2. anything that enlivens or strengthens. 3. Also called: **tonic water**, a mineral water, usually carbonated and containing quinine and often mixed with gin or other alcoholic drinks. 4. *Music*. a. the first degree of a major or minor scale and the tonal centre of a piece composed in a particular key. b. a key or chord based on this. ~adj. 5. serving to enliven and invigorate: a tonic wine. 6. of or relating to a tone or tones. 7. *Music*. of the first degree of a major or minor scale. 8. of or denoting the general effect of colour and light and shade in a picture. 9. *Physiol.* of or affecting normal muscular or bodily tone: a tonic spasm. —'tonically adv.

tonic sol-fa *n.* a method of teaching music, by which syllables are used as names for the notes of the major scale in any key.

tonight ('tənaɪt) *n.* 1. the night or evening of this present day. ~adv. 2. in or during the night or evening of this day. 3. *Obs.* last night.

tonnage or **tunnage** ('tʌnɪdʒ) *n.* 1. the capacity of a merchant ship expressed in tons. 2. the weight of the cargo of a merchant ship. 3. the total amount of shipping of a port or nation. 4. a duty on ships based either on their capacity or their register tonnage.

tonne ('tʌn) *n.* another name for **metric ton**.

tonsil ('tɒnsəl) *n.* either of two small masses of lymphatic tissue situated one on each side of the back of the mouth. —'tonsillar adj.

tonsillectomy ('tɒnsɪ'lektəmi) *n., pl. -mies*, surgical removal of the tonsils.

tonsillitis ('tɒnsɪ'lɪtɪs) *n.* inflammation of the tonsils. —'tonsillitic, 'tonsillitic adj.

tonsorial ('tɒn'sɔ:riəl) *adj.* *Often facetious*, of barbering or hairdressing.

tonsure ('tɒnʃə) *n.* 1. (in certain religions and monastic orders) a. the shaving of the head or the crown of the head only. b. the part of the head left bare by shaving. ~vb. 2. (tr.) to shave the head of. —'tonsured adj.

ton-up *Brit. inf. ~adj. (prenominal)* 1. (esp. of a motorcycle) capable of speeds of a hundred miles per hour or more. 2. liking to travel at such speeds: a ton-up boy. ~n. 3. a person who habitually rides at such speeds.

too (tu:) *adv.* 1. as well; in addition; also: *can I come too?* 2. in or to an excessive degree: *I have too many things to do.* 3. extremely: *you're too kind.* 4. *U.S. inf.* indeed: used to reinforce a command: *you will too do it!*

▷ **Usage.** See at very.

took (tu:k) *vb.* the past tense of **take**.

tool (tu:l) *n.* 1. a. an implement, such as a hammer, saw, or spade, that is used by hand. b. a power-driven instrument; machine tool. c. (in combination): a toolkit. 2. the cutting part of such an instrument. 3. any of the instruments used by a bookbinder to impress a design on a book cover. 4. anything used as a means of achieving an end. 5. a person used to perform dishonourable or unpleasant tasks for another. 6. a necessary medium or adjunct to one's profession: *numbers are the tools of the mathematician's trade.* ~vb. 7. to work, cut, or form (something) with a tool. 8. (tr.) to decorate a book cover with a bookbinder's tool. 9. (tr.) to furnish with tools. —'tooler *n.*

tool-maker ('tu:l,meɪkə) *n.* a person who specializes in the production or reconditioning of precision tools, cutters, etc. —'tool-, making *n.*

toot (tu:t) *vb.* 1. to give or cause to give (a short blast, hoot, or whistle). ~n. 2. the sound made by or as if by a horn, whistle, etc. 3. *U.S. sl.* a drinking spree. 4. *Austral. sl.* a lavatory. —'tooter *n.*

tooth (tu:θ) *n., pl. teeth* (ti:θ). 1. any of various bone-like structures set in the jaws of most vertebrates and used for biting, tearing, or chewing. Related adj.: **dental**. 2. any of various similar structures in invertebrates. 3. anything resembling a tooth in shape, prominence, or function: *the tooth of a comb*. 4. any of the indentations on the margin of a leaf, petal, etc. 5. any of the projections on a gear, sprocket, rack, etc. 6. taste or appetite (esp. in **sweet tooth**). 7. **long in the tooth**, old or ageing. 8. **tooth and nail**, with ferocity and force. ~vb. (tu:θ, tu:θ). 9. (tr.) to provide with a tooth or teeth. 10. (intr.) (of two gearwheels) to engage. —'toothless adj. —'tooth, like adj.

toothache ('tu:θ,eɪk) *n.* a pain in or about a tooth. Technical name: **odontalgia**.

toothbrush ('tu:θ,bʁʌʃ) *n.* a small brush, usually with a long handle, for cleaning the teeth.

toothpaste ('tu:θ,peɪst) *n.* a paste used for cleaning the teeth, applied with a toothbrush.

toothpick ('tu:θ,pɪk) *n.* a small sharp sliver of wood, plastic, etc., used for extracting pieces of food from between the teeth.

tooth powder *n.* a powder used for cleaning the teeth, applied with a toothbrush.

toothsome ('tu:θsəm) *adj.* of delicious or appetizing appearance, flavour, or smell.

toothy ('tu:θi) *adj.* **toothier, toothiest**, having or showing numerous, large, or projecting teeth: a **toothy grin**. —'toothily adv. —'toothiness *n.*

tootle ('tu:təl) *vb.* 1. to toot or hoot softly or repeatedly. ~n. 2. a soft hoot or series of hoots. —'tootler *n.*

top¹ ('tɒp) *n.* 1. the highest or uppermost part of anything: *the top of a hill*. 2. the most important or successful position: *the top of the class*. 3. the part of a plant that is above ground: *carrot tops*. 4. a thing that forms or covers the uppermost part of anything, esp. a lid or cap. 5. the highest degree or point: *at the top of his career*. 6. the most important person. 7. the best part of anything. 8. the loudest or highest pitch (esp. in **top of one's voice**). 9. another name for **top gear**. 10. *Cards*, the highest card of a suit in a player's hand. 11. *Sport*, a stroke that hits the ball above its centre. 12. a platform around the head of a lower mast of a sailing vessel. 13. a garment, esp. for a woman, that extends from the shoulders to the waist or hips. 14. **blow one's top**, to lose one's temper. 15. **on top of** a. in addition to. b. *Inf.* in complete control of (a difficult situation, etc.). 16. **off the top of one's head**, with no previous preparation; extempore. 17. **over the top**, a. over the parapet or leading edge of a trench. b. over the limit. 18. **the top of the morning**, a conventional Irish morning greeting. ~adj. 19. of, relating to, serving as, or situated on the top. ~vb. **topping, topped**, (mainly tr.) 20. to form a top on (something): *to top a cake with cream*. 21. to remove the top of or from. 22. to reach or pass the top of. 23. to be at the top of: *he tops the team*. 24. to exceed or surpass. 25. (also intr.) *Sport*, a. to hit (a ball) above the centre. b. to make (a stroke) by hitting the ball in this way. —See also **top out, tops, top up**.

top² ('tɒp) *n.* 1. a toy that is spun on its pointed base. 2. **sleep like a top**, to sleep very soundly.

topaz ('tɒpəz) *n.* 1. a hard glassy mineral consisting of a silicate of aluminium and fluorine in crystalline form. It is yellow, pink, or colourless, and is a valuable gemstone. 2. **oriental topaz**, a yellowish-brown variety of sapphire. 3. either of two South American hummingbirds.

topcoat ('tɒp,kəʊt) *n.* an outdoor coat worn over a suit, etc.

top dog *n. Inf.* the leader or chief of a group.

top-drawer *adj.* of the highest standing, esp. socially.

top dressing *n.* a surface application of some material, such as fertilizer. —'top-, dress *vb.* (tr.)

tope¹ ('təʊp) *vb.* to consume (alcoholic drink) as a regular habit, usually in large quantities. —'toper *n.*

tope² ('təʊp) *n.* a small grey shark of European coastal waters.

topee or **topi** ('təʊpi, -pi) *n., pl. -pees or -pis*, another name for **pith helmet**.

top-flight *adj.* of superior or excellent quality.

topgallant ('tɒp,gələnt; Naut. tɔ:gələnt) *n.* 1. a mast on a square-rigger above a topmast or an extension of a topmast. 2. a sail set on a yard of a topgallant mast. 3. (modifier) of or relating to a topgallant.

top gear *n.* 1. Also called: **top**, the highest forward ratio of a gearbox in a motor vehicle. 2. the highest speed, greatest energy or state of preparedness, etc.

top hat *n.* a man's hat with a tall cylindrical crown and narrow brim, often made of silk, now worn for some formal occasions.

top-heavy *adj.* 1. unstable through being overloaded at the top. 2. *Finance.* characterized by too much debt capital in relation to revenue or profit; overcapitalized.

top-hole *interj., adj. Brit. inf.* excellent; splendid.

topi *n., pl. -pis.* 1. ('tɒpi) an African antelope. 2. ('tɒpi:, -pi) another name for **pith helmet**.

topiary ('tɒpiəri) *n.* 1. of, relating to, or characterized by the trimming or training of trees or bushes into artificial decorative shapes. ~*n., pl. -aries.* 2. topiary work. 3. a topiary garden. —**'topiary** *n.*

topic ('tɒpɪk) *n.* 1. a subject or theme of a speech, book, etc. 2. a subject of conversation.

topical ('tɒpɪkəl) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or constituting current affairs. 2. relating to a particular place; local. 3. of or relating to a topic or topics. 4. (of a drug, ointment, etc.) for application to the body surface; local. —**'topicality** ('tɒpɪkəlɪti) *n.* —**'topically** *adv.*

topknot ('tɒp,nɒt) *n.* 1. a crest, tuft, decorative bow, chignon, etc., on the top of the head. 2. any of several European flatfishes.

topless ('tɒplɪs) *adj.* 1. having no top. 2. a. denoting a costume which has no covering for the breasts. b. wearing such a costume.

top-level *n. (modifier)* of, involving, or by those on the highest level of influence or authority: **top-level** talks.

topmast ('tɒp,mæst; *Naut.* 'tɒpmæst) *n.* the mast next above a lower mast on a sailing vessel.

topmost ('tɒp,məʊst) *adj.* at or nearest the top.

topnotch ('tɒp,nɒtʃ) *adj. Inf.* excellent; superb. —**'top-notcher** *n.*

topo- or before a vowel **top-** combining form. indicating place or region: **topography**; **topology**.

topography ('tɒpɒgrəfi) *n., pl. -phies.* 1. the study or detailed description of the surface features of a region. 2. the detailed mapping of the configuration of a region. 3. the land forms or surface configuration of a region. 4. the surveying of a region's surface features. 5. the study or description of the configuration of any object. —**'topographer** *n.* —**'topographic** ('tɒpə'græfɪk) or **'topographical** *adj.*

topology ('tɒpələdʒi) *n.* 1. the branch of mathematics concerned with generalization of the concepts of continuity, limit, etc. 2. a branch of geometry describing the properties of a figure that are unaffected by continuous distortion. 3. *Maths.* a family of subsets of a given set *S*, such that *S* is a topological space. 4. the study of the topography of a given place. 5. the anatomy of any specific bodily area, structure, or part. —**'topologic** ('tɒpə'lɒdʒɪk) or **'topological** *adj.* —**'topologically** *adv.* —**'topologist** *n.*

top up *vb. (adv.)* to place the highest part of a building in position.

topper ('tɒpə) *n.* 1. an informal name for **top hat**. 2. a person or thing that tops or excels.

topping ('tɒpɪŋ) *n.* 1. something that tops something else, esp. a sauce or garnish for food. ~*adj.* 2. high or superior in rank, degree, etc. 3. *Brit. sl.* excellent; splendid.

topple ('tɒpəl) *vb.* 1. to tip over or cause to tip over, esp. from a height. 2. (*intr.*) to lean precariously or totter.

tops ('tɒps) *n. Sl.* 1. the **tops**, a person or thing of top quality. ~*adj.* 2. (*postpositive*) excellent.

topsail ('tɒp,sel; *Naut.* 'tɒpsəl) *n.* a square sail carried on a yard set on a topmast.

top-secret *adj.* classified as needing the highest level of secrecy and security.

topside ('tɒp,said) *n.* 1. the uppermost side of anything. 2. *Brit.* a lean cut of beef from the thigh containing no bone. 3. (*often pl.*) a. the part of a ship's sides above the waterline. b. the parts of a ship above decks.

topsoil ('tɒp,sɔɪl) *n.* the surface layer of soil.

topsy-turvy ('tɒpsɪ'tʌrvɪ) *adj.* 1. upside down. 2. in a state of confusion. ~*adv.* 3. in a topsy-turvy manner. ~*n.* 4. a topsy-turvy state.

top up *vb. (tr., adv.) Brit.* to raise the level of (a liquid, powder, etc.) in (a container), usually bringing it to the brim of the container.

toque ('tɒk) *n.* 1. a woman's small round brimless hat. 2. *Canad.* a knitted cap with a round tassel on top. 3. a small plumed hat popular in the 16th century.

tor ('tɔː) *n.* a high hill, esp. a bare rocky one.

Torah ('tɔːrə) *n.* 1. a. the Pentateuch. b. the scroll on which this is written. 2. the whole body of the Jewish

sacred writings and tradition including oral expositions of the Law.

torch ('tɔːtʃ) *n.* 1. a small portable electric lamp powered by batteries. U.S. word: **flashlight**. 2. a wooden or tow shaft dipped in wax or tallow and set alight. 3. anything regarded as a source of enlightenment, guidance, etc. 4. any apparatus with a hot flame for welding, brazing, etc. 5. **carry a torch for.** to be in love with, esp. unrequitedly.

torchbearer ('tɔːtʃ,bɛərə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that carries a torch. 2. a person who leads or inspires.

tore ('tɔː) *vb.* the past tense of **tear**.

toreador ('tɔːrɪə,dɔː) *n.* a bullfighter.

torero ('tɔːrɪərə) *n., pl. -ros.* a bullfighter, esp. one who fights on foot.

torment *vb. (tɔː'ment).* (*tr.*) 1. to afflict with great pain, suffering, or anguish; torture. 2. to tease or pester in an annoying way. ~*n. ('tɔːment).* 3. physical or mental pain. 4. a source of pain, worry, annoyance, etc. —**'tormentor** *n.* —**'tormentedly** *adv.*

tornentil ('tɔːməntɪl) *n.* a perennial plant of Europe and W Asia, having yellow flowers, and an astringent root used in medicine, tanning, and dyeing.

torn ('tɔːn) *vb.* 1. the past participle of **tear**. 2. **that's torn it.** *Brit. sl.* an unexpected event or circumstance has upset one's plans. ~*adj.* 3. split or cut. 4. divided or undecided, as in preference: **torn between staying and leaving.**

torнадо ('tɔːneɪdɔː) *n., pl. -does or -dos.* 1. a violent storm with winds whirling around a small area of extremely low pressure, usually characterized by a dark funnel-shaped cloud causing damage along its path. 2. a small but violent squall or whirlwind. 3. any violently active or destructive person or thing. —**'tornadoic** ('tɔː'nædɪk) *adj.*

torpedo ('tɔːpɪdɔː) *n., pl. -does.* 1. a cylindrical self-propelled weapon carrying explosives that is launched from aircraft, ships, or submarines and follows an underwater path to hit its target. 2. a submarine mine. 3. U.S. a firework with a percussion cap. 4. an electric ray. ~*vb.* 5. (*tr.*) to attack or hit (a ship, etc.) with one or a number of torpedoes. —**'torpedo-like** *adj.*

torpedo boat *n.* a small high-speed warship designed to carry out torpedo attacks.

torpid ('tɔːpɪd) *adj.* 1. apathetic; sluggish. 2. (of a hibernating animal) dormant. 3. unable to move or feel. —**'torpidity** or **'torpidness** *n.* —**'torpidly** *adv.*

torpor ('tɔːpɔː) *n.* a state of torpidity.

torque ('tɔːk) *n.* 1. a necklace or armband made of twisted metal. 2. any force that causes rotation.

torr ('tɔː) *n.* a unit of pressure equal to one millimetre of mercury (133.322 newtons per square metre).

torrent ('tɒrənt) *n.* 1. a fast or violent stream, esp. of water. 2. an overwhelming flow of thoughts, words, sound, etc. —**'torrential** ('tɒrənʃəl) *adj.*

torrid ('tɒrɪd) *adj.* 1. so hot and dry as to parch or scorch. 2. arid or parched. 3. highly charged emotionally: a **torrid love scene**. —**'torridity** or **'torridness** *n.* —**'torridly** *adv.*

Torrid Zone *n.* *Rare.* that part of the earth's surface lying between the tropics of Cancer and Capricorn.

torsion ('tɔːʃən) *n.* 1. a. the twisting of a part by application of equal and opposite torques. b. the internal torque so produced. 2. a twisting or being twisted. —**'torsional** *adj.* —**'torsionally** *adv.*

torso ('tɔːsɔː) *n., pl. -sos or -si (-s).* 1. the trunk of the human body. 2. a statue of a nude human trunk, esp. without the head or limbs.

tort ('tɔːt) *n. Law.* a civil wrong or injury arising out of an act or failure to act, independently of any contract, for which an action for damages may be brought.

tortilla ('tɔːtɪlə) *n. Mexican cookery.* a kind of thin pancake made from corn meal.

tortoise ('tɔːtɔɪs) *n.* 1. any of a family of herbivorous reptiles having a heavy dome-shaped shell and clawed limbs. 2. a slow-moving person.

tortoiseshell ('tɔːtɔɪs,ʃel) *n.* 1. the horny yellow-and-brown mottled shell of the hawksbill turtle: used for making ornaments, jewellery, etc. 2. a similar synthetic substance. 3. a breed of domestic cat having black, cream, and brownish markings. 4. any of several butterflies having orange-brown wings with black markings. 5. a. a yellowish-brown mottled colour. b. (*as adj.*): a **tortoiseshell décor**. 6. (*modifier*) made of tortoiseshell.

tortuous ('tɔːtʃuəs) *adj.* 1. twisted or winding. 2. devious or cunning. 3. intricate. —**'tortuously** *adv.* —**'tortuousness** *n.* —**'tortuosity** ('tɔːtʃu'bsɪti) *n.*

torture ('tɔ:tʃə) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to cause extreme physical pain to, esp. to extract information, etc.: *to torture prisoners*. 2. to give mental anguish to. 3. to twist into a grotesque form. ~*n.* 4. physical or mental anguish. 5. the practice of torturing a person. 6. a cause of mental agony. —'torturer *n.* —'torturous *adj.* —'torturous-ly *adv.*

Tory ('tɔ:ri) *n.*, *pl.* -ries. 1. a member of the Conservative Party in Great Britain or Canada. 2. a member of the English political party that opposed the exclusion of James, Duke of York from the royal succession (1679–80). Tory remained the label for conservative interests until they gave birth to the Conservative Party in the 1830s. 3. an American supporter of the British cause; loyalist. Cf. **Whig**. 4. (sometimes not cap.) an ultraconservative or reactionary. ~*adj.* 5. of, characteristic of, or relating to Tories. 6. (sometimes not cap.) ultraconservative or reactionary. —'Toryism *n.*

toss (tɒs) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to throw lightly, esp. with the palm of the hand upwards. 2. to fling or be flung about, esp. in an agitated or violent way: *a ship tosses in a storm*. 3. to discuss or put forward for discussion in an informal way. 4. (tr.) (of a horse, etc.) to throw (its rider). 5. (tr.) (of an animal) to butt with the head or the horns and throw into the air. 6. (tr.) to shake or disturb. 7. to toss up a coin with (someone) in order to decide something. 8. (intr.) to move away angrily or impatiently. ~*n.* 9. an abrupt movement. 10. a rolling or pitching motion. 11. the act or an instance of tossing. 12. the act of tossing up a coin. See **toss-up**. 13. a fall from a horse. —'toss-er *n.*

toss off *vb.* (adv.) 1. (tr.) to perform, write, etc., quickly and easily. 2. (tr.) to drink at one draught. 3. *Brit.* taboo. to masturbate.

toss up *vb.* (adv.) 1. to spin (a coin) in the air in order to decide between alternatives by guessing which side will fall uppermost. ~*n.* **toss-up**. 2. an instance of tossing up a coin. 3. *Inf.* an even chance or risk.

tot¹ (tɒt) *n.* 1. a young child; toddler. 2. *Chiefly Brit.* a small amount of anything. 3. a small measure of spirits. **tot**² (tɒt) *vb.* **totting**, **totted**. (usually foll. by up) *Chiefly Brit.* to total; add.

total ('təʊtəl) *n.* 1. the whole, esp. regarded as the complete sum of a number of parts. ~*adj.* 2. complete; absolute. 3. (prenominal) being or related to a total. ~*vb.* -talling, -talled or U.S. -taling, -taled. 4. (when intr., sometimes foll. by to) to amount: *to total six pounds*. 5. (tr.) to add up. —'totally *adv.*

totalitarian (təʊtəli'tɜ:riən) *adj.* of, denoting, relating to, or characteristic of a dictatorial one-party state that regulates every realm of life. —to, **tali'tarianism** *n.*

totality (təʊtəli'ti) *n.*, *pl.* -ties. 1. the whole amount. 2. the state of being total.

totalizator ('təʊtəlaɪ,zetə), **totalizer** or **totalisator**, **totaliser** *n.* 1. a system of betting on horse races in which the aggregate stake, less tax, etc., is paid out to winners in proportion to their stake. 2. the machine that records bets in this system and works out odds, pays out winnings, etc. ~U.S. term **pari-mutuel**.

to¹ (təʊt) *Inf.* ~*vb.* 1. (tr.) to carry, convey, or drag. ~*n.* 2. the act of or an instance of toting. 3. something toted. —'toter *n.*

to² (təʊt) *n.* (usually preceded by *the*) *Inf.* short for **totalizator**.

tote bag *n.* a large handbag or shopping bag.

totem ('təʊtəm) *n.* 1. (in some societies, esp. among North American Indians) an object, animal, plant, etc., symbolizing a clan, family, etc., often having ritual associations. 2. a representation of such an object. —'totemic (təʊ'temik) *adj.* —'totem,ism *n.*

totem pole *n.* a pole carved or painted with totemic figures set up by certain North American Indians as a tribal symbol, etc.

tother or **tother** ('təðə) *Arch.* or *dialect.* the other.

totter ('tɒtə) *vb.* (intr.) 1. to move in an unsteady manner. 2. to sway or shake as if about to fall. 3. to be failing, unstable, or precarious. ~*n.* 4. the act or an instance of tottering. —'totterer *n.* —'tottery *adj.*

toucan ('tu:kən) *n.* any of a family of tropical American fruit-eating birds having a large brightly coloured bill and a bright plumage.

touch (tʌtʃ) *n.* 1. the sense by which the texture and other qualities of objects can be experienced when they come in contact with a part of the body surface, esp. the tips of the fingers. Related *adj.*: **tactile**. 2. the quality of an object as perceived by this sense; feel; feeling. 3. the act or an instance of something coming into contact with the body. 4. a gentle push, tap, or caress. 5. a small

amount; hint: *a touch of sarcasm*. 6. a noticeable effect; influence: *the house needed a woman's touch*. 7. any slight stroke or mark. 8. characteristic manner or style. 9. a detail of some work: *she added a few finishing touches to the book*. 10. a slight attack, as of a disease. 11. a specific ability or facility. 12. the state of being aware of a situation or in contact with someone. 13. the state of being in physical contact. 14. a trial or test (esp. in **put to the touch**). 15. *Rugby*, *soccer*, etc. the area outside the touchlines, beyond which the ball is out of play (esp. in **in touch**). 16. a scoring hit in fencing. 17. an estimate of the amount of gold in an alloy as obtained by use of a touchstone. 18. the technique of fingering a keyboard instrument. 19. the quality of the action of a keyboard instrument with regard to the ease with which the keys may be depressed. 20. *Sl.* a. the act of asking for money, often by devious means. b. the money received. c. a person asked for money in this way. ~*vb.* 21. (tr.) to cause or permit a part of the body to come into contact with. 22. (tr.) to tap, feel, or strike. 23. to come or cause to come into contact with. 24. (intr.) to be in contact. 25. (tr.; usually used with a negative) to take hold of (a person or thing), esp. in violence. 26. to be adjacent to (each other). 27. (tr.) to move or disturb by handling. 28. (tr.) to have an effect on. 29. (tr.) to produce an emotional response in. 30. (tr.; usually used with a negative) to partake of, eat, or drink. 31. (tr.; usually used with a negative) to handle or deal with: *I wouldn't touch that business*. 32. (when intr., often foll. by on) to allude (to) briefly or in passing. 33. (tr.) to tinge or tint slightly: *brown hair touched with gold*. 34. (tr.) to spoil slightly: *blackfly touched the flowers*. 35. (tr.) to mark, as with a brush or pen. 36. (tr.) to compare to in quality or attainment. 37. (tr.) to reach or attain: *he touched the high point in his career*. 38. (intr.) to dock or stop briefly: *the ship touches at Tenerife*. 39. (tr.) *Sl.* to ask for a loan or gift of money from. ~See also **touchdown**, **touch off**, **touch up**. —'touchable *adj.* —'toucher *n.*

touch and go *adj.* (touch-and-go when prenominal). risky or critical.

touchdown ('tʌtʃ,daʊn) *n.* 1. the moment at which a landing aircraft or spacecraft comes into contact with the landing surface. 2. *Rugby*, the act of placing or touching the ball on the ground behind the goal line, as in scoring a try. 3. *American football*, a scoring play for six points achieved by being in possession of the ball in the opponents' end zone. Abbrev.: **TD**. ~*vb.* **touch down**. (intr., adv.) 4. (of an aircraft, etc.) to land. 5. *Rugby*, to place the ball behind the goal line, as when scoring a try.

touché (tu:'ʃeɪ) *interj.* 1. an acknowledgment of a scoring hit in fencing. 2. an acknowledgment of the striking home of a remark, witty reply, etc.

touched (tʌtʃt) *adj.* (postpositive) 1. moved to sympathy or emotion. 2. showing slight insanity.

touching ('tʌtʃɪŋ) *adj.* 1. evoking or eliciting tender feelings. ~*prep.* 2. on the subject of; relating to. —'touchingly *adv.*

touch judge *n.* one of the two linesmen in rugby.

touchline ('tʌtʃ,laɪn) *n.* either of the lines marking the side of the playing area in certain games, such as rugby.

touch off *vb.* (tr., adv.) 1. to cause to explode, as by touching with a match. 2. to cause (a disturbance, violence, etc.) to begin.

touchpaper ('tʌtʃ,peɪpə) *n.* paper soaked in saltpetre for firing gunpowder.

touchstone ('tʌtʃ,stəʊn) *n.* 1. a criterion or standard. 2. a hard dark stone that is used to test gold and silver from the streak they produce on it.

touch-type *vb.* (intr.) to type without looking at the keyboard. —'touch-,typist *n.*

touch up *vb.* (tr., adv.) 1. to put extra or finishing touches to. 2. to enhance, renovate, or falsify by putting extra touches to. 3. *Brit. sl.* to touch or caress (someone).

touchwood ('tʌtʃ,wʊd) *n.* something, esp. dry wood or fungus material, used as tinder.

touchy ('tʌtʃi) *adj.* **touchier**, **touchiest**. 1. easily upset or irritated. 2. extremely risky. 3. easily ignited. —'touchily *adv.* —'touchiness *n.*

tough (tʌf) *adj.* 1. strong or resilient; durable. 2. not tender. 3. hardy and fit. 4. rough or pugnacious. 5. resolute or intractable. 6. difficult or troublesome to do or deal with: *a tough problem*. 7. *Inf.* unfortunate or unlucky: *it's tough on him*. ~*n.* 8. a rough, vicious, or pugnacious person. ~*adv.* 9. *Inf.* violently, aggressively.

ly, or intractably: *to treat someone tough*. —**'toughly** adv. —**'toughness** *n*.

toughen ('tʌfən) *vb*. to make or become tough or tougher. —**'toughener** *n*.

tough-minded *adj*. practical, unsentimental, or intractable. —**'tough-mindedness** *n*.

toupee ('tu:peɪ) *n*. a hairpiece worn by men to cover a bald place.

tour (tuə) *n*. 1. an extended journey visiting places of interest along the route. 2. *Mil.* a period of service, esp. in one place of duty. 3. a short trip, as for inspection. 4. a trip made by a theatre company, orchestra, etc., to perform in several different places. ~*vb*. 5. to make a tour of (a place).

tour de force *French*. (tur də 'fɔ:rs) *n*, *pl.* **tours de force** (tur). a masterly or brilliant stroke, creation, effect, or accomplishment.

tourism ('tuərizəm) *n*. tourist travel, esp. when regarded as an industry.

tourist ('tuərist) *n*. 1. *a.* a person who travels for pleasure, usually sightseeing and staying in hotels. *b.* (as modifier): *tourist attractions*. 2. a person on an excursion or sightseeing tour. 3. Also called: **tourist class**. the lowest class of accommodation on a passenger ship. ~*adj*. 4. of or relating to tourist accommodation. —**'touristic** *adj*.

touristy ('tuəristi) *adj*. *Inf.*, often *derog.* abounding in or designed for tourists.

tourmaline ('tuəmə,li:n) *n*. any of a group of hard glassy minerals of variable colour consisting of a complex silicate of boron and aluminium in crystalline form: used in jewellery and optical and electrical equipment.

tournament ('tuənmənt) *n*. 1. a sporting competition in which contestants play a series of games to determine an overall winner. 2. a meeting for athletic or other sporting contestants: *an archery tournament*. 3. *Medieval history*. a martial sport or contest in which mounted combatants fought for a prize.

tournedos ('tuənoʊ,dəʊ) *n*, *pl.* **-dos** (-,dəʊz). a thick round steak of beef.

tourniquet ('tuəni,keɪ) *n*. *Med.* any device for constricting an artery of the arm or leg to control bleeding.

tousle ('taʊzl) *vb*. (*tr.*) 1. to tangle, ruffle, or disarrange. 2. to treat roughly. ~*n*. 3. a disorderly, tangled, or rumpled state. 4. a dishevelled or disordered mass, esp. of hair.

tout (taʊt) *vb*. 1. *Inf.* to solicit (business, customers, etc.), esp. in a brazen way. 2. (*intr.*) *a.* to spy on racehorses being trained in order to obtain information for betting purposes. *b.* to sell such information or to take bets, esp. in public places. ~*n*. 3. a person who touts. —**'touter** *n*.

tow ('tau) *vb*. 1. (*tr.*) to pull or drag (a vehicle, boat, etc.), esp. by means of a rope or cable. ~*n*. 2. the act or an instance of towing. 3. the state of being towed (esp. in *in tow*, *under tow*, *on tow*). 4. something towed. 5. something used for towing. 6. *in tow*. in one's charge or under one's influence. —**'towable** *adj*. —**'towage** *n*.

tow ('tau) *n*. the coarse and broken fibres of hemp, flax, jute, etc., preparatory to spinning. —**'towy** *adj*.

toward *adj*. ('təʊəd). 1. *Now rare*. in progress; afoot. 2. *Obs.* about to happen; imminent. 3. *Obs.* promising or favourable. ~*prep.* (tə'wɔ:d, tə:d). 4. a variant of **towards**.

towards (tə'wɔ:dz, tə:dz) *prep*. 1. in the direction or vicinity of: *towards London*. 2. with regard to: *her feelings towards me*. 3. as a contribution or help to: *money towards a new car*. 4. just before: *towards noon*. ~Also: **toward**.

towbar ('tau,bɑ:) *n*. a rigid metal bar or frame used for towing vehicles.

towel ('tauəl) *n*. 1. a piece of absorbent cloth or paper used for drying things. 2. **throw in the towel**. to give up completely. ~*vb*. -**elling**, -**elled** or *U.S.* -**eling**, -**eled**. 3. (*tr.*) to dry or wipe with a towel. 4. (*tr.*; often foll. by *up*) *Austral. sl.* to assault or beat (a person).

towelling ('tauəlin) *n*. an absorbent fabric used for making towels, bathrobes, etc.

tower ('tauə) *n*. 1. a tall, usually square or circular structure, sometimes part of a larger building and usually built for a specific purpose. 2. a place of defence or retreat. 3. **tower of strength**. a person who gives support, comfort, etc. ~*vb*. 4. (*intr.*) to be or rise like a tower; loom.

towering ('tauəriŋ) *adj*. 1. very tall; lofty. 2. outstanding, as in importance or stature. 3. (*pronominal*) very intense: *a towering rage*.

towhead ('təʊ,hed) *n*. *Often disparaging*. 1. a person with blond or yellowish hair. 2. a head of such hair. —**'tow,headed** *adj*.

towline ('təʊ,lam) *n*. another name for **towrope**.

town (taʊn) *n*. 1. a densely populated urban area, typically smaller than a city and larger than a village. 2. a city, borough, or other urban area. 3. (in the U.S.) a territorial unit of local government that is smaller than a county; township. 4. the nearest town or commercial district. 5. London or the chief city of an area. 6. the inhabitants of a town. 7. **go to town**. *a.* to make a great or unrestricted effort. *b. Austral. & N.Z. inf.* to lose one's temper. 8. **on the town**. seeking out entertainments and amusements. —**'townish** *adj*.

town clerk *n*. 1. (in Britain until 1974) the secretary and chief administrative officer of a town or city. 2. (in the U.S.) the official who keeps the records of a town.

town crier *n*. (formerly) a person employed to make public announcements in the streets.

townee (taʊ'ni: or *U.S.* **townie** or **towny** ('taʊni) *n*. *Inf.*, often *disparaging*. a permanent resident in a town, esp. as distinct from country dwellers or students.

town gas *n*. coal gas manufactured for domestic and industrial use.

town hall *n*. the chief building in which municipal business is transacted, often with a hall for public meetings.

town house *n*. 1. a house in an urban area, esp. a fashionable one. 2. a person's town residence as distinct from his country residence.

town planning *n*. the comprehensive planning of the physical and social development of a town. *U.S. term:* **city planning**.

township ('taʊnʃɪp) *n*. 1. a small town. 2. (in the U.S. and Canada) a territorial area, esp. a subdivision of a county: often organized as a unit of local government. 3. (in Canada) a land-survey area, usually 36 square miles (93 square kilometres). 4. (in South Africa) a planned urban settlement of Black Africans or Coloureds. 5. *English history*. *a.* any of the local districts of a large parish. *b.* the parish itself.

townsman ('taʊnzmən) *n*, *pl.* **-men**. 1. an inhabitant of a town. 2. a person from the same town as oneself. —**'towns,woman** *fern. n*.

townspeople ('taʊnz,pɪ:pəl) or **townsfolk**. ('taʊnz-,fəʊk) *pl. n*. the inhabitants of a town; citizens.

towpath ('təʊ,pæθ) *n*. a path beside a canal or river, used by people or animals towing boats. Also called: **towing path**.

towrope ('təʊ,rəʊp) *n*. a rope or cable used for towing a vehicle or vessel. Also called: **towline**.

tox-, **toxic-** or before a consonant **tox-**, **toxico-** *combining form*. indicating poison: *toxaemia*.

toxaemia or *U.S.* **toxemia** (tɒk'si:mia) *n*. 1. a condition characterized by the presence of bacterial toxins in the blood. 2. the condition in pregnancy of pre-eclampsia or eclampsia. —**tox'aemic** or *U.S.* **tox-'emic** *adj*.

toxic ('tɒksɪk) *adj*. 1. of or caused by a toxin or poison. 2. harmful or deadly. —**'toxically** *adv*. —**toxicity** (tɒk-'sɪsɪtɪ) *n*.

toxicant ('tɒksɪkənt) *n*. 1. a toxic substance; poison. ~*adj*. 2. poisonous; toxic.

toxicology (tɒksɪk'ɒlədʒɪ) *n*. the branch of science concerned with poisons, their effects, antidotes, etc. —**toxicological** (tɒksɪk'ɒlədʒɪkəl) or **'toxicologic** *adj*. —**toxi'cologist** *n*.

toxin ('tɒksɪn) *n*. 1. any of various poisonous substances produced by microorganisms that stimulate the production of neutralizing substances (antitoxins) in the body. 2. any other poisonous substance of plant or animal origin.

toy (tɔɪ) *n*. 1. an object designed to be played with. 2. *a.* something that is a nonfunctional replica of something else, esp. a miniature one. *b.* (as modifier): *a toy guitar*. 3. any small thing of little value; trifle. 4. *a.* something small or miniature. *b.* (as modifier): *a toy poodle*. ~*vb*. 5. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *with*) to play, fiddle, or flirt.

trace ('treɪs) *n*. 1. a mark or other sign that something has been in a place. 2. a scarcely detectable amount or characteristic. 3. a footprint or other indication of the passage of an animal or person. 4. any line drawn by a recording instrument or a record consisting of a number of such lines. 5. something drawn, such as a tracing. 6. *Chiefly U.S.* a beaten track or path. ~*vb*. 7. (*tr.*) to follow, discover, or ascertain the course or development of something. 8. (*tr.*) to track down and find, as by

following a trail. **9.** to copy (a design, map, etc.) by drawing over the lines visible through a superimposed sheet of transparent paper. **10.** (*tr.*; often foll. by *out*) **a.** to draw or delineate (a plan or diagram) of. **b.** to outline or sketch (an idea, etc.). **11.** (*tr.*) to decorate with tracery. **12.** (usually foll. by *back*) to follow or be followed to source; date back: *his ancestors trace back to the 16th century.* —**'traceable** *adj.* —**'traceability** or **'traceableness** *n.* —**'traceably** *adv.*

trace¹ (*treis*) *n.* **1.** either of the two side straps that connect a horse's harness to the whiffletree. **2.** *Angling.* a short piece of gut or nylon attaching a hook or fly to a line. **3.** **kick over the traces.** to escape or defy control.

trace element *n.* any of various chemical elements that occur in very small amounts in organisms and are essential for many physiological and biochemical processes.

tracer (*'treisə*) *n.* **1.** a person or thing that traces. **2.** ammunition that can be observed when in flight by the burning of chemical substances in the base of the projectile. **3.** *Med.* any radioactive isotope introduced into the body to study metabolic processes, etc., by following its progress with a Geiger counter or other detector. **4.** an investigation to trace missing cargo, mail, etc.

tracer bullet *n.* a round of small arms ammunition containing a tracer.

tracery (*'treisəri*) *n., pl. -eries.* **1.** a pattern of interlacing ribs, esp. as used in the upper part of a Gothic window, etc. **2.** any fine pattern resembling this. —**'tracried** *adj.*

trachea (*trə'ki:ə*) *n., pl. -cheae* (*-'ki:ɪ*). **1.** *Anat., zool.* the tube that conveys inhaled air from the larynx to the bronchi. **2.** any of the tubes in insects and related animals that convey air from the spiracles to the tissues. —**tra'cheal** or **tra'cheate** *adj.*

tracheitis (*,'treik'i:əti:s*) *n.* inflammation of the trachea.

tracheotomy (*,'træki'bətəmi*) *n., pl. -mies.* surgical incision into the trachea, as performed when the air passage has been blocked.

trachoma (*trə'kəʊmə*) *n.* a chronic contagious viral disease of the eye characterized by inflammation of the conjunctiva and cornea and the formation of scar tissue. —**trachomatous** (*trə'kəmətəs*) *adj.*

tracing (*'treisiŋ*) *n.* **1.** a copy made by tracing. **2.** the act of making a trace. **3.** a record made by an instrument.

track (*træk*) *n.* **1.** the mark or trail left by something that has passed by. **2.** any road or path, esp. a rough one. **3.** a rail or pair of parallel rails on which a vehicle, such as a locomotive, runs. **4.** a course of action, thought, etc.: *don't start on that track again!* **5.** a line of motion or travel, such as flight. **6.** an endless band on the wheels of a tank, tractor, etc., to enable it to move across rough ground. **7.** **a.** a course for running or racing. **b.** (*as modifier*): *track events.* **8.** *U.S. a.* sports performed on a track. **b.** track and field events as a whole. **9.** a path on a magnetic recording medium, esp. magnetic tape, on which music or speech is recorded. **10.** Also called: **band.** any of a number of separate sections in the recording on either side of a gramophone record. **11.** the distance between the points of contact with the ground of a pair of wheels, as of a motor vehicle. **12.** **keep (or lose) track of.** to follow (or fail to follow) the passage, course, or progress of. **13.** **off the beaten track.** isolated; secluded. **14.** **off the track.** away from what is correct or true. **15.** **on the track of.** on the scent or trail of; pursuing. ~**vb.** **16.** to follow the trail of (a person, animal, etc.). **17.** to follow the flight path of (a satellite, etc.) by picking up signals transmitted or reflected by it. **18.** *U.S. railways.* **a.** to provide with a track. **b.** to run on a track of (a certain width). **19.** (of a camera or camera-operator) to follow (a moving object) while operating. **20.** to follow a track through (a place): *to track the jungles.* **21.** (*intr.*) (of the pick-up, stylus, etc., of a gramophone) to follow the groove of a record. —**'tracker** *n.*

tracking down *vb.* (*tr., adv.*) to find by tracking or pursuing.

track record *n.* *Inf.* the past record of the accomplishments and failures of a person, business, etc.

tracks (*træks*) *pl. n.* **1.** (*sometimes sing.*) marks, such as footprints, etc., left by someone or something that has passed. **2.** in one's tracks, on the very spot where one is standing. **3.** **make tracks.** to leave or depart. **4.** **make tracks for.** to go or head towards.

track shoe *n.* either of a pair of light running shoes fitted with steel spikes for better grip.

tracksuit (*'træk,su:t*) *n.* a warm suit worn by athletes, esp. during training.

tract¹ (*trækt*) *n.* **1.** an extended area, as of land. **2.** *Anat.* a system of organs, glands, etc., that has a particular function: *the digestive tract.* **3.** *Arch.* an extended period of time.

tract² (*trækt*) *n.* a treatise or pamphlet, esp. a religious or moralistic one.

tractable (*'træktəbəl*) *adj.* **1.** easily controlled or persuaded. **2.** readily worked; malleable. —**tracta'bility** or **'tractableness** *n.* —**'tractably** *adv.*

traction (*'trækʃən*) *n.* **1.** the act of drawing or pulling, esp. by motive power. **2.** the state of being drawn or pulled. **3.** *Med.* the application of a steady pull on a limb, etc., using a system of weights and pulleys or splints. **4.** adhesive friction, as between a wheel of a motor vehicle and the road. —**'tractional** *adj.* —**'tractive** (*'træktiv*) *adj.*

traction engine *n.* a steam-powered locomotive used, esp. formerly, for drawing heavy loads along roads or over rough ground.

tractor (*'træktə*) *n.* **1.** a motor vehicle with large rear wheels or endless belt treads, used to pull heavy loads, esp. farm machinery. **2.** a short vehicle with a driver's cab, used to pull a trailer, as in an articulated lorry.

trad (*træd*) *n.* **1.** *Chiefly Brit.* traditional jazz. ~**adj.** **2.** short for **traditional.**

trade (*treid*) *n.* **1.** the act or an instance of buying and selling goods and services. **2.** a personal occupation, esp. a craft requiring skill. **3.** the people and practices of an industry, craft, or business. **4.** exchange of one thing for something else. **5.** the regular clientele of a firm or industry. **6.** amount of custom or commercial dealings; business. **7.** a specified market or business: *the tailoring trade.* **8.** an occupation in commerce, as opposed to a profession. ~**vb.** **9.** (*tr.*) to buy and sell (merchandise). **10.** to exchange (one thing) for another. **11.** (*intr.*) to engage in trade. **12.** (*intr.*) to deal or do business (with). —**'See also** **trade-in, trade on.** —**'tradable** or **'tradeable** *adj.*

trade-in *n.* **1.** **a.** a used article given in part payment for the purchase of a new article. **b.** a transaction involving such part payment. **c.** the valuation put on the article traded in. ~**vb.** **trade in.** **2.** (*tr., adv.*) to give (a used article) as part payment for a new article.

trademark (*'treid,mɑ:k*) *n.* **1.** **a.** the name or other symbol used by a manufacturer or dealer to distinguish his products from those of competitors. **b.** **registered trademark.** one that is officially registered and legally protected. **2.** any distinctive sign or mark of the presence of a person or animal. ~**vb.** (*tr.*) **3.** to label with a trademark. **4.** to register as a trademark.

trade name *n.* **1.** the name used by a trade to refer to a commodity, service, etc. **2.** the name under which a commercial enterprise operates in business.

trade-off *n.* an exchange, esp. as a compromise.

trade on *vb.* (*intr., prep.*) to exploit or take advantage of: *he traded on her endless patience.*

trader (*'treidə*) *n.* **1.** a person who engages in trade. **2.** a vessel regularly employed in trade. **3.** *Stock Exchange, U.S.* a member who operates mainly on his own account.

tradescantia (*,'trædes'kænʃiə*) *n.* any of a genus of plants widely cultivated for their striped variegated leaves.

trade secret *n.* a secret formula, technique, process, etc., known and used to advantage by only one manufacturer.

tradesman (*'treidzmən*) *n., pl. -men.* **1.** a man engaged in trade, esp. a retail dealer. **2.** a skilled worker. —**'trades, woman** *fem. n.*

Trades Union Congress *n.* the major association of British trade unions, which includes all the larger unions. Abbrev.: **T.U.C.**

trade union or trades union *n.* an association of employees formed to improve their incomes and working conditions by collective bargaining. —**trade unionism** or **trades unionism** *n.* —**trade unionist** or **trades unionist** *n.*

trade wind (*wɪnd*) *n.* a wind blowing obliquely towards the equator either from the northeast in the N hemisphere or the southeast in the S hemisphere, between latitudes 30° N and S.

trading estate *n.* *Chiefly Brit.* a large area in which a number of commercial or industrial firms are situated.

trading stamp *n.* a stamp of stated value given by

some retail organizations to customers, redeemable for merchandise or cash.

tradition (trə'dɪʃən) *n.* 1. the handing down from generation to generation of customs, beliefs, etc. 2. the body of customs, thought, etc., belonging to a particular country, people, family, or institution over a long period. 3. a specific custom or practice of long standing. 4. *Christianity*, a doctrine regarded as having been established by Christ or the apostles though not contained in Scripture. 5. (often *cap.*) *Judaism*, a body of laws regarded as having been handed down from Moses orally. 6. the beliefs and customs of Islam supplementing the Koran. 7. *Law*, chiefly *Roman & Scot.* the act of formally transferring ownership of movable property. —*traditionless adj.*

traditional (trə'dɪʃənəl) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or being a tradition. 2. of the style of jazz originating in New Orleans, characterized by collective improvisation by a front line of trumpet, trombone, and clarinet. —*traditionalist n.* —*traditionally adv.*

traduce (trə'dju:s) *vb.* (tr.) to speak badly or maliciously of. —*traducement n.* —*traducer n.*

traffic ('træfɪk) *n.* 1. a. the vehicles coming and going in a street, town, etc. b. (as *modifier*): *traffic lights*. 2. the movement of vehicles, people, etc., in a particular place or for a particular purpose: *sea traffic*. 3. (usually *fol.* by *with*) dealings or business. 4. trade, esp. of an illicit or improper kind: *drug traffic*. 5. the aggregate volume of messages transmitted through a communications system in a given period. 6. *Chiefly U.S.* the number of customers patronizing a commercial establishment in a given time period. ~*vb.* -*flicking*, -*flicked*. (*intr.*) 7. (often *fol.* by *in*) to carry on trade or business, esp. of an illicit kind. 8. (usually *fol.* by *with*) to have dealings. —*trafficker n.*

trafficator ('træfɪkəts) *n.* (formerly) an illuminated arm on a motor vehicle that was raised to indicate a left or right turn.

traffic island *n.* another name for *island* (sense 2).

traffic light or signal *n.* one of a set of coloured lights placed at crossroads, junctions, etc., to control the flow of traffic.

traffic warden *n.* a person who is appointed to supervise road traffic and report traffic offences.

tragedian (trə'dʒɪdi:ən) or (*fem.*) **tragedienne** (trə'dʒɪdi:en) *n.* 1. an actor who specializes in tragic roles. 2. a writer of tragedy.

tragedy ('trædʒɪdi) *n.*, *pl.* -*dies*. 1. a play in which the protagonist falls to disaster through the combination of a personal failing and circumstances with which he cannot deal. 2. any dramatic or literary composition dealing with serious or sombre themes and ending with disaster. 3. the branch of drama dealing with such themes. 4. the unfortunate aspect of something. 5. a shocking or sad event; disaster.

tragic ('trædʒɪk) or **tragical** *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or characteristic of tragedy. 2. mournful or pitiable. —*tragically adv.*

tragicomedy ('trædʒɪkə'mɒdi) *n.*, *pl.* -*dies*. 1. a drama in which aspects of both tragedy and comedy are found. 2. an event or incident having both comic and tragic aspects. —*tragi|comic* or *tragi|comical adj.*

trail (treɪl) *vb.* 1. to drag, stream, or permit to drag or stream along a surface, esp. the ground. 2. to make (a track) through (a place). 3. to follow or hunt (an animal or person) by following marks or tracks. 4. (when *intr.*, often *fol.* by *behind*) to lag or linger behind (a person or thing). 5. (*intr.*) (esp. of plants) to extend or droop over or along a surface. 6. (tr.) to tow (a caravan, etc.) behind a motor vehicle. 7. (tr.) to carry (a rifle) at the full length of the right arm in a horizontal position, with the muzzle to the fore. 8. (*intr.*) to move wearily or slowly. ~*n.* 9. a print, mark, or scent made by a person, animal, or object. 10. the act or an instance of trailing. 11. a path, track, or road, esp. one roughly blazed. 12. something that trails behind or trails in loops or strands. 13. the part of a towed gun carriage and limber that connects the two when in movement and rests on the ground as a partial support when unlimbered.

trailblazer ('treɪl,bleɪzə) *n.* 1. a leader or pioneer in a particular field. 2. a person who blazes a trail. —*trail-, blazing adj.*, *n.*

trailer ('treɪlə) *n.* 1. a road vehicle, usually two-wheeled, towed by a motor vehicle: used for transporting boats, etc. 2. the rear section of an articulated lorry. 3. a series of short extracts from a film, used to advertise it

in a cinema or on television. 4. a person or thing that trails. 5. the U.S. name for *caravan* (sense 1).

trailing arbutus *n.* a creeping evergreen ericaceous plant of E North America, having clusters of fragrant pink or white flowers.

train (treɪn) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to guide or teach (to do something), as by subjecting to various exercises or experiences. 2. (tr.) to control or guide towards a specific goal: *to train a plant up a wall*. 3. (*intr.*) to do exercises and prepare for a specific purpose. 4. (tr.) to improve or curb by subjecting to discipline: *to train the mind*. 5. (tr.) to focus or bring to bear (on something): *to train a telescope on the moon*. ~*n.* 6. a line of coaches or wagons coupled together and drawn by a railway locomotive. 7. a sequence or series: *a train of disasters*. 8. a procession of people, vehicles, etc., travelling together, such as one carrying equipment in support of a military operation. 9. a series of interacting parts through which motion is transmitted: *a train of gears*. 10. a fuse or line of gunpowder to an explosive charge, etc. 11. something drawn along, such as the long back section of a dress that trails along the floor. 12. a retinue or suite. —*trainable adj.*

trainbearer ('treɪn,bɛərə) *n.* an attendant who holds up the train of a dignitary's robe.

trainee (treɪ'ni:) *n.* a. a person undergoing training. b. (as *modifier*): *a trainee journalist*.

trainer ('treɪnə) *n.* 1. a person who trains athletes. 2. a piece of equipment employed in training, such as a simulated aircraft cockpit. 3. a person who schools racehorses.

training ('treɪnɪŋ) *n.* 1. a. the process of bringing a person, etc., to an agreed standard of proficiency, etc., by practice and instruction. b. (as *modifier*): *training college*. 2. in *training*, a. undergoing physical training. b. physically fit. 3. *out of training*, physically unfit.

train spotter *n.* a person who collects the numbers of railway locomotives.

traipse or trapes (treɪps) *Inf.* ~*vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to walk heavily or tiredly. ~*n.* 2. a long or tiring walk; trudge.

trait (treɪt, treɪ) *n.* 1. a characteristic feature or quality distinguishing a particular person or thing. 2. *Rare*. a touch or stroke.

traitor ('treɪtə) *n.* a person who is guilty of treason or treachery, in betraying friends, country, a cause, etc. —*traitorous adj.* —*traitress fem. n.*

trajectory (trə'dʒektəri) *n.*, *pl.* -*ries*. 1. the path described by an object moving in air or space, esp. the curved path of a projectile. 2. *Geom.* a curve that cuts a family of curves or surfaces at a constant angle.

tram (træm) *n.* 1. Also called: *tramcar*. an electrically driven public transport vehicle that runs on rails let into the surface of the road. U.S. names: *streetcar*, *trolley car*. 2. a small vehicle on rails for carrying loads in a mine; tub. —*tramless adj.*

tramline ('træm,lɪn) *n.* 1. (often *pl.*) Also called: *tramway*, the tracks on which a tram runs. 2. the route taken by a tram. 3. (often *pl.*) the outer markings along the sides of a tennis or badminton court.

trammel ('træməl) *n.* 1. (often *pl.*) a hindrance to free action or movement. 2. Also called: *trammel net*, a fishing net in three sections, the two outer nets having a large mesh and the middle one a fine mesh. 3. *Rare*. a fowling net. 4. U.S. a shackle for a horse. 5. a device for drawing ellipses consisting of a flat sheet having a cruciform slot in which run two pegs attached to a beam. 6. (sometimes *pl.*) a beam compass. 7. a device set in a fireplace to support cooking pots. ~*vb.* -*elling*, -*elled* or U.S. -*eling*, -*eled*. (tr.) 8. to hinder or restrain. 9. to catch or ensnare.

tramp (træmp) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to walk long and far; hike. 2. to walk heavily or firmly across or through (a place). 3. (*intr.*) to wander about as a vagabond or tramp. 4. (*intr.*) to tread or trample. ~*n.* 5. a person who travels about on foot, living by begging or doing casual work. 6. a long hard walk; hike. 7. a heavy or rhythmic tread. 8. the sound of heavy treading. 9. a merchant ship that does not run on a regular schedule but carries cargo wherever the shippers desire. 10. *Sl.*, chiefly U.S. a prostitute or promiscuous girl or woman. —*trampish adj.*

trample ('træmpəl) *vb.* (when *intr.*, usually *fol.* by *on*, *upon*, or *over*) 1. to stamp or walk roughly (on). 2. to encroach (upon) so as to violate or hurt. ~*n.* 3. the action or sound of trampling. —*trampler n.*

trampoline ('træmpəlɪn, -lɪn) *n.* 1. a tough canvas sheet suspended by springs or cords from a frame, used

by acrobats, gymnasts, etc. ~vb. 2. (*intr.*) to exercise on a trampoline. — **'trampoliner** or **'trampolinist** *n.*

trance (træns) *n.* 1. a hypnotic state resembling sleep. 2. any mental state in which a person is unaware of the environment, characterized by loss of voluntary movement, rigidity, and lack of sensitivity to external stimuli. 3. a dazed or stunned state. 4. a state of ecstasy or mystic absorption so intense as to cause a temporary loss of consciousness at the earthly level. 5. *Spiritualism*. a state in which a medium can supposedly be controlled by an intelligence from without as a means of communication with the dead. ~vb. 6. (*tr.*) to put into or as into a trance. — **'trance, like** *adj.*

trannie or **tranny** ('træni) *n.* *Inf.*, chiefly *Brit.* a transistor radio.

tranquil ('træŋkwil) *adj.* calm, peaceful, or quiet. — **'tranquilly** *adv.*

tranquillity or *U.S. (sometimes) tranquility* (træŋ-'kwiliti) *n.* a state of calm or quietude.

tranquillize, -ise, or *U.S. tranquilize* ('træŋkwil-'laɪz) *vb.* to make or become calm or calmer. — **'tranquillization** or **-i-sation** *n.*

tranquillizer or **-iser** ('træŋkwil-'laɪzə) *n.* 1. a drug that calms a person. 2. anything that tranquillizes.

trans. *abbrev. for:* 1. transaction. 2. transferred. 3. transitive. 4. translated. 5. translator. 6. transport(ation). 7. transverse.

trans- *prefix.* 1. across, beyond, crossing, on the other side: *transatlantic*. 2. changing thoroughly: *transliterate*. 3. transcending: *transubstantiation*. 4. transverse: *transsect*. 5. (*often in italics*) indicating that a chemical compound has a molecular structure in which two identical groups or atoms are on opposite sides of a double bond: *trans-butadiene*.

transact (træn'tzækt) *vb.* to do, conduct, or negotiate (business, a deal, etc.). — **'transactor** *n.*

transaction (træn'tzækʃən) *n.* 1. something that is transacted, esp. a business deal. 2. a transacting or being transacted. 3. (*pl.*) the records of the proceedings of a society, etc. — **'trans'ational** *adj.*

transalpine (træn'tzælpain) *adj. (prenominal)* 1. situated in or relating to places beyond the Alps, esp. from Italy. 2. passing over the Alps.

transatlantic (træn'tzə'tlæntik) *adj.* 1. on or from the other side of the Atlantic. 2. crossing the Atlantic.

transceiver (træn'si:viə) *n.* a combined radio transmitter and receiver which does not allow simultaneous transmission and reception.

transcend (træn'send) *vb.* 1. to go above or beyond (a limit, expectation, etc.), as in degree or excellence. 2. (*tr.*) to be superior to.

transcendent (træn'sendənt) *adj.* 1. exceeding or surpassing in degree or excellence. 2. (in the philosophy of Kant) beyond or before experience. 3. *Theol.* (of God) having existence outside the created world. 4. free from the limitations inherent in matter. ~*n.* 5. *Philosophy.* a transcendent thing. — **'transcendence** or **'transcendency** *n.* — **'transcendently** *adv.*

transcendental (træn'sendəntl) *adj.* 1. transcendent, superior, or surpassing. 2. (in the philosophy of Kant) a. (of a judgment or logical deduction) being both synthetic and a priori. b. of or relating to knowledge of the presuppositions of thought. 3. *Philosophy.* beyond our experience of phenomena, although not beyond potential experience. 4. *Philosophy.* of or relating to those theories that explain knowledge with reference to the process of knowing. 5. *Theol.* supernatural or mystical. 6. *Maths.* a. (of a number or quantity) not being a root of any polynomial with rational coefficients. b. (of a function) not capable of expression in terms of a finite number of arithmetical operations. — **'transcendental-ly** *adv.*

transcendentalism (træn'sendəntə'lizəm) *n.* 1. a. any system of philosophy, esp. that of Kant, holding that the key to reality lies in the critical examination of reason. b. any system of philosophy, esp. that of Emerson, that emphasizes intuition as a means to knowledge or the importance of the search for the divine. 2. vague philosophical speculation. 3. the state of being transcendental. 4. something, such as thought or language, that is transcendental. — **'transcendentalist** *n., adj.*

transcendental meditation *n.* a technique, based on Hindu traditions, for relaxing and refreshing the mind and body through the silent repetition of a mantra.

transcribe (træn'skraɪb) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to write, type, or print out fully from speech, notes, etc. 2. to transliterate or translate. 3. to make an electrical recording of (a

programme or speech) for a later broadcast. 4. *Music.* to rewrite (a piece of music) for an instrument or medium other than that originally intended; arrange. 5. *Computers.* a. to transfer (information) from one storage device to another. b. to transfer (information) from a computer to an external storage device. — **'trans'cribable** *adj.* — **'transcriber** *n.*

transcript ('trænskript) *n.* 1. a written, typed, or printed copy or manuscript made by transcribing. 2. *Chiefly U.S.* an official record of a student's school progress. 3. any reproduction or copy.

transcription (træn'skripʃən) *n.* 1. the act or an instance of transcribing or the state of being transcribed. 2. something transcribed. 3. a representation in writing of the actual pronunciation of a speech sound, word, etc., using phonetic symbols. — **'trans'criptional** or **'trans'scriptive** *adj.*

transducer (trænz'dju:sə) *n.* any device, such as a microphone or electric motor, that converts one form of energy into another.

transept ('trænsɛpt) *n.* either of the two wings of a cruciform church at right angles to the nave. — **'tran'septal** *adj.*

transfer *vb. (træns'fɜ:), -ferring, -ferred.* 1. to change or go or cause to change or go from one thing, person, or point to another. 2. to change (buses, trains, etc.). 3. *Law.* to make over (property, etc.) to another; convey. 4. to displace (a drawing, design, etc.) from one surface to another. 5. (of a football player) to change clubs or (of a club, manager, etc.) to sell or release (a player) to another club. 6. to leave one school, college, etc., and enrol at another. 7. to change (the meaning of a word, etc.), esp. by metaphorical extension. ~*n.* ('trænsfɜ:). 8. the act, process, or system of transferring, or the state of being transferred. 9. a person or thing that transfers or is transferred. 10. a design or drawing that is transferred from one surface to another. 11. *Law.* the passing of title to property or other right from one person to another; conveyance. 12. any document or form effecting or regulating a transfer. 13. *Chiefly U.S.* a ticket that allows a passenger to change routes. — **'trans'ferable** or **'trans'ferrable** *adj.* — **'trans'ference** ('trænsfərəns) *n.*

transfiguration (trænsfigju'reɪʃən) *n.* a transfiguring or being transfigured.

Transfiguration (trænsfigju'reɪʃən) *n.* 1. *New Testament.* the change in the appearance of Christ that took place before three disciples (Matthew 17:1-9). 2. the Church festival held in commemoration of this on Aug. 6.

transfigure (træns'figə) *vb. (usually tr.)* 1. to change or cause to change in appearance. 2. to become or cause to become more exalted. — **'trans'figurement** *n.*

transfix (træns'fiks) *vb. -fixing, -fixed or -fixt. (tr.)* 1. to render motionless, esp. with horror or shock. 2. to impale or fix with a sharp weapon or other device. — **'transfixion** (træns'fiksən) *n.*

transform *vb. (træns'fɔ:m).* 1. to alter or be altered in form, function, etc. 2. (*tr.*) to convert (one form of energy) to another form. 3. (*tr.*) *Maths.* to change the form of (an equation, etc.) by a mathematical transformation. 4. (*tr.*) to change (an alternating current or voltage) using a transformer. ~*n.* ('træns'fɔ:m). 5. *Maths.* the result of a mathematical transformation. — **'transformable** *adj.* — **'trans'formative** *adj.*

transformation (trænsfɔ'meɪʃən) *n.* 1. a change or alteration, esp. a radical one. 2. a transforming or being transformed. 3. *Maths.* a. a change in position or direction of the reference axes in a coordinate system without an alteration in their relative angle. b. a change in an expression or equation resulting from the substitution of one set of variables by another. 4. *Physics.* a change in an atomic nucleus to a different nuclide as the result of the emission of either an alpha-particle or a beta-particle. 5. an apparently miraculous change in the appearance of a stage set. — **'transfor'mational** *adj.*

transformer (træns'fɔ:mə) *n.* 1. a device that transfers an alternating current from one circuit to one or more other circuits, usually with a change of voltage. 2. a person or thing that transforms.

transfuse (træns'fju:z) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to permeate or infuse. 2. a. to inject (blood, etc.) into a blood vessel. b. to give a transfusion to (a patient). — **'trans'fuser** *n.* — **'trans'fusible** or **'trans'fusible** *adj.* — **'trans'fusive** *adj.*

transfusion (træns'fju:ʒən) *n.* 1. a transfusing. 2. the injection of blood, blood plasma, etc., into the blood vessels of a patient.

transgress (trænz'gres) *vb.* 1. to break (a law, etc.).

2. to go beyond or overstep (a limit). —**trans'gressive** *adj.* —**trans'gression** *n.* —**trans'gressor** *n.*

transient ('trænzjənt) *adj.* 1. for a short time only; temporary or transitory. ~*n.* 2. a transient person or thing. —**transiently** *adv.* —**transience**, 'transiency, or 'transientness *n.*

transistor ('trænzɪstə) *n.* 1. a semiconductor device, having three or more terminals attached to electrode regions, in which current flowing between two electrodes is controlled by a voltage or current applied to one or more specified electrodes. The device has replaced the valve in most circuits since it is much smaller and works at a much lower voltage. 2. *Inf.* a transistor radio.

transistorize or **-ise** ('trænzɪstəraɪz) *vb.* 1. to convert to the use or manufacture of transistors and other solid-state components. 2. (*tr.*) to equip with transistors and other solid-state components.

transit ('trænsɪt, 'trænz-) *n.* 1. a. the passage or conveyance of goods or people. b. (as modifier): a *transit visa*. 2. a change or transition. 3. a route. 4. *Astron.* a. the passage of a celestial body or satellite across the face of a larger body as seen from the earth. b. the apparent passage of a celestial body across the meridian. 5. *In transit*, while being conveyed; during passage. ~*vb.* 6. to make a transit through or over (something).

transit camp *n.* a camp in which refugees, soldiers, etc., live temporarily.

transition ('trænzɪʒən) *n.* 1. change or passage from one state or stage to another. 2. the period of time during which something changes. 3. *Music.* a. a movement from one key to another; modulation. b. a linking passage between two divisions in a composition; bridge. 4. a style of architecture in the late 11th and early 12th centuries, characterized by late Romanesque forms combined with early Gothic details. 5. *Physics.* a change in the configuration of an atomic nucleus, involving either a change in energy level or a transformation to another element or isotope. 6. a sentence, passage, etc., that links sections of a written work. —**tran'sitional** *adj.* —**tran'sitionally** *adv.*

transitive ('trænsɪtɪv) *adj.* 1. *Grammar.* a. denoting an occurrence of a verb when it requires a direct object or denoting a verb that customarily requires a direct object. b. (as *n.*): these verbs are *transitives*. 2. *Logic.* having the property that if one object bears a relationship to a second object that also bears the same relationship to a third object, then the first object bears this relationship to the third object: if $x = y$ and $y = z$ then $x = z$. ~*Cf.* **intransitive**. —**transitively** *adv.* —**trans'itiveness** or **trans'itvity** *n.*

transitory ('trænsɪtəri, -tri) *adj.* of short duration; transient or ephemeral. —**trans'itoriness** *n.*

translate ('trænzleɪt, 'trænz-) *vb.* 1. to express or be capable of being expressed in another language. 2. (*intr.*) to act as translator. 3. (*tr.*) to express or explain in simple or less technical language. 4. (*tr.*) to interpret or infer the significance of (gestures, symbols, etc.). 5. (*tr.*) to transform or convert: to *translate hope into reality*. 6. to transfer from one place or position to another. 7. (*tr.*) *Theol.* to transfer (a person) from one place or plane of existence to another, as from earth to heaven. 8. *Physics.* to cause (a body) to move laterally in space without rotation or angular displacement. —**trans'latable** *adj.* —**trans'lator** *n.*

translation ('trænzleɪʃən, 'trænz-) *n.* 1. something that is or has been translated. 2. a translating or being translated. 3. *Maths.* a transformation in which the origin of a coordinate system is moved to another position so that each axis retains the same direction. —**trans'lational** *adj.*

transliterate ('trænzlɪtəreɪt) *vb.* (*tr.*) to transcribe (a word, etc.) into corresponding letters of another alphabet. —**transliteration** *n.* —**trans'liter,ator** *n.*

translucent ('trænz'lusənt) *adj.* allowing light to pass through partially or diffusely; semitransparent. —**trans'lucence** or **trans'lucency** *n.* —**trans'lucently** *adv.*

transmigrate ('trænzmaɪgreɪt) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. to move from one place, state, or stage to another. 2. *Theol.* (of souls) to pass from one body into another at death. —**transmi'gration** *n.* —**trans'migratory** *adj.*

transmission ('trænz'mɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act or process of transmitting. 2. something that is transmitted. 3. the extent to which a body or medium transmits light, sound, etc. 4. the transference of motive force or power. 5. a system of shafts, gears, etc., that transmits power, esp. the arrangement of such parts that transmits the power of the engine to the driving wheels of a motor vehicle.

6. the act or process of sending a message, picture, or other information by means of radio waves, electrical signals, light signals, etc. 7. a radio or television broadcast. —**trans'missible** *adj.* —**trans'missive** *adj.*

transmit ('trænz'mɪt) *vb.* -**mitting**, -**mitted**. 1. (*tr.*) to pass or cause to go from one place or person to another; transfer. 2. (*tr.*) to pass on or impart (a disease, etc.). 3. (*tr.*) to hand down to posterity. 4. (*tr.*, usually passive) to pass (an inheritable characteristic) from parent to offspring. 5. to allow the passage of (particles, energy, etc.): *radio waves are transmitted through the atmosphere*. 6. a. to send out (signals) by means of radio waves or along a transmission line. b. to broadcast (a radio or television programme). 7. (*tr.*) to transfer (a force, motion, etc.) from one part of a mechanical system to another. —**trans'mittable** or **trans'mittible** *adj.* —**trans'mittal** *n.*

transmitter ('trænz'mɪtə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that transmits. 2. the equipment used for generating and amplifying a radio-frequency carrier, modulating the carrier with information, and feeding it to an aerial for transmission. 3. the microphone in a telephone that converts sound waves into audio-frequency electrical signals. 4. a device that converts mechanical movements into coded electrical signals transmitted along a telegraph circuit.

transmogrify ('trænz'mɒgrɪfaɪ) *vb.* -**ying**, -**fied**. (*tr.*) *Jocular.* to change or transform into a different shape, esp. a grotesque or bizarre one. —**trans,mogrifi'cation** *n.*

transmute ('trænz'mju:t) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to change the form, character, or substance of. 2. to alter (an element, metal, etc.) by alchemy. —**trans,muta'bility** *n.* —**trans'mutable** *adj.* —**transmu'tation** *n.*

transom ('trænsəm) *n.* 1. a horizontal member across a window. 2. a horizontal member that separates a door from a window over it. 3. the usual U.S. name for **fanlight**. 4. *Naut.* a. a surface forming the stern of a vessel. b. any of several transverse beams used for strengthening the stern of a vessel. —**'transomed** *adj.*

transparency ('trænz'pærənsɪ) *n.*, pl. **-cies**. 1. Also called: **transparence**, the state of being transparent. 2. Also called: **slide**, a positive photograph on a transparent base, usually mounted in a frame or between glass plates. It can be viewed by means of a slide projector.

transparent ('trænz'pærənt) *adj.* 1. permitting the uninterrupted passage of light; clear. 2. easy to see through, understand, or recognize; obvious. 3. permitting the free passage of electromagnetic radiation. 4. candid, open, or frank. —**trans'parently** *adv.* —**trans'parentness** *n.*

transpire ('trænz'spaɪə) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) *Inf.* to happen or occur. 2. (*intr.*) to come to light; be known. 3. *Physiol.* to give off or exhale (water or vapour) through the skin, a mucous membrane, etc. 4. (of plants) to lose (water), esp. through the stomata of the leaves. —**transpiration** ('trænzspə'reɪʃən) *n.* —**tran'spiratory** *adj.*

▷ **Usage.** It is often maintained that **transpire** should not be used to mean happen or occur, as in the *event transpired late in the evening*, and that the word is properly used to mean become known, as in *it transpired later that the thief had been caught*. The word is, however, widely used in the first sense, esp. in spoken English.

transplant *vb.* ('trænz'plɑ:nt). 1. (*tr.*) to remove or transfer (esp. a plant) from one place to another. 2. (*intr.*) to be capable of being transplanted. 3. *Surgery.* to transfer (an organ or tissue) from one part of the body or from one person to another. ~*n.* ('trænz'plɑ:nt). 4. *Surgery.* a. the procedure involved in such a transfer. b. the organ or tissue transplanted. —**trans'plantable** *adj.* —**transplan'tation** *n.*

transponder ('trænz'spɒndə) *n.* a type of radio or radar transmitter-receiver that transmits signals automatically when it receives predetermined signals.

transport *vb.* ('trænz'pɔ:t). (*tr.*) 1. to carry or cause to go from one place to another, esp. over some distance. 2. to deport or exile to a penal colony. 3. (usually passive) to have a strong emotional effect on. ~*n.* ('trænz'pɔ:t). 4. a. the business or system of transporting goods or people. b. (as modifier): a *modernized transport system*. 5. *Brit.* freight vehicles generally. 6. a. a vehicle used to transport goods or people, esp. troops. b. (as modifier): a *transport plane*. 7. a transporting or being transported. 8. ecstasy, rapture, or any powerful emotion. 9. a convict sentenced to be transported. —**trans'portable** *adj.* —**trans'porter** *n.*

transportation ('trænzpɔ:'teɪʃən) *n.* 1. a means or

system of transporting. 2. the act of transporting or the state of being transported. 3. (esp. formerly) deportation to a penal colony.

transport café ('træns,pɔ:t) *n.* *Brit.* an inexpensive eating place on a main route, used mainly by long-distance lorry drivers.

transpose ('træns'pəʊz) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to alter the positions of; interchange, as words in a sentence. 2. *Music.* to play (notes, music, etc.) in a different key from that originally intended. 3. (*tr.*) *Maths.* to move (a term) from one side of an equation to the other with a corresponding reversal in sign. —**trans'posable** *adj.* —**trans'posal** *n.* —**trans'poser** *n.* —**transposition** ('træns'pəʊzɪʃən) *n.*

transsexual ('trænz'seksʃuəl) *n.* 1. a person who is completely identified with the opposite sex. 2. a person who has undergone medical procedures to alter sexual characteristics to those of the opposite sex.

transship ('træns'ʃɪp) or **tranship** *vb.* —**shipping**, —**shipped**. to transfer or be transferred from one vessel or vehicle to another. —**trans'shipment** or **tran'shipment** *n.*

transubstantiation ('trænsəb'stænʃi'eɪʃən) *n.* 1. (esp. in Roman Catholic theology) a. the doctrine that the whole substance of the bread and wine changes into the substance of the body and blood of Christ when consecrated in the Eucharist. b. the mystical process by which this is believed to take place during consecration. Cf. **consubstantiation**. 2. a substantial change; transmutation. —**transub'stanti'ationalist** *n.*

transuranic ('trænzjʊ'rænik), **transuranian** ('trænzjʊ'reɪniən), or **transuranium** *adj.* 1. (of an element) having an atomic number greater than that of uranium. 2. of or having the behaviour of transuranic elements.

transverse ('trænz'vɜ:s) *adj.* 1. crossing from side to side; athwart; crossways. ~*n.* 2. a transverse piece or object. —**trans'versely** *adv.*

transvestite ('trænz'vestait) *n.* a person who seeks sexual pleasure from wearing clothes of the opposite sex. —**trans'vestism** or **trans'vestitism** *n.*

trap¹ ('træp) *n.* 1. a mechanical device or enclosed place or pit in which something, esp. an animal, is caught or penned. 2. any device or plan for tricking a person or thing into being caught unawares. 3. anything resembling a trap or prison. 4. a fitting for a pipe in the form of a U-shaped or S-shaped bend that contains standing water to prevent the passage of gases. 5. any similar device. 6. a device that hurls clay pigeons into the air to be fired at by trapshooters. 7. *Greyhound racing.* any one of a line of boxlike stalls in which greyhounds are enclosed before the start of a race. 8. See **trap door**. 9. a light two-wheeled carriage. 10. a slang word for mouth. 11. *Golf.* an obstacle or hazard, esp. a sand trap. 12. (*pl.*) *Jazz sl.* percussion instruments. ~*vb.* **trapping**, **trapped**. 13. to catch, take, or pen in a trap. 14. (*tr.*) to ensnare by trickery; trick. 15. (*tr.*) to provide (a pipe) with a trap. 16. to set traps in (a place), esp. for animals. —**'trap,like** *adj.*

trap² ('træp) *vb.* **trapping**, **trapped**. (*tr.*; often foll. by *out*) to dress or adorn.

trap³ ('træp) or **traprock** ('træp,rɒk) *n.* 1. any fine-grained often columnar dark igneous rock, esp. basalt. 2. any rock in which oil or gas has accumulated.

trap door *n.* a door or flap flush with and covering an opening, esp. in a ceiling.

trapeze ('træ'pi:z) *n.* a free-swinging bar attached to two ropes, used by circus acrobats, etc.

trapezium ('træ'pi:ziəm) *n.*, *pl.* —**zi-ums** or —**zia** (-ziə). 1. *Chiefly Brit.* a quadrilateral having two parallel sides of unequal length. Usual U.S. name: **trapezoid**. 2. *Chiefly U.S.* a quadrilateral having neither pair of sides parallel. —**tra'pezial** *adj.*

trapezoid ('træpi:zɔɪd) *n.* 1. a quadrilateral having neither pair of sides parallel. 2. the usual U.S. name for **trapezium**.

trapper ('træpə) *n.* a person who traps animals, esp. for their furs or skins.

trappings ('træpiŋz) *pl. n.* 1. superficial additions or adornments: the *trappings of vanity*. 2. ceremonial harness for a horse or other animal.

Trappist ('træpɪst) *n. a.* a member of a branch of the Cistercian order of Christian monks, which originated at La Trappe in France in 1664. They are noted for their rule of silence. b. (*as modifier*): a *Trappist monk*.

trash ('træʃ) *n.* 1. foolish ideas or talk; nonsense. 2. *Chiefly U.S.* useless or unwanted matter or objects. 3. a literary or artistic production of poor quality. 4. *Chiefly*

U.S. a poor or worthless person or a group of such people. 5. bits that are broken or lopped off, esp. the trimmings from trees or plants. 6. the dry remains of sugar cane after the juice has been extracted. ~*vb.* 7. to remove the outer leaves and branches from (growing plants, esp. sugar cane). —**'trashy** *adj.*

trattoria ('trætə'rɪə) *n.* an Italian restaurant.

trauma ('trɔ:mə) *n.*, *pl.* —**-mata** (-mətə) or —**-mas**. 1. *Psychol.* a powerful shock that may have long-lasting effects. 2. *Pathol.* any bodily injury or wound. —**traumatic** ('trɔ:'mætɪk) *adj.* —**trau'matically** *adv.* —**'trauma,tize** or —**-ise** *vb.*

travail ('trævl) *n.* *Literary.* 1. painful or excessive labour or exertion. 2. the pangs of childbirth; labour. ~*vb.* 3. (*intr.*) to suffer or labour painfully, esp. in childbirth.

travel ('trævl) *vb.* —**-elling**, —**-elled** or *U.S.* —**-eling**, —**-eled**. (*mainly intr.*) 1. to go, move, or journey from one place to another. 2. (*tr.*) to go, move, or journey through or across (an area, region, etc.). 3. to go, move, or cover a distance. 4. to go from place to place as a salesman. 5. (esp. of perishable goods) to withstand a journey. 6. (of light, sound, etc.) to be transmitted or move. 7. to progress or advance. 8. *Basketball.* to take an excessive number of steps while holding the ball. 9. (of part of a mechanism) to move in a fixed path. 10. *Inf.* to move rapidly. ~*n.* 11. a. the act of travelling. b. (*as modifier*): a *travel brochure*. Related *adj.*: **itinerant**. 12. (*usually pl.*) a tour or journey. 13. the distance moved by a mechanical part, such as the stroke of a piston. 14. movement or passage.

travel agency or bureau *n.* an agency that arranges and negotiates flights, holidays, etc., for travellers. —**travel agent** *n.*

traveller ('trævlə, 'trævlə) *n.* 1. a person who travels, esp. habitually. 2. See **travelling salesman**. 3. a part of a mechanism that moves in a fixed course.

traveller's cheque *n.* a cheque sold by a bank, etc., to the bearer, who signs it on purchase and can cash it abroad by signing it again.

travelling salesman *n.* a salesman who travels within an assigned territory in order to sell merchandise or to solicit orders for the commercial enterprise he represents by direct personal contact with customers and potential customers.

travelogue or *U.S. (sometimes)* **travelog** ('trævlɒg) *n.* a film, lecture, or brochure on travels and travelling.

traverse ('trævɜ:s) *vb.* 1. to pass or go over or back and forth over (something); cross. 2. (*tr.*) to go against; oppose. 3. to move sideways or crossways. 4. (*tr.*) to extend or reach across. 5. to turn (an artillery gun) laterally or (of an artillery gun) to turn laterally. 6. (*tr.*) to examine carefully. 7. (*tr.*) *Law.* to deny (an allegation). 8. *Mountaineering.* to move across (a face) horizontally. ~*n.* 9. something being or lying across, such as a transom. 10. a gallery or loft inside a building that crosses it. 11. an obstruction. 12. a protective bank or other barrier across a trench or rampart. 13. a railing, screen, or curtain. 14. the act or an instance of traversing or crossing. 15. *Mountaineering.* the act or an instance of moving horizontally across a face. 16. a path or road across. 17. *Naut.* the zigzag course of a vessel tacking frequently. 18. *Law.* the formal denial of a fact alleged in the opposite party's pleading. 19. *Surveying.* a survey consisting of a series of straight lines, the length of each and the angle between them being measured. ~*adj.* 20. being or lying across; transverse. —**tra'versal** *n.* —**'traverser** *n.*

travesty ('trævɪsti) *n.*, *pl.* —**-ties**. 1. a farcical or grotesque imitation; mockery; parody. ~*vb.* —**-tying**, —**-tied**. (*tr.*) 2. to make or be a travesty of.

travois ('trə'voɪ) *n.*, *pl.* —**-vois** (-'voɪz). 1. *History.* a sled formerly used by the Plains Indians of North America, consisting of two poles joined by a frame and pulled by an animal. 2. *Canad.* a similar sled used for dragging logs.

trawl (trɔ:l) *n.* 1. Also called: **trawl net**, a large net, usually in the shape of a sock or bag, drawn at deep levels behind special boats (trawlers). 2. Also called: **trawl line**, a long line to which numerous shorter hooked lines are attached, suspended between buoys. 3. the act of trawling. ~*vb.* 4. to catch (fish) with a trawl net or trawl line.

trawler ('trɔ:lə) *n.* 1. a vessel used for trawling. 2. a person who trawls.

tray (treɪ) *n.* 1. a thin flat board or plate of metal, plastic, etc., usually with a raised edge, on which things

can be carried. **2.** a shallow receptacle for papers, etc., sometimes forming a drawer in a cabinet or box.

treacherous ('trɛtʃərəs) *adj.* **1.** betraying or likely to betray faith or confidence. **2.** unstable, unreliable, or dangerous. — **'treacherously** *adv.* — **'treacherousness** *n.*

treachery ('trɛtʃəri) *n., pl. -eries.* **1.** the act or an instance of wilful betrayal. **2.** the disposition to betray.

treacle ('tri:kəl) *n.* **1.** Also called: **black treacle.** *Brit.* a dark viscous syrup obtained during the refining of sugar. **2.** *Brit.* another name for **golden syrup**. **3.** anything sweet and cloying. — **'treacly** *adj.*

tread (trɛd) *vb.* **treading, trod, trodden or trod.** **1.** to walk or trample in, on, over, or across (something). **2.** (when *intr.*, foll. by *on*) to crush or squash by or as if by treading. **3.** (*intr.*; sometimes foll. by *on*) to subdue or repress. **4.** (*tr.*) to do by walking or dancing: *to tread a measure*. **5.** (*tr.*) (of a male bird) to copulate with (a female bird). **6.** **tread lightly**, to proceed with delicacy or tact. **7.** **tread on someone's toes**, to infringe on someone's sphere of action, feelings, etc. **8.** **tread water**, to stay afloat in an upright position by moving the legs in a walking motion. — *n.* **9.** a manner or style of walking, dancing, etc.: a *light tread*. **10.** the act of treading. **11.** the top surface of a step in a staircase. **12.** the outer part of a tyre or wheel that makes contact with the road, esp. the grooved surface of a pneumatic tyre. **13.** the part of a rail that wheels touch. **14.** the part of a shoe that is generally in contact with the ground. — **'treader** *n.*

treadle ('trɛdl̩) *n.* **1.** a lever operated by the foot to drive a machine. — *vb.* **2.** to work (a machine) with a treadle.

treadmill ('trɛd,mɪl) *n.* **1.** Also called: **treadwheel.** (formerly) an apparatus turned by the weight of men or animals climbing steps on the periphery of a cylinder or wheel. **2.** a dreary round or routine.

treason ('tri:zən) *n.* **1.** betrayal of one's sovereign or country, esp. by attempting to overthrow the government. **2.** any treachery or betrayal. — **'treasonable** or **'treasonous** *adj.* — **'treasonably** *adv.*

treasure ('treɪʒə) *n.* **1.** wealth and riches, usually hoarded, esp. in the form of money, precious metals, or gems. **2.** a thing or person that is highly prized or valued. — *vb.* (*tr.*) **3.** to prize highly as valuable, rare, or costly. **4.** to store up and save; hoard.

treasure hunt *n.* a game in which players act upon successive clues to find a hidden prize.

treasurer ('treɪzərə) *n.* a person appointed to look after the funds of a society, company, city, or other governing body. — **'treasurer, ship** *n.*

treasure-trove *n.* **1.** Law. any articles, such as coins, etc., found hidden and of unknown ownership. **2.** any valuable discovery.

treasury ('treɪzəri) *n., pl. -uries.* **1.** a storage place for treasure. **2.** the revenues or funds of a government, private organization, or individual. **3.** a place where funds are kept and disbursed. **4.** a person or thing regarded as a valuable source of information. **5.** a collection of highly valued poems, etc.; anthology.

Treasury ('treɪzəri) *n.* (in various countries) the government department in charge of finance.

Treasury Bench *n.* (in Britain) the front bench to the right of the Speaker in the House of Commons, traditionally reserved for members of the Government.

treat (tri:t) *n.* **1.** a celebration, entertainment, gift, or feast given for or to someone and paid for by another. **2.** any delightful surprise or specially pleasant occasion. **3.** the act of treating. — *vb.* **4.** (*tr.*) to deal with or regard in a certain manner: *she treats school as a joke*. **5.** (*tr.*) to apply treatment to. **6.** (*tr.*) to subject to a process or to the application of a substance. **7.** (often foll. by *to*) to provide (someone) (with) as a treat. **8.** (*intr.*; usually foll. by *of*) to deal (with), as in writing or speaking. **9.** (*intr.*) to discuss settlement. — **'treatable** *adj.* — **'treat-er** *n.*

treatise ('tri:tɪz) *n.* a formal work on a subject, esp. one that deals systematically with its principles and conclusions.

treatment ('tri:tmt̩) *n.* **1.** the application of medicines, surgery, etc., to a patient. **2.** the manner of handling a person or thing, as in a literary or artistic work. **3.** the act, practice, or manner of treating. **4.** the **treatment**. *Sl.* the usual manner of dealing with a particular type of person (esp. in **give someone the (full) treatment**).

treaty ('tri:tɪ) *n., pl. -ties.* **1.** a. a formal agreement between two or more states, such as an alliance or trade arrangement. **b.** the document in which such a contract

is written. **2.** any pact or agreement. **3.** an agreement between two parties concerning the purchase of property at a price privately agreed between them.

treble ('trɛbl̩) *adj.* **1.** threefold; triple. **2.** of or denoting a soprano voice or part or a high-pitched instrument. — *n.* **3.** treble the amount, size, etc. **4.** a soprano voice or part or a high-pitched instrument. **5.** the highest register of a musical instrument. **6.** the high-frequency gain of an audio amplifier, esp. in a record player or tape recorder. **7.** a. the narrow inner ring on a dartboard. **b.** a hit on this ring. — *vb.* **8.** to make or become three times as much. — **'trebly** *adv.*

treble chance *n.* a method of betting in football pools in which the chances of winning are related to the number of draws and the number of home and away wins forecast by the competitor.

treble clef *n.* *Music.* the clef that establishes G a fifth above middle C as being on the second line of the staff. Symbol: ♩ .

tree (tri:) *n.* **1.** any large woody perennial plant with a distinct trunk giving rise to branches. Related *adj.*: **arboreal**. **2.** any plant that resembles this. **3.** a wooden post, bar, etc. **4.** See **family tree, shoetree, saddle tree**. **5.** *Chem.* a treelike crystal growth. **6.** a branching diagrammatic representation of something. **7.** at the **top of the tree**, in the highest position of a profession, etc. **8.** **up a tree**, *U.S. inf.* in a difficult situation; trapped or stumped. — *vb.* (*tr.*) **9.** to drive or force up a tree. **10.** *U.S. inf.* to force into a difficult situation. **11.** to stretch on a shoetree. — **'treeless** *adj.* — **'treelessness** *n.* — **'tree, like** *adj.*

tree creeper *n.* any of a family of small songbirds of the N hemisphere, having a slender downward-curving bill. They creep up trees to feed on insects.

tree line *n.* another name for **timber line**.

tree surgery *n.* the treatment of damaged trees by filling cavities, applying braces, etc. — **tree surgeon** *n.*

trefoil ('trɛfɔɪl) *n.* **1.** any of a genus of leguminous plants having leaves divided into three leaflets. **2.** any of various related plants having similar leaves. **3.** a flower or leaf having three lobes. **4.** *Archit.* an ornament in the form of three arcs arranged in a circle. — **'trefoiled** *adj.*

trek (trek) *n.* **1.** a long and often difficult journey. **2.** *S. African.* a journey or stage of a journey, esp. a migration by ox wagon. — *vb.* **trekking, trekked.** **3.** (*intr.*) to make a trek. — **'trekker** *n.*

trellis ('trɛlɪs) *n.* **1.** a structure of latticework, esp. one used to support climbing plants. — *vb.* (*tr.*) **2.** to interweave (strips of wood, etc.) to make a trellis. **3.** to provide or support with a trellis. — **'trellis, work** *n.*

tremble ('trɛmbəl) *vb.* (*intr.*) **1.** to vibrate with short slight movements; quiver. **2.** to shake involuntarily, as with cold or fear; shiver. **3.** to experience fear or anxiety. — *n.* **4.** the act or an instance of trembling. — **'trembler** *n.* — **'tremblingly** *adv.* — **'trembly** *adj.*

tremendous (tri'mɛndəs) *adj.* **1.** vast; huge. **2.** *Inf.* very exciting or unusual. **3.** *Inf.* (intensifier): a *tremendous help*. **4.** *Arch.* terrible or dreadful. — **'tre'mendously** *adv.* — **'tre'mendousness** *n.*

tremolo ('trɛməʊləʊ) *n., pl. -los.* *Music.* **1.** (in playing the violin, cello, etc.) the rapid reiteration of a note or notes to produce a trembling effect. **2.** (in singing) a fluctuation in pitch. **3.** a device, as on an organ, that produces a tremolo effect.

tremor ('trɛmə) *n.* **1.** an involuntary shudder or vibration. **2.** any trembling movement. **3.** a vibrating or trembling effect, as of sound or light. **4.** a minor earthquake. — *vb.* **5.** (*intr.*) to tremble. — **'tremorous** *adj.*

tremulous ('trɛmjʊləs) *adj.* **1.** vibrating slightly; quivering; trembling. **2.** showing or characterized by fear, anxiety, excitement, etc. — **'tremulously** *adv.* — **'tremulousness** *n.*

trench (trɛntʃ) *n.* **1.** a deep ditch. **2.** a ditch dug as a fortification, having a parapet of earth. — *vb.* **3.** to make a trench in (a place). **4.** (*tr.*) to fortify with a trench. **5.** to slash or be slashed. **6.** (*intr.*; foll. by *on* or *upon*) to encroach or verge.

trenchant ('trɛntʃənt) *adj.* **1.** keen or incisive: *trenchant criticism*. **2.** vigorous and effective: a *trenchant foreign policy*. **3.** distinctly defined. **4.** *Arch.* or poetic. sharp. — **'trenchancy** *n.* — **'trenchantly** *adv.*

trench coat *n.* a belted waterproof coat resembling a military officer's coat.

trencher ('trɛntʃə) *n.* **1.** (esp. formerly) a wooden board on which food was served or cut. **2.** Also called: **trencher cap**, a mortarboard.

trencherman ('trɛntʃəmən) *n., pl. -men.* a person who

enjoys food; hearty eater.

trench warfare *n.* a type of warfare in which opposing armies face each other in entrenched positions.

trend (trend) *n.* 1. general tendency or direction. 2. fashion; mode. ~*vb.* 3. (*intr.*) to take a certain trend.

trendsetter ('trend,seɪtə) *n.* a person or thing that creates, or may create, a new fashion. —**trend,setting** *adj.*

trendy ('trendi) *Brit. inf.* ~*adj.* trendier, trendiest. 1. consciously fashionable. ~*n.* 2. a trendy person. —**trendily** *adv.* —**trendiness** *n.*

trepidation ('treɪpɪdeɪʃən) *n.* 1. a state of fear or anxiety. 2. a condition of quaking or palpitation, esp. one caused by anxiety.

trespass ('trespəs) *vb. (intr.)* 1. (often foll. by *on* or *upon*) to go or intrude (on the property, privacy, or preserves of another) with no right or permission. 2. Law, to commit trespass. 3. Arch. (often foll. by *against*) to sin or transgress. ~*n.* 4. Law, a. any unlawful act committed with force, which causes injury to another person, his property or rights. b. a wrongful entry upon another's land. 5. an intrusion on another's privacy or preserves. 6. a sin or offence. —**trespasser** *n.*

tress (tres) *n.* 1. (often *pl.*) a lock of hair, esp. a long lock of woman's hair. 2. a plait or braid of hair. ~*vb. (tr.)* 3. to arrange in tresses. —**tressy** *adj.*

trestle ('tresl) *n.* 1. a framework in the form of a horizontal member supported at each end by a pair of splayed legs, used to carry scaffold boards, a table top, etc. 2. a. a framework of timber, metal, or reinforced concrete that is used to support a bridge or ropeway. b. a bridge constructed of such frameworks.

trousers (truz) *pl. n.* Chiefly *Brit.* close-fitting trousers, now usually for women, originally of tartan cloth and worn by certain Scottish soldiers.

T.R.H. *abbrev.* for Their Royal Highnesses.

tri- *prefix.* 1. three or thrice: triaxial; trigon; trisect. 2. occurring every three: trimonthly.

triad ('traɪəd) *n.* 1. a group of three; trio. 2. Chem. an atom, element, group, or ion that has a valency of three. 3. Music. a three-note chord consisting of a note and the third and fifth above it. 4. an aphoristic literary form used in medieval Welsh and Irish literature. —**triadic** *adj.* —**triadism** *n.*

Triad ('traɪəd) *n.* any of various Chinese secret criminal societies, involved in drug trafficking.

trial ('traɪəl, traɪl) *n.* 1. a. the act or an instance of trying or proving; test or experiment. b. (*as modifier*): a trial run. 2. Law. a. the judicial examination and determination of the issues in a civil or criminal cause by a competent tribunal. b. the determination of an accused person's guilt or innocence after hearing evidence and the judicial examination of the issues involved. c. (*as modifier*): trial proceedings. 3. an effort or attempt to do something. 4. trouble or grief. 5. an annoying or frustrating person or thing. 6. (often *pl.*) a competition for individuals: sheepdog trials. 7. on trial. a. undergoing trial, esp. before a court of law. b. being tested, as before a commitment to purchase.

trial and error *n.* a method of discovery, solving problems, etc., based on practical experiment and experience rather than on theory: *he learnt to cook by trial and error.*

trial balance *n.* Book-keeping, a statement of all the debit and credit balances in the ledger of a double-entry system, drawn up to test their equality.

triangle ('traɪ,æŋɡl) *n.* 1. Geom. a three-sided polygon that can be classified by angle, as in an acute triangle, or by side, as in an equilateral triangle. 2. any object shaped like a triangle. 3. any situation involving three parties or points of view. 4. Music. a percussion instrument consisting of a sonorous metal bar bent into a triangular shape, beaten with a metal stick. 5. a group of three. —**triangular** ('traɪ,æŋɡjʊlə) *adj.*

triangulate *vb. (traɪ,æŋɡju,leɪt).* (*tr.*) 1. a. to survey by the method of triangulation. b. to calculate trigonometrically. 2. to divide into triangles. 3. to make triangular. ~*adj.* ('traɪ,æŋɡjʊlət, -leɪt). 4. marked with or composed of triangles. —**triangulately** *adv.*

triangulation ('traɪ,æŋɡju,leɪʃən) *n.* a method of surveying in which an area is divided into triangles, one side (the base line) and all angles of which are measured and the lengths of the other lines calculated trigonometrically.

Triassic ('traɪ,æsɪk) *adj.* 1. of or formed in the first period of the Mesozoic era. ~*n.* 2. the. Also called: **Trias**. the Triassic period or rock system.

tribe (traɪb) *n.* 1. a social division of a people, esp. of a preliterate people, defined in terms of common descent, territory, culture, etc. 2. an ethnic or ancestral division of ancient cultures, esp.: a. one of the political divisions of the Roman people. b. any of the 12 divisions of ancient Israel, each of which was believed to be descended from one of the 12 patriarchs. 3. *Inf.* a. a large number of persons, animals, etc. b. a specific class or group of persons. c. a family, esp. a large one. 4. Biol. a taxonomic group that is a subdivision of a subfamily. —**tribal** *adj.*

tribesman ('traɪbzməŋ) *n., pl. -men.* a member of a tribe.

tribulation ('trɪbjʊ'leɪʃən) *n.* 1. a cause of distress. 2. a state of suffering or distress.

tribunal ('traɪ'bju:nəl, trɪ-) *n.* 1. a court of justice. 2. (in England) a special court, convened by the government to inquire into a specific matter. 3. a raised platform containing the seat of a judge.

tribune ('trɪbjʊ:n) *n.* 1. (in ancient Rome) a. an officer elected by the plebs to protect their interests. b. a senior military officer. 2. a person who upholds public rights. —**tribunate** ('trɪbjʊnt) or **tribune, ship** *n.*

tribune¹ ('trɪbjʊ:n) *n.* 1. a. the apse of a Christian basilica that contains the bishop's throne. b. the throne itself. 2. a gallery or raised area in a church. 3. Rare. a raised platform; dais.

tributary ('trɪbjʊtəri) *n., pl. -taries.* 1. a stream, river, or glacier that feeds another larger one. 2. a person, nation, or people that pays tribute. ~*adj.* 3. (of a stream, etc.) feeding a larger stream. 4. given or owed as a tribute. 5. paying tribute. —**tributarily** *adv.*

tribute ('trɪbjʊt) *n.* 1. a gift or statement made in acknowledgment, gratitude, or admiration. 2. a payment by one ruler or state to another, usually as an acknowledgment of submission. 3. the obligation to pay tribute.

trice (traɪs) *n.* a moment; instant (esp. in *in a trice*).

triceps ('traɪseps) *n., pl. -cepses* (-sepsɪz) or **-ceps**. any muscle having three heads, esp. the one that extends the forearm.

tricho- or before a vowel **trich-** *combining form.* indicating hair or a part resembling hair: *trichocyst*.

trichromatic ('traɪkrəʊ'mætɪk) or **trichromic** ('traɪ'krəʊmɪk) *adj.* 1. involving the combination of three primary colours. 2. of or having normal colour vision. 3. having or involving three colours. —**trichromatism** *n.*

trick (trɪk) *n.* 1. a deceitful or cunning action or plan. 2. a. a mischievous, malicious, or humorous action or plan; joke. b. (*as modifier*): a trick spider. 3. an illusory or magical feat. 4. a simple feat learned by an animal or person. 5. an adroit or ingenious device; knack: a trick of the trade. 6. a habit or mannerism. 7. a turn of duty. 8. Cards. a batch of cards containing one from each player, usually played in turn and won by the player or side that plays the card with the highest value. 9. do the trick. *Inf.* to produce the desired result. 10. how's tricks? *Sl.* how are you? ~*vb.* 11. (*tr.*) to defraud, deceive, or cheat (someone). —**trickery** *n.*

trickle ('trɪkl) *vb.* 1. to run or cause to run in thin or slow streams. 2. (*intr.*) to move gradually: the crowd trickled away. ~*n.* 3. a thin, irregular, or slow flow of something. 4. the act of trickling.

trick out or up *vb. (tr., adv.)* to dress up; deck out: *tricked out in frilly dresses.*

trickster ('trɪkstə) *n.* a person who deceives or plays tricks.

tricky ('trɪki) *adj. -kier, -kiest.* 1. involving snags or difficulties. 2. needing careful handling. 3. sly; witty: a tricky dealer. —**trickily** *adv.* —**trickiness** *n.*

tricolour or *U.S. tricolor* ('trɪkələ, 'traɪ,kələ) *adj. also tricoloured or U.S. tricolored* ('traɪ,kələd). 1. having or involving three colours. ~*n.* 2. (often *cap.*) the French flag, having three stripes in blue, white, and red. 3. any flag, badge, etc., with three colours.

tricot ('trɪkəʊ, 'trɪ-) *n.* 1. a thin rayon or nylon fabric knitted or resembling knitting, used for dresses, etc. 2. a type of ribbed dress fabric.

tricycle ('traɪsaɪkl) *n.* a three-wheeled cycle, esp. one driven by pedals. —**tricyclist** *n.*

trident ('traɪdnt) *n.* a three-pronged spear.

Tridentine ('traɪdntɪn) *adj.* 1. a. History. of the Council of Trent in the 16th century. b. in accord with Tridentine doctrine: *Tridentine mass.* ~*n.* 2. an orthodox Roman Catholic.

tried (traɪd) *vb.* the past tense or past participle of **try**.

triennial (traɪˈenɪəl) *adj.* 1. relating to, lasting for, or occurring every three years. ~*n.* 2. a third anniversary. 3. a triennial period, thing, or occurrence. —*triennially adv.*

trier ('traɪə) *n.* a person or thing that tries.

trifle ('traɪfl) *n.* 1. a thing of little or no value or significance. 2. a small amount; bit: *a trifle more enthusiasm*. 3. *Brit.* a cold dessert made with sponge cake spread with jam or fruit, soaked in wine or sherry, covered with custard and cream. ~*vb.* 4. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *with*) to deal (with) as if worthless; daily: *to trifle with a person's affections*. 5. to waste (time) frivolously. —*trifler n.*

trifling ('traɪflɪŋ) *adj.* 1. insignificant or petty. 2. frivolous or idle. —*triflingly adv.*

triforium (traɪˈfɔːrɪəm) *n.*, *pl.* -*ria* (-rɪə). an arcade above the arches of the nave, choir, or transept of a church.

trig (trɪg) *Arch. or dialect.* ~*adj.* 1. neat or spruce. ~*vb.* **trigging, trigged.** 2. to make or become trim or spruce. —*trigly adv.* —*trigness n.*

trig. *abbrev. for:* 1. trigonometry. 2. trigonometrical.

trigger ('trɪgə) *n.* 1. a small lever that activates the firing mechanism of a firearm. 2. a device that releases a spring-loaded mechanism. 3. any event that sets a course of action in motion. ~*vb.* (tr.) 4. (usually foll. by *off*) to give rise (to); set (off). 5. to fire or set in motion by or as by pulling a trigger.

trigger-happy *adj. Inf.* 1. tending to resort to the use of firearms or violence irresponsibly. 2. tending to act rashly.

trigonometry (ˌtrɪɡəˈnɒmɪtri) *n.* the branch of mathematics concerned with the properties of trigonometric functions and their application to the determination of the angles and sides of triangles: used in surveying, navigation, etc. —**trigonometric** (ˌtrɪɡənəˈmetrɪk) or **trigono-metrical adj.**

trig point *n. Inf.* a point on a hilltop, etc., used for triangulation by a surveyor. Also called: **trig station.**

trike (traɪk) *n.* short for **tricycle.**

trilby ('trɪlbi) *n.*, *pl.* -*bies*. a man's soft felt hat with an indented crown.

trill (trɪl) *n.* 1. *Music.* a rapid alternation between a principal note and the note above it. 2. a shrill warbling sound, esp. as made by some birds. 3. the articulation of an (r) sound produced by the rapid vibration of the tongue or the uvula. ~*vb.* 4. to sound, sing, or play (a trill or with a trill). 5. (tr.) to pronounce (an (r) sound) by the production of a trill.

trillion ('trɪljən) *n.* 1. (in Britain and Germany) the number represented as one followed by eighteen zeros (10¹⁸); a million million million. U.S. word: **quintillion**. 2. (in the U.S. and France) the number represented as one followed by twelve zeros (10¹²); a million million. *Brit. word: billion.* ~*determiner.* 3. (preceded by a or a numeral) amounting to a trillion. —*trillionth n., adj.*

trillium ('trɪljəm) *n.* any of a genus of herbaceous plants of Asia and North America, having a whorl of three leaves at the top of the stem with a single white, pink, or purple three-petalled flower.

trilobite ('traɪləˌbaɪt) *n.* any of various extinct marine arthropods abundant in Palaeozoic times, having a segmented exoskeleton divided into three parts. —**trilobitic** (ˌtraɪləˌbaɪtɪk) *adj.*

trilogy ('trɪlədʒi) *n.*, *pl.* -*gies*. 1. a series of three related works, esp. in literature, etc. 2. (in ancient Greece) a series of three tragedies performed together.

trim (trɪm) *adj.* **trimmer, trimmest.** 1. neat and spruce in appearance. 2. slim; slender. 3. in good condition. ~*vb.* **trimming, trimmed.** (*mainly tr.*) 4. to put in good order, esp. by cutting or pruning. 5. to shape and finish (timber). 6. to adorn or decorate. 7. (sometimes foll. by *off* or *away*) to cut so as to remove: *to trim off a branch*. 8. to cut down to the desired size or shape. 9. *Naut. a.* (*also intr.*) to adjust the balance of (a vessel) or (of a vessel) to maintain an even balance, by distribution of ballast, cargo, etc. *b.* (*also intr.*) to adjust (a vessel's sails) to take advantage of the wind. 10. to balance (an aircraft) before flight by adjusting the position of the load or in flight by the use of trim tabs, fuel transfer, etc. 11. (*also intr.*) to modify (one's opinions, etc.) for expediency. 12. *Inf.* to thrash or beat. 13. *Inf.* to rebuke. ~*n.* 14. a decoration or adornment. 15. decorative metal-work on a motor car. 16. proper order or fitness; good shape. 17. a haircut that neatens but does not alter the existing hairstyle. 18. *Naut. a.* the general set and appearance of a vessel. *b.* the difference between the draught of a vessel at the bow and at the stern. *c.* the

fitness of a vessel. *d.* the position of a vessel's sails relative to the wind. 19. dress or equipment. 20. U.S. window-dressing. 21. the attitude of an aircraft in flight when the pilot allows the main control surfaces to take up their own positions. 22. material that is trimmed off. 23. decorative mouldings, such as architraves, picture rails, etc. —*trimly adv.* —*trimness n.*

trimaran ('trɪməˌræn) *n.* a vessel, usually of shallow draught, with two hulls flanking the main hull.

trimming ('trɪmɪŋ) *n.* 1. an extra piece used to decorate or complete. 2. (*pl.*) additional ornaments or accompaniments: *roast turkey with all the trimmings*. 3. (*pl.*) parts that are cut off.

Trinitarian (ˌtrɪnɪˈtɛəriən) *n.* 1. a person who believes in the doctrine of the Trinity. ~*adj.* 2. of or relating to the doctrine of the Trinity or those who uphold it. —*Trinitarianism n.*

trinitroglycerin (traɪˌnaɪtrəʊˈglɪsərɪn) *n.* the full name for **nitroglycerin**.

trinitrotoluene (traɪˌnaɪtrəʊˈtɒljʊˌiːn) or **trinitrotoluol** (traɪˌnaɪtrəʊˈtɒljʊˌɒl) *n.* the full name for **TNT**.

trinity ('trɪnɪti) *n.*, *pl.* -*ties*. 1. a group of three. 2. the state of being threefold.

Trinity ('trɪnɪti) *n. Christian theol.* the union of three persons, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, in one God-head.

Trinity Sunday *n.* the Sunday after Whit Sunday.

trinket ('trɪŋkɪt) *n.* 1. a small or worthless ornament or piece of jewellery. 2. a trivial object; trifle.

trio ('triːə) *n.*, *pl.* **trios**. 1. a group of three. 2. *Music. a.* a group of three singers or instrumentalists or a piece of music composed for such a group. *b.* a subordinate section in a scherzo, minuet, etc.

trip (trɪp) *n.* 1. an outward and return journey, often for a specific purpose. 2. any journey. 3. a false step; stumble. 4. any slip or blunder. 5. a light step or tread. 6. a manoeuvre or device to cause someone to trip. 7. Also called: **tripper**. any catch on a mechanism that acts as a switch. 8. *Inf.* a hallucinogenic drug experience. ~*vb.* **tripping, tripped.** 9. (often foll. by *up*, or when *intr.*, by *on* or *over*) to stumble or cause to stumble. 10. to make or cause to make a mistake. 11. (tr.; often foll. by *up*) to trap or catch in a mistake. 12. (*intr.*) to go on a short journey. 13. (*intr.*) to move or tread lightly. 14. *Inf.* to experience the effects of a hallucinogenic drug. 15. to activate a mechanical trip.

tripartite (traɪˈpɑːtaɪt) *adj.* 1. divided into or composed of three parts. 2. involving three participants. 3. (esp. of leaves) consisting of three parts formed by divisions extending almost to the base. —*tripartitely adv.*

tripe (traɪp) *n.* 1. the stomach lining of an ox, cow, etc., prepared for cooking. 2. *Inf.* something silly; rubbish.

triple ('trɪpl) *adj.* 1. consisting of three parts; threefold. 2. (of musical time or rhythm) having three beats in each bar. 3. three times as great or as much. ~*n.* 4. a threefold amount. 5. a group of three. ~*vb.* 6. to increase threefold; treble. —*triply adv.*

triple jump *n.* an athletic event in which the competitor has to perform successively a hop, a step, and a jump in continuous movement.

triple point *n. Chem.* the temperature and pressure at which the three phases of a substance are in equilibrium.

triolet ('trɪplɪ) *n.* 1. a group or set of three similar things. 2. one of three offspring born at one birth. 3. *Music.* a group of three notes played in a time value of two, four, etc.

triplicate *adj.* ('trɪphkɪt). 1. triple. ~*vb.* ('trɪplɪˌkeɪt). 2. to multiply or be multiplied by three. ~*n.* ('trɪplɪkɪt). 3. *a.* a group of three things. *b.* one of such a group. 4. *in triplicate.* written out with three copies. —*triplication n.*

tripod ('traɪpɒd) *n.* 1. a three-legged stand to which a camera, etc., can be attached to hold it steady. 2. a stand or table having three legs. —*tripodal* ('trɪpədəl) *adj.*

tripos ('traɪpɒs) *n. Brit.* the final honours degree examinations at Cambridge University.

tripper ('trɪpə) *n.* 1. *Chiefly Brit.* a tourist. 2. another word for **trip** (sense 7). 3. any device that causes a trip to operate.

triptych ('trɪptɪk) *n.* 1. a set of three pictures or panels, usually hinged so that the two wing panels fold over the larger central one: often used as an altarpiece. 2. a set of three hinged writing tablets.

trireme ('traɪrɪm) *n.* an ancient Greek galley with three banks of oars on each side.

trisection (traɪ'sɛkt) *vb.* (tr.) to divide into three parts, esp. three equal parts. — **trisection** (traɪ'sɛkʃən) *n.*

triste (tri:st) *adj.* an archaic word for **sad**.

trite (traɪt) *adj.* hackneyed; dull: a *trite comment*. — **triteness** *n.*

trismus ('trɪzməs) *n.* *Pathol.* the state of being unable to open the mouth because of sustained contractions of the jaw muscles, caused by tetanus. Nontechnical name: **lockjaw**.

tritium ('trɪtɪəm) *n.* a radioactive isotope of hydrogen. Symbol: T or ³H; half-life: 12.5 years.

Triton ('traɪt'n) *n.* *Greek myth.* a sea god depicted as having the upper parts of a man with a fishtail.

triumph ('traɪəmf) *n.* 1. the feeling of exultation and happiness derived from a victory or major achievement. 2. the act or condition of being victorious; victory. 3. (in ancient Rome) a procession held in honour of a victorious general. — *vb.* (intr.) 4. (often foll. by *over*) to win a victory or control: *to triumph over one's weaknesses*. 5. to rejoice over a victory. 6. to celebrate a Roman triumph. — **triumphant** (traɪ'æmfənt) *adj.*

triumphant (traɪ'æmfənt) *adj.* 1. experiencing or displaying triumph. 2. exultant through triumph. — **triumphantly** *adv.*

triumvir (traɪ'æmvɪr) *n.*, *pl.* **-virs** or **-viri** (-vɪrɪ:). (esp. in ancient Rome) a member of a triumvirate. — **tri'umviral** *adj.*

triumvirate (traɪ'æmvɪrɪt) *n.* 1. (in ancient Rome) a board of three officials jointly responsible for some task. 2. joint rule by three men. 3. any group of three men associated in some way. 4. the office of a triumvir.

trivalent (traɪ'veɪlənt, 'trɪvələnt) *adj.* *Chem.* 1. having a valency of three. 2. having three valencies. — *Also:* **tervalent**. — **tri'valency** *n.*

trivet ('trɪvɪt) *n.* 1. a stand, usually three-legged and metal, on which cooking vessels are placed over a fire. 2. a short metal stand on which hot dishes are placed on a table. 3. **as right as a trivet**, in perfect health.

trivia ('trɪvɪə) *pl. n.* petty details or considerations; trifles; trivialities.

trivial ('trɪvɪəl) *adj.* 1. of little importance; petty or frivolous: *trivial complaints*. 2. ordinary or commonplace; trite: *trivial conversation*. 3. *Biol.* a. denoting the common name of an organism. b. denoting the specific name of an organism in binomial nomenclature. — **triviality** *n.* — **trivialize** or **-ise** *vb.* — **trivially** *adv.* — **trivialness** *n.*

trochee ('trɒki:; *n.* a metrical foot of two syllables, the first long and the second short. — **trochaic** (trɒ'keɪk) *adj.*

trod (trɒd) *vb.* the past tense or a past participle of **tread**.

trodden ('trɒd'n) *vb.* a past participle of **tread**.

trode (trɒd) *vb.* *Arch.* a past tense of **tread**.

troglydite ('trɒglɪ'daɪt) *n.* 1. a cave dweller, esp. of prehistoric times. 2. *Inf.* a person who lives alone and appears eccentric. — **troglyditic** ('trɒglɪ'dɪtɪk) *adj.*

troika ('trɒɪkə) *n.* 1. a Russian vehicle drawn by three horses abreast. 2. three horses harnessed abreast. 3. a triumvirate.

Trojan ('trɒdʒən) *n.* 1. a native or inhabitant of ancient Troy. 2. a person who is hard-working and determined. — *adj.* 3. of or relating to ancient Troy or its inhabitants.

Trojan Horse *n.* 1. *Greek myth.* the huge wooden hollow figure of a horse left outside Troy by the Greeks and dragged inside by the Trojans. The men concealed inside it opened the city to the final Greek assault. 2. a trap intended to undermine an enemy.

troll ('trɒl) *vb.* 1. *Angling.* a. to draw (a baited line, etc.) through the water. b. to fish (a stretch of water) by trolling. c. to fish (for) by trolling. 2. to roll or cause to roll. 3. *Arch.* to sing (a refrain, chorus, etc.) in a loud hearty voice. 4. (intr.) *Brit. inf.* to walk or stroll. — *n.* 5. a trolling. 6. *Angling.* a bait or lure used in trolling. — **troller** *n.*

troll ('trɒl) *n.* (in Scandinavian folklore) one of a class of supernatural creatures that dwell in caves or mountains and are depicted either as dwarfs or as giants.

trolley ('trɒli) *n.* 1. *Brit.* a small table on castors used for conveying food, etc. 2. *Brit.* a four-wheeled cart for transporting luggage at a station, etc., or for carrying shopping. 3. *Brit.* See **trolley bus**. 4. *U.S.* See **trolley car**. 5. a device that collects the current from an overhead wire, third rail, etc., to drive the motor of an

electric vehicle. 6. a pulley or truck that travels along an overhead wire in order to support a suspended load. 7. *Chiefly Brit.* a low truck running on rails, used in factories, mines, etc. 8. a truck, cage, or basket suspended from an overhead track or cable for carrying loads in a mine, etc.

trolley bus *n.* an electrically driven public-transport vehicle that does not run on rails but takes its power from an overhead wire.

trolley car *n.* a U.S. name for **tram**¹ (sense 1).

trollop ('trɒləp) *n.* 1. a promiscuous woman, esp. a prostitute. 2. an untidy woman; slattern.

trombone (trɒm'bəʊn) *n.* a brass instrument, a low-pitched counterpart of the trumpet, consisting of a tube the effective length of which is varied by means of a U-shaped slide. — **trom'bonist** *n.*

trompe l'œil (*French* trɒp 'lɔʃ) *n.*, *pl.* **trompe l'oeils** (trɒp 'lɔʃ). 1. a painting, etc., giving a convincing illusion of reality. 2. an effect of this kind.

troop (tru:p) *n.* 1. a large group or assembly. 2. a subdivision of a cavalry regiment of about company size. 3. (*pl.*) armed forces; soldiers. 4. a large group of Scouts comprising several patrols. — *vb.* 5. (intr.) to gather, move, or march in or as if in a crowd. 6. (*tr.*) *Mil.*, *chiefly Brit.* to parade (the colour or flag) ceremonially.

trooper ('tru:pə) *n.* 1. a soldier in a cavalry regiment. 2. *U.S.*, *Austral.* a mounted policeman. 3. *U.S.* a state policeman. 4. a cavalry horse. 5. *Inf.*, *chiefly Brit.* a troopship.

troopship ('tru:p,ʃɪp) *n.* a ship used to transport military personnel.

trope (trəʊp) *n.* a word or expression used in a figurative sense.

trophy ('trɒfi) *n.*, *pl.* **-phies**. 1. an object such as a silver cup that is symbolic of victory in a contest, esp. a sporting contest; prize. 2. a memento of success, esp. one taken in war or hunting. 3. (in ancient Greece and Rome) a memorial to a victory, usually consisting of captured arms raised on the battlefield or in a public place. 4. an ornamental carving that represents a group of weapons, etc.

tropic ('trɒpɪk) *n.* 1. (sometimes *cap.*) either of the parallel lines of latitude at about 23½°N (**tropic of Cancer**) and 23½°S (**tropic of Capricorn**) of the equator. 2. **the tropics**, (*often cap.*) that part of the earth's surface between the tropics of Cancer and Capricorn. 3. *Astron.* either of the two parallel circles on the celestial sphere having the same latitudes and names as the lines on the earth. — *adj.* 4. tropical.

tropical ('trɒpɪkəl) *adj.* 1. situated in, used in, characteristic of, or relating to the tropics. 2. (of weather) very hot, esp. when humid. 3. of a trope. — **tropi'cality** *n.* — **tropically** *adv.*

tropism ('trɒpɪzəm) *n.* the response of an organism, esp. a plant, to an external stimulus by growth in a direction determined by the stimulus. — **tropis'matic** *adj.*

tropo- *combining form.* indicating change or a turning: *trophophyte*.

troposphere ('trɒpə,sfɪə) *n.* the lowest atmospheric layer, about 18 kilometres (11 miles) thick at the equator to about 6 km (4 miles) at the Poles, in which air temperature decreases normally with height at about 6.5°C per km.

trot (trɒt) *vb.* **trotting**, **trotted**. 1. to move or cause to move at a trot. — *n.* 2. a gait of a horse in which diagonally opposite legs come down together. 3. a steady brisk pace. 4. (in harness racing) a race for horses that have been trained to trot fast. 5. *Chiefly Brit.* a small child. 6. *U.S. sl.* a student's crib. 7. **on the trot**. *Inf.* a. one after the other: *to read two books on the trot*. b. busy, esp. on one's feet. 8. **the trots**. *Inf.* diarrhoea.

Trot (trɒt) *n.* *Inf.* a follower of Trotsky; Trotskyite.

troth (trɒð) *n.* *Arch.* 1. a pledge of fidelity, esp. a betrothal. 2. truth (esp. in **in troth**). 3. loyalty; fidelity.

trot out *vb.* (*tr.*, *adv.*) *Inf.* to bring forward, as for approbation or admiration, esp. repeatedly.

Trotskyism ('trɒtski,ɪzəm) *n.* the theory of communism of Leon Trotsky (1879–1940), Russian revolutionary and writer, in which he called for immediate worldwide revolution by the proletariat. — **Trotskyite** or **Trotskyist** *n.*, *adj.*

trotter ('trɒtə) *n.* 1. a horse that is specially trained to trot fast. 2. (*usually pl.*) the foot of certain animals, esp. of pigs.

troubadour ('tru:bə,duə) *n.* any of a class of lyric poets

who flourished principally in Provence and N Italy from the 11th to the 13th centuries, writing chiefly on courtly love.

trouble ('trab'l) *n.* 1. a state of mental distress or anxiety. 2. a state of disorder or unrest: *industrial trouble*. 3. a condition of disease, pain, or malfunctioning: *liver trouble*. 4. a cause of distress, disturbance, or pain. 5. effort or exertion taken to do something. 6. liability to suffer punishment or misfortune (esp. in *be in trouble*): *he's in trouble with the police*. 7. the condition of an unmarried girl who becomes pregnant (esp. in *in trouble*). ~vb. 8. (tr.) to cause trouble to. 9. (intr.; usually with a negative and foll. by *about*) to put oneself to inconvenience; be concerned: *don't trouble about me*. 10. (intr.; usually with a negative) to take pains; exert oneself. 11. (tr.) to cause inconvenience or discomfort to. 12. (tr.; usually passive) to agitate or make rough: *the seas were troubled*. 13. (tr.) Caribbean. to interfere with. —'troubler *n.*

troublemaker ('trab'l,meɪkə) *n.* a person who makes trouble, esp. between people. —'trouble,making *adj.* *n.*

troubleshooter ('trab'l,ʃu:tə) *n.* a person who locates the cause of trouble and removes or treats it, as in the running of a machine. —'trouble,shooting *n., adj.*

troublesome ('trab'lzəm) *adj.* 1. causing trouble. 2. characterized by violence; turbulent. —'troublesomeness *n.*

troubled ('trab'lz) *adj.* Arch. or literary. unsettled; agitated. —'troubledly *adv.*

trough (trof) *n.* 1. a narrow open container, esp. one in which food or water for animals is put. 2. a narrow channel, gutter, or gully. 3. a narrow depression, as between two waves. 4. *Meteorol.* an elongated area of low pressure. 5. a single or temporary low point; depression. 6. *Physics.* the portion of a wave in which the amplitude lies below its average value. 7. *Econ.* the lowest point of the trade cycle. —'trough,like *adj.*

trounce (trauns) *vb.* (tr.) to beat or defeat utterly; thrash.

troupe (tru:p) *n.* 1. a company of actors or other performers, esp. one that travels. ~vb. 2. (intr.) (esp. of actors) to move or travel in a group.

trouser ('trauzə) *n.* (*modifier*) of or relating to trousers: *trouser buttons*.

trousers ('trauzəz) *pl. n.* a garment shaped to cover the body from the waist to the ankles or knees with separate tube-shaped sections for both legs.

trousseau ('tru:səu) *n., pl. -seaux or -seaus* (-səuz). the clothes, linen, etc., collected by a bride for her marriage.

trout (traut) *n., pl. trout or trouts.* any of various game fishes, mostly of fresh water in northern regions. They are related to the salmon but are smaller and spotted.

trove (trəuv) *n.* See *treasure-trove*.

trough (trəu) *vb.* Arch. to think, believe, or trust.

trowel ('trəuəl) *n.* 1. any of various small hand tools having a flat metal blade attached to a handle, used for scooping or spreading plaster or similar materials. 2. a similar tool with a curved blade used by gardeners for lifting plants, etc. ~vb. -elling, -elled or U.S. -eling, -eled. 3. (tr.) to use a trowel on.

troy weight or troy (troɪ) *n.* a system of weights used for precious metals and gemstones, based on the grain. 24 grains = 1 pennyweight; 20 pennyweights = 1 (troy) ounce; 12 ounces = 1 (troy) pound.

truant ('tru:ənt) *n.* 1. a person who is absent without leave, esp. from school. ~adj. 2. being or relating to a truant. ~vb. 3. (intr.) to play truant. —'truancy *n.*

truce (tru:s) *n.* 1. an agreement to stop fighting, esp. temporarily. 2. temporary cessation of something unpleasant.

truck¹ (trak) *n.* 1. *Brit.* a vehicle for carrying freight on a railway; wagon. 2. another name (esp. U.S.) for *lorry*. 3. Also called: **truckload**, the amount carried by a truck. 4. a frame carrying two or more pairs of wheels attached under an end of a railway coach, etc. 5. the frame carrying the wheels below a skateboard. 6. *Naut.* a disc-shaped block fixed to the head of a mast having holes for receiving halyards. 7. any wheeled vehicle used to move goods. ~vb. 8. to convey (goods) in a truck. 9. (intr.) Chiefly U.S. to drive a truck.

truck² (trak) *n.* 1. commercial goods. 2. dealings (esp. in *have no truck with*). 3. commercial exchange. 4. payment of wages in kind. 5. miscellaneous articles. 6. *Inf.* rubbish. 7. U.S. vegetables grown for market. ~vb. 8. to exchange (goods); barter. 9. (intr.) to traffic or negotiate.

trucking ('trakɪŋ) *n.* U.S. the transportation of goods by lorry.

truckle ('trakl) *vb.* (intr.; usually foll. by *to*) to yield weakly; give in. —'trucker *n.*

truculent ('trakjələnt) *adj.* 1. defiantly aggressive, sullen, or obstreperous. 2. Arch. savage, fierce, or harsh. —'truculence or 'truculency *n.* —'truculently *adv.*

trudge (tradz) *vb.* 1. (intr.) to walk or plod heavily or wearily. 2. (tr.) to pass through or over by trudging. ~n. 3. a long tiring walk. —'trudger *n.*

true (tru:) *adj.* **truer, truest.** 1. not false, fictional, or illusory; factual; conforming with reality. 2. (*prepositional*) real; not synthetic. 3. a. faithful and loyal. b. (as *n.*): the loyal and the true. 4. conforming to a required standard, law, or pattern: a *true aim*. 5. exactly in tune. 6. (of a compass bearing) according to the earth's geographical rather than magnetic poles: *true north*. 7. *Biol.* conforming to the typical structure of a designated type. 8. *Physics.* not apparent or relative. ~n. 9. correct alignment (esp. in *in true, out of true*). ~adv. 10. truthfully; rightly. 11. precisely or unswervingly. ~vb. **truing, trued.** 12. (tr.) to adjust so as to make true. —'trueness *n.*

true-blue *adj.* 1. unwaveringly or staunchly loyal. ~n. **true blue.** 2. Chiefly *Brit.* a staunch royalist or conservative.

true-life *adj.* directly comparable to reality: a *true-life story*.

truely ('tru:lɪ) *n.* someone truly loved; sweetheart.

truffle ('trʌfl) *n.* 1. any of various edible subterranean European fungi. They have a tuberous appearance and are regarded as a delicacy. 2. Also called: **rum truffle**. Chiefly *Brit.* a sweet resembling this fungus in shape, flavoured with chocolate or rum.

trug (trag) *n.* a long shallow basket for carrying flowers, fruit, etc.

truism ('tru:ɪzəm) *n.* an obvious truth; platitude. —'tru-istic or 'tru'istical *adj.*

truly ('tru:lɪ) *adv.* 1. in a true, just, or faithful manner. 2. (intensifier): a *truly great man*. 3. indeed; really.

trump¹ (tramp) *n.* 1. Also called: **trump card**. a. any card from the suit chosen as trumps. b. this suit itself; trumps. 2. a decisive or advantageous move, resource, action, etc. 3. *Inf.* a fine or reliable person. ~vb. 4. to play a trump card on a plain suit. 5. (tr.) to outdo or surpass. ~See also **trumps, trump up**.

trump² ('trʌmp) *n.* Arch. or literary. 1. a trumpet or the sound produced by one. 2. the **last trump**, the final trumpet call on the Day of Judgment.

trumpety ('trʌmpəɪ) *n., pl. -eries.* 1. foolish talk or actions. 2. a useless or worthless article; trinket. ~adj. 3. useless or worthless.

trumpet ('trʌmpɪt) *n.* 1. a valved brass instrument of brilliant tone consisting of a narrow tube ending in a flared bell. 2. any similar instrument, esp. a straight instrument used for fanfares, signals, etc. 3. a loud sound such as that of a trumpet, esp. when made by an animal. 4. an eight-foot reed stop on an organ. 5. something resembling a trumpet in shape. 6. short for **ear trumpet**. 7. *Brit.* **blow one's own trumpet**, to boast about oneself; brag. ~vb. 8. to proclaim or sound loudly. —'trumpeter *n.*

trumps ('trʌmps) *pl. n.* 1. *Cards.* any one of the four suits that outranks all the other suits for the duration of a deal or game. 2. **turn up trumps**, (of a person) to bring about a happy or successful conclusion, esp. unexpectedly.

trump up *vb.* (tr., adv.) to invent (a charge, accusation, etc.) so as to deceive.

truncate *vb.* ('trʌŋ'keɪt, 'trʌŋ'keɪt). 1. (tr.) to shorten by cutting. ~adj. ('trʌŋ'keɪt). 2. cut short; truncated. 3. *Biol.* having a blunt end. —'trun'cation *n.*

truncated ('trʌŋ'keɪtɪd) *adj.* 1. (of a cone, prism, etc.) having an apex or end removed by a plane intersection. 2. shortened by or as if by cutting off; truncate.

truncheon ('trʌŋtʃən) *n.* 1. Chiefly *Brit.* a short thick club or cudgel carried by a policeman. 2. a baton of office.

trundle ('trʌndl) *vb.* 1. to move heavily on or as if on wheels: *the bus trundled by*. ~n. 2. a trundling. 3. a small wheel or roller.

trunk (trʌŋk) *n.* 1. the main stem of a tree. 2. a large strong case or box used to contain clothes, etc., when travelling and for storage. 3. the body excluding the head, neck, and limbs; torso. 4. the elongated nasal part of an elephant. 5. the U.S. name for **boot**¹ (sense 2). 6.

the main stem of a nerve, blood vessel, etc. 7. *Naut.* a watertight boxlike cover within a vessel, such as one used to enclose a centreboard. 8. an enclosed duct or passageway for ventilation, etc. 9. (*modifier*) of a main road, railway, etc., in a network: a *trunk line*.

trunk call *n.* Chiefly *Brit.* a long-distance telephone call.

trunk line *n.* 1. a direct link between two telephone exchanges or switchboards that are a considerable distance apart. 2. the main route or routes on a railway.

trunk road *n. Brit.* a main road, esp. one that is suitable for heavy vehicles.

trunks (*trʌŋks*) *pl. n.* 1. a man's garment worn for swimming, extending from the waist to the thigh. 2. shorts worn for some sports. 3. Chiefly *Brit.* men's underpants with legs that reach mid thigh.

trunnion (*ˈtrʌnʃən*) *n.* one of a pair of coaxial projections attached to opposite sides of a container, cannon, etc., to provide a support about which it can turn.

truss (*trʌs*) *vb. (tr.)* 1. (sometimes foll. by *up*) to tie, bind, or bundle. 2. to bind the wings and legs of (a fowl) before cooking. 3. to support or stiffen (a roof, bridge, etc.) with structural members. 4. *Med.* to supply or support with a truss. ~*n.* 5. a structural framework of wood or metal used to support a roof, bridge, etc. 6. *Med.* a device for holding a hernia in place, typically consisting of a pad held in position by a belt. 7. a cluster of flowers or fruit growing at the end of a single stalk. 8. *Naut.* a metal fitting fixed to a yard at its centre for holding it to a mast. 9. another name for *corbel*. 10. a bundle or pack. 11. Chiefly *Brit.* a bundle of hay or straw, esp. one having a fixed weight of 36, 56, or 60 pounds. —'trussing *n.*

trust (*trʌst*) *n.* 1. reliance on and confidence in the truth, worth, reliability, etc., of a person or thing; faith. Related adj. *fiducial*. 2. a group of commercial enterprises combined to control the market for any commodity. 3. the obligation of someone in a responsible position. 4. custody, charge, or care. 5. a person or thing in which confidence or faith is placed. 6. commercial credit. 7. a. an arrangement whereby a person to whom the legal title to property is conveyed (the trustee) holds such property for the benefit of those entitled to the beneficial interest. b. property that is the subject of such an arrangement. Related adj. *fiduciary*. 8. (*modifier*) of or relating to a trust or trusts. ~*vb.* 9. (*tr.*; may take a clause as object) to expect, hope, or suppose. 10. (when *tr.*, may take an infinitive; when *intr.*, often foll. by *in* or *to*) to place confidence in (someone to do something); rely (upon). 11. (*tr.*) to consign for care. 12. (*tr.*) to allow (someone to do something) with confidence in his or her good sense or honesty. 13. (*tr.*) to extend business credit to. —'trust-able *adj.* —'truster *n.*

trustee (*ˈtrʌːstiː*) *n.* 1. a person to whom the legal title to property is entrusted. 2. a member of a board that manages the affairs of an institution or organization. —*truˈsteeship n.*

trustful (*ˈtrʌstfʊl*) or **trusting** *adj.* characterized by a tendency or readiness to trust others. —'trustfully or 'trustingly *adv.*

trust fund *n.* money, securities, etc., held in trust.

trustworthy (*ˈtrʌst,wɜːði*) *adj.* worthy of being trusted; honest, reliable, or dependable. —'trust,worthily *adv.* —'trust,worthiness *n.*

trusty (*ˈtrʌsti*) *adj.* **trustier, trustiest.** 1. faithful or reliable. ~*n., pl. trusties.* 2. a trustworthy convict to whom special privileges are granted. —'trustily *adv.* —'trustiness *n.*

truth (*truθ*) *n.* 1. the quality of being true, genuine, actual, or factual. 2. something that is true as opposed to false. 3. a proven or verified fact, principle, etc.: *the truths of astronomy*. 4. a concept or system of concepts, regarded as accurately representing some aspect of the world, the universe, etc.: *the truths of ancient religions*. 5. fidelity to a standard or law. 6. faithful reproduction or portrayal. 7. honesty. 8. accuracy, as in the setting of a mechanical instrument. 9. loyalty. ~Related *adjs.*: veritable, veracious. —'truthless *adj.*

truthful (*ˈtruːθfʊl*) *adj.* 1. telling the truth; honest. 2. realistic: a *truthful portrayal of the king*. —'truthfully *adv.* —'truthfulness *n.*

try (*traɪ*) *vb.* **trying, tried.** 1. (when *tr.*, may take an infinitive, sometimes with *to* replaced by *and*) to make an effort or attempt. 2. (*tr.*; often foll. by *out*) to sample, test, or give experimental use to (something). 3. (*tr.*) to put strain or stress on: *he tries my patience*. 4. (*tr.*; often *passive*) to give pain, affliction, or vexation to. 5.

a. to examine and determine the issues involved in (a cause) in a court of law. b. to hear evidence in order to determine the guilt or innocence of (an accused). 6. (*tr.*) to melt (fat, lard, etc.) in order to separate out impurities. ~*n., pl. tries.* 7. an experiment or trial. 8. an attempt or effort. 9. *Rugby.* the act of an attacking player touching the ball down behind the opposing team's goal line. 10. *American football.* an attempt made after a touchdown to score an extra point, as by kicking a goal.

trying (*ˈtraɪɪŋ*) *adj.* upsetting, difficult, or annoying. —'tryingly *adv.*

try on *vb. (tr., adv.)* 1. to put on (a garment) to find out whether it fits, etc. 2. *Inf.* to attempt to deceive or fool (esp. in *try it on*). ~*n. try-on.* 3. *Brit. inf.* something done to test out a person's tolerance, etc.

try out *vb. (adv.)* 1. (*tr.*) to test or put to experimental use. 2. (when *intr.*, usually foll. by *for*) *U.S.* (of an athlete, actor, etc.) to undergo a test or to submit (an athlete, actor, etc.) to a test to determine suitability for a place in a team, an acting role, etc. —'tryout *n.*

trysail (*ˈtraɪˌseɪl*; *Naut.* *ˈtraɪsəl*) *n.* a small fore-and-aft sail set on a sailing vessel in foul weather to help keep her head to the wind.

tryst (*trɪst, traɪst*) *n. Arch. or literary.* 1. an appointment to meet, esp. secretly. 2. the place of such a meeting or the meeting itself. —'tryster *n.*

tsar or czar (*zɑː*) *n.* 1. (until 1917) the emperor of Russia. 2. a tyrant; autocrat. 3. *Inf.* a person in authority. —'tsardom or 'czardom *n.*

tsarevitch or czarevitch (*ˈzɑːrəvɪtʃ*) *n.* a son of a Russian tsar, esp. the eldest son.

tsarina, czarina (*zɑːˈrɪːnə*) or **tsaritsa, czaritza** (*zɑːˈrɪtsə*) *n.* the wife of a Russian tsar; Russian empress.

tsetse fly or tsetze fly (*ˈtsetsɪ*) *n.* any of various bloodsucking African dipterous flies which transmit various diseases, esp. sleeping sickness.

T-shirt or tee-shirt *n.* a pullover cotton shirt usually having short sleeves and no collar.

tsp. *abbrev. for* teaspoon.

T-square *n.* a T-shaped ruler used for drawing horizontal lines and to support set squares when drawing vertical and inclined lines.

tsunami (*tsuˈnɑːmi*) *n.* a huge destructive wave, esp. one caused by an earthquake. Also called: *tidal wave*.

TT or T.T. *abbrev. for:* 1. teetotal. 2. teetotaler. 3. Tourist Trophy. 4. tuberculin tested.

TU or T.U. *abbrev. for* trade union.

Tu. *abbrev. for* Tuesday.

tub (*tʌb*) *n.* 1. a large open flat-bottomed container of metal or wood, used for washing, storage, etc. 2. a small plastic or cardboard container of similar shape for ice cream, margarine, etc. 3. another word (esp. *U.S.*) for *bath* (sense 1). 4. Also called: *tubful*. the amount a tub will hold. 5. a clumsy slow boat or ship. 6. a. a small vehicle on rails for carrying loads in a mine. b. a container for lifting coal or ore up a mine shaft. ~*vb.* **tubbing, tubbed.** 7. *Brit. inf.* to wash (oneself) in a tub. 8. (*tr.*) to keep or put in a tub. —'tubbable *adj.* —'tubber *n.*

tuba (*ˈtjuːbə*) *n., pl. -bas or -bae* (-biː). 1. a valved brass instrument of bass pitch, in which the bell points upwards and the mouthpiece projects at right angles. 2. a powerful reed stop on an organ.

tubby (*ˈtʌbi*) *adj.* **-bier, -biest.** 1. plump. 2. shaped like a tub. —'tubbiness *n.*

tube (*tjuːb*) *n.* 1. a long hollow cylindrical object, used for the passage of fluids or as a container. 2. a collapsible cylindrical container of soft metal or plastic closed with a cap, used to hold viscous liquids or pastes. 3. *Anat.* short for *Eustachian tube* or *Fallopian tube*. 4. any hollow structure. 5. (sometimes *cap.*) *Brit.* a. the tube, an underground railway system, esp. that in London. *U.S.* equivalent: *subway*. b. the tunnels through which the railway runs. 6. *Electronics.* a. another name for *valve* (sense 3). b. See *electron tube, cathode-ray tube*. 7. *Sl.*, chiefly *U.S.* a television set. 8. *Austral. sl.* a bottle or can of beer. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 9. to supply with a tube. 10. to convey in a tube. 11. to shape like a tube. —'tubeless *adj.*

tuber (*ˈtjuːbə*) *n.* 1. a fleshy underground stem or root. 2. *Anat.* a raised area; swelling.

tubercle (*ˈtjuːbəkəl*) *n.* 1. any small rounded nodule or elevation, esp. on the skin, on a bone, or on a plant. 2. any small rounded pathological lesion, esp. one characteristic of tuberculosis.

tubercular (*ˈtjuːbɜːkjʊlə*) *adj.* also *tuberculous*. 1. of or

symptomatic of tuberculosis. 2. of or relating to a tubercle. 3. characterized by the presence of tubercles. ~n. 4. a person with tuberculosis.

tuberculin (tju:'b3:kju:ln) *n.* a sterile liquid prepared from cultures of attenuated tubercle bacillus and used in the diagnosis of tuberculosis.

tuberculin tested *adj.* (of milk) produced by cows that have been certified as free of tuberculosis.

tuberculosis (tju:'b3:kju:'ləusis) *n.* a communicable disease caused by infection with the tubercle bacillus, most frequently affecting the lungs.

tuberos (tju:'b3:ras) or **tubero** (tju:'b3:rəus) *adj.* 1. (of plants) forming, bearing, or resembling a tuber or tubers. 2. *Anat.* of or having warty protuberances or tubers.

tubing (tju:'biŋ) *n.* 1. tubes collectively. 2. a length of tube. 3. a system of tubes. 4. fabric in the form of a tube.

tub-thumper *n.* a noisy, violent, or ranting public speaker. —**tub-, thumping** *adj., n.*

tubular (tju:'bjulə) *adj.* 1. Also: **tubiform** (tju:'bɪ,fɔ:m), having the form of a tube or tubes. 2. of or relating to a tube or tubing.

tubule (tju:'bjul:ɪ) *n.* any small tubular structure.

T.U.C. (in Britain) *abbrev.* for Trades Union Congress.

tuck (tʌk) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to push or fold into a small confined space or concealed place or between two surfaces. 2. (tr.) to thrust the loose ends or sides of (something) into a confining space, so as to make neat and secure. 3. to make a tuck or tucks in (a garment). 4. (usually tr.) to draw together, contract, or pucker. ~n. 5. a tucked object or part. 6. a pleat or fold in a part of a garment, usually stitched down. 7. the part of a vessel where the planks meet at the sternpost. 8. *Brit. inf.* a. food, esp. cakes and sweets. b. (as modifier): a tuck box. 9. the action of drawing the knees up to the chest in certain dives. ~See also tuck away, tuck in.

tuck away *vb.* (tr., adv.) *Inf.* 1. to eat (a large amount of food). 2. to store, esp. in a place difficult to find.

tucker¹ (tʌkə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that tucks. 2. a detachable yoke of lace, linen, etc., often white, worn over the breast, as of a low-cut dress. 3. *Austral. & N.Z.* an informal word for food.

tucker² (tʌkə) *vb.* (tr.; often passive; usually foll. by out) *Inf.*, chiefly U.S. to weary or tire.

tuck in *vb.* (adv.) 1. (tr.) Also: **tuck into**, to put to bed and make snug. 2. (tr.) to thrust the loose ends or sides of (something) into a confining space: tuck the blankets in. 3. (intr.) Also: **tuck into**, *Inf.* to eat, esp. heartily. ~n. **tuck-in**. 4. *Brit. inf.* a meal, esp. a large one.

tuck shop *n.* Chiefly *Brit.* a shop, esp. one near a school, where cakes and sweets are sold.

Tudor (tju:'dɔ:ɪ) *n.* 1. an English royal house ruling from 1485 to 1603. ~adj. 2. denoting a style of architecture characterized by half-timbered houses.

Tues. *abbrev.* for Tuesday.

Tuesday (tju:'zdi) *n.* the third day of the week; second day of the working week.

tufa (tju:'fə) *n.* a porous rock formed of calcium carbonate deposited from springs. —**tufaceous** (tju:'feɪʃəs) *adj.*

tuff (tʌf) *n.* a hard volcanic rock consisting of consolidated fragments of lava. —**tuffaceous** (tʌ'feɪʃəs) *adj.*

tuffet (tʌfɪt) *n.* a small mound or low seat.

tuft (tʌft) *n.* 1. a bunch of feathers, grass, hair, etc., held together at the base. 2. a cluster of threads drawn tightly through upholstery, a quilt, etc., to secure the padding. 3. a small clump of trees or bushes. 4. (formerly) a gold tassel on the cap worn by titled undergraduates at English universities. ~vb. 5. (tr.) to provide or decorate with a tuft or tufts. 6. to form or be formed into tufts. 7. to secure with tufts. —**'tufted** *adj.* —**'tufty** *adj.*

tug (tʌg) *vb.* **tugging**, **tugged**. 1. (when intr., sometimes foll. by at) to pull or drag with sharp or powerful movements. 2. (tr.) to tow (a vessel) by means of a tug. ~n. 3. a strong pull or jerk. 4. Also called: **tugboat**, a boat with a powerful engine, used for towing barges, ships, etc. 5. a hard struggle or fight. —**'tugger** *n.*

tug of war *n.* 1. a contest in which two people or teams pull opposite ends of a rope in an attempt to drag the opposition over a central line. 2. any hard struggle between two factions.

tuition (tju:'ʃjən) *n.* 1. instruction, esp. that received individually or in a small group. 2. the payment for instruction, esp. in colleges or universities. —**tu'titional** or **tu'titionary** *adj.*

tulip (tju:'lɪp) *n.* 1. any of various spring-blooming bulb

plants having long broad pointed leaves and single showy bell-shaped flowers. 2. the flower or bulb.

tulip tree *n.* 1. Also called: **tulip poplar**, a North American tree having tulip-shaped greenish-yellow flowers and long conelike fruits. 2. any of various other trees with tulip-shaped flowers, such as the magnolia.

tulle (tju:l) *n.* a fine net fabric of silk, rayon, etc.

tumble ('tʌmbəl) *vb.* 1. to fall or cause to fall, esp. awkwardly, precipitately, or violently. 2. (intr.; usually foll. by about) to roll or twist, esp. in playing. 3. (intr.) to perform leaps, somersaults, etc. 4. to move in a heedless or hasty way. 5. (tr.) to polish (gemstones) in a tumbler. 6. (tr.) to disturb, rumple, or toss around. ~n. 7. a tumbling. 8. a fall or toss. 9. an acrobatic feat, esp. a somersault. 10. a state of confusion. 11. a confused heap or pile.

tumble-down *adj.* falling to pieces; dilapidated; crumbling.

tumbler ('tʌmblə) *n.* 1. a. a flat-bottomed drinking glass with no handle or stem. b. Also called: **tumblerful**, its contents. 2. a person who performs somersaults and other acrobatic feats. 3. Also called: **tumble drier**, **tumbler drier**, a machine that dries clothes by tumbling them in warmed air. 4. a box or drum rotated so that the contents (usually gemstones) become smooth and polished. 5. the part of a lock that retains or releases the bolt and is moved by the action of a key. 6. a lever in a gunlock that receives the action of the mainspring when the trigger is pressed and thus forces the hammer forwards. 7. a part that moves a gear in a train of gears into and out of engagement.

tumbrel or **tumbirl** ('tʌmbəl) *n.* 1. a farm cart, esp. one that tilts backwards to deposit its load. A cart of this type was used to take condemned prisoners to the guillotine during the French Revolution. 2. (formerly) a covered cart used to carry ammunition, tools, etc.

tumid ('tju:md) *adj.* 1. enlarged or swollen. 2. bulging. 3. pompous or fulsome in style. —**tu'midity** or **'tumidness** *n.* —**'tumidly** *adv.*

tummy ('tʌmɪ) *n.*, pl. -mies. Also called: **tum**, an informal or childish word for stomach.

tumour or U.S. **tumor** ('tju:mə) *n.* *Pathol.* a. any abnormal swelling. b. a mass of tissue formed by a new growth of cells. —**'tumorous** *adj.*

tumult ('tju:mʌlt) *n.* 1. a loud confused noise, as of a crowd; commotion. 2. violent agitation or disturbance. 3. great emotional agitation.

tumultuous (tju:'mʌltju:s) *adj.* 1. uproarious, riotous, or turbulent. 2. greatly agitated, confused, or disturbed. 3. making a loud or unruly disturbance. —**tu'multuously** *adv.* —**tu'multuousness** *n.*

tumulus ('tju:mjʊləs) *n.* *Archaeol.* (no longer in technical usage) another word for barrow.

tun (tʌn) *n.* 1. a large beer cask. 2. a measure of capacity, usually equal to 252 wine gallons. ~vb. **tunning**, **tunned**. 3. (tr.) to put into or keep in tuns.

tuna¹ (tju:'nə) *n.*, pl. -na or -nas. another name for tunny.

tuna² (tju:'nə) *n.* any of various tropical American prickly pear cacti.

tundra ('tʌndrə) *n.* a vast treeless zone lying between the ice cap and the timber line of North America and Eurasia and having a permanently frozen subsoil.

tune (tju:n) *n.* 1. a melody, esp. one for which harmony is not essential. 2. the condition of producing accurately pitched notes, intervals, etc. (esp. in **in tune**, **out of tune**). 3. accurate correspondence of pitch and intonation between instruments (esp. in **in tune**, **out of tune**). 4. the correct adjustment of a radio, television, etc., with respect to the required frequency. 5. a frame of mind; mood. 6. call the tune, to be in control of the proceedings. 7. change one's tune, to change one's mind or opinion. 8. to the tune of, *Inf.* to the amount or extent of. ~vb. 9. to adjust (a musical instrument) to a certain pitch. 10. to adjust (a note, etc.) so as to bring it into harmony or concord. 11. (tr.) to adapt or adjust (one-self); attune. 12. (tr.; often foll. by up) to make fine adjustments (an engine, machine, etc.) to obtain optimum performance. 13. *Electronics*, to adjust (one or more circuits) for resonance at a desired frequency. ~See also **tune in**, **tune up**. —**'tuneless** *adj.* —**'tuner** *n.*

tuneful ('tju:nfʊl) *adj.* 1. having a pleasant tone; melodious. 2. producing a melody or music. —**'tunefully** *adv.* —**'tunefulness** *n.*

tune in *vb.* (adv.; often foll. by to) 1. to adjust (a radio or television) to receive (a station or programme). 2. *Sl.* to make or become more aware, knowledgeable, etc., (about).

tune up *vb. (adv.)* 1. to adjust (a musical instrument) to a particular pitch. 2. to tune (instruments) to a common pitch. 3. (tr.) to adjust (an engine) (a car, etc.) to improve performance. ~*n.* **tune-up**. 4. adjustments made to an engine to improve its performance.

tungsten ('tʌŋstən) *n.* a hard malleable ductile greyish-white element. It is used in lamp filaments, electrical contact points, x-ray targets, and, alloyed with steel, in high-speed cutting tools. Symbol: W; atomic no.: 74; atomic wt.: 183.85.

tunic ('tju:nɪk) *n.* 1. any of various hip-length or knee-length garments, such as the loose sleeveless garb worn in ancient Greece or Rome, the jacket of some soldiers, or a woman's hip-length garment, worn with a skirt or trousers. 2. a covering, lining, or enveloping membrane of an organ or part. 3. Also called: **tunicle**, a short vestment worn by a bishop or subdeacon.

tuning fork *n.* a two-pronged metal fork that when struck produces a pure note of constant specified pitch. It is used to tune musical instruments and in acoustics.

tunnel ('tʌnəl) *n.* 1. an underground passageway, esp. one for trains or cars. 2. any passage or channel through or under something. ~*vb.* **-neling**, **-nelled** or **U.S. -neling**, **-neled**. 3. (tr.) to make or force (a way) through or under (something). 4. (*intr.*; foll. by *through*, *under*, etc.) to make or force a way (through or under something). — **tunneller** *n.*

tunnel vision *n.* 1. a condition in which lateral vision is greatly restricted. 2. narrowness of viewpoint resulting from concentration on a single idea, opinion, etc.

tunny ('tʌni) *n.*, *pl.* **-nies** or **-ny**. 1. Also called: **tuna**. any of a genus of large marine spiny-finned fishes, chiefly of warm waters. They are important food fishes. 2. any of various similar and related fishes.

tup ('tʌp) *n.* 1. Chiefly *Brit.* a male sheep; ram. 2. the head of a pile-driver or steam hammer. ~*vb.* **tupping**, **tupped**. 3. (tr.) (of a ram) to mate with (a ewe).

tuppence ('tʌpəns) *n.* *Brit.* a variant spelling of **two-pence**. — **tuppenny** *adj.*

turban ('tʌ:bʌn) *n.* 1. a man's headdress, worn esp. by Muslims, Hindus, and Sikhs, made by swathing a length of linen, silk, etc., around the head or around a caplike base. 2. a woman's brimless hat resembling this. 3. any headdress resembling this. — **turbaned** *adj.*

turbid ('tɜ:bɪd) *adj.* 1. muddy or opaque, as a liquid clouded with a suspension of particles. 2. dense, thick, or cloudy: **turbid fog**. 3. in turmoil or confusion. — **turbidity** or **turbidness** *n.* — **turbidly** *adv.*

turbine ('tɜ:bin, -bain) *n.* any of various types of machine in which the kinetic energy of a moving fluid, as water, steam, air, etc., is converted into mechanical energy by causing a bladed rotor to rotate.

turbo- *combining form.* of, relating to, or driven by a turbine: **turbofan**.

turbofan ('tɜ:bəʊ'fæn) *n.* 1. a type of bypass engine in which a large fan driven by a turbine forces air rearwards around the exhaust gases in order to increase the propulsive thrust. 2. an aircraft driven by turbofans. 3. the fan in such an engine.

turbojet ('tɜ:bəʊ'dʒet) *n.* 1. a turbojet engine. 2. an aircraft powered by turbojet engines.

turbojet engine *n.* a gas turbine in which the exhaust gases provide the propulsive thrust to drive an aircraft.

turboprop ('tɜ:bəʊ'prɒp) *n.* 1. a gas turbine for driving an aircraft propeller. 2. an aircraft powered by turboprops.

turbot ('tɜ:bat) *n.*, *pl.* **-bot** or **-bots**. 1. a European flatfish having a speckled scaleless body covered with tubercles. It is highly valued as a food fish. 2. any of various similar or related fishes.

turbulence ('tɜ:bjʊləns) *n.* 1. a state or condition of confusion, movement, or agitation. 2. Meteorol. instability in the atmosphere causing gusty air currents and cumulonimbus clouds.

turbulent ('tɜ:bjʊlənt) *adj.* 1. being in a state of turbulence. 2. wild or insubordinate; unruly. — **turbulently** *adv.*

turd ('tɜ:d) *n.* **Taboo**. 1. a piece of excrement. 2. *Sl.* a contemptible person or thing.

tureen ('tʊ:ri:n) *n.* a large deep usually rounded dish with a cover, used for serving soups, stews, etc.

turf ('tɜ:f) *n.*, *pl.* **turfs** or **turves**. 1. the surface layer of fields and pastures, consisting of earth containing a dense growth of grasses with their roots; sod. 2. a piece cut from this layer. 3. **the turf**. a. a track where horse races are run. b. horse racing as a sport or industry. 4.

(in Ireland) another word for **peat**. ~*vb.* 5. (tr.) to cover with pieces of turf.

turf accountant *n.* *Brit.* a formal name for a **book-maker**.

turf out *vb.* (tr., *adv.*) *Brit. inf.* to throw out or dismiss; eject.

turgescent ('tɜ:dʒes'nt) *adj.* becoming or being swollen; inflated; tumid. — **turgescence** *n.*

turgid ('tɜ:dʒɪd) *adj.* 1. swollen and distended. 2. (of language) pompous; bombastic. — **turgidity** or **turgidness** *n.* — **turgidly** *adv.*

Turk ('tɜ:k) *n.* 1. a native, inhabitant, or citizen of Turkey. 2. a native speaker of any Turkic language. 3. a brutal or domineering person.

Turk. *abbrev. for:* 1. Turkey. 2. Turkish.

turkey ('tɜ:ki) *n.*, *pl.* **-keys** or **-key**. 1. a large bird of North America, having a bare wattled head and neck and a brownish plumage. The male has a fan-shaped tail. It is widely domesticated for its flesh. 2. *U.S. inf.* a dramatic production that fails; flop. 3. **cold turkey**. *Slang.* a method of curing drug addiction by abrupt withdrawal of all drugs. 4. **talk turkey**. *Inf.*, chiefly *U.S.* to discuss frankly and practically.

turkey cock *n.* 1. a male turkey. 2. an arrogant person.

Turkish ('tɜ:kɪʃ) *adj.* 1. of Turkey, its people, or their language. ~*n.* 2. the official language of Turkey, belonging to the Turkic branch of the Altaic family.

Turkish bath *n.* 1. a type of bath in which the bather sweats freely in a steam room, is then washed, often massaged, and has a cold plunge or shower. 2. (*sometimes pl.*) an establishment where such a bath is obtainable.

Turkish coffee *n.* very strong black coffee.

Turkish delight *n.* a jelly-like sweet flavoured with flower essences, usually cut into cubes and covered in icing sugar.

Turkish towel *n.* a rough loose-piled towel.

turmeric ('tɜ:mərk) *n.* 1. a tropical Asian plant, *Curcuma longa*, having yellow flowers and an aromatic underground stem. 2. the powdered stem of this plant, used as a condiment and as a yellow dye.

turmoil ('tɜ:mɔɪl) *n.* violent or confused movement; agitation; tumult.

turn ('tɜ:n) *vb.* 1. to move around an axis: *to turn a knob*. 2. (*sometimes foll. by round*) to change or cause to change positions by moving through an arc of a circle: *he turned the chair to face the light*. 3. to change or cause to change in course, direction, etc. 4. to go or pass to the other side of (a corner, etc.). 5. to assume or cause to assume a rounded, curved, or folded form: *the road turns here*. 6. to reverse or cause to reverse position. 7. (tr.) to perform or do by a rotating movement: *to turn a somersault*. 8. (tr.) to shape or cut a thread in (a workpiece) by rotating it on a lathe against a cutting tool. 9. (*when intr.*, foll. by *into* or *to*) to change or convert or be changed or converted. 10. (*foll. by into*) to change or cause to change in nature, character, etc.: *the frog turned into a prince*. 11. (*copula*) to change so as to become: *he turned nasty*. 12. to cause (foliage, etc.) to change colour or (of foliage, etc.) to change colour. 13. to cause (milk, etc.) to become rancid or sour or (of milk, etc.) to become rancid or sour. 14. to change or cause to change in subject, trend, etc.: *the conversation turned to fishing*. 15. to direct or apply or be directed or applied: *he turned his attention to the problem*. 16. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *to*) to appeal or apply (to) for help, advice, etc. 17. to reach, pass, or progress beyond in age, time, etc.: *she has just turned twenty*. 18. (tr.) to cause or allow to go: *to turn an animal loose*. 19. to affect or be affected with nausea. 20. to affect or be affected with giddiness: *my head is turning*. 21. (tr.) to affect the mental or emotional stability of (esp. in **turn** (someone's) head). 22. (tr.) to release from a container. 23. (tr.) to render into another language. 24. (usually foll. by *against* or *from*) to transfer or reverse (one's loyalties, affections, etc.). 25. (tr.) to bring (soil) from lower layers to the surface. 26. to blunt (an edge) or (of an edge) to become blunted. 27. (tr.) to give a graceful form to: *to turn a compliment*. 28. (tr.) to reverse (a cuff, collar, etc.). 29. (*intr.*) *U.S.* to be merchandised as specified: *shirts are turning well this week*. 30. *Cricket.* to spin (the ball) or (of the ball) to spin. 31. **turn one's hand to**. to undertake (something practical). 32. **turn tail**. *Inf.* to run away; flee. ~*n.* 33. a turning or being turned. 34. a movement of complete or partial rotation. 35. a change of direction or position. 36. direction or drift: *his thoughts took a new turn*. 37. a

deviation from a course or tendency. **38.** the place, point, or time at which a deviation or change occurs. **39.** another word for **turning** (sense 1). **40.** the right or opportunity to do something in an agreed order or succession: *now it's George's turn.* **41.** a change in nature, condition, etc.: *his illness took a turn for the worse.* **42.** a period of action, work, etc. **43.** a short walk, ride, or excursion. **44.** natural inclination: *a speculative turn of mind.* **45.** distinctive form or style: *a neat turn of phrase.* **46.** requirement, need, or advantage: *to serve someone's turn.* **47.** a deed that helps or hinders someone. **48.** a twist, bend, or distortion in shape. **49.** *Music.* a melodic ornament consisting of two auxiliary notes above and below a principal note, all four notes being rapidly executed. **50.** a short theatrical act. **51.** *Stock exchange.* *Brit.* the difference between a stock-jobber's bid and offer prices, representing the jobber's income. **52.** *Inf.* a shock or surprise. **53.** by turns. one after another; alternately. **54.** **turn and turn about.** one after another; alternately. **55.** to a turn. to the proper amount; perfectly. ~See also **turn down**, **turn in**, **turn off**, etc. —**turner** *n.*

turnabout ('tʃ:ɒn,baʊt) *n.* **1.** the act of turning so as to face a different direction. **2.** a change or reversal of opinion, attitude, etc.

turnaround ('tʃ:ɒn,raʊnd) *n.* **1. a.** the act or process in which a ship, aircraft, etc., unloads at the end of a trip and reloads for the next trip. **b.** the time taken for this. **2.** the total time taken by a vehicle in a round trip. **3.** another word for **turnabout**.

turnbuckle ('tʃ:ɒn,bʌkʃl) *n.* an open mechanical sleeve usually having a swivel at one end and a thread at the other to enable a threaded wire or rope to be tightened.

turncoat ('tʃ:ɒn,kəʊt) *n.* a person who deserts one cause or party for the opposite faction.

turn down *vb.* (*tr.*, *adv.*) **1.** to reduce (the volume or brightness) of (something). **2.** to reject or refuse. **3.** to fold down (a collar, sheets, etc.). ~*adj.* **turndown.** **4.** (*pronominal*) designed to be folded down.

turn in *vb.* (*adv.*) *Inf.* **1.** (*intr.*) to go to bed for the night. **2.** (*tr.*) to hand in; deliver. **3.** to give up or conclude (something). **4.** (*tr.*) to record (a score, etc.). **5.** **turn in on oneself.** to become preoccupied with one's own problems.

turning ('tʃ:ɒnɪŋ) *n.* **1.** a road, river, or path that turns off the main way. **2.** the point where such a way turns off. **3.** a bend in a straight course. **4.** an object made on a lathe. **5.** the process or skill of turning objects on a lathe. **6.** (*pl.*) the waste produced in turning on a lathe.

turning circle *n.* the smallest circle in which a vehicle can turn.

turning point *n.* **1.** a moment when the course of events is changed. **2.** a point at which there is a change in direction or motion.

turnip ('tʃ:ɒnɪp) *n.* **1.** a widely cultivated plant of the cabbage family with a large yellow or white edible root. **2.** the root of this plant, which is eaten as a vegetable.

turnkey ('tʃ:ɒn,ki:) *n.* *Arch.* a keeper of the keys, esp. in a prison; warden or jailer.

turn off *vb.* **1.** (*intr.*) to leave (a road, etc.). **2.** (*intr.*) (of a road, etc.) to deviate from (another road, etc.). **3.** (*tr.*, *adv.*) to cause (something) to cease operating by turning a knob, pushing a button, etc. **4.** (*tr.*) *Inf.* to cause (a person, etc.) to feel dislike or distaste for (something): *this music turns me off.* **5.** (*tr.*, *adv.*) *Brit. inf.* to dismiss from employment. ~*n.* **turn-off.** **6.** a road or other way branching off from the main thoroughfare. **7.** something or someone that turns one off (see sense 4).

turn on *vb.* **1.** (*tr.*, *adv.*) to cause (something) to operate by turning a knob, etc. **2.** (*intr.*, *prep.*) to depend or hinge on: *the success of the party turns on you.* **3.** (*prep.*) to become hostile or to retaliate: *the dog turned on the children.* **4.** (*tr.*, *adv.*) *Inf.* to produce (charm, tears, etc.) suddenly or automatically. **5.** (*tr.*, *adv.*) *Sl.* to arouse emotionally or sexually. **6.** (*intr.*, *adv.*) *Sl.* to take or become intoxicated by drugs. **7.** (*tr.*, *adv.*) *Sl.* to introduce (someone) to drugs. ~*n.* **turn-on.** **8.** something or someone that turns one on (see sense 5).

turn out *vb.* (*adv.*) **1.** (*tr.*) to cause (something, esp. a light) to cease operating by or as if by turning a knob, etc. **2.** (*tr.*) to produce by an effort or process. **3.** (*tr.*) to dismiss, discharge, or expel. **4.** (*tr.*) to clear or clean the contents of. **5.** (*copula*) to prove to be as specified. **6.** (*tr.*) to fit as with clothes: *that woman turns her children out well.* **7.** (*intr.*) to assemble or gather. **8.** (of a soldier) to parade or call (a soldier) to parade. **9.** (*intr.*) *Inf.* to get out of bed. ~*n.* **turnout.** **10.** the body of people appearing together at a gathering. **11.** the quan-

tity or amount produced. **12.** an array of clothing or equipment.

turn over *vb.* (*adv.*) **1.** to change or cause to change position, esp. so as to reverse top and bottom. **2.** to start (an engine), esp. with a starting handle, or (of an engine) to start or function correctly. **3.** to shift or cause to shift position, as by rolling from side to side. **4.** (*tr.*) to deliver; transfer. **5.** (*tr.*) to consider carefully. **6.** (*tr.*) *a.* to sell and replenish (stock in trade). *b.* to transact business and so generate gross revenue of (a specified sum). **7.** (*tr.*) to invest and recover (capital). **8.** (*tr.*) *Sl.* to rob. ~*n.* **turnover.** **9. a.** the amount of business transacted during a specified period. *b.* the rate at which stock in trade is sold and replenished. **10. a.** a change or reversal of position. **11.** a small pastry case filled with fruit or jam, etc. **12. a.** the number of workers employed by a firm in a given period to replace those who have left. *b.* the ratio between this number and the average number of employees during the same period. **13.** *Banking.* the amount of capital funds loaned on call during a specified period. ~*adj.* **turnover.** **14.** (*pronominal*) designed to be turned over.

turnpike ('tʃ:ɒn,pai) *n.* **1.** *History.* *a.* a barrier set across a road to prevent passage until a toll had been paid. *b.* a road on which a turnpike was operated. **2.** an obsolete word for **turnstile**. **3.** *U.S.* a motorway for use of which a toll is charged.

turnstile ('tʃ:ɒn,stail) *n.* a mechanical barrier with metal arms that are turned to admit one person at a time.

turntable ('tʃ:ɒn,tɛɪbəl) *n.* **1.** the circular platform that rotates a gramophone record while it is being played. **2.** a circular platform used for turning locomotives and cars. **3.** the revolvable platform on a microscope on which specimens are examined.

turn to *vb.* (*intr.*, *adv.*) to set about a task.

turn up *vb.* (*adv.*) **1.** (*intr.*) to arrive or appear. **2.** to find or be found, esp. by accident. **3.** (*tr.*) to increase the flow, volume, etc., of. ~*n.* **turn-up.** **4.** (*often pl.*) *Brit.* the turned-up fold at the bottom of some trouser legs. *U.S. name:* **cuff.** **5.** *Inf.* an unexpected or chance occurrence.

turpentine ('tʃ:ɒn,tam) *n.* **1.** Also called: **gum turpentine.** any of various oleoresins obtained from various coniferous trees and used as the main source of commercial turpentine. **2.** a sticky oleoresin that exudes from the terebenth tree. **3.** Also called: **oil of turpentine, spirits of turpentine.** a colourless volatile oil distilled from turpentine oleoresin. It is used as a solvent for paints and in medicine. **4.** Also called: **turpentine substitute, white spirit.** (*not in technical usage*) any one of a number of thinners for paints and varnishes, consisting of fractions of petroleum. Related *adj.*: **terebenthine.** ~*vb.* (*tr.*) **5.** to treat or saturate with turpentine.

turpitude ('tʃ:ɒn,tjʊd) *n.* base character or action; depravity.

turps ('tʃ:ɒps) *n.* *Brit.* short for **turpentine** (sense 3).

turquoise ('tʃ:kwɔɪz, -kwɔɪz) *n.* **1.** a greenish-blue fine-grained mineral consisting of hydrated copper aluminium phosphate. It is used as a gemstone. **2. a.** the colour of turquoise. *b.* (*as adj.*) *a turquoise dress.*

turret ('tʃ:ɒn) *n.* **1.** a small tower that projects from the wall of a building, esp. a castle. **2. a.** a self-contained structure, capable of rotation, in which weapons are mounted, esp. in tanks and warships. *b.* a similar structure on an aircraft. **3.** a lathe part that has a number of tools projecting radially from it that, as it turns, are presented to the workpiece in succession. —*turreted adj.*

turtle ('tʃ:ɒl) *n.* **1.** any of various aquatic reptiles, esp. those having a flattened shell enclosing the body and flipper-like limbs adapted for swimming. **2.** **turn turtle.** to capsize.

turtledove ('tʃ:ɒl,dʌv) *n.* **1.** any of several Old World doves having a brown plumage with speckled wings and a long dark tail. **2.** a gentle or loving person.

turtleneck ('tʃ:ɒl,nɛk) *n.* a round high close-fitting neck on a sweater or the sweater itself.

tusk ('tʌsk) *n.* **1.** a pointed elongated usually paired tooth in the elephant, walrus, and certain other mammals. **2.** a tusklike tooth or part. **3.** a sharp pointed projection. ~*vb.* **4.** to stab, tear, or gore with the tusks. —*tusked adj.*

tussle ('tʌsl) *vb.* **1.** (*intr.*) to fight or wrestle in a vigorous way. ~*n.* **2.** a vigorous fight; scuffle; struggle.

tussock ('tʌsɒk) *n.* a dense tuft of vegetation, esp. of grass. —*tussocky adj.*

tut ('tʌt) or **tut-tut** *interj.* **1.** an exclamation of mild reprimand, disapproval, or surprise ~*vb.* **tutting, tutted.**

(*intr.*) **2.** to express disapproval by the exclamation of "tut" or "tut-tut". ~*n.* **3.** the act of tutting or tut-tutting.

tutelage ('tju:tlɪdʒ) *n.* **1.** the act or office of a guardian or tutor. **2.** instruction or guidance, esp. by a tutor. **3.** the condition of being under the supervision of a guardian or tutor.

tutor ('tju:tə) *n.* **1.** a teacher, usually instructing individual pupils. **2.** (at universities, colleges, etc.) a member of staff responsible for the teaching and supervision of a certain number of students. ~*vb.* **3.** to act as a tutor to (someone). **4.** (*tr.*) to act as guardian to. —'tutorage or 'tutor, ship *n.*

tutorial (tju:'tɔ:riəl) *n.* **1.** a period of intensive tuition given by a tutor to an individual student or to a small group of students. ~*adj.* **2.** of or relating to a tutor.

tutti ('tʊti) *adj., adv. Music.* to be performed by the whole orchestra, choir, etc.

tutti-frutti ('tʊti:'frʊ:ti) *n.* **1.** an ice cream or a confection containing small pieces of candied or fresh fruits. **2.** a preserve of chopped mixed fruits. **3.** a flavour like that of many fruits combined.

tutu ('tʊ:tʊ) *n.* a very short skirt worn by ballerinas, made of projecting layers of stiffened material.

tu-whit tu-whoo (tə'wɪt tə'wu:) *interj.* an imitation of the sound made by an owl.

tuxedo (tʌk'si:doʊ) *n., pl. -dos.* the usual U.S. name for dinner jacket.

TV *abbrev. for television.*

twaddle ('twɒdl̩) *n.* **1.** silly, trivial, or pretentious talk or writing. ~*vb.* **2.** (*intr.*) to talk or write in a silly or pretentious way. —'twaddler *n.*

twain (tweɪn) *determiner, n.* an archaic word for **two**.

twang (tweŋ) *n.* **1.** a sharp ringing sound produced by or as if by the plucking of a taut string. **2.** the act of plucking a string to produce such a sound. **3.** a strongly nasal quality in a person's speech. ~*vb.* **4.** to make or cause to make a twang. **5.** to strum (music, a tune, etc.). **6.** to speak with a nasal voice. **7.** (*intr.*) to be released or move with a twang: the arrow twanged away. —'twangy *adj.*

twat (tweɪt, twɒt) *n. Taboo sl.* **1.** the female genitals. **2.** a foolish person.

twake (twɪk) *vb.* **1.** (*tr.*) to twist or pinch with a sharp or sudden movement. ~*n.* **2.** a twaking.

twee (twi:) *adj. Brit. inf.* excessively sentimental, sweet, or pretty.

tweed (twɪd) *n.* **1.** a thick woollen cloth produced originally in Scotland. **2.** (*pl.*) clothes made of this.

twedy ('twɪdi) *adj. tweedier, tweediest.* **1.** of, made of, or resembling tweed. **2.** showing a fondness for a hearty outdoor life, usually associated with wearers of tweeds.

tweet (twi:t) *interj.* **1.** an imitation of the thin chirping sound made by small birds. ~*vb.* **2.** (*intr.*) to make this sound.

tweeter ('twi:tə) *n.* a loudspeaker used in high-fidelity systems for the reproduction of high audio frequencies. It is usually employed in conjunction with a woofer.

tweezers ('twi:zəz) *pl. n.* a small pincer-like instrument for handling small objects, plucking out hairs, etc. Also called: **pair of tweezers, tweezer** (esp. U.S.).

Twelfth Day *n.* Jan. 6, the twelfth day after Christmas and the feast of the Epiphany.

twelfth man *n.* a reserve player in a cricket team.

twelve (twelv) *n.* **1.** the cardinal number that is the sum of ten and two. **2.** a numeral, 12, XII, etc., representing this number. **3.** something representing or consisting of 12 units. **4.** Also called: **twelve o'clock.** noon or midnight. ~*determiner.* **5.** a. amounting to twelve. **b.** (*as pronoun:*) twelve have arrived. ~*Related adj.:* **duodecimal.** —'twelfth *adj.*

twelvemonth ('twelv,mʌnθ) *n.* Chiefly *Brit.* an archaic or dialect word for a year.

twelve-tone *adj.* of or denoting the type of serial music which uses as musical material the 12 semitones of the chromatic scale.

twenty ('twenti) *n., pl. -ties.* **1.** the cardinal number that is the product of ten and two. **2.** a numeral, 20, XX, etc., representing this number. **3.** something representing or consisting of 20 units. ~*determiner.* **4.** a. amounting to twenty: twenty questions. **b.** (*as pronoun:*) to order twenty. —'twentieth *adj.*

twerp or **twirp** (twɜ:p) *n. Inf.* a silly, weak-minded, or contemptible person.

twice (twais) *adv.* **1.** two times; on two occasions or in two cases. **2.** double in degree or quantity: twice as long.

twiddle ('twɪdl̩) *vb.* **1.** (when *intr.*, often foll. by *with*)

to twirl or fiddle (with), often in an idle way. **2.** **twiddle one's thumbs.** to do nothing; be unoccupied. **3.** (*intr.*) to turn, twirl, or rotate. **4.** (*intr.*) *Rare.* to be occupied with trifles. ~*n.* **5.** an act or instance of twiddling. —'twiddler *n.*

twig (twɪg) *n.* **1.** any small branch or shoot of a tree. **2.** something resembling this, esp. a minute branch of a blood vessel. —'twiggy *adj.*

twig (twɪg) *vb. twiggling, twiggled.* *Brit. inf.* **1.** to understand (something). **2.** to find out or suddenly comprehend (something): he hasn't twigged yet.

twilight ('twai,lait) *n.* **1.** the soft diffused light occurring when the sun is just below the horizon, esp. following sunset. **2.** the period in which this light occurs. **3.** any faint light. **4.** a period in which strength, importance, etc., are waning. **5.** (*modifier*) of or relating to twilight; dim. —'twilit ('twai,lɪt) *adj.*

twilight zone *n.* **1.** an inner-city area where houses have become dilapidated. **2.** any indefinite or transitional condition or area.

twill (twɪl) *adj.* **1.** (in textiles) of a weave in which the yarns are worked to produce an effect of parallel diagonal lines or ribs. ~*n.* **2.** any fabric so woven. ~*vb.* **3.** (*tr.*) to weave in this fashion.

twin (twɪn) *n.* **1.** a. either of two persons or animals conceived at the same time. **b.** (*as modifier:*) a twin brother. See also **identical** (sense 3), **fraternal** (sense 3). **2.** a. either of two persons or things that are identical or very similar. **b.** (*as modifier:*) twin carburettors. **3.** Also called: **macie**, a crystal consisting of two parts each of which has a definite orientation to the other. ~*vb.* **twinning, twinned.** **4.** to pair or be paired together; couple. **5.** (*intr.*) to bear twins. **6.** (*intr.*) (of a crystal) to form into a twin.

twin bed *n.* one of a pair of matching single beds.

twine (twaɪn) *n.* **1.** string made by twisting together fibres of hemp, cotton, etc. **2.** a twining. **3.** something produced or characterized by twining. **4.** a twist, coil, or convolution. **5.** a knot, tangle, or snarl. ~*vb.* **6.** (*tr.*) to twist together; interweave. **7.** (*tr.*) to form by or as if by twining. **8.** (when *intr.*, often foll. by *around*) to wind or cause to wind, esp. in spirals. —'twinner *n.*

twin-engined *adj.* (of an aeroplane) having two engines.

twinge (twɪndʒ) *n.* **1.** a sudden brief darting or stabbing pain. **2.** a sharp emotional pang. ~*vb.* **3.** to have or cause to have a twinge.

twinkle ('twɪŋkl̩) *vb. (mainly intr.)* **1.** to emit or reflect light in a flickering manner; shine brightly and intermittently; sparkle. **2.** (of the eyes) to sparkle, esp. with amusement or delight. **3.** *Rare.* to move about quickly. ~*n.* **4.** a flickering brightness; sparkle. **5.** an instant. **6.** a rare word for wink. —'twinkler *n.*

twinkling ('twɪŋklɪŋ) or **twink** (twɪŋk) *n.* a very short time; instant; moment. Also called: **twinkling of an eye.**

twin-set *n. Brit.* a matching jumper and cardigan.

twirl (twɜ:l) *vb.* **1.** to move around rapidly and repeatedly in a circle. **2.** (*tr.*) to twist, wind, or twiddle, often idly: she twirled her hair around her finger. **3.** (*intr.*; often foll. by *around* or *about*) to turn suddenly to face another way. ~*n.* **4.** a rotating or being rotated; whirl or twist. **5.** something wound around or twirled; coil. **6.** a written flourish. —'twirler *n.*

twist (twɪst) *vb.* **1.** to cause (one end or part) to turn or (of one end or part) to turn in the opposite direction from another; coil or spin. **2.** to distort or be distorted. **3.** to wind or twine. **4.** to force or be forced out of the natural form or position. **5.** to change for the worse in character, meaning, etc.; pervert: she twisted the statement. **6.** to revolve; rotate. **7.** (*tr.*) to wrench with a turning action. **8.** (*intr.*) to follow a winding course. **9.** (*intr.*) to squirm, as with pain. **10.** (*intr.*) to dance the twist. **11.** twist someone's arm. to persuade or coerce someone. ~*n.* **12.** a twisting. **13.** something formed by or as if by twisting. **14.** a decisive change of direction, aim, meaning, or character. **15.** (in a novel, play, etc.) an unexpected event, revelation, etc. **16.** a bend; a twist in the road. **17.** a distortion of the original shape or form. **18.** a jerky pull, wrench, or turn. **19.** a strange personal characteristic, esp. a bad one. **20.** a confused tangle made by twisting. **21.** a twisted thread used in sewing where extra strength is needed. **22.** the twist, a dance popular in the 1960s, in which dancers vigorously twist the hips. **23.** a loaf or roll made of pieces of twisted dough. **24.** a thin sliver of peel from a lemon, lime, etc., twisted and added to a drink. **25.** a. a cigar made by twisting three cigars around one another. **b.** chewing tobacco made in the form of a roll by twisting the leaves

together. **26. Physics.** torsional deformation or shear stress or strain. **27. Sport, chiefly U.S.** spin given to a ball in various games. **28. round the twist.** *Brit. sl.* mad; eccentric.

twister ('twɪstə) *n.* **1. Brit.** a swindling or dishonest person. **2.** a person or thing that twists. **3. U.S.** an informal name for tornado. **4.** a ball moving with a twisting motion.

twit¹ (twɪt) *vb.* **twitting, twitted.** **1. (tr.)** to tease, taunt, or reproach, often in jest. **~n.** **2. U.S. inf.** a nervous or excitable state. **3. Rare.** a reproach; taunt.

twit² (twɪt) *n. Inf., chiefly Brit.* a foolish or stupid person; idiot.

twitch (twɪtʃ) *vb.* **1.** to move in a jerky spasmodic way. **2.** to pull (something) with a quick jerky movement. **3. (intr.)** to hurt with a sharp spasmodic pain. **~n.** **4.** a sharp jerking movement. **5.** a mental or physical twinge. **6.** a sudden muscular spasm, esp. one caused by a nervous condition. **7.** a loop of cord used to control a horse by drawing it tight about its upper lip.

twitter ('twɪtə) *vb.* **1. (intr.)** (esp. of a bird) to utter a succession of chirping sounds. **2. (intr.)** to talk or move rapidly and tremulously. **3. (intr.)** to giggle. **4. (tr.)** to utter in a chirping way. **~n.** **5.** a twittering sound. **6.** the act of twittering. **7.** a state of nervous excitement (esp. in **a twitter**). — **twitterer** *n.* — **twittery** *adj.*

two (tuː) *n.* **1.** the cardinal number that is the sum of one and one. **2.** a numeral, **2**, II, (ii), etc., representing this number. **3.** something representing or consisting of two units. **4.** Also called: **two o'clock.** two hours after noon or midnight. **5. in two.** in or into two parts. **6. put two and two together.** to make an inference from available evidence, esp. an obvious inference. **7. that makes two of us.** the same applies to me. **~determiner.** **8. a.** amounting to two: **two toes**. **b. (as pronoun):** **he bought two.** **~Related adjs:** **binary, double, dual.**

two-edged *adj.* **1.** having two cutting edges. **2. (esp. of a remark)** having two interpretations, such as *she looks nice when she smiles*.

two-faced *adj.* deceitful; hypocritical.

twofold ('tuːfəʊld) *adj.* **1.** equal to twice as many or twice as much. **2.** composed of two parts. **~adv.** **3.** doubly.

two-handed *adj.* **1.** requiring the use of both hands. **2.** ambidextrous. **3.** requiring the participation or co-operation of two people.

twopence or **tuppence** ('tʌpəns) *n. Brit.* **1.** the sum of two pennies. **2. (used with a negative)** something of little value (**in not care or give twopence**). **3.** a former British silver coin.

twopenny or **tuppenny** ('tʌpəni) *adj. Chiefly Brit.* **1.** Also: **twopenny-halfpenny.** cheap or tawdry. **2. (intensifier):** **a twopenny damn.** **3.** worth two pence.

two-piece *adj.* **1.** consisting of two separate parts, usually matching, as of a garment. **~n.** **2.** such an outfit.

two-ply *adj.* **1.** made of two thicknesses, layers, or strands. **~n., pl. -plies.** **2.** a two-ply wood, knitting yarn, etc.

two-sided *adj.* **1.** having two sides or aspects. **2.** controversial; debatable.

twosome ('tuːsəm) *n.* **1.** two together, esp. two people. **2.** a match between two people.

two-step *n.* **1.** a ballroom dance in duple time. **2.** a piece of music for or in the rhythm of such a dance.

two-stroke *adj.* of an internal-combustion engine whose piston makes two strokes for every explosion. **U.S. word: two-cycle.**

two-time *vb. Inf.* to deceive (someone, esp. a lover) by carrying on a relationship with another. — **two-timer** *n.*

two-way *adj.* **1.** moving, permitting movement, or operating in either of two opposite directions. **2.** involving two participants. **3.** involving reciprocal obligation or mutual action. **4. (of a radio, telephone, etc.)** allowing communications in two directions using both transmitting and receiving equipment.

tycoon (tai'kuːn) *n.* a businessman of great wealth and power.

tyee salmon *n.* another name for **Chinook salmon**.

tyke or **tike** (taɪk) *n.* **1. Inf.** a small or cheeky child. **2. N Brit. dialect.** a dog, esp. a mongrel. **3. N Brit. dialect.** a rough ill-mannered person. **4. Brit. sl., often offens.** a person from Yorkshire. **5. Austral. sl. offens.** a Roman Catholic.

tympani ('tɪmpəni) *pl. n.* a variant spelling of **timpani**.

tympanic membrane *n.* the thin membrane separ-

ating the external ear from the middle ear. It transmits vibrations, produced by sound waves, to the cochlea. Nontechnical name: **eardrum**.

tympānum ('tɪmpənəm) *n., pl. -nūms or -na* (-nə). **1. a.** the cavity of the middle ear. **b.** another name for **tympānic membrane**. **2.** any diaphragm resembling that in the middle ear in function. **3. Archit. a.** the recessed space bounded by the cornices of a pediment, esp. one that is triangular in shape. **b.** the recessed space bounded by an arch and the lintel of a doorway or window below it. **4. Music.** a tympan or drum. **5.** a scoop wheel for raising water. — **tympānic** (tɪm'pænik) *adj.*

Tynwald ('tɪnwəld, 'tæm-) *n. the.* the Parliament of the Isle of Man.

type (taɪp) *n.* **1.** a kind, class, or category, the constituents of which share similar characteristics. **2.** a subdivision of a particular class; sort: *what type of shampoo do you use?* **3.** the general form, plan, or design distinguishing a particular group. **4. Inf.** a person who typifies a particular quality: *he's the administrative type*. **5. Inf.** a person, esp. of a specified kind: *he's a strange type*. **6. a.** a small block of metal or more rarely wood bearing a letter or character in relief for use in printing. **b.** such pieces collectively. **7.** characters printed from type; print. **8. Biol. a.** the taxonomic group the characteristics of which are used for defining the next highest group. **b. (as modifier):** *a type genus*. **9.** the characteristic device on a coin. **10. Chiefly theol.** a figure, episode, or symbolic factor resembling some future reality in such a way as to foreshadow or prefigure it. **~vb.** **11.** to write (copy) on a typewriter. **12. (tr.)** to be a symbol of; typify. **13. (tr.)** to decide the type of. **14. (tr.) Med.** to determine the blood group of (a blood sample). **15. (tr.) Chiefly theol.** to foreshadow or serve as a symbol of (some future reality).

typecast ('taɪp,kɑːst) *vb. -casting, -cast.* (tr.) to cast (an actor) in the same kind of role continually, esp. because of his physical appearance or previous success in such roles.

typeface ('taɪp,feɪs) *n.* another name for **face** (sense 14).

typescript ('taɪp,skɪpt) *n.* **1.** a typed copy of a document, etc. **2.** any typewritten material.

typeset ('taɪp,seɪt) *vb. -setting, -set.* **Printing.** to set (textual matter) in type.

typesetter ('taɪp,seɪtə) *n.* **1.** a person who sets type; compositor. **2.** a typesetting machine.

typewriter ('taɪp,raɪt) *vb. -writing, -wrote, -written.* to write by means of a typewriter; type. — **type, writing** *n.*

typewriter ('taɪp,raɪtə) *n.* a keyboard machine for writing mechanically in characters resembling print.

typhoid ('taɪfɔɪd) *Pathol. ~adj. also typhoidal.* **1.** resembling typhus. **~n.** **2.** short for **typhoid fever**.

typhoid fever *n.* an acute infectious disease characterized by high fever, spots, abdominal pain, etc. It is caused by a bacillus ingested with food or water.

typhoon (taɪ'fuːn) *n.* a violent tropical storm or cyclone, esp. in the China Seas and W Pacific. — **typhonic** (taɪ'fɒnik) *adj.*

typhus ('taɪfəs) *n.* any one of a group of acute infectious rickettsial diseases characterized by high fever, skin rash, and severe headache. Also called: **typhus fever**. — **typhous** *adj.*

typical ('tɪpɪkəl) or **typic** *adj.* **1.** being or serving as a representative example of a particular type; characteristic. **2.** considered to be an example of some undesirable trait: *that is typical of you!* **3.** of or relating to a representative specimen or type. **4.** conforming to a type. **5. Biol.** having most of the characteristics of a particular taxonomic group. — **typically** *adv.* — **typicalness** or **typicality** *n.*

typify ('tɪpɪ,faɪ) *vb. -fying, -fied.* (tr.) **1.** to be typical of; characterize. **2.** to symbolize or represent completely, by or as if by a type. — **typification** *n.*

typist ('taɪpɪst) *n.* a person who types, esp. for a living.

typo ('taɪpə) *n., pl. -pos.* *Inf.* a typographical error. Also called (Brit.): **literal**.

typography ('taɪpɒɡrəfi) *n.* **1.** the art, craft, or process of composing type and printing from it. **2.** the planning, selection, and setting of type for a printed work. — **typographer** *n.* — **typographical** ('taɪpə'græfɪkəl) or **typographic** *adj.* — **typographically** *adv.*

tyrannical (tɪ'rænkəl) or **tyrannic** *adj.* characteristic of or relating to a tyrant or to tyranny; oppressive. — **tyrannically** *adv.*

tyrannize or **-ise** ('tɪrənaɪz) *vb.* (when *intr.*, often foll.

by over) to rule or exercise power over (people) in a cruel or oppressive manner. — **'tyran, nizer or -iser** *n.*
tyrannosaur (tɪ'rænə,sɔː) or **tyrannosaurus** (tɪ,rænə'sɔːrəs) *n.* any of various large carnivorous two-footed dinosaurs common in North America in Upper Jurassic and Cretaceous times.

tyranny ('tɪrəni) *n., pl. -nies.* 1. **a.** government by a tyrant; despotism. **b.** oppressive and unjust government by more than one person. 2. arbitrary, unreasonable, or despotic behaviour or use of authority. 3. a tyrannical act. — **'tyrannous** *adj.*

tyrant ('taɪrənt) *n.* 1. a person who governs oppressively, unjustly, and arbitrarily; despot. 2. any person who exercises authority in a tyrannical manner.

tyre or **U.S. tire** (taɪə) *n.* 1. a rubber ring placed over

the rim of a wheel of a road vehicle to provide traction and reduce road shocks, esp. a hollow inflated ring (**pneumatic tyre**) consisting of a reinforced outer casing enclosing an inner tube. 2. a metal band or hoop attached to the rim of a wooden cartwheel.

Tyrian ('tɪrɪən) *n.* 1. a native or inhabitant of ancient Tyre, a port in S Lebanon and centre of ancient Phoenician culture. ~*adj.* 2. of or relating to ancient Tyre.

Tyrian purple *n.* 1. a deep purple dye obtained from certain molluscs and highly prized in antiquity. 2. a vivid purplish-red colour.

tyro or **tiro** ('taɪrəʊ) *n., pl. -ros.* a novice or beginner.

tzar (zɑː) *n.* a variant spelling of **tsar**.

tzetze fly ('tsetʃi) *n.* a variant spelling of **tsetse fly**.

U

u or **U** (ju:) *n.*, *pl.* **u's**, **U's**, or **Us**. 1. the 21st letter and fifth vowel of the English alphabet. 2. any of several speech sounds represented by this letter, as in *mute*, *cut*, or *minus*. 3. **a**, something shaped like a U. **b.** (in combination): a **U-bolt**.

U symbol for: 1. united. 2. unionist. 3. university. 4. (in Britain) a. universal (used to describe a category of film certified as suitable for viewing by anyone). **b.** (as modifier): a **U certificate film**. 5. Chem. uranium. ~*adj.* 6. Brit. inf. (esp. of language habits) characteristic of or appropriate to the upper class.

ubiquitous (ju:'bikwɪtəs) *adj.* having or seeming to have the ability to be everywhere at once. —**'ubiquitously** *adv.* —**'ubiquity** *n.*

U-boat *n.* a German submarine, esp. in World Wars I and II.

u.c. *Printing.* abbrev. for upper case.

UCCA ('ʌkə) *n.* (in Britain) acronym for Universities Central Council on Admissions.

udder ('ʌdə) *n.* the large baglike mammary gland of cows, sheep, etc., having two or more teats.

UDI abbrev. for Unilateral Declaration of Independence.

UEFA (ju:'efə, 'ju:fə) *n.* acronym for Union of European Football Associations.

UFO (sometimes 'ju:fəʊ) abbrev. for unidentified flying object.

ugh (ʊx, ʊh, əh) *interj.* an exclamation of disgust, annoyance, or dislike.

ugli ('ʌgli) *n.*, *pl.* **-lis** or **-lies**, a large juicy yellow-skinned citrus fruit of the West Indies: a cross between a tangerine, grapefruit, and orange. Also called: **ugli fruit**.

ugly ('ʌgli) *adj.* **-lier**, **-liest**. 1. of unpleasant or unsightly appearance. 2. repulsive or displeasing in any way: *war is ugly*. 3. ominous or menacing: *an ugly situation*. 4. bad-tempered or sullen: *an ugly mood*. —**'uglyly** *adv.* —**'ugliness** *n.*

ugly duckling *n.* a person or thing, initially ugly or unpromising, that changes into something beautiful or admirable.

UHF *Radio.* abbrev. for ultrahigh frequency.

uh-huh *sentence substitute.* Inf. a less emphatic variant of **yes**.

UHT abbrev. for ultra-heat-treated (milk or cream).

U.K. abbrev. for United Kingdom.

ukase (ju:'keɪz) *n.* 1. (in imperial Russia) an edict of the tsar. 2. a rare word for **edict**.

Ukrainian (ju:'kreɪniən) *adj.* 1. of or relating to the Ukraine, its people, or their language. ~*n.* 2. the official language of the Ukrainian SSR: an East Slavonic language closely related to Russian. 3. a native or inhabitant of the Ukraine.

ukulele or **ukelele** (ju:kə'leɪli) *n.* a small four-stringed guitar, esp. of Hawaii.

ulcer ('ʌlsə) *n.* 1. a disintegration of the surface of the skin or a mucous membrane resulting in an open sore that heals very slowly. 2. a source or element of corruption or evil.

ulcerate ('ʌlsə'reɪt) *vb.* to make or become ulcerous. —**'ulce'ration** *n.* —**'ulce,rative** *adj.*

ulcerous ('ʌlsərəs) *adj.* 1. relating to or characterized by an ulcer or ulcers. 2. being or having a corrupting influence. —**'ulcerously** *adv.*

ullage ('ʌlɪdʒ) *n.* 1. the volume by which a liquid container falls short of being full. 2. **a.** the quantity of liquid lost from a container due to leakage or evaporation. **b.** (in customs terminology) the amount of liquid remaining in a container after such loss.

ulna ('ʌlnə) *n.*, *pl.* **-nae** (-nɪ) or **-nas**. 1. the inner and longer of the two bones of the human forearm. 2. the corresponding bone in other vertebrates. —**'ulnar** *adj.*

ulster ('ʌlstə) *n.* a man's heavy double-breasted overcoat with a belt or half-belt at the back.

Ulsterman ('ʌlstəmən) *n.*, *pl.* **-men**, a native or inhabitant of Ulster. —**'Ulster,woman** *fem. n.*

ult. abbrev. for: 1. ultimate(ly). 2. ultimo.

ulterior ('ʌltɪəriə) *adj.* 1. lying beneath or beyond what

is revealed or supposed: *ulterior motives*. 2. succeeding, subsequent, or later. 3. lying beyond a certain line or point. —**'ul'teriorly** *adv.*

ultimate ('ʌltɪmɪt) *adj.* 1. conclusive in a series or process; final: *an ultimate question*. 2. the highest or most significant: *the ultimate goal*. 3. elemental, fundamental, or essential. ~*n.* 4. the most significant, highest, or greatest thing. —**'ultimately** *adv.* —**'ultimate-ness** *n.*

ultimatum ('ʌltɪ'metəm) *n.*, *pl.* **-tums** or **-ta** (-tə). 1. a final communication by a party setting forth conditions on which it insists, as during negotiations on some topic. 2. any final or peremptory demand or proposal.

ultimo ('ʌltɪ,məʊ) *adv.* Now rare except when abbreviated in formal correspondence. In or during the previous month: *a letter of the 7th ultimo*. Abbrev.: **ult.**

ultra ('ʌltrə) *adj.* 1. extreme or immoderate, esp. in beliefs or opinions. ~*n.* 2. an extremist.

ultra- *prefix.* 1. beyond or surpassing a specified extent, range, or limit: *ultramicroscopic*. 2. extreme or extremely: *ultramodern*.

ultraconservative ('ʌltrəkən'sə:vətɪv) *adj.* 1. highly reactionary. ~*n.* 2. a reactionary person.

ultrahigh frequency ('ʌltrə'haɪ) *n.* a radio-frequency band or radio frequency lying between 3000 and 300 megahertz. Abbrev.: **UHF**

ultramarine ('ʌltrəmə'rɪn) *n.* 1. a blue pigment obtained by powdering natural lapis lazuli or made synthetically: used in paints, printing ink, plastics, etc. 2. a vivid blue colour. ~*adj.* 3. of the colour ultramarine. 4. from across the seas.

ultramontane ('ʌltrəmən'tem) *adj.* 1. on the other side of the mountains, esp. the Alps, from the speaker or writer. 2. of or relating to a movement in the Roman Catholic Church which favours the centralized authority and influence of the pope as opposed to local independence. ~*n.* 3. a resident or native from beyond the mountains, esp. the Alps. 4. a member of the ultramontane party of the Roman Catholic Church.

ultrasonic ('ʌltrə'sɒnɪk) *adj.* of, concerned with, or producing waves with the same nature as sound waves but frequencies above audio frequencies. —**'ultra'sonically** *adv.*

ultrasonics ('ʌltrə'sɒnɪks) *n.* (functioning as *sing.*) the branch of physics concerned with ultrasonic waves. Also called: **supersonics**.

ultrasound ('ʌltrə'saʊnd) *n.* ultrasonic waves of the same nature as sound, used in cleaning metallic parts, echo sounding, medical diagnosis and therapy, etc.

ultraviolet ('ʌltrə'vaɪəɪt) *n.* 1. the part of the electromagnetic spectrum with wavelengths shorter than light but longer than x-rays; in the range 0.4×10^9 and 5×10^9 metres. ~*adj.* 2. of, relating to, or consisting of radiation lying in the ultraviolet: *ultraviolet radiation*.

ululate ('ju:lju,leɪt) *vb.* (*intr.*) to howl or wail, as with grief. —**'ululant** *adj.* —**'ulu'lation** *n.*

umbel ('ʌmbəl) *n.* a racemose inflorescence, characteristic of umbelliferous plants, in which the flowers arise from the same point in the main stem and have stalks of the same length, to give a cluster with the youngest flowers at the centre. —**'umbellate** ('ʌmbɪlət, -leɪt) or **'umbellar** ('ʌm'bɛlə) *adj.* —**'umbellule** ('ʌm'bɛljʊ:l) *n.*

umbelliferous ('ʌmbɪ'lɪfərəs) *adj.* of or belonging to a family of herbaceous plants and shrubs, typically having hollow stems, divided or compound leaves, and flowers in umbels: includes fennel, parsley, carrot, and parsnip. —**'umbellifer** *n.*

umber ('ʌmbə) *n.* 1. any of various natural brown earths containing ferric oxide together with lime and oxides of aluminium, manganese, and silicon. 2. any of the dark brown to greenish-brown colours produced by this pigment. 3. Obs. shade or shadow. ~*adj.* 4. of, relating to, or stained with umber.

umbilical ('ʌm'bɪkəl, 'ʌm'bɪ'lɪkəl) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or resembling the umbilicus or the umbilical cord. 2. in the region of the umbilicus: *an umbilical hernia*.

umbilical cord *n.* 1. the long flexible tube-like structure connecting a foetus with the placenta. 2. any

flexible cord, tube, or cable, as between an astronaut walking in space and his spacecraft.

umbilicus (ʌmˈbɪlɪkəs, ʌmˈbɪˈlaɪkəs) *n.*, *pl.* **-bilici** (-ˈbɪlɪ-sai, -bɔˈlaɪsai). 1. *Biol.* a hollow or navel-like structure, such as the cavity at the base of a gastropod shell. 2. *Anat.* a technical name for the navel.

umbrā (ˈʌmbɹə) *n.*, *pl.* **-brae** (-briː) or **-bras**. 1. a region of complete shadow resulting from the obstruction of light by an opaque object, esp. the shadow cast by the moon onto the earth during a solar eclipse. 2. the darker inner region of a sunspot. — **umbral** *adj.*

umbrage (ˈʌmbɪdʒ) *n.* 1. displeasure or resentment; offence (in *give or take umbrage*). 2. the foliage of trees, considered as providing shade. 3. *Rare.* shadow or shade.

umbrella (ʌmˈbrɛlə) *n.* 1. a portable device used for protection against rain, snow, etc., and consisting of a light canopy supported on a collapsible metal frame mounted on a central rod. 2. the flattened cone-shaped body of a jellyfish. 3. a protective shield or screen, esp. of aircraft or gunfire. 4. anything that has the effect of a protective screen, general cover, or organizing agency. — **um-brella-**, like *adj.*

umbrella tree *n.* a North American magnolia having long leaves clustered into an umbrella formation at the ends of the branches and having unpleasant-smelling white flowers.

umiak or **oomiak** (ˈuːmɪ,æk) *n.* a large open boat made of stretched skins, used by Eskimos.

umlaut (ˈumlaut) *n.* 1. the mark (¨) placed over a vowel in some languages, such as German, indicating modification in the quality of the vowel. 2. (esp. in Germanic languages) the change of a vowel within a word brought about by the assimilating influence of a vowel or semivowel in a preceding or following syllable.

umpire (ˈʌmpaɪə) *n.* 1. an official who rules on the playing of a game, as in cricket. 2. a person who rules on or judges disputes between contesting parties. ~*vb.* 3. to act as umpire in (a game, dispute, or controversy).

umpteenth (ˈʌmpˈtiːn) *determiner*. *Inf.* a. very many: *umpteenth things to do*. b. (as pronoun): *umpteenth of them came*. — **um-p'teenth** *n.*, *adj.*

UN or **U.N.** *abbrev.* for United Nations.

un- *prefix.* (freely used with adjectives, participles, and their derivative adverbs and nouns: less frequently used with certain other nouns) not; contrary to; opposite of: uncertain; untidiness; unbelief; untruth.

un- *prefix* forming verbs. 1. denoting reversal of an action or state: uncover; untangle. 2. denoting removal from, release, or deprivation: unharness; unthroned. 3. (intensifier): unloose.

unable (ʌnˈeɪbəl) *adj.* (postpositive; foll. by *to*) lacking the necessary power, ability, or authority (to do something); not able.

unaccountable (ˌʌnəˈkaʊntəbəl) *adj.* 1. allowing of no explanation; inexplicable. 2. extraordinary: *an unaccountable fear of heights*. 3. not accountable or answerable to. — **unac-count-a-bility** *n.* — **unac-countably** *adv.*

unaccustomed (ˌʌnəˈkʌstəmd) *adj.* 1. (foll. by *to*) not used (to): *unaccustomed to pain*. 2. not familiar. — **un-ac-cus-tomed-ness** *n.*

unadopted (ˌʌnəˈdɒptɪd) *adj.* 1. (of a child) not adopted. 2. *Brit.* (of a road, etc.) not maintained by a local authority.

unadvised (ˌʌnədˈvaɪzd) *adj.* 1. rash or unwise. 2. not having received advice. — **unadvisedly** (ˌʌnədˈvaɪzdlɪ) *adv.* — **unad-vised-ness** *n.*

unaffected (ˌʌnəˈfektɪd) *adj.* unpretentious, natural, or sincere. — **unaf-fectedly** *adv.* — **unaf-fectedness** *n.*

unaffected (ˌʌnəˈfektɪd) *adj.* not affected.

unalienable (ʌnˈeɪljənəbəl) *adj.* *Law.* a variant of *inalienable*.

un-American *adj.* 1. not in accordance with the aims, ideals, customs, etc., of the U.S. 2. against the interests of the U.S. — **un-A-mericanism** *n.*

unanimous (juːˈnænɪməs) *adj.* 1. in complete agreement. 2. characterized by complete agreement: *a unanimous decision*. — **u-nan-imously** *adv.* — **unanimity** (ˌjuːnəˈnɪmɪti) *n.*

unapproachable (ˌʌnəˈprəʊtʃəbəl) *adj.* 1. discouraging intimacy, friendliness, etc.; aloof. 2. inaccessible. — **unap-proach-able-ness** *n.* — **unap-proachably** *adv.*

unarmed (ʌnˈɑːmd) *adj.* 1. without weapons. 2. (of animals and plants) having no claws, prickles, spines, thorns, or similar structures.

unassailable (ˌʌnəˈseɪləbəl) *adj.* 1. able to withstand attack. 2. undeniable or irrefutable. — **unas-sail-able-ness** *n.* — **unas-sailably** *adv.*

unassuming (ˌʌnəˈsjumɪŋ) *adj.* modest or unpretentious. — **unas-sum-ingly** *adv.* — **unas-suming-ness** *n.*

unattached (ˌʌnəˈtætʃtɪd) *adj.* 1. not connected with any specific thing, body, group, etc. 2. not engaged or married. 3. (of property) not seized or held as security.

unavailing (ˌʌnəˈveɪlɪŋ) *adj.* useless or futile. — **una-vail-ingly** *adv.*

unaware (ˌʌnəˈweə) *adj.* 1. (postpositive) not aware or conscious (of): *unaware of the danger he ran across the road*. ~*adv.* 2. a variant of **unawares**. — **un-a-ware-ness** *n.*

▷ **Usage.** Careful users of English distinguish between the adjective **unaware** (to be ignorant of) and the adverb **unawares** (by surprise): *they were unaware of the danger; the danger caught them unawares*.

unawares (ˌʌnəˈweəz) *adv.* 1. without prior warning or plan: *she caught him unawares*. 2. without knowing: *he lost it unawares*.

▷ **Usage.** See at **unaware**.

unbalanced (ʌnˈbælənst) *adj.* 1. lacking balance. 2. irrational or unsound; erratic. 3. mentally disordered or deranged. 4. (in double-entry book-keeping) not having total debit balances equal to total credit balances.

unbearable (ʌnˈbeərəbəl) *adj.* not able to be borne or endured. — **un-bear-ably** *adv.*

unbeknown (ˌʌnbiˈnəʊn) *adj.* (sentence modifier; foll. by *to*) without the knowledge (of a person): *unbeknown to him she had left the country*. Also (esp. *Brit.*): **unbe-knownst**.

unbelievable (ˌʌnbiˈli:vəbəl) *adj.* unable to be believed; incredible. — **un-be-lieva-bility** *n.* — **unbe-liev-ably** *adv.*

unbeliever (ˌʌnbiˈli:və) *n.* a person who does not believe, esp. in religious matters.

unbelieving (ˌʌnbiˈli:vɪŋ) *adj.* not believing; sceptical.

unbend (ʌnˈbend) *vb.* **-bending, -bent**. 1. to release or be released from the restraints of formality and ceremony. 2. *Inf.* to relax (the mind) or (of the mind) to become relaxed. 3. to become or be made straightened out from an originally bent shape. 4. (tr.) *Naut.* a. to remove (a sail) from a stay, mast, etc. b. to untie (a rope, etc.) or cast (a cable) loose.

unbending (ʌnˈbendɪŋ) *adj.* 1. rigid or inflexible. 2. characterized by sternness or severity: *an unbending rule*. — **un-bend-ingly** *adv.* — **un-bend-ing-ness** *n.*

unbidden (ʌnˈbɪdɪn) *adj.* 1. not ordered or commanded; voluntary or spontaneous. 2. not invited or asked.

unbind (ʌnˈbaɪnd) *vb.* **-binding, -bound**. (tr.) 1. to set free from restraining bonds or chains. 2. to unfasten or make loose (a bond, etc.).

unabashed *adj.*
unabated *adj.*
unabbreviated *adj.*
unabridged *adj.*
unacceptable *adj.*
unaccompanied *adj.*
unaccomplished *adj.*
unacknowledged *adj.*
unacquainted *adj.*
unaddressed *adj.*
unadorned *adj.*
unadulterated *adj.*
unadventurous *adj.*
unadvertised *adj.*
unaffiliated *adj.*
unafraid *adj.*

unaided *adj.*
unaligned *adj.*
unalleviated *adj.*
unallied *adj.*
unallowable *adj.*
unalterable *adj.*
unambiguous *adj.*
unamiable *adj.*
unamused *adj.*
unannounced *adj.*
unanswerable *adj.*
unanswered *adj.*
unappealing *adj.*
unappetizing *adj.*
unappreciated *adj.*
unapproved *adj.*

unarguable *adj.*
unartistic *adj.*
unashamed *adj.*
unasked *adj.*
unassisted *adj.*
unassorted *adj.*
unattainable *adj.*
unattended *adj.*
unattractive *adj.*
unauthentic *adj.*
unauthorized *adj.*
unavailable *adj.*
unbiased or unbiased *adj.*
unbleached *adj.*
unblemished *adj.*
unblinking *adj.*

unblushing (ˌʌnˈblʊʃɪŋ) *adj.* immodest or shameless. —**unblushingly** *adv.*

unbolt (ˌʌnˈbɔʊlt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to unfasten a bolt of (a door). 2. to undo (the nut) on a bolt.

unborn (ˌʌnˈbɔːn) *adj.* 1. not yet born or brought to birth. 2. still to come in the future: *the unborn world*.

unbosom (ˌʌnˈbʊzəm) *vb.* (tr.) to relieve (oneself) of (secrets, etc.) by telling someone.

unbounded (ˌʌnˈbaʊndɪd) *adj.* having no boundaries or limits. —**unboundedly** *adv.* —**unboundedness** *n.*

unbowed (ˌʌnˈbaʊd) *adj.* 1. not bowed or bent. 2. free or unconquered.

unbridled (ˌʌnˈbraɪdld) *adj.* 1. with all restraints removed. 2. (of a horse, etc.) wearing no bridle. —**unbridledly** *adv.* —**unbridledness** *n.*

unbroken (ˌʌnˈbrʊkən) *adj.* 1. complete or whole. 2. continuous or incessant. 3. undaunted in spirit. 4. (of animals, esp. horses) not tamed; wild. 5. not disturbed or upset: *the unbroken quiet of the afternoon*. 6. (of a record, esp. at sport) not improved upon. —**unbrokenly** *adv.* —**unbrokenness** *n.*

unburden (ˌʌnˈbɜːdn) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to remove a load or burden from. 2. to relieve or make free (one's mind, oneself, etc.) of a worry, trouble, etc., by revelation or confession.

uncalled-for *adj.* unnecessary or unwarranted.

uncanny (ˌʌnˈkæni) *adj.* 1. characterized by apparently supernatural wonder, horror, etc. 2. beyond what is normal: *uncanny accuracy*. —**uncannily** *adv.* —**uncanniness** *n.*

uncared-for *adj.* not cared for; neglected.

unceremonious (ˌʌnsərɪˈmɔːniəs) *adj.* without ceremony; informal, abrupt, rude, or undignified. —**unceremoniously** *adv.* —**unceremoniousness** *n.*

uncertain (ˌʌnˈsɜːtɪn) *adj.* 1. not able to be accurately known or predicted: *the issue is uncertain*. 2. (when postpositive, often foll. by *of*) not sure or confident (about): *he was uncertain of the date*. 3. not precisely determined or decided: *uncertain plans*. 4. not to be depended upon: *an uncertain vote*. 5. liable to variation; changeable: *the weather is uncertain*. 6. **in no uncertain terms**. a. unambiguously. b. forcefully. —**uncertainly** *adv.* —**uncertainty** *n.*

unchristian (ˌʌnˈkrɪʃtɪən) *adj.* 1. not in accordance with the principles or ethics of Christianity. 2. non-Christian or pagan. —**unchristianly** *adv.*

uncial (ˈʌnsɪəl) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or written in majuscule letters, as used in Greek and Latin manuscripts of the third to ninth centuries, that resemble modern capitals, but are characterized by much greater curvature. ~*n.* 2. an uncial letter or manuscript. —**uncially** *adv.*

uncircumcised (ˌʌnˈsɜːkəmˌsaɪzd) *adj.* 1. not circumcised. 2. not Jewish; gentile. 3. *Theol.* not purified. —**uncircumcision** *n.*

uncivil (ˌʌnˈsɪvəl) *adj.* 1. lacking civility or good manners. 2. an obsolete word for **uncivilized**. —**uncivility** (ˌʌnsɪˈvɪlɪtɪ) *n.* —**uncivily** *adv.*

uncivilized or **-ised** (ˌʌnˈsɪvɪˌlaɪzd) *adj.* 1. (of a tribe or people) not yet civilized, esp. preliterate. 2. lacking culture or sophistication. —**uncivilizedness** or **-isedness** *n.*

unclasp (ˌʌnˈklɑːsp) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to unfasten the clasp of (something). 2. to release one's grip (upon an object).

uncle (ˈʌŋkəl) *n.* 1. a brother of one's father or mother. 2. the husband of one's aunt. 3. a term of address sometimes used by children for a male friend of their parents. 4. *Sl.* a pawnbroker. ~*Related adj.*: **avuncular**.

unclean (ˌʌnˈkliːn) *adj.* lacking moral, spiritual, or physical cleanliness. —**uncleanness** *n.*

Uncle Sam (sæm) *n.* a personification of the government of the United States.

Uncle Tom (tɒm) *n.* *U.S. inf., derog.* a Negro whose behaviour towards white people is regarded as servile.

unclose (ˌʌnˈkləʊz) *vb.* 1. to open or cause to open. 2. to come or bring to light.

unclothe (ˌʌnˈkləʊð) *vb.* -clothing, -clothed or -clad. (tr.) 1. to take off garments from; strip. 2. to uncover or lay bare.

uncoil (ˌʌnˈkɔɪl) *vb.* to unwind or become unwound; untwist.

uncomfortable (ˌʌnˈkʌmftəbəl) *adj.* 1. not comfortable. 2. feeling or causing discomfort or unease; disquieting. —**uncomfortableness** *n.* —**uncomfortably** *adv.*

uncommitted (ˌʌnˈkɒmɪtɪd) *adj.* not bound or pledged to a specific opinion, course of action, or cause.

uncommon (ˌʌnˈkɒmən) *adj.* 1. outside or beyond normal experience, etc. 2. in excess of what is normal: *an uncommon liking for honey*. ~*adv.* 3. an archaic word for **uncommonly** (sense 2). —**uncommonness** *n.*

uncommonly (ˌʌnˈkɒmənli) *adv.* 1. in an uncommon or unusual manner or degree; rarely. 2. (intensifier): *you're uncommonly friendly*.

uncommunicative (ˌʌnˈkɒmjuːnikətɪv) *adj.* disinclined to talk or give information or opinions. —**uncommunicatively** *adv.* —**uncommunicativeness** *n.*

uncompromising (ˌʌnˈkɒmpɹəˌmaɪzɪŋ) *adj.* not prepared to give ground or to compromise. —**uncompromisingly** *adv.*

unconcern (ˌʌnˈkɒnˈsɜːn) *n.* apathy or indifference.

unconcerned (ˌʌnˈkɒnˈsɜːnd) *adj.* 1. lacking in concern or involvement. 2. untroubled. —**unconcernedly** (ˌʌnˈkɒnˈsɜːnɪdli) *adv.*

unconditional (ˌʌnˈkɒnˈdɪʃənəl) *adj.* without conditions or limitations; total: *unconditional surrender*. —**unconditionally** *adv.*

unconscionable (ˌʌnˈkɒnʃənəbəl) *adj.* 1. unscrupulous or unprincipled: *an unconscionable liar*. 2. immoderate or excessive: *unconscionable demands*. —**unconscionably** *adv.*

unconscious (ˌʌnˈkɒnʃəs) *adj.* 1. lacking normal sensory awareness of the environment; insensible. 2. not aware of one's actions, behaviour, etc.: *unconscious of his bad manners*. 3. characterized by lack of awareness or intention: *an unconscious blunder*. 4. coming from or produced by the unconscious: *unconscious resentment*. ~*n.* 5. *Psychoanal.* the part of the mind containing instincts, impulses, images, and ideas that are not available for direct examination. —**unconsciously** *adv.* —**unconsciousness** *n.*

unconstitutional (ˌʌnˈkɒnstɪˈtjuːʃənəl) *adj.* at variance with or not permitted by a constitution. —**unconstitutionality** *n.*

unconventional (ˌʌnˈkɒnˈvenʃənəl) *adj.* not conforming to accepted rules or standards. —**unconventionality** *n.* —**unconventionally** *adv.*

uncork (ˌʌnˈkɔːk) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to draw the cork from (a bottle, etc.). 2. to release or unleash (emotions, etc.).

uncouple (ˌʌnˈkʌpəl) *vb.* 1. to disconnect or unfasten or become disconnected or unfastened. 2. (tr.) to set loose; release.

uncouth (ˌʌnˈkuːθ) *adj.* lacking in good manners, refinement, or grace. —**uncouthly** *adv.* —**uncouthness** *n.*

uncover (ˌʌnˈkʌvə) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to remove the cover, cap, top, etc., from. 2. (tr.) to reveal or disclose: *to*

unblock *vb.*
unbreakable *adj.*
unbuckle *vb.*
unburied *adj.*
uncaged *adj.*
uncashed *adj.*
uncaught *adj.*
unceasing *adj.*
uncensored *adj.*
uncensured *adj.*
unchain *vb.*
unchallenged *adj.*
uncharacteristic *adj.*
uncharged *adj.*
unchecked *adj.*
unclaimed *adj.*

unclassified *adj.*
unclear *adj.*
unclog *vb.*
unclouded *adj.*
uncluttered *adj.*
uncoloured *adj.*
uncombed *adj.*
uncommercial *adj.*
uncompetitive *adj.*
uncomplaining *adj.*
uncompleted *adj.*
uncomplicated *adj.*
uncomplimentary *adj.*
uncomprehending *adj.*
unconcealed *adj.*
unconcluded *adj.*

unconfined *adj.*
unconfirmed *adj.*
unconnected *adj.*
unconquered *adj.*
unconsidered *adj.*
unconsummated *adj.*
uncontaminated *adj.*
uncontested *adj.*
uncontrollable *adj.*
uncontrolled *adj.*
uncontroverted *adj.*
unconverted *adj.*
unconvincing *adj.*
uncooperative *adj.*
uncoordinated *adj.*
uncorroborated *adj.*

uncover a plot. 3. to take off (one's head covering), esp. as a mark of respect.

unction ('ʌŋkʃən) *n.* 1. Chiefly R.C. & Eastern Churches, the act of anointing with oil in sacramental ceremonies, in the conferring of holy orders. 2. excessive suavely or affected charm. 3. an ointment or unguent. 4. anything soothing. — **unctionless** *adj.*

unctuous ('ʌŋktjuəs) *adj.* 1. slippery or greasy. 2. affecting an oily charm. — **unctuosity** ('ʌŋktju'ɒsiti) or **unctuousness** *n.* — **unctuously** *adv.*

undaunted ('ʌndəʊntɪd) *adj.* not put off, discouraged, or beaten. — **undauntedly** *adv.* — **undauntedness** *n.*

undecieve ('ʌndi'si:v) *vb. (tr.)* to reveal the truth to (someone previously misled or deceived). — **undecivable** *adj.* — **undeciever** *n.*

undecided ('ʌndi'saɪdɪd) *adj.* 1. not having made up one's mind. 2. (of an issue, problem, etc.) not agreed or decided upon. — **undecidedly** *adv.* — **undecidedness** *n.*

undeniable ('ʌndi'naɪəbəl) *adj.* 1. unquestionably or obviously true. 2. of unquestionable excellence; a man of undeniable character. 3. unable to be resisted or denied. — **undeniability** *n.* — **undeniably** *adv.*

under ('ʌndə) *prep.* 1. directly below; on, to, or beneath the underside or base of: *under one's feet*. 2. less than: *under forty years*. 3. lower in rank than: *under a corporal*. 4. subject to the supervision, jurisdiction, control, or influence of. 5. subject to (conditions); in (certain circumstances). 6. within a classification of: a book *under theology*. 7. known by: *under an assumed name*. 8. planted with: a field *under corn*. 9. powered by: *under sail*. 10. *Astrol.* during the period that the sun is in (a sign of the zodiac): *born under Aries*. ~*adv.* 11. below; to a position underneath something. 12. one degree *under*. *Inf.* off colour; ill.

under- *prefix.* 1. below or beneath: *underarm*; *underground*. 2. of lesser importance or lower rank: *undersecretary*. 3. insufficient or insufficiently: *underemployed*. 4. indicating secrecy or deception: *underhand*.

underachieve ('ʌndəʊ'tʃi:v) *vb. (intr.)* to fail to achieve an expected result. — **underachiever** *n.* — **underachievement** *n.*

underarm ('ʌndə'ɑ:m) *adj.* 1. (of a measurement) extending along the arm from wrist to armpit. 2. *Cricket, tennis, etc.* of or denoting a style of throwing, bowling, or serving in which the hand is swung below shoulder level. 3. below the arm. ~*adv.* 4. in an underarm style.

underbid ('ʌndə'bid) *vb. -bidding, -bid.* 1. to submit a bid lower than that of (others): *Irena underbid the other dealers*. 2. to submit an excessively low bid for. 3. *Bridge*, to make a bid that will win fewer tricks than expected: *he underbid his hand*. — **underbidder** *n.*

undercarriage ('ʌndə'kærɪdʒ) *n.* 1. Also called: **landing gear**, the assembly of wheels, shock absorbers, struts, etc., that supports an aircraft on the ground and enables it to take off and land. 2. the framework that supports the body of a vehicle, carriage, etc.

undercharge ('ʌndə'tʃɑ:dʒ) *vb.* 1. to charge too little for. 2. (tr.) to load (a gun, cannon, etc.) with an inadequate charge.

underclothes ('ʌndə'kləʊðz) *pl. n.* a variant of **underwear**. Also called: **underclothing**.

undercoat ('ʌndə'kəʊt) *n.* 1. a coat of paint or other substance applied before the top coat. 2. a coat worn under an overcoat. ~*vb.* 3. (tr.) to apply an undercoat to (a surface).

undercover ('ʌndə'kʌvə) *adj.* done or acting in secret: *undercover operations*.

undercurrent ('ʌndə'kʌrənt) *n.* 1. a current that is not apparent at the surface or lies beneath another current. 2. an opinion, emotion, etc., lying beneath apparent feeling or meaning. ~Also called: **underflow**.

undercut *vb.* ('ʌndə'kʌt, -cutting, -cut. 1. to charge less than (a competitor) in order to obtain trade. 2. to cut away the under part of (something). 3. *Golf, tennis, etc.* to hit (a ball) in such a way as to impart backspin. ~*n.* ('ʌndə'kʌt). 4. the act of cutting underneath. 5. a part that is cut away underneath. 6. a tenderloin of beef.

7. *Forestry*, chiefly U.S. a notch cut in a tree trunk, to ensure a clean break in felling. 8. *Tennis, golf, etc.* a stroke that imparts backspin to the ball.

underdeveloped ('ʌndə'dɒvələpt) *adj.* 1. immature or undersized. 2. relating to societies in which both the surplus capital and the social organization necessary to advance are lacking. 3. *Photog.* (of a film, etc.) processed in developer for less than the required time.

underdog ('ʌndə'dɒg) *n.* 1. the losing competitor in a fight or contest. 2. a person in adversity or a position of inferiority.

underdone ('ʌndə'dʌn) *adj.* insufficiently or lightly cooked.

underemployed ('ʌndə'rɪm'plɔɪd) *adj.* not fully or adequately employed.

underestimate *vb.* ('ʌndə'restɪmeɪt). (tr.) 1. to make too low an estimate of: *he underestimated the cost*. 2. to think insufficiently highly of: *to underestimate a person*. ~*n.* ('ʌndə'restɪmɪt). 3. too low an estimate. — **underestimation** *n.*

underexpose ('ʌndə'rɪk'spəʊz) *vb. (tr.)* 1. *Photog.* to expose (a film, plate, or paper) for too short a period or with insufficient light so as not to produce the required effect. 2. (often passive) to fail to subject to appropriate or expected publicity. — **underexposure** *n.*

underfelt ('ʌndə'felt) *n.* thick felt laid between floorboards and carpet to increase insulation.

underfoot ('ʌndə'fʊt) *adv.* 1. underneath the feet; on the ground. 2. in a position of subjugation.

undergarment ('ʌndə'gɑ:mənt) *n.* any garment worn under the visible outer clothes, usually next to the skin.

undergo ('ʌndə'gəʊ) *vb. -going, -went, -gone.* (tr.) to experience, endure, or sustain: *to undergo a change of feelings*. — **undergoer** *n.*

undergraduate ('ʌndə'grædjʊɪt) *n.* a person studying in a university for a first degree. Sometimes shortened to **undergrad**.

underground *adj.* ('ʌndə'graʊnd), *adv.* ('ʌndə'graʊnd). 1. occurring, situated, used, or going below ground level: an *underground explosion*. 2. secret; hidden: *underground activities*. ~*n.* ('ʌndə'graʊnd). 3. a space or region below ground level. 4. a. a movement dedicated to overthrowing a government or occupation forces, as in the European countries occupied by the German army in World War II. b. (as modifier): *an underground group*. 5. (often preceded by *the*) an electric passenger railway operated in underground tunnels. U.S. equivalent: **subway**. 6. (usually preceded by *the*) a. any avant-garde, experimental, or subversive movement in popular art, films, etc. b. (as modifier): *the underground press*.

undergrowth ('ʌndə'grəʊθ) *n.* small trees, bushes, ferns, etc., growing beneath taller trees in a wood or forest.

underhand ('ʌndə'hænd) *adj.* also **underhanded**. 1. clandestine, deceptive, or secretive. 2. *Sport*. another word for **underarm** (sense 2). ~*adv.* 3. in an underhand manner or style.

underlay *vb.* ('ʌndə'leɪ), -laying, -laid. (tr.) 1. to place (something) under or beneath. 2. to support by something laid beneath. 3. to achieve the correct printing pressure all over (a forme block) or to bring (a block) up to type height by adding material, such as paper, beneath it. ~*n.* ('ʌndə'leɪ). 4. a lining, support, etc., laid underneath something else. 5. *Printing*, material, such as paper, used to underlay a forme or block. 6. felt, rubber, etc., laid beneath a carpet to increase insulation and resilience.

underlie ('ʌndə'laɪ) *vb. -lying, -lay, -lain.* (tr.) 1. to lie or be placed under or beneath. 2. to be the foundation, cause, or basis of: *careful planning underlies all our decisions*. 3. to be the root or stem from which (a word) is derived: "happy" underlies "happiest". — **underlier** *n.*

underline ('ʌndə'laɪn) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to put a line under. 2. to state forcibly; emphasize.

underling ('ʌndəlɪŋ) *n.* a subordinate or lackey.

underlying ('ʌndə'laɪɪŋ) *adj.* 1. concealed but detectable: *underlying guilt*. 2. fundamental; basic. 3. lying

uncritical *adj.*
uncrowned *adj.*
uncultivated *adj.*
uncultured *adj.*
uncured *adj.*
uncurl *vb.*

undamaged *adj.*
undated *adj.*
undecleared *adj.*
undecorated *adj.*
undefeated *adj.*
undefended *adj.*

undefiled *adj.*
undemanding *adj.*
undemocratic *adj.*
undemonstrative *adj.*
undependable *adj.*

under. 4. *Finance.* (of a claim, liability, etc.) taking precedence; prior.

undermentioned (ˈʌndə,mənʃənd) *adj.* mentioned below or subsequently.

undermine (ˈʌndə'maɪn) *vb. (tr.)* 1. (of the sea, wind, etc.) to wear away the bottom or base of (land, cliffs, etc.). 2. to weaken gradually or insidiously: *insults undermined her confidence.* 3. to tunnel or dig beneath. —, **under'miner** *n.* —, **under'miningly** *adv.*

underneath (ˈʌndə'niθ) *prep., adv.* 1. under; beneath. ~*adj.* 2. lower. ~*n.* 3. a lower part, surface, etc.

undernourish (ˈʌndə'nʌrɪʃ) *vb. (tr.)* to deprive of or fail to provide nutrients essential for health and growth. —, **under'nourishment** *n.*

underpants (ˈʌndə,pænts) *pl. n.* a man's undergarment covering the body from the waist or hips to the top of the thighs or knees. Often shortened to **pants**.

underpass (ˈʌndə,pɑ:s) *n.* 1. a section of a road that passes under another road, railway line, etc. 2. another word for **subway** (sense 1).

underpay (ˈʌndə'peɪ) *vb. -paying, -paid.* to pay (someone) insufficiently. —, **under'payment** *n.*

underpin (ˈʌndə'pɪn) *vb. -pinning, -pinned. (tr.)* 1. to support from beneath, esp. by a prop: *to underpin a wall.* 2. to give corroboration, strength, or support to.

underplay (ˈʌndə'pleɪ) *vb.* 1. to play (a role) with restraint or subtlety. 2. to achieve (an effect) by deliberate lack of emphasis. 3. (*intr.*) *Cards.* to lead or follow suit with a lower card when holding a higher one.

underprivileged (ˈʌndə'prɪvɪlɪzd) *adj.* lacking the rights and advantages of other members of society; deprived.

underproduction (ˈʌndəprə'dʌkʃən) *n.* *Commerce.* production below full capacity or below demand.

understate (ˈʌndə'reɪt) *vb. (tr.)* to underestimate.

undersea (ˈʌndə'si:), *adj., adv. also underseas* (ˈʌndə'si:z), below the surface of the sea.

undersecretary (ˈʌndə'sekrətɪ) *n., pl. -taries.* 1. (in Britain) *a.* any of various senior civil servants in certain government departments. *b.* short for **undersecretary of state**: any of various high officials subordinate only to the minister in charge of a department. 2. (in the U.S.) a high government official subordinate only to the secretary in charge of a department.

undersell (ˈʌndə'sel) *vb. -selling, -sold.* 1. to sell for less than the usual price. 2. (*tr.*) to sell at a price lower than that of (another seller). 3. (*tr.*) to advertise (merchandise) with moderation or restraint. —, **under'seller** *n.*

undersexed (ˈʌndə'sekst) *adj.* having weaker sex urges or responses than is considered normal.

undershirt (ˈʌndəʃɜ:t) *n.* *Chiefly U.S.* an undergarment worn under a blouse or shirt. *Brit. name:* **vest**.

undershoot (ˈʌndəʃu:t) *vb. -shooting, -shot.* 1. (of a pilot) to cause (an aircraft) to land short of (a runway) or (of an aircraft) to land in this way. 2. to shoot a projectile so that it falls short of (a target).

underside (ˈʌndə,said) *n.* the bottom or lower surface.

undersigned (ˈʌndə,sand) *n.* 1. the person or persons who have signed at the foot of a document, statement, etc. ~*adj.* 2. having signed one's name at the foot of a document, statement, etc.

undersized (ˈʌndə'saɪzd) *adj.* of less than usual size.

underskirt (ˈʌndə'skɜ:t) *n.* any skirtlike garment worn under a skirt or dress; petticoat.

understand (ˈʌndə'stænd) *vb. -standing, -stood.* 1. (*may take a clause as object*) to know and comprehend the nature or meaning of: *I understand you.* 2. (*may take a clause as object*) to realize or grasp (something): *he understands your position.* 3. (*tr.*) *may take a clause as object* to assume, infer, or believe: *I understand you are thinking of marrying.* 4. (*tr.*) to know how to translate or read: *can you understand Spanish?* 5. (*tr.*) *may take a clause as object, often passive* to accept as a condition or proviso: *it is understood that children must be kept quiet.* 6. (*tr.*) to be sympathetic to or compatible with: *we understand each other.* —, **under'stable** *adj.* —, **under'standably** *adv.*

understanding (ˈʌndə'stændɪŋ) *n.* 1. the ability to learn, judge, make decisions, etc. 2. personal opinion or interpretation of a subject: *my understanding of your predicament.* 3. a mutual agreement or compact, esp. an informal or private one. 4. *Chiefly Brit.* an unofficial

engagement to be married. 5. **on the understanding** *that*, providing. ~*adj.* 6. sympathetic, tolerant, or wise towards people. 7. possessing judgment and intelligence. —, **under'standingly** *adv.*

understate (ˈʌndə'steɪt) *vb.* 1. to state (something) in restrained terms, often to obtain an ironic effect. 2. to state that (something, such as a number) is less than it is. —, **under'statement** *n.*

understood (ˈʌndə'stʊd) *vb.* 1. the past tense or past participle of **understand**. ~*adj.* 2. implied or inferred. 3. taken for granted.

understudy (ˈʌndə'stʌdi) *vb. -studying, -studied.* 1. (*tr.*) to study (a role or part) so as to be able to replace the usual actor or actress if necessary. 2. to act as understudy to (an actor or actress). ~*n., pl. -studies.* 3. an actor or actress who studies a part so as to be able to replace the usual actor or actress if necessary. 4. anyone who is trained to take the place of another in case of need.

undertake (ˈʌndə'teɪk) *vb. -taking, -took, -taken.* 1. (*tr.*) to contract to or commit oneself to (something) or (to do something): *to undertake a job.* 2. (*tr.*) to attempt to; agree to start. 3. (*tr.*) to take (someone) in charge. 4. (*tr.*) to promise.

undertaker (ˈʌndə'teɪkə) *n.* a person whose profession is the preparation of the dead for burial or cremation and the management of funerals; funeral director.

undertaking (ˈʌndə'teɪkɪŋ) *n.* 1. a task, venture, or enterprise. 2. an agreement to do something. 3. the business of an undertaker.

under-the-counter *adj. (under the counter when postpositive).* done or sold illicitly and secretly.

underthrust (ˈʌndəθrʌst) *n. Geol.* a reverse fault in which the rocks on the lower surface of a fault plane have moved under the relatively static rocks on the upper surface.

undertone (ˈʌndə,tʊn) *n.* 1. a quiet or hushed tone of voice. 2. an underlying suggestion in words or actions: *his offer has undertones of dishonesty.*

undertow (ˈʌndə,təʊ) *n.* 1. the seaward undercurrent following the breaking of a wave on the beach. 2. any strong undercurrent flowing in a different direction from the surface current.

undervalue (ˈʌndə'vælju:) *vb. -valuing, -valued. (tr.)* to value at too low a level or price. —, **under'valuation** *n.* —, **under'valuer** *n.*

underwater (ˈʌndə'wɔ:tə) *adj.* 1. being, occurring, or going under the surface of the water, esp. the sea: *underwater exploration.* 2. *Naut.* below the water line of a vessel. ~*adv.* 3. beneath the surface of the water.

under way *adj. (postpositive)* 1. in progress; in operation: *the show was under way.* 2. *Naut.* in motion in the direction headed.

underwear (ˈʌndə,wɛə) *n.* clothing worn under the outer garments, usually next to the skin.

underweight (ˈʌndə'weɪt) *adj.* weighing less than is average, expected, or healthy.

underwent (ˈʌndə'went) *vb.* the past tense of **undergo**.

underwood (ˈʌndə,wʊd) *n.* a less common word for **undergrowth**.

underworld (ˈʌndə,wɜ:ld) *n.* 1. *a.* criminals and their associates. *b.* (as modifier): *underworld connections.* 2. *Greek & Roman myth.* the regions below the earth's surface regarded as the abode of the dead. 3. the antipodes.

underwrite (ˈʌndə'raɪt, ˈʌndə'raɪt) *vb. -writing, -wrote, -written. (tr.)* 1. *Finance.* to undertake to purchase at an agreed price any unsold portion of (a public issue of shares, etc.). 2. to accept financial responsibility for (a commercial project or enterprise). 3. *Insurance.* *a.* to sign and issue (an insurance policy) thus accepting liability. *b.* to insure (a property or risk). *c.* to accept liability up to (a specified amount) in an insurance policy. 4. to write (words, a signature, etc.) beneath (other written matter). 5. to support. —, **under'writer** *n.*

undesirable (ˈʌndɪ'zəɪəbəl) *adj.* not desirable or pleasant; objectionable. —, **unde'sirability** or **unde'sirableness** *n.* —, **unde'sirably** *adv.*

undies (ˈʌndɪz) *pl. n.* *Inf.* women's underwear.

undine (ˈʌndɪ:n) *n.* any of various female water spirits.

undeserved *adj.*
undeserving *adj.*
undetected *adj.*
undeterred *adj.*

undeveloped *adj.*
undiagnosed *adj.*
undignified *adj.*
undiluted *adj.*

undiminished *adj.*
undiplomatic *adj.*
undisciplined *adj.*

undo (ˈʌnˈduː) *vb.* **-doing, -did, -done.** (*mainly tr.*) 1. (*also intr.*) to untie, unwrap, or open or become untied, unwrapped, etc. 2. to reverse the effects of. 3. to cause the downfall of.

undoing (ˈʌnˈduːɪŋ) *n.* 1. ruin; downfall. 2. the cause of downfall: *drink was his undoing.*

undone (ˈʌnˈdʌn) *adj.* not done or completed; unfinished.

undone (ˈʌnˈdʌn) *adj.* 1. ruined; destroyed. 2. unfashioned; untied.

undoubted (ˈʌnˈdaʊtɪd) *adj.* beyond doubt; certain or indisputable. — **undoubtedly** *adv.*

undreamed (ˈʌnˈdriːmd) *adj.* *also undreamt* (ˈʌnˈdremt), (often foll. by *of*) not thought of, conceived, or imagined.

undress (ˈʌnˈdres) *vb.* 1. to take off clothes from (oneself or another). 2. (*tr.*) to strip of ornamentation. 3. (*tr.*) to remove the dressing from (a wound). ~*n.* 4. partial or complete nakedness. 5. informal or normal working clothes or uniform.

undue (ˈʌnˈdjuː) *adj.* 1. excessive or unwarranted. 2. unjust, improper, or illegal. 3. (of a debt, bond, etc.) not yet payable.

undulant (ˈʌndʊlənt) *adj.* *Rare.* resembling waves; undulating. — **undulance** *n.*

undulate *vb.* (ˈʌndjuːleɪt). 1. to move or cause to move in waves or as if in waves. 2. to have or provide with a wavy form or appearance. ~*adj.* (ˈʌndjʊlət, -leɪt). 3. having a wavy or rippled appearance, margin, or form: *an undulate leaf.* — **undulator** *n.* — **undulatory** *adj.*

undulation (ˈʌndjuːleɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act or an instance of undulating. 2. any wave or wavelike form, line, etc.

unduly (ˈʌnˈdjuːli) *adv.* immoderately; excessively.

undying (ˈʌnˈdaɪŋ) *adj.* unending; eternal. — **undyingly** *adv.*

unearned (ˈʌnˈɜːnd) *adj.* 1. not deserved. 2. not yet earned.

unearned income *n.* income from property, investment, etc., comprising rent, interest, and dividends.

unearth (ˈʌnˈɜːθ) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to dig up out of the earth. 2. to reveal or discover, esp. by exhaustive searching.

unearthly (ˈʌnˈɜːθli) *adj.* 1. ghostly; eerie: *unearthly screams.* 2. heavenly; sublime: *unearthly music.* 3. ridiculous or unreasonable (esp. in *unearthly hour*). — **unearthliness** *n.*

uneasy (ˈʌnˈiːzi) *adj.* 1. (of a person) anxious; apprehensive. 2. (of a condition) precarious: *an uneasy truce.* 3. (of a thought, etc.) disquieting. — **uneasily** *adv.* — **uneasiness** *n.*

uneatable (ˈʌnˈiːtəbəl) *adj.* (of food) not fit or suitable for eating, esp. because it is rotten or unattractive.

▷ **Usage.** See at **inedible**.

uneconomic (ˈʌnˈiːkəˈnɒmɪk, ˈʌnˈiːkə) *adj.* not economic; not profitable.

unemployed (ˈʌnɪmˈplɔɪd) *adj.* 1. *a.* without remunerative employment; out of work. *b.* (as *collective n.* preceded by *the*): *the unemployed.* 2. not being used; idle.

unemployment (ˈʌnɪmˈplɔɪmənt) *n.* 1. the condition of being unemployed. 2. the number of unemployed workers, often as a percentage of the total labour force.

unemployment benefit *n.* (in the British National Insurance scheme) a regular payment to a person who is out of work and has usually paid a fixed number of insurance contributions. Informal term: **dole**.

unequal (ˈʌnˈiːkwəl) *adj.* 1. not equal in quantity, size, rank, value, etc. 2. (foll. by *to*) inadequate; insufficient. 3. not evenly balanced. 4. (of character, quality, etc.) irregular; inconsistent. 5. (of a contest, etc.) having competitors of different ability.

unequaled or *U.S.* **unequaled** (ˈʌnˈiːkwəld) *adj.* not equalled; unrivalled; supreme.

unequivocal (ˌʌnɪˈkwɪvəkəl) *adj.* not ambiguous; plain. — **unequivocally** *adv.* — **unequivocalness** *n.*

unerring (ˈʌnˈɜːrɪŋ) *adj.* 1. not missing the mark or target. 2. consistently accurate; certain. — **unerringly** *adv.* — **unerringness** *n.*

UNESCO (juːˈneskəʊ) *n.* *acronym for* United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization.

uneven (ˈʌnˈiːvən) *adj.* 1. (of a surface, etc.) not level or flat. 2. spasmodic or variable. 3. not parallel, straight, or horizontal. 4. not fairly matched: *an uneven race.* 5. *Arch.* not equal. — **unevenly** *adv.* — **unevenness** *n.*

uneventful (ˌʌnɪˈventfʊl) *adj.* ordinary, routine, or quiet. — **uneventfully** *adv.* — **uneventfulness** *n.*

unexampled (ˌʌnɪɡˈzɑːmpəl) *adj.* without precedent or parallel.

unexceptionable (ˌʌnɪkˈsepʃənəbəl) *adj.* beyond criticism or objection. — **unexceptionably** *adv.*

unexceptional (ˌʌnɪkˈsepʃənəl) *adj.* 1. usual, ordinary, or normal. 2. subject to or allowing no exceptions. — **unexceptionally** *adv.*

unexpected (ˌʌnɪkˈspektɪd) *adj.* surprising or unforeseen. — **unexpectedly** *adv.* — **unexpectedness** *n.*

unfailing (ˈʌnˈfeɪlɪŋ) *adj.* 1. not failing; unflagging. 2. continuous. 3. sure; certain. — **unfailingly** *adv.* — **unfailingness** *n.*

unfair (ˈʌnˈfeə) *adj.* 1. characterized by inequality or injustice. 2. dishonest or unethical. — **unfairly** *adv.* — **unfairness** *n.*

unfaithful (ˈʌnˈfeɪθfʊl) *adj.* 1. not true to a promise, vow, etc. 2. not true to a wife, husband, lover, etc., esp. in having sexual intercourse with someone else. 3. inaccurate; untrustworthy: *unfaithful copy.* 4. Obs. not having religious faith. — **unfaithfully** *adv.* — **unfaithfulness** *n.*

unfamiliar (ˌʌnfəˈmɪljə) *adj.* 1. not known or experienced; strange. 2. (*postpositive*; foll. by *with*) not familiar. — **unfamiliarity** (ˌʌnfəˈmɪljəˈrɪti) *n.* — **unfamiliarily** *adv.*

unfasten (ˈʌnˈfɑːsən) *vb.* to undo, untie, or open or become undone, untied, or opened.

unfathomable (ˈʌnˈfæðməbəl) *adj.* 1. incapable of being fathomed; immeasurable. 2. incomprehensible. — **unfathomableness** *n.* — **unfathomably** *adv.*

unfavourable or *U.S.* **unfavorable** (ˈʌnˈfɛvərəbəl) *adj.* not favourable; adverse or inauspicious. — **unfavourably** or *U.S.* **unfavorably** *adv.*

unfeeling (ˈʌnˈfiːlɪŋ) *adj.* 1. without sympathy; callous. 2. without physical feeling or sensation. — **unfeelingly** *adv.* — **unfeelingness** *n.*

unfinished (ˈʌnˈfɪnɪʃt) *adj.* 1. incomplete or imperfect. 2. (of paint, polish, varnish, etc.) without an applied finish; rough. 3. (of fabric) unbleached or not processed.

unfit (ˈʌnˈfɪt) *adj.* 1. (*postpositive*; often foll. by *for*) unqualified, incapable, or incompetent: *unfit for military service.* 2. (*postpositive*; often foll. by *for*) unsuitable or inappropriate: *the ground was unfit for football.* 3. in poor physical condition. ~*vb.* -**fitting**, -**fitted**. 4. (*tr.*) *Rare.* to render unfit. — **unfitly** *adv.* — **unfitness** *n.*

unfix (ˈʌnˈfɪks) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to unfasten, detach, or loosen. 2. to unsettle or disturb.

unflappable (ˌʌnˈflæpəbəl) *adj.* *Inf.* hard to upset; calm; composed. — **unflappability** *n.* — **unflappably** *adv.*

unfledged (ˈʌnˈfledʒd) *adj.* 1. (of a young bird) not having developed adult feathers. 2. immature and undeveloped.

unflinching (ˈʌnˈflɪntʃɪŋ) *adj.* not shrinking from danger, difficulty, etc. — **unflinchingly** *adv.*

unfold (ˈʌnˈfəʊld) *vb.* 1. to open or spread out or be opened or spread out from a folded state. 2. to reveal or be revealed: *the truth unfolds.* 3. to develop or expand or be developed or expanded. — **unfolder** *n.*

undiscovered *adj.*
undiscriminating *adj.*
undismayed *adj.*
undisputed *adj.*
undistinguishable *adj.*
undistinguished *adj.*
undisturbed *adj.*
undivided *adj.*
undrinkable *adj.*
uneaten *adj.*
unedited *adj.*
uneducable *adj.*
uneducated *adj.*

unemancipated *adj.*
unemotional *adj.*
unencumbered *adj.*
unending *adj.*
unendowed *adj.*
unendurable *adj.*
unengaged *adj.*
unenlightened *adj.*
unenterprising *adj.*
unenthusiastic *adj.*
unenviable *adj.*
unescorted *adj.*
unethical *adj.*

unexaggerated *adj.*
unexpired *adj.*
unexplained *adj.*
unexploited *adj.*
unexplored *adj.*
unexpressed *adj.*
unexpurgated *adj.*
unfashionable *adj.*
unfeigned *adj.*
unfetter *vb.*
unfettered *adj.*
unflattering *adj.*
unforced *adj.*

unfortunate (ˌʌnˈfɔ:tʃənt) *adj.* 1. causing or attended by misfortune. 2. unlucky or unhappy: *an unfortunate character*. 3. regrettable or unsuitable: *an unfortunate speech*. ~*n.* 4. an unlucky person. —**un'fortunately** *adv.*

unfounded (ˌʌnˈfaʊndɪd) *adj.* 1. (of ideas, allegations, etc.) baseless; groundless. 2. not yet founded or established. —**un'foundedly** *adv.* —**un'foundedness** *n.*

unfreeze (ˌʌnˈfri:z) *vb.* -freezing, -froze, -frozen. 1. to thaw or cause to thaw. 2. (tr.) to relax governmental restrictions on (wages, prices, credit, etc.) or on the manufacture or sale of (goods, etc.).

unfriendly (ˌʌnˈfrendli) *adj.* -lier, -liest. 1. not friendly; hostile. 2. unfavourable or disagreeable. ~*adv.* 3. Rare. in an unfriendly manner. —**un'friendliness** *n.*

unfrock (ˌʌnˈfrɒk) *vb.* (tr.) to deprive (a person in holy orders) of ecclesiastical status.

unfurled (ˌʌnˈfɜ:l) *vb.* to unroll, unfold, or spread out or be unrolled, unfolded, or spread out from a furled state.

ungainly (ˌʌnˈgeɪnli) *adj.* -lier, -liest. 1. lacking grace when moving. 2. difficult to move or use; unwieldy. —**un'gainliness** *n.*

ungodly (ˌʌnˈɡɒdli) *adj.* -lier, -liest. 1. a. wicked, sinful. b. (as collective *n.* preceded by *the*): *the ungodly*. 2. *Inf.* unseemly; outrageous (esp. in an *ungodly hour*). —**un'godliness** *n.*

ungovernable (ˌʌnˈɡʌvənəbl̩) *adj.* not able to be disciplined, restrained, etc.: *an ungovernable temper*. —**un'governableness** *n.* —**un'governably** *adv.*

unguarded (ˌʌnˈɡɑ:dɪd) *adj.* 1. unprotected; vulnerable. 2. open; frank. 3. incautious. —**un'guardedly** *adv.* —**un'guardedness** *n.*

unguent (ˈʌŋgwənt) *n.* a less common name for an ointment.

ungulate (ˈʌŋɡjʊlət, -ləɪt) *n.* any of a large group of mammals all of which have hooves: divided into odd-toed ungulates (*perissodactyls*) and even-toed ungulates (*artiodactyls*).

unhallowed (ˌʌnˈhɔ:ləʊd) *adj.* 1. not consecrated or holy: *unhallowed ground*. 2. sinful.

unhand (ˌʌnˈhænd) *vb.* (tr.) *Arch. or literary.* to release from the grasp.

unhappy (ˌʌnˈhæpi) *adj.* -pier, -piest. 1. not joyful; sad or depressed. 2. unfortunate or wretched: *an unhappy fellow*. 3. tactless or inappropriate: *an unhappy remark*. —**un'happily** *adv.* —**un'happiness** *n.*

unhealthy (ˌʌnˈheɪlθi) *adj.* -healthier, -healthiest. 1. characterized by ill-health; sick. 2. characteristic of, conducive to, or resulting from ill-health: *an unhealthy complexion*. 3. morbid or unwholesome. 4. *Inf.* dangerous; risky. —**un'healthily** *adv.* —**un'healthiness** *n.*

unheard-of *adj.* 1. previously unknown: *an unheard-of actress*. 2. without precedent: *an unheard-of treatment*. 3. highly offensive: *unheard-of behaviour*.

unhinge (ˌʌnˈhɪndʒ) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to remove (a door, etc.) from its hinges. 2. to derange or unbalance (a person, his mind, etc.). 3. to disrupt or unsettle (a process or state of affairs).

unholy (ˌʌnˈhəʊli) *adj.* -lier, -liest. 1. not holy or sacred. 2. immoral or depraved. 3. *Inf.* outrageous or unnatural: *an unholy alliance*. —**un'holiness** *n.*

unhook (ˌʌnˈhʊk) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to remove (something) from a hook. 2. (tr.) to unfasten the hook of (a dress, etc.). 3. (*intr.*) to become unfastened or be capable of unfastening: *the dress wouldn't unhook*.

unhorse (ˌʌnˈhɔ:s) *vb.* (tr.) 1. (*usually passive*) to knock or throw from a horse. 2. to overthrow or dislodge, as from a powerful position.

uni (ˈju:ni) *n.* *Austral. & Scot. inf.* short for *university*.

uni- *combining form.* consisting of, relating to, or having only one: *unilateral*.

unicameral (ˌju:niˈkæməərəl) *adj.* of or characterized by a single legislative chamber. —**uni'cameralism** *n.* —**uni'cameralist** *n.* —**uni'camerally** *adv.*

UNICEF (ˈju:niˌsef) *n.* acronym for United Nations Children's Fund (formerly, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund).

unicellular (ˌju:niˈseljʊlə) *adj.* (of organisms, such as protozoans and certain algae) consisting of a single cell. —**uni,cellu'larity** *n.*

unicorn (ˈju:niˌkɔ:n) *n.* 1. an imaginary creature usually depicted as a white horse with one long spiralled horn growing from its forehead. 2. *Old Testament.* a two-horned animal: mistranslation in the Authorized Version of the original Hebrew.

unicycle (ˈju:niˌsaɪkəl) *n.* a one-wheeled vehicle driven by pedals, esp. one used in a circus, etc. Also called: *monocycle*. —**uni,cyclist** *n.*

unidirectional (ˌju:niˈdɪrɛkʃənl̩) *adj.* having, moving in, or operating in only one direction.

UNIDO (juːˈniˌdɔ) *n.* acronym for United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

uniform (ˈju:niˌfɔ:m) *n.* 1. a prescribed identifying set of clothes for the members of an organization, such as soldiers or schoolchildren. 2. a single set of such clothes. 3. a characteristic feature of some class or group. ~*adj.* 4. unchanging in form, quality, etc.: *a uniform surface*. 5. alike or like: *a line of uniform toys*. ~*vb.* (tr.) 6. to fit out (a body of soldiers, etc.) with uniforms. 7. to make uniform. —**uni'formity** *n.* —**uni,formly** *adv.* —**uni,formness** *n.*

unify (ˈju:niˌfaɪ) *vb.* -fying, -fied. to make or become one; unite. —**uni,fiab** *adj.* —**unifi'cation** *n.* —**uni,fi'er** *n.*

unilateral (ˌju:niˈlætərəl) *adj.* 1. of, having, affecting, or occurring on only one side. 2. involving or performed by only one party of several: *unilateral disarmament*. 3. *Law.* (of contracts, obligations, etc.) made by, affecting, or binding one party only. 4. *Bot.* having or designating parts situated or turned to one side of an axis. —**uni'laterally** *adv.*

unimpeachable (ˌʌnimˈpitʃəbəl) *adj.* unquestionable as to honesty, truth, etc. —**unim'peachably** *adv.*

uninterested (ˌʌnˈɪntrɪstɪd) *adj.* 1. indifferent. 2. having no personal interest. —**un'interestedly** *adv.* —**un'interestedness** *n.*

▷ **Usage.** See at *disinterested*.

union (ˈju:njən) *n.* 1. the condition of being united, the act of uniting, or a conjunction formed by such an act. 2. an association, alliance, or confederation of individuals or groups for a common purpose, esp. political. 3. agreement or harmony. 4. short for *trade union*. 5. the act or state of marriage or sexual intercourse. 6. a device on a flag representing union, such as another flag depicted in the top left corner. 7. a device for coupling pipes. 8. (*often cap.*) a. an association of students at a university or college formed to look after the students' interests. b. the building or buildings housing the facilities of such an organization. 9. *Maths.* a set containing all members of two given sets. Symbol: ∪. 10. (in 19th-century England) a number of parishes united

unforeseeable *adj.*
unforeseen *adj.*
unforgettable *adj.*
unforgivable *adj.*
unforgiven *adj.*
unforgiving *adj.*
unforgotten *adj.*
unformed *adj.*
unforthcoming *adj.*
unfortified *adj.*
unfrequented *adj.*
unfulfilled *adj.*
unfurnished *adj.*
ungenerous *adj.*
ungracious *adj.*
ungrammatical *adj.*
ungrateful *adj.*
unhampered *adj.*
unharmful *adj.*

unheated *adj.*
unheeded *adj.*
unheeding *adj.*
unhelpful *adj.*
unheralded *adj.*
unheroic *adj.*
unhesitating *adj.*
unhindered *adj.*
unhuman *adj.*
unhurried *adj.*
unhurt *adj.*
unhygienic *adj.*
unidentified *adj.*
unillustrated *adj.*
unimaginable *adj.*
unimaginative *adj.*
unimpeded *adj.*
unimportant *adj.*
unimpressed *adj.*

uninformative *adj.*
uninformed *adj.*
uninhabitable *adj.*
uninhabited *adj.*
uninhibited *adj.*
uninitiated *adj.*
uninjured *adj.*
uninspired *adj.*
uninspiring *adj.*
unintelligent *adj.*
unintelligible *adj.*
unintended *adj.*
unintentional *adj.*
uninteresting *adj.*
uninterrupted *adj.*
uninvited *adj.*
uninviting *adj.*

for the administration of poor relief. 11. *Textiles*. a piece of cloth or fabric consisting of two different kinds of yarn. 12. (*modifier*) of or related to a union, esp. a trade union. — **unionism** *n.*

union catalogue *n.* a catalogue listing every publication held at cooperating libraries.

Unionist (ˈjuːnjənɪst) *n.* 1. a member or supporter of the Unionist Party. 2. a supporter of the U.S. federal Union, esp. during the Civil War. ~*adj.* 3. of, resembling, or relating to Unionists. — **Unionism** *n.*

unionize or **-nise** (ˈjuːnjəˌnaɪz) *vb.* 1. to organize (workers) into a trade union. 2. to join or cause to join a trade union. 3. (*tr.*) to subject to the rules or codes of a trade union. — **unionization** or **-isation** *n.*

Union Jack *n.* the national flag of Great Britain, being a composite design composed of St. George's Cross (England), Saint Andrew's Cross (Scotland), and Saint Patrick's Cross (Ireland). Also called: **Union flag**.

union shop *n.* an establishment whose employment policy is governed by a contract between employer and a trade union permitting the employment of nonunion labour only on the condition that such labour joins the union within a specified time period.

unique (juːˈniːk) *adj.* 1. being the only one of a particular type. 2. without equal or like. 3. *Inf.* very remarkable. 4. *Maths.* leading to only one result: *the sum of two integers is unique.* — **uniquely** *adv.* — **uniqueness** *n.*

▷ **Usage.** Certain words in English, such as *unique*, *perfect*, and *simultaneous*, describe absolute states, that is to say, states that cannot be qualified; something is either *unique* or it is *not unique*, but it cannot be, for example, *rather unique*. Careful users of English therefore avoid the use of comparatives or intensifiers where absolute states are concerned: *that is very exceptional* (not *very unique*); *this one comes nearer to perfection* (not *is more perfect*).

unisex (ˈjuːniːseks) *adj.* of or relating to clothing, a hair style, hairdressers, etc., that can be worn or used by either sex.

unisexual (ˈjuːniːsɛksjuəl) *adj.* 1. of one sex only. 2. (of some organisms) having either male or female reproductive organs but not both. — **unisexuality** *n.* — **unisexually** *adv.*

unison (ˈjuːnɪsən) *n.* 1. *Music.* a. the interval between two notes of identical pitch. b. (*modifier*) played or sung at the same pitch: *unison singing*. 2. complete agreement (esp. in in **unison**). — **unisonous**, **unisonal**, or **unisonant** *adj.*

unit (ˈjuːnɪt) *n.* 1. a single undivided entity or whole. 2. any group or individual, esp. when regarded as a basic element of a larger whole. 3. a mechanical part or assembly of parts that performs a subsidiary function: *a filter unit*. 4. a complete system or establishment that performs a specific function: *a production unit*. 5. a subdivision of a larger military formation. 6. a standard amount of a physical quantity, such as length, mass, energy, etc., specified multiples of which are used to express magnitudes of that physical quantity: *the second is a unit of time*. 7. the amount of a drug, vaccine, etc., needed to produce a particular effect. 8. the digit or position immediately to the left of the decimal point. 9. (*modifier*) having or relating to a value of one: *a unit vector*. 10. *N.Z.* a self-propelled railcar. 11. *Austral. & N.Z.* a small self-contained dwelling, such as a flat, in a complex of such dwellings.

Unitarian (ˈjuːniːtɔːriən) *n.* 1. *Theol.* a person who believes that God is one being and rejects the doctrine of the Trinity. 2. a member of the Church (**Unitarian Church**) that embodies this system of belief. ~*adj.* 3. of or relating to Unitarians or Unitarianism. — **Unitarianism** *n.*

unitary (ˈjuːnɪtəri, -tri) *adj.* 1. of a unit or units. 2. based on or characterized by unity. 3. individual; whole.

unit cost *n.* the actual cost of producing one article.

unite (juːˈnaɪt) *vb.* 1. to make or become an integrated whole or a unity. 2. to join, unify or be unified in purpose, action, beliefs, etc. 3. to enter or cause to enter into an association or alliance. 4. to adhere or cause to adhere; fuse. 5. (*tr.*) to possess (qualities) in combination or at the same time: *he united charm with severity*.

united (juːˈnaɪtɪd) *adj.* 1. produced by two or more persons or things in combination or from their union or amalgamation: *a united effort*. 2. in agreement. 3. in association or alliance. — **unitedly** *adv.* — **unitedness** *n.*

United Kingdom *n.* a kingdom of NW Europe, consisting chiefly of the island of Great Britain together with Northern Ireland. It became the **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland** in 1922, after the rest of Ireland became autonomous.

United Nations *n.* an international organization of independent states, with its headquarters in New York City, that was formed in 1945 to promote peace and international cooperation and security. Abbrev.: **UN**

unit price *n.* a price for foodstuffs, etc., stated or shown as the cost per unit, as per pound, per kilogram, per dozen, etc.

unit trust *n.* *Brit.* an investment trust that issues units for public sale, the holders of which are creditors and not shareholders with their interests represented by a trust company independent of the issuing agency.

unity (ˈjuːnɪti) *n.* *pl. -ties.* 1. the state or quality of being one; oneness. 2. the act, state, or quality of forming a whole from separate parts. 3. something whole or complete that is composed of separate parts. 4. mutual agreement; harmony or concord: *the participants were no longer in unity*. 5. uniformity or constancy: *unity of purpose*. 6. *Maths.* a. the number or numeral one. b. a quantity assuming the value of one: *the area of the triangle was regarded as unity*. c. the element of a set producing no change in a number following multiplication. 7. any one of the three principles of dramatic structure by which the action of a play should be limited to a single plot (unity of action), a single location (unity of place), and a single day (unity of time).

Univ. *abbrev. for University.*

univalent (juːˈnɪvələnt, juːˈnɪvələnt) *adj.* 1. (of a chromosome during meiosis) not paired with its homologue. 2. *Chem.* another word for **monovalent**. — **univalency** *n.*

universal (juːˈnɪvɜːsəl) *adj.* 1. of, or typical of the whole of mankind or of nature. 2. common to or proceeding from all in a particular group. 3. applicable to or affecting many individuals, conditions, or cases. 4. existing or prevailing everywhere. 5. applicable or occurring throughout or relating to the universe: *a universal constant*. 6. (esp. of a language) capable of being used and understood by all. 7. embracing or versed in many fields of knowledge, activity, interest, etc. 8. *Machinery.* designed or adapted for a range of sizes, fittings, or uses. 9. *Logic.* (of a proposition) affirming or denying something about every member of a class of objects, as in *all men are wicked*. Cf. **particular** (sense 6). 10. *Arch.* entire; whole. ~*n.* 11. *Philosophy.* a general term or concept or the type such a term signifies; a Platonic idea or Aristotelian form. 12. *Logic.* a universal proposition. 13. a characteristic common to every member of a particular culture or to every human being.

universality (juːˈnɪvɜːsəli) *n.* *pl. -ties.* the state or quality of being universal.

universal joint or **coupling** *n.* a form of coupling between two rotating shafts allowing freedom of movement in all directions.

universally (juːˈnɪvɜːsəli) *adv.* everywhere or in every case: *this principle applies universally*.

universe (ˈjuːnɪˌvɜːs) *n.* 1. *Astron.* the aggregate of all existing matter, energy, and space. 2. human beings collectively. 3. a province or sphere of thought or activity.

university (juːˈnɪvɜːsɪti) *n.* *pl. -ties.* 1. an institution of higher education having authority to award bachelors' and higher degrees, usually having research facilities. 2. the buildings, members, staff, or campus of a university.

unjust (ʌnˈdʒʌst) *adj.* not in accordance with accepted standards of fairness or justice; unfair. — **unjustly** *adv.* — **justness** *n.*

unkempt (ʌnˈkempt) *adj.* 1. (of the hair) uncombed; dishevelled. 2. ungroomed; slovenly: *unkempt appearance*. — **unkemptly** *adv.* — **unkemptness** *n.*

unkind (ʌnˈkaɪnd) *adj.* lacking kindness; unsympathetic or cruel. — **unkindly** *adv.* — **unkindness** *n.*

unknown (ʌnˈnəʊn) *adj.* 1. not known, understood, or recognized. 2. not established, identified, or discovered: *an unknown island*. 3. not famous: *some unknown artist*. ~*n.* 4. an unknown person, quantity, or thing. 5. *Maths.* a variable whose values are solutions of a conditional equation. 6. **unknown quantity**. a person or thing whose

action, effect, etc., is unknown or unpredictable. —**unknownness** *n.*

unlace (ʌnˈleɪs) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to loosen or undo the lacing of (shoes, etc.). 2. to unfasten or remove garments, etc., of (oneself or another) by or as if by undoing lacing.

unlearn (ʌnˈliːn) *vb.* **-learning, -learnt or -learned** (-lɜːnd) to try to forget (something learnt) or to discard (accumulated knowledge).

unlearned (ʌnˈliːnd) *adj.* ignorant or untaught. —**unlearnedly** *adv.*

unlearnt (ʌnˈlɜːnt) or **unlearned** (ʌnˈliːnd) *adj.* 1. known without being consciously learnt. 2. not learnt or taken notice of: *unlearnt lessons*.

unleash (ʌnˈliːʃ) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to release from or as if from a leash. 2. to free from restraint.

unleavened (ʌnˈlevənd) *adj.* (of bread, etc.) made from a dough containing no yeast or leavening.

unless (ʌnˈles) *conj.* (*subordinating*) except under the circumstances that; except on the condition that: *they'll sell it unless he hears otherwise*.

▷ **Usage.** Careful writers of English who wish to keep their style clear and concise avoid the use of the expressions *unless* and *until* and *unless* or *until*. The difference in meaning of these two words is, in this context, not sufficient to make mentioning them both worthwhile; either would be adequate alone: *Unless* (or *until*, but not *unless* and *until*) a candidate is nominated, the election cannot take place.

unlettered (ʌnˈletəd) *adj.* uneducated; illiterate.

unlike (ʌnˈlaɪk) *adj.* 1. not alike; dissimilar or unequal; different. ~*prep.* 2. not like; not typical of: *unlike his father he lacks intelligence*. —**unlikeness** *n.*

unlikely (ʌnˈlaɪkli) *adj.* not likely; improbable. —**unlikeliness** or **unlikelihoood** *n.*

unlimited (ʌnˈlɪmɪtɪd) *adj.* 1. without limits or bounds: *unlimited knowledge*. 2. not restricted, limited, or qualified: *unlimited power*. —**unlimitedly** *adv.* —**unlimit-edness** *n.*

unlisted (ʌnˈlɪstɪd) *adj.* 1. not entered on a list. 2. (of securities) not quoted on a stock exchange.

unload (ʌnˈləʊd) *vb.* 1. to remove a load or cargo from (a ship, lorry, etc.). 2. to discharge (cargo, freight, etc.). 3. (tr.) to relieve of a burden or troubles. 4. (tr.) to give vent to (anxiety, troubles, etc.). 5. (tr.) to get rid of or dispose of, esp. surplus goods. 6. (tr.) to remove the charge of ammunition from (a firearm). —**unloader** *n.*

unlock (ʌnˈlɒk) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to unfasten (a lock, door, etc.). 2. (tr.) to release or let loose. 3. (tr.) to provide the key to: *unlock a puzzle*. 4. (intr.) to become unlocked. —**unlockable** *adj.*

unlooked-for *adj.* unexpected; unforeseen.

unloose (ʌnˈluːs) or **unloosen** *vb.* (tr.) 1. to set free; release. 2. to loosen or relax (a hold, grip, etc.). 3. to unfasten or untie.

unlovely (ʌnˈlʌvli) *adj.* 1. unpleasant in appearance. 2. unpleasant in character. —**unloveliness** *n.*

unlucky (ʌnˈlʌki) *adj.* 1. characterized by misfortune or failure: *an unlucky chance*. 2. ill-omened; inauspicious: *an unlucky date*. 3. regrettable; disappointing. —**unluckily** *adv.* —**unluckiness** *n.*

unmake (ʌnˈmeɪk) *vb.* **-making, -made.** (tr.) 1. to undo or destroy. 2. to depose from office or authority. 3. to alter the nature of.

unman (ʌnˈmæn) *vb.* **-manning, -manned.** (tr.) 1. to cause to lose courage or nerve. 2. to make effeminate. 3. to remove the men from.

unmanly (ʌnˈmænli) *adj.* 1. not masculine or virile. 2. ignoble, cowardly, or dishonourable. ~*adv.* 3. Arch. in an unmanly manner. —**unmanliness** *n.*

unmanned (ʌnˈmænd) *adj.* 1. lacking personnel or

crew: *an unmanned ship*. 2. (of aircraft, spacecraft, etc.) operated by automatic or remote control. 3. uninhabited.

unmannerly (ʌnˈmænəli) *adj.* 1. lacking manners; discourteous. ~*adv.* 2. Arch. rudely; discourteously. —**unmannerliness** *n.*

unmask (ʌnˈmɑːsk) *vb.* 1. to remove (the mask or disguise) from (someone or oneself). 2. to appear or cause to appear in true character. —**unmasker** *n.*

unmeaning (ʌnˈmiːnɪŋ) *adj.* 1. having no meaning. 2. showing no intelligence; vacant: *an unmeaning face*. —**unmeaningly** *adv.* —**unmeaningness** *n.*

unmentionable (ʌnˈmenʃənbəl) *adj.* a. unsuitable or forbidden as a topic of conversation. b. (as *n.*): *the unmentionable*. —**unmentionableness** *n.* —**unmentionably** *adv.*

unmerciful (ʌnˈmɜːsɪfʊl) *adj.* 1. showing no mercy; relentless. 2. extreme or excessive. —**unmercifully** *adv.* —**unmercifulness** *n.*

unmistakable or **unmistakeable** (ʌnmɪsˈteɪkəbəl) *adj.* not mistakeable; clear, obvious, or unambiguous. —**unmistakably** or **unmistakeably** *adv.*

unmitigated (ʌnˈmɪtɪgetɪd) *adj.* 1. not diminished in intensity, severity, etc. 2. (*prepositional*) (intensifier): *an unmitigated disaster*. —**unmitigately** *adv.*

unmoral (ʌnˈmɔːrəl) *adj.* outside morality; amoral. —**unmorality** (ʌnmɔːrəlɪti) *n.* —**unmorally** *adv.*

unmuzzle (ʌnˈmʌzəl) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to take the muzzle off (a dog, etc.). 2. to free from control or censorship.

unnatural (ʌnˈnætʃərəl) *adj.* 1. contrary to nature; abnormal. 2. not in accordance with accepted standards of behaviour or right and wrong: *unnatural love*. 3. uncanny; supernatural: *unnatural phenomena*. 4. affected or forced: *an unnatural manner*. 5. inhuman or monstrous: *an unnatural crime*. —**unnaturally** *adv.* —**unnaturalness** *n.*

unnecessary (ʌnˈnesɪsəri) *adj.* not necessary. —**unnecessarily** *adv.* —**unnecessariness** *n.*

unnerve (ʌnˈnɜːv) *vb.* (tr.) to cause to lose courage, strength, confidence, self-control, etc.

unnumbered (ʌnˈnʌmbəd) *adj.* 1. countless; innumerable. 2. not counted or assigned a number.

U.N.O. *abbrev.* for United Nations Organization.

unoccupied (ʌnˈɒkjʊpaɪd) *adj.* 1. (of a building) without occupants. 2. unemployed or idle. 3. (of an area or country) not overrun by foreign troops.

unorganized or **-nised** (ʌnˈɔːgənaɪzd) *adj.* 1. not arranged into an organized system, structure, or unity. 2. (of workers) not unionized. 3. nonliving; inorganic.

unpack (ʌnˈpæk) *vb.* 1. to remove the packed contents of (a case, trunk, etc.). 2. (tr.) to take (something) out of a packed container. 3. (tr.) to unload: *to unpack a mule*. —**unpacker** *n.*

unparalleled (ʌnˈpærəleɪd) *adj.* unmatched; unequalled.

unparliamentary (ʌnpɑːləˈmentəri) *adj.* not consistent with parliamentary procedure or practice. —**unparliamentarily** *adv.* —**unparliamentariness** *n.*

unperson (ʌnˈpɜːsn) *n.* a person whose existence is officially denied or ignored.

unpick (ʌnˈpɪk) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to undo (the stitches) of (a piece of sewing). 2. to unravel or undo (a garment, etc.).

unpin (ʌnˈpɪn) *vb.* **-pinning, -pinned.** (tr.) 1. to remove a pin or pins from. 2. to unfasten by removing pins.

unpleasant (ʌnˈpleznt) *adj.* not pleasant or agreeable. —**unpleasantly** *adv.* —**unpleasantness** *n.*

unplumbed (ʌnˈplʌmd) *adj.* 1. unfathomed; unsounded. 2. not understood in depth. 3. (of a building) having no plumbing.

unladylike *adj.*

unlawful *adj.*

unlicensed *adj.*

unlined *adj.*

unlit *adj.*

unmanageable *adj.*

unmarked *adj.*

unmarried *adj.*

unmatched *adj.*

unmemorable *adj.*

unmerchantable *adj.*

unmoved *adj.*

unmusical *adj.*

unnamed *adj.*

unnavigable *adj.*

unnegotiable *adj.*

unneighbourly *adj.*

unnoticed *adj.*

unobjectionable *adj.*

unobliging *adj.*

unobserved *adj.*

unobtainable *adj.*

unobtained *adj.*

unobtrusive *adj.*

unopened *adj.*

unopposed *adj.*

unoriginal *adj.*

unorthodox *adj.*

unostentatious *adj.*

unpaid *adj.*

unpalatable *adj.*

unpardonable *adj.*

unpasteurized *adj.*

unpatriotic *adj.*

unperceptive *adj.*

unperfected *adj.*

unperturbable *adj.*

unperturbed *adj.*

unplanned *adj.*

unplayable *adj.*

unpleasing *adj.*

unplug *vb.*

unpolished *adj.*

unpolluted *adj.*

unpopular (ˌʌnpɒpjələ) *adj.* not popular with an individual or group of people. —**unpopularity** (ˌʌnpɒpjʊˈlɪərɪti) *n.* —**unpopularly** *adv.*

unpractised or **U.S. unpracticed** (ˌʌnpɹæktɪst) *adj.* 1. without skill, training, or experience. 2. not used or done often or repeatedly. 3. not yet tested.

unprecedented (ˌʌnpresɪˈdentɪd) *adj.* having no precedent; unparalleled. —**unprece,dentedly** *adv.*

unprincipled (ˌʌnpɹɪnsɪpld) *adj.* lacking moral principles; unscrupulous. —**un'principledness** *n.*

unprintable (ˌʌnpɹɪntəbəl) *adj.* unsuitable for printing for reasons of obscenity, libel, etc. —**un'printableness** *n.* —**un'printably** *adv.*

unprofessional (ˌʌnpɹəˈfeʃənəl) *adj.* 1. contrary to the accepted code of conduct of a profession. 2. amateur. 3. not belonging to or having the required qualifications for a profession. —**unpro'fessionally** *adv.*

unqualified (ˌʌnˈkwɒlɪˈfaɪd) *adj.* 1. lacking the necessary qualifications. 2. not restricted or modified: *an unqualified criticism*. 3. (usually prenominal) (intensifier): *an unqualified success*. —**un'quali, fiable** *adj.*

unquestionable (ˌʌnˈkwɛstʃənəbəl) *adj.* 1. indubitable or indisputable. 2. not admitting of exception: *an unquestionable ruling*. —**un, questiona'bility** *n.* —**un'questionably** *adv.*

unquiet (ˌʌnˈkwaiət) *Chiefly literary.* ~*adj.* 1. characterized by disorder or tumult: *unquiet times*. 2. anxious; uneasy. ~*n.* 3. a state of unrest. —**un'quietly** *adv.* —**un'quietness** *n.*

unquote (ˌʌnˈkwɒt) *interj.* 1. an expression used parenthetically to indicate that the preceding quotation is finished. ~*vb.* 2. to close (a quotation), esp. in printing.

unravel (ˌʌnˈrævəl) *vb.* -elling, -elled or **U.S. -eling, -eled**. 1. (tr.) to reduce (something knitted or woven) to separate strands. 2. (tr.) to explain or solve: *the mystery was unravelled*. 3. (intr.) to become unravelled.

unread (ˌʌnˈred) *adj.* 1. (of a book, etc.) not yet read. 2. (of a person) having read little.

unreadable (ˌʌnˈrɪdəbəl) *adj.* 1. illegible; undecipherable. 2. difficult or tedious to read. —**un, reada'bility** or **un'readableness** *n.*

unready (ˌʌnˈredi) *adj.* 1. not ready or prepared. 2. slow or hesitant to see or act. —**un'readily** *adv.* —**un'readiness** *n.*

unreal (ˌʌnˈriəl) *adj.* 1. imaginary or fanciful or seemingly so: *an unreal situation*. 2. having no actual existence or substance. 3. insincere or artificial. —**unreality** (ˌʌnˈriəliːti) *n.* —**un'really** *adv.*

unreasonable (ˌʌnˈri:znəbəl) *adj.* 1. immoderate: *unreasonable demands*. 2. refusing to listen to reason. 3. lacking judgment. —**un'reasonableness** *n.* —**un'reasonably** *adv.*

unreasoning (ˌʌnˈri:zənɪŋ) *adj.* not controlled by reason; irrational. —**un'reasoningly** *adv.*

unregenerate (ˌʌnˈri:dʒənərɪt) *adj. also unregenerat-ed*. 1. unrepentant; unreformed. 2. obstinately adhering to one's own views. ~*n.* 3. an unregenerate person. —**unre'generacy** *n.* —**unre'generately** *adv.*

unrelenting (ˌʌnˈrɛlɛntɪŋ) *adj.* 1. refusing to relent or take pity. 2. not diminishing in determination, speed, effort, force, etc. —**unre'lentingly** *adv.* —**unre'lent-ingness** *n.*

unremitting (ˌʌnˈrɪmɪtɪŋ) *adj.* never slackening or stopping; unceasing; constant. —**unre'mittingly** *adv.* —**unre'mittingness** *n.*

unreserved (ˌʌnrɪˈzɜ:vɪd) *adj.* 1. without reserve; having an open manner. 2. without reservation. 3. not booked or bookable. —**unreservedly** (ˌʌnrɪˈzɜ:vɪdli) *adv.* —**unre'servedness** *n.*

unrest (ˌʌnˈrest) *n.* 1. a troubled or rebellious state of discontent. 2. an uneasy or troubled state.

unrighteous (ˌʌnˈraɪtʃəs) *adj.* 1. a. sinful; wicked. **b.** (as *n.*): *the unrighteous*. 2. not fair or right; unjust. —**un'righteously** *adv.* —**un'righteousness** *n.*

unripe (ˌʌnˈraɪp) or **unripened** *adj.* 1. not fully matured. 2. not fully prepared or developed; not ready. —**un'ripeness** *n.*

unrivalled (ˌʌnˈraɪvəld) *adj.* having no equal; matchless.

unroll (ˌʌnˈrəʊl) *vb.* 1. to open out or unwind (something rolled, folded, or coiled) or (of something rolled, etc.) to become opened out or unwound. 2. to make or become visible or apparent, esp. gradually; unfold.

unruffled (ˌʌnˈrʌflɪd) *adj.* 1. unmoved; calm. 2. still: *the unruffled seas*. —**un'ruffledness** *n.*

unruly (ˌʌnˈru:li) *adj.* -lier, -liest. disposed to disobedience or indiscipline. —**un'ruliness** *n.*

unsaddle (ˌʌnˈsædl) *vb.* 1. to remove the saddle from (a horse, mule, etc.). 2. (tr.) to unhorse.

unsaid (ˌʌnˈsed) *adj.* not said or expressed; unspoken.

unsaturated (ˌʌnˈsætʃəˌretɪd) *adj.* 1. not saturated. 2. (of a chemical compound, esp. an organic compound) containing one or more double or triple bonds and thus capable of undergoing addition reactions. —**unsatu'ration** *n.*

unsavoury or **U.S. unsavory** (ˌʌnˈseɪvəri) *adj.* 1. objectionable or distasteful: *an unsavoury character*. 2. disagreeable in odour or taste. —**un'savourily** or **U.S. un'savorily** *adv.* —**un'savouriness** or **U.S. un'savori-ness** *n.*

unsay (ˌʌnˈseɪ) *vb.* -saying, -said. (tr.) to retract or withdraw (something said or written).

unsathed (ˌʌnˈskeɪdɪd) *adj.* not harmed or injured.

unscramble (ˌʌnˈskræmbəl) *vb.* (tr.) 1. *Inf.* to resolve from confusion or disorderliness. 2. to restore (a scrambled message) to an intelligible form. —**un'scrambler** *n.*

unscrew (ˌʌnˈskru:) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to remove a screw from (an object). 2. (tr.) to loosen (a screw, lid, etc.) by rotating, usually in an anticlockwise direction. 3. (intr.) (esp. of an engaged threaded part) to become loosened or separated.

unscrupulous (ˌʌnˈskru:pjʊləs) *adj.* without scruples; unprincipled. —**un'scrupulously** *adv.* —**un'scrupulous-ness** *n.*

unseasonable (ˌʌnˈsi:zənəbəl) *adj.* 1. (esp. of the weather) inappropriate for the season. 2. untimely; inopportune. —**un'seasonableness** *n.* —**un'season-ably** *adv.*

unseat (ˌʌnˈsi:t) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to throw or displace from a seat, saddle, etc. 2. to depose from office or position.

unseeded (ˌʌnˈsi:ddɪd) *adj.* (of players in various sports) not assigned to a preferential position in the preliminary rounds of a tournament.

unseemly (ˌʌnˈsi:mli) *adj.* 1. not in good style or taste. 2. Obs. unattractive. ~*adv.* 3. Rare. in an unseemly manner. —**un'seemliness** *n.*

unselfish (ˌʌnˈselfɪʃ) *adj.* not selfish; generous. —**un'selfishly** *adv.* —**un'selfishness** *n.*

unsettle (ˌʌnˈsetl) *vb.* 1. (usually tr.) to change or become changed from a fixed or settled condition. 2.

unpopulated *adj.*
unpracticable *adj.*
unprepared *adj.*
unprepossessing *adj.*
unpresentable *adj.*
unpressed *adj.*
unpretentious *adj.*
unpriced *adj.*
unproclaimed *adj.*
unproductive *adj.*
unprofitable *adj.*
unpromising *adj.*
unprompted *adj.*
unpronounceable *adj.*
unpropitious *adj.*
unprotected *adj.*
unprotesting *adj.*
unproved *adj.*
unproven *adj.*

unprovoked *adj.*
unpublished *adj.*
unpunished *adj.*
unquestioning *adj.*
unrealistic *adj.*
unrecognizable *adj.*
unrecognized *adj.*
unreconciled *adj.*
unrecorded *adj.*
unrefined *adj.*
unregistered *adj.*
unregulated *adj.*
unrehearsed *adj.*
unrelated *adj.*
unreliable *adj.*
unrepeatable *adj.*
unrepentant *adj.*
unreported *adj.*
unrepresentative *adj.*

unrepresented *adj.*
unrequited *adj.*
unresolved *adj.*
unrestrained *adj.*
unrestricted *adj.*
unromantic *adj.*
unsafe *adj.*
unsatisfactory *adj.*
unsatisfied *adj.*
unsatisfying *adj.*
unscheduled *adj.*
unscientific *adj.*
unseasoned *adj.*
unseaworthy *adj.*
unsegregated *adj.*
unselective *adj.*
unselfconscious *adj.*
unsentimental *adj.*

(tr.) to confuse or agitate (emotions, the mind, etc.).
—**un'settlement** *n.*

unsettled (ˌʌn'setlɪd) *adj.* 1. lacking order or stability: *an unsettled era*. 2. unpredictable: *an unsettled climate*. 3. constantly changing or moving from place to place: *an unsettled life*. 4. (of controversy, etc.) not brought to an agreed conclusion. 5. (of debts, law cases, etc.) not disposed of. —**un'settledness** *n.*

unsheathe (ˌʌnʃi:ð) *vb.* (tr.) to draw or pull out (something, esp. a weapon) from a sheath.

unsightly (ˌʌn'saɪlɪ) *adj.* unpleasant or unattractive to look at; ugly. —**un'sightliness** *n.*

unskilful or **U.S. unskilful** (ˌʌn'skɪflʊl) *adj.* lacking dexterity or proficiency. —**un'skilfully** or **U.S. un'skilfully** *adv.* —**un'skilfulness** or **U.S. un'skilfulness** *n.*

unskilled (ˌʌn'skɪld) *adj.* 1. not having or requiring any special skill or training: *an unskilled job*. 2. having no skill; inexperienced.

unsociable (ˌʌn'səʊʃəbl) *adj.* 1. (of a person) disinclined to associate or fraternize with others. 2. un conducive to social intercourse: *an unsociable neighbourhood*. —**un'social'ability** or **un'sociableness** *n.*

unsocial (ˌʌn'səʊʃəl) *adj.* 1. not social; antisocial. 2. (of the hours of work of certain jobs) falling outside the normal working day.

unsophisticated (ˌʌnsə'fɪstɪ'keɪtɪd) *adj.* 1. lacking experience or worldly wisdom. 2. marked by a lack of refinement or complexity: *an unsophisticated machine*. 3. unadulterated or genuine. —**un'sophisti'catedly** *adv.* —**un'sophisti'catedness** or **un'sophisti'cation** *n.*

unsound (ˌʌn'saʊnd) *adj.* 1. diseased, weak, or unstable: *of unsound mind*. 2. unreliable or fallacious: *unsound advice*. 3. lacking strength or firmness: *unsound foundations*. 4. of doubtful financial or commercial viability: *an unsound enterprise*. —**un'soundly** *adv.* —**un'soundness** *n.*

unsparing (ˌʌn'speəriŋ) *adj.* 1. not sparing or frugal; lavish. 2. showing harshness or severity. —**un'sparingly** *adv.* —**un'sparingness** *n.*

unspeakable (ˌʌn'spi:kəbl) *adj.* 1. incapable of expression in words: *unspeakable ecstasy*. 2. indescribably bad or evil. 3. not to be uttered: *unspeakable thoughts*. —**un'speakableness** *n.* —**un'speakably** *adv.*

unstable (ˌʌn'steɪbl) *adj.* 1. lacking stability, fixity, or firmness. 2. disposed to temperamental or psychological variability. 3. (of a chemical compound) readily decomposing. 4. *Physics*. a. (of an elementary particle) having a very short lifetime. b. spontaneously decomposing by nuclear decay: *an unstable nuclide*. —**un'stability** *n.* —**un'stably** *adv.*

unsteady (ˌʌn'stedi) *adj.* 1. not securely fixed: *an unsteady foothold*. 2. (of behaviour, etc.) erratic. 3. without regularity: *an unsteady rhythm*. 4. (of a manner of walking, etc.) precarious or staggering, as from intoxication. —**un'steadily** *adv.* —**un'steadiness** *n.*

unstring (ˌʌn'striŋ) *vb.* —**stringing**, —**strung**. (tr.) 1. to remove the strings of. 2. (of beads, etc.) to remove from a string. 3. to weaken emotionally (a person or his nerves).

unstructured (ˌʌn'strʌktʃəd) *adj.* without formal structure or systematic organization.

unstrung (ˌʌn'strʌŋ) *adj.* 1. emotionally distressed; unnerved. 2. (of a stringed instrument) with the strings detached.

unstuck (ˌʌn'stʌk) *adj.* 1. freed from being stuck, glued, fastened, etc. 2. *come unstuck*. to suffer failure or disaster.

unstudied (ˌʌn'stʌdɪd) *adj.* 1. natural. 2. (foll. by *in*) without knowledge or training.

unsubstantial (ˌʌnsəb'stʌnʃəl) *adj.* 1. lacking weight

or firmness. 2. (of an argument) of doubtful validity. 3. of no material existence. —**unsub'stantiality** *n.* —**unsub'stantially** *adv.*

unsung (ˌʌn'sʌŋ) *adj.* 1. not acclaimed or honoured: *unsung deeds*. 2. not yet sung.

unsuspected (ˌʌnsə'spektɪd) *adj.* 1. not under suspicion. 2. not known to exist. —**un'sus'pectedly** *adv.* —**un'sus'pectedness** *n.*

unswerving (ˌʌn'swɜ:vɪŋ) *adj.* not turning aside; constant.

untangle (ˌʌn'tæŋɡl) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to free from a tangled condition. 2. to free from confusion.

untaught (ˌʌn'tɔ:t) *adj.* 1. without training or education. 2. attained or achieved without instruction.

unthinkable (ˌʌn'θɪŋkəbl) *adj.* 1. not to be contemplated; out of the question. 2. unimaginable; inconceivable. 3. unreasonable; improbable. —**un'thinkably** *adv.*

unthinking (ˌʌn'θɪŋkɪŋ) *adj.* 1. lacking thoughtfulness; inconsiderate. 2. heedless; inadvertent. 3. not thinking or able to think. —**un'thinkingly** *adv.* —**un'thinkingness** *n.*

unthrone (ˌʌn'θrəʊn) *vb.* (tr.) a less common word for *dethrone*.

untidy (ˌʌn'taɪdi) *adj.* —**dier**, —**died**. 1. not neat; slovenly. ~*vb.* —**dy**ing, —**died**. 2. (tr.) to make untidy. —**un'tidily** *adv.* —**un'tidiness** *n.*

untie (ˌʌn'taɪ) *vb.* —**tying**, —**tied**. 1. to unfasten or free (a knot or something that is tied) or (of a knot, etc.) to become unfastened. 2. (tr.) to free from constraint or restriction.

until (ˌʌn'tɪl) *conj.* (*subordinating*) 1. up to (a time) that: *he laughed until he cried*. 2. (*used with a negative*) before (a time or event): *until you change, you can't go out*. ~*prep.* 3. (often preceded by *up*) in or throughout the period before: *he waited until six*. 4. (*used with a negative*) earlier than; before: *he won't come until tomorrow*.

▷ **Usage.** See at *till* and *unless*.

untimely (ˌʌn'taɪmlɪ) *adj.* 1. occurring before the expected, normal, or proper time: *an untimely death*. 2. inappropriate to the occasion, time, or season: *his joking at the funeral was most untimely*. ~*adv.* 3. premature or inopportune. —**un'timeliness** *n.*

unto (ˌʌntu:) *prep.* an archaic word for *to*.

untold (ˌʌn'təʊld) *adj.* 1. incapable of description: *untold suffering*. 2. incalculably great in number or quantity: *untold thousands*. 3. not told.

untouchable (ˌʌn'tʌtʃəbl) *adj.* 1. lying beyond reach. 2. above reproach, suspicion, or impeachment. 3. unable to be touched. ~*n.* 4. a member of the lowest class in India, whom those of the four main castes were formerly forbidden to touch. —**un'touchability** *n.*

untoward (ˌʌntə'wɔ:d) *adj.* 1. characterized by misfortune or annoyance. 2. not auspicious; unfavourable. 3. unseemly. 4. Arch. perverse. 5. Obs. awkward. —**un'towardly** *adv.* —**un'towardness** *n.*

untrue (ˌʌn'tru:) *adj.* 1. incorrect or false. 2. disloyal. 3. diverging from a rule, standard, or measure; inaccurate. —**un'truly** *adv.*

untruthful (ˌʌn'tru:θfl) *adj.* 1. (of a person) given to lying. 2. diverging from the truth. —**un'truthfully** *adv.* —**un'truthfulness** *n.*

untutored (ˌʌn'tju:təd) *adj.* 1. without formal education. 2. lacking sophistication or refinement.

unused *adj.* 1. (ˌʌn'ju:zd). not being or never having been made use of. 2. (ˌʌn'ju:st). (*postpositive*; foll. by *to*) not accustomed or used (to something).

unusual (ˌʌn'ju:ʒəl) *adj.* uncommon; extraordinary: *an unusual design*. —**un'sually** *adv.*

unutterable (ˌʌn'ʌtəɪəbl) *adj.* incapable of being ex-

unshaved *adj.*
unshaven *adj.*
unshrinkable *adj.*
unsigned *adj.*
unsinkable *adj.*
unsmiling *adj.*
unsold *adj.*
unsolicited *adj.*
unsolved *adj.*
unsought *adj.*
unspectacular *adj.*
unspoiled *adj.*
unspoken *adj.*
unsporting *adj.*
unstinted *adj.*

unsubdued *adj.*
unsubstantiated *adj.*
unsuccessful *adj.*
unsuitable *adj.*
unsuited *adj.*
unsullied *adj.*
unsupervised *adj.*
unsupported *adj.*
unsure *adj.*
unsurpassed *adj.*
unsuspecting *adj.*
unsweetened *adj.*
unsympathetic *adj.*
untainted *adj.*
untamed *adj.*

untasted *adj.*
untaxed *adj.*
untested *adj.*
unthoughtful *adj.*
unthought-of *adj.*
untiring *adj.*
untouched *adj.*
untrained *adj.*
untreated *adj.*
untried *adj.*
untroubled *adj.*
untrustworthy *adj.*
unusable *adj.*

pressed in words. —**un'utterableness** *n.* —**un'utterably** *adv.*

unvarnished (AN'vɑ:nɪʃt) *adj.* plain, simple.

unveil (AN'veil) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to remove the cover from, esp. in the ceremonial unveiling of a monument, etc. 2. to remove the veil from (one's own or another person's face). 3. (*tr.*) to make (something concealed) known or public.

unveiling (AN'veilɪŋ) *n.* 1. a ceremony involving the removal of a veil covering a statue, etc., for the first time. 2. the presentation of something, esp. for the first time.

unvoiced (AN'vɔɪst) *adj.* 1. not expressed or spoken. 2. articulated without vibration of the vocal cords; voiceless.

unwary (AN'weəri) *adj.* lacking caution or prudence. —**un'warily** *adv.* —**un'wariness** *n.*

unwell (AN'wel) *adj.* (*postpositive*) not well; ill.

unwept (AN'wept) *adj.* 1. not wept for or lamented. 2. Rare. (of tears) not shed.

unwholesome (AN'həʊlsəm) *adj.* 1. detrimental to physical or mental health: *an unwholesome climate*. 2. morally harmful: *unwholesome practices*. 3. indicative of illness, esp. in appearance. 4. (esp. of food) of inferior quality. —**un'wholesomeness** *n.*

unwieldy (AN'wi:ldi) *adj.* 1. too heavy, large, or awkwardly shaped to be easily handled. 2. ungainly; clumsy. —**un'wieldily** *adv.* —**un'wieldiness** *n.*

unwilling (AN'wɪlɪŋ) *adj.* 1. reluctant. 2. performed or said with reluctance. —**un'willingly** *adv.* —**un'willingness** *n.*

unwind (AN'waɪnd) *vb.* -winding, -wound. 1. to slacken, undo, or unravel or cause to slacken, undo, or unravel. 2. (*tr.*) to disentangle. 3. to make or become relaxed: *he finds it hard to unwind*. —**un'windable** *adj.*

unwise (AN'waɪz) *adj.* lacking wisdom or prudence. —**un'wisely** *adv.* —**un'wiseness** *n.*

unwitting (AN'wɪtɪŋ) *adj.* (*usually prenominal*) 1. not knowing or conscious. 2. not intentional; inadvertent. —**un'wittingly** *adv.* —**un'wittingness** *n.*

unwonted (AN'wəʊntɪd) *adj.* 1. out of the ordinary; unusual. 2. (usually foll. by *to*) *Arch.* unaccustomed; unused. —**un'wontedly** *adv.*

unworldly (AN'wɜ:ldli) *adj.* 1. not concerned with material values or pursuits. 2. lacking sophistication; naive. 3. not of this earth or world. —**un'worldliness** *n.*

unworthy (AN'wɜ:ðli) *adj.* 1. (often foll. by *of*) not deserving or worthy. 2. (often foll. by *of*) beneath the level considered befitting (to): *that remark is unworthy of you*. 3. lacking merit or value. 4. (of treatment) not warranted. —**un'worthily** *adv.* —**un'worthiness** *n.*

unwrap (AN'ræp) *vb.* -wrapping, -wrapped. to remove the covering or wrapping from (something) or (of something wrapped) to have the covering come off.

unwritten (AN'rit'n) *adj.* 1. not printed or in writing. 2. effective only through custom.

unzip (AN'zip) *vb.* -zipping, -zipped. to unfasten the zip of (a garment, etc.) or (of a zip or garment with a zip) to become unfastened: *her skirt unzipped as she sat down*.

up (ʌp) *prep.* 1. indicating movement from a lower to a higher position: *climbing up a mountain*. 2. at a higher or further level or position in or on: *a shop up the road*. ~*adv.* 3. (*often particle*) to an upward, higher, or erect position, esp. indicating readiness for an activity: *up and doing something*. 4. (*particle*) indicating intensity or completion of an action: *he tore up the cheque*. 5. to the place referred to or where the speaker is: *the man came up and asked the way*. 6. a. to a more important place: *up to London*. b. to a more northerly place: *up to Scotland*. c. (of a member of some British universities) to or at university. d. in a particular part of the country: *up north*. 7. above the horizon: *the sun is up*. 8. to appear for trial: *up before the magistrate*. 9. having gained: *ten pounds up on the deal*. 10. higher in price: *coffee is up again*. 11. raised (for discussion, etc.): *the plan was up for consideration*. 12. taught: *well up in physics*. 13. (*functioning as imperative*) get, stand, etc., up: *up with you!* 14. **up with.** (*functioning as imperative*)

wanting the beginning or continuation of: *up with the monarchy!* 15. **something's up.** *Inf.* something strange is happening. 16. **up against.** a. touching. b. having to cope with: *look what we're up against now*. 17. **up for.** as a candidate or applicant for: *he's up for re-election again*. 18. **up to.** a. devising or scheming: *she's up to no good*. b. dependent or incumbent upon: *the decision is up to you*. c. equal to (a challenge, etc.) or capable of (doing, etc.): *are you up to playing in the final?* d. as far as: *up to his waist in mud*. e. as many as: *up to two years' waiting time*. f. comparable with: *not up to your normal standard*. 19. **up top.** *Inf.* in the head or mind. 20. **what's up?** *Inf.* what is the matter? ~*adj.* 21. (*predicative*) of a high or higher position. 22. (*predicative*) out of bed: *the children aren't up yet*. 23. (*prepositional*) of or relating to a train or trains to a more important place or one regarded as higher: *the up platform*. ~*vb.* **upping, upped.** 24. (*tr.*) to increase or raise. 25. (*intr.*; foll. by and with a verb) *Inf.* to do (something) suddenly, etc.: *she upped and married someone else*. ~*n.* 26. a high point (esp. in **ups and downs**). 27. *Sl.* another word (esp. U.S.) for **upper** (sense 8). 28. **on the up and up.** a. trustworthy or honest. b. *Brit.* on the upward trend or movement: *our firm's on the up and up*.

up-and-coming *adj.* promising continued or future success; enterprising.

upbeat (ʌp'bi:t) *n.* 1. *Music.* a. an unaccented beat, esp. the last bar. b. the upward gesture of a conductor's baton indicating this. ~*adj.* 2. *Inf.* marked by cheerfulness or optimism.

upbraid (ʌp'breɪd) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to reprove or reproach angrily. 2. to find fault with. —**up'braider** *n.* —**up'braiding** *n.*

upbringing (ʌp'brɪŋɪŋ) *n.* the education of a person during his formative years.

upcast (ʌp'kɑ:st) *n.* 1. material cast or thrown up. 2. a ventilation shaft through which air leaves a mine. 3. *Geol.* (in a fault) the section of strata that has been displaced upwards. ~*adj.* 4. directed or thrown upwards. ~*vb.* -casting, -cast. 5. (*tr.*) to throw or cast up.

upcountry (ʌp'kʌntri) *adj.* 1. of or coming from the interior of a country or region. ~*n.* 2. the interior part of a region or country. ~*adv.* 3. towards, in, or into the interior part of a country or region.

update *vb.* (ʌp'det). (*tr.*) 1. to bring up to date. 2. *Computers.* to modify (a computer instruction) so that the address number is increased each time an instruction is carried out. ~*n.* (ʌp'det). 3. the act of updating or something that is updated. —**up'dater** *n.*

upend (ʌp'end) *vb.* 1. to turn or set or become turned or set on end. 2. (*tr.*) to affect or upset drastically.

upgrade *vb.* (ʌp'greɪd). (*tr.*) 1. to assign or promote (a person or job) to a higher professional rank or position. 2. to raise in value, importance, esteem, etc. 3. to improve (a breed of livestock) by crossing with a better strain. ~*n.* (ʌp'greɪd). 4. *U.S.* an upward slope. 5. **on the upgrade.** improving or progressing, as in importance, status, health, etc. —**up'grader** *n.*

upheaval (ʌp'hi:vəl) *n.* 1. a strong, sudden, or violent disturbance, as in politics. 2. *Geol.* another word for **uplift** (sense 7).

uphill (ʌp'hɪl) *adj.* 1. inclining, sloping, or leading upwards. 2. requiring protracted effort: *an uphill task*. ~*adv.* 3. up an incline or slope. 4. against difficulties. ~*n.* 5. a rising incline.

uphold (ʌp'həʊld) *vb.* -holding, -held. (*tr.*) 1. to maintain or defend against opposition. 2. to give moral support to. 3. Rare. to support physically. 4. to lift up. —**up'holder** *n.*

upholster (ʌp'həʊlstə) *vb.* (*tr.*) to fit (chairs, sofas, etc.) with padding, springs, webbing, and covering. —**up'holsterer** *n.* —**up'holstery** *n.*

upkeep (ʌp'ki:p) *n.* 1. the act or process of keeping something in good repair, esp. over a long period; maintenance. 2. the cost of maintenance.

upland (ʌp'lænd) *n.* 1. an area of high or relatively high ground. ~*adj.* 2. relating to or situated in an upland.

uplift *vb.* (ʌp'lɪft). (*tr.*) 1. to raise; lift up. 2. to raise

unvanquished *adj.*
unvaried *adj.*
unvarnished *adj.*
unvarying *adj.*
unverified *adj.*
unversed *adj.*
unwanted *adj.*

unwarned *adj.*
unwashed *adj.*
unwavering *adj.*
unwearying *adj.*
unwedded or unwed *adj.*
unwelcome *adj.*
unwinking *adj.*

unworkable *adj.*
unworkmanlike *adj.*
unworn *adj.*
unworried *adj.*
unwounded *adj.*
unyielding *adj.*

morally, spiritually, etc. **3.** *Scot. & N.Z.* to collect; pick up (goods, documents, etc.). ~*n.* ('ʌp,lɪft). **4.** the act, process, or result of lifting up. **5.** the act or process of bettering moral, social, or cultural conditions, etc. **6.** (as *modifier*) designating a brassiere for lifting and supporting the breasts: *an uplift bra*. **7.** the process or result of land being raised to a higher level, as during a period of mountain building. —**up'lifter** *n.*

upmost ('ʌp,məʊst) *adj.* another word for **uppermost** (sense 1).

upon (ə'pɒn) *prep.* **1.** another word for **on**. **2.** indicating a position reached by going up: *climb upon my knee*. **3.** imminent for: *the weekend was upon us again*.

upper ('ʌpə) *adj.* **1.** higher or highest in relation to physical position, wealth, rank, status, etc. **2.** (cap. when part of a name) lying farther upstream, inland, or farther north: *the upper valley of the Loire*. **3.** (cap. when part of a name) *Geol.*, *archaeol.* denoting the late part or division of a period, system, etc.: *Upper Palaeolithic*. **4.** *Maths.* (of a limit or bound) greater than or equal to one or more numbers or variables. ~*n.* **5.** the higher of two objects, people, etc. **6.** the part of a shoe above the sole, covering the upper surface of the foot. **7.** *on one's uppers*, destitute. **8.** *Sl.* any of various drugs having a stimulant effect.

upper case *Printing.* ~*n.* **1.** the top half of a compositor's type case in which capital letters, reference marks, and accents are kept. ~*adj.* (**upper-case** when *prenominal*). **2.** of or relating to capital letters kept in this case and used in the setting or production of printed or typed matter.

upper class *n.* **1.** the class occupying the highest position in the social hierarchy, esp. the aristocracy. ~*adj.* (**upper-class** when *prenominal*). **2.** of or relating to the upper class.

upper crust *n. Inf.* the upper class.

uppercut ('ʌpə,kʌt) *n.* **1.** a short swinging upward blow with the fist delivered at an opponent's chin. ~*vb.* -cutting, -cut. **2.** to hit (an opponent) with an uppercut.

upper hand *n.* the, the position of control (esp. in have or get the upper hand).

upper house *n.* (often *cap.*) one of the two houses of a bicameral legislature.

uppermost ('ʌpə,məʊst) *adj.* also **upmost**. **1.** highest in position, power, importance, etc. ~*adv.* **2.** in or into the highest position, etc.

uppish ('ʌpɪʃ) *adj.* *Brit. inf.* snobbish, arrogant, or presumptuous. —**uppishly** *adv.* —**uppishness** *n.*

upply ('ʌpɪtɪ) *adj. Inf.* **1.** not yielding easily to persuasion or control. **2.** another word for **upish**.

upright ('ʌp,rɪt) *adj.* **1.** vertical or erect. **2.** honest or just. ~*adv.* **3.** vertically. ~*n.* **4.** a vertical support, such as a stake or post. **5.** short for **upright piano**. **6.** the state of being vertical. —**up, rightly** *adv.* —**up-, rightly** *n.*

upright piano *n.* a piano which has a rectangular vertical case.

uprising ('ʌp,raɪzɪŋ, ʌp'raɪzɪŋ) *n.* **1.** a revolt or rebellion. **2.** *Arch.* an ascent.

uproar ('ʌp,rɔː) *n.* a commotion or disturbance characterized by loud noise and confusion.

uproarious ('ʌp'rɔːriəs) *adj.* **1.** causing or characterized by an uproar. **2.** extremely funny. **3.** (of laughter, etc.) loud and boisterous. —**up'roariously** *adv.* —**up'roariousness** *n.*

uproot ('ʌp'ru:t) *vb.* (tr.) **1.** to pull up by or as if by the roots. **2.** to displace (a person or persons) from native or habitual surroundings. **3.** to remove or destroy utterly. —**up'rooter** *n.*

upset *vb.* ('ʌp'set), -setting, -set. (mainly tr.) **1.** (also *intr.*) to tip or be tipped over; overturn or spill. **2.** to disturb the normal state or stability of: *to upset the balance of nature*. **3.** to disturb mentally or emotionally. **4.** to defeat or overthrow, usually unexpectedly. **5.** to make physically ill: *seafood always upsets my stomach*. **6.** to thicken or spread (the end of a bar, etc.) by hammering. ~*n.* ('ʌp,sɛt). **7.** an unexpected defeat or reversal, as in a contest or plans. **8.** a disturbance or disorder of the emotions, body, etc. ~*adj.* ('ʌp'set). **9.** overturned or capsized. **10. emotionally or physically disturbed or distressed. **11. disordered; confused. **12. defeated or overthrown. —**up'setter** *n.* —**up'settingly** *adv.*******

upset price *n.* the lowest price acceptable for something that is for sale, esp. a house. Cf. **reserve price**.

upshot ('ʌp,ʃɒt) *n.* **1.** the final result; conclusion; outcome. **2.** *Archery.* the final shot in a match.

upside down ('ʌp,said) *adj.* **1.** (usually *postpositive*) turned over completely; inverted. **2.** (**upside-down** when *prenominal*): *an upside-down world*. ~*adv.* **3.** in an inverted fashion. **4.** in a chaotic manner.

upsides ('ʌp,saidz) *adv. Inf., chiefly Brit.* (foll. by *with*) equal or level (with), as through revenge or retaliation.

upsilon ('ʌpsɪ,lɒn) *n.* **1.** the 20th letter in the Greek alphabet (Υ or υ), a vowel transliterated as *y* or *u*. **2.** a heavy short-lived subatomic particle produced by bombarding beryllium nuclei with high-energy protons.

upstage ('ʌp'steɪdʒ) *adv.* **1.** on, at, or to the rear of the stage. ~*adj.* **2.** of or relating to the back half of the stage. **3.** *Inf.* haughty. ~*vb.* (tr.) **4.** to move upstage of (another actor), thus forcing him to turn away from the audience. **5.** *Inf.* to draw attention to oneself from (someone else). **6.** *Inf.* to treat haughtily.

upstairs ('ʌp'steəz) *adv.* **1.** up the stairs; to or on an upper floor or level. **2.** *Inf.* to or into a higher rank or office. **3.** **kick upstairs.** *Inf.* to promote to a higher position, esp. one that carries less power. ~*n.* **4.** **a.** an upper floor or level. **b.** (as *modifier*): *an upstairs room*. **5.** *Brit. inf.* the masters of a household collectively, esp. of a large house.

upstanding ('ʌp'stændɪŋ) *adj.* **1.** of good character. **2.** upright and vigorous in build. **3.** **be upstanding.** (in a court of law) a direction to all persons present to rise to their feet before the judge enters or leaves the court.

upstart ('ʌp,stɑ:t) *n.* **1.** **a.** a person, group, etc., that has risen suddenly to a position of power or wealth. **b.** (as *modifier*): *an upstart family*. **2.** **a.** an arrogant person. **b.** (as *modifier*): *his upstart ambition*.

upstream ('ʌp'stri:m) *adv., adj.* in or towards the higher part of a stream; against the current.

upsurge *vb.* ('ʌp'sɜːdʒ). **1.** (*intr.*) *Chiefly literary.* to surge up. ~*n.* ('ʌp'sɜːdʒ). **2.** a rapid rise or swell.

upswing ('ʌp,swɪŋ) *n.* **1.** *Econ.* a recovery period in the trade cycle. **2.** an upward swing or movement or any increase or improvement.

upsy-daisy ('ʌpsɪ'deɪz) or **upsadaisy** *interj.* an expression, usually of reassurance, uttered as when someone, esp. a child, stumbles or is being lifted up.

uptake ('ʌp,teɪk) *n.* **1.** a pipe, shaft, etc., that is used to convey smoke or gases, esp. one that connects a furnace to a chimney. **2.** lifting up. **3.** **quick (or slow) on the uptake.** *Inf.* quick (or slow) to understand or learn.

upthrust ('ʌp,θrʌst) *n.* **1.** an upward push or thrust. **2.** *Geol.* a violent upheaval of the earth's surface.

uptight ('ʌp'taɪt) *adj. Sl.* **1.** displaying tense repressed nervousness, irritability, or anger. **2.** unable to give expression to one's feelings.

up-to-date *adj.* a. modern or fashionable: *an up-to-date magazine*. *b.* (predicative): *the magazine is up to date*. —**up-to-'dateness** *n.*

upturn *vb.* ('ʌp'tɜːn). **1.** to turn or cause to turn over or upside down. **2.** (tr.) to create disorder. **3.** (tr.) to direct upwards. ~*n.* ('ʌp,tɜːn). **4.** an upward trend or improvement. **5.** an upheaval.

upward ('ʌpwəd) *adj.* **1.** directed or moving towards a higher point or level. ~*adv.* **2.** in an upward direction. —**upwardly** *adv.* —**upwardness** *n.*

upward mobility *n.* movement from a lower to a higher economic and social status.

upwind ('ʌp'wɪnd) *adv.* **1.** into or against the wind. **2.** towards or on the side where the wind is blowing; windward. ~*adj.* **3.** going against the wind: *the upwind leg of the course*. **4.** on the windward side.

uremia or **U.S. uremia** (ju'rɪmiə) *n.* *Pathol.* the accumulation of waste products, normally excreted in the urine, in the blood. —**u'raemic** or **U.S. u'remic** *adj.*

uranium (ju'reɪniəm) *n.* a radioactive silvery-white metallic element of the actinide series. It occurs in several minerals including pitchblende, carnotite, and autunite and is used chiefly as a source of nuclear energy by fission of the radioisotope **uranium-235**. Symbol: U; atomic no.: 92; atomic wt.: 238.03; half-life of most stable isotope, ²³⁸U: 4.51 × 10⁹ years.

Uranus (ju'reɪnəs) *n.* *Greek myth.* the personification of the sky, who, as a god, ruled the universe and fathered the Titans and Cyclopes. He was overthrown by his son Cronus.

Uranus (ju'reɪnəs) *n.* the seventh planet from the sun, sometimes visible to the naked eye.

urban ('ɜːbən) *adj.* **1.** of, relating to, or constituting a city or town. **2.** living in a city or town. ~*Cf.* **rural**.

urban district *n.* **1.** (in England and Wales from 1888 to 1974 and Northern Ireland from 1898 to 1973) an urban division of an administrative county with an

elected council in charge of housing and environmental services. 2. (in the Republic of Ireland) any of 49 medium-sized towns with their own elected councils.

urbane (ˈɜːbeɪn) *adj.* characterized by elegance or sophistication. —**urbanely** *adv.* —**urbaneness** *n.*

urban guerrilla *n.* a guerrilla who operates in a town or city, engaging in terrorism, kidnapping, etc.

urbanity (ˈɜːbəntɪ) *n.*, *pl.* -ties. 1. the quality of being urbane. 2. (usually *pl.*) civilities or courtesies.

urbanize or **-nise** (ˈɜːbəˌnaɪz) *vb.* (tr.) (usually *passive*) a. to make (esp. a predominantly rural area or country) more industrialized and urban. b. to cause the migration of an increasing proportion of (rural dwellers) into cities. —**urbanization** or **-nisation** *n.*

urban renewal *n.* the process of redeveloping dilapidated or no longer functional urban areas.

urchin (ˈɜːtʃɪn) *n.* 1. a mischievous roguish child, esp. one who is young, small, or raggedly dressed. 2. See **sea urchin**. 3. an archaic or dialect name for a hedgehog. 4. Obs. an elf or sprite.

Urdu (ˈʊɹduː, ˈɜː-) *n.* an official language of Pakistan, also spoken in India. It belongs to the Indic branch of the Indo-European family of languages, being closely related to Hindi.

urea (ˈjʊəriə) *n.* a white water-soluble crystalline compound, produced by protein metabolism and excreted in urine. A synthetic form is used as a fertilizer and animal feed. Formula: CO(NH₂)₂. —**ureal** or **ureic** *adj.*

ureter (ˈjʊəriːtəri) *n.* the tube that conveys urine from the kidney to the urinary bladder or cloaca. —**ureteral** or **ureteric** (ˈjʊəriːtərɪk) *adj.*

urethra (ˈjʊəriːθrə) *n.*, *pl.* -thrae (θriː) or -thras. the canal that in most mammals conveys urine from the bladder out of the body. In human males it also conveys semen. —**urethral** *adj.*

urethritis (ˈjʊəriːθraɪtɪs) *n.* inflammation of the urethra. —**urethritic** (ˈjʊəriːθrɪtɪk) *adj.*

urge (ɜːdʒ) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to plead, press, or move (someone) to do something: we urged him to surrender. 2. (tr.) may take a clause as object to advocate or recommend earnestly and persistently: to urge the need for safety. 3. (tr.) to impel, drive, or hasten onwards: he urged the horses on. ~*n.* 4. a strong impulse, inner drive, or yearning. —**urgently** *adv.*

urgent (ˈɜːdʒənt) *adj.* 1. requiring or compelling speedy action or attention: the matter is urgent. 2. earnest and persistent. —**urgency** (ˈɜːdʒənsɪ) *n.* —**urgently** *adv.*

uric (ˈjʊərɪk) *adj.* of, concerning, or derived from urine.

uric acid *n.* a white odourless tasteless crystalline product of protein metabolism, present in the blood and urine. Formula: C₅H₄N₄O₆.

urinal (ˈjʊːrɪnəl, ˈjʊəri-) *n.* 1. a sanitary fitting, esp. one fixed to a wall, used by men for urination. 2. a room containing urinals. 3. any vessel for holding urine prior to its disposal.

urinary (ˈjʊərɪnəri) *adj.* 1. Anat. of or relating to urine or to the organs and structures that secrete and pass urine. ~*n.*, *pl.* -naries. 2. a reservoir for urine.

urinate (ˈjʊəriːneɪt) *vb.* (intr.) to excrete or void urine. —**urination** *n.* —**urinate** *adj.*

urine (ˈjʊərɪn) *n.* the pale yellow slightly acid fluid excreted by the kidneys, containing waste products removed from the blood. It is stored in the urinary bladder and discharged through the urethra.

urinogenital (ˈjʊərɪnəʊˈdʒɪnɪtəl) *adj.* another word for **urogenital**.

urn (ɜːn) *n.* 1. a vase-like receptacle or vessel, esp. a large bulbous one with a foot. 2. a vase used as a receptacle for the ashes of the dead. 3. a large vessel, usually of metal, with a tap, used for making and holding tea, coffee, etc. —**urnlike** *adj.*

urogenital (ˈjʊərəʊˈdʒɪnɪtəl) or **urinogenital** *adj.* of or relating to the urinary and genital organs and their functions. Also: **genitourinary**.

urology (jʊˈrɒlədʒɪ) *n.* the branch of medicine concerned with the study and treatment of diseases of the urogenital tract. —**urologic** (jʊərəˈlədʒɪk) *adj.* —**urologist** *n.*

Ursa Major (ˈɜːsə ˈmeɪdʒə) *n.*, *Latin genitive Ursa Majoris* (ˈɜːsiː məˈdʒɔːrɪs). an extensive conspicuous constellation in the N hemisphere. The seven brightest stars form the **Plough**. Also called: the **Great Bear**, the **Bear**.

Ursa Minor (ˈɜːsə ˈmaɪnə) *n.*, *Latin genitive Ursa Minoris* (ˈɜːsiː mɪˈnɔːrɪs). a small faint constellation, the

brightest star of which is the Pole Star. Also called: the **Little Bear**, the **Bear**.

ursine (ˈɜːsɪn) *adj.* of, relating to, or resembling a bear or bears.

Ursuline (ˈɜːsjʊˌlaɪn) *n.* a member of one of an order of nuns devoted to teaching in the Roman Catholic Church: founded in 1537 at Brescia.

us (As) *pron. (objective)* 1. refers to the speaker or writer and another person or other people: to decide among us. 2. refers to all people or people in general: this table shows us the tides. 3. an informal word for **me**: give us a kiss! 4. a formal word for **me** used by editors, monarchs, etc.

▷ **Usage.** See at **me**.

U.S. *abbrev. for* United States.

U.S.A. *abbrev. for:* 1. United States Army. 2. United States of America.

usable or **useable** (ˈjuːzəbəl) *adj.* able to be used. —**usability** or **useability** *n.*

usage (ˈjuːsɪdʒ, -ɪdʒ) *n.* 1. the act or a manner of using; use; employment. 2. constant use, custom, or habit. 3. something permitted or established by custom or practice. 4. what is actually said in a language, esp. as contrasted with what is prescribed.

use *vb.* (juːz). (tr.) 1. to put into service or action; employ for a given purpose: to use a spoon to stir with. 2. to make a practice or habit of employing; exercise: he uses his brain. 3. to behave towards in a particular way, esp. for one's own ends: he uses people. 4. to consume, expend, or exhaust: the engine uses very little oil. 5. Chiefly U.S. to partake of (alcoholic drink, drugs, etc.) or smoke (tobacco, marijuana, etc.). ~*n.* (juːs). 6. the act of using or the state of being used: the carpet wore out through constant use. 7. the ability or permission to use. 8. the occasion to use: I have no use for this paper. 9. an instance or manner of using. 10. usefulness; advantage: it is of no use to complain. 11. custom; habit: long use has injured him to it. 12. the purpose for which something is used; end. 13. Christianity. a distinctive form of liturgical or ritual observance, esp. one that is traditional. 14. the enjoyment of property, land, etc., by occupation or by deriving revenue from it. 15. Law. the beneficial enjoyment of property the legal title to which is held by another person as trustee. 16. have no use for. a. to have no need of. b. to have a contemptuous dislike for. 17. make use of. to employ; use. —**user** *n.*

used (juːzd) *adj.* bought or sold second-hand: used cars.

used to (juːstə) *adj.* 1. accustomed to: I am used to hitchhiking. ~*vb.* (tr.) 2. (takes an infinitive or implied infinitive) used as an auxiliary to express habitual or accustomed actions, states, etc., taking place in the past but not continuing into the present: I don't drink these days, but I used to.

useful (ˈjuːsfʊl) *adj.* 1. able to be used advantageously, beneficially, or for several purposes. 2. Inf. commendable or capable: a useful term's work. —**usefully** *adv.* —**usefulness** *n.*

useless (ˈjuːsləs) *adj.* 1. having no practical use or advantage. 2. Inf. ineffectual, weak, or stupid: he's useless at history. —**uselessly** *adv.* —**uselessness** *n.*

usher (ˈʌʃə) *n.* 1. an official who shows people to their seats, as in a church or theatre. 2. a person who acts as doorkeeper, esp. in a court of law. 3. (in England) a minor official charged with maintaining order in a court of law. 4. an officer responsible for preceding persons of rank in a procession. 5. Brit., obs. a teacher. ~*vb.* (tr.) 6. to conduct or escort, esp. in a courteous or obsequious way. 7. (usually foll. by *in*) to be a precursor or herald (of).

usherette (ˈʌʃəˈret) *n.* a woman assistant in a cinema, etc., who shows people to their seats.

U.S.S.R. *abbrev. for* Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

usual (ˈjuːʒʊəl) *adj.* 1. of the most normal, frequent, or regular type: that's the usual sort of application to send. ~*n.* 2. ordinary or commonplace events (esp. in out of the usual). 3. the usual. Inf. the habitual or usual drink, etc. —**usually** *adv.* —**usualness** *n.*

usurp (juːˈzɜːp) *vb.* to seize or appropriate (land, a throne, etc.) without authority. —**usurpation** *n.* —**usurper** *n.* —**usurpingly** *adv.*

usury (ˈjuːʒəri) *n.*, *pl.* -ries. 1. the practice of loaning money at an exorbitant rate of interest. 2. an unlawfully high rate of interest. 3. Obs. moneylending. —**usurious** (juːˈʒɔːrɪəs) *adj.*

utensil (juːˈtensəl) *n.* an implement, tool, or container for practical use: writing utensils.

uterine (ˈjuːtəriːn) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or affecting

the uterus. **2.** (of offspring) born of the same mother but not the same father.

uterus ('ju:tərəs) *n.*, *pl.* **uteri** ('ju:tə,raɪ). **1.** *Anat.* a hollow muscular organ lying within the pelvic cavity of female mammals. It houses the developing foetus. *Non-technical name: womb.* **2.** the corresponding organ in other animals.

utilitarian (ju:'tɪlɪtəriən) *adj.* **1.** of or relating to utilitarianism. **2.** designed for use rather than beauty. *~n.* **3.** a person who believes in utilitarianism.

utilitarianism (ju:'tɪlɪtəriə'nɪzəm) *n.* *Ethics.* **1.** the theory that the highest good lies in the greatest good of the greatest numbers. **2.** the theory that the criterion of virtue is utility.

utility (ju:'tɪlɪtɪ) *n.*, *pl.* **-ties.** **1. a.** the quality of practical use; usefulness. **b.** (as modifier): a utility fabric. **2.** something useful. **3. a.** a public service, such as the bus system. **b.** (as modifier): utility vehicle. **4.** *Econ.* the ability of a commodity to satisfy human wants.

utility room *n.* a room, esp. in a private house, used for storage, laundry, etc.

utilize or -lise ('ju:tɪ,laɪz) *vb.* (tr.) to make practical or worthwhile use of. — **uti,lizable or -lisable** *adj.* — **uti,lization or -li'sation** *n.* — **uti,lizer or -liser** *n.*

utmost ('ʌt,məʊst) or **uttermost** *adj.* (prenominal) **1.** of the greatest possible degree or amount: *the utmost degree.* **2.** at the furthest limit: *the utmost town on the peninsula.* *~n.* **3.** the greatest possible degree, extent, or amount: *he tried his utmost.*

Utopia (ju:'təʊpiə) *n.* (sometimes not cap.) any real or imaginary society, place, state, etc., considered to be perfect or ideal. — **U'topian** *adj.*

utricle ('ju:trɪk'l) *n.*, *pl.* **utricles.** **1.** *Anat.* the larger of the two parts of the membranous labyrinth of the internal ear. **2.** *Bot.* the bladder-like one-seeded indehiscent fruit of certain plants. — **u'tricular** *adj.*

utter¹ ('ʌtə) *vb.* **1.** to give audible expression to (something): *to utter a growl.* **2.** *Criminal law.* to put into circulation (counterfeit coin, forged banknotes, etc.). **3.** (tr.) to make publicly known; publish: *to utter slander.* — **utterable** *adj.* — **utterableness** *n.* — **utterer** *n.*

utter² ('ʌtə) *adj.* (prenominal) (intensifier): *an utter fool; the utter limit.* — **utterly** *adv.*

utterance ('ʌtərəns) *n.* **1.** something uttered, such as a statement. **2.** the act or power of uttering or the ability to utter.

uttermost ('ʌtə,məʊst) *adj.*, *n.* a variant of **utmost**.

U-turn *n.* **1.** a turn made by a vehicle in the shape of a U, resulting in a reversal of direction. **2.** a complete change in direction of political policy, etc.

U.V. *abbrev. for* ultraviolet.

uvula ('ju:vjʊlə) *n.*, *pl.* **-las or -lae** (-,li:). a small fleshy finger-like flap of tissue that hangs in the back of the throat and is an extension of the soft palate.

uxorious ('ʌk'sɔ:riəs) *adj.* excessively attached to or dependent on one's wife. — **ux'oriously** *adv.* — **ux'orinousness** *n.*

V

v or **V** (vi:) *n.*, *pl.* **v's**, **V's**, or **Vs**. 1. the 22nd letter of the English alphabet. 2. a speech sound represented by this letter, usually a voiced fricative, as in *vote*. 3. **a**. something shaped like a **V**. **b.** (in combination): a *V* neck.

v symbol for: 1. *Physics*. velocity. 2. volt.

V symbol for: 1. *Physics*. velocity. 2. (in transformational grammar) verb. 3. volume (capacity). 4. volt. 5. *Chem*. vanadium. 6. victory. ~7. the Roman numeral for five.

v. abbrev. for: 1. ventral. 2. verb. 3. verse. 4. verso. 5. (usually italic) versus. 6. very. 7. vide: see. 8. volume.

V. abbrev. for: 1. Venerable. 2. (in titles) Very. 3. (in titles) Vice. 4. Viscount.

V.A. abbrev. for: 1. Vicar Apostolic. 2. (Order of) Victoria and Albert.

vac (væk) *n.* *Brit. inf.* short for *vacation*.

vacancy ('væksnsi) *n.*, *pl.* **-cies**. 1. the state or condition of being vacant or unoccupied; emptiness. 2. an unoccupied post or office: we have a *vacancy* in the accounts department. 3. lack of thought or intelligent awareness. 4. *Obs.* idleness or a period spent in idleness.

vacant ('væikənt) *adj.* 1. without any contents; empty. 2. (*postpositive*; foll. by *of*) devoid (of something specified). 3. having no incumbent: a *vacant* post. 4. having no tenant or occupant: a *vacant* house. 5. characterized by or resulting from lack of thought or intelligent awareness. 6. (of time, etc.) not allocated to any activity: a *vacant* hour in one's day. 7. spent in idleness or inactivity: a *vacant* life. —**vacantly** *adv.*

vacate ('və'keɪt) *vb.* (*mainly* *tr.*) 1. to cause (something) to be empty, esp. by departing from or abandoning it: to *vacate* a room. 2. (*also* *intr.*) to give up the tenure, possession, or occupancy of (a place, post, etc.). 3. *Law*. a. to cancel. b. to annul. —**va'catable** *adj.*

vacation ('və'keɪʃən) *n.* 1. *Chiefly* *Brit.* a period of the year when the law courts or universities are closed. 2. *U.S.* a holiday. 3. the act of departing from or abandoning property, etc. ~*vb.* 4. (*intr.*) *U.S.* to take a holiday. —**va'cationer** or **va'cationist** *n.*

vaccinate ('væksɪneɪt) *vb.* to inoculate (a person) with vaccine so as to produce immunity against a specific disease. —**vacci'nation** *n.* —**vacci'nator** *n.*

vaccine ('væksɪn) *n.* *Med.* 1. a suspension of dead, attenuated, or otherwise modified microorganisms for inoculation to produce immunity to a disease by stimulating the production of antibodies. 2. a preparation of the virus of cowpox inoculated in humans to produce immunity to smallpox. 3. (*modifier*) of or relating to vaccination or vaccinia. —**vaccinal** *adj.*

vacillate ('væsi'leɪt) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. to fluctuate in one's opinions. 2. to sway from side to side physically. —**vac'il'lation** *n.* —**vacil'lator** *n.*

vacuity ('væ'kjʊɪti) *n.*, *pl.* **-ties**. 1. the state or quality of being vacuous. 2. an empty space or void. 3. a lack or absence of something specified: a *vacuity* of mind. 4. lack of normal intelligence or awareness. 5. a statement, saying, etc., that is inane or pointless.

vacuous ('vækjʊəs) *adj.* 1. empty. 2. bereft of ideas or intelligence. 3. characterized by or resulting from vacancy of mind: a *vacuous* gaze. 4. indulging in no useful mental or physical activity. —**vacuously** *adv.*

vacuum ('vækjʊəm) *n.*, *pl.* **vacuums** or **vacua** ('vækjʊə). 1. a region containing no free matter; in technical contexts now often called: *free space*. 2. a region in which gas is present at a low pressure. 3. the degree of exhaustion of gas within an enclosed space: a *perfect vacuum*. 4. a feeling of emptiness: his death left a *vacuum* in her life. 5. short for *vacuum cleaner*. 6. (*modifier*) of, containing, producing, or operated by a low gas pressure: a *vacuum* brake. ~*vb.* 7. to clean (something) with a vacuum cleaner.

vacuum cleaner *n.* an electrical household appliance used for cleaning floors, carpets, etc., by suction. —**vacuum cleaning** *n.*

vacuum flask *n.* an insulating flask that has double walls, usually of silvered glass, with an evacuated space between them. It is used for maintaining substances at high or low temperatures. Also called: *Thermos*.

vacuum-packed *adj.* packed in an airtight container or packet under low pressure in order to maintain freshness, prevent corrosion, etc.

vacuum pump *n.* a pump for producing a low gas pressure.

vacuum tube or **valve** *n.* another name for *valve* (sense 3).

V.A.D. abbrev. for *Voluntary Aid Detachment*.

vade mecum ('væ:di'meikəm) *n.* a handbook or other aid carried on the person for immediate use when needed.

vagabond ('vægə'bɒnd) *n.* 1. a person with no fixed home. 2. an idle wandering beggar or thief. 3. (*modifier*) of or like a vagabond. —**vaga,bondage** *n.*

vagary ('veɪgəri, vɔ'geəri) *n.*, *pl.* **-garies**. an erratic notion or action.

vagina ('vɔ'dʒinə) *n.*, *pl.* **-nas** or **-nae** (-ni:). 1. the canal in most female mammals that extends from the cervix of the uterus to an external opening between the labia minora. 2. *Anat., biol.* any sheath or sheathlike structure. —**vag'inal** *adj.*

vaginismus ('vædʒɪ'nɪzməs) *n.* painful spasm of the vagina.

vaginitis ('vædʒɪ'naitɪs) *n.* inflammation of the vagina.

vagrant ('veɪgrənt) *n.* 1. a person of no settled abode, income, or job; tramp. ~*adj.* 2. wandering about. 3. of or characteristic of a vagrant or vagabond. 4. moving in an erratic fashion; wayward. 5. (of plants) showing straggling growth. —**vagrantly** *adv.*

vague ('veɪg) *adj.* 1. (of statements, meaning, etc.) imprecise: *vague* promises. 2. not clearly perceptible or discernible: a *vague* idea. 3. not clearly or definitely established or known: a *vague* rumour. 4. (of a person or his expression) absent-minded. —**vaguely** *adv.* —**vagueness** *n.*

vain ('veɪn) *adj.* 1. inordinately proud of one's appearance, possessions, or achievements. 2. given to ostentatious display. 3. worthless. 4. senseless or futile. ~*n.* 5. in *vain*. fruitlessly. 6. take someone's name in *vain*. to use the name of someone without due respect. —**vainly** *adv.* —**vainness** *n.*

vainglory ('veɪn'glɔ:ri) *n.* 1. boastfulness or vanity. 2. ostentation. —**vain'glorious** *adj.*

valance ('væləns) *n.* a short piece of drapery hung along a shelf or bed to hide structural detail. —**val'anced** *adj.*

vale ('veɪl) *n.* a literary word for *valley*.

valediction ('væli'dɪkʃən) *n.* 1. the act or an instance of saying goodbye. 2. any valedictory statement, speech, etc. —**vale'dictory** *adj.*, *n.*

valence ('veɪləns) *n.* *Chem.* 1. another name (esp. *U.S.*) for *valency*. 2. the phenomenon of forming chemical bonds.

valency ('veɪlənsɪ) or esp. *U.S.* **valence** *n.*, *pl.* **-cies**. *Chem.* a property of atoms or groups equal to the number of atoms of hydrogen that the atom or group could combine with or displace in forming compounds.

valentine ('vælən'taɪn) *n.* 1. a card or gift expressing love or affection, sent, often anonymously, on Saint Valentine's Day. 2. a sweetheart selected for such a greeting.

valerian ('vɔ'leəriən) *n.* 1. Also called: *allheal*. a Eurasian plant having small white or pinkish flowers and a medicinal root. 2. a sedative drug made from the dried roots of this plant.

valet ('vælt, 'væleɪ) *n.* 1. a manservant who acts as personal attendant to his employer, looking after his clothing, serving his meals, etc. 2. a manservant who attends to the requirements of patrons in a hotel, etc.; steward.

valetudinarian ('væltɪ'ju:di'nɛəriən) or **valetudinary** ('væltɪ'ju:di'nəri) *n.*, *pl.* **-narians** or **-naries**. 1. a person who is chronically sick. 2. a hypochondriac. 3. an old person who is in good health. ~*adj.* 4. relating to or resulting from poor health. 5. being a valetudinarian. —**vale,tudi'narianism** *n.*

Valhalla ('væl'hælə) *n.* *Norse myth.* the great hall of Odin where warriors who die as heroes in battle dwell eternally.

valiant ('væljənt) *adj.* 1. courageous or intrepid. 2. marked by bravery or courage: a *valiant deed*. — *valiantly adv.*

valid ('vælid) *adj.* 1. having some foundation; based on truth. 2. legally acceptable: a *valid licence*. 3. a. having legal force. b. having legal authority. 4. having some force or cogency: a *valid point in a debate*. 5. *Logic*. (of an inference) having premisses and a conclusion so related that if the premisses are true, the conclusion must be true. — *validly adv.* — *validity* ('væliditi) *n.*

validate ('væli,dei) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to confirm or corroborate. 2. to give legal force or official confirmation to. — *validation n.*

valise ('væliz) *n.* a small overnight travelling case.

Valkyrie ('vælkɪəri, 'vælkɪəri) *n.* *Norse myth*, any of the beautiful maidens who serve Odin and ride over battlefields to claim the dead heroes and take them to Valhalla.

valley ('væli) *n.* 1. a long depression in the land surface, usually containing a river, formed by erosion or by movements in the earth's crust. 2. the broad area drained by a single river system: *the Thames valley*. 3. any elongated depression resembling a valley.

valour or *U.S. valor* ('vælə) *n.* courage or bravery, esp. in battle. — *valorous adj.*

valuable ('væljʊəbəl) *adj.* 1. having considerable monetary worth. 2. of considerable importance or quality: *valuable information*. 3. able to be valued. ~ *n.* 4. (usually pl.) a valuable article of personal property, esp. jewellery. — *valuably adv.*

valuation ('væljʊeɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of valuing, esp. a formal assessment of the worth of property, jewellery, etc. 2. the price arrived at by the process of valuing: *I set a high valuation on technical ability*. — *valuational adj.*

value ('væljʊ) *n.* 1. the desirability of a thing, often in respect of some property such as usefulness or exchangeability. 2. an amount, esp. a material or monetary one, considered to be a fair exchange in return for a thing: *the value of the picture is £10 000*. 3. satisfaction: *value for money*. 4. precise meaning or significance. 5. (pl.) the moral principles or accepted standards of a person or group. 6. *Maths*, a particular magnitude, number, or amount: *the value of the variable was 7*. 7. *Music*, the duration of a note. 8. (in painting, drawing, etc.) a. a gradation of tone from light to dark. b. the relation of one of these elements to another or to the whole picture. 9. *Phonetics*, the quality of the speech sound associated with a written character representing it: "*g*" has the value (dʒ) in English "*gem*". ~ *vb.* -*uing, -ued.* (tr.) 10. to assess or estimate the worth, merit, or desirability of. 11. to have a high regard for, esp. in respect of worth, usefulness, merit, etc. 12. (foll. by at) to fix the financial or material worth of (a unit of currency, work of art etc.). — *valued adj.* — *valueless adj.* — *valuer n.*

value-added tax *n.* *Brit.* the full name for VAT.

value judgment *n.* a subjective assessment based on one's own values or those of one's class.

valve ('vælv) *n.* 1. any device that shuts off, starts, regulates, or controls the flow of a fluid. 2. *Anat.* a flaplike structure in a hollow organ, such as the heart, that controls the one-way passage of fluid through that organ. 3. Also called: *tube*, an evacuated electron tube containing a cathode, anode, and, usually, one or more additional control electrodes. When a positive potential is applied to the anode, it produces a one-way flow of current. 4. *Zool.* any of the separable pieces that make up the shell of a mollusc. 5. *Music*, a device on some brass instruments by which the effective length of the tube may be varied to enable a chromatic scale to be produced. 6. *Bot.* any of the several parts that make up a dry dehiscent fruit, esp. a capsule. — *valveless adj.* — *valve, like adj.*

valvular ('vælvjʊlə) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, operated by, or having a valve or valves. 2. having the shape or function of a valve.

vamoose ('væmu:z) *vb.* (intr.) *U.S. sl.* to leave a place hurriedly; decamp.

vamp ('væmp) *Inf.* ~ *n.* 1. a seductive woman who exploits men by use of her sexual charms. ~ *vb.* 2. to exploit (a man) in the fashion of a vamp.

vamp ('væmp) *n.* 1. something patched up to make it look new. 2. the reworking of a story, etc. 3. an improvised accompaniment. 4. the front part of the upper of a shoe. ~ *vb.* 5. (tr.; often foll. by up) to make a renovation (of). 6. to improvise (an accompaniment) to (a tune).

vampire ('væmpaɪə) *n.* 1. (in European folklore) a corpse that rises nightly from its grave to drink the blood of the living. 2. See *vampire bat*. 3. a person who preys mercilessly upon others. — *vampiric* ('væm-'pɪrɪk) *adj.* — *vampirism n.*

vampire bat *n.* a bat of tropical regions of Central and South America, having sharp incisor and canine teeth and feeding on the blood of birds and mammals.

van ('væn) *n.* 1. short for *caravan* (sense 1). 2. a motor vehicle for transporting goods, etc., by road. 3. *Brit.* a closed railway wagon in which the guard travels, for transporting goods, etc.

van ('væn) *n.* short for *vanguard*.

vanadium ('væneidiəm) *n.* a toxic silvery-white metallic element used in steel alloys and as a catalyst. Symbol: V; atomic no.: 23; atomic wt.: 50.94.

Van Allen belt ('væn 'ælən) *n.* either of two regions of charged particles above the earth, the inner one extending from 2400 to 5600 kilometres above the earth and the outer one from 13 000 to 19 000 kilometres.

vandal ('vændl) *n.* a person who deliberately causes damage to personal or public property. — *vandalism n.*

vandalize or *-lize* ('vændə,laiz) *vb.* (tr.) to destroy or damage (something) by an act of vandalism.

Vandyke beard ('vændaɪkə) *n.* a short pointed beard. Often shortened to *Vandyke*.

vane ('ven) *n.* 1. Also called: *weather vane*, a flat plate or blade of metal mounted on a vertical axis in an exposed position to indicate wind direction. 2. any one of the flat blades or sails forming part of the wheel of a windmill. 3. any flat or shaped plate used to direct fluid flow, esp. in a turbine, etc. 4. a fin or plate fitted to a projectile or missile to provide stabilization or guidance. 5. *Ornithol.* the flat part of a feather. 6. *Surveying*, a. a sight on a quadrant or compass. b. the movable marker on a levelling staff. — *vaned adj.*

vanguard ('væn,gəʊd) *n.* 1. the leading division or units of an army. 2. the leading position in any movement or field, or the people who occupy such a position.

vanilla ('vænilə) *n.* 1. any of a genus of tropical climbing orchids having spikes of large fragrant flowers and long fleshy pods containing the seeds (beans). 2. the pod or bean of certain of these plants, used to flavour food, etc. 3. a flavouring extract prepared from vanilla beans and used in cooking. — *vanillic adj.*

vanish ('væniʃ) *vb.* (intr.) 1. to disappear, esp. suddenly or mysteriously. 2. to cease to exist. 3. *Maths.* to become zero. — *vanisher n.* — *vanishment n.*

vanishing cream *n.* a cosmetic cream that is colourless once applied, used as a foundation for powder or as a cleansing cream.

vanishing point *n.* 1. the point to which parallel lines appear to converge in the rendering of perspective, usually on the horizon. 2. a point at which something disappears.

vanity ('vænitɪ) *n.*, pl. *-ties*. 1. the state or quality of being vain. 2. ostentation occasioned by ambition or pride. 3. an instance of being vain or something about which one is vain. 4. the state or quality of being valueless or futile.

vanity case or *box* *n.* a woman's small hand case used to carry cosmetics, etc.

vanity unit *n.* a hand basin built into a wooden Formica-covered or tiled top, usually with a built-in cupboard below it. Also called (trademark): *Vanitory unit*.

vanquish ('væŋkwɪʃ) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to defeat or overcome in a battle, contest, etc. 2. to defeat in argument or debate. 3. to conquer (an emotion). — *vanquishable adj.* — *vanquisher n.*

vantage ('væntɪdʒ) *n.* 1. a state, position, or opportunity affording superiority or advantage. 2. superiority or benefit accruing from such a position, etc. 3. *Tennis*, short for *advantage*.

vapid ('væpid) *adj.* 1. bereft of strength, sharpness, flavour, etc. 2. boring or dull: *vapid talk*. — *vapidity n.* — *vapidly adv.*

vapor ('veɪpə) *n.*, *vb.* the U.S. spelling of *vapour*.

vaporize or *-rise* ('veɪpə,raɪz) *vb.* 1. to change or cause to change into vapour or into the gaseous state. 2. to evaporate or disappear or cause to evaporate or disappear, esp. suddenly. — *vaporization* or *-ri'sation n.* — *vapo'rizer* or *-rizer n.*

vaporous ('veɪpərəs) *adj.* 1. resembling or full of vapour. 2. lacking permanence or substance. 3. given to foolish imaginings. — *vaporously adv.* — *vaporosity* ('veɪpə'rosɪti) *n.*

vapour or *U.S. vapor* ('veɪpə) *n.* 1. particles of moisture or other substance suspended in air and visible as clouds, smoke, etc. 2. a gaseous substance at a temperature below its critical temperature. 3. a substance that is in a gaseous state at a temperature below its boiling point. 4. **the vapours.** *Arch.* a depressed mental condition believed originally to be the result of vaporous exhalations from the stomach. ~*vb.* 5. to evaporate or cause to evaporate. 6. (*intr.*) to make vain empty boasts. — **'vapourer** or *U.S. 'vapor* *n.* — **'vapourish** or *U.S. 'vaporish* *adj.* — **'vapour-like** or *U.S. 'vapor-like* *adj.* — **'vapoury** or *U.S. 'vapor* *adj.*

vapour lock *n.* a stoppage in a pipe carrying a liquid caused by a bubble of gas, esp. in the pipe feeding the carburettor of an internal-combustion engine.

var. *abbrev. for:* 1. variable. 2. variant. 3. variation. 4. variety. 5. various.

variable ('væəriəbl̩) *adj.* 1. liable to or capable of change: *variable weather.* 2. (of behaviour, emotions, etc.) lacking constancy. 3. *Maths.* having a range of possible values. 4. (of a species, etc.) liable to deviate from the established type. 5. (of a wind) varying in direction and intensity. 6. (of an electrical component or device) designed so that a characteristic property, such as resistance, can be varied. ~*n.* 7. something that is subject to variation. 8. *Maths.* a. a quantity or function that can assume any of a set of specified values. b. a symbol, esp. *x*, *y*, or *z*, representing any unspecified number, quantity, etc., belonging to a set. 9. *Logic.* a symbol, esp. *x*, *y*, or *z*, representing any member of a class of entities. 10. a variable wind. 11. (*pl.*) a region where variable winds occur. — **'variability** or **'variableness** *n.* — **'variably** *adv.*

variance ('væəriəns) *n.* 1. the act of varying or the quality, state, or degree of being divergent. 2. an instance of diverging; dissension. 3. **at variance.** a. (often foll. by *with*) (of facts, etc.) not in accord. b. (of persons) in a state of dissension. 4. *Statistics.* a measure of dispersion; the square of the standard deviations. 5. a difference or discrepancy between two steps in a legal proceeding, esp. between a statement and the evidence given to support it. 6. *Chem.* the number of degrees of freedom of a system, used in the phase rule.

variant ('væəriənt) *adj.* 1. liable to or displaying variation. 2. deviating from a norm, standard, or type: *a variant spelling.* ~*n.* 3. something that deviates or varies from a norm, standard, or type.

variation ('væəri'eɪʃn) *n.* 1. the act, process, condition, or result of changing or varying. 2. an instance of varying or the amount, rate, or degree of such change. 3. something that deviates from a standard, convention, or norm. 4. *Music.* a repetition of a musical theme in which the rhythm, harmony, or melody is altered or embellished. 5. *Biol.* a marked deviation from the typical form or function. 6. *Astron.* any change in or deviation from the mean motion or orbit of a planet, satellite, etc. 7. *Ballet.* a solo dance. — **'variational** *adj.*

varicoloured or *U.S. varicolored* ('væəri,kələd) *adj.* having many colours.

varicose ('væəri,kəʊs) *adj.* of or resulting from varicose veins: *a varicose ulcer.*

varicose veins *n.* a condition in which the superficial veins, esp. of the legs, become tortuous, knotted, and swollen.

varied ('væəriəd) *adj.* 1. displaying or characterized by variety; diverse. 2. modified or altered: *the amount may be varied without notice.* 3. varicoloured; variegated. — **'variedly** *adv.*

variegated ('væəri,geɪtəd) *adj.* 1. displaying differently coloured spots, streaks, etc. 2. (of foliage) having pale patches.

variety ('və'raɪnti) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. the quality or condition of being diversified or various. 2. a collection of unlike things, esp. of the same general group. 3. a different form or kind within a general category: *varieties of behaviour.* 4. a type of animal or plant produced by artificial breeding. 5. a. entertainment consisting of a series of short unrelated acts, such as comedy turns, songs, etc. b. (*as modifier*): *a variety show.*

variorum ('væəri'ɔ:rəm) *adj.* 1. containing notes by various scholars or various versions of the text. ~*n.* 2. an edition or text of this kind.

various ('væəriəs) *determiner.* 1. several different: *he is an authority on various subjects.* ~*adj.* 2. of different kinds, though often within the same general category: *his disguises are many and various.* 3. (*prepositional*) relating to a collection of separate persons or things: *the various members of the club.* 4. displaying variety;

many-sided: *his various achievements.* — **'variously** *adv.* — **'variouness** *n.*

▷ **Usage.** *Various of*, as in *he wrote to various of his friends*, is not current in good usage. Careful writers prefer *various or several of* to *various of*: *he wrote to various friends; he wrote to several of his friends.*

varix ('veəriks) *n., pl. varices* ('væri:sɪz). *Pathol. a.* a tortuous dilated vein. b. a similar condition affecting an artery or lymphatic vessel.

varlet ('vɔ:lɪt) *n. Arch.* 1. a menial servant. 2. a knight's page. 3. a rascal. — **'varletry** *n.*

varmint ('vɔ:mɪnt) *n. Inf.* an irritating or obnoxious person or animal.

varnish ('vɔ:nɪʃ) *n.* 1. a preparation consisting of a solvent, a drying oil, and usually resin, rubber, etc., for application to a surface where it yields a hard glossy, usually transparent, coating. 2. a similar preparation consisting of a substance, such as shellac, dissolved in a volatile solvent, such as alcohol. It hardens to a film on evaporation of the solvent. 3. the sap of certain trees used to produce such a coating. 4. a smooth surface, coated with or as with varnish. 5. an artificial, superficial, or deceptively pleasing manner, covering, etc. 6. *Chiefly Brit.* another word for **naïl polish**. ~*vb. (tr.)* 7. to cover with varnish. 8. to give a smooth surface to, as if by painting with varnish. 9. to impart a more attractive appearance to. — **'varnisher** *n.*

varsity ('vɔ:sɪti) *n., pl. -ties.* *Brit. inf.* short for **university**.

varve ('vɔ:v) *n. Geol.* a band of sediment deposited in glacial lakes, consisting of a light layer and a dark layer deposited at different seasons.

vary ('væəri) *vb. varying, varied.* 1. to cause or undergo change or modification in appearance, character, form, etc. 2. to be different or cause to be different; be subject to change. 3. (*tr.*) to give variety to. 4. (*intr.*; foll. by *from*) to deviate, as from a convention, standard, etc. 5. (*intr.*) to change in accordance with another variable: *her mood varies with the weather.* — **'varyingly** *adv.*

vas ('væs) *n., pl. vasa* ('veɪsə). *Anat., zool.* a vessel or tube that carries a fluid.

vascular ('væskjələ) *adj. Biol., anat.* of, relating to, or having vessels that conduct and circulate fluids: *a vascular bundle.* — **'vascularity** ('væskju'lærɪti) *n.* — **'vascularly** *adv.*

vas deferens ('væs 'defə'renz) *n., pl. vasa deferentia* ('veɪsə 'defə'renʃiə). *Anat.* the duct within each testis that conveys spermatozoa to the ejaculatory duct.

vase ('væz) *n.* a vessel used as an ornament or for holding cut flowers.

vasectomy ('væ'sektəmi) *n., pl. -mies.* surgical removal of all or part of the vas deferens, esp. as a method of contraception.

Vaseline ('væslɪ:n) *n.* a trademark for petrolatum.

vassal ('væsl) *n.* 1. (in feudal society) a man who entered into a relationship with a lord to whom he paid homage and fealty in return for protection and often a fief. 2. a. a person, nation, etc., in a subordinate or dependent position relative to another. b. (*as modifier*): *vassal status.* ~*adj.* 3. of or relating to a vassal. — **'vas-salage** *n.*

vast ('vɔ:st) *adj.* 1. unusually large in size, degree, or number. 2. (*prepositional*) (intensifier): *in vast haste.* ~*n.* 3. **the vast.** *Chiefly poetic.* immense or boundless space. — **'vastly** *adv.* — **'vastness** *n.*

vat ('væt) *n.* 1. a large container for holding or storing liquids. 2. *Chem.* a preparation of reduced vat dye. ~*vb. vatting, vatted.* 3. (*tr.*) to place, store, or treat in a vat.

VAT (*sometimes* væt) *Brit. abbrev. for value-added tax;* a tax levied on the difference between the cost of materials and the selling price of the commodity.

Vatican ('vætɪkən) *n.* 1. a. the palace of the popes in Rome, which includes administrative offices and is attached to the basilica of St. Peter's. b. (*as modifier*): *the Vatican Council.* 2. a. the authority of the Pope and the papal curia. b. (*as modifier*): *a Vatican edict.*

vaudeville ('vɔ:ðəvɪl, 'vɔ:-) *n.* 1. *Chiefly U.S.* variety entertainment consisting of short acts such as acrobatic turns, song-and-dance routines etc. 2. a light or comic theatrical piece interspersed with songs and dances. — **'vaude-villian** *n., adj.*

vault ('vɔ:lt) *n.* 1. an arched structure that forms a roof or ceiling. 2. a room, esp. a cellar, having an arched roof down to floor level. 3. a burial chamber, esp. when underground. 4. a strongroom for the storage of valuables. 5. an underground room used for the storage of

wine, food, etc. **6.** *Anat.* any arched or domed bodily cavity or space: the *cranial vault*. **7.** something suggestive of an arched structure, as the sky. ~vb. **8.** (tr.) to furnish with or as if with an arched roof. **9.** (tr.) to construct in the shape of a vault. **10.** (intr.) to curve in the shape of a vault.

vault? (vɔ:lt) vb. **1.** to spring over (an object), esp. with the aid of a long pole or with the hands resting on the object. **2.** (intr.) to do, achieve, or attain something as if by a leap: he vaulted to fame. ~n. **3.** the act of vaulting. ~**vaulter** n.

vaulting! ('vɔ:ltɪŋ) n. one or more vaults in a building or such structures considered collectively.

vaulting! ('vɔ:ltɪŋ) adj. **1.** (prenominal) excessively confident: vaulting arrogance. **2.** (prenominal) used to vault: a vaulting pole.

vaunt (vɔ:nt) vb. **1.** (tr.) to describe, praise, or display (one's success, possessions, etc.) boastfully. **2.** (intr.) Rare or literary. to brag. ~n. **3.** a boast. ~**vaunter** n. ~**vauntingly** adv.

vb. abbrev. for verb.

V.C. abbrev. for: **1.** Vice Chairman. **2.** Vice Chancellor. **3.** Vice Consul. **4.** Victoria Cross.

VD abbrev. for venereal disease.

VDU Computers. abbrev. for visual display unit.

veal (vi:l) n. the flesh of the calf used as food.

vector ('vektə) n. **1.** *Maths.* a variable quantity, such as force, that has magnitude and direction and can be resolved into components. **2.** Also called: **carrier.** *Pathol.* an organism, esp. an insect, that carries a disease-producing microorganism from one host to another. **3.** the course or compass direction of an aircraft. ~vb. **4.** (tr.) to direct or guide (a pilot, aircraft, etc.) by directions transmitted by radio. ~**vectorial** ('vektəriəl) adj.

Veda ('veda) n. any or all of the most ancient sacred writings of Hinduism, esp. the Rig-Veda, Yajur-Veda, Sama-Veda, and Atharva-Veda.

vedette (vi'det) n. **1.** *Naval.* a small patrol vessel. **2.** *Mil.* a mounted sentry posted forward of a formation's position.

veer (viə) vb. **1.** to alter direction. **2.** (intr.) to change from one position, opinion, etc., to another. **3.** (intr.) (of the wind) to change direction clockwise in the northern hemisphere and anticlockwise in the southern. ~n. **4.** a change of course or direction. ~**veeringly** adv.

veg (vedʒ) n. *Inf.* a vegetable or vegetables.

Vega ('vige) n. the brightest star in the constellation Lyra and one of the most conspicuous in the N hemisphere.

vegan ('vi:gən) n. a vegetarian who eats no animal products.

vegetable ('vedʒtəbəl) n. **1.** any of various herbaceous plants having parts that are used as food, such as peas, potatoes, cauliflower, and onions. **2.** *Inf.* a person who has lost control of his mental faculties, limbs, etc., as from an injury, mental disease, etc. **3.** a dull inactive person. **4.** (modifier) consisting of or made from edible vegetables: a vegetable diet. **5.** (modifier) of, characteristic of, derived from, or consisting of plants or plant material: the vegetable kingdom. **6.** Rare. any member of the plant kingdom.

vegetable marrow n. **1.** a plant, probably native to America but widely cultivated for its oblong green striped fruit which is eaten as a vegetable. **2.** the fruit of this plant. Often shortened to **marrow**.

vegetable oil n. any of a group of oils that are obtained from plants.

vegetal ('vedʒɪtəl) adj. **1.** of or characteristic of vegetables or plant life. **2.** vegetative.

vegetarian ('vedʒɪ'teəriən) n. **1.** a person who advocates or practises the exclusion of meat and fish, and sometimes egg, milk, and cheese from the diet. ~adj. **2.** *Cookery.* strictly, consisting of vegetables and fruit only, but often including milk, cheese, eggs, etc. ~**vegetarianism** n.

vegetate ('vedʒɪ'teɪt) vb. (intr.) **1.** to grow like a plant. **2.** to lead a life characterized by monotony, passivity, or mental inactivity.

vegetation ('vedʒɪ'teɪʃən) n. **1.** plant life as a whole, esp. the plant life of a particular region. **2.** the process of vegetating. ~**vegetational** adj.

vegetative ('vedʒɪ'tetv) adj. **1.** of or concerned with plant life or plant growth. **2.** (of reproduction) characterized by asexual processes. **3.** of or relating to functions such as digestion and circulation rather than sexual

reproduction. **4.** (of a style of living, etc.) unthinking or passive. ~**vegetatively** adv.

vehement ('vi:mənt) adj. **1.** marked by intensity of feeling or conviction. **2.** (of actions, gestures, etc.) characterized by great energy, vigour, or force. ~**vehemence** n. ~**vehemently** adv.

vehicle ('vi:kl̩) n. **1.** any conveyance in or by which people or objects are transported, esp. one fitted with wheels. **2.** a medium for the expression or communication of ideas, power, etc. **3.** *Pharmacol.* a therapeutically inactive substance mixed with the active ingredient to give bulk to a medicine. **4.** Also called: **base.** a painting medium, such as oil, in which pigments are suspended. **5.** (in the performing arts) a play, etc., that enables a particular performer to display his talents. ~**vehicular** (vi'hikjələ) adj.

veil (veil) n. **1.** a piece of more or less transparent material, usually attached to a hat or headdress, used to conceal or protect a woman's face and head. **2.** part of a nun's headdress falling round the face onto the shoulders. **3.** something that covers, conceals, or separates: a veil of reticence. **4.** the veil, the life of a nun in a religious order. **5.** take the veil, to become a nun. **6.** Also called: **velum.** Bot. a membranous structure, esp. the thin layer of cells covering a young mushroom. ~vb. **7.** (tr.) to cover, conceal, or separate with or as if with a veil. **8.** (intr.) to wear or put on a veil. ~**veiler** n. ~**veil-,like** adj.

veiled (veild) adj. **1.** disguised: a veiled insult. **2.** (of sound, tone, the voice, etc.) not distinct. ~**veiledly** ('veildli) adv.

vein (veɪn) n. **1.** any of the tubular vessels that convey oxygen-depleted blood to the heart. Cf. **artery**. **2.** any of the hollow branching tubes that form the supporting framework of an insect's wing. **3.** any of the vascular bundles of a leaf. **4.** a clearly defined mass of ore, mineral, etc. **5.** an irregular streak of colour or alien substance in marble, wood, or other material. **6.** a distinctive trait or quality in speech, writing, character, etc.: a vein of humour. **7.** a temporary attitude or temper: the debate entered a frivolous vein. ~vb. (tr.) **8.** to diffuse over or cause to diffuse over in streaked patterns. **9.** to fill, furnish, or mark with or as if with veins. ~**veinless** adj. ~**vein-,like** adj. ~**veiny** adj.

velar ('vi:lə) adj. **1.** of or attached to a velum: *velar tentacles*. **2.** *Phonetics.* articulated with the soft palate and the back of the tongue, as in (k) or (ŋ).

Velcro ('velkrəʊ) n. *Trademark.* a fastening consisting of two strips of nylon fabric, one having tiny hooked threads and the other a coarse surface, that form a strong bond when pressed together.

veld or **veldt** (felt, velt) n. elevated open grassland in Southern Africa.

veleta or **valeta** (və'li:tə) n. a ballroom dance in triple time.

vellum ('veləm) n. **1.** a fine parchment prepared from the skin of a calf, kid, or lamb. **2.** a work printed or written on vellum. **3.** a creamy coloured heavy paper resembling vellum. ~adj. **4.** made of or resembling vellum.

velocipede (vi'lɒsɪ'pid) n. an early form of bicycle, esp. one propelled by pushing along the ground with the feet. ~**ve'loci,pedist** n.

velocity (vi'lɒsɪti) n., pl. **-ties**. **1.** speed of motion or operation; swiftness. **2.** *Physics.* a. a measure of the rate of motion of a body expressed as the rate of change of its position in a particular direction with time. b. (not in technical usage) another word for **speed** (sense 3).

velours or **velour** (ve'lʊə) n. any of various fabrics with a velvet-like finish, used for upholstery, clothing, etc.

velouté (və'luteɪ) n. a rich white sauce or soup made from stock, egg yolks, and cream.

velvet ('velvɪt) n. **1.** a. a fabric of silk, cotton, nylon, etc., with a thick close soft pile. b. (as modifier): *velvet curtains*. **2.** anything with a smooth soft surface. **3.** a. smoothness. b. (as modifier): a velvet night. **4.** the furry covering of the newly formed antlers of a deer. **5.** *Sl.* chiefly U.S. a. gambling winnings. b. a gain. **6.** on velvet. *Sl.* in a condition of ease, advantage, or wealth. **7.** velvet glove, gentleness, often concealing strength or determination (esp. in an iron hand in a velvet glove). ~**velvet-,like** adj. ~**velvety** adj.

velveteen ('velvɪ'ti:n) n. **1.** a cotton fabric resembling velvet with a short thick pile, used for clothing, etc. **2.** (pl.) trousers made of velveteen.

Ven. abbrev. for Venerable.

vena cava ('vi:nə 'keɪvə) n., pl. *venae cavae* ('vi:ni:

'keivi:), either one of two large veins that convey oxygen-depleted blood to the heart.

venal ('vi:nəl) *adj.* 1. easily bribed or corrupted: *a venal magistrate*. 2. characterized by corruption or bribery. —*venality* *n.* —*venally* *adv.*

venation ('vi:neɪʃən) *n.* 1. the arrangement of the veins in a leaf or in the wing of an insect. 2. such veins collectively. —*venational* *adj.*

vend ('vend) *vb.* 1. to sell or be sold. 2. to sell (goods) for a living.

vendetta ('ven'detə) *n.* 1. a private feud, originally between Corsican or Sicilian families, in which the relatives of a murdered person seek vengeance by killing the murderer or some member of his family. 2. any prolonged feud. —*ven'dettist* *n.*

vendible ('vendəbəl) *adj.* 1. saleable or marketable. ~*n.* 2. (usually *pl.*) Rare. a saleable object. —*vendib'ility* *n.*

vending machine *n.* a machine that automatically dispenses consumer goods such as cigarettes or food, when money is inserted.

vender ('vendo:) or **vender** ('vəndə) *n.* 1. Chiefly *law*. a person who sells something, esp. real property. 2. another name for **vending machine**.

veneer ('vi:nɪə) *n.* 1. a thin layer of wood, plastic, etc., with a decorative or fine finish that is bonded to the surface of a less expensive material, usually wood. 2. a superficial appearance: *a veneer of gentility*. 3. any facing material that is applied to a different backing material. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 4. to cover (a surface) with a veneer. 5. to conceal (something) under a superficially pleasant surface. —*ve'neerer* *n.*

venerable ('venərəbəl) *adj.* 1. (esp. of a person) worthy of reverence on account of great age, religious associations, character, etc. 2. (of inanimate objects) hallowed on account of age or historical or religious association. 3. *R.C. Church*. a title bestowed on a deceased person when the first stage of his canonization has been accomplished. 4. *Church of England*. a title given to an archdeacon. —*venera'bility* or *'venerable-ness* *n.* —*ven'vably* *adv.*

venerate ('venə'reit) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to hold in deep respect. 2. to honour in recognition of qualities of holiness, excellence, etc. —*ven'erator* *n.*

veneration ('venə'reiʃən) *n.* 1. a feeling or expression of awe or reverence. 2. the act of venerating or the state of being venerated.

venereal ('vi:nɪərəl) *adj.* 1. of or infected with venereal disease. 2. (of a disease) transmitted by sexual intercourse. 3. of or involving the genitals. 4. of or relating to sexual intercourse or erotic desire.

venereal disease *n.* any of various diseases, such as syphilis or gonorrhoea, transmitted by sexual intercourse. Abbrev.: *VD*

Venetian ('vi:niʃən) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or characteristic of Venice, a port in NE Italy or its inhabitants. ~*n.* 2. a native or inhabitant of Venice. 3. See **Venetian blind**.

Venetian blind *n.* a window blind consisting of a number of horizontal slats whose angle may be altered to let in more or less light.

vengeance ('vendʒəns) *n.* 1. the act of or desire for taking revenge. 2. with a **vengeance**. (intensifier): *he's a coward with a vengeance*.

vengeful ('vendʒfəl) *adj.* 1. desiring revenge. 2. characterized by or indicating a desire for revenge. 3. inflicting or taking revenge: *with vengeful blows*. —*vengefully* *adv.*

venial ('vi:nɪəl) *adj.* easily excused or forgiven: *a venial error*. —*veni'ality* *n.* —*venially* *adv.*

venial sin *n.* *Christian theol.* a sin regarded as involving only a partial loss of grace.

venison ('venɪz'n, -s'n) *n.* the flesh of a deer, used as food.

Venn diagram ('ven) *n.* *Maths., logic*. a diagram in which mathematical sets or terms of a categorical statement are represented by circles whose relative positions give the relationships between the sets or terms.

venom ('venəm) *n.* 1. a poisonous fluid secreted by such animals as certain snakes and scorpions and usually transmitted by a bite or sting. 2. malice; spite. —*venomous* *adj.* —*venomously* *adv.* —*venomous-ness* *n.*

venous ('vi:nəs) *adj.* 1. *Physiol.* of or relating to the blood circulating in the veins. 2. of or relating to the veins.

vent' ('vent) *n.* 1. a small opening for the escape of fumes, liquids, etc. 2. the shaft of a volcano through which lava and gases erupt. 3. the external opening of the urinary or genital systems of lower vertebrates. 4. a small aperture at the breech of old guns through which the charge was ignited. 5. **give vent to**. to release (an emotion, idea, etc.) in an outburst. ~*vb.* (*mainly tr.*) 6. to release or give expression or utterance to (an emotion, etc.): *he vents his anger on his wife*. 7. to provide a vent for or make vents in. 8. to let out (steam, etc.) through a vent.

vent' ('vent) *n.* 1. a vertical slit at the back or both sides of a jacket. ~*vb.* 2. (*tr.*) to make a vent or vents in (a jacket).

ventilate ('ventɪleɪt) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to drive foul air out of (an enclosed area). 2. to provide with a means of airing. 3. to expose (a question, grievance, etc.) to public discussion. 4. *Physiol.* to oxygenate (the blood). —*'ventilable* *adj.* —*'ventilation* *n.*

ventilator ('ventɪleɪtə) *n.* an opening or device, such as a fan, used to ventilate a room, building, etc.

ventral ('ventrəl) *adj.* 1. relating to the front part of the body. 2. of or situated on the upper or inner side of a plant organ, esp. a leaf, that is facing the axis. —*ven'trally* *adv.*

ventricle ('ventrɪkl) *n.* *Anat.* 1. a chamber of the heart that receives blood from the atrium and pumps it to the arteries. 2. any one of the four main cavities of the vertebrate brain. 3. any of various other small cavities in the body. —*ven'tricular* *adj.*

ventriloquism ('ventrɪləkwɪzəm) or **ventriloquy** *n.* the art of producing vocal sounds that appear to come from another source. —*ventriloquial* ('ventrɪləkwɪəl) *adj.* —*ventrɪlə'qually* *adv.* —*ven'triloquist* *n.* —*ven'trilo,quize* or *-quise* *vb.*

venture ('ventʃə) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to expose to danger: *he ventured his life*. 2. (*tr.*) to brave the dangers of (something): *I'll venture the seas*. 3. (*tr.*) to dare (to do something): *does he venture to object?* 4. (*tr.*) may take a clause as object to express in spite of possible criticism: *I venture that he is not that honest*. 5. (*intr.*) often foll. by *out, forth*, etc.) to embark on a possibly hazardous journey, etc.: *to venture forth upon the high seas*. ~*n.* 6. an undertaking that is risky or of uncertain outcome. 7. a commercial undertaking characterized by risk of loss as well as opportunity for profit. 8. something hazardous or risked in an adventure. 9. **at a venture**. at random. —*'venturer* *n.*

Venture Scout or Venturer *n.* *Brit.* a member of the senior branch of the Scouts.

venturesome ('ventʃəsəm) or **venturous** ('ventʃərəs) *adj.* 1. willing to take risks; daring. 2. hazardous.

venue ('venju:) *n.* 1. *Law*. a. the place in which a cause of action arises. b. the place fixed for the trial of a cause. c. the locality from which the jurors must be summoned. 2. a meeting place. 3. the scene of an action, such as a football match or concert.

Venus' ('vi:nəs) *n.* the Roman goddess of love. Greek counterpart: **Aphrodite**.

Venus? ('vi:nəs) *n.* one of the inferior planets and the second nearest to the sun, visible as a bright morning or evening star. —*Venusian* ('vi:nju:ʒən) *n., adj.*

Venus's-flytrap or **Venus flytrap** *n.* an insectivorous plant having hinged two-lobed leaves that snap closed when the sensitive hairs on the surface are touched.

veracious (ve'reɪʃəs) *adj.* 1. habitually truthful or honest. 2. accurate. —*ve'raciously* *adv.* —*ve'racious-ness* *n.*

veracity (ve'ræstɪ) *n., pl. -ties*. 1. truthfulness or honesty, esp. when consistent or habitual. 2. accuracy. 3. a truth.

veranda or **verandah** ('vɔ:rændə) *n.* 1. a porch or portico, sometimes partly enclosed, along the outside of a building. 2. *N.Z.* a continuous overhead canopy that gives shelter to pedestrians.

verb (vɜ:b) *n.* 1. (in traditional grammar) any of a large class of words that serve to indicate the occurrence or performance of an action, the existence of a state, etc. Such words as *run, make, do*, etc., are verbs. 2. (in modern descriptive linguistic analysis) a. a word or group of words that functions as the predicate of a sentence or introduces the predicate. b. (as modifier): *a verb phrase*. Abbrev.: *vb.* or *v.*

verbal ('vɜ:bəl) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or using words: *merely verbal concessions*. 2. oral rather than written: *a verbal agreement*. 3. verbatim; literal: *an almost*

ing to the vertex. **6.** *Anat.* of or situated at the top of the head (vertex). *~n.* **7.** a vertical plane, position, or line. **8.** a vertical post, pillar, etc. — **verti'cality** *n.* — **verti'cally** *adv.*

vertiginous (vɜː'tɪdʒɪnəs) *adj.* **1.** of, relating to, or having vertigo. **2.** producing dizziness. **3.** whirling. **4.** changeable; unstable. — **ver'tiginously** *adv.*

vertigo ('vɜːtɪɡəʊ) *n., pl. vertigoes or vertigines* (vɜː'tɪdʒɪnɪz). *Pathol.* a sensation of dizziness resulting from a disorder of the sense of balance.

vertu (vɜː'tuː) *n.* a variant spelling of **virtu**.

vervain ('vɜːveɪn) *n.* any of several plants of the genus *Verbena*, having square stems and long slender spikes of purple, blue, or white flowers.

verve (vɜːv) *n.* great vitality and liveliness.

very ('veri) *adv.* **1.** (intensifier) used to add emphasis to adjectives that are able to be graded: *very good; very tall.* *~adj. (prenominal)* **2.** (intensifier) used with nouns preceded by a definite article or possessive determiner, in order to give emphasis to the significance or relevance of a noun in a particular context, or to give exaggerated intensity to certain nouns: *the very man I want to see; the very back of the room.* **3.** (intensifier) used in metaphors to emphasize the applicability of the image to the situation described: *he was a very lion in the fight.* **4.** *Arch.* genuine: *the very living God.*

▷ **Usage.** In strict usage adverbs of degree such as *very*, *too*, *quite*, *really*, and *extremely* are used only to qualify adjectives: *he is very happy; she is too sad.* By this rule, these words should not be used to qualify past participles that follow the verb *to be*, since they would then be technically qualifying verbs. With the exception of certain participles, such as *tired* or *disappointed*, that have come to be regarded as adjectives, all other past participles are qualified by adverbs such as *much*, *greatly*, *seriously*, or *excessively*: *he has been much (not very) inconvenienced.*

very high frequency *n.* a single radio frequency or band lying between 300 and 30 megahertz. Abbrev.: **VHF**

Very light ('veri) *n.* a coloured flare fired from a special pistol (**Very pistol**) for signalling at night, esp. at sea.

very low frequency *n.* a radio frequency band or radio frequency lying between 30 and 3 kilohertz. Abbrev.: **VLF**

vesicle ('vesɪkəl) *n.* **1.** *Pathol.* a. any small sac or cavity, esp. one containing serous fluid. **b.** a blister. **2.** *Geol.* a rounded cavity within a rock. **3.** *Bot.* a small bladder-like cavity occurring in certain seaweeds. **4.** any small cavity or cell. — **vesicular** (ve'sɪkjʊlə) *adj.*

vesper ('vespə) *n.* **1.** an evening prayer, service, or hymn. **2.** an archaic word for **evening**. **3.** (*modifier*) of or relating to vespers.

vespers ('vespəz) *n.* **1.** Chiefly *R.C. Church.* the sixth of the seven canonical hours of the divine office. **2.** another word for **evensong**.

vessel ('vesl) *n.* **1.** any object used as a container, esp. for a liquid. **2.** a passenger or freight-carrying ship, boat, etc. **3.** *Anat.* a tubular structure that transports such body fluids as blood and lymph. **4.** *Bot.* a tubular element of xylem tissue transporting water. **5.** *Rare.* a person regarded as a vehicle for some purpose or quality.

vest (vest) *n.* **1.** an undergarment covering the body from the shoulders to the hips, made of cotton, nylon, etc. **2.** the usual U.S. and Austral. word for **waistcoat**. **3.** *Obs.* any form of dress. *~vb.* **4.** (*tr.*; foll. by *in*) to place or settle (power, rights, etc., *in*): *power was vested in the committee.* **5.** (*tr.*; foll. by *with*) to bestow or confer (on): *the company was vested with authority.* **6.** (usually foll. by *in*) to confer (a right, title, etc., upon) or (of a right, title, etc.) to pass to or devolve (upon). **7.** to clothe. **8.** (*intr.*) to put on clothes, ecclesiastical vestments, etc.

vestal ('vestl) *adj.* **1.** chaste or pure. **2.** of or relating to the Roman goddess Vesta. *~n.* **3.** a chaste woman, esp. a nun.

vestal virgin *n.* (in ancient Rome) one of the virgin priestesses whose lives were dedicated to Vesta and to maintaining the sacred fire in her temple.

vested ('vestɪd) *adj.* *Property law.* having a present right to the immediate or future possession and enjoyment of property.

vested interest *n.* **1.** *Property law.* an existing right to the immediate or future possession and enjoyment of property. **2.** a strong personal concern in a state of

affairs, etc. **3.** a person or group that has such an interest.

vestibule ('vestɪbjʊl) *n.* **1.** a small entrance hall or anteroom. **2.** any small bodily cavity at the entrance to a passage or canal.

vestige ('vestɪdʒ) *n.* **1.** a small trace; hint: *a vestige of truth.* **2.** *Biol.* an organ or part of an organism that is a small nonfunctioning remnant of a functional organ in an ancestor. — **ves'tigial** *adj.*

vestment ('vestmənt) *n.* **1.** a garment or robe, esp. one denoting office, authority, or rank. **2.** any of various ceremonial garments worn by the clergy at religious services, etc. — **vestmental** (vest'mentl) *adj.*

vestry ('vestri) *n., pl. -tries.* **1.** a room in or attached to a church in which vestments, sacred vessels, etc., are kept. **2.** a room in or attached to some churches, used for Sunday school, etc. **3.** *a. Church of England.* a meeting of all the members of a parish or their representatives, to transact the official and administrative business of the parish. *b.* the parish council. — **ves'tral** *adj.*

vesture ('vestʃə) *Arch. ~n.* **1.** a garment or something that seems like a garment: *a vesture of cloud.* *~vb.* **2.** (*tr.*) to clothe. — **vestural** *adj.*

vet¹ (vet) *n.* **1.** short for **veterinary surgeon**. *~vb.* **vetting, vetted.** **2.** (*tr.*) Chiefly *Brit.* to examine and appraise: *the candidates were well vetted.* **3.** to examine, treat, or cure (an animal).

vet² (vet) *n.* U.S. short for **veteran** (senses 2, 3).

vet. abbrev. for: **1.** veteran. **2.** veterinarian. **3.** veterinary. *~Also* (for senses 2, 3): **veter**.

vetch (vetʃ) *n.* **1.** any of various climbing plants having pinnate leaves, typically blue or purple flowers, and tendrils on the stems. **2.** any of various similar and related plants, such as the kidney vetch. **3.** the beanlike fruit of any of these plants.

veteran ('vetərən) *n.* **1.** *a.* a person or thing that has given long service in some capacity. *b. (as modifier): veteran firemen.* **2.** a soldier who has seen considerable active service. **3.** U.S. a person who has served in the military forces.

veteran car *n.* *Brit.* a car constructed before 1919, esp. one constructed before 1905.

veterinary ('vetərɪnəri) *adj.* of or relating to veterinary science.

veterinary science or medicine *n.* the branch of medicine concerned with the health of animals and the treatment of injuries or diseases that affect them.

veterinary surgeon *n.* *Brit.* a person qualified to practise veterinary medicine. U.S. term: **veterinarian**.

veto ('vɪtəʊ) *n., pl. -toes.* **1.** the power to prevent legislation or action proposed by others: *the presidential veto.* **2.** the exercise of this power. *~vb. -toing, -toed.* (*tr.*) **3.** to refuse consent to (a proposal, esp. a government bill). **4.** to prohibit, ban, or forbid: *her parents vetoed her trip.* — **vetoer** *n.*

vex (veks) *vb. (tr.)* **1.** to anger or annoy. **2.** to confuse; worry. **3.** *Arch.* to agitate. — **vexer** *n.* — **vexingly** *adv.*

vexation (vek'seɪʃən) *n.* **1.** the act of vexing or the state of being vexed. **2.** something that vexes.

vexatious (vek'seɪʃəs) *adj.* **1.** vexing or tending to vex.

2. vexed. **3.** *Law.* (of a legal action or proceeding) instituted without sufficient grounds, esp. so as to cause annoyance to the defendant. — **vex'atiously** *adv.*

VHF or vhf *Radio.* abbrev. for very high frequency.

via ('vaɪə) *prep.* by way of; by means of; through: *to London via Paris.*

viable ('vaɪəbəl) *adj.* **1.** capable of becoming actual, etc.: *a viable proposition.* **2.** (of seeds, eggs, etc.) capable of normal growth and development. **3.** (of a foetus) having reached a stage of development at which further development can occur independently of the mother. — **via'bility** *n.*

viaduct ('vaɪə,dʌkt) *n.* a bridge, esp. for carrying a road or railway across a valley, etc.

vial ('vaɪəl) *n.* a less common variant of **phial**.

viant ('vaɪənd) *n.* **1.** a type of food, esp. a delicacy. **2.** (*pl.*) provisions.

viaticum (vaɪ'ætɪkəm) *n., pl. -ca (-kə) or -cums.* **1.** Holy Communion as administered to a person dying or in danger of death. **2.** *Rare.* provisions or a travel allowance for a journey.

vibes (vaɪbz) *pl. n. Inf.* **1.** short for **vibraphone**. **2.** qualities in a person, thing, etc. which produce an emotional response. **3.** a characteristic atmosphere felt to be emanating from a place, object, etc.

vibrant ('vaɪbrənt) *adj.* **1.** characterized by or exhibit-

ing vibration. 2. giving an impression of vigour and activity. 3. caused by vibration; resonant. —'vibrancy *n.* —'vibrantly *adv.*

vibraphone ('vaɪbrəˌfəʊn) *n.* a percussion instrument consisting of a set of metal bars placed over tubular metal resonators, which are made to vibrate electronically. —'vibra, **phonist** *n.*

vibrate ('vaɪbreɪt) *vb.* 1. to move or cause to move back and forth rapidly. 2. to oscillate. 3. to resonate or cause to resonate. 4. (*intr.*) to waver. 5. *Physics.* to produce or undergo an oscillatory process, as of an alternating current. 6. (*intr.*) Rare. to respond emotionally; thrill. —'vibratile ('vaɪbrəˌtaɪl) *adj.* —'vi'brative or **vibratory** ('vaɪbrətəri) *adj.*

vibration ('vaɪbreɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act or an instance of vibrating. 2. *Physics.* a. a periodic motion about an equilibrium position, such as in the propagation of sound. b. a single cycle of such a motion. 3. the process or state of vibrating or being vibrated. —vi'brational *adj.*

vibrato ('vɪbrəˌtəʊ) *n., pl. -tos.* *Music.* 1. a slight, rapid, and regular fluctuation in the pitch of a note produced on a stringed instrument by a shaking movement of the hand stopping the strings. 2. an oscillatory effect produced in singing by fluctuation in breath pressure or pitch.

vibrator ('vaɪbreɪtə) *n.* a. a device for producing a vibratory motion, such as one used in massage. b. such a device with a vibrating part or tip, used as a dildo.

vicar ('vɪkə) *n.* 1. *Church of England.* a. (in Britain) a clergyman appointed to act as priest of a parish. b. a clergyman who acts as assistant to or substitute for the rector of a parish at Communion. 2. *R.C. Church.* a bishop or priest representing the pope and exercising a limited jurisdiction. 3. Also called: **lay vicar**, **vicar choral**. *Church of England.* a member of a cathedral choir appointed to sing certain parts of the services. —'vicarial ('vɪkəriəl) *adj.* —vi'cariate *n.* —'vicar-ly *adj.*

vicarage ('vɪkərɪdʒ) *n.* the residence or benefice of a vicar.

vicar apostolic *n.* *R.C. Church.* a titular bishop having jurisdiction in missionary countries.

vicar general *n., pl. vicars general.* an official, usually a layman, appointed to assist the bishop of a diocese in discharging his administrative or judicial duties.

vicarious ('vɪkəriəs, vaɪ-) *adj.* 1. undergone at second hand through sympathetic participation in another's experiences. 2. undergone or done as the substitute for another: *vicarious punishment*. 3. delegated: *vicarious authority*. 4. taking the place of another. —vi'cariously *adv.* —vi'cariousness *n.*

Vicar of Christ *n.* *R.C. Church.* the pope when regarded as Christ's earthly representative.

vice ('vaɪs) *n.* 1. an immoral, wicked, or evil habit, action, or trait. 2. frequent indulgence in immoral or degrading practices. 3. a specific form of pernicious conduct, esp. prostitution or sexual perversion. 4. an imperfection in character, conduct, etc.: *smoking is his only vice*. 5. a bad trick or disposition, as of horses, dogs, etc.

vice¹ or *U.S. (often) vise* ('vaɪs) *n.* 1. an appliance for holding an object while work is done on it, usually having a pair of jaws. ~*vb.* 2. (*tr.*) to grip (something) with or as if with a vice.

vice² ('vaɪs) *adj.* 1. a. (*prenominal*) serving in the place of. b. (*in combination*): *viceroys*. ~*n.* 2. *Inf.* a person who serves as a deputy to another.

vice³ ('vaɪs) *prep.* instead of; as a substitute for.

vice admiral *n.* a commissioned officer of flag rank in certain navies, junior to an admiral and senior to a rear admiral.

vice chancellor *n.* 1. the chief executive or administrator at some British universities. 2. (in the U.S.) a judge in courts of equity subordinate to the chancellor. 3. (formerly in England) a senior judge of the court of chancery who acted as assistant to the Lord Chancellor. 4. a person serving as the deputy of a chancellor. —'vice-'chancellor, **ship** *n.*

vicegerent ('vaɪsɪdʒərənt) *n.* 1. a person appointed to exercise all or some of the authority of another. 2. *R.C. Church.* the pope or any other representative of God or Christ on earth, such as a bishop. ~*adj.* 3. invested with or characterized by delegated authority. —'vice-'ge-**rency** *n.*

vice president *n.* an officer ranking immediately below a president and serving as his deputy. A vice president takes the president's place during his absence

or incapacity, after his death, and in certain other circumstances. Abbrev.: *V.P.* —, **vice-'presidency** *n.*

viceroys ('vaɪsɔɪ) *n.* a governor of a colony, country, or province who acts for and rules in the name of his sovereign or government. Related *adj.*: **viceregal**. —'viceroys, **ship** or 'vice'royalty *n.*

vice squad *n.* a police division to which is assigned the enforcement of gaming and prostitution laws.

vice versa ('vaɪsɪ 'vɜːsə) *adv.* the other way around.

vichy water ('vɪʃi) *n.* 1. (*sometimes Cap.*) a natural mineral water from springs at Vichy in France, reputed to be beneficial to the health. 2. any sparkling mineral water resembling this.

vicinity ('vɪsɪnɪtɪ) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. a surrounding area; neighbourhood. 2. the fact or condition of being close in space or relationship.

vicious ('vɪʃəs) *adj.* 1. wicked or cruel: *a vicious thug*. 2. characterized by violence or ferocity: *a vicious blow*. 3. *Inf.* unpleasantly severe; harsh: *a vicious wind*. 4. characterized by malice: *vicious lies*. 5. (esp. of dogs, horses, etc.) ferocious or hostile. 6. characterized by or leading to vice. 7. invalidated by defects; unsound: *a vicious inference*. —'viciously *adv.* —'viciousness *n.*

vicious circle *n.* 1. a situation in which an attempt to resolve one problem creates new problems that lead back to the original situation. 2. *Logic.* a. an invalid form of reasoning in which a conclusion is derived from a premiss originally deduced from that same conclusion. b. a circular definition.

vicissitude ('vɪsɪsɪtjuːd) *n.* 1. variation or mutability in nature or life, esp. successive alternation from one condition or thing to another. 2. a variation in circumstance, fortune, etc. —vi'cissit'udinous *adj.*

victim ('vɪktɪm) *n.* 1. a person or thing that suffers harm, death, etc.: *victims of tyranny*. 2. a person who is tricked or swindled. 3. a living person or animal sacrificed in a religious rite.

victimize or **-mise** ('vɪktɪmaɪz) *vb. (tr.)* 1. to punish or discriminate against selectively or unfairly. 2. to make a victim of. —'victimization or -'mi'sation *n.* —'victim,izer or -'iser *n.*

victor ('vɪktə) *n.* 1. a. a person, nation, etc., that has defeated an adversary in war, etc. b. (*as modifier*): *the victor army*. 2. the winner of any contest, conflict, or struggle.

victoria ('vɪktɔːriə) *n.* 1. a light four-wheeled horse-drawn carriage with a folding hood, two passenger seats, and a seat in front for the driver. 2. Also called: **victoria plum**. *Brit.* a large sweet variety of plum, red and yellow in colour.

Victoria Cross *n.* the highest decoration for gallantry in the face of the enemy awarded to the British and Commonwealth armed forces: instituted in 1856 by Queen Victoria.

Victorian ('vɪktɔːriən) *adj.* 1. of or characteristic of Victoria (1819-1901), queen of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, or of the period of her reign (1837-1901). 2. exhibiting the characteristics popularly attributed to the Victorians, esp. prudery or hypocrisy. ~*n.* 3. a person who lived during the reign of Queen Victoria.

Victoriana ('vɪktɔːriənə) *n.* objects, ornaments, etc., of the Victorian period.

victorious ('vɪktɔːriəs) *adj.* 1. having defeated an adversary: *the victorious nations*. 2. of, indicative of, or characterized by victory: *a victorious conclusion*. —'vic'toriously *adv.*

victory ('vɪktəri) *n., pl. -ries.* 1. final and complete superiority in a war. 2. a successful military engagement. 3. a success attained in a contest or struggle or over an opponent, obstacle, or problem. 4. the act of triumphing or state of having triumphed.

victual ('vɪtʃl) *vb.* -ualling, -ualled or *U.S.* -ualing, -ualed, to supply with or obtain victuals. —'victual-less *adj.*

victuals ('vɪtʃlz) *pl. n. (sometimes sing.)* food or provisions.

vide ('vaɪdɪ) (used to direct a reader to a specified place in a text, another book, etc.) refer to, see (often in *vide ante* (see before), *vide infra* (see below), *vide supra* (see above), etc.). Abbrev.: *v., vid.*

videlicet ('vɪdɪlɪsɪt) *adv.* namely: used to specify items, etc. Abbrev.: *viz.*

video ('vɪdɪəʊ) *adj.* 1. relating to or employed in the transmission or reception of a televised image. 2. of, concerned with, or operating at video frequencies. ~*n., pl. -os.* 3. the visual elements of a television broadcast. 4. *U.S.* an informal name for **television**. 5. short for

video cassette recorder. 6. the facility of or apparatus for recording video-frequency signals: *have you got video yet?*

video cassette recorder *n.* a machine for recording television programmes on video tape cassettes.

video frequency *n.* the frequency of a signal conveying the image and synchronizing pulses in a television broadcasting system. It lies in the range from about 50 hertz to 5 megahertz.

videophone ('vɪdɪəfəʊn) *n.* a telephonic device in which there is both verbal and visual communication between parties.

video tape *n.* 1. magnetic tape used mainly for recording the video-frequency signals of a television programme or film for subsequent transmission. ~vb. **video-tape.** 2. to record (a programme, etc.) on video tape.

vie (vaɪ) vb. **vying, vied.** (intr.; foll. by *with* or *for*) to contend for superiority or victory (with) or strive in competition (for). —**vier** *n.* —**vying** *adj. n.*

Vietnamese (ˌvjetnə'mi:z) *adj.* 1. of or characteristic of Vietnam, in SE Asia, its people, or their language. ~n. 2. (pl. -ese) a native or inhabitant of Vietnam. 3. the language of Vietnam.

view (vjʊr) *n.* 1. the act of seeing or observing. 2. vision or sight, esp. range of vision: *the church is out of view.* 3. a scene, esp. of a fine tract of countryside: *the view from the top was superb.* 4. a pictorial representation of a scene, such as a photograph. 5. (sometimes pl.) opinion: *my own view on the matter differs from yours.* 6. (foll. by *to*) a desired end or intention: *he has a view to securing further qualifications.* 7. a general survey of a topic, subject, etc. 8. visual aspect or appearance: *they look the same in outward view.* 9. a sight of a hunted animal before or during the chase. 10. in view of. taking into consideration. 11. on view. exhibited to the public gaze. 12. take a dim or poor view of. to regard (something) with disfavour. 13. with a view to. a. with the intention of. b. in anticipation or hope of. ~vb. 14. (tr.) to look at. 15. (tr.) to consider in a specified manner: *they view the growth of Communism with horror.* 16. to examine or inspect carefully: *to view the accounts.* 17. (tr.) to contemplate: *to view the difficulties.* 18. to watch (television). 19. (tr.) to sight (a hunted animal) before or during the chase. —**viewable** *adj.* —**viewing** *n.* —**viewless** *adj.*

videodata ('vjʊrˌdeɪtə) *n.* a videotext service in which the consumer is linked to a computer by telephone and is thus able to select the information required. Cf. **teletext.**

viewer ('vjʊr) *n.* 1. a person who views something, esp. television. 2. any optical device by means of which something is viewed, esp. one used for viewing photographic transparencies.

viewfinder ('vjʊrˌfaɪndə) *n.* a device on a camera, consisting of a lens system, enabling the user to see what will be included in his photograph.

viewpoint ('vjʊrˌpɔɪnt) *n.* 1. the mental attitude that determines a person's judgments. 2. a place from which something can be viewed.

vigil ('vɪdʒl) *n.* 1. a purposeful watch maintained, esp. at night, to guard, observe, pray, etc. 2. the period of such a watch. 3. R.C. Church, *Church of England*, the eve of certain major festivals, formerly observed as a night spent in prayer.

vigilance ('vɪdʒləns) *n.* 1. the fact, quality, or condition of being vigilant. 2. the abnormal state or condition of being unable to sleep.

vigilance committee *n.* (in the U.S.) a self-appointed body of citizens organized to maintain order, etc., where an efficient system of courts does not exist.

vigilant ('vɪdʒlənt) *adj.* keenly alert to or heedful of trouble or danger. —**vigilantly** *adv.*

vigilante ('vɪdʒlɪˈlənt) *n.* 1. a member of a vigilance committee. 2. a self-appointed protector of public order.

vignette ('vɪnjɛt) *n.* 1. a small illustration placed at the beginning or end of a book or chapter. 2. a short graceful literary essay or sketch. 3. a photograph, drawing, etc., with edges that are shaded off. 4. any small endearing scene, view, etc. ~vb. (tr.) 5. to finish (a photograph, etc.) with a fading border in the form of a vignette. 6. to portray in or as in a vignette. —**vignettist** *n.*

vigorous ('vɪɡərəs) *adj.* 1. endowed with bodily or mental strength or vitality. 2. displaying, characterized by, or performed with vigour: *vigorous growth.* —**vigorously** *adv.*

vigour or U.S. **vigor** ('vɪɡə) *n.* 1. exuberant and

resilient strength of body or mind. 2. substantial effective energy or force: *the vigour of the tempest.* 3. forcefulness: *I was surprised by the vigour of her complaints.* 4. the capacity for survival or strong healthy growth in a plant or animal. 5. the most active period or stage of life, manhood, etc.

Viking ('vaɪkɪŋ) *n.* (sometimes not cap.) 1. Also called: **Norseman, Northman.** any of the Danes, Norwegians, and Swedes who raided by sea most of N and W Europe from the 8th to the 11th centuries. 2. (modifier) of, relating to, or characteristic of a Viking or Vikings: *a Viking ship.*

vile (vaɪl) *adj.* 1. abominably wicked; shameful or evil. 2. morally despicable; ignoble: *vile accusations.* 3. disgusting to the senses or emotions; foul: *a vile smell.* 4. tending to humiliate or degrade: *no slaves would perform such vile tasks.* 5. unpleasant or bad: *vile weather.* —**vilely** *adv.* —**vileness** *n.*

villify ('vɪlɪˌfaɪ) vb. **-fying, -fied.** (tr.) to revile with abusive language; malign. —**vilification** (ˌvɪlɪˈfeɪʃən) *n.* —**villifier** *n.*

villa ('vɪlə) *n.* 1. (in ancient Rome) a country house, usually consisting of farm buildings and residential quarters around a courtyard. 2. a large country residence. 3. Brit. a detached or semidetached suburban house.

village ('vɪlɪdʒ) *n.* 1. a small group of houses in a country area, larger than a hamlet. 2. the inhabitants of such a community collectively. 3. an incorporated municipality smaller than a town in various parts of the U.S. and Canada. 4. (modifier) of or characteristic of a village: *a village green.* —**villager** *n.*

villain ('vɪlən) *n.* 1. a wicked or malevolent person. 2. (in a novel, play, etc.) the main evil character and antagonist to the hero. 3. Often jocular. a rogue. 4. Obs. an uncouth person; boor. —**villainess** *fem. n.*

villainous ('vɪləniəs) *adj.* 1. of, like, or appropriate to a villain. 2. very bad or disagreeable: *a villainous climate.* —**villainously** *adv.* —**villainousness** *n.*

villainy ('vɪləni) *n., pl. -lainies.* 1. vicious behaviour or action. 2. an evil or criminal act or deed. 3. the fact or condition of being villainous.

villain ('vɪlən) *n.* (in medieval Europe) a peasant personally bound to his lord, to whom he paid dues and services in return for his land. —**villainage** *n.*

vim (vɪm) *n. Sl.* exuberant vigour and energy.

vinaigrette (ˌvɪneɪˈɡret) *n.* 1. Also called: **vinegarette.** a small decorative bottle or box with a perforated top, used for holding smelling salts, etc. 2. Also called: **vinaigrette sauce.** a French dressing used esp. with salads.

vinculum ('vɪŋkjʊləm) *n., pl. -la (-lə).* 1. a horizontal line drawn above a group of mathematical terms, used as a sign of aggregation in mathematical expressions, as in $\bar{x} + \bar{y}$. 2. Anat. any bandlike structure, esp. one uniting two or more parts.

vindicable ('vɪndɪkəbəl) *adj.* capable of being vindicated; justifiable. —**vindicability** *n.*

vindicate ('vɪndɪˌkeɪt) vb. (tr.) 1. to clear from guilt, blame, etc., as by evidence or argument. 2. to provide justification for: *his promotion vindicated his unconventional attitude.* 3. to uphold or defend (a cause, etc.): *to vindicate a claim.* —**vindi, cator** *n.* —**vindictory** *adj.*

vindication ('vɪndɪˌkeɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of vindicating or the condition of being vindicated. 2. a fact, evidence, etc., that serves to vindicate a claim.

vindictive (vɪnˈdɪktɪv) *adj.* 1. disposed to seek vengeance. 2. characterized by spite or rancour. 3. English law. (of damages) in excess of the compensation due to the plaintiff and imposed in punishment of the defendant. —**vin'dictively** *adv.* —**vin'dictiveness** *n.*

vine (vaɪn) *n.* 1. any of various plants, esp. the grapevine, having long flexible stems that creep along the ground or climb by clinging to a support by means of tendrils, leafstalks, etc. 2. the stem of such a plant. —**vinny** *adj.*

vinegar ('vɪnɪɡə) *n.* 1. a sour-tasting liquid consisting of impure dilute acetic acid, made by fermentation of beer, wine, or cider. It is used as a condiment or preservative. 2. sourness or peevishness of temper, speech, etc. —**vinegarish** *adj.* —**vinegary** *adj.*

vinery ('vɪnəri) *n., pl. -eries.* 1. a hothouse for growing grapes. 2. another name for a **vineyard**. 3. vines collectively.

vineyard ('vɪnjəd) *n.* a plantation of grapevines, esp. where wine grapes are produced.

vingt-et-un French. (vɛ̃t'e'œ̃) *n.* another name for **pontoon**².

viniculture ('vɪni,kʌltʃə) *n.* the process or business of growing grapes and making wine. — **viniculture** *adj.* — **viniculture** *n.*

vinous ('vaɪnəs) *adj.* 1. of or characteristic of wine. 2. indulging in or indicative of indulgence in wine.

vintage ('vɪntɪdʒ) *n.* 1. the wine obtained from a harvest of grapes, esp. in an outstandingly good year. 2. the harvest from which such a wine is obtained. 3. a. the harvesting of wine grapes. b. the season of harvesting these grapes or for making wine. 4. a time of origin: a car of Edwardian vintage. ~*adj.* 5. (of wine) of an outstandingly good year. 6. representative of the best and most typical: vintage Shakespeare. 7. old-fashioned; dated.

vintage car *n.* Chiefly Brit. an old car, esp. one constructed between 1919 and 1930.

vintner ('vɪntnə) *n.* a wine merchant.

vinyl ('vaɪnɪl) *n.* 1. (modifier) of or containing the monovalent group of atoms CH₂CH: vinyl chloride. 2. (modifier) of or made of a vinyl resin: a vinyl raincoat. 3. any vinyl resin or plastic, esp. PVC.

viol ('vaɪəl) *n.* any of a family of stringed musical instruments that preceded the violin family, consisting of a fretted fingerboard, a body rather like that of a violin but having a flat back and six strings, played with a curved bow.

viola ('vaɪələ) *n.* 1. a bowed stringed instrument, the alto of the violin family; held beneath the chin when played. 2. any of various instruments of the viol family, such as the viola da gamba.

viola ('vaɪələ, vaɪ'əu) *n.* any of various temperate perennial herbaceous plants, the flowers of which have showy irregular petals, white, yellow, blue, or mauve in colour.

viola da gamba ('vaɪələ də 'gæmbə) *n.* the second largest and lowest member of the viol family.

violate ('vaɪə,leɪt) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to break, disregard, or infringe on (a law, agreement, etc.). 2. to rape or otherwise sexually assault. 3. to disturb rudely or improperly. 4. to treat irreverently or disrespectfully: he violated a sanctuary. — **violable** *adj.* — **violation** *n.* — **violator** or **vio, later** *n.*

violence ('vaɪələns) *n.* 1. the exercise or an instance of physical force, usually effecting or intended to effect injuries, destruction, etc. 2. powerful, untamed, or devastating force: the violence of the sea. 3. great strength of feeling, as in language, etc. 4. an unjust, unwarranted, or unlawful display of force. 5. do violence to. a. to inflict harm upon: they did violence to the prisoners. b. to distort the sense or intention of: the reporters did violence to my speech.

violent ('vaɪələnt) *adj.* 1. marked or caused by great physical force or violence: a violent stab. 2. (of a person) tending to the use of violence, esp. in order to injure or intimidate others. 3. marked by intensity of any kind: a violent clash of colours. 4. characterized by an undue use of force. 5. caused by or displaying strong or undue mental or emotional force. — **violently** *adv.*

violet ('vaɪələɪt) *n.* 1. any of various temperate perennial herbaceous plants of the genus *Viola*, such as the sweet (or garden) violet, having mauve or bluish flowers with irregular showy petals. 2. any other plant of the genus *Viola*, such as the wild pansy. 3. any of various similar but unrelated plants, such as the African violet. 4. a. any of a group of colours that have a purplish-blue hue. They lie at one end of the visible spectrum. b. (as *adj.*): a violet dress. 5. a dye or pigment of or producing these colours. 6. violet clothing: dressed in violet. 7. shrinking violet. *Inf.* a shy person.

violin ('vaɪəlɪn) *n.* a bowed stringed instrument, the highest member of the violin family, consisting of a fingerboard, a hollow wooden body with waisted sides, and a sounding board connected to the back by means of a soundpost that also supports the bridge. It has two f-shaped sound holes cut in the belly.

violinist ('vaɪəlɪnɪst) *n.* a person who plays the violin.

violist ('vaɪəlɪst) *n.* a person who plays the viol.

violoncello ('vaɪələnt'ʃeləu) *n.*, *pl.* -los. the full name for cello. — **violoncellist** *n.*

V.I.P. *Inf.* abbrev. for very important person.

viper ('vaɪpə) *n.* 1. any of a family of venomous Old World snakes having hollow fangs in the upper jaw that are used to inject venom. 2. any of various other snakes, such as the horned viper. 3. a malicious or treacherous person.

virago ('vɪrə:gəu) *n.*, *pl.* -goes or -gos. 1. a loud, violent,

and ill-tempered woman. 2. Arch. a strong or warlike woman. — **virago**, like *adj.*

viral ('vaɪrəl) *adj.* of or caused by a virus.

virgin ('vɜ:dʒɪn) *n.* 1. a person, esp. a woman, who has never had sexual intercourse. 2. an unmarried woman who has taken a religious vow of chastity. 3. any female animal that has never mated. 4. a female insect that produces offspring by parthenogenesis. ~*adj.* (usually *prenominal*) 5. of, suitable for, or characteristic of a virgin or virgins. 6. pure and natural, uncorrupted or untouched: virgin purity. 7. not yet cultivated, explored, exploited, etc., by man: the virgin forests. 8. being the first or happening for the first time. 9. (of a metal) made from an ore rather than from scrap. 10. occurring naturally in a pure and uncombined form: virgin silver.

Virgin ('vɜ:dʒɪn) *n.* 1. the. See **Virgin Mary**. 2. a statue or other artistic representation of the Virgin Mary.

Virgin ('vɜ:dʒɪn) *n.* the. the constellation Virgo, the sixth sign of the zodiac.

virginal ('vɜ:dʒɪnəl) *adj.* 1. of, characterized by, or maintaining a state of virginity; chaste. 2. extremely pure or fresh. — **virginally** *adv.*

virginal ('vɜ:dʒɪnəl) *n.* (often *pl.*) a smaller version of the harpsichord, but oblong in shape, having one manual and no pedals. — **virginalist** *n.*

Virgin Birth *n.* the doctrine that Jesus Christ was conceived solely by the direct intervention of the Holy Spirit so that Mary remained miraculously a virgin during and after his birth.

Virginia creeper ('vɜ:dʒɪniə) *n.* a woody vine of North America, having tendrils with adhesive tips, bluish-black berry-like fruits, and compound leaves that turn red in autumn: widely planted for ornament.

virginity ('vɜ:dʒɪnɪtɪ) *n.* 1. the condition or fact of being a virgin. 2. the condition of being untouched, unsullied, etc.

Virgin Mary *n.* Mary, the mother of Christ. Also called: **the Virgin**.

Virgo ('vɜ:gəu) *n.*, *Latin* genitive *Virginis* ('vɜ:dʒɪnɪs). 1. *Astron.* a large constellation on the celestial equator. 2. *Astrol.* the sixth sign of the zodiac. The sun is in this sign between about Aug. 23 and Sept. 22.

virgule ('vɜ:ɡju:l) *n.* *Printing.* another name for **solidus**.

virile ('vaɪrɪl) *adj.* 1. of or having the characteristics of an adult male. 2. of or capable of copulation or procreation. 3. strong, forceful, or vigorous. — **virility** ('vɪrɪlɪtɪ) *n.*

virology ('vaɪrələdʒɪ) *n.* the branch of medicine concerned with the study of viruses. — **virological** ('vaɪrə'lɒdʒɪkəl) *adj.*

virtu or **virtu** ('vɜ:tʃu) *n.* 1. a taste or love for curios or works of fine art. 2. such objects collectively. 3. the quality of being appealing to a connoisseur (esp. in **articles of virtu**; **objects of virtu**).

virtual ('vɜ:tʃʊəl) *adj.* having the essence or effect but not the appearance or form of: a virtual revolution. — **virtuality** *n.*

virtually ('vɜ:tʃʊəlɪ) *adv.* in effect though not in fact; practically; nearly.

virtue ('vɜ:tju:) *n.* 1. the quality or practice of moral excellence or righteousness. 2. a particular moral excellence: the virtue of tolerance. 3. any of the cardinal virtues (prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance) or theological virtues (faith, hope, and charity). 4. any admirable quality or trait. 5. an effective, active, or inherent power. 6. chastity, esp. in women. 7. by or in virtue of. by reason of. 8. make a virtue of necessity. to acquiesce in doing something unpleasant with a show of grace because one must do it in any case.

virtuoso ('vɜ:tʃu'əʊzəu) *n.*, *pl.* -sos or -si (-sɪ). 1. a consummate master of musical technique and artistry. 2. a person who has a masterly or dazzling skill or technique in any field of activity. 3. a connoisseur or collector of art objects. 4. (modifier) showing masterly skill or brilliance: a virtuoso performance. — **virtuosic** ('vɜ:tʃu'ɒsɪk) *adj.* — **virtuosity** *n.*

virtuous ('vɜ:tʃʊəs) *adj.* 1. characterized by or possessing virtue or moral excellence. 2. (of women) chaste or virginal. — **virtuously** *adv.*

virulent ('vɪrələnt) *adj.* 1. a. (of a microorganism) extremely infectious. b. (of a disease) having a violent effect. 2. extremely poisonous, injurious, etc. 3. extremely bitter, hostile, etc. — **virulence** *n.* — **virulently** *adv.*

virus ('vaɪrəs) *n.*, *pl.* -ruses. 1. any of a group of submicroscopic entities consisting of a single nucleic

acid surrounded by a protein coat and capable of replication only within the cells of animals and plants. 2. *Inf.* a disease caused by a virus. 3. any corrupting or infecting influence.

visa ('vi:zə) *n.* *pl.* -sas. 1. an endorsement in a passport or similar document, signifying that the document is in order and permitting its bearer to travel into or through the country of the government issuing it. —*vb.* -sain, -saeɪ. 2. (*tr.*) to enter a visa into (a passport).

visage ('vizi:dʒ) *n.* *Chiefly literary.* 1. face or countenance. 2. appearance.

vis-à-vis ('vi:zə:'vi:) *prep.* 1. in relation to. 2. face to face with. —*adv., adj.* 3. face to face; opposite. —*n., pl.* vis-à-vis. 4. a person or thing that is situated opposite to another. 5. a person who corresponds to another in office, capacity, etc.

viscera ('visərə) *pl. n., sing.* viscus ('viskəs). 1. *Anat.* the large internal organs of the body collectively, esp. those in the abdominal cavity. 2. (less formally) the intestines; guts.

visceral ('visərəl) *adj.* 1. of or affecting the viscera. 2. characterized by instinct rather than intellect. —*viscerally adv.*

viscid ('visid) *adj.* 1. cohesive and sticky. 2. (esp. of a leaf) covered with a sticky substance. —*viscidly n.*

viscose ('viskəs) *n.* 1. a. a viscous orange-brown solution obtained by dissolving cellulose in sodium hydroxide and carbon disulphide. It can be converted back to cellulose by an acid, as in the manufacture of rayon and cellophane. b. (as *modifier*): viscose rayon. 2. rayon made from this material.

viscosity ('vis'kɒsiti) *n., pl.* -ties. 1. the state or property of being viscous. 2. *Physics.* a. the extent to which a fluid resists a tendency to flow. b. Also called: **absolute viscosity**, a measure of this resistance, measured in newton seconds per metre squared. Symbol: η

viscount ('vaukaunt) *n.* 1. (in the British Isles) a nobleman ranking below an earl and above a baron. 2. (in various countries) a son or younger brother of a count. 3. (in medieval Europe) the deputy of a count. —*viscountcy or viscounty n.* —*viscountess fem. n.*

viscous ('viskəs) *adj.* 1. (of liquids) thick and sticky. 2. having or involving viscosity. —*viscously adv.*

vise (vais) *n., vb.* U.S. a variant spelling of *vice*.

visibility ('vi:zə'biliti) *n.* 1. the condition or fact of being visible. 2. clarity of vision or relative possibility of seeing. 3. the range of vision: *visibility is 500 yards.*

visible ('vizi'bəl) *adj.* 1. capable of being perceived by the eye. 2. capable of being perceived by the mind: *no visible dangers*. 3. available: *the visible resources*. 4. of or relating to the balance of trade: *visible transactions*. —*visibly adv.*

vision ('viʒən) *n.* 1. the act, faculty, or manner of perceiving with the eye; sight. 2. the ability or an instance of great perception, esp. of future developments: *a man of vision*. 3. mystical or religious experience of seeing some supernatural event, person, etc.: *the vision of St. John of the Cross*. 4. that which is seen, esp. in such a mystical experience. 5. (sometimes *pl.*) a vivid mental image produced by the imagination: *he had visions of becoming famous*. 6. a person or thing of extraordinary beauty.

visionary ('viʒənəri) *adj.* 1. marked by vision or foresight: *a visionary leader*. 2. incapable of being realized or effected. 3. (of people) characterized by idealistic or radical ideas, esp. impractical ones. 4. given to having visions. 5. of, of the nature of, or seen in visions. —*n., pl.* -aries. 6. a visionary person.

visit ('vizi:t) *vb.* 1. to go or come to see (a person, place, etc.). 2. to stay with (someone) as a guest. 3. to go or come to (an institution, place, etc.) for the purpose of inspecting or examining. 4. (*tr.*) (of a disease, disaster, etc.) to afflict. 5. (*tr.*; foll. by *upon* or *on*) to inflict (punishment, etc.). 6. (often foll. by *with*) U.S. *inf.* to chat (with someone). —*n.* 7. the act or an instance of visiting. 8. a stay as a guest. 9. a professional or official call. 10. a formal call for the purpose of inspection or examination. 11. *International law.* the right of an officer of a belligerent state to stop and search neutral ships in war to verify their nationality and ascertain whether they carry contraband. 12. U.S. *inf.* a chat. —*visitable adj.*

visitant ('vizi:tənt) *n.* 1. a ghost; apparition. 2. a visitor or guest, usually from far away. 3. Also called: **visitor**, a migratory bird that is present in a particular region only at certain times: *a summer visitant*.

visitation ('vizi:'teifən) *n.* 1. an official call or visit for the purpose of inspecting or examining an institution. 2.

a visiting of punishment or reward from heaven. 3. any disaster or catastrophe: *a visitation of the plague*. 4. an appearance or arrival of a supernatural being. 5. *Inf.* an unduly prolonged social call.

Visitation ('vizi:'teifən) *n.* 1. a. the visit made by the Virgin Mary to her cousin Elizabeth (Luke 1:39–56). b. the Church festival commemorating this, held on July 2. 2. a religious order of nuns, the **Order of the Visitation**, founded in 1610 and dedicated to contemplation.

visitor ('vizi:tə) *n.* 1. a person who pays a visit. 2. another name for **visitant** (sense 3).

visor or vizor ('viza:zə) *n.* 1. a piece of armour fixed or hinged to the helmet to protect the face and furnished with slits for the eyes. 2. another name for **peak** (on a cap). 3. a small movable screen used as protection against glare from the sun, esp. one attached above the windscreen of a motor vehicle. 4. *Arch. or literary.* a mask or any other means of disguise. —*visored or vizored adj.*

vista ('visti) *n.* 1. a view, esp. through a long narrow avenue of trees, buildings, etc., or such a passage or avenue itself. 2. a comprehensive mental view of a distant time or a lengthy series of events. —*vistaed adj.*

visual ('viʒuəl, -zju-) *adj.* 1. of, done by, or used in seeing: *visual powers*. 2. another word for **optical**. 3. capable of being seen; visible. 4. of, occurring as, or induced by a mental image. —*visually adv.*

visual aids *pl. n.* devices, such as films, slides, models, and blackboards, that display in visual form material to be understood or remembered.

visual display unit *n.* *Computers.* a device that displays characters or line drawings representing data in a computer memory. It usually has a keyboard for the input of information or inquiries. Abbrev.: **VDU**

visualize or -lise ('viʒuə,ləz) *vb.* to form a mental image of (something incapable of being viewed or not at that moment visible). —*visuali'zation or -li'sation n.*

vital ('vaitl) *adj.* 1. essential to maintain life: *the lungs perform a vital function*. 2. forceful, energetic, or lively: *a vital person*. 3. of, having, or displaying life: *a vital organism*. 4. indispensable or essential: *books vital to this study*. 5. of great importance: *a vital game*. —*n.* 6. (*pl.*) the bodily organs, such as the brain, liver, heart, lungs, etc., that are necessary to maintain life. 7. (*pl.*) the essential elements of anything. —*vitally adv.*

vitality ('vaitəlti) *n., pl.* -ties. 1. physical or mental vigour, energy, etc. 2. the power or ability to continue in existence, live, or grow: *the vitality of a movement*.

vitalize or -lise ('vaitə,ləz) *vb.* (*tr.*) to make vital, living, or alive. —*vitali'zation or -li'sation n.*

vital statistics *pl. n.* 1. quantitative data concerning human life or the conditions affecting it, such as the death rate. 2. *Inf.* the measurements of a woman's bust, waist, and hips.

vitamin ('vitəmin, 'var-) *n.* any of a group of substances that are essential, in small quantities, for the normal functioning of metabolism in the body. They cannot usually be synthesized in the body but they occur naturally in certain foods. —*vita'minic adj.*

vitamin A *n.* 1. Also called: **vitamin A₁**, **retinol**, a fat-soluble yellow unsaturated alcohol occurring in green and yellow vegetables, butter, egg yolk, and fish-liver oil. It is essential for the prevention of night blindness and the protection of epithelial tissue. 2. Also called: **vitamin A₂**, a vitamin that occurs in the tissues of freshwater fish and has a function similar to that of vitamin A₁.

vitamin B *n., pl.* B vitamins. any of the vitamins in the vitamin B complex.

vitamin B complex *n.* a large group of water-soluble vitamins occurring esp. in liver and yeast: includes thiamine (**vitamin B₁**), riboflavin (**vitamin B₂**), nicotinic acid, pyridoxine (**vitamin B₆**), pantothenic acid, biotin, choline, folic acid, and cyanocobalamin (**vitamin B₁₂**). Sometimes shortened to **B complex**.

vitamin C *n.* another name for **ascorbic acid**.

vitamin D *n., pl.* D vitamins. any of the fat-soluble vitamins, including calciferol (**vitamin D₂**) and cholecalciferol (**vitamin D₃**), occurring in fish-liver oils, milk, butter, and eggs: used in the treatment of rickets.

vitamin D₁ *n.* the first isolated form of vitamin D, consisting of calciferol and its precursor, lumisterol.

vitamin E *n.* any of a group of fat-soluble alcohols that occur in lettuce, egg yolk, etc.; necessary for fertility in some animals.

vitamin K *n., pl.* K vitamins. any of the fat-soluble vitamins, including phyloquinone (**vitamin K₁**) and the

menaquinones (**vitamin K₂**), which are essential for the normal clotting of blood.

vitamin P *n.*, *pl.* **P vitamins**. any of a group of water-soluble crystalline substances occurring mainly in citrus fruits, blackcurrants, and rose hips: they regulate the permeability of the blood capillaries. Also called: **citrin**, **bioflavonoid**.

vitiate ('viʃi,eɪt) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to make faulty or imperfect. 2. to debase or corrupt. 3. to destroy the force or legal effect of (a deed, etc.). — **viti'ation** *n.* — **'viti,ator** *n.*

viticulture ('viti,kʌltʃə) *n.* 1. the science, art, or process of cultivating grapevines. 2. the study of grapes and the growing of grapes. — **viti'culturist** *n.*

vitreous ('vitrɪəs) *adj.* 1. of or resembling glass. 2. made of or containing glass. 3. of or relating to the vitreous humour or vitreous body. — **'vitreously** *adv.* — **'vitreousness** *n.*

vitreous humour or body *n.* a transparent gelatinous substance that fills the interior of the eyeball between the lens and the retina.

vitrify ('vitrɪ,fai) *vb.* -**fy**ing, -**fied**. to convert or be converted into glass or a glassy substance. — **'vitri,fi**able *adj.* — **'vitricification** (*'vitrɪfɪ'keɪʃən*) *n.*

vitriol ('vitrɪ,əl) *n.* 1. another name for **sulphuric acid**. 2. any one of a number of sulphate salts, such as ferrous sulphate (**green vitriol**) or copper sulphate (**blue vitriol**). 3. speech, writing, etc., displaying vituperation or bitterness.

vitriolic ('vitrɪ'ɒlɪk) *adj.* 1. (of a strong acid) highly corrosive. 2. severely bitter or caustic.

vituperate ('vɪtjʊpə'reɪt) *vb.* to berate or rail against abusively; revile. — **vi'tuper'ation** *n.* — **vi'tuper,ator** *n.*

viva¹ ('vɪvə) *interj.* long live; up with (a specified person or thing).

viva² ('vaɪvə) *Brit.* ~*n.* 1. an oral examination. ~*vb.* -**va**ing, -**vaed**. (*tr.*) 2. to examine orally.

vivace ('vɪvəʃi) *adj.*, *adv.* *Music.* to be performed in a brisk lively manner.

vivacious ('vɪveɪʃəs) *adj.* full of high spirits and animation. — **vi'vivaciously** *adv.* — **vi'vivaciousness** *n.*

vivacity ('vɪvəsɪti) *n.*, *pl.* -**ties**. the quality or condition of being vivacious.

vivarium ('vaɪvæərɪəm) *n.*, *pl.* -**iums** or -**ia** (-iə). a place where live animals are kept under natural conditions for study, etc.

viva voce ('vaɪvə 'vəʊtʃi) *adv.*, *adj.* 1. by word of mouth. ~*n.*, *vb.* 2. the full form of **viva**².

vivid ('vɪvɪd) *adj.* 1. (of a colour) very bright; intense. 2. brilliantly coloured: **vivid plumage**. 3. conveying to the mind striking realism, freshness, or truthfulness to life: a **vivid account**. 4. (of a memory, etc.) remaining distinct in the mind. 5. (of the imagination, etc.) prolific in the formation of lifelike images. 6. uttered, operating, or acting with vigour: **vivid expostulations**. 7. full of life or vitality: a **vivid personality**. — **'vividly** *adv.* — **'vividness** *n.*

viviparous ('vɪvɪpərəs) *adj.* 1. (of most mammals) giving birth to living offspring that develop within the uterus of the mother. 2. (of seeds) germinating before separating from the parent plant. 3. (of plants) producing bulbils or young plants instead of flowers. — **viviparity** ('vɪvɪpærɪti) or **vi'viviparousness** *n.* — **vi'viviparously** *adv.*

vivisection ('vɪvɪ,sekt, 'vɪvɪ'sekt) *vb.* to subject (an animal) to vivisection. — **'vivɪ,sektor** *n.*

vivisection ('vɪvɪ'sekʃən) *n.* the act or practice of performing experiments on living animals, involving cutting into or dissecting the body. — **'vivɪ'sectional** *adj.* — **'vivɪ'sectionist** *n.*

vixen ('vɪksən) *n.* 1. a female fox. 2. a quarrelsome or spiteful woman. — **'vixenish** *adj.* — **'vixently** *adv.*, *adj.*

viz. *abbrev.* for **videlicet**.

vizier ('vɪzɪə) *n.* a high official in certain Muslim countries, esp. in the former Ottoman Empire. — **vi'zierate** *n.* — **vi'zierial** *adj.* — **vi'ziership** *n.*

V-J Day *n.* the day marking the Allied victory over Japan in World War II (Aug. 15, 1945).

VLF or vlf *Radio. abbrev.* for very low frequency.

V neck *n.* a neck on a garment that comes down to a point, resembling the shape of the letter 'V'. — **'V-neck** or **'V-necked** *adj.*

voc. or vocat. *abbrev.* for **vocative**.

vocab ('vɒkəb) *n.* short for **vocabulary**.

vocabulary ('vɒkəbjʊləri) *n.*, *pl.* -**laries**. 1. a listing, either selective or exhaustive, containing the words and phrases of a language, with meanings or translations into another language. 2. the aggregate of words in the use

or comprehension of a specified person, class, etc. 3. all the words contained in a language. 4. a range or system of symbols or techniques constituting a means of communication or expression, as any of the arts or crafts: a **wide vocabulary of textures and colours**.

vocal ('vɒkəl) *adj.* 1. of or designed for the voice: **vocal music**. 2. produced or delivered by the voice: **vocal noises**. 3. connected with the production of the voice: **vocal organs**. 4. frequently disposed to outspoken speech, criticism, etc.: a **vocal minority**. 5. full of sound or voices: a **vocal assembly**. 6. endowed with a voice. 7. *Phonetics.* a. of or relating to a speech sound. **b.** of or relating to a voiced speech sound, esp. a vowel. ~*n.* 8. a piece of jazz or pop music that is sung. 9. a performance of such a piece of music. — **'vocality** ('vɒkəlɪti) *n.* — **'vocally** *adv.*

vocal cords *pl. n.* either of two pairs of membranous folds in the larynx. The upper pair (**false vocal cords**) are not concerned with vocal production; the lower pair (**true vocal cords**) can be made to vibrate and produce sound when air from the lungs is forced over them.

vocalist ('vɒkəlɪst) *n.* a singer, esp. one who regularly appears with a jazz band or pop group.

vocalize or -ise ('vɒkə,laɪz) *vb.* 1. to express with or use the voice. 2. (*tr.*) to make vocal or articulate. 3. (*tr.*) *Phonetics.* to articulate (a speech sound) with voice. 4. (*intr.*) to sing a melody on a vowel, etc. — **'vocaliza'tion or -'isation** *n.* — **'vocal,izer or -'iser** *n.*

vocation ('vɒkəʃən) *n.* 1. a specified profession or trade. 2. **a.** a special urge or predisposition to a particular calling or career, esp. a religious one. **b.** such a calling or career.

vocational guidance *n.* a guidance service based on psychological tests and interviews to find out what career may best suit a person.

vocative ('vɒkətɪv) *adj.* 1. *Grammar.* denoting a case of nouns, in some inflected languages, used when the referent of the noun is being addressed. ~*n.* 2. *Grammar.* **a.** the vocative case. **b.** a vocative noun or speech element.

vociferate ('vɒʃɪfə'reɪt) *vb.* to exclaim or cry out about (something) clamorously or insistently. — **vo'cif'er'ation** *n.*

vociferous ('vɒʃɪfərəs) *adj.* 1. characterized by vehemence or noisiness: **vociferous protests**. 2. making an outcry: a **vociferous mob**. — **vo'ciferously** *adv.* — **vo'ciferousness** *n.*

vodka ('vɒdkə) *n.* an alcoholic drink originating in Russia, made from grain, potatoes, etc., usually consisting only of rectified spirit and water.

vogue ('vəʊg) *n.* 1. the popular style at a specified time (esp. in **in vogue**). 2. a period of general or popular usage or favour: **the vogue for such dances is now over**. ~*adj.* 3. (usually *prenominal*) fashionable: **a vogue word**. — **'vogu**ish *adj.*

voice (vɔɪs) *n.* 1. the sound made by the vibration of the vocal cords, esp. when modified by the tongue and mouth. 2. the natural and distinctive tone of the speech sounds characteristic of a particular person. 3. the condition, quality, or tone of such sounds: a **hysterical voice**. 4. the musical sound of a singing voice, with respect to its quality or tone: **she has a lovely voice**. 5. the ability to speak, sing, etc.: **he has lost his voice**. 6. a sound resembling or suggestive of vocal utterance: **the voice of hard experience**. 7. written or spoken expression, as of feeling, opinion, etc. (esp. in **give voice to**). 8. a stated choice, wish, or opinion: **to give someone a voice in a decision**. 9. an agency through which is communicated another's purpose, etc.: **such groups are the voice of our enemies**. 10. *Music.* **a.** musical notes produced by vibrations of the vocal chords at various frequencies and in certain registers: a **tenor voice**. **b.** (in harmony) an independent melodic line or part: **a fugue in five voices**. 11. *Phonetics.* the sound characterizing the articulation of several speech sounds, including all vowels or sonants, that is produced when the vocal cords are set in vibration by the breath. 12. *Grammar.* a category of the verb that expresses whether the relation between the subject and the verb is that of agent and action, action and recipient, or some other relation. 13. **in voice**, in a condition to sing or speak well. 14. **with one voice**, unanimously. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 15. to give expression to: **to voice a complaint**. 16. to articulate (a speech sound) with voice. 17. *Music.* to adjust (a wind instrument or organ pipe) so that it conforms to the correct standards of tone colour, pitch, etc. — **'voic**er *n.*

voiced (vɔɪst) *adj.* 1. declared or expressed by the voice. 2. (*in combination*) having a voice as specified:

loud-voiced. 3. *Phonetics*. articulated with accompanying vibration of the vocal cords: *In English* (b) is a *voiced consonant*.

voiceless ('vɔɪslɪs) *adj.* 1. without a voice. 2. not articulated: *voiceless misery*. 3. silent. 4. *Phonetics*. articulated without accompanying vibration of the vocal cords: *In English* (p) is a *voiceless consonant*. — '**voicelessly** *adv.*

voice-over *n.* the voice of an unseen commentator heard during a film, etc.

voiceprint ('vɔɪs,prɪnt) *n.* a graphic representation of a person's voice recorded electronically, usually having time plotted along the horizontal axis and the frequency of the speech on the vertical axis.

void (vɔɪd) *adj.* 1. without contents. 2. not legally binding: *null and void*. 3. (of an office, house, etc.) unoccupied. 4. (*postpositive*; foll. by *of*) destitute or devoid: *void of resources*. 5. useless: *all his efforts were rendered void*. 6. (of a card suit or player) having no cards in a particular suit: *his spades were void*. ~*n.* 7. an empty space or area: *the huge desert voids of Asia*. 8. a feeling or condition of loneliness or deprivation. 9. a lack of any cards in one suit: *to have a void in spades*. ~*vb.* (*mainly tr.*) 10. to make ineffective or invalid. 11. to empty (contents, etc.) or make empty of contents. 12. (*also intr.*) to discharge the contents of (the bowels or urinary bladder). — '**voidable** *adj.* — '**voider** *n.*

voile (vɔɪl) *n.* a light semitransparent fabric of silk, rayon, cotton, etc., used for dresses, scarves, shirts, etc.

volatile ('vɔlə,taɪl) *adj.* 1. (of a substance) capable of readily changing from a solid or liquid form to a vapour. 2. (of persons) disposed to caprice or inconstancy. 3. (of circumstances) liable to sudden change. 4. lasting only a short time: *volatile business interests*. 5. *Computers*. (of a memory) not retaining stored information when the power supply is cut off. ~*n.* 6. a volatile substance. — '**volatileness** or **volatility** ('vɔlə'tɪlɪti) *n.*

volatilize or **-lize** (vɔ'leɪtɪz,laɪz) *vb.* to change or cause to change from a solid or liquid to a vapour. —**vo'latilizable** or **-lizable** *adj.* —**vo'latilization** or **-lization** *n.*

vol-au-vent (French vɔlə'vɑ̃) *n.* a very light puff pastry case filled with a savoury mixture in a sauce.

volcanic (vɔl'kænik) *adj.* 1. of, produced by, or characterized by the presence of volcanoes: *a volcanic region*. 2. suggestive of or resembling an erupting volcano: *a volcanic era*. —**vol'canically** *adv.* —**volcanicity** (vɔl'kənɪsɪti) *n.*

volcano (vɔl'keɪnəʊ) *n., pl. -noes or -nos*. 1. an opening in the earth's crust from which molten lava, rock fragments, ashes, dust, and gases are ejected from below the earth's surface. 2. a mountain formed from volcanic material ejected from a vent in a central crater.

vole (vəʊl) *n.* any of various small rodents, mostly of Eurasia and North America, having a stocky body, short tail, and inconspicuous ears.

volition ('vɔlɪʃən) *n.* 1. the act of exercising the will: *of one's own volition*. 2. the faculty of conscious choice, decision, and intention. 3. the resulting choice or resolution. —**vo'litional** *adj.*

volley ('vɔli) *n.* 1. the simultaneous discharge of several weapons, esp. firearms. 2. the projectiles or missiles so discharged. 3. a burst of oaths, protests, etc., occurring simultaneously or in rapid succession. 4. *Sport*. a stroke, shot, or kick at a moving ball before it hits the ground. 5. *Cricket*. the flight of such a ball or the ball itself. ~*vb.* 6. to discharge (weapons, etc.) in or as if in a volley or (of weapons, etc.) to be discharged. 7. (*tr.*) to utter vehemently. 8. (*tr.*) *Sport*. to strike or kick (a moving ball) before it hits the ground. — '**volleyer** *n.*

volleyball ('vɔli,bɔ:l) *n.* 1. a game in which two teams hit a large ball back and forth over a high net with their hands. 2. the ball used in this game.

vols. *abbrev.* for *volumes*.

volt ('vɔʊlt) *n.* the derived SI unit of electric potential; the potential difference between two points on a conductor carrying a current of 1 ampere, when the power dissipated between these points is 1 watt. Symbol: V

volt² or **volte** (vɔlt) *n.* 1. a small circle executed in dressage. 2. a leap made in fencing to avoid an opponent's thrust.

voltage ('vɔʊltɪdʒ) *n.* an electromotive force or potential difference expressed in volts.

voltaic (vɔl'teɪk) *adj.* another word for *galvanic* (sense 1).

volte-face ('vɔlt'fæs) *n., pl. volte-face*. 1. a reversal, as in opinion. 2. a change of position so as to look, lie, etc., in the opposite direction.

voltmeter ('vɔʊlt,mɪ:tə) *n.* an instrument for measuring potential difference or electromotive force.

volatile ('vɔljʊb'l) *adj.* 1. talking easily and at length. 2. *Arch.* easily turning or rotating. 3. *Rare.* (of a plant) twining or twisting. —**volu'bility** or **'volubleness** *n.* — '**volubly** *adv.*

volume ('vɔljʊ:m) *n.* 1. the magnitude of the three-dimensional space enclosed within or occupied by an object, geometric solid, etc. 2. a large mass or quantity: *the volume of protest*. 3. an amount or total: *the volume of exports*. 4. fullness of sound. 5. the control on a radio, etc., for adjusting the intensity of sound. 6. a bound collection of printed or written pages; book. 7. any of several books either bound in an identical format or part of a series. 8. the complete set of issues of a periodical over a specified period, esp. one year. 9. *History*. a roll of parchment, etc. 10. **speak volumes**. to convey much significant information.

volumetric (vɔljʊ'metɪk) *adj.* of, concerning, or using measurement by volume: *volumetric analysis*. —**volu'metrically** *adv.*

voluminous (vɔ'ljʊ:mɪnəs) *adj.* 1. of great size, quantity, or extent. 2. (of writing) consisting of or sufficient to fill volumes. —**voluminosity** (vɔ'ljʊ:mɪ'nɒsɪti) *n.* —**vo'luminously** *adv.*

voluntary ('vɔləntəri) *adj.* 1. performed, undertaken, or brought about by free choice or willingly: *a voluntary donation*. 2. (of persons) serving or acting in a specified function without compulsion or promise of remuneration: *a voluntary social worker*. 3. done by, composed of, or functioning with the aid of volunteers: *a voluntary association*. 4. exercising or having the faculty of willing: *a voluntary agent*. 5. spontaneous: *voluntary laughter*. 6. *Law*. a. acting or done without legal obligation, compulsion, or persuasion. b. made without payment or recompense: *a voluntary conveyance*. 7. (of the muscles of the limbs, neck, etc.) having their action controlled by the will. 8. maintained by the voluntary actions or contributions of individuals and not by the state: *voluntary schools*. ~*n., pl. -aries*. 9. *Music*. a composition or improvisation, usually for organ, played at the beginning or end of a church service. — '**voluntarily** *adv.*

volunteer ('vɔləntɪə) *n.* 1. a. a person who performs or offers to perform voluntary service. b. (as *modifier*): *a volunteer system*. 2. a person who freely undertakes military service. 3. a. a plant that grows from seed that has not been deliberately sown. b. (as *modifier*): *a volunteer plant*. ~*vb.* 4. to offer (oneself or one's services) for an undertaking by choice and without request or obligation. 5. (*tr.*) to perform, give, or communicate voluntarily: *to volunteer help*. 6. (*intr.*) to enlist voluntarily for military service.

voluptuary (vɔ'lʌptʃʊəri) *n., pl. -aries*. 1. a person devoted to luxury and sensual pleasures. ~*adj.* 2. of or furthering sensual gratification or luxury.

voluptuous (vɔ'lʌptʃʊəs) *adj.* 1. relating to, characterized by, or consisting of pleasures of the body or senses. 2. devoted or addicted to sensual indulgence or luxurious pleasures. 3. sexually alluring, esp. through shapeliness or fullness: *a voluptuous woman*. —**vo'luptuously** *adv.* —**vo'luptuousness** *n.*

volute ('vɔljʊt, vɔ'lu:t) *n.* 1. a spiral or twisting turn, form, or object. 2. Also called: **helix**. a carved ornament, esp. as used on an Ionic capital, that has the form of a spiral scroll. 3. any of the whorls of the spirally coiled shell of a snail or similar gastropod mollusc. 4. any of a family of tropical marine gastropod molluscs having a spiral shell with beautiful markings. ~*adj.* *also voluted* (vɔ'lu:tɪd). 5. having the form of a volute; spiral. —**vo'lution** *n.*

vomit ('vɒmɪt) *vb.* 1. to eject (the contents of the stomach) through the mouth as the result of involuntary muscular spasms of the stomach and oesophagus. 2. to eject or be ejected forcefully. ~*n.* 3. the matter ejected in vomiting. 4. the act of vomiting. 5. an emetic. — '**vomiter** *n.*

voodoo ('vʊ:du:) *n., pl. -dooes*. 1. Also called: **voodooism**. a religious cult involving witchcraft, common among Negroes in Haiti and other Caribbean islands. 2. a person who practises voodoo. 3. a charm, spell, or fetish involved in voodoo worship. ~*adj.* 4. relating to or associated with voodoo. ~*vb.* **-dooing, -dooed**. 5. (*tr.*) to affect by or as if by the power of voodoo. — '**voodooist** *n.*

voracious (vɔ'reɪʃəs) *adj.* 1. devouring or craving food in great quantities. 2. very eager or unremitting in some activity: *voracious reading*. —**voracity** (vɔ'ræsɪti) or **vo'raciousness** *n.*

vortex ('vɔ:tɪks) *n.*, *pl.* **-texas** or **-tices** (-tɪksɪz). 1. a whirling mass or motion of liquid, gas, flame, etc., such as the spiralling movement of water around a whirlpool. 2. any activity or way of life regarded as irresistibly engulfing. —**vortical** ('vɔ:tɪkəl) *adj.*

votary ('vəʊtəri) *n.*, *pl.* **-ries**, also **votarist**. 1. *R.C. Church, Eastern Churches* a person, such as a monk or nun, who has dedicated himself or herself to religion by taking vows. 2. a devoted adherent of a religion, cause, etc. ~*adj.* 3. ardently devoted to the services or worship of God or a saint. —**votaress** *fem. n.*

vote (vəʊt) *n.* 1. an indication of choice, opinion, or will on a question, such as the choosing of a candidate: 10 votes for Jones. 2. the opinion of a group of persons as determined by voting: it was put to the vote. 3. a body of votes or voters collectively: the Jewish vote. 4. the total number of votes cast. 5. the ticket, ballot, etc., by which a vote is expressed. 6. a. the right to vote; franchise. b. a person regarded as the embodiment of this right. 7. a means of voting, such as a ballot. 8. *Chiefly Brit.* a grant or other proposition to be voted upon. ~*vb.* 9. (when *tr.*, takes a clause as object or an infinitive) to express or signify (one's preference or will) (for or against some question, etc.): to vote by ballot. 10. (*intr.*) to declare oneself as being (something) or in favour of something; by exercising one's vote: to vote socialist. 11. (*tr.*, foll. by *into* or *out of*, etc.) to appoint or elect (a person to or from a particular post): he was voted out of office. 12. to determine the condition of in a specified way by voting: the court voted itself out of existence. 13. to authorize or allow by voting: vote us a rise. 14. *Inf.* to declare by common opinion: the party was voted a failure. —**'votable** or **'voteable** *adj.*

vote down (vɔt daʊn) *vb.* (*tr.*, *adv.*) to decide against or defeat in a vote: the bill was voted down.

voter ('vəʊtə) *n.* a person who can or does vote.

votive ('vəʊtɪv) *adj.* 1. given, undertaken, or dedicated in fulfilment of or in accordance with a vow. 2. *R.C. Church.* having the nature of a voluntary offering: a votive Mass.

vouch (vaʊtʃ) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*; usually foll. by *for*) to give personal assurance: I'll vouch for his safety. 2. (when *tr.*, usually takes a clause as object; when *intr.*, usually foll. by *for*) to furnish supporting evidence (for) or function as proof (of). 3. (*tr.*) *Arch.* to cite (authors, principles, etc.) in support of something.

voucher ('vaʊtʃə) *n.* 1. a document serving as evidence for some claimed transaction, as the receipt or expenditure of money. 2. *Brit.* a ticket or card serving as a substitute for cash: a gift voucher. 3. a person or thing that vouches for the truth of some statement, etc.

vouchsafe ('vaʊtʃseɪf) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to give or grant or condescend to give or grant: she vouchsafed no reply. 2. (may take a clause as object or an infinitive) to agree, promise, or permit, often graciously or condescendingly: he vouchsafed to come yesterday.

vow (vaʊ) *n.* 1. a solemn or earnest pledge or promise binding the person making it to perform a specified act or behave in a certain way. 2. a solemn promise made to a deity or saint, by which the promiser pledges himself to some future act or way of life. 3. **take vows**, to enter a religious order and commit oneself to its rule of life by the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. ~*vb.* 4. (*tr.*; may take a clause as object or an infinitive) to pledge, promise, or undertake solemnly: he vowed to return. 5. (*tr.*) to dedicate or consecrate to God or a saint. 6. (*tr.*; usually takes a clause as object) to assert or swear emphatically. 7. (*intr.*) *Arch.* to declare solemnly. —**'vower** *n.*

vowel ('vaʊəl) *n.* 1. *Phonetics.* a voiced speech sound whose articulation is characterized by the absence of obstruction in the vocal tract, allowing the breath stream free passage. The timbre of a vowel is chiefly determined by the position of the tongue and the lips. 2. a letter or character representing a vowel. —**'vowel-like** *adj.*

vox (vɒks) *n.*, *pl.* **voices** ('vɔ:sɪz); a voice or sound.

vox populi ('pɒpjʊləɪ) *n.* the voice of the people; popular or public opinion.

voyage ('vɔɪdʒ) *n.* 1. a journey, travel, or passage, esp. one to a distant land or by sea or air. ~*vb.* 2. to travel over or traverse (something): we will voyage to Africa. —**'voyager** *n.*

voyeur ('vɔɪəʃ:) *n.* a person who obtains sexual pleasure from the observation of people undressing, having intercourse, etc. —**'voyeurism** *n.* —**'voyeuristic** *adj.*

V. Rev. *abbrev. for* Very Reverend.

vs. *abbrev. for* versus.

V.S. *abbrev. for* Veterinary Surgeon.

V-sign *n.* 1. (in Britain) an offensive gesture made by sticking up the index and middle fingers with the palm of the hand inwards. 2. a similar gesture with the palm outwards meaning victory or peace.

V.S.O. *abbrev. for:* 1. very superior old; used to indicate that a brandy, port, etc., is between 12 and 17 years old. 2. (in Britain) Voluntary Service Overseas: an organization that sends young volunteers to use and teach their skills in developing countries.

V.S.O.P. *abbrev. for* very special old pale; used to indicate that a brandy, port, etc., is between 20 and 25 years old.

VTOL ('vi:tɒl) *n.* vertical takeoff and landing; a system in which an aircraft can take off and land vertically.

VTR *abbrev. for* video tape recorder.

vulcanite ('vʌlkənaɪt) *n.* a hard usually black rubber produced by vulcanizing natural rubber with sulphur. It is used for electrical insulators, etc. Also called: **ebonite**.

vulcanize or **-nise** ('vʌlkənaɪz) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to treat (rubber) with sulphur under heat and pressure to improve elasticity and strength or to produce a hard substance such as vulcanite. 2. to treat (substances other than rubber) by a similar process in order to improve their properties. —**'vulcanization** or **-ni'sation** *n.*

Vulg. *abbrev. for* Vulgate.

vulgar ('vʌlgə) *adj.* 1. marked by lack of taste, culture, delicacy, manners, etc.: vulgar language. 2. (often *cap.*; usually *prenominal*) denoting a form of a language, esp. of Latin, current among common people, esp. at a period when the formal language is archaic. 3. *Arch.* of or current among the great mass of common people. —**'vulgarly** *adv.*

vulgar fraction *n.* another name for **simple fraction**.

vulgarian ('vʌlgɛəriən) *n.* a vulgar person, esp. one who is rich or has pretensions to good taste.

vulgarism ('vʌlgə,rɪzəm) *n.* 1. a coarse, crude, or obscene expression. 2. a word or phrase found only in the vulgar form of a language.

vulgarity ('vʌlgərɪti) *n.*, *pl.* **-ties**. 1. the condition of being vulgar; lack of good manners. 2. a vulgar action, phrase, etc.

vulgarize or **-rise** ('vʌlgə,rəɪz) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to make (something little known or difficult to understand) widely known or popular among the public. 2. to make commonplace or vulgar. —**'vulgari'zation** or **-ri'sa-tion** *n.*

Vulgar Latin *n.* any of the dialects of Latin spoken in the Roman Empire other than classical Latin.

Vulgate ('vʌlɡeɪt, -ɡɪt) *n.* a. (from the 13th century onwards) the fourth-century Latin version of the Bible produced by Jerome. b. (as *modifier*): the Vulgate version.

vulnerable ('vʌlnərəbəl) *adj.* 1. capable of being physically or emotionally wounded or hurt. 2. open to temptation, censure, etc. 3. *Mil.* exposed to attack. 4. *Bridge.* (of a side who have won one game towards rubber) subject to increased bonuses or penalties. —**'vulnerability** *n.* —**'vulnerably** *adv.*

vulpine ('vʌlpəɪn) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or resembling a fox. 2. crafty, clever, etc.

vulture ('vʌltʃə) *n.* 1. any of various very large diurnal birds of prey of Africa, Asia, and warm parts of Europe, typically having broad wings and soaring flight and feeding on carrion. 2. any similar bird of North, Central, and South America. 3. a person or thing that preys greedily and ruthlessly on others, esp. the helpless. —**'vulturine** ('vʌltʃə,rəɪn) or **'vulturous** *adj.*

vulva ('vʌlvə) *n.*, *pl.* **-vae** (-vi) or **-vas**, the external genitals of human females, including the labia, mons pubis, clitoris, and the vaginal orifice. —**'vulvar** *adj.* —**'vulvitis** ('vʌl'vaɪtɪs) *n.*

v.v. *abbrev. for* vice versa.

W

w or **W** ('dab'lju:) *n.*, *pl.* **w's**, **W's**, or **Ws**. 1. the 23rd letter of the English alphabet. 2. a speech sound represented by this letter, usually a bilabial semivowel, as in *web*.

W *symbol for*: 1. watt. 2. West. 3. *Physics*. work. 4. *Chem.* tungsten. 5. women's (size).

w. *abbrev. for*: 1. week. 2. weight. 3. width. 4. wife. 5. with. 6. *Cricket*. a. wide. b. wicket.

W. *abbrev. for*: 1. Wales. 2. Welsh.

W.A. *abbrev. for* Western Australia.

WAAC (wæk) *n.* 1. *acronym for* Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. 2. Also called: **waac**. a member of this corps.

wacky ('wæki) *adj.* **wackier**, **wackiest**. *Sl.* eccentric or unpredictable. — **wackily** *adv.* — **wackiness** *n.*

wad (wɒd) *n.* 1. a small mass or ball of fibrous or soft material, such as cotton wool, used esp. for packing or stuffing. 2. a. a plug of paper, cloth, leather, etc., pressed against a charge to hold it in place in a muzzle-loading cannon. b. a disc of paper, felt, etc., used to hold in place the powder and shot in a shotgun cartridge. 3. a roll or bundle of something, esp. of banknotes. ~*vb.* **wadding**, **wadded**. 4. to form (something) into a wad. 5. (*tr.*) to roll into a wad or bundle. 6. (*tr.*) a. to hold (a charge) in place with a wad. b. to insert a wad into (a gun). 7. (*tr.*) to pack or stuff with wadding.

wadding ('wɒdɪŋ) *n.* 1. a. any fibrous or soft substance used as padding, stuffing, etc. b. a piece of this. 2. material for wads used in cartridges or guns.

waddle ('wɒdl) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. to walk with short steps, rocking slightly from side to side. ~*n.* 2. a swaying gait or motion. — **waddler** *n.*

wade (weɪd) *vb.* 1. to walk with the feet immersed in (water, a stream, etc.). 2. (*intr.*; often foll. by *through*) to proceed with difficulty: *to wade through a book*. 3. (*intr.*; foll. by *in* or *into*) to attack energetically. ~*n.* 4. the act or an instance of wading. — **wadable** or **wadeable** *adj.*

wader ('weɪdə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that wades. 2. Also called: **wading bird**. any of various long-legged birds, esp. herons, storks, etc., that live near water and feed on fish, etc.

waders ('weɪdəz) *pl. n.* long waterproof boots, sometimes extending to the chest like trousers, worn by anglers.

wadi or **wady** ('wɒdi) *n.*, *pl.* **-dies**. a watercourse in N Africa and Arabia, dry except in the rainy season.

wafer ('weɪfə) *n.* 1. a thin crisp sweetened biscuit, served with ice cream, etc. 2. *Christianity*. a thin disc of unleavened bread used in the Eucharist. 3. *Pharmacol.* an envelope of rice paper enclosing a medicament. 4. *Electronics*. a small thin slice of semiconductor material, such as silicon, that is separated into numerous individual components or circuits. 5. a small thin disc of adhesive material used to seal letters, etc. ~*vb.* 6. (*tr.*) to seal or fasten with a wafer. — **wafery** *adj.*

waffle¹ ('wɒfl) *n.* *Chiefly U.S.* a. a crisp golden-brown pancake, with deep indentations on both sides. b. (as *modifier*): *waffle iron*.

waffle² ('wɒfl) *Inf.*, *chiefly Brit.* ~*vb.* 1. (*intr.*; often foll. by *on*) to speak or write in a vague and wordy manner. ~*n.* 2. vague and wordy speech or writing.

waft (wɔ:ft, wɒft) *vb.* 1. to carry or be carried gently on or as if on the air or water. ~*n.* 2. the act or an instance of wafting. 3. something, such as a scent, carried on the air. 4. *Naut.* (formerly) a signal flag hoisted furled to signify various messages depending on where it was flown.

wag¹ (wæg) *vb.* **wagging**, **wagged**. 1. to move or cause to move rapidly and repeatedly from side to side or up and down. 2. to move (the tongue) or (of the tongue) to be moved rapidly in talking, esp. in gossip. 3. to move (the finger) or (of the finger) to be moved from side to side, in or as in admonition. ~*n.* 4. the act or an instance of wagging.

wag² (wæg) *n.* a humorous or jocular person; wit. — **waggish** *adj.*

wage (weɪdʒ) *n.* 1. (*often pl.*) payment in return for work or services, esp. that made to workmen on a daily,

hourly, weekly, or piecework basis. Cf. **salary**. 2. (*pl.*) *Econ.* the portion of the national income accruing to labour as earned income, as contrasted with the unearned income accruing to capital in the form of rent, interest, and dividends. 3. (*often pl.*) recompense, return, or yield. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 4. to engage in. — **wageless** *adj.*

wager ('weɪdʒə) *n.* 1. an agreement to pay an amount of money as a result of the outcome of an unsettled matter. 2. an amount staked on the outcome of such an event. 3. **wager of battle**. (in medieval Britain) a pledge to do battle to decide guilt or innocence by single combat. 4. **wager of law**. *English legal history*. a form of trial in which the accused offered to make oath of his innocence, supported by the oaths of 11 of his neighbours declaring their belief in his statements. ~*vb.* 5. (when *tr.*, may take a clause as object) to risk or bet (something) on the outcome of an unsettled matter. — **wagerer** *n.*

waggle ('wægl) *vb.* 1. to move or cause to move with a rapid shaking or wobbling motion. ~*n.* 2. a rapid shaking or wobbling motion. — **waggly** *adj.*

Wagnerian (væg'nɜ:riən) *adj.* 1. of or suggestive of the dramatic musical compositions of Richard Wagner (1813–83), German composer, their massive scale, dramatic and emotional intensity, etc. ~*n.* also **Wagnerite**. 2. a follower or disciple of the music or theories of Richard Wagner.

wagon or **waggon** ('wæɡən) *n.* 1. any of various types of wheeled vehicles, ranging from carts to lorries, esp. a vehicle with four wheels drawn by a horse, tractor, etc., and used for carrying heavy loads. 2. *Brit.* a railway freight truck, esp. an open one. 3. an obsolete word for chariot. 4. *on* (or *off*) **the wagon**. *Inf.* abstaining (or no longer abstaining) from alcoholic drinks. — **wagonless** or **waggonless** *adj.*

wagonette or **waggonette** ('wæɡə'net) *n.* a light four-wheeled horse-drawn vehicle with two lengthwise seats facing each other behind a crosswise driver's seat.

wagtail ('wæg,teɪl) *n.* any of various passerine songbirds of Eurasia and Africa, having a very long tail that wags when the bird walks.

waif (weɪf) *n.* 1. a person, esp. a child, who is homeless, friendless, or neglected. 2. anything found and not claimed, the owner being unknown.

wail (weɪl) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to utter a prolonged high-pitched cry, as of grief or misery. 2. (*intr.*) to make a sound resembling such a cry: *the wind wailed in the trees*. 3. (*tr.*) to lament, esp. with mournful sounds. ~*n.* 4. a prolonged high-pitched mournful cry or sound. — **wailer** *n.* — **wailingly** *adv.*

wain (weɪn) *n.* *Chiefly poetic*. a farm wagon or cart.

wainscot ('weɪnskɒt) *n.* 1. Also called: **wainscoting** or **wainscoting**. a lining applied to the walls of a room, esp. one of wood panelling. 2. the lower part of the walls of a room, esp. when finished in a material different from the upper part. 3. fine quality oak used as wainscot. ~*vb.* 4. (*tr.*) to line (a wall of a room) with a wainscot.

waist (weɪst) *n.* 1. *Anat.* the constricted part of the trunk between the ribs and hips. 2. the part of a garment covering the waist. 3. the middle part of an object that resembles the waist in narrowness or position. 4. the middle part of a ship. 5. the middle section of an aircraft fuselage. 6. the constriction between the thorax and abdomen in wasps and similar insects. — **waistless** *adj.*

waistband ('weɪst,bænd) *n.* an encircling band of material to finish and strengthen a skirt or trousers at the waist.

waistcoat ('weɪs,kəʊt) *n.* 1. a man's sleeveless waistlength garment worn under a suit jacket, usually buttoning up the front. 2. a similar garment worn by women. ~*U.S. name*: **vest**. — **waist-coated** *adj.*

waistline ('weɪst,ləɪn) *n.* 1. a line around the body at the narrowest part of the waist. 2. the intersection of the bodice and the skirt of a dress, etc., or the level of this.

wait (weɪt) *vb.* 1. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *for*, *until*, or *to*) to stay in one place or remain inactive in expectation

(of something). **2.** to delay temporarily or be temporarily delayed: *that work can wait*. **3.** (when *intr.*, usually foll. by *for*) (of things) to be ready or at hand; be in store (for a person): *supper was waiting for them when they got home*. **4.** (*intr.*) to act as a waiter or waitress. ~*n.* **5.** the act or an instance of waiting. **6.** a period of waiting. **7.** (*pl.*) Rare. a band of musicians who go around the streets, esp. at Christmas, singing and playing carols. **8.** lie in wait, to prepare an ambush (for someone).

waiter ('weɪtə) *n.* **1.** a man whose occupation is to serve at table, as in a restaurant. **2.** a person who waits. **3.** a tray or salver.

waiting game *n.* the postponement of action or decision in order to gain the advantage.

waiting list *n.* a list of people waiting to obtain some object, treatment, status, etc.

waiting room *n.* a room in which people may wait, as at a railway station, doctor's or dentist's surgery, etc.

wait on or upon *vb.* (*intr.*, *prep.*) **1.** to serve at the table of. **2.** to act as an attendant to.

waitress ('weɪtrɪs) *n.* a woman who serves at table, as in a restaurant.

wait up *vb.* (*intr.*, *adv.*) to delay going to bed in order to await some event.

waive (weɪv) *vb.* (*tr.*) **1.** to set aside or relinquish: *to waive one's right to something*. **2.** to refrain from enforcing or applying (a law, penalty, etc.). **3.** to defer.

waiver ('weɪvə) *n.* **1.** the voluntary relinquishment, expressly or by implication, of some claim or right. **2.** the act or an instance of relinquishing a claim or right. **3.** a formal statement in writing of such relinquishment.

wake¹ (weɪk) *vb.* **waking, woke, woken.** **1.** (often foll. by *up*) to rouse or become roused from sleep. **2.** (often foll. by *up*) to rouse or become roused from inactivity. **3.** (*intr.*; often foll. by *to* or *up to*) to become conscious or aware: *at last he woke up to the situation*. **4.** (*intr.*) to be or remain awake. ~*n.* **5.** a watch or vigil held over the body of a dead person during the night before burial. **6.** (in Ireland) the festivities held at a funeral. **7.** the patronal or dedication festival of English parish churches. **8.** a solemn or ceremonial vigil. **9.** (usually *pl.*) an annual holiday in any of various towns in northern England, when the local factory or factories close. —'waker *n.*

▷ **Usage.** Where there is an object and the sense is the literal one *wake (up)* and *waken* are the commonest forms: *I awakened him; I woke him (up)*. Both verbs are also commonly used without an object: *I woke up*. *Awake* and *awaken* are preferred to other forms of *wake* where the sense is a figurative one: *he awoke to the danger*.

wake² (weɪk) *n.* **1.** the waves or track left by a vessel or other object moving through water. **2.** the track or path left by anything that has passed: *wrecked houses in the wake of the hurricane*.

wakeful ('weɪkfʊl) *adj.* **1.** unable or unwilling to sleep. **2.** sleepless. **3.** alert. —'wakefully *adv.* —'wakefulness *n.*

waken ('weɪkən) *vb.* to rouse or be roused from sleep or some other inactive state.

▷ **Usage.** See at *wake*¹.

wale (weɪl) *n.* **1.** the raised mark left on the skin after the stroke of a rod or whip. **2.** the weave or texture of a fabric, such as the ribs in corduroy. **3.** *Naut.* a ridge of planking along the rail of a ship. —*vb.* **4.** to raise a wale or wales on by striking. **5.** to weave with a wale.

walk (wɔːk) *vb.* **1.** (*intr.*) to move along or travel on foot at a moderate rate; advance in such a manner that at least one foot is always on the ground. **2.** (*tr.*) to pass through, on, or over on foot, esp. habitually. **3.** (*tr.*) to cause, assist, or force to move along at a moderate rate: *to walk a dog*. **4.** (*tr.*) to escort or conduct by walking: *to walk someone home*. **5.** (*intr.*) (of ghosts, spirits, etc.) to appear or move about in visible form. **6.** (*intr.*) to follow a certain course or way of life: *to walk in misery*. **7.** (*tr.*) to bring into a certain condition by walking: *I walked my shoes to shreds*. **8.** *walk the plank*. See *plank* (sense 4). **9.** *walk on air*. to be delighted or exhilarated. **10.** *walk tall*. *U.S. inf.* to have self-respect or pride. **11.** *walk the streets*. to be a prostitute. ~*n.* **12.** the act or an instance of walking. **13.** the distance or extent walked. **14.** a manner of walking; gait. **15.** a place set aside for walking; promenade. **16.** a chosen profession or sphere of activity (esp. in *walk of life*). **17.** a. an arrangement of trees or shrubs in widely separated rows. **b.** the space between such rows. **18.** an enclosed ground for the exercise or feeding of domestic animals, esp. horses.

19. *Chiefly Brit.* the route covered in the course of work, as by a tradesman or postman. **20.** *Obs.* the section of a forest controlled by a keeper. ~See also *walk out*, etc. —'walkable *adj.*

walkabout ('wɔːkə,bəʊt) *n.* **1.** a periodic nomadic excursion into the Australian bush made by an Aborigine. **2.** an occasion when celebrities, royalty, etc., walk among and meet the public.

walker ('wɔːkə) *n.* **1.** a person who walks. **2.** Also called: *baby walker*. a tubular frame on wheels or casters to support a baby learning to walk. **3.** a similar support for walking, often with rubber feet, for use by the disabled or convalescents.

walkie-talkie or **walky-talky** (ˌwɔːkiˈtɔːki) *n.*, *pl.* -talkies. a small combined radio transmitter and receiver that can be carried around by one person: widely used by the police, medical services, etc.

walk-in *adj.* (of a cupboard, etc.) large enough to allow a person to enter and move about in.

walking stick *n.* **1.** a stick or cane carried in the hand to assist walking. **2.** the usual U.S. name for *stick insect*.

walk-on *n.* **a.** a small part in a play or theatrical entertainment, esp. one without any lines. **b.** (as *modifier*): a *walk-on part*.

walk out *vb.* (*intr.*, *adv.*) **1.** to leave without explanation, esp. in anger. **2.** to go on strike. **3.** *walk out on.* *Inf.* to abandon or desert. **4.** *walk out with.* *Brit., obs. or dialect.* to court or be courted by. ~*n.* *walkout*. **5.** a strike by workers. **6.** the act of leaving a meeting, conference, etc., as a protest.

walkover ('wɔːk,əʊvə) *n.* **1.** *Inf.* an easy or unopposed victory. **2.** *Horse racing.* a. the running or walking over the course by the only contestant entered in a race at the time of starting. **b. a race won in this way. —*vb.* *walk over.* (*intr.*, *mainly prep.*) **3.** (also *adv.*) to win a race by a walkover. **4.** *Inf.* to beat (an opponent) conclusively or easily.**

walkway ('wɔːk,weɪ) *n.* a passage or path for pedestrians, esp. one that is sheltered.

wall (wɔːl) *n.* **1.** **a.** a vertical construction made of stone, brick, wood, etc., with a length and height much greater than its thickness, used to enclose, divide, or support. **b.** (as *modifier*): *wall hangings*. Related *adj.*: *mural*. **2.** (often *pl.*) a structure or rampart built to protect and surround a position or place for defensive purposes. **3.** *Anat.* any lining, membrane, or investing part that encloses or bounds a bodily cavity or structure: *abdominal wall*. Technical name: *paries*. Related *adj.*: *parietal*. **4.** anything that suggests a wall in function or effect: *a wall of fire*. **5.** *bang one's head against a brick wall*. to try to achieve something impossible. **6.** *drive (or push) to the wall*. to force into an awkward situation. **7.** *go to the wall.* *Inf.* to be ruined. **8.** *go (or send) up the wall.* *Sl.* to become (or cause to become) crazy or furious. **9.** *have one's back to the wall*. to be in a very difficult situation. —*vb.* (*tr.*) **10.** to protect, provide, or confine with or as if with a wall. **11.** (often foll. by *up*) to block (an opening) with a wall. **12.** (often foll. by *in* or *up*) to seal by or within a wall or walls. —*walled* *adj.* —'wall-less *adj.*

wallaby ('wɔːləbi) *n.*, *pl.* -bies or -by. any of various herbivorous marsupials of Australia and New Guinea, similar to but smaller than kangaroos.

Wallaby ('wɔːləbi) *n.*, *pl.* -bies. a member of the international rugby union football team of Australia.

wallah or **walla** ('wɔːlə) *n.* (usually in combination) *Inf.* a person involved with or in charge of (a specified thing): *the book wallah*.

wall bars *pl. n.* a series of horizontal bars attached to a wall and used in gymnastics.

wallboard ('wɔːl,bɔːd) *n.* a thin board made of materials, such as compressed wood fibres or gypsum plaster, between stiff paper, and used to cover walls, partitions, etc.

wallet ('wɒlɪt) *n.* **1.** a small folding case, usually of leather, for holding paper money, documents, etc. **2.** *Arch., chiefly Brit.* a rucksack or knapsack.

walleye ('wɒl,ai) *n.*, *pl.* -eyes or -eye. **1.** a divergent squint. **2.** opacity of the cornea. **3.** an eye having a white or light-coloured iris. **4.** Also called: *walleyed pike*. a North American pikeperch valued as a food and game fish. —'wall,eyed *adj.*

wallflower ('wɔːl,flaʊə) *n.* **1.** Also called: *gillyflower*. a cruciferous plant of S Europe, grown for its clusters of yellow, orange, brown, red, or purple fragrant flowers and naturalized on old walls, cliffs, etc. **2.** *Inf.* a person

who stays on the fringes of a dance or party on account of lacking a partner or being shy.

Walloon ('wɒlʊn) *n.* 1. a member of a French-speaking people living chiefly in S Belgium and adjacent parts of France. 2. the French dialect of Belgium. ~*adj.* 3. of or characteristic of the Walloons or their dialect.

wallop ('wɒləp) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to beat soundly; strike hard. 2. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to defeat utterly. 3. (*intr.*) (of liquids) to boil violently. ~*n.* 4. *Inf.* a hard blow. 5. *Inf.* the ability to hit powerfully, as of a boxer. 6. *Inf.* a forceful impression. 7. *Brit. sl.* beer.

walloping ('wɒləpɪŋ) *Inf.* ~*n.* 1. a thrashing. ~*adj.* 2. (intensifier): a wallowing drop in sales.

wallow ('wɒləʊ) *vb. (intr.)* 1. (esp. of certain animals) to roll about in mud, water, etc., for pleasure. 2. to move about with difficulty. 3. to indulge oneself in possessions, emotion, etc.: to wallow in self-pity. ~*n.* 4. the act or an instance of wallowing. 5. a muddy place where animals wallow. —'wallower *n.*

wallpaper ('wɒlˌpeɪpə) *n.* 1. paper usually printed or embossed with designs for pasting onto walls and ceilings. ~*vb.* 2. to cover (a surface) with wallpaper.

Wall Street *n.* a street in lower Manhattan, New York, where the Stock Exchange and major banks are situated, regarded as the embodiment of American finance.

wall-to-wall *adj.* (esp. of carpeting) completely covering a floor.

walnut ('wɒlˌnʌt) *n.* 1. any of a genus of deciduous trees of America, SE Europe, and Asia. They have aromatic leaves and flowers in catkins and are grown for their edible nuts and for their wood. 2. the nut of any of these trees, having a wrinkled two-lobed seed and a hard wrinkled shell. 3. the wood of any of these trees, used in making furniture, etc. 4. a light yellowish-brown colour. ~*adj.* 5. made from the wood of a walnut tree: a walnut table. 6. of the colour walnut.

walrus ('wɒːlɪrəs, 'wɒl-) *n., pl. -ruses or -rus.* a mammal of northern seas, having a tough thick skin, upper canine teeth enlarged as tusks, and coarse whiskers and feeding mainly on shellfish.

waltz ('wɔːls) *n.* 1. a ballroom dance in triple time in which couples spin around as they progress round the room. 2. a piece of music composed for or in the rhythm of this dance. ~*vb.* 3. to dance or lead (someone) in or as in a waltz. —'waltzer *n.*

wampum ('wɒmpəm) *n.* (formerly) money used by North American Indians, made of cylindrical shells strung or woven together. Also called: *peag, peage.*

wan (wɒn) *adj.* **wanner, wannest.** 1. unnaturally pale, esp. from sickness, grief, etc. 2. suggestive of ill health, unhappiness, etc. 3. (of light, stars, etc.) faint or dim. —'wanly *adv.* —'wanness *n.*

wand (wɒnd) *n.* 1. a slender supple stick or twig. 2. a thin rod carried as a symbol of authority. 3. a rod used by a magician, etc. 4. *Inf.* a conductor's baton. 5. *Archery.* a marker used to show the distance at which the archer stands from the target.

wander ('wɒndə) *vb. (mainly intr.)* 1. (*also tr.*) to move or travel about, in, or through (a place) without any definite purpose or destination. 2. to proceed in an irregular course. 3. to go astray, as from a path or course. 4. (of thoughts, etc.) to lose concentration. 5. to think or speak incoherently or illogically. ~*n.* 6. the act or an instance of wandering. —'wanderer *n.* —'wandering *adj., n.*

wandering Jew *n.* any of several related creeping or trailing plants of tropical America, such as tradescantia.

Wandering Jew *n.* (in medieval legend) a character condemned to roam the world eternally because he mocked Christ on the day of the Crucifixion.

wanderlust ('wɒndəˌlʌst) *n.* a great desire to travel and rove about.

wane (weɪn) *vb. (intr.)* 1. (of the moon) to show a gradually decreasing portion of illuminated surface, between full moon and new moon. 2. to decrease gradually in size, strength, power, etc. 3. to draw to a close. ~*n.* 4. a decrease, as in size, strength, power, etc. 5. the period during which the moon wanes. 6. a drawing to a close. 7. a rounded surface or defective edge of a plank, where the bark was. 8. on the wane, in a state of decline. —'waney or 'wany *adj.*

wangle ('wæŋɡl) *Inf.* ~*vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to use devious methods to get or achieve (something) for (oneself or another): he wangled himself a salary increase. 2. to manipulate or falsify (a situation, etc.). ~*n.* 3. the act or an instance of wangling. —'wangler *n.*

wank (wæŋk) *Taboo sl.* ~*vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to masturbate. ~*n.* 2. an instance of wanking.

wankel engine ('wæŋkəl) *n.* a type of rotary four-stroke internal combustion engine without reciprocating parts. It consists of one or more elliptical combustion chambers within which a curved triangular-shaped piston rotates, by the explosion of compressed gas, dividing the combustion chamber into three gash-like sections.

want (wɒnt) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to feel a need or longing for: I want a new hat. 2. (when *tr.*, may take a clause as object or an infinitive) to wish, need, or desire (something or to do something): he wants to go home. 3. (*intr.*; usually used with a negative and often foll. by *for*) to be lacking or deficient (in something necessary or desirable): the child wants for nothing. 4. (*tr.*) to feel the absence of: lying on the ground makes me want my bed. 5. (*tr.*) to fall short by (a specified amount). 6. (*tr.*) Chiefly *Brit.* to have need of or require (doing or being something): your shoes want cleaning. 7. (*intr.*) to be destitute. 8. (*tr.*; often passive) to seek or request the presence of: you're wanted upstairs. 9. (*tr.*; takes an infinitive) *Inf.* should or ought (to do something): you don't want to go out so late. ~*n.* 10. the act or an instance of wanting. 11. anything that is needed, desired, or lacked: to supply someone's wants. 12. a lack, shortage, or absence: for want of common sense. 13. the state of being in need: the state should help those in want. 14. a sense of lack; craving. —'wanter *n.*

wanting ('wɒntɪŋ) *adj. (postpositive)* 1. lacking or absent. 2. not meeting requirements or expectations: you have been found wanting.

wanton ('wɒntən) *adj.* 1. dissolute, licentious, or immoral. 2. without motive, provocation, or justification: wanton destruction. 3. maliciously and unnecessarily cruel. 4. unrestrained: wanton spending. 5. *Arch.* or poetic. playful or capricious. 6. *Arch.* (of vegetation, etc.) luxuriant. ~*n.* 7. a licentious person, esp. a woman. ~*vb.* 8. (*intr.*) to behave in a wanton manner. —'wantonly *adv.* —'wantonness *n.*

wapiti ('wɒpɪtɪ) *n., pl. -tis.* a large North American deer with large much-branched antlers.

war (wɔː) *n.* 1. open armed conflict between two or more parties, nations, or states. Related *adj.*: **belligerent** (see sense 2). 2. a particular armed conflict: the 1973 war in the Middle East. 3. the techniques of armed conflict as a study, science, or profession. 4. any conflict or contest: the war against crime. 5. (*modifier*) of, resulting from, or characteristic of war: war damage; a war story. 6. in the wars. *Inf.* (esp. of a child) hurt or knocked about, esp. as a result of quarrelling and fighting. ~*vb.* **warring, warred.** 7. (*intr.*) to conduct a war.

War. *abbrev.* for Warwickshire.

warble ('wɔːbl) *vb.* 1. to sing (words, songs, etc.) with trills, runs, and other embellishments. 2. (*tr.*) to utter in a song. ~*n.* 3. the act or an instance of warbling.

warbler ('wɔːblə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that warbles. 2. a small active passerine songbird of the Old World having a cryptic plumage and slender bill, that is an arboreal insectivore. 3. a small bird of an American family, similar to the Old World songbird but often brightly coloured.

war crime *n.* a crime committed in wartime in violation of the accepted customs, such as ill-treatment of prisoners of war, etc. —'war criminal *n.*

war cry *n.* 1. a rallying cry used by combatants in battle. 2. a cry, slogan, etc., used to rally support for a cause.

ward (wɔːd) *n.* 1. (in many countries) one of the districts into which a city, town, parish, or other area is divided for administration, election of representatives, etc. 2. a. a room in a hospital, esp. one for patients requiring similar kinds of care: a maternity ward. b. (*as modifier*): ward maid. 3. one of the divisions of a prison. 4. an open space enclosed within the walls of a castle. 5. *Law.* Also called: **ward of court.** a person, esp. a minor or one legally incapable of managing his own affairs, placed under the control or protection of a guardian or of a court. 6. the state of being under guard or in custody. 7. a means of protection. 8. a. an internal ridge or bar in a lock that prevents an incorrectly cut key from turning. b. a corresponding groove cut in a key. ~*vb.* 9. (*tr.*) *Arch.* to guard or protect. —'wardless *adj.*

-ward suffix. 1. (*forming adjectives*) indicating direction towards: a backward step. 2. (*forming adverbs*) a variant and the usual U.S. form of **-wards**.

warden ('wɔːdɪn) *n.* 1. a person who has the charge or care of something, esp. a building, or someone. 2. a

public official, esp. one responsible for the enforcement of certain regulations: *traffic warden*. **3.** a person employed to patrol a national park or a safari park. **4.** *Chiefly U.S.* the chief officer in charge of a prison. **5.** *Brit.* the principal of any of various universities or colleges. **6.** See *churchwarden* (sense 1).

warder ('wɔ:də) or (*fem.*) **wardress** *n.* **1.** *Chiefly Brit.* an officer in charge of prisoners in a jail. **2.** a person who guards or has charge of something.

wardrobe ('wɔ:drəʊb) *n.* **1.** a tall closet or cupboard, with a rail or hooks on which to hang clothes. **2.** the total collection of articles of clothing belonging to one person. **3. a.** the collection of costumes belonging to a theatre or theatrical company. **b.** (*as modifier*): *wardrobe mistress*.

wardrobe mistress *n.* the person in charge of the costumes in a theatrical company.

wardroom ('wɔ:d.ru:m, -rum) *n.* **1.** the quarters assigned to the officers (except the captain) of a warship. **2.** the officers of a warship collectively, excepting the captain.

-wards or -ward *suffix forming adverbs.* indicating direction towards: *a step backwards*. Cf. **-ward**.

wardship ('wɔ:dʃɪp) *n.* the state of being a ward.

ware (weə) *n.* (*often in combination*) **1.** (*functioning as sing.*) articles of the same kind or material: *silverware*. **2.** porcelain or pottery of a specified type: *jasper ware*. ~See also *wares*.

warehouse *n.* ('weə,haʊs). **1.** a place where goods are stored prior to their use, distribution, or sale. **2.** *Chiefly Brit.* a large commercial, esp. wholesale, establishment. ~*vb.* ('weə,haʊz, -haʊs). **3. (tr.)** to store or place in a warehouse. — **'ware,houseman** *n.*

wares (weəz) *pl. n.* **1.** articles of manufacture considered as being for sale. **2.** any talent or asset regarded as a saleable commodity.

warfare ('wɔ:feə) *n.* **1.** the act, process, or an instance of waging war. **2.** conflict or strife.

war game *n.* **1.** a notional tactical exercise for training military commanders, in which no military units are actually deployed. **2.** a game in which model soldiers are used to create battles, esp. past battles, in order to study tactics.

warhead ('wɔ:hed) *n.* the part of the fore end of a missile or projectile that contains explosives.

warhorse ('wɔ:hɔ:s) *n.* **1.** a horse used in battle. **2. Inf.** a veteran soldier or politician.

warlike ('wɔ:lɪk) *adj.* **1.** of, relating to, or used in war. **2.** hostile or belligerent. **3.** fit or ready for war.

warlock ('wɔ:lɒk) *n.* a man who practises black magic.

warm (wɔ:m) *adj.* **1.** characterized by or having a moderate degree of heat. **2.** maintaining or imparting heat: *a warm coat*. **3.** having or showing ready affection, kindness, etc.: *a warm personality*. **4.** lively or passionate: *a warm debate*. **5.** cordial or enthusiastic: *warm support*. **6.** quickly or easily aroused: *a warm temper*. **7.** (of colours) predominantly red or yellow in tone. **8.** (of a scent, trail, etc.) recently made. **9.** near to finding a hidden object or guessing facts, as in children's games. **10. Inf.** uncomfortable or disagreeable, esp. because of the proximity of danger. ~*vb.* **11.** (sometimes foll. by *up*) to make or become warm or warmer. **12.** (when *intr.*, often foll. by *to*) to make or become excited, enthusiastic, etc. (about): *he warmed to the idea of buying a new car*. **13. (intr., often foll. by *to*)** to feel affection, kindness, etc. (for someone): *I warmed to her mother from the start*. ~*n.* **14. Inf.** a warm place or area: *come into the warm*. **15. Inf.** the act or an instance of warming or being warmed. ~See also *warm up*. — **'warmer** *n.* — **'warmish** *adj.* — **'warmly** *adv.* — **'warmness** *n.*

warm-blooded *adj.* **1.** ardent, impetuous, or passionate. **2. Zool.** Also: *homoiothermic*, having a constant body temperature, usually higher than that of the surroundings. — **'warm-'bloodedness** *n.*

war memorial *n.* a monument, usually an obelisk or cross, to those who die in a war, esp. those from a particular locality.

warm front *n.* *Meteorol.* the boundary between a warm air mass and the cold air above.

warm-hearted *adj.* kindly, generous, or readily sympathetic. — **'warm-'heartedly** *adv.* — **'warm-'heartedness** *n.*

warming pan *n.* a pan, often of copper and having a long handle, filled with hot coals and formerly drawn over the sheets to warm a bed.

warmonger ('wɔ:mlŋgə) *n.* a person who fosters warlike ideas or advocates war. — **'war,mongering** *n.*

warmth (wɔ:mθ) *n.* **1.** the state, quality, or sensation of being warm. **2.** intensity of emotion: *he denied the accusation with some warmth*. **3.** affection or cordiality.

warm up *vb. (adv.)* **1.** to make or become warm or warmer. **2. (intr.)** to exercise immediately before a game or contest. **3.** to run (an engine, etc.) until the working temperature is attained, or (of an engine, etc.) to undergo this process. **4.** to make or become more animated: *the party warmed up when Tom came*. **5.** to reheat (already cooked food) or (of such food) to be reheated. ~*n.* **warm-up**. **6.** the act or an instance of warming up.

warn (wɔ:n) *vb.* **1.** to notify or make (someone) aware of danger, harm, etc. **2. (tr.; often takes a negative and an infinitive)** to advise or admonish (someone) as to action, conduct, etc.: *I warn you not to do that again*. **3. (takes a clause as object or an infinitive)** to inform (someone) in advance: *he warned them that he would arrive late*. **4. (tr.; usually foll. by away, off, etc.)** to give notice to go away, be off, etc. — **'warner** *n.*

warning ('wɔ:nɪŋ) *n.* **1.** a hint, intimation, threat, etc., of harm or danger. **2.** advice to beware or desist. **3.** an archaic word for *notice* (sense 6). ~*adj.* **4. (prenominal)** intended or serving to warn: *a warning look*. — **'warningly** *adv.*

warp (wɔ:p) *vb.* **1.** to twist or cause to twist out of shape, as from heat, damp, etc. **2.** to turn or cause to turn from a true, correct, or proper course. **3. Naut.** to move (a vessel) by hauling on a rope fixed to a stationary object ashore or (of a vessel) to be moved thus. **4. (tr.)** to flood (land) with water from which alluvial matter is deposited. ~*n.* **5.** the state or condition of being twisted out of shape. **6.** a twist, distortion, or bias. **7.** a mental or moral deviation. **8.** the yarns arranged lengthways on a loom, forming the threads through which the weft yarns are woven. **9. Naut.** a rope used for warping a vessel. **10.** alluvial sediment deposited by water. — **'warpage** *n.* — **'warper** *n.*

war paint *n.* painted decoration of the face and body applied by certain North American Indians before battle. **2. Inf.** finery or regalia. **3. Inf.** cosmetics.

warpath ('wɔ:p,peθ) *n.* **1.** the route taken by North American Indians on a warlike expedition. **2. on the warpath.** a. preparing to engage in battle. **b. Inf.** in a state of anger.

warrant ('wɔ:rənt) *n.* **1.** anything that gives authority for an action or decision; authorization. **2.** a document that certifies or guarantees, such as a receipt, licence, or commission. **3. Law.** an authorization issued by a magistrate allowing a constable or other officer to search or seize property, arrest a person, or perform some other specified act. **4. (in certain armed services)** the official authority for the appointment of warrant officers. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) **5.** to guarantee the quality, condition, etc., of (something). **6.** to give authority or power to. **7.** to attest to the character, worthiness, etc., of. **8.** to guarantee (a purchaser of merchandise) against loss of, damage to, or misrepresentation concerning the merchandise. **9. Law.** to guarantee (the title to an estate or other property). **10.** to declare confidently. — **'warrantable** *adj.* — **'warrantability** *n.* — **'warrantably** *adv.* — **'war-ranter** *n.*

warrant officer *n.* an officer in certain armed services who holds a rank between those of commissioned and noncommissioned officers. In the British army the rank has two classes: regimental sergeant major and company sergeant major.

warrantor ('wɔ:rən,tɔ:) *n.* an individual or company that provides a warranty.

warranty ('wɔ:rəntɪ) *n.*, *pl. -ties*. **1. Property law.** a covenant, express or implied, by which the vendor of real property vouches for the security of the title conveyed. **2. Contract law.** an express or implied term in a contract collateral to the main purpose, such as an undertaking that goods contracted to be sold shall meet specified requirements as to quality, etc. **3. Insurance law.** an undertaking by the party insured that the facts given regarding the risk are as stated.

warren ('wɔ:rən) *n.* **1.** a series of interconnected underground tunnels in which rabbits live. **2.** a colony of rabbits. **3.** an overcrowded area or dwelling. **4. Chiefly Brit.** an enclosed place where small game animals or birds are kept, esp. for breeding.

warrior ('wɔ:riə) *n.* **a.** a person engaged in, experienced in, or devoted to war. **b. (as modifier):** *a warrior nation*.

warship ('wɔ:ʃɪp) *n.* a vessel armed, armoured, and otherwise equipped for naval warfare.

wart (wɔ:t) *n.* 1. *Pathol.* any firm abnormal elevation of the skin caused by a virus. 2. *Bot.* a small rounded outgrowth. — **warty** *adj.*

wart hog *n.* a wild pig of S and E Africa, having heavy tusks, wart-like protuberances on the face, and a mane of coarse hair.

wartime ('wɔ:t,taɪm) *n.* a. a period or time of war. b. (as modifier): *wartime conditions.*

wary ('weəri) *adj.* **warier**, **warliest**. 1. watchful, cautious, or alert. 2. characterized by caution or watchfulness. — **warily** *adv.* — **wariness** *n.*

was (wɔz, unstressed wəz) *vb.* (used with *I, he, she, it*, and with singular nouns) 1. the past tense (indicative mood) of **be**. 2. *Not standard.* a form of the subjunctive mood used in place of *were*, esp. in conditional sentences: *if the film was to be with you, would you be able to process it?*

wash (wɒʃ) *vb.* 1. to apply water or other liquid, usually with soap, to (oneself, clothes, etc.) in order to cleanse. 2. (*tr.*; often foll. by *away, from, off*, etc.) to remove by the application of water or other liquid and usually soap: *she washed the dirt from her clothes.* 3. (*intr.*) to be capable of being washed without damage or loss of colour. 4. (of an animal such as a cat) to cleanse (itself or another animal) by licking. 5. (*tr.*) to cleanse from pollution or defilement. 6. (*tr.*) to make wet or moist. 7. (often foll. by *away, etc.*) to move or be moved by water: *the flood washed away the bridge.* 8. (esp. of waves) to flow or sweep against or over (a surface or object), often with a lapping sound. 9. to form by erosion or be eroded: *the stream washed a ravine in the hill.* 10. (*tr.*) to apply a thin coating of paint, metal, etc., to. 11. (*tr.*) to separate (ore, etc.) from (gravel, etc.) by immersion in water. 12. (*intr.*; usually used with a negative) *Inf.*, chiefly *Brit.* to admit of testing or proof: *your excuses won't wash.* 13. **wash one's hands.** a. *Euphemistic.* to go to the lavatory. b. (usually foll. by *off*) to refuse to accept responsibility (for). — *n.* 14. the act or process of washing. 15. a quantity of articles washed together. 16. a preparation or thin liquid used as a coating or in washing: *a thin wash of paint.* 17. *Med.* a. any medicinal lotion for application to a part of the body. b. (*in combination*): *an eyewash.* 18. a. the technique of making wash drawings. b. See **wash drawing**. 19. the erosion of soil by the action of flowing water. 20. a mass of alluvial material transported and deposited by flowing water. 21. land that is habitually washed by tidal or river waters. 22. the disturbance in the air or water produced at the rear of an aircraft, boat, or other moving object. 23. gravel, earth, etc., from which valuable minerals may be washed. 24. waste liquid matter or liquid refuse, esp. as fed to pigs. 25. an alcoholic liquid resembling strong beer, resulting from the fermentation of wort in the production of whisky. 26. **come out in the wash.** *Inf.* to become known or apparent in the course of time. — *See also wash down, wash out, wash up.*

washable ('wɒʃəbəl) *adj.* (esp. of fabrics or clothes) capable of being washed without deteriorating. — **washability** *n.*

wash-and-wear *adj.* (of fabrics, garments, etc.) requiring only light washing, short drying time, and little or no ironing.

washbasin ('wɒʃ,beɪsɪn) *n.* a basin or bowl for washing the face and hands. Also called: **washbowl**.

washboard ('wɒʃ,bɔ:d) *n.* 1. a board having a surface, usually of corrugated metal, on which, esp. formerly, clothes were scrubbed. 2. such a board used as a rhythm instrument played with the fingers in skiffle, country-and-western music, etc. 3. *Naut.* a vertical planklike shield fastened to the gunwales of a boat to prevent water from splashing over the side.

wash down *vb.* (*tr.*, *adv.*) 1. to wash completely, esp. from top to bottom. 2. to take drink with or after (food or another drink).

wash drawing *n.* a pen-and-ink drawing that has been lightly brushed over with water to soften the lines.

washed out *adj.* (**washed-out** when *prenominal*). 1. faded or colourless. 2. exhausted, esp. when being pale in appearance.

washed up *adj.* (**washed-up** when *prenominal*). *Inf.*, chiefly *U.S.* no longer hopeful, etc.: *our hopes for the new deal are all washed up.*

washer ('wɒʃə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that washes. 2. a flat ring or drilled disc of metal used under the head of a bolt or nut. 3. any flat ring of rubber, felt, metal, etc.,

used to provide a seal under a nut or in a tap or valve seat. 4. See **washing machine**. 5. *Austral.* a face cloth; flannel.

washerwoman ('wɒʃə,wʊmən) or (*masculine*) **washer-man** *n.*, *pl.* -**women** or -**men**. a person who washes clothes for a living.

washing ('wɒʃɪŋ) *n.* 1. articles that have been or are to be washed together on a single occasion. 2. something, such as gold dust, that has been obtained by washing. 3. a thin coat of something applied in liquid form.

washing machine *n.* a mechanical apparatus, usually powered by electricity, for washing clothing, linens, etc.

washing soda *n.* crystalline sodium carbonate, esp. when used as a cleansing agent.

washing-up *n.* *Brit.* 1. the washing of dishes, cutlery, etc., after a meal. 2. dishes and cutlery waiting to be washed up. 3. (as modifier): *a washing-up machine.*

wash out *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. (*tr.*) to wash (the inside of something) so as to remove (dirt). 2. Also: **wash off**. to remove or be removed by washing: *grass stains don't wash out easily.* — *n.* **washout**. 3. *Geol.* a. erosion of the earth's surface by the action of running water. b. a narrow channel produced by this. 4. *Inf.* a. a total failure or disaster. b. an incompetent person.

washroom ('wɒʃ,rʊ:m, -,rʊm) *n.* *U.S.* a euphemism for **lavatory**.

washstand ('wɒʃ,stænd) *n.* a piece of furniture designed to hold a basin, etc., for washing the face and hands.

wash up *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. Chiefly *Brit.* to wash (dishes, cutlery, etc.) after a meal. 2. (*intr.*) *U.S.* to wash one's face and hands.

washy ('wɒʃɪ) *adj.* **washier**, **washiest**. 1. over-diluted, watery, or weak. 2. lacking intensity or strength. — **washiness** *n.*

wasp (wɒsp) *n.* 1. a social hymenopterous insect, such as the common wasp, having a black-and-yellow body and an ovipositor specialized for stinging. 2. any of various solitary hymenopterans, such as the digger wasp and gall wasp. — **wasp-like** *adj.* — **waspy** *adj.* — **waspily** *adv.* — **waspiness** *n.*

Wasp or WASP (wɒsp) *n.* *U.S.*, usually *derog.* a person descended from N European, usually Protestant, stock, forming a group often considered the most dominant, privileged, and influential in American society.

waspish ('wɒspɪʃ) *adj.* 1. relating to or suggestive of a wasp. 2. easily annoyed or angered. — **waspishly** *adv.*

wasp waist *n.* a very slender waist, esp. one that is tightly corseted. — **wasp-waisted** *adj.*

wassail ('wɒseɪl) *n.* 1. (formerly) a toast or salutation made to a person at festivities. 2. a festivity when much drinking takes place. 3. alcoholic drink drunk at such a festivity, esp. spiced beer or mulled wine. — *vb.* 4. to drink the health of (a person) at a wassail. 5. (*intr.*) to go from house to house singing carols at Christmas. — **wassailer** *n.*

wastage ('weɪstɪdʒ) *n.* 1. anything lost by wear or waste. 2. the process of wasting. 3. reduction in size of a work force by retirement, etc. (esp. in **natural wastage**).

waste (weɪst) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to use, consume, or expend thoughtlessly, carelessly, or to no avail. 2. (*tr.*) to fail to take advantage of: *to waste an opportunity.* 3. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *away*) to lose or cause to lose bodily strength, health, etc. 4. to exhaust or become exhausted. 5. (*tr.*) to ravage. — *n.* 6. the act of wasting or state of being wasted. 7. a failure to take advantage of something. 8. anything unused or not used to full advantage. 9. anything or anyone rejected as useless, worthless, or in excess of what is required. 10. garbage, rubbish, or trash. 11. a land or region that is devastated or ruined. 12. a land or region that is wild or uncultivated. 13. *Physiol.* a. the useless products of metabolism. b. indigestible food residue. 14. *Law.* reduction in the value of an estate caused by act or neglect, esp. by a life tenant. — *adj.* 15. rejected as useless, unwanted, or worthless. 16. produced in excess of what is required. 17. not cultivated, inhabited, or productive: *waste land*. 18. a. of or denoting the useless products of metabolism. b. of or denoting indigestible food residue. 19. destroyed, devastated, or ruined. 20. **lay waste**, to devastate or destroy. — **waster** *n.*

wasteful ('weɪstfʊl) *adj.* 1. tending to waste or squander. 2. causing waste or devastation. — **wastefully** *adv.* — **wastefulness** *n.*

wasteland ('weɪst,lænd) *n.* 1. a barren or desolate area of land. 2. a region, period in history, etc., that is

considered spiritually, intellectually, or aesthetically barren or desolate.

wastepaper ('weɪst,peɪpə) *n.* paper discarded after use.

wasting ('weɪstɪŋ) *adj.* (*prenominal*) reducing the vitality, strength, or robustness of the body: *a wasting disease*. — **wastingly** *adv.*

wastrel ('weɪstrəl) *n.* 1. a wasteful person; spendthrift; prodigal. 2. an idler or vagabond.

watch (wɒtʃ) *vb.* 1. to look at or observe closely or attentively. 2. (*intr.*, foll. by *for*) to wait attentively. 3. to guard or tend (something) closely or carefully. 4. (*intr.*) to keep vigil. 5. (*tr.*) to maintain an interest in: *to watch the progress of a child at school*. 6. *watch it!* be careful! ~*n.* 7. a. a small portable timepiece, usually worn strapped to the wrist (a **wristwatch**) or in a waistcoat pocket. b. (*as modifier*): *a watch spring*. 8. a watching. 9. a period of vigil, esp. during the night. 10. (formerly) one of a set of periods into which the night was divided. 11. *Naut.* a. any of the periods, usually of four hours, during which part of a ship's crew are on duty. b. those officers and crew on duty during a specified watch. 12. the period during which a guard is on duty. 13. (formerly) a watchman or band of watchmen. 14. on the watch, on the lookout. ~See also **watch out**. — **watcher** *n.*

watchdog ('wɒtʃ,dɒg) *n.* 1. a dog trained to guard property. 2. a. a person or group that acts as a protector against inefficiency, etc. b. (*as modifier*): *a watchdog committee*.

watch fire *n.* a fire kept burning at night as a signal or for warmth and light by a person keeping watch.

watchful ('wɒtʃfʊl) *adj.* 1. vigilant or alert. 2. *Arch.* not sleeping. — **watchfully** *adv.* — **watchfulness** *n.*

watchmaker ('wɒtʃ,meɪkə) *n.* a person who makes or mends watches. — **watchmaking** *n.*

watchman ('wɒtʃmən) *n.*, *pl.* **men**. 1. a person employed to guard buildings or property. 2. (formerly) a man employed to patrol or guard the streets at night.

watch night *n.* 1. (in Protestant churches) the night of December 31, during which a service is held to mark the passing of the old year. 2. the service held on this night.

watch out *vb.* (*intr.*, *adv.*) to be careful or on one's guard.

watchstrap ('wɒtʃ,streɪp) *n.* a strap of leather, cloth, etc., attached to a watch for fastening it around the wrist. Also called (U.S.): **watchband**.

watchtower ('wɒtʃ,taʊə) *n.* a tower on which a sentry keeps watch.

watchword ('wɒtʃ,wɜ:d) *n.* 1. another word for **password**. 2. a rallying cry or slogan.

water ('wɔ:tə) *n.* 1. a clear colourless tasteless odourless liquid that is essential for plant and animal life and constitutes, in impure form, rain, oceans, rivers, lakes, etc. Formula: H_2O . Related adj.: **aqueous**. 2. a. any body or area of this liquid, such as a sea, lake, river, etc. b. (*as modifier*): *water sports*; *a water plant*. Related adj.: **aquatic**. 3. the surface of such a body or area: *fish swim below the water*. 4. any form or variety of this liquid, such as rain. 5. any of various solutions of chemical substances in water: *ammonia water*. 6. *Physiol.* a. any fluid secreted from the body, such as sweat, urine, or tears. b. the amniotic fluid surrounding a foetus in the womb. 7. a wavy lustrous finish on some fabrics, esp. silk. 8. *Arch.* the degree of brilliance in a diamond. 9. excellence, quality, or degree (in of the first water). 10. *Finance*. capital stock issued without a corresponding increase in paid-up capital. 11. (*modifier*) *Astrol.* of or relating to the three signs of the zodiac: Cancer, Scorpio, and Pisces. 12. above the water. *Inf.* out of trouble or difficulty, esp. financial trouble. 13. **hold water**. to prove credible, logical, or consistent: *the alibi did not hold water*. 14. in deep water. in trouble or difficulty. 15. **make water**. a. to urinate. b. (of a boat, etc.) to let in water. 16. **throw (or pour) cold water on**. *Inf.* to discourage. 17. **water under the bridge**. events that are past and done with. ~*vb.* 18. (*tr.*) to sprinkle, moisten, or soak with water. 19. (*tr.*; often foll. by *down*) to weaken by the addition of water. 20. (*intr.*) (of the eyes) to fill with tears. 21. (*intr.*) (of the mouth) to salivate, esp. in anticipation of food (esp. in **make one's mouth water**). 22. (*tr.*) to irrigate or provide with water: *to water the land*. 23. (*intr.*) to drink water. 24. (*intr.*) (of a ship, etc.) to take in a supply of water. 25. (*tr.*) *Finance*. to raise the par value of (issued capital stock) without a corresponding increase in the real value of assets. 26. (*tr.*) to produce a wavy lustrous

finish on (fabrics, esp. silk). ~See also **water down**. — **waterer** *n.* — **waterless** *adj.*

water bed *n.* a waterproof mattress filled with water.

water biscuit *n.* a thin crisp plain biscuit, usually served with butter or cheese.

water buffalo or **ox** *n.* a member of the cattle tribe of swampy regions of S Asia, having widely spreading back-curving horns. Domesticated forms are used as draught animals.

water butt *n.* a barrel for collecting rainwater, esp. from a drainpipe.

water cannon *n.* an apparatus for pumping water through a nozzle at high pressure, used in quelling riots.

water chestnut *n.* 1. a floating aquatic plant of Asia, having four-pronged edible nutlike fruits. 2. **Chinese water chestnut**. a Chinese plant with an edible succulent corm. 3. the corm of the Chinese water chestnut, used in Oriental cookery.

water clock or **glass** *n.* any of various devices for measuring time that use the escape of water as the motive force.

water closet *n.* 1. a lavatory flushed by water. 2. a small room that has a lavatory.

watercolour or **U.S. watercolor** ('wɔ:tə,kʌlə) *n.* 1. water-soluble pigment, applied in transparent washes and without the admixture of white pigment in the lighter tones. 2. a. a painting done in watercolours. b. (*as modifier*): *a watercolour masterpiece*. 3. the art or technique of painting with such pigments. — **water-colourist** or **U.S. watercolorist** *n.*

water-cool *vb.* (*tr.*) to cool (an engine, etc.) by a flow of water circulating in an enclosed jacket. — **water-cooled** *adj.*

watercourse ('wɔ:tə,kɔ:s) *n.* 1. a stream, river, or canal. 2. the channel, bed, or route along which this flows.

watercress ('wɔ:tə,kres) *n.* an Old World cruciferous plant of clear ponds and streams, having pungent leaves that are used in salads and as a garnish.

water diviner *n.* *Brit.* a person able to locate the presence of water, esp. underground, with a divining rod.

water down *vb.* (*tr.*, *adv.*) 1. to dilute or weaken with water. 2. to modify, esp. so as to omit anything unpleasant or offensive: *to water down the truth*. — **watered-down** *adj.*

waterfall ('wɔ:tə,fɔ:l) *n.* a cascade of falling water where there is a vertical or almost vertical step in a river.

waterfowl ('wɔ:tə,fəʊl) *n.* 1. any aquatic freshwater bird, esp. any species of the family *Anatidae* (ducks, geese, and swans). 2. such birds collectively.

waterfront ('wɔ:tə,frʌnt) *n.* the area of a town or city alongside a body of water, such as a harbour or dockyard.

water gate *n.* 1. a gate in a canal, etc., that can be opened or closed to control the flow of water. 2. a gate through which access may be gained to a body of water.

Watergate ('wɔ:tə,geɪt) *n.* an incident during the 1972 U.S. presidential campaign, when agents employed by the re-election organization of President Richard Nixon were caught breaking into the Democratic Party headquarters in the Watergate building, Washington, D.C. The political scandal was exacerbated by attempts to conceal the fact that White House officials had approved the burglary.

water gauge *n.* an instrument that indicates the presence or the quantity of water in a tank, reservoir, or boiler feed. Also called: **water glass**.

water glass *n.* 1. a viscous syrupy solution of sodium silicate in water: used as a protective coating for cement and a preservative, esp. for eggs. 2. another name for **water gauge**.

water hole *n.* 1. a depression, such as a pond or pool, containing water, esp. one used by animals as a drinking place. 2. a source of drinking water in a desert.

water ice *n.* an ice cream made from a frozen sugar syrup flavoured with fruit juice or purée.

watering can *n.* a container with a handle and a spout with a perforated nozzle used to sprinkle water over plants.

watering place *n.* 1. a place where drinking water for people or animals may be obtained. 2. *Brit.* a spa. 3. *Brit.* a seaside resort.

water jump *n.* a ditch or brook over which athletes or horses must jump in a steeplechase or similar contest.

water level *n.* 1. the level reached by the surface of a body of water. 2. the water line of a boat or ship.

water lily *n.* any of various aquatic plants of temperate and tropical regions, having large leaves and showy flowers that float on the surface of the water.

water line *n.* 1. a line marked at the level around a vessel's hull to which the vessel will be immersed when afloat. 2. a line marking the level reached by a body of water.

waterlogged ('wɔ:tə,lɒgd) *adj.* 1. saturated with water. 2. (of a vessel still afloat) having taken in so much water as to be unmanoeuvrable.

Waterloo ('wɔ:tə,lʊ:) *n.* 1. a small town in Belgium south of Brussels: battle (1815) fought nearby in which British and Prussian forces under the Duke of Wellington and Blücher routed the French under Napoleon. 2. a total or crushing defeat (esp. in **meet one's Waterloo**).

water main *n.* a principal supply pipe in an arrangement of pipes for distributing water.

waterman ('wɔ:təmən) *n., pl. -men*, a skilled boatman. — **waterman, ship** *n.*

watermark ('wɔ:tə,mɑ:k) *n.* 1. a mark impressed on paper during manufacture, visible when the paper is held up to the light. 2. another word for **water line**. ~*vb. (tr.)* 3. to mark (paper) with a watermark.

water meadow *n.* a meadow that remains fertile by being periodically flooded by a stream.

watermelon ('wɔ:tə,melən) *n.* 1. an African melon widely cultivated for its large edible fruit. 2. the fruit of this plant, which has a hard green rind and sweet watery reddish flesh.

water nymph *n.* any fabled nymph of the water, such as the Naiad, Nereid, or Oceanid of Greek mythology.

water pipe *n.* 1. a pipe for water. 2. another name for **hookah**.

water pistol *n.* a toy pistol that squirts a stream of water or other liquid.

water polo *n.* a game played in water by two teams of seven swimmers in which each side tries to throw or propel an inflated ball into the opponents' goal.

water power *n.* 1. the power latent in a dynamic or static head of water as used to drive machinery, esp. for generating electricity. 2. a source of such power, such as a drop in the level of a river, etc.

waterproof ('wɔ:tə,pru:f) *adj.* 1. not penetrable by water. Cf. **water-repellent**. ~*n.* 2. Chiefly Brit. a waterproof garment, esp. a raincoat. ~*vb. (tr.)* 3. to make (a fabric, etc.) waterproof.

water rat *n.* 1. any of several small amphibious rodents, esp. the water vole or the muskrat. 2. any of various amphibious rats of New Guinea, the Philippines, and Australia.

water rate *n.* a charge made for the public supply of water.

water-repellent *adj.* (of fabrics or garments, etc.) having a finish that resists the absorption of water.

watershed ('wɔ:tə,ʃed) *n.* 1. the dividing line between two adjacent river systems, such as a ridge. 2. an important period or factor that serves as a dividing line.

waterside ('wɔ:tə,said) *n. a.* the area of land beside a body of water. *b. (as modifier):* **waterside houses**.

water-ski *n.* 1. a type of ski used for planing or gliding over water. ~*vb. -sking, -skied or -ski'd.* 2. (*intr.*) to ride over water on water-skis while holding a rope towed by a speedboat. — **water-skier** *n.* — **water-skiing** *n.*

water snake *n.* any of various snakes that live in or near water, esp. any of a genus of harmless North American snakes.

water softener *n.* 1. any substance that lessens the hardness of water, usually by precipitating calcium and magnesium ions. 2. an apparatus that is used to remove chemicals that cause hardness.

waterspout ('wɔ:tə,spaut) *n.* 1. **Meteorol.** a. a tornado occurring over water, that forms a column of water and mist. b. a sudden downpour of heavy rain. 2. a pipe or channel through which water is discharged.

water table *n.* 1. the level below which the ground is saturated with water. 2. a stringcourse that has a moulding designed to throw rainwater clear of the wall below.

watertight ('wɔ:tə,tait) *adj.* 1. not permitting the passage of water either in or out: a **watertight boat**. 2. without loopholes: a **watertight argument**. 3. kept separate from other subjects or influences.

water tower ('taʊə) *n.* a reservoir or storage tank mounted on a tower-like structure so that water can be distributed at a uniform pressure.

water vapour *n.* water in the gaseous state, esp.

when due to evaporation at a temperature below the boiling point.

waterway ('wɔ:tə,wei) *n.* a river, canal, or other navigable channel used as a means of travel or transport.

water wheel *n.* 1. a simple water-driven turbine consisting of a wheel having vanes set axially across its rim, used to drive machinery. 2. a wheel with buckets attached to its rim for raising water from a stream, pond, etc.

water wings *pl. n.* an inflatable rubber device shaped like a pair of wings, which is placed under the arms of a person learning to swim.

waterworks ('wɔ:tə,wɜ:k) *n.* 1. (*functioning as sing.*) an establishment for storing, purifying, and distributing water for community supply. 2. (*functioning as pl.*) a display of water in movement, as in fountains. 3. (*functioning as pl.*) *Brit. inf.* the urinary system. 4. (*functioning as pl.*) *Sl. crying; tears.*

watery ('wɔ:təri) *adj.* 1. relating to, containing, or resembling water. 2. discharging or secreting water or a water-like fluid. 3. tearful; weepy. 4. insipid, thin, or weak.

watt (wɒt) *n.* the derived SI unit of power, equal to 1 joule per second; the power dissipated by a current of 1 ampere flowing across a potential difference of 1 volt. Symbol: W

wattage ('wɒtdʒ) *n.* 1. power, esp. electric power, measured in watts. 2. the power rating, measured in watts, of an electrical appliance.

wattle ('wɒtl) *n.* 1. a frame of rods or stakes interwoven with twigs, branches, etc., esp. when used to make fences. 2. the material used in such a construction. 3. a loose fold of skin, often brightly coloured, hanging from the neck or throat of certain birds, lizards, etc. 4. any of various chiefly Australian acacia trees having spikes of small brightly coloured flowers and flexible branches. ~*vb. (tr.)* 5. to construct from wattle. 6. to bind or frame with wattle. 7. to weave or twist (branches, twigs, etc.) into a frame. ~*adj.* 8. made of, formed by, or covered with wattle. — **wattled** *adj.*

wattle and daub *n.* a form of wall construction consisting of interwoven twigs plastered with a mixture of clay, water, and sometimes chopped straw.

wail or wawl (wɔ:l) *vb. (intr.)* to cry or wail plaintively like a cat.

wave (weɪv) *vb.* 1. to move or cause to move freely to and fro: *the banner waved in the wind*. 2. (*intr.*) to move the hand to and fro as a greeting. 3. to signal or signify by or as if by waving something. 4. (*tr.*) to direct to move by or as if by waving something: *he waved me on*. 5. to form or be formed into curves, undulations, etc. 6. (*tr.*) to set waves in (the hair). ~*n.* 7. one of a sequence of ridges or undulations that moves across the surface of a body of a liquid, esp. the sea. 8. any undulation on or at the edge of a surface reminiscent of such a wave: *a wave across the field of corn*. 9. *the waves*, the sea. 10. anything that suggests the movement of a wave, as by a sudden rise: *a crime wave*. 11. a widespread movement that advances in a body: *a wave of settlers*. 12. the act or an instance of waving. 13. *Physics*, an energy-carrying disturbance propagated through a medium or space by a progressive local displacement of the medium or a change in its physical properties, but without any overall movement of matter. 14. *Physics*, a graphical representation of a wave obtained by plotting the magnitude of the disturbance against time at a particular point in the medium or space. 15. a prolonged spell of some particular type of weather: *a heat wave*. 16. an undulating curve or series of curves or loose curls in the hair. — **waveless** *adj.* — **wave, like** *adj.*

waveband ('weɪv,bænd) *n.* a range of wavelengths or frequencies used for a particular type of radio transmission.

wave down *vb. (tr., adv.)* to signal with a wave to (a driver or vehicle) to stop.

wavelength ('weɪv,lengθ) *n.* 1. the distance, measured in the direction of propagation, between two points of the same phase in consecutive cycles of a wave. Symbol: λ 2. the wavelength of the carrier wave used by a particular broadcasting station. 3. *on someone's (or the same) wavelength*, *Inf.* having similar views, feelings, or thoughts (as someone else).

wavelet ('weɪvlt) *n.* a small wave.

waver ('weɪvə) *vb. (intr.)* 1. to be irresolute; hesitate between two possibilities. 2. to become unsteady. 3. to fluctuate. 4. to move back and forth or one way and another. 5. (of light) to flicker or flash. ~*n.* 6. the act

or an instance of wavering. —**'waverer** *n.* —**'waveringly** *adv.*

wavy ('weɪvɪ) *adj.* **wavier, waviest.** 1. abounding in or full of waves. 2. moving or proceeding in waves. 3. (of hair) set in or having waves. —**'wavily** *adv.* —**'waviness** *n.*

wax¹ ('wæks) *n.* 1. any of various viscous or solid materials of natural origin: characteristically lustrous, insoluble in water, and sensitive to heat, they consist largely of esters of fatty acids. 2. any of various similar substances, such as paraffin wax, that have a mineral origin and consist largely of hydrocarbons. 3. short for **beeswax** or **sealing wax**. 4. a resinous preparation used by shoemakers to rub on thread. 5. any substance or object that is pliable or easily moulded: *he was wax in their hands*. 6. (*modifier*) made of or resembling wax: *a wax figure*. 7. **put on wax**, to make a gramophone record of. ~*vb.* 8. (*tr.*) to coat, polish, etc., with wax. 9. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to make a gramophone record of. —**'waxer** *n.*

wax² ('wæks) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. to become larger, more powerful, etc. 2. (of the moon) to show a gradually increasing portion of illuminated surface, between new moon and full moon. 3. to become: *to wax eloquent*.

wax³ ('wæks) *n.* *Inf.*, chiefly *Brit.* a fit of rage or temper: *he's in a wax today*.

waxen ('wæksən) *adj.* 1. made of, treated with, or covered with wax. 2. resembling wax in colour or texture.

wax light *n.* a candle or taper of wax.

wax paper *n.* paper treated or coated with wax or paraffin to make it waterproof.

waxwing ('wæks,wɪŋ) *n.* any of a genus of gregarious passerine songbirds having red waxy wing tips and crested heads.

waxwork ('wæks,wɜ:k) *n.* 1. an object reproduced in wax, esp. as an ornament. 2. a life-size lifelike figure, esp. of a famous person, reproduced in wax. 3. (*pl.*; *functioning as sing. or pl.*) a museum or exhibition of wax figures.

waxy ('wæksi) *adj.* **waxier, waxiest.** 1. resembling wax in colour, appearance, or texture. 2. made of, covered with, or abounding in wax. —**'waxily** *adv.* —**'waxiness** *n.*

way (weɪ) *n.* 1. a manner, method, or means: *a way of life*. 2. a route or direction: *the way home*. 3. *a.* a means or line of passage, such as a path or track. *b.* (*in combination*): *waterway*. 4. space or room for movement or activity (esp. in **make way**, **in the way**, **out of the way**). 5. distance, usually distance in general: *you've come a long way*. 6. a passage or journey: *on the way*. 7. characteristic style or manner: *I did it my way*. 8. (*often pl.*) habits: *he has some offensive ways*. 9. an aspect of something, particular: *in many ways he was right*. 10. *a.* a street in or leading out of a town. *b.* (*cap. when part of a street name*): *Icknield Way*. 11. something that one wants in a determined manner (esp. in **get or have one's (own) way**). 12. the experience or sphere in which one comes into contact with things (esp. in **come one's way**). 13. *Inf.* a state or condition, usually financial or concerning health (esp. in **in a good (or bad) way**). 14. *Inf.* the area or direction of one's home: *drop in if you're ever over my way*. 15. movement of a ship or other vessel. 16. a guide along which something can be moved, such as the surface of a lathe along which the tailstock slides. 17. (*pl.*) the wooden or metal tracks down which a ship slides to be launched. 18. a course of life including experiences, conduct, etc.: *the way of sin*. 19. **by the way**, (*sentence modifier*) incidentally. 20. **by way of**, *a.* via. *b.* serving as: *by way of introduction*. *c.* in the state or condition of: *by way of being an artist*. 21. **each way**, (of a bet) laid on a horse, dog, etc., to win or gain a place. 22. **give way**, *a.* to collapse or break down. *b.* to yield. 23. **give way to**, *a.* to step aside for or stop for. *b.* to give full rein to (emotions, etc.). 24. **go out of one's way**, to take considerable trouble or inconvenience oneself. 25. **have a way with**, to have such a manner or skill as to handle successfully. 26. **have it both ways**, to enjoy two things that would normally be mutually exclusive. 27. **in a way**, in some respects. 28. **in no way**, not at all. 29. **lead the way**, *a.* to go first. *b.* to set an example. 30. **make one's way**, *a.* to proceed or advance. *b.* to achieve success in life. 31. **on the way out**, *Inf.* *a.* becoming unfashionable, etc. *b.* dying. 32. **out of the way**, *a.* removed or dealt with so as to be no longer a hindrance. *b.* remote. *c.* unusual and sometimes improper. 33. **see one's way (clear)**, to find it possible and be willing (to do something). 34. **under way**, having started moving or making progress. ~*adv.*

35. *Inf.* *a.* at a considerable distance or extent: *way over yonder*. *b.* very far: *they're way up the mountain*.

▷ **Usage.** The use of the *way* for *as* in sentences such as *he does not write the way his father did* is well established in the U.S. and is common in British informal usage. Careful writers, however, prefer *as* in formal contexts.

waybill ('weɪ,bɪl) *n.* a document attached to goods in transit specifying their nature, point of origin, and destination as well as the route to be taken and the rate to be charged.

wayfarer ('weɪ,fɛərə) *n.* a person who goes on a journey. —**'way,faring** *n., adj.*

waylay (weɪ'leɪ) *vb.* **-laying, -laid.** (*tr.*) 1. to lie in wait for and attack. 2. to await and intercept unexpectedly. —**'way'layer** *n.*

wayleave ('weɪ,lɪv) *n.* access to property granted by a landowner for payment, for example to allow a contractor access to a building site.

way-out *adj.* *Inf.* 1. extremely unconventional or experimental. 2. excellent or amazing.

ways and means *pl. n.* 1. the revenues and methods of raising the revenues needed for the functioning of a state or other political unit. 2. the methods and resources for accomplishing some purpose.

wayside ('weɪ,sɑɪd) *n.* 1. *a.* the side or edge of a road. *b.* (*modifier*) situated by the wayside: *a wayside inn*. 2. **fall by the wayside**, to cease or fail to continue doing something: *of the nine starters, three fell by the wayside*.

wayward ('weɪwəd) *adj.* 1. wanting to have one's own way regardless of others. 2. capricious, erratic, or unpredictable. —**'waywardly** *adv.* —**'waywardness** *n.*

Wb *Physics.* abbrev. for *weber*.

w.b. abbrev. for: 1. water ballast. 2. Also: **W/B, W.B.** waybill. 3. westbound.

w.c. abbrev. for *water closet*.

W.C. or WC abbrev. for: 1. water closet. 2. (in London postal code) West Central.

we (wi:) *pron. (subjective)* 1. refers to the speaker or writer and another person or other people: *we should go now*. 2. refers to all people or people in general: *the planet on which we live*. 3. a formal word for *I* used by editors or other writers, and formerly by monarchs. 4. *Inf.* used instead of *you* with a tone of condescension or sarcasm: *how are we today?*

W.E.A. (in Britain) abbrev. for *Workers' Educational Association*.

weak ('wi:k) *adj.* 1. lacking in physical or mental strength or force. 2. liable to yield, break, or give way: *a weak link in a chain*. 3. lacking in resolution or firmness of character. 4. lacking strength, power, or intensity: *a weak voice*. 5. lacking strength in a particular part: *a team weak in defence*. 6. *a.* not functioning as well as is normal: *weak eyes*. *b.* easily upset: *a weak stomach*. 7. lacking in conviction, persuasiveness, etc.: *a weak argument*. 8. lacking in political or strategic strength: *a weak state*. 9. lacking the usual, full, or desirable strength of flavour: *weak tea*. 10. *Grammar.* *a.* denoting or belonging to a class of verbs, in Germanic languages, whose conjugation relies on inflectional endings rather than internal vowel gradation, as *look, looks, looking, looked*. *b.* belonging to any part-of-speech class, in any of various languages, whose inflections follow the more regular of two possible patterns. 11. (of a syllable) not accented or stressed. 12. (of an industry, market, securities, etc.) falling in price or characterized by falling prices. —**'weakish** *adj.*

weaken ('wi:kən) *vb.* to become or cause to become weak or weaker. —**'weaker** *n.*

weak-kneed *adj.* *Inf.* yielding readily to force, intimidation, etc. —**'weak-'kneedly** *adv.*

weakling ('wi:kliŋ) *n.* a person or animal that is lacking in strength or weak in constitution or character.

weakly ('wi:kli) *adj.* **-lier, -liest.** 1. sickly; feeble. ~*adv.* 2. in a weak or feeble manner.

weak-minded *adj.* 1. lacking in stability of mind or character. 2. another word for **feeble-minded**. —**'weak-'mindedly** *adv.* —**'weak-'mindedness** *n.*

weakness ('wi:kni:s) *n.* 1. a being weak. 2. a failing, as in a person's character. 3. a self-indulgent liking: *a weakness for chocolates*.

weal¹ (wi:l) *n.* a raised mark on the skin produced by a blow.

weal² (wi:l) *n.* *Arch.* prosperity or wellbeing (now esp. in the public *weal*, the common *weal*).

weald (wi:ld) *n.* *Brit. arch.* open or forested country.

wealth (welθ) *n.* 1. a large amount of money and

valuable material possessions. 2. the state of being rich. 3. a great profusion: a *wealth of gifts*. 4. *Econ.* all goods and services with monetary or productive value.

wealth tax *n.* a tax on personal property.

wealthy ('welθi) *adj.* **wealthier, wealthiest.** 1. possessing wealth; rich. 2. of or relating to wealth. 3. abounding: *wealthy in friends*. — **'wealthily** *adv.* — **'wealthiness** *n.*

wean¹ ('wi:n) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to cause (a child or young mammal) to replace mother's milk by other nourishment. 2. (usually foll. by *from*) to cause to desert former habits, pursuits, etc.

wean² ('wein) *n.* *Scot. & northern Brit. dialect.* a child.

weapon ('wepən) *n.* 1. an object or instrument used in fighting. 2. anything that serves to get the better of an opponent: *his power of speech was his best weapon*. 3. any part of an animal that is used to defend itself, to attack prey, etc., such as claws or a sting. — **'weaponed** *adj.* — **'weaponless** *adj.*

weaponry ('wepənri) *n.* weapons regarded collectively.

wear ('weə) *vb.* **wearing, wore, worn.** 1. (*tr.*) to carry or have (a garment, etc.) on one's person as clothing, ornament, etc. 2. (*tr.*) to carry or have on one's person habitually: *she wears a lot of red*. 3. (*tr.*) to have in one's aspect: *to wear a smile*. 4. (*tr.*) to display, show, or fly: *a ship wears its colours*. 5. to deteriorate or cause to deteriorate by constant use or action. 6. to produce or be produced by constant rubbing, scraping, etc.: *to wear a hole in one's trousers*. 7. to bring or be brought to a specified condition by constant use or action: *to wear a tyre to shreds*. 8. (*intr.*) to submit to constant use or action in a specified way: *his suit wears well*. 9. (*tr.*) to harass or weaken. 10. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *on*) (of time) to pass or be passed slowly. 11. (*tr.*) *Brit. inf.* to accept: *Larry won't wear that argument*. ~ *n.* 12. the act of wearing or state of being worn. 13. *a.* anything designed to be worn: *leisure wear*. *b.* (in combination): *nightwear*. 14. deterioration from constant or normal use. 15. the quality of resisting the effects of constant use. ~ *See also wear down, wear off, wear out.* — **'wearer** *n.*

wear and tear *n.* damage, depreciation, or loss resulting from ordinary use.

wear down *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. to consume or be consumed by long or constant wearing, rubbing, etc. 2. to overcome or be overcome gradually by persistent effort.

wearing ('weəriŋ) *adj.* causing fatigue or exhaustion; tiring. — **'wearingly** *adv.*

wearisome ('wiəri:səm) *adj.* causing fatigue or annoyance; tedious. — **'wearisomely** *adv.*

wear off *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. (*intr.*) to decrease in intensity gradually: *the pain will wear off in an hour*. 2. to disappear or cause to disappear gradually through exposure, use, etc.

wear out *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. to make or become unfit or useless through wear. 2. (*tr.*) to exhaust or tire.

weary ('wiəri) *adj.* **-rier, -riest.** 1. tired or exhausted. 2. causing fatigue or exhaustion. 3. caused by or suggestive of weariness: *a weary laugh*. 4. (*postpositive*, often foll. by *of* or *with*) discontented or bored. ~ *vb.* **-rying, -ried.** 5. to make or become weary. 6. to make or become discontented or impatient. — **'weariless** *adj.* — **'wearily** *adv.* — **'weariness** *n.* — **'wearily** *adv.*

weasel ('wizl) *n.*, *pl.* -sels or -sels. 1. any of various small predatory mammals, such as the **European weasel**, having reddish-brown fur, an elongated body and neck, and short legs. 2. *Inf.* a sly or treacherous person. — **'weaselly** *adj.*

weather ('weðə) *n.* 1. *a.* the day-to-day meteorological conditions, esp. temperature, cloudiness, and rainfall, affecting a specific place. *b.* (*modifier*): relating to the forecasting of weather: *a weather ship*. 2. **make heavy weather.** *a.* (of a vessel) to roll and pitch in heavy seas. *b.* (foll. by *of*) *Inf.* to carry out with great effort or labour. 3. **under the weather.** *Inf.* not in good health. ~ *adj.* 4. (*prepositional*) on or at the side or part towards the wind: *the weather anchor*. Cf. *lee* (sense 2). ~ *vb.* 5. to expose or be exposed to the action of the weather. 6. to undergo or cause to undergo changes, such as discoloration, due to the action of the weather. 7. (*intr.*) to withstand the action of the weather. 8. (when *intr.*, foll. by *through*) to endure (a crisis, danger, etc.). 9. (*tr.*) to slope (a surface, such as a roof) so as to throw rainwater clear. 10. (*tr.*) to sail to the windward of: *to weather a point*. — **'weatherer** *n.*

weather-beaten *adj.* 1. showing signs of exposure to the weather. 2. tanned or hardened by exposure to the weather.

weatherboard ('weðə,bɔ:d) *n.* a timber board, with a rabbet along the front of its top edge and along the back of its lower edge, that is fixed horizontally with others to form an exterior cladding on a wall or roof. — **'weather, boarding** *n.*

weather-bound *adj.* (of a vessel, aircraft, etc.) delayed by bad weather.

weathercock ('weðə,kɒk) *n.* 1. a weather vane in the form of a cock. 2. a person who is fickle or changeable.

weather eye *n.* 1. the vision of a person trained to observe changes in the weather. 2. *Inf.* an alert or observant gaze. 3. **keep one's weather eye open.** to stay on the alert.

weather house *n.* a model house, usually with two human figures, one that enters to foretell bad weather and one that enters to foretell good weather.

weathering ('weðəriŋ) *n.* the mechanical and chemical breakdown of rocks by the action of rain, snow, cold, etc.

weatherman ('weðə,mæn) *n.*, *pl.* -men. *Inf.* a person who forecasts the weather, esp. one who works in a meteorological office.

weatherproof ('weðə,pru:f) *adj.* 1. designed or able to withstand exposure to weather without deterioration. ~ *vb.* 2. (*tr.*) to render (something) weatherproof.

weather strip *n.* a thin strip of compressible material, such as spring metal, felt, etc., that is fitted between the frame of a door or window and the opening part to exclude wind and rain. Also called: **weatherstripping**.

weather vane *n.* a vane designed to indicate the direction in which the wind is blowing.

weather-wise *adj.* 1. skilful in predicting weather conditions. 2. skilful in predicting trends in opinion, reactions, etc.

weatherworn ('weðə,wɔ:n) *adj.* another word for **weather-beaten**.

weave ('wi:v) *vb.* **weaving, wove or weaved; woven or weaved.** 1. to form (a fabric) by interlacing (yarn, etc.), esp. on a loom. 2. (*tr.*) to make or construct by such a process: *to weave a shawl*. 3. (of a spider) to make (a web). 4. to construct by interlacing (twigs, etc.). 5. (*tr.*) to construct by combining separate elements into a whole. 6. (*tr.*; often foll. by *in, into, through*, etc.) to introduce: *to weave factual details into a fiction*. 7. to create (a way, etc.) by moving from side to side: *to weave through a crowd*. 8. **get weaving.** *Inf.* to hurry. ~ *n.* 9. the method or pattern of weaving or the structure of a woven fabric: *an open weave*. — **'weaver** *n.*

weaverbird ('wi:və,bɜ:d) or **weaver** *n.* any of a family of small Old World passerine songbirds, having a short thick bill and a dull plumage and building covered nests: includes the house sparrow.

web ('web) *n.* 1. any structure, fabric, etc., formed by or as if by weaving or interweaving. 2. a mesh of fine tough threads built by a spider from a liquid secreted from its spinnerets and used to trap insects. 3. a similar network of threads spun by certain insect larvae, such as the silkworm. 4. a fabric, esp. one in the process of being woven. 5. a membrane connecting the toes of some aquatic birds or the digits of such aquatic mammals as the otter. 6. the vane of a bird's feather. 7. a thin piece of metal, esp. one connecting two thicker parts as in an H-beam or an I-beam. 8. *a.* a continuous strip of paper as formed on a paper machine or fed from a reel into some printing presses. *b.* (*as modifier*): *web offset*. 9. any structure, construction, etc., that is intricately formed or complex: *a web of intrigue*. ~ *vb.* **webbing, webbed.** 10. (*tr.*) to cover with or as if with a web. 11. (*tr.*) to entangle or ensnare. 12. (*intr.*) to construct a web. — **'webless** *adj.*

webbed ('webd) *adj.* 1. (of the feet of certain animals) having the digits connected by a thin fold of skin. 2. having or resembling a web.

webbing ('webiŋ) *n.* 1. a strong fabric of hemp, cotton, jute, etc., woven in strips and used under springs in upholstery or for straps, etc. 2. the skin that unites the digits of a webbed foot.

weber ('veibə) *n.* the derived SI unit of magnetic flux; the flux that, when linking a circuit of one turn, produces in it an emf of 1 volt as it is reduced to zero at a uniform rate in one second. Symbol: *Wb*

webfoot ('web,fu:t) *n.* 1. *Zool.* a foot having the toes connected by folds of skin. 2. *Anat.* a foot having an abnormal membrane connecting adjacent toes.

wed ('wed) *vb.* **wedding, wedded or wed.** 1. to take (a person of the opposite sex) as a husband or wife; marry. 2. (*tr.*) to join (two people) in matrimony. 3. (*tr.*) to

unite closely. — **'wedded adj.**
we'd (wid; unstressed wid) contraction of we had or we would.

Wed. abbrev. for Wednesday.

wedding ('wedɪŋ) *n.* 1. a. the act of marrying or the celebration of a marriage. *b.* (as modifier): *wedding day*. 2. the anniversary of a marriage (in such combinations as *silver wedding* or *diamond wedding*).

wedding breakfast *n.* the meal usually served after a wedding ceremony or just before the bride and bridegroom leave for their honeymoon.

wedding cake *n.* a rich fruit cake, with one, two, or more tiers, covered with almond paste and decorated with royal icing, which is served at a wedding reception.

wedding ring *n.* a band ring with parallel sides, typically of precious metal, worn to indicate married status.

wedge (wedʒ) *n.* 1. a block of solid material, esp. wood or metal, that is shaped like a narrow V in cross section and can be pushed or driven between two objects or parts of an object in order to split or secure them. 2. any formation, structure, or substance in the shape of a wedge: *a wedge of cheese*. 3. something such as an idea, action, etc., that tends to cause division. 4. *Golf*, a club, a No. 10 iron with a face angle of more than 50°, used for bunker or pitch shots. 5. (formerly) a body of troops formed in a V-shape. 6. *thin end of the wedge*, anything unimportant in itself that implies the start of something much larger. — *vb.* 7. (tr.) to secure with or as if with a wedge. 8. to squeeze or be squeezed like a wedge into a narrow space. 9. (tr.) to force apart or divide with or as if with a wedge. — **'wedge, like adj.** — **'wedgy adj.**

Wedgwood ('wedʒwʊd) *Trademark*. ~n. 1. a. pottery produced at the Wedgwood factory, near Stoke-on-Trent. *b.* such pottery having applied decoration in white on a coloured ground. — *adj.* 2. a. relating to pottery made at the Wedgwood factory. *b.* characteristic of such pottery: *Wedgwood blue*.

wedlock ('wedlɒk) *n.* 1. the state of being married. 2. *born or conceived out of wedlock*, born or conceived when one's parents are not legally married.

Wednesday ('wenzdi) *n.* the fourth day of the week; third day of the working week.

wee (wi:) *adj.* very small; tiny; minute.

wee (wi:) *Inf.*, chiefly *Brit.* ~n. 1. a. the act or an instance of urinating. *b.* urine. — *vb.* 2. (intr.) to urinate. — *Also:* **wee-wee**.

weed (wid) *n.* 1. any plant that grows wild and profusely, esp. one that grows among cultivated plants, depriving them of space, food, etc. 2. *Sl.* a. the weed, tobacco. *b.* a cigarette, often one containing marijuana. *c.* marijuana. 3. *Inf.* a thin or unshowy person. 4. an inferior horse, esp. one showing signs of weakness. — *vb.* 5. to remove (useless or troublesome plants) from (a garden, etc.). — **'weeder n.** — **'weedless adj.**

weedkiller ('wid,kɪlə) *n.* a substance, usually a chemical or hormone, used for killing weeds.

weed out *vb.* (tr., adv.) to separate out, remove, or eliminate (anything unwanted): *to weed out troublesome students*.

weeds (widz) *pl. n.* a widow's black mourning clothes. Also called: **widow's weeds**.

weedy ('wi:di) *adj.* **weedy, weediest**. 1. full of or containing weeds: *weedy land*. 2. (of a plant) resembling a weed in straggling growth. 3. *Inf.* thin or weakly in appearance.

week (wik) *n.* 1. a period of seven consecutive days, esp. one beginning with Sunday. Related *adj.*: **hebdomadal**. 2. a period of seven consecutive days beginning from or including a specified day: *a week from Wednesday*. 3. the period of time within a week devoted to work. — *adv.* 4. *Chiefly Brit.* seven days before or after a specified day: *I'll visit you Wednesday week*.

weekday ('wik,dei) *n.* any day of the week other than Sunday and, often, Saturday.

weekend *n.* ('wik'end). 1. a. the end of the week, esp. the period from Friday night until the end of Sunday. *b.* (as modifier): *a weekend party*. — *vb.* ('wik'end). 2. (intr.) *Inf.* to spend or pass a weekend.

weekends ('wik'endz) *adv. Inf.* at the weekend, esp. regularly or during every weekend.

weekly ('wikli) *adj.* 1. happening or taking place once a week or every week. 2. determined or calculated by the week. — *adv.* 3. once a week or every week. — *n.*, *pl.* *lies*. 4. a newspaper or magazine issued every week.

weeny ('wi:ni) *adj.* **-nier, -niest.** *Inf.* very small; tiny.

weep (wi:p) *vb.* **weeping, wept**. 1. to shed (tears). 2.

(tr.; foll. by out) to utter, shedding tears. 3. (when intr., foll. by for) to lament (for something). 4. to exude (drops of liquid). 5. (intr.) (of a wound, etc.) to exude a watery fluid. — *n.* 6. a spell of weeping.

weeping ('wi:pɪŋ) *adj.* (of plants) having slender hanging branches. — **'weepingly adv.**

weepy ('wi:pi) *Inf.* — *adj.* **weepier, weepiest**. 1. liable or tending to weep. — *n.*, *pl.* **weepies**. 2. a sentimental film or book. — **'weepiness n.**

weevil ('wi:vɪl) *n.* any of numerous beetles, many having elongated snouts, that are pests, feeding on plants and plant products. — **'weevily adj.**

wee-wee *n.*, *vb.* a variant of **wee**.

weft (weft) *n.* the yarn woven across the width of the fabric through the lengthwise warp yarn. Also called: **filling, woof**.

weigh¹ (wei) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to measure the weight of. 2. (intr.) to have weight: *she weighs more than her sister*. 3. (tr.; often foll. by out) to apportion according to weight. 4. (tr.) to consider carefully: *to weigh the facts of a case*. 5. (intr.) to be influential: *his words weighed little with the jury*. 6. (intr.; often foll. by on) to be oppressive (to). 7. **weigh anchor**, to raise a vessel's anchor or (of a vessel) to have its anchor raised preparatory to departure. — **'weighable adj.** — **'weigher n.**

weigh² (wei) *n.* **under weigh**, a variant spelling of **under way**.

weighbridge ('wei,bri:dʒ) *n.* a machine for weighing vehicles, etc., by means of a metal plate set into a road.

weigh down *vb.* (adv.) to press (a person, etc.) down by or as if by weight: *his troubles weighed him down*.

weigh in *vb.* (intr., adv.) 1. a. (of a boxer or wrestler) to be weighed before a bout. *b.* (of a jockey) to be weighed after, or sometimes before, a race. 2. *Inf.* to contribute, as in a discussion, etc.: *he weighed in with a few sharp comments*. — *n.* **weigh-in**. 3. the act of checking a competitor's weight, as in boxing, racing, etc.

weight (weit) *n.* 1. a measure of the heaviness of an object; the amount anything weighs. 2. *Physics*, the vertical force experienced by a mass as a result of gravitation. 3. a system of units used to express weight: *trophy weight*. 4. a unit used to measure weight: *the kilogram is the weight used in SI units*. 5. any mass or heavy object used to exert pressure or weigh down. 6. an oppressive force: *the weight of cares*. 7. any heavy load: *the bag was such a weight*. 8. the main force; preponderance: *the weight of evidence*. 9. importance; influence: *his opinion carries weight*. 10. *Statistics*, one of a set of coefficients assigned to items of a frequency distribution that are analysed in order to represent the relative importance of the different items. 11. *Printing*, the apparent blackness of a printed typeface. 12. **pull one's weight**, *Inf.* to take one's share of responsibility. 13. **throw one's weight around**, *Inf.* to act in an overauthoritarian manner. — *vb.* (tr.) 14. to add weight to. 15. to burden or oppress. 16. *Statistics*, to attach a weight or weights to. — **'weighter n.**

weighting ('wei:tɪŋ) *n.* an additional allowance, esp. one paid to compensate for higher living costs: *a London weighting*.

weightlifting ('wert,lɪftɪŋ) *n.* the sport of lifting barbells of specified weights in a prescribed manner. — **'weight, lifter n.**

weighty ('wei:tɪ) *adj.* **weightier, weightiest**. 1. having great weight. 2. important. 3. causing worry. — **'weightily adv.** — **'weightiness n.**

weir (waɪə) *n.* 1. a low dam that is built across a river to raise the water level, divert the water, or control its flow. 2. a series of traps or enclosures placed in a stream to catch fish.

weird ('wiəd) *adj.* 1. suggestive of or relating to the supernatural; eerie. 2. strange or bizarre. 3. *Arch.* of or relating to fate or the Fates. — *n.* 4. *Arch.*, chiefly *Scot.* a. fate or destiny. *b.* one of the Fates. — **'weirdly adv.** — **'weirdness n.**

weirdo ('wiədəʊ) or **weirdie** ('wiədi) *n.*, *pl.* **-dos or -dies.** *Inf.* a person who behaves in a bizarre or eccentric manner.

welch (welʃ) *vb.* a variant spelling of **welsh**.

welcome ('welkəm) *adj.* 1. gladly and cordially received or admitted: *a welcome guest*. 2. bringing pleasure: *a welcome gift*. 3. freely permitted or invited: *you are welcome to call*. 4. under no obligation (only in such phrases as *you're welcome*, as conventional responses to thanks). — *sentence substitute*. 5. an expression of cordial greeting. — *n.* 6. the act of greeting or receiving a person or thing; reception: *the new theory had a cool welcome*. 7. wear out or overstay one's welcome. to

come more often or stay longer than is pleasing. ~vb. (tr.) 8. to greet the arrival of (guests, etc.) cordially. 9. to receive or accept, esp. gladly. —**welcomely** adv. —**welcomer** n.

weld (weld) vb. 1. (tr.) to unite (pieces of metal or plastic), as by softening with heat and hammering or by fusion. 2. to bring or admit of being brought into close union. ~n. 3. a joint formed by welding. —**weldable** adj. —**welda'bility** n. —**welder** or **weldor** n.

welfare ('wel,fə) n. 1. health, happiness, prosperity, and wellbeing in general. 2. a. financial and other assistance given to people in need. b. (as modifier): *welfare services*. 3. Also called: **welfare work**, plans or work to better the social or economic conditions of various underprivileged groups. 4. **on welfare**. Chiefly U.S. in receipt of financial aid from a government agency or other source.

welfare state n. a system in which the government undertakes the chief responsibility for providing for the social and economic security of its population, usually through unemployment insurance, old age pensions, and other social-security measures.

well ('wel) adv. **better, best**. 1. (often used in combination) in a satisfactory manner: *the party went very well*. 2. (often used in combination) in a skilful manner: *she plays the violin well*. 3. in a correct or careful manner: *listen well to my words*. 4. in a prosperous manner: *to live well*. 5. (usually used with auxiliaries) suitably; fittingly: *you can't very well say that*. 6. intimately: *I knew him well*. 7. in a kind or favourable manner: *she speaks well of you*. 8. fully: *to be well informed*. 9. by a considerable margin: *let me know well in advance*. 10. (preceded by *could, might, or may*) indeed: *you may well have to do it yourself*. 11. **all very well**, used ironically to express discontent, dissent, etc. 12. **as well**, a. in addition; too. b. (preceded by *may or might*) with equal effect: *you might as well come*. 13. **as well as**, in addition to. 14. (just) **as well**, preferable or advisable: *it would be just as well if you paid me now*. 15. **leave well (enough) alone**, to refrain from interfering with something that is satisfactory. 16. **well and good**, used to indicate calm acceptance, as of a decision. ~adj. (usually postpositive) 17. (when prenominal, usually used with a negative) in good health: *I'm very well, thank you; he's not a well man*. 18. satisfactory or pleasing. 19. prudent; advisable: *it would be well to make no comment*. 20. prosperous or comfortable. 21. fortunate: *it is well that you agreed to go*. ~interj. 22. a. an expression of surprise, indignation, or reproof. b. an expression of anticipation in waiting for an answer or remark. ~sentence connector. 23. an expression used to preface a remark, gain time, etc.: *well, I don't think I will come*.

well ('wel) n. 1. a hole or shaft bored into the earth to tap a supply of water, oil, gas, etc. 2. a natural pool where ground water comes to the surface. 3. a. a cavity, space, or vessel used to contain a liquid. b. (in combination): *an inkwell*. 4. an open shaft through the floors of a building, such as one used for a staircase. 5. a deep enclosed space in a building or between buildings that is open to the sky. 6. a bulkheaded compartment built around a ship's pumps for protection and ease of access. 7. (in England) the open space in the centre of a law court. 8. an abundant source: *he is a well of knowledge*. ~vb. 9. to flow or cause to flow upwards or outwards: *tears welled from her eyes*.

we'll (wi:l) contraction of *we will* or *we shall*.

well-appointed adj. (well appointed when postpositive). well equipped or furnished.

well-balanced adj. (well balanced when postpositive). 1. having good balance or proportions. 2. sane or sensible.

wellbeing ('wel'bi:ŋ) n. the condition of being contented, healthy, or successful; welfare.

well-bred adj. (well bred when postpositive). 1. Also: **well-born**, of respected or noble lineage. 2. indicating good breeding: *well-bred manners*. 3. of good thoroughbred stock: *a well-bred spaniel*.

well-connected adj. (well connected when postpositive). having influential or important relatives or friends.

well-disposed adj. (well disposed when postpositive). inclined to be sympathetic, kindly, or friendly.

well-done adj. (well done when postpositive). 1. (of food, esp. meat) cooked thoroughly. 2. made or accomplished satisfactorily.

well-groomed adj. (well groomed when postpositive). having a tidy pleasing appearance.

well-grounded adj. (well grounded when postpositive). 1. well instructed in the basic elements of a subject. 2. based on good reasons.

wellhead ('wel,hed) n. 1. the source of a well or stream. 2. a source, fountainhead, or origin.

well-heeled adj. (well heeled when postpositive). *Sl.* rich; prosperous; wealthy.

wellies ('welz) pl. n. *Brit. inf.* Wellington boots.

well-informed adj. (well informed when postpositive). 1. having knowledge about a great variety of subjects: *he seems to be a well-informed person*. 2. possessing reliable information on a particular subject.

Wellington boots ('welɪŋtən) pl. n. 1. *Brit.* another name for **gumboots**. Often shortened to **wellingtons**, **wellies**. 2. military leather boots covering the front of the knee but cut away at the back to allow easier bending of the knee.

well-intentioned adj. (well intentioned when postpositive). having benevolent intentions, usually with unfortunate results.

well-known adj. (well known when postpositive). 1. widely known; famous; celebrated. 2. known fully or clearly.

well-meaning adj. (well meaning when postpositive). having or indicating good intentions, usually with unfortunate results.

well-nigh adv. *Arch. or poetic.* nearly; almost: *it's well-nigh three o'clock*.

▷ **Usage.** In strict usage, *well-nigh* is an adverb meaning *nearly or almost* and not a preposition meaning *near*: *he well-nigh cried*; *he was near* (not *well-nigh*) *death*.

well-off adj. (well off when postpositive). 1. in a comfortable or favourable position or state. 2. financially well provided for; moderately rich.

well-preserved adj. (well preserved when postpositive). 1. kept in a good condition. 2. continuing to appear youthful: *she was a well-preserved old lady*.

well-read ('wel'red) adj. (well read when postpositive). having read widely and intelligently; erudite.

well-rounded adj. (well rounded when postpositive). 1. rounded in shape or well developed: *a well-rounded figure*. 2. full, varied, and satisfying: *a well-rounded life*.

well-spoken adj. (well spoken when postpositive). 1. having a clear, articulate, and socially acceptable accent and way of speaking. 2. spoken satisfactorily or pleasingly.

wellspring ('welsprɪŋ) n. 1. the source of a spring or stream. 2. a source of abundant supply.

well-acquainted adj.
well-adjusted adj.
well-advertised adj.
well-aired adj.
well-attended adj.
well-aware adj.
well-behaved adj.
well-beloved adj., n.
well-built adj.
well-clothed adj.
well-concealed adj.
well-conducted adj.
well-considered adj.
well-constructed adj.
well-contented adj.
well-controlled adj.
well-cooked adj.

well-covered adj.
well-defended adj.
well-deserved adj.
well-developed adj.
well-documented adj.
well-dressed adj.
well-earned adj.
well-educated adj.
well-endowed adj.
well-equipped adj.
well-established adj.
well-fed adj.
well-finished adj.
well-furnished adj.
well-hidden adj.
well-housed adj.
well-illustrated adj.

well-judged adj.
well-kept adj.
well-liked adj.
well-loved adj.
well-made adj.
well-matched adj.
well-merited adj.
well-paid adj.
well-placed adj.
well-prepared adj.
well-provided adj.
well-qualified adj.
well-received adj.
well-satisfied adj.
well-spent adj.

well-thought-of *adj.* respected.
well-to-do *adj.* moderately wealthy.
well-wisher *n.* a person who shows benevolence or sympathy towards a person, cause, etc. —'well-wishing *adj.*, *n.*
well-worn *adj.* (well worn when postpositive). 1. so much used as to be affected by wear: a well-worn coat. 2. hackneyed: a well-worn phrase.
welsh or welch (welʃ) *vb.* (*intr.*; often foll. by *on*) 1. to fail to pay a gambling debt. 2. to fail to fulfil an obligation. —'welsher or 'welcher *n.*
Welsh (welʃ) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or characteristic of Wales, its people, their language, or their dialect of English. ~*n.* 2. a language of Wales, belonging to the Celtic branch of the Indo-European family. 3. the Welsh. (functioning as *pl.*) the natives or inhabitants of Wales.
Welsh dresser *n.* a sideboard with drawers and cupboards below and open shelves above.
Welsh rabbit *n.* a savoury dish consisting of melted cheese sometimes mixed with milk, seasonings, etc., on hot buttered toast. Also called: **Welsh rarebit**, **rarebit**.
welt (welt) *n.* 1. a raised or strengthened seam in a garment. 2. another word for **weal**. 3. (in shoemaking) a strip of leather, etc., put in between the outer sole and the inner sole and upper. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 4. to put a welt in (a garment, etc.). 5. to beat soundly.
welter ('welʔə) *vb.* (*intr.*) 1. to roll about, writhe, or wallow. 2. (esp. of the sea) to surge, heave, or toss. 3. to lie drenched in a liquid, esp. blood. ~*n.* 4. a confused mass; jumble.
welterweight ('welʔə,weɪt) *n.* 1. **a.** a professional boxer weighing 140–147 pounds (63.5–66.5 kg). **b.** an amateur boxer weighing 63.5–67 kg (140–148 pounds). 2. a wrestler in a similar weight category (usually 154–172 pounds (70–78 kg)).
wen (wen) *n.* *Pathol.* a sebaceous cyst, esp. one occurring on the scalp.
wench (wentʃ) *n.* 1. a girl or young woman: now used facetiously. 2. *Arch.* a female servant. 3. *Arch.* a prostitute. ~*vb.* (*intr.*) 4. *Arch.* to frequent the company of prostitutes. —'wencher *n.*
wend (wend) *vb.* to direct (one's course or way); travel.
wensleydale ('wenzli,deɪl) *n.* 1. a type of white cheese with a flaky texture. 2. a breed of sheep with long woolly fleece.
went (went) *vb.* the past tense of **go**.
wept (wept) *vb.* the past tense or past participle of **weep**.
were (wɜː; unstressed wə) *vb.* the plural form of the past tense (indicative mood) of **be** and the singular form used with *you*. It is also used as a subjunctive, esp. in conditional sentences.
➤ **Usage.** *Were*, as a remnant of the past subjunctive in English, is used in formal contexts in clauses expressing hypotheses (*if he were to die, she would inherit everything*), suppositions contrary to fact (*if I were you, I would be careful*), and desire (*I wish he were there now*). In informal speech, however, *was* is often used instead.
we're (wɪə) contraction of *we are*.
weren't (wɜːnt) contraction of *were not*.
werewolf ('wɪə,wʊlf, 'weɪ-) *n.*, *pl.* **-wolves**. a person fabled in folklore and superstition to have been changed into a wolf by being bewitched or said to be able to assume wolf form at will.
wert (wɜːt; unstressed wət) *vb.* *Arch. or dialect.* (used with the pronoun *thou* or its relative equivalent) a singular form of the past tense (indicative mood) of **be**.
Wesleyan ('wezliən) *adj.* 1. of or deriving from John Wesley (1703–91), English preacher who founded Methodism. 2. of or characterizing Methodism, esp. in its original form. ~*n.* 3. a follower of John Wesley. 4. a member of the Methodist Church. —'Wesleyanism *n.*
west (west) *n.* 1. the direction along a parallel towards the sunset, at 270° clockwise from north. 2. **the west.** (*often cap.*) any area lying in or towards the west. Related adjs.: **Hesperian**, **Occidental**. ~*adj.* 3. situated in, moving towards, or facing the west. 4. (esp. of the wind) from the west. ~*adv.* 5. in, to, towards, or (esp. of the wind) from the west. 6. **go west.** *Inf.* a. to be lost or destroyed. **b.** to die.
West (west) *n.* **the.** 1. the western part of the world contrasted historically and culturally with the East or

Orient. 2. the non-Communist countries of Europe and America contrasted with the Communist states of the East. 3. (in the U.S.) that part of the U.S. lying approximately to the west of the Mississippi. 4. (in the ancient and medieval world) the Western Roman Empire and, later, the Holy Roman Empire. ~*adj.* 5. of or denoting the western part of a specified country, area, etc.
westbound ('west,baʊnd) *adj.* going or leading towards the west.
West Country *n.* **the.** the southwest of England, esp. Cornwall, Devon, and Somerset.
West End *n.* **the.** a part of W central London containing the main shopping and entertainment areas.
westerly ('westəli) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or situated in the west. ~*adv.*, *adj.* 2. towards or in the direction of the west. 3. (esp. of the wind) from the west. ~*n.*, *pl.* -lies. 4. a wind blowing from the west. —'westerliness *n.*
western ('westən) *adj.* 1. situated in or facing the west. 2. going or directed to or towards the west. 3. (of a wind, etc.) coming from the west. 4. native to the west. 5. *Music.* See **country-and-western**. —'western,most *adj.*
Western ('westən) *adj.* 1. of or characteristic of the Americas and the parts of Europe not under Communist rule. 2. of or characteristic of the West as opposed to the Orient. 3. of or characteristic of the western states of the U.S. ~*n.* (*often not cap.*) 4. a film, book, etc., concerned with life in the western states of the U.S., esp. during the era of exploration.
westerner ('westənə) *n.* (*sometimes cap.*) a native or inhabitant of the west of any specific region.
western hemisphere *n.* (*often caps.*) 1. that half of the globe containing the Americas, lying to the west of the Greenwich or another meridian. 2. the lands contained in this, esp. the Americas.
westernize or -ise ('westə,naɪz) *vb.* (*tr.*) to influence or make familiar with the customs, practices, etc., of the West. —,western'ization or -i'sation *n.*
Westminster ('west,mɪnstə) *n.* 1. Also called: **City of Westminster**, a borough of Greater London, on the River Thames. 2. the Houses of Parliament at Westminster.
west-northwest *n.* 1. the point on the compass or the direction midway between west and northwest, 292° 30' clockwise from north. ~*adj.*, *adv.* 2. in, from, or towards this direction.
west-southwest *n.* 1. the point on the compass or the direction midway between southwest and west, 247° 30' clockwise from north. ~*adj.*, *adv.* 2. in, from, or towards this direction.
westward ('westwəd) *adj.* 1. moving, facing, or situated in the west. ~*adv.* 2. Also: **westwards.** towards the west. ~*n.* 3. the westward part, direction, etc. —'westwardly *adj.*, *adv.*
wet (wet) *adj.* **wetter, wettest.** 1. moistened, covered, saturated, etc., with water or some other liquid. 2. not yet dry or solid: **wet varnish**. 3. rainy: **wet weather**. 4. employing a liquid, usually water: a **wet method of chemical analysis**. 5. *Chiefly U.S.* permitting the free sale of alcoholic beverages: a **wet state**. 6. *Brit. inf.* feeble or foolish. 7. **wet behind the ears.** *Inf.* immature or inexperienced. ~*n.* 8. wetness or moisture. 9. rainy weather. 10. *Chiefly U.S.* a person who advocates free sale of alcoholic beverages. 11. *Brit. inf.* a feeble or foolish person. 12. (*often cap.*) *Brit. inf.* a Conservative politician who is not a hardliner. 13. **the wet.** *Austral.* (in northern and central Australia) the rainy season. ~*vb.* **wetting, wet or wetted.** 14. to make or become wet. 15. to urinate on (something). 16. **wet one's whistle.** *Inf.* to take a drink. —'wetly *adv.* —'wetness *n.* —'wetttable *adj.* —'wetter *n.* —'wettish *adj.*
wet blanket *n.* *Inf.* a person whose low spirits or lack of enthusiasm have a depressing effect on others.
wet dream *n.* an erotic dream accompanied by an emission of semen.
wether ('weðə) *n.* a male sheep, esp. a castrated one.
wet nurse *n.* 1. a woman hired to suckle the child of another. ~*vb.* **wet-nurse.** (*tr.*) 2. to act as a wet nurse to (a child). 3. *Inf.* to attend with great devotion.
wet suit *n.* a close-fitting rubber suit used by skin-divers, yachtsmen, etc., to retain body heat.
we've (wi:v) contraction of *we have*.
whack (wæk) *wb.* (*tr.*) 1. to strike with a sharp resounding blow. 2. (*usually passive*) *Brit. inf.* to exhaust completely. ~*n.* 3. a sharp resounding blow or the noise

made by such a blow. **4. Inf.** a share or portion. **5. Inf.** a try or attempt (esp. in **have a whack at**). — **'whacker** *n.*
whacking ('wækɪŋ) *Inf.*, chiefly *Brit.* ~adj. **1.** enormous. ~adv. **2.** (intensifier): a whacking big lie.
whale (weɪl) *n.*, *pl.* **whales** or **whale**. **1.** any of the larger cetacean mammals, excluding dolphins, porpoises, and narwhals. They have flippers, a streamlined body, and a horizontally flattened tail and breathe through a blowhole on the top of the head. **2. a whale of** *a. Inf.* an exceptionally large, fine, etc., example of a (person or thing).
whaleboat ('weɪlbəʊt) *n.* a narrow boat from 20 to 30 feet long having a sharp prow and stern, formerly used in whaling. Also called: **whaler**.
whalebone ('weɪlbəʊn) *n.* **1.** Also called: **baleen**. a horny elastic material forming numerous thin plates that hang from the upper jaw in the toothless (whalebone) whales and strain plankton from water entering the mouth. **2.** a thin strip of this substance, used in stiffening corsets, bodices, etc.
whalebone whale *n.* any whale belonging to a cetacean suborder having a double blowhole and strips of whalebone between the jaws instead of teeth: includes the orquals, right whales, and the blue whale.
whaler ('weɪlə) *n.* **1.** Also called (U.S.): **whaleman**. a person employed in whaling. **2.** a vessel engaged in whaling. **3. Austral. obs. sl.** a tramp or sundowner. **4.** an aggressive shark of Australian coastal waters.
whaling ('weɪlɪŋ) *n.* the work or industry of hunting and processing whales for food, oil, etc.
wham (wæm) *n.* **1.** a forceful blow or impact or the sound produced by it. ~vb. **whamming**, **whammed**. **2.** to strike or cause to strike with great force.
wharf (wɔ:f) *n.*, *pl.* **wharves** (wɔ:vz) or **wharfs**. **1.** a platform at a harbour or navigable river for the docking, loading, and unloading of ships. ~vb. (tr.) **2.** to moor or dock at a wharf. **3.** to store or unload on a wharf.
wharfage ('wɔ:fɪdʒ) *n.* **1.** accommodation for ships at wharves. **2.** a charge for use of a wharf. **3.** wharves collectively.
wharfinger ('wɔ:fɪndʒə) *n.* an owner or manager of a wharf.
what (wɒt; unstressed wɒt) *determiner*. **1. a.** used with a noun in requesting further information about the identity or categorization of something: *what job does he do?* **b.** (as pronoun): *what is her address?* **c.** (used in indirect questions): *tell me what he said.* **2. a.** the (person, thing, persons, or things) that: *we photographed what animals we could see.* **b.** (as pronoun): *bring me what you've written.* **3.** (intensifier; used in exclamations): *what a good book!* ~adv. **4.** in what respect? to what degree? *what do you care?* **5. what about.** *what do you think, know, etc., concerning?* **6. what for.** *for what purpose? why?* **7. what have you.** *someone or something unknown or unspecified: cars, motorcycles, or what have you.* **8. what if.** *a. what would happen if?* **b.** what difference would it make if? **9. what matter.** *what does it matter?* **10. what's what. *Inf.* the true state of affairs.
Usage. In good usage, *what* is never used for *which*, as in *he gave me the letter what he had written*. *What* is used, however, for the things which and that or those which: *he saw what (that which) he had done*.
whatever (wɒt'evə, wɒt-) *pron.* **1.** everything or anything that: *whatever he asks you to.* **2.** no matter what: *whatever he does, he is forgiven.* **3. Inf.** an unknown or unspecified thing or things: *take a hammer, chisel, or whatever.* **4.** an intensive form of *what*, used in questions: *whatever can he have said to upset her so much?* ~determiner. **5.** an intensive form of *what*: *use whatever tools you can get hold of.* ~adj. **6.** (postpositive) absolutely; whatsoever: *I saw no point whatever in continuing.*
whatnot ('wɒt,nɒt) *n.* **1.** Also called: **what-d'you-call-it.** *Inf.* a person or thing the name of which is unknown or forgotten. **2. Inf.** unspecified assorted material. **3.** a portable stand with shelves for displaying ornaments, etc.
whatsoever (wɒtsəʊ'evə) *adj.* **1.** (postpositive) at all: used as an intensifier with indefinite pronouns and determiners such as *none*, *anybody*, etc. ~pron. **2.** an archaic word for *whatever*.
wheat (wi:t) *n.* **1.** any of a genus of grasses, native to the Mediterranean region and W Asia but widely cultivated, having erect flower spikes and light brown grains. **2.** the grain of any of these grasses, used in making flour, pasta, etc.
wheatear ('wi:t,iə) *n.* a small northern songbird having**

a pale grey back, black wings and tail, white rump, and pale brown underparts.
wheaten ('wi:tɪn) *adj.* **1.** made of the grain or flour of wheat. **2.** of a pale yellow colour.
wheat germ *n.* the vitamin-rich embryo of the wheat kernel.
wheatmeal ('wi:t,mɪl) *n. a.* a brown flour intermediate between white flour and wholemeal flour. **b.** (as modifier): *a wheatmeal loaf*.
wheddie ('wi:di) *vb.* **1.** to persuade or try to persuade (someone) by coaxing words, flattery, etc. **2.** (tr.) to obtain thus: *she whedded some money out of her father.* — **'whedder** *n.* — **'wheddingly** *adv.*
wheel (wi:l) *n.* **1.** a solid disc, or a circular rim joined to a hub by spokes, that is mounted on a shaft about which it can turn, as in vehicles. **2.** anything like a wheel in shape or function. **3.** a device consisting of or resembling a wheel: *a steering wheel; a water wheel.* **4.** (usually preceded by *the*) a medieval torture consisting of a wheel to which the victim was tied and then had his limbs struck and broken by an iron bar. **5.** short for **potter's wheel**. **6.** the act of turning. **7.** a pivoting movement of troops, ships, etc. **8.** a type of firework coiled to make it rotate when let off. **9.** a set of short rhyming lines forming the concluding part of a stanza. **10. U.S.** an informal word for **bicycle**. **11. Inf., chiefly *U.S.* a person of great influence (esp. in **big wheel**). **12. at the wheel.** *a. driving or steering a vehicle or vessel.* **b.** in charge. ~vb. **13.** to turn or cause to turn on or as if on an axis. **14.** to move or cause to move on or as if on wheels; roll. **15.** (tr.) to perform with or in a circular movement. **16.** (tr.) to provide with a wheel or wheels. **17.** (intr., often foll. by *about*) to change direction. **18. wheel and deal.** *Inf.*, chiefly *U.S.* to operate free of restraint, esp. to advance one's own interests.
wheelbarrow ('wi:l,bærəʊ) *n.* a simple vehicle for carrying small loads, typically being an open container supported by a wheel at the front and two legs behind.
wheelbase ('wi:l,bɛɪs) *n.* the distance between the front and back axles of a motor vehicle.
wheelchair ('wi:l,tʃɛə) *n.* a special chair on large wheels, for use by invalids or others for whom walking is impossible or inadvisable.
wheeler ('wi:lə) *n.* **1.** Also called: **wheel horse**. a horse or other draught animal nearest the wheel. **2.** (in combination) something equipped with a specified sort or number of wheels: *a three-wheeler*. **3.** a person or thing that wheels.
wheeler-dealer *n. Inf.*, chiefly *U.S.* a person who wheels and deals.
wheelhouse ('wi:l,haʊs) *n.* another term for **pilot house**.
wheels (wi:lz) *pl. n.* **1.** the main directing force behind an organization, movement, etc.: *the wheels of government*. **2.** an informal word for **car**. **3. wheels within wheels.** a series of intricately connected events, plots, etc.
wheelwright ('wi:l,wraɪt) *n.* a person who makes or mends wheels as a trade.
wheeze (wi:z) *vb.* **1.** to breathe or utter (something) with a rasping or whistling sound. **2.** to make or move with a noise suggestive of wheezy breathing. ~n. **3.** a husky, rasping, or whistling sound or breathing. **4. Brit. sl.** a trick, idea, or plan. **5. Inf.** a hackneyed joke or anecdote. — **'wheezier** *n.* — **'wheezingly** *adv.* — **'wheezey** *adj.* — **'wheezily** *adv.* — **'wheeziness** *n.*
whelk (welk) *n.* a marine gastropod mollusc of coastal waters and intertidal regions, having a strong snail-like shell.
whelp (welp) *n.* **1.** a young offspring of certain animals, esp. of a wolf or dog. **2.** Disparaging. a youth. **3. Jocular.** a young child. **4. Naut.** any of the ridges, parallel to the axis, on the drum of a capstan to keep a rope, cable, or chain from slipping. ~vb. **5.** (of an animal or, disparagingly, a woman) to give birth to (young).
when (wen) *adv.* **1. a.** at what time? over what period?: *when is he due?* **b.** (used in indirect questions): *ask him when he's due.* **2. say when.** to state when an action is to be stopped or begun, as when someone is pouring a drink. ~conj. **3.** (subordinating) at a time at which; just as; after: *I found it easily when I started to look seriously.* **4.** although: *he drives when he might walk.* **5.** considering the fact that: *how did you pass the exam when you'd not worked for it?* ~pron. **6.** at which (time); over which (period): *an age when men were men.* ~n. **7.** a question as to the time of some occurrence.
Usage. Care should be taken so that *when* and *where***

refer explicitly to time or place, and are not used loosely to substitute for *in which* after the verb *to be*: *paralysis is a condition in which* (not *when* or *where*) *parts of the body cannot be moved*.

whence (wens) *Arch. or formal. ~adv.* 1. from what place, cause, or origin? ~*pron.* 2. (subordinating) from what place, cause, or origin.

▷ **Usage.** Careful users of English avoid the expression from whence, since whence already means from which place: *the tradition whence* (not *from whence*) *such ideas flow*.

whencesoever (ˌwenssəʊˈevə) *conj.* (subordinating), *adv. Arch.* from whatever place, cause, or origin.

whenever (wenˈevə) *conj.* 1. (subordinating) at every or any time that; when: *I laugh whenever I see that. ~adv. also when ever.* 2. no matter when: *it'll be here, whenever you decide to come for it.* 3. *Inf.* at an unknown or unspecified time: *I'll take it if it comes today, tomorrow, or whenever.* 4. an intensive form of *when*, used in questions: *whenever did he escape?*

whensoever (ˌwensəʊˈevə) *conj., adv.* Rare. an intensive form of *whenever*.

where (weə) *adv.* 1. a. in, at, or to what place, point, or position?: *where are you going?* b. (used in indirect questions) *I don't know where they are.* ~*pron.* 2. in, at, or to which (place): *the hotel where we spent our honeymoon.* ~*conj.* 3. (subordinating) in the place at which: *where we live it's always raining.* ~*n.* 4. a question as to the position, direction, or destination of something.

▷ **Usage.** See at *when*.

whereabouts (ˌweəəbʌts) *adv.* 1. at what approximate place; where: *whereabouts are you?* ~*n.* 2. (functioning as *sing.*) the place, esp. the approximate place, where a person or thing is.

whereas (weəˈæz) *conj.* 1. (coordinating) but on the other hand: *I like to go swimming whereas Sheila likes to sail.* ~*sentence connector.* 2. (in formal documents) it being the case that; since.

whereat (weəˈæt) *Arch. ~adv.* 1. at or to which place. ~*sentence connector.* 2. upon which occasion.

whereby (weəˈbaɪ) *pron.* by or because of which: *the means whereby he took his life.*

wherefore (ˌweəˈfɔː) *n.* 1. (usually *pl.*) an explanation or reason (esp. in the *whys* and *wherefores*). ~*adv.* 2. *Arch. why?* ~*sentence connector.* 3. *Arch. or formal.* for which reason: used in legal preambles.

wherein (weəˈɪn) *Arch. or formal. ~adv.* 1. in what place or respect? ~*pron.* 2. in which place, thing, etc.

whereof (weəˈɒv) *Arch. or formal. ~adv.* 1. of what or which person or thing? ~*pron.* 2. of which (person or thing): *the man whereof I speak is no longer alive.*

whereon (weəˈɒn) *Arch. ~adv.* 1. on what thing or place? ~*pron.* 2. on which thing, place, etc.

wheresoever (ˌweəsəʊˈevə) *conj.* (subordinating), *adv., pron.* Rare. an intensive form of *wherever*.

whereupon (ˌweəəˈpʊn) *sentence connector.* at which; at which point; upon which.

wherever (weəˈevə) *pron.* 1. at, in, or to every place or point which; where: *wherever she went, he would be there.* ~*conj.* 2. (subordinating) in, to, or at whatever place: *wherever we go the weather is always bad. ~adv. also where ever.* 3. no matter where: *I'll find you, wherever you are.* 4. *Inf.* at, in, or to an unknown or unspecified place: *I'll go anywhere to escape: London, Paris, or wherever.* 5. an intensive form of *where*, used in questions: *wherever can they be?*

wherewithal (ˌweəwɪð,əl) *n.* the wherewithal. necessary funds, resources, or equipment: *these people lack the wherewithal for a decent existence.*

wherry (ˈwɛrɪ) *n., pl. -ries.* 1. any of certain kinds of half-decked commercial boats. 2. a light rowing boat. —*wherryman n.*

whet (wet) *vb.* whetting, whetted. (tr.) 1. to sharpen, as by grinding or friction. 2. to increase (the appetite, desire, etc.); stimulate. ~*n.* 3. the act of whetting. 4. a person or thing that whets. —*whetter n.*

whether (ˈweðə) *conj.* 1. (subordinating) used to introduce an indirect question or a clause after a verb expressing or implying doubt or choice: *he doesn't know whether she's in Britain or whether she's gone to France.* 2. (coordinating) either: *any man, whether liberal or conservative, would agree with me.* 3. *whether or no*, in any case: *he will be here tomorrow, whether or no.* 4. *whether...or* (whether). if on the one hand...or even if on the other hand: *you'll eat that, whether you like it or not.*

whetstone (ˈwet,stʊn) *n.* 1. a stone used for sharpening edged tools, knives, etc. 2. something that sharpens.

whew (hwjuː) *interj.* an exclamation or sharply exhaled breath expressing relief, delight, etc.

whew (wei) *n.* the watery liquid that separates from the curd when the milk is clotted, as in making cheese.

whyface (ˈweɪ,feɪs) *n.* 1. a pale bloodless face. 2. a person with such a face. —*why, faced adj.*

which (wɪtʃ) *determiner.* 1. a. used with a noun in requesting that its referent be further specified, identified, or distinguished: *which house did you want to buy?* b. (as pronoun): *which did you find?* c. (used in indirect questions): *I wondered which apples were cheaper.* 2. a. whatever of a class; whichever: *bring which car you want.* b. (as pronoun): *choose which of the cars suits you.* ~*pron.* 3. used in relative clauses with inanimate antecedents: *the house, which is old, is in poor repair.* 4. as; and that: used in relative clauses with verb phrases or sentences as their antecedents: *he died of cancer, which is what I predicted.* 5. the which. an archaic form of which often used as a sentence connector.

▷ **Usage.** See at *that*.

whichever (wɪtʃˈevə) *determiner.* 1. a. any (one, two, etc., out of several): *take whichever car you like.* b. (as pronoun): *choose whichever appeals to you.* 2. a. no matter which (one or ones): *whichever card you pick you'll still be making a mistake.* b. (as pronoun): *it won't make any difference, whichever comes first.*

whiff (wɪf) *n.* 1. a passing odour. 2. a brief gentle gust of air. 3. a single inhalation or exhalation from the mouth or nose. ~*vb.* 4. to puff or waft. 5. (tr.) to sniff or smell. 6. (intr.) *Brit. sl.* to stink.

whiffle (ˈwɪfl) *vb.* 1. (intr.) to think or behave in an erratic or unpredictable way. 2. to blow or be blown fitfully or in gusts. 3. (intr.) to whistle softly.

Whig (wɪɡ) *n.* 1. a member of the English political party that opposed the succession to the throne of James, Duke of York (1679-80), on the grounds that he was a Catholic. Standing for a limited monarchy, the Whigs later represented the desires of industrialists and Dissenters for political and social reform, and provided the core of the Liberal Party. 2. (in the U.S.) a supporter of the War of American Independence. Cf. *Tory*. 3. a member of the American political party that opposed the Democrats from about 1834 to 1855 and represented propertied and professional interests. 4. *History.* a Scottish Presbyterian, esp. one in rebellion against the Crown. ~*adj.* 5. of, characteristic of, or relating to Whigs. —*Whiggery or Whiggism n.* —*Whiggish adj.*

while (waɪl) *conj. also whilst* (waɪlst). 1. (subordinating) at the same time that: *please light the fire while I'm cooking.* 2. (subordinating) all the time that: *I stay inside while it's raining.* 3. (subordinating) in spite of the fact that: *while I agree about his brilliance I still think he's rude.* 4. (coordinating) whereas; and in contrast: *houses are expensive, while flats are cheap.* ~*prep., conj.* 5. *N English dialect.* another word for *until*: *you'll have to wait while Monday.* ~*n.* 6. (usually used in adverbial phrases) a period or interval of time: *once in a long while.* 7. trouble or time (esp. in *worth one's while*): *it's hardly worth your while to begin work today.*

▷ **Usage.** The main sense of *while* is during the time that. However, many careful users of English would now accept as established the use of *while* to mean although: *while he disliked working, he was obliged to do so.* In careful usage, *while* is not used to mean whereas or and: *he thought that they were in Paris, whereas (not while) they had gone on to Rome; his friends went to Paris for their holiday, his brother to Rome, and (not while) his parents went to Berlin.* Careful writers try to avoid any ambiguity that may result from the possibility of two interpretations of *while* in context: *while (although or during the time that) his brother worked in the park, he refused to do any gardening at home.*

while away *vb.* (tr., adv.) to pass (time) idly and usually pleasantly.

whilst (waɪlst) *conj.* Chiefly *Brit.* another word for *while* (senses 1-4).

whim (wɪm) *n.* 1. a sudden, passing, and often fanciful idea; impulsive or irrational thought. 2. a horse-drawn winch formerly used in mining to lift ore or water.

whimper (ˈwɪmpə) *vb.* 1. (intr.) to cry, sob, or whine softly or intermittently. 2. to complain or say (something) in a whining plaintive way. ~*n.* 3. a soft plaintive whine. —*whimperer n.* —*whimpering n., adj.* —*whimperingly adv.*

whimsical (ˈwɪmzɪkl) *adj.* 1. spontaneously fanciful or

playful. 2. given to whims; capricious. 3. quaint, unusual, or fantastic. —**whimsicality** (ˈwɪmzɪˈkælɪti) *n.* —**whimsically** *adv.*

whimsy or **whimsey** (ˈwɪmzɪ) *n.*, *pl.* **-sies** or **-seys**. 1. a capricious idea or notion. 2. light or fanciful humour. 3. something quaint or unusual. ~*adj.* **-sier**, **-siest**. 4. quaint, comical, or unusual, often in a tasteless way.

whin' (wɪn) *n.* another name for **gorse**.

whin' (wɪn) *n.* any dark hard fine-grained rock, such as basalt. Also called **whinstone**.

whinchat (ˈwɪn,tʃæt) *n.* an Old World songbird having a mottled brown-and-white plumage with pale cream underparts.

whine (wain) *n.* 1. a long high-pitched plaintive cry or moan. 2. a continuous high-pitched sound. 3. a peevish complaint, esp. one repeated. ~*vb.* 4. to make a whine or utter in a whine. —**whiner** *n.* —**whiningly** *adv.* —**whiny** *adj.*

whinny (ˈwɪni) *vb.* **-nying**, **-nied**. (*intr.*) 1. (of a horse) to neigh softly or gently. 2. to make a sound resembling a neigh, such as a laugh. ~*n.*, *pl.* **-nies**. 3. a gentle or low-pitched neigh.

whip (wɪp) *vb.* **whipping**, **whipped**. 1. to strike (a person or thing) with several strokes of a strap, rod, etc. 2. (*tr.*) to punish by striking in this manner. 3. (*tr.*; foll. by *out*, *away*, etc.) to pull, remove, etc., with sudden rapid motion: *to whip out a gun*. 4. (*intr.*; foll. by *down*, *into*, *out of*, etc.) *Inf.* to come, go, etc., in a rapid sudden manner: *they whipped into the bar for a drink*. 5. to strike or be struck as if by whipping: *the tempest whipped the surface of the sea*. 6. (*tr.*) to bring, train, etc., forcefully into a desired condition. 7. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to overcome or outdo. 8. (*tr.*; often foll. by *on*, *out*, or *off*) to drive, urge, compel, etc., by or as if by whipping. 9. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to steal. 10. (*tr.*) to wrap or wind (a cord, thread, etc.) around (a rope, cable, etc.) to prevent chafing or fraying. 11. (*tr.*) (in fly-fishing) to cast the fly repeatedly onto (the water) in a whipping motion. 12. (*tr.*) (in sewing) to join, finish, or gather with whipstitch. 13. to beat (eggs, cream, etc.) with a whisk or similar utensil to incorporate air. 14. (*tr.*) to spin (a top). ~*n.* 15. a device consisting of a lash or flexible rod attached at one end to a stiff handle and used for driving animals, inflicting corporal punishment, etc. 16. a whipping stroke or motion. 17. a person adept at handling a whip, as a coachman, etc. 18. (in a legislative body) *a.* a member of a party chosen to organize and discipline the members of his faction. *b.* a call issued to members of a party, insisting with varying degrees of urgency upon their presence or loyal voting behaviour. *c.* (in the Brit. Parliament) a schedule of business sent to members of a party, indicating for which items their attendance is most important. 19. an apparatus for hoisting, consisting of a rope, pulley, and snatch block. 20. any of a variety of desserts made from egg whites or cream beaten stiff. 21. See **whipper-in**. 22. flexibility, as in the shaft of a golf club, etc. 23. *a fair crack of the whip*. *Inf.* a fair chance or opportunity. ~See also **whip-round**, **whip up**. —**whip**, *like* *adj.* —**whipper** *n.*

whipcord (ˈwɪp,kɔːd) *n.* 1. a strong worsted or cotton fabric with a diagonally ribbed surface. 2. a closely twisted hard cord used for the lashes of whips, etc.

whip hand *n.* (usually preceded by *the*) 1. (in driving horses, etc.) the hand holding the whip. 2. advantage or dominating position.

whiplash (ˈwɪp,læʃ) *n.* a quick lash or stroke of a whip or like that of a whip.

whiplash injury *n.* *Med. inf.* any injury to the neck resulting from a sudden thrusting forwards and snapping back of the unsupported head. Technical name: **hyperextension-hyperflexion injury**.

whipper-in *n.*, *pl.* **whippers-in**. a person employed to assist the huntsman managing the hounds.

whippersnapper (ˈwɪpə,snæpə) *n.* an insignificant but pretentious or cheeky person, often a young one. Also called: **whipster**.

whippet (ˈwɪpɪt) *n.* a small slender breed of dog similar to a greyhound.

whipping (ˈwɪpɪŋ) *n.* 1. a thrashing or beating with a whip or similar implement. 2. cord or twine used for binding or lashing. 3. the binding formed by wrapping a rope, etc. with cord or twine.

whipping boy *n.* a person of little importance who is blamed for the errors, incompetence, etc., of others, esp. his superiors; scapegoat.

whippoorwill (ˈwɪpu,wɪl) *n.* a nightjar of North and Central America, having a dark plumage with white patches on the tail.

whip-round *Inf.*, chiefly *Brit.* ~*n.* 1. an impromptu collection of money. ~*vb.* **whip round**. 2. (*intr.*, *adv.*) to make such a collection.

whipstock (ˈwɪp,stɒk) *n.* a whip handle.

whip up *vb.* (*tr.*, *adv.*) 1. to excite; arouse: *to whip up a mob*; *to whip up discontent*. 2. *Inf.* to prepare quickly: *to whip up a meal*.

whir or **whirr** (wɜː) *n.* 1. a prolonged soft swish or buzz, as of a motor working or wings flapping. 2. a bustle or rush. ~*vb.* **whirring**, **whirred**. 3. to make or cause to make a whir.

whirl (wɜːl) *vb.* 1. to spin, turn, or revolve or cause to spin, turn, or revolve. 2. (*intr.*) to turn around or away rapidly. 3. (*intr.*) to have a spinning sensation, as from dizziness, etc. 4. to move or drive or be moved or driven at high speed. ~*n.* 5. the act or an instance of whirling; swift rotation or a rapid whirling movement. 6. a condition of confusion or giddiness: *her accident left me in a whirl*. 7. a swift round, as of events, meetings, etc. 8. a tumult; stir. 9. *Inf.* a brief trip, dance, etc. 10. *give (something) a whirl*. *Inf.* to attempt or give a trial to (something). —**whirler** *n.* —**whirlingly** *adv.*

whirligig (ˈwɜːlɪ,gɪg) *n.* 1. any spinning toy, such as a top. 2. another name for **merry-go-round**. 3. anything that whirls about, spins, or moves in a circular or giddy way: *the whirligig of social life*.

whirlpool (ˈwɜːl,puːl) *n.* 1. a powerful circular current or vortex of water. 2. something resembling a whirlpool in motion or the power to attract into its vortex.

whirlwind (ˈwɜːl,wɪnd) *n.* 1. a column of air whirling around and towards a more or less vertical axis of low pressure, which moves along the land or ocean surface. 2. *a.* a motion or course resembling this, esp. in rapidity. *b.* (as modifier) *a whirlwind romance*. 3. an impetuously active person.

whirlybird (ˈwɜːlɪ,bɜːd) *n.* an informal word for **helicopter**.

whisk (wɪsk) *vb.* 1. (*tr.*; often foll. by *away* or *off*) to brush, sweep, or wipe off lightly. 2. (*tr.*) to move, carry, etc., with a light or rapid sweeping motion: *the taxi whisked us to the airport*. 3. (*intr.*) to move, go, etc., quickly and nimbly: *to whisk downstairs for a drink*. 4. (*tr.*) to whip (eggs, etc.) to a froth. ~*n.* 5. the act of whisking. 6. a light rapid sweeping movement. 7. a utensil for whipping eggs, etc. 8. a small brush or broom. 9. a small bunch or bundle, as of grass, straw, etc.

whisker (ˈwɪskə) *n.* 1. any of the stiff sensory hairs growing on the face of a cat, rat, or other mammal. Technical name: **vibrissa**. 2. any of the hairs growing on a man's face, esp. on the cheeks or chin. 3. (*pl.*) a beard or that part of it growing on the sides of the face. 4. (*pl.*) *Inf.* a moustache. 5. *Chem.* a very fine filamentary crystal having greater strength than the bulk material. 6. a person or thing that whisks. 7. a narrow margin or small distance: *he escaped death by a whisker*. —**whiskered** or **whiskery** *adj.*

whiskey (ˈwɪski) *n.* whiskey made in the U.S. or Ireland.

whiskey sour *n.* U.S. a mixed drink of whiskey and lime or lemon juice, sometimes sweetened.

whisky (ˈwɪski) *n.*, *pl.* **-kies**. a spirit made by distilling fermented cereals, which is matured and often blended.

whisky mac *n.* *Brit.* a drink consisting of whisky and ginger wine.

whisper (ˈwɪspə) *vb.* 1. to speak or utter (something) in a soft hushed tone, esp. without vibration of the vocal cords. 2. (*intr.*) to speak secretly or furtively, as in promoting intrigue, gossip, etc. 3. (*intr.*) (of leaves, trees, etc.) to make a low soft rustling sound. 4. (*tr.*) to utter or suggest secretly or privately: *to whisper treason*. ~*n.* 5. a low soft voice: *to speak in a whisper*. 6. something uttered in such a voice. 7. a low soft rustling sound. 8. a trace or suspicion. 9. *Inf.* a rumour. —**whisperer** *n.*

whist' (wɪst) *n.* a card game for four in which the two sides try to win the balance of the 13 tricks: forerunner of bridge.

whist' (wɪst) or **whisht** (wɪft) *Arch.* or *dialect*, esp. *Scot.* ~*interj.* 1. hush! be quiet! ~*adj.* 2. silent or still.

whistle (ˈwɪsl) *vb.* 1. to produce (shrill or flutelike sounds), as by passing breath through a narrow constriction most easily formed by the pursed lips. 2. (*tr.*) to signal or command by whistling or blowing a whistle: *the referee whistled the end of the game*. 3. (of a kettle, train, etc.) to produce (a shrill sound) caused by the emission of steam through a small aperture. 4. (*intr.*) to move with a whistling sound caused by rapid passage through the air. 5. (of animals, esp. birds) to emit (a

shrill sound) resembling human whistling. ~*n.* 6. a device for making a shrill high-pitched sound by means of air or steam under pressure. 7. a shrill sound effected by whistling or blowing a whistle. 8. a whistling sound, as of a bird, bullet, the wind, etc. 9. a signal, etc., transmitted by or as if by a whistle. 10. the act of whistling. 11. an instrument, usually made of metal, that is blown down its end to produce a tune, signal etc. 12. **clean as a whistle**. perfectly clean or clear. 13. **wet one's whistle**. *Inf.* to take a drink. 14. **blow the whistle**. (usually foll. by *on*) *U.S. inf.* a. to inform (on). b. to bring a stop (to). 15. **whistle in the dark**. to behave so as to maintain one's courage or spirits during a time of danger or difficulty.

whistle for *vb.* (*intr., prep.*) *Inf.* to seek or expect in vain.

whistle stop *n.* 1. *U.S. a.* a minor railway station where trains stop only on signal. b. a small town having such a station. 2. a. a brief appearance in a town, esp. by a political candidate. b. (as *modifier*): a **whistle-stop tour**.

whistle up *vb.* (*tr., adv.*) to call or summon (a person or animal) by whistling.

whit (wit) *n.* (usually used with a negative) the smallest particle; iota; jot: *he has changed not a whit*.

Whit (wit) *n.* 1. See **Whitsuntide**. ~*adj.* 2. of or relating to Whitsuntide.

white (wait) *adj.* 1. having no hue, owing to the reflection of all or almost all incident light. 2. (of light, such as sunlight) consisting of all the colours of the spectrum or produced by certain mixtures of primary colours, as red, green, and blue. 3. comparatively white or whitish-grey or having parts of this colour: **white clover**. 4. (of an animal) having pale-coloured or white skin, fur, or feathers. 5. bloodless or pale, as from pain, emotion, etc. 6. (of hair, etc.) grey, usually from age. 7. benevolent or without malicious intent: **white magic**. 8. colourless or transparent: **white glass**. 9. capped with or accompanied by snow: a **white Christmas**. 10. blank, as an unprinted area of a page. 11. (of wine) made from pale grapes or from black grapes separated from their skins. 12. (of coffee or tea) with milk or cream. 13. denoting flour, or bread made from flour, that has had part of the grain removed. 14. *Physics*. having or characterized by a continuous distribution of energy, wavelength, or frequency: **white noise**. 15. *Inf.* honourable or generous. 16. *Poetic or arch.* having a fair complexion; blond. 17. **bleed white**. to deprive slowly of resources. ~*n.* 18. a white colour. 19. the condition of being white; whiteness. 20. the white or lightly coloured part of something. 21. (usually preceded by *the*) the viscous fluid that surrounds the yolk of a bird's egg, esp. a hen's egg; albumen. 22. *Anat.* the white part (sclera) of the eyeball. 23. any of various butterflies having white wings with scanty black markings. 24. *Chess, draughts*. a. a white or light-coloured piece or square. b. the player playing with such pieces. 25. anything that has or is characterized by a white colour, such as a white paint or white clothing. 26. *Archery*. the outer ring of the target, having the lowest score. ~*vb.* 27. *Obs.* to make or become white. ~ See also **white out**, **whites**. —**whitely** *adv.* —**whitish** *adj.* —**whiteness** *n.*

White (wait) *n.* 1. a member of the Caucasoid race. 2. a person of European ancestry. ~*adj.* 3. denoting or relating to a White or Whites.

white ant *n.* another name for **termite**.

whitebait ('wait,bait) *n.* 1. the edible young of herrings, sprats, etc., cooked and eaten whole as a delicacy. 2. any of various small silvery fishes.

white blood cell *n.* a nontechnical name for **leucocyte**.

whitecap ('wait,kæp) *n.* a wave with a white broken crest.

white-collar *adj.* of or designating nonmanual and usually salaried workers employed in professional and clerical occupations.

white dwarf *n.* one of a large class of small faint stars of enormous density, thought to mark the final stage in a star's evolution.

white elephant *n.* 1. a rare albino variety of the Indian elephant, regarded as sacred in parts of S Asia. 2. a possession that is unwanted by its owner. 3. a rare or valuable possession the upkeep of which is very expensive.

white feather *n.* 1. a symbol or mark of cowardice. 2. show the white feather. to act in a cowardly manner.

whitefish ('wait,fɪʃ) *n., pl. -fish or -fishes*. 1. a food fish typically of deep cold lakes of the N hemisphere,

having large silvery scales and a small head. 2. (in the Brit. fishing industry) any edible marine fish or invertebrate excluding herrings but including trout, salmon, and all shellfish.

white flag *n.* a white flag or a piece of white cloth hoisted to signify surrender or request a truce.

whitefly ('wait,flai) *n., pl. -flies*. any of a family of insects typically having a body covered with powdery wax. Many are pests of greenhouse crops.

white friar *n.* a Carmelite friar, so called because of the white cloak that forms part of the habit of this order.

white gold *n.* any of various white lustrous hard-wearing alloys containing gold together with platinum and palladium and sometimes smaller amounts of silver, nickel, or copper.

white goods *pl. n.* 1. household linen such as sheets, towels, tablecloths, etc. 2. large household appliances, such as refrigerators or cookers.

Whitehall (,wait'ho:l) *n.* 1. a street in London stretching from Trafalgar Square to the Houses of Parliament: site of the main government offices. 2. the British Government.

white heat *n.* 1. intense heat characterized by emission of white light. 2. *Inf.* a state of intense excitement or activity.

white hope *n.* *Inf.* a person who is expected to bring honour or glory to his group, team, etc.

white horse *n.* 1. the outline of a horse carved into the side of a chalk hill, usually dating to the Neolithic, Bronze, or Iron Ages. 2. a wave with a white broken crest.

white-hot *adj.* 1. at such a high temperature that white light is emitted. 2. *Inf.* in a state of intense emotion.

White House *n. the.* 1. the official Washington residence of the president of the U.S. 2. the U.S. presidency.

white lead (led) *n.* 1. a white solid usually regarded as a mixture of lead carbonate and lead hydroxide; basic lead carbonate: used in paint and in making putty and ointments for the treatment of burns. 2. either of two similar white pigments based on lead sulphate or lead silicate.

white lie *n.* a minor or unimportant lie, esp. one uttered in the interests of tact or politeness.

white light *n.* light that contains all the wavelengths of visible light at approximately equal intensities, as in sunlight.

White man's burden *n.* the supposed duty of the White race to bring education and Western culture to the non-White inhabitants of their colonies.

white matter *n.* the whitish tissue of the brain and spinal cord, consisting mainly of nerve fibres covered with a protective white fatlike substance.

white meat *n.* any meat that is light in colour, such as veal or the breast of turkey.

whiten ('wait'n) *vb.* to make or become white or whiter; bleach. —**whitener** *n.* —**whitening** *n.*

white noise *n.* sound or electrical noise that has a relatively wide continuous range of frequencies of uniform intensity.

white out *vb. (adv.)* 1. (*intr.*) to lose or lack daylight visibility owing to snow or fog. 2. (*tr.*) to create or leave white spaces in (printed or other matter). ~*n.* **white-out**. 3. a polar atmospheric condition consisting of lack of visibility and sense of distance and direction due to a uniform whiteness of a heavy cloud cover and snow-covered ground, which reflects almost all the light it receives.

white paper *n. (often caps.)* an official government report in any of a number of countries, including Britain, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada, which sets out the government's policy on a matter that is or will come before Parliament.

white pepper *n.* a condiment, less pungent than black pepper, made from the husked dried beans of the pepper plant.

whites (waits) *pl. n.* 1. household linen or cotton goods, such as sheets. 2. white or off-white clothing, such as that worn for playing cricket.

white sale *n.* a sale of household linens at reduced prices.

white sauce *n.* a thick sauce made from flour, butter, seasonings, and milk or stock.

white slave *n.* a girl or woman forced or sold into prostitution. —**white slavery** *n.* —**white-slaver** *n.*

white spirit *n.* a colourless liquid obtained from petroleum and used as a substitute for turpentine.

white tie *n.* 1. a white bow tie worn as part of a man's formal evening dress. 2. *a.* formal evening dress for men. *b.* (as modifier): a white-tie occasion.

whitewash ('waɪt,wɒʃ) *n.* 1. a substance used for whitening walls and other surfaces, consisting of a suspension of lime or whiting in water. 2. *Inf.* deceptive or specious words or actions intended to conceal defects, gloss over failings, etc. 3. *Inf.* a game in which the loser fails to score. ~*vb.* (tr.) 4. to cover with whitewash. 5. *Inf.* to conceal, gloss over, or suppress. 6. *Inf.* to defeat (someone) in a game by preventing him from scoring. —'white, washer *n.*

white whale *n.* a small white toothed whale of northern waters. Also called: **beluga**.

whitewood ('waɪt,wuːd) *n.* 1. any of various trees with light-coloured wood, such as the tulip tree, basswood, and cottonwood. 2. the wood of any of these trees.

whitey or **whity** ('waɪtɪ) *n.* Chiefly U.S. (used contemptuously by Negroes) a White man or White men collectively.

whither ('wɪðə) *Arch. or poetic.* ~*adv.* 1. to what place? 2. to what end or purpose? ~*conj.* 3. to whatever place, purpose, etc.

whithersoever (ˌwɪðəʊsəʊ'evə) *adv., conj. Arch. or poetic.* to whichever place.

whiting ('waɪtɪŋ) *n.* 1. an important gadoid food fish of European seas, having a dark back with silvery sides and underparts. 2. any of various similar fishes.

whiting ('waɪtɪŋ) *n.* white chalk that has been ground and washed, used in making whitewash, metal polish, etc. Also called: **whitening**.

whitlow ('wɪtləʊ) *n.* any pussy inflammation of the end of a finger or toe.

Whitsun ('wɪts'n) *n.* 1. short for **Whitsuntide**. ~*adj.* 2. of or relating to Whit Sunday or Whitsuntide.

Whit Sunday *n.* the seventh Sunday after Easter, observed as a feast in commemoration of the descent of the Holy Spirit on the apostles. In Scotland, it is one of the four quarter days. Also called: **Pentecost**.

Whitsuntide ('wɪts'n,tʰaɪd) *n.* the week that begins with Whit Sunday, esp. the first three days.

whittle ('wɪtl̩) *vb.* 1. to cut or shave strips or pieces from (wood, a stick, etc.), esp. with a knife. 2. (tr.) to make or shape by paring or shaving. 3. (tr.; often foll. by away, down, off, etc.) to reduce, destroy, or wear away gradually.

whiz or **whizz** (wɪz) *vb.* **whizzing, whizzed.** 1. to make or cause to make a loud humming or buzzing sound. 2. to move or cause to move with such a sound. 3. (intr.) *Inf.* to move or go rapidly. ~*n.* 4. a loud humming or buzzing sound. 5. *Inf.* a person who is extremely skilful at some activity.

whiz kid, whizz kid, or wiz kid *n. Inf.* a person who is pushing, enthusiastic, and outstandingly successful for his or her age.

who (hu:) *pron.* 1. which person? what person? used in direct and indirect questions: *he can't remember who did it; who met you?* 2. used to introduce relative clauses with antecedents referring to human beings: *the people who lived here have left.* 3. the one or ones who; whoever: *bring who you want.* 4. **who's who.** a. the identity of individual, esp. important, people: *to know who's who.* b. a book or list containing the names and short biographies of prominent persons.

▷ **Usage.** See at **whom**.

W.H.O. *abbrev.* for World Health Organization.

whoa (wəʊ) *interj.* a command used esp. to horses to stop or slow down.

whodunit or **whodunnit** (hu:'dʌnɪt) *n. Inf.* a novel, play, etc., concerned with a crime, usually murder.

whoever (hu:'evə) *pron.* 1. any person who: *whoever wants it can have it.* 2. no matter who: *I'll come round tomorrow, whoever may be here.* 3. an intensive form of *who*, used in questions: *whoever could have thought that?* 4. *Inf.* an unspecified person: *give those to Cathy or whoever.*

whole (həʊl) *adj.* 1. containing all the component parts necessary to form a total; complete: *a whole apple.* 2. constituting the full quantity, extent, etc. 3. uninjured or undamaged. 4. healthy. 5. having no fractional or decimal part; integral: *a whole number.* 6. designating a relationship by descent from the same parents; full: *whole brothers.* 7. **out of whole cloth.** U.S. *Inf.* entirely without a factual basis. ~*adv.* 8. in an undivided or unbroken piece: *to swallow a plum whole.* ~*n.* 9. all the parts, elements, etc., of a thing. 10. an assemblage of parts viewed together as a unit. 11. a thing complete

in itself. 12. **as a whole.** considered altogether; completely. 13. **on the whole.** a. taking all things into consideration. b. in general. —'wholeness *n.*

wholefood ('həʊl,fuːd) *n.* (sometimes pl.) a. food that has been refined or processed as little as possible and is eaten in its natural state, such as brown rice, wholemeal flour, etc. b. (as modifier): *a wholefood restaurant.*

wholehearted (ˌhəʊl'hɑːtɪd) *adj.* done, acted, given, etc., with total sincerity, enthusiasm, or commitment. —'wholeheartedly *adv.*

wholemeal ('həʊl,mɪl) *adj. Brit.* (of flour, bread, etc.) made from the entire wheat kernel. Also called (esp. U.S.): **whole-wheat**.

whole note *n.* the usual U.S. name for **semibreve**.

whole number *n.* 1. an integer. 2. a natural number.

wholesale ('həʊl,sɛɪl) *n.* 1. the business of selling goods to retailers in large quantities than they are sold to final consumers but in smaller quantities than they are purchased from manufacturers. Cf. **retail** (sense 1). ~*adj.* 2. of or engaged in such business. 3. made, done, etc., on a large scale or without discrimination. ~*adv.* 4. on a large scale or without discrimination. ~*vb.* 5. to sell (goods) at wholesale. —'whole,saler *n.*

wholesome ('həʊlsəm) *adj.* 1. conducive to health or physical wellbeing. 2. conducive to moral wellbeing. 3. characteristic or suggestive of health or wellbeing. *esp.* in appearance. —'wholesomely *adv.* —'wholesomeness *n.*

whole-wheat *adj.* another term (esp. U.S.) for **wholemeal**.

wholism ('həʊlɪzəm) *n.* a variant of **holism**. —'who'listic *adj.*

who'll (hu:l) *contraction* of *who will* or *who shall*.

wholly ('həʊli) *adv.* 1. completely, totally, or entirely. 2. without exception; exclusively.

whom (hu:m) *pron.* the objective form of *who*, used when *who* is not the subject of its own clause: *whom did you say you had seen? he can't remember whom he saw.*

▷ **Usage.** In formal English, careful writers always use *whom* when the objective form of *who* is required. In informal contexts, however, many careful speakers consider *whom* to be unnatural, esp. at the beginning of a sentence: *who were you looking for?* Careful speakers usually prefer *whom* where it closely follows a preposition: *to whom did you give it?* as contrasted with *who did you give it to?*

whomever (hu:m'evə) *pron.* the objective form of *whoever*: *I'll hire whomever I can find.*

whoop (wʊ:p) *vb.* 1. to utter (speech) with loud cries, as of excitement. 2. (hup) *Med.* to cough convulsively with a crowing sound. 3. (of certain birds) to utter (a hooting cry). 4. (tr.) to urge on or call with or as if with whoops. 5. (wup, wu:p). **whoop it up.** *Inf.* a. to indulge in a noisy celebration. b. Chiefly U.S. to arouse enthusiasm. ~*n.* 6. a loud cry, esp. one expressing excitement. 7. (hup) *Med.* the convulsive crowing sound made during whooping cough.

whoopee *Inf.* ~*interj.* (wʊ'pi:). 1. an exclamation of joy, excitement, etc. ~*n.* ('wupi:). 2. **make whoopee.** a. to engage in noisy merry-making. b. to make love.

whooping cough ('hʊ:pɪŋ) *n.* an acute infectious disease characterized by coughing spasms that end with a shrill crowing sound on inspiration. Technical name: **pertussis**.

whoops (wʊps) *interj.* an exclamation of surprise or of apology.

whop (wɒp) *Inf.* ~*vb.* **whopping, whopped.** 1. (tr.) to strike, beat, or thrash. 2. (tr.) to defeat utterly. 3. (intr.) to drop or fall. ~*n.* 4. a heavy blow or the sound made by such a blow.

whopper ('wɒpə) *n. Inf.* 1. anything uncommonly large of its kind. 2. a big lie.

whopping ('wɒpɪŋ) *adj. Inf.* uncommonly large.

whore (hɔ:) *n.* 1. a prostitute or promiscuous woman: often a term of abuse. ~*vb.* (intr.) 2. to be or act as a prostitute. 3. (of a man) to have promiscuous sexual relations, esp. with prostitutes. 4. (often foll. by *after*) to seek that which is immoral, idolatrous, etc. —'whorish *adj.* —'whoredom *n.*

whorehouse ('hɔ:,haus) *n.* another word for **brothel**.
whorl (wɔ:l) *n.* 1. Bot. a radial arrangement of petals, stamens, leaves, etc., around a stem. 2. Zool. a single turn in a spiral shell. 3. one of the basic patterns of the human fingerprint, formed by several complete circular ridges one inside another. 4. anything shaped like a coil. —'whorled *adj.*

whortleberry ('wɔ:t'l,beri) *n.*, *pl. -ries*. 1. Also called: **bilberry**, **huckleberry**, and (Brit.) **blueberry**. a small Eurasian Ericaceae shrub with greenish-pink flowers and edible sweet blackish berries. 2. the fruit of this shrub. 3. **bog whortleberry**, a related plant of mountain regions, having pink flowers and black fruits.

who's (hu:z) *contraction* of who is or who has.

whose (hu:z) *determiner* 1. *a.* of who? belonging to who? used in direct and indirect questions: *I told him whose fault it was; whose car is this?* 2. *(as pronoun):* whose is that? 2. of who; of which: used as a relative pronoun: *a house whose windows are broken; a man whose reputation has suffered.*

▷ **Usage.** Since *whose* is the possessive of both *who* and *which*, it is quite acceptable to use *whose* of things as well as of people in careful usage: *these are the houses whose foundations are unsteady; this is the man whose leg was broken.*

whosoever ('hu:səʊ'evə) *pron.* an archaic or formal word for *whoever*.

why (wai) *adv.* 1. *a.* for what reason?: *why are you here?* 2. *(used in indirect questions):* *tell me why you're here.* ~*pron.* 2. for or because of which: *there is no reason why he shouldn't come.* ~*n.*, *pl. whys*. 3. *(usually pl.)* a question as to the cause of something (esp. in the **whys** and **wherefores**). ~*interj.* 4. an introductory expression of surprise, indignation, etc.: *why, don't be silly!*

W.I. *abbrev. for:* 1. West Indian. 2. West Indies. 3. (in Britain) Women's Institute.

wick ('wik) *n.* 1. a cord or band of loosely twisted or woven fibres, as in a candle, that supplies fuel to a flame by capillary action. 2. **get on (someone's) wick.** *Brit. sl.* to cause irritation to (a person).

wick ('wik) *n.* *Arch.* a village or hamlet.

wicked ('wɪkɪd) *adj.* 1. *a.* morally bad. 2. *(as collective n. preceded by the):* the wicked. 2. mischievous or roguish, esp. in a playful way: *a wicked grin.* 3. causing injury or harm. 4. troublesome, unpleasant, or offensive. —**wickedly** *adv.* —**wickedness** *n.*

wicker ('wɪkə) *n.* 1. a slender flexible twig or shoot, esp. of willow. 2. short for **wickerwork**. ~*adj.* 3. made, consisting of, or constructed from wicker.

wickerwork ('wɪkə,wɜ:k) *n.* *a.* a material consisting of wicker. *b.* *(as modifier):* a wickerwork chair.

wicket ('wɪkɪt) *n.* 1. a small door or gate, esp. one that is near to or part of a larger one. 2. *Chiefly U.S.* a small window or opening in a door, esp. one fitted with a grating or glass pane. 3. a small sluiceway. 4. *a. Cricket.* either of two constructions, 22 yards apart, consisting of three stumps stuck in the ground with two wooden bails resting on top, at which the batsman stands. *b.* the strip of ground between these. *c.* a batsman's turn at batting or the period during which two batsmen bat: a **third-wicket partnership**. *d.* the act or instance of a batsman being got out: *the bowler took six wickets.* 5. **keep wicket.** to act as a wicketkeeper. 6. **on a good, sticky, etc., wicket.** *Inf.* in an advantageous, awkward, etc., situation.

wicketkeeper ('wɪkɪt,kɪ:pə) *n.* *Cricket.* the player on the fielding side positioned directly behind the wicket.

widdershins ('wɪdəʃɪnz) *adv.* *Chiefly Scot.* a variant spelling of **witherins**.

wide (waɪd) *adj.* 1. having a great extent from side to side. 2. spacious or extensive. 3. *a.* *(postpositive)* having a specified extent, esp. from side to side: *two yards wide.* *b.* *(in combination):* extending throughout: *nation-wide.* 4. remote from the desired point, mark, etc.: *your guess is wide of the mark.* 5. *(of eyes)* opened fully. 6. loose, full, or roomy: *wide trousers.* 7. exhibiting a considerable spread: *a wide variation.* 8. *Phonetics.* another word for **lax** (sense 4) or **open** (sense 32). 9. *Brit. sl.* unscrupulous and astute: *a wide boy.* ~*adv.* 10. over an extensive area: *to travel far and wide.* 11. to the full extent: *he opened the door wide.* 12. far from the desired point, mark, etc. ~*n.* 13. *(in cricket)* a bowled ball that is outside the batsman's reach and scores a run for the batting side. —**widely** *adv.* —**wideness** *n.* —**widish** *adj.*

wide-angle lens *n.* a lens system on a camera that can cover an angle of view of 60° or more and therefore has a small focal length.

wide-awake *adj.* *(wide awake when postpositive).* 1. fully awake. 2. keen, alert, or observant. ~*n.* 3. Also called: **wide-awake hat.** a hat with a low crown and very wide brim.

wide-eyed *adj.* innocent or credulous.

widen ('waɪd'n) *vb.* to make or become wide or wider. —**widener** *n.*

wide-open *adj.* *(wide open when postpositive).* 1. open to the full extent. 2. *(postpositive)* exposed to attack; vulnerable. 3. uncertain as to outcome. 4. *U.S. inf.* *(of a town or city)* lax in the enforcement of certain laws, esp. those relating to the sale of alcohol, gambling, etc.

widespread ('waɪd,spreɪd) *adj.* 1. extending over a wide area. 2. accepted by or occurring among many people.

widgeon ('wɪdʒən) *n.* a variant spelling of **wigeon**.

widow ('waɪdʒu) *n.* 1. a woman whose husband has died, esp. one who has not remarried. 2. *(with a modifier)* *Inf.* a woman whose husband frequently leaves her alone, in order to indulge in a sport, etc.: *a golf widow.* 3. *Printing.* a short line at the end of a paragraph, esp. one that occurs as the top line of a page or column. 4. *(in some card games)* an additional hand or set of cards exposed on the table. ~*vb.* *(tr.; usually passive)* 5. to cause to become a widow. 6. to deprive of something valued. —**widowhood** *n.*

widower ('waɪdʒə) *n.* a man whose wife has died and who has not remarried.

widow's peak *n.* a V-shaped point in the hairline in the middle of the forehead.

width (wɪð) *n.* 1. the linear extent or measurement of something from side to side. 2. the state or fact of being wide. 3. a piece or section of something at its full extent from side to side: *a width of cloth.* 4. the distance across a rectangular swimming bath, as opposed to its length.

wield ('waɪld) *vb.* *(tr.)* 1. to handle or use (a weapon, tool, etc.). 2. to exert or maintain (power or authority). —**wieldable** *adj.* —**wielder** *n.*

wife (waɪf) *n.*, *pl. wives* (waɪvz). 1. a man's partner in marriage; a married woman. Related *adj.* **uxorial**. 2. an archaic or dialect word for **woman**. 3. **take to wife**, to marry (a woman). —**wifehood** *n.* —**wifeliness** *n.* —**wifely** *adj.*

wig (wɪɡ) *n.* 1. an artificial head of hair, either human or synthetic, worn to disguise baldness, as part of a theatrical or ceremonial dress, as a disguise, or for adornment. ~*vb.* **wigging**, **wigged**. *(tr.)* 2. *Brit. sl.* to berate severely. —**wigged** *adj.* —**wiggless** *adj.*

wigeon or **widgeon** ('wɪdʒən) *n.* 1. a Eurasian duck of marshes, swamps, etc., the male of which has a reddish-brown head and chest and grey-and-white back and wings. 2. **American wigeon.** Also called: **baldpate**. a similar bird of North America, the male of which has a white crown.

wigging ('wɪɡɪŋ) *n.* *Brit. sl.* a reprimand.

wiggle ('wɪɡl) *vb.* 1. to move or cause to move with jerky movements, esp. from side to side. ~*n.* 2. the act of wiggling. —**wiggler** *n.* —**wiggly** *adj.*

wight (waɪt) *n.* *Arch.* a human being.

wigwam ('wɪɡwæm) *n.* 1. any dwelling of the North American Indians, esp. one made of bark, rushes, or skins spread over a set of arched poles lashed together. 2. a similar structure for children.

wilco ('wɪlkəʊ) *interj.* an expression in signalling, telecommunications, etc., indicating that a message just received will be complied with.

wild (waɪld) *adj.* 1. *(of animals)* living independently of man; not domesticated or tame. 2. *(of plants)* growing in a natural state; not cultivated. 3. uninhabited; desolate: *a wild stretch of land.* 4. living in a savage or uncivilized way: *wild tribes.* 5. lacking restraint or control: *wild merriment.* 6. of great violence: *a wild storm.* 7. disorderly or chaotic: *wild talk.* 8. dishevelled; untidy: *wild hair.* 9. in a state of extreme emotional intensity: *wild with anger.* 10. reckless: *wild speculations.* 11. random: *a wild guess.* 12. *(postpositive; foll. by about)* *Inf.* intensely enthusiastic: *I'm wild about my new boyfriend.* 13. *(of a card, such as a joker in some games)* able to be given any value the holder pleases. ~*adv.* 14. in a wild manner. 15. **run wild.** *a.* to grow without cultivation or care: *the garden has run wild.* *b.* to behave without restraint: *he has let his children run wild.* ~*n.* 16. *(often pl.)* a desolate or uninhabited region. 17. **the wild.** *a.* a free natural state of living. *b.* the wilderness. —**wildish** *adj.* —**wildly** *adv.* —**wildness** *n.*

wild carrot *n.* an umbelliferous plant of temperate regions, having clusters of white flowers and hooked fruits. Also called: **Queen Anne's lace**.

wildcat ('waɪld,kæt) *n.*, *pl. -cats* or *-cat*. 1. a wild European cat that resembles the domestic tabby but is larger and has a bushy tail. 2. any of various other

felines, such as the lynx and the caracal. **3.** *U.S.* another name for **bobcat**. **4.** *Inf.* a savage or aggressive person. **5.** an exploratory drilling for petroleum or natural gas. **6.** (*modifier*) *Chiefly U.S.* involving risk, esp. financially or commercially unsound: a **wildcat project**. ~*vb.* **-catting, -catted**. **7.** (*intr.*) to drill for petroleum or natural gas in an area having no known reserves. —'wild,catter *n.* —'wild,cating *n., adj.*

wildcat strike *n.* a strike begun by workers spontaneously or without union approval.

wildebeest ('wɪldi,bɪst, 'vil-) *n., pl.* **-beests** or **-beest**. another name for **gnu**.

wilderness ('wɪldənɪs) *n.* **1.** a wild uninhabited uncultivated region. **2.** any desolate area. **3.** a confused mass or collection. **4.** a **voice (crying) in the wilderness**, a person, group, etc., making a suggestion or plea that is ignored.

wildfire ('waɪld,fəɪə) *n.* **1.** a highly flammable material, such as Greek fire, formerly used in warfare. **2.** a. a raging and uncontrollable fire. b. anything that is disseminated quickly (esp. in **spread like wildfire**). **3.** another name for **will-o'-the-wisp**.

wild flower *n.* **1.** any flowering plant that grows in an uncultivated state. **2.** the flower of such a plant.

wildfowl ('waɪld,fəʊl) *n.* **1.** any bird that is hunted by man, esp. any duck or similar aquatic bird. **2.** such birds collectively. —'wild,fowler *n.* —'wild,fowling *adj., n.*

wild-goose chase *n.* an absurd or hopeless pursuit, as of something unattainable.

wildlife ('waɪld,lɑɪf) *n.* wild animals and plants collectively: a term used esp. of fauna.

wild oats *pl. n.* *Sl.* the indiscretions of youth, esp. dissoluteness before settling down (esp. in **sow one's wild oats**).

wild rice *n.* an aquatic North American grass with dark-coloured edible grain.

wild silk *n.* **1.** silk produced by wild silkworms. **2.** a fabric made from this, or from short fibres of silk designed to imitate it.

Wild West *n.* the western U.S. during its settlement, esp. with reference to its frontier lawlessness.

wile (waɪl) *n.* **1.** trickery, cunning, or craftiness. **2.** (*usually pl.*) an artful or seductive trick or ploy. ~*vb.* **3.** (*tr.*) to lure, beguile, or entice.

wilful or *U.S. willful* ('wɪlfəl) *adj.* **1.** intent on having one's own way; headstrong or obstinate. **2.** intentional: **wilful murder**. —'wilfully or *U.S. willfully* *adv.* —'wilfulness or *U.S. willfulness* *n.*

will ('wɪl) *vb. past would.* (takes an infinitive without *to* or an implied infinitive) used as an auxiliary. **1.** (esp. with *you, he, she, it, they*, or a noun as subject) to make the future tense. Cf. **shall** (sense 1). **2.** to express resolution on the part of the speaker: *I will buy that radio if it's the last thing I do*. **3.** to indicate willingness or desire: *will you help me with this problem?* **4.** to express commands: *you will report your findings to me tomorrow*. **5.** to express ability: *this rope will support a load*. **6.** to express probability or expectation: *that will be Jim telephoning*. **7.** to express customary practice or inevitability: *boys will be boys*. **8.** (with the infinitive always implied) to express desire: usually in polite requests: *stay if you will*. **9.** **what you will**, whatever you like.

▷ **Usage.** See at **shall**.

will ('wɪl) *n.* **1.** the faculty of conscious and deliberate choice of action. Related *adj.*: **voluntary**. **2.** the act or an instance of asserting a choice. **3.** a. the declaration of a person's wishes regarding the disposal of his property after his death. b. a document in which such wishes are expressed. **4.** desire; wish. **5.** determined intention: *where there's a will there's a way*. **6.** disposition towards others: *he bears you no ill will*. **7.** at **will**, at one's own desire or choice. **8.** with the best will in the world, even with the best of intentions. ~*vb.* (*mainly tr.; often takes a clause as object or an infinitive*) **9.** (*also intr.*) to exercise the faculty of volition in an attempt to accomplish (something): *he willed his wife's recovery from her illness*. **10.** to give (property) by will to a person, society, etc.: *he willed his art collection to the nation*. **11.** (*also intr.*) to order or decree: *the king wills that you shall die*. **12.** to choose or prefer: *wander where you will*. —'willer *n.*

willies ('wɪlɪz) *pl. n.* the *Sl.* nervousness, jitters, or fright (esp. in *give (or get) the willies*).

willing ('wɪlɪŋ) *adj.* **1.** favourably disposed or inclined; ready. **2.** cheerfully compliant. **3.** done, given, accepted, etc., freely or voluntarily. —'willingly *adv.* —'will-*ingness* *n.*

will-o'-the-wisp ('wɪləʊ'wɪsp) *n.* **1.** Also called: **friar's lantern**, **ignis fatuus**, **jack-o'-lantern**. a pale flame or phosphorescence sometimes seen over marshy ground at night. It is believed to be due to the spontaneous combustion of methane originating from decomposing organic matter. **2.** a person or thing that is elusive or allures and misleads.

willow ('wɪləʊ) *n.* **1.** any of a large genus of trees and shrubs, such as the weeping willow and osiers of *N* temperate regions, which have graceful flexible branches and flowers in catkins. **2.** the whitish wood of certain of these trees. **3.** something made of willow wood, such as a cricket bat.

willowherb ('wɪləʊ,hɜ:b) *n.* any of various temperate and arctic plants having narrow leaves and terminal clusters of pink, purplish, or white flowers.

willow pattern *n.* a. a pattern incorporating a willow tree, river, bridge, and figures, typically in blue on a white ground, used on pottery and porcelain. b. (*as modifier*): a **willow-pattern plate**.

willowy ('wɪləʊ) *adj.* **1.** slender and graceful. **2.** flexible or pliant. **3.** covered or shaded with willows.

willpower ('wɪl,pəʊə) *n.* **1.** the ability to control oneself and determine one's actions. **2.** firmness of will.

willy-nilly ('wɪlɪ'nɪli) *adv.* **1.** whether desired or not. ~*adj.* **2.** occurring or taking place whether desired or not.

wilt ('wɪlt) *vb.* **1.** to become or cause to become limp or drooping: *insufficient water makes plants wilt*. **2.** to lose or cause to lose courage, strength, etc. ~*n.* **3.** the act of wilting or state of becoming wilted. **4.** any of various plant diseases characterized by permanent wilting.

wilt ('wɪlt) *vb.* *Arch. or dialect.* (used with the pronoun *thou* or its relative equivalent) a singular form of the present tense (indicative mood) of **will**.

Wilton ('wɪltən) *n.* a kind of carpet with a close velvet pile of cut loops.

Wilts. (wɪltz) *abbrev. for* Wiltshire.

wily ('waɪli) *adj.* **wilier, wiliest.** sly or crafty. —'wili-*ness* *n.*

wimble ('wɪmbəl) *n.* **1.** any of a number of hand tools used for boring holes. ~*vb.* **2.** to bore (a hole) with a wimble.

wimple ('wɪmpəl) *n.* **1.** a piece of cloth draped around the head to frame the face, worn by women in the Middle Ages and still a part of the habit of some nuns. ~*vb.* **2.** (*tr.*) *Arch.* to cover with or put a wimple on. **3. *Arch.* (esp. of a veil) to lie or cause to lie in folds or pleats.**

Wimpy ('wɪmpɪ) *n.* *Trademark.* a hamburger served in a soft bread roll.

win (wɪn) *vb. winning, won.* **1.** (*intr.*) to achieve first place in a competition. **2.** (*tr.*) to gain (a prize, first place, etc.) in a competition. **3.** (*tr.*) to succeed in or gain (something) with an effort: *we won recognition*. **4.** **win one's spurs.** a. to achieve recognition in some field of endeavour. b. *History.* to be knighted. **5.** to gain victory or triumph in (a battle, argument, etc.). **6.** (*tr.*) to earn (a living, etc.) by work. **7.** (*tr.*) to capture: *the Germans never won Leningrad*. **8.** (*when intr., foll. by out, through, etc.*) to reach with difficulty (a desired position) or become free, loose, etc., with effort: *the boat won the shore*. **9.** (*tr.; often foll. by over*) to gain the support or consent of (someone): *only I can win him over!* **10.** (*tr.*) to gain (the sympathy, loyalty, etc.) of someone. **11.** (*tr.*) to persuade (a woman, etc.) to marry one. **12.** (*tr.*) to extract (ore, coal, etc.) from a mine or (metal or other minerals) from ore. **13.** **you can't win.** *Inf.* an expression of resignation after an unsuccessful attempt to overcome difficulties. ~*n.* **14.** *Inf.* a success, victory, or triumph. **15.** profit; winnings. —'winnable *adj.*

▷ **Usage.** *Win* has become common in informal English as a noun meaning gain or victory. It is, however, regarded by careful users of English as inappropriate in formal contexts.

wince (wɪnz) *vb.* **1.** (*intr.*) to start slightly, as with sudden pain; flinch. ~*n.* **2.** the act of wincing. —'wince-*r* *n.* —'wincingly *adv.*

winceyette ('wɪnsɪ'et) *n.* *Brit.* a plain-weave cotton fabric with slightly raised two-sided nap.

winch (wɪntʃ) *n.* **1.** a windlass driven by a hand- or power-operated crank. **2.** a hand- or power-operated crank by which a machine is driven. ~*vb.* **3.** (*tr.*; often foll. by *up* or *in*) to pull or lift using a winch.

Winchester disk ('wɪntʃɪstə) *n.* *Computers.* an inflexible disk in a sealed container with more storage capacity than a floppy disk. Also called: **hard disk**, **rigid disk**.

Winchester rifle *n.* *Trademark.* a breech-loading slide-action repeating rifle. Often shortened to **Winchester**.

wind (*wɪnd*) *n.* 1. a current of air, sometimes of considerable force, moving generally horizontally from areas of high pressure to areas of low pressure. 2. *Chiefly poetic.* the direction from which a wind blows, usually a cardinal point of the compass. 3. air artificially moved, as by a fan, pump, etc. 4. a trend, tendency, or force: *the winds of revolution*. 5. *Inf.* a hint; suggestion: *we got wind that you were coming*. 6. something deemed insubstantial: *his talk was all wind*. 7. breath, as used in respiration or talk: *you're just wasting wind*. 8. (often used in sports) the power to breathe normally: *his wind is weak*. 9. *Music.* a. a wind instrument or wind instruments considered collectively. b. (*often pl.*) the musicians who play wind instruments in an orchestra. c. (*modifier*) of or composed of wind instruments: *a wind ensemble*. 10. gas generated in the alimentary canal. 11. the air on which the scent of an animal is carried to hounds or on which the scent of a hunter is carried to his quarry. 12. **between wind and water.** a. the part of a vessel's hull below the water line that is exposed by rolling or by wave action. b. any particularly susceptible point. 13. **break wind.** to release intestinal gas through the anus. 14. **get or have the wind up.** *Inf.* to become frightened. 15. **how or which way the wind blows or lies.** what appears probable. 16. **in the wind.** about to happen. 17. **in the teeth (or eye) of the wind.** directly into the wind. 18. **into the wind.** against the wind or upwind. 19. **off the wind.** *Naut.* away from the direction from which the wind is blowing. 20. **on the wind.** *Naut.* as near as possible to the direction from which the wind is blowing. 21. **put the wind up.** *Inf.* to frighten or alarm. 22. **raise the wind.** *Brit. inf.* to obtain the necessary funds. 23. **sail close or near to the wind.** to come near the limits of danger or indecency. 24. **take the wind out of someone's sails.** to disconcert or deflate someone. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 25. to cause (someone) to be short of breath: *the blow winded him*. 26. a. to detect the scent of. b. to pursue (quarry) by following its scent. 27. to expose to air, as in drying, etc. —**windless** *adj.*

wind (*wænd*) *vb.* **winding, wound.** 1. (often foll. by *around, about, or upon*) to turn or coil (string, cotton, etc.) around some object or point or (of string, etc.) to be turned, etc., around some object or point: *he wound a scarf around his head*. 2. (*tr.*) to cover or wreath by or as if by coiling, wrapping, etc.: *we wound the body in a shroud*. 3. (*tr.*) often foll. by *up* to tighten the spring of (a clockwork mechanism). 4. (*tr.*; foll. by *off*) to remove by uncoiling or unwinding. 5. (*usually intr.*) to move or cause to move in a sinuous, spiral, or circular course: *the river winds through the hills*. 6. (*tr.*) to introduce indirectly or deviously: *he is winding his own opinions into the report*. 7. (*tr.*) to cause to twist or revolve: *he wound the handle*. 8. (*tr.*; usually foll. by *up or down*) to move by cranking: *please wind up the window*. ~*n.* 9. the act of winding or state of being wound. 10. a single turn, bend, etc.: *a wind in the river*. ~*See also* **wind down, wind up**. —**windable** *adj.* —**winder** *n.*

windbag (*'wɪnd,bæg*) *n.* 1. *Sl.* a voluble person who has little of interest to communicate. 2. the bag in a set of bagpipes, which provides a continuous flow of air to the pipes.

windblown (*'wɪnd,bloʊn*) *adj.* 1. blown by the wind. 2. (of trees, shrubs, etc.) growing in a shape determined by the prevailing winds.

wind-borne *adj.* (esp. of plant seeds or pollen) transported by wind.

windbreak (*'wɪnd,breɪk*) *n.* a fence, line of trees, etc., serving as a protection from the wind by breaking its force.

windcheater (*'wɪnd,tʃi:tə*) *n.* a warm jacket, usually with a close-fitting knitted neck, cuffs, and waistband.

wind cone (*wɪnd*) *n.* another name for **windsock**.

wind down (*wænd*) *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. (*tr.*) to lower or move down by cranking. 2. (*intr.*) (of a clock spring) to become slack. 3. (*intr.*) to diminish gradually in force or power; relax.

winded (*'wɪndɪd*) *adj.* 1. out of breath, as from strenuous exercise. 2. (*in combination*) having breath or wind as specified: *broken-winded; short-winded*.

windfall (*'wɪnd,fɔ:l*) *n.* 1. a piece of unexpected good fortune, esp. financial gain. 2. something blown down by the wind, esp. a piece of fruit.

windflower (*'wɪnd,flaʊə*) *n.* any of various anemone plants, such as the wood anemone.

wind gauge (*wɪnd*) *n.* 1. another name for **anemometer**.

eter. 2. a scale on a gun sight indicating the amount of deflection necessary to allow for windage. 3. *Music.* a device for measuring the wind pressure in the bellows of an organ.

winding (*'waɪndɪŋ*) *n.* 1. a curving or sinuous course or movement. 2. anything that has been wound or wrapped around something. 3. a particular manner or style in which something has been wound. 4. a curve, bend, or complete turn in wound material, a road, etc. 5. (*often pl.*) devious thoughts or behaviour: *the tortuous windings of political argumentation*. 6. one or more turns of wire forming a continuous coil through which an electric current can pass, as used in transformers, generators, etc. —**windingly** *adv.*

winding sheet *n.* a sheet in which a corpse is wrapped for burial; shroud.

wind instrument (*wɪnd*) *n.* any musical instrument sounded by the breath, such as the woodwinds and brass instruments of an orchestra.

windjammer (*'wɪnd,dʒæmə*) *n.* a large merchant sailing ship.

windlass (*'wɪndləs*) *n.* 1. a machine for raising weights by winding a rope or chain upon a barrel or drum driven by a crank, motor, etc. ~*vb.* 2. (*tr.*) to raise or haul (a weight, etc.) by means of a windlass.

windmill (*'wɪnd,mɪl*, *'wɪn*, *mil*) *n.* 1. a machine for grinding or pumping driven by a set of adjustable vanes or sails that are caused to turn by the force of the wind. 2. the set of vanes or sails that drives such a mill. 3. Also called: **whirligig**. *Brit.* a toy consisting of plastic or paper vanes attached to a stick in such a manner that they revolve like the sails of a windmill. 4. an imaginary opponent or evil (esp. in **tilt at or fight windmills**). ~*vb.* 5. to move or cause to move like the arms of a windmill.

window (*'wɪndəʊ*) *n.* 1. a light framework, made of timber, metal, or plastic, that contains glass or glazed opening frames and is placed in a wall or roof to let in light or air or to see through. Related *adj.*: **fenestral**. 2. an opening in the wall or roof of a building that is provided to let in light or air or to see through. 3. Short for **windowpane**. 4. the area behind a glass window in a shop used for display. 5. any opening or structure resembling a window in function or appearance, such as the transparent area of an envelope revealing an address within. 6. *Astronautics.* Also called: **launch window**, the limited period during which a spacecraft can be launched on a particular mission. 7. *Physics.* a region of the spectrum in which a medium transmits electromagnetic radiation. 8. (*modifier*) of or relating to a window or windows: *a window ledge*. ~*vb.* 9. (*tr.*) to furnish with or as if with windows.

window box *n.* a long narrow box, placed on or outside a windowsill, in which plants are grown.

window-dressing *n.* 1. the ornamentation of shop windows, designed to attract customers. 2. the pleasant aspect of an idea, etc., which is stressed to conceal the real nature. —**window-dresser** *n.*

windowpane (*'wɪndəʊ,peɪn*) *n.* a sheet of glass in a window.

window seat *n.* 1. a seat below a window, esp. in a bay window. 2. a seat beside a window in a bus, train, etc.

window-shop *vb.* **-shopping, -shopped.** (*intr.*) to look at goods in shop windows without buying them. —**window-shopper** *n.* —**window-shopping** *n.*

windowsill (*'wɪndəʊ,sɪl*) *n.* a sill below a window.

windpipe (*'wɪnd,paɪp*) *n.* a nontechnical name for **trachea** (sense 1).

windscreen (*'wɪnd,skri:n*) *n.* *Brit.* the sheet of flat or curved glass that forms a window of a motor vehicle, esp. the front window. U.S. name: **windshield**.

windscreen wiper *n.* *Brit.* an electrically operated blade with a rubber edge that wipes a windscreen clear of rain, snow, etc. U.S. name: **windshield wiper**.

windshield (*'wɪnd,ʃɪld*) *n.* the U.S. name for **windscreen**.

windsock (*'wɪnd,sɒk*) *n.* a truncated cone of textile mounted on a mast so that it is free to rotate about a vertical axis: used, esp. at airports, to indicate the local wind direction. Also called: **air sock, drogue, wind sleeve, wind cone**.

Windsor chair (*'wɪnzə*) *n.* a simple wooden chair, popular in England and America from the 18th century, usually having a shaped seat, splayed legs, and a back of many spindles.

Windsor knot *n.* a wide triangular knot, produced by making extra turns in tying a tie.

windsurfing ('wind,sɜːfɪŋ) *n.* the sport of riding on water using a surfboard steered and propelled by an attached sail.

windswept ('wind,swept) *adj.* open to or swept by the wind.

wind tunnel (wind) *n.* a chamber for testing the aerodynamic properties of aircraft, aerofoils, etc., in which a current of air can be maintained at a constant velocity.

wind up (waɪnd) *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. to bring to or reach a conclusion: *he wound up the proceedings.* 2. (*tr.*) to tighten the spring of (a clockwork mechanism). 3. (*tr.*; usually passive) *Inf.* to make nervous, tense, etc.: *he was all wound up before the big fight.* 4. (*tr.*) to roll (thread, etc.) into a ball. 5. an informal word for **liquidate** (sense 2). 6. (*intr.*) *Inf.* to end up (in a specified state): *you'll wind up without any teeth.* ~*n.* **wind-up.** *Inf.*, chiefly U.S. 7. the act of concluding. 8. the end.

windward ('waɪndwəd) *Chiefly naut.* ~*adj.* 1. of, in, or moving to the quarter from which the wind blows. ~*n.* 2. the windward point. 3. the side towards the wind. ~*adv.* 4. towards the wind. —*Cf.* **leeward.**

windy ('windi) *adj.* **windier, windiest.** 1. of, resembling, or relating to wind; stormy. 2. swept by or open to powerful winds. 3. marked by or given to prolonged and often boastful speech: *windy orations.* 4. void of substance. 5. an informal word for **flatulent**. 6. *Sl.* frightened. —*windily adv.* —**windiness n.**

wine (waɪn) *n.* 1. a. an alcoholic drink produced by the fermenting of grapes with water and sugar. b. (as modifier): *the wine harvest.* c. an alcoholic drink produced in this way from other fruits, flowers, etc.: *elderberry wine.* 2. a. a dark red colour, sometimes with a purplish tinge. b. (as *adj.*): *wine-coloured.* 3. anything resembling wine in its intoxicating or invigorating effect. 4. **new wine in old bottles.** something new added to or imposed upon an old or established order. ~*vb.* 5. (*intr.*) to drink wine. 6. **wine and dine.** to entertain or be entertained with wine and fine food. —**wineless adj.**

winebibber ('waɪn,bɪbə) *n.* a person who drinks a great deal of wine. —**winebibbing n.**

wine cellar *n.* 1. a place, such as a dark cool cellar, where wine is stored. 2. the stock of wines stored there.

wineglass ('waɪn,glɑːs) *n.* 1. a glass drinking vessel, typically having a small bowl on a stem, with a flared foot. 2. Also called: **wineglassful.** the amount that such a glass will hold.

winepress ('waɪn,pres) *n.* any equipment used for squeezing the juice from grapes in order to make wine.

wineskin ('waɪn,skɪn) *n.* the skin of a sheep or goat sewn up and used as a holder for wine.

wing (wɪŋ) *n.* 1. either of the modified forelimbs of a bird that are covered with large feathers and specialized for flight in most species. 2. one of the organs of flight of an insect, consisting of a membranous outgrowth from the thorax containing a network of veins. 3. either of the organs of flight in certain other animals, esp. the forelimb of a bat. 4. a. a half of the main supporting aerofoil on an aircraft, confined to one side of it. b. the full span of the main supporting aerofoil on both sides of an aircraft. 5. an organ, structure, or apparatus resembling a wing. 6. anything suggesting a wing in form, function, or position, such as a sail of a windmill or a ship. 7. *Bot.* a. either of the lateral petals of a sweetpea or related flower. b. any of various outgrowths of a plant part, esp. the process on a wind-dispersed fruit or seed. 8. a means or cause of flight or rapid motion; flight: *fear gave wings to his feet.* 9. *Brit.* the part of a car body that surrounds the wheels. U.S. name: **fender**. 10. *Soccer, hockey, etc.* a. either of the two sides of the pitch near the touchline. b. a player stationed in such a position; winger. 11. a faction or group within a political party or other organization. See also **left wing, right wing.** 12. a part of a building that is subordinate to the main part. 13. the space offstage to the right or left of the acting area in a theatre. 14. **in or on the wings.** ready to step in when needed. 15. either of the two pieces that project forwards from the sides of some chairbacks. 16. (*pl.*) an insignia in the form of stylized wings worn by a qualified aircraft pilot. 17. an air force unit, esp. an RAF unit larger than a squadron. 18. any of various flattened organs or extensions in lower animals, esp. when used in locomotion. 19. **on the wing.** a. flying. b. travelling. 20. **take wing.** a. to lift off or fly away. b. to depart in haste. c. to become joyful. 21. **under one's wing.** in one's care. 22. **clip (someone's) wings.** to restrict (someone's) freedom. 23. **on wings.** flying or as if flying. 24. **spread or stretch one's wings.** to make full

use of one's abilities. ~*vb.* (*mainly tr.*) 25. (*also intr.*) to make (one's way) swiftly on or as if on wings. 26. to shoot or wound (a bird, person, etc.) superficially, in the wing or arm, etc. 27. to cause to fly or move swiftly: *to wing an arrow.* 28. to provide with wings. —**wingless adj.** —**wing,like adj.**

wing chair *n.* an easy chair having wings on each side of the back.

wing commander *n.* an officer holding commissioned rank in certain air forces, such as the Royal Air Force: junior to a group captain and senior to a squadron leader.

wing nut *n.* a threaded nut tightened by hand by means of two flat lugs or wings projecting from the central body. Also called: **butterfly nut.**

wingspan ('wɪŋ,spæn) or **wingspread** ('wɪŋ,spreɪd) *n.* the distance between the wing tips of an aircraft, bird, etc.

wink (wɪŋk) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to close and open one eye quickly, deliberately, or in an exaggerated fashion to convey friendliness, etc. 2. to close and open (an eye or the eyes) momentarily. 3. (*tr.*; foll. by away, back, etc.) to force away (tears, etc.) by winking. 4. (*tr.*) to signal with a wink. 5. (*intr.*) (of a light) to gleam or flash intermittently. ~*n.* 6. a winking movement, esp. one conveying a signal, etc., or such a signal. 7. an interrupted flashing of light. 8. a brief moment of time. 9. *Inf.* the smallest amount, esp. of sleep. 10. **tip the wink.** *Brit. inf.* to give a hint.

wink at *vb.* (*intr., prep.*) to connive at; disregard: *the authorities winked at corruption.*

winker ('wɪŋkə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that winks. 2. *Northern Brit. dialect.* an eye. 3. another name for **blinker** (sense 1).

winkle ('wɪŋkl) *n.* 1. See **periwinkle**. ~*vb.* 2. (*tr.*; usually foll. by out, out of, etc.) *Inf.*, chiefly *Brit.* to extract or prise out.

winner ('wɪnə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that wins. 2. *Sl.* a person or thing that seems sure to win or succeed.

winning ('wɪnɪŋ) *adj.* 1. (of a person, character, etc.) charming, engaging, or attractive. ~*n.* 2. a shaft or seam of coal. 3. (*pl.*) money, prizes, or valuables won, esp. in gambling. —**winningly adv.** —**winningness n.**

Winnipeg couch ('wɪnɪ,peg) *n.* *Canad.* a couch with no arms or back, opening out into a double bed.

winnow ('wɪnəʊ) *vb.* 1. to separate (grain) from (chaff) by means of a wind or current of air. 2. (*tr.*) to examine in order to select the desirable elements. 3. (*tr.*) Rare: to blow upon; fan. ~*n.* 4. a. a device for winnowing. b. the act or process of winnowing. —**winnowing n.**

wino ('waɪnəʊ) *n.*, *pl.* -os. *Chiefly U.S.* a person who habitually drinks wine as a means of getting drunk.

winsome ('wɪnsəm) *adj.* charming; winning; engaging: *a winsome smile.* —**winsomely adv.**

winter ('wɪntə) *n.* 1. a. (*sometimes cap.*) the coldest season of the year, between autumn and spring, astronomically from the December solstice to the March equinox in the N hemisphere and at the opposite time of year in the S hemisphere. b. (*as modifier*): *winter pasture.* 2. the period of cold weather associated with the winter. 3. a time of decline, decay, etc. 4. *Chiefly poetic.* a year represented by this season: *a man of 72 winters.* ~*Related adj.* **hibernal.** ~*vb.* 5. (*intr.*) to spend the winter in a specified place. 6. to keep or feed (farm animals, etc.) during the winter or (of farm animals) to be kept or fed during the winter. —**winterer n.** —**winterless adj.**

wintergreen ('wɪntə,grɪn) *n.* 1. any of a genus of evergreen ericaceous shrubs, esp. a subshrub of E North America, which has white bell-shaped flowers and edible red berries. 2. **oil of wintergreen.** an aromatic compound, formerly made from this and various other plants but now synthesized: used medicinally and for flavouring. 3. any of a genus of plants, such as **common wintergreen**, of temperate and arctic regions, having rounded leaves and small pink globose flowers. 4. **chickweed wintergreen.** a plant of N Europe and N Asia belonging to the primrose family, having white flowers and leaves arranged in a whorl.

winter solstice *n.* the time at which the sun is at its southernmost point in the sky (northernmost point in the S hemisphere) appearing at noon at its lowest altitude above the horizon. It occurs about December 22 (June 21 in the S hemisphere).

winter sports *pl. n.* sports held in the open air on snow or ice, esp. skiing.

wintertime ('wɪntə,tʌɪm) *n.* the winter season. Also (archaic): **wintertide** ('wɪntə,tʌɪd).

winty ('wɪntri) or **wintery** ('wɪntəri) *adj.* **-trier, -triest.** 1. (esp. of weather) of or characteristic of winter. 2. lacking cheer or warmth; bleak. —**wintrily** *adv.* —**wintriness** or **winteriness** *n.*

winy ('waɪni) *adj.* **winiest.** having the taste or qualities of wine; heady.

wipe (waɪp) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to rub (a surface or object) lightly, esp. with (a cloth, hand, etc.), as in removing dust, water, etc. 2. (usually foll. by *off, away, from, up, etc.*) to remove by or as if by rubbing lightly: *he wiped the dirt from his hands*. 3. to eradicate or cancel (a thought, memory, etc.). 4. *Austral. inf.* to abandon or reject (a person). 5. to apply (oil, etc.) by wiping. 6. **wipe the floor with (someone).** *Inf.* to defeat decisively. ~*n.* 7. the act or an instance of wiping. 8. *Dialect.* a sweeping blow.

wipe out *vb.* (adv.) 1. (tr.) to destroy completely. 2. (tr.) *Inf.* to kill. 3. (intr.) to fall off a surfboard. ~*n.* **wipeout.** 4. an act or instance of wiping out. 5. the interference of one radio signal by another so that reception is impossible.

wiper ('waɪpə) *n.* 1. any piece of cloth, such as a handkerchief, etc., used for wiping. 2. a cam rotated to allow a part to fall under its own weight, as used in stamping machines, etc. 3. See **windscreen wiper**. 4. *Electrical engineering.* a movable conducting arm that makes contact with a row or ring of contacts.

wire (waɪə) *n.* 1. a slender flexible strand or rod of metal. 2. a cable consisting of several metal strands twisted together. 3. a flexible metallic conductor, esp. one made of copper, usually insulated, and used to carry electric current in a circuit. 4. (*modifier*) of, relating to, or made of wire: *a wire fence*. 5. anything made of wire, such as wire netting. 6. a long continuous wire or cable connecting points in a telephone or telegraph system. 7. *Old-fashioned.* an informal name for **telegram** or **telegraph**. 8. *U.S. horse racing.* the finishing line on a racecourse. 9. a snare made of wire for rabbits and similar animals. 10. **get in under the wire.** *Inf., chiefly U.S.* to accomplish something with little time to spare. 11. **get one's wires crossed.** *Inf.* to misunderstand. 12. **pull wires.** *Chiefly U.S.* to exert influence behind the scenes; pull strings. ~*vb.* (*mainly tr.*) 13. (*also intr.*) to send a telegram to (a person or place). 14. to send (news, a message, etc.) by telegraph. 15. to equip (an electrical system, circuit, or component) with wires. 16. to fasten or furnish with wire. 17. to snare with wire. —**wire, like** *adj.*

wire-gauge *n.* 1. a flat plate with slots in which standard wire sizes can be measured. 2. a standard system of sizes for measuring the diameters of wires.

wire-haired *adj.* (of an animal) having a rough wiry coat.

wireless ('waɪələs) *n.*, *Chiefly Brit., old-fashioned.* another word for **radio**.

wireless telegraphy *n.* another name for **radio-telegraphy**.

wire netting *n.* a net made of wire, often galvanized, that is used for fencing, etc.

wirepuller ('waɪə,pʊlə) *n.* *Chiefly U.S.* a person who uses private or secret influence for his own ends. —**wire, pulling** *n.*

wire service *n.* *Chiefly U.S.* an agency supplying news, etc., to newspapers, radio, and television stations, etc.

wiretap ('waɪə,tæp) *vb.* **-tapping, -tapped.** to make a connection to a telegraph or telephone wire in order to obtain information secretly. —**wire, tapper** *n.*

wire wool *n.* a mass of fine wire, used esp. to clean kitchen articles.

wireworm ('waɪə,wɜ:m) *n.* the wormlike larva of various beetles, which feeds on the roots of many plants and is a serious pest.

wiring ('waɪərɪŋ) *n.* 1. the network of wires used in an electrical system, device, or circuit. ~*adj.* 2. used in wiring.

wiry ('waɪəri) *adj.* **wirier, wiriest.** 1. (of people or animals) slender but strong in constitution. 2. made of or resembling wire, esp. in stiffness: *wiry hair*. 3. (of a sound) produced by or as if by a vibrating wire. —**wirily** *adv.* —**wiriness** *n.*

wisdom ('wɪzdəm) *n.* 1. the ability or result of an ability to think and act utilizing knowledge, experience, understanding, common sense, and insight. 2. accumulated knowledge or enlightenment. 3. *Arch.* a wise saying or wise sayings. ~*Related adj.:* **sagacious**.

wisdom tooth *n.* 1. any of the four molar teeth, one at the back of each side of the jaw, that are the last of the permanent teeth to erupt. Technical name: **third molar**. 2. **cut one's wisdom teeth.** to arrive at the age of discretion.

wise ('waɪz) *adj.* 1. possessing, showing, or prompted by wisdom or discernment. 2. prudent; sensible. 3. shrewd; crafty: *a wise plan*. 4. well-informed; erudite. 5. informed or knowing (esp. in **none the wiser**). 6. *Sl.* (*postpositive*; often foll. by *to*) in the know, esp. possessing inside information (about). 7. *Arch.* possessing powers of magic. 8. **be or get wise.** (often foll. by *to*) *Inf.* to be or become aware or informed (of something). 9. **put wise.** (often foll. by *to*) *Sl.* to inform or warn (of). ~*vb.* 10. See **wise up**. —**'wisely** *adv.* —**'wiseness** *n.*

wise ('waɪz) *n.* *Arch.* way, manner, fashion, or respect (esp. in **any wise, in no wise**).

-wise *adv.* combining form. 1. indicating direction or manner: *clockwise*; *likewise*. 2. with reference to: *businesswise*.

▷ **Usage.** The addition of *-wise* to a noun as a replacement for a lengthier phrase (such as *as far as...is concerned*) is considered unacceptable by most careful speakers and writers: *talentwise, he's a little weak* (he's a little weak as regards talent); *the company is thriving profitwise* (as far as profits are concerned, the company is thriving).

wiseacre ('waɪz,eɪkə) *n.* 1. a person who wishes to seem wise. 2. a wise person: often used facetiously or contemptuously.

wisecrack ('waɪz,kɹæk) *Inf.* ~*n.* 1. a flippant jibe or sardonic remark. ~*vb.* (intr.) 2. to make a wisecrack. —**wise, cracker** *n.*

wise guy *n.* *Sl.* a person who is given to making conceited, sardonic, or insolent comments.

wise up *vb.* (adv.) *Sl., chiefly U.S.* (often foll. by *to*) to become or cause to become aware or informed (of).

wish (wɪʃ) *vb.* 1. (when *tr.*, takes a clause as object or an infinitive; when *intr.*, often foll. by *for*) to want or desire (something, often that which cannot be or is not the case): *I wish I lived in Italy*. 2. (tr.) to feel or express a desire or hope concerning the future or fortune of: *I wish you well*. 3. (tr.) to desire or prefer to be as specified. 4. (tr.) to greet as specified: *he wished us good afternoon*. ~*n.* 5. the expression of some desire or mental inclination: *to make a wish*. 6. something desired or wished for: *he got his wish*. 7. (*usually pl.*) expressed hopes or desire, esp. for someone's welfare, health, etc. 8. (*often pl.*) *Formal.* a polite order or request. —**wisher** *n.*

wishbone ('wɪʃ,bəʊn) *n.* the V-shaped bone above the breastbone in most birds consisting of the fused clavicles.

wishful ('wɪʃfʊl) *adj.* having wishes or characterized by wishing. —**wishfully** *adv.* —**wishfulness** *n.*

wishful thinking *n.* the erroneous belief that one's wishes are in accordance with reality. —**wishful thinker** *n.*

wish on *vb.* (tr., prep.) to hope that (someone or something) should be imposed (on someone); foist: *I wouldn't wish my wife on anyone*.

wishy-washy ('wɪʃɪ,wɒʃɪ) *adj.* *Inf.* 1. lacking in substance, force, colour, etc. 2. watery; thin.

wisp (wɪsp) *n.* 1. a thin, light, delicate, or fibrous piece or strand, such as a streak of smoke or a lock of hair. 2. a small bundle, as of hay or straw. 3. anything slender and delicate: *a wisp of a girl*. 4. a mere suggestion or hint. 5. a flock of birds, esp. snipe. —**'wisp, like** *adj.* —**'wispy** *adj.*

wist (wɪst) *vb.* *Arch.* the past tense or past participle of **wit**.

wisteria ('wɪstərɪə) *n.* any twining woody vine of the genus *Wisteria*, of E Asia and North America, having blue, purple, or white flowers in large drooping clusters.

wistful ('wɪstfʊl) *adj.* sadly pensive, esp. about something yearned for. —**wistfully** *adv.* —**wistfulness** *n.*

wit (wɪt) *n.* 1. the talent or quality of using unexpected associations between contrasting or disparate words or ideas to make a clever humorous effect. 2. speech or writing showing this quality. 3. a person possessing, showing, or noted for such an ability. 4. practical intelligence (esp. in **have the wit to**). 5. *Arch.* mental capacity or a person possessing it.

wit (wɪt) *vb.* 1. *Arch.* to be or become aware of (something). ~*adv.* 2. to wit, that is to say; namely (used to introduce statements, as in legal documents).

witblitz ('vɪt,blɪts) *n.* *S. African.* alcoholic drink illegally distilled.

witch (wɪtʃ) *n.* 1. a person, usually female, who practises or professes to practise magic or sorcery, esp. black magic, or is believed to have dealings with the devil. 2. an ugly or wicked old woman. 3. a fascinating or enchanting woman. ~vb. (tr.) 4. a less common word for **bewitch**. —'witch,like *adj.*

witchcraft ('wɪtʃ,kra:ft) *n.* 1. the art or power of bringing magical or preternatural power to bear or the act or practice of attempting to do so. 2. the influence of magic or sorcery. 3. fascinating or bewitching influence or charm.

witch doctor *n.* a man in certain societies, esp. preliterate ones, who appears to possess magical powers, used esp. to cure sickness but also to harm people. Also called: **shaman, medicine man**.

witch-elm *n.* a variant spelling of **wych-elm**.

witchery ('wɪtʃəri) *n.*, pl. -eries. 1. the practice of witchcraft. 2. magical or bewitching influence or charm.

witches' Sabbath *n.* another name for **Sabbath** (sense 4).

witch hazel or **wych-hazel** *n.* 1. any of a genus of trees and shrubs of North America, having ornamental yellow flowers and medicinal properties. 2. an astringent medicinal solution containing an extract of the bark and leaves of one of these shrubs, applied to treat bruises, inflammation, etc.

witch-hunt *n.* a rigorous campaign to expose dissenters on the pretext of safeguarding the public welfare. —'witch-hunting *n.*, *adj.*

with (wɪð, wə) *prep.* 1. using; by means of: *he killed her with an axe*. 2. accompanying; in the company of: *the lady you were with*. 3. possessing; having: *a man with a red moustache*. 4. concerning or regarding: *be patient with her*. 5. in spite of: *with all his talents, he was still humble*. 6. used to indicate a time or distance by which something is away from something else: *with three miles to go, he collapsed*. 7. in a manner characterized by: *writing with abandon*. 8. caused or prompted by: *shaking with rage*. 9. often used with a verb indicating a reciprocal action or relation between the subject and the preposition's object: *agreeing with me*. 10. **with it** *Inf.* a. fashionable; in style. b. comprehending what is happening or being said. 11. **with that**, after that.

withal (wɪð'ɔ:l) *adv.* 1. Literary. as well. 2. Arch. therewith. ~*prep.* 3. (postpositive) an archaic word for **with**.

withdraw (wɪð'drɔ:) *vb.* -drawing, -drew, -drawn. 1. (tr.) to take or draw back or away; remove. 2. (tr.) to remove from deposit or investment in a bank, etc. 3. (tr.) to retract or recall (a promise, etc.). 4. (intr.) to retire or retreat: *the troops withdrew*. 5. (intr.; often foll. by *from*) to depart (from): *he withdrew from public life*. 6. (intr.) to detach oneself socially, emotionally, or mentally. —'with'drawer *n.*

withdrawal (wɪð'drɔ:l) *n.* 1. an act or process of withdrawing. 2. the period a drug addict goes through following abrupt termination in the use of narcotics, usually characterized by physical and mental symptoms (**withdrawal symptoms**).

withdrawn (wɪð'drɔ:n) *vb.* 1. the past participle of **withdraw**. ~*adj.* 2. unusually reserved or shy. 3. secluded or remote.

withe (wɪð, wɪð, waɪð) *n.* 1. a strong flexible twig, esp. of willow, suitable for binding things together; withy. 2. a band or rope of twisted twigs or stems. ~vb. 3. (tr.) to bind with withes.

wither ('wɪðə) *vb.* 1. (intr.) (esp. of a plant) to droop, wilt, or shrivel up. 2. (intr.; often foll. by *away*) to fade or waste: *all hope withered away*. 3. (intr.) to decay or disintegrate. 4. (tr.) to cause to wilt or lose vitality. 5. (tr.) to abash, esp. with a scornful look. —'witherer *n.* —'witheringly *adv.*

withers ('wɪðəz) *pl. n.* the highest part of the back of a horse, behind the neck between the shoulders.

withershins ('wɪðəʃɪnz) or **widdershins** *adv.* Chiefly *Scot.* in the direction contrary to the apparent course of the sun; anticlockwise.

withhold (wɪð'həʊld) *vb.* -holding, -held. 1. (tr.) to keep back: *he withheld his permission*. 2. (tr.) to hold back; restrain. 3. (intr.; usually foll. by *from*) to refrain or forbear. —'with'holder *n.*

within ('wɪðɪn) *prep.* 1. in; inside; enclosed or encased by. 2. before (a period of time) has elapsed: *within a week*. 3. not differing by more than (a specified amount) from: *live within your means*. ~*adv.* 4. *Formal.* inside; internally.

without (wɪð'aʊt) *prep.* 1. not having: *a traveller*

without much money. 2. not accompanied by: *he came without his wife*. 3. not making use of: *it is not easy to undo screws without a screwdriver*. 4. (foll. by a present participle) not, while not, or after not: *she can sing for two minutes without drawing breath*. 5. Arch. on the outside of: *without the city walls*. ~*adv.* 6. *Formal.* outside.

withstand (wɪð'stænd) *vb.* -standing, -stood. 1. (tr.) to resist. 2. (intr.) to remain firm in endurance or opposition. —'with'stander *n.*

withy ('wɪði) *n.*, pl. **withies**, a variant spelling of **withe** (senses 1, 2).

witless ('wɪtlɪs) *adj.* lacking wit, intelligence, or sense. —'witlessly *adv.* —'witlessness *n.*

witness ('wɪtnɪs) *n.* 1. a person who has seen or can give first-hand evidence of some event. 2. a person or thing giving or serving as evidence. 3. a person who testifies, esp. in a court of law, to events or facts within his own knowledge. 4. a person who attests to the genuineness of a document, signature, etc., by adding his own signature. 5. **bear witness**. a. to give written or oral testimony. b. to be evidence or proof of. ~Related *adj.* **testimonial**. ~vb. 6. (tr.) to see, be present at, or know at first hand. 7. to give as evidence (of). 8. (tr.) to be the scene or setting of: *this field has witnessed a battle*. 9. (intr.) to testify, esp. in a court of law, to events within a person's own knowledge. 10. (tr.) to attest to the genuineness of (a document, etc.) by adding one's own signature. —'witnesser *n.*

witness box or *esp.* **U.S. witness stand** *n.* the place in a court of law in which witnesses stand to give evidence.

wits (wɪts) *pl. n.* 1. (sometimes *sing.*) the ability to reason and act, esp. quickly (esp. in **have one's wits about one**). 2. (sometimes *sing.*) right mind, sanity (esp. in **out of one's wits**). 3. at one's wits' end, at a loss to know how to proceed. 4. **live by one's wits**, to gain a livelihood by craftiness rather than by hard work.

-witted *adj.* (in combination) having wits or intelligence as specified: *slow-witted; dim-witted*.

witter ('wɪtə) *vb.* (intr.) *Inf.* (often foll. by *on*) to chatter or babble pointlessly or at unnecessary length.

witticism ('wɪtɪsɪzəm) *n.* a clever or witty remark.

witting ('wɪtɪŋ) *adj.* Rare. 1. deliberate; intentional. 2. aware. —'wittingly *adv.*

witty ('wɪtɪ) *adj.* -tier, -tiest. 1. characterized by clever humour or wit. 2. Arch. or *Brit. dialect.* intelligent. —'wittily *adv.* —'wittiness *n.*

wives (waɪvz) *n.* 1. the plural of **wife**. 2. **old wives' tale**, a superstitious tradition, occasionally one that contains an element of truth.

wizard ('wɪzəd) *n.* 1. a male witch or a man who practises or professes to practise magic or sorcery. 2. a person who is outstandingly clever in some specified field. ~*adj.* 3. *Inf.* chiefly *Brit.* superb; outstanding. 4. of or relating to a wizard or wizardry. —'wizardsly *adj.*

wizardry ('wɪzədri) *n.* the art, skills, and practices of a wizard, sorcerer, or magician.

wizen ('wɪzən) *vb.* to make or become shrivelled. —'wizened *adj.*

wk. *abbrev. for:* 1. (pl. **wks.**) week. 2. work.

WNW *abbrev. for* west-northwest.

W.O. *abbrev. for:* 1. War Office. 2. Warrant Officer. 3. wireless operator.

woad (wəʊd) *n.* 1. a European cruciferous plant, formerly cultivated for its leaves, which yield a blue dye. 2. the dye obtained from this plant, used esp. by the ancient Britons, as a body dye.

wobble ('wɒbl) *vb.* 1. (intr.) to move or sway unsteadily. 2. (intr.) to shake: *her voice wobbled with emotion*. 3. (intr.) to vacillate with indecision. 4. (tr.) to cause to wobble. ~*n.* 5. a wobbling movement or sound. —'wobbler *n.* —'wobbly *adj.* —'wobbliness *n.*

wodge (wɒdʒ) *n.* *Brit. inf.* a thick lump or chunk cut or broken off something.

woe (wəʊ) *n.* 1. *Literary.* intense grief. 2. (often *pl.*) affliction or misfortune. 3. **woe betide (someone)**, misfortune will befall (someone): *woe betide you if you arrive late*. ~*interj.* 4. Also: **woe is me**. Arch. an exclamation of sorrow or distress.

woebegone ('wəʊbɪ,gɒn) *adj.* sorrowful or sad in appearance.

woeful ('wəʊfʊl) *adj.* 1. expressing or characterized by sorrow. 2. bringing or causing woe. 3. pitiful; miserable: *a woeful standard of work*. —'woefully *adv.* —'woefulness *n.*

wog (wɒg) *n.* *Brit. sl., derog.* a foreigner, esp. one who is not White.

wok (wɒk) *n.* a large metal Chinese cooking pot having a curved base like a bowl and traditionally with a wooden handle.

woke (wəʊk) *vb.* a past tense of **wake**¹.

woken ('wəʊkən) *vb.* a past participle of **wake**¹.

wold (wəʊld) *n.* *Chiefly literary.* a tract of open rolling country, esp. upland.

wolf (wɒlf) *n., pl. wolves.* 1. a predatory canine mammal which hunts in packs and was formerly widespread in North America and Eurasia but is now less common. Related adj.: **lupine**. 2. any of several similar and related canines, such as the red wolf and the coyote (**prairie wolf**). 3. the fur of any such animal. 4. a voracious or fiercely cruel person or thing. 5. *Inf.* a man who habitually tries to seduce women. 6. Also called: **wolf note**. *Music.* a. an unpleasant sound produced in some notes played on the violin, etc., owing to resonant vibrations of the belly. b. an out-of-tune effect produced on keyboard instruments accommodated esp. to the system of mean-tone temperament. 7. **cry wolf**. to give a false alarm. 8. **have or hold a wolf by the ears**. to be in a desperate situation. 9. **keep the wolf from the door**. to ward off starvation or privation. 10. **lone wolf**. a person or animal who prefers to be alone. 11. **wolf in sheep's clothing**. a malicious person in a harmless or benevolent disguise. ~*vb.* 12. (*tr.*; often foll. by *down*) to gulp (down). 13. (*intr.*) to hunt wolves. —'wolfish adj. —'wolf, like adv.

Wolf Cub *n.* *Brit.* the former name for **Cub Scout**.

wolfhound ('wɒlf,haʊnd) *n.* the largest breed of dog, used formerly to hunt wolves.

wolfram ('wʊlfɾəm) *n.* another name for **tungsten**.

wolframite ('wʊlfɾə,maɪt) *n.* a black to reddish-brown mineral, a compound of tungsten, iron, and manganese: it is the chief ore of tungsten.

wolfsbane ('wʊlfz,beɪn) or **wolf's bane** *n.* any of several poisonous N temperate plants of the ranunculaceae genus *Aconitum* having hoodlike flowers.

wolf whistle *n.* 1. a whistle made by a man to express admiration of a woman's appearance. ~*vb.* **wolf-whistle**. 2. (when *intr.*, sometimes foll. by *at*) to make such a whistle (at someone).

wolverine ('wʊlvə,rɪn) *n.* a large musteline mammal of northern forests of Eurasia and North America having dark very thick water-resistant fur. Also called: **glutton**.

wolves (wʊlvz) *n.* the plural of **wolf**.

woman ('wʊmən) *n., pl. women.* 1. an adult female human being. 2. (*modifier*) female or feminine: a *woman politician*. 3. women collectively. 4. (usually preceded by *the*) feminine nature or feelings: *babies bring out the woman in him*. 5. a female servant or domestic help. 6. a man considered as having female characteristics, such as meekness. 7. *Inf.* a wife or girlfriend. 8. the little woman. *Inf.* one's wife. 9. **woman of the streets**. a prostitute. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 10. *Obs.* to make effeminate. —'womanless adj. —'woman-, like adv.

womanhood ('wʊmən,hʊd) *n.* 1. the state or quality of being a woman or being womanly. 2. women collectively.

womanish ('wʊmənɪʃ) *adj.* 1. having qualities regarded as unsuitable to a man. 2. characteristic of or suitable for a woman. —'womanishly adv. —'womanishness *n.*

womanize or -nise ('wʊmən,aɪz) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) *Inf.* (of a man) to indulge in casual affairs with women. 2. (*tr.*) to make effeminate. —'womanizer or -liser *n.*

womanly ('wʊmənli) *adj.* 1. possessing qualities, such as warmth, attractiveness, etc., generally regarded as typical of a woman. 2. characteristic of or belonging to a woman.

womb (wu:m) *n.* 1. the nontechnical name for **uterus**. 2. a hollow space enclosing something. 3. a place where something is conceived: *the Near East is the womb of western civilization*. 4. *Obs.* the belly. —wombed adj. —'womb, like adv.

wombat ('wɒmbæt) *n.* a burrowing herbivorous Australian marsupial having short limbs, a heavy body, and coarse dense fur.

women ('wɪmɪn) *n.* the plural of **woman**.

womenfolk ('wɪmɪn,fəʊk) *pl.* 1. women collectively. 2. a group of women, esp. the female members of one's family.

Women's Institute *n.* (in Commonwealth countries) a society for women interested in engaging in craft and cultural activities.

Women's Liberation *n.* a movement directed towards the removal of attitudes and practices that preserve inequalities based upon the assumption that men are superior to women. Also called: **women's lib**.

won (wʌn) *vb.* the past tense and past participle of **win**.

wonder ('wʌndə) *n.* 1. the feeling excited by something strange; a mixture of surprise, curiosity, and sometimes awe. 2. something that causes such a feeling, such as a miracle. 3. (*modifier*) exciting wonder by virtue of spectacular results achieved, feats performed, etc.: a *wonder drug*. 4. **do or work wonders**. to achieve spectacularly fine results. 5. **nine days' wonder**. a subject that arouses general surprise or public interest for a short time. 6. **no wonder**. (*sentence connector*) (I am) not surprised at all (that): *no wonder he couldn't come*. 7. **small wonder**. (*sentence connector*) (I am) hardly surprised (that): *small wonder he couldn't make it tonight*. ~*vb.* (when *tr.*, may take a clause as object) 8. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *about*) to indulge in speculative inquiry: *I wondered about what she said*. 9. (when *intr.*, often foll. by *at*) to be amazed (at something): *I wonder at your impudence*. —'wonderer *n.* —'wonderment *n.*

wonderful ('wʌndəfʊl) *adj.* 1. exciting a feeling of wonder. 2. extremely fine; excellent. —'wonderfully adv.

wonderland ('wʌndə,lænd) *n.* 1. an imaginary land of marvels or wonders. 2. an actual place or scene of great or strange beauty or wonder.

wondrous ('wʌndrəs) *Arch. or literary.* ~*adj.* 1. exciting wonder; marvellous. ~*adv.* 2. (intensifier) *it is wondrous cold*. —'wondrously adv. —'wondrousness *n.*

wonky ('wɒŋki) *adj.* -kier, -kiest. *Brit. sl.* 1. unsteady. 2. askew. 3. liable to break down.

wont (wəʊnt) *adj.* 1. (*postpositive*) accustomed (to doing something): *he was wont to come early*. ~*n.* 2. a manner or action habitually employed by or associated with someone (often in *as is my wont, as is his wont*, etc.). ~*vb.* 3. (when *tr.*, usually passive) to become or cause to become accustomed.

won't (wəʊnt) *contraction* of will not.

wonted ('wəʊntɪd) *adj.* 1. (*postpositive*) accustomed (to doing something). 2. (*prepositional*) usual: *she is in her wonted place*.

woo (wu:) *vb.* **wooing, wooed**. 1. to seek the affection, favour, or love of (a woman) with a view to marriage. 2. (*tr.*) to seek after zealously: *to woo fame*. 3. (*tr.*) to beg or importune (someone). —'wooer *n.* —'woolyly adv.

wood (wʊd) *n.* 1. the hard fibrous substance consisting of xylem tissue that occurs beneath the bark in trees, shrubs, and similar plants. 2. the trunks of trees that have been cut and prepared for use as a building material. 3. a collection of trees, shrubs, grasses, etc., usually dominated by one or a few species of tree: usually smaller than a forest: *an oak wood*. Related adj.: **sylvan**. 4. fuel; firewood. 5. **Golf.** a. a long-shafted club with a wooden head, used for driving. b. (*as modifier*): a *wood shot*. 6. **Tennis**, etc. the frame of a racket: *he hit a winning shot off the wood*. 7. one of the biased wooden bowls used in the game of bowls. 8. *Music*. short for **woodwind**. 9. **from the wood**. (of a beverage) from a wooden container rather than a metal or glass one. 10. **out of the wood or woods**. clear of or safe from dangers or doubts: *we're not out of the woods yet*. 11. **see the wood for the trees**. (*used with a negative*) to obtain a general view of a situation without allowing details to cloud one's analysis: *he can't see the wood for the trees*. 12. (*modifier*) made of, employing, or handling wood: a *wood fire*. 13. (*modifier*) dwelling in or situated in a wood: a *wood nymph*. ~*vb.* 14. (*tr.*) to plant a wood upon. 15. to supply or be supplied with firewood.

wood alcohol *n.* another name for **methanol**.

wood anemone *n.* any of several woodland anemone plants having finely divided leaves and solitary white flowers. Also called: **windflower**.

woodbine ('wu:d,bain) *n.* 1. a honeysuckle of Europe, SW Asia, and N Africa, having fragrant yellow flowers. 2. *U.S.* another name for **Virginia creeper**. 3. *Austral. sl.* an Englishman.

woodcarving ('wʊd,kɑ:vɪŋ) *n.* 1. the act of carving wood. 2. a work of art produced by carving wood. —'woodcarver *n.*

woodchuck ('wʊd,tʃʌk) *n.* a North American marmot having coarse reddish-brown fur. Also called: **ground hog**.

woodcock ('wʊd,kɒk) *n.* an Old World game bird resembling the snipe but larger and having shorter legs and neck.

woodcraft ('wʊd,kɾɑ:ft) *n.* *Chiefly U.S.* 1. ability and

experience in matters concerned with living in a wood or forest. 2. ability or skill at woodwork, carving, etc.

woodcut ('wʊd,kʌt) *n.* 1. a block of wood with a design, illustration, etc., from which prints are made. 2. a print from a woodcut.

woodcutter ('wʊd,kʌtə) *n.* 1. a person who fells trees or chops wood. 2. a person who makes woodcuts. —'wood,cutting *n.*

wooded ('wʊdɪd) *adj.* a. covered with or abounding in woods or trees. b. (in combination): a soft-wooded tree.

wooden ('wʊd'n) *adj.* 1. made from or consisting of wood. 2. awkward or clumsy. 3. bereft of spirit or animation: a wooden expression. 4. obstinately unyielding: a wooden attitude. 5. mentally slow or dull. 6. not highly resonant: a wooden thud. —'woodenly *adv.*

wood engraving *n.* 1. the art of engraving pictures or designs on wood for printing by cutting across the grain. 2. a block of wood so engraved or a print taken from it. —'wood engraver *n.*

wooden spoon *n.* a booby prize, esp. in sporting contests.

woodland ('wʊdlənd) *n.* a. land that is mostly covered with woods or dense growths of trees and shrubs. b. (as modifier): woodland fauna. —'woodlander *n.*

woodlouse ('wʊd,lauz) *n., pl. -lice (-lɪs).* any of various small terrestrial isopod crustaceans having a flattened segmented body and occurring in damp habitats.

woodpecker ('wʊd,pɛkə) *n.* a climbing bird, such as the green woodpecker, having a brightly coloured plumage and strong chisel-like bill with which it bores into trees for insects.

wood pigeon *n.* a large Eurasian pigeon having white patches on the wings and neck. Also called: ringdove, cushat.

woodpile ('wʊd,pɪl) *n.* 1. a pile or heap of firewood. 2. nigger in the woodpile. See **nigger** (sense 3).

wood pulp *n.* 1. wood that has been ground to a fine pulp for use in making newsprint and other cheap forms of paper. 2. finely pulped wood that has been digested by a chemical, such as caustic soda: used in making paper.

woodruff ('wʊdrʌf) *n.* any of several plants, esp. the sweet woodruff of Eurasia, which has small sweet-scented white flowers and whorls of narrow fragrant leaves used to flavour wine and liqueurs and in perfumery.

woods ('wʊdz) *pl. n.* 1. closely packed trees forming a forest or wood, esp. a specific one. 2. another word for backwoods (sense 2). 3. the woodland instruments in an orchestra. 4. this (that, our, etc.) neck of the woods. This particular area or piece of territory.

woodshed ('wʊdʃed) *n.* a small outbuilding where firewood, garden tools, etc., are stored.

wood sorrel *n.* a Eurasian plant having trifoliate leaves, an underground creeping stem, and white purple-veined flowers.

woodwind ('wʊd,wɪnd) *Music.* ~*adj.* 1. of, relating to, or denoting a type of wind instrument, formerly made of wood but now often made of metal, such as the flute. ~*n.* 2. (functioning as *pl.*) woodwind instruments collectively.

woodwork ('wʊd,wɜ:k) *n.* 1. the art or craft of making things in wood. 2. components made of wood, such as doors, staircases, etc.

woodworking ('wʊd,wɜ:kɪŋ) *n.* 1. the process of working wood. ~*adj.* 2. of, relating to, or used in woodworking. —'wood,worker *n.*

woodworm ('wʊd,wɜ:m) *n.* 1. any of various insect larvae that bore into wooden furniture, etc., esp. the larvae of the furniture beetle and the deathwatch beetle. 2. the condition caused in wood by any of these larvae.

woody ('wʊdi) *adj.* **woodier, woodiest.** 1. abounding in or covered with forest or woods. 2. connected with, belonging to, or situated in a wood. 3. consisting of or containing wood or lignin: woody tissue; woody stems. 4. resembling wood in hardness or texture. —'woodiness *n.*

woody nightshade *n.* a scrambling woody Eurasian plant, having purple flowers and producing poisonous red berry-like fruits. Also called: **bittersweet**.

woof ('wʊf) *n.* 1. the crosswise yarns that fill the warp yarns in weaving; weft. 2. a woven fabric or its texture.

woof ('wʊf) *interj.* 1. an imitation of the bark or growl of a dog. ~*vb.* 2. (*intr.*) (of dogs) to bark.

woofer ('wʊ:fə) *n.* a loudspeaker used in high-fidelity systems for the reproduction of low audio frequencies.

wool ('wʊl) *n.* 1. the outer coat of sheep, yaks, etc.,

which consists of short curly hairs. 2. yarn spun from the coat of sheep, etc., used in weaving, knitting, etc. 3. a. cloth or a garment made from this yarn. b. (as modifier): a wool dress. 4. any of certain fibrous materials: glass wool; steel wool. 5. *Inf.* short thick curly hair. 6. a tangled mass of soft fine hairs that occurs in certain plants. 7. dyed in the wool. confirmed in one's beliefs or opinions. 8. lose (or keep) one's wool. *Brit. inf.* to lose (or keep) one's temper. 9. pull the wool over someone's eyes. to deceive or delude someone. —'wool-like *adj.*

wool fat or grease *n.* another name for lanolin.

woolgathering ('wʊl,gæðərɪŋ) *n.* idle or absent-minded daydreaming.

woolgrower ('wʊl,grouə) *n.* a person who keeps sheep for their wool. —'wool,growing *n.*

woollen or **U.S. woolen** ('wʊlən) *adj.* 1. relating to or consisting partly or wholly of wool. ~*n.* 2. (often *pl.*) a garment or piece of cloth made wholly or partly of wool, esp. a knitted one.

woolly or **U.S. (often) wooly** ('wʊli) *adj.* **woollier, woolliest.** 1. consisting of, resembling, or having the nature of wool. 2. covered or clothed in wool or something resembling it. 3. lacking clarity or substance: woolly thinking. 4. *Bot.* covered with long soft whitish hairs: woolly stems. ~*n., pl. -lies.* 5. (often *pl.*) a garment, such as a sweater, made of wool or something similar. —'woolily *adv.* —'wooliness *n.*

woolpack ('wʊl,pæk) *n.* 1. the cloth wrapping used to pack a bale of wool. 2. a bale of wool.

woolsack ('wʊl,sæk) *n.* 1. a sack containing or intended to contain wool. 2. (in Britain) the seat of the Lord Chancellor in the House of Lords, formerly made of a large square sack of wool.

woozy ('wʊ:zi) *adj.* **woozier, wooziest.** *Inf.* 1. dazed or confused. 2. experiencing dizziness, nausea, etc., as a result of drink. —'woozily *adv.* —'wooziness *n.*

wop (wɒp) *n. SI, derog.* a member of a Latin people, esp. an Italian.

Worcester sauce ('wʊstə) *n.* a commercially prepared piquant sauce, made from a basis of soy sauce, with vinegar, spices, etc.

word (wɜ:d) *n.* 1. one of the units of speech or writing that is the smallest isolable meaningful element of the language, although linguists would analyse these further into morphemes. 2. an instance of vocal intercourse; chat, talk, or discussion: to have a word with someone. 3. an utterance or expression, esp. a brief one: a word of greeting. 4. news or information: he sent word that he would be late. 5. a verbal signal for action; command: when I give the word, fire! 6. an undertaking or promise: he kept his word. 7. an autocratic decree; order: his word must be obeyed. 8. a watchword or slogan, as of a political party: the word now is "freedom". 9. *Computers.* a set of bits used to store, transmit, or operate upon an item of information in a computer. 10. as good as one's word. doing what one has undertaken to do. 11. at a word. at once. 12. by word of mouth. through the medium of human speech. 13. in a word. briefly or in short. 14. my word! a. an exclamation of surprise, annoyance, etc. b. *Austral.* an exclamation of agreement. 15. of one's word. given to or noted for keeping one's promises: I am a man of my word. 16. put in a word or good word for. to make favourable mention of (someone); recommend. 17. take someone at his or her word. to assume that someone means, or will do, what he or she says: when he told her to go, she took him at his word and left. 18. take someone's word for it. to accept or believe what someone says. 19. the last word. a. the closing remark of a conversation or argument, esp. a remark that supposedly settles an issue. b. the latest or most fashionable design, make, or model: the last word in bikinis. c. the finest example (of some quality, condition, etc.): the last word in luxury. 20. the word. the proper or most fitting expression: cold is not the word for it, it's freezing! 21. upon or on my word! a. *Arch.* on my honour. b. an exclamation of surprise, annoyance, etc. 22. word for word. (of a report, etc.) using exactly the same words as those employed in the situation being reported; verbatim. 23. word of honour. a promise; oath. 24. (modifier) of, relating to, or consisting of words: a word list. ~*vb.* 25. (*tr.*) to state in words, usually specially selected ones; phrase. ~See also **words**. —'wordless *adj.* —'wordlessly *adv.*

Word (wɜ:d) *n. the.* 1. Christianity. the 2nd person of the Trinity. 2. Scripture, the Bible, or the Gospels as embodying or representing divine revelation. Often called: **the Word of God**.

word blindness *n.* the nontechnical name for *alexia* and *dyslexia*. — *'word-, blind adj.*

word game *n.* any game involving the formation, discovery, or alteration of a word or words.

wording ('wɜːdɪŋ) *n.* 1. the way in which words are used to express a statement, report, etc., esp. a written one. 2. the words themselves.

word order *n.* the arrangement of words in a phrase, clause, or sentence.

word-perfect or **U.S. letter-perfect** *adj.* 1. correct in every detail. 2. (of a speaker, actor, etc.) knowing one's speech, role, etc., perfectly.

word processing *n.* the storage and organization of language by electronic means, esp. for business purposes.

word processor *n.* an installation for word processing, typically consisting of a keyboard and a VDU incorporating a microprocessor with storage and processing capabilities.

words ('wɜːdz) *pl. n.* 1. the text of a part of an actor, etc. 2. the text of a song, as opposed to the music. 3. angry speech (esp. in *have words with someone*). 4. eat one's words, to retract a statement. 5. for words, (preceded by *too* and an *adj.* or *adv.*) indescriminably; extremely: *the play was too funny for words*. 6. have no words for, to be incapable of describing. 7. in other words, expressing the same idea but differently. 8. in so many words, explicitly or precisely. 9. of many (or few) words, (not) talkative. 10. put into words, to express in speech or writing. 11. say a few words, to give a brief speech. 12. take the words out of one's (or someone's) mouth, to say exactly what someone else was about to say. 13. words fail me, I am too happy, sad, amazed, etc., to express my thoughts.

wordy ('wɜːdi) *adj.* wordier, wordiest, using or containing an excess of words: a wordy document. — *'wordily adv.* — *'wordiness n.*

wore (wɜː) *vb.* the past tense of *wear*.

work ('wɜːk) *n.* 1. physical or mental effort directed towards doing or making something. 2. paid employment at a job or a trade, occupation, or profession. 3. a duty, task, or undertaking. 4. something done, made, etc., as a result of effort or exertion: a work of art. 5. another word for *workmanship* (sense 3). 6. the place, office, etc., where a person is employed. 7. a. decoration, esp. of a specified kind. b. (in combination): wirework. 8. an engineering structure such as a bridge, building, etc. 9. Physics, the transfer of energy expressed as the product of a force and the distance through which its point of application moves in the direction of the force. 10. a structure, wall, etc., built or used as part of a fortification system. 11. at work, a. at one's job or place of employment. b. in action; operating. 12. make short work of, *Inf.* to dispose of very quickly. 13. (modifier) *of*, relating to, or used for work: work clothes; a work permit; a work song. ~ *vb.* 14. (*intr.*) to exert effort in order to do, make, or perform something. 15. (*intr.*) to be employed. 16. (*tr.*) to carry on operations, activity, etc., in (a place or area): that salesman works the southern region. 17. (*tr.*) to cause to labour or toil: he works his men hard. 18. to operate or cause to operate, esp. properly or effectively: to work a lathe; that clock doesn't work. 19. (*tr.*) to till or cultivate (land). 20. to handle or manipulate or be handled or manipulated: to work dough. 21. to shape or process or be shaped or processed: to work copper. 22. to reach or cause to reach a specific condition, esp. gradually: the rope worked loose. 23. (*intr.*) to move in agitation: his face worked with anger. 24. (*tr.*; often foll. by *up*) to provoke or arouse: to work someone into a frenzy. 25. (*tr.*) to effect or accomplish: to work one's revenge. 26. to make (one's way) with effort: he worked his way through the crowd. 27. (*tr.*) to make or decorate by hand in embroidery, tapestry, etc.: she was working a sampler. 28. (*intr.*) (of liquids) to ferment, as in brewing. 29. (*tr.*) *Inf.* to manipulate or exploit to one's own advantage. ~ See also *work in*, *work off*, etc. — *'workless adj.*

workable ('wɜːkəbəl) *adj.* 1. practicable or feasible. 2. able to be worked. — *'worka'bility* or *'workableness n.*

workaday ('wɜːkə,deɪ) *adj.* (usually *prenominal*) 1. being a part of general human experience; ordinary. 2. suitable for working days; everyday or practical.

workaholic ('wɜːkə'hɒlɪk) *n.* a person obsessively addicted to work.

workbench ('wɜːk,bentʃ) *n.* a heavy table at which work is done by a carpenter, mechanic, toolmaker, etc.

worker ('wɜːkə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that works,

usually at a specific job: a research worker. 2. an employee, as opposed to an employer or manager. 3. a manual labourer working in a manufacturing industry. 4. any other member of the working class. 5. a sterile female member of a colony of bees, ants, or wasps that forages for food, cares for the larvae, etc.

work force *n.* 1. the total number of workers employed by a company on a specific job, project, etc. 2. the total number of people who could be employed: the country's work force is growing.

workhouse ('wɜːk,haus) *n.* 1. (formerly in England) an institution maintained at public expense where able-bodied paupers did unpaid work in return for food and accommodation. 2. (in the U.S.) a prison for petty offenders serving short sentences at manual labour.

work in *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. to insert or become inserted: she worked the patch in carefully. 2. (*tr.*) to find space for: I'll work this job in during the day. ~ *n.* work-in. 3. a form of industrial action in which a factory that is to be closed down is occupied and run by its workers.

working ('wɜːkɪŋ) *n.* 1. the operation or mode of operation of something. 2. the act or process of moulding something pliable. 3. a convulsive or jerking motion, as from excitement. 4. (often *pl.*) a part of a mine or quarry that is being or has been worked. ~ *adj.* (*pre-nominal*) 5. relating to or concerned with a person or thing that works: a working man. 6. concerned with, used in, or suitable for work: working clothes. 7. (of a meal or occasion) during which business discussions are carried on: a working lunch. 8. capable of being operated or used: a working model; in working order. 9. adequate for normal purposes: a working majority; a working knowledge of German. 10. (of a theory, etc.) providing a basis, usually a temporary one, on which operations or procedures may be carried out. 11. are you working? *N.Z.* a question used to mean "are you still using this telephone line?"

working class *n.* 1. Also called: *proletariat*, the social stratum, usually of low status, that consists of those who earn wages, esp. as manual workers. ~ *adj.* working-class. 2. of, relating to, or characteristic of the working class.

working day or **esp. U.S. workday** *n.* 1. a day on which work is done, esp. for an agreed or stipulated number of hours in return for a salary or wage. 2. the part of the day allocated to work.

working party *n.* 1. a committee established to investigate a problem, question, etc. 2. a group of soldiers or prisoners assigned to perform some manual task or duty.

workload ('wɜːk,ləʊd) *n.* the amount of work to be done, esp. in a specified period.

workmanlike ('wɜːk,mən,ləɪk) or **workmanly** ('wɜːk,mənli) *adj.* appropriate to or befitting a good workman.

workmanship ('wɜːk,mən,ʃɪp) *n.* 1. the art or skill of a workman. 2. the art or skill with which something is made or executed. 3. the degree of art or skill exhibited in the finished product. 4. the piece of work so produced.

workmate ('wɜːk,meɪt) *n.* a person who works with another; fellow worker.

work of art *n.* 1. a piece of fine art, such as a painting or sculpture. 2. something that may be likened to a piece of fine art, esp. in beauty, intricacy, etc.

work off *vb.* (*tr.*, *adv.*) 1. to get rid of or dissipate, as by effort: he worked off some of his energy by digging the garden. 2. to discharge (a debt) by labour rather than payment.

work on *vb.* (*intr.*, *prep.*) to persuade or influence or attempt to persuade or influence.

work out *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. (*tr.*) to achieve or accomplish by effort. 2. (*tr.*) to solve or find out by reasoning or calculation: to work out an answer; to work out a sum. 3. (*tr.*) to devise or formulate: to work out a plan. 4. (*intr.*) to prove satisfactory: did your plan work out? 5. (*intr.*) to happen as specified: it all worked out well. 6. (*intr.*) to take part in physical exercise, as in training. 7. (*tr.*) to remove all the mineral in (a mine, etc.) that can be profitably exploited. 8. (*intr.*; often foll. by *to* or *at*) to reach a total: your bill works out at a pound. ~ *n.* work-out. 9. a session of physical exercise, esp. for training or practice.

workroom ('wɜːk,rʊ:m, -rʊm) *n.* 1. a room in which work, usually manual labour, is done. 2. a room in a house set aside for a hobby.

works ('wɜːks) *pl. n.* 1. (often *functioning as sing.*) a place where a number of people are employed, such as a

factory. 2. the sum total of a writer's or artist's achievements, esp. when considered together: *the works of Shakespeare*. 3. the deeds of a person, esp. virtuous or moral deeds: *works of charity*. 4. the interior parts of the mechanism of a machine, etc.: *the works of a clock*. 5. the works. *Sl.* a. full or extreme treatment. b. a very violent physical beating: *to give someone the works*.

workshop ('wɜ:kʃɒp) *n.* 1. a room or building in which manufacturing or other forms of manual work are carried on. 2. a room in a private dwelling, school, etc., set aside for crafts. 3. a group of people engaged in study or work on a creative project or subject: *a music workshop*.

workshy ('wɜ:kʃaɪ) *adj.* not inclined to work.

worktable ('wɜ:k'teɪbəl) *n.* a. any table at which writing, sewing, or other work may be done. b. (in English cabinetwork) a small elegant table fitted with sewing accessories.

work-to-rule *n.* 1. a form of industrial action in which employees adhere strictly to all the working rules laid down by their employers, with the deliberate intention of reducing the rate of working. ~*vb.* **work to rule**. 2. (*intr.*) to decrease the rate of working by this means.

work up *vb.* (*tr.*, *mainly adv.*) 1. to arouse the feelings of; excite. 2. to cause to grow or develop: *to work up a hunger*. 3. (*also prep.*) to move or cause to move gradually upwards. 4. to manipulate or mix into a specified object or shape. 5. to gain skill at (a subject).

world ('wɜ:ld) *n.* 1. the earth as a planet, esp. including its inhabitants. 2. mankind; the human race. 3. people generally; the public: *in the eyes of the world*. 4. social or public life: *to go out into the world*. 5. the universe or cosmos; everything in existence. 6. a complex united whole regarded as resembling the universe. 7. any star or planet, esp. one that might be inhabited. 8. (*often cap.*) a division or section of the earth, its history, or its inhabitants: *the Ancient World; the Third World*. 9. an area, sphere, or realm considered as a complete environment: *the animal world*. 10. any field of human activity or way of life or those involved in it: *the world of television*. 11. a period or state of existence: *the next world*. 12. the total circumstances and experience of an individual that make up his life: *you have shattered my world*. 13. a large amount, number, or distance: *worlds apart*. 14. worldly or secular life, ways, or people. 15. **bring into the world**, a. (of a midwife, doctor, etc.) to deliver (a baby). b. to give birth to. 16. **come into the world**, to be born. 17. **dead to the world**. *Inf.* unaware of one's surroundings, esp. fast asleep or very drunk. 18. **for the world**, (*used with a negative*) for any inducement, however great. 19. **for all the world**, in every way; exactly. 20. **in the world**, (*intensifier; usually used with a negative*): *no-one in the world can change things*. 21. **the best of both worlds**, the benefits from two different ways of life, philosophies, etc. 22. **man (or woman) of the world**, a man (or woman) experienced in social or public life. 23. **on top of the world**. *Inf.* elated or very happy. 24. **out of this world**. *Inf.* wonderful; excellent. 25. **set the world on fire**, to be exceptionally or sensationally successful. 26. **think the world of**, to be extremely fond of or hold in very high esteem. 27. **world of one's own**, a state of mental detachment from other people. 28. **world without end**, for ever. 29. (*modifier*) of or concerning most or all countries; worldwide: *world politics; a world record*. 30. (*in combination*) throughout the world: *world-famous*.

World Bank *n.* an international cooperative organization established in 1945 to assist economic development, esp. of backward nations, by the advance of loans guaranteed by member governments. Officially called: **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development**.

world-beater *n.* a person or thing that surpasses all others in its category; champion.

World Cup *n.* an international association football championship competition held every four years between national teams selected through preliminary tournaments.

worldly ('wɜ:ldli) *adj.* -lier, -liest. 1. not spiritual; mundane or temporal. 2. Also: **worldly-minded**, absorbed in or concerned with material things. 3. Also: **worldly-wise**, versed in the ways of the world; sophisticated. —'worldliness *n.*

world-shaking *adj.* of enormous significance; momentous.

World War I *n.* the war (1914-18), fought mainly in Europe and the Middle East, in which the Allies (principally France, Russia, Britain, Italy after 1915, and the

U.S. after 1917) defeated the Central Powers (principally Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Turkey). Also called: **First World War, Great War**.

World War II *n.* the war (1939-45) in which the Allies (Britain and France) declared war on Germany (Sept. 3, 1939) as a result of the German invasion of Poland (Sept. 1, 1939). Italy entered the war on the side of Germany (forming the Axis) on June 10, 1940. On June 22, 1941 the Axis powers attacked the Soviet Union and on Dec. 7, 1941 the Japanese attacked the U.S. at Pearl Harbor. On Sept. 8, 1943 Italy surrendered, the war in Europe ending on May 7, 1945 with the unconditional surrender of the Germans. The Japanese capitulated on Aug. 14, 1945. Also called: **Second World War**.

world-weary *adj.* no longer finding pleasure in living. —'world-, weariness *n.*

worldwide ('wɜ:ld'waɪd) *adj.* applying or extending throughout the world; universal.

worm ('wɜ:m) *n.* 1. any of various invertebrates, esp. the annelids (earthworms, etc.), nematodes (roundworms), and flatworms, having a slender elongated body. 2. any of various insect larvae having an elongated body, such as the silkworm and wireworm. 3. any of various unrelated animals that resemble annelids, nematodes, etc., such as the glow-worm and shipworm. 4. a gnawing or insinuating force or agent that torments or slowly eats away. 5. a wretched or spineless person. 6. anything that resembles a worm in appearance or movement. 7. a shaft on which a helical groove has been cut, as in a gear arrangement in which such a shaft meshes with a toothed wheel. 8. a spiral pipe cooled by air or flowing water, used as a condenser in a still. ~*vb.* 9. to move, act, or cause to move or act with the slow sinuous movement of a worm. 10. (*fol.* by *in, into, out of*, etc.) to make (one's way) slowly and stealthily; insinuate (oneself). 11. (*tr.*; *often foll. by out of or from*) to extract (information, a secret, etc.) from/by persistent questioning. 12. (*tr.*) to free from or purge of worms. —'wormer *n.* —'worm, like *adj.*

wormcast ('wɜ:m,kɑ:st) *n.* a coil of earth or sand that has been excreted by a burrowing earthworm or lugworm.

worm-eaten *adj.* 1. eaten into by worms: *a worm-eaten table*. 2. decayed; rotten. 3. old-fashioned; antiquated.

worm gear *n.* 1. a device consisting of a threaded shaft (**worm**) that mates with a gear wheel (**worm wheel**) so that rotary motion can be transferred between two shafts at right angles to each other. 2. Also called: **worm wheel**, a gear wheel driven by a threaded shaft or worm.

wormhole ('wɜ:m'həʊl) *n.* a hole made by a worm in timber, plants, etc. —'worm, holed *adj.*

worms ('wɜ:mz) *n.* any disease or disorder, usually of the intestine, characterized by infestation with parasitic worms.

wormwood ('wɜ:m,wʊd) *n.* 1. Also called: **absinthe**, any of various plants of a chiefly N temperate genus, esp. a European plant yielding a bitter extract used in making absinthe. 2. something that embitters, such as a painful experience.

wormy ('wɜ:mi) *adj.* wormier, wormiest. 1. worm-infested or worm-eaten. 2. resembling a worm in appearance, ways, or condition. 3. (of wood) having irregular small tunnels bored into it and tracked over its surface, made by worms. 4. low or grovelling. —'worminess *n.*

worn (wɔ:n) *vb.* 1. the past participle of **wear**. ~*adj.* 2. affected, esp. adversely, by long use or action: *a worn suit*. 3. haggard; drawn. 4. exhausted; spent. —'wornness *n.*

worn-out *adj.* (**worn out** when *postpositive*). 1. worn or used until threadbare, valueless, or useless. 2. exhausted; very weary.

worrisome ('wɜ:rɪsəm) *adj.* 1. causing worry; vexing. 2. tending to worry. —'worrysome *adv.*

worry ('wɒri) *vb.* -rying, -ried. 1. to be or cause to be anxious or uneasy, esp. about something uncertain or potentially dangerous. 2. (*tr.*) to disturb the peace of mind of; bother: *don't worry me with trivialities*. 3. (*intr.*; *often foll. by along or through*) to proceed despite difficulties. 4. (*intr.*; *often foll. by away*) to struggle or work: *to worry away at a problem*. 5. (*tr.*) (of a dog, wolf, etc.) to lacerate or kill by biting, shaking, etc. 6. (*when intr.*, *fol.* by *at*) to bite, tear, or gnaw (*at*) with the teeth: *a dog worrying a bone*. 7. (*tr.*) to touch or poke repeatedly and idly. 8. **not to worry**. *Inf.* you need not worry. ~*n.*, *pl.* -ries. 9. a state or feeling of anxiety.

10. a person or thing that causes anxiety. 11. an act of worrying.

worry beads *pl. n.* a string of beads that when fingered or played with supposedly relieves nervous tension.

worse (wɜːs) *adj.* 1. the comparative of **bad**. 2. **none the worse for** not harmed by (adverse events or circumstances). 3. **the worse for wear**. a. shabby or worn. b. a slang term for **drunk**. 4. **worse luck!** *Inf.* unhappily; unfortunately. 5. (*postpositive*) **worse off**. in a worse, esp. a worse financial, condition. ~n. 6. something that is worse. 7. **for the worse**. into a less desirable or inferior state or condition: *a change for the worse*. 8. **go from bad to worse**. to deteriorate even more. ~adv. 9. in a more severe or unpleasant manner. 10. in a less effective or successful manner.

worsen ('wɜːsn) *vb.* to grow or cause to grow worse.

worship ('wɜːʃɪp) *vb.* -shipping, -shipped or *U.S.* -shipping, -shipped. 1. (*tr.*) to show profound religious devotion and respect to; adore or venerate (God or any person or thing considered divine). 2. (*tr.*) to be devoted to and full of admiration for. 3. (*intr.*) to have or express feelings of profound adoration. 4. (*intr.*) to attend services for worship. ~n. 5. religious adoration or devotion. 6. the formal expression of religious adoration; rites, prayers, etc. 7. admiring love or devotion. —'worshiper *n.*

Worship ('wɜːʃɪp) *n.* Chiefly *Brit.* (preceded by *Your, His, or Her*) a title used to address or refer to a mayor or magistrate.

worshipful ('wɜːʃɪfʊl) *adj.* 1. feeling or showing reverence or adoration. 2. (*often cap.*) Chiefly *Brit.* a title used to address or refer to various people or bodies of distinguished rank. —'worshipfully *adv.* —'worshipfulness *n.*

worst (wɜːst) *adj.* 1. the superlative of **bad**. ~adv. 2. in the most extreme or bad manner or degree. 3. least well, suitably, or acceptably. 4. (*in combination*) in or to the smallest degree or extent; least: *worst-loved*. ~n. 5. **the worst**. the least good or most inferior person, thing, or part in a group, narrative, etc. 6. (*often preceded by at*) the most poor, unpleasant, or unskilled quality or condition: *television is at its worst these days*. 7. the greatest amount of damage or wickedness of which a person or group is capable: *the invaders came and did their worst*. 8. the weakest effort or poorest achievement that a person or group is capable of making: *the applicant did his worst at the test because he did not want the job*. 9. **at worst**. a. in the least favourable interpretation or view. b. under the least favourable conditions. 10. **if the worst comes to the worst**. if all the more desirable alternatives become impossible or if the worst possible thing happens. 11. **come off worst or get the worst of it**. to enjoy the least benefit from an issue or be defeated in it. ~vb. 12. (*tr.*) to get the advantage over; defeat or beat.

worsted ('wʊstɪd) *n.* 1. a closely twisted yarn or thread made from combed long-staple wool. 2. a fabric made from this, with a hard smooth close-textured surface and no nap. 3. (*modifier*) made of this yarn or fabric: *a worsted suit*.

wort (wɜːt) *n.* 1. (*in combination*) any of various unrelated plants, esp. ones formerly used to cure diseases: *liverwort*. 2. the sweet liquid from the soaked mixture of warm water and ground malt, used to make a malt liquor.

worth (wɜːθ) *adj.* (governing a noun with prepositional force) 1. worthy of; meriting or justifying: *it's not worth discussing*. 2. having a value of: *the book is worth £30*. 3. **for all one is worth**. to the utmost. 4. **worth one's weight in gold**. extremely helpful, kind, etc. ~n. 5. high quality; excellence. 6. value; price. 7. the amount of something of a specified value: *five pounds' worth of petrol*.

worthless ('wɜːθlɪs) *adj.* 1. without value or usefulness. 2. without merit; good-for-nothing. —'worthlessly *adv.* —'worthlessness *n.*

worthwhile ('wɜːθ'waɪl) *adj.* sufficiently important, rewarding, or valuable to justify time or effort spent.

worthy ('wɜːði) *adj.* -thier, -thiest. 1. (*postpositive*; often foll. by *of* or an infinitive) having sufficient merit or value (for something or someone specified); deserving. 2. having worth, value, or merit. ~n. *pl.* -thies. 3. *Often facetious*. a person of merit or importance. —'worthily *adv.* —'worthiness *n.*

would (wʊd; unstressed wəd) *vb.* (takes an infinitive without *to* or an implied infinitive) used as an auxiliary: 1. to form the past tense or subjunctive mood of **will**. 2. (with *you, he, she, it, they*, or a noun as subject) to

indicate willingness or desire in a polite manner: *would you help me, please?* 3. to describe a past action as being accustomed or habitual: *every day we would go for walks*. 4. I wish: *would that he were here*.

▷ **Usage.** See at **should**.

would-be *adj.* (*prenominal*) 1. Usually *derog.* wanting or professing to be: *a would-be politician*. 2. intended to be: *would-be generosity*.

wound¹ (wʊnd) *n.* 1. any break in the skin or an organ or part as the result of violence or a surgical incision. 2. any injury or slight to the feelings or reputation. ~vb. 3. to inflict a wound or wounds upon (someone or something). —'woundingly *adv.*

wound² (waʊnd) *vb.* the past tense or past participle of **wind**.

wove (wʊv) *vb.* a past tense of **weave**.

woven ('wʊvən) *vb.* a past participle of **weave**.

wow (wau) *interj.* 1. an exclamation of admiration, amazement, etc. ~n. 2. *Sl.*, chiefly *U.S.* a person or thing that is amazingly successful, attractive, etc. ~vb. 3. (*tr.*) *Sl.*, chiefly *U.S.* to arouse great enthusiasm in.

w.p.m. *abbrev.* for words per minute.

W.R.A.C. (*in Britain*) *abbrev.* for Women's Royal Army Corps.

wrack¹ or **rack** (ræk) *n.* 1. collapse or destruction (esp. in **wrack and ruin**). 2. something destroyed or a remnant of such.

wrack² (ræk) *n.* 1. seaweed or other marine vegetation that is floating in the sea or has been cast ashore. 2. any of various seaweeds, such as serrated wrack.

W.R.A.F. (*in Britain*) *abbrev.* for Women's Royal Air Force.

wraith (reɪθ) *n.* 1. the apparition of a person living or thought to be alive, supposed to appear around the time of his death. 2. a ghost or any apparition. —'wraith-like *adj.*

wrangle ('ræŋɡl) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to argue, esp. noisily or angrily. 2. (*tr.*) to encourage, persuade, or obtain by argument. 3. (*tr.*) *Western U.S. & Canad.* to herd (cattle or horses). ~n. 4. a noisy or angry argument.

wrap (ræp) *vb.* **wrapping, wrapped.** (*mainly tr.*) 1. to fold or wind (paper, cloth, etc.) around (a person or thing) so as to cover. 2. (*often foll. by up*) to fold paper, etc., around to fasten securely. 3. to surround or conceal by surrounding. 4. to enclose, immerse, or absorb: *wrapped in sorrow*. 5. to fold, wind, or roll up. 6. (*intr.*; often foll. by *about, around, etc.*) to be or become wound or extended. 7. (*often foll. by up*) Also: **rap.** *Austral. inf.* to praise (someone). ~n. 8. a garment worn wrapped around the body, esp. the shoulders, such as a shawl or cloak. 9. Chiefly *U.S.* wrapping or a wrapper. 10. Also called: **rap.** *Austral. inf.* a commendation. 11. **keep under wraps**. to keep secret. 12. **take the wraps off**. to reveal.

wrapper ('ræpə) *n.* 1. the cover, usually of paper or cellophane, in which something is wrapped. 2. the ripe firm tobacco leaf forming the outermost portion of a cigar. 3. a dust jacket of a book. 4. a loose negligee or dressing gown.

wrapping ('ræpɪŋ) *n.* the material used to wrap something.

wrapround ('ræp,raʊnd) *adj.* 1. made so as to be wrapped round something: *a wrapround skirt*. 2. surrounding, curving round, or overlapping. ~n. 3. *Printing*. a flexible plate of plastic, metal, or rubber that is made flat but used wrapped round the plate cylinder of a rotary press.

wrap up *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. (*tr.*) to fold paper around. 2. to put warm clothes on. 3. (*usually imperative*) *Sl.* to be silent. 4. (*tr.*) *Inf.* a. to settle the final details of. b. to make a summary of.

wrasse (ræs) *n.* a marine fish of tropical and temperate seas, having thick lips, strong teeth, and usually a bright coloration: many are used as food fishes.

wrath (rʊθ) *n.* 1. angry, violent, or stern indignation. 2. divine vengeance or retribution. 3. *Arch.* a fit of anger or an act resulting from anger. —'wrathful *adj.*

wreak (ri:k) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to inflict (vengeance, etc.) or to cause (chaos, etc.): *to wreak havoc on the enemy*. 2. to express, or gratify (anger, hatred, etc.). 3. *Arch.* to take vengeance for. —'wreaker *n.*

wreath (ri:θ) *n.*, *pl.* **wreaths** (ri:ðz, ri:θs). 1. a band of flowers or foliage intertwined into a ring, usually placed on a grave as a memorial or worn on the head as a garland or a mark of honour. 2. any circular or spiral band or formation. 3. loosely, any floral design placed on a grave as a memorial. —'wreath-like *adj.*

wreathe (ri:ð) *vb.* 1. to form into or take the form of a wreath by intertwining or twisting together. 2. (*tr.*) to decorate, crown, or encircle with wreaths. 3. to move or cause to move in a twisting way: *smoke wreathed up to the ceiling.*

wreck (rek) *vb.* 1. to involve in or suffer disaster or destruction. 2. (*tr.*) to cause the wreck of (a ship). ~*n.* 3. a. the accidental destruction of a ship at sea. b. the ship so destroyed. 4. *Maritime law.* goods cast ashore from a wrecked vessel. 5. a person or thing that has suffered ruin or dilapidation. 6. Also called: **wreckage** ('rekɪdʒ), the remains of something that has been destroyed. 7. Also called: **wreckage**, the act of wrecking or the state of being wrecked.

wrecker ('reka) *n.* 1. a person or thing that ruins or destroys. 2. *Chiefly U.S.* a person whose job is to demolish buildings or dismantle cars. 3. (formerly) a person who lures ships to destruction to plunder the wreckage. — **wrecking** *n., adj.*

wren (ren) *n.* 1. any small brown passerine songbird of a chiefly American family (in Britain **wren**, in the U.S. **winter wren**). They have a slender bill and feed on insects. 2. any of various similar birds, such as the Australian warblers, New Zealand wrens, etc.

Wren (ren) *n.* Inf. (in Britain and certain other nations) a member of the Women's Royal Naval Service.

wrench (rentʃ) *vb.* 1. to give (something) a sudden or violent twist or pull, esp. so as to remove (something) from that to which it is attached: *to wrench a door off its hinges.* 2. (*tr.*) to twist suddenly so as to sprain (a limb): *to wrench one's ankle.* 3. (*tr.*) to give pain to. 4. (*tr.*) to twist from the original meaning or purpose. 5. (*intr.*) to make a sudden twisting motion. ~*n.* 6. a forceful twist or pull. 7. an injury to a limb, caused by twisting. 8. sudden pain caused esp. by parting. 9. a parting that is difficult or painful to make. 10. a distorting of the original meaning or purpose. 11. a spanner, esp. one with adjustable jaws.

wrest (rest) *vb.* (*tr.*) 1. to take or force away by violent pulling or twisting. 2. to seize forcibly by violent or unlawful means. 3. to obtain by laborious effort. 4. to distort in meaning, purpose, etc. ~*n.* 5. the act or an instance of wrestling. 6. *Arch.* a small key used to tune a piano or harp. — **wrester** *n.*

wrestle ('resl) *vb.* 1. to fight (another person) by holding, throwing, etc., without punching with the closed fist. 2. (*intr.*) to participate in wrestling. 3. (when *intr.*, foll. by *with* or *against*) to fight with (a person, problem, or thing): *wrestle with one's conscience.* 4. (*tr.*) to move laboriously, as with wrestling movements. ~*n.* 5. the act of wrestling. 6. a struggle or tussle. — **wrestler** *n.*

wrestling ('reslɪŋ) *n.* any of certain sports in which the contestants fight each other according to various rules governing holds and usually forbidding blows with the closed fist. The principal object is to overcome the opponent either by throwing or pinning him to the ground or by causing him to submit.

wretch (retʃ) *n.* 1. a despicable person. 2. a person pitied for his misfortune.

wretched ('retʃɪd) *adj.* 1. in poor or pitiful circumstances. 2. characterized by or causing misery. 3. despicable; base. 4. poor, inferior, or paltry. 5. (*pre-nominal*) (intensifier qualifying something undesirable): *a wretched nuisance.* — **wretchedly** *adv.* — **wretchedness** *n.*

wrick (rɪk) *n.* 1. a sprain or strain. ~*vb.* 2. (*tr.*) to sprain or strain.

wriggle ('rɪɡl) *vb.* 1. to make or cause to make twisting movements. 2. (*intr.*) to progress by twisting and turning. 3. (*intr.*; foll. by *into* or *out of*) to manoeuvre oneself by clever or devious means: *wriggle out of an embarrassing situation.* ~*n.* 4. a wriggling movement or action. 5. a sinuous marking or course. — **wriggler** *n.* — **wriggly** *adj.*

wright (raɪt) *n.* (now chiefly in combination) a person who creates, builds, or repairs something specified: *a playwright; a shipwright.*

wring (rɪŋ) *vb.* **wringing, wrung.** 1. (often foll. by *out*) to twist and compress to squeeze (a liquid) from (cloth, etc.). 2. (*tr.*) to twist forcibly: *wring its neck.* 3. (*tr.*) to clasp and twist (one's hands), esp. in anguish. 4. (*tr.*) to distress: *wring one's heart.* 5. (*tr.*) to grip (someone's hand) vigorously in greeting. 6. (*tr.*) to obtain as by forceful means: *wring information out of.* 7. **wringing wet.** soaking; drenched. ~*n.* 8. an act or the process of wringing.

wringer ('rɪŋə) *n.* a machine for drying clothes, tex-

tiles, etc., often consisting of two rollers between which the cloth is squeezed. Also called (Brit.): **mangle.**

wrinkle ('rɪŋkəl) *n.* 1. a slight ridge in the smoothness of a surface, such as a crease in the skin as a result of age. ~*vb.* 2. to make or become wrinkled, as by crumpling, creasing, or puckering. — **wrinkly** *adj.*

wrinkle ('rɪŋkəl) *n.* *Inf.* a clever or novel trick, hint, or device.

wrist (rɪst) *n.* 1. *Anat.* the joint between the forearm and the hand. Technical name: **carpus.** 2. the part of a sleeve or glove that covers the wrist.

wristwatch ('rɪst,wɒtʃ) *n.* a watch worn strapped around the wrist.

writ (rɪt) *n.* 1. a document under seal, issued in the name of the Crown or a court, commanding the person to whom it is addressed to do or refrain from doing some specified act. 2. *Arch.* a piece or body of writing: *Holy Writ.*

write (raɪt) *vb.* **writing, wrote, written.** 1. to draw or mark (symbols, words, etc.) on a surface, usually paper, with a pen, pencil, or other instrument. 2. to describe or record (ideas, experiences, etc.) in writing. 3. to compose (a letter) to or correspond regularly with (a person, organization, etc.). 4. (*tr.*; may take a clause as object) to say or communicate by letter: *he wrote that he was on his way.* 5. (*tr.*) *Inf.*, chiefly U.S. to send a letter to (a person, etc.). 6. to write (words) in cursive as opposed to printed style. 7. (*tr.*) to be sufficiently familiar with (a specified style, language, etc.) to use it in writing. 8. to be the author or composer of (books, music, etc.). 9. (*tr.*) to fill in the details for (a document, form, etc.). 10. (*tr.*) to draw up or draft. 11. (*tr.*) to produce by writing: *he wrote ten pages.* 12. (*tr.*) to show clearly: *envy was written all over his face.* 13. (*tr.*) to spell, inscribe, or entitle. 14. (*tr.*) to ordain or prophesy: *it is written.* 15. (*intr.*) to produce writing as specified. 16. *Computers.* to record (data) in a location in a storage device, such as a drum. 17. (*tr.*) See **underwrite** (sense 3a). ~See also **write down, write in, etc.** — **writable** *adj.*

▷ **Usage.** Careful writers and speakers avoid the omission of *to* after the verb **write** in clauses without a direct object: *I'll write to you (not I'll write you).* This omission of *to* is very common in informal English in the U.S., but is nevertheless not accepted as good formal usage.

write down *vb.* (*adv.*) 1. (*tr.*) to set down in writing. 2. (*tr.*) to harm or belittle by writing about (a person) in derogatory terms. 3. (*intr.*; foll. by *to* or *for*) to write in a simplified way (to a supposedly less cultured readership). 4. (*tr.*) **Accounting.** to decrease the book value of (an asset). ~*n.* **write-down.** 5. **Accounting.** a reduction made in the book value of an asset.

write in *vb.* 1. (*tr.*) to insert in (a document, form, etc.) in writing. 2. (*tr., adv.*) to write a letter to a company, institution, etc. 3. (*tr., adv.*) U.S. to vote for (a person not on a ballot) by inserting name.

write off *vb.* (*tr., adv.*) 1. **Accounting.** a. to cancel (a bad debt or obsolete asset) from the accounts. b. to consider (a transaction, etc.) as a loss or set off (a loss) against revenues. c. to depreciate (an asset) by periodic charges. d. to charge (a specified amount) against gross profits as depreciation of an asset. 2. to cause or acknowledge the complete loss of. 3. to dismiss from consideration. ~*n.* **write-off.** 4. **Accounting.** a. the act of cancelling a bad debt or obsolete asset from the accounts. b. the bad debt or obsolete asset cancelled. c. the amount cancelled against gross profits, corresponding to the book value of the bad debt or obsolete asset. 5. *Inf.* something damaged beyond repair, esp. a car.

write out *vb.* (*tr., adv.*) 1. to put into writing or reproduce in full form in writing. 2. to exhaust (oneself or one's creativity) by excessive writing. 3. to remove (a character) from a television or radio series.

writer ('raɪtə) *n.* 1. a person who writes books, articles, etc., esp. as an occupation. 2. the person who has written something specified. 3. a person who is able to write or write well. 4. a scribe or clerk. 5. a composer of music. 6. **Writer to the Signet.** (in Scotland) a member of an ancient society of solicitors, now having the exclusive privilege of preparing crown writs.

write up *vb.* (*tr., adv.*) 1. to describe fully, complete, or bring up to date in writing: *write up a diary.* 2. to praise or bring to public notice in writing. 3. **Accounting.** a. to place an excessively high value on (an asset). b. to increase the book value of (an asset) in order to reflect more accurately its current worth in the market. ~*n.* **write-up.** 4. a published account of something, such as a review in a newspaper or magazine.

writhe (raɪð) *vb.* 1. to twist or squirm in or as if in pain. 2. (*intr.*) to move with such motions. 3. (*intr.*) to suffer acutely from embarrassment, revulsion, etc. ~*n.* 4. the act or an instance of writhing. — 'writhe *n.*

writing ('raɪtɪŋ) *n.* 1. a group of letters or symbols written or marked on a surface as a means of communicating. 2. short for **handwriting**. 3. anything expressed in letters, esp. a literary composition. 4. the work of a writer. 5. literary style, art, or practice. 6. written form: *give it to me in writing*. 7. (*modifier*) related to or used in writing: *writing ink*. 8. **writing on the wall**. a sign or signs of approaching disaster.

writing desk *n.* a piece of furniture with a writing surface and drawers and compartments for papers, etc.

writing paper *n.* paper sized to take writing ink and used for letters and other manuscripts.

written ('rɪtɪn) *vb.* 1. the past participle of **write**. ~*adj.* 2. taken down in writing; transcribed: *written evidence*; *the written word*.

W.R.N.S. *abbrev. for* Women's Royal Naval Service. See also **Wren**.

wrong (rɒŋ) *adj.* 1. not correct or truthful: *the wrong answer*. 2. acting or judging in error: *you are wrong to think that*. 3. (*postpositive*) immoral; bad: *it is wrong to cheat*. 4. deviating from or unacceptable to correct or conventional laws, usage, etc. 5. not intended or wanted: *the wrong road*. 6. (*postpositive*) not working properly; amiss: *something is wrong with the engine*. 7. (of a side, esp. of a fabric) intended to face the inside so as not to be seen. 8. **get on the wrong side of**. *Inf.* to come into disfavour with. 9. **go down the wrong way**. (of food) to pass into the windpipe instead of the gullet. ~*adv.* 10. in the wrong direction or manner. 11. **go wrong**. *a.* to turn out other than intended. *b.* to make a mistake. *c.* (of a machine, etc.) to cease to function properly. *d.* to go astray morally. 12. **get wrong**. *a.* to fail to understand properly. *b.* to fail to provide the correct answer to. ~*n.* 13. a bad, immoral, or unjust thing or action. 14. *Law.* *a.* an infringement of another person's rights, rendering the offender liable to a civil action: *a private wrong*. *b.* a violation of public rights and duties, affecting the community as a whole and actionable at the instance of the Crown: *a public wrong*. 15. **in the wrong**. mistaken or guilty. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 16. to treat unjustly. 17.

to discredit, malign, or misrepresent. — 'wronger *n.* — 'wrongly *adv.* — 'wrongness *n.*

wrongdoer ('rɒŋ,du:ə) *n.* a person who acts immorally or illegally. — 'wrong,doing *n.*

wrongful ('rɒŋfʊl) *adj.* unjust or illegal. — 'wrongfully *adv.* — 'wrongfulness *n.*

wrong-headed *adj.* 1. constantly wrong in judgment. 2. foolishly stubborn. — 'wrong-'headedly *adv.* — 'wrong-'headedness *n.*

wrote (rəʊt) *vb.* the past tense of **write**.

wroth (rɒθ, rʊθ) *adj.* *Arch. or literary.* angry; irate.

wrought (rɒt) *vb.* 1. *Arch.* a past tense or past participle of **work**. ~*adj.* 2. *Metallurgy.* shaped by hammering or beating. 3. (*often in combination*) formed, fashioned, or worked as specified: 'well-wrought'. 4. decorated or made with delicate care.

wrought iron *n. a.* a pure form of iron having a low carbon content and often used for decorative work. *b.* (*as modifier*): *wrought-iron gates*.

wrought-up or worked-up *adj.* excited or agitated.

wrung (rʌŋ) *vb.* the past tense or past participle of **wring**.

W.R.V.S. *abbrev. for* Women's Royal Voluntary Service.

wry (raɪ) *adj.* **wrier, wriest or wryer, wryest.** 1. twisted, contorted, or askew. 2. (of a facial expression) produced or characterized by contorting of the features. 3. dryly humorous; sardonic. 4. warped, misdirected, or perverse. ~*vb.* **wrying, wried.** 5. (*tr.*) to twist or contort. — 'wryly *adv.* — 'wryness *n.*

wryneck ('raɪ,nek) *n.* 1. either of two cryptically coloured Old World woodpeckers, which do not drum on trees. 2. *Pathol.* an abnormal position of the head, usually with the neck twisted to one side. 3. *Inf.* a person who has a twisted neck.

WSW *abbrev. for* west-southwest.

wt. *abbrev. for* weight.

wych-elm or witch-elm ('wɪtʃ,elm) *n.* 1. a Eurasian elm tree, having a rounded shape, longish pointed leaves, clusters of small flowers, and winged fruits. 2. the wood of this tree.

wynd (waɪnd) *n.* *Scot.* a narrow lane or alley.

X

x or **X** (eks) *n.*, *pl.* **x's**, **X's**, or **Xs**. 1. the 24th letter of the English alphabet. 2. a speech sound sequence represented by this letter, pronounced as *ks* or *gz* or, in initial position, *z*, as in *xylophone*.

x *symbol for*: 1. *Commerce, finance, etc.* ex. 2. *Maths.* the *x*-axis or a coordinate measured along the *x*-axis in a Cartesian coordinate system. 3. *Maths.* an algebraic variable. 4. multiplication.

X *symbol for*: 1. denoting any unknown, unspecified, or variable factor, number, person, or thing. 2. (on letters, cards, etc.) denoting a kiss. 3. (on ballot papers, etc.) indicating choice. 4. (on examination papers, etc.) indicating error. 5. for Christ; Christian. ~6. *the Roman numeral for ten. See Roman numerals.*

xanthin ('zænθɪn) *n.* the soluble part of the yellow pigment that is found in the cell sap of some flowers.

xanthine ('zænθɪn, θaɪn) *n.* 1. a crystalline compound found in urine, blood, certain plants, and certain animal tissues. Formula: $C_5H_4N_4O_2$. 2. any of three substituted derivatives of xanthine, which act as stimulants and diuretics.

Xanthippe ('zænθɪpɪ) or **Xantippe** ('zæn'tɪpɪ) *n.* 1. the wife of Socrates, proverbial as a scolding and quarrelsome woman. 2. any nagging, peevish, or irritable woman.

xantho- or before a vowel **xanth-** *combining form.* indicating yellow: *xanthophyll*.

x-axis *n.* a reference axis, usually horizontal, of a graph or two- or three-dimensional Cartesian coordinate system along which the *x*-coordinate is measured.

X-chromosome *n.* the sex chromosome that occurs in pairs in the diploid cells of the females of many animals, including humans, and as one of a pair with the Y-chromosome in those of males. Cf. **Y-chromosome**.

Xe *the chemical symbol for xenon.*

xebec, **zebec**, or **zebeck** ('zi:bek) *n.* a small three-masted Mediterranean vessel with both square and lateen sails, formerly used by Algerian pirates and later used for commerce.

xeno- or before a vowel **xen-** *combining form.* indicating something strange, different, or foreign: *xenogamy*.

xenon ('zɛnɒn) *n.* a colourless odourless gaseous element occurring in trace amounts in air; formerly considered inert, it is now known to form compounds and is used in radio valves, stroboscopic and bactericidal lamps, and bubble chambers. Symbol: Xe; atomic no.: 54; atomic wt.: 131.30.

xenophobia ('zɛnə'fəʊbiə) *n.* hatred or fear of foreigners or strangers or of their politics or culture. —'xeno-,phobe *n.* —,xeno'phobic *adj.*

xero- or before a vowel **xer-** *combining form.* indicating dryness: *xeroderma*.

xerography (zɪ'rɒɡrəfi) *n.* a photocopying process in which an electrostatic image is formed on a selenium plate or cylinder. The plate or cylinder is dusted with a resinous powder, which adheres to the charged regions, and the image is then transferred to a sheet of paper on which it is fixed by heating. —**xe'rographer** *n.* —**xero-graphic** (,zɪərə'græfɪk) *adj.* —,xero'graphically *adv.*

Xerox ('ziərəks) *n.* 1. *Trademark.* a. a xerographic copying process. b. a machine employing this process. c. a copy produced by this process. ~*vb.* 2. to produce a copy of (a document, illustration, etc.) by this process.

Xhosa ('kɔ:sə) *n.* 1. (*pl.* -**sa** or -**sas**) a member of a cattle-rearing Negroid people of southern Africa, living chiefly in Cape Province of the Republic of South Africa. 2. the language of this people, belonging to the Bantu group and characterized by several clicks in its sound system. —'Xhosan *adj.*

xi (zai, sai, ksai, ksi:) *n.*, *pl.* **xis**. the 14th letter in the Greek alphabet (Ξ, ξ).

Xmas ('ɛksməs, 'krɪsməs) *n.* *Inf.* short for **Christmas**.

x-ray or **X-ray** *n.* 1. a. electromagnetic radiation with wavelengths (100–0.4 nanometres) between that of ultraviolet radiation and gamma radiation. They are emitted when atoms, esp. heavy atoms, are bombarded with fast electrons. b. (*as modifier*): *x-ray astronomy*. 2. a picture produced by exposing photographic film to x-rays: used in medicine as a diagnostic aid as parts of the body, such as bones, absorb x-rays and so appear as opaque areas on the picture. ~*vb.* (*tr.*) 3. to photograph (part of the body, etc.) using x-rays. 4. to treat or examine by means of x-rays.

xylem ('zailəm, -ləm) *n.* a plant tissue that conducts water and mineral salts from the roots to all other parts, provides mechanical support, and forms the wood of trees and shrubs.

xylyne ('zailɪn) *n.* an aromatic hydrocarbon existing in three isomeric forms, all three being colourless flammable volatile liquids used as solvents and in the manufacture of synthetic resins, dyes, and insecticides; dimethylbenzene.

xylo- or before a vowel **xyl-** *combining form.* 1. indicating wood: *xylophone*. 2. indicating xylene: *xyldine*.

xylophone ('zailə'fəʊn) *n.* *Music.* a percussion instrument consisting of a set of wooden bars of graduated length. It is played with hard-headed hammers. —**xylo-phonie** (,zailə'fɒnik) *adj.* —**xylophonist** (zai'ləfənɪst) *n.*

xylose ('zailəʊz, -ləʊs) *n.* a white crystalline sugar found in wood and straw. It is extracted by hydrolysis with acids and used in dyeing, tanning, and in foods for diabetics.

Y

y or **Y** (wai) *n.*, *pl.* **y's**, **Y's**, or **Ys**. 1. the 25th letter of the English alphabet. 2. a speech sound represented by this letter, usually a semivowel, as in *yawn*, or a vowel, as in *symbol* or *shy*. 3. something shaped like a Y.

y *Maths. symbol for:* 1. the *y*-axis or a coordinate measured along the *y*-axis in a Cartesian coordinate system. 2. an algebraic variable.

Y *symbol for:* 1. any unknown or variable factor, number, or thing. 2. *Chem.* yttrium.

y. *abbrev. for:* 1. yard. 2. year. 3. yen.

-y' or **-ey** *suffix forming adjectives.* 1. (*from nouns*) characterized by; consisting of; filled with; resembling: *sunny*; *sandy*; *smoky*; *classy*. 2. (*from verbs*) tending to; acting or existing as specified: *leaky*; *shiny*.

-y', -ie, or -ey *suffix of nouns. Inf.* 1. denoting smallness and expressing affection and familiarity: a *doggy*; *Jamie*. 2. a person or thing concerned with or characterized by being: a *groupie*; a *goalie*; a *fatty*.

-y' *suffix forming nouns.* 1. (*from verbs*) indicating the act of doing what is indicated by the verbal element: *inquiry*. 2. (*esp. with combining forms of Greek, Latin, or French origin*) indicating state, condition, or quality: *geography*; *jealousy*.

yacht (jɒt) *n.* 1. a vessel propelled by sail or power, used esp. for pleasure cruising, racing, etc. ~*vb.* 2. (*intr.*) to sail or cruise in a yacht. —'yachting *n.*, *adj.*

yachtsman ('jɒtsmən) or (*fam.*) **yachtswoman** *n.*, *pl.* **men** or **women.** a person who sails a yacht or yachts. —'yachtsman, *ship n.*

yack (jæk) *n.*, *vb.* a variant spelling of **yak**¹.

yah (jɑ, jə) *sentence substitute.* 1. an informal word for *yes*. ~*interj.* 2. an exclamation of derision or disgust.

yahoo (jə'hu:) *n.*, *pl.* **-hoos.** a crude, brutish, or obscenely coarse person. —'ya'hoosism *n.*

Yahweh ('jɑ:weɪ) or **Yahveh** ('jɑ:veɪ) *n.* *Old Testament.* the personal covenant name of God.

yak¹ (jæk) *n.* an ox of Tibet having long shaggy hair.

yak¹ (jæk) *Sl.* ~*n.* 1. noisy, continuous, and trivial talk. ~*vb.* **yakking**, **yakked.** 2. (*intr.*) to chatter or talk in this way.

Yale lock (jeɪl) *n.* *Trademark.* a type of cylinder lock using a flat serrated key.

yam (jæm) *n.* 1. any of various twining plants of tropical and subtropical regions, cultivated for their edible tubers. 2. the starchy tuber of any of these plants, eaten as a vegetable. 3. *Southern U.S.* the sweet potato.

yammer ('jæmə) *Inf.* ~*vb.* 1. to utter or whine in a complaining manner. 2. to make (a complaint) loudly or persistently. ~*n.* 3. a yammering sound. 4. nonsense; jabber. —'yammerer *n.*

Yang (jæŋ) *n.* See **Yin and Yang**.

yank (jæŋk) *vb.* 1. to pull with a sharp movement; tug. ~*n.* 2. a jerk.

Yank (jæŋk) *n.* 1. a slang word for an American. 2. *U.S. inf.* short for **Yankee**.

Yankee ('jæŋki) or (*inf.*) **Yank** *n.* 1. *Often disparaging.* a native or inhabitant of the U.S.; American. 2. a native or inhabitant of New England. 3. a native or inhabitant of the Northern U.S., esp. a Northern soldier in the Civil War. ~*adj.* 4. of, relating to, or characteristic of Yankees.

yap (jæp) *vb.* **yapping**, **yapped.** (*intr.*) 1. (of a dog) to bark in quick sharp bursts; yelp. 2. *Inf.* to talk at length in an annoying or stupid way; jabber. ~*n.* 3. a high-pitched or sharp bark; yelp. 4. *Sl.* annoying or stupid speech; jabber. 5. *Sl., chiefly U.S.* a derogatory word for **mouth**. —'yapper *n.* —'yappingly *adv.*

yarborough ('jɑ:bərə, -brə) *n.* *Bridge, whist.* a hand of 13 cards in which no card is higher than nine.

yard¹ (jɑ:d) *n.* 1. a unit of length equal to 3 feet and defined in 1963 as exactly 0.9144 metre. 2. a cylindrical wooden or hollow metal spar, slung from a mast of a vessel, and used for suspending a sail.

yard² (jɑ:d) *n.* 1. a piece of enclosed ground, often adjoining or surrounded by a building or buildings. 2. *a.* an enclosed or open area used for some commercial activity, for storage, etc.: a *builder's yard*. *b.* (*in combination*): a *shipyard*. 3. a U.S. word for **garden** (sense 1).

4. an area having a network of railway tracks and sidings, used for storing rolling stock, making up trains, etc. 5. *U.S. & Canad.* the winter pasture of deer, moose, and similar animals.

Yard (jɑ:d) *n.* *the. Brit. inf.* short for **Scotland Yard**.

yardage ('jɑ:ɪdʒ) *n.* a length measured in yards.

yardarm ('jɑ:ɑ:m) *n.* *Naut.* the outer end of a yard, outside the sheave holes.

yardstick ('jɑ:d,stɪk) *n.* 1. a measure or standard used for comparison. 2. a graduated stick, one yard long, used for measurement.

yarmulke ('jɑ:məlʌkə) *n.* *Judaism.* a man's skullcap worn at prayer, and by strongly religious Jews at all times.

yarn (jɑ:n) *n.* 1. a continuous twisted strand of natural or synthetic fibres, used in weaving, knitting, etc. 2. *Inf.* a long and often involved story, usually of incredible or fantastic events. 3. *spin a yarn. Inf. a.* to tell such a story. *b.* to make up a series of excuses. ~*vb.* 4. (*intr.*) to tell such a story or stories.

yarrow ('jærəʊ) *n.* any of several plants of the composite family of Eurasia, having finely dissected leaves and flat clusters of white flower heads. Also called: **milfoil**.

yashmak or **yashmac** ('jæʃmæk) *n.* the face veil worn by Muslim women when in public.

yatter ('jætə) *Slang.* ~*vb.* (*intr.*) 1. to chatter. ~*n.* 2. idle chat.

yaw (jɔ:) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) (of an aircraft, etc.) to turn about its vertical axis. 2. (*intr.*) (of a ship, etc.) to deviate temporarily from a straight course. 3. (*tr.*) to cause (an aircraft, ship, etc.) to yaw. ~*n.* 4. the movement of an aircraft, etc., about its vertical axis. 5. the deviation of a vessel from a straight course.

yawl (jɔ:l) *n.* 1. a two-masted sailing vessel with a small mizzenmast aft of the rudderpost. 2. a ship's small boat, usually rowed by four or six oars.

yawn (jɔ:n) *vb.* 1. (*intr.*) to open the mouth wide and take in air deeply, often as in involuntary reaction to sleepiness or boredom. 2. (*tr.*) to express or utter while yawning. 3. (*intr.*) to be open wide as if threatening to engulf (someone or something): *the mine shaft yawned below*. ~*n.* 4. the act or an instance of yawning. —'yawner *n.* —'yawningly *adv.*

yaws (jɔ:z) *pl. n.* an infectious disease of tropical climates characterized by red skin eruptions.

y-axis *n.* a reference axis of a graph or two- or three-dimensional Cartesian coordinate system along which the *y*-coordinate is measured.

Yb *the chemical symbol for ytterbium.*

Y-chromosome *n.* the sex chromosome that occurs as one of a pair with the X-chromosome in the diploid cells of the males of many animals, including humans. Cf. **X-chromosome**.

yclept ('ɪklept) ~*adj.* *Obs.* having the name of; called.

yd or **yd.** *abbrev. for yard* (measure).

Y.D.T. (*in Canada*) *abbrev. for Yukon Daylight Time.*

ye¹ (ji, *unstressed* ji) *pron.* 1. *Arch.* refers to more than one person including the person addressed. 2. Also: *ee* (i). *Dialect.* refers to one person addressed: *I tell ye*.

ye² (ði, *spelling pron. ji*) *determiner.* a form of the³, used as a supposed archaism: *ye olde oake*.

yea (jeɪ) *sentence substitute.* 1. a less common word for *aye* (yes). ~*adv.* 2. (*sentence modifier*) *Arch. or literary.* indeed; truly: *yea, though they spurn me, I shall prevail*.

year (jiə) *n.* 1. the period of time, the **calendar year**, containing 365 days or in a **leap year** 366 days. It is divided into 12 calendar months, and reckoned from January 1 to December 31. 2. a period of twelve months from any specified date. 3. a specific period of time, usually occupying a definite part or parts of a twelve-month period, used for some particular activity: a *school year*. 4. Also called: **astronomical year**, **tropical year**, **equinoctial year**, the period of time, the **solar year**, during which the earth makes one revolution around the sun, measured between two successive vernal equinoxes: equal to 365.242 19 days. 5. the period of time, the **sidereal year**, during which the earth makes one revolution around the sun, measured between two successive

conjunctions of a particular star: equal to 365.256 36 days. **6.** the period of time, the **lunar year**, containing 12 lunar months and equal to 354.3671 days. **7.** the period of time taken by a specified planet to complete one revolution around the sun. **8.** (pl.) age, esp. old age: *a man of his years should be more careful*. **9.** (pl.) time: *in years to come*. **10.** a group of pupils or students, who are taught or study together. **11.** the **year dot**. *Inf.* as long ago as can be remembered. **12.** **year in, year out**, regularly or monotonously, over a long period. ~Related adj.: **annual**.

▷ **Usage.** In writing spans of years, it is important to choose a style that avoids ambiguity. The practice adopted in this dictionary is, in four-figure dates, to specify the last two digits of the second date if it falls within the same century as the first: 1801-08; 1850-51; 1899-1901. In writing three-figure B.C. dates, it is advisable to give both dates in full: 159-156 B.C., not 159-56 B.C. unless of course the span referred to consists of 103 years rather than three years. It is also advisable to specify B.C. or A.D. in years under 1000 unless the context makes this self-evident.

yearbook ('jɪə,bʊk) *n.* an almanac or other reference book published annually and containing details of events of the previous year.

yearling ('jɪəlɪŋ) *n.* **1.** the young of any of various animals, including the antelope and buffalo, between one and two years of age. **2.** a thoroughbred racehorse counted as being one year old until the second January 1 following its birth. **3.** a. a bond that is intended to mature after one year. b. (as modifier): *yearling bonds*. ~adj. **4.** being a year old.

yearlong ('jɪə'lɒŋ) *adj.* throughout a whole year.

yearly ('jɪəli) *adj.* **1.** occurring, done, appearing, etc., once a year or every year; annual. **2.** lasting or valid for a year; annual: *a yearly subscription*. ~adv. **3.** once a year; annually.

yearn (jɜ:n) *vb.* (intr.) **1.** (usually foll. by *for* or *after* or an infinitive) to have an intense desire or longing (for). **2.** to feel tenderness or affection. —**yearner** *n.* —**yearning** *n.*, *adj.* —**yearningly** *adv.*

yeast (jɪ:st) *n.* **1.** any of various single-celled fungi which reproduce by budding and are able to ferment sugars: a rich source of vitamins of the B complex. **2.** a commercial preparation containing yeast cells and inert material such as meal, that is used in raising dough for bread and for fermenting beer, whisky, etc. **3.** a preparation containing yeast cells, used to treat diseases caused by vitamin B deficiency. **4.** froth or foam, esp. on beer. ~vb. **5.** (intr.) to froth or foam. —**yeastless** *adj.* —**yeasty**, like *adj.*

yeasty ('jɪəsti) *adj.* **yeastier**, **yeastiest**. **1.** of, resembling, or containing yeast. **2.** fermenting or causing fermentation. **3.** tasting of or like yeast. **4.** insubstantial or frivolous. **5.** restless, agitated, or unsettled. **6.** covered with or containing froth or foam. —**yeastily** *adv.* —**yeastiness** *n.*

yell (jel) *vb.* **1.** to shout, scream, cheer, or utter in a loud or piercing way. ~*n.* **2.** a loud piercing inarticulate cry, as of pain, anger, or fear. **3.** U.S. a rhythmic cry, used in cheering in unison. —**yeller** *n.*

yellow ('jeləʊ) *n.* **1.** any of a group of colours such as that of a lemon or of gold, that vary in saturation but have the same hue. Yellow is the complementary colour of blue. Related adj.: **xanthous**. **2.** a pigment or dye of or producing these colours. **3.** yellow cloth or clothing: *dressed in yellow*. **4.** the yolk of an egg. **5.** a yellow ball in snooker, etc. ~adj. **6.** of the colour yellow. **7.** yellowish in colour or having parts or marks that are yellowish. **8.** having a yellowish skin; Mongoloid. **9.** *Inf.* cowardly or afraid. **10.** offensively sensational, as a cheap newspaper (esp. in **yellow press**). ~vb. **11.** to make or become yellow. —**yellowish** *adj.* —**yellowness** *n.* —**yellowy** *adj.*

yellow-belly *n.*, *pl.* -lies, a slang word for coward. —**yellow-, bellied** *adj.*

yellow card *n.* Soccer. a card of a yellow colour raised by a referee in international competitions to warn a player who has violated a rule.

yellow fever *n.* an acute infectious disease of tropical and subtropical climates, characterized by fever, haemorrhages, vomiting, and jaundice: caused by a virus transmitted by the bite of a certain mosquito. Also called: **yellow jack**.

yellow flag *n.* a yellow flag flown to show that a vessel is in quarantine.

yellowhammer ('jeləʊ,hæmə) *n.* a European bunting,

having a yellowish head and body and brown-streaked wings and tail.

yellow pages *pl. n.* a classified telephone directory or section of a directory that lists subscribers by the business or service provided.

yellow streak *n.* a cowardly or weak trait.

yellowwood ('jeləʊ,wʊd) *n.* **1.** any of several leguminous trees of the southeastern U.S., having clusters of white flowers and yellow wood yielding a yellow dye. **2.** Also called: **West Indian satinwood**, a rutaceous tree of the West Indies, with smooth hard wood. **3.** any of several other trees with yellow wood, esp. a conifer of southern Africa the wood of which is used for furniture and building. **4.** the wood of any of these trees.

yelp (jelp) *vb.* **1.** (esp. of a dog) to utter a sharp or high-pitched cry or bark, often indicating pain. ~*n.* **2.** a sharp or high-pitched cry or bark. —**yelper** *n.*

yen¹ (jen) *n.*, *pl.* **yen**, the standard monetary unit of Japan.

yen² (jen) *Inf.* ~*n.* **1.** a longing or desire. ~*vb.* **yenning**, **yenned**. **2.** (intr.) to yearn.

yeoman ('jəʊmən) *n.*, *pl.* -men. **1.** *History.* a. a member of a class of small freeholders who cultivated their own land. b. an attendant or lesser official in a royal or noble household. **2.** (in Britain) another name for **yeoman of the guard**. **3.** (modifier) characteristic of or relating to a yeoman. —**yeomanly** *adj.*

yeoman of the guard *n.* a member of the ceremonial bodyguard (**Yeomen of the Guard**) of the English monarch.

yeomanry ('jəʊmənri) *n.* **1.** yeomen collectively. **2.** (in Britain) a volunteer cavalry force, organized in 1761 for home defence: merged into the Territorial Army in 1907.

yep (jep) *sentence substitute.* an informal word for **yes**.

yes (jes) *sentence substitute.* **1.** used to express affirmation, consent, agreement, or approval or to answer when one is addressed. **2.** used to signal someone to speak or keep speaking, enter a room, or do something. ~adv. **3.** (sentence modifier) used to emphasize a positive statement, esp. when disagreeing: *yes I can*. ~*n.* **4.** an answer or vote of yes. **5.** (often *pl.*) a person who votes in the affirmative.

yes man *n.* a servile, submissive, or acquiescent subordinate, assistant, or associate.

yester- *prefix.* indicating a period of time before the present one: **yesteryear**.

yesterday ('jestədi, -dei) *n.* **1.** the day immediately preceding today. **2.** (often *pl.*) the recent past. ~adv. **3.** on or during the day before today. **4.** in the recent past.

yesteryear ('jestə,jɪə) *Formal or literary.* ~*n.* **1.** last year or the past in general. ~adv. **2.** during last year or the past in general.

yet (jet) *1. sentence connector.* nevertheless; still; in spite of that: *I want to and yet I haven't the courage*. ~adv. **2.** (usually used with a negative or interrogative) so far; up until then or now: *they're not home yet; is it teatime yet?* **3.** (often preceded by *just*; usually used with a negative) now (as contrasted with later): *we can't stop yet*. **4.** (often used with a comparative) even; still: *yet more potatoes for sale*. **5.** eventually in spite of everything: *we'll convince him yet*. **6.** as yet, so far; up until then or now.

yeti ('jeti) *n.* another term for **abominable snowman**.

yew (ju:) *n.* **1.** any coniferous tree of the Old World and North America having flattened needle-like leaves, fine-grained elastic wood, and cuplike red waxy cones resembling berries. **2.** the wood of any of these trees, used to make bows for archery. **3.** *Archery.* a bow made of yew.

Y-fronts *pl. n.* boys' or men's underpants having a front opening within an inverted Y shape.

Y.H.A. (in Britain) *abbrev. for* Youth Hostels Association.

Yid (jɪd) *n. Sl.* a derogatory word for a Jew.

Yiddish ('jɪdɪʃ) *n.* a language spoken as a vernacular by Jews in Europe and elsewhere by Jewish emigrants, usually written in the Hebrew alphabet. It is a dialect of High German with an admixture of words of Hebrew, Romance, and Slavonic origin.

yield (jɪld) *vb.* **1.** to give forth or supply (a product, result, etc.), esp. by cultivation, labour, etc.; produce or bear. **2.** (tr.) to furnish as a return: *the shares yielded three per cent*. **3.** (tr.; often foll. by *up*) to surrender or relinquish, esp. as a result of force, persuasion, etc. **4.** (intr.; sometimes foll. by *to*) to give way, submit, or surrender, as through force or persuasion: *she yielded to*

his superior knowledge. 5. (*intr.*; often foll. by *to*) to agree; comply; assent: *he eventually yielded to their request for money.* 6. (*tr.*) to grant or allow; concede: *to yield right of way.* ~*n.* 7. the result, product, or amount yielded. 8. the profit or return, as from an investment or tax. 9. the annual income provided by an investment. 10. the energy released by the explosion of a nuclear weapon. 11. *Chem.* the quantity of a specified product obtained in a reaction or series of reactions. —*'yieldable adj.* —*'yielder n.*

yielding ('jɪldɪŋ) *adj.* 1. compliant, submissive, or flexible. 2. pliable or soft: *a yielding material.*

Yin and Yang (jɪn) *n.* two complementary principles of Chinese philosophy: Yin is negative, dark, and feminine, Yang is positive, bright, and masculine.

yippee (jɪ'pi:) *interj.* an exclamation of joy, pleasure, anticipation, etc.

-yl *suffix of nouns.* (in chemistry) indicating a group or radical: *methyl.*

Y.M.C.A. *abbrev. for* Young Men's Christian Association.

-yne *suffix forming nouns.* denoting an organic chemical containing a triple bond: *alkyne.*

yob (jɒb) or **yobbo** ('jɒbɒ) *n., pl. yobs or yobbos.* *Brit. sl.* an aggressive and surly youth, esp. a teenager.

yodel ('jɒdəl) *n.* 1. an effect produced in singing by an abrupt change of register from the chest voice to falsetto, esp. in folk songs of the Swiss Alps. ~*vb.* -*deling, -delled or U.S. -deling, -deled.* 2. to sing (a song) in which a yodel is used. —*'yodeller n.*

yoga ('jɒgə) *n. (often cap.)* 1. a Hindu system of philosophy aiming at the mystical union of the self with the Supreme Being in a state of complete awareness and tranquillity through certain physical and mental exercises. 2. any method by which such awareness and tranquillity are attained, esp. a course of related exercises and postures. —*yogic* ('jɒgɪk) *adj.* —*'yogism n.*

yoghurt or **yogurt** ('jɒɡət) *n.* a thick custard-like food prepared from milk curdled by bacteria, often sweetened and flavoured with fruit.

yogi ('jɒgi) *n., pl. -gis or -gin* (-ɡɪn). a person who is a master of yoga.

yo-heave-ho (jəʊhi:v'həʊ) *interj.* a cry formerly used by sailors while pulling or lifting together in rhythm.

yoicks (hɔɪk; *spelling pron.* joɪks) *interj.* a cry used by fox-hunters to urge on the hounds.

yoke (jɒk) *n., pl. yokes or yokes.* 1. a wooden frame, usually consisting of a bar with an oxbow at either end, for attaching to the necks of a pair of draught animals, esp. oxen, so that they can be worked as a team. 2. something resembling a yoke in form or function, such as a frame fitting over a person's shoulders for carrying buckets. 3. an oppressive force or burden: *under the yoke of a tyrant.* 4. a pair of oxen or other draught animals joined by a yoke. 5. a part that secures two or more components so that they move together. 6. a fitted part of a garment, esp. around the neck, shoulders, and chest or around the hips, to which a gathered, pleated, flared, or unfitted part is attached. 7. (in the ancient world) a symbolic yoke, consisting of two upright spears with a third lashed across them, under which conquered enemies were compelled to march, esp. in Rome. 8. a mark, token, or symbol of slavery, subjection, or suffering. 9. *Now rare.* a link, tie, or bond: *the yoke of love.* ~*vb.* 10. (*tr.*) to secure or harness (a draught animal) to (a plough, vehicle, etc.) by means of a yoke. 11. to join or be joined by means of a yoke; couple, unite, or link.

yokel ('jɒkəl) *n.* *Disparaging.* (used chiefly by townspeople) a person who lives in the country, esp. one who is simple and old-fashioned.

yolk (jɒk) *n.* 1. the substance in an animal ovum that nourishes the developing embryo. 2. a greasy substance in the fleece of sheep. —*'yolkly adj.*

Yom Kippur (jɒm 'kɪpɜː; *Hebrew* jom ki'pur) *n.* an annual Jewish holiday celebrated as a day of fasting, on which prayers of penitence are recited in the synagogue. Also called: **Day of Atonement.**

yon (jɒn) *determiner.* 1. *Chiefly N Brit. a.* an archaic or dialect word for *that*: *yon man.* *b.* (as pronoun): *yon's a fool.* ~*2.* a variant of *yonder.*

yonder ('jɒndə) *adv.* 1. at, in, or to that relatively distant place; over there. ~*determiner.* 2. being at a distance, either within view or as if within view: *yonder valleys.*

yoo-hoo ('juːhuː) *interj.* a call to attract a person's attention.

yore (jɔː) *n.* 1. time long past (now only of *yore*). ~*adv.* 2. *Obs.* in the past; long ago.

york (jɔːk) *vb. (tr.)* *Cricket.* to bowl (a batsman) by pitching the ball under or just beyond the bat.

yorker ('jɔːkə) *n.* *Cricket.* a ball bowled so as to pitch just under or just beyond the bat.

Yorkist ('jɔːkɪst) *English history.* ~*n.* 1. a member or adherent of the royal House of York, esp. during the wars of the Roses. ~*adj.* 2. of, belonging to, or relating to the supporters or members of the House of York.

Yorks. (jɔːks) *abbrev. for* Yorkshire.

Yorkshire pudding ('jɔːkʃɪə) *n.* *Chiefly Brit.* a light puffy baked pudding made from a batter of flour, eggs, and milk, traditionally served with roast beef.

Yorkshire terrier *n.* a very small breed of terrier with a long straight glossy coat.

you (juː; *unstressed ju*) *pron. (subjective or objective)* 1. refers to the person addressed or to more than one person including the person or persons addressed: *you know better; the culprit is among you.* 2. refers to an unspecified person or people in general: *you can't tell the boys from the girls.* ~*n.* 3. *Inf.* the personality of the person being addressed: *that hat isn't really you.* 4. *you know what or who.* a thing or person that the speaker does not want to specify.

▷ *Usage.* See at *me.*

you'd (juːd; *unstressed ju*d) *contraction of* you had or you would.

you'll (juːl; *unstressed ju*l) *contraction of* you will or you shall.

young (jʌŋ) *adj.* **younger** ('jʌŋgə), **youngest** ('jʌŋɡɪst). 1. a. having lived, existed, or been made or known for a relatively short time: *a young man; a young movement; a young country.* *b.* (as collective *n.*; preceded by *the*): *the young.* 2. youthful or having qualities associated with youth; vigorous or lively. 3. of or relating to youth: *in my young days.* 4. having been established or introduced for a relatively short time: *a young member.* 5. in an early stage of progress or development; not far advanced: *the day was young.* 6. (*often cap.*) of or relating to a rejuvenated group or movement or one claiming to represent the younger members of the population: *Young Socialists.* ~*n.* 7. (*functioning as pl.*) offspring, esp. young animals: *a rabbit with her young.* 8. **with young.** (of animals) pregnant. —*'youngish adj.*

youngster ('jʌŋstə) *n.* 1. a young person; child or youth. 2. a young animal, esp. a horse.

your (jɔː, juː; *unstressed jə*) *determiner.* 1. of, belonging to, or associated with you: *your nose; your house.* 2. belonging to or associated with an unspecified person or people in general: *the path is on your left heading north.* 3. *Inf.* used to indicate all things or people of a certain type: *your part-time worker is a problem.*

you're (jɔː; *unstressed jə*) *contraction of* you are.

yours (jɔːz, juːz) *pron.* 1. something or someone belonging to or associated with you. 2. your family: *greetings to you and yours.* 3. used in conventional closing phrases at the end of a letter: *yours sincerely; yours faithfully.* 4. of yours. belonging to or associated with you.

yourself (jɔː'self, juː-) *pron., pl. -selves.* 1. a. the reflexive form of *you.* *b.* (*intensifier*): *you yourself control your destiny.* 2. (*preceded by a copula*) your usual self: *you're not yourself.*

▷ *Usage.* See at *myself.*

yours truly *pron.* an informal term for *I* or *me.*

youth (juːθ) *n., pl. youths* (juːðz). 1. the quality or condition of being young, immature, or inexperienced: *his youth told against him in the contest.* 2. the period between childhood and maturity. 3. the freshness, vigour, or vitality characteristic of young people. 4. any period of early development. 5. a young person, esp. a young man or boy. 6. young people collectively: *youth everywhere is rising in revolt.*

youthful ('juːθfʊl) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, possessing, or characteristic of youth. 2. fresh, vigorous, or active: *he's surprisingly youthful for his age.* 3. in an early stage of development: *a youthful culture.* 4. Also: **young.** (of a river, valley, or land surface) in the early stage of the cycle of erosion, characterized by steep slopes, lack of flood plains, and V-shaped valleys. —*'youthfully adv.* —*'youthfulness n.*

youth hostel *n.* one of an organization of inexpensive lodging places for young people travelling cheaply. Often shortened to **hostel.**

you've (juːv; *unstressed ju*v) *contraction of* you have.

yowl (jəʊl) *vb.* 1. to express with or produce a loud

mournful wail or cry; howl. ~*n.* 2. a wail or howl. —'yowler *n.*

yo-yo ('jəʊjəʊ) *n., pl. -yos.* a toy consisting of a spool attached to a string, the end of which is held while it is repeatedly spun out and reeled in.

yr. *abbrev. for:* 1. (*pl. yrs.*) year. 2. younger. 3. your.

yrs. *abbrev. for:* 1. years. 2. yours.

Y.S.T. (in Canada) *abbrev. for* Yukon Standard Time.

Y.T. *abbrev. for* Yukon Territory.

ytterbium ('tɜːbiəm) *n.* a soft malleable silvery element of the lanthanide series of metals that is used to improve the mechanical properties of steel. Symbol: Yb; atomic no.: 70; atomic wt.: 173.04.

yttrium ('tɪrɪəm) *n.* a silvery metallic element used in various alloys, in lasers, and as a catalyst. Symbol: Y; atomic no.: 39; atomic wt.: 88.90.

yuan ('juː'æn) *n., pl. -an.* the standard monetary unit of the People's Republic of China.

yucca ('jʌkə) *n.* any of a genus of liliaceous plants of

tropical and subtropical America, having stiff lancelike leaves and spikes of white flowers.

Yugoslav or Jugoslav ('juːgəʊsləv) *n.* 1. a native or inhabitant of Yugoslavia, a federal republic in SE Europe, on the Adriatic. 2. (not in technical use) another name for **Serbo-Croatian** (the language). ~*adj.* 3. of, relating to, or characteristic of Yugoslavia or its people.

yuk (jʌk) *interj. Sl.* an exclamation indicating contempt, dislike, or disgust. —'yukky *adj.*

yule (juːl) *n. (sometimes cap.) Literary, arch., or dialect.* a. Christmas or the Christmas season. b. (*in combination*): yuletide.

yummy ('jʌmɪ) *Sl. ~interj.* 1. Also: **yum-yum.** an exclamation indicating pleasure or delight, as in anticipation of delicious food. ~*adj.* -mier, -miest. 2. delicious, delightful, or attractive.

Y.W.C.A. *abbrev. for* Young Women's Christian Association.

Z

z or **Z** (zɛd; U.S. zi:) *n.*, *pl.* **z's**, **Z's**, or **Zs**. 1. the 26th and last letter of the English alphabet. 2. a speech sound represented by this letter. 3. **a.** something shaped like a **Z**. **b.** (in combination): a **Z-bend** in a road.

z *Maths. symbol for:* 1. the **z-axis** or a coordinate measured along the **z-axis** in a Cartesian or cylindrical coordinate system. 2. an algebraic variable.

Z *symbol for:* 1. any unknown, variable, or unspecified factor, number, person, or thing. 2. *Chem.* atomic number. 3. *Physics.* impedance. 4. zone.

zabaglione (ˌzæbəˈljəʊni) *n.* a light foamy dessert made of egg yolks, sugar, and marsala, whipped together and served hot in a glass.

zany ('zeɪni) *adj.* **-nier**, **-niest**. 1. comical in an endearing way; imaginatively funny or comical, esp. in behaviour. **~n.**, *pl.* **-nies**. 2. a clown or buffoon, esp. one in old comedies who imitated other performers with ludicrous effect. 3. a ludicrous or foolish person. **~zanily** *adv.* **~zanimess** *n.*

zap (zæp) *sl.* **~vb.** **zapping**, **zapped**. 1. (*tr.*) to attack, kill, or destroy, as with a sudden bombardment. 2. (*intr.*) to move quickly. **~n.** 3. energy, vigour, or pep. **~interj.** 4. an exclamation used to express sudden or swift action.

z-axis *n.* a reference axis of a three-dimensional Cartesian coordinate system along which the **z-coordinate** is measured.

zeal (zi:l) *n.* fervent or enthusiastic devotion, often extreme or fanatical in nature, as to a religious movement, political cause, ideal, or aspiration.

zealot ('zelət) *n.* an immoderate, fanatical, or extremely zealous adherent to a cause, esp. a religious one. **~zealotry** *n.*

zealous ('zeləs) *adj.* filled with or inspired by intense enthusiasm or zeal; ardent; fervent. **~zealously** *adv.* **~zealousness** *n.*

zebra ('zebrə, 'zi:brə) *n.*, *pl.* **-ras** or **-ra**. any of several mammals of the horse family, such as the common zebra of southern and eastern Africa, having distinctive black-and-white striped hides. **~zebrine** ('zi:brɪn, 'zeb-) or **~zebroid** *adj.*

zebra crossing *n.* *Brit.* a pedestrian crossing marked on a road by broad alternate black and white stripes. Once on the crossing the pedestrian has right of way.

zebu ('zi:bʊ) *n.* a domesticated ox having a humped back, long horns, and a large dewlap: used in India and E Asia as a draught animal.

zed (zɛd) *n.* the British spoken form of the letter **z**.

zee (zi:) *n.* the U.S. word for **zed** (letter **z**).

Zeitgeist *German.* ('tsaɪt,gaɪst) *n.* the spirit, attitude, or general outlook of a specific time or period, esp. as it is reflected in literature, philosophy, etc.

Zen (zen) *Buddhism.* **~n.** 1. a Japanese school, of 12th-century Chinese origin, teaching that contemplation of one's essential nature to the exclusion of all else is the only way of achieving pure enlightenment. 2. (*modifier*) of or relating to this school: *Zen Buddhism*. **~Zenic** *adj.* **~Zenist** *n.*

zenana (zeˈnɑ:nə) *n.* (in the East, esp. in Muslim and Hindu homes) part of a house reserved for the women and girls of a household.

Zend-Avesta (ˌzɛndəˈvestə) *n.* the Avesta together with the traditional interpretive commentary known as the *Zend*, esp. as preserved in the Avestan language among the Parsees.

zenith ('zenθ) *n.* 1. *Astron.* the point on the celestial sphere vertically above an observer. 2. the highest point; peak; acme: *the zenith of someone's achievements*. **~zenithal** *adj.*

zephyr ('zefə) *n.* 1. a soft or gentle breeze. 2. any of several delicate soft yarns, fabrics, or garments, usually of wool.

zeppelin ('zɛpəlɪn) *n.* (*sometimes cap.*) a large cylindrical rigid airship designed to carry passengers, bombs, etc.

zero ('ziərəʊ) *n.*, *pl.* **-ros** or **-roes**. 1. the symbol 0, indicating an absence of quantity or magnitude; nought. Former name: **cipher**. 2. the integer denoted by the symbol 0; nought. 3. the ordinal number between +1

and -1. 4. nothing; nil. 5. a person or thing of no significance; nonentity. 6. the lowest point or degree: *his prospects were put at zero*. 7. the line or point on a scale of measurement from which the graduations commence. 8. **a.** the temperature, pressure, etc., that registers a reading of zero on a scale. **b.** the value of a variable, such as temperature, obtained under specified conditions. 9. *Maths.* **a.** the cardinal number of a set with no members. **b.** the identity element of addition. **~adj.** 10. having no measurable quantity, magnitude, etc. 11. *Meteorol.* **a.** (of a cloud ceiling) limiting visibility to 15 metres (50 feet) or less. **b.** (of horizontal visibility) limited to 50 metres (165 feet) or less. **~vb.** **-roing**, **-roed**. 12. (*tr.*) to adjust (an instrument, apparatus, etc.) so as to read zero or a position taken as zero. **~determiner**. 13. *Inf.* chiefly U.S. no (thing) at all: *this job has zero interest*.

zero gravity *n.* the state or condition of weightlessness.

zero hour *n.* 1. *Mil.* the time set for the start of an attack or the initial stage of an operation. 2. *Inf.* a critical time, esp. at the commencement of an action.

zero-rated *adj.* denoting goods on which the buyer pays no value-added tax although the seller can claim back any tax he has paid.

zest (zɛst) *n.* 1. invigorating or keen excitement or enjoyment: *a zest for living*. 2. added interest, flavour, or charm; piquancy: *her presence gave zest to the occasion*. 3. something added to give flavour or relish. 4. the peel or skin of an orange or lemon, used as flavouring in drinks, etc. **~vb.** 5. (*tr.*) to give flavour, interest, or piquancy to. **~zestful** *adj.* **~zestfully** *adv.* **~zestfulness** *n.* **~zesty** *adj.*

zeta ('zi:tə) *n.* the sixth letter in the Greek alphabet (**Ζ**, **ζ**).

zeugma ('zju:gmə) *n.* a figure of speech in which a word is used to modify or govern two or more words although appropriate to only one of them or making a different sense with each, as in *Mr. Pickwick took his hat and his leave* (Charles Dickens). **~zeugmatic** ('zju:gmætɪk) *adj.*

ziggurat ('zɪɡʊræt) *n.* a type of rectangular temple tower or tiered mound erected by the Sumerians, Akkadians, and Babylonians in Mesopotamia.

zigzag ('zɪɡ,zæɡ) *n.* 1. a line or course characterized by sharp turns in alternating directions. 2. one of the series of such turns. 3. something having the form of a zigzag. **~adj.** 4. (*usually prenominal*) formed in or proceeding in a zigzag. 5. (of a sewing machine) capable of producing stitches in a zigzag. **~vb.** **-zagg**, **-zagged**. 6. to proceed or cause to proceed in a zigzag. 7. (*tr.*) to form into a zigzag.

zillion ('zɪljən) *Inf.* **~n.**, *pl.* **-lions** or **-lion**. 1. (*often pl.*) an extremely large but unspecified number, quantity, or amount: *zillions of flies in this camp*. **~determiner**. 2. amounting to a zillion: *a zillion different problems*.

zimmer ('zɪmə) *n.* Also: **zimmer aid**, another name for **walker** (sense 3).

zinc (zɪŋk) *n.* 1. a brittle bluish-white metallic element that is a constituent of several alloys, esp. brass and nickel-silver, and is used in die-casting, galvanizing metals, and in battery electrodes. Symbol: **Zn**; atomic no.: 30; atomic wt.: 65.37. 2. *Inf.* corrugated galvanized iron. **~zincic** *adj.* **~zincy**, **zincy**, or **zinky** *adj.*

zincography (zɪŋˈkɒɡrəfi) *n.* the art or process of engraving zinc to form a printing plate. **~zin'cographer** *n.* **~zincograph** ('zɪŋkə,grəf) *n.*

zinc ointment *n.* a medicinal ointment consisting of zinc oxide, petrolatum, and paraffin.

zinc oxide *n.* a white insoluble powder used as a pigment in paints (**zinc white** or **Chinese white**), cosmetics, glass, and printing inks. It is an antiseptic and astringent and is used in making zinc ointment. Formula: **ZnO**. Also called: **flowers of zinc**.

zing (zɪŋ) *n.* *Inf.* 1. a short high-pitched buzzing sound, as of a bullet or vibrating string. 2. vitality; zest. **~vb.** 3. (*intr.*) to make or move with or as if with a high-pitched buzzing sound. **~zingy** *adj.*

zinnia ('zɪniə) *n.* any of a genus of annual or perennial

plants of the composite family, of tropical and subtropical America, having solitary heads of brightly coloured flowers.

Zion ('zaɪən) or **Sion** *n.* 1. the hill on which the city of Jerusalem stands. 2. *Judaism*. a. the ancient Israelites of the Bible. b. the modern Jewish nation. c. Israel as the national home of the Jewish people. 3. *Christianity*. heaven regarded as the city of God and the final abode of his elect.

Zionism ('zaɪənɪzəm) *n.* 1. a political movement for the establishment and support of a national homeland for Jews in Palestine, now concerned chiefly with the development of the modern state of Israel. 2. a policy or movement for Jews to return to Palestine from the Diaspora. — **Zionist** *n., adj.* — **Zionistic** *adj.*

zip (zɪp) *n.* 1. a. Also called: **zip fastener**, a fastening device operating by means of two parallel rows of metal or plastic teeth on either side of a closure that are interlocked by a sliding tab. U.S. term: **zipper**. b. (*modifier*) having such a device: a **zip bag**. 2. a short sharp whizzing sound, as of a passing bullet. 3. *Inf.* energy; vigour; vitality. ~vb. **zipping**, **zipped**. 4. (*tr.*; often foll. by *up*) to fasten (clothing, etc.) with a zip. 5. (*intr.*) to move with a zip: the bullet **zipped past**. 6. (*intr.*; often foll. by *along*, *through*, etc.) to hurry; rush.

zip code *n.* the U.S. equivalent of **postcode**.

zippy ('zɪpi) *adj.* -**pier**, -**piest**. *Inf.* full of energy; lively.

zircon ('zɜ:kən) *n.* a reddish-brown, grey, green, blue, or colourless hard mineral consisting of zirconium silicate: it is used as a gemstone and a refractory.

zirconium (zɜ:'kɒniəm) *n.* a greyish-white metallic element, occurring chiefly in zircon, that is exceptionally corrosion-resistant and has low neutron absorption. It is used as a coating in nuclear and chemical plants, as a deoxidizer in steel, and alloyed with niobium in superconductive magnets. Symbol: Zr; atomic no.: 40; atomic wt.: 91.22. — **zirconic** (zɜ:'kɒnik) *adj.*

zither ('zɪðə) *n.* a plucked musical instrument consisting of numerous strings stretched over a resonating box, a few of which may be stopped on a fretted fingerboard. — **zitherist** *n.*

zloty ('zlɒti) *n., pl. -tys or -ty.* the standard monetary unit of Poland.

Zn the chemical symbol for zinc.

zo- combining form. variant of **zoo-** before a vowel.

-zoa suffix forming plural proper nouns. indicating groups of animal organisms: *Protozoa*.

zodiac ('zəʊdi,æk) *n.* 1. an imaginary belt extending 8° either side of the ecliptic, which contains the 12 **zodiacal constellations** and within which the moon and planets appear to move. It is divided into 12 equal areas, called **signs of the zodiac**, each named after the constellation which once lay in it. 2. *Astrol.* a diagram, usually circular, representing this belt and showing the symbols, illustrations, etc., associated with each of the 12 signs of the zodiac, used to predict the future. — **zodiacal** (zə-'daɪəkəl) *adj.*

zombie or **zombi** ('zɒmbi) *n., pl. -bies or -bis.* 1. a person who is or appears to be lifeless, apathetic, or totally lacking in independent judgment; automaton. 2. a supernatural spirit that reanimates a dead body. 3. a corpse brought to life in this manner.

zone (zəʊn) *n.* 1. a region, area, or section characterized by some distinctive feature or quality. 2. an area subject to a particular political, military, or government function, use, or jurisdiction: a **demilitarized zone**. 3. (*often cap.*) *Geog.* one of the divisions of the earth's surface, esp. divided into latitudinal belts according to temperature. See **Torrid Zone**, **Frigid Zone**, **Temperate Zone**. 4. *Geol.* a distinctive layer or region of rock, characterized by particular fossils, etc. 5. *Ecology.* an area, esp. a belt of land, having a particular flora and fauna determined by the prevailing environmental conditions. 6. *Maths.* a portion of a sphere between two parallel planes intersecting the sphere. 7. *Arch. or literary.* a girdle or belt. ~vb. (*tr.*) 8. to divide into zones, as for different use, jurisdiction, activities, etc. 9. to designate as a zone. 10. to mark with or divide into zones. — **zonal** *adj.* — **zonated** *adj.* — **zoning** *n.*

zoo (zu:) *n., pl. zoos.* a place where live animals are

kept, studied, bred, and exhibited to the public. Formal term: **zoological garden**.

zoo- or before a vowel **zo-** combining form. indicating animals: *zooplankton*.

zooid ('zəʊɔɪd) *n.* 1. any independent animal body, such as an individual of a coelenterate colony. 2. a motile cell or body, such as a gamete, produced by an organism.

zool. abbrev. for: 1. zoological. 2. zoology.

zoological garden *n.* the formal term for **zoo**.

zoology (zəʊ'blɒdʒɪ, zu:-) *n., pl. -gies.* 1. the study of animals, including their classification, structure, physiology, and history. 2. the biological characteristics of a particular animal or animal group. 3. the fauna characteristic of a particular region. — **zoological** (zəʊ'blɒdʒɪkəl, zu:-) *adj.* — **zoologist** *n.*

zoom (zu:m) *vb.* 1. to make or cause to make a continuous buzzing or humming sound. 2. to move or cause to move with such a sound. 3. (*intr.*) to move very rapidly; rush: we **zoomed through town**. 4. to cause (an aircraft) to climb briefly at an unusually steep angle, or (of an aircraft) to climb in this way. 5. (*intr.*) (of prices) to rise rapidly. ~*n.* 6. the sound or act of zooming. 7. See **zoom lens**.

zoom in or **out** *vb. (intr., adv.)* *Photog., films, television.* to increase or decrease rapidly the magnification of the image of a distant object by means of a zoom lens.

zoom lens *n.* a lens system that allows the focal length of a camera lens to be varied continuously without altering the sharpness of the image.

-zoon *n.* combining form. indicating an individual animal or an independently moving entity derived from an animal: *spermatozoon*.

zoophyte ('zəʊfəɪt) *n.* any animal resembling a plant, such as a sea anemone. — **zoophytic** (zəʊ'fɪtɪk) or **-zoo'phytical** *adj.*

Zoroastrianism (zəʊ'æstrɪənɪzəm) or **Zoroas-trism** *n.* the dualistic religion founded by the Persian prophet Zoroaster in the late 7th or early 6th centuries B.C. and set forth in the sacred writings of the *Zend-Avesta*. It is based on the concept of a continuous struggle between Ormazd (or Ahura Mazda), the god of creation, light, and goodness, and his arch enemy, Ahriman, the spirit of evil and darkness.

zoster ('zɒstə) *n.* *Pathol.* short for **herpes zoster**.

Zouave (zu:'æv, zwæv) *n.* 1. (formerly) a member of a body of French infantry composed of Algerian recruits noted for their dash, hardness, and colourful uniforms. 2. a member of any body of soldiers wearing a similar uniform, esp. a volunteer in such a unit of the Union Army in the American Civil War.

zounds (zaʊndz) or **swounds** (zwaʊndz, zaʊndz) *interj.* *Arch.* a mild oath indicating surprise, indignation, etc.

Zr the chemical symbol for zirconium.

zucchetto (tsu:'ketəʊ, su:-) *n., pl. -tos.* *R.C. Church.* a small round skullcap worn by certain ecclesiastics and varying in colour according to the rank of the wearer, the Pope wearing white, cardinals red, bishops violet, and others black.

zucchini (tsu:'kɪni, zu:-) *n., pl. -ni or -nis.* another name for **courgette**.

Zulu ('zu:lu, lu:-) *n.* 1. (*pl. -lus or -lu*) a member of a tall Negroid people of SE Africa, living chiefly in N Natal, who became dominant during the 19th century due to a warrior-clan system organized by the powerful leader, *Tchaka*. 2. the language of this people.

zygo- or before a vowel **zyg-** combining form. indicating a pair or a union: *zygodactyl*; *zygospore*.

zygote ('zaɪɡəʊt, 'zɪg-) *n.* 1. the cell resulting from the union of an ovum and a spermatozoon. 2. the organism that develops from such a cell. — **zygotic** (zaɪ'ɡɒtɪk, zɪ-) *adj.* — **zygotically** *adv.*

zymo- or before a vowel **zym-** combining form. indicating fermentation: *zymology*.

zymotic (zaɪ'mɒtɪk) *adj.* 1. of, relating to, or causing fermentation. 2. relating to or caused by infection; denoting or relating to an infectious disease. — **zymoti-cally** *adv.*

zymurgy ('zaɪmɜ:dʒɪ) *n.* the branch of chemistry concerned with fermentation processes in brewing, etc.

